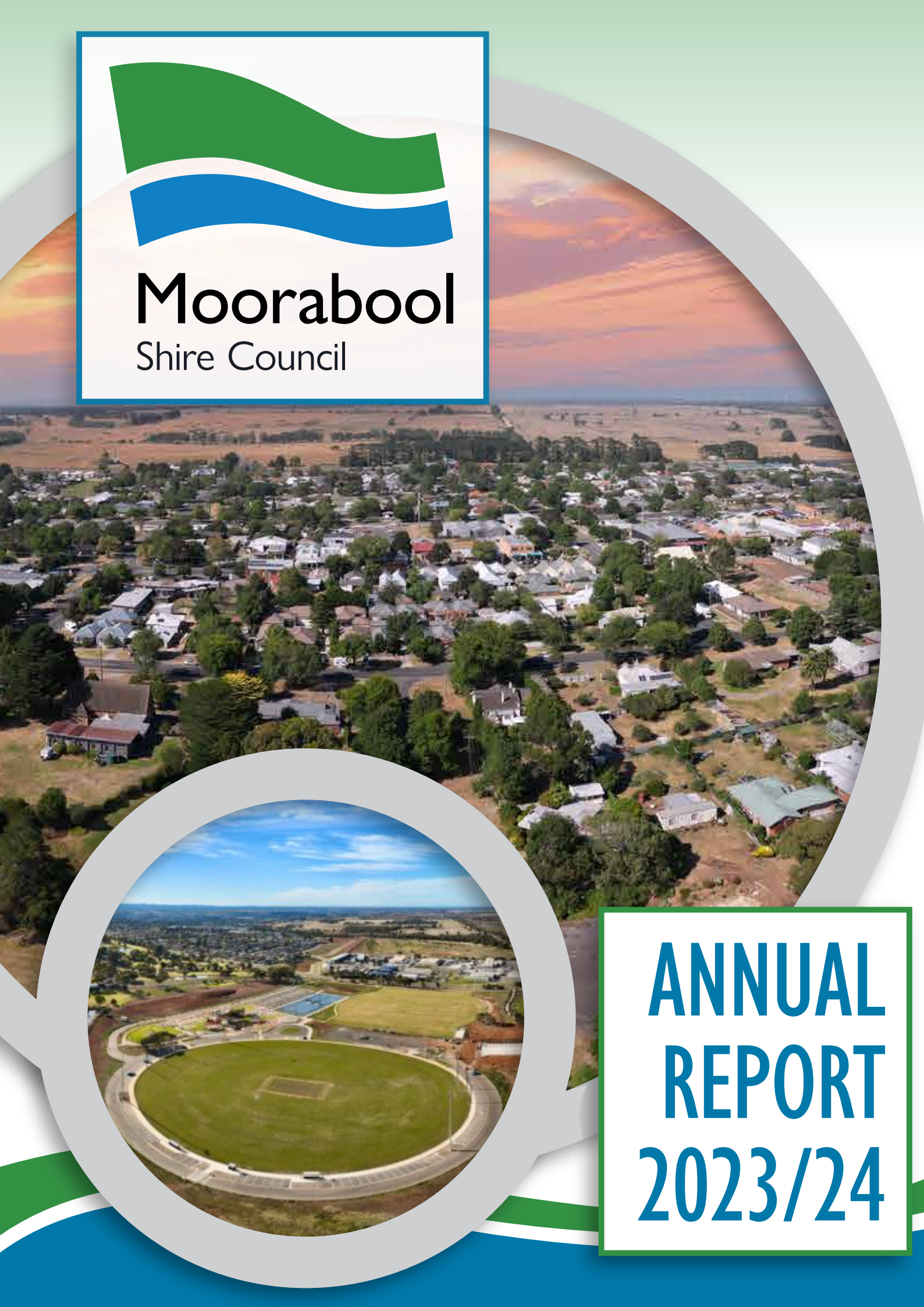
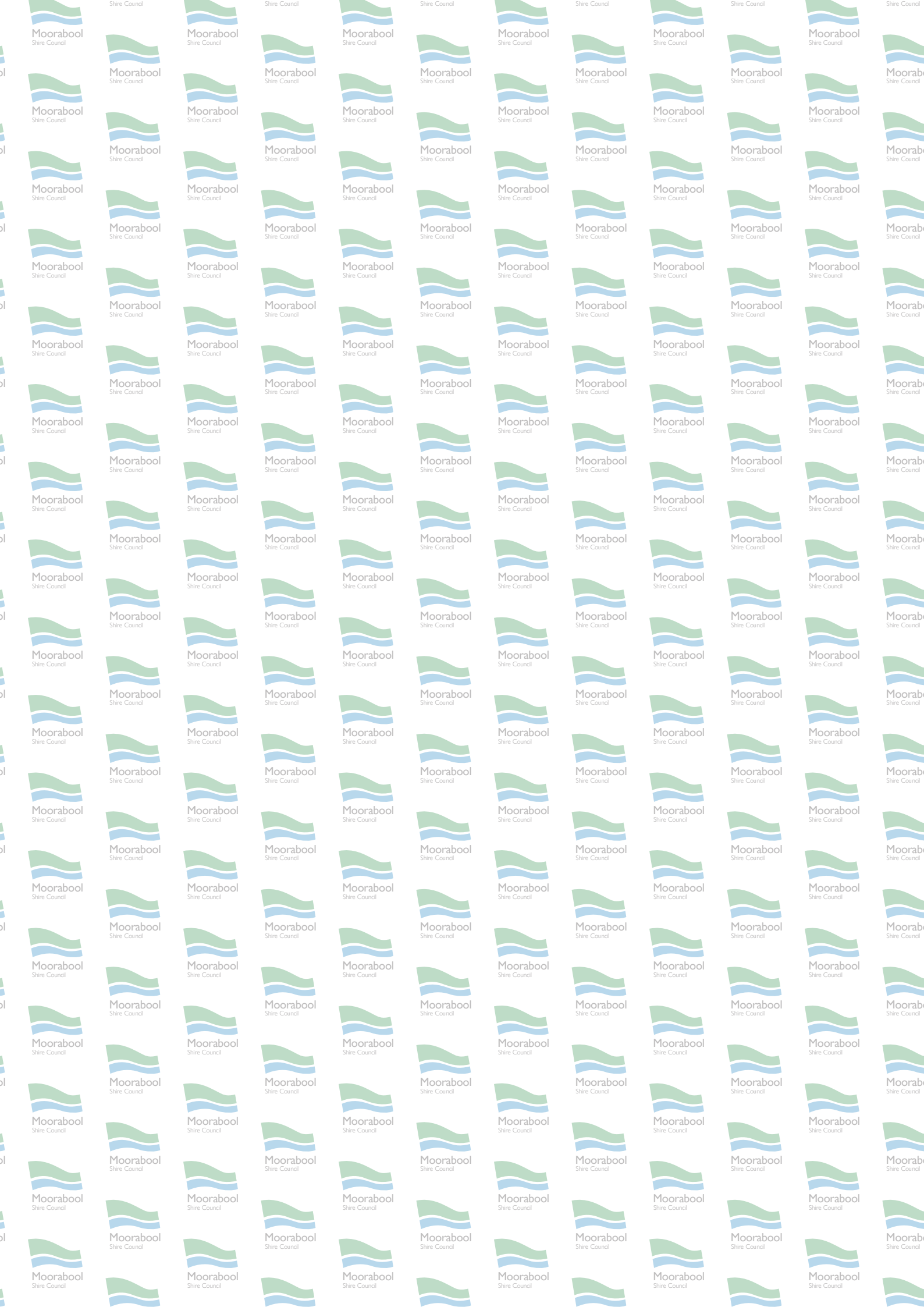




Moorabool
Shire Council



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2023/24**



WELCOME

Moorabool Shire Council's 2023-24 Annual Report reflects Council's performance during the year against the goals set in the Council Plan 2021-2025.

This report is intended as a point of reference for Council, residents and businesses in the shire, community organisations and government departments.

The Council Plan 2021-2025 is structured under the following Strategic Framework:

- ▶ Healthy, inclusive and connected neighbourhoods
- ▶ Liveable and thriving environments
- ▶ A Council that listens and adapts to the needs of our evolving communities

This Annual Report aligns with the Victorian Government's reporting requirements.

COUNCIL'S VISION

Embracing our natural environment and lifestyle options to create an inspiring place for everyone to live, work and play.

COUNCIL'S PURPOSE

Council exists to co-design local solutions that enable our communities to prosper now and into the future. We do this by:

- ▶ Providing good governance and leadership
- ▶ Minimising environmental impact
- ▶ Stimulating economic development
- ▶ Improving social outcomes

OUR VALUES

INTEGRITY I say what I mean and always do what's right.

CREATIVITY I consider situations from multiple angles and perspectives.

ACCOUNTABILITY I have courage to make decisions and take ownership of their outcomes.

RESPECT I seek to understand and treat people how I would like to be treated.

EXCELLENCE I take calculated risks to seek out better ways of doing things.

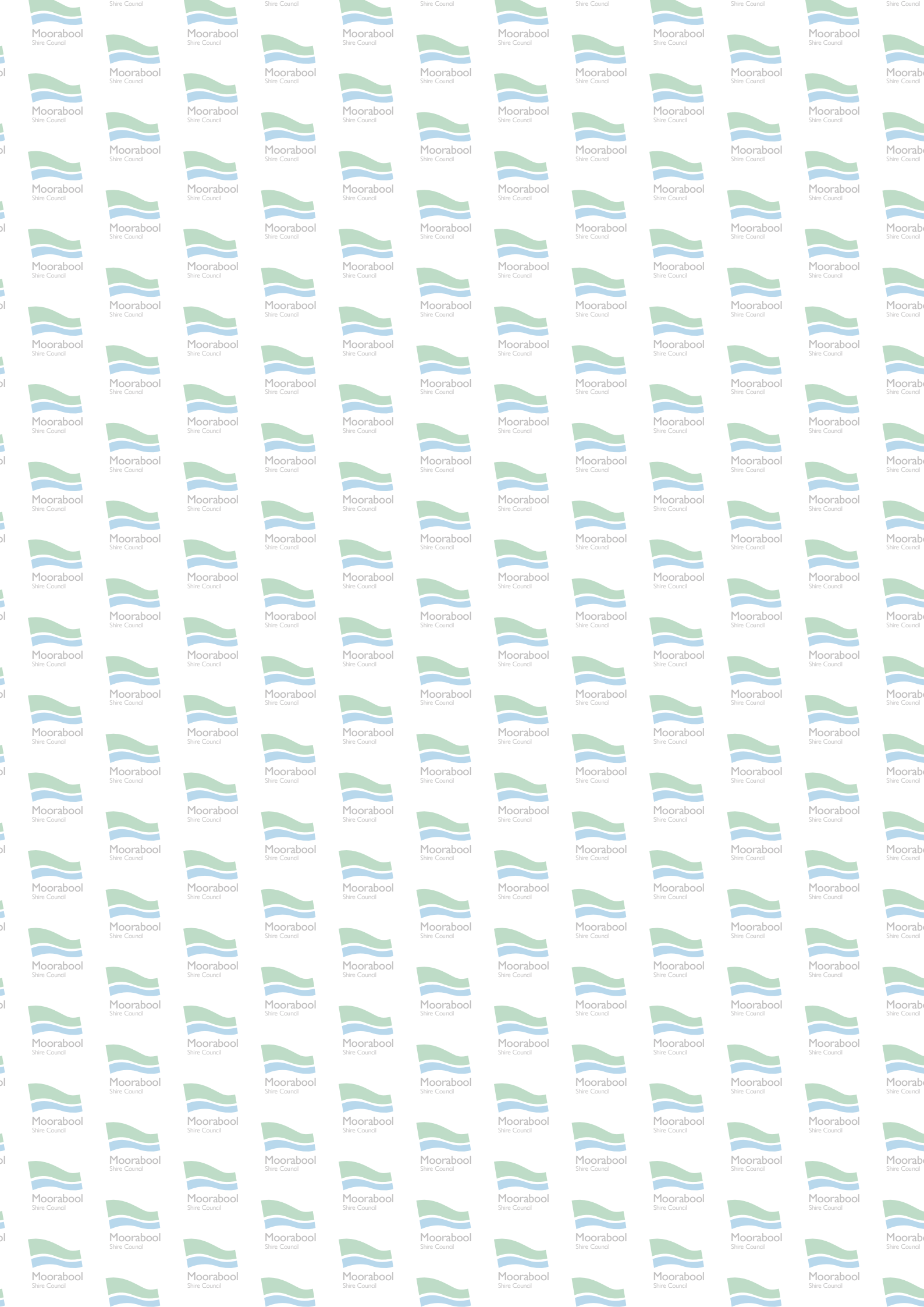


TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

Acknowledgement Of Country	8
CEO's Message	9
Councillors	10
Community Profile	11
Business, Tourism and Investment	12
Grant Summary	13

PART TWO: OUR COUNCIL

Year in Review	16
Organisational Structure	29
Access and Inclusion	30
Employee Information	31
Training	32

PART THREE: OUR PERFORMANCE

Performance	34
Council Plan	35

PART FOUR: GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Governance

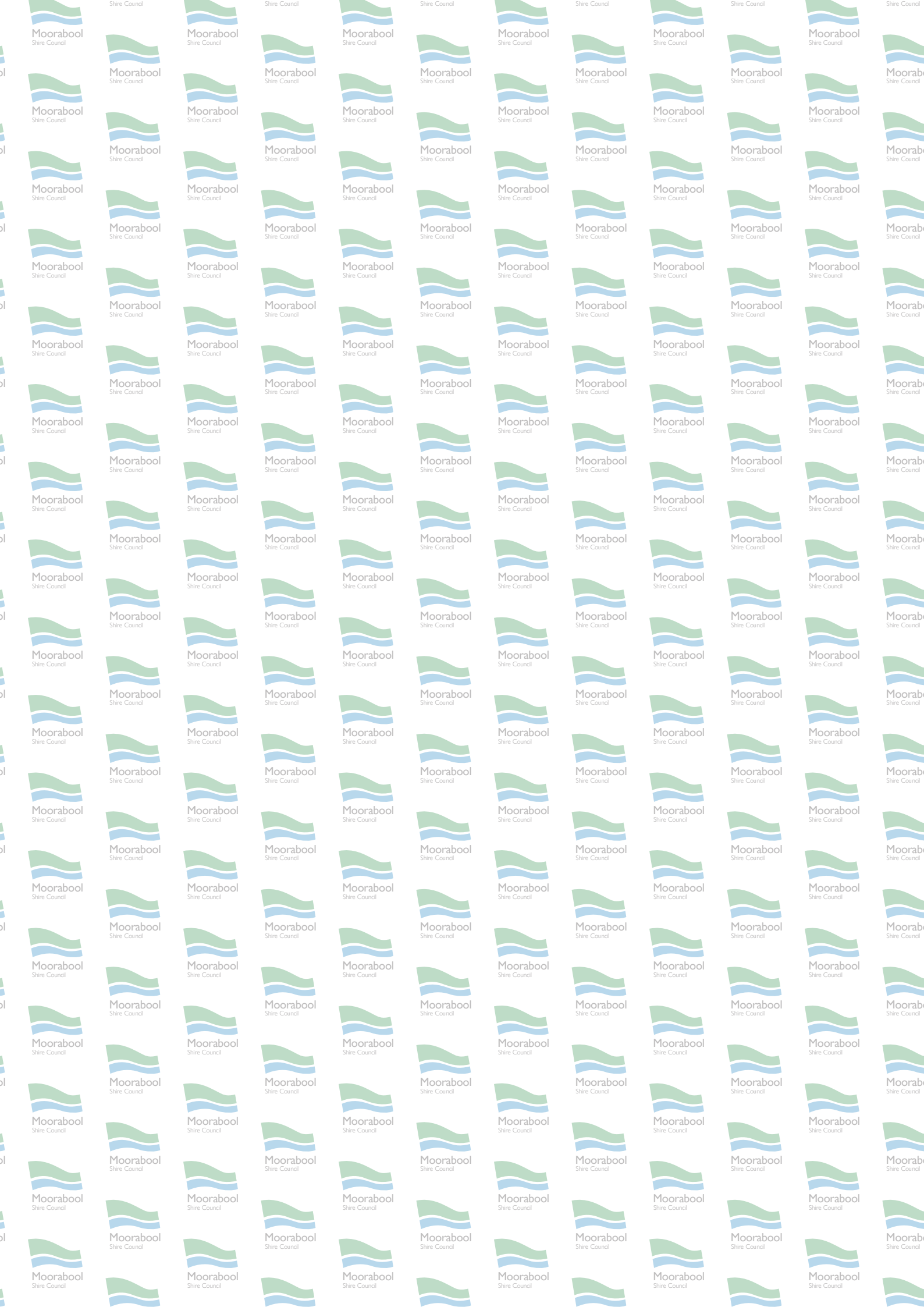
▶ Meetings of Council	46
▶ Delegated Committees	
▶ Community Asset Committees	
▶ Advisory Committees	
▶ Councillor Code of Conduct	
▶ Councillor Allowances	
▶ Conflict of Interest	
▶ Councillor Expenses	
▶ Risk Management	
▶ Fraud Policy	
▶ Insurance	
▶ Audit and Risk Committee	
▶ Internal Audit	
▶ External Audit	
▶ Freedom of Information	
▶ Public Interest Disclosures	
▶ Disability Access and Inclusion	
▶ Road Management Act	
▶ Domestic Animal Management Plan	
▶ Infrastructure and Development Contributions	
▶ Food Act Ministerial Direction	
▶ Governance and Management Checklist	

PART FIVE: PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

63

PART SIX: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

85





INTRODUCTION



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land which includes the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung people. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

We are pleased to present our 2023/24 Annual Report.

The reporting period in this report is the last reporting period under the life of our current Council Plan and the last by our current group of Councillors, as we are on the cusp of Council elections.

Due to the provisions under the Local Government Act 2020 in relation to caretaker period leading up to Council elections, we are limited in scope in what we can detail in this Annual Report.

Early next year we will have had our new Council appointed and will develop a new Council Plan.

We hope you find our 2023/24 Annual Report an informative read.

