

Annual Report

2023-2024



Mildura Rural City Council

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Acknowledgement of Country

Mildura Rural City Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, which now comprises the Mildura Rural City municipality. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and celebrate and respect their continuing cultures and acknowledge the memories of their ancestors.

Part 1: Report of Operations

Introduction

Welcome to the Report of Operations 2023-2024

As a Council, we are committed to transparent reporting and accountability to our community. The Report of Operations 2023-2024 is the primary means of advising the Mildura Rural City Council community about our operations and performance during the financial year.

Snapshot of Mildura Rural City Council

Demographic profile*:

- Land area: 22,082km²
- Major townships: Mildura, Irymple, Red Cliffs and Merbein
- Other rural townships: Ouyen, Meringur, Werrimull, Cullulleraine, Cardross, Nangiloc, Colignan, Murrayville, Nichols Point, Cowangie, Underbool and Walpeup
- Estimated resident population: 57,554
- Estimated Mildura population: 33,919
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population: 2,621
- The majority of the Mildura region's population were born in Australia (78 per cent). 1.9 per cent were born in Malaysia, 1.2 per cent in England, 1.1 per cent in India, 0.9 per cent in Italy and 0.8 per cent in New Zealand.
- Location above sea level: 50m
- Climate: Dry summers and mild winters
- Key industries: Dryland farming, irrigated horticulture (table grapes, wine grapes, dried grapes, citrus, vegetables and nuts), tourism, food and beverage manufacturing, transport and logistics, retail, health and community services
- Emerging industries: Renewable energy generation, aquaculture, mineral sands mining and recycling

* Source: Figures based on 2024 update to Australian Bureau of Statistics data.

Purpose

Our Vision – Making this the most liveable, people-friendly community in Australia.

- Values:
 1. Respect - We will be respectful towards others and value differences.
 2. Honesty - We will be ethical and open.
 3. Integrity - We will be reliable and trustworthy in all that we do.

4. Transparency - We will be objective and fair in our communications and decisions.
 5. Accountability - We will be consistent and responsible for our actions.
- Business Excellence Principles:
 1. Leadership - Clear direction and mutually agreed plans enable organisational alignment and a focus on the achievement of goals.
 2. Customers – Understanding what customers and other stakeholders value, now and in the future, enables organisational direction, strategy and action.
 3. Systems Thinking - All people work *in* a system. Outcomes are improved when people work *on* the system and its associated processes.
 4. People - Engaging people's enthusiasm, resourcefulness and participation improves organisational performance.
 5. Continuous Improvement - Innovation and learning influence the agility and responsiveness of the organisation.
 6. Information and Knowledge - Effective use of facts, data and knowledge leads to improved decisions.
 7. Variation - Variation impacts predictability, profitability and performance.
 8. Corporate and Social Responsibility – Sustainable performance is determined by an organisation's ability to deliver value for all stakeholders in an ethically, socially and environmentally responsible manner.
 9. Sustainable Results - Leaders determine the culture and value system of the organisation through their decisions and behaviour.

Fast Facts

- 79 groups assisted by annual community grants totalling \$699,998 (GST exclusive)
- 1,067 km of local sealed roads maintained
- 4,082 km of unsealed local roads maintained
- 31,106 rateable properties comprised of 25,158 residential, 2,540 business, 1,549 dryland farming, 1,777 irrigated farming and 82 cultural and recreation properties
- 1,604 applications received for 187 recruitment processes
- 408,791 attendees at Aquatic Facilities
- 34 recreation reserves maintained
- 250,980 library items borrowed
- 47,473 calls answered and 23,512 outgoing calls made by the customer service call centre
- 430 planning applications received
- 890 building permits issued for building works totalling \$239,732,336

- 27 school crossings supervised
- 28,063 rubbish bins collected each fortnight
- 27,405 recycling bins collected each fortnight
- 27,152 organic bins collected each week
- 890kW solar PV panels installed on Mildura Rural City Council buildings
- 2,136kW solar PV panels installed on nine commercial properties through Environmental Upgrade Agreements
- 234,344 aeroplane passengers

Highlights of the Year

See section on Our Performance for more details.

Strategic Objective: Environment

We will sustain and enhance our natural environment and resources for current and future generations.

Achievements:

- Following the receipt of 100 nominations from the community, transformed six streets with new tree plantings as part of our Cool It Street Program, which aims to provide improved streetscape amenities and healthier and greener neighbourhoods.
- Announcement of Mildura Rural City Council's Electrifying Mildura project as a finalist in the Cities Power Partnership's fifth annual National Climate Awards 2023.
- As part of the Victorian Government's Drought Recovery Grant Program, ran an expression of interest process inviting Millewa and Carwarp residents to register their interest in having local native plants established on their properties free-of-charge to help repair the damage done by the previous drought and better prepare for any future drought events.
- As part of Sustainability Victoria's Detox Your Home (Program) 2023, invited residents to drop off approved common, highly toxic chemicals free of charge, without impacting their health or the environment, at the Mildura Landfill and Transfer Station on 16 September 2023.
- Celebrated the value of trees in our community on 16 September 2023 as part of our 'Cooling the Streets' program with a family-friendly day in the Langtree Mall featuring performances by the Amazing Drumming Monkeys, the Enviro Edu Animal Show, tree giveaways and competitions, food and drink, market stalls and nature play activities.
- As a member of the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance, partnered with Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance, Gippsland Alliance for Climate Action and Indigo Power in the Regional Greenhouse Alliance Neighbourhood Battery Investigation Project, which aims to develop investment-ready business cases for single community batteries at 18 locations across regional Victoria, including Mildura.
- Hosted our region's first ever Electric Vehicle Showcase at the Mildura Riverfront on 4 November 2023, providing a chance for our community to learn more about electric vehicles and their benefits.
- In December 2023, announced Minter Magic and Australian Tartaric Products as the latest and largest businesses to take advantage of Environmental Upgrade Agreements. Through the installation of solar PV systems, these businesses are expected to slash a combined \$420,000 from their annual electricity bills and reduce emissions equivalent to planting 56,000 trees per year.
- Communicated to the public our intention for up to 11,000 tonnes of food and garden organics collected through our kerbside green bin service to be processed each year at Cleanaway's new \$7.4 million Thurla facility, which opened on 5 December 2023.

- In December 2023, released our latest Environmental Sustainability Report, highlighting achievements such as major cuts to emissions, water usage and waste going to landfill over the past 12 months.
- Continued to position the Mildura local government area as one of the most EV-friendly communities in Australia with the installation of a new public electric vehicle fast charging station at Murrayville.
- Following nominations from the community, announced over 50 streets to be transformed through our Cool It Street Program 2024 with plantings that provide shade where there is none, improve streetscape amenities and walkability, and showcase how we can better adapt to climate change.
- Delivered new 120L purple-lidded glass recycling bins in April 2024 to eligible residents ahead of the new service's commencement date from 1 July 2024.
- Partnered with Greening Mildura and Bendigo Health - Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit to celebrate the important role trees play in our community with the *It's Not Easy Being Green* event at Powerhouse Place on 18 April 2024.
- Council approval of the creation of an Energy and Emissions Reduction Reserve (EERR) and terms of reference for the reserve. Capital income generated from the Lighting the Regions Stage 2 street lighting upgrade project completed in June 2023 will be used as seed funding for the EERR. The EERR will be used to fund initiatives that reduce Council's energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and operational costs.
- Adopted the Kerbside Bin Services Policy CP055 and supporting Kerbside Bin Services Guidelines, updated to include the new kerbside glass service, which commenced on 1 July 2024, provision for businesses to opt in for kerbside glass and sporting clubs to have the ability to purchase additional kerbside bins for buildings on site.
- Adopted the updated Waste Minimisation and Resource Recovery Policy CP079 and Guidelines, updated to include extensive changes.
- Adopted the following policies, updated to include minor changes:
 - Mooring Policy CP004
 - Memorials & Plaques Policy CP043
 - Native Vegetation Policy CP065
 - Request for Free Waste Services Policy CP060
- Adopted the Community Climate Response Plan 2024-2029.
- Adopted the Environmental Engagement Action Plan 2024-2028.
- Adopted the Native Vegetation and Pest Management Plan 2024–2028.

Strategic Objective: Community

We will be a healthy, respectful and connected community.

Achievements:

- Made possible thanks to the Victorian Government's Digital Literacy for Seniors Program, ran a series of free workshops at our libraries to help our region's seniors learn to use a range of technology, including mobile phones, data and apps, the internet, and laptops and tablets more confidently.
- Together with Victoria Police and Ouyen Inc, hosted the Ouyen Emergency Services Day on 6 September 2023. This free event providing the opportunity for local residents, and young people in particular, to learn more about the various emergency services agencies including Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, Country Fire Authority and the Victoria State Emergency Service.
- Celebrating 400 years since the play's first publication, Mildura Arts Centre hosted nationally renowned theatre company Bell Shakespeare's fresh retelling of Shakespeare's romantic comedy *Twelfth Night* on 19 September 2023.
- In October 2023, presented a packed program of activities for local residents 55 and over, which included workshops, come-and-try sessions, live performances, morning teas and a movie event at various locations throughout the municipality as part of the Victorian Seniors Festival.
- Through our Maternal and Child Health service, partnered with Mallee District Aboriginal Services in an Indigenous book partnership designed to engage children in reading from a young age and enhance early childhood literacy.
- Announced the winners of Mildura Rural City Council's 2023 Youth Awards at a special celebratory dinner at the Mildura Golf Club Resort on 5 October 2023: Youth Worker of the Year – Jackson Mugenzi; Community Participation Award – Nick Coe; Endurance and Persistence – Tenay Davy.
- Partnered with not-for-profit organisation Carers Victoria to celebrate and thank our local carers during National Carers Week with a free afternoon tea at the newly redeveloped Powerhouse Place on 16 October 2023.
- Introduced an online booking system for our monthly immunisation clinics in Mildura, Irymple, Red Cliffs, Merbein, Ouyen, Underbool and Murrayville for the National Immunisation Schedule for Infants and Children, influenza for adults over 65-years-old and children under 5-years-old, and any catch-up immunisations for the secondary school program.
- Offered a fantastic free program of educational and diverse activities for local families to participate in to celebrate Children's Week from 21 to 29 October 2023.
- Hosted the *Flood: 12 months on* exhibition at Mildura Arts Centre from 10 December 2023 to 18 February 2024 featuring predominantly photography and videography from the 2022 Murray River flood event but also imagery of the record 1956 floods.

- Approved grant funding applications totalling \$225,879 through the Community Grants Program 2023-2024 to provide opportunities for 31 not-for-profit community groups to deliver innovative local projects and programs that support cultural events, environmental sustainability initiatives and community-based projects, as well as to purchase equipment.
- Led by domestic violence survivor and Victorian Young Achiever of the Year Award recipient, Conor Pall, and coinciding with national White Ribbon Day, held our Community Walk Against Family Violence on 17 November 2023.
- Partnered with local agencies and groups to support the global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence initiative to deliver several local events, workshops and initiatives designed to help the community take action to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls.
- Announced Mildura Rural City Council's 2024 Australia Day Award recipients: Citizen of the Year, Kevin Willersdorf; Young Citizen of the Year, Jackson Mugenzi; Community Event or Project of the Year, AMES Multicultural Cup Soccer Tournament.
- Held our Corroboree, a biennial celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, on 20 March 2024 at Rio Vista Park.
- In partnership with SuniTAFE and other community groups, celebrated our region's rich, multicultural roots with the launch of the Mildura Bilingual Storybook Project, which includes a new series of children's storybooks created in English, Arabic, Punjabi, Dari, Kirundi, Filipino and Uyghur and other languages.
- In partnership with Carers Victoria, held a special Carers Expo at Powerhouse Place on 26 March 2024 to provide our region's carers with the chance to find out about local community groups, upcoming events and engage with local agencies and support services.
- In partnership with AMES Australia, Catholic Care, Mallee Accommodation and Support Program, Mildura English Language Centre and Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council, celebrated Harmony Week with a free community event on 22 March 2024 aimed at celebrating and increasing understanding of our region's rich cultural diversity.
- Partnered with the First Peoples of Millewa Mallee Aboriginal Corporation and our Ngiwa Yarna Committee to host a special Cultural Event, featuring arts and crafts, traditional food and cultural entertainment, on 25 May 2024 ahead of National Reconciliation Week and National Sorry Day.
- Partnered with dozens of community agencies and services to mark International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) with a special free event in the Langtree Mall on 17 May 2024.
- Partnered with Seniors Rights Victoria to host two free community information sessions ahead of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 15 June 2024, providing participants and professionals with the tools they need to make a difference against the abuse, mistreatment and neglect of older people.

- Announced the selection of members of the Youth Parliament Team (Matilda Brown, Lani Mulvihill, Emily Adams, Kacey Butler and Evelyn Cirillo) to represent the Mildura region in this year's YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament program. The Youth Parliament Team will debate the *Increased Housing Affordability for Tertiary Students Bill 2024* in the Victorian Parliament during Youth Parliament Week, which runs from 1 to 5 July 2024.
- Awarded the VIC/TAS Community-Based Initiative of the Year Award at the Parks and Leisure Australia Awards for Excellence 2024 for the Free Youth Pool Entry Pilot program. Sponsored in collaboration with Hands Up Mallee and Aligned Leisure, the program was driven by young people seeking a safe, affordable and accessible place to meet and socialise in Red Cliffs. The program provided free access to the Red Cliffs Swimming Pool for young people 17 and under, including activities and events for young people during the school holidays.
- Adopted the Street Numbering Policy CP003, updated to include minor changes.

Strategic Objective: Place

We will be a place to live, belong and visit with infrastructure and development that enhances our lifestyle.

Achievements:

- Installed a permanent, 500-seat retractable grandstand at the Mildura Sporting Precinct, further improving the stadium's ability to accommodate a range of events.
- Supported by a \$6million grant from the Victorian School Building Authority's Building Blocks program, celebrated the commencement of construction of the Red Cliffs Early Years Hub with a sod turning event on 12 March 2024.
- Took out the award for Best Strategic Planning Project at the Planning Institute of Australia's Victoria Division Awards for our Mildura CBD Access and Mobility Strategy.
- Funded through the COVID Outdoor Activation grant program and delivered in partnership with Lower Murray Water and the Mildura City Heart, installed three water bubblers to brighten the Mildura CBD and keep shoppers, diners and visitors to the CBD hydrated.
- Made possible thanks to \$268,341 from the Victorian Government's Community Crime Prevention Program, completed works in early 2024 to transform Rio Vista Park into a thriving, active outdoor community space with the installation of a new toilet block, CCTV cameras, additional lighting, new tree plantings and linkages to the nearby Off Leash Dog Park.
- On 24 May 2024, celebrated the official opening by Victorian Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence and Mayor Cr Liam Wood of the \$13.025 million second stage of the Mildura Sporting Precinct.
- Celebrated the official opening of the \$10.332 million Powerhouse Place project on Mildura's riverfront on 6 September 2023 by Victorian Minister for Regional Development, Harriet Shing, and Mayor Cr Liam Wood. This project was made possible thanks to funding contributions from the Australian Government (\$2.9 million), Victorian Government (\$5.985 million) and Mildura Rural City Council (\$1.447 million).
- Council approval of applications for funding through the Community Plan Support Fund for the following projects:
 - Merbein Development Association - Merbein Community Hub Playground and Coffee Area project - \$48,623 (GST exclusive)
 - Murrayville and District Liaison Committee - Installation of a dump point at Murrayville Caravan Park - \$13,892.40 (GST exclusive)
 - Red Cliffs Market Committee (auspiced by the Red Cliffs Focus Group) - Purchase and delivery of 10 classic bench seats and six Albert Park seats in the Red Cliffs central business district - \$23,205.76 (GST exclusive)
 - Nangiloc, Colignan and District Community Association - Development of concept designs for signage at the entrance to the townships of Nangiloc, Colignan and Iraak - \$7,100 (GST exclusive).

- Adopted the new Equitable Access and Usage for Community Sports Infrastructure Policy CP038, developed to provide a framework for addressing known barriers experienced by women, girls, trans and gender diverse people in accessing and using community sports infrastructure.
- Adopted the new Outdoor Advertising on Council Road Reserves Policy CP078, developed to provide a framework for decision making for outdoor advertising on Council road reserves.
- Adopted the Infrastructure Design Policy CP032, updated to clearly document Mildura Rural City Council's requirements for the design and development of infrastructure that is or will become Council infrastructure and to standardise development applications to expedite Council's Engineering approvals.
- Adopted the External Private Works Policy CP100 and the Community Plan Support Fund Policy CP013, both updated to include minor changes.
- Adopted the Merbein Pedestrian and Cycling Plan – July 2023.
- Adopted the Stormwater Drainage Asset Management Plan 2023–2027.
- Adopted the Roads and Footpaths Asset Management Plan 2023–2027.
- Adopted the Buildings and Facilities Asset Management Plan 2024–2028.
- Adopted the Red Cliffs and Carwarp Community Plan 2023-2028.
- Mildura Airport Pty Ltd achievements in 2023-2024:
 - Return to pre-pandemic passenger numbers
 - Resurfacing of the secondary runway and taxiways
 - Installation of new airfield lighting on runways and aprons
 - Opening of the new Wine Bar in the Mildura Airport departures lounge
 - Reopening of the international flight school
 - Drafting of the new Mildura Airport Masterplan.

Strategic Objective: Economy

We will have a thriving economy that harnesses our strengths and capitalises on opportunity.

Achievements:

- Reinforced our long-standing relationship with sister-city Kumatori, Japan, with the first visit to the Mildura region by Kumatori Town officials in seven years in August 2023. The visit provided a valuable opportunity for Council, the local community, and our education and business sectors to share their knowledge and experiences, identify opportunities for improvement and potential avenues for trade.
- Partnered with the Sunraysia Drag Racing Association through our Events, Funding and Support Grants Program to see the Mildura round of the Summit Racing Equipment Sportsman Series Australian Drag Racing Championships held at the Sunset Strip in September 2023. This event boosted our local economy by bringing close to 600 people to our region, just through competitors and their crew, most of whom stayed in our region for multiple nights.
- Council endorsement in September 2023 of the new Economic and Tourism Development Framework, featuring two independent advisory boards dedicated to economic and tourism growth respectively, to guide strategic direction, while Council's Strategy and Growth department take on the operational functions currently delivered by Mildura Regional Development.
- Offered a summer of fun program that included everything from movie nights to live music throughout January 2024 at Powerhouse Place, providing the opportunity for visitors and locals to experience more of what the region has to offer while supporting local businesses.
- Made possible thanks to \$300,000 in funding from the Victorian Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund, completed the CBD Urban Regener8 Project with the planting of trees in Langtree Avenue between Ninth and Tenth streets, and Ninth Street between Lime and Pine avenues to provide more shade, better amenity, better access and a more attractive and inviting CBD precinct for locals, businesses and visitors.
- Made possible thanks to contributions from the Murrayville community, as well as the Victorian Government, which contributed \$400,000 to the project through its Regional Infrastructure Fund, opened Murrayville Community Fuel providing Murrayville residents, businesses and visitors with a permanent source of fuel for the first time in more than eight years.
- Hosted the Under 14 Victorian Country Basketball Championships and the Victorian Volleyball Championships at the Mildura Sporting Precinct, attracting thousands of visitors and injecting an estimated \$1.3 million into the local economy.
- Council approval to enter into a three-year Memorandum of Understanding with Murray Regional Tourism Board for 2024-2027 to contribute to the development and growth of tourism in the Murray region.

- Following the identification of several significant challenges associated with the Lake Cullulleraine site proposed for Bruce Munro's eagerly anticipated Trail of Lights project installation, Council approval of Lock Island as the alternative site to host the project due to its proximity to Mildura's riverfront and central business district.
- Council approval to introduce the Mildura City Heart Special Rate Scheme, effective for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2030, for the purpose of deriving funds for marketing and business development of the Mildura City Heart area.
- Adoption of the Mildura Rural City Council and Mildura City Heart Incorporated Agreement 2024-2029, outlining the governance arrangements relating to implementation of the Mildura City Heart Special Rate Scheme.
- Together with a panel of home-grown motorsport champions, including world ski race champion Chelsea Blight, V8 Supercars champion Rick Kelly, multiple Australian Top Fuel drag racing champion Phil Lamattina, three-time Australian Superbike champion Josh Waters and 10-time Australian Solo Speedway champion Leigh Adams, launched the Mildura Regional Motorsport Strategy 2024-2028 on 27 March 2024 at Powerhouse Place.

Strategic Objective: Leadership

We will have responsible, collaborative leadership that puts community wellbeing at the heart of decision-making.

Achievements:

- Entered into a memorandum of understanding with La Trobe University to further strengthen our distinguished partnership by working more collaboratively on areas including research projects, work-based learning, partnerships and employment-based study, and other initiatives that support economic growth in our region.
- Following a comprehensive assessment process that included a call for expressions of interest, in September 2023 announced the nine members of the Youth Council, who have been appointed for a one-year term to act as an advisory and advocacy committee on behalf of young people throughout our municipality, to provide advice to Mildura Councillors and staff on the implementation and review of Council's Youth Engagement Strategy, as well as other policy and strategy development.
- Council endorsement of our \$160.84 million Annual Budget 2024-2025, paving the way for the rollout of a \$49.7 million capital works program and increased spending on some our community's most utilised services (early years services, roads, recreation and leisure services), while cutting rates for more than 17,500 land-owners.
- Adopted the Governance Rules to regulate meeting conduct for Council and Delegated Committees, updated following a community consultation process to provide further clarification around Community Questions submitted to Council meetings.
- Advocated on the following matters through formal submissions to the:
 - Federal Government's Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability
 - Victorian Parliament's Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Service Delivery in Victoria.
 - Victorian Parliament's Inquiry into the Rental and Housing Affordability Crisis in Victoria
 - Victorian Parliament's Inquiry into Inquiry into Victorian Road Safety Behaviours.
- Advocated through local member Jade Benham MP for the Victorian Government to provide better funding for public libraries.
- Following advice of the Roadside Weeds and Pests Program Review outcomes, advocated for the Victorian Government to further review the adequacy of funding for roadside weeds and pest management in our region.
- Adopted the new Harm Minimisation from Gambling Policy CP029, developed to outline Mildura Rural City Council's approach to minimising the social, economic and wellbeing harm associated with gambling in our community.
- Adopted the new Rates Financial Hardship Policy CP080, developed in response to legislative changes to enable customers experiencing difficulty in meeting their financial obligations to Council to be assessed for financial support.

- Adopted the Fees and Charges Policy CP046, updated to include details regarding the preferred payment method.
- Adopted the Recreation Facilities Pricing Policy CP101, updated following a broad consultation process that included engagement with user groups and the community to address issues relating to the provision discounts to community groups utilising outdoor reserves who charge admission, and the equality between indoor and outdoor fees.
- Adopted the following policies, updated to include minor changes:
 - Privacy and Data Protection Policy CP017
 - Infringement Notice Review Policy CP005
 - Workplace Violence Policy CP009
 - International Relations Policy CP040
 - Borrowing Policy CP07
 - Council Representation on Advisory Committees & External Organisations Policy CP007.

Challenges and Future Outlook

Challenges

In general:

- Geographical size and remoteness of our municipality presents ongoing challenges to the cost of providing services and infrastructure
- Ageing infrastructure that requires significant maintenance and re-investment
- Ageing population placing increased demands on services
- Level of social disadvantage
- Legislative change from other levels of government
- Cost shifting from other levels of government
- Impact of severe weather events (drought and flood) on roads infrastructure, requiring additional capital works
- Constrained capacity to provide matching funding for major project development

The Future

- Work within the Victorian Government Rate Capping Framework
- Review of the Community Vision and development of a new Council Plan
- Implementation of a long-term strategy for the management of waste
- Implementation of a new tiered approach to service reviews
- Asset renewal
- Increase community awareness of our services
- Continue to roll out the LightState projects

The Year in Review

Chief Executive Officer's Message

On behalf of Mildura Rural City Council, it is my great pleasure to present our Annual Report for the year 2023–2024. The Chief Executive's Office is responsible for:

- Establishing and maintaining an appropriate organisational structure for the Council
- Ensuring that the decisions of the Council are implemented without undue delay
- The day-to-day management of the Council's operations in accordance with the Community Vision and Council Plan
- Developing, adopting and disseminating a code of conduct for Council staff
- Providing timely advice to the Council
- Carrying out the Council's responsibilities as a deemed employer with respect to Councillors, as deemed workers, which arise under or with respect to the *Accident Compensation Act 1985* or the *Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013*.

Highlights

The end of the 2023-2024 financial year is an opportune time to reflect on some of the notable achievements we've made over the past 12 months.

Many major projects have been completed, as well as a host of key strategies and plans that are critical to the region's future.

We've got on with the job of delivering more than 100 services and programs that benefit all parts of our great community, we've hosted major events that have injected millions into our economy and approved funding for projects that are critical to some of our smaller communities.

We've maintained more than 5,000km of local roads, welcomed over 400,000 attendees to our aquatic facilities and issued 890 building permits for building works totally almost \$240 million.

It all provides just a snapshot of the major progress we've made both as an organisation and as a community. And there is still so much to be done.

Some of the major projects completed over the past financial year include installing a permanent, 500-seat retractable grandstand at the Mildura Sporting Precinct (MSP), further improving the stadium's ability to host a range of events. During the year, the MSP hosted the Under 14 Victorian Country Basketball Championships and the Victorian Volleyball Championships, attracting thousands of visitors and injecting an estimated \$1.3 million into the local economy.

Construction of the Red Cliffs Early Years Learning Hub also commenced in March, while earlier this year works were completed to transform Rio Vista Park into an active outdoor community space with the installation of a new toilet block, CCTV cameras, additional lighting, new tree plantings and linkages to the nearby Off Leash Dog Park.

The CBD Urban Regener8 Project was also completed with the planting of trees in Langtree Avenue between Ninth and Tenth streets, and Ninth Street between Lime and Pine avenues, which has provided more shade, better access and a more attractive CBD precinct.

We also celebrated some significant openings during the past 12 months, including the \$13.025 million second stage of the MSP and the \$10.332 million Powerhouse Place project on Mildura's picturesque riverfront.

We delivered new 120L purple-lidded glass recycling bins to eligible residents in April ahead of the new service's commencement.

Our smaller communities have also welcomed some big wins, notably the opening of Murrayville Community Fuel, which has provided Murrayville residents, businesses and visitors with a permanent source of fuel for the first time in more than eight years. Works on the Lake Cullulleraine Community Complex began, along with the Koorlong Playground and Park project, which will include an asphalt path around the perimeter suitable for walking, jogging, bikes and scooters and a fully shaded play area with a barbeque and seating.

There have been some exciting announcements that will benefit the tourism and hospitality industry. Council approved Lock Island as the site to host world-renowned artist Bruce Munro's eagerly anticipated Trail of Lights project installation due to its close proximity to Mildura's riverfront and CBD.

We have also continued to green our city through a range of initiatives. An example is our successful Cool It Street Program. Following nominations from the community, more than 50 streets will be transformed with plantings that provide shade where this none, improving our streetscapes and showcasing how we can better adapt to climate change.

We also released our latest Environmental Sustainability Report, which highlighted achievements such as major cuts to emissions, water usage and waste going to landfill over the past 12 months.

Organisational Performance

Council remains in a sound financial position with more than \$1.1 billion of community assets under our stewardship. However, our financial results have been impacted by changes to the timing of Victorian Grants Commission payments.

This has resulted in variations to our revenue and surplus results for the financial year, which are explained in the Economic Factors section of this report.

Thankyou

This year also marks the end of our current Council's four-year term and I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and leadership shown by our Councillors. I also would like to thank Council staff who are the backbone of our organisation, providing the services and facilities our community deserves.

And finally I would like to thank the numerous community groups, businesses and residents who work hand-in-hand with our staff on an ongoing basis. Together we are continuing to grow and advance this region we call home. Thankyou.

Martin Hawson
Chief Executive Officer

Financial Summary

The Mildura Council has continued its strong delivery of the many services it provides to residents, businesses, the community and sporting groups for the 2023-2024 financial year. Many challenges have continued including continued recovery from the 2022-2023 flood event as Council continues to restore and rebuild facilities and community areas. Economic conditions also still present challenges and difficulties, with sustained high inflation and interest rates from which the Council is not immune.

However, while the economic conditions still present challenges, Council's financial position continues to remain sound. A summary of our performance is outlined below. Detailed information relating to financial performance is included within the Financial Statements and Performance Statement sections of this Annual Report.

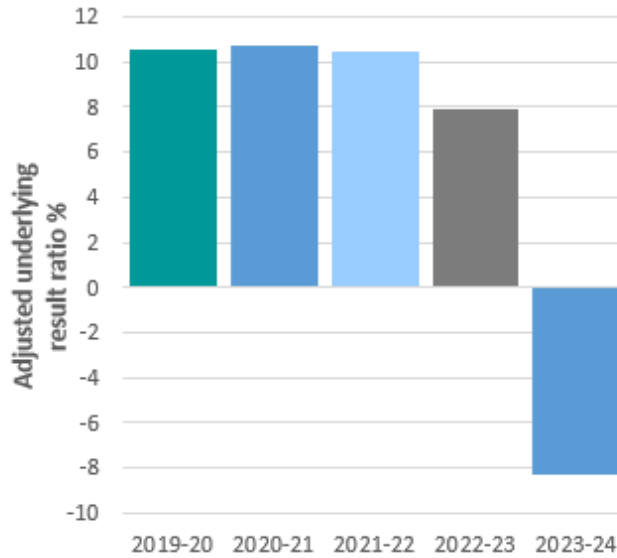
Operating Position

Council achieved a surplus of \$0.40 million in 2023–2024. This compares with a surplus of \$9.89 million in 2022–2023.

The surplus includes capital funding sources in which Council received \$10.81 million in capital grants for projects including the Mildura Sporting Precinct - Stage 2, Mildura Riverfront Powerhouse Precinct, Red Cliffs Early Years Hub, glass bins and re-processing facility, and other capital projects including roads, and community and sporting facility upgrades. Capital contributions of \$2.01 million and asset recognition also accounted for another \$4.70 million.

In June 2024, the Victorian Grants Commission advised of the estimated financial assistance grants for 2024-2025. All Victorian councils had received forward payments equal to 100 percent of the next year's allocations, with an expectation of receiving a 75 per cent forward payment in June 2024. The Victorian Grants Commission changed the timing of this payment to July 2024. While Council will still receive its full grants allocation, the timing of payments will impact the 2023-2024 financial year with a reduction against the adopted Budget 2023-2024 of \$17.22 million.

