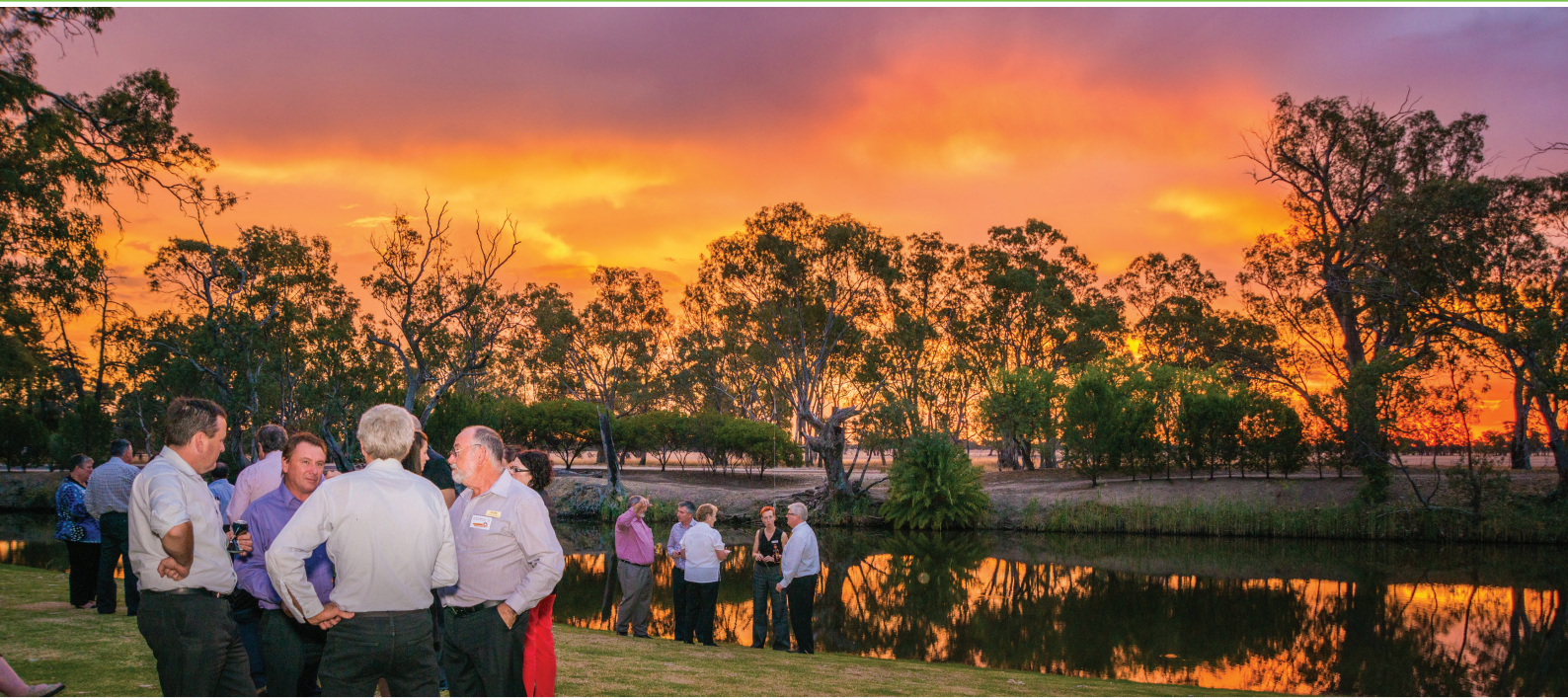




Hindmarsh
Shire Council



ANNUAL REPORT
2014-2015

Welcome to our Annual Report

Each year Hindmarsh Shire Council prepares an Annual Report which provides information on the services we have provided, our finances and our performance to our community.

Under the Local Government Act, the Annual Report must contain:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| > a Report of Operations of the Council | Page 1 |
| > an audited Performance Statement | Page 62 |
| > audited Financial Statements | Page 73 |
| > a copy of the auditor's report on the performance statement | Page 114 |
| > a copy of the auditor's report on the financial statements | Page 116 |
| > any other matter required by the regulations. | |

To make it easier to find your way around this report, we have colour coded the different parts.

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HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Operations

For the year ended 30 June 2015

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Welcome to the Report of Operations 2014/15

Hindmarsh Shire Council is committed to transparent reporting and accountability to the community and the Report of Operations 2014–15 is the primary means of advising our community about Council's operations and performance during the financial year. This introduction provides a brief overview of Council's operation and performance for the year. Further detail can be found in the later parts of this report.

Snapshot of Council

Profile of our Shire

We are:

- › Located in the Wimmera region in western Victoria, covering an area of 7,527 km²
- › Bound by two National Parks, the Little Desert in the South and Wyperfeld in the North.
- › Rich in natural beauty like the Wimmera River and Lakes Hindmarsh and Albacutya.
- › Based in or around the Shire's four main towns of Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.
- › 5800 people and our median age is 47 years.
- › Mainly born in Australia (89% of people), with English the only language spoken in 93.2% of our homes. Our most significant group of migrants are Karen refugees from Burma (Myanmar), with approximately 180 calling Nhill home.
- › Employed in farming, health care, retail, manufacturing, education and transport. Volunteers. Hindmarsh has a very high rate of volunteering, 20% higher than the national average.

Vision

A caring, active community enhanced by its liveability, environment and economy.

Mission

- › To provide accessible services to enable the community to be healthy, active and engaged;
- › To provide infrastructure essential to support the community;
- › To protect and enhance our natural environment;
- › To foster a thriving and diversified local economy where economic growth is encouraged and supported;
- › To realise the excellence in our people, processes and systems.

Values

Hindmarsh Shire Council is committed to the following values:

- › Leadership and direction;
- › Honesty and integrity;
- › Diversity and equality;
- › Sustainability; and
- › Transparency and accountability;
- › Trust and respect;
- › Justice and fairness;
- › Aspiration.

Fast Facts

- › 23 groups assisted by Community Action Grants
- › 6,850 Meals on Wheels delivered
- › 245 motions made at Council meetings
- › 10,138 hours of ageing and disability care support provided to 223 residents
- › 117 food premises registered or notified in accordance with the Food Act 1984
- › Maintenance work undertaken on 977 kilometres of roads
- › 4.6km of sealed local road reconstructed
- › Approximately 11km of sealed local roads resealed
- › 12,298 calls answered by the Customer Service
- › 23,754 thousand library items borrowed
- › 43 planning applications received
- › 5,077 rateable properties

Highlights of the Year

Strategic Objective: Community Liveability

Council's mission is to provide accessible services to enable the community to be healthy, active and engaged – see section on Our Performance for more details.

Achievements:

- › Water supply for Nhill Lake which has transformed this location and made it a key recreational asset
- › Community action Grants program which has enabled and empowered 23 community organisations to fulfil their goals and aspirations for our community
- › Seniors Week Activities that included concerts, luncheons and a “Living Well” Expo
- › Implemented Home and Community Care mobile phone rostering system that is Smart, Safe and Professional for both Clients and Support Workers
- › Review of the Hindmarsh Shires’ Diversity and Active Service Model Plans. These plans give us a clear picture of the required service delivery practise in the community
- › Development of a “Karen Community Plan” which includes a range of settlement initiatives to support the confidence and capacity of Karen people in accessing and interacting with local businesses and services
- › Implemented the Open Spaces program, which were a series of projects completed in partnership with the Town Committees in our four major towns focused on the beautification and useability of central areas
- › Development of the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council, whose role is to advise Council on all matters relating to youth
- › Secured a grant from the Victorian Multicultural Commission’s Multicultural Festival and Events Program to support the Karen New Year Festivities held in January 2015, attended by over 500 people
- › Worked closely with Barengi Gadjin Land Council on several projects, supported the annual NAIDOC week student competition and a number of Councillors and staff undertook Cultural awareness training and the Hindmarsh Trail partnership developed

Strategic Objective: Built and Natural Environment

Council's mission is to provide infrastructure essential to support the community; and to protect and enhance our natural environment – see section on Our Performance for more details.

Achievements:

- › Secured \$1.3m in funding that will enable the construction of a new Integrated Early Years Centre in Nhill
- › Secured funding of \$245,000 to redevelop Menzies Square in Jeparit
- › Secured funding of \$445,000 to redevelop the pavilion at the Rainbow Recreation Reserve
- › Council completed another challenging Capital Works schedule during 2014/15
 - › 11 shoulder resheets totalling \$785,000
 - › 55 road sealing projects totalling \$1,800,000
 - › 12 footpath projects totalling \$388,000
 - › 16 road construction projects totalling \$975,000
 - › 20 unsealed road construction projects totalling \$653,000
- › Completed major town amenity projects including High Street Dimboola and Lochiel Street Dimboola

Strategic Objective: Competitive and Innovative Economy

Council's mission is to foster a thriving and diversified local economy where economic growth is encouraged and supported – see section on Our Performance for more details.

Achievements:

- › Development of an Economic Development Strategy which informs private and public sector investment in our Shire over the next decade and focuses actions on 6 key strategic opportunities for the Shire.
- › Developed a 10 Year Master Plan for the Riverside Holiday Park in Dimboola and had \$800,000 in funding approved to implement Stage 1.
- › Secured funding for a feasibility study and master plan of the Hindmarsh Trail, a multiuse track that will link Little Desert National Park with Wyperfeld National Park.

Strategic Objective: Our people, our processes

Council's mission is to realise the excellence in our people, processes and systems – see section on Our Performance for more details.

Achievements:

- › Increased our Community Satisfaction Survey Score by 1 point to 64 with performance on all five core measures equal to or higher than the Small Rural Shires averages and State averages.
- › Made operational changes to our business that has resulted in significant cost savings.

Challenges and Future Outlook

Challenges

- › Country Roads & Bridges Funding: Council has previously received \$1m a year funding from the State Government to support our road network. This funding recognised the challenge small rural councils face in maintaining such an extensive network of roads (in Hindmarsh's case 3,200kms), from such a small rate base.. This funding represented 20% of Council's roads budget and has this year been removed by State Government. This will create a considerable budgetary challenge for Council and we will lobby for the return of this funding.
- › Rate Capping: Rate capping is being introduced next financial year which will limit Council's capacity to raise revenue and impact on our ability to continue delivering projects in the same volume as we have in the past.

The future

- › Cost Management: Council is committed to providing the best possible value to its community and will continue to systematically continue to review its processes to reduce operating cost.

Mayor's & CEO's Message

We are pleased to report that Hindmarsh Shire Council has performed strongly during the 2014/15 financial year, delivering significant progress in the areas of community communication, new or upgraded community infrastructure and strategic planning. Our successes have been made possible through productive partnerships with our community, businesses and other stakeholders, in particular the State and Federal Governments. We extend our gratitude to all our project partners and acknowledge the difference they have made to the liveability of our shire.

It is with great pleasure and pride in the Hindmarsh Shire that we offer this report on the achievements of Council for the financial year ending 30 June 2015.

Community Planning:

In September 2013 Council adopted its "Karen Community Plan". This plan was developed in consultation with Nhill's Karen people and the community members and organisations that support them. The plan includes a range of settlement initiatives to support the confidence and capacity of Karen people in accessing and interacting with local businesses and services.

Council was successful during 2014 in obtaining funding from the State and Federal Governments that has enabled the delivery of the programs within this plan through the establishment of two new part time positions, a Settlement Officer and Migration Officer. These positions have been critical to not only the implementation of our "Karen Community Plan", but our economic development work through population growth and ensuring businesses seeking to expand have the available labour source.

The year ended 30 June 2015 also saw Council create and adopt an Economic Development Strategy for the Shire. This strategy was developed by leading consultants in this field and in conjunction with community members, organisations and businesses across the Shire. In total, approximately 100 people worked with Council on this plan through groups and one on one consultation.

Our Economic Development Strategy will inform private and public sector investment in our Shire over the next decade and focus on 6 key strategic opportunities; enhancing food and beverage capacity, strengthening health and community services, fostering business and community prosperity, supporting the development of tourism and events, building sustainable local administration and economic infrastructure and assets.

Work also commenced in early 2015 on Precinct Plans for Nhill and Dimboola, Community plans for Jeparit and Rainbow and a Recreation Strategy for the Shire.

The Precinct and Community Plans will map out future social, community, business and recreation needs of each town, including the physical infrastructure and programs. The Recreation Strategy will detail our communities' aspirations in terms of passive and organised recreational activities.

These planning documents ensure Council's work is delivering our communities' goals and play a vital role in gaining funding for future projects.

Grant Funding:

A key role of Council is to advocate and work with other levels of government to bring funding into our Shire which will enable the delivery of community goals. 2014/15 was another very strong year for grant approvals, enabling significant projects that are transforming our Shire. These include \$1,300,000 in funding for a new Integrated Early Years Centre in Nhill, \$800,000 to fund Stage 1 of the redevelopment of the Riverside Holiday Park in Dimboola, \$245,000 in funding to redevelop Menzies Square in Jeparit, \$445,000 in funding to redevelop the pavilion at the Rainbow Recreation Reserve.

Council also received funding for smaller, but nevertheless effective projects in terms of improving the liveability and visitor amenity of our towns. This included funding for the Open Spaces program, which were a series of projects completed in partnership with the Town Committees in our four major towns. These projects focused on the beautification and useability of central areas in each town and included works in the Federal St Rainbow gardens, power supply to Goldsworthy Park in Nhill, walking trails in Dimboola and improvements to Broadway in Jeparit.

Council is very committed to the engagement of youth in our Shire. During 2014/15 Council was successful in obtaining a grant to fund the development of a Youth Council. In May 2015, 13 young people from our Shire were appointed as our Shire's inaugural Youth Council. Their role is to advise Council on all matters relating to youth, including the revision of Council's Youth Strategy, development of youth related projects to be included in our budgetary process and organising activities for Youth.

The Year in Review

Council also conducted its Community Action Grant program during the year. This program is about enabling and empowering community organisations to fulfil their goals and aspirations for our community. During the year ended 30 June 2015, funds were provided to approximately 30 different community groups for a diverse range of projects and initiatives. Funding has been provided to assist with the installation of air conditioners, upgrades to kitchens, purchase of PA and Hi-Fi systems, scanners, hot water services and gardening equipment to name a few.

The program also provided funding for a range of events including sporting and recreation activities such as fishing, bowls, horse racing and rowing, along with community based social functions.

Events:

Council was successful in obtaining funding from the Victorian Multicultural Commission's Multicultural Festival and Events Program to support the Karen New Year Festivities held in January 2015. This event has grown to be a significant date on the Shire's calendar, with in excess of 500 people attending this year's celebration and enjoying a cultural display of dancing, music, theatre and food. The 2015 celebrations included a sports carnival with soccer matches and the traditional Karen game, Cane Ball. The Karen New Year is an opportunity for everyone in the Shire to experience cultural diversity at its best.

Many community groups have worked very hard during the year to deliver events that are not only important to our social fabric, but support our economy as well. This includes the Nhill Fiesta, which was recognised at the Volunteering Western Victoria Awards, the Mallee Fire Recovery Concert held in Rainbow, the Australia Day Concert held in Dimboola and the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Open Weekend held in Jeparit. We thank all the people who made these events possible.