Derek Madden, CEO





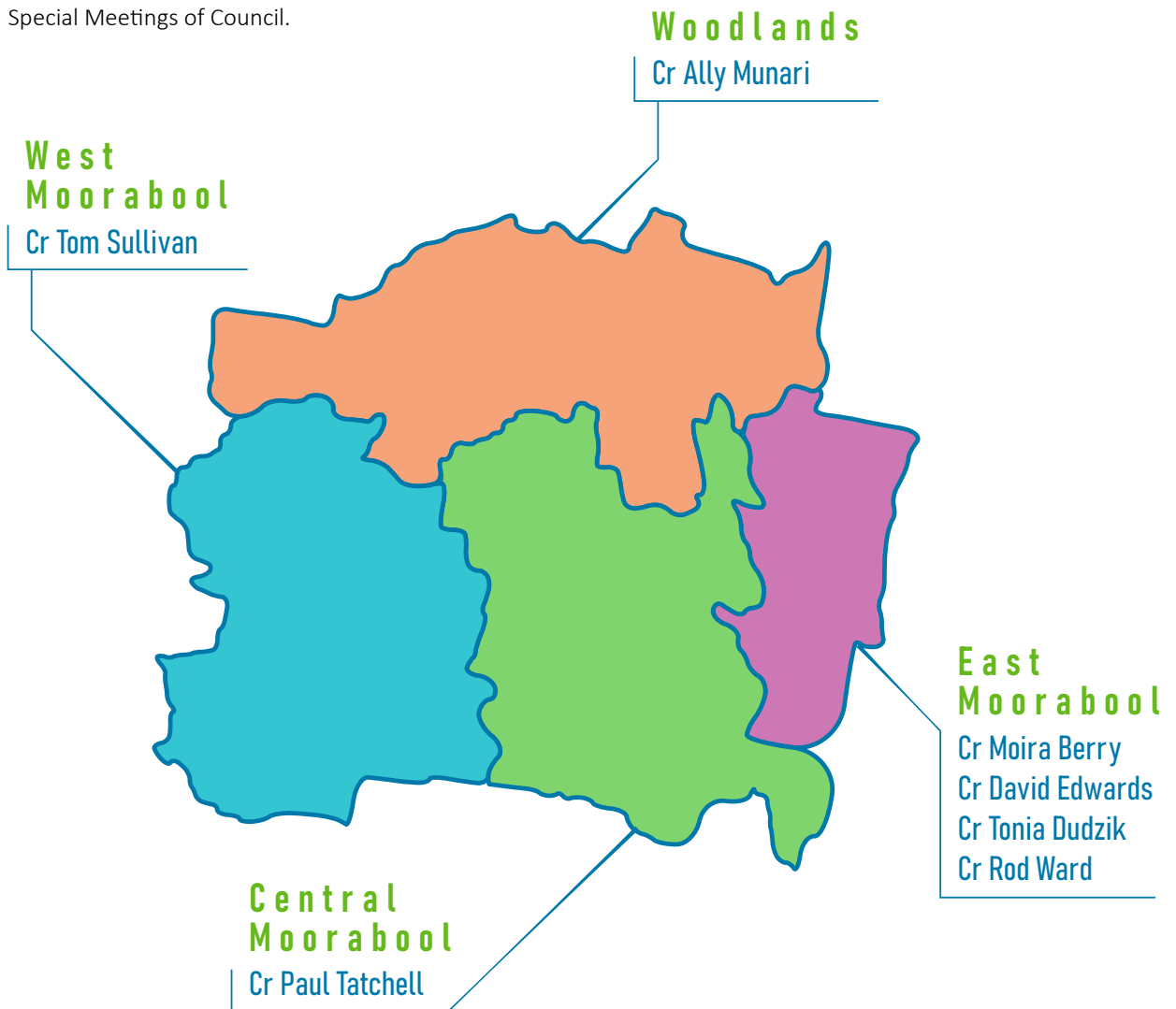
COUNCILLORS

Moorabool Shire

is divided into four Council wards. East Moorabool is represented by four Councillors, Central, Woodlands and West Moorabool are each represented by one Councillor.

They are selected by the community for a four-year term and are responsible for setting the overall strategic direction of the Council and overseeing the performance of the organisation on behalf of the community.

Councillors attend Ordinary Meetings of Council on the first Wednesday of every month and make decisions on the items listed in the Council meeting agenda. Where required, they also attend Special Meetings of Council.



COMMUNITY PROFILE

ABOUT US

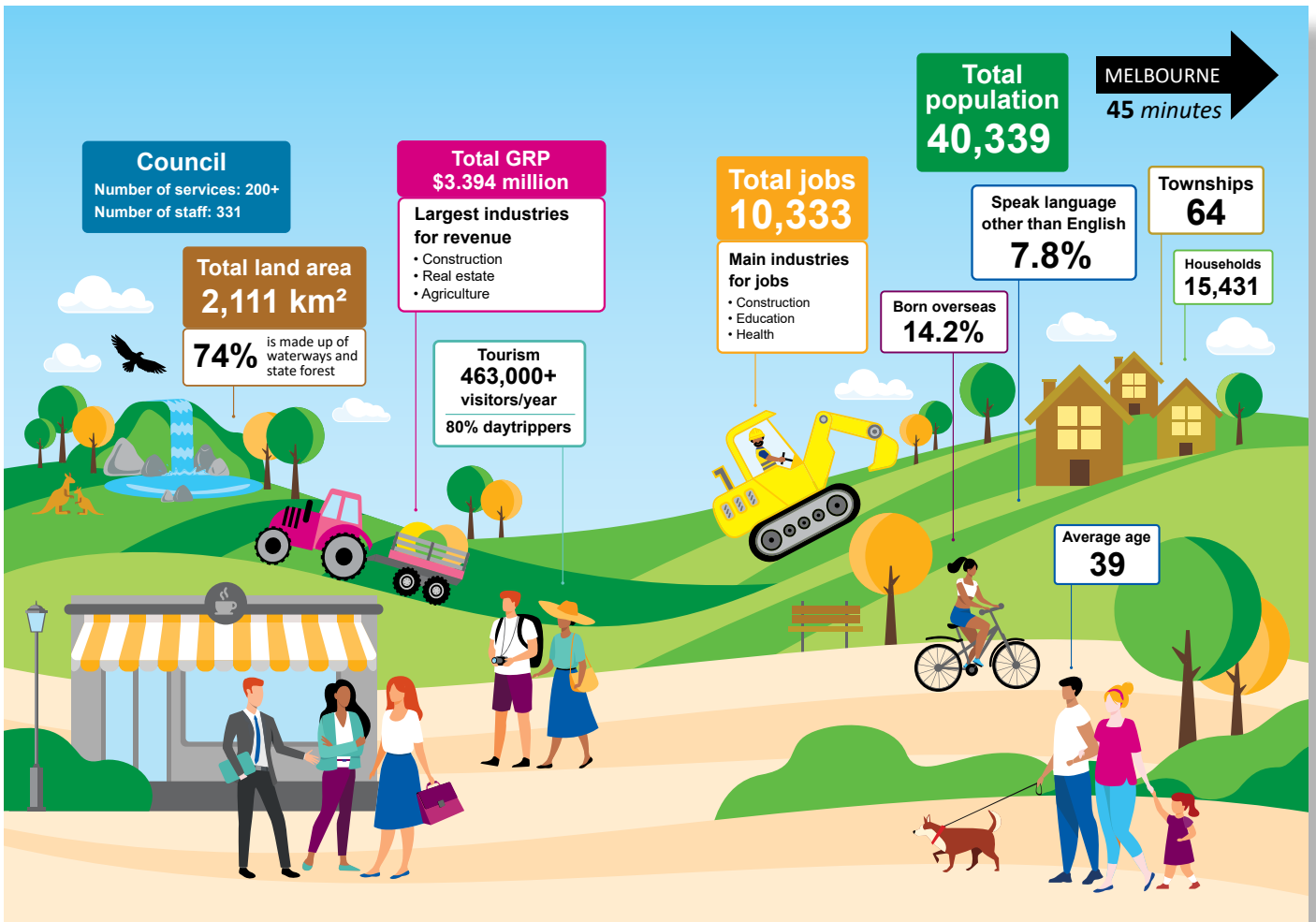
Moorabool Shire is an increasingly popular choice for those seeking rural tranquillity with a mix of urban lifestyle.

The current population of 40,339 is forecast to double in the next 20 years.

The municipality contains 64 settlements of varying sizes. These range from small towns, hamlets and farming settlements to the larger districts of Bacchus Marsh and Ballan.

LOCATION

Moorabool Shire is positioned along the major road and rail transport corridors between Melbourne and Adelaide. Its eastern boundary is located just 40km west of Melbourne's CBD and extends westwards to the City of Ballarat municipal boundary. The shire straddles Victoria's Western Highway and has excellent transport access to Melbourne, Ballarat and Geelong. Bacchus Marsh is equidistant to Melbourne and Avalon airports and close to the sea ports of Geelong and Melbourne.





BUSINESS, TOURISM AND INVESTMENT

Moorabool Shire is very diverse, with businesses ranging from agriculture through to professional services.

Whilst sustaining our unique regional/rural lifestyle, we leverage our enviable ease of access to Melbourne, Ballarat and Geelong and their ports and airports.

Economic development holds a pivotal role in connecting local people to jobs and identifying infrastructure priorities for future investment.

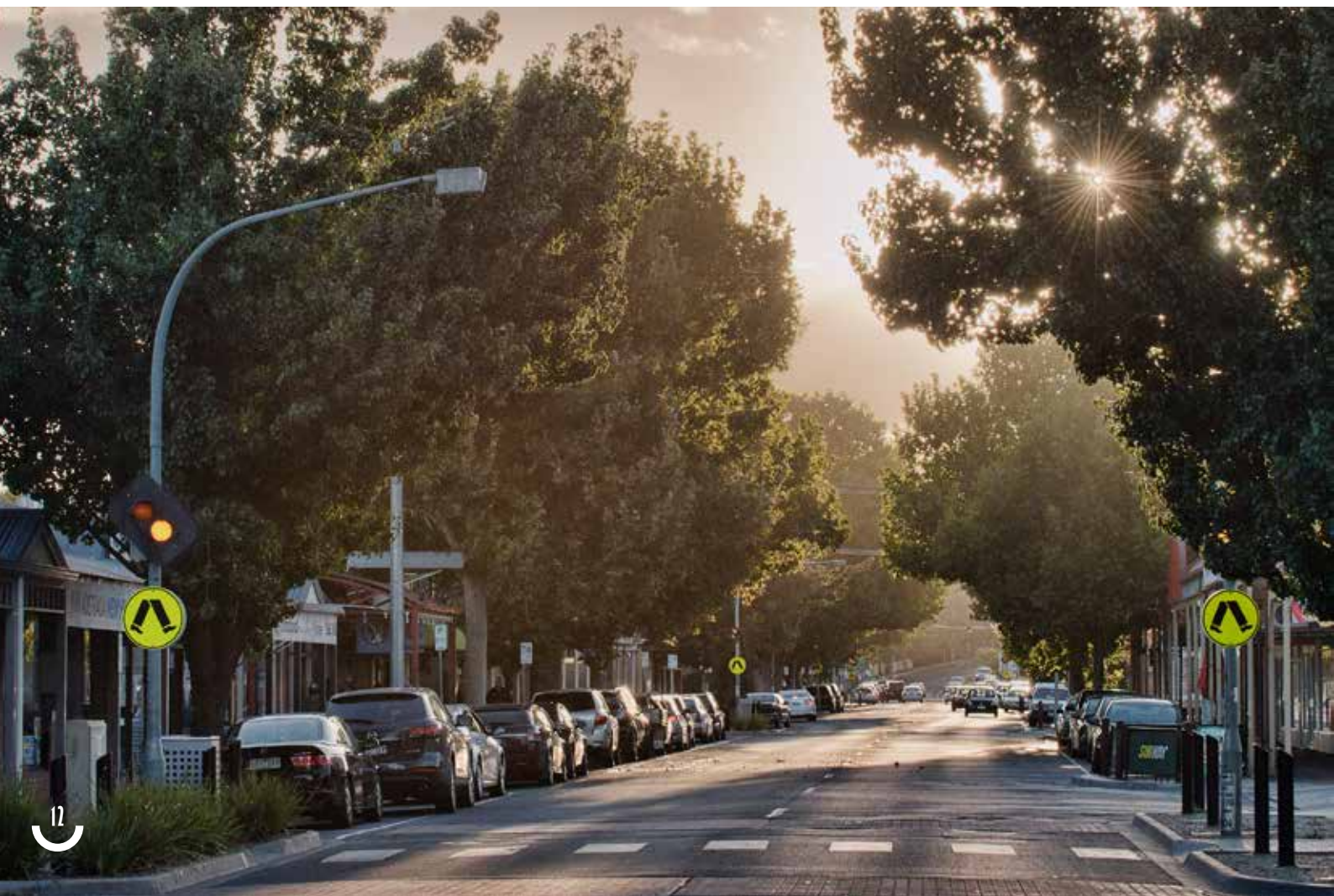
Moorabool Shire's prospective industries include agriculture – primary production, agribusiness – processing and value adding, health services, tourism, education, retail, and professional and business services.

Many supporting industry sectors are able to thrive due to the increased customer base driven by population growth.

The liveability of the shire is key to attracting higher value workers and businesses. Aspects such as housing, skills, transport, access to community infrastructure, culture, health, the natural environment and social capital all influence the economic sustainability of Moorabool Shire.

As well as facilitating and advocating for investment, Council provides support, networking and training for business, along with digital and traditional marketing campaigns to promote the value of spending locally, and the shire's visitor experiences.

The creation of the recent Economic Development Strategy, and a separate Visitor Economy Strategy will deliver a pathway to further success and growth for Moorabool Shire's economy.



GRANT SUMMARY

Moorabool Shire relies on funding from other levels of government to deliver community outcomes in services and projects.





SUCCESSFUL GRANTS

●	NBN Blackwood Tower	\$2,200,000
●	Bacchus Marsh Aerodrome Emergency Exercise	\$20,000
●	Roadside Weeds and Pests Program	\$45,275
●	Federation Park Upgrade	\$400,000
●	Youth Awards 2023	\$1,500
●	2023 Central Registration and Enrolment Scheme Administrative Support Grants	\$44,000
●	2023-2024 Premiers' Reading Challenge Book Fund	\$8,621
●	Western Bulldogs Youth Leadership Project	\$5,000
●	Carberry Drive Recreation Reserve Upgrade	\$50,000
●	Masons Lane Dog Park	\$400,000
●	Youth Fest 2024	\$2,000
●	McLean Reserve Open Space Revitalisation	\$100,000
●	Darley Civic Hub Oval Cricket Wicket Improvements	\$30,245
●	Youth Art Awards 2024	\$300
●	Gordon Recreation Reserve Facility Planning	\$25,000
●	Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour Preservation Plan	\$10,000
●	Lockable Returns Chute for Gordon Community	\$1,500
●	Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program 2024-2028	\$480,000
●	Moorabool Mosaic Menagerie: Crafting Conversations on Endangered Species	\$1,000
●	16 Days of Activism Community Quilt Project - Pop Up Choir	\$1,500
●	Children's Week Event 2024	\$700



OUR COUNCIL



YEAR IN REVIEW

2023/24

There have been significant achievements across our four directorates this past year, as well as delivery on major projects.

We have shared more detailed information on the highlights and challenges in each directorate throughout the 2023/24 financial year in the coming pages.



COMMUNITY ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Highlights

Within the Engineering Services Unit, the Capital Works Team completed the following:

- ▶ 45.3kms of roads resealed or resurfaced
- ▶ 14.2kms of sealed roads reconstructed
- ▶ 11.3kms of gravel roads re-sheeted
- ▶ 7.6kms of unsealed shoulders re-sheeted
- ▶ 4.5kms of unsealed shoulders sealed
- ▶ 3km of new footpaths

Major projects

- ▶ Bald Hill Stage 2 – Telford Park, Darley
 - Stage 2B – Construction of 1850m of footpath and lookout
 - Landscaping and art installations
- ▶ Ballan Recreation Reserve Pavilion
- ▶ Woolpack Road, Parwan Creek, Bridge Replacement Design
- ▶ Open Space Improvements
 - Grantleigh Drive, Darley
 - Selby Court, Hopetoun Park
 - Jonathan Drive Reserve, Darley



*Densley Street,
Ballan*

- ▶ Halletts Way and Ramsay Crescent Wombat Crossings
- ▶ Nelson Street, Darley
 - Extension of the underground drainage, and kerb and channel network to Nelson Street
 - Powercor stay relocation
 - Construction and sealing of the parking bays
- ▶ Hogan Road and Densley Street, Ballan
 - Kerb and channel, widening and underground drainage
 - Drainage upgrades to increase drainage capacity
- ▶ Stanley Street, Gordon (Stage 3B)
 - Widening, asphalt surfacing, kerb and channel
- ▶ Riversdale Crescent, Darley
 - Rehabilitation – foamed bitumen stabilisation
- ▶ Vance Close, Darley
 - Rehabilitation
- ▶ Johansen Place, Darley
 - Rehabilitation
 - Drainage upgrades to increase drainage capacity



Selby Court, Hopetoun Park



- ▶ Ingliston Road, Ingliston
 - Reconstructed and widened approximately 4km of road
 - Improved safety
- ▶ Ballan-Egerton Road
 - Reconstructed approx. 2.6km of road
 - Resurfaced existing pavement
 - Resealed additional 2km
- ▶ Ballan-Meredith Road
 - Reconstructed approx. 2km of road
- ▶ Links Road, Darley
 - Constructed a new footpath from Robertson Road, past the golf course and connecting to existing footpath in Fairway Crescent, Darley
- ▶ Werribee Vale Road, Maddingley
 - Drainage capacity improvements
- ▶ Tramway Lane, Darley
 - Reformed table drains, culvert renewals, erosion controls
- ▶ Simmons Drive, Bacchus Marsh
 - Removed stormwater detention weir
- ▶ Steele Court, Bacchus Marsh
 - Drainage capacity and overland flow path improvements

Development Infrastructure

- ▶ Verified compliance of almost \$22 million of new infrastructure (roads, footpaths, parks/reserves) of which most is handed to Council from completed subdivision developments (with some stages still on maintenance with the developer).
- ▶ Gifted assets included further stages from Stonehill, Underbank, Queensbrook, Holts Lane and various smaller infill developments.
- ▶ Processed more than 320 planning certificates – approx. 40% less than the previous financial years.
- ▶ Reviewed more than 130 designs compared with more than 500 in the previous financial year.

Assets

- ▶ Delivered priority actions from the Road Safety Strategy Year 3.
- ▶ Produced a ten-year Capital Improvement Plan.
- ▶ Received 326 Legal Point of Discharge requests.
- ▶ Received 48 Crossover Permit requests.
- ▶ Received 84 Works within Road Reserve Permit requests.
- ▶ Received 23 Building Over Easement Permit requests.
- ▶ Received 206 Asset Protection Permit requests.
- ▶ Received 422 National Heavy Vehicle Regulator Permit requests.
- ▶ Received 92 Memorandum of Authorisations requests.
- ▶ Achieved 100% proactive inspection compliance for local roads and footpaths as per the adopted Council Road Management Plan.
- ▶ Completed more than 7,000 proactive infrastructure inspections.
- ▶ Recorded more than 4,900 defects.
- ▶ Managed the contract for the annual tree inspections and data collection.
- ▶ Conducted 530 essential safety measure inspections.
- ▶ Conducted a condition inspection of all bridge assets.
- ▶ Successfully received \$2 million funding from the Safer Local Roads and Streets Program.



Links Road, Darley

Operations

- ▶ More than 6,800 local road and path defects rectified (including potholes, edge defects, path or kerb displacement, signage, vegetation and others).
- ▶ 7.3kms of gravel roads and 10.8kms shoulders graded as part of the Annual Maintenance Grading Program.
- ▶ More than 20km of gravel roads and shoulders re-sheeted as part of the Capital Improvement Program.
- ▶ More than 360 trees planted as part of the Annual Tree Planting Program in Darley, Maddingley, Gordon, Millbrook, Navigators and Ballan.
- ▶ More than 360km of roadsides slashed across the rural areas of the shire as part of the Annual Roadside Slashing Program.
- ▶ Development and adoption of the Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour Management Strategy & Preservation Plan including delivery of year 1 actions of the preservation plan.
- ▶ Delivery of the annual Electric Line Clearance Program including the inspection of all electrical lines within Bacchus Marsh and the required tree trimming works to ensure appropriate clearance.

Major Projects

- ▶ Completed construction of:
 - Aqualink Cycling and Walking Corridor – Stage One
 - Ballan Depot
 - Darley Park Community Pavilion
 - Moorabool Aquatic and Recreation Centre – Stage One
 - Bacchus Marsh Racecourse Recreation Reserve – Stage Two
 - Skateparks in Ballan and Gordon
 - West Maddingley Early Years and Community Hub
- ▶ Started construction of
 - Ballan Library and Community Hub
 - Navigators Community Centre
 - Dunnstown Recreation Reserve – Community Pavilion
 - Mill Park Splash Park
 - Bacchus Marsh Racecourse Recreation Reserve – All-Abilities Adventure Playground
- ▶ Started design of:
 - Darley Park Playground
 - Bacchus Marsh Racecourse Recreation Reserve – Community Pavilion





Environment and Waste

- ▶ Transitioned to new kerbside collection contractor.
- ▶ Successfully implemented collection day changes across the shire.
- ▶ Autumn plant giveaway (4,900 plants) to residents.
- ▶ Successful in grants for Federation Park (\$400k), Masons Lane (\$400k) & McLean Reserve (\$100k).
- ▶ Completed designs for Open Space Improvement Projects at Hine Court, White Avenue, McLean Reserve, Masons Lane Dog Park, Federation Park and Carberry Drive.
- ▶ Completed designs for Small Township Enhancement Projects at Blackwood and implemented Master Plan for Lal Lal.
- ▶ Completed the northern and southern basins and Underbank.