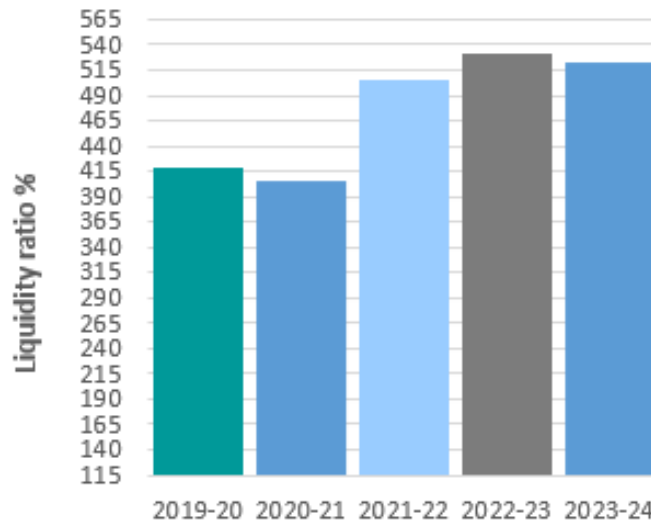
The above has resulted in a reduced overall surplus position. After removing capital funding including capital grants, the adjusted underlying position is an operating deficit. However, this is merely a timing difference between financial years with Council remaining in a healthy and sound financial position with strong liquidity.



Liquidity

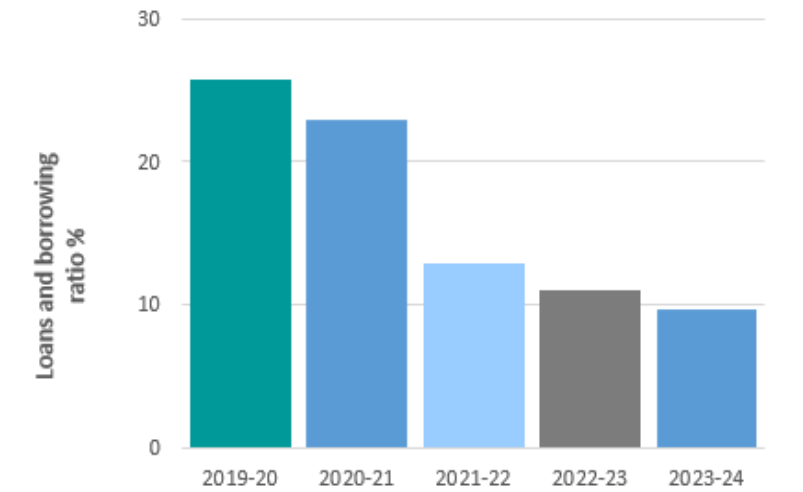
Cash and financial assets have decreased by \$22.43 million from the prior financial year. The decrease is largely due to the change in timing of Financial Assistance Grants, in which forward grant allocation payments were paid in July 2024 rather than June 2024. Therefore, the cash is not reflected in the cash and financial assets as at 30 June 2024. However, Council remains in a sound financial position with strong liquidity.

The working capital ratio, which assesses our ability to meet current commitments, is calculated by measuring our current assets as a percentage of current liabilities. Our result of 523.42 per cent shows we are in a strong financial position enabling us to make provision for known future obligations such as landfill rehabilitation and site aftercare requirements.



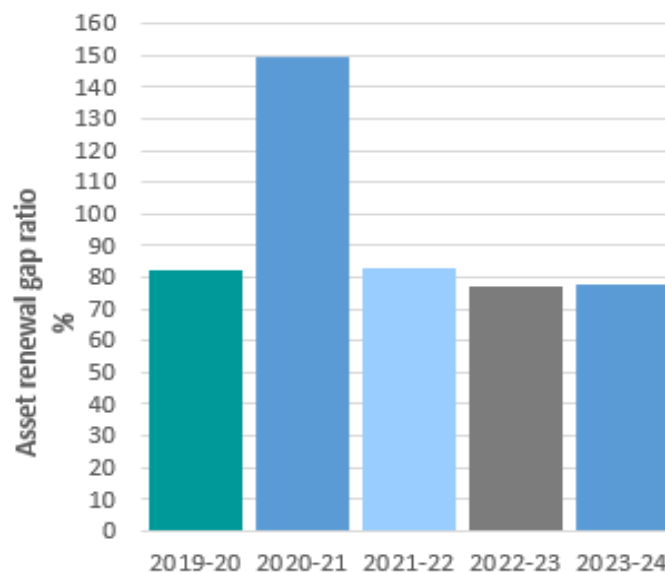
Obligations

Our debt ratio is measured by comparing interest bearing loans and borrowings with rate revenue. At the end of the 2023-2024 year, our debt ratio was 9.72 per cent, which is well below the target band of below 40 per cent.



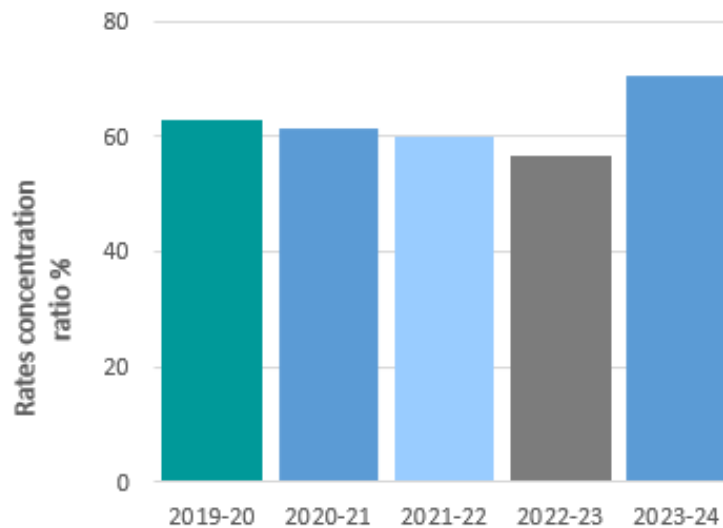
We aim to ensure we can maintain our infrastructure assets at the expected levels while at the same time continuing to deliver the services needed by the community. To bridge the infrastructure gap, Council invested \$34.45 million in capital works during the 2023-2024 year. This included \$20.52 million for the renewal, expansion and upgrade of assets.

Council's asset renewal ratio, which is measured by comparing asset renewal expenditure to depreciation, was 78 per cent for the 2023-2024 financial year.



Stability and Efficiency

Council raises a wide range of revenues including rates, user fees, fines, grants and contributions. Despite this, our rates concentration, which compares rate revenue to adjusted underlying revenue, was 70.41 per cent (in comparison with 56.80 per cent for 2022-2023). This increase resulted from the timing change for Financial Assistance Grant payment allocations, with reduced income from other sources for the 2023-24 financial year impacting on the adjusted underlying revenue when compared with rates. However, this still remains within the expected target band of 40 per cent to 80 per cent. This ratio will return to our normal rates concentration for the 2024-2025 financial year. Council will continue to implement sound financial management principles aimed at keeping its rate rise to within the rate cap, while still maintaining services at similar levels. However, the economic environment and other external factors will continue to present many challenges now and into the future. Council will continue with sustainability reviews and many other initiatives to ensure services are delivered as efficiently as possible.



Description of Council's Operations

As a Council, we are responsible for more than 100 services, from family and children's services, traffic regulation, open space, youth services, waste management and community development, to roads and drainage, planning for appropriate development and ensuring accountability for our Budget. This broad range of community services and infrastructure for residents supports the wellbeing and prosperity of our community. Refer to the Our Performance section of this Annual Report for more information about Council services.

To achieve key result areas relating to *Strategic Objective: Economy (Refer to Council Plan 2021 to 2025)*, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been established with funded local entity Mildura City Heart Inc. As sole shareholder, we have also established an Airport Operations and Management Deed with Mildura Airport Pty Ltd to ensure the air transport needs of the Mildura community and broader region are efficiently serviced into the future.

In addition to the above, to further support the achievement of key result areas relating to *Strategic Objective: Economy (Refer to Council Plan 2021 to 2025)*, Council approved a new Economic and Tourism Development Framework in September 2023, paving the way for the development of a transition plan to facilitate the transition of economic and tourism development delivery functions from our previously funded subsidiary entity, Mildura Regional Development, into Mildura Rural City Council. The development of the new Economic and Tourism Development Framework followed a review of our organisational structure undertaken in 2022 by independent consultants KPMG, which resulted in a recommendation to create a new fourth "Strategy & Growth" department to better support the long-term economic growth of our region. The new Economic and Tourism Development Framework includes two independent advisory boards, dedicated to economic development and tourism respectively. These boards, once established, will provide recommendations and advice to Council and our new Strategy and Growth Department.

Our vision, strategic objectives and strategies to further improve services and facilities are described in our Community Vision and Council Plan 2021 to 2025 and the associated Budget 2023–2024. These are reported on in this document. Refer to the section on Our Performance for more information about our services.

The delivery of services, facilities, support and advocacy to achieve the strategic objectives of the Council Plan is assessed against a set of performance indicators and measures. We also have a wide range of responsibilities under Victorian and Australian legislation.

Economic Factors - General

Council is still facing a financial challenge following the freezing of indexation of Federal Assistance Grants (FAGs) from 2014-2017.

The FAGs are provided under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*, and consist of two components:

- A general-purpose component that is distributed between the states and territories according to population (i.e. on a per capita basis)

- An identified local road component that is distributed between the states and territories according to fixed historical shares.

These grants play a significant role in relieving pressure on raising revenue through rates. The ongoing impacts of any reduction to indexation on FAGs has the effect of significantly reducing our revenue into the future. This is causing a greater reliance on rating revenue.

The Victorian Government also introduced a cap on rate increases from the 2016-2017 financial year onwards. The cap for 2023-2024 was set at 3.50 per cent, with Council adopting a rate increase of 3 percent. The cap for the 2024-2025 financial year is set at 2.75 per cent.

Economic Factors - Other

While we have emerged from the COVID-19 event, the virus is still highly active throughout the community and continues to have some impacts on Council's operations. These impacts have included additional cleaning costs and increases in staff leave. However, from a financial perspective, the impacts are not material to our day-to-day operations.

During 2022-2023, the Mildura region also experienced a significant flood event with the second highest Murray River level ever recorded in the district. Post-flood has required significant recovery and restoration for Council and community assets including playgrounds, parks, roads and footpaths, much of which has been funded from government grants and insurance claims.

A major impact during the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 financial years has been rising inflation, with CPI remaining stubbornly higher than the Reserve Bank target range. This contributes to increases in operational costs and the cost of delivering capital works projects and related expenditures.

The Victorian Government through the Victorian Grants Commission adjusted the timing of payments for 2024-2025 financial assistance grants. This timing difference has resulted in a reduction to the adopted budget of \$17.22 million in grant income, which is reflected in the financial results for 2023-2024. These monies will now be recorded in the 2024-2025 financial year.

In accordance with financial sustainability and sound financial management principles, we will continue to monitor the economic conditions closely including financial reporting through our monthly management reports, quarterly budget review process, long-term financial planning, service reviews and analysis of financial ratios.

Major Capital Works

During 2024-2025, major capital works included the following:

Road resealing

The upgrade of 70km of road resealing was undertaken during the 2023-2024 financial year. Works involved bitumen spray sealing to renew existing seal, extend the life of the wearing surface and improve road safety.

Road gravel re-sheeting

Listed below are several gravel re-sheeting work projects that involved reconstruction of pavement to the edge of the existing roadway:

- Pink Lakes Road from Purnya Road to Mallee Highway
- Crow Road from Mallee Highway to Stock Route Road
- Kuranda Avenue from Sunnycliffs Crescent to end
- Daunts Road from Sunnycliffs Crescent to end
- Meridian Road From Millewa Road to Carwarp Road.

Road shoulder works

Listed below are road shoulder work projects that involved reconstruction of pavement to the edge of the existing roadway:

- Brownport Road from east of the Mondall Road to Sculthorpe Road
- Twentieth Street from Benetook Avenue to Boomerang Avenue.

These works have created a stable and trafficable edge to the roadway to protect the existing road pavement from edge breaks and premature failure. Road shoulders also allow for errant vehicles to recover and travel back onto the road pavement in a safe manner.

Blackspot treatment of Seventeenth Street between Benetook Avenue and Deakin Avenue

Seventeenth Street between Benetook Avenue and Deakin Avenue was identified as a blackspot with seven accidents having been recorded on this section of road.

Improvements were made to the road and lighting over two financial years. Works were completed in 2023-2024.

Blackspot Intersection treatment of Deakin Avenue and Twentieth Street

The Deakin Avenue and Twentieth Street intersection has been identified as a blackspot that requires improvements to ensure driver safety and reduce the risk of fatal collisions and injuries.

Works to upgrade the intersection will include a Vehicle Activated Warning System, splitter island, pavement reconstruction and widening, drainage works, lighting, additional road signage and line marking.

Works commenced in 2023-2024 and will be undertaken over two financial years.

Upgrade of Meridian Road south of Sturt Highway construction - Stages 2 and 3

The upgrade of Meridian Road south of the Sturt Highway construction project (stages 2 and 3) has been undertaken over multiple financial years.

Works involved upgrading 12.6km of unsealed gravel road to a sealed road, installation of four culverts and culvert pipes, tree trimming, preparation of subgrade, base installation, line-marking, guideposts and signage.

These works were completed in 2023-2024.

Installation of competition standard lights at Old Aerodrome Sporting Complex Oval No. 2

Works at the Old Aerodrome Sporting Complex Oval No. 2 have included the supply and installation of four new light towers to Cricket Australia standards. The upgrade now achieves lighting levels that extend scheduling at this location for both cricket and football training.

Works were completed in 2023-2024.

Mildura Sporting Precinct - Stage 2 - Additional car parking, landscaping treatments and indoor stadium seating

Indoor stadium seating improvements (Grandstand) were delivered in September 2023. The balance of works are in progress and on track for completion within revised forecast programs (car park extension and landscaping packages).

Mildura Sporting Precinct - Construction of oval lighting, eight-lane turf and synthetic cricket nets

The construction of oval lighting and an eight-lane turf and synthetic cricket nets has been undertaken.

Works were undertaken over two financial years and completed in 2023-2024.

Village Square Riverfront Precinct - Stage 2

This project delivered an iconic tourist destination and community asset with a food and beverage structure, tourism offering, village square area, additional car parking, additional amenities building and community and retail spaces. A community opening event was held in Spring 2023. The precinct is attracting high visitation, regular hires across a diverse range of use and has fast become a much-loved community asset.

These works were completed and capitalised in 2023-2024.

Upgrade of Rio Vista Park space activation - Lock 11 amenities

This project was developed with the aim of crime prevention through environmental design.

Works included a new public toilet facility with individual cubicle doors facing the carpark. The building is wrapped in brightly coloured artwork of native flowers and birds. The building is fitted with CCTV cameras providing the Police with a live 360-degree view around the facility. The facility has also been set up to automatically lock and unlock at predetermined times.

To enhance public perceptions of safety in the park, pole lighting was installed from the Lock 11 carpark to the far end of the park leading towards the Off-Leash Dog Park. Coloured LED up-lighting was placed under prominent trees around the park to create a festive ambience. This project also included power supply upgrades to support event programming.

These works were undertaken over two financial years. Works were completed in 2023-2024.

Lake Cullulleraine Community Complex

This project involves redesign of the internal space of four change rooms and combined toilets and showers to four compliant unisex change rooms and amenities, and two unisex umpire rooms.

These works commenced in 2023-2024 and will be completed in 2024-2025.

Koorlong Playground and Park

This project involves the redesign and development of the existing Koorlong drainage basin to align with Council playground and open space strategies.

Works will include an asphalt path around the perimeter suitable for walking, jogging, bikes and scooters. The play area will be fully shaded, as will the accompanying BBQ and seating facility.

The playground and shade improvements portion of works have been completed. The balance of works are on track for completion in 2024-2025.

Buxton Sobee Playground equipment

This project included the renewal of play equipment at Buxton Sobee Park. Works included the installation of play equipment and a shade structure in 2023-2024.

Windsor Park Playground

The playground in Windsor Park was upgraded and now provides an important hub of activation for this location. The installed playground aligns with Council's recently adopted Playground Strategy. Works were completed in 2023-24.

Urban Regener8 CBD Revitalisation project

This project was developed to transform the Mildura CBD shopping experience to drive economic growth and stimulate spending while providing an enhanced and connected streetscape environment in keeping with our natural riverfront, Mediterranean climate and lifestyle themes.

A significant proportion of the funding was provided through Regional Development Victoria with the balance of the project being funded by Mildura Rural City Council.

Works were undertaken over two financial years and completed in 2023-2024.

Cabarita Drainage upgrade

The Cabarita drainage project involved upgrading swale, pits and pipe connections in a series of locations throughout our community to reduce the risk of flooding in high rain events. Locations included: Seventeenth Street, McEdward Street, Regina Avenue, Malibu Drive, Ebony Court, Lakeside Drive and St Andrews Drive.

The extent of works was significant and delivered much needed drainage improvements for our community.

Works were completed in 2023-2024.

Nichols Point drainage upgrade

The Nichols Point drainage upgrade project is to be delivered over two financial years. Design for trunk mains, pump stations and the drainage basin were completed in 2023-2024. Construction will be delivered in 2024-2025.

Calder Basin to Cowra Avenue drainage works

This project involved constructing a new drainage outfall for future subdivisions from Cowra Avenue to the Calder Basin near the corner of Fifteenth Street and Benetook Avenue.

Works completed in 2023-2024 included the installation of new pipes and pits and the connection of the new drainage infrastructure into the existing drainage network.

Reconstruction of Etiwanda Avenue and Tenth Street intersection

This project involved the replacement and upgrade of the major stormwater drainage line between Eighth and Eleventh streets to cater for major stormwater events and reduce the potential for flooding. Works also included road crossings to future-proof kerb alignment and pits.

These works were undertaken over two financial years. Works were completed in 2023-24.

Upgrade of Deakin Avenue from Seventh Street and Eighth Street

This project aims to provide a gateway entrance to Mildura with valuable public open space.

Works have included the removal of unsuitable trees, creating a pathway down the middle of the strip and landscaping improvements to tie in with previously completed works between Eighth and Tenth streets. Works also included demolishing a large toilet block and relocating a smaller amenity with a public art/exhibition area.

These works commenced in April 2024 and are to be completed before the end of the 2024 calendar year.

Drainage Improvement Works at Dylan Court

This project involved upgrading existing drainage infrastructure at Dylan Court to increase the lifetime of the drainage assets, reduce maintenance costs and address safety issues raised by residents in relation to water pooling in Dylan Court.

Works included upgrading the existing drainage outfall pipe to 300mm RCP and replacing side entry pits to improve drainage in the court.

These works were completed in 2023-2024.

Etiwanda Spur line - Sixteenth Street to Fifteenth Street

This project involved drainage improvement by way of construction of the Etiwanda spur line from Fifteenth Street at the existing 1300mm stub near Diablo Way through to Fifteenth Street, making a gravity connection to the existing basins in Barraclough Way and Bene Vista Boulevard, including the pump removal from the existing basin. Works also included road crossings to future kerb alignment and pits.

The objective of these works was to extend the existing main drainage line in Etiwanda Avenue towards Fifteenth Street to provide a drainage outfall to R1-zoned land to the street.

Works included the installation of new pipes and pits, and the connection of new drainage infrastructure into the existing drainage network.

These works were completed in 2023-2024.

Mildura Bowls Club and Workingman's Bowls Club – Clubroom renewal

This project involved the refurbishment of the clubrooms to accommodate sharing by the two clubs and provide gender-neutral, accessible facilities and a new commercial kitchen.

Works included the demolition of the old toilets and kitchen to cater for the two clubs.

These works were completed in 2023-2024.

Nichols Point Recreation Reserve Sports Facility

This project involves the construction of the Nichols Point Recreation Reserve Sports Facility.

Works include the construction of a building to provide a change facility and social space to accommodate the current female and male participation and to cater for an increase in male and female participation.

The project aims to provide a community facility that can be utilised by the broader community.

The facility is currently under construction (frame stage) and due for completion in late 2024/early 2025.

Old Aerodrome Sporting Complex - Facility upgrade planning and design

This project has upgraded the hockey, BMX and athletics facilities, elevating them from local competition standard to a standard that supports increased participation and sports tourism through regional, state and national events.

These works were completed in 2023-2024.

Red Cliffs Early Years Hub construction

This integrated early years facility, currently under construction, will include a four-playroom kindergarten, a two-office maternal and child health and visiting consultant facility, a space for the Mildura Toy Library and multi-use community space.

The project scope includes a new playground and landscaped outdoor space for community use. The facility will have 200kW of solar panels and 200kW of battery storage, achieving approximately 80 per cent energy self-sufficiency.

This project has required the demolition of the original kindergarten, and maternal and child health building, both of which were at the end of their life.

These works commenced in 2023-2024 and will be delivered over two financial years.

Kerbside Reform Support - Glass bins

This project involved the purchase and distribution of the purple lidded kerbside bins. The kerbside service will divert glass from recycling bins and landfill to be reused in other products.

This project was completed in 2023-2024.

John Hall Oval Community Scoreboard Project

An electronic scoreboard was installed at John Hall Oval, Mildura, now catering to match play scoring for cricket and football.

These works were completed in 2023-2024.

Shared pathway from Mildura Homestead to 3MA Corner

This project included tree trimming, cultural heritage assessment, removal of sand and re-sheeting path with 100mm of compacted bluestone crusher dust to the path surface. The length of the project is 10,000m by a width of 2.0m.

These works commenced in 2023-2024 and will be delivered over two financial years. The balance of the scope of works is on track for delivery in 2024-2025.

Cricket net upgrade - Mildura West Cricket Club

This project involved the construction of two additional training nets and repair to the existing four training nets at the facility at John Hall Oval, Old Aerodrome Sporting Complex, Mildura.

These works were completed in 2023-2024.

Major Changes

In 2023–2024, we implemented a new organisational structure to address findings identified in a report prepared by consultants KPMG that were seen to be limiting our ability to provide optimum services to our community. The new structure (refer to the Our People section of this Annual Report for further details) addresses key *recommendations* arising from KPMG's audit of our organisational structure to support us to be a more effective, efficient and sustainable organisation.

Major Achievements

- Official opening on 24 May 2024 of the \$13.025 million second stage of the Mildura Sporting Precinct
- Official opening on 6 September 2024 of the \$10.332 million Powerhouse Place project
- Announcement of the Electrifying Mildura project as a finalist in the Cities Power Partnership's fifth annual National Climate Awards 2023
- Awarded Best Strategic Planning Project award for our Mildura CBD Access and Mobility Strategy at the Planning Institute of Australia's Victoria Division Awards
- Adoption of Community Climate Response Plan 2024-2029
- Adoption of Red Cliffs and Carwarp Community Plan 2023-2028
- Launch of the Mildura Regional Motorsport Strategy
- Opening of the new wine bar in the Mildura Airport departures lounge
- Completion of the CBD Urban Regener8 Project
- Opening of the Murrayville Community Fuel facility.

City Profile



Mildura Rural City Council covers an area of 22,082 square kilometres, making it the largest municipality in Victoria.

The municipality has an estimated resident population of 57,554 which includes 2,621 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The structure of the region's economy and a significant transient population for employment purposes sees Mildura serve a regional population across three states – Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.

Major townships within Mildura Rural City's urban area include Mildura, Irymple, Red Cliffs and Merbein. These irrigation areas formed part of the first irrigation colony established in Australia. Townships within Council's rural area include Ouyen, Meringur, Werrimull, Cullulleraine, Cardross, Nangiloc, Colignan, Murrayville, Cowangie, Underbool and Walpeup.

Key economic advantages for the Mildura Rural City include its proximity to the Murray River, its diverse agricultural sector, a vibrant community, its location at the apex of three Australian states, and vocation and tertiary education institutions.

While renowned for quality horticultural production, the Mildura region's economy has diversified and expanded over many years to include a variety of industries. Value adding industries such as manufacturing (predominantly wine, fruit and vegetable processing) have become well established in the region and benefit from the area's tri-state location and transport infrastructure. Tourism is also a strong element within the local economy and the Mildura region has become a popular tourist destination. With excellent infrastructure and a Mediterranean style climate creating an abundance of sunshine hours and clear days, Mildura has more recently become an area of great interest to the renewable energy sector and is viewed as a preferred solar location.

Mildura also boasts the largest and busiest regional airport in Victoria with 234,344 passenger movements each year.

** Source: Figures based on 2024 update to Australian Bureau of Statistics data.*

Council Offices

Mildura

Madden Avenue Service Centre

108 Madden Avenue, Mildura

Ph: (03) 5018 8100

Fax: (03) 5021 1899

Deakin Avenue Service Centre

76 Deakin Avenue, Mildura

Ph: (03) 5018 8100

Fax: (03) 5021 1899

Ouyen

Ouyen Service Centre

79 Oke Street, Ouyen

Ph: (03) 5018 8600

Fax: (03) 5092 1017

Email: mrcc@mildura.vic.gov.au

Website: www.mildura.vic.gov.au

Postal address:

PO Box 105

Mildura Victoria 3502

Councillors

A Council is elected to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and the local community. In 2020, our community elected this Council for a four-year term. The nine Councillors listed below are the elected representatives of all residents and ratepayers across the Mildura Rural City, with their term ending in October 2024. Councillors are responsible for setting the strategic direction of the municipality, policy development, identifying service standards and monitoring performance across the organisation. To allow focus on strategic matters relating to specific areas of Council, Councillors are also allocated a portfolio aligned with the Council Plan 2021 to 2025.

Cr Liam Wood, Mayor

Term: 2020-2024

Cr Liam Wood was born and bred in Mildura and grew up on the banks of Kings Billabong. After graduating from the Red Cliffs High School, Cr Wood went on to study landscape architecture at RMIT University. He moved back to Mildura 14 years ago and now runs three businesses.

Cr Jason Modica

Terms: 2016-2020, 2020-2024

Cr Jason Modica joined Council for the first time in 2016. Cr Modica lives in Nichols Point and is passionate about the region he calls home.

Cr Troy Bailey

Term: 2020-2024 (replaced Cyndi Power in March 2022)

Cr Troy Bailey grew up on a dried fruit property in Coomealla with his seven brothers and three sisters. Working the block with his family created a strength and determination to finish the job no matter what.

Cr Bailey started his career in 1989 at the Mildura Base Hospital at the age of 17 years, teaching nurses to use technology they had never seen before. His passion for health services in the Mallee continued to direct his efforts, working with GPs and specialists to improve communication and service delivery. Assisting Sunraysia Community Health Services to implement innovative healthcare solutions, Cr Bailey is now continuing that work as the ICT Transformational Manager at the Mildura Base Public Hospital.

Cr Helen Healy

Terms: 2019-2020 (replaced Ali Cupper in February 2019), 2020-2024

Cr Helen Healy grew up in Ouyen, is one of 73 first cousins and her family have been in the Mallee for more than 100 years.

Cr Healy is an Arts and Cultural Engagement consultant, having produced over 300 events across Australia, including major events in the Mildura region and a major cultural program for the Centenary of Canberra. She has twice been a finalist for the Australian Event Manager of the Year. Recently, Cr Healy completed a Master of Fine Arts in Cultural Leadership and the Australian Institute of Company Directors course.

Cr Mark Eckel, Deputy Mayor

Terms: 2000-2003, 2005-2008, 2008-2012, 2012-2016, 2016-2020, 2020-2024

Cr Mark Eckel has been a White Ribbon Ambassador and believes that violence is a cultural issue that needs to be addressed commencing with our youth.

With wife Denise, Cr Eckel has six children, 17 grandchildren and is the great grandparent of 11. The couple list Mildura's geographical location, lifestyle and multicultural community as highlights.

In addition to working as a radio presenter, Cr Eckel is a keen sportsman.

Cr Glenn Milne

Terms: 2005-2008, 2008-2012, 2012-2016, 2016-2020, 2020-2024

Born and bred in the region, Cr Glenn Milne grew up on a dried fruit and citrus property at Cardross while completing school and further education pursuits locally. He has also been employed as a press photographer and worked in community development and welfare. A father of eight, including two foster children, Cr Milne is a Board member of Sunraysia Residential Services and a life member of the Mallee Accommodation and Support Program.

Cr Stefano De Pieri

Term: 2020-2024

Cr Stefano De Pieri migrated to Australia in 1974 from Italy, before attending Sydney Road Community School and completing a Politics degree at Melbourne University. He worked as a ministerial advisor in the state government for some years prior to coming to Mildura in 1991.

Cr De Pieri established Stefano's Restaurant and published a book (*Gondola on the Murray*) which became a TV series. He helped establish Arts Mildura, La Trobe University and the Australian Alternative Varieties Wine Show. He recently featured in the SBS TV program *Australia's Food Bowl*, which highlights food production and innovation in the wider Mildura district.

Cr De Pieri is on the Committee for the Mildura Writers Festival, the Alternative Varieties Wine Show and was previously a member of the Mildura Regional Development Board.

Cr De Pieri is interested in literature, music and food and a modicum of exercise.

Cr Ian Arney

Term: 2020-2024

Cr Ian Arney farms at Werrimull. He has three children. Cr Arney has lived in the municipality for more than 50 years and has been farming for over 30 of those years. He has actively played sport with many clubs and is currently associated with Sunraysia Volleyball. He is actively involved in revegetation and sustainable farming.

Cr Arney has been involved with Landcare for more than 25 years and is currently the Millewa/Carwarp Landcare Group President.

Cr Jodi Reynolds

Term: 2020-2024

Cr Jodi Reynolds has been a resident of Mildura since 2014. She has raised two daughters in the region and become an active member of the Mildura community.

She has worked as a geologist specialising in Mineralogy for over 20 years after completing a Bachelor of Science at the University of Newcastle.

After moving to Mildura, Cr Reynolds completed a post-graduate Certificate in Nutrition and is currently studying a post-graduate Certificate in Environmental Management at the Australian National University.

During her time in Mildura, Cr Reynolds has worked for Crystal Mining (now Tronox), Mildura City Heart, Northern Mallee Leaders Inc. and Mallee Catchment Management Authority. She currently works at the Department of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water in the Water division.

Our People

Organisational Structure

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 2021-2025. Four general managers and the CEO form the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and lead the organisation. Details of the CEO and senior officers reporting directly to the CEO are set out below.



Chief Executive Officer

Martin Hawson

Martin has well over 20 years' experience at senior executive level in local government, establishing a proven record for innovative leadership and creating close outcome-driven partnerships with the community. Born and raised in Red Cliffs and a Sunraysia resident his entire life, key themes throughout his extensive local government career have been improving community well-being, particularly for disadvantaged groups, and creating strategies for the region to grow and prosper.

Council's Mildura Future Ready advocacy and funding strategy is a shining example of Martin's ground-breaking approach to improving outcomes for the Sunraysia region. Since it was launched in 2017, it has attracted \$42 million in government funding for the region, making projects including the Mildura Sporting Precinct and continued development of Mildura's iconic riverfront a reality.

Throughout his career, Martin has demonstrated an ability to develop successful relationships at all levels of government and with key stakeholders, which is critical to achieving outcomes that make a real difference to the community.

Martin has also played pivotal leadership roles supporting the community through some of the region's biggest crisis events over more than a decade as Municipal Recovery Manager. Most recently, through several COVID-19 outbreaks, he was a key member of the Northern Mallee Incident Management Committee, which successfully navigated the Sunraysia community through some of the most difficult stages of the pandemic.

Martin is an Australian Institute of Company Directors graduate and also has qualifications in the health and education sectors, including a Masters in Health Administration and a Graduate Diploma in Health Science.