Volunteers:

Council would like to thank the many volunteers that support our operations around the Shire. Council has twenty four Section 86 Committees, set up as an extension of Council under the Local Government Act. These groups vary from Town Committees, who undertake an extraordinary amount of work within our towns and perform a valuable role as Council's conduit to our community, through to hall and other facility managers. The contribution that these committees make to our Shire is significant and Council is very grateful for their support.

Community Satisfaction:

Our scores in the Community Satisfaction Survey have continued to improve over the last twelve months, with performance on all five core measures, overall performance, community consultation, customer service, advocacy and overall council direction, equal to or higher than the Small Rural Shires averages.

Performance Measures	Hindmarsh 2012	Hindmarsh 2013	Hindmarsh 2014	Hindmarsh 2015	Small rural Shires 2014
Overall Performance	53	59	63	64	60
Community Consultation (community consultation & engagement)	50	54	62	59	58
Advocacy (lobbying on behalf of the community)	50	55	60	59	57
Customer Service	66	69	73	71	71
Overall Council Direction	43	53	62	61	54

The trend over the last 4 years has been very pleasing, however, Council is committed to continuing to improve across all community survey measures.

Advocacy:

Council continued to work hard during the year ended 30 June 2015 to lobby on behalf of the Shire's community for the services and funding required to make Hindmarsh an even better place to live, improve community well-being and to build our economy.

Many of the successful grant applications discussed above are the direct result of lobbying. The Federal funding for our new Integrated Early Years Centre came as a direct result of a meeting the Council's Mayor and CEO had with the Assistant Education Minister in Canberra in June 2014.

Council has been very successful in developing partnerships with organisations with whom we have common goals. An example of this is the Menzies Square project in Jeparit. Council is partnering the Menzies Foundation and Federation University, who are providing funding and skills into this project.

Capital Works:

Council completed another challenging Capital Works schedule during 2014/15.

- > 11 shoulder resheets totalling \$785,000
- > 55 road sealing projects totalling \$1,800,000
- > 12 footpath projects totalling \$388,000
- > 16 road construction projects totalling \$975,000
- > 20 unsealed road construction projects totalling \$653,000

These works are in addition to the significant amount of maintenance work Council undertakes on its road network and town amenity projects such as work to maintain and improve playgrounds, parks and sporting facilities.

Maintaining our 3,200kms of roads is a significant challenge for Council and we continue to lobby the State and Federal Governments for more appropriate funding in recognition of the size of this challenge and the importance of our road network to our economy.

Community Enquiries

Council receives approximately 12,000 telephone calls a year from residents with various enquiries. Council is looking to provide our community with other options to lodge enquiries or transact with Council. The development of a new website is under way, which will include the ability for the community to lodge enquiries and make payments, such as rates and animal registrations online.

Future

Council looks to the future of our community with excitement and anticipation of the many great initiatives we will deliver over the next 5 years.

Council is already in a dialogue with the State Government about our priority projects that we are looking to be funded through the new \$500m Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund. These will include projects that will focus on building our economy through delivery of initiatives detailed in our Economic Development Strategy, a number of which will be tourism related, including the development of a Master Plan for the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum, an asset that has the potential to bring many visitors to our Shire.

We will continue to work closely with our regional partners to promote the growth and development of the overall region. The Wimmera municipalities have a long and strong history as collaborators on regional issues such as transportation, sustainability, economic development and so on and we look forward to building on this strength with new projects and activities.

The launch of the Karen Community Plan, our Economic Development Strategy and the development of Precinct Plans for Dimboola and Nhill, Community Plans for Rainbow and Jeparit and a Hindmarsh Recreation Strategy will mark a new level of community engagement and planning for the future of our communities.

2015/16 will be a busy year as we deliver the significant number of projects that were funded through grants during the 2014/15 year. This includes four significant construction projects being the Integrated Early Years Centre in Nhill, Riverside Holiday Park in Dimboola, Sports Pavilion redevelopment in Rainbow and Menzies Square in Jeparit. These projects will help to look after young families and improve the liveability of our towns.

The Year in Review

We have achieved an extraordinary amount over the last 12 months, making considerable operational reforms to our business which has significantly reduced costs. This work will continue in 2015/16 so that we ensure we are driving great value and return to our community for the rates they pay. We will also continue laying a strong strategic footprint that will deliver exciting outcomes over the next 5 to 10 years.

Council has a dynamic team that is absolutely committed to its community. We look forward to continuing to improve our administrative and operational practises while maintaining our efforts to work with our community to make the Shire of Hindmarsh the best community for all of us.



Cr Ron Lowe
Mayor



Tony Doyle
Chief Executive Officer

Financial Summary

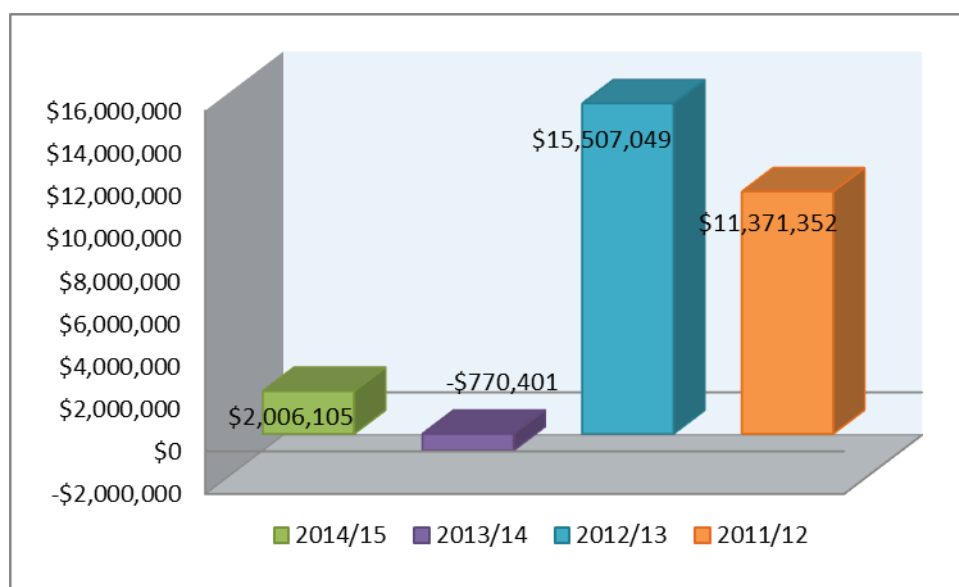
Council's financial position continues to remain sound. A summary of our performance is outlined below. Detailed information relating to Council's financial performance is included within the Financial Statements and Performance Statement sections of this Report.

Operating Position

Council achieved a surplus of \$2.006 million in 2014–15. This surplus compares favourably to the prior year deficit of \$770,401. As per the Comprehensive Income Statement in the Financial Report, the favourable variance is due mainly to an additional payment of \$2.036 million from the Victoria Grants Commission received in June 2015 which was not budgeted in 2014/15, as well as a number of unbudgeted successful grant applications, including grants for Bushfire Recovery, Karen Community Capacity, Karen Settlement Program, Youth Inclusion, Walk to school, and Hindmarsh Trail. The increase in funding is offset by the discontinuation of the State Government's Local Roads and Bridges funding, Council had budgeted to receive \$1 million in 2014/15 – as well as funding approved and budgeted for but not received in 2014/15 for the Rainbow Recreation Reserve Facility Redevelopment, and Rainbow Recreation Reserve Power Upgrade.

Additionally, employee costs were significantly lower than budgeted due to a number of positions being vacant during 2014/15, while materials and services show an unfavourable variance almost equal to the employee savings due to a number of carry forward projects from 2013/14 being completed in 2014/15.

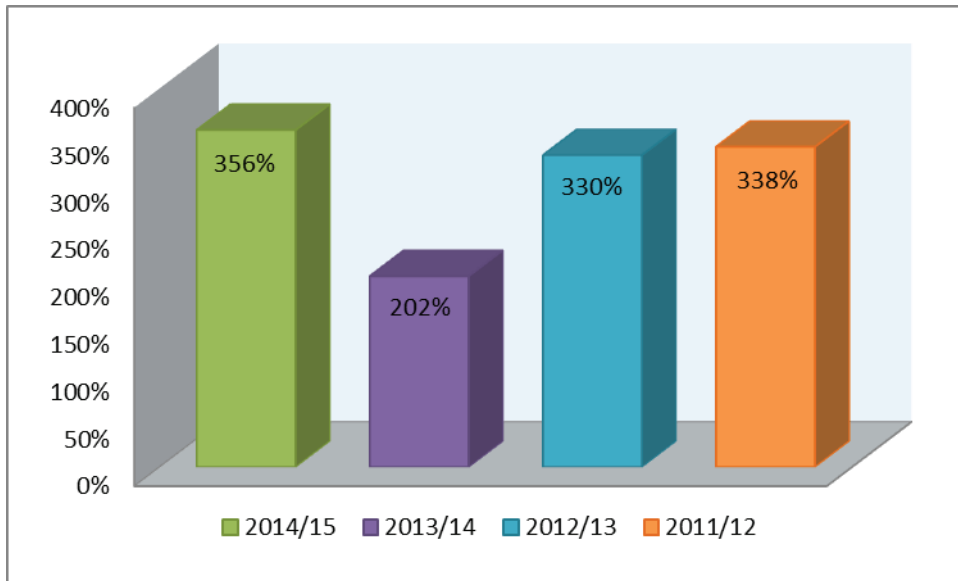
The adjusted underlying surplus of Council, after removing non-recurrent capital grants, cash capital contributions and non-monetary capital contributions, is a surplus of \$941,855. Sustaining an adjusted underlying surplus is a critical financial strategy that provides capacity to renew the \$111 million of community assets under Council's control.



Surplus/deficit for the year

Liquidity

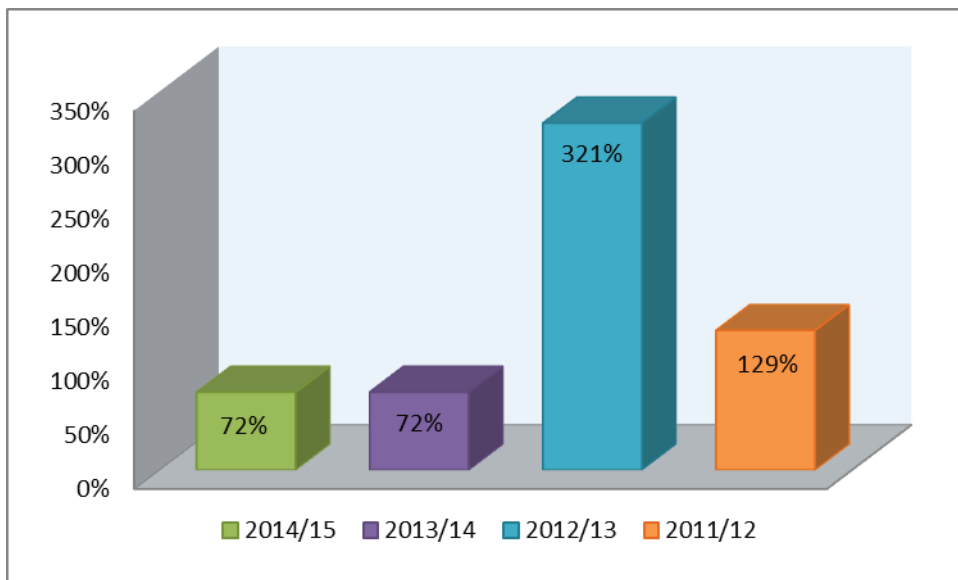
Cash has increased by \$2.595 million from the prior year mainly due to the additional Victoria Grants Commission payment received on 30 June 2015 and a number of 2014/15 capital works projects being carried forward into the 2015-16 year. The working capital ratio which assesses Council's ability to meet current commitments is calculated by measuring Council's current assets as a percentage of current liabilities. Council's result of 356% is an indicator of strong a financial position and well within the band of 150% or more for the Victorian Auditor General's Office's (VAGO) assessment as "low risk".



Working capital ratio %

Obligations

Council aims to ensure that it is able to maintain its infrastructure assets at the expected levels, while at the same time continuing to deliver the services needed by the community. To bridge the infrastructure gap, Council invested \$2.595 million in infrastructure renewal works during the 2014/15 year. Council’s asset renewal ratio which is measured by comparing asset renewal expenditure to depreciation was 72%. While this percentage sits within VAGO’s range of medium risk rather than the low risk spectrum, the impact of the lower renewal expenditure remains manageable due to the substantial renewal expenditure in 2012/13 and 2011/12.



Asset renewal ratio %

Description of Operations

Hindmarsh Shire Council is responsible for more than 120 services, ranging from services for children to those for older adults, from open space to community buildings, waste management and infrastructure to matters concerning business development, planning for appropriate development and ensuring accountability for Council's budget. This broad range of community services and infrastructure support the wellbeing and prosperity of our community. Council's vision, strategic objectives and strategies to further improve services and facilities are described in our Council Plan 2013-2017 and the associated Budget 2014-15 and reported upon in this document. More information about Council services is contained in the section on Our Performance.

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

Economic or Other Factors

Due to Council's remote location, we encountered difficulties in attracting suitable applicants to a number of positions advertised in 2014/15.

Having to repeat the recruitment process several times for a number of positions increased recruitment costs and added further pressure to Council's already stretched staff resources.

The uncertainty around Federal and State Government roads funding led to difficulties in the preparation of forecasts and the Budget for the coming year. The discontinuation of the State Government's Country Roads and Bridges has impacted on Council's ability to undertake road related projects in 2015/16.

Council has managed its financial position prudently and remains debt free with a capacity to meet short term unforeseen economic challenges.

Major Capital Works

During 2014-15 the major capital works included the following:

Hindmarsh Open Spaces Program

The Hindmarsh Open Spaces project was a joint initiative of Council and its Town Committees. It incorporated streetscape and public space improvements in each of our four major towns.

In Jeparit, an all abilities access pathway to the Jeparit Community Shed, which incorporates the Jeparit Community Gym, Jeparit Men's Shed and storage facility for the Jeparit Town Committee was constructed and an all abilities toilet installed. Ongoing works include new fencing and a shade sail over the Broadway playground as well as landscaping improvements.

The Rainbow Federal St Garden Revitalisation has seen the redevelopment of the final section of the four gardens in Federal St. Works included the removal and replacement of several trees, installation of instant turf, new picnic tables, revitalisation of existing picnic tables, watering system upgrade and installation of a heritage style picnic shelter.

The Nhill Entry Streetscapes & Amenity Improvement project significantly improved the aesthetics and amenities of the Nhill CBD. Initiatives included the redevelopment of Bongiorno's car park, power upgrade and installation of power outlets in Goldsworthy Park, installation of new uniform street furniture and lighting.

Up lighting of the War Memorial in Goldsworthy Park and improvements to the Commercial carpark will be completed in coming weeks.