- ▶ Oversaw landscaping works within Tavener Street, Queensbrook, Underbank, Hillview and Stonehill in preparation for Practical Completions in 2024/2025.
- ▶ Finalised the Relief and Recovery Sub Plan and self assurance process through the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) and the Grampians Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMP).
- ▶ Finalised grants and acquittals for June 2021 storm volunteer clean-up program using Disaster Relief Australia.
- ▶ Participated in various community and emergency services expos throughout the year.
- ▶ Responded to the February 2024 storm event.
- ▶ Assisted neighbouring Councils with relief and recovery for the Bayindeen-Rocky Road Fire in February 2024.



- ▶ Across the directorate resourcing has been a challenge in particular, access to appropriate candidates and retention of staff.
- ▶ Increased construction costs have proven to be the biggest challenge.
- ▶ For Waste Management there have been significant increases in customer requests associated with:
 - removing charges for bins
 - collection day changes
 - illegal dumping
- ▶ For Emergency Management significant challenges were:
 - Funding and resourcing for fire management planning on roadsides and fire access tracks
 - Managing the recovery for five major events in the past three years
 - Continuous staff changeover and loss of experienced staff

Challenges

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING

Highlights

Community Connections and Wellbeing

Early Years and Youth Development

- ▶ Constructed and activated West Maddingley Early Years and Community Hub.
- ▶ Inaugural Young Leaders Forum (32 Grade 6 leaders, 6 primary schools).
- ▶ Western Bulldogs Community Foundation Youth Leadership Project returns to Moorabool (16 young people).
- ▶ Studio 22 (15 young people each week at our youth drop-in).
- ▶ More than 30 free guitar lessons at Ballan and Darley.
- ▶ Youth Engagement Support program (36 referred for case management who are disengaged or at risk of disengaging from education and employment).
- ▶ Resume writing and applying for work (20 young people attended workshops).
- ▶ Setting goals and positive habits (30 young people attended workshops).
- ▶ Self-defence classes (14 young people attending weekly during term).
- ▶ Youth Holiday Programs (585 young people in attendance across the year's programs).
- ▶ In 2023 we received and processed 655 kindergarten registrations for 2024, compared to 635 in 2022 for the 2023 year.

Maternal and Child Health

- ▶ Received 471 birth notifications.
- ▶ Saw 196 first time mothers.
- ▶ Processed 475 new enrolments.
- ▶ Undertook 4330 MCH service appointments.

Health Promotion and Gender Equality

- ▶ Health and Wellbeing Plan Year 2 successfully completed.
- ▶ Gender Impact Assessment report submitted.
- ▶ Gender Equity ELMO module developed.
- ▶ Alcohol Harm Prevention funded project completed.





Community Development and Activation

Sport and Active Recreation

- ▶ Practical completion of community infrastructure projects including Darley Park Pavilion, Ballan Recreation Reserve Pavilion, Bacchus Marsh Racecourse Recreation Reserve, Moorabool Aquatic and Recreation Centre (MARC).
- ▶ Awarded MARC operations contract.
- ▶ Record high visitation to our outdoor pools during pool season.
- ▶ Pool Temperature Policy was adopted, changing the way we manage our pools.
- ▶ Fair Access Policy adopted.

Community Development and Participation

- ▶ Delivery of many events including Victoria Seniors Festival, International Day of People with Disability and our first Volunteer Week event.
- ▶ Successful running of our grants program – the March 2024 round saw the highest number of applicants since pre-COVID lockdowns.
- ▶ Navigators Community Centre upgraded.
- ▶ Secured the services of an online booking service to assist in managing our facilities and to create greater activation opportunities.



Community Place and Prosperity

Arts and Economic Development

- ▶ Adopted the Economic Development and Visitor Economy Strategies.
- ▶ Supported the Tourism Mid West Victoria Sustainable Destination Management Plan and Local Area Action Plans.
- ▶ Supported and resourced the Hide and Seek Festival to become a biennial event.
- ▶ Hosted the Women in Business Networking Event.
- ▶ Launched and continued ongoing 'Coffee catch up' sessions for local business and creatives.
- ▶ Developed and tested a new online events permit portal.

Libraries

- ▶ Increased attendance at library programs: 8,124 attendees at 236 pre-school activity sessions; 5,782 attendees at 293 after-school activity sessions; 2,819 attendees at 287 adult programs.
- ▶ Established new regular tween programs.
- ▶ Introduced new adult programming such as BMAC Gallery Artists Group monthly catchup and Philosophy in the Library.
- ▶ Tech Help program - 400 attendees in the past year, plus the addition of technology one-on-one sessions.
- ▶ Held a 2024 Library Lovers' Day Bookmark competition.
- ▶ Increased activities and participation in school holiday programs.
- ▶ Held the Peter Carey Short Story and Moorabool Young Writers awards.
- ▶ Participated in the Ballan Autumn Festival.



- ▶ Youth funding has decreased but demand on program delivery has increased.
- ▶ Staffing pressures impact capacity for additional parent support programs.
- ▶ Workforce shortages impacting on ability to meet service demands.
- ▶ Difficulty in implementing masterplans to achieve desired outcomes.
- ▶ Staffing and budget constraints made the implementation of the actions from the Economic Development Strategy and the Visitor Economy Strategy challenging.
- ▶ Unsuccessful external grant applications to support and develop the Hide and Seek Festival.

Challenges





CUSTOMER AND CORPORATE SERVICES

Highlights

Brand and Advocacy

- ▶ Delivered on our advocacy plan and action plan to attract funding and support for Council's priority projects, including the staging of funding announcements and community celebrations, including MARC Stadium community open day, Ballan Library and Community Hub project start community celebration day.
- ▶ Continued implementation of the Brand Strategy 2022-2025 including designing and installing signage at newly-opened buildings such as the West Maddingley Early Years and Community Hub, Darley Sports and Community Hub and Ballan Recreation Reserve Pavilion.
- ▶ Commenced a brand awareness campaign, #TheMoorYouKnow #MooraFacts, which uses statistics from the annual report to provide facts and information about Council's many services.
- ▶ Increased engagement and following across all corporate social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn).
- ▶ Supported our community with informed and timely communications, particularly on the delivery of major infrastructure projects, major service changes such as the implementation of a new waste contractor, and our advocacy agenda.



Finance

- ▶ Implemented Accounts Payable automation via Rapid AP.
- ▶ Significant efforts and advancements in the implementation of the new Property & Rating system (Datascap).
- ▶ Implemented capital works reporting in Calumo reporting system.
- ▶ Successful onboarding of several new staff in support of project implementation and to support business as usual activities and opportunities for finance staff to act in new or different roles and gain valuable experience.
- ▶ Commenced the implementation of fleet review recommendations.
- ▶ Met all statutory financial and reporting obligations.



Customer Experience and Innovation

- ▶ Implemented more online self-service options to enable customers to make a payment, report an issue, and submit an application via Council's website.
- ▶ Improved internal operational efficiency via continued integration of CRM.
- ▶ Developed a quality assurance framework for frontline to support for customer service officer development and a consistent customer experience.
- ▶ Internal knowledgebase for customer service officer reference lead to increase of first point of contact resolution to customer enquiries.
- ▶ New waste contractor process and systems integration to CRM.

ICT

- ▶ Our security posture has been strengthened with the introduction of our SIEM/SOC.
- ▶ Training has increased to include all M365 Apps to leverage the investment we make in Microsoft licensing.
- ▶ Information management has implemented new policies, procedures and corporate training.
- ▶ Progressed the installation of IoT gateways to be able to capture usage data of infrastructure across the shire.
- ▶ Delivered the Datascap ERP project.

- ▶ Manage growing workload to meet community demand for information with finite resources.
- ▶ Ensuring detailed communications plans are developed for all major projects and initiatives, to ensure optimum results.
- ▶ Managing and adapting to the quickly changing media landscape including shifting social and traditional media platforms and AI.
- ▶ Loss of staff and onboarding and training several new staff within the finance/procurement team.
- ▶ Navigating uncertainty and rapid technological changes
- ▶ Project fatigue/change management fatigue.
- ▶ Undertaking measures to reduce and minimise single source dependency with the finance team through multi skilling and resource allocation.
- ▶ Security threats evolve daily and staying ahead of these has to remain our highest priority.
- ▶ Shadow IT, where we have the unauthorised use of IT software in the organisation introduced risk and complexity that makes it difficult to manage.

Challenges





COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Highlights

Growth and Development

- ▶ Parking Strategy and Policy adopted.
- ▶ Undertook community consultation on the Draft Heritage Strategy 2024-2028.
- ▶ Undertook community consultation on the Draft Retail Strategy.
- ▶ Department of Transport and Planning approval of Planning Scheme Amendment C104 Anomalies and Minor Rezoning (minor corrections and updates to the Planning Scheme).
- ▶ Conditional authorisation from the Department of Transport and Planning for Amendment C85 West Moorabool Heritage Study to undertake community consultation.
- ▶ Obtained Council support to seek authorisation from the Department of Transport and Planning to progress Planning Scheme Amendments C108 Ballan Precinct 5 (residential growth precinct), Amendment C99 Halletts Way (mixed use precinct), and Amendment C103 Hopetoun Park North (residential growth precinct).

Statutory Planning and Regulatory Services

Statutory Planning

- ▶ 226 planning applications determined.
- ▶ 84.16% of planning applications determined within 60 statutory days.
- ▶ 62% of VCAT cases (affirmed Council decision in 5 out of 8 appeals).
- ▶ 92.86% of VicSmart (fast track process) planning applications determined within 10 statutory days.
- ▶ 397 new lots created.
- ▶ 32 Section 173 Agreements registered.
- ▶ 63 planning enforcement files investigated.





Building Services

- ▶ 60 Building Notices and Orders issued.
- ▶ 121 Report and Consents issued.
- ▶ 6 Place of Public Entertainment (POPE) certificates issued.
- ▶ 124 pools and spas registered.
- ▶ 662 building permits lodged with Council.
- ▶ Cost of building works \$166,343,308 (as shown on building permits).

Public Health (formerly Environmental Health)

- ▶ 279 food safety inspections.
- ▶ 247 food businesses registered.
- ▶ 100 public health and wellbeing businesses registered (hair, beauty, accommodation etc).
- ▶ 65 septic approvals issued with 105 inspections conducted.
- ▶ 1,391 vaccinations administered.
- ▶ Completion of the Wastewater Sampling Project (Domestic Wastewater Management Plan Action) - 213 initial samples and 74 follow up samples of onsite wastewater management systems around the shire.

Community Safety

- ▶ 16 school crossing sites safely supervised throughout the shire annually.
- ▶ 7,104 animals registered.
- ▶ 80 animals rehomed.
- ▶ 87 animals sent to rescue.
- ▶ 152 animals returned home.
- ▶ 151 euthanised (dogs and cats – mostly feral cats).
- ▶ 1 domestic animal business registered for domestic animal breeding purposes.
- ▶ 300+ building sites managed for compliance with General Local Law.
- ▶ Implemented door knocking program to increase compliance with registered pet owners.
- ▶ 289 litter investigations conducted.
- ▶ Developed an infringement review policy and procedure for infringement objections.

System Improvements

Proactive approach to the introduction of additional planning and building and enforcement modules (Greenlight portal/system) and Council website upgrades to ensure greater online efficiencies for Council and more importantly an improved online experience for the customer.

Special Projects

- ▶ Facilitation of five telecommunications upgrades at Darley, Maddingley and Mount Egerton.
- ▶ Advocacy for improved community benefit sharing outcomes for renewable energy infrastructure proposals.
- ▶ Submissions to Victorian Government engagement processes highlighting the burden of renewable energy infrastructure on host communities, the environment and impacted land uses.
- ▶ Ongoing preparations for the upcoming Environment Effects Statement (EES) submission for Western Renewables Link (WRL), the main approvals process for the project.
- ▶ Provide comments on technical reports reviewed as part of Council's role on the WRL Technical Reference Group, advocating for the best possible outcomes for our community and environment.



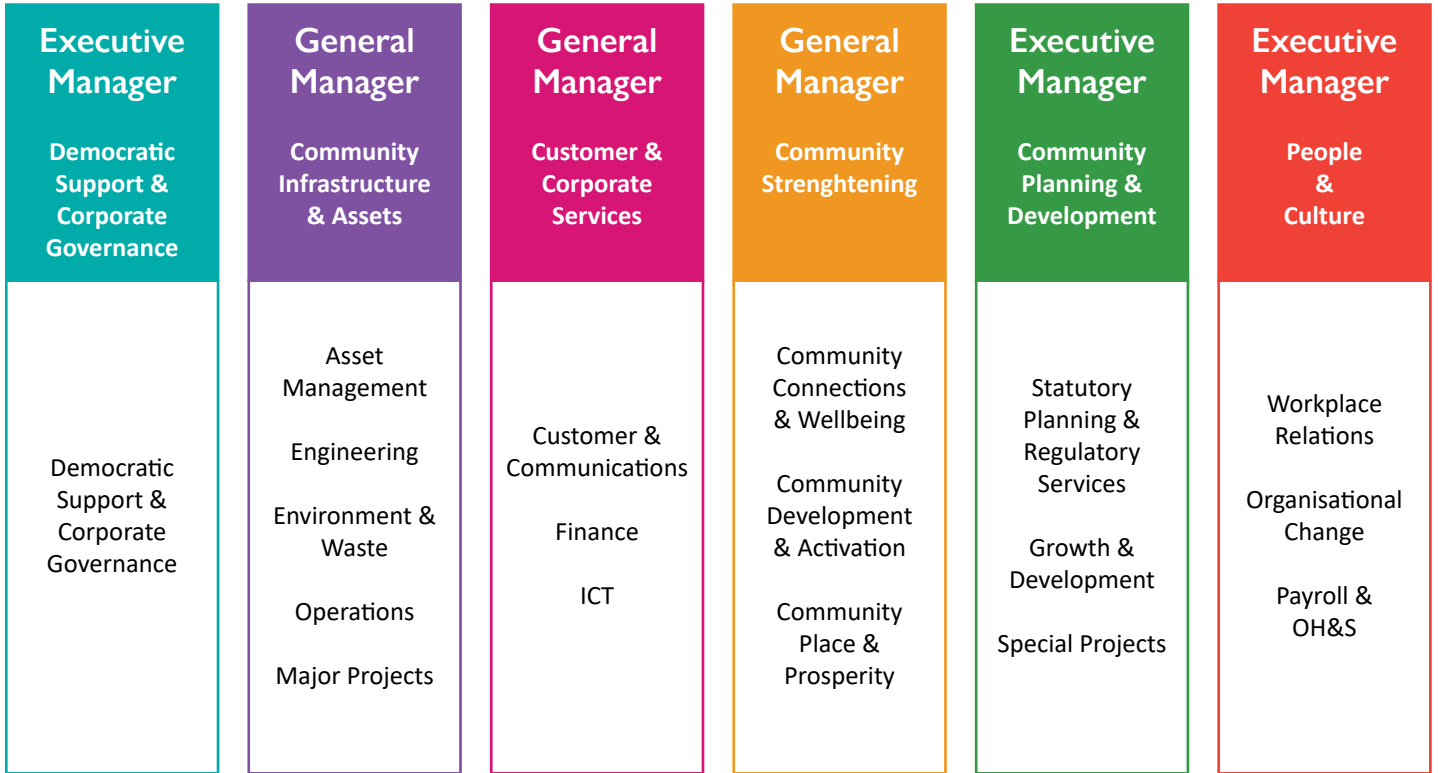
- ▶ Worked with government and industry stakeholders to address the shortage of development-ready industrial land within Moorabool Shire.
- ▶ Reviewed and updated Council's High Voltage Transmission Line Setback Policy to reflect the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner's latest recommendations.
- ▶ Assisted the Strategic Planning team in progressing the Draft Heritage Strategy 2024-2028.
- ▶ Chaired coordination meetings with key agencies, such as Regional Development Victoria (RDV), Invest Victoria, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) and other agencies in relation to matters of strategic importance.

- ▶ Changing policy direction from the Victorian Government (proposed new direction via Plan for Victoria and draft Housing Targets).
- ▶ Delays to timeframes for Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) led residential growth precincts and the Parwan Employment Precinct in Bacchus Marsh.
- ▶ Reduction in planning applications being lodged with the shire (indicative of an industry wide challenge).
- ▶ Increase in unowned and semi-owned animals resulting in an increase in animals in the pound.
- ▶ Targeted approach to proactive enforcement to ensure safety and compliance in high-risk areas such as building sites and parking (especially around schools) and illegal dumping of building materials and general waste.
- ▶ Pause in Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs) and the impacts for growth area planning.
- ▶ Victorian Government restructuring.
- ▶ Increasing pressure from renewable energy development proposals.
- ▶ Input into planning permit processes where Council is not the decision maker.

Challenges



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE





ACCESS AND INCLUSION

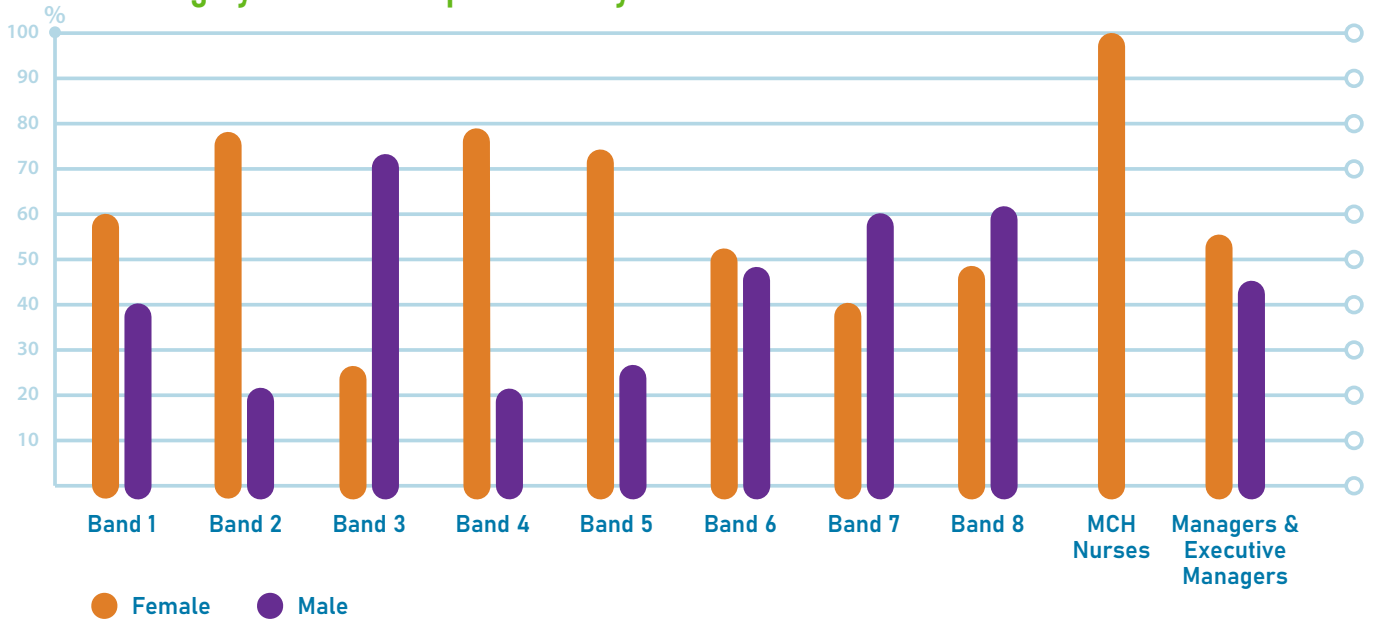
Council respects the rights of equal access for everyone and values the diverse communities who live, visit and work in the shire. Our municipality plays host to people young and old, those living with a disability, people with diverse gender identities, LGBTQIA+ communities, people with

diverse political perspectives and those who have experienced advantage or disadvantage. It is this diversity that strengthens our community and shapes the services, facilities and public spaces we provide every day.



EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

Banding by Gender Comparison July 2023



Staff by Gender

Council’s workforce maintains the gender balance of the previous year, comprising 55% female and 45% male employees.

Gender representation at executive level remains unchanged from the previous year; with 43% female and 57% male representation.

Maternal Child Health continues to remain an all-female workforce, highlighting an opportunity for greater gender representation in this area.

Band 7 and Band 8 are typically coordinators. Band 8 has an equal balance this year, with a notable shift in female representation rising significantly from last year, from 37% to 49%, with male representation dropping from to 63% to 51%.

Band 7 has a slighter higher male representation this year, with 60% males compared to 40% female.

Band 6 employees are more technically specialised with diploma level and above, with a relatively equal balance of 51% female and 49% male.

Band 5 employees are mostly technically specialised with some form of tertiary studies and team leaders, with a 3% increase in female representation in comparison to last year, seeing the balance at 74% female and 26% male.

Band 4 predominantly consists of administrative officers and a small number of outdoor workers. This section hosts a workforce of 79% female and 21% male.

Band 3 has a ratio of 73% male and 27% female, seeing a 5% increase in males from this time last year. The male workforce predominantly consists of permanent outdoor workers, with a small ratio of mixed genders across other roles such as library and leisure centre staff (including seasonal pool staff).

Band 2 employees are pound keepers, 79% female and 21% male - a 3% increase in females this year.

Band 1 employees are school crossing supervisors, retaining the same gender balance as the previous two years, 60% female and 40% male.



TRAINING 2023/24: OUR INVESTMENT IN LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

In the 2023/24 financial year, Council remained dedicated to enhancing our learning and development programs. Our commitment to continuous improvement is reflected in our comprehensive training and staff performance programs and procedures.

Aligned with Council's Capability Framework, we continue to offer a diverse range of initiatives across our learning and development platform. These opportunities are available through virtual, e-learning, and face-to-face training sessions, both in-house and offsite via our external partnerships. These initiatives are part of Council's Develop @ Moorabool program, designed to help staff broaden their skills and strengthen their knowledge and expertise.

Our Learning Management System, ELMO, remains a pivotal tool for staff, offering an interactive learning platform that supports a just-in-time approach to skill advancement and personal knowledge development. With more than 99 learning modules, ELMO complements the face-to-face and virtual training sessions and underpins the Develop @ Moorabool training program.

Staff are encouraged and supported to look at undertaking role-specific and industry-specific training through Council's department-specific training framework and Study Assistance Policy. Compliance training remains a top priority, ensuring

that staff maintain essential knowledge throughout their employment. Every year, mandatory compliance training continues to ensure staff are up to date in crucial areas such as workplace behaviour, discrimination awareness and child safety.

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) training is a key element of our Learning and Development Program and is monitored by our OHS Team who are strongly committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our staff and the community.

This year we are excited to launch Year 2 of our leadership program aimed at enhancing the skills, knowledge, and leadership capabilities of our leaders and emerging leaders. The program emphasises practical application of core leadership skills from perspectives including self-leadership, people leadership, excellence in leadership, and leading change. We will continue to deliver Years 3 and 4 in the coming years.

As we move into the 2024/25 financial year, we will further expand our focus on learning and development, leadership development and emerging leader initiatives. These efforts are aligned with Council priorities and capabilities to ensure our staff are well-equipped to meet the needs of our community. Additionally, our managers will continue to be part of their staff's growth by mentoring and nurturing staff through their learning whilst developing and supporting our values and culture.





OUR PERFORMANCE



PERFORMANCE

Council's performance for the 2023-24 year has been reported against strategic objectives to demonstrate how Council is performing in achieving the 2021- 2025 Council Plan.

Performance has been measured as follows:

- ▶ Results achieved in relation to the strategic objectives 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.



Summary of Outcomes of 2021-2025 Council Plan (Year 3)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND CONNECTED NEIGHBOURHOODS

Strategic Context	Strategic Action	Outcome
1.1 Improve the health and wellbeing of our community	Review the Recreation and Leisure Strategy	In Progress (75%) The Recreation and Leisure Strategy and the Hike and Bike Strategy have been reviewed. Anticipating adoption in 2025.
	Implement the annual actions of the Health and Wellbeing Plan	Completed
	Implement the annual actions of the Age Well Live Well Strategy	Completed
	Develop a New Young Communities Strategy (which combines the Municipal Early Years Plan and the Youth Strategy)	Completed
	Implement the annual actions of the Disability, Accessibility and Inclusion Plan	Completed
1.2 Improve access and opportunities for integrated transport	Complete stage 1 construction of the Aqualink Cycle Corridor Project in Bacchus Marsh	Completed
	Develop a set of guiding principles to facilitate placemaking	In Progress (15%) Initial scoping of the project has commenced but is currently on hold. Has been identified as a medium priority to be developed in the next 1-3 years subject to funding and available budget.



Strategic Context	Strategic Action	Outcome
1.2 Improve access and opportunities for integrated transport	Construct Stage 2 of the Aqualink Cycle Corridor Project in Bacchus Marsh	Completed
	Develop an Integrated Transport Plan for Growth Areas	Completed
	Implement the annual actions from the Road Safety Strategy	Completed
1.3 Facilitate opportunities for the community to gather and celebrate	Investigate opportunities to support volunteerism in the shire	Completed
	Implement the annual actions of the Arts and Culture Strategy	Completed
1.4 Develop a vision and provide opportunities for rural communities	Develop a Township Improvement Plan for one small town annually	In Progress (90%) A draft plan for Lal Lal township has been developed and a project has been included in the 2024/25 Budget for implementation.
	Implement Township Improvement plans in accordance with the annual budget	Completed
	Complete design and commence construction of Ballan Library and Community Hub	Completed
	Complete construction of Ballan Library and Community Hub	In Progress (10%) Action is on track. The construction of the new Ballan Library and Community Hub was awarded to AW Nicholson at the April 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council. Demolition of the existing bank building was completed in June 2024. Site works for the new building have commenced and the project is scheduled for completion in October 2025.

Strategic Context	Strategic Action	Outcome
1.5 Provide access to services to improve community connection in the shire	Construct Moorabool Aquatic and Recreation Centre (MARC) Stage 1 - Bacchus Marsh Indoor Sports Stadium	Completed
	Implement the annual actions of the Female Friendly Sport and Recreation Participation and Facilities Strategy	Completed
	Complete construction of the West Maddingley Early Years and Community Hub	Completed
	Complete construction of the Regional Bowls Facility (external funding dependent)	In Progress (5%) A construction tender for the new Bacchus Marsh Bowls facility was issued in April and closed in May 2024. Tender submissions are currently being evaluated.
	Construct Stage 2 of the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse Recreation Reserve (BMRRR)	Completed
	Seek Funding for Stage 3 BMRRR (Annually until successful)	Completed





STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: LIVEABLE AND THRIVING ENVIRONMENTS

Strategic Context	Strategic Action	Outcome
2.1 Develop planning mechanisms to enhance livability in the shire	Review and update the Draft Urban Design Guidelines for new development including sustainable subdivision principles	<p>In Progress (25%) A review of the Urban Design Guidelines has commenced. A draft manual has been completed and an internal working group has been set up to work through the elements and the website. Due to vacancy, the progress of this project has been delayed. A Coordinator of Urban Landscape design was appointed late in Year 3 and an initial review has been undertaken. Required to be carried forward – anticipating that the Strategy will be presented in March 2025 for adoption.</p>
	Consult and complete Bungaree and Wallace Structure Plan	<p>In Progress (55%) The consultation paper was uploaded to Council’s Have Your Say page in February 2024 and letters were sent to landowners, agencies and submitters. Officers evaluated submissions, revisited the investigation areas and met with Central Highlands Water to discuss sewer options in May 2024. Currently, Officers continue to refine the options in the 2024/25 financial year.</p>
	Consult and complete Rural Land Use Strategy	Completed
	Consult and complete Bacchus Marsh Town Centre Structure Plan	<p>In Progress (85%) In January, a draft Structure Plan was reviewed and feedback was provided to the consultant in the following month. Consultant updated draft plan in line with feedback from Council officers and was finalised in April 2024. A draft plan was presented to Councillors in June and presented at the Ordinary Meeting of Council in July 2024. The project will resume in the 2024/25 financial year.</p>

Strategic Context	Strategic Action	Outcome
2.2 Beautify our shire including our parks, gardens, streetscapes, public and open spaces	Implement the planting program as per the Street Tree Strategy	Completed
	Develop the Gateway Strategy	Completed
	Implement the Gateway Strategy	Not Started
	Develop the Open Space Strategy	In Progress (80%) The Open Space Strategy is currently under development. Upon review, there are a number of changes that are required to the draft prior to consultation and Council staff are currently working through these. Following the changes being made, a Councillor briefing will be scheduled for the purpose of gaining approval for public exhibition at the next available Council meeting post Caretaker period. Further refinement of the strategy will continue into the 2024/25 financial year.
	Implement the Open Space Strategy	Not Started
	Develop the Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour Management Plan	Completed
	Implement the annual actions of the Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour Management Plan	Completed
	2.3 Enhance our natural environments	Consult and finalise the Sustainable Environment Strategy



Strategic Context	Strategic Action	Outcome
2.3 Enhance our natural environments	Develop a sustainable materials policy for infrastructure work	In Progress (50%) This project will result in a sustainable materials policy being created for both Council projects and gifted assets. An initial review has found that Council already does a lot of this through its capital works and maintenance programs and this project will guide future works in this space. The project will continue into 2024/25 for finalisation.
	Implement the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy	Completed
2.4 Grow local employment and business investment	Develop an Economic Development Strategy and develop an action plan	Completed
	Implement the annual actions of the Economic Development Strategy	Completed
	Develop an Investment Attraction Strategy	In Progress (55%) A project brief and scope were developed and were on hold until the completion of the Economic Development Strategy in October 2023. The project brief went to tender in May 2024 and internal assessments to appoint a consultant were undertaken. Assessments were completed in June 2024 and negotiations with the preferred consultant are underway. This project will resume in the 2024/25 financial year.
2.5 Create a viable offering to attract visitors, tourists and investment	Develop a Visitor Strategy and Action Plan	Completed
	Implement the Visitor Economy Action Plan	Completed

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: A COUNCIL THAT LISTENS AND ADAPTS TO THE NEEDS OF OUR EVOLVING COMMUNITIES

Strategic Context	Strategic Action	Outcome
3.1 Listen, analyse and understand community needs	Review the Customer Experience Strategy	In Progress (60%) The CX strategy went on a “Have your say” route to ensure we captured as many residents’ inputs as possible. Workshops were held in December 2023-February 2024 with each directorate. Internal workshops were completed and analysed - a review of the data will help gain valuable insights. A report will be prepared for Executive and Councillors.
3.2 Align services to meet the needs of the community	Implement the Service Planning Framework as per the adopted services	In Progress (90%) The kindergarten enrolment service planning exercise was completed. Fleet management exercise was completed. The P&C team continue to investigate the development of a hybrid model to provide opportunities to undertake continuous improvement activities in lieu of service planning in defined circumstances – as a result, a continuous improvement framework to support this action has been created.
	Develop Recreation Reserves Master Plan	Completed
	Implement the actions of the Brand Strategy	Completed
	Design and implement a planned annual advocacy approach that attracts funding and support for Council’s priority projects	Completed



Summary of Carried Forward Outcomes of 2017-2021 Council Plan (2020 - 2021 Review)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: PROVIDING GOOD GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

Strategic Context	Strategic Action	Outcome
1B Our People	Revise the Community Engagement Policy and Framework	Completed
1C Our Business and Systems	Develop an Enforcement Policy	Completed

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: MINIMISING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Strategic Context	Strategic Action	Outcome
2A Built Environment	Incorporate flood mapping into the Planning Scheme (2017-2021) and prepare and exhibit Moorabool Planning Scheme Amendment C91 (2017-2021)	Completed
2B Natural Environment	Develop and implement a policy on allocation, use and trading of water for Council's water assets	In Progress (80%) Due to staffing issues, this will be carried forward to 2023/2024. Following discussions with internal staff, the water trading policy is to be extended to include steps and objectives of what is to occur in drought as well. A kick-off meeting has been completed with relevant staff members and a draft strategy for the internal workshop is expected to be circulated in 2024/25 financial year.

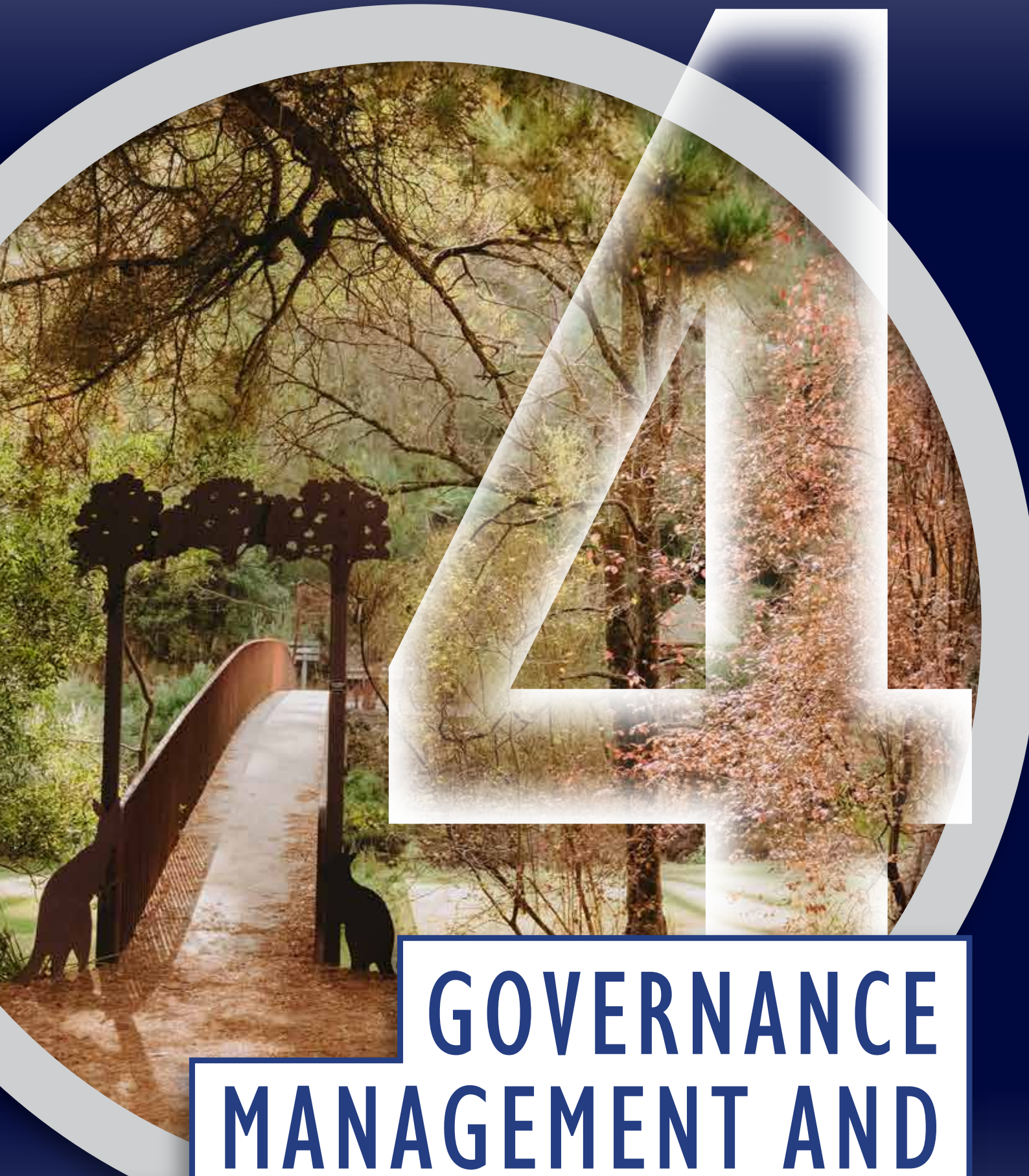
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: STIMULATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strategic Context	Strategic Action	Outcome
3A Land Use Planning	Incorporate Strategic Documents into the Planning Scheme: - West Moorabool Heritage Study	In Progress (70%) The planning scheme amendment documents were completed. The amendment has been submitted to the Department of Transport and Planning for authorisation. Conditional authorisation was received from the Department of Transport and Planning on 28 February and officers are working through the conditions of authorisation. This will continue in the 2024/25 financial year.
	Include the recommendations from the Planning Scheme Review Report into the Planning Scheme	Completed

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: IMPROVING SOCIAL OUTCOME

Strategic Context	Strategic Action	Outcome
4A Health and Wellbeing	Adopt a Revised Municipal Early Years Plan and Youth Strategy	Completed
	Implement the Reserve Management Framework (2017-2021)	Completed
	Facilitate and support existing and emerging arts and cultural development groups and activities across the municipality (2017-2021)	Completed
	Undertake a Master Plan including concept and cost plan for a youth space at Rotary Park, including the Andy Arnold Facility	Completed





**GOVERNANCE
MANAGEMENT AND
OTHER INFORMATION**



GOVERNANCE

Residents and ratepayers elect Councillors to advocate for the community's needs and aspirations. Council's authority is exercised as a whole rather than through individual Councillors.

For the period leading up to the 2024 elections, Moorabool Shire Council consists of seven Councillors who are democratically elected by the constituents of Moorabool Shire in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act).

The role of Council is to provide leadership for the good governance of the Moorabool Shire that includes:

- ▶ Acting as a representative government by taking into account the diverse needs of the local community in decision making;
- ▶ Providing leadership by establishing strategic objectives and monitoring their achievement;
- ▶ Maintaining the viability of Council by ensuring that resources are managed in a responsible and accountable manner;

- ▶ Advocating the interests of the local community to other communities and governments;
- ▶ Acting as a responsible partner in government by taking into account the needs of other communities; and
- ▶ Fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in civic life.

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for:

- ▶ Supporting the Mayor and Councillors;
- ▶ Establishing and maintaining an appropriate organisational structure for Council;
- ▶ Ensuring that the decisions of Council are implemented without undue delay;
- ▶ The day to day management of Council's operations in accordance with the Council Plan; and
- ▶ Providing timely advice to Council.



MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

Council conducts open public meetings on the first Wednesday of every month except January and makes decisions on the items listed in the Council Meeting Agenda. Members of the community are welcome to attend these meetings and observe from the gallery or view the proceedings online via Council's website. Council meetings also provide the opportunity for community members to submit a question to Council, make a submission or speak to an item on the agenda. Where required, Special Meetings of Council may be held to make decisions on important issues in-between times.

For the 2023-2024 year Council held the following meetings:

- ▶ 11 Ordinary Council Meetings
- ▶ 5 Special Council Meetings

The table below depicts each Councillor as present or as an apology for each meeting in the 2023-2024 year.