Responsibilities:

- Executive support for Mayor and Councillors, including approving Council reports and providing strategic advice to Councillors

- Implementation of Council's policies and decisions
- Liaison with other levels of government and major stakeholders
- Working with other local government representatives on sector-wide and regional issues
- Supporting all areas of the municipality
- City development and investment attraction
- Leadership of the Strategic Leadership Team (ie Council's Executive Leadership Team and branch managers).

Senior Officers Reporting Directly to the Chief Executive Officer



General Manager Corporate Performance

Kate Henschke

Kate is an experienced senior manager with over 20 years' experience in local and state government and the private sector.

Kate has worked with Mildura Rural City Council since 2012 and held roles including Procurement and Fleet Coordinator, Manager Leisure and Cultural Services and Manager Strategic Projects. She has a diverse background including extensive experience in the provision of financial services, contract management, and most recently leading cross-functional teams to deliver some of the region's biggest projects.

Kate was born and raised in Mildura and returned the region after a period studying and working in Adelaide.

Kate holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) and a Bachelor of Laws (Hons).

Responsibilities:

- Communications
- Financial Services
- Governance
- Information Systems
- People
- Organisational Performance
- Corporate Projects (temporary)



General Manager Infrastructure & Assets

Daryl Morgan

Daryl has over 30 years' experience in local government working within the engineering and development field. Daryl was born and raised in Red Cliffs and returned to the area in November 2019 to work for Mildura Rural City Council.

As a senior manager with extensive local government experience specialising in the areas of civil construction and design, contract management, waste management, traffic management and drainage, Daryl has worked on numerous projects involving landfill capping and construction, seven storey hospital demolition, railway lands remediation and development, as well as various road and drainage construction works.

Daryl holds a degree in Civil Engineering, a Graduate Diploma in Local Government Engineering and Management, and graduate certificates in Environmental and Water Engineering. He is a Chartered Professional Engineer and a Member of the Institute of Engineers.

Responsibilities:

- Engineering Development and Delivery
- Works and Infrastructure
- Civic Compliance
- Facilities and Assets
- Waste Services



General Manager Healthy Communities

Mark Jenkins

Mark has more than 40 years' experience in local government working across the environmental, planning, sustainability and community areas.

Mark has managed various areas within Council including Parks and Gardens, Waste Management, Community Development, Strategic Planning, Arts, and Environmental Sustainability. Mark has had an ongoing involvement in the delivery of key Council initiatives including the Mildura Riverfront and Powerhouse redevelopment, renewable and energy efficiency projects and supporting rural communities and small towns throughout the municipality.

Mark holds a Bachelor of Management (Rural Resources) and an Advanced Diploma in Land Management.

Responsibilities:

- Community Partnerships
- Community Care
- Libraries and Knowledge Hubs
- Parks and Recreation Areas



General Manager Strategy & Growth

Peter Alexander

Peter has more than 20 years' experience as an executive in the corporate sector at national and international level.

He has been responsible for transformative strategic leadership in a broad range of areas, including implementing industry-leading change in the automotive and powersports sectors on multiple occasions.

His previous experience as an executive and strategic leader have seen him responsible for areas including marketing, finance, business development and channel management, as well as running his own management consultancy service.

Peter has wide experience at board level including as a Chairman of an ASX-listed company and continues to assist local and international companies at advisory and board levels. His most recent role was as Chief Executive Officer with Mildura Regional Development, where he oversaw management of economic and tourism development in the Sunraysia region.

Peter has a Masters of Business Administration from Melbourne Business School.

Responsibilities:

- Arts, Culture and Venues
- Strategic Planning
- Statutory Planning
- Economic Development and Tourism
- Project Development
- Lightstate Project
- Mildura Airport
- Mildura City Heart



Executive Leadership Team: Left to right: Kate Henschke, General Manager Corporate Performance; Mark Jenkins, General Manager Healthy Communities; Martin Hawson, Chief Executive Officer; Peter Alexander, General Manager Strategy & Growth; Daryl Morgan, General Manager Infrastructure & Assets

Organisational Sustainability Review

In 2023-2024, we implemented a new organisational structure to address findings identified in a report prepared by consultants KPMG that were seen to be limiting our ability to provide optimum services to our community. The new structure, shown below at 30 June 2024, addressed the following *recommendations* arising from KPMG's review of our organisational structure to support us to be a more effective, efficient and sustainable organisation:

- *Fourth department* – The new “Strategy & Growth” Department brings inhouse the economic development and tourism functions previously undertaken by Council’s subsidiary entity, Mildura Regional Development. Other functions that will support long-term economic growth, including arts, events, land use planning and major projects, have also been aligned in this new department.
- *Balanced structure* – The flatter organisational structure balances teams, encouraging collaboration. It also empowers staff with streamlined decision making.
- *Realignment of functions* – The new structure brings together teams, functions and external reporting relationships who share a common purpose, direction and goals.
- *Strategic focus* – Functions that support our long-term sustainability have been elevated into the management teams to help Council quickly and effectively respond to its external environment.

- *Project management office function* – A project management office has been introduced to provide support and achieve greater consistency in project management and delivery across all of Council.
- *Customer-centric focus* – The new structure ensures a customer-centric focus, addressing the needs of internal and external customers to ensure customers are central to our decision-making.

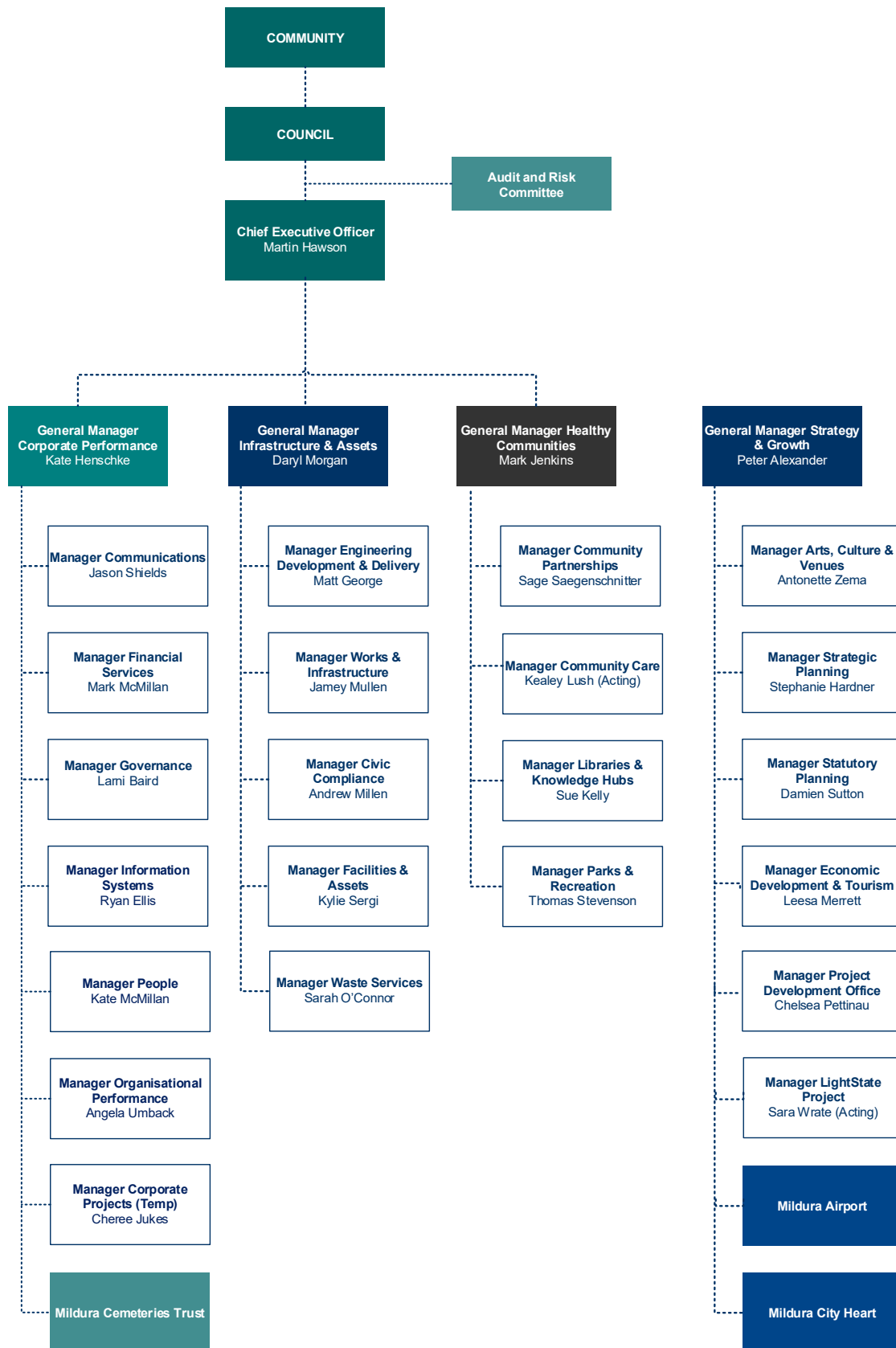
The new structure was implemented following a consultation process with Councillors, Mildura Rural City Council staff, Mildura Regional Development staff and relevant unions, which included communicating the findings of the consultant's review and calling for feedback on the proposed changes to the organisational structure prior the structure being finalised and implemented in 2023-2024.

A competitive recruitment process, which included advertising externally, was undertaken for all general manager positions. (Refer to the 'Senior Officers Reporting Directly to the Chief Executive Officer' section of this Annual Report for details of the appointments made to general manager roles.)

In accordance with the redeployment provisions of our Enterprise Agreement, contracted managers whose departments/branches were expected to change significantly under the new structure were offered positions in the new structure that most closely aligned with their existing roles. Where a single team was elevated to a branch for a strategic reason, the team's coordinator was transitioned to the position of manager and the coordinator's position removed from the structure. Where multiple teams were brought together and no current contracted manager had been offered that role, the manager's role was advertised externally through a competitive recruitment process. A competitive recruitment process was undertaken for the following managers' roles:

- Manager Organisational Performance
- Manager Facilities & Assets
- Manager Works & Infrastructure
- Manager Community Partnerships
- Manager Tourism & Economic Development
- Manager Parks & Recreation.

The new organisational structure of Council, at 30 June 2024, is shown below.

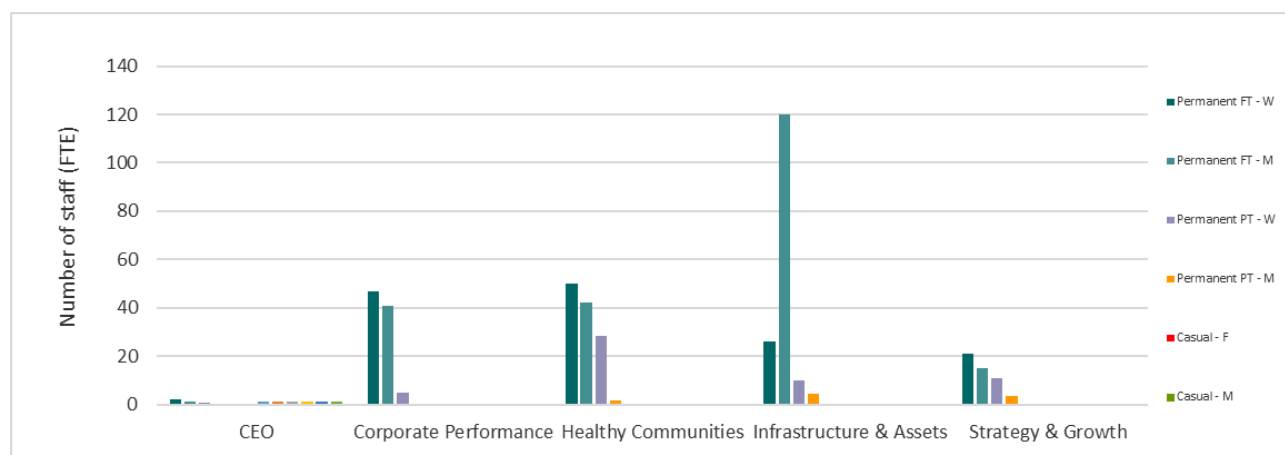


Council Staff

A summary of the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff by organisational structure, employment type and gender is set out below.

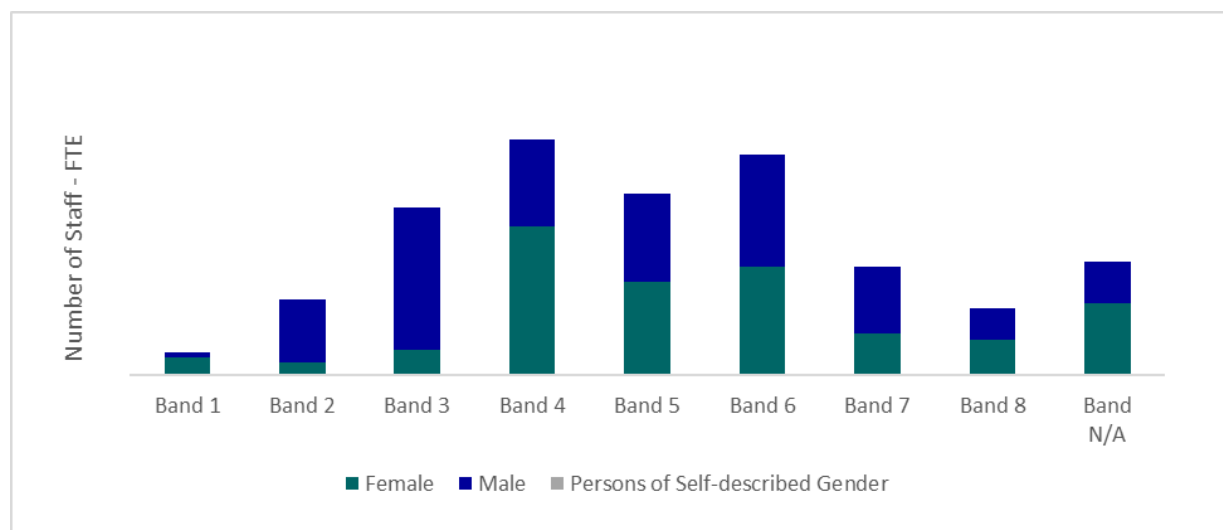
Employee type/gender	CEO FTE	Corporate Performance FTE	Healthy Communities FTE	Infrastructure & Assets FTE	Strategy & Growth	Total FTE
Permanent FT - W	2	47	50	26	21	146
Permanent FT - M	1	41	42	120	15	219
Permanent FT - X	0	0	0	0	0	0
Permanent PT - W	0.63	4.91	28.16	10.03	10.97	54.70
Permanent PT - M	0	0	1.69	4.43	3.43	9.55
Permanent PT - X	0	0	0	0	0	0
Casual - F	0	0.08	0.30	0.20	0.30	0.88
Casual - M	0	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.22	0.32
Casual - X	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3.63	93.03	122.17	160.70	50.92	430.45

FT-Full-time PT-Part-time W-Women M-Men X–Persons of self-described gender



A summary of the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff categorised by employment classification and gender is set out below.

Employment Classification	Women FTE	Men FTE	Persons of Self-described Gender FTE	Total FTE
Band 1	6.44	1.84	0	8.28
Band 2	4.79	22.78	0	27.57
Band 3	9.27	51.17	0	60.44
Band 4	53.52	31.33	0	84.85
Band 5	33.69	32	0	65.69
Band 6	39.35	40.02	0	79.37
Band 7	15.2	24.1	0	39.30
Band 8	13.12	11	0	24.12
Band not applicable	26.20	14.63	0	40.83
Total	201.58	228.87	0	430.45



Overview of Senior Positions by Gender*

Level	Men	Women	Self-Described Gender
Executive Leadership	4	1	0
Management	7	12	0
Coordinator and Team Leader	41	36	0

* Note: The above figures provide an overview of senior positions at 30 June 2024. The figures do not take into account staff changes at senior management level that occurred during the 2023-2024 financial year and are explained in other sections of this Annual Report.

Other Staff Matters

Gender Equity Program

The objective of our Gender Equity Program (GEP) is to ensure there is no discrimination relating to the characteristics listed under the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* such as race, colour, sex, marital status, parenthood, physical or mental impairment, age, religious or political affiliation, gender identity and sexual orientation. Further objectives include ensuring the workplace is free from bullying and harassment.

The indicators that measure the effectiveness of the GEP and the results for the year are:

- Indicator: Percentage of new employees receiving equal opportunity training within six months of commencement. Target: 100%. Result: 99%
- Indicator: Percentage of existing employees receiving refresher equal opportunity training at least every two years. Target: 100%. Result: 80%
- Indicator: Number of contact officers per number of Council employees. Target: 1:50. Result: 1:42

The indicators are monitored on an ongoing basis by the Equal Employment Opportunity Committee that meets regularly to promote employee and management awareness, consider relevant issues and contribute to resolution and advice. Council's assessment of the achievement of the program's objectives are that there were no breaches of the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*.

The actions taken to implement the GEP over the past 12 months include the provision of Equal Opportunity Awareness sessions for all new employees and managers to ensure they are fully aware of their responsibilities in maintaining a workplace free of bullying and harassment. We also had all staff review the Equal Opportunity and Workplace Behaviours Policy and the Prevention of Bullying Policy through our policy review process.

All new staff also completed an online learning module on Sexual Harassment Awareness when they commenced with Council. Existing staff also complete the online learning module every two years.

Enterprise bargaining agreement

In May 2022, an Enterprise Bargaining Committee comprised of management representatives, nominated workplace union delegates and union industrial officers was established to negotiate a new Enterprise Agreement. As a result, a new three-year Enterprise Agreement was successfully negotiated and approved by Fair Work Australia, with an operative date of 27 September 2023 to 7 November 2025.

Training/Professional Development

Study assistance is offered for staff undertaking relevant undergraduate or postgraduate studies. In the past year, 16 staff have accessed this form of support. A comprehensive corporate learning program that supports a broad range of staff development needs is provided. This is developed in alignment with strategic priorities, as well as in response to needs identified through staff performance and development plans. A variety of learning methodologies are used, including online training, e-learning, facilitated workshops and personal coaching.

Preventing Violence against Women

The Prevention of Violence against Women initiative aims to promote gender equity, build respectful and safe relationships, and break down stereotypes of women.

Over the past 12 months, we have:

- Maintained our White Ribbon Workplace Accreditation
- Continued our internal White Ribbon Accreditation Committee
- Continued our internal White Ribbon Events Committee to plan, coordinate and manage Council's White Ribbon events
- Conducted awareness raising activities as part of White Ribbon Day
- Included material about the White Ribbon program in our Corporate Induction program
- Continued to provide training to staff on domestic and family violence awareness
- Continued to provide information to staff on the prevention of family violence
- Reviewed policies to ensure they support the prevention of violence against women and people in this situation
- Implemented actions from Council's Gender Equality Action Plan.

Health and Safety

Our aim is to maintain a safety culture that supports an incident- and injury-free workplace for all employees, Councillors, contractors, visitors and the public.

Over the past 12 months, we have continued to review and update our Health and Safety Management System. We have worked with branches to document risk assessments and reviewed safe work procedures and safe work method statements to ensure employees continue working in a safe environment.

Commitment to Children – Mildura Rural City Council as a Child Safe Organisation

Mildura Rural City Council is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and the prevention of child abuse. Reducing and removing the risk of child abuse will be at the centre of our decision-making concerning children in our organisation.

Council has zero tolerance for child abuse and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and acted upon. As a child safe organisation, we are committed to providing a child safe environment where children feel safe, are empowered, valued and protected. Council will actively listen to children, ensuring their voices are heard and considered in decisions that affect their lives.

Council's approach to children will be consistent with our commitment to strive to ensure our services are accessible and the people we deal with are treated with dignity and respect, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, ethnicity and cultural and socio-economic background.

Council will ensure our staff are equipped with the training, skills and knowledge to support children in our community.

Our Performance

Council is committed to transparent reporting and accountability to the community. The Report of Operations 2023-2024 is the primary means of informing the community about Council’s operations and performance during the financial year.

Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework

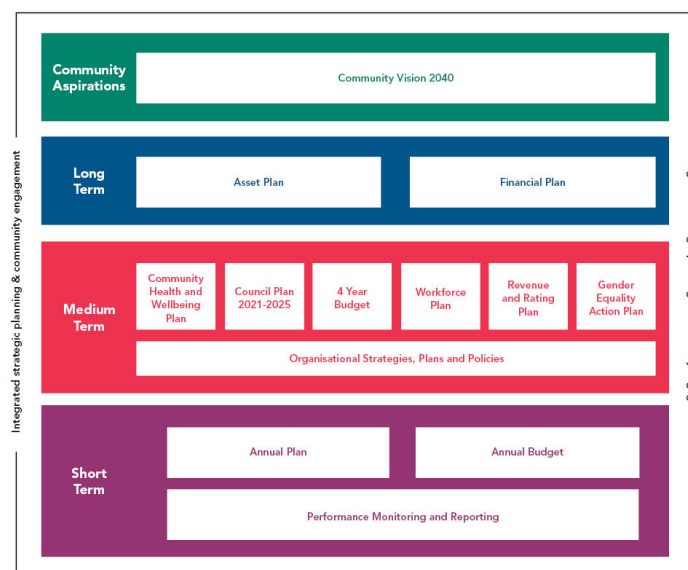
Part 4 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires councils to prepare the following:

- A Community Vision (for at least the next 10 financial years)
- A Council Plan (for at least the next four 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 four financial years)
- An Annual Budget (for the next four financial years)
- A Quarterly Budget Report
- An Annual Report (for each financial year)
- Financial policies.

The Act also requires councils to prepare a Workforce Plan (including projected staffing requirements for at least four years).

Accountability Framework

The following diagram 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 and strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the strategic objectives. The following are the five strategic objectives as detailed in the Council Plan.



Performance

Council's performance for the 2023-2024 year has been reported against each strategic objective to demonstrate how Council is performing in achieving the Council Plan 2021-2025.

Performance has been measured as follows:

- Results achieved in relation to the strategic indicators in the Council Plan
- Progress in relation to the major initiatives identified in the budget
- Services funded in the budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided those services
- Results against the prescribed service performance indicators and measures.

Strategic Objective 1



Environment

We will sustain our natural environment and resources for current and future generations

Outcomes

- Protected and enhanced natural environment
- Reduced waste to landfill and enhanced resource recovery
- A community that actively addresses the causes and impacts of climate change
- Increased community knowledge, skills and action to live sustainably
- Access to a secure and high-quality water supply

Strategic Indicators

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

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result
Community satisfaction with protection of natural bushland	63
Community satisfaction with management of wetlands	63
Net increase in trees	1,562
Community satisfaction with waste management	55
Waste diverted from landfill (recycled)	55.45%
Community satisfaction with environmental sustainability	57

Major Initiatives and Initiatives

The following statement highlights Council's progress on the Annual Budget 2023-2024 major initiatives and initiatives.

Initiative	Progress
Continuation of urban nature strip tree planting and community engagement program in line with Cool it! Mildura report.	Planting 90 per cent complete with an expected completion date by mid-July 2024.
Finalisation and Council endorsement of the Community Climate Response Plan prepared by the Climate Emergency Community Advisory Group	The Community Climate Response Plan 2024-2029 was adopted by Council on 22 February 2024.
Installation of solar and battery with educational display at the Eco House, Mildura Eco Village, to aid in educating the community about battery technology.	Battery and shade installed.

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.

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual <u>Budget</u> Variance \$000
Environmental Sustainability	Develops, coordinates and implements environmental policy, plans, strategies and also works on initiatives in partnership with other areas in Council. Key focus areas include reducing energy and water usage within Council operations, protecting and enhancing Council managed natural areas and roadsides, and community environmental education.	684 <u>723</u> 39
Waste Management	Provides landfill sites and transfer stations to receive and process waste, as well as the provision of kerbside collection services for garbage, recycling and organics. Undertakes street sweeping, provides a public litter bin service throughout the municipality and offers waste education programs to the community.	13,796 <u>13,576</u> (220)

Service Performance Indicators

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

Service/Indicator/ Measure	Results				Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024	
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] x 10,000	10.82	3.84	4.74	3.90	There has been a decrease in missed bins reported due to the focus on improving service standards with the waste collection contractor.
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]	\$40.16	\$49.08	\$50.65	\$35.99	Bin collection is now undertaken by an external waste collection contractor, which has resulted in a reduction in the collection costs.
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]	\$91.77	\$94.42	\$102.06	\$93.88	Tonnes of kerbside recycling collected has gone down by 700 tonnes over the year. The introduction of the 10-cent container refund scheme and the rollout of the kerbside glass bin for the last two months of the financial year has reduced the weight of kerbside recycling collected.

Service/Indicator/ Measure	Results				Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Waste diversion					
<i>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</i>	72.19%	74.02%	73.84%	68.83%	Waste diversion has decreased due to an increase in contamination rates in the organics and recycling bins and the reduction of volume of recycling collected due to the introduction of the Container Deposit Scheme and the kerbside glass bin.
[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x 100					

Strategic Objective 2



Community

We will be a healthy, respectful and connected community

Outcomes

- Access to quality local health services to support physical, mental and emotional wellbeing
- A community where people feel safe
- A resilient community that is able to respond to and recover from emergencies
- Arts, culture and heritage that connect community and improve health and wellbeing
- Health and wellbeing is promoted for everyone that lives, learns, works and plays in our community
- Social and cultural diversity is respected, supported and celebrated
- Youth are supported to reach their full potential
- Respect Aboriginal culture, connection to country and Traditional Owners of the land

Strategic Indicators

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

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result
Community perception of personal safety	57
Community satisfaction with emergency and disaster management	61
Community satisfaction with community and cultural activities	62
Active library borrowers in the municipality	7.54%
Community satisfaction with arts and cultural facilities	68
Community satisfaction with arts and cultural programs	64
Community satisfaction with council support to arts and cultural groups	65
Percentage of Community Health and Wellbeing Plan actions completed	93%

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result
Participation in the Maternal and Child Health Service	79.24%
Level of participation in sport and physical recreation activities	57%
Percentage of Reconciliation Action Plan actions completed	Not Available

Major Initiatives and Initiatives

The following statement highlights Council's progress on the Annual Budget 2023-2024 major initiatives and initiatives.

Major Initiative	Progress
Final transition out of Aged and Disability Services direct service provision and into strengthened positive aging community development direction	Transition completed.
Advocate and seek out funding and then implement plans for a new Red Cliffs Early Years Hub	Grant funding successfully received. Construction on track for completion in December 2024.
Nichols Point Recreation Reserve Community Complex development	Project commenced. Building will be built off-site and transported when complete. Completion of building expected in 2024-2025.

Initiative	Progress
Complete gendering in a new era in Mildura regional sports (previously 'Mildura Kicking Goals for Gender Equality') - Implement a series of initiatives that contribute to the prevention of violence against women through community sport	Project report submitted and funding acquitted. Project to continue into 2024-2025 with additional funding received.
Development of a new Youth Engagement Strategy	Draft strategy developed and public exhibition currently underway. Anticipate new strategy will be endorsed at the August 2024 Council meeting.
Implementation of Mildura Rural City Council's Municipal Flood Recovery Plan	Flood Recovery Plan implemented, and flood recovery funding expended.

Initiative	Progress
Facilitation of Stage 2 of the Mildura Heritage Study Project	Mildura Heritage Study Part B Stage 2 completed. Anticipate adoption by Council in August 2024.
Preparation of a Cultural Strategy for the municipality	Draft strategy developed.
Murray River Flooding response - Commission a detailed report on flood levees in general, involving all stakeholders and agencies to consider matters such as ownership, impact on floodplain and properties, ongoing maintenance costs and future liabilities	The Catchment Management Authority is working on this initiative and will engage with Council when required.

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.

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance \$000
Arts, Culture and Venues	Provides activities throughout the municipality including the delivery of visual and performing arts programs and services at Mildura Arts Centre across gallery and heritage, community cultural development, marketing and development (including customer service/box office ticketing, café and theatre) and technical services. Presentation of an entrepreneur program in both the visual and performing arts through funding from Creative Victoria, venue hires of the theatre auditorium and foyer spaces for local and commercial organisations and oversees Mildura's most important heritage building Rio Vista Historic House, as well as Mildura Station Homestead and venue hires of woolshed and cottage.	1,828 <u>1,823</u> (5)
Community Health	Provides family-oriented support services including universal and enhanced maternal and child health and immunisation.	1,049 <u>1,361</u> 312

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual <u>Budget</u> Variance \$000
Early Years	Provides family day care, centre-based childcare, Kindergarten central enrolment and other early years planning and programs such as Best Start and supported playgroups.	153 <u>58</u> (95)
Environmental Health	Protects the community's health and wellbeing through coordination of regulatory services in relation to premises for food safety, accommodation, hair and beauty, skin penetration businesses, tobacco retailers, smoke free legislation and wastewater disposal. Works to address any public health concerns relating to unreasonable noise emissions, air quality, smells and other environmental issues and undertakes a mosquito control program. Plays a significant role in public health emergencies and educates the community about environmental health issues.	490 <u>797</u> 307
Libraries and Knowledge Hubs	Operates libraries at five locations plus outreach library services to four remote locations. Provides a customer-focused service that caters for the cultural, educational and recreational needs of residents and visitors, as well as a focal point for the community where they can meet, relax and enjoy the facilities, programs and services offered.	2,012 <u>2,157</u> 145
Local Laws	Provides education, regulation and enforcement of the general local law and relevant state legislation. Provides animal management including registration of dogs and cats, a cat trapping program, a dog and cat collection service and a pound facility. Provides staff at school crossings throughout the municipality.	892 <u>1,061</u> 169
Youth Engagement	Offers a range of services, programs, development opportunities, events and activities to support the health and wellbeing of local youth.	346 <u>523</u> 177

Service Performance Indicators

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

Service/Indicator/ Measure	Results				Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024	
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	This year's result is in line with the target and consistent with last year's result. Council continues to action animal management requests within 24 hours.
Service standard					
<i>Animals reclaimed</i> [Number of animals reclaimed / Number of animals collected] x 100	44.37%	34.81%	40.51%	37.59%	Council will continue to encourage animal registration and microchipping to assist to with having animals reclaimed by their owners.
<i>Animals rehomed</i> [Number of unclaimed collected animals rehomed / Number of unclaimed collected animals] x 100	43.15%	42.08%	32.92%	57.59%	Council continues to work with rehoming organisations to rehome suitable animals.
Service cost					
<i>Cost of animal management service per population</i> [Direct cost of the animal management service / Population]	\$10.93	\$11.64	\$11.43	\$11.55	This is reflective of the direct costs to provide the animal management service.

Service/Indicator/ Measure	Results				Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Health and safety					
<i>Animal management prosecutions</i> [Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	There were no animal management prosecutions during 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]	3.89	1.94	2.34	1.95	Response time to food complaints has improved by approximately 0.5 days given improved staffing levels.
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 <i>Food Act 1984</i> / Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that require an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the <i>Food Act 1984</i>] x 100	27.55%	58.44%	40.57%	85.39%	Council continues to prioritise its food safety assessment inspections.