The Dimboola Public Space Linkages project has reinforced existing and established new connecting links between the business district, Nine Creeks Reserve, the Riverside Holiday Park and the Dimboola Recreation Reserve. The construction of new walking paths and installation of lights along a section of the Nine Creeks Walking Track has improved the level of access and security at night.

Works continue in 2015/16 with a new shelter over existing BBQ's in the Recreation Reserve, along with a pathway connecting Pickering Gardens and the Recreation Reserve. Additional seating will also be installed along various walking tracks.

Lochiel Street Redevelopment

The redevelopment of Lochiel Street created a vibrant streetscape environment between Lloyd St and the Nine Creeks Reserve area. The works involved extensive underground storm water improvements, driveway and footpath upgrades, kerb and channel installation and landscaping. Timbers from the old Wimmera St Bridge were reclaimed and used to craft custom-made benches and an arbour. The new features complement the existing Peppercorn and Moreton Bay Fig trees, which provide an attractive gateway to the Nine Creeks Reserve area.

Additional trees will be planted during autumn and a picnic setting will be installed next to the arbour to complete the project. An art piece referencing the influence of the Wimmera River to Dimboola was also installed near the arbour as part of the Dimboola Community Arts Project.

The Lochiel Street Redevelopment was identified as a priority at Dimboola Community Planning workshops and subsequently became a priority project in the Council Plan. The redevelopment was funded through the Victorian Government's Local Government Infrastructure Program 'Putting Locals First' and Hindmarsh Shire Council contributions. The Dimboola Community Arts Project was funded through the Victorian and Australian Government's joint Flood Community Recovery Fund.

Infrastructure

Council capital works program included a substantial number of road reconstructions, reseals, final seals and shoulder resheets:

- > 11 shoulder resheets totalling \$785,000
- > 55 road sealing projects totalling \$1,800,000
- > 12 footpath projects totalling \$388,000
- > 16 road construction projects totalling \$975,000
- > 20 unsealed road construction projects totalling \$653,000

The reconstruction of Lorquon East Road to a wider width and the completion of Gerang Glenlee Road (a project initiated in 2013/14) were two of the largest projects completed in 2014/15.

While smaller in size, new footpaths in Lloyd Street and Hindmarsh Street, Dimboola, Charles Street, Jeparit, Taverner Street and Sanders Street, Rainbow and substantial kerb, channel and drainage works at Wimmera Street, Dimboola have greatly improved the amenity of our towns.

However, the Ellerman Street Urban Drainage project in Dimboola stands out as one of Council's most ambitious and innovative projects in 2014/15. The first stage of this project focussed on the improvement of drainage through the construction of Denham Street.

To address the substantial drainage issues experienced by residents in the past, in constructing Denham Street, the camber of the road was reversed, turning the centre of the road into a drainage channel.

Major Changes

In the 2014/15 financial year, Council made some changes to its organisational structure to better align its human resources with its strategic objectives.

Over the course of the current Council Plan, Council had increased its focus on the delivery of grant funded projects, economic development and youth. Beginning in 2013/14 but continuing to 2014/15, Council's Community and Economic Development Team were realigned to allow for the appointment of an Economic Development Officer, Tourism Officer, Project Engineer, Youth & Early Years Officer (Part Time) and Community Development Officer (Part Time). These new positions were funded from a reduction in our workforce elsewhere in the organisation.

Major Achievements

Hindmarsh Economic Development Strategy

The development of this strategy was led by an Advisory Committee comprising community members and business representatives supported by consultancy firm SED Consulting. A hundred community members and representatives of organisations and businesses across the Shire worked with Council on the development of our Economic Development Strategy, which will inform private and public sector investment in our Shire over the next decade.

Advocacy

A key role of Council is to advocate on behalf of our community. Council's advocacy efforts in 2014/15 were tremendously successful, leading to significant grant approvals such as the State and Federal Government's commitment to \$1,300,000 in funding for a new Integrated Early Years Centre in Nhill, the State Government's approval of \$800,000 to fund stage 1 of the redevelopment of the Riverside Holiday Park in Dimboola, \$245,000 in funding to redevelop Menzies Square in Jeparit and \$445,000 in funding to redevelop the pavilion at the Rainbow Recreation Reserve.

Youth Council

In May 2015, 13 young people from our Shire were appointed as our Shire's inaugural Youth Council. Their role is to advise Council on all matters relating to youth, including the revision of Council's Youth Strategy, development of youth related projects to be included in our budgetary process and organising activities for young people. Council's youth program has also taken another great step forward with over 1,500 young people engaged in youth activities in 2014/15.

Efficiencies

Council staff are heavily focused on streamlining operations to achieve organisational efficiencies and reduce operating costs. A number of initiatives were undertaken in the 2014/15 year which have resulted in savings of approximately \$800,000, which has allowed continued investment in our business. This has included changes to our road making methodology, employing just in time principles and new technology materials that are allowing reuse of road base materials.

In Council's Aged and Disability Services Team, HACC PAC Mobile, a smart phone rostering system, replaced the outdated electronic rostering system, increasing safety of clients and home support workers while at the same time achieving substantial efficiencies in the rostering of services and payroll processes.

Mallee Fire Recovery Festival

More than 800 people attended the Mallee Fire Recovery Festival in Rainbow in March 2015. The event recognised the hundreds of firefighters, community volunteers and members of Parks Victoria and the former Department of Environment and Primary Industries involved in the firefighting and recovery efforts of the 2014 Mallee Complex Fire.

Commissioning of Limestone Quarries

2014/15 saw Council prepare for the commissioning of two limestone quarries. Significant works were required to prepare both quarries, with one successfully commissioned in 2014/15, while the second will be commissioned in early 2015/16. These quarries will reduce the cost of limestone to Council by approximately 40%.

Shire Profile

Hindmarsh Shire is located in the Wimmera region in western Victoria and covers an area of 7,527 km². Situated on the Western Highway, 375km west of Melbourne and 350km east of Adelaide, Hindmarsh Shire is alive with business opportunities as it lies on the second-busiest freight corridor in Australia.

Our Shire is bound by two National Parks, the Little Desert in the South and Wyperfeld in the North. Other distinct natural features include the Big Desert Wilderness Area to the West, as well as the Wimmera River and Lakes Hindmarsh and Albacutya. The central part of the Shire is utilised primarily for broad acre cropping and grazing.

Hindmarsh Shire's four main towns are Nhill, Dimboola, Jeparit and Rainbow. Each community has its own spirit and identity, but all towns offer spacious rural living, inclusive small communities and wonderful natural amenities.

The first Australians in the Hindmarsh area were the Wotjobaluk people. Communities were located near the Nhill Swamp, the Wimmera River at Dimboola, Lake Hindmarsh near Jeparit and Lake Albacutya near Rainbow, while the majority made their home along the Red Gum lined banks of the Wimmera River and Nine Creeks area in Dimboola.

Today, 5800 people live in Hindmarsh Shire, with a median age of 47 years. 89% of people in Hindmarsh Shire were born in Australia, with English the only language spoken in 93.2% of homes. Our most significant group of migrants are Karen refugees from Burma (Myanmar), with approximately 180 calling Nhill home.

The median weekly household income is \$789, and most people own their homes outright. Most people are employed in farming, with employment in health care coming a close second, followed by retail, manufacturing, education and transport. Hindmarsh has a very high rate of volunteering, 20% higher than the national average.

Council Offices

Nhill Office

92 Nelson St
NHILL VIC 3418
Phone: 03 5391 4444
Fax: 03 5391 1376

Jeparit Office

10 Roy Street
JEPARIT VIC 3423
Phone: 03 5391 4450
Fax: 03 5397 2263

Postal Address:

PO Box 250
NHILL VIC 3418
Email: info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Dimboola Office

101 Lloyd Street
DIMBOOLA VIC 3414
Phone: 03 5391 4452
Fax: 03 5389 1734

Rainbow Office

15 Federal Street
RAINBOW VIC 3424
Phone: 03 5391 4451
Fax: 03 5395 1436

Website: www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil

Councillors

The Council was elected to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and the local community. On 27 October 2012, the Hindmarsh Shire Council community elected this Council for a four year term. The municipality is divided into 3 wards, represented by two Councillors in each ward. The Councillors are the elected representatives of all residents and ratepayers across the town. They have the responsibility for setting the strategic direction for the municipality, policy development, identifying service standards and monitoring performance across the organisation. The councillors are listed below.

Our Councillors



Cr Tony Schneider

East Ward
Date Elected: 24 October 2012
E: tschneider@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
M: 0459 035 917



**Cr Debra Nelson
Deputy Mayor**

East Ward
Date Elected: 24 October 2012
E: dnelson@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
M: 0459 021 802



**Cr Ron Lowe
Mayor**

North Ward
Date Elected: 24 October 2012
E: rloew@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
M: 0427 318 067



Cr Ron Ismay

North Ward
Date Elected: 23 November 2013
E: rismay@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
M: 0459 021 745



Cr Rob Gersch

West Ward
Date Elected: 24 October 2012
E: rgersch@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
M: 0427 600 122

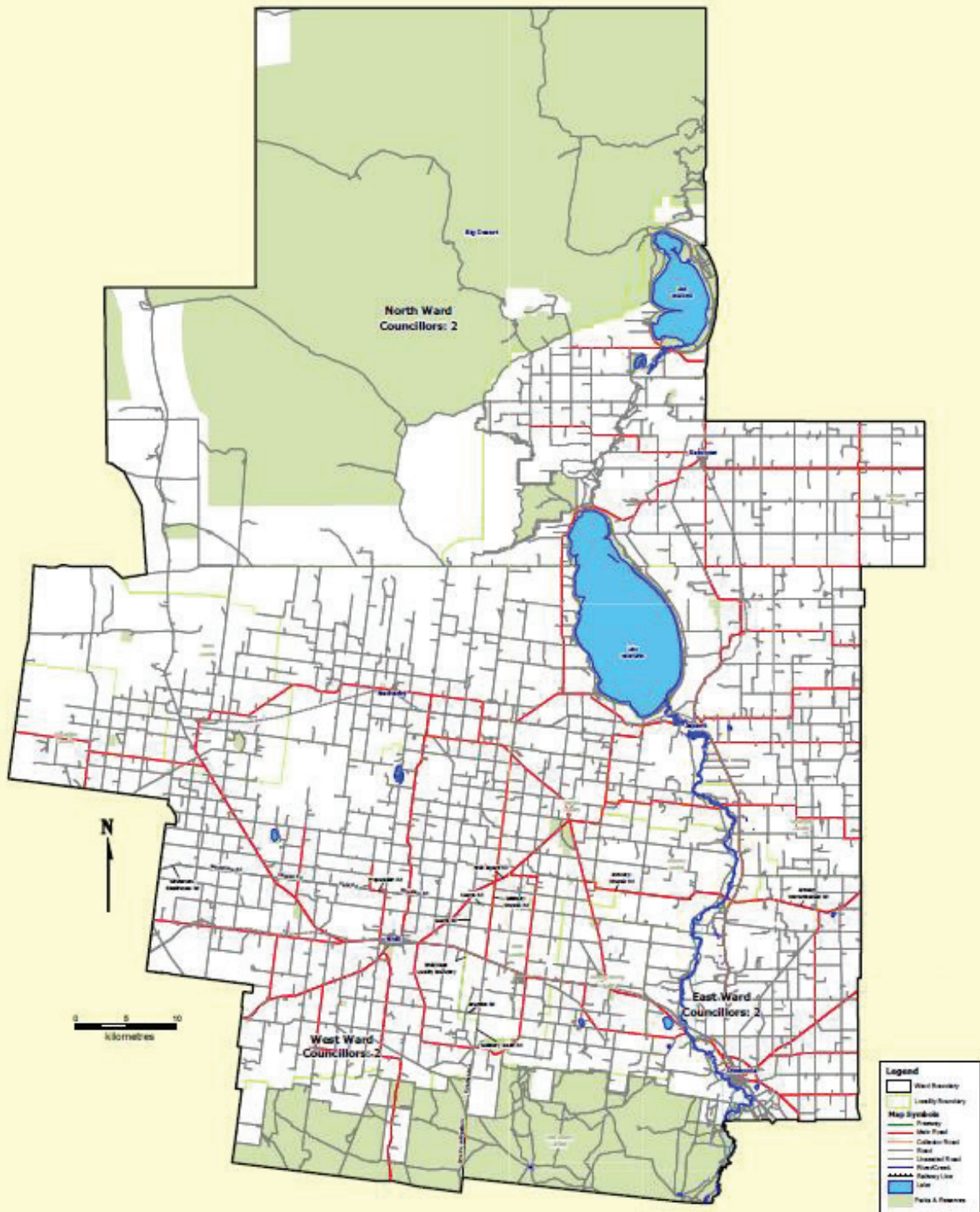


Cr Wendy Robins

West Ward
Date Elected: 24 October 2012
E: wrobins@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au
M: 0459 034 233

Local Government Act 1989
ELECTORAL STRUCTURE OF HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTE: By Order in Council made under Section 220Q (k), (l), (m) and (n) of the Local Government Act 1989, the boundaries of the wards, the names of the wards and the number of councillors assigned to each ward of the Hindmarsh Shire Council are fixed as described in this plan.



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I hereby certify that the electoral boundaries shown on this map are as provided in the Electoral Representation Orders that apply to Hindmarsh Shire Council, submitted to the Minister for Local Government on 22 February 2006.

Glenn Tully, Electoral Commissioner

Electoral Structure of
 Hindmarsh Shire Council
LEGL/04-191

Organisational Structure

Council is the governing body that appoints a Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO has responsibility for the day to day management of operations in accordance with the strategic directions of the Council Plan. Two Directors and the CEO form the Senior Management Team (SMT) and lead the organisation. Details of the CEO and senior officers reporting directly to the CEO are set out below.