ORDINARY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE 2023-2024

	Cr David Edwards	Cr Tonia Dudzik	Cr Tom Sullivan	Cr Moira Berry	Cr Paul Tatchell	Cr Rod Ward	Cr Ally Munari
5-July23	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
2-Aug-23	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
6-Sep-23	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
4-Oct-23	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1-Nov-23	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
6-Dec-23	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
7-Feb-24	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
6-Mar-24	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3-Apr-24	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
1-May-24	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
5-Jun-24	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Number of Meetings	10	9	11	11	8	11	11



SPECIAL MEETINGS OF COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE 2023-2024

	Cr David Edwards	Cr Tonia Dudzik	Cr Tom Sullivan	Cr Moira Berry	Cr Paul Tatchell	Cr Rod Ward	Cr Ally Munari
25-Oct-23	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
8-Nov-23	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
20-Dec-23	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
12-Jun-24	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
26-Jun-24	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Number of Meetings	5	5	5	5	4	5	5



DELEGATED COMMITTEES

Pursuant to the provisions of section 63 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council may establish one or more delegated committees consisting of:

- ▶ At least 2 Councillors
- ▶ And may include any other persons

Delegated committees are established to assist Council with executing specific functions or duties.

By instrument of delegation, Council may delegate to the members of a delegated committee such functions, duties or powers of the Council that it deems appropriate, utilising provisions of the Local Government Act 2020.

Council cannot delegate certain powers as specifically indicated in section 11(2) of the Act.

The following Delegated Committees have been established by Council under section 63 of the Local Government Act 2020.

- ▶ Development Assessment Committee
- ▶ Moorabool Growth Management Committee

COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES

Pursuant to the provisions of section 65 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council may establish one or more Community Asset Committees, for the purposes of managing a community asset, and appoint as many members the Council considers necessary.

The CEO may delegate certain powers, duties or functions to members of a Community Asset Committee, which must be exercised subject to specific terms and conditions.

The following Community Asset Committees have been established by Council under section 65 of the Local Government Act 2020.

- ▶ Bacchus Marsh Public Hall
- ▶ Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge
- ▶ Dunnstown Recreation Reserve
- ▶ Elaine Recreation Reserve
- ▶ Gordon Public Hall
- ▶ Greendale Recreation Reserve
- ▶ Lal Lal Soldiers' Memorial Hall
- ▶ Millbrook Community Centre
- ▶ Navigators Community Centre
- ▶ Wallace Public Hall
- ▶ Wallace Recreation Reserve





ADVISORY COMMITTEES

In addition to the Delegated Committees of Council and Community Asset Committees, with delegated authority established under the Local Government Act 2020, Council has the ability to create Advisory Committees by resolution.

The following committees currently have no specific delegated powers to act on behalf of Council or commit Council to any expenditure unless resolved explicitly by Council following recommendation from the Committee. Their function provides substantial expertise to the Council's planning by way of advisory recommendations.

The following Advisory Committees have been established by Council:

- ▶ Audit and Risk Advisory Committee
- ▶ Australia Day Award Selection Panel
- ▶ Bacchus Marsh District Trails Advisory Committee
- ▶ Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee
- ▶ Bacchus Marsh Racecourse & Recreation Reserve Advisory Committee
- ▶ Economic Development Taskforce Advisory Committee
- ▶ Heritage Advisory Committee
- ▶ Lal Lal Falls Reserve Advisory Committee
- ▶ Local Business Advisory Committee
- ▶ Maddingley Park Advisory Committee
- ▶ Moorabool Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee
- ▶ Moorabool Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee
- ▶ Positive Ageing Advisory Committee
- ▶ Public Arts and Collections Advisory Committee

COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Moorabool Shire Councillors are bound by a Councillors Code of Conduct. The Code is designed to assist Councillors in maintaining the highest standards of conduct and behaviour as well as providing a means for dealing with conflicts which may occur. The Code is also intended to assist the Mayor and Councillors to discharge their public office appropriately. The Code covers relationships between Councillors and staff, the use of Council resources and dispute resolution procedures. The Councillor Code of Conduct can be viewed on Council's website.

COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance whilst performing their duty as a Councillor. The Mayor is also entitled to receive a higher allowance.

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

For the period ending 30 June 2024, the Councillor annual allowance for a category two (2) Council (as defined by the Local Government Act 2020) was fixed at \$32,877 per annum and the allowance for the Mayor was \$105,424 per annum, which the Councillor and Mayoral allowance equivalent of the superannuation guarantee contribution (SGC) (currently 10.5%).

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's Governance Rules which were adopted in August 2020, contain a process for 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 conflict of interest. During 2023-24, 5 conflicts of interest were declared.

COUNCILLOR EXPENSES

In accordance with Section 41 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council is required to reimburse a Councillor for expenses incurred whilst performing his or her duties as a Councillor.

Council is also required to adopt and maintain a policy in relation to the reimbursement of expenses for Councillors.

The details of the expenses, including reimbursement of expenses for each Councillor and member of a Council Committee paid by the Council for the 2023-24 year are set out in the following table.

Councillors	Conf \$	CM \$	TR \$	IC \$	MS \$	Trn \$	Total \$
Cr Edwards	-	-	-	448	-	-	448
Cr Sullivan	459	-	-	638	-	-	1,096
Cr Dudzik	-	-	-	638	95	-	733
Cr Tatchell	-	-	-	862	-	-	862
Cr Ward	949	3,237	15	673	125	500	5,499
Cr Berry	3,337	-	3,634	639	95	500	8,205
Cr Munari	1,973	2,690	-	638	-	500	5,801
	6,719	5,927	3,649	4,536	315	1,500	22,645

Legend: Conf Conferences, CM Car Mileage, TR Travel, IC Information and Communication expenses, MS Membership, Trn Training.

NOTE: No expenses were paid by Council including reimbursements to members of Council committees during the year.



RISK MANAGEMENT

Organisational Risk Registers were updated by the respective Service Unit Managers.

Risks are managed across the organisation at three levels: Strategic, Operational and Corporate.

- ▶ Strategic - Risks that can impede the achievement of organisational goals.
- ▶ Operational - Risks that can impede the achievement of the Service Unit goals.
- ▶ Corporate - Risks that are common to more than one Service Unit.

FRAUD POLICY

Council maintains a Fraud Policy which applies to any irregularity or suspected irregularity in relation to dishonest and illegal activities involving employees and/or any other parties with a business relationship with Moorabool Shire Council.



INSURANCE

2023-24 saw an overall increase in the cost of all insurance policies. Council's insurance portfolio is maintained to ensure that corporate risk exposures are minimised.

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

The Audit and Risk Committee's (the Committee) 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 fostering an ethical environment. The Committee consists of 3 independent members, Ms. Linda MacRae (Chair), Mr. Michael Said and Mr Simon Dalli, as well as two Councillors. Any new independent members being appointed due to a vacancy occurring on the committee, will be appointed for a three-year term. Independent members may be appointed for more than one three-year term. The chair is elected from among the independent members.

The committee meets five times a year and is governed by the Audit and Risk Committee Charter, which was adopted by Council in August 2020. The Internal Auditor, Chief Executive Officer, General Managers and the Chief Financial Officer attend the Audit and Risk Committee meetings. Other management representatives attend as required to present reports.

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

INTERNAL AUDIT

Council's internal audit function provides independent and objective assurance that the appropriate processes and controls are in place across Council.

The Internal Auditor attends each Audit and Risk Committee meeting to report on the status of the Internal Audit Plan, to provide an update on the implementation of audit recommendations and to present findings of completed reviews. The responsible general manager and manager for each area reviewed are required to review recommendations for improvement and determine management action plans. All audit issues identified are risk rated.

Recommendations are assigned to the responsible manager and tracked in Council's corporate reporting system. Managers provide quarterly status updates that are reviewed by the Internal Auditor and reported to the Executive Management Group and the Audit and Risk Committee.

EXTERNAL AUDIT

Council is externally audited by the Victorian Auditor-General. For the 2023-24 year the annual external audit of Council's Financial Statements and Performance Statement was conducted by the Victorian Auditor-General's representative.

The external auditors attend in February or May each year to present the audit plan to the Audit and Risk Committee and in September each year to present the independent audit report.

The external audit management letter and responses are also provided to the Audit Committee.



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 their annual report or separately such as on its website, concerning its functions and information available. Council has chosen to publish the statements separately and provides the following summary of the application and operation of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

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

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

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

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

Further information regarding FOI can be found at www.ovic.vic.gov.au and on the Moorabool Shire Council website.

In 2023-2024, Council received 25 Freedom of Information requests with 3 valid requests to be carried over and administered in the next financial year 2024/25. There are a number of requests which were received that have not yet reached validity.

Requests granted in full	4
Requests granted in part, subject to specific exemptions	10
Requests denied in full, subject to specific exemptions.	2
Requests being processed as of June 30, 2024	3
Other: (where requests were withdrawn or no documents found under the FOI Act or documents provided outside of the FOI Act)	6
Total	25

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES

(formerly known as Protected Disclosures or Whistleblowers)

Moorabool Shire Council is a public body subject to the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* (“Act”). The purpose of the Act is to encourage and facilitate the making of disclosures of improper conduct by public officers and public bodies, including Moorabool Shire Council, its staff, employees and Councillors.

Moorabool Shire Council is committed to the aims and objectives of the Act. It recognises the value of transparency and accountability in its administrative and management practices and supports the making of disclosures that reveal improper conduct. It does not tolerate improper conduct by the organisation, its employees, officers, or Councillors, nor the taking of reprisals against those who come forward to disclose such conduct.

As required under the Act, Moorabool Shire Council has established procedures to facilitate and encourage the making of disclosures under the Act and how Council handles any such disclosures received. (“Public Interest Disclosure Procedures”). These procedures are available on Council’s website at www.moorabool.vic.gov.au or by contacting Council’s Public Interest Disclosure Principal Officer.

In accordance with the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*, the following specific reporting requirements have been included in this Annual Report.

Disclosures made to the Council	0
Disclosures referred to Independent Broad-based Anti- corruption Commission (IBAC) for determination as to whether they are public interest disclosures	0
Disclosed matters referred to the Council by IBAC	0
Disclosed matters referred by Council to IBAC or the Ombudsman for investigation	0
Investigations of disclosed matters taken over by IBAC or the Ombudsman from Council	0
Disclosed matters that the Council has declined to investigate	0
Disclosed matters that were substantiated on investigation and the action taken on completion of the investigation	0
Recommendations of IBAC or the Ombudsman under the Act that relate to the Council	0



DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN

Council has an adopted Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2021-2024 and is working through implementing actions of the plan.

ROAD MANAGEMENT ACT MINISTERIAL DIRECTION

In accordance with Section 22 of the Road Management Act 2004, Council can declare that no ministerial directions were received by Council during the reportable financial year.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

In accordance with section 46GM and 46QD of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, a Council that is considered 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.

For the 2023/24 year, Moorabool Shire Council had no infrastructure and development contributions collected under an infrastructure or development contributions plan.

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025 has been adopted. This four-year plan builds on our previously adopted Domestic Animal Management Plan and provides the framework for Council's animal management services and programs.

Council continues to work through the actions contained within the plan.

FOOD ACT MINISTERIAL DIRECTION

In accordance with Section 7E of the Food Act 1984, Council can declare that no ministerial directions were received by Council during the reportable financial year.

MANAGEMENT

Council has implemented a number of statutory and better practice items to strengthen its management framework. Having strong governance and management frameworks leads to better decision making by Council. The Local Government Act 2020 requires Council to undertake an assessment against the prescribed governance and management checklist and include this in its report of operations.

Council's governance and management checklist results are set out in the next section. The following items have been highlighted as important components of the management framework.





2022/2023 GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

Requirement		Assessment	Date implemented/ Effective date
Community Engagement Policy (policy outlining Council’s commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest)	Adopted in accordance with section 55 of the Act	YES	24/02/2021
Community Engagement Guidelines (guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community)	Current guidelines in operation	YES	24/02/2021
Financial Plan (plan under section 91 of the Act outlining the financial and non-financial resources required for at least the next 10 financial years)	Adopted in accordance with section 91 of the Act	YES	19/10/2022
Asset Plan (plan that set out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for at least the next 10 years)	Adopted in accordance with section 92 of the Act	YES	05/05/2021
Revenue and Rating Plan (plan setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges)	Adopted in accordance with section 93 of the Act	YES	07/07/2021
Annual Budget (plan setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken over the next 12 months and the funding and other resources required)	Adopted in accordance with section 94 of the Act	YES	17/05/2023
Risk Policy (policy outlining Council’s commitment and approach to minimising the risks to Council’s operations)	Current policy in operation	YES	03/07/2024

Requirement		Assessment	Date implemented/ Effective date
Fraud Policy (policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risk of fraud)	Current policy in operation	YES	07/06/2023
Municipal Emergency Management Plan (plan under section 20 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 1986</i> for emergency prevention, response and recovery)	Prepared and maintained in accordance with section 20 of the <i>Emergency Management Act 1986</i>	YES	June 2021
Procurement Policy (policy outlining the principles, processes and procedures that will apply to all purchases of goods and services by the Council)	Adopted in accordance with section 108 of the Act	YES	12/10/2021
Business Continuity Plan (plan setting out the actions that will be taken to ensure that key services continue to operate in the event of a disaster)	Current plan in operation	YES	23/04/2024
Disaster Recovery Plan (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to recover and restore business capability in the event of a disaster)	Current plan in operation	YES	11/11/2019
Complaint Policy (Policy under section 107 of the Act outlining Council's commitment and approach to managing complaints.)	Policy developed in accordance with section 107 of the Act.	YES	21/12/2021
Workforce Plan (Plan outlining Council's commitment and approach to planning the current and future workforce requirements of the organization).	Plam developed in accordance with section 46 of the Act	YES	01/12/2023
Payment of rates and charges hardship policy. (Policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to assisting ratepayers experiencing financial hardship or difficulty paying their rates.)	Current policy in operation	YES	06/02/2019



Requirement		Assessment	Date implemented/ Effective date
Risk Management Framework (framework outlining Council's approach to managing risks to the Council's operations)	Current framework in operation	YES	03/07/2024
Audit and Risk Committee (advisory committee of Council under section 53 and 54 of the Act)	Established in accordance with section 53 of the Act	YES	26/08/2020
Internal Audit (independent accounting professionals engaged by the Council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving Council's governance, risk and management controls)	Internal auditor engaged	YES	24/11/2020
Performance Reporting Framework (a set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 131 of the Local Government Act 1989)	Current framework in operation	YES	07/06/2023
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)	Current report	YES	01/05/2024
Quarterly budget reports (quality reports to Council under section 97 of the Act, comparing actual and budgeted results and an explanation of any material variations)	Quarterly reports presented to Council in accordance with section 97(1) of the Act.	YES	1st Quarter 06/12/2023 2nd Quarter 06/03/2024 3rd Quarter 05/06/2024
Risk Reporting (six-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies)	Reports prepared and presented	YES	Strategic Risk Register 21/02/2024 Strategic Risk Register 15/05/2024

Requirement		Assessment	Date implemented/ Effective date
Performance Reporting (six-monthly reports of indicators measuring the results against financial and non-financial performance, including performance indicators referred to in section 131 of the 1989 Act)	Reports prepared and presented	YES	04/10/2023
Annual Report (annual report under sections 131, 132 and 133 of the Local Government Act 1989 to the community containing a report of operations and audited financial performance statements)	Annual report considered at a meeting of Council in accordance with section 134 of the 1989 Act	YES	27/10/2023
Councillor Code of Conduct (Code setting out the standards of conduct to be followed by Councillors and other matters)	Code of conduct reviewed and adopted in accordance with section 139 of the Act	YES	24/02/2021
Delegations (a document setting out the powers, duties and functions of Council and the Chief Executive Officer that have been delegated to members of staff)	Delegations reviewed in accordance with section 11(7) of the Act and a register kept in accordance with sections 11(8) and 47(7) of the Act	YES	25/10/2023
Meeting procedures (Governance Rules governing the conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees)	Governance Rules adopted in accordance with section 60 of the Act	YES	01/11/2023

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



Derek Madden
Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 20 September 2024



Cr Ally Munari
Mayor

Dated: 20 September 2024





**PERFORMANCE
STATEMENT**



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Moorabool Shire Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the accompanying performance statement of Moorabool Shire Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• description of municipality for the year ended 30 June 2024• service performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2024• financial performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2024• sustainable capacity indicators for the year ended 30 June 2024• notes to the accounts• certification of the performance statement.
----------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

In my opinion, the performance statement of Moorabool Shire 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	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the performance statement</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the performance statement in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
--------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Councillors' responsibilities for the performance statement	<p>The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 and for such internal control as the Councillors determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a performance statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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
7 October 2024

Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria



Description of Municipality

Moorabool Shire is a fast growing semi-rural municipality nestled between Melbourne, Geelong and Ballarat. Moorabool's eastern boundary is located just 40km west of Melbourne's CBD and extends westwards to the City of Ballarat municipal boundary. The Shire straddles Victoria's Western Highway and has excellent transport access to Melbourne, Ballarat and Geelong.

Spanning more than 2,111 square kilometres, Moorabool is made up of 64 localities, hamlets and towns. More than 74% of the Shire comprises of water catchments, state forests and national parks.

The estimated resident population of Moorabool Shire in 2023/24 is 39,092 and is forecast to double in the next 20 years.

Service Performance Indicators (year ended 30 June 2024)

Service / Indicator / Measure [Formula]	2021	2022	2023	2024		Comment
	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]	0.18	0.27	0.29	N/A	0.29	
Animal Management						
Health and safety						
<i>Animal management prosecutions</i> [Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100	50%	100%	0%	N/A	0%	
Food Safety						
Health and safety						
<i>Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications</i> [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and	100.00%	83.33%	53.85%	N/A	175.00%	The majority of our major and critical non-compliances in 22-23 occurred in May and June; the follow-up for some of these non-compliances were not due until July 2023, so they've been



Service / Indicator / Measure [Formula]	2021	2022	2023	2024		Comment
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	
major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100						included in the 23-24 reporting period.
Governance						
Consultation and engagement						
Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement	50	46	48	48	47	
[Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement]						
Libraries						
Participation						
Library membership [Number of registered library members / Population] x100	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	N/A	20.82%	
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)						
Participation						
Participation in the MCH service [Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	71.43%	67.18%	50.00%	N/A	65.99%	

Service / Indicator / Measure [Formula]	2021	2022	2023	2024		Comment
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	
Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	63.10%	67.03%	64.71%	N/A	64.71%	
Roads						
Condition						
Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards [Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	95.38%	96.14%	96.89%	97.00%	94.82%	
Statutory Planning						
Service standard						
Planning applications decided within required time frames [(Number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (Number of VicSmart planning application decisions made within 10 days) / Number of planning application decisions made] x100	57.93%	79.74%	73.63%	84.00%	95.58%	Council has received a reduction in total applications in the current financial year which has seen an improvement in processing timeframes.
Waste Management						
Waste diversion						



Service / Indicator / Measure [Formula]	2021	2022	2023	2024		Comment
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	
<i>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</i> [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100	39.88%	41.25%	39.67%	43.00%	39.22%	

Service Performance Indicators - Definitions

"Aboriginal child" means a child who is an Aboriginal person

"Aboriginal person" has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006

"Active library member" means a member of a library who has borrowed a book from the library

"Annual report" means an annual report prepared by a council under sections 131, 132 and 133 of the Act

"Class 1 food premises" means food premises, within the meaning of the Food Act 1984, that have been declared as class 1 food premises under section 19C of that Act "Class 2 food premises" means food premises, within the meaning of the Food Act 1984, that have been declared as class 2 food premises under section 19C of that Act

"Critical non-compliance outcome notification" means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the Food Act 1984 , or advice given to council by an authorised officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health

"Food premises" has the same meaning as in the Food Act 1984

"Local road" means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the Road Management Act 2004

"Major non-compliance outcome notification" means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the Food Act 1984, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken

"MCH" means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age "Population" means the resident population estimated by council

"WorkSafe reportable aquatic facility safety incident" means an incident relating to a council aquatic facility that is required to be notified to the Victorian WorkCover Authority under Part 5 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004.