Service/Indicator/ Measure	Results				Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024	
<i>Food safety samples</i>					
[Number of food samples obtained / Required number of food samples] x 100	New	New	New	108.55%	Food samples obtained exceed the statutory target number pursuant to the Government Gazette.
Service cost					
<i>Cost of food safety service</i>	\$449.46	\$776.25*	\$876.06	\$464.40	The direct cost to provide the service is comparable with previous years. The decrease can be attributed to the inclusion of Class 4 temporary and mobile businesses in these figures.
[Direct cost of the food safety service / Number of food premises registered or notified in accordance with the <i>Food Act 1984</i>]					
Health and safety					
<i>Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications</i>	80.49%	83.33%	85.71%	77.42%	Council has maintained its approach to major and non-compliance outcome notifications.
[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] x 100					

Service/Indicator/ Measure	Results				Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Libraries					
Resource currency					
<i>Recently purchased library collection</i>	56.13%	56.74%	57.59%	51.26%	Council is committed to the renewal of its library collection. In 2023-2024 the focus was again purchasing of digital material including e-Books and e-Audiobooks.
[Number of library collection items purchased in the last 5 years / Number of library collection items] x 100					
Service cost					
<i>Cost of library service per population</i>	\$49.20	\$50.57	\$51.20	\$53.20	Council provides a wide range of library services, including five branch libraries, one library agency and a rural outreach library service delivering services to three remote, sparsely populated small townships. The breadth of this service impacts on the cost effectiveness, combined with the Mildura branch opening seven days per week and servicing interstate customers.
[Direct cost of the library service / Population]					
Utilisation					
<i>Loans per head of population</i>	New	New	New	4.47	Loans includes e-books and e-audiobooks and physical materials.
[Number of library collection item loans / Population]					

Service/Indicator/ Measure	Results				Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Participation					
<i>Library membership</i> [Number of registered library members / Population] x 100	New	New	New	18.62%	This is a new indicator in 2023-2024.
<i>Library visits per head of population</i> [Number of library visits / Population]	New	New	New	1.82	This is a new indicator in 2023-2024.
Maternal and Child Health					
Service standard					
<i>Infant enrolments in the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) service</i> [Number of infants enrolled in the MCH service (from birth notifications received) / Number of birth notifications received] x 100	101.65%	101.15%	100.90%	102.16%	Enrolments have improved and are higher than 100% due to out of state births entering the Victorian MCH service. This occurs frequently given Mildura's close borders with New South Wales and South Australia (eg some infants who are born or live outside of Victoria, who we do not receive birth notices for, have been enrolled into our service).

Service/Indicator/ Measure	Results				Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Service cost					
<i>Cost of the MCH service</i> [Cost of the MCH service / Hours worked by MCH nurses]	\$66.62	\$69.02	\$73.54	\$74.45	The Maternal and Child Health Service remains fully staffed. Cost of service delivery is tracking on a steady and consistent annual rate of increase.
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] x 100	74.66%	78.45%	80.69%	79.24%	Participation rates remain consistent over the last three years. Efforts continued throughout the year with staff following up with clients who didn't attend and exploring other opportunities to improve participation rates.
Satisfaction					
<i>Participation in four-week Key Age and Stage visit</i> [Number of four-week key age and stage visits / Number of birth notifications received] x 100	96.40%	104.89%	101.20%	104.31%	An increase in participation, slightly above targeted range, is due to the increase in attendance from families who live interstate choosing to attend the Victorian MCH service and those families moving into the area post-birth.

Service/Indicator/ Measure	Results				Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Participation <i>Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children</i> [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x 100	77.21%	82.84%	85.66%	84.62%	Participation rates remain consistent over the last three years. Efforts continued throughout the year with staff following up with clients who didn't attend and exploring other opportunities to improve participation rates.

Strategic Objective 3



Place

We will be a place to live, belong and visit with infrastructure and development that enhances our lifestyle

Outcomes

- A well-developed long-term land use vision
- Diverse open spaces and public facilities that are well connected, accessible, resilient and promotes active healthy lifestyles
- Sustainable infrastructure that meets the current and future community needs
- Improved transport services for our region
- A transport network that is fit-for-purpose
- Access to affordable housing, including social housing, that is appropriate for the housing needs of very low, low and moderate income households
- Enable projects that enhance and activate our community
- Vibrant, prosperous and activated CBD and town centres

Strategic Indicators

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

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result
Number of strategic land use projects completed	0
Percentage of Asset Management Strategy and Plan actions implemented	85%
Percentage of Capital Works program delivered	69%
Community satisfaction with the condition of sealed local roads in your area	48
Community satisfaction with maintenance of unsealed roads in your area	40
Community satisfaction with the condition of local streets and footpaths in your area	49
Community satisfaction with recreation facilities	65

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result
Activation of the Mildura Riverfront Precinct	Not Available
Activation of Mildura Sporting Precinct	Not Available
Number of Community Plans developed and reviewed	3

Major Initiatives and Initiatives

The following statement highlights Council's progress on the Annual Budget 2023-2024 major initiatives and initiatives.

Major Initiative	Progress
Nowingi Place Adventure Park	A design has been completed for the Nowingi playground area with consultation from stakeholders. The project has recently been out for public tender. Tenders are currently under assessment. Some works have already been completed, including new turf surrounding the Waterplay and the café which were destroyed from the flood. Replacement playground equipment at Nowingi has been installed.

Initiative	Progress
Develop CBD Public Toilet Plan	Delayed due to extensive engagement plan, which will inform the review of the Public Toilet Strategy.
Purchase of additional permanent water shares for Mildura Rural City Council	Additional permanent water shares purchased in 2023-2024.
Development of community plans for Nichols Point, Cardross and Koorlong	Draft plans and consultation underway. It is expected that plans will be endorsed early 2025.
Etiwanda Avenue drainage and road reconstruction	This project is nearing completion and is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2024-2025.
Investigate locations suitable for Changing Places facilities	Locations earmarked and documented in Public Toilet Strategy implementation plan.

Initiative	Progress
Develop innovative ways to address the increase in vandalism on our public facilities	Development of a study has been postponed in order to focus on the CBD Public Toilet Plan. Action to be completed in 2024/25.

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.

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual <u>Budget</u> Variance \$000
Buildings and Enforcement	Undertakes the processing of building permits, emergency management activities, fire safety inspections, audits of swimming pool barriers and investigations of complaints and illegal works	226 <u>263</u> 37
Community Development	Supports and develops community initiatives listed in township-based community plans and strengthens the local community's capacity to drive its own growth and economic, social and physical development.	2,435 <u>2,656</u> 221
Engineering Development and Delivery	Undertakes design, tendering, contracting, project management, and supervision of various infrastructure works within Council's capital works program. Approves and supervises private development activities such as subdivisions and infrastructure associated with unit developments.	2,934 <u>2,447</u> (487)
Facilities	Undertakes planned and reactive maintenance on buildings and facilities, as well as the project management of facility upgrades and the construction of new buildings/facilities. The service also provides support for Council events and emergency management.	7,458 <u>8,327</u> 869

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual <u>Budget</u> Variance \$000
Parks and Gardens	Creates, maintains and enhances township parks, gardens and open space, along with sports field/turf management. This service also undertakes tree management on public land, maintains natural areas across the municipality and operates a plant nursery.	6,527 <u>7,122</u> 595
Project Development Office	Provides guidance, governance, standardised processes and project management best practices, tools and techniques in relation to project delivery. Administration of project management software.	373 <u>0</u> (373)
Recreation Development	Plans for and provides sporting and recreation infrastructure and manages the occupancy of sporting and recreational facilities, as well as providing support to user groups and volunteer community recreational organisations. This service also promotes available recreation opportunities to encourage people to participate and be active.	3,529 <u>3,895</u> 366
Statutory Planning	Provides systems, processes and advice for the submission of town planning applications and undertakes the assessment of applications. This service also provides an enforcement function to ensure people adhere to the conditions of the planning permits that are issued.	955 <u>683</u> (272)
Strategic Planning	Undertakes the development of long-term strategic plans, amendments, and reviews to inform and update the planning scheme.	1,211 <u>1,475</u> 264
Works and Infrastructure	Undertakes inspections, maintenance, design and construction of Council's road, path and stormwater drainage assets in a sustainable and prioritised manner to a defined service level.	8,827 <u>8,234</u> (593)

Service Performance Indicators

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

Service/Indicator/ Measure	Results				Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024	
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]	0.89	1.00	1.00	1.00	All aquatic facilities received an inspection by an authorised officer in 2023-2024 in line with the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations. In addition to this, the aquatic facilities operator undertakes regular water quality sampling as per their water quality risk management plan.
Utilisation					
<i>Utilisation of aquatic facilities</i> [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Population]	3.81	4.48	6.13	7.10	Recorded utilisation of aquatic facilities has increased in 2023-2024. The increase is related partly to an issue with the people counter during 2022-2023 at Mildura Waves and attendance numbers having returned to pre-COVID-19 levels.

Service/Indicator/ Measure	Results				Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Service cost					
<i>Cost of aquatic facilities</i> [Direct cost of aquatic facilities less income received / Number of visits to aquatic facilities]	\$9.66	\$10.49	\$7.30	\$7.63	Cost of operating aquatic facilities has increased as a result of chemical supply prices and transport costs increasing.
Roads					
Satisfaction of use					
<i>Sealed local road requests</i> [Number of sealed local road requests / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x 100	9.04	13.73	11.10	15.99	Flood recovery work continues to impact on regular scheduled maintenance programs. The variance increase is high due to the relatively low number of requests in general.
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] x 100	86.39%	91.63%	92.25%	92.23%	Council continues to maintain its roads to standard and has managed to achieve a result 2.47% above the set target.
Service cost					
<i>Cost of sealed local road reconstruction</i> [Direct cost of sealed local road reconstruction / Square metres of sealed local roads reconstructed]	\$56.92	\$102.17	\$136.56	\$212.31	This cost increase reflects material and labour cost escalation and the competitive market forces in the construction industry.

Service/Indicator/ Measure	Results				Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Service Cost					
<i>Cost of sealed local road resealing</i> [Direct cost of sealed local road resealing / Square metres of sealed local roads resealed]	\$7.03	\$6.58	\$5.11	\$6.20	This cost increase is partly attributed to the cost increase for bitumen and stone products utilised in the resealing works.
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	54.00	52.00	48.00	Satisfaction with sealed local roads has dropped from previous years. This could be associated with the public's perception of the condition of state roads and the recent media on road conditions across the state.
Statutory Planning					
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]	57.00	52.00	77.00	115.00	Increase due to staff vacancies and difficulty to recruit experienced Town Planners.

Service/Indicator/ Measure	Results				Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Service standard					
<i>Planning applications decided within required timeframes</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] x 100	77.42%	84.75%	49.48%	31.99%	Staff vacancies in the Statutory Planning department has impacted Council's ability to make a determination within the required timeframes.
Service cost					
<i>Cost of statutory planning service</i> [Direct cost of the statutory planning service / Number of planning applications received]	\$2,249.98	\$2,267.80	\$2,255.78	\$3,291.98	Cost reflects use of Town Planning contractors while trying to fill staffing vacancies
Decision making					
<i>Council planning decisions upheld at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (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] x 100	100.00%	66.67%	70.00%	100.00%	Council had five permit applications determined at VCAT in 2023-2024 and all five were upheld (not set aside).

Strategic Objective 4



Economy

We will have a thriving economy that harnesses our strengths and capitalises on opportunity

Outcomes

- Resilient local businesses that are supported to thrive, contributing to the viability and character of our towns
- A valued and vibrant tourism industry and recognised international and domestic visitor destination
- An agile economy underpinned by innovation and industry diversity that attracts investment
- Access to a range of education, training and employment pathways
- A skilled workforce that meets current and future industry needs
- Access to digital infrastructure to support education, health and economy
- Mildura Airport is a major air traffic gateway for the region

Strategic Indicators

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

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result
Community satisfaction with tourism development	60
Visitor satisfaction with visitor information servicing	92.50%
Yield of tourism	\$319M
Building activity	\$239M
Community satisfaction with business and community development	53
Gross regional product	\$4.186B

Major Initiatives and Initiatives

The following statement highlights Council's progress on the Annual Budget 2023-2024 major initiatives and initiatives.

Initiative	Progress
Development of a Regional Motorsports Strategy	Mildura Regional Motorsport Strategy developed and adopted by Council 21 December 2023 and launched in March 2024.
Work with Mildura City Heart to review the Mildura City Heart Special Rate	The Mildura City Heart Special Rate 2024-2030 was endorsed by Council on 23 May 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.

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual <u>Budget</u> Variance \$000
Economic Development and Tourism	Works to maximise economic development within the region through specialised projects and initiatives, facilitate growth by working with industry and business to grow/sustain existing business and develop new investment opportunities, and encourage and form strategic alliances with key stakeholders in industry and government to help build a vibrant and sustainable community.	3,215 <u>2,500</u> (715)
	Operates a visitor information centre that provides destination information, ticketing, tour, transport and accommodation bookings, as well as promotions.	
Events	Supports community and other events through a grants funding program, partnerships, logistical support, sponsorship, information provision and promotions.	1,010 <u>1,489</u> 479

Strategic Objective 5



Leadership

We will have responsible, collaborative leadership that puts community wellbeing at the heart of decision-making

Outcomes

- The community has a voice through inclusive engagement and participation
- Trust, respect and understanding between community and Council
- A workplace and culture that is healthy, safe, inclusive and diverse
- A high performing organisation
- A financially sustainable organisation
- Effective governance to deliver results in line with community expectations
- Serve the community by providing great customer experience, value for money and quality services
- Advocate on behalf of the community to address needs and priorities
- Collaborative leadership and partnerships that build capacity and increase opportunities

Strategic Indicators

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

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result
Community satisfaction with community consultation and engagement	48
Community satisfaction with decisions made in the interest of the community	47
Community satisfaction with informing the community	55
Percentage of Gender Equality Action Plan actions implemented	61%
Community satisfaction with value for money in services and infrastructure	43
Community satisfaction with overall Council direction	45
Community satisfaction with the overall performance of Council	52

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result
Community satisfaction with customer service	65
Community satisfaction with lobbying on behalf of the community	47
Percentage of advocacy plan actions completed / number of representations	Not Available

Major Initiatives and Initiatives

The following statement highlights Council's progress on the Annual Budget 2023-2024 major initiatives and initiatives.

Initiative	Progress
Implement Organisational Sustainability Review	Organisational Sustainability Review completed including the transition of Mildura Regional Development inhouse and Manager recruitment.
Produce a State of the Assets Report for each of the four major infrastructure asset portfolios	State of the Assets report has been completed and presented to Executive and Council.

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.

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual <u>Budget</u> Variance \$000
Communications	Provides communications planning, media relations, digital media management, website development, videography/photography, graphic design, script writing, media releases, promotional material and professional advice.	1,073 <u>1,164</u> 91

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual <u>Budget</u> Variance \$000
Customer Support	The first point of contact the public has with Council, acting as the interface between the organisation and the community. This service provides face-to-face service in three Council service centres and call centre operations. It also processes customer requests and payments and issues permits and receipts. Customer support staff also provide internal administrative support to the whole organisation.	1,772 <u>2,042</u> 270
Executive	Executive includes the CEO, Mayor, Councillors and General Managers. They play a key role in providing executive leadership, coordination, management, including preparing for and facilitating civic type events or functions including Australia Day Awards, citizenship ceremonies, civic receptions and ministerial visits.	3,786 <u>3,934</u> 148
Finance	Oversees the preparation, monitoring and reporting of Council's Budget as well as developing and updating the Long-Term Financial Plan. Undertakes grants acquittals and manages creditors/debtors, accounts payable and purchase card processing. This service also administers Council's property and rates databases, issues rates notices and deals with customer enquiries and issues related to rate collection.	1,847 <u>1,886</u> 39
Fleet	Manages and administers all aspects of the purchase/replacement of fleet and equipment items including registration and insurance. Provides a workshop repair and service function for heavy fleet vehicles and some equipment.	(2,019) <u>(1,471)</u> 548

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual <u>Budget</u> Variance \$000
Governance	Provides a range of governance and statutory services including legislative compliance, maintenance of public registers and coordination of Council meetings. Coordinates legal services, insurance, business risk management, business continuity services and property management services. The service also provides leadership in emergency management through planning for disaster emergencies and coordinating emergency services and support agencies in their planning and response to emergencies.	4,192 <u>3,402</u> (790)
Information Systems	Manages communications networks, safeguards data and information, administers platforms and applications and helps employees troubleshoot problems with their computers or mobile devices. The service also administers Council's records management system and provides training to staff in using the system. The service also archives records, provides advice on managing/accessing records and undertakes research.	6,070 <u>6,317</u> 247
Organisational Performance	Facilitates the Corporate Planning and Reporting Framework that produces the Community Vision and Council Plan, and monitors progress in delivering outcomes to the community. Provides leadership and management systems and processes for the organisation to continuously improve the services provided to the community.	479 <u>307</u> (172)

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual <u>Budget</u> Variance \$000
People	Administers recruitment, performance reviews, corporate training, induction processes and provides human resources advice to managers and staff. Also develops, reviews and communicates a significant number of employee related policies. Implements organisational gender equity initiatives including White Ribbon Accreditation and facilitates enterprise bargaining negotiations and performance management processes. In addition, this area undertakes risk assessments, incident reporting and investigation, worksite inspections, health and wellbeing programs, induction, return to work programs, the employee assistance program (EAP), Workcover administration and an occupational health and safety (OHS) training program. Also ensures employees are paid as per their employment conditions and superannuation and tax liabilities are met.	2,156 <u>2,144</u> (12)
Procurement	Provides the organisation with policy and guidelines, systems and processes to undertake procurement activities. Provides support and training for staff in undertaking procurement activities, and guidance and support for external suppliers in responding to quotes, tenders and expressions of interest.	442 <u>482</u> 40
Strategic Asset Management	Administers Council's asset management system and manages data collection and provision relating to Council's assets including condition assessments, renewal requirements, long-term modelling, and cost estimates. Develops Asset management plans for classes of assets including buildings and facilities, roads, stormwater drainage and public open space.	1,532 <u>1,498</u> (34)

Service Performance Indicators

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

Service/Indicator/ Measure	Results				Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Governance					
Transparency					
<p><i>Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public</i></p> <p>[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] x 100</p>	25.69%	29.38%	31.13%	18.12%	The number of Council decisions made in confidential is directed by the subject matter of the reports. This will vary from year to year.
Consultation and engagement					
<p><i>Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement</i></p> <p>[Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement]</p>	50	49	50	48	Council continues to explore better communication channels and effective engagement methods.

Service/Indicator/ Measure	Results				Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Attendance					
<i>Councillor attendance at Council meetings</i>	97.53%	92.78%	97.92%	100.00%	Councillors who formally submit an apology for a meeting are not deemed absent for the purposes of this measure.
[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)] x 100					
Service cost					
<i>Cost of elected representation</i>	\$37,771.33	\$40,748.33	\$46,503.19	\$46,944.17	The cost of elected representation has remained stable this year.
[Direct cost of the governance service /Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election]					

Service/Indicator/ Measure	Results				Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024	
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]	48	45	49	47	Council continues to improve engagement strategies and transparent decision-making processes.

Governance, Management and Other Information

Governance

Mildura Rural 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 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.

We are committed to effective and sustainable forms of democratic and corporate governance, which are key to ensuring Council and our administration meet the community's priorities. The community has many opportunities to provide input into decision-making processes including community consultation, public forums and information sessions, and the ability to make submissions to key community strategies and plans.

Our formal decision-making processes are conducted through Council meetings and forums. Council delegates the majority of its decision-making to Council staff. These delegations are exercised in accordance with adopted policies.

Meetings of Council

Council conducts open public meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. Members of the community are welcome to attend these meetings and observe from the gallery or via the live stream. Council meetings also provide the opportunity for community members to submit questions to Council. For the 2023-2024 year, the following meetings were held:

- 12 Ordinary Council meetings
- three Special Council meetings.

The following table provides a summary of Councillor attendance at Council meetings and Special Council meetings for the 2023-2024 financial year.

Councillors	Council Meeting	Special Council Meeting	Total
Cr Liam Wood (Mayor)	12	3	15
Cr Ian Arney	12	3	15
Cr Stefano De Pieri	12	3	15
Cr Mark Eckel	12	3	15
Cr Helen Healy	12	3	15
Cr Glenn Milne	12	3	15
Cr Jason Modica	12	3	15
Cr Jodi Reynolds	12	3	15
Cr Troy Bailey	12	3	15

Note: Councillors were eligible to attend 12 Ordinary and 3 Special Council meetings during 2023-2024.

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 Planning Delegated Committee, which was established in the 2021-2022 financial year is Council's only Delegated Committee. It comprises of all nine Councillors and has been established to exercise (limited) Council powers as the Planning Authority under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Advisory and Key Strategic Committees

Various Councillors and staff also play a role in the advisory and key strategic committees listed in the following table. This list of committees is not exhaustive.

Committee	Purpose
Australian Local Governance Association	The Australian Local Government Association is the national voice of local government, representing 537 councils on national issues, policies and trends affecting local government.
Calder Highway Improvement Committee	To advocate for the maintenance and upgrade of this prime transport link for both Bendigo and Mildura, which is critical in terms of the ongoing economic and social development of our region.
Central Murray Regional Transport Forum	The Central Murray Regional Transport Forum is a local government-driven body representing the interests of its member councils and shires across all forms of transport (road, rail and air) with a view to developing an efficient, safe and well-maintained transport network for the region.
Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance	An alliance of 13 local governments, to drive action on climate change across central and northwest Victoria.
Chaffey Trail Reference Group	To create greater awareness, usage and prestige associated with the Chaffey Trail experience in our region and beyond.
Climate Emergency Australia	A network of Australian councils that have declared a climate emergency.
Climate Emergency Community Advisory Group	To collaborate with Council to deliver actions identified in the Community Climate Response Plan 2024-2029.
Disability Access Advisory Committee	To enable the community to advise on the priority accessibility needs of people with disabilities within the municipality.
Gender Equity Action Sunraysia	A grassroots movement to progress gender equity in our community and create positive change.
Gendering in a New Era Mildura Regional Sports Community Leadership Group	To help sports clubs create more inclusive and diverse environments by learning how to apply an intersectional lens to their activities, systems and processes.
Hands Up Mallee	To bring local leaders and the community together to address social issues and improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and their families.

Committee	Purpose
Local Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee	To improve justice outcomes and reduce contact with the justice system for the Mildura Aboriginal community.
Mildura Arts and Culture Advisory Committee	To engage with the community on arts issues and actively participate in the promotion of arts-related issues.
Mildura Cemeteries Trust	To provide burial facilities and services to the community of Mildura and the surrounding areas.
Mildura City Heart Inc	To develop, market and promote the Mildura CBD as a retail, hospitality and commercial destination.
Mildura Recreation Reserve Reference Group	To advise Council of issues relating to the reserve including joint management policies, major planning and operational issues, development of priority improvement programs and major usage issues.
Ministerial Gender Equity Advisory Committee	To advise the Minister and the Minister for Women on strategies aimed at advancing gender equality across Victoria's 79 councils.
Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee	To assess and review hazards facing the municipality using the Community Emergency Risk Assessment process, and to prepare the Municipal Emergency Management Plan, which documents preparedness, response and recovery of operational arrangements.
Murray-Darling Association – Region 4	To provide a focus for local government and community participation in the major natural resource issues of the Murray-Darling Basin.
Murray River Group of Councils	To combine the strategies and efforts of each council for a more effective approach to achieving common goals and providing a stronger and more complete representation of regional issues for each council.
Ngiwa Yarna (Aboriginal Action) Committee	To improve and enhance the wellbeing of the Aboriginal community in the Mildura Rural City Council municipality.
Northern Mallee Local Learning and Education Network	To broker strategic partnerships with community stakeholder groups resulting in better outcomes in education, training and employment for young people.

Committee	Purpose
Northwest Rail Alliance	To advocate for the reinstatement of passenger rail between Maryborough and Mildura.
Old Aerodrome Sporting Complex Advisory Committee	To advise Council of issues relating to the reserve including joint management policies, major planning and operational issues, development of priority improvement programs and major usage issues.
Rail Freight Alliance	An alliance of Australian local government Councils working together to broadly and actively promote rail freight development across the rail networks with work focused largely in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.
Regional Cities Victoria	To combine the strategies and efforts of Victoria's 10 regional cities for a more effective approach to common goals and addressing shared issues.
Mildura/Upland Sister City Association	To provide an umbrella of support and promote the Mildura/Upland Sister City relationship.
Sunraysia Highway Improvement Committee	To advocate for the maintenance and upgrade of this prime transport link alongside other stakeholder councils.
Sunraysia Sustainability Network	To demonstrate an integrated, practical and positive response for sustainable living in northwest Victoria.
Victorian Local Governance Association	To support Victorian councils and councillors in the provision of good governance for the communities they serve.

Code of Conduct

The Act requires councils to review and adopt a Councillor Code of Conduct within four months after a general election. On 24 February 2021, Council adopted a revised Councillor Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct is designed to:

- Foster good working relationships between Councillors, to enable Councillors to work constructively together in the best interests of the municipal community
- Promote the high standards of behaviours as committed to by Councillors, during Council meetings, Council briefings, Councillor briefings and any other meetings that Councillors participate in from time to time
- Establish benchmarks for Councillor conduct designed to build public confidence in the integrity of local government.

The Code of Conduct also outlines:

- Roles and responsibilities
- Standards of Conduct
- Prohibited conduct
- Good governance
- Interpersonal disputes between Councillors
- Complaints from members of the public
- Allegations of contravention of the Code.

Conflict of Interest

Councillors are elected by the residents and ratepayers to act in the best interests of the community. This is a position of trust that requires Councillors to act in the public interest. When a Council delegates its powers to a Council officer or a committee, the committee or officer also needs to act in the public interest.

A conflict of interest occurs when a personal or private interest might compromise the ability to act in the public interest. A conflict of interest exists even if no improper act results from it. Council has a comprehensive procedure in place to accommodate the disclosure of a conflict of interest. Declaration of a conflict of interest is a standard agenda item for all Council and committee meetings.

While the procedures vary depending on the particular role and circumstances, in general they involve disclosing the relevant interests in a specific way and then stepping aside from the relevant decision-making process or from the exercise of the public duty. A register is maintained to record all disclosed conflicts of interest.

During 2023-2024, 33 conflicts of interest were declared at Council meetings and two conflicts of interest were declared at Councillor Auspice Meetings.

Councillor Allowances

In accordance with Section 39 of the Act, Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance while performing their duties.

The Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) is responsible for determining the Councillor allowances for all Victorian councils and set different allowances for Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors.

For the 2023-2024 financial year, the Tribunal determined a two per cent increase to the values of the base allowances payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors, effective from 1 July 2023. A two per cent increase was applied to the base allowance values and was determined to take effect on 18 December 2023.

The following table contains a summary of the total allowances paid to each Councillor during the 2023-2024 financial year.

Councillors	Allowance \$
Cr Liam Wood, Mayor ¹	104,347.02
Cr Jason Modica	32,526.36
Cr Helen Healy ²	39,066.83
Cr Mark Eckel ²	45,595.23
Cr Glenn Milne	32,526.36
Cr Stefano De Pieri	32,526.36
Cr Troy Bailey	32,526.36
Cr Jodi Reynolds	32,526.36
Cr Ian Arney	32,526.36

Note:

1. Cr Liam Wood was re-elected Mayor at the Annual Meeting of Council on 2 November 2023.
2. Cr Mark Eckel was elected Deputy Mayor at the Annual Meeting of Council on 2 November 2023 (replacing Cr Helen Healy).

Councillor Expenses

In accordance with Section 40 of the Act, Council is required to reimburse a Councillor for expenses incurred while 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 paid for each Councillor by the Council for the 2023-2024 year, are set out in the following table. No expenses were paid by Council including reimbursements to members of Council committees during the year.

Councillors	TR \$	CM \$	M/C \$	IC \$	TCE \$	C \$	Total \$
Cr Liam Wood	6,801.09	0	228.18	477.24	3,276.05	0	10,782.56
Cr Jason Modica	2,162.68	1,408.32	161.71	884.50	1,729.33	0	6,346.54
Cr Helen Healy	160	0	142.50	957.22	130	0	1,389.72
Cr Mark Eckel	1,102.75	1,432.08	321.70	993.54	1,394.09	0	5,244.16
Cr Glenn Milne	1,235.40	3,002.40	175.97	1,025.40	0	0	5,439.17
Cr Stefano De Pieri	885.24	0	51.04	207.18	178.77	0	1,322.23
Cr Troy Bailey	0	0	114.09	207.18	0	0	321.27
Cr Jodi Reynolds	0	0	63.64	207.18	35	0	305.82
Cr Ian Arney	983.57	4,689.36	163.54	547.95	214.66	0	6,599.08
Legend:							
TR -Travel and Accommodation				IC – Information and Communication Expenses			
CM – Car Mileage				TCE – Conferences and Training expenses			
M/C – Meals/Catering				C – Childcare			

Management

Council has implemented several statutory and better practice items to strengthen our management framework. Having strong governance and management frameworks leads to better decision-making. The Act requires Council to undertake an assessment against the prescribed Governance and Management Checklist and include this in its report of operations. Our Governance and Management Checklist results are set out in the following section. These items have been highlighted as important components of the management framework.

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee's role is to oversee and monitor the effectiveness of Council in carrying out its responsibilities for accountable financial management, good corporate governance, maintaining an effective system of internal control and risk management and fostering an ethical environment.

The Audit and Risk Committee consists of four independent members:

- Mr Max Folie (Chairperson)
- Julie Humphrey
- Maria Carrazza
- Min Poole (resignation effective 30 April 2024)

and two Councillors:

- Mayor Cr Liam Wood
- Deputy Mayor Cr Mark Eckel (replaced Cr Helen Healy on 2 November 2023)

Independent members are appointed for a three-year term, with a maximum of two terms. The chair is elected from among the independent members.

The Audit and Risk Committee meets six times per year. The Chief Executive Officer, General Manager Corporate Performance, Manager Financial Services and Manager Governance attend all Audit and Risk Committee meetings. Other management representatives attend as required to present reports. A standing invitation to attend all Audit and Risk Committee meetings is extended to the Internal Auditor, who at a minimum attends those meetings where internal audit matters are to be considered. The external auditors attend in March to present the Audit Strategy and in September to present the Independent Audit Report.

Recommendations from each Audit and Risk Committee meeting are subsequently reported to and considered by Council.

Internal Audit

Our internal audit function provides independent and objective assurance that the appropriate processes and controls are in place. A risk-based four-year Strategic Internal Audit Plan (SIAP) is revised annually to ensure the audit resources remain focused on the appropriate areas. The review process considers our risk framework, the Council Plan, the impact of any change on operations, systems or the business environment, prior audit coverage and outcomes and management input. The SIAP is reviewed and approved by the Audit and Risk Committee annually.

The Internal Auditor attends Audit and Risk Committee meetings to report on the status of the SIAP and to present findings of completed reviews. Where required, the responsible general manager and branch manager for each area reviewed attends the Audit and Risk Committee meeting to respond to questions in relation to the review. All audit issues identified are risk rated. Recommendations are assigned to the responsible branch manager and tracked in our performance management system. Bi-monthly status updates on internal audit recommendations are reported to the Executive Leadership Team and reviewed by the Internal Auditor and the Audit and Risk Committee.