Tony Doyle
Chief Executive Officer

Areas of responsibility:
Overall responsibility for Council’s operations

Senior Officers reporting directly to the Chief Executive Officer



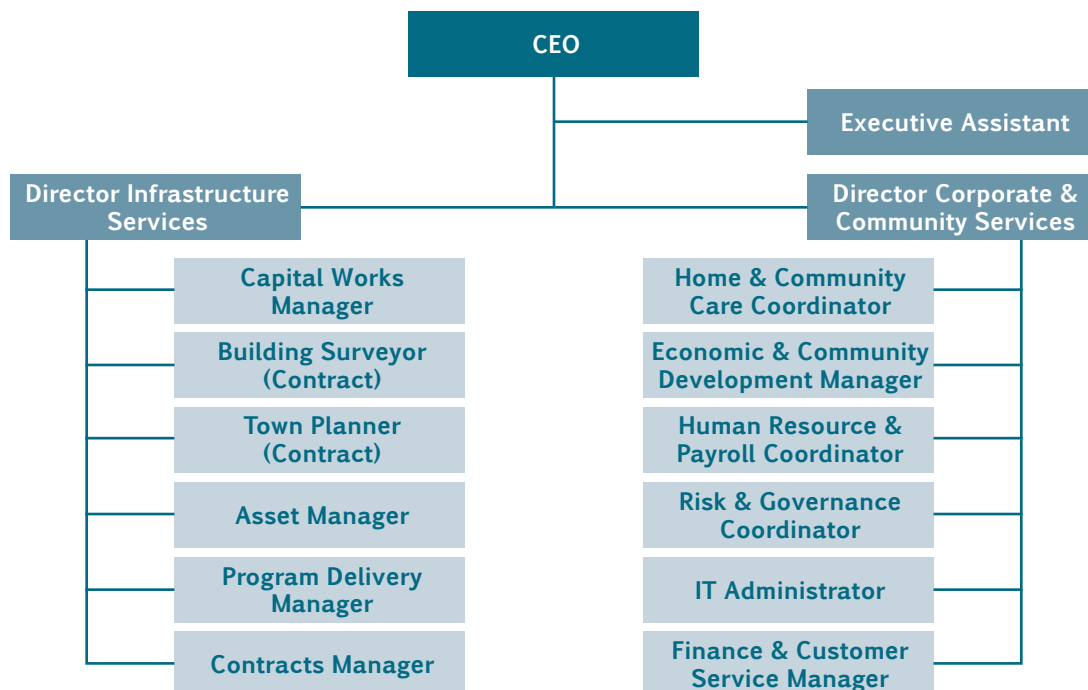
Anne Champness
Director Corporate & Community Services

- Areas of responsibility:**
- > Business development
 - > Finance
 - > Information technology
 - > Planning and development
 - > Family, youth and leisure
 - > Aged and disability
 - > Governance
 - > Economic development
 - > Local laws



Douglas Gowans
Director Infrastructure Services

- Areas of responsibility:**
- > Asset planning
 - > Engineering and traffic
 - > Environment and sustainability
 - > Infrastructure
 - > Parks and gardens
 - > Building



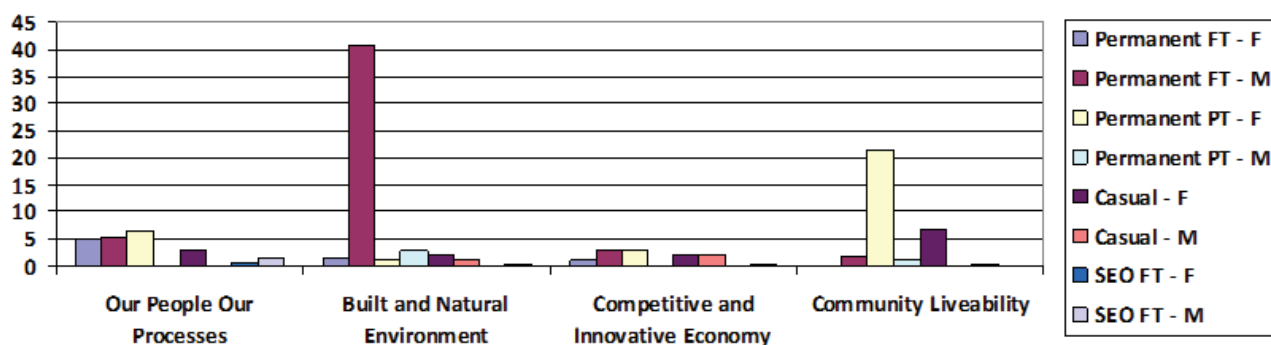
Our People

Council Staff

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

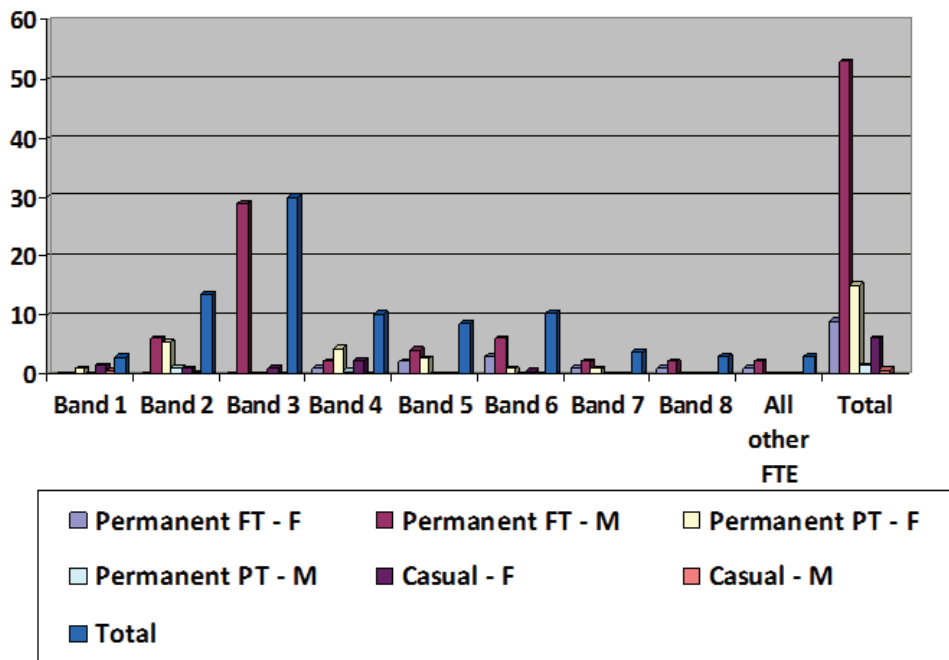
Employee Type/Gender	Our People Our Processes	Built & Natural Environment	Competitive & Innovative Economy	Community Liveability	Total FTE
Permanent FT - F	5.15	1.55	1.15	0.15	8
Permanent FT - M	5.54	40.75	2.86	1.85	51
Permanent PT - F	6.50	1.20	3.05	21.25	32
Permanent PT - M	0.00	3.00	0.00	1.00	4
Casual - F	3.00	2.20	2.00	6.80	14
Casual - M	0.00	1.00	2.00	0.00	3
SEO FT - F	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.20	1
SEO FT - M	1.30	0.50	0.20	0.00	2

FT - Full Time, PT - Part Time, F - Female, M - Male, SEO - Senior Executive Officer



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

Employment Classification	Band 1 FTE	Band 2 FTE	Band 3 FTE	Band 4 FTE	Band 5 FTE	Band 6 FTE	Band 7 FTE	Band 8 FTE	All Other FTE	Total
Permanent FT - F	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	9.0
Permanent FT - M	0.0	6.0	29.0	2.0	4.0	6.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	53.0
Permanent PT - F	0.8	5.4	0.0	4.4	2.7	0.9	0.8	0.0	0.0	15.1
Permanent PT - M	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4
Casual - F	1.5	0.9	1.0	2.2	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0
Casual - M	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Total	2.8	13.5	30.0	10.1	8.7	10.3	3.8	3.0	3.0	85.2



Equal Employment Opportunity Program

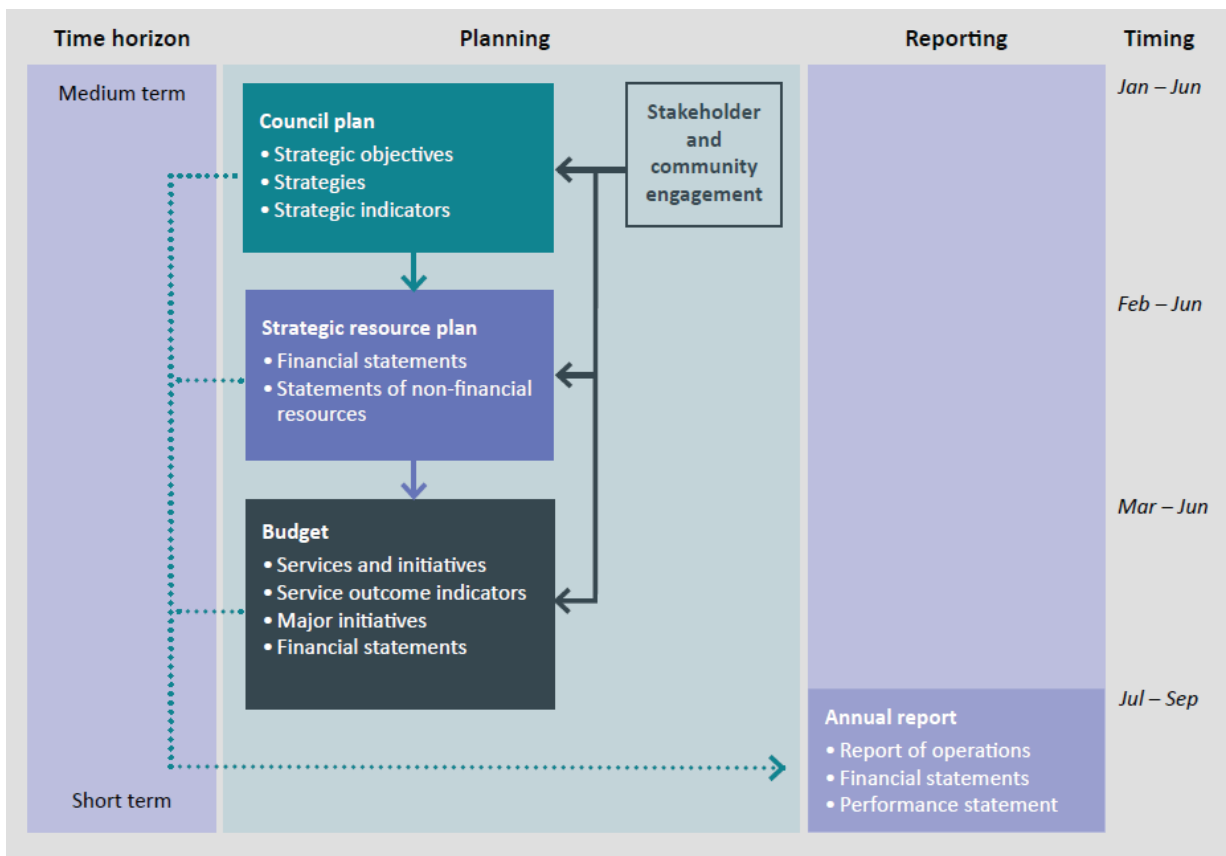
Council is committed to the principles of Equal Opportunity. In all policies and practices of the Council, there shall be no discrimination relating to sex, marital status, parenthood, race, colour, national origin, physical or mental impairment, or religious or political affiliation. Selection of individuals for employment, promotion or advancement, training and staff development will be on the basis of personal merit in fair and open competition according to the skills, qualifications, knowledge and efficiency relevant to the position involved. Council’s policy on Equal Opportunity reflects our desire to enjoy a workplace free of discrimination where each person has the opportunity to progress to the extent of their ability.

Planning and Accountability Framework

The Planning and Accountability Framework is found in part 6 of the Local Government Act. The Act requires councils to prepare the following planning and reporting documents:

- > A council plan within the six months after each general election or by 30 June, whichever is later
- > A strategic resource plan for a period of at least four years and include this in the council plan
- > A budget for each financial year
- > An annual report in respect of each financial year.

The following diagram shows the relationships between the key planning and reporting documents that make up the planning and accountability framework for local government. It also shows that there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input and feedback at each stage of the planning and reporting cycle.



Council Plan

The Council Plan 2013-17 includes strategic objectives, strategies for achieving these for the four year period, strategic indicators for monitoring achievement of the strategic objectives and a strategic resource plan. The following are the four strategic objectives as detailed in the Council Plan.

1. Community Liveability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1.1 An actively engaged community.1.2 A range of effective and accessible services to support the health and wellbeing of our community.1.3 A community that is physically active with access to a wide range of leisure, sporting and recreation facilities.
2. Built & Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2.1 Well-maintained physical assets and infrastructure to meet community and organisational needs.2.2 A community that reduces its reliance on water and manages this resource wisely.2.3 A healthy natural environment.2.4 A community living more sustainably
3. Competitive & Innovative Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3.1 A strong rural economy and thriving towns.3.2 A thriving tourism industry.3.3 Modern and affordable information and communication technology throughout the municipality.3.4 Transport solutions that support the needs of our communities and businesses.
4. Our people, our processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">4.1 Long-term financial sustainability.4.2 Quality customer services.4.3 An engaged, skilled Council and workforce capable of meeting community needs.4.4 Efficient and effective information communications technology.4.5 Support for the community in the areas of emergency preparedness, response and recovery.4.6 An organisation that takes its risk management responsibilities seriously and embeds a culture of risk management throughout the organisation.

Performance

Council's performance for the 2014/15 year has been reported against each strategic objective to demonstrate how we are performing in achieving the 2013-17 Council Plan. Performance has been measured as follows:

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

Strategic Objective 1: Community Liveability

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

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
1.1.1 Strong community and Council ties between City of Port Phillip and Hindmarsh Shire Council	Four meetings, one event held.	City of Port Phillip Friendship Alliance committee meetings held in Hindmarsh Shire in March 2014, and at City Port Phillip December 2014, February 2015 and May 2015. Council hosted the St Kilda Film Festival in June 2015. Formal friendship agreement concluded at 30 June 2015, while informal arrangements of mutual support continue.
1.1.2 Establish stronger links with the indigenous community through the Barengi Gadjin Land Council and Wurega Aboriginal Corporation	One cultural activity.	Council supported the annual NAIDOC week student competition. Cultural awareness training undertaken and Hindmarsh Trail partnership developed.
1.1.3 Review Community Action Plans for Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow. Follow up on Community Action Plans and their working group projects.	Review and projects underway.	Extensive community consultation across all sectors undertaken through the Economic Development Strategy process. Community consultation through Community Plans, Precinct Plan and Recreation Strategy commenced in June 2015. Various projects from the Community Action Plans are underway.
1.1.4 Develop a Community Engagement Strategy.	Strategy adopted.	The Community Engagement Framework was adopted by Council on 18 March 2015.
1.1.5 Support integration of migrants into the community.	Cultural event and information sessions held.	Karen New Year celebrations were held in January 2015. The Karen Community Plan was adopted on 17 September 2014. Successfully advocated and obtained funding that has allowed Council to appoint a Settlement Officer and Migration Officer. Karen information sessions undertaken include fire safety, fishing permits, VEC 'how to vote' and firearm regulations.
1.1.6 Support and encourage volunteering and work collaboratively with Volunteering Western Victoria.	Volunteer Week events, youth volunteering workshop, Volunteer awards.	The efforts of our volunteers were recognised during Volunteer Week (May). Plans are underway to complete training with our S86 committees. Council collaborated with VVV with the Memory Lane Cafés, Seniors Lifestyle Expo, HACC Wimmera project group, and the Wimmera community transport model co-design workshop. A volunteer workshop was organised in National Youth Week so that local youth can gain a better understanding of what volunteering is, what volunteering options are available in the area and how it can be of benefit to them. Financially supported the regional Volunteer Awards.
1.2.1 Implement initiatives to improve Youth engagement in the Shire.	Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council established.	Activities included the continuation of FReeZA and Engage! Programs and the establishment of the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council. We have run four school holiday programs as well as a variety of FreeZA events, continually increasing the participation of young people. Particular highlights included an outdoor movie screening in Dimboola during Youth Week 2015 and a movie night at Nhill