Financial Performance Indicators (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	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	
Efficiency										
Expenditure level										
Expenses per property assessment [Total expenses / Number of property assessments]	\$3,341.49	\$3,676.84	\$3,436.97	\$3,341.00	\$3,832.37	\$3,539.51	\$3,591.94	\$3,626.53	\$3,615.27	Expenses have increased in 2023/24 mainly due to the write off of some costs included in the balance of Work in Progress from previous years. There was also a significant increase in Depreciation from the previous financial year.
Revenue level										
Average rate per property assessment [Sum of all general rates and municipal charges / Number of property assessments]	\$1,785.26	\$1,822.81	\$1,902.73	N/A	\$1,934.51	\$2,013.53	\$2,063.56	\$2,127.40	\$2,183.26	
Liquidity										

Dimension / Indicator / Measure [Formula]	2021	2022	2023	2024		2025	2026	2027	2028	Material Variations and Comments
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	
Working capital										
Current assets compared to current liabilities	135.84%	126.31%	102.05%	174.00%	74.12%	123.86%	120.41%	122.86%	133.53%	The decrease is due to new borrowings taken up being classified as a current liability (includes borrowings in 2022/23 and 2023/24). The borrowings have been taken up on a temporary basis and will be locked in when interest rates are more competitive. When this is done, the total amount will be split between current and non-current
[Current assets / Current liabilities] x100										
Unrestricted cash										
Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities	13.20%	-100.12%	-35.64%	N/A	-42.90%	59.82%	52.31%	55.35%	67.03%	Unrestricted cash has temporarily decreased in 2023/24. The main
[Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities] x100										



Dimension / Indicator / Measure [Formula]	2021	2022	2023	2024		2025	2026	2027	2028	Material Variations and Comments
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	
										reasons for this are: - a higher level of Receivables at balance date - Council has \$6 million in Term Deposits not included in the total cash figure - Current Liabilities are high due to Council having \$20 million in temporary loan facilities (this will be refinanced once market conditions approve) The 4-year forecast shows significant improvement.
Obligations										
Loans and borrowings										

Dimension / Indicator / Measure [Formula]	2021	2022	2023	2024		2025	2026	2027	2028	Material Variations and Comments
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	
Loans and borrowings compared to rates [Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	44.88%	29.36%	58.72%	N/A	67.29%	64.58%	54.42%	47.09%	39.75%	The increase relates to new borrowings of \$6m being taken up in the 2023/24 financial year. This includes deferred borrowings from previous financial years.
Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates [Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	4.66%	14.19%	2.09%	N/A	3.14%	6.26%	15.29%	6.27%	5.92%	Increased mainly due to finance costs on new borrowings taken up in 2022/23 and 2023/24.
Indebtedness										
Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue [Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100	29.99%	26.26%	22.05%	N/A	19.42%	46.00%	45.39%	39.31%	32.92%	There has been a reduction in non-current liabilities compared to last financial year. Decreases relate



Dimension / Indicator / Measure [Formula]	2021	2022	2023	2024		2025	2026	2027	2028	Material Variations and Comments
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	
Asset renewal and upgrade										
Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation [Asset renewal and asset upgrade expense / Asset depreciation] x100	128.61%	104.31%	156.06%	128.00%	127.03%	154.68%	120.10%	109.84%	96.75%	Depreciation has increased in 2023/24 due to a large amount of capital works, gifted assets, and the full year impact of revaluations in the previous financial year.
Operating position										
Adjusted underlying result										
Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) [Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit)/ Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	-2.84%	-7.04%	6.03%	N/A	-21.88%	-2.83%	-1.86%	-0.85%	1.22%	The decrease is mainly due to Council receiving the 2023/24 Grants Commission allocation in the 2022/23 financial year. Council also wrote

Dimension / Indicator / Measure [Formula]	2021	2022	2023	2024		2025	2026	2027	2028	Material Variations and Comments
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	
										off/expensed some items from the 2023/24 Capital Improvement Program, and the carrying balance of Work in progress. (When adjusting for the impacts of both, the Adjusted Underlying Surplus would be 2.67%).

Stability										
Rates concentration										
Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue [Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	65.49%	64.36%	64.40%	73.00%	77.17%	72.33%	72.53%	72.99%	73.12%	There has been a decrease in adjusted underlying revenue due to Council receiving the 2023/24 Grants



Dimension / Indicator / Measure [Formula]	2021	2022	2023	2024		2025	2026	2027	2028	Material Variations and Comments
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	Forecasts	
										Commission allocation in the 2022/23 financial year.
Rates effort										
Rates compared to property values [Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100	0.40%	0.38%	0.33%	N/A	0.30%	0.32%	0.32%	0.33%	0.34%	

Financial Performance Indicators – Definitions

"Adjusted underlying revenue" means total income other than:

- a. non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and non-monetary asset contributions; and
- b. 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

"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 "Current assets" has the same meaning as in the AAS

"Current liabilities" has the same meaning as in the AAS

"Non-current assets" means all assets other than current assets

"Non-current liabilities" means all liabilities other than current liabilities

- “Non-recurrent grant” means a grant obtained on the condition that it be expended in a specified manner and is not expected to be received again during the period covered by a council's Strategic Resource Plan
- "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 " Recurrent grant " means a grant other than a non-recurrent grant
- "Residential rates" means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges levied on residential properties
- "Restricted cash" means cash and cash equivalents, within the meaning of the AAS, that are 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
- "Unrestricted cash" means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash.

Sustainable Capacity Indicators (year ended 30 June 2024)

Indicator / Measure [Formula]	2021	2022	2023	2024	Comment
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	
Population					
Expenses per head of municipal population [Total expenses / Municipal population]	\$1,680.35	\$1,831.57	\$1,657.76	\$1,840.99	Expenses have increased in 2023/24 mainly due to the write off of some costs included in the balance of Work in Progress from previous years. There was also a significant increase in Depreciation from the previous financial year.
Infrastructure per head of municipal population [Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]	\$15,300.90	\$15,641.58	\$17,738.94	\$19,009.72	
Population density per length of road [Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]	24.84	25.03	25.68	26.74	
Own-source revenue					
Own-source revenue per head of municipal population [Own-source revenue / Municipal population]	\$1,222.14	\$1,285.16	\$1,361.56	\$1,398.37	
Recurrent grants					
Recurrent grants per head of municipal population [Recurrent grants / Municipal population]	\$315.81	\$377.29	\$347.67	\$83.85	The decrease is mainly due to Council receiving the 2023/24 Grants Commission allocation in the 2022/23 financial year. The 2024/25 allocation was not paid forward. Therefore, significantly reducing recurrent grant income in the 2023/24 financial year.
Disadvantage					



<i>Indicator / Measure</i> [Formula]	2021	2022	2023	2024	Comment
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	
<i>Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage</i> [Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by decile]	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	
Workforce turnover					
<i>Percentage of staff turnover</i> [Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x100	15.8%	33.3%	22.2%	13.8%	Moorabool Shire Council has invested significantly in its attraction and retention activities and culture change program. This has resulted in a working environment (and accompanying terms and conditions) that is quickly entering the destination employer category. As such, our people have been more inclined to stay with Council and this has been reflected in our turnover rates.



Other Information - 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 sustainable capacity, service performance and financial performance indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district and an explanation of material variations in the results. 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).

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the results forecast by the council's strategic resource 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.

The forecast figures included in the performance statement are those adopted by Council in its Strategic Resource Plan on 26 June 2024 and which forms part of the Council Plan. The Strategic Resource Plan includes estimates based on key assumptions about the future that were relevant at the time of adoption and aimed at achieving sustainability over the long term. Detailed information on the actual financial results is contained in the General-Purpose Financial Statements. The Strategic Resource Plan can be obtained by contacting Council.

2023-2024 Performance Statement

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.



Steven Ivelja CPA

Principal Accounting Officer

Dated: 7 October 2024

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the Moorabool Shire 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.



Cr Tonia Dudzik

Councillor

Dated: 7 October 2024



Cr. Moira Berry

Councillor

Dated: 7 October 2024



Derek Madden

Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 7 October 2024





**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**



MOORABOOL SHIRE COUNCIL ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Moorabool Shire Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Table of Contents

Financial Report

FINANCIAL REPORT

Certification of the Financial Statements
Victorian Auditor-General's Office Report

Financial Statements

Comprehensive Income Statement
Balance Sheet
Statement of Changes in Equity
Statement of Cash Flows
Statement of Capital Works

Notes to Financial Statements

- Note 1 Overview
- Note 2 Analysis of our results
- 2.1. Performance against budget
 - 2.1.1. Income and expenditure
 - 2.1.2. Capital works
 - 2.2. Analysis of Council results by program
- Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services
- 3.1. Rates and charges
 - 3.2. Statutory fees and fines
 - 3.3. User fees
 - 3.4. Funding from other levels of government
 - 3.5. Contributions
 - 3.6. Net gain/ (loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment
 - 3.7. Other income
- Note 4 The cost of delivering services
- 4.1. Employee costs
 - 4.2. Materials and services
 - 4.3. Depreciation
 - 4.4. Depreciation - right of use assets
 - 4.5. Allowance for impairment losses
 - 4.6. Borrowing costs
 - 4.7. Finance costs - leases
 - 4.8. Other expenses



Moorabool Shire Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Table of Contents

Financial Report

- Note 5 Investing in and financing our operations
 - 5.1. Financial assets
 - 5.2. Non-financial assets
 - 5.3. Payables, trust funds and deposits and contract and other liabilities
 - 5.4. Interest bearing liabilities
 - 5.5. Provisions
 - 5.6. Financing arrangements
 - 5.7. Commitments
- Note 6 Assets we manage
 - 6.1. Property, infrastructure plant and equipment
- Note 7 People and relationships
 - 7.1. Council and key management remuneration
 - 7.2. Related party disclosure
- Note 8 Managing uncertainties
 - 8.1. Contingent assets and liabilities
 - 8.2. Change in accounting standards
 - 8.3. Financial instruments
 - 8.4. Fair value measurement
 - 8.5. Events occurring after balance date
- Note 9 Other matters
 - 9.1. Reserves
 - 9.2. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)
 - 9.3. Superannuation
- Note 10 Change in accounting policy

Certification of the Financial Statements 2023/2024

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



Steven Ivelja CPA
Principal Accounting Officer

Dated: 7 October 2024

Ballan

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

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

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



Moira Berry
Councillor

Dated: 7 October 2024



Tonia Dudzik
Councillor

Dated: 7 October 2024



Derek Madden
Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 7 October 2024



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Moorabool Shire Council

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

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

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

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



Travis Derricott

as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria



Comprehensive Income Statement For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Income / Revenue			
Rates and charges	3.1	45,567	43,052
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	1,606	941
User fees	3.3	2,453	2,659
Grants - operating	3.4(a)	3,103	13,973
Grants - capital	3.4(b)	13,234	18,154
Contributions - monetary	3.5	1,425	8,269
Contributions - non-monetary	3.5	14,995	9,877
Other income	3.7	5,039	4,944
Total income / revenue		87,422	101,870
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	(25,572)	(23,769)
Materials and services	4.2	(24,472)	(23,341)
Depreciation	4.3	(14,588)	(12,900)
Depreciation - right of use assets	4.4	-	(448)
Allowance for impairment losses	4.5	(154)	(171)
Borrowing costs	4.6	(812)	(288)
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.6	(5,698)	(1,219)
Finance costs - leases	4.7	-	(18)
Other expenses	4.8	(672)	(667)
Total expenses		(71,968)	(62,821)
Surplus for the year		15,454	39,048
Other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods			
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	6.1	45,506	52,745
Total other comprehensive result		45,506	52,745
Total comprehensive result		60,960	91,793

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

Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	15,097	26,158
Trade and other receivables	5.1	16,491	10,074
Other financial assets	5.1	6,000	16,000
Inventories	5.2	49	68
Prepayments	5.2	901	736
Other assets	5.2	68	2,039
Total current assets		38,606	55,075
Non-current assets			
Trade and other receivables	5.1(c)	15	102
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.1	857,551	782,674
Total non-current assets		857,566	782,776
Total assets		896,172	837,851
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3(a)	6,393	9,929
Trust funds and deposits	5.3(b)	5,740	3,603
Contract and other liabilities	5.3(c)	14,209	20,724
Provisions	5.5	5,119	5,094
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.4	20,626	14,618
Total current liabilities		52,087	53,968
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	5.5	583	715
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.4	10,035	10,661
Total non-current liabilities		10,618	11,376
Total liabilities		62,705	65,344
Net assets		833,467	772,507
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		274,702	261,569
Reserves	9.1	558,765	510,938
Total Equity		833,467	772,507

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



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

	Note	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Other Reserves \$'000
2024					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		772,507	261,569	499,722	11,214
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		15,454	15,454	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	6.1	45,506	-	45,506	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	-	(4,066)	-	4,066
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	-	1,745	-	(1,745)
Balance at end of the financial year		833,467	274,702	545,228	13,535

	Note	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Other Reserves \$'000
2023					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		680,714	222,870	446,977	10,866
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		39,048	39,048	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	6.1	52,745	-	52,745	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	-	(10,398)	-	10,398
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	-	10,050	-	(10,050)
Balance at end of the financial year		772,507	261,569	499,722	11,214

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

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	Inflows/ (Outflows)	Inflows/ (Outflows)
Note	\$'000	\$'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Rates and charges	43,818	42,189
Statutory fees and fines	1,606	941
User fees	2,453	2,890
Grants - operating	2,190	15,764
Grants - capital	4,349	16,711
Contributions - monetary	1,425	8,269
Interest received	1,677	1,297
Trust funds and deposits taken/ (repaid)	2,137	(602)
Other receipts	3,362	3,647
Net GST refund/(payment)	282	(80)
Employee costs	(25,679)	(24,249)
Materials and services	(27,761)	(22,599)
Other payments	(826)	(667)
Net cash provided by operating activities	9,033	43,511
	9.2	
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(35,136)	(52,174)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	472	416
Proceeds from sale of investments /(payments for investments)	10,000	13,000
Net cash used in investing activities	(24,664)	(38,758)
	6.1	
Cash flows from financing activities		
Finance costs	(812)	(288)
Proceeds from borrowings	6,000	14,000
Repayment of borrowings	(618)	(610)
Interest paid - lease liability	-	(18)
Repayment of lease liabilities	-	(481)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	4,570	12,603
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(11,061)	17,356
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	26,158	8,802
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	15,097	26,158
	5.1	
Financing arrangements	5.6	

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying note



Statement of Capital Works For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Property		
Buildings	8,300	28,263
Building improvements	517	-
Total buildings	8,817	28,263
Total property	8,817	28,263
Plant and equipment		
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,613	796
Computers and telecommunications	1,157	531
Library books	128	103
Total plant and equipment	2,898	1,430
Infrastructure		
Roads	12,206	6,652
Bridges	122	243
Footpaths and cycleways	3,037	2,680
Drainage	1,007	663
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	4,899	10,880
Parks, open space and streetscapes	1,752	1,099
Other infrastructure	398	264
Total infrastructure	23,421	22,481
Total capital works expenditure	35,136	52,174
Represented by:		
New asset expenditure	16,605	32,042
Asset renewal expenditure	17,066	10,856
Asset upgrade expenditure	1,465	9,276
Total capital works expenditure	35,136	52,174

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

Note 1 OVERVIEW

Introduction

Moorabool Shire Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on Friday, 6 May 1994 and is a body corporate. The Council's main office is located at 15 Stead Street, Ballan.

Statement of Compliance

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and Notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with 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, 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.

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

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

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to note 6.1)
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to note 6.1)



Significant accounting policies (cont.)

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

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

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

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

Note 2 Analysis of our results

2.1 Performance against budget

The budget comparison note compares 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 the lower of 10 percent or \$1,000,000 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	45,955	45,567	(388)	(1%)	
Statutory fees and fines	1,368	1,606	238	17%	1
User fees	2,347	2,453	106	5%	
Grants - operating	9,164	3,103	(6,061)	(66%)	2
Grants - capital	28,020	13,234	(14,786)	(53%)	3
Contributions - monetary	6,822	1,425	(5,397)	(79%)	4
Contributions - non monetary	7,500	14,995	7,495	100%	5
Other income	2,474	5,039	2,565	104%	6
Total income / Revenue	103,650	87,422	(16,228)	(16%)	
Expenses					
Employee costs	(25,676)	(25,572)	104	(0%)	
Materials and services	(19,923)	(24,472)	(4,549)	23%	7
Depreciation	(14,060)	(14,588)	(528)	4%	
Depreciation - Right of use assets	(224)	-	224	(100%)	8
Allowance for impairment losses	-	(154)	(154)	0%	
Borrowing costs	(773)	(812)	(39)	5%	
Finance costs - Leases	(6)	-	-	0%	
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equip.	(1,500)	(5,698)	(4,198)	280%	9
Other expenses	(584)	(672)	(88)	15%	
Total expenses	(62,745)	(71,968)	(9,223)	15%	
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	40,906	15,454	(25,452)	(62%)	

(Explanation of material variations on next page)



Note 2 Performance against budget (cont.)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Statutory fees and fines	Actual was greater than budget due to increases in fees and infringements for Parking, Litter Abatement, and Local Laws.
2	Grants - operating	Actual was lower than budget primarily due to Council receiving all of the 2023/24 Grants Commission Allocation in the previous financial year.
3	Grants - capital	Less than budget by \$14,786k due to not recognising grant income for projects expected to be completed in financial year 23/24 but deferred to future years. These include; Ballan Library, Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve Pavilion, and Bacchus Marsh Bowls Club.
4	Contributions - monetary	Council received significantly less in Developer Contributions this financial year due to delays in milestones being met for some developments. This is expected to be received in future years.
5	Contributions - non monetary	Actual gifted and donated assets from developers is more than budget mainly due to delays in the completion of some new subdivisions in prior years. This has meant an increase in donated assets recognised in 2023/24.
6	Other income	Favourable by \$2,565k mainly due to income received relating to Wind Farm Dilapidation Deeds.
7	Materials and Services	Over budget by \$4,549k which primarily relates to the completion of non-capital projects originally budgeted as capital expenditure. This includes; Bungaree Oval Renovation, and certain parts of Telford Park All Accessibility Trail.
8	Depreciation - Right of use assets	Variance is due to change in waste management contractors.
9	Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equip.	This variance is due to the write-off of a number of projects included in the carrying amount of Work in Progress. These projects were deemed not capital in nature and include; Ballan Recreation Reserve Pavilion, and Gordon Public Park Upgrades.

Note 2 Performance against budget (cont.)

2.1.2 Capital Works	Budget 2024 \$'000	Actual 2024 \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %	Ref
Property					
Buildings	19,561	8,300	(11,261)	(58%)	1
Building improvements	1,085	517	(568)	-52%	2
Total property	20,646	8,817	(11,829)	(57%)	
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	2,005	1,613	(392)	(20%)	3
Computers and telecommunications	802	1,157	355	44%	4
Library books	118	128	10	8%	
Total plant and equipment	2,925	2,898	(27)	(1%)	
Infrastructure					
Roads	10,532	12,206	1,674	16%	5
Bridges	168	122	(46)	(27%)	
Footpaths and cycleways	3,385	3,037	(348)	(10%)	
Drainage	821	1,007	186	23%	
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	15,505	4,899	(10,606)	(68%)	6
Parks, open space and streetscapes	1,615	1,752	137	8%	
Other infrastructure	817	398	(419)	(51%)	7
Total infrastructure	32,843	23,421	(9,422)	(29%)	
Total capital works expenditure	56,413	35,136	(21,277)	(38%)	
Represented by:					
New asset expenditure	38,361	16,605	(21,756)	(57%)	
Asset renewal expenditure	15,512	17,066	1,554	10%	
Asset upgrade expenditure	2,540	1,465	(1,075)	(42%)	
Total capital works expenditure	56,413	35,135	(21,278)	(38%)	

(Explanation of material variations on next page)



Note 2 Performance against budget (cont.)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Buildings	Capital expenditure on Buildings was \$11,261k less than budget due to some major projects being incomplete at year end. These will be carried over to the 2024/25 financial year and include; Bacchus Marsh Bowls Club, and Ballan Library.
2	Building improvements	Less than budget due to some projects being incomplete and being carried over to next financial year. These include; Dunnstown Recreation Reserve, and Ballan Senior Citizens Centre
3	Plant, machinery and equipment	There have been some delays in some larger items of plant being delivered. This will be carried over to next financial year.
4	Computers and telecommunications	Actual spend was more than budget due to the completion of purchases carried over from previous financial years.
5	Roads	Over budget due to the completion of projects carried over from previous financial years. These include; Taverner Street, Ingliston Road, and Bungeeltap South Road.
6	Recreational, leisure and community facilities	Actual expenditure was less than budget by \$10,606k as a number of projects have been carried forward to the 2024/25 financial year for completion. These include works at Bacchus Marsh Racecourse Reserve, Bald Hill Stage 3, Federation Park, and Darley Park Playground.
7	Other infrastructure	Actual spend was less than budget due to projects being incomplete and carried over to 2024/25. These include; Masons Lane Dog Park, and Blackwood Township Improvements.