Quality assurance is measured through client satisfaction surveys for each review, the annual Audit and Risk Committee self-assessment, completion of the Internal Audit Plan and benchmarking against other internal audit functions.

The following reviews were undertaken as part of the SIAP for 2023-2024:

- Business Continuity Review
- Information Technology Security Review
- Fraud Risk Assessment Review
- Wage Compliance, Procurement and Payroll Data Analytics Review
- Planning Permits and Contributions Review
- Annual Follow Up Review.

External Audit

Victorian councils are externally audited by the Victorian Auditor-General. For the 2023–2024 year, the annual external audit of our Financial Statements and Performance Statement was conducted by the Victorian Auditor-General’s representative, RSD Audit. The external auditors attend the March and September Audit and Risk Committee meetings to present the annual audit plan and Independent Audit Report. The external audit management letter and responses are also provided to the Audit and Risk Committee.

Risk Management

Risks are defined as “the effect of uncertainty on objectives.” A risk is often specified in terms of an event or circumstance, and the consequences that flow from it. It is measured in terms of a combination of the consequences of an event, and their likelihood. Risks may have a positive or a negative impact. The management of risks is the coordinated activities to direct and control an organisation regarding risk.

Our current Risk Management Strategy and Policy were adopted in 2021 and provide for the management of business enterprise risks in accordance with best practice guidelines and International Standard ISO 31000.

Our Risk Management Strategy 2022–2026 provides a four-year strategy to manage opportunities and risks that may have a measurable impact on Council operations and objectives, in line the Community Vision and Council Plan. The strategy defines principles and broad objectives for the implementation of opportunity and risk management across the organisation, as well as defining roles and responsibilities for the risk management process and Council’s risk appetite. Council recognises prudent decision-making in relation to Council’s limited financial, human and material resources is critical to the achievement of its goals.

Quarterly reviews and reports of Council’s risks are provided to Council’s Executive Leadership Team and the Audit and Risk Committee. This process ensures risks are effectively reported and monitored.

Governance and Management Checklist

The following are the results in the prescribed form of our assessment against the prescribed Governance and Management Checklist.

Governance and Management Items	Assessment
<p>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)</p>	<p>Adopted in accordance with section 55 of the Act</p> <p>Date of adoption:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 January 2021
<p>2. Community engagement guidelines (guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community)</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <p>Date of commencement of current guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 January 2021
<p>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)</p>	<p>Adopted in accordance with section 91 of the Act</p> <p>Date of adoption:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 June 2022
<p>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)</p>	<p>Adopted in accordance with section 92 of the Act</p> <p>Date of adoption:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 May 2022
<p>5. Revenue and Rating Plan (plan under section 93 of the Act setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges)</p>	<p>Adopted in accordance with section 93 of the Act</p> <p>Date of adoption:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 April 2023
<p>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)</p>	<p>Adopted in accordance with section 94 of the Act</p> <p>Date of adoption:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 June 2024


Governance and Management Items	Assessment
<p>13. Complaint policy (policy under section 107 of the Act outlining Council's commitment and approach to managing complaints)</p>	<p>Developed in accordance with section 107 of the Act <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date of commencement of current plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 December 2021
<p>14. Workforce plan (plan outlining Council's commitment and approach to planning the current and future workforce requirements of the organisation)</p>	<p>Established in accordance with section 46 of the Act <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date of commencement of current plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 December 2021
<p>15. Payment of rates and hardship policy (policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to assisting ratepayers experiencing financial hardship or difficulty paying their rates)</p>	<p>Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date of commencement of current policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 May 2024
<p>16. Risk management framework (framework outlining Council's approach to managing risks to the Council's operations)</p>	<p>Framework <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date of operation of current framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 June 2021
<p>17. Audit and Risk Committee (advisory committee of Council under section 53 and section 54 of the Act whose role is to monitor the compliance of Council policies and procedures, monitor Council's financial reporting, monitor and provide oversight on internal and external audit functions)</p>	<p>Established in accordance with section 53 of the Act <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date of establishment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 August 2020
<p>18. Internal audit (independent accounting professionals engaged by the Council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving council's governance, risk and management controls)</p>	<p>Engaged <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date of engagement of current provider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 July 2020

Governance and Management Items	Assessment
<p>19. Performance reporting framework (a set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the Act)</p>	<p>Framework <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date of adoption of current framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 July 2014
<p>20. Council Plan reporting (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)</p>	<p>Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date of report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 April 2024
<p>21. Quarterly budget reports (quarterly reports presented to Council under section 97 of the Act comparing actual and budgeted results and an explanation of any material variations)</p>	<p>Reports presented to Council in accordance with section 97(1) of the Act <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date reports presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Financial Statements: 28 September 2023 • Quarterly Statement 1: 21 December 2023 • Quarterly Statement 2: 28 March 2024 • Quarterly Statement 3: 23 May 2024
<p>22. Risk reports (Six-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies)</p>	<p>Reports <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Dates of reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Management Report No 1: 30 September 2023 • Risk Management Report No 2: 31 December 2023 • Risk Management Report No 3: 31 March 2024 • Risk Management Report No 4: 30 June 2024
<p>23. Performance reports (Six-monthly reports of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>)</p>	<p>Reports <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date of reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 September 2023 • 11 April 2024

Governance and Management Items	Assessment
<p>24. Annual Report (Annual report under sections 98, 99 and 100 of the Act 2020 to the community containing a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements)</p>	<p>Presented at a meeting of the Council in accordance with section 100 of the Act</p> <p>Date of presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 October 2023
<p>25. 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)</p>	<p>Reviewed and adopted in accordance with section 139 of the Act</p> <p>Date reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 February 2021
<p>26. 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)</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Date of review under section 11(7):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S5 Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer: 11 August 2023 S6 Instrument of Delegation to Members of Council Staff: 28 March 2024 S7 Instrument of Sub-Delegation by the Chief Executive Officer to Staff: 9 July 2024 Instrument of Delegation – Members of Staff – Children’s Services Legislation VIC and NSW: 25 January 2024 S12 Instrument of Delegation and Authorisation by Municipal Building Surveyor: 15 July 2024 S13 Instrument of Delegation of CEO Powers Duties and Functions: 12 August 2024

Governance and Management Items	Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S14 Instrument of Delegation – VicSmart Applications: 12 March 2024 • Waterway Manager Delegation: 28 September 2023 • Instrument of Delegation – CEO to Staff – Children’s Services Legislation VIC and NSW: 11 January 2024 • S18 – Mildura Protection of Cruelty to Animal Act: 11 June 2024 • S24 - Mildura Protection of Cruelty to Animal Act: 11 June 2024
<p>27. Meeting procedures (Governance Rules under section 60 of the Act governing the conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees)</p>	<p>Governance Rules adopted in accordance with section 60 of the Act <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date Governance Rules adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 February 2024

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



Martin Hawson
Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 4 October 2024



Cr Liam Wood
Mayor

Dated: 4 October 2024

Statutory Information

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

Documents Available for Public Inspection

Council adopted the Public Transparency Policy on 26 August 2020. This policy outlines the type of information that will be made publicly available. This policy complements the information previously required to be available to the public in the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015*, and it further considers the type of information that would be available in accordance with the Public Transparency Principles as contained in the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

In accordance with the Public Transparency Principles, Council makes a range of information and documents available to the public under a variety of Acts. A full list of the documents and information available under various Acts, which include the following, is contained within Appendix Two of Council's Public Transparency Policy:

- *Building Act 1993*
- *Building Regulations 2018*
- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
- *Country Fire Authority Act 1958*
- *Development Victoria Act 2003*
- *Domestic Animals Act 1994*
- *Filming Approval Act 2014*
- *Food Act 1984*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1982*
- *Gender Equality Act 2020*
- *Infringements Act 2006*
- *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986*
- *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Local Government Act 1989*
- *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020*
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*
- *Road Management Act 2004*
- *Sex Work Act 1994*
- *Residential Tenancies (Caravan Park and Movable Dwellings Registration and Standards) Regulations 2020*

- *Subdivision (Procedures) Regulations 2011*
- *Water Act 1989*

In addition to the statutory information required to be made available, we have also determined to make the following information available either on request or on our website:

- Council meeting agendas and minutes, unless the information relates to confidential information as defined in the Act
- Community Asset Committee Delegations
- Register of overseas and interstate travel undertaken by Councillors and staff
- Register of conflicts of interest disclosures
- Register of donations and grants made by Council
- Register of leases entered into by Council, as lessor and lessee
- Register of Authorised Officers
- Confidential Report Register
- Council adopted strategies and plans
- Council adopted policies.

Carers' Recognition

In accordance with the *Carers Recognition Act 2012*, Council is required to report annually on its care relationship obligations under Section 11 of that Act. We have taken all practicable measures to comply with our responsibilities as outlined in the *Carers Recognition Act 2012*.

We have also promoted the principles of the Act to people in care relationships who receive our services, to other people in care relationships and to the wider community by:

- undertaking a program of events, funded through Carers Victoria, to increase mental health and reduce loneliness for carers. An events program of 33 activities was delivered from January to June 2024 at various locations with many held at Council libraries. Activities included chair yoga, Tai chi, craft days and health days in Mildura and Ouyen. A Carers' Expo, attended by 160 people, was also held at the Mildura Powerhouse with 36 organisations and community groups displaying their services.
- holding a Monthly Carer's Walk in partnership with Neighbourhood Houses and Victoria's Neighbourhood Carers Club
- celebrating National Carers' Week with an afternoon tea event at the Mildura Powerhouse
- promoting the Seniors Festival programs aimed at carers
- providing information to organisations represented in Council networks and advisory groups regarding support for carers, such as the Disability Inclusion Action Network and Aged Care Advisory Network.

Contracts

Council adopted a new Procurement of Goods, Services and Works Policy in accordance with section 108 of the *Local Government Act 2020* on 22 September 2021.

For the 2023-2024 financial year, Council entered into the following contracts valued at \$250,000 or more for goods, services or works using a competitive process in accordance the requirements of its new Procurement of Goods, Services and Works Policy:

Contract No.	Contract
2223/14	Hire of Street Sweeper
2023/106	Mildura Sporting Precinct Solar
2023/97	Football Federation Sunraysia Soccer Lighting Upgrade - Old Aerodrome Sporting Complex
2023/92	Supply, Delivery and Roll Out of Glass Mobile Garbage Bins
2023/86	Mildura Recreation Reserve Main Switchboard Replacement
2023/67	Cricket Net Upgrade at Old Aerodrome Ovals Sporting Complex
2023/53	Weighbridge Replacement at Mildura Landfill
2122/49	Asset Management Data System (Expression of Interest - Stage 2)
2024/124	Tenth Street and Etiwanda Avenue Intersection Upgrade
2024/126	Red Cliffs Early Years Hub
2024/128	Mildura Animal Shelter Isolation Building
2024/129	Deakin Avenue Median Redevelopment - Seventh to Eighth streets
2024/140	Black Spot Intersection Upgrade at Deakin Avenue and Twentieth Street
2024/144	Marsden Drive Asphalt Works
2024/134A	Langtree Mall Placemaking Project
2024/134B	Langtree Mall Placemaking Project
2024/151	Internal Audit Services

For the 2023-2024 financial year, Council did not enter any other contracts valued at \$250,000 or more for goods or services without engaging in a competitive process.

Disability Action Plan

In accordance with section 38 of the *Disability Act 2006*, as Council has prepared a Disability Action Plan, we must report on the implementation of the Disability Action Plan in our annual report. Actions completed in 2023-2024 that align with our Community Health & Wellbeing Plan and Disability Action Plan include:

- the identification of 159 trip hazards via Council's customer response system

- addressing 24 access items through the Disability Inclusion Advisory Committee, including supporting the Committee to meet with local service providers and Council staff to discuss local issues and work together on projects
- promoting and supporting a range of recreational, social and cultural events and activities to ensure accessibility for people with a disability, including the Aged Care Navigation Forum, Ouyen Health Day and Carers' Expo
- implementation of the Changing Places facility at the Powerhouse Precinct on the riverfront to provide suitable, safe and private facilities
- hosting an International Day of People with a Disability event for 100 participants
- launching a video showcasing all-access tourism options in Mildura. The video features 11 people promoting accessible tourist locations in Mildura.
- the provision of Disability Awareness Training for Council employees in partnership with CDC Buslines Mildura
- publishing, on the Visit Mildura website, mapped access for all disability parking, toilets, gopher recharge points and changing places
- sharing information about the Snap-Send-Solve app for quicker resolution of access issues raised by residents
- the provision of three of 13 Quick Response Grants to the community that relate to people with a disability, such as updating technology at the Mildura and District Historical Society to be accessible to all
- the provision of 12 of 34 Community Grants that relate to people with a disability that facilitate and support initiatives that strengthen the community, such as the 5th Mildura Scout Hall Entrance Upgrade and Disability Sports Australia's Activate Inclusion Sports Day
- the provision of one of four Community Partnership Grants to support the goals in the Mildura Rural City Council Plan 2021-2025. This grant was provided to Sunassist Volunteer Helpers Inc to continue meals on wheels to older people and people with a disability.

Domestic Animal Management Plan

In accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Council is required to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) at four-yearly intervals and evaluate its implementation in the Annual Report.

The current Mildura Rural City Council DAMP for 2021-2025 was adopted by Council in April 2022. It is a new style of document and was written to be more engaging, informative and to demonstrate the direction of our Animal Management Services over the plan's period (2021-2025).

The current plan's actions include the continued commitment to and ongoing success of the Responsible Pet Ownership Program. In accordance with this program, in 2023-2024 a further \$25,000 was used to again provide dog and cat owners within the municipality assistance with desexing, microchipping and vaccinating their animals. It is an ongoing commitment by Council to responsible pet ownership within our municipality. This ongoing activity has been very well received and fully subscribed.

Our Local Laws team has also taken a proactive approach to dogs off leash and dog litter issues. Patrols throughout the municipality have continued with an emphasis on education before enforcement.

Delivery of the purpose-built isolation room for the Mildura Animal Pound will occur over the next 12 months. The first stage of building works has commenced. The isolation area will ensure ongoing compliance with the Code of Practice for Pounds and Shelters and assist with the ongoing animal health care at the pound.

Two Local Laws officers have also undertaken Certificate 4 in Animal Management and Local Government with the Warner Institute in the past 12 months. All officers now complete this training after 12 months in the role. This ensures the appropriate training, knowledge and skills of our Local Laws team, while also undertaking extensive practical training on the job.

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 such Ministerial Directions were received during the financial year.

Freedom of Information

In accordance with Section 7(4AA)(a) and 7(4AA)(b) of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, Council is required to publish certain statements in its annual report or separately such as on its website, concerning its functions and information available. We have published these statements separately but provide the following summary of the application and operation of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

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 our possession 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 (eg photocopying and search and retrieval charges).

More information regarding freedom of information can be found at www.ovic.vic.gov.au and on Council's website.

Public Interest Disclosure (formally Protected Disclosure) Procedures

In accordance with Section 69 of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012*, a council must include in its annual report information about how to access the procedures established by the Council under Part 9 of that Act. We are also required to provide certain information about the number and types of public interest disclosure complaints investigated during the financial year.

The *Public Interest 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 on our website.

There were no public interest disclosures made during the 2023-2024 financial year.

Road Management Act Ministerial Directions

In accordance with Section 22 of the *Road Management Act 2004*, Council must publish a copy or summary of any Ministerial direction in its annual report. No such Ministerial Directions were received during the financial year.

Infrastructure and Development Contributions

In accordance with sections 46GM and 46QD of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, a council that is a collecting or development agency must prepare and give a report to the Minister for Planning on infrastructure and development contributions, including levies and works in kind. The report must be published in Council's Annual Report.

For 2023-2024, Mildura Rural City Council did not have any infrastructure development plans.

The following information about development contributions for the 2023-2024 financial year is disclosed.

Development Contributions

Total DCP Levies Received in 2023-2024

DCP Name (Year Approved)	Levies Received in 2023-2024 Financial Year (Cash income only) \$
DCP01 (2005)	490,223.67
DCP02 (2006)	67,201.67
DCP03 (2007)	0.00
Total	557,425.34

DCP Land, Works, Services or Facilities accepted as Works In-Kind in 2023-2024

DCP Name (Year Approved)	Project ID	Project Description	Item Purpose	Total Project Value \$
DCP02, July 2006 (Amended 2021)	DG402 (revised DG030)	Nichols Point Stormwater Drainage System North	Drainage	260,900.94
DCP 01, April 2005	OS001	Playgrounds OS001	Parks, Open space and Streetscapes	145,000.00
DCP02, July 2006	OS006	Stormwater Retention - Irymple	Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes	51,093.00
Total				456,993.94

As Mildura Rural City Council does not have any DCPs that were approved after 1 June 2016, there are no DCP contributions received or expended to date for DCPs approved after 1 June 2016.

Land, Works, Services or Facilities Delivered in 2023-2024 from DCP Levies Collected

Project Description	Project ID	DCP Name (Year Approved)	DCP Fund Expended (including WIK) ¹	Works-In-Kind Accepted	Council's Contribution	Other Contributions	Total Project Expenditure (including WIK) ²	Percentage of Item Delivered
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Mildura South Drainage Scheme DG001	DG001	DCP01, April 2005	569,845.96	0.00	208,783.74	0.00	778,629.7	1.36%
Nichols Point Stormwater Drainage System North	DG402	DCP02, July 2006 (Amended 2021)	294,722.28	260,900.94	13,979.26	0.00	308,701.54	17.56%
Nichols Point Stormwater Drainage System South	DG403	DCP02, July 2006 (Amended 2021)	33,821.34	0.00	13,979.26	0.00	47,800.60	3.00%
Mildura/Irymple Transition - Construction	DG050	DCP03, July 2007	279,285.18	0.00	-31,971.96 ³	0.00	247,313.22	2.36%
Playgrounds OS001	OS001	DCP01, April 2005	166,990.00	145,000.00	14,869.00	0.00	181,859.00	0.46%
Stormwater Retention - Irymple	OS006	DCP02, July 2006	51,093.00	51,093.00	0.00	0.00	51,093.00	1.43%
Total			1,395,757.75	456,993.94	219,639.30	0.00	1,615,397.05	
<i>Note:</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Works-in-kind (WIK) are included with the DCP funds expended. This gives a true record of Council's financial contribution to the DCP delivery. WIK is, in reality, both income into the reserve and expenditure out of the reserve with WIK using 100 per cent of the DCP income for project construction with no Council contributions included in these transactions.</i> <i>It is also important to include the WIK in the total project expenditure to understand the value of the project that has been completed.</i> <i>The negative number is due to net present value discounting that applies to DCP project calculations.</i> 							

Part 2: Financial Statements



Mildura Rural City Council

Annual Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024



**Mildura Rural City Council
Financial Report
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Certification of the Consolidated Financial Statements

In my opinion, the accompanying consolidated 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.



Mark McMillan CPA

Principal Accounting Officer

Date : 4 October 2024
Mildura

In our opinion the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of the Mildura Rural City Council Group and the Mildura Rural 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 consolidated 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 consolidated financial statements in their final form.

Liam Wood

Mayor

Date :

Mildura



4 October 2024

Mark Eckel

Deputy Mayor

Date :

Mildura



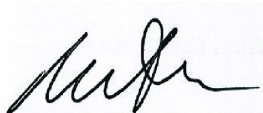
4 October 2024

Martin Hawson

Chief Executive Officer

Date :

Mildura



4 October 2024

Independent Auditor's Report



To the Councillors of Mildura Rural City Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the consolidated financial report of Mildura Rural City Council (the council) and its controlled entities (together the consolidated entity), which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• consolidated entity and council balance sheet as at 30 June 2024• consolidated entity and council comprehensive income statement for the year then ended• consolidated entity and council statement of changes in equity for the year then ended• consolidated entity and council statement of cash flows for the year then ended• consolidated entity and council 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 positions of the consolidated entity and 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 and the consolidated entity 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 and the consolidated entity'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>

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 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 and the consolidated entity'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 and the consolidated entity'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 and the consolidated entity 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
 - obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the council and the consolidated entity to express an opinion on the financial report. I remain responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the audit of the council and the consolidated entity. I remain solely responsible for my audit opinion.
-

Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial report 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
9 October 2024



Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

**Consolidated Comprehensive Income Statement
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Note	Consolidated		Council	
		2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Income / revenue					
Rates and charges	3.1	85,633	81,836	85,733	81,940
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	2,018	2,187	2,018	2,187
User fees	3.3	12,385	12,630	6,589	7,894
Grants - operating	3.4	9,845	37,163	7,962	33,423
Grants - capital	3.4	11,557	8,157	10,809	8,157
Contributions - monetary	3.5	2,070	2,882	2,070	2,882
Contributions - non monetary	3.5	457	400	457	400
Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.6	(811)	(955)	(811)	(798)
Other income	3.7	13,630	13,696	12,698	12,809
Asset recognition	3.8	4,697	3,875	4,697	3,875
Total income / revenue		141,481	161,871	132,222	152,769
Expenses					
Employee costs	4.1	(56,839)	(58,619)	(53,793)	(55,472)
Materials and services	4.2	(56,984)	(57,549)	(53,018)	(54,955)
Depreciation	4.3	(23,456)	(21,529)	(21,757)	(19,827)
Amortisation - intangible assets		(214)	(200)	(214)	(198)
Depreciation - right of use assets		(138)	(129)	(153)	(98)
Allowance for impairment loss		(69)	(35)	(69)	(35)
Borrowing costs		(736)	(778)	(562)	(647)
Finance costs - leases		(62)	(59)	(62)	(50)
Other expenses	4.4	(2,550)	(1,757)	(2,190)	(1,599)
Total expenses		(141,048)	(140,655)	(131,818)	(132,881)
Surplus for the year		433	21,216	404	19,888
Other comprehensive income					
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods					
Net asset revaluation gain	9.1(a)	40,030	117,647	40,042	109,945
Share of other comprehensive income of associates and joint ventures	9.1(c)	-	-	17	1,330
Total other comprehensive income		40,030	117,647	40,059	111,275
Total comprehensive result		40,463	138,863	40,463	131,163

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

Consolidated Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2024

	Note	Consolidated		Council	
		2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Assets					
Current assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	10,266	33,893	7,284	29,993
Trade and other receivables	5.1	10,799	8,025	10,411	7,891
Other financial assets	5.1	69,050	66,767	69,050	66,767
Inventories		825	684	796	668
Prepayments	5.2	461	354	335	312
Total current assets		91,401	109,723	87,876	105,631
Non-current assets					
Trade and other receivables	5.1	-	-	8,166	6,478
Other financial assets	5.2	-	-	51,245	51,228
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.1	1,157,877	1,111,700	1,097,310	1,050,992
Right-of-use assets	5.8	1,159	1,115	1,159	943
Intangible assets	5.2	17,432	17,137	11,672	13,882
Total non-current assets		1,176,468	1,129,952	1,169,552	1,123,523
Total assets		1,267,869	1,239,675	1,257,428	1,229,154
Liabilities					
Current liabilities					
Trade and other payables	5.3	3,182	3,079	1,214	2,300
Trust funds and deposits	5.3	3,134	2,786	3,134	2,786
Contract and other liabilities	5.3	93	2,779	59	1,770
Provisions	5.5	12,032	12,558	12,102	12,285
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.4	870	778	428	653
Lease liabilities	5.8	128	128	128	100
Total current liabilities		19,439	22,108	17,065	19,894
Non-current liabilities					
Provisions	5.5	25,529	34,620	25,498	34,600
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.4	8,243	8,763	7,906	8,334
Lease liabilities	5.8	1,434	1,423	1,434	1,264
Total non-current liabilities		35,206	44,806	34,838	44,198
Total liabilities		54,645	66,914	51,903	64,092
Net assets		1,213,224	1,172,761	1,205,525	1,165,062
Equity					
Accumulated surplus		490,480	475,003	456,763	441,307
Reserves	9.1	722,744	697,758	748,762	723,755
Total equity		1,213,224	1,172,761	1,205,525	1,165,062

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

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

Consolidated	Note	Accumulated Revaluation			Other
		Total	Surplus	Reserve	Reserves
2024		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,172,761	475,003	642,457	55,301
Surplus for the year		433	433	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain	9.1	40,030	-	40,030	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1(b)	-	27,726	-	(27,726)
Transfers from other reserves	9.1(b)	-	(12,682)	-	12,682
		40,463	15,477	40,030	(15,044)
Balance at end of the financial year		1,213,224	490,480	682,487	40,257
2023					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,033,898	458,790	524,810	50,298
Surplus for the year		21,216	21,216	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain	9.1	117,647	-	117,647	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1(b)	-	23,901	-	(23,901)
Transfers from other reserves	9.1(b)	-	(28,904)	-	28,904
		138,863	16,213	117,647	5,003
Balance at end of the financial year		1,172,761	475,003	642,457	55,301

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

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity (Continued)
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Council	Note	Total	Accumulated Surplus	Revaluation Reserve	Other Reserves
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2024					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,165,062	441,307	634,540	89,215
Surplus for the year		404	404	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain	9.1	40,059	-	40,042	17
Transfers to other reserves	9.1(b)	-	27,726	-	(27,726)
Transfers from other reserves	9.1(b)	-	(12,674)	-	12,674
		40,463	15,456	40,042	(15,035)
Balance at end of the financial year		1,205,525	456,763	674,582	74,180
2023					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,033,899	426,422	524,595	82,882
Surplus for the year		19,888	19,888	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain	9.1	111,275	-	109,945	1,330
Transfers to other reserves	9.1(b)	-	23,901	-	(23,901)
Transfers from other reserves	9.1(b)	-	(28,904)	-	28,904
		131,163	14,885	109,945	6,333
Balance at end of the financial year		1,165,062	441,307	634,540	89,215

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

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	Inflows/ (Outflows)	Inflows/ (Outflows)	Inflows/ (Outflows)	Inflows/ (Outflows)
Note	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Cash flows from operating activities				
Rates and charges	83,453	82,261	83,553	82,362
Statutory fees and fines	2,018	2,187	2,018	2,187
User fees	12,825	14,394	6,589	7,894
Grants - operating	9,306	35,958	8,360	35,094
Grants - capital	10,305	10,547	9,638	7,669
Contributions - monetary	2,174	3,026	2,174	3,026
Interest received	4,708	3,230	4,759	3,294
Trust funds and deposits taken	8,605	7,418	8,605	7,418
Other receipts	9,026	7,892	8,070	7,058
Net GST refund	3,454	2,308	3,856	2,795
Employee costs	(57,072)	(59,779)	(54,349)	(57,441)
Materials and services	(59,722)	(61,276)	(55,731)	(59,023)
Short-term, low value and variable lease payments	(130)	(9)	(130)	(9)
Trust funds and deposits repaid	(8,293)	(7,147)	(8,257)	(7,147)
Other payments	(2,290)	(3,355)	(4,188)	(3,381)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	18,367	37,655	14,967	31,796
9.2				
Cash flows from investing activities				
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(38,477)	(41,381)	(34,447)	(36,157)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	372	862	372	862
Proceeds from sale of investments/(payments for investments)	(2,283)	12,833	(2,283)	12,833
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	(40,388)	(27,686)	(36,358)	(22,462)

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

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows (Continued)
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	Inflows/ (Outflows)	Inflows/ (Outflows)	Inflows/ (Outflows)	Inflows/ (Outflows)
Note	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Cash flows from financing activities				
Finance costs	72	(778)	(562)	(647)
Repayment of borrowings	(1,229)	(945)	(653)	(1,197)
Interest paid on lease liability	(221)	(30)	(62)	(30)
Repayment of lease liabilities	(228)	(134)	(41)	(98)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	<u>(1,606)</u>	<u>(1,887)</u>	<u>(1,318)</u>	<u>(1,972)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(23,627)	8,082	(22,709)	7,362
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	<u>33,893</u>	<u>25,811</u>	<u>29,993</u>	<u>22,631</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	5.1 <u>10,266</u>	<u>33,893</u>	<u>7,284</u>	<u>29,993</u>

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

Consolidated Statement of Capital Works For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Property				
Land	1,373	-	1,373	-
Total land	1,373	-	1,373	-
Buildings	7,750	16,202	7,687	16,170
Total buildings	7,750	16,202	7,687	16,170
Total property	9,123	16,202	9,060	16,170
Plant and equipment				
Computers and telecommunications	282	314	282	314
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	1,166	722	1,042	602
Library books and art works	256	309	256	309
Plant, machinery and equipment	3,129	4,314	2,962	4,221
Total plant and equipment	4,833	5,659	4,542	5,446
Infrastructure				
Roads	11,201	10,093	11,201	10,093
Footpaths and cycle ways	773	344	773	344
Drainage	2,643	943	2,643	943
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	2,919	1,322	2,919	1,322
Waste management	74	178	74	178
Parks, open space and streetscapes	2,383	853	2,362	850
Kerb and channel	302	608	302	608
Off street car parks	689	348	375	6
Other infrastructure	1,033	1,532	-	-
Total infrastructure	22,017	16,221	20,649	14,344
Intangible				
Water rights	197	197	197	197
Light State	2,517	3,102	-	-
Total intangible	2,714	3,299	197	197
Total capital works expenditure	38,687	41,381	34,448	36,157

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

Consolidated Statement of Capital Works (Continued)
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Represented by:				
New asset expenditure	14,124	16,197	13,733	15,692
Asset renewal expenditure	17,351	15,816	16,907	15,277
Asset expansion expenditure	1,116	1,992	672	1,453
Asset upgrade expenditure	3,382	4,077	2,939	3,538
Intangibles	2,714	3,299	197	197
Total capital works expenditure	38,687	41,381	34,448	36,157

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 1 OVERVIEW

Introduction

The Mildura Rural City Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 20 January 1995 and is a body corporate. These financial statements are the consolidated Group accounts for Mildura Rural City Council ("Council") and its controlled entities. Council's main office is located at 108 - 116 Madden Avenue, Mildura.

Statement of compliance

These consolidated 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 the 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 cashflow 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:

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

1.1 Basis of accounting (cont'd)

- 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 the value as an intangible asset for the Light State project (refer to note 5.2)
- the determination of the useful life for the Light State project (refer to note 6.1)
- 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 judgments.

The consolidated results in the financial report include all entities controlled and all funds through which the Council controls resources to carry on its functions, such as special committees of management. In the process of reporting on the Council as a consolidated unit, all intra and inter entity balances and transactions have been eliminated.

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 Australian Taxation Office are included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

1.2 Principles of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements of Council incorporate all entities controlled by Council as at 30 June 2024, and their income and expenses for that part of the reporting period in which control existed.

Subsidiaries are all entities over which Council has control. Council controls an entity when it is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power to direct the activities of the entity. Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Council. They are deconsolidated from the date that control ceases.

Where dissimilar accounting policies are adopted by entities and their effect is considered material, adjustments are made to ensure consistent policies are adopted in these financial statements. Consolidated entities of Council are currently not using fair value measurement of their land and buildings. The effects are not considered material.

In the process of preparing consolidated financial statements all material transactions and balances between consolidated entities are eliminated.