Strategic Objective 1: Community Liveability

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
		attracting over 100 young people. Council staff attended the Youth Unconference with migrant youth from the Shire, with ongoing meetings to follow up outcomes. The Youth Council was established in April 2015. Since this time, Youth Councillors have attended a leadership retreat with Y Lead as well as held a couple of Youth Council meetings. Youth Councillors have also supported youth events.
1.2.2 Implement actions in Council's Positive Ageing and Inclusion Plan.	Hindmarsh Seniors Festival hosted.	Aged & Disability Services aims to support people in their own homes and communities by providing services that promote and maintain independence. The program assists frail older people, people with a disability and their carers. These services provide basic support and maintenance to people living at home or who are at risk of premature or inappropriate admission to long-term residential care. Council runs activities and initiatives that contribute to the strategic directions in the Council Plan to enhance services and provide quality home and community care for recipients. In 2014, Council also ran a very successful Hindmarsh Seniors Festival, including two concerts and four luncheons and attended by approximately 500 people from across the Shire. This festival will continue in October 2015.
1.2.3 Review the level of financial support provided to community groups.	Review conducted.	We continue to work proactively with our community groups and Town Committees to use our financial contributions as leverage for the attraction of support from other sources. The "Open Spaces" program, which is a partnership program with each Town Committee, has commenced implementation.
1.2.4 Review and implement Municipal Public Health and Community Wellbeing Plan.	Not achieved.	The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan will be reviewed in the second half of 2015 to ensure it continues to meet our community's needs.
1.2.5 Adopt and implement Domestic Animal Management Plan.	Domestic Animal Management Plan adopted.	We have undertaken our annual review of the Domestic Animal Plan to ensure it remains relevant and in line with regulations.
1.2.6 Review and implement Municipal Early Years Plan.	Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP) reviewed and implemented.	State Government funding of \$800,000 and Federal Government funding for a further \$500,000 towards the Nhill Integrated Early Years Centre (NiEYC) has been approved. NiEYC Fundraising Committee was established as a \$86 committee at Council's December 2014 meeting, membership of which is currently being finalised. Consultations held in December 2014 with both professionals and community members regarding the location, design and layout of the facility. Tender awarded for the architectural design and project administration in August 2015.
1.2.7 Review public safety in the CBDs of our towns.	Report presented to Council.	A report was presented to Council in June 2014. A deputation of Victorian Police members from our towns attended a Council Briefing in March 2015 to further discuss safety in our towns. Applications for funding under the 2015-16 Community Safety Fund Grant to improve lighting in Rainbow and Dimboola were approved in September 2015.

Strategic Objective 1: Community Liveability

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
1.2.8 Establish a training program for S86 committees.	Instruments of Delegation reviewed.	Review currently underway of status of all S86 Committees and their levels of compliance. Most of the surveys sent to committees have been returned and will inform the future governance models. Some S86 Committees were re-established with new Instruments of Delegation in November 2014 and May 2015.
1.3.1 Review Council's Recreation Strategy (including a Skate Park Strategy).	Review underway.	Contract appointed Insight Leisure (now SED Consulting) to develop its Recreation Strategy. Consultations for the Strategy are occurring in conjunction with precinct planning consultations. Consultations commenced in June 2015 with a community survey.
1.3.2 Encourage establishment of community gardens.	Two community gardens established.	Yurunga Homestead orchard officially opened late 2014. Grant funding being expended at Nhill Community Garden to upgrade facilities. Jeparit community demonstrating interest in developing a community garden in Broadway. Menzies Square will also include community garden components. Initial conversations held with Dimboola community, but currently lacking site and community champions.
1.3.3 Create a trail along the Wimmera River and Lake Hindmarsh, subject to a feasibility study and funding.	Feasibility study underway.	Grant funding was obtained to undertake initial feasibility study. Project steering committee has met and consultant tender document currently being prepared. Deputation to Federal Indigenous Affairs Department undertaken in April 2015.
1.3.4 Prepare a Precinct Plan for Dimboola.	Consultations commenced.	Contract awarded to SED Consulting to complete Precinct Plans for Dimboola and Nhill. Consultations for Precinct Plan Strategy are occurring in conjunction with Recreation Strategy consultations. Consultations commenced in June 2015.
1.3.5 Prepare a Precinct Plan for Jeparit.	Not achieved.	Due to government funding priorities, funding for the Jeparit Precinct Plan is yet to be obtained.
1.3.6 Prepare a Precinct Plan for Nhill.	Consultations commenced.	Contract awarded to SED Consulting to complete Precinct Plans for Dimboola and Nhill. Consultations for Precinct Plan Strategy are occurring in conjunction with Recreation Strategy consultations. Consultations commenced in June 2015.
1.3.7 Review recreation reserve Masterplan for Rainbow.	Masterplan implementation underway.	The Masterplan was adopted by the Rainbow Recreation Reserve committee of management. Funding has been received for the redevelopment of the Rainbow Community Pavilion.
1.3.8 Digital projection equipment for NMCC.	Installation complete.	Digital equipment installed November 2014. First movie screened 12 December 2014. Two screenings per week from January 2015.

Strategic Objective 1: Community Liveability

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2014/15 budget for the year.

Major Initiatives	Progress
Develop Community Precinct Plans for Dimboola and Nhill focusing on existing and future social infrastructure and services including sport and recreation facilities, community centres, halls and other community based facilities.	To minimise consultation fatigue, Council decided to combine its community engagement processes for the development of Community Precinct Plans for Dimboola and Nhill, the review of Community Plans in Jeparit and Rainbow and the preparation of a Recreation Strategy. Consultation commenced in June 2015 with community surveys. A first round of community workshops was held in August 2015, with further consultation to occur in September/October 2015 before Precinct Plans, Recreation Strategy and Community Plans are finalised.
Review existing Jeparit and Rainbow community action plans and establish new plans incorporating new and previously prioritised initiatives that are yet to be implemented. Continue to support community groups and project working groups to plan their projects, assist with the sourcing of project funding and manage projects through to completion.	As above. Some of the projects supported in 2014/15 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Club room redevelopment at the Rainbow Recreation Reserve > Works at Yurunga Historic Homestead > Works to improve the gardens in Federal Street Rainbow > Completion of the construction of Community Gym and Men's Shed Building in Jeparit > Power upgrade at the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum.
Review public safety in the CBDs of our towns.	A report was presented to Council in June 2014. A deputation of Victorian Police members from our towns attended a Council Briefing in March 2015 to further discuss safety in our towns. Applications for funding under the 2015-16 Community Safety Fund Grant to improve lighting in Rainbow and Dimboola were approved in September 2015.
Establish a training program for S86 committees.	Review currently underway of status of all S86 Committees and their levels of compliance. Most of the surveys sent to committees have been returned and will inform the future governance models. Some S86 Committees were re-established with new Instruments of Delegation in November 2014 and May 2015. We will finalise the transition of S86 Committees to different advisory bodies and delivery of training in 2015/16.
Review Council's Recreation Strategy (including a Skate Park Strategy).	As above.
Create a trail along the Wimmera River and Lake Hindmarsh, subject to a feasibility study and funding.	Grant funding was obtained to undertake initial feasibility study. Consultants TRC Tourism were appointed in June 2015 to undertake the feasibility study. Work on the study commenced in July 2015.
Establish an Early Years Reference Group in accordance with the Municipal Early Years Plan.	The Early Years Reference Group's focus in 2014/15 has been on the development of the Nhill Integrated Early Years Centre. In 2015/16 the group will refocus on the transition from budget based childcare to a childcare subsidy registered service. Council also established a Nhill Integrated Early Years Fundraising Committee in December 2014.
Establish Hindmarsh Early Years Network in accordance with the Municipal Early Years Plan.	The establishment of the Hindmarsh Early Years Network has been delayed due to the focus of Council's limited early years resources on the development of the Nhill Integrated Early Years Centre.

Strategic Objective 1: Community Liveability

Major Initiatives	Progress
Establish a Youth Council to increase the capacity of engagement and empowerment of young people in their community to create a sustainable framework of youth-centred activities, forums and leadership.	Following a significantly oversubscribed nomination process, the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council was established with 13 Youth Councillors, four young people from each secondary school plus the Hindmarsh Young Citizen of the Year 2015, in April 2015. The Youth Council was officially launched in May 2015 and undertook a leadership retreat in early June 2015. The Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council recently established its own facebook page and looks forward to developing a Youth Strategy and facilitating youth activities in the coming year.
Implementation of the Positive Ageing and Inclusion Plan identified action and activities. This will enhance Council's commitment to provide accessible services to enable the community to be healthy, active and engaged.	Council continues to provide Home and Community Care activities enabling our residents to "age in place". In collaboration with the Nhill Learning Centre, we facilitated iPad training for seniors. Council prints and distributes mobility maps as required. In October 2014, we also ran a very successful Hindmarsh Seniors Festival attended by approximately 500 people from across the Shire.
Undertake annual review and evaluation and continue to implement Municipal Public Health and Community Wellbeing Plan.	The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan will be reviewed in the second half of 2015 to ensure it continues to meet our community's needs. To maximise the use of the region's limited resources, the review will focus on the Plan's alignment with State Government and local health service priorities.
Work with Port Phillip City Council under the friendship alliance agreement to cross promote and organise events in each municipality.	Several events were organised and activities cross promoted in each municipality throughout 2014/15, these included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The regional launch of the St Kilda Film Festival in Nhill in June 2015. > Participation of Port Phillip and Hindmarsh representatives in Project Hindmarsh tree planting weekend. > Participation of Emerald Hill Art Group in Nhill Gallery Central exhibitions.
Support locally-significant community-driven events and festivals that stimulate tourism growth in the region.	Hindmarsh Shire Council supported significant community events throughout 2015, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Rainbow Bushfire Recovery Concert > Nhill Lake Fiestas > Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Vintage Rally. Council also supported local events through its Community Action Grants – Event Sponsorship Category. Council provided assistance to the Nhill Air Show which will be held in October 2015 and successfully applied for grants for the Air Show and the 2015 Karen New Year.

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2014/15 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance \$
Community Development	Work with community groups, organisations and individuals to assist communities reach their aspirations and be healthy, active and engaged.	114,396 <u>151,270</u> 36,874
Maternal Child Health Centres	Maintain the maternal and child health centres in Dimboola and Nhill and provide support to child service providers through the Municipal Early Years Plan. (Council does not provide maternal and child health services. This service is provided by West Wimmera Health Service.)	13,521 <u>17,611</u> 4,090
Kindergarten Services	Provision of Kindergarten services in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow under contract with Wimmera Uniting Care. (Council does not directly deliver Kindergarten Services.)	(43,316) <u>367,511</u> 410,827
Youth Services	Improve the wellbeing and opportunities for youth within the Shire.	(7,644) <u>52,275</u> 59,919
Aged and Disability Services	Home and Community Care Services aim to support people in their own homes and communities by providing services that promote and maintain independence. Deliver the full range of services provided by Council's Home and Community Care Department including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Assessments > Delivered Meals and Centre Based Meals > Personal Care > Respite Care services > Home care / Domestic Assistance services > Property Maintenance and minor modifications. 	(69,081) <u>(24,971)</u> 44,110
Health Promotions	To protect and enhance the health of the community.	58,706 <u>65,813</u> 7,107
Libraries	Provision of permanent library services in Dimboola and Nhill and mobile library services in Jeparit and Rainbow.	157,905 <u>181,724</u> 23,819
Arts, Culture and Community Events	Promote and support activities relating to arts, culture and community events throughout the Shire.	90,004 <u>107,159</u> 17,155
Recreation Programs	Providing a range of recreation programs that encourage an active and healthy life.	10,890 <u>10,472</u> (418)
Public Order and Safety	Educate the community about public order and safety and enforce Council's compliance with the local laws when required. Maintain and operate school crossings for Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow. The school crossing on the Western Highway in Nhill is the only staffed crossing in the Shire. Other crossings on local roads are manned by volunteers or school teachers.	84,656 <u>70,766</u> (13,890)
Early Years	Lead a joint effort that will give Hindmarsh children the best start in life, working collaboratively with community and early years providers.	20,032 <u>24,109</u> 4,077

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

Service/Indicator/Measure	Result	Material Variations
Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Satisfaction Participation in first MCH home visit [Number of first MCH home visits / Number of birth notifications received] x100	N/A	Not applicable. Council has no operational control over MCH services.
Service standard Infant enrolments in the MCH service [Number of infants enrolled in the MCH service (from birth notifications received) / Number of birth notifications received] x100	N/A	Not applicable. Council has no operational control over MCH services.
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	N/A	Not applicable. Council has no operational control over MCH services.
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	N/A	Not applicable. Council has no operational control over MCH services.
Home and Community Care Service standard Compliance with Community Care Common Standards [Number of Community Care Common Standards expected outcomes met / Number of expected outcomes under the Community Care Common Standards] x100	100.00%	No material variations.
Participation Participation in HACC service [Number of people that received a HACC service / Municipal target population for HACC services] x100	30.09%	No material variations.
Participation in HACC service by CALD people [Number of CALD people who receive a HACC service / Municipal target population in relation to CALD people for HACC services] x100	30.77%	No material variations.
Food Safety Service standard Food safety assessments [Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that receive an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984 / Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that require an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984] x100	40.23%	No material variations.
Service cost Cost of food safety service [Direct cost of the food safety service / Number of food premises registered or notified in accordance with the Food Act 1984]	\$701.85	No material variations.

Service/Indicator/Measure	Result	Material Variations
Health and safety Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about food premises] x100	100.00%	No material variations.
Libraries Utilisation Library collection usage [Number of library collection item loans / Number of library collection items]	1.28	No material variations.
Resource standard Standard of library collection [Number of library collection items purchased in the last 5 years / Number of library collection items] x100	41.95%	No material variations.
Service cost Cost of library service [Direct cost of the library service / Number of visits]	\$5.14	No material variations.
Participation Active library members [Number of active library members / Municipal population] x100	14.30%	No material variations.
Animal Management Service standard Animals reclaimed [Number of animals reclaimed / Number of animals collected]	52.08%	No material variations.
Service cost Cost of animal management service [Direct cost of the animal management service / Number of registered animals]	\$50.00	No material variations.
Health and safety Animal management prosecutions [Number of successful animal management prosecutions]	0.00	No material variations.