Note 2.2 Analysis of Council results by program

2.2.1 Council delivers its functions and activities through the following programs.

CEO's Office

The CEO's Office is responsible for providing strategic direction to business units and to the Council as a whole. This division includes:

Office of the CEO

Customer & Corporate Services

Customer & Corporate Services is responsible for providing internal operational services to business units and external customer services, performance management, employee relations and HR Compliance. This division includes:

Finance and Procurement

Information and Technology

Brand & Advocacy

Customer Experience and Innovation

Democratic Support & Corporate Governance

Democratic Support & Corporate Governance division is responsible for providing expertise and support in the areas of communications and advocacy to our community and different tiers of government agencies. This division includes:

Democratic Support & Corporate Governance

Community Strengthening

Community Strengthening provides a diverse range of high quality services to meet the needs of growing communities. This division includes:

Community Connections & Wellbeing

Community Place & Prosperity

Community Development & Activation

Community Planning & Development

Community Planning and Development is responsible for planning and delivery of major festivals and events as well as strategic and statutory planning, building services and major development across the municipality. This division includes:

Statutory Planning & Regulatory Services

Special Projects

Strategic Planning and Development

Community Health and Safety

People & Culture

People & Culture division is responsible for providing expertise and support in the areas of employee relations, HR compliance and Payroll. This division includes:

People & Culture



Note 2.2 Analysis of Council results by program (cont.)

Community Assets & Infrastructure

Community Assets & Infrastructure facilitates the provision, management and maintenance of suitable community assets and infrastructure for the delivery of services and fulfil the requirements of the community now and into the future. This division includes:

Asset Management	Capital Works
Operations	Engineering Services
Waste Management	Emergency Management

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

	Income / revenue	Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Grants included in income / revenue	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2024					
CEO's Office	150	1,174	(1,024)	150	14,622
Community Strengthening	1,966	7,708	(5,742)	1,596	95,984
Customer & Corporate Services	40,516	15,459	25,057	420	192,498
Community Assets & Infrastructure	40,970	38,102	2,869	13,963	474,459
Community Planning & Development	3,485	5,927	(2,442)	208	73,801
Democratic Support & Corporate Governance	210	1,446	(1,236)	-	18,006
People & Culture	124	2,152	(2,028)	-	26,802
	87,422	71,968	15,454	16,337	896,172

	Income / revenue	Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Grants included in income / revenue	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2023					
CEO's Office	-	961	(961)	-	12,810
Community Strengthening	1,867	6,861	(4,994)	19,734	91,509
Customer Care & Advocacy	55,730	10,524	45,205	-	140,366
Community Assets & Infrastructure	41,026	37,454	3,573	10,565	499,531
Community Planning & Economic Development	3,034	5,893	(2,859)	398	78,596
Democratic Support & Corporate Governance	212	1,128	(916)	1,430	15,039
	101,869	62,821	39,048	32,127	837,851

*Assets have been attributed to functions/activities based on the control and/or custodianship of specific assets.

2024	2023
\$'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 of a property is the market value of the land and all improvements to that land as assessed by the Valuer General of Victoria.

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2023/2024 was \$15,248 million (2022/2023: \$13,174 million).

General Rates	35,780	34,194
Waste management charge	8,172	7,219
Supplementary rates and rate adjustments	548	641
Revenue in lieu of rates	1,067	999
Total rates and charges	45,567	43,052

The date of the general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 01 January 2023 and the valuation was first applied in the rating year commencing 01 July 2023.

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

3.2 Statutory fees and fines

Infringements and costs	1,032	273
Town planning fees	458	541
Land information certificates	46	42
Permits	67	83
Freedom of Information	3	2
Total statutory fees and fines	1,606	941

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



	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
--	----------------	----------------

Note3 Funding for the delivery of our services (Cont.)

3.3 User fees

Aged and health services	-	1
Leisure centre and recreation	260	315
Child care/children's programs	-	6
Registrations and other permits	834	787
Building services	596	794
Waste management services	524	541
Other fees and charges	239	215
Total user fees	2,453	2,659

User fees by timing of revenue recognition

User fees recognised at a point in time.	2,453	2,659
Total user fees	2,453	2,659

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	1,561	13,362
State funded grants	13,855	18,707
Others	921	58
Total grants received	16,337	32,127

(a) Operating Grants

Recurrent - Commonwealth Government

Financial Assistance Grant	365	10,512
Commonwealth Home Support Program	(86)	1

Recurrent - State Government

Aged care	5	31
School crossing supervisors	111	111
Libraries	292	290
Maternal and child health	916	719
Other	393	229
Total recurrent operating grants	1,996	11,893

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services (Cont.)		
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
Emergency management	608	1,539
Strategic planning and tourism	137	305
Families and youth	231	23
Environment and health	55	63
Community development	76	126
Disability access	-	3
Other	-	21
<i>Total non-recurrent operating grants</i>	1,107	2,080
Total operating grants	3,103	13,973
(b) Capital Grants		
<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Roads to recovery	1,282	1,282
<i>Total recurrent capital grants</i>	1,282	1,282
<i>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Local roads	-	1,567
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
Community and recreational facilities	8,484	14,516
Local roads	2,547	731
<i>Non-recurrent - Other sources</i>		
Sundry capital grants	921	58
<i>Total non-recurrent capital grants</i>	11,952	16,872
Total capital grants	13,234	18,154



2024
\$'000

2023
\$'000

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

(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.

Income recognised under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities

General purpose	3,598	12,657
Specific purpose grants to acquire non-financial assets	10,477	15,738
Other specific purpose grants	1,700	2,651

Revenue recognised under AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers

Specific purpose grants	562	1,081
	<u>16,337</u>	<u>32,127</u>

(d) Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner

Operating

Balance at start of year	1,791	1,275
Received during the financial year and remain unspent at balance	1	1,338
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(212)	(822)
Balance at year end	<u>1,580</u>	<u>1,791</u>

Capital

Balance at start of year	18,933	20,892
Received during the financial year and remain unspent at balance	1,658	18,836
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(7,962)	(20,795)
Balance at year end	<u>12,629</u>	<u>18,933</u>

Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000

Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services (cont.)**3.5 Contributions**

Monetary	1,425	8,269
Non-monetary	14,995	9,877
Total contributions	16,420	18,146

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

Land	3,966	3,233
Buildings	33	24
Infrastructure	10,996	6,620
Total non-monetary contributions	14,995	9,877

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

3.6 Net gain/ (loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

Proceeds of sale	472	416
Written down value of assets disposed	(6,170)	(1,635)
Total net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(5,698)	(1,219)

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

3.7 Other income

Interest	1,677	1,297
Reimbursements, rebates and recoveries	420	478
Other rent	197	183
Royalties	89	88
Insurance claims	-	249
Sales	27	55
Other	2,629	2,594
Total other income	5,039	4,944

Reimbursements, rebates and recoveries

Income is recognised when the Council obtains control of the contribution or the right to receive the contribution, when the performance obligation is met and the amount of the contribution can be measured reliably.



2024
\$'000

2023
\$'000

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

Interest

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

Other Income

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.

Note 4 The cost of delivering services

4.1 (a) Employee costs

Wages and salaries	21,452	20,176
WorkCover	837	624
Casual staff	646	585
Superannuation	2,624	2,373
Fringe benefits tax	13	11
Total employee costs	25,572	23,769

(b) Superannuation

Council made contributions to the following funds:

Defined benefit fund

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	39	42
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----	----

Accumulation funds

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	815	887
Employer contributions to other funds	1,760	1,438
	2,575	2,324

Employer contributions payable at reporting date	52	42
--------------------------------------------------	----	----

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

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Note 4 The cost of delivering services (cont.)		
4.2 Materials and services		
Materials and services	5,061	2,971
Contract payments	11,102	12,315
Building maintenance	687	581
General maintenance	735	688
Utilities	624	605
Office administration	673	510
Information technology	1,772	1,718
Insurance	792	640
Consultants	1,332	1,287
Agency staff	944	694
Community grants and advances	750	1,332
Total materials and services	24,472	23,341
Expenses are recognised as they are incurred and reported in the financial year to which they relate.		
4.3 Depreciation		
Property	2,332	2,041
Plant and equipment	1,462	1,484
Infrastructure	10,794	9,375
Total depreciation and amortisation	14,588	12,900
Refer to Note 5.8 and 6.1 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation charges and accounting policy.		
4.4 Depreciation - Right of use assets		
Property	-	448
Total Depreciation - Right of use assets	-	448
4.5 Allowance for impairment losses		
Parking fine debtors	48	3
Other debtors	106	168
Total Allowance for impairment losses	154	171



2024
\$'000

2023
\$'000

Note 4 The cost of delivering services (cont.)

Movement in allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors

Balance at the beginning of the year	285	154
New allowances recognised during the year	154	171
Amounts already allowed for and written off as uncollectible	(216)	(40)
Balance at end of year	223	285

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

4.6 Borrowing costs

Interest - Borrowings	812	288
Total borrowing costs	812	288

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

4.7 Finance Costs - Leases

Interest - Lease Liabilities	-	18
Total finance costs	-	18

4.8 Other expenses

Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	49	52
Auditors' remuneration - Internal Audit	103	111
Auditors' remuneration - Other	1	3
Councillors' allowances	306	316
Operating lease rentals	49	51
Bank fees	101	51
Other	63	83
Total other expenses	672	667

2024
\$'000

2023
\$'000

Note 5 Investing in and financing our operations

5.1 Financial assets

(a) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash on hand	2	3
Cash at bank	15,095	15,155
Term deposits	-	11,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	15,097	26,158

(b) Other financial assets

Current

Term deposits	6,000	16,000
Total current other financial assets	6,000	16,000
Total cash and cash equivalents and other financial assets	21,097	42,158

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.

(c) Trade and other receivables

Current

Statutory receivables

Rates debtors	8,294	6,467
Special rate assessment	36	26
Infringement debtors	1,313	761
Allowance for expected credit loss - infringements	(139)	(168)
Net GST receivable	621	903

Non-statutory receivables

Other debtors	6,449	2,202
Allowance for expected credit loss - other debtors	(83)	(117)

Total current trade and other receivables **16,491** **10,074**

Non-current

Statutory receivables

Special rate assessment	15	102
-------------------------	----	-----

Total non-current trade and other receivables **15** **102**

Total trade and other receivables **16,506** **10,176**



2024
\$'000

2023
\$'000

Note 5 Our financial position (Cont.)

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:

Current (not yet due)	2,376	1,646
Past due by up to 30 days	1,139	64
Past due between 31 and 180 days	20	99
Past due between 181 and 365 days	16	392
Past due by more than 1 year	2,898	-
Total trade and other receivables	6,449	2,202

(e) Ageing of individually impaired receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$6,449,000 (2023: \$2,202,000) were impaired. The amount of the allowance raised against these debtors was \$83,000 (2023: \$117,000).

Infringement debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$1,313,000 (2023: \$761,000) were impaired. The amount of the allowance raised against these debtors was \$139,000 (2023: \$168,000).

They individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

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

Past due by more than 1 year	223	285
Total trade and other receivables	223	285

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000

Note 5 Our financial position (cont.)**5.2 Non-financial assets****(a) Inventories**

Inventories held for distribution	49	68
Total inventories	49	68

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

(b) Other assets

Accrued income	68	2,039
Total other assets	969	2,775

5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and contract and other liabilities**(a) Trade and other payables****Current**

Non-statutory payables		
Trade payables	2,519	3,028
Accrued expenses	3,874	6,901
Total current trade and other payables	6,393	9,929

(b) Trust funds and deposits**Current**

Refundable building deposits	4,376	2,900
Refundable contract deposits	12	12
Refundable civic facilities deposits	43	62
Retention amounts	1,254	409
Fire services levy	2	65
Other refundable deposits	53	154
Total current trust funds and deposits	5,740	3,603

(c) Contract and other liabilities**Current**

Grants received in advance - operating	1,580	1,791
Grants received in advance - capital	12,629	18,933
Total contract and other liabilities	14,209	20,724



Note 5 Our financial position (cont.)

Contract Liabilities

Contract liabilities reflect consideration received in advance from customers in respect of grants. Contract liabilities are derecognised and recorded as revenue when promised goods and services are transferred to the customer. Refer to Note 3.

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.

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.

5.4 Interest-bearing liabilities

Current

Treasury Corporation of Victoria borrowings - secured	20,626	14,618
Total current interest-bearing liabilities	<u>20,626</u>	<u>14,618</u>

Non-current

Treasury Corporation of Victoria borrowings - secured	5,559	6,185
Other borrowings - secured	4,476	4,476
Total non-current interest-bearing liabilities	<u>10,035</u>	<u>10,661</u>

Total	<u>30,661</u>	<u>25,279</u>
--------------	----------------------	----------------------

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

Not later than one year	20,626	14,618
Later than one year and not later than five years	7,066	7,031
Later than five years	2,969	3,630
	<u>30,661</u>	<u>25,279</u>

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.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000

Note 5 Our financial position (cont.)**5.5 Provisions**

	Quarry restoration	Employee	Total
	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
2024			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	292	5,517	5,809
Additional provisions	11	2,202	2,213
Amounts used	-	(2,320)	(2,320)
Balance at the end of the financial year	303	5,399	5,702
<i>Provisions - current</i>	-	5,119	5,119
<i>Provisions - non-current</i>	303	280	583
2023			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	273	6,015	6,288
Additional provisions	19	1,663	1,682
Amounts used	-	(2,161)	(2,161)
Balance at the end of the financial year	292	5,517	5,809
<i>Provisions - current</i>	-	5,094	5,094
<i>Provisions - non-current</i>	292	423	715

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Employee provisions		
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual leave	1,198	1,206
Long service leave	570	529
Other leave	193	201
Retirement gratuity	5	5
	1,966	1,941



	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Note 5 Our financial position (cont.)		
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual leave	568	568
Long service leave	2,585	2,585
	3,153	3,153
Total current employee provisions	5,119	5,094
Non-current		
Long service leave	280	423
Total non-current employee provisions	280	423
Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:		
Current	5,119	5,094
Non-current	280	423
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:	5,399	5,517

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

Annual leave

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

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

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

Long service leave

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

Key assumptions:

- discount rate	3.79%	4.06%
- inflation rate	4.44%	4.35%

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000

Note 5 Our financial position (cont.)*Retirement Gratuity*

Retirement gratuities were provided to certain employees who were employed by the former Shire of Bacchus Marsh. The liability represents a set proportion of accumulated sick leave that is payable on retirement. At balance date, the liability is measured at the nominal value of 14 March 1996.

(b) Quarry restoration

Non-current	303	292
	303	292

Council is obligated to restore quarry sites to a particular standard. The forecast life of the sites are based on current estimates of remaining capacity and the forecast rate of infill. The provision for quarry restoration has been calculated based on the present value of the expected cost of works to be undertaken. The expected cost of works has been estimated based on current understanding of work required to reinstate the site to a suitable standard. Accordingly, the estimation of the provision required is dependent on the accuracy of the forecast timing of the work, work required and related costs. Council reviews the landfill restoration provision on an annual basis, including the key assumptions listed below.

Key assumptions:

- inflation rate	3.60%	7.00%
- estimated cost to rehabilitate	292	292

5.6 Financing arrangements

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

Bank overdraft	750	750
Credit card facilities	200	200
Total facilities	950	950
Used facilities	43	59
Unused facilities	907	891



Note 5 Our financial position (cont.)

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

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					
Waste collection	6,243	3,362	3,530	3,707	16,842
Septic program	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance services	940	854	522	43	2,359
Financial and organisational services	1,066	895	417	78	2,456
Total	8,249	5,111	4,469	3,828	21,657
Capital					
Building	10,215	-	-	-	10,215
Roads	2,874	-	-	-	2,874
Recreational, leisure and community	5,109	-	-	-	5,109
Plant and Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Bridges	-	-	-	-	-
Total	18,198	-	-	-	18,198
Total	26,447	5,111	4,469	3,828	39,855

5.7 Commitments (Continued)

2023	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					
Waste collection	5,914	4,354	3,339	3,573	17,180
Septic program	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance services	2,979	1,688	1,700	-	6,367
Financial and organisational services	1,752	451	76	77	2,356
Total	10,645	6,493	5,115	3,650	25,903
Capital					
Building	12,597	-	-	-	12,597
Roads	10,372	-	-	-	10,372
Recreational, leisure and community	4,366	-	-	-	4,366
Plant and Equipment	319	-	-	-	319
Bridges	46	-	-	-	46
Total	27,700	-	-	-	27,700
Total	38,345	6,493	5,115	3,650	53,603

(b) Operating lease receivables

The Council has entered into commercial property leases on its various properties. These properties held under operating leases have remaining non-cancellable lease terms of between 1 and 10 years. Most leases include a CPI based revision of the rental charge annually.

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

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Not later than one year	280	303
Later than one year and not later than five years	744	880
Later than five years	626	863
	1,650	2,046

Note 6 Assets we manage

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

	Carrying amount 30 June 2023	Acquisitions	Contributions	Revaluation	Depreciation	Disposal	Transfers	Carrying amount 30 June 2024
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land	110,457	-	3,966	-	-	-	-	114,423
Buildings	50,617	5,218	33	11,948	(2,332)	(1,390)	29,284	93,378
Plant and Equipment	6,287	2,250	-	-	(1,462)	(269)	71	6,877
Infrastructure	553,733	16,601	10,996	33,558	(10,794)	(531)	10,569	614,131
Work in progress	61,580	11,067	-	-	-	(3,980)	(39,923)	28,742
Total	782,674	35,136	14,995	45,506	(14,588)	(6,170)	-	857,551

Summary of Work in Progress

	Opening WIP	Additions	Transfers	Write Offs	Closing WIP
Buildings	33,900	1,491	(29,284)	(3,571)	2,536
Plant and Equipment	2,385	688	(71)	-	3,002
Infrastructure	25,295	8,888	(10,569)	(409)	23,204
Total	61,580	11,067	(39,923)	(3,980)	28,742

Note 6 Assets we manage (cont.)