Entities consolidated into Council include:

- Mildura Airport Pty Ltd - MAPL - 100% owned
- Mildura Tourism and Economic Development Ltd trading as Mildura Regional Development - MRD - 100% owned.

**Notes to the Financial Report
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 10 percent and \$250,000 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*.

2.1.1 Income / Revenue and expenditure	Budget 2024 \$'000	Actual 2024 \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %	Ref
Income / Revenue					
Rates and charges	86,001	85,733	(268)	-	
Statutory fees and fines	2,336	2,018	(318)	(14)	1
User fees	8,005	6,589	(1,416)	(18)	2
Grants - operating	22,798	7,962	(14,836)	(65)	3
Grants - capital	9,620	10,809	1,189	12	4
Contributions - monetary	1,203	2,070	867	72	5
Contributions - non monetary	1,800	457	(1,343)	(75)	6
Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(1,685)	(811)	874	(52)	7
Other income	8,819	12,698	3,879	44	8
Asset recognition	-	4,697	4,697	100	9
Total income / revenue	138,897	132,222	(6,675)	(5)	
Expenses					
Employee costs	(54,381)	(53,793)	(588)	1	
Materials and services	(50,759)	(53,018)	2,259	(4)	
Depreciation	(20,157)	(21,757)	1,600	(8)	
Amortisation - intangible assets	(187)	(214)	27	(14)	
Depreciation - right of use assets	(72)	(153)	81	(113)	
Allowance for impairment loss	(83)	(69)	(14)	17	
Borrowing costs	(590)	(562)	(28)	5	
Finance costs - leases	(51)	(62)	11	(22)	
Other expenses	(1,780)	(2,190)	410	(23)	10
Total expenses	(128,060)	(131,818)	3,758	(3)	
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	10,837	404	(2,917)	(27)	

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2.1 Performance against budget (cont'd)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Statutory fees and fines	Income for permits and statutory planning fees were less than budgeted due in part to economic conditions, and there was a reduction in collection of infringements as well.
2	User fees	The decrease in user fees relates to reductions in waste management services or landfill fees, and a reduction in child care related user fees due to the introduction of 3 year old kindergarten program which resulted in reductions in other child care services.
3	Grants - operating	A large reduction in operating grants was due to timing of Financial Assistance Grants paid by the Victorian Grant Commission. In previous years this was paid during June, however this has now been paid in July 2024 resulting in timing variance compared to budget forecast.
4	Grants - capital	Capital grants were lower in the previous financial year due to timing of capital works projects and their completions which have now been received as expected during 2023-24 resulting in increased capital grants compared to budget forecast.
5	Contributions - monetary	Variance due to receipt of Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates relating to installation of LED street lighting which generated additional capital income. Completion of many community and sporting facility upgrades with increase contributions being received this financial year.
6	Contributions - non monetary	Non-monetary contributions are due to works completion for residential sub-divisions and the developer contribution plan. These contributions are received in lieu of cash, and are recognised when control of asset is handed over to Council. Therefore the timing of this is difficult to predict in which it's common to have a variance to budget.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2.1 Performance against budget (cont'd)

(i) Explanation of material variations (cont'd)

Variance

Ref

7	Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	This relates to the disposal of assets commonly associated with the asset renewal program, and also relates to fleet and plant replacement program. The timing of these disposals is subject to variation with timing differences between financials statements and budget a normal occurrence.
8	Other income	Interest income has increased significantly during the financial year due to sustained high term deposit interest rates, and Council received reimbursements for insurance claims largely relating to the flood event which were not originally budgeted.
9	Asset recognition	These are accounting entries only (non-cash), and result from internal asset procedures and audits of fixed assets. These found assets are then valued and included on Council's fixed asset register.
10	Other expenses	Variance due to increases in internal audit fees and increased payments to performance groups / events for tickets sales associated with the Mildura Arts Centre as the centre returns to normal operating levels post COVID-19.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

2.1.2 Capital works	Budget 2024 \$'000	Actual 2024 \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance % Ref	
Property					
Land	500	1,373	873	175	1
Total land	500	1,373	873	175	
Buildings	12,427	7,687	(4,740)	(38)	2
Total buildings	12,427	7,687	(4,740)	(38)	
Total property	12,927	9,060	(3,867)	(30)	
Plant and equipment					
Computers and telecommunications	290	282	(8)	(3)	
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	1,623	1,042	(581)	(36)	3
Library books and artworks	330	256	(74)	(22)	
Plant, machinery and equipment	3,509	2,962	(547)	(16)	4
Total plant and equipment	5,752	4,542	(1,210)	(21)	
Infrastructure					
Roads	8,727	11,201	2,474	28	5
Footpaths and cycle ways	511	773	262	51	6
Drainage	6,934	2,643	(4,291)	(62)	7
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	1,758	2,919	1,161	66	8
Waste management	1,471	74	(1,397)	(95)	9
Parks, open space and streetscapes	3,221	2,362	(859)	(27)	10
Kerb and channel	-	302	302	100	11
Off street car parks	-	375	375	100	12
Total infrastructure	22,622	20,649	(1,973)	(9)	
Intangible					
Water rights	200	197	(3)	(2)	
Total intangible	200	197	(3)	(2)	
Total capital works expenditure	41,501	34,448	(7,053)	(17)	
Represented by:					
New asset expenditure	11,954	13,733	1,779	15	
Asset renewal expenditure	23,706	16,907	(6,799)	(29)	
Asset expansion expenditure	3,121	672	(2,449)	(78)	
Asset upgrade expenditure	2,520	2,939	419	17	
Intangibles	200	197	(3)	(2)	
Total capital works expenditure	41,501	34,448	(7,053)	(17)	

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2.1 Performance against budget (cont'd)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Land	Variance due to timing of purchase of land for Neighbourhood Activity Centre.
2	Buildings	There are numerous community and sports facilities included in the 2023/24 budget, the largest includes the construction of the Red Cliffs Early Years Hub. These larger projects span over multiple years with actual expenditure occurring in 2023/24 and the 2024-25 capital works program.
3	Fixtures, fittings and furniture	Several projects are currently in progress including renewal of the CBD bin and installation of additional electric vehicle charging stations, these expenditures will now carried forward to the 2024/25 financial year.
4	Plant, machinery and equipment	Due to supply constraints in prior financial years, the delivery and payment of purchased plant, machinery, equipment and fleet carried forward with expenditure occurring in 2023/24.
5	Roads	Additional funding was received for the Local Roads and Infrastructure Grant during the financial year which increased expenditure above original budget forecast.
6	Footpaths and cycle ways	The additional expenditure relates to completion of several major projects including the Mildura Riverfront Powerhouse Precinct and completion of carried forward projects.
7	Drainage	There are several large drainage projects underway, however there have been delays due to contractor and supply constraints. These are currently underway with expenditure to occur during the 2024-25 financial year.
8	Recreational, leisure and community facilities	Additional grant funding and the delivery of three sporting precincts projects is currently in progress with increased expenditures occurring in 2023/24. These projects will carry forward and continue during the 2024-25 financial year.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

2.1 Performance against budget (cont'd)

(i) Explanation of material variations (cont'd)

9	Waste management	The waste management program and specifically landfill capping has been delayed as Council awaits the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval of the capping design. This has been carried forward to the next financial year.
10	Parks, open space and streetscapes	Due the flood event which occurred in October 2022, some capital works projects were delayed including the Nowingi Adventure Playground. These expenditures will now occur during the 2024/25 financial year.
11	Kerb and channel	Additional funding for Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant program resulting in increased expenditure on roads, enabling the replacement of kerb and channel associated with some road projects.
12	Off street car parks	Additional funding was received for the Local Roads and Infrastructure grant increasing expenditure above original budget forecast. This includes carparks for Mildura Sporting Precinct project.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 2.2 Analysis of Council results by program

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following departments.

Corporate Performance

The Corporate Performance Department is comprised of six areas; Communications, Financial Services, Governance, Information Systems, People, and Corporate Performance. The Communications branch includes teams from Communication Planning, Digital and Graphic Design, and Media and Public Relations. Financial Services encompasses Financial Services Management, Management Accounting, Procurement, Finance Systems, Fleet and Workshop. The Governance branch is made up of teams from Governance and Risk, Property Services, Cemetery Operations, and Management and Recovery. The Information Systems branch includes Business Applications, IT Infrastructure and Information Management. The People branch includes Human Resources, Occupational Health and Safety, Employee Relations and Payroll Services. The Organisational Performance branch consist of Customer Experience, Service Planning, Business Improvement, and Planning and Reporting. The Corporate Performance department also auspices the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area.

Financial Management

Financial Management encompasses functions of Council services including rates, depreciation, investment income, borrowing costs, and developer contributions. It also includes business units that are non core Council activities such as Mildura Cemetery, Hands up Mallee, Mildura Airport, and Mildura Regional Development.

Infrastructure and Assets

The Infrastructure and Assets Department is comprised of five branches; Engineering Development and Delivery, Works and Infrastructure, Civic Compliance, Facilities and Assets, and Waste Services. The Engineering Development and Delivery team consist of Engineering Design, Infrastructure Development, Facility Projects, and Capital Works Project Delivery. The Works and Infrastructure branch includes teams from Infrastructure Services Support, Infrastructure Works and Infrastructure Services. Waste Services includes Waste Education, Contract Management and Compliance, Weighbridge and Reporting, Waste Facilities and Waste Operations. The Civic Compliance team includes Municipal Buildings, Environmental Health and Local Laws. The Facilities and Assets branch includes Asset Preservation, Strategic Asset Systems, Facility Services, and Inspections and Reporting.

Healthy Communities

The Healthy Communities Department is comprised of four branches; Community Partnerships, Community Care, Libraries and Knowledge Hubs, and Parks and Recreation. The Community Partnerships branch includes teams from Community Development, Community Wellbeing and Environmental Sustainability. The Community Care branch includes Youth Engagement, Early Years and Community Health. The Libraries and Knowledge Hubs is made up of Collections and Technology, and Operations and Services. The Parks and Recreation branch includes Parks and Gardens, Mildura Sporting Precinct, and Recreation Development.

Strategy and Growth

The Strategy and Growth Department is comprised of six areas; Project Development Office, Arts Culture and Venues, Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, Economic Development and Tourism, and Light State Project. The Project Development Office is responsible for Major Projects and governance of the Capital Works Program. Arts, Culture and Venue branch consist of Tech Services, Gallery and Heritage, Marketing and Development and Community Placemaking. The Statutory Planning branch is responsible for Land Use Planning, and Statutory Planning team includes Statutory Planning, Town Planning and Enforcement. The Economic Development and Tourism branch includes teams for Economic Development, Strategic Projects, Grants, Tourism, Events, and Visitor Information Centre. This also includes oversight of the Mildura City Heart, and Council's wholly owned subsidiary, the Mildura Airport Ltd.

Executive

The Executive Department comprises the Chief Executive Officer and activities relating to Councillors.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

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

	Income	Expenses	Surplus/ (deficit)	Grants included in income	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2024					
Healthy Communities	8,009	(24,931)	(16,922)	4,316	237,820
Financial Management	112,873	(27,724)	85,149	13,497	264,462
Corporate Performance	2,306	(25,048)	(22,742)	226	238,936
Infrastructure and Assets	5,849	(42,765)	(36,916)	520	407,941
Strategy and Growth	3,184	(10,266)	(7,082)	212	97,929
Executive	1	(1,084)	(1,083)	-	10,340
	132,222	(131,818)	404	18,771	1,257,428

	Income	Expenses	Surplus/ (deficit)	Grants included in income	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2023					
Community	13,354	(27,305)	(13,951)	7,087	250,777
Financial Management	126,716	(25,254)	101,462	32,637	231,941
Corporate	4,512	(26,493)	(21,981)	1,259	243,318
Development	8,187	(52,728)	(44,541)	597	484,275
Executive	-	(1,101)	(1,101)	-	10,109
	152,769	(132,881)	19,888	41,580	1,220,420

During the 2024 financial year, Mildura Rural City Council completed an organisational sustainability review. This has impacted departmental reporting from 2023 to 2024 financial years. For further information refer to: <https://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Council/About-Council/Our-Organisational-Structure/2023-Organisational-Sustainability-Review>.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

Consolidated		Council	
2024	2023	2024	2023
\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000

Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services

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 is the value of the land and all its improvements.

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2023/24 is \$15.25 billion (2022/23 was \$13.61 billion).

General rates	44,302	44,127	44,302	44,127
Waste management charge	13,341	12,443	13,341	12,443
Mildura City Heart special rate	661	646	661	646
Business differential rate	12,558	12,198	12,658	12,302
Farming differential rate	14,400	12,117	14,400	12,117
Payment in lieu of rates	371	305	371	305
Total rates and charges	85,633	81,836	85,733	81,940

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

Annual rates and charges are recognised as revenues when Council issues annual rates notices.

Supplementary rates are recognised when a valuation and reassessment is completed and a supplementary rates notice issued.

3.2 Statutory fees and fines

Infringements and costs	489	485	489	485
Land information certificates	60	60	60	60
Permits	367	310	367	310
Other statutory fees and fines	361	263	361	263
Valuations database	-	268	-	268
Statutory planning fees	741	801	741	801
Total statutory fees and fines	2,018	2,187	2,018	2,187

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

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
3.3 User fees				
Aged and health services	-	539	-	539
Child care/children's programs	442	526	442	526
Waste management services	2,247	2,461	2,247	2,461
Other fees and charges	441	512	441	512
Rent/lease fees	1,598	1,568	1,131	1,134
Animal control and local laws	622	640	622	640
Environmental health services	285	276	285	276
Airport fees and charges	5,329	4,302	-	-
Contract works	329	897	329	897
Entrance charges	883	755	883	755
Commission/agency fees	209	154	209	154
Total user fees	12,385	12,630	6,589	7,894
Total user fees				
User fees recognised at a point in time	12,385	12,630	6,589	7,894
Total user fees	12,385	12,630	6,589	7,894

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

3.4 Funding from other levels of government

Grants were received in respect of the following:

Summary of grants

Commonwealth funded grants	10,296	32,160	9,350	31,601
State funded grants	11,106	13,160	9,421	9,979
Total grants received	21,402	45,320	18,771	41,580

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
3.4 Funding from other levels of government (cont'd)				
(a) Operating grants				
<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>				
Hands up Mallee	1,104	734	1,104	734
Aged and disability services	194	2,137	194	2,137
Financial assistance grants - general purpose	600	16,359	600	16,359
Financial assistance grants - local roads	232	6,437	232	6,437
<i>Recurrent - State Government</i>				
Aged and disability services	2	340	2	340
Libraries	443	443	443	443
Community health	1,606	1,308	1,606	1,308
Early years	439	422	439	422
Youth services	302	279	302	279
Environmental health	103	80	103	80
Social development and projects	-	25	-	25
Local laws	228	199	228	199
Arts and culture	190	190	190	190
Works and infrastructure services	161	154	161	154
Total recurrent operating grants	5,604	29,107	5,604	29,107

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
3.4 Funding from other levels of government (cont'd)				
<i>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>				
Airport operations	198	1,059	-	500
Early years	271	291	271	291
Recreation and sport	750	450	750	450
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>				
Youth services	86	133	86	133
Community development	-	413	-	413
Social development and projects	-	413	-	413
Environmental sustainability	182	122	182	122
Community health	184	134	184	134
Aged and disability services	-	4	-	4
Early years	156	115	156	115
Economic development and tourism	1,685	2,877	-	-
Libraries	5	23	5	23
Sunraysia Pest Free	496	547	496	547
COVID-19 program funding	60	156	60	156
Local laws	-	3	-	3
Road safety	-	27	-	27
Emergency management and recovery	120	623	120	623
Event projects	8	135	8	135
Airport operations	-	304	-	-
Strategic planning	15	30	15	30
Planning and development	15	40	15	40
Recreation and sport	10	157	10	157
Total non-recurrent operating grants	4,241	8,056	2,358	4,316
Total operating grants	9,845	37,163	7,962	33,423
(b) Capital grants				
<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>				
Roads to recovery	2,811	2,657	2,811	2,657
Total recurrent capital grants	2,811	2,657	2,811	2,657

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
3.4 Funding from other levels of government (cont'd)				
<i>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>				
Buildings	1,182	1,484	1,182	1,484
Roads	306	-	306	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	424	552	424	552
Off street car parks	626	-	626	-
Airport operations	748	-	-	-
Footpaths and cycleways	850	-	850	-
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>				
Footpaths and cycleways	-	45	-	45
Recreation and sport	214	610	214	610
Buildings	3,023	2,113	3,023	2,113
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	696	-	696	-
Waste management	-	10	-	10
Parks open space and streetscapes	259	117	259	117
Roads	347	569	347	569
Off street car parks	71	-	71	-
Total non-recurrent capital grants	8,746	5,500	7,998	5,500
Total capital grants	11,557	8,157	10,809	8,157

(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.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
3.4 Funding from other levels of government (cont'd)				
Income recognised under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities				
General purpose	832	22,796	832	22,796
Other specific purpose grants	20,511	20,754	17,880	17,014
Revenue recognised under AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers				
Specific purpose grants	59	1,770	59	1,770
	21,402	45,320	18,771	41,580
 (d) Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner				
Operating				
Balance at start of year	1,692	1,023	691	639
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	59	669	59	52
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(1,692)	-	(691)	-
Balance at year end	59	1,692	59	691
Capital				
Balance at start of year	1,079	2,027	1,079	2,027
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	-	1,079	-	1,079
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(1,079)	(2,027)	(1,079)	(2,027)
Balance at year end	-	1,079	-	1,079
Total	59	2,771	59	1,770
Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.				
3.5 Contributions				
Other contributions	58	261	58	261
Capital contributions	1,424	465	1,424	465
Developer contributions	588	2,156	588	2,156
Total monetary contributions	2,070	2,882	2,070	2,882
Non-monetary contributions	457	400	457	400
Total contributions	2,527	3,282	2,527	3,282

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
3.5 Contributions (cont'd)				
<i>Contributions of non-monetary assets were received in relation to the following asset classes.</i>				
Drainage	312	302	312	302
Parks open space and streetscapes	145	98	145	98
Total non-monetary contributions	457	400	457	400

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

3.6 Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

Proceeds of sale	377	862	375	862
Written down value of assets disposed	(1,188)	(1,817)	(1,186)	(1,660)
Total net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(811)	(955)	(811)	(798)

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

3.7 Other income

Interest	4,250	2,833	4,292	2,785
Interest on rates	454	457	454	457
Sales	1,673	1,337	688	617
Other income	316	1,777	194	1,520
Child care reimbursement	1,773	1,794	1,773	1,794
Fuel tax rebate	224	179	224	179
Workcover costs reimbursements	341	218	341	218
Legal costs recouped	60	230	60	230
Airport reimbursement	5	-	5	1
Cemetery reimbursement	793	949	793	949
Utilities reimbursement	20	13	20	13
Youth case management reimbursement	398	589	398	589
Insurance reimbursement	698	276	826	412
Other costs reimbursed	2,625	3,044	2,630	3,045
Total other income	13,630	13,696	12,698	12,809

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.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
3.8 Asset recognition				
The majority of asset recognitions related to gifted assets for Developer Contribution Plans (DCP). These are recognised once Council gains control of the assets and recorded on Council's asset registers.				
Asset recognition	4,697	3,875	4,697	3,875
Total asset recognition	4,697	3,875	4,697	3,875

Note 4 The cost of delivering services

4.1 (a) Employee costs

Wages and salaries	51,468	53,601	48,679	50,665
Payroll tax	10	1	9	2
Superannuation	5,211	4,902	4,955	4,690
Fringe benefits tax	150	115	150	115
Total employee costs	56,839	58,619	53,793	55,472

(b) Superannuation

Council made contributions to the following funds:

Defined benefit fund

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	267	241	267	241
Total defined benefit fund contributions	267	241	267	241

Accumulation funds

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	1,767	1,891	1,767	1,891
Employer contributions - other funds	3,177	2,770	2,921	2,558
Total accumulation funds contributions	4,944	4,661	4,688	4,449

Refer to note 9.3 for further information relating to Council's superannuation obligations.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
4.2 Materials and services				
Contracts other	11,478	12,784	11,057	12,531
Waste management contracts	6,138	6,776	6,138	6,776
Swimming pools	2,065	1,537	2,065	1,537
Building maintenance	2,044	2,010	2,044	2,010
General maintenance	640	508	640	508
Environmental protection waste levy	4,839	6,321	4,839	6,321
Grants, contributions and donations	2,489	2,353	3,860	4,184
Utilities	3,660	3,425	3,329	3,115
Office administration	1,526	1,570	999	1,038
Materials purchased	7,543	5,664	7,090	5,349
Plant and vehicle costs	4,192	4,410	2,326	2,615
Information technology	2,832	2,395	2,708	2,291
Insurance	1,816	1,491	1,809	1,501
Consultants	2,463	2,886	2,463	2,886
Training	1,147	1,118	1,144	1,079
Other materials and contractors	2,112	2,301	507	1,214
Total materials and services	56,984	57,549	53,018	54,955

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

4.3 Depreciation

Buildings	3,668	3,399	3,441	3,168
Plant and equipment	3,742	3,331	3,377	2,962
Infrastructure	16,046	14,799	14,939	13,697
Total depreciation	23,456	21,529	21,757	19,827

Refer to note 5.2(c), 5.8 and 6.1 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation charges and accounting policy.

4.4 Other expenses

Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	112	106	92	90
Auditors' remuneration - internal audit	276	138	276	138
Councillors' allowances	395	365	395	365
Directors' fees	140	119	-	-
Refunds	123	69	123	69
Operating lease rentals	587	459	570	467
Others	917	501	734	470
Total other expenses	2,550	1,757	2,190	1,599

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

Consolidated		Council	
2024	2023	2024	2023
\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000

Note 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS

5.1 Financial assets

(a) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash on hand	39	28	10	10
Cash at bank	7,918	29,551	7,274	26,983
Term deposits	2,309	4,314	-	3,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	10,266	33,893	7,284	29,993

(b) Other financial assets

Current

Term deposits	69,050	66,767	69,050	66,767
Total current other financial assets	69,050	66,767	69,050	66,767
Total cash and cash equivalents and other financial assets	79,316	100,660	76,334	96,760

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.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
5.1 Financial assets (cont'd)				
(c) Trade and other receivables				
Current				
<i>Statutory receivables</i>				
Rates debtors	5,904	3,724	5,904	3,724
Infringement debtors	1,043	973	1,043	973
Allowance for expected credit loss - infringements	(878)	(820)	(878)	(820)
Net GST receivable	537	701	537	701
<i>Non statutory receivables</i>				
General debtors	2,321	2,964	1,056	2,389
Accrued income	2,043	491	2,102	495
Loan to related entities	-	-	647	437
Allowance for expected credit loss - other debtors	(171)	(8)	-	(8)
Total current trade and other receivables	10,799	8,025	10,411	7,891
Non-current				
<i>Non statutory receivables</i>				
Loan to related entities	-	-	8,166	6,478
Total non-current trade and other receivables	-	-	8,166	6,478
Total trade and other receivables	10,799	8,025	18,577	14,369

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

(d) Ageing of receivables

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

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Current (not yet due)	4,074	1,243	3,489	1,109
Past due by up to 30 days	185	720	172	720
Past due between 31 and 180 days	335	1,264	144	1,264
Past due between 181 and 365 days	-	220	-	220
Past due by more than 1 year	-	-	8,166	6,478
Total trade and other receivables	4,594	3,447	11,971	9,791

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

5.1 Financial assets (cont'd)

(e) Ageing of individually impaired receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$3,805 (2023: \$3,313) were impaired. The amount of the provision raised against these debtors was \$0 (2023: \$35). The majority of other debtors are current, with the payment arrangements in place for the remaining amounts resulting in no provision being raised.

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

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Past due between 31 and 180 days	-	13	-	13
Past due by more than 1 year	-	22	-	22
Total trade and other receivables	-	35	-	35

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
5.2 Non-financial assets				
(a) Other assets				
Current				
Prepayments	461	354	335	312
Total	461	354	335	312
Non-current				
Interest in Mildura Airport Pty Ltd (MAPL)	-	-	47,448	48,358
Interest in Mildura Regional Development (MRD)	-	-	3,797	2,870
Total	-	-	51,245	51,228
Total other assets	461	354	51,580	51,540
(b) Intangible assets				
Software	278	193	278	193
Light State project (MRD)	5,619	3,102	-	-
Water rights at valuation	11,535	13,842	11,394	13,689
Total intangible assets	17,432	17,137	11,672	13,882

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

5.2 Non-financial assets (cont'd)

(c) Intangible assets

	Light State	Software	Water rights	Total
Consolidated	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Gross carrying amount				
Balance at 1 July 2023	3,102	3,064	13,842	20,008
Acquisition	2,517	-	197	2,714
Transfer	-	375	-	375
Revaluation increment/(decrement) (note 9.1(a))	-	-	(2,504)	(2,504)
Balance at 30 June 2024	5,619	3,439	11,535	20,593
Accumulated amortisation and impairment				
Balance at 1 July 2023	-	2,871	-	2,871
Transfer	-	76	-	76
Amortisation expense	-	214	-	214
Balance at 30 June 2024	-	3,161	-	3,161
Net book value at 30 June 2023	3,102	193	13,842	17,137
Net book value at 30 June 2024	5,619	278	11,535	17,432
		Software	Water rights	Total
Council		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Gross carrying amount				
Balance at 1 July 2023		3,064	13,689	16,753
Acquisition		-	197	197
Transfer		375	-	375
Revaluation increment/(decrement) (note 9.1(a))		-	(2,492)	(2,492)
Balance at 30 June 2024		3,439	11,394	14,833
Accumulated amortisation and impairment				
Balance at 1 July 2023		2,871	-	2,871
Transfer		76	-	76
Amortisation expense		214	-	214
Balance at 30 June 2024		3,161	-	3,161
Net book value at 30 June 2023		193	13,689	13,882
Net book value at 30 June 2024		278	11,394	11,672

Intangible assets with finite lives are amortised as an expense on a systematic basis over the asset's useful life. Amortisation is generally calculated on a straight line basis, at a rate that allocates the asset value, less any estimated residual value over its estimated useful life. Estimates of the remaining useful lives and amortisation method are reviewed at least annually, and adjustments made where appropriate.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

5.2 Non-financial assets (cont'd)

(c) Intangible assets

Details of the Mildura Rural City Council's water rights; and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2024 are as follows:

	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000
Water rights	-	11,394	-
Total	-	11,394	-

Water rights are valued at current market values. The valuation is based on market transactions being the trading of water shares. The valuations were completed by Mr Stephen Lush AAPI, Certified Practising Valuer, recognised Valuer, (Council Officer), as at 30 June 2024.

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
5.3 Payables, trust funds, deposits and contract and other liabilities				

(a) Trade and other payables

Current

Non-statutory payables

Trade payables	848	1,090	477	715
Accrued expenses	2,334	1,989	737	1,585
Total current trade and other payables	3,182	3,079	1,214	2,300

(b) Trust funds and deposits

Current

Refundable contract deposits	499	520	499	520
Fire services levy	846	676	846	676
Refundable civic facilities deposits	17	12	17	12
Retention amounts	794	387	794	387
Other refundable deposits	978	1,191	978	1,191
Total current trust funds and deposits	3,134	2,786	3,134	2,786

(c) Contract and other liabilities

Contract liabilities

Current

Grants received in advance - operating	59	1,692	59	691
Income received in advance	34	1,087	-	1,079
Total contract liabilities	93	2,779	59	1,770

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

5.3 (c) Unearned income / revenue (cont'd)

Other liabilities

Current

Deferred capital grants	-	1,079	-	1,079
Total other liabilities	-	1,079	-	1,079
Total contract and other liabilities	93	3,858	59	2,849

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 grant income. Contract liabilities are derecognised and recorded as revenue when promised goods and services are transferred to the customer. Refer to Note 3.

Other liabilities

Grant consideration is recognised as income following specific guidance under AASB 1058 as the asset is constructed. Income is recognised to the extent of costs incurred-to-date because the costs of construction most closely reflect the stage of completion of an asset. As such, Council has not deferred recognition of any portion of our capital grant consideration received as a liability for outstanding obligations.

Purpose and nature of items:

Refundable 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.

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

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.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
5.4 Interest-bearing liabilities				
Current				
Other borrowings - secured	565	778	428	653
Total current interest-bearing liabilities	565	778	428	653
Non-current				
Other borrowings - secured	7,906	8,334	7,906	8,334
Finance leases	337	429	-	-
Total non-current interest-bearing liabilities	8,243	8,763	7,906	8,334
Total interest-bearing liabilities	8,808	9,541	8,334	8,987

Borrowings are secured by security over the general rates of the municipal enterprise and in accordance with requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

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

Not later than one year	565	778	428	653
Later than one year and not later than five years	3,587	3,499	1,458	1,370
Later than five years	4,656	5,264	6,448	6,964
	8,808	9,541	8,334	8,987

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.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

5.5 Provisions

Consolidated 2024	Employee \$ '000	Landfill	Total \$ '000
		restoration \$ '000	
Balance at beginning of the financial year	13,837	33,471	47,308
Additional provisions	7,385	1,119	8,504
Amounts used	(7,800)	(10,146)	(17,946)
Balance at the end of the financial year	13,422	24,444	37,866
<i>Provisions - current</i>	<i>12,032</i>	<i>305</i>	<i>12,337</i>
<i>Provisions - non-current</i>	<i>1,390</i>	<i>24,139</i>	<i>25,529</i>
2023			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	14,760	29,890	44,650
Additional provisions	7,026	5,322	12,348
Amounts used	(7,949)	(1,741)	(9,690)
Balance at the end of the financial year	13,837	33,471	47,308
<i>Provisions - current</i>	<i>12,558</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>12,558</i>
<i>Provisions - non-current</i>	<i>1,149</i>	<i>33,471</i>	<i>34,620</i>
Council 2024			
		Landfill	Total
	Employee	restoration	\$ '000
	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
Balance at beginning of the financial year	13,414	33,471	46,885
Additional provisions	7,161	1,119	8,280
Amounts used	(7,419)	(10,146)	(17,565)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the	-	-	-
Balance at the end of the financial year	13,156	24,444	37,600
<i>Provisions - current</i>	<i>11,797</i>	<i>305</i>	<i>12,102</i>
<i>Provisions - non-current</i>	<i>1,359</i>	<i>24,139</i>	<i>25,498</i>
2023			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	14,431	29,890	44,321
Additional provisions	6,869	5,322	12,191
Amounts used	(7,886)	(1,741)	(9,627)
Balance at the end of the financial year	13,414	33,471	46,885
<i>Provisions - current</i>	<i>12,285</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>12,285</i>
<i>Provisions - non-current</i>	<i>1,129</i>	<i>33,471</i>	<i>34,600</i>

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
5.5 Provisions (cont'd)	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Employee provisions				
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months				
Annual leave	4,184	3,852	3,990	3,640
Long service leave	558	508	558	474
Redundancy	-	508	-	508
Rostered day off and time off in lieu	835	834	835	834
Total	5,577	5,702	5,383	5,456
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months				
Annual leave	838	1,260	838	1,260
Long service leave	5,617	5,596	5,576	5,569
Total	6,455	6,856	6,414	6,829
Total current employee provisions	12,032	12,558	11,797	12,285
Non-current				
Long service leave	1,390	1,149	1,359	1,129
Total non-current employee provisions	1,390	1,149	1,359	1,129
Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:				
Current	12,032	12,558	11,797	12,285
Non-current	1,390	1,149	1,359	1,129
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions	13,422	13,707	13,156	13,414

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.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

5.5 Provisions

(a) Employee provisions (cont'd)

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.