Strategic Objective 2: Built and Natural Environment

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

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
2.1.1 Re-develop and maintain attractive streetscapes, open spaces and public places.	Variety of streetscape projects completed.	Completed the redevelopment of Lochiel St, Dimboola. Open spaces project currently being implemented which includes high profile streetscape improvements for Dimboola, Nhill, Jeparit and Rainbow. Funding for the development of Menzies Square, Jeparit, was approved in October 2014 and designs have been prepared in partnership with Federation University and the Menzies Foundation in June 2015.
2.1.2 That Council encourage and support residents and ratepayers to maintain the cleanliness and good order of the properties for which they are responsible.	Two free green waste collection months held.	Free disposal of green waste was offered in September and October 2014.
2.1.3 Redevelop and beautify the Lochiel/Lloyd Streets corner in Dimboola.	Redevelopment complete.	Works completed.
2.1.4 Develop and prioritise detailed plans relating to infrastructure upgrade and renewal (including roads, bridges, drains, footpaths and buildings) for each town.	Capital Improvement Plan developed.	Planning has been completed, forming the basis for Council's 2015/16 Budget and the three year Capital Works Program.
2.1.5 Review roads and bridges hierarchy.	Roads Hierarchy approved.	Council approved the Roads Hierarchy on 17 June 2015 to be released for community consultation prior to incorporation into an updated Road Management Plan.
2.1.6 Implement recommendations from drainage studies.	Three drainage projects completed.	Major works detailed in the plan (such as Wimmera St, Dimboola and Ramsay St, Nhill). Drainage works undertaken in Nhill and Dimboola, most notably the completion of Denham St drainage project.
2.1.7 Prepare a footpath strategy.	Footpath Strategy drafted.	A draft Road Management Plan, of which a footpath strategy would form part, was presented to Council the first half of 2015. Hindmarsh Shire's Pathway and Mobility Strategy 2015 was subsequently adopted by Council in July 2015 for public consultation.
2.1.8 Complete Shire Office redevelopment in Nhill.	New building operational.	The office redevelopment achieved practical completion in October 2013. The building was officially opened by the Victorian Governor on 28 March 2014.
2.1.9 Undertake Heritage Study subject to funding.	Not achieved.	No further action has been taken as no funding opportunities presented themselves for this venture and current State Government priorities make it unlikely this would occur.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
2.1.10 Support the community in determining options for the use of the former Rainbow Primary School.	Options for the former Rainbow Primary School identified.	Council has attended meetings with the Rainbow community in relation to potential uses for the former Primary School site. We have also lobbied the Minister of Education for the community's use of the site. Council will continue to advocate for the upkeep the site as it is falling into disrepair.
2.1.11 Advocate for the co-location of emergency services in Dimboola.	Discussions held with emergency services.	Council has met with the community and stakeholders and progressed discussions about an appropriate site for co-located services. Council wrote to State Emergency Services Minister in late 2014 advocating for the expedition of the Dimboola development. Meeting between CEO, Ward Councillors and Senior CFA personal held to discuss options. The CFA is yet to announce its preferred site.
2.2.1 Implement recommendations from the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, subject to funding.	Two projects implemented.	We have undertaken pool leakage repairs (Dimboola, Jeparit and Rainbow pools) and are participating in the Lighting the Regions project.
2.2.2 Implement the Integrated Water Management Plan.	One project implemented.	Council has recently exchanged potable water use in road construction to bore water utilising the Davis Park Bore. Further work has been done on testing and repairing various pools in the Council's jurisdiction.
2.3.1 Continue to support local Landcare groups.	Memorandum of Understanding with Hindmarsh Landcare Network.	A Memorandum of Understanding between Council and the Hindmarsh Landcare Network was signed in early 2014. New MOU for the 2015/16 year currently under review.
2.3.2 Review the Minyip Road Revegetation Pilot Project.	Review of the Minyip Road Revegetation Pilot Project completed.	No further action on revegetation project due to lack of funding and reintroduction of roadside cropping.
2.3.3 Review and implement Hindmarsh Environmental Strategy, subject to funding.	Pest plant and animal control undertaken.	We will implement actions from the Roadside Pest Plant and Animals Plan including rabbit control in line with funding received from the State Government.
2.4.1 Advocate for distributed energy generation for Shire towns using solar, waste and biomass, wind and geothermal sources, subject to funding.	Report presented to Council of future energy options.	A report considering distributed energy generation was presented to Council's June 2014 meeting. Renewable energy trial program dependent on provider interest and proposal of an appropriate project. Private operator currently undertaking a Wind Farm Feasibility Study.
2.4.2 Establishment of Pyrolysis Plan.	Deleted.	Deleted in the Council Plan's June 2014 revision.
2.4.3 Continue to support Wimmera Mallee Sustainability Alliance.	Wimmera Mallee Sustainability Alliance membership and support continued.	We continue our membership of the Alliance.

Strategic Objective 2: Built and Natural Environment

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2014/15 budget for the year.

Major Initiatives	Progress
3 large reconstruction projects: sections along the Diapur - Miram Road, Lorquon East Road and the Dimboola - Minyip Road.	The three reconstruction projects were completed in the first half of 2014/15, well on time and on budget.
Develop and prioritise detailed plans relating to infrastructure upgrade and renewal (including roads, bridges, drains, footpaths and buildings) for each town.	Ongoing – 3 year forward capital works program adopted by Council as part of its Annual Budget process.
Implement recommendations from drainage studies.	Denham St drainage project completed in 2014/15, with further works to be completed in 2015/16 and 2016/17.
Construct and seal internal road in Bicentennial Park, Dimboola.	The internal road was sealed in the first quarter of 2014/15. Works have greatly improved the amenity of the Park.
Replace short length of defective kerb and channel in Victoria Street, Nhill.	The replacement works were completed in the latter part of 2014/15. The disabled carpark was relocated at the same time.
Upgrade the Rainbow Recreation Reserve Community Pavilion to provide a fit for purpose community facility.	The Rainbow Recreation Reserve Community Pavilion received funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria in October 2014. Designs for the pavilion have been developed in partnership with the Rainbow Recreation Reserve Committee. Tender specifications have been prepared and upgrade works are anticipated to occur in early 2016.
Redevelop the Rainbow Football Netball Club change room facility to include football, netball and umpire change rooms and gymnasium.	Continuing to work with Jeparit/Rainbow Football Netball Club to develop the design and costings. We will be seeking funding opportunities for the redevelopment once designs are complete.
Purchase 'eye' wash sinks for Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow swimming pools.	Completed. Eye wash sinks were installed in 2014.
Install Unisex disabled toilet at Jeparit Recreation Reserve.	Works did not proceed as a building standards assessment deemed the disabled toilets in the community pavilion compliant with standards applying at the time of its construction.
Install new drainage system in the oval at the Dimboola Recreation Reserve.	New drainage was installed around the football oval prior to the 2014/15 season and has greatly improved the playing experience.
Reseal the surround of the Dimboola Recreation Reserve oval.	The existing surrounds of the oval were resurfaced with bitumen prior to the football season.

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2014/15 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance \$
Local Roads and Bridges	The aim of Council's road and bridges program is to provide safe, all weather access to residences and allow for efficient transport of goods to and from the Shire.	5,840,368 <u>5,908,204</u> 67,836
Drainage Management	The aim of this program is to have well maintained, fit for purpose drainage systems within townships.	972,719 <u>728,305</u> (244,414)
Paths and Trails	The aim of Council's paths and trails program is to provide well maintained pedestrian, including disabled, access to critical and popular destinations around our townships.	476,875 <u>424,497</u> (52,378)
Tree Management	The aim of Council's Tree Management program is to conduct maintenance, inspections and replanting works on Council road reserves, parks and gardens and recreation reserves.	193,998 <u>226,950</u> 32,952
Town Beautification	The aim of Council's Town Beautification program is to maintain and redevelop public open spaces in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.	752,797 <u>733,382</u> (19,415)
Community Centres and Public Halls	Maintenance, renewal and upgrade of Council-owned and controlled community centres and halls, and supporting communities that undertake these activities on behalf of Council.	502,779 <u>329,890</u> (172,889)
Recreation Facilities	Maintenance, renewal and upgrade of Council owned and controlled recreational land, buildings and facilities. Council also supports groups that undertake these activities on behalf of Council.	720,912 <u>1,023,939</u> 303,027
Waste Management	Management of Council's transfer stations and collection and disposal of domestic waste and recyclables across the Shire.	33,006 <u>(30,439)</u> (63,445)
Quarry Operations	Management of Council-owned and controlled quarries and gravel pits for extraction of gravel for road making.	3,540 <u>82,174</u> 78,634
Waterway Management	Management of Council-controlled waterways including weir pools and lakes.	1,161,950 <u>65,452</u> (1,096,498)
Environment Management	Manage, protect and enhance Council's natural assets in conjunction with Government departments and environmental groups.	154,288 <u>174,953</u> 20,665
Fire Protection	To identify potential fire hazards and to prevent loss to life and property caused by fire.	129,240 <u>266,243</u> 137,003

Strategic Objective 2: Built and Natural Environment

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

Service/Indicator/Measure	Result	Material Variations
Roads Satisfaction of use Sealed local road requests [Number of sealed local road requests / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	4.91	No material variations.
Condition Sealed local roads below the intervention level [Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	97.72%	No material variations.
Service cost Cost of sealed local road reconstruction [Direct cost of sealed local road reconstruction / Square metres of sealed local roads reconstructed]	\$18.74	No material variations.
Cost of sealed local road resealing [Direct cost of sealed local road resealing / Square metres of sealed local roads resealed]	\$5.61	No material variations.
Satisfaction Satisfaction with sealed local roads [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]	47	No material variations.
Aquatic Facilities Service standard Health inspections of aquatic facilities [Number of authorised officer inspections of Council aquatic facilities / Number of Council aquatic facilities]	1.75	No material variations.
Health and Safety Reportable safety incidents at aquatic facilities [Number of WorkSafe reportable aquatic facility safety incidents]	0.00	No material variations.
Service cost Cost of indoor aquatic facilities [Direct cost of indoor aquatic facilities less income received / Number of visits to indoor aquatic facilities]	\$0.00	Council does not operate indoor aquatic facilities.
Cost of outdoor aquatic facilities [Direct cost of outdoor aquatic facilities less income received / Number of visits to outdoor aquatic facilities]	\$17.48	No material variations.
Utilisation Utilisation of aquatic facilities [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	3.01	No material variations.

Service/Indicator/Measure	Result	Material Variations
Waste Collection Satisfaction Kerbside bin collection requests [Number of kerbside garbage and recycling bin collection requests / Number of kerbside bin collection households] x1,000	5.96	No material variations.
Service standard Kerbside collection bins missed [Number of kerbside garbage and recycling collection bins missed / Number of scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts] x10,000	3.25	No material variations.
Service cost Cost of kerbside garbage collection service [Direct cost of the kerbside garbage bin collection service / Number of kerbside garbage collection bins]	\$171.06	No material variations.
Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service [Direct cost of the kerbside recyclables bin collection service / Number of kerbside recyclables collection bins]	\$70.61	No material variations.
Waste Diversion Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100	23.85%	No material variations.

Strategic Objective 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy

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

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
3.1.1 Run "Open for Business" project in Nhill.	"Open for Business" held.	Nhill Alive with Business Opportunity was held in October 2013.
3.1.2 Market the Shire's liveability.	Participation at Regional Victoria Living Expo.	Council attended the Regional Living Expo in April 2014. Vacant shop and home audits commenced in the first half of 2015 and a portfolio will be developed for prospective businesses and future home owners. Council's website and a new tourism website are currently being developed.
3.1.3 Support Wimmera Development Association's Cadet Program.	Intern employed.	We continue our partnership with the Wimmera Development Association's internship program and during January and February 2015 have employed a finance intern.
3.1.4 Develop and implement an economic development strategy with a strong tourism focus.	Economic Development Strategy adopted.	Council adopted the Economic Development Strategy after extensive community consultation during the first half of 2015 on 15 July 2015.
3.1.5 Active involvement in RCV and WDA.	Continued membership of Rural Councils Victoria and Wimmera Development Association.	Membership with both organisations continues.
3.1.6 Work regionally/collaboratively with other organisations.	Continued support/membership of Western Highway Action Group, Wimmera Regional Transport Group and business associations.	Membership with WHAG and WRTG continues.
3.1.7 Review Hindmarsh Planning Scheme, including Municipal Strategic Statement, with a focus on industrial and residential development.	Revised Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) drafted.	A revised MSS was presented to Council in May 2015 and is currently proceeding to the planning scheme amendment process.
3.1.8 Advocate for increased supply of appropriate housing within the Shire.	Advocacy undertaken.	Council inspected WWHS housing solution. Onsite visit to Pyrenees Shire residential subdivision at February retreat. Several meetings undertaken to lobby for a continuation of NRAS funding.
3.2.1 Develop a Tourism Strategy.	Not achieved.	Council's application for funding of a Tourism Strategy was unsuccessful. Tourism has been incorporated into Council's Economic Development Strategy.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
3.2.2 Appealing tourism facilities that promote visitation and meet visitor needs.	Tourism facility improvements completed.	Two cabins installed at the Jeparit Caravan Park. Stage 1 works at the Riverside Holiday Park Dimboola have commenced. Installation of the camp kitchens at Four Mile Beach underway.
3.2.3 Support locally significant community driven events and festivals that stimulate tourism growth in the region.	Community events supported.	Events supported include: Dimboola Movember Men's Night, Nhill Probus Club Annual Bowls Night, Wimmera Mallee Bushfire Recovery Concert held in March, Australia Day Concert in Dimboola, Friday Night Fiestas held at the Nhill Lake and Karen New Year Celebrations in January.
3.2.4 Review and upgrade current caravan and camping accommodation in the Shire.	Caravan/camping facility improvements completed.	Installation of cabins at Jeparit Caravan Park, the major redevelopment of Dimboola Caravan Park was designed and tendered in 2014/15.
3.2.5 Construct the Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre.	Stage 1 completed.	The Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre was officially opened on 23 May 2014.
3.2.6 Promote and support local historic assets and heritage groups.	Local historic assets and heritage groups supported.	We acknowledge the incredible importance our heritage assets have to the wellbeing of our communities and in the attraction of visitors to our towns. We have worked with a number of our heritage groups to improve these assets, most notably the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum and Yurunga Homestead.
3.2.7 Consider provision of RV facilities for an 'RV friendly' town.	Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow to be 'RV friendly'.	Dimboola, Jeparit and Rainbow have achieved RV friendly status with RV friendly parking and RV dump points installed. The development of an RV dump point in Nhill is budgeted for 2015/16.
3.3.1 Advocate for appropriate NBN coverage.	Supported the Wimmera Development Association and Wimmera Mallee councils in advocacy efforts.	Multiple meetings have been held by the CEO and Mayor with external stakeholders and a Heads of Agreement entered into with NBN Co. Planning process is completed for Broadband towers to be installed in Dimboola, Jeparit and Rainbow. Case studies have been prepared on six Hindmarsh based businesses and linking the roll out of NBN in our area to jobs. These have been presented to the Parliamentary Secretary for Communications.
3.3.2 Promote the availability and encourage take-up of the NBN.	In progress.	Delayed due to Federal Government policy and implementation changes.
3.3.3 Advocate for appropriate mobile phone coverage.	In progress.	Advocacy to Federal and State Governments has been extensive. Mobile coverage was discussed during recent Canberra deputations. In response to advocacy efforts, additional infrastructure will be installed at Netherby.
3.4.1 Advocate for flexible and responsive public and freight transport.	Active involvement in Western Highway Action Committee and Wimmera Regional Transport Group.	Council's membership with WHAC and WRTG continues. Road transport and bulk grain handling featured heavily in the Economic Development Strategy discussions. Participating in a freight logistics study as part of State Government project.