(a) Property

	Land - specialised \$'000	Land - non specialised \$'000	Total Land specialised \$'000	Buildings - specialised \$'000	Buildings - non specialised \$'000	Total Buildings \$'000	Work In Progress \$'000	Total Property \$'000
At fair value 1 July 2023	7,606	102,852	110,457	64,024	20,174	84,198	33,900	228,555
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	-	-	-	(25,734)	(7,847)	(33,581)	-	(33,581)
	7,606	102,852	110,457	38,289	12,327	50,617	33,900	194,974
Movements in fair value								
Acquisition of assets at fair value	-	-	-	4,145	1,073	5,218	1,491	6,709
Contributed assets	625	3,342	3,966	33	-	33	-	3,999
Revaluation increments/decrements	-	-	-	13,927	2,933	16,860	-	16,860
Fair value of assets disposed	-	-	-	(2,479)	(296)	(2,775)	(3,571)	(6,346)
Transfers	-	-	-	29,284	-	29,284	(29,284)	-
	625	3,342	3,966	44,910	3,710	48,620	(31,364)	21,223
Movements in accumulated depreciation								
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-	-	(1,746)	(587)	(2,332)	-	(2,332)
Revaluation increments/decrements	-	-	-	(4,185)	(726)	(4,911)	-	(4,911)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	-	-	1,253	132	1,385	-	1,385
	-	-	-	(4,678)	(1,181)	(5,859)	-	(5,859)
At fair value 30 June 2024	8,231	106,194	114,423	108,934	23,884	132,818	2,536	249,777
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	-	-	-	(30,412)	(9,028)	(39,440)	-	(39,440)
Carrying amount	8,231	106,194	114,423	78,522	14,856	93,378	2,536	210,337

Note 6 Assets we manage (cont.)

(b) Plant and Equipment

	Plant, machinery and equipment \$'000	Computers and telecomms \$'000	Library books \$'000	Work In Progress \$'000	Total plant and equipment \$'000
At fair value 1 July 2023	11,142	1,205	649	2,385	15,381
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	(5,535)	(985)	(189)	-	(6,710)
	5,606	220	460	2,385	8,671
Movements in fair value					
Acquisition of assets at fair value	1,738	384	128	688	2,938
Contributed assets	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increments/decrements	-	-	-	-	-
Fair value of assets disposed	(718)	-	(146)	-	(863)
Transfers	-	71	-	(71)	-
	1,020	454	(17)	617	2,075
Movements in accumulated depreciation					
Depreciation and amortisation	(1,203)	(195)	(63)	-	(1,462)
Revaluation increments/decrements	-	-	-	-	-
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	464	-	131	-	595
	(740)	(195)	68	-	(867)
At fair value 30 June 2024	12,162	1,660	632	3,002	17,456
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	(6,275)	(1,180)	(121)	-	(7,576)
Carrying amount	5,887	480	511	3,002	9,879

Note 6 Assets we manage (cont.)

(c) Infrastructure

	Roads	Bridges	Footpaths and cycleways	Drainage	Recreational, leisure and Community	Parks open spaces and streetscapes	Other Infrastructure	Work In Progress	Total Infrastructure
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2023	472,049	46,023	29,867	125,756	3,205	21,892	4,586	25,295	728,673
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	(90,177)	(10,051)	(11,740)	(30,312)	(1,699)	(4,563)	(1,103)	-	(149,645)
	381,871	35,972	18,127	95,444	1,506	17,329	3,484	25,295	579,028
Movements in fair value									
Acquisition of assets at fair value	7,312	-	481	3,310	1,188	3,644	666	8,888	25,488
Contributed assets	3,776	943	986	4,975	116	169	31	-	10,996
Revaluation increments/decrements	-	3,597	5,766	36,264	-	-	14	-	45,641
Fair value of assets disposed	(270)	-	(181)	(331)	(104)	(20)	-	(409)	(1,315)
Transfers	5,282	-	4,438	310	-	540	-	(10,569)	-
	16,099	4,540	11,490	44,528	1,200	4,333	710	(2,090)	80,810
Movements in accumulated depreciation									
Depreciation and amortisation	(7,051)	(682)	(688)	(1,306)	(140)	(803)	(123)	-	(10,794)
Revaluation increments/decrements	-	(1,594)	(1,992)	(8,494)	-	-	(4)	-	(12,083)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	98	-	134	76	61	5	-	-	375
	(6,953)	(2,276)	(2,546)	(9,723)	(79)	(797)	(128)	-	(22,502)
At fair value 30 June 2024	488,148	50,563	41,357	170,284	4,405	26,224	5,295	23,204	809,483
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	(97,130)	(12,326)	(14,286)	(40,036)	(1,778)	(5,361)	(1,232)	-	(172,147)
Carrying amount	391,018	38,237	27,072	130,248	2,627	20,863	4,064	23,204	637,336

Note 6 Assets we manage (Cont.)

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.

<i>Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods</i>	Depreciation Period	Threshold Limit \$'000
Property		
Land	-	5
Land improvements	-	5
Buildings		
Buildings	20-100 years	5
Plant and Equipment		
Plant, machinery and equipment	5-10 years	5
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	3-10 years	5
Computers and telecommunications	1-5 years	5
Library books	10 years	n/a
Infrastructure		
Roads		
- Formation and earthworks	-	5
- Pavement and seals	20-80 years	5
- Substructure	15-30 years	5
- Road kerb, channel and minor culverts	40-70 years	5
Footpaths and cycleways	10-50 years	5
Drainage	25-100 years	5
Bridges		
- Bridges deck	25-100 years	5
- Bridges substructure	50-80 years	5
- Major culverts	50-80 years	5
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	15-40 years	5
Parks, open space and streetscapes	20-100 years	5



Note 6 Assets we manage (Cont.)

Land under roads

Council recognises land under roads it controls at fair value. Council does not recognise land under roads that it controlled prior to 1 July 2008 in its financial report.

Depreciation and amortisation

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

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

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

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

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

Repairs and maintenance

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

Valuation of land and buildings

Valuation of land, land under roads and buildings were undertaken by a qualified independent valuer (Preston Rowe Paterson (Warrnambool) Pty. Ltd). The valuation of land, land under roads 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 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 is valued at fair value using site values adjusted for englobo (undeveloped and/or unserved) 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.

Note 6 Assets we manage (Cont.)

The date and type of the current valuation is detailed in the following table. A full revaluation of Buildings was conducted in 2023/24, and a full revaluation of Land is proposed for 2024/25.

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	Valuation Date	Type of Valuation
Land	-	106,194	-	30/06/2022	Full
Specialised land	-	-	8,231	30/06/2022	Full
Buildings	-	14,856	78,522	30/06/2024	Full
Total	-	121,050	86,753		

Valuation of infrastructure

Valuation of infrastructure assets has been determined in accordance with valuations undertaken by Council staff and expert contractors. The valuation is at fair value based on replacement cost less accumulated depreciation as at the date of valuation.

The date and type of the current valuation is detailed in the following table. An index based revaluation was conducted in the current year. A full revaluation is scheduled as per the below table.

The valuation is at fair value based on current replacement cost less accumulated depreciation as at the date of valuation.

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

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Valuation Date	Basis of indexation	Type of Valuation	Planned next full revaluation
Roads	-	-	391,018	30/06/2023	CPI	Indexation	30/06/2025
Bridges	-	-	38,237	30/06/2024	CPI	Comprehensive	30/06/2029
Footpaths and cycleways	-	-	27,072	30/06/2024	CPI	Indexation	30/06/2025
Drainage	-	-	130,248	30/06/2024	CPI	Indexation	Aged based
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	-	-	2,627	30/06/2023	CPI	Indexation	30/06/2026
Parks, open space and streetscapes	-	-	20,863	30/06/2023	CPI	Indexation	30/06/2027
Other infrastructure	-	-	4,064	30/06/2023	CPI	Indexation	Aged based
Total	-	-	614,129				



Note 6 Assets we manage (Cont.)

Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3

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 5% and 95%. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions. Currently land values range between \$1 and \$27 per square metre.

Specialised buildings are valued using a current replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement costs is calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from \$1,500 to \$3,000 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 6 years to 75 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

Infrastructure assets are valued based on the current replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 1 year to 100 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Land under roads	8,231	7,606
Total specialised land	8,231	7,606

Note 7 People and relationships

7.1 Council and Key Management Remuneration	2024 No.	2023 No.
---------------------------------------------	-------------	-------------

(a) Related Parties**Parent Entity**

Moorabool Shire Council is the parent entity.

(b) Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel (KMP) are those people with the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of Moorabool Shire Council. The Councillors, Chief Executive Officer Executive and General Managers are deemed KMP. Details of KMP at any time during the year are:

Councillors Councillor Ally Munari (Mayor)
Councillor David Edwards
Councillor Moira Berry
Councillor Paul Tatchell
Councillor Rodney Ward
Councillor Tom Sullivan
Councillor Tonia Dudzik

Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel

Derek Madden - Chief Executive Officer
Philip Jeffrey - General Manager Community Assets and Infrastructure
Leigh McCallum - General Manager Community Strengthening
David Jackson - General Manager Customer and Corporate Services
Caroline Buisson - General Manager Customer and Corporate Services
Steve Ivelja - Chief Financial Officer
Henry Bezuidenhout - Executive Manager Community Planning and Economic Development
Celeste Gregory - Executive Manager Democratic Support and Corporate Governance
Joshua Warner - Executive Manager People and Culture

Total Number of Councillors	7	7
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	9	8
Total Number of Key Management Personnel	16	15

(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.



Note 7 People and relationships (Cont.)

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

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

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

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

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term employee benefits	1,916	1,801
Other long-term employee benefits	43	46
Post-employment benefits	177	156
Total	2,137	2,002

The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, fall within the following bands:

Income Range:	2024 No.	2023 No.
\$20,000 - \$29,999	-	1
\$30,000 - \$39,999	5	2
\$40,000 - \$49,999	-	2
\$50,000 - \$59,999	1	-
\$60,000 - \$69,999	-	1
\$70,000 - \$79,999	1	1
\$80,000 - \$89,999	1	-
\$160,000 - \$169,999	1	1
\$170,000 - \$179,999	1	-
\$180,000 - \$189,999	-	2
\$190,000 - \$199,999	1	-
\$200,000 - \$209,999	1	1
\$210,000 - \$219,999	-	2
\$220,000 - \$229,999	2	-
\$230,000 - \$239,999	-	1
\$250,000 - \$259,999	1	-
\$290,000 - \$299,999	-	1
\$330,000 - \$339,999	1	-
	16	15

Note 7 People and relationships (Cont.)

(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 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Total remuneration of other senior staff was as follows:		
Short-term employee benefits	778	1,195
Other long-term employee benefits	84	71
Post-employment benefits	86	126
Total	947	1,392

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Income Range:		
\$160,000 - \$169,999	-	5
\$170,000 - \$179,999	1	2
\$180,000 - \$189,999	1	-
\$190,000 - \$199,999	2	-
\$200,000 - \$209,999	1	-
	5	7

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Total Remuneration for the reporting year for Senior Officers included above, amounted to:	947	1,392

7.2 Related party disclosure**(a) Transactions with related parties**

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

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Responsible Person / Related Party		
Helen Tatchell - The Moorabool News (Ballan News Pty Ltd)		
- Payment for Moorabool News subscription and advertising *	-	62

* Moorabool Shire utilises services provided by the Moorabool News Pty Ltd. A public sector tender process was undertaken for the provision of media services and a contract is in place between the two entities. All transactions entered into between the two entities are in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract.



Note 7 People and relationships (Cont.)

(b) Outstanding balances with related parties

There was no outstanding balance with related parties at balance date.

(c) Loans to/from related parties

No loans have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Council to a related party during the reporting year.

(d) Commitments to/from related parties

There were no commitments in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Council to/from a related party.

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 by way of a note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value by way of note and presented inclusive of the GST payable.

(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. Infrastructure assets from new subdivisions (constructed by developers) expected to be accounted for by Council in 2024/2025 total \$7.500 million (actual 2023/2024 \$14.955 million).

Guarantees for loans to other entities

Council has a bank guarantee to the value of \$15,000 in favour of the Department of Environment and Primary Industries. This guarantee is for an extractive mining licence in relation to the Allen's Gravel Pit.

(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 in Note 9.3. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists. At this point in time it is not known if additional contributions will be required, their timing or potential amount.

Future superannuation contributions

There were \$52,237 contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2024. The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2025 are \$48,506.

Building Cladding

Council has not identified any potential contingents that may exist in relation to rectification works or other matters associated with building cladding.



Note 8 Managing uncertainties (Cont.)

8.2 Change in accounting standards

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

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

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

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

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

8.3 Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables) and bank and TCV borrowings. Details of the material policy information 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 our financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council's exposures 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 does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure 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*. We manage interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

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

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

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

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause Council to make a financial loss. Council 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:

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

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.

We may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when we provide a guarantee for another party. Details of our contingent liabilities are disclosed in Note 8.1 The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any allowance for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. Council does not hold any collateral.



Note 8 Managing uncertainties (Cont.)

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that as a result of our operational liquidity requirements we will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required or we 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 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 in the face of the balance sheet and the amounts related to financial guarantees disclosed in Note 8.1, and is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

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

With the exception of borrowings, all financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade. Details of the maturity profile for borrowings are disclosed at Note 5.5.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amount 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 +1.25% and -1.25% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 4.35%.

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

Note 8 Managing uncertainties (Cont.)

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.

AASB 13 defines fair value as 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. Fair value under AASB 13 is an exit price regardless of whether that price is directly observable or estimated using another valuation technique.

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

Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and

Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Council has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, Council determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.



Note 8 Managing uncertainties (Cont.)

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.

Asset class	Revaluation frequency
Land	1 to 3 years
Buildings	1 to 3 years
Roads	3 to 5 years
Bridges	3 to 5 years
Footpaths and cycleways	3 to 5 years
Drainage	3 to 5 years
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	3 to 5 years
Waste management	3 to 5 years
Parks, open space and streetscapes	3 to 5 years
Aerodromes	3 to 5 years
Other infrastructure	3 to 5 years

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

Impairment of assets

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

8.5 Events occurring after balance date

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

Note 9 Other matters

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Increase (decrease) \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
9.1 Reserves			
(a) Asset revaluation reserves			
2024			
Property			
Land	75,517	-	75,517
Land under roads	2,413	-	2,413
Buildings	24,349	11,948	36,297
	<u>102,279</u>	<u>11,948</u>	<u>114,227</u>
Infrastructure			
Roads	303,758		303,758
Bridges	22,809	2,004	24,813
Drainage	60,284	27,770	88,054
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	9,979	3,774	13,753
Other infrastructure	615	10	625
	<u>397,445</u>	<u>33,558</u>	<u>431,003</u>
Total Asset revaluation reserves	499,724	45,506	545,230
2023			
Property			
Land	75,517	-	75,517
Land under roads	2,413	-	2,413
Buildings	18,890	5,459	24,349
	<u>96,820</u>	<u>5,459</u>	<u>102,279</u>
Infrastructure			
Roads	265,407	38,351	303,758
Bridges	22,809	-	22,809
Drainage	53,378	6,906	60,284
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	7,963	2,016	9,979
Other infrastructure	601	14	615
	<u>350,158</u>	<u>47,287</u>	<u>397,445</u>
Total Asset revaluation reserves	446,977	52,746	499,724

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



Note 9 Other matters (Cont.)

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Transfer from accumulated surplus \$'000	Transfer to accumulated surplus \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
(b) Other reserves				
2024				
Car park reserve	66	10	-	76
Recreation facilities	2,189	806	(771)	2,224
Storm water management	73	-	-	73
Capital works contributions reserve	14	-	(14)	-
Developer contribution reserve	1,012	509	(355)	1,166
Industrial estate	631	-	-	631
Closed landfill	1,123	100	-	1,223
Defined benefits	720	91	-	811
Community seed funding	516	91	(605)	2
LGFV loan repayment reserve	4,476	-	-	4,476
Maddingley brown coal reserve	394	89	-	483
Wind farm dilapidation deeds reserve	-	2,370	-	2,370
Total statutory and other reserves	11,214	4,066	(1,745)	13,535
2023				
Car park reserve	21	45	-	66
Recreation facilities	1,531	659	-	2,189
Storm water management	73	-	-	73
Capital works contributions reserve	14	-	-	14
Developer contribution reserve	1,425	9,333	(9,746)	1,012
Industrial estate	631	-	-	631
Closed landfill	1,023	100	-	1,123
Defined benefits	633	87	-	720
Community seed funding	429	87	-	516
LGFV loan repayment reserve	4,476	-	-	4,476
Maddingley brown coal reserve	306	88	-	394
Wind farm dilapidation deeds reserve	304	-	(304)	-
Total statutory and other reserves	10,866	10,398	(10,050)	11,214

Note 9 Other matters (Cont.)

Car park reserve

The purpose of this reserve is to provide improved parking facilities in urban areas.

Recreation facilities reserve

The purpose of this reserve is to provide funding for recreational facilities. Funded from developer contributions this reserve requires that recreation facilities be established within the proximity of the relevant new subdivision.

Industrial estate reserve

The purpose of this reserve is to fund future opportunities for industrial subdivision or economic development activity of a capital nature in and around Bacchus Marsh. This reserve is funded from the net proceeds of land sold in the Council developed Industrial Estate (the final parcel of land sold was in the 2013/14 financial year).

Storm water management reserve

The purpose of this reserve is to provide funding for future storm water management works which will be required for future subdivisions at the western end of Holts Lane in Darley.

Closed landfill reserve

The purpose of this reserve is to provide funding for future site remediation works related to closed landfills within Moorabool Shire.

Defined benefits reserve

The purpose of this reserve is to provide funding for future liability calls related to the Defined Benefits Superannuation scheme.

Community seed funding reserve

The purpose of this reserve is to provide a funding platform for the planning and advancement of future capital works projects.

Capital works contributions reserve

The purpose of this reserve is to provide funding for future capital works, such as road works, associated with specific developments funded by contributions from the developer.

Developer contribution reserve

The purpose of this reserve is to provide funding for various agreed infrastructure requirements arising from new developments and is funded from developer contributions.

Local Government Funding Vehicle (LGFV) loan repayment reserve

The purpose of this reserve is to provide funding for the repayment of the principal component of loans held through the LGFV. These loans are interest only until maturity.

Maddingley brown coal reserve

The purpose of this reserve is to provide funding for the maintenance of the local road network between the Maddingley Brown Coal site and the Western Freeway, Bacchus Marsh.

Wind farm dilapidation deeds reserve

The purpose of this reserve is to provide for remediation works for Council assets that have had accelerated deterioration in their condition as a result of construction activity at Wind Farms.



Note 9 Other matters (Cont.)

9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	15,454	39,048
Depreciation/amortisation	14,588	13,348
Loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	5,698	1,219
Contributions - non-monetary assets	(14,995)	(9,877)
Finance costs-leases	-	18
Interest expense - borrowing cost	812	288
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(6,327)	(540)
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(165)	(130)
(Increase)/decrease in accrued income	1,971	(1,182)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(1,400)	1,856
(Decrease)/increase in unearned income /revenue	(6,515)	-
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	19	(57)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(107)	(480)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	9,033	43,511

9.3 Superannuation

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

Accumulation

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

Note 9 Other matters (Cont.)**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:

Net investment returns 5.7% pa

Salary information 3.5% pa

Price inflation (CPI) 2.8% pa.

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



Note 9 Other matters (Cont.)

Employer contributions

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.

Funding calls

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

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including Council) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall. Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's Defined Benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up. If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers. In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

The 2023 triennial actuarial investigation surplus amounts

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

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

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

Note 9 Other matters (Cont.)

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

The 2024 interim actuarial investigation

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

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

Net investment returns 5.6% pa

Salary information 3.5% pa

Price inflation (CPI) 2.7% pa

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

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

The 2020 triennial investigation

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

	2020	2023
	Triennial investigation	Triennial investigation
Net investment returns	5.6%pa	5.7%pa
Salary information	2.5%pa for the first two years and 2.75%pa thereafter	3.5%pa
Price inflation	2.0%pa	2.8%pa

Superannuation contributions

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

Scheme	Type of Scheme	Rate	2024	2023
			\$,000	\$,000
Vision super	Defined benefit	11.0% (2023:10.5%)	39	42
Vision super	Accumulation fund	11.0% (2023:10.5%)	815	887

There were \$52,237 contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2024. The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2025 are \$48,506.



Note 10 Change in accounting policy

There have been no changes to accounting policies in the 2023/2024 year.