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Key assumptions:	%	%	%	%
- Discount rate	4.35	4.06	4.35	4.06
- Wage inflation rate	4.45	4.35	4.45	4.35
- Settlement period (months)	12	12	12	12
	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
(b) Landfill restoration	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Current	305	-	305	-
Non-current	24,139	33,471	24,139	33,471
Total landfill restoration	24,444	33,471	24,444	33,471

Council is obligated to restore the Mildura, Ouyen, Murrayville and Koorlong sites to a particular standard. The forecast life of the site is based on current estimates of remaining capacity and the forecast rate of infill. The provision for 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.

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Key assumptions:	%	%	%	%
- Weighted average - Melbourne CPI	3.70	5.60	3.70	5.60
- Discount rate	4.35	4.06	4.35	4.06
	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
(c) Total provisions	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Current	12,337	12,558	12,102	12,285
Non-current	25,529	34,620	25,498	34,600
	37,866	47,178	37,600	46,885

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

5.6 Financing arrangements	Consolidated		Council	
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
The Council has the following funding arrangements in place as at 30 June 2024.				
Credit card facilities	800	800	800	800
Loans and borrowings	8,334	8,987	8,334	8,987
Total facilities	9,134	9,787	9,134	9,787
Used facilities	8,735	9,394	8,735	9,394
Unused facilities	399	393	399	393

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

Consolidated 2024	Not later than 1 year	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years	Later than 5 years	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating					
Swimming pool management	2,147	2,275	-	-	4,422
Cleaning services	1,491	711	-	-	2,202
Security services	2,070	757	-	-	2,827
Project design	115	-	-	-	115
Other	3,159	955	201	200	4,515
Corporate expenditure	176	57	59	127	419
Waste management	6,931	7,264	8,312	-	22,507
Computers and telecomm	1,094	416	326	512	2,348
Building services	884	187	140	-	1,211
Parks and garden services	1,852	-	-	-	1,852
Total	19,919	12,622	9,038	839	42,418

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

5.7 Commitments (cont'd)

Consolidated 2024	Not later	Later than 1	Later than 2	Later than 5	Total
	than 1 year	year and not later than 2 years	years and not later than 5 years	years	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capital					
Buildings	4,051	-	-	-	4,051
Computers and telecomm	322	-	-	-	322
Drains	346	-	-	-	346
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	876	-	-	-	876
Footpaths and cycleways	188	-	-	-	188
Library books and art works	102	-	-	-	102
Parks, open spaces and streetscapes	2,460	-	-	-	2,460
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,278	-	-	-	1,278
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	994	-	-	-	994
Roads	2,103	-	-	-	2,103
Kerb and channel	60	-	-	-	60
Waste management and landfill	1,035	-	-	-	1,035
Off-street carparks	938	-	-	-	938
Total	14,753	-	-	-	14,753

Consolidated 2023	Not later	Later than 1	Later than 2	Later than 5	Total
	than 1 year	year and not later than 2 years	years and not later than 5 years	years	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating					
Swimming pool management	1,833	1,943	2,183	-	5,959
Waste management	7,036	7,212	17,372	-	31,620
Cleaning services	187	117	-	-	304
Security services	1,776	1,470	1,470	1,470	6,186
Project design	1,803	1,821	-	-	3,624
Corporate expenditure	348	-	-	-	348
Computers and telecomm	920	956	-	-	1,876
Parks and gardens services	72	9	-	-	81
Building services	426	47	45	45	563
Other	262	234	234	234	964
Total	14,663	13,809	21,304	1,749	51,525

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

5.7 Commitments (cont'd)

Consolidated 2023	Not later	Later than 1	Later than 2	Later than 5	Total
	than 1 year \$'000	year and not later than 2 years \$'000	years and not later than 5 years \$'000	years \$'000	\$'000
Capital					
Building	5,267	-	-	-	5,267
Computers and telecomm	299	-	-	-	299
Drains	1,308	-	-	-	1,308
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	70	-	-	-	70
Footpaths and cycleways	22	-	-	-	22
Library books and art works	74	-	-	-	74
Parks, open space and streetscapes	335	-	-	-	335
Plant and machinery equipment	2,009	-	-	-	2,009
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	2,201	-	-	-	2,201
Roads	2,243	-	-	-	2,243
Waste management and landfill	64	-	-	-	64
Other	2,488	-	-	-	2,488
Total	16,380	-	-	-	16,380

Council 2024	Not later	Later than 1	Later than 2	Later than 5	Total
	than 1 year \$'000	year and not later than 2 years \$'000	years and not later than 5 years \$'000	years \$'000	\$'000
Operating					
Swimming pool management	2,147	2,275	-	-	4,422
Cleaning services	1,491	711	-	-	2,202
Security services	870	757	-	-	1,627
Project design	42	-	-	-	42
Other	2,944	754	-	-	3,698
Corporate expenditure	146	57	59	127	389
Waste management	6,899	7,232	8,281	-	22,412
Computers and telecomm	1,014	332	238	512	2,096
Building services	730	47	-	-	777
Parks and gardens services	68	-	-	-	68
Total	16,351	12,165	8,578	639	37,733

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

5.7 Commitments (cont'd)

Council	Not later than 1 year	Later than 1	Later than 2	Later than 5	Total
		year and not later than 2 years	years and not later than 5 years		
2024	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capital					
Buildings	3,986	-	-	-	3,986
Computers and telecomm	322	-	-	-	322
Drains	346	-	-	-	346
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	876	-	-	-	876
Footpaths and cycleways	188	-	-	-	188
Library books and art works	102	-	-	-	102
Parks, open space and streetscapes	2,460	-	-	-	2,460
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,242	-	-	-	1,242
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	994	-	-	-	994
Roads	2,103	-	-	-	2,103
Kerb and channel	60	-	-	-	60
Waste management and landfill	1,035	-	-	-	1,035
Off-street carparks	938	-	-	-	938
Total	14,652	-	-	-	14,652

Council	Not later than 1 year	Later than 1	Later than 2	Later than 5	Total
		year and not later than 2 years	years and not later than 5 years		
2023	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating					
Swimming pool management	1,833	1,943	2,183	-	5,959
Waste management	7,036	7,212	17,372	-	31,620
Cleaning services	920	956	-	-	1,876
Security services	187	117	-	-	304
Project design	306	-	-	-	306
Corporate expenditure	348	-	-	-	348
Computers and telecomm	72	9	-	-	81
Parks and gardens services	137	-	-	-	137
Building services	379	-	-	-	379
Other	1,831	1,821	-	-	3,652
Total	13,049	12,058	19,555	-	44,662

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

5.7 Commitments (cont'd)

Council 2023	Not later	Later than 1	Later than 2	Later than 5	Total
	than 1 year	year and not later than 2 years	years and not later than 5 years	years	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capital					
Building	5,267	-	-	-	5,267
Computers and telecomm	299	-	-	-	299
Drains	1,308	-	-	-	1,308
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	70	-	-	-	70
Footpaths and cycleways	22	-	-	-	22
Library books and art works	74	-	-	-	74
Parks, open space and streetscapes	335	-	-	-	335
Plant and machinery equipment	2,009	-	-	-	2,009
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	2,201	-	-	-	2,201
Roads	2,143	-	-	-	2,143
Kerb and channel	191	-	-	-	191
Waste management and landfill	64	-	-	-	64
Total	13,983	-	-	-	13,983

(b) Operating lease receivables

The Council has entered into commercial property leases on its investment property, consisting of surplus freehold office complexes. These properties held under operating leases have remaining non-cancellable lease terms of between 1 and 10 years. All leases include a CPI based revision of the rental charge annually.

Future undiscounted minimum rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Not later than one year	752	686	321	256
Later than one year and not later than five years	1,834	2,040	758	641
Later than five years	2,169	1,573	1,690	986
	4,755	4,299	2,769	1,883

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

5.8 Leases

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

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

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

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.

Council has conducted an assessment of leases and determined the value of peppercorn leases is nil.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

5.8 Leases (cont'd)

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Right-of-use assets				
Balance at 1 July 2023	1,115	1,235	943	1,032
Adjustment	182	9	369	9
Depreciation charge	(138)	(129)	(153)	(98)
Balance at 30 June 2024	<u>1,159</u>	<u>1,115</u>	<u>1,159</u>	<u>943</u>
Lease liabilities				
Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows				
Less than one year	185	184	185	147
One to five years	660	591	660	443
More than five years	1,256	1,360	1,256	1,332
Total undiscounted lease liabilities as at 30 June:	<u>2,101</u>	<u>2,135</u>	<u>2,101</u>	<u>1,922</u>
Lease liabilities included in the Balance Sheet at 30 June:				
Current	128	128	128	100
Non-current	1,434	1,423	1,434	1,264
Total lease liabilities	<u>1,562</u>	<u>1,551</u>	<u>1,562</u>	<u>1,364</u>

Short-term and low value leases

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

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Expenses relating to:		
Leases of low value assets	295	442
Total	<u>295</u>	<u>442</u>

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:

	2024	2023
Payable:		
Within one year	147	295
Later than one year but not later than five years	-	147
Total lease commitments	<u>147</u>	<u>442</u>

Notes to the Financial Report
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

Consolidated	Carrying amount	First time	Additions	Contributions	Revaluation	Impairment		Disposal	Write-off	Transfers	Transfers from provisions	Carrying amount
	30 June 2023	recognition of assets				Losses	Depreciation					30 June 2024
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land	121,043	6	1,373	-	22	-	-	-	-	1,901	-	124,345
Buildings	152,131	-	140	-	-	-	(3,668)	(10)	-	12,761	-	161,354
Plant and equipment	45,260	129	3,969	-	-	-	(3,743)	(359)	-	3,248	-	48,504
Infrastructure	737,340	4,562	4,856	-	42,512	-	(16,045)	(839)	-	6,992	(8,994)	770,384
Work in progress	55,926	-	25,635	457	-	-	-	-	(3,826)	(24,902)	-	53,290
	1,111,700	4,697	35,973	457	42,534	-	(23,456)	(1,208)	(3,826)	-	(8,994)	1,157,877

Summary of work in progress	Opening WIP	Additions	Contributions	Write-off	Transfers	Closing WIP
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Property	19,707	7,610	-	(230)	(14,662)	12,425
Plant and equipment	6,659	867	-	(788)	(3,248)	3,490
Infrastructure	29,560	17,158	457	(2,808)	(6,992)	37,375
Total	55,926	25,635	457	(3,826)	(24,902)	53,290

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont'd)
(a) Property

Consolidated	Land - specialised	Land - non specialised	Land under roads	Total Land	Buildings - specialised	Buildings - non specialised	Total Buildings	Work in progress	Total property
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2023	74,532	20,272	26,239	121,043	274,999	16,792	291,791	19,707	432,541
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	-	-	-	-	(131,691)	(7,969)	(139,660)	-	(139,660)
	74,532	20,272	26,239	121,043	143,308	8,823	152,131	19,707	292,881
Movements in fair value									
Additions	1,373	-	-	1,373	101	39	140	7,610	9,123
Recognitions	-	-	6	6	-	-	-	-	6
Revaluation	-	-	22	22	-	-	-	-	22
Disposal	-	-	-	-	(95)	-	(95)	-	(95)
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(230)	(230)
Transfers	1,901	-	-	1,901	12,761	-	12,761	(14,662)	-
	3,274	-	28	3,302	12,767	39	12,806	(7,282)	8,826
Movements in accumulated depreciation									
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	(3,433)	(235)	(3,668)	-	(3,668)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	-	-	-	85	-	85	-	85
	-	-	-	-	(3,348)	(235)	(3,583)	-	(3,583)
At fair value 30 June 2024	77,806	20,272	26,267	124,345	287,766	16,831	304,597	12,425	441,367
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	-	-	-	-	(135,039)	(8,204)	(143,243)	-	(143,243)
Carrying amount	77,806	20,272	26,267	124,345	152,727	8,627	161,354	12,425	298,124

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont'd)

(b) Plant and Equipment

Consolidated	Plant machinery and equipment	Fixtures and furniture	Computer and telecommu- nications	Artwork	Library books	Total plant and equipment	Work in progress	Total plant and equipment
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2023	40,466	2,233	2,788	24,228	5,659	75,374	6,659	82,033
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	(22,269)	(1,248)	(2,433)	-	(4,164)	(30,114)	-	(30,114)
	18,197	985	355	24,228	1,495	45,260	6,659	51,919
Movements in fair value								
Additions	3,517	130	168	-	154	3,969	867	4,836
Recognitions	92	-	-	37	-	129	-	129
Disposal	(990)	(6)	-	-	-	(996)	-	(996)
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	-	(788)	(788)
Transfers	1,946	9	1,245	-	48	3,248	(3,248)	-
	4,565	133	1,413	37	202	6,350	(3,169)	3,181
Movements in accumulated depreciation								
Depreciation	(2,788)	(229)	(444)	-	(282)	(3,743)	-	(3,743)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	635	-	2	-	-	637	-	637
Impairment losses	4	(2)	(2)	-	-	-	-	-
	(2,149)	(231)	(444)	-	(282)	(3,106)	-	(3,106)
At fair value 30 June 2024	45,031	2,366	4,201	24,265	5,861	81,724	3,490	85,214
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	(24,418)	(1,479)	(2,877)	-	(4,446)	(33,220)	-	(33,220)
Carrying amount	20,613	887	1,324	24,265	1,415	48,504	3,490	51,994

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont'd)
(c) Infrastructure

Consolidated	Roads \$'000	Kerb and channel \$'000	Footpaths and cycle ways \$'000	Drainage \$'000	Recreational, leisure and community \$'000	Waste Management \$'000	Parks open spaces and streetscapes \$'000	Aerodromes \$'000	Off street car parks \$'000	Total infrastructure \$'000	Work in progress \$'000	Total infrastructure \$'000
At fair value 1 July 2023	587,893	27,056	64,776	207,909	64,697	24,860	21,692	48,408	20,018	1,067,309	29,560	1,096,869
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	(209,948)	(9,270)	(27,505)	(40,813)	(12,823)	(5,152)	(4,255)	(9,123)	(11,080)	(329,969)	-	(329,969)
	377,945	17,786	37,271	167,096	51,874	19,708	17,437	39,285	8,938	737,340	29,560	766,900
Movements in fair value												
Additions	1,166	165	178	121	849	-	1,057	934	386	4,856	17,158	22,014
Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	457	457
Recognitions	1,370	274	792	1,472	-	400	357	-	88	4,753	-	4,753
Revaluation	45,668	2,143	3,745	10,077	3,192	35	1,586	-	1,378	67,824	-	67,824
Disposal	(949)	(32)	(120)	(281)	(219)	-	(2)	-	(51)	(1,654)	-	(1,654)
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,808)	(2,808)
Transfers	1,764	278	574	665	663	429	1,123	1,148	348	6,992	(6,992)	-
Transfers from Provision	-	-	-	-	-	(8,994)	-	-	-	(8,994)	-	(8,994)
	49,019	2,828	5,169	12,054	4,485	(8,130)	4,121	2,082	2,149	73,777	7,815	81,592
Movements in accumulated depreciation												
Depreciation	(9,158)	(396)	(1,488)	(1,484)	(579)	(931)	(492)	(981)	(536)	(16,045)	-	(16,045)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	440	17	60	38	214	-	-	-	46	815	-	815
Accumulated depreciation of recognitions	-	(1)	(1)	(21)	-	(80)	(71)	-	(17)	(191)	-	(191)
Accumulated depreciation of revaluations	(16,890)	(745)	(2,235)	(3,266)	(1,019)	(8)	(346)	-	(803)	(25,312)	-	(25,312)
	(25,608)	(1,125)	(3,664)	(4,733)	(1,384)	(1,019)	(909)	(981)	(1,310)	(40,733)	-	(40,733)
At fair value 30 June 2024	636,912	29,884	69,945	219,963	69,182	16,730	25,813	50,490	22,167	1,141,086	37,375	1,178,461
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	(235,556)	(10,395)	(31,169)	(45,546)	(14,207)	(6,171)	(5,164)	(10,104)	(12,390)	(370,702)	-	(370,702)
Carrying amount	401,356	19,489	38,776	174,417	54,975	10,559	20,649	40,386	9,777	770,384	37,375	807,759

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont'd)

Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

Council	Carrying amount	First time	Additions	Contributions	Revaluation	Impairment		Disposal	Write-off	Transfers	Transfers from	Carrying amount
	30 June 2023	recognition of				Losses	Depreciation				provisions	30 June 2024
	\$'000	assets	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land	121,043	6	1,373	-	22	-	-	-	-	1,901	-	124,345
Buildings	136,116	-	77	-	-	-	(3,441)	(10)	-	12,761	-	145,503
Plant and equipment	43,407	129	3,713	-	-	-	(3,378)	(337)	-	3,248	-	46,782
Infrastructure	695,946	4,562	3,586	-	42,512	-	(14,938)	(839)	-	5,844	(8,994)	727,679
Work in progress	54,480	-	25,502	457	-	-	-	-	(3,684)	(23,754)	-	53,001
	1,050,992	4,697	34,251	457	42,534	-	(21,757)	(1,186)	(3,684)	-	(8,994)	1,097,310

Summary of work in progress	Opening WIP	Additions	Contributions	Write-off	Transfers	Closing WIP
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Property	19,707	7,610	-	(230)	(14,662)	12,425
Plant and equipment	6,654	830	-	(788)	(3,248)	3,448
Infrastructure	28,119	17,062	457	(2,666)	(5,844)	37,128
Total	54,480	25,502	457	(3,684)	(23,754)	53,001

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont'd)
(a) Property

Council	Land - specialised	Land - non specialised	Land under roads	Total land and land improvements	Buildings - specialised	Buildings - non specialised	Total buildings	Work in progress	Total property
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2023	74,532	20,272	26,239	121,043	258,000	15,418	273,418	19,707	414,168
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	-	-	-	-	(129,802)	(7,500)	(137,302)	-	(137,302)
	74,532	20,272	26,239	121,043	128,198	7,918	136,116	19,707	276,866
Movements in fair value									
Additions	1,373	-	-	1,373	77	-	77	7,610	9,060
Recognitions	-	-	6	6	-	-	-	-	6
Revaluation	-	-	22	22	-	-	-	-	22
Disposal	-	-	-	-	(95)	-	(95)	-	(95)
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(230)	(230)
Transfers	1,901	-	-	1,901	12,761	-	12,761	(14,662)	-
	3,274	-	28	3,302	12,743	-	12,743	(7,282)	8,763
Movements in accumulated depreciation									
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	(3,260)	(181)	(3,441)	-	(3,441)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	-	-	-	85	-	85	-	85
	-	-	-	-	(3,175)	(181)	(3,356)	-	(3,356)
At fair value 30 June 2024	77,806	20,272	26,267	124,345	270,743	15,418	286,161	12,425	422,931
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	-	-	-	-	(132,977)	(7,681)	(140,658)	-	(140,658)
Carrying amount	77,806	20,272	26,267	124,345	137,766	7,737	145,503	12,425	282,273

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont'd)
(b) Plant and equipment

Council	Plant machinery and equipment \$'000	Fixtures and fittings and furniture \$'000	Computers and telecommu nications \$'000	Artwork \$'000	Library books \$'000	Total plant and equipment \$'000	Work in progress \$'000	Total plant and equipment \$'000
At fair value 1 July 2023	36,801	1,169	2,747	24,228	5,659	70,604	6,654	77,258
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	(20,040)	(568)	(2,425)	-	(4,164)	(27,197)	-	(27,197)
	16,761	601	322	24,228	1,495	43,407	6,654	50,061
Movements in fair value								
Additions	3,391	-	168	-	154	3,713	830	4,543
Recognitions	92	-	-	37	-	129	-	129
Disposal	(972)	-	-	-	-	(972)	-	(972)
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	-	(788)	(788)
Transfers	1,946	9	1,245	-	48	3,248	(3,248)	-
	4,457	9	1,413	37	202	6,118	(3,206)	2,912
Movements in accumulated depreciation								
Depreciation	(2,579)	(73)	(444)	-	(282)	(3,378)	-	(3,378)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	635	-	-	-	-	635	-	635
	(1,944)	(73)	(444)	-	(282)	(2,743)	-	(2,743)
At fair value 30 June 2024	41,258	1,178	4,160	24,265	5,861	76,722	3,448	80,170
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	(21,984)	(641)	(2,869)	-	(4,446)	(29,940)	-	(29,940)
Carrying amount	19,274	537	1,291	24,265	1,415	46,782	3,448	50,230

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont'd)
(c) Infrastructure

Council	Roads \$'000	Kerb and channel \$'000	Footpaths and cycle ways \$'000	Drainage \$'000	Recreational, leisure and community \$'000	Waste management \$'000	Parks open spaces and streetscapes \$'000	Aerodromes \$'000	Off street car parks \$'000	Total infrastructure \$'000	Work in progress \$'000	Total infrastructure \$'000
At fair value 1 July 2023	587,893	27,056	64,776	207,909	64,697	24,860	20,818	-	17,387	1,015,396	28,119	1,043,515
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	(209,948)	(9,270)	(27,505)	(40,813)	(12,823)	(5,152)	(3,953)	-	(9,986)	(319,450)	-	(319,450)
	377,945	17,786	37,271	167,096	51,874	19,708	16,865	-	7,401	695,946	28,119	724,065
Movements in fair value												
Additions	1,166	165	178	121	849	-	1,036	-	71	3,586	17,062	20,648
Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	457	457
Recognitions	1,370	274	792	1,472	-	400	357	-	88	4,753	-	4,753
Revaluation	45,668	2,143	3,745	10,077	3,192	35	1,586	-	1,378	67,824	-	67,824
Disposal	(949)	(32)	(120)	(281)	(219)	-	(2)	-	(51)	(1,654)	-	(1,654)
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,666)	(2,666)
Transfers	1,764	278	574	665	663	429	1,123	-	348	5,844	(5,844)	-
Transfers from Provision	-	-	-	-	-	(8,994)	-	-	-	(8,994)	-	(8,994)
	49,019	2,828	5,169	12,054	4,485	(8,130)	4,100	-	1,834	71,359	9,009	80,368
Movements in accumulated depreciation												
Depreciation	(9,158)	(396)	(1,488)	(1,484)	(579)	(931)	(457)	-	(445)	(14,938)	-	(14,938)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	440	17	60	38	214	-	-	-	46	815	-	815
Accumulated depreciation of recognitions	-	(1)	(1)	(21)	-	(80)	(71)	-	(17)	(191)	-	(191)
Accumulated depreciation of revaluations	(16,890)	(745)	(2,235)	(3,266)	(1,019)	(8)	(346)	-	(803)	(25,312)	-	(25,312)
	(25,608)	(1,125)	(3,664)	(4,733)	(1,384)	(1,019)	(874)	-	(1,219)	(39,626)	-	(39,626)
At fair value 30 June 2024	636,912	29,884	69,945	219,963	69,182	16,730	24,918	-	19,221	1,086,755	37,128	1,123,883
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	(235,556)	(10,395)	(31,169)	(45,546)	(14,207)	(6,171)	(4,827)	-	(11,205)	(359,076)	-	(359,076)
Carrying amount	401,356	19,489	38,776	174,417	54,975	10,559	20,091	-	8,016	727,679	37,128	764,807

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont'd)

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	Threshold Limit \$'000
Land and land improvements		
land	-	5
Buildings		
buildings	60 years	10
Plant and equipment		
plant and equipment	3 - 12 years	5
fixtures, fittings and furniture	5 - 15 years	5
library books	10 years	-
Infrastructure		
footpaths and cycle ways	15 - 50 years	10
road kerb and channel	70 years	10
road pavements	20 - 65 years	10
road seals	15 - 40 years	10
Drainage	50 - 150 years	10
Waste management	10 - 30 years	10
Aerodromes	50 years	10
Off street carparks	15 - 65 years	10
Recreational, leisure and community	10 - 50 years	10
Parks, open spaces and streetscapes	10 - 100 years	10
Intangible assets - software	3 - 15 years	1

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont'd)

Land under roads

Council recognises land under roads it controls at fair value.

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 and artworks are not depreciated on the basis they are assessed as not having a limited useful life.

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

Depreciation periods used are listed on the previous page 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

Valuation of land and buildings were undertaken by qualified Valuer Mr Stephen Lush AAPI, Certified Practising Valuer (Council Officer). The valuation of land and buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions and drainage basins the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Specialised land (e.g. drainage basin) is valued at fair value using site values adjusted for englobo (undeveloped and/or unserviced) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

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

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont'd)

Valuation of land and building (cont'd)

The date 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	-	20,272	-	31/12/2022	Ful/Internal
Specialised land	-	-	77,806	31/12/2022	Ful/Internal
Land under roads	-	-	26,267	30/06/2024	Ful/Internal
Buildings	-	7,737	137,766	31/12/2022	Ful/Internal
Total	-	28,009	241,839		

Valuation of infrastructure

Valuation of infrastructure assets has been determined in accordance with an internal valuation undertaken by Senior Asset Officer Gavin Coulthard, (B Business, Diploma Risk Mgt). The Valuation review is undertaken by Karen Milner, Strategic Asset Systems Coordinator (CPA, Grad Cert Project Management, 15 Years Asset Management Experience) and Kylie Sergi, Manager Facilities & Assets (B App Sci, Dip Bus, 17 Years Asset Management Experience).

The date and type of the current valuation is detailed in the following table. An index based revaluation was conducted in the current year, this valuation was based on Rawlinson's Australian Construction Handbook 2024, a full unit rate and useful life review of these assets will be conducted in 2024/25 and 2025/26. External Condition Assessments are undertaken on a 3-5 year cycle.

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	-	-	401,356	30/06/2024	Indexation
Kerb and channel	-	-	19,489	30/06/2024	Indexation
Footpaths and cycle ways	-	-	38,776	30/06/2024	Indexation
Drainage	-	-	174,417	30/06/2024	Indexation
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	-	-	54,975	30/06/2024	Indexation
Waste management	-	-	10,559	30/06/2024	Indexation
Parks, open space and streetscapes	-	-	20,091	30/06/2024	Indexation
Off street car parks	-	-	8,016	30/06/2024	Indexation
Total	-	-	727,679		

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont'd)

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 30% and 90%. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions. Currently land values range between \$0.02 and \$940.00 per square metre.

Specialised buildings are valued using current replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement costs are calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from \$60.00 to \$14,118.00 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 1 years to 60 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 straight line depreciation, except where a single asset class has comprehensive condition information, in which case remaining useful life is determined on the basis of condition. 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.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Reconciliation of specialised land		
Land under roads	26,267	26,239
Land - parks and reserves, etc.	77,806	74,532
Total specialised land	104,073	100,771

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 7 People and relationships

7.1 Council and key management remuneration

(a) Related parties

Parent entity

Mildura Rural City Council is the parent entity.

Subsidiaries and associates

Mildura Airport Pty Ltd and Mildura Tourism and Economic Development Ltd trading as Mildura Regional Development are fully consolidated subsidiaries and form part of Mildura Rural City Council financial statements.

(b) Key management personnel

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

Details of KMP at any time during the year are:

Councillors

Councillor (Mayor)	Liam Wood	1/07/2023 to 30/06/2024
Councillor (Deputy Mayor)	Helen Healy	1/07/2023 to 1/11/2023
Councillor (Deputy Mayor)	Mark Eckel	2/11/2023 to 30/06/2024
Councillor	Helen Healy	2/11/2023 to 30/06/2024
Councillor	Mark Eckel	1/07/2023 to 1/11/2023
Councillor	Troy Bailey	1/07/2023 to 30/06/2024
Councillor	Stefano de Pieri	1/07/2023 to 30/06/2024
Councillor	Jodi Reynolds	1/07/2023 to 30/06/2024
Councillor	Jason Modica	1/07/2023 to 30/06/2024
Councillor	Ian Arney	1/07/2023 to 30/06/2024
Councillor	Glenn Milne	1/07/2023 to 30/06/2024

Chief Executive Officer and Key Management Personnel – Former Structure

Martin Hawson	Chief Executive Officer	01/07/2023 to 30/06/2024
Daryl Morgan	General Manager Development	01/07/2023 to 02/07/2023
Mark McMillan	General Manager Corporate	01/07/2023 to 16/07/2023
Mark Jenkins	General Manager Community	01/07/2023 to 09/07/2023

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

7.1 Council and key management remuneration (cont'd)

Chief Executive Officer and Key Management Personnel – New Structure

Martin Hawson	Chief Executive Officer	1/07/2023 to	30/06/2024
Kate Henschke	General Manager Corporate Performance	17/07/2023 to	30/06/2024
Daryl Morgan	General Manager Infrastructure and Assets	3/07/2023 to	30/06/2024
Mark Jenkins	Interim General Manager Strategy and Growth	10/07/2023 to	13/11/2023
Peter Alexander	General Manager Strategy and Growth	23/10/2023 to	30/06/2024
Cheree Jukes	General Manager Healthy Communities	10/07/2023 to	13/11/2023
Mark Jenkins	General Manager Healthy Communities	14/11/2023 to	30/06/2024

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Total number of Councillors	9	9
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other KMP	7	5
Total key management personnel	16	14

(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	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term benefits	1,661	1,560
Post employment benefits	132	126
Other long-term benefits	43	43
Total	1,836	1,729

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

7.1 Council and key management remuneration (cont'd)

The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, fall within the following bands:	2024 No.	2023 No.
\$1 - \$9,999	1	-
\$30,000 - \$39,999	7	7
\$40,000 - \$49,999	1	1
\$70,000 - \$79,999	1	-
\$90,000 - \$99,999	-	1
\$100,000 - \$109,999	1	-
\$180,000 - \$189,999	1	-
\$190,000 - \$199,999	-	1
\$240,000 - \$249,999	1	-
\$260,000 - \$269,999	-	1
\$270,000 - \$279,999	1	2
\$280,000 - \$289,999	1	-
\$360,000 - \$369,999	-	1
\$380,000 - \$389,999	1	-
	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

7.1 Council and key management remuneration (cont'd)

(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. *

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Total remuneration of other senior staff was as follows:		
Short-term benefits	2,448	2,416
Post employment benefits	254	251
Other - long term benefits	100	71
Termination benefits	-	-
Total	2,802	2,738

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

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Income Range:		
\$170,000 - \$179,999	2	3
\$180,000 - \$189,999	2	1
\$190,000 - \$199,999	2	8
\$200,000 - \$209,999	4	1
\$210,000 - \$219,999	4	-
\$260,000 - \$269,999	-	1
	14	14

Total remuneration for the reporting year for senior officers included above, amounted to:	\$'000	\$'000
	2,802	2,738

* Due to a definitional change the comparative figures in this note may not align with the previous year's annual report, which included disclosure of senior officers as defined in the *Local Government Act 2020*.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

7.2 Related party disclosure

(a) Transactions with related parties	2024	2023
During the period Council entered into the following transactions with related parties.	\$'000	\$'000
Employee expenses for close family members of key management personnel	80	288
	80	288

All close family members of key management personnel were employed through an arm's length process. They are paid in accordance with the award for the job they perform. Council employs 602 staff of which only 1 is a close family member of key management personnel.