Strategic Objective 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2014/15 budget for the year.

Major Initiatives	Progress
Develop and implement an economic development strategy with a strong tourism focus.	After a successful funding application to the Victorian Government's Putting Locals First Program, Council established its Economic Development Strategy Advisory Committee (EDSAC) in June 2014. Consultants for the development of the Strategy were appointed in September 2014. The EDSAC provided substantial feedback, ideas and recommendations from a local perspective about the direction of the strategy. The draft strategy was developed through extensive consultation of over 70 individuals across numerous consultation methods and adopted for public comment in May 2015. The final Hindmarsh Economic Development Strategy was adopted in July 2015.
Undertake improvements to beautify and redevelop Menzies Square in Jeparit.	Funding and contributions for the redevelopment were obtained in early 2015, including support from Federation University, Menzies Foundation and State Government. After a detailed design process in the first part of 2015, tender specifications for the works are currently being completed.
Participation at Regional Victoria Living Expo and town open weekends hosted as needed.	Council attended the Regional Living Expo in April 2014.
Develop and implement a Tourism Strategy.	Council's application for funding of a Tourism Strategy was unsuccessful. Tourism has been incorporated into Council's Economic Development Strategy.
Identification and construction of infrastructure to improve visitor amenities throughout the Shire.	<p>Initiatives were identified across the Shire with works either completed or currently underway.</p> <p>Redevelopment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Dimboola's Riverside Holiday Park – including camp kitchen underway. <p>Construction of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > New cabins at Jeparit Caravan Park completed. > Camp Kitchens at Four Mile Beach Lake Hindmarsh underway. <p>RV Dump Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Jeparit and Rainbow completed. > Nhill currently being developed. <p>Open spaces projects completed include Bongiorno's car park, Nhill, Nine Creeks Reserve, Dimboola, Federal Street gardens, Rainbow and Broadway Jeparit. Improvements made to the Hindmarsh Visitor Information Centre, Nhill.</p>
Implementation of infrastructure services at Dimboola Caravan Park.	In progress. Tender specifications for redevelopment works prepared and contract awarded in May 2015. Contractor commenced in August 2015.
Commence redevelopment of Menzies Square, Jeparit.	As above.

Major Initiatives	Progress
Finalise 10 Year Master Plan for Dimboola Caravan Park.	The 10 Year Master Plan for Dimboola Caravan Park was completed in July 2014 after extensive community consultation.
Review Hindmarsh Planning Scheme, including Municipal Strategic Statement, with a focus on industrial and residential development.	A revised MSS was presented to Council in May 2015 and is currently proceeding to the planning scheme amendment process.
Undertake heritage study, subject to funding.	No further action has been taken as no funding opportunities presented themselves for this venture and current State Government priorities make it unlikely this would occur.

Strategic Objective 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2014/15 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance \$
Economic Development	To encourage Economic Development throughout the municipality.	129,240 <u>266,243</u> 137,003
Tourism	To develop a thriving Wimmera Mallee Tourism industry predominantly based on, but not limited to, the Shire's heritage and environmental assets.	118,396 <u>319,344</u> 200,948
Private Works	Provision of private civil works services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Provide quotations for private works undertaken by the Council works department to residents, contractors and other authorities. > Potential private works include grading of farm driveways, grading of fence lines, construction of driveway cross-overs, and supply of labour, plant and materials. > Private works also include repair to Council's infrastructure caused by repair to third party assets. 	(48,103) <u>(48,905)</u> (802)
Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds	Maintenance, renewal and upgrade of Council Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds.	(2,532) <u>218,921</u> 221,453
Land Use Planning	To ensure that any development that occurs in Hindmarsh Shire is carried out in accordance with relevant planning policies, principles and controls. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Provide customers with advice on planning scheme requirements. > Prepare and assess planning scheme amendments and consider planning permit applications. > Represent Council at Panel Hearings and at Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. > Undertake planning scheme compliance checks when necessary. > Process subdivisions and planning certificates. > Implement actions from the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan. 	136,047 <u>124,441</u> (11,606)
Building Control	To provide statutory and private building services to the community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > To carry out Council's statutory private building requirements. > Issuing of building permits and certificates. > Receipt and recording of building permits undertaken by private building surveyors. > Undertake building enforcement and compliance checks. > Provision of reports to the Building Control Commission. 	168,213 <u>212,108</u> 43,895
Aerodrome	Manage and maintain the Nhill Aerodrome.	(93,200) <u>56,692</u> 149,892

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

Service/Indicator/Measure	Result	Material Variations
Statutory Planning Timeliness Time taken to decide planning applications [The median number of days between receipt of a planning application and a decision on the application]	35	No material variations.
Service standard Planning applications decided within 60 days [Number of planning application decisions made within 60 days / Number of planning application decisions made] x100	94.29%	No material variations.
Service cost Cost of statutory planning service [Direct cost of statutory planning service / Number of planning applications received]	\$4,092.29	No material variations.
Decision making Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT [Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside Council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100	0.00%	No material variations.

Strategic Objective 4: Our people, our processes

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

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
4.1.1 An equitable, efficient and transparent rating strategy.	Adoption of Stage 2 of Council's Rating Strategy.	We developed a revised rating strategy for Council's 2014/15 Budget.
4.1.2 Further develop 10 year financial plan.	Ten Year Plan updated annually.	We have developed a Long Term Financial Plan, which has been reviewed by our internal auditors and is updated annually as part of the Budget process.
4.1.3 Advocate to State and Federal Governments regarding Victoria Grants Commission funding.	Advocacy on various levels.	A visit by the Victoria Grants Commission's Chairperson, two members and Executive Officer to Council's March 2015 meeting, provided an opportunity to discuss the funding breakdown and future allocations. We will continue to advocate for VGC allocations with Federal and State members.
4.1.4 Advocate for the continuation of Local Roads and Bridges and Local Government Infrastructure Program funding.	Advocacy on various levels.	We will continue to advocate for the restoration of equivalent funding through MAV advocacy efforts and meetings with various State Government Ministers as opportunities arise.
4.2.1 Develop and implement a communications strategy.	Communication Strategy adopted.	The Communications Strategy was adopted at Council's September 2014 meeting.
4.3.1 Implement a project management system, including software and training for key staff.	Risk Management tool developed.	A Risk Management tool has been developed to improve Council's project management processes.
4.3.2 Develop and implement organisation development plan.	On track.	On track for completion by 30 June 2016.
4.3.3 Provide professional development opportunities for staff and Councillors.	Employees and Councillors participated in professional development opportunities.	A number of staff and Councillors have participated in professional development activities including Induction to Local Government, public speaking and working with media training.
4.4.1 Develop and implement an IT strategy.	IT Strategy completed, implementation underway.	The IT strategy was completed by Fourier in June 2014. New servers have been purchased and the migration of data and programs has been completed. We have updated desktops and computer peripherals. We also introduced HACC PAC mobile to improve rostering, increase safety of staff and achieve payroll efficiencies.
4.5.1 Implement recommendations from Community Flood Response study.	Recommendations implemented.	In progress. Work to implement actions from the Flood Response Study is continuing, including greater communication and involvement with the Catchment Management Authority and affected communities.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
4.5.2 Review and update the Hindmarsh Municipal Emergency Management Plan.	Hindmarsh Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) updated.	Council's MEMP was reviewed and adopted in July 2013. In September 2014, external audit assessed the plan as complying with the guidelines.
4.5.3 Maintain and improve the Jeparit levee bank.	Jeparit levee bank improved.	A Jeparit Flood Levee Management Plan was developed in March 2014.
4.6.1 Include risk management as a standing item of the Leadership Group and Audit Committee agendas.	All Leadership Group and Audit Committee meetings have considered risk management items.	Risk management is included as a standing item on Leadership Group and Audit committee agendas.
4.6.2 Implement improvements to governance framework within Council.	JMAPP audit score and LMI audit score increased.	The LMI audit has been retired, the JMAPP audit is conducted on a biennial basis, next 2014/15.

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2014/15 budget for the year.

Major Initiatives	Progress
Provision of hard stand area for quick fill at Davis Park Bore.	The hard stand area was constructed in July 2015.

Strategic Objective 4: Our people, our processes

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2014/15 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance \$
Civic Leadership and Governance	To ensure that Council provides effective leadership and that its decisions are transparent, inclusive and based on sound recommendations and advice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Management support for the Mayor and Council. > Regular media releases and newsletters to inform the community of current issues. > Lobbying of politicians and government departments. > Advocacy on behalf of the community on key local government issues. > Memberships include Municipal Association of Victoria, Rural Council Victoria, North West Municipalities Association and Wimmera Development Corporation > Community Satisfaction Feedback Survey 	710,616 <u>801,265</u> 90,649
Customer Service Centres	Operation and maintenance of customer service centres to provide facilities from which Council can efficiently deliver services to the community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Management of professionally-focused Customer Service Centres in each township. > Seek improvement in the community satisfaction survey conducted annually. > Adherence to Council's Customer Services Charter. > Provide licensing and registration services on behalf of VicRoads. > Provision of information to ratepayers and the general public on a broad range of services provided by Council and other government agencies. 	467,280 <u>637,755</u> 170,475
Council Elections	Efficient and effective running of Elections by the Victorian Electoral Commission on behalf of Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Ongoing maintenance of the voters' rolls. 	105 <u>6,067</u> 5,971
Financial Management	To ensure the efficient and effective allocation of resources through sound financial planning and management that secures the long term financial viability of the municipality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Preparation of the annual budget, including the capital works budget. > Preparation of Council's Annual Report. > Preparation of management reports to Council and Senior Managers. > Investment of surplus funds in accordance with Council's investment policy having regard to legislation and financial risk. > Support of the internal and external audit functions. > Management of Council's taxation obligations. > Continued lobbying of governments for additional funding and resources. 	(5,988,938) <u>(3,777,621)</u> 2,211,317
Rating and Valuations	Management of Council's rating system, including valuation of properties and the levying of rates and charges. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Maintenance of property and valuation records, including supplementary valuations. > Administering Pensioner rate concessions on behalf of the State Government. > Issue of quarterly Rates and Valuations notices. > Collection of rates and legal action where necessary. > Issue of Land Information Certificates. 	(6,471,853) <u>(6,480,232)</u> (9,379)

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance \$
Records Management	Effective and efficient recording, storage, retrieval and disposal of records in line with the standards of the Public Records Office of Victoria.	92,640
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Compliance with Privacy and Freedom of Information Legislation. > Ensure that Council records, stores and disposes of its records in accordance with statutory obligations. 	<u>119,606</u> 26,966
Information Technology	Using Information Technology as a tool to connect with the community and provide efficient and effective services.	240,052 <u>303,090</u> 63,038
Risk Management	Monitor and manage Council's risks in relation to operations, employment and infrastructure.	263,279
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Monitor and review the Risk Register. > Regular review of the risks and control measures by Senior Management. > Ensuring that Council's assets and interests are insured adequately against risk. > Management of WorkCover Authority insurance and work place injury claims. > Quarterly meetings of the Risk Management Committee. > Quarterly meetings of the Audit Committee. > Advise staff and contractors in relation to Workplace Health and Safety. > Ensure that Council is aware of, and complies with, all of its statutory obligations. 	<u>381,436</u> 118,157
Contract Management	Preparation of contract specifications, administration of tender processes and management of Council's contracted services.	70,605
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Tender preparation and specification development. > Supervision and management of contracted Council services. > Ensure that Council's tendering process (including letting of tenders and appointment of contractors) comply with Council purchasing policies and statutory obligations. > Ensure value for money and best products are achieved. 	<u>76,976</u> 6,371
Payroll and Human Resources Services	Provision of payroll services to Council employees and the provision of human resources services to management.	156,616 <u>152,051</u> (4,565)
Emergency Management	Provide support to the community in the areas of emergency preparedness, emergency response and emergency recovery.	58,508 <u>93,450</u> 34,942
Depots and Workshops	Operation of Council's depots and workshops including the provision of heavy plant and equipment.	691,797
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Securely house plant, equipment and materials. > Provide a base for the outdoor staff. > Provide a location to carry out maintenance and repairs of Council's plant and equipment. > Purchase and maintain plant and equipment to enable the delivery of works. 	<u>510,518</u> (181,279)
Asset Management	Provision of skills, resources and systems to ensure the most efficient and effective management of Council's assets.	103,536
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Ensure that Council targets the correct level of asset expenditure to achieve and maintain the desired levels of service into the foreseeable future. > Ensure that Council's asset renewal expenditure targets the most critical assets. > Provide Council's asset valuations. 	<u>136,257</u> 32,721

Strategic Objective 4: Our people, our processes

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance \$
Fleet Management	<p>Ensure that Council's vehicle fleet is managed, maintained and replaced in the most efficient and effective way possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Timely maintenance of fleet vehicles. > Purchase and replacement of fleet vehicles in accordance with Council policy. 	<p>272,881</p> <p><u>249,663</u></p> <p>(23,218)</p>
Accounts Payable	<p>Payment of invoices in an efficient and timely manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Maintenance of secure payment systems and processes. > Payment of invoices in accordance with Council's payment terms (within 30 days). > All payments to be made via EFT or Direct Credit. 	<p>61,278</p> <p><u>58,732</u></p> <p>(2,546)</p>
Accounts Receivable	<p>Receival of payments from debtors in an efficient and timely manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Monthly invoicing of accounts. > Ensure Council's Outstanding Debtor Policy is adhered to. > Regular reports to management on outstanding debtors. 	<p>25,649</p> <p><u>25,171</u></p> <p>(478)</p>

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

Service/Indicator/Measure	Result	Material Variations
<p>Governance Transparency Council resolutions at meetings closed to the public [Number of council resolutions made at ordinary or special meetings of council, or at meetings of a special committee consisting only of councillors, closed to the public / Number of council resolutions made at ordinary or special meetings of council or at meetings of a special committee consisting only of councillors] x100</p>	16.73%	No material variations.
<p>Consultation and engagement Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on community</p>	59	No material variations.
<p>Attendance Council attendance at Council meetings [The sum of the number of councillors who attended each ordinary and special council meeting / (Number of ordinary and special council meetings) x (Number of councillors elected at the last council general election)] x100</p>	97.10%	No material variations.
<p>Service cost Cost of governance [Direct cost of the governance service / Number of councillors elected at the last council general election]</p>	\$40,431.83	No material variations.
<p>Satisfaction Satisfaction with council decisions [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]</p>	60.00	No material variations.

Governance

The Hindmarsh Shire Council is constituted under the Local Government Act 1989 to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and the local community. Council has a number of roles including:

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

Council is committed to effective and sustainable forms of democratic and corporate governance as the key to ensuring that Council and its administration meet the community's priorities. The community has many opportunities to provide input into Council's decision-making processes including community consultation, public forums such as ward meetings and the ability to make submissions to Special Committees of Council.

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

Meetings of Council

Council conducts open public meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Members of the community are welcome to attend these meetings and observe from the gallery. Council meetings also provide the opportunity for community members to submit a question to the Council, make a submission or speak to an item. For the 2014/15 year, Council held the following meetings:

- › 11 ordinary Council meetings
- › 12 special Council meetings.