The Mildura Tourism and Economic Development Ltd (MRD) is controlled by a board consisting of:

- Martin Hawson (Chair) Chief Executive Officer of Mildura Rural City Council
- Cr Liam Wood (Director) Councillor of Mildura Rural City Council
- Kate Henschke (Director) General Manager Corporate Performance of Mildura Rural City Council

While it is acknowledged that these staff have joint roles for both Council and MRD which is a related party, however being a wholly owned subsidiary of Mildura Council transactions between the two entities have not been included in the above disclosure 7.2(a) Transactions with related parties.

(b) Outstanding balances with related parties

No expense has been recognised in the current year or prior year in respect of amounts owed by related parties.

(c) Loans to/from related parties

Council does not make loans to, receive loans from, or provide guarantees to any related parties as listed above at 7.1(b).

Council has a loan facility with Mildura Airport Pty Ltd which was originally established for upgrade of the airport runway and other capital upgrades and renewals, and has a loan facility with Mildura Tourism and Economic Development Ltd for development of the Light State project. This is disclosed in note 5.1(c) Trade and other receivables.

(d) Commitments to/from related parties

Council has committed to supporting both the Mildura Airport Pty Ltd and Mildura Tourism and Economic Development Ltd. Council has provided assurance that financial support will continue to be provided to ensure these entities continue to operate as a going concern. Refer to Note 8.1(b).

Notes to the Financial Report 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.

The following are potential contingencies to be considered by Council.

Council has a single major insurance claim in progress relating to damage caused by heavy rainfall during October 2022 and subsequent flood event. This claim is being managed by the insurer who are sorting affected assets to full replacement value. Therefore, Council is not expending any financial payment resulting from the ongoing claim which would be material to our financial statements.

(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.

The following are potential contingencies to be considered by Council.

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 and economic conditions, the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists.

Landfill

Council operates a landfill and will have to carry out site rehabilitation works in the future. At balance date Council is unable to accurately assess the financial implications of such works, however Council has made a provision for landfill restoration in its balance sheet and also has a landfill redevelopment reserve to assist in managing these future cost.

Legal matters

Council does not have any major legal matters that could have a material impact on future operations at the time of preparation of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities (cont'd)

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 Work care

Council was a participant of the MAV Work Care Scheme. The MAV Work Care Scheme provided workers compensation insurance. MAV Work Care 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 Work Safe Victoria. If required, adjustments will occur at the 3-year and 6-year points during the liability period, and will affect participating members.

Support for financial subsidiaries

The economic climate has rapidly changed in the last 12 months with high inflation and supply constraints, which is still ongoing. Mildura Rural City Council has continued to support the two wholly owned subsidiaries being Mildura Airport Pty Ltd and Mildura Tourism and Economic Development Ltd. This includes financial support through a loan facility and other financial supports to ensure they can continue to operate as a going concern. This support is for a period of twelve months from the date of adoption of the Financial Statements.

(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.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

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.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

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 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 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.

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

8.3 Financial instruments (cont'd)

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

Receivables consist of a large number of customers, spread across the ratepayer, business and government sectors.

Credit risk associated with the Council's financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is secured by a charge over the rateable property.

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

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when Council provide a guarantee for another party. 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 provisions 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.

To help reduce these risks Council:

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

The Council's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed on the face of the balance sheet and is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

8.3 Financial instruments (cont'd)

(d) Liquidity risk (cont'd)

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 parallel shift of + 1.5% and - 1.5% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 4.5%.

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 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.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

8.4 Fair value measurement (cont'd)

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 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. The following table sets out the frequency of revaluations by asset class.

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

Asset class	Revaluation frequency
Land	2 years
Buildings	2 years
Roads	1 year
Bridges	1 year
Footpaths and cycleways	1 year
Drainage	1 year
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	1 year
Waste management	1 year
Parks, open space and streetscapes	1 year
Other infrastructure	1 to 5 years

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

8.4 Fair value measurement (cont'd)

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

There have been no other significant events occurring after the balance date which may affect the Council's operations or the results of those operations.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

Note 9 Other matters

9.1 Reserves

(a) Asset revaluation reserves

Consolidated 2024	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Increment (decrement) \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
Property			
Land	70,316	22	70,338
Buildings	77,932	-	77,932
	148,248	22	148,270
Plant and equipment			
Artwork	11,005	-	11,005
	11,005	-	11,005
Infrastructure			
Roads	280,444	28,778	309,222
Drainage	68,753	5,217	73,970
Drainage basins	7,499	1,594	9,093
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	48,449	2,173	50,622
Waste management	34	27	61
Parks, open space and streetscapes	2,513	1,240	3,753
Aerodromes	9,594	-	9,594
Off-street car parks	2,413	575	2,988
Footpaths	32,791	1,510	34,301
Kerb and channel	19,108	1,398	20,506
	471,598	42,512	514,110
Water rights			
Water rights	11,606	(2,504)	9,102
	11,606	(2,504)	9,102
Total asset revaluation reserves	642,457	40,030	682,487

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

9.1 Reserves (cont'd)

(a) Asset revaluation reserves (cont'd)

Consolidated 2023	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Increment (decrement) \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
Property			
Land	26,342	43,974	70,316
Buildings	60,146	17,786	77,932
	86,488	61,760	148,248
Plant and equipment			
Artwork	11,005	-	11,005
	11,005	-	11,005
Infrastructure			
Roads	251,155	29,289	280,444
Drainage	51,660	17,093	68,753
Drainage basins	6,641	858	7,499
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	42,839	5,610	48,449
Waste management	16	18	34
Parks, open space and streetscapes	1,938	575	2,513
Aerodromes	9,594	-	9,594
Off-street car parks	1,894	519	2,413
Footpaths	32,052	739	32,791
Kerb and channel	17,834	1,274	19,108
	415,623	55,975	471,598
Water rights			
Water rights	11,694	(88)	11,606
	11,694	(88)	11,606
Total asset revaluation reserves	524,810	117,647	642,457

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

9.1 Reserves (cont'd)

(a) Asset revaluation reserves (cont'd)

Council 2024	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Increment (decrement) \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
Property			
Land	70,316	22	70,338
Buildings	70,095	-	70,095
	140,411	22	140,433
Plant and equipment			
Artwork	11,005	-	11,005
	11,005	-	11,005
Infrastructure			
Roads	280,444	28,778	309,222
Drainage	68,753	5,217	73,970
Drainage basins	7,499	1,594	9,093
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	48,449	2,173	50,622
Waste management	34	27	61
Parks, open space and streetscapes	2,513	1,240	3,753
Aerodromes	9,594	-	9,594
Off-street car parks	2,413	575	2,988
Footpaths	32,791	1,510	34,301
Kerb and channel	19,108	1,398	20,506
	471,598	42,512	514,110
Water rights			
Water rights	11,526	(2,492)	9,034
	11,526	(2,492)	9,034
Total asset revaluation reserves	634,540	40,042	674,582

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

9.1 Reserves (cont'd)

(a) Asset revaluation reserves (cont'd)

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Increment (decrement) \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
Council			
2023			
Property			
Land	26,342	43,974	70,316
Buildings	60,009	10,086	70,095
	86,351	54,060	140,411
Plant and equipment			
Artwork	11,005	-	11,005
	11,005	-	11,005
Infrastructure			
Roads	251,155	29,289	280,444
Drainage	51,660	17,093	68,753
Drainage basins	6,641	858	7,499
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	42,839	5,610	48,449
Waste management	16	18	34
Parks, open space and streetscapes	1,938	575	2,513
Aerodromes	9,594	-	9,594
Off-street car parks	1,894	519	2,413
Footpaths	32,052	739	32,791
Kerb and channel	17,834	1,274	19,108
	415,623	55,975	471,598
Water rights			
Water rights	11,616	(90)	11,526
	11,616	(90)	11,526
Total asset revaluation reserves	524,595	109,945	634,540

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

9.1 Reserves (cont'd)

(b) Other reserves

Consolidated 2024	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Transfer from accumulated surplus \$'000	Transfer to accumulated surplus \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
Non discretionary reserves				
Apex Park reserve	364	38	-	402
Developer contribution reserve	4,975	557	(617)	4,915
Library book bequest reserve	30	-	-	30
DGR donations reserve - MAC Theatre	58	-	-	58
Merbein Caravan Park reserve	144	38	-	182
Lake Cullulleraine Caravan Park reserve	38	6	-	44
Landfill redevelopment	8,549	-	(1,332)	7,217
Public open space contribution reserve	-	31	-	31
Total	14,158	670	(1,949)	12,879
Discretionary reserves				
Artwork acquisition reserve	173	111	(12)	272
Hands up Mallee	1,321	-	(484)	837
Small towns redevelopment reserve	182	128	(88)	222
VGC advance grants reserve	18,675	-	(18,675)	-
Land acquisition reserve	1,419	500	(1,374)	545
Water transfer proceeds reserve	65	-	(27)	38
Defined benefits reserve	2,000	-	-	2,000
Capital funding reserve	624	3,712	(2,988)	1,348
Capital renewal reserve	-	754	(2)	752
MRCC community drought reserve	539	100	(588)	51
MRCC developer contribution plan reserve	15,732	4,943	(541)	20,134
Unspent events grant reserve	95	539	(481)	153
Unspent recreation, planning and development grant reserve	88	324	(148)	264
Unspent community grant program	204	330	(369)	165
Murrayville swimming pool reserve	21	-	-	21
Underbool swimming pool reserve	5	-	-	5
Energy and emission reduction reserve	-	571	-	571
Total	41,143	12,012	(25,777)	27,378
Total other reserves	55,301	12,682	(27,726)	40,257

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

9.1 Reserves (cont'd)

(b) Other reserves (cont'd)

Consolidated 2023	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Transfer from accumulated surplus \$'000	Transfer to accumulated surplus \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
Non discretionary reserves				
Apex Park reserve	519	22	(177)	364
Developer contribution reserve	3,354	2,156	(535)	4,975
Library book bequest reserve	30	-	-	30
DGR donations reserve - MAC Theatre	58	-	-	58
Merbein Caravan Park reserve	106	38	-	144
Lake Cullulleraine Caravan Park reserve	27	11	-	38
Landfill redevelopment reserve	12,637	-	(4,088)	8,549
Total	16,731	2,227	(4,800)	14,158
Discretionary reserves				
Artwork acquisition reserve	137	45	(9)	173
Hands up Mallee	1,560	-	(239)	1,321
Small towns redevelopment reserve	245	-	(63)	182
VGC advance grants reserve	13,318	18,675	(13,318)	18,675
Land acquisition reserve	619	800	-	1,419
Water transfer proceeds reserve	65	-	-	65
Defined benefits reserve	2,000	-	-	2,000
Capital funding reserve	1,947	2,006	(3,329)	624
MRCC community drought reserve	1,796	-	(1,257)	539
MRCC developer contribution plan reserve	11,476	4,744	(488)	15,732
Unspent events grant reserve	276	67	(248)	95
Unspent recreation, planning and development grant reserve	89	-	(1)	88
Unspent community grant program	-	330	(126)	204
Murrayville swimming pool reserve	25	4	(8)	21
Underbool swimming pool reserve	14	6	(15)	5
Total	33,567	26,677	(19,101)	41,143
Total other reserves	50,298	28,904	(23,901)	55,301

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

9.1 Reserves (cont'd)

(b) Other reserves (cont'd)

Council 2024	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Transfer from accumulated surplus \$'000	Transfer to accumulated surplus \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
Non discretionary reserves				
Apex Park reserve	364	38	-	402
Developer contribution reserve	4,975	557	(617)	4,915
Library book bequest reserve	30	-	-	30
DGR donations reserve - MAC Theatre	58	-	-	58
Merbein Caravan Park reserve	144	38	-	182
Lake Cullulleraine Caravan Park reserve	38	6	-	44
Landfill redevelopment reserve	8,549	-	(1,332)	7,217
Public open space contribution reserve	-	31	-	31
Total	14,158	670	(1,949)	12,879
Discretionary reserves				
Artwork acquisition reserve	173	111	(12)	272
Hands up Mallee	1,321	-	(484)	837
Small towns redevelopment reserve	182	128	(88)	222
VGC advance grants reserve	18,675	-	(18,675)	-
Land acquisition reserve	1,419	500	(1,374)	545
Water transfer proceeds reserve	65	-	(27)	38
Defined benefits reserve	2,000	-	-	2,000
Capital funding reserve	624	3,712	(2,988)	1,348
Capital renewal reserve	-	754	(2)	752
MRCC community drought reserve	539	100	(588)	51
MRCC developer contribution plan reserve	15,732	4,943	(541)	20,134
Unspent events grant reserve	95	539	(481)	153
Unspent recreation, planning and development grant reserve	88	324	(148)	264
Unspent community grant program	204	330	(369)	165
Murrayville swimming pool reserve	21	-	-	21
Underbool swimming pool reserve	5	-	-	5
Energy and emission reduction reserve	-	571	-	571
Total	41,143	12,012	(25,777)	27,378
Total other reserves	55,301	12,682	(27,726)	40,257

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

9.1 Reserves (cont'd)

(b) Other reserves (cont'd)

	Balance at beginning of reporting period	Transfer from accumulated surplus	Transfer to accumulated surplus	Balance at end of reporting period
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Council				
2023				
Non discretionary reserves				
Apex Park reserve	519	22	(177)	364
Developer contribution reserve	3,354	2,156	(535)	4,975
Library book bequest reserve	30	-	-	30
DGR donations reserve - MAC Theatre	58	-	-	58
Merbein Caravan Park reserve	106	38	-	144
Lake Cullulleraine Caravan Park reserve	27	11	-	38
Landfill redevelopment reserve	12,637	-	(4,088)	8,549
Total	16,731	2,227	(4,800)	14,158
Discretionary reserves				
Artwork acquisition reserve	137	45	(9)	173
Hands up Mallee	1,560	-	(239)	1,321
Small towns redevelopment reserve	245	-	(63)	182
VGC advance grants reserve	13,318	18,675	(13,318)	18,675
Land acquisition reserve	619	800	-	1,419
Water transfer proceeds reserve	65	-	-	65
Defined benefits reserve	2,000	-	-	2,000
Capital funding reserve	1,947	2,006	(3,329)	624
MRCC community drought reserve	1,796	-	(1,257)	539
MRCC developer contribution plan reserve	11,476	4,744	(488)	15,732
Unspent events grant reserve	276	67	(248)	95
Unspent recreation, planning and development grant reserve	89	-	(1)	88
Unspent community grant program	-	330	(126)	204
Murrayville swimming pool reserve	25	4	(8)	21
Underbool swimming pool reserve	14	6	(15)	5
Total	33,567	26,677	(19,101)	41,143
Total other reserves	50,298	28,904	(23,901)	55,301

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

9.1 Reserves (cont'd)

Name of reserve	Nature and purpose
Non discretionary reserves	
Apex Park reserve	Set up under a Committee of Management agreement, where surplus funds are to be set aside for improvements to the park lands.
Developer contribution reserve	Statutory developer contributions to be used for infrastructure asset categories which do not have a dedicated reserve above.
DGR donations reserve - MAC Theatre	Reserve to hold deductible gifts for the Mildura Arts Centre theatre and is a requirement of being registered as a deductible gift recipient by the Australian Taxation Office.
Public open space contribution reserve	This reserve quarantines cash contributions within the Development Contribution Plan which relate to public open space projects.
Lake Cullulleraine Caravan Park reserve	Set up where surplus funds are to be set aside for improvements to the park lands.
Landfill redevelopment reserve	Surplus on waste management operations, to be used for landfill reinstatement and purchase of new landfill sites.
Library book bequest reserve	Established to hold library book bequest from deceased estate.
Merbein Caravan Park reserve	Set up where surplus funds are to be set aside for improvements to the park lands.
Discretionary reserves	
Artwork acquisition reserve	A reserve created for any annual unspent capital works expenditure allocation towards the restoration and expansion of Council's permanent artwork collection.
Asset renewal reserve	Established in order to take advantage of any possible matching funding, by way of government grants, for renewal of Council assets.
Hands up Mallee	A reserve created to account for the unspent portion of Hands up Mallee grant funding received.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

9.1 Reserves (cont'd)

Name of reserve	Nature and purpose
Discretionary reserves	
Small town redevelopment reserve	A reserve for funds set aside for long term strategies for the small towns within the municipality.
VGC advance grants reserve	Reserve created to hold financial assistance grant funding received in advance.
Land acquisition reserve	The reserve was created to allow for the purchase of land identified for a strategic purpose.
Water transfer proceeds reserve	The reserve was established to hold proceeds from the sale of permanent and temporary water for future water purchases.
Defined benefits reserve	This reserve was established to hold funding generated from rates to be used in the advent of another defined benefits call.
Capital funding reserve	This reserve was established to hold rates funded capital works investments untied to any specific capital works project.
MRCC community drought reserve	This reserve was established to hold grant funding that is to be used to help communities affected by the drought.
MRCC developer contribution plan reserve	This reserve has been created to receive budget allocations that are to be used for the purpose of Council 's contribution towards developer contribution plan developments.
Unspent events grant reserve	An unspent event grants reserve will be established to hold grant payments that were budgeted to be paid out in the Budget but remain unallocated and unspent at the end of the financial year. The unspent grant budget allocation may be transferred to the reserve at the end of each financial year. This reserve primarily would be used to help fund large or hallmark events.
Unspent recreation, planning and development grant reserve	This reserve is to hold grant payments that were budgeted to be paid out in the annual budget but remain unallocated and unspent at the end of each financial year.
Unspent community grant program	This reserve is to ensure that funds allocated for the benefit of community groups are used to deliver projects for and on behalf of community groups.
Murrayville swimming pool reserve	This reserve is created to hold funds from the Murrayville swimming pool section 86 committee.
Underbool swimming pool reserve	This reserve is created to hold funds from the Underbool swimming pool section 86 committee.
Energy and emission reduction reserve	This reserve funds initiatives that reduce Council's energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and operational costs.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

9.1 Reserves (cont'd)

(c) Financial assets revaluation

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Increment (decrement) \$'000	Share of increment (decrement) on revaluation by an associate \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
Council				
2024				
Interest in Mildura Airport Pty Ltd	31,086	(898)	-	30,188
Interest in Mildura Regional Development	2,820	915	-	3,735
	33,906	17	-	33,923
Total financial assets revaluation	33,906	17	-	33,923
2023				
Interest in Mildura Airport Pty Ltd	32,010	(924)	-	31,086
Interest in Mildura Regional Development	566	2,254	-	2,820
	32,576	1,330	-	33,906
Total financial assets revaluation	32,576	1,330	-	33,906

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Consolidated		Council	
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)				
Surplus for the year	433	21,216	404	19,888
<i>Non-cash adjustments:</i>				
Depreciation/amortisation	23,808	21,858	22,124	20,123
Loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	811	955	811	798
Landfill provision	-	(1,512)	-	(1,512)
Write-off of works in progress	3,385	499	3,385	499
First time recognition of non current assets	(4,697)	(3,875)	(4,697)	(3,875)
Contributions - non-monetary assets	(457)	(400)	(457)	(400)
Interest expense	736	778	562	647
Leasing finance expense	62	59	62	48
Bad debt write off	69	35	69	34
<i>Change in assets and liabilities:</i>				
(Increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables	(2,774)	(1,117)	(4,208)	(2,748)
(Increase) / decrease in prepayments	(107)	(3)	(23)	3
Increase / (decrease) in trade and other payables	103	312	(1,086)	112
Increase / (decrease) in contract and other liabilities	(2,686)	(279)	(1,711)	(896)
Increase / (decrease) in trust fund deposits	348	271	348	271
(Increase) / decrease in inventories	(141)	(125)	(128)	(118)
Increase / (decrease) in provisions	(526)	(1,017)	(488)	(1,078)
Net cash provided by operating activities	18,367	37,655	14,967	31,796

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

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 My Super/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:

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

9.3 Superannuation (cont'd)

Funding arrangements (cont'd)

Net investment returns	5.7% pa
Salary inflation	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 limited at 97%.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

9.3 Superannuation (cont'd)

(b) Funding calls (cont'd)

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 Triennial \$m	2022 (Interim) \$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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

9.3 Superannuation (cont'd)

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

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

The discounted accrued benefits 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 inflation	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 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	
Net investment return	5.6% pa	5.7% pa
Salary inflation	2.5% pa for two years and 2.75% pa thereafter	3.5% pa
Price inflation (CPI)	2.0% pa	2.8% pa

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

9.3 Superannuation (cont'd)

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

Scheme	Type of Scheme	Rate	2024 \$	2023 \$
Vision super	Defined benefits	11.0% (2023: 10.5%)	267,429	239,292
Vision super	Accumulation	11.0% (2023: 10.5%)	1,766,671	1,891,201
Other funds	Accumulation	11.0% (2023: 10.5%)	2,921,096	2,558,110

In addition to the contributions, Council has paid no unfunded liability payments to Vision Super during the 2023/24 year.

There were no contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2024.

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefits category of Vision Super for the year ended 30 June 2025 is \$260,000.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

10 Change in accounting policy

There have been no changes to accounting policies in the 2023-24 year.

Part 3: Performance Statement

Mildura Rural City Council

Performance Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2024



Mildura Rural City Council

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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*.



Mark McMillan, BBus
Principal Accounting Officer
Dated: 4 October 2024

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

The performance statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and 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 the council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to certify this performance statement in its final form.



Liam Wood
Councillor
Dated: 4 October 2024



Mark Eckel
Councillor
Dated: 4 October 2024



Martin Hawson
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 4 October 2024

Independent Auditor’s Report

To the Councillors of Mildura Rural City Council

Opinion I have audited the accompanying performance statement of Mildura Rural City Council (the council) which comprises the:

- 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.

In my opinion, the performance statement of Mildura Rural 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 *Local Government Act 2020* and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

Basis for Opinion I have conducted my audit in accordance with the *Audit Act 1994* which incorporates the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the performance statement* section of my report.

My independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. 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 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (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.

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

Councillors’ responsibilities for the performance statement The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* 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.

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
9 October 2024



Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Section 1. Description of municipality

Mildura is a growing regional city on the banks of the Murray River in north-western Victoria bordering New South Wales and South Australia. Major townships within Mildura Rural City's urban area include Mildura, Irymple, Red Cliffs and Merbein. Other townships within Council's rural area include Ouyen, Walpeup, Murrayville, Underbool, Werrimull, Cullulleraine, Nangiloc and Colignan. The city's main industries include agriculture, horticulture, advanced manufacturing, logistics and services. The municipality covers an area of 22,082 square kilometres, making it the largest in Victoria and has an estimated resident population of 57,554 which is projected to grow to 62,550 by the year 2036.

Section 2. Service performance indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Service / Indicator / Measure [Formula]	Results					Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024		
	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]	3.81	4.48	6.13	N/A	7.10	Recorded utilisation of aquatic facilities has increased in 23/24. Related partly to an issue with the people counter during 22/23 at Mildura Waves, and attendance numbers having returned to pre Covid-19 levels.
Animal Management Health and safety <i>Animal management prosecutions</i> [Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100	100%	100%	100%	N/A	0%	No animal management prosecutions in 2023-2024.

<p>Food Safety</p> <p>Health and safety Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications</p> <p>[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</p>	80.49%	83.33%	85.71%	N/A	77.42%	
<p>Governance</p> <p>Satisfaction Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement</p> <p>[Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council]</p>	50	49	50	49	48	
<p>Libraries</p> <p>Participation Library membership</p> <p>[Percentage of the population that are registered library members] x100</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	18.62%	This is a new indicator in 2023-2024.
<p>Maternal and Child Health (MCH)</p> <p>Participation Participation in the MCH service</p> <p>[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100</p>	74.66%	78.45%	80.69%	N/A	79.24%	

<p>Participation <i>Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children</i></p> <p>[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</p>	77.21%	82.84%	85.66%	N/A	84.62%	
<p>Roads</p> <p>Condition <i>Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards</i></p> <p>[Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100</p>	86.39%	91.63%	92.25%	90.00%	92.23%	
<p>Statutory Planning</p> <p>Service standard <i>Planning applications decided within the relevant required time</i></p> <p>[Percentage of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time]</p>	77.42%	84.75%	49.48%	60.00%	31.99%	Staff vacancies in the Statutory Planning department has impacted Councils ability to make a determination within the required timeframes.
<p>Waste Management</p> <p>Waste diversion <i>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</i></p> <p>[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100</p>	72.19%	74.02%	73.84%	71.74%	68.83%	Waste diversion has decreased due to an increase in contamination rates in the organics and recycling bins and the reduction of volume of recycling collected due to the introduction of the Container Deposit Scheme and the kerbside glass bin.

Section 3. Financial performance indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Dimension / Indicator/ Measure [Formula]	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]	\$3,777.05	\$4,022.88	\$4,362.04	\$4222.78	\$4,304.74	\$4,353.94	\$4,511.24	\$4,638.23	\$4,772.50	Expenses continue to be impacted by materials cost escalation and additional depreciation due to significant asset revaluations.
Revenue level <i>Average rate per property assessment</i> [Sum of all general rates and municipal charges / Number of property assessments]	\$2,165.88	\$2,184.33	\$2,236.31	N/A	\$2,315.74	\$2,387.37	\$2,470.54	\$2,552.95	\$2,639.39	

<p>Liquidity</p> <p>Working capital</p> <p><i>Current assets compared to current liabilities</i></p> <p>[Current assets / Current liabilities] x100</p>	405.85%	504.64%	530.97%	345.41%	524.32%	368.38%	362.71%	359.49%	355.12%	This is influenced by holding funds for carried forward capital works. The carried forward capital works are the result of an increase in large scale capital projects spanning multiple years.
<p>Unrestricted cash</p> <p><i>Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities</i></p> <p>[Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities] x100</p>	321.48%	368.96%	235.86%	N/A	-183.08%	136.68%	145.08%	145.45%	144.60%	The large decrease in unrestricted cash is due to all term deposit investments held by Council being invested for longer than 90 days, which are excluded from cash and cash equivalents for the purpose of calculating this performance indicator for unrestricted cash. Had term deposits not been excluded this indicator would be 229%. This will also impact forward projections.
<p>Obligations</p> <p>Loans and borrowings</p> <p><i>Loans and borrowings compared to rates</i></p> <p>[Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100</p>	22.90%	12.81%	10.99%	N/A	9.80%	8.10%	6.87%	5.70%	4.56%	Council has no new borrowings forecast and is concentrating on paying off existing loans.

<p><i>Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates</i></p> <p>[Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100</p>	2.70%	10.19%	2.26%	N/A	1.43%	1.61%	1.55%	1.49%	1.44%	Council has no new borrowings forecast and is concentrating on paying off existing loans.
<p>Indebtedness</p> <p><i>Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue</i></p> <p>[Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100</p>	52.64%	41.94%	40.66%	N/A	31.45%	41.26%	40.45%	39.78%	39.14%	Council has concentrated on paying off existing loans.
<p>Asset renewal and upgrade</p> <p><i>Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation</i></p> <p>[Asset renewal and asset upgrade expense / Asset depreciation] x100</p>	186.85%	106.83%	94.90%	130.11%	91.22%	149.09%	106.94%	105.57%	116.15%	Mildura Rural City Council aims to have a ratio of around 100% which means we are adequately maintaining our current asset base. This will vary over time and can be influenced by factors such as external funding. The achievement of target is impacted by completion rates of capital projects.

<p>Operating position</p> <p>Adjusted underlying result Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) [Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit)/ Adjusted underlying revenue] x100</p>	10.67%	10.16%	7.84%	N/A	-8.21%	1.09%	-0.03%	-0.18%	1.44%	The timing of the payment of Financial Assistance Grant has created a loss in 2023-2024. This is a timing difference only for this year. Future years are forecasting losses due to the impact of the Minister's good practice guidelines on Local Government Service Rates and Charges.
<p>Stability</p> <p>Rates concentration Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue [Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100</p> <p>Rates effort Rates compared to property values [Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100</p>	61.04%	58.42%	56.37%	65.32%	69.41%	65.39%	66.25%	66.69%	65.93%	This indicator varies due to the timing of our Financial Assistance Grant funding and other grant revenue.
	0.72%	0.58%	0.59%	N/A	0.56%	0.56%	0.58%	0.60%	0.62%	

Section 4. Sustainable capacity indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Results

<i>Indicator / Measure</i> [Formula]	2021	2022	2023	2024	Comments
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	
Population <i>Expenses per head of municipal population</i> [Total expenses / Municipal population]	\$2,000.72	\$2,212.64	\$2,338.84	\$2,304.43	
<i>Infrastructure per head of municipal population</i> [Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]	\$14,903.07	\$15,217.80	\$16,117.56	\$16,905.25	There has been an increase in capital works expenditure, including a number of major projects such as the Mildura Sporting Precinct and Powerhouse Precinct projects.
<i>Population density per length of road</i> [Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]	10.82	10.67	11.05	11.13	

<p>Own-source revenue</p> <p><i>Own-source revenue per head of municipal population</i></p> <p>[Own-source revenue / Municipal population]</p>	\$1,677.05	\$1,794.35	\$1,901.90	\$1,941.39	
<p>Recurrent grants</p> <p><i>Recurrent grants per head of municipal population</i></p> <p>[Recurrent grants / Municipal population]</p>	\$476.09	\$571.58	\$555.74	\$146.21	This indicator varies due to the timing of our financial assistance grant funding.
<p>Disadvantage</p> <p><i>Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage</i></p> <p>[Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by decile]</p>	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
<p>Workforce turnover</p> <p><i>Percentage of staff turnover</i></p> <p>[Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x100</p>	12.7%	16.4%	22.9%	15.2%	Staff turnover remains consistent with previous years apart from 22/23 when Mildura Rural City Council was transitioning out of delivering Aged and Disability home support services.

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 <i>Food Act 1984</i> , 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 <i>Food Act 1984</i>
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 <i>Road Management Act 2004</i>
major non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the <i>Food Act 1984</i> , 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

This year's performance results have been affected by a number of factors.

The State and Federal Government through the Victorian Grants Commission, allocate annual financial assistance grants to all Councils. Normal budget expectations were for a 75% forward payment to be received prior to 30 June as per previous financial years. However, the timing was changed to July 2024 which has impacted the financial results for 2023-24. It must be acknowledged that Council will still receive its full grant allocation, and this is merely a timing issue which impacts financial statements presentations.

The impacts of the post COVID-19 pandemic have largely subsided, but other worldwide events have continued to affect Council during 2023-2024 financial year. This has caused increased inflation, supply constraints and labour shortages which have all impacted on Council's operations. Council has also continued to restore and rebuild many facilities, parks and other infrastructure in the community resulting from the 2022-23 flood event.

Council still remains in a sound financial position however we will continue to monitor the economic conditions closely which includes financial reporting, quarterly budget reviews, long term financial planning, service reviews and many other forms of analysis and reviews.