The following table provides a summary of Councillor attendance at Council meetings and Special Council meetings for the 2014-15 financial year.

Councillors	Council Meeting	Special Council Meeting	Total
Cr Ron Lowe (Mayor)	11	12	23
Cr Debra Nelson (Deputy Mayor)	10	12	22
Cr Rob Gersch	11	12	23
Cr Ron Ismay	11	12	23
Cr Tony Schneider	10	12	22
Cr Wendy Robins	9	12	21

Special Committees

The Local Government Act 1989 allows councils to establish one or more special committees consisting of:

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

The following table contains a list of all special committees established by council that is in operation and the purpose for which each committee was established.

Special Committee	Councillors	Officers	Other	Purpose
Planning Special Committee ¹	6	3	0	To make planning application decisions.
Minyip Road Revegetation Committee	No delegate	No delegate	No delegate	The restoration of native vegetation on the Dimboola-Minyip Road to create an 'Icon' native grassland demonstration site for the Wimmera Region. Instrument of Delegation revoked 17 Sept 2014.
Rainbow West Pipeline Extension Committee	No delegate	No delegate	No delegate	To provide a means of effective and efficient communication between the Council and the affected Rainbow West Pipeline Extension property owners and to endeavour to coordinate lobbying and other representations for and on behalf of the property owners via the Hindmarsh Shire Council to Ministers, politicians, regional managers and/or other representatives of State or Federal Governments for the purpose of securing funding for a Rainbow West Pipeline Extension. Instrument of Delegation revoked 17 Sept 2014.
Nhill Town Committee	1	1	5	To represent the diverse members of the Nhill community, identify community needs and interests, and advocate on behalf of the community.
Dimboola Town Committee	1	1	11	To represent the diverse members of the Dimboola community, identify community needs and interests, and advocate on behalf of the community.
Jeparit Town Committee	1	1	8	To represent the diverse members of the Jeparit community, identify community needs and interests, and advocate on behalf of the community.
Rainbow Town Committee	1	1	10	To represent the diverse members of the Rainbow community, identify community needs and interests, and advocate on behalf of the community.

Governance, Management and Other Information

Special Committee	Councillors	Officers	Other	Purpose
Antwerp Hall Committee	No delegate	No delegate	8	To provide a public hall facility for the use and benefit of the citizens of Antwerp and district.
Diapur Hall Committee	No delegate	No delegate	12	To provide a public hall facility for the use and benefit of the citizens of Diapur and district.
Gerang Hall Committee	No delegate	No delegate	9	To provide a public hall facility for the use and benefit of the citizens of Gerang and district.
Jeparit Memorial Hall Committee	No delegate	No delegate	10	To provide a public hall facility for the use and benefit of the citizens of Jeparit and district, and to manage/sub lease the Returned Service League Clubrooms and Senior Citizens Clubrooms.
Lorquon Memorial Hall Committee	No delegate	No delegate	8	To provide a public hall facility for the use and benefit of the citizens of Lorquon and district.
Nhill Memorial Community Centre Committee	No delegate	No delegate	No delegate	To provide a public hall for the use and benefit of the citizens of Nhill and district. Instrument of Delegation revoked 17 Sept 2014.
Rainbow Civic Centre Committee	1	No delegate	8	To promote, develop and maintain the premises for the benefit of the community and to satisfy the financial return to the Council in order that the Civic Centre move towards becoming self-supporting.
Yanac Hall & Recreation Reserve Committee	No delegate	No delegate	11	To provide a public hall and recreation reserve for the use and benefit of the citizens of Yanac and district.
Dimboola Memorial Swimming Pool Committee	No delegate	No delegate	No delegate	To contribute to the provision of a swimming facility for the Dimboola Township. Instrument of Delegation revoked 20 May 2015.
Dimboola Sports Stadium Committee	No delegate	No delegate	7	To provide a multi-use sports stadium for the use and benefit of the citizens of Dimboola and district.
Rainbow Recreation Reserve Committee	No delegate	No delegate	7	To provide a public hall and recreation reserve facilities for the use and benefit of the citizens of Rainbow and district.
Hindmarsh Visitor Information Centre Committee	1	1	6	To provide an information service for visitors to the Shire, to promote the Shire and adjacent areas, to ensure that the centre is open at all listed times and manage the visitor information centre facility.
Nhill Duck and Jazz Festival Committee	No delegate	No delegate	No delegate	To provide responsible "Event" management principally for the Nhill Duck & Jazz Festival anyway the committee deems as appropriate, with the underlying philosophy of promoting Nhill and District in a positive manner and conducting activities in a way which is in general for the betterment of the community including community fundraising. Instrument of Delegation revoked 17 Sept 2014.

Special Committee	Councillors	Officers	Other	Purpose
Nhill Sun Moth Reserve Committee of Management	No delegate	No delegate	9	To coordinate, manage, develop, maintain and promote the area known as the Nhill Sun Moth Reserve, area for the conservation of rare, threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna found there and in particular, the nationally endangered Golden and Pale Sun Moths.
Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Committee	1	1	15	To manage the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum.
Yurunga Homestead Committee	1	1	8	To manage the Yurunga Homestead.
Dimboola Community Enterprise Centre Committee	1	1	9	To provide public internet services, computer education, visitor information and neighbourhood house services in response to identified community needs and interests, and for those purposes.
Nhill Integrated Early Years Centre Fundraising Committee	1	1	No delegate	To raise funds for the construction fit out and establishment of the Nhill Integrated Early Years Centre. (Other delegates appointed in August 2015.)

¹ Has delegated functions, duties or powers

Code of Conduct

The Local Government Act 1989 requires councils to develop and approve a Councillor Code of Conduct within 12 months after each general election. On 16 October 2013, Council adopted a revised Councillor Code of Conduct which is designed to:

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

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

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

Conflict of Interest

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

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

While the procedures vary depending on the particular role and circumstances, in general they involve disclosing the relevant interests in a specific way and then stepping aside from the relevant decision-making process or from the exercise of the public duty. A register is maintained to record all disclosed conflict of interests. During 2014–15, two conflicts of interest were declared at Council and Special Committee meetings.

Councillor Allowances

In accordance with Section 74 of the Local Government Act 1989, Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance while performing their duty as a Councillor. The Mayor is also entitled to receive a higher allowance.

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

For the period 1 July 2014 to 1 December 2014, the councillor annual allowance for a category 1 Council (as defined by the Local Government Act 1989) was fixed at \$18,418 per annum and the allowance for the Mayor was \$55,026 per annum. The Minister for Local Government approved an annual adjustment of 2.5 per cent to take effect on 1 December 2014. The annual allowances were adjusted for the period 1 December 2014 to 30 June 2015 to \$18,878 per annum for the councillor allowance and \$56,402 per annum for the Mayoral allowance. The following table contains a summary of the allowances paid to each councillor during the year.

Councillors	Allowance \$
Cr Ron Lowe (Mayor)	\$47,903.95
Cr Debra Nelson (Deputy Mayor)	\$20,461.55
Cr Rob Gersch	\$30,823.45
Cr Ron Ismay	\$20,461.49
Cr Tony Schneider	\$20,461.49
Cr Wendy Robins	\$20,309.05

Councillor Expenses

In accordance with Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1989, 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 policy provides guidance for the payment of reimbursements of expenses and the provision of resources, facilities and other support to the Mayor and Councillors to enable them to discharge their duties. Council also publishes in its Annual Report the details of the expenses, including reimbursement of expenses for each Councillor and member of a Council Committee paid by the council. The details of the expenses for the 2014/15 year are set out in the following table.

Councillors	TR \$	CM \$	CC \$	IC \$	CT \$	Total \$
Cr Ron Lowe (Mayor)		1,036.59		927.92		1,964.51
Cr Debra Nelson (Deputy Mayor)				554.69		554.69
Cr Rob Gersch				1,239.54		1,239.54
Cr Ron Ismay	1440.00	4,892.59		423.19		6,755.78
Cr Tony Schneider				481.26		481.26
Cr Wendy Robins				741.64		741.64

Legend: TR - Travel, CM - Car Mileage, CC - Child Care, IC - Information and Communication expenses, CT - Conferences and Training expenses
 Note: No expenses were paid by Council including reimbursements to members of Council committees during the 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 Act 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 section below. The following items have been highlighted as important components of the management framework.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee's role is to review, evaluate and recommend improvements to the system of procedures and internal controls established by the Council. As part of the audit planning process, the Internal Auditor shall assist HSC's management in identifying and assessing the operational and financial risks to which HSC is exposed. The internal audit function shall monitor compliance to ensure that internal controls over financial and operational areas are effective. The Audit Committee consists of three independent members, Mr Darren Welsh (Chair), Mr Venkata Peteti and Mr Alex Graham, and two Councillors. The desired Audit Committee membership will comprise two Councillors and up to four independent members and their term of membership will coincide with the term of the Councillors of the Hindmarsh Shire Council. The members of the Audit Committee shall elect a Chairman to fill that role until the Committee resolves that a new Chairman should be elected.

The Audit Committee shall meet at least three times in each financial year. The Internal Auditor, Chief Executive Officer and Director Community & Corporate Services Manager attend all Audit Committee meetings. Other management representatives attend as required to present reports. The external auditors generally attend the May and August Audit Committee meetings to present the annual audit plan and Independent Audit Report.

Recommendations from each Audit 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. A risk based audit plan is prepared annually to ensure the audit resources remain focused on the appropriate areas. The review process considers Council's risk framework, the Council Plan, the impact of any change on operations, systems or the business environment; prior audit coverage and outcomes and management input.

The Internal Auditor attends each Audit Committee meeting to report on the status of the audit plan, comment on the implementation of audit recommendations and to present findings of completed reviews.

Under the 2014/15 audit plan the following reviews were conducted:

- > Rates and property data base management
- > Budget preparation.

Due to time constraints, a third area, Council sustainability, could not be completed in 2014/15 and has been carried over to the 2015-16 financial year.

External Audit

Council is externally audited by the Victorian Auditor-General. For the 2014-15 year the annual external audit of Council's Financial Statements and Performance Statement was conducted by the Victorian Auditor-General's representative. Chris Kol of Coffey Hunt, VAGO's representative for the 2013/14 financial year, attended the August (in person) and September 2014 (via telephone) meetings to present the audit plan and independent audit report. John Findlay of Crowe Horwath, VAGO's representative for the 2014/15 financial year, was an apology for the October 2014 and March 2015 Audit Committee meetings and attended part of the May 2015 meeting via telephone. The external audit management letter and responses are also provided to the Audit Committee.

Risk Management

In July 2013, Council adopted its Risk Management Policy, addressing items such as:

- > risk management processes and procedures
- > communication and training
- > responsibilities of internal and external stakeholders
- > risk registers.

Governance and Management Checklist

The following are the results in the prescribed form of Council's assessment against the prescribed governance and management checklist.

Governance and Management Items	Assessment	
1. Community engagement policy (policy outlining Council's commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest)	Community Engagement Framework was adopted by Council on 18 March 2015. It combines policy document and guidelines.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Community engagement guidelines (guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community)	Community Engagement Framework was adopted by Council on 18 March 2015. It combines policy document and guidelines.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Strategic Resource Plan (plan under section 126 of the Act outlining the financial and non-financial resources required for at least the next 4 financial years)	Adopted in accordance with section 126 of the Act Date of adoption: 17 June 2015.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Annual budget (plan under section 130 of the Act 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 130 of the Act Date of adoption: 17 June 2015.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Asset management plans (plans that set out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for at least the next 10 years)	Plans Council adopted a new Asset Management Strategy on 17 June 2015. The Strategy guides the development and review of asset management plans that encompass fit-for-purpose services and facilities which are secure, reliable, technologically efficient, innovative, safe and meet customers' needs. Draft versions of Asset Management Plans will be finalised: Roads, Footpath December 2015, Drains, Buildings June 2016, Recreation & Open Space June 2017.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Rating strategy (strategy setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges)	Strategy Date of operation of current strategy: 17 June 2015	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Risk policy (policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to Council's operations)	Policy Date of operation of current policy: 11 July 2013	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Fraud policy (policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risk of fraud)	Policy Date of operation of current policy: Theft and Fraud Policy 22 August 2008, Protected Disclosure 21 August 2013	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. Municipal emergency management plan (plan under section 20 of the Emergency Management Act 1986 for emergency prevention, response and recovery)	Prepared and maintained in accordance with section 20 of the Emergency Management Act 1986 Date of preparation: 17 July 2013	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. Procurement policy (policy under section 186A of the Local Government Act 1989 outlining the matters, practices and procedures that will apply to all purchases of goods, services and works)	Prepared and approved in accordance with section 186A of the Local Government Act 1989 Date of approval: 18 December 2013, reviewed 15 July 2015.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. Business continuity plan (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to ensure that key services continue to operate in the event of a disaster)	Plan Council has in place a business continuity plan, updated July 2014, and in 2015/16 will focus on its information technology continuity planning.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Governance, Management and Other Information

Governance and Management Items	Assessment	
12. Risk management framework (framework outlining Council's approach to managing risks to the Council's operations)	Framework Date of operation of current Risk Management Strategy, July 2013	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13. Audit Committee (advisory committee of Council under section 139 of the Act whose role is to oversee the integrity of a Council's financial reporting, processes to manage risks to the Council's operations and for compliance with applicable legal, ethical, and regulatory requirements)	Established in accordance with section 139 of the Act Date of establishment: 22 January 2003 Reviewed: 16 July 2014	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14. Internal audit (independent accounting professionals engaged by the Council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving Council's governance, risk and management controls)	Engaged Date of engagement of current provider: 20 December 2006	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15. Performance reporting framework (a set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 131 of the Act)	Framework Date of operation of current framework: 1 July 2014	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16. 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)	Quarterly reports on the performance against the Council Plan are presented to Council. Date reports presented: 19 November 2014, 11 February 2015, 15 April 2015, 19 August 2015	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
17. Financial reporting (quarterly statements to Council under section 138 of the Act comparing budgeted revenue and expenditure with actual revenue and expenditure)	Statements presented to Council in accordance with section 138(1) of the Act Date statements presented: 19 November 2014, 11 February 2015 and 20 May 2015, 19 August 2015	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18. Risk reporting (six-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies)	Reports Date of reports: 14 August 2014, 10 October 2014, 26 March 2015, 28 May 2015	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
19. 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 Act)	Reports Date of reports: 20 May 2015 and 1 October 2014	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20. Annual report (annual report under sections 131, 132 and 133 of the Act to the community containing a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements)	Considered at a meeting of Council in accordance with section 134 of the Act Date statements presented: 15 October 2014	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
21. Councillor Code of Conduct (Code under section 76C of the Act setting out the conduct principles and the dispute resolution processes to be followed by Councillors)	Reviewed in accordance with section 76C of the Act Date reviewed: 16 October 2013	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
22. 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)	Reviewed in accordance with section 98(6) of the Act Date of review: 16 October 2013	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
23. Meeting procedures (a local law governing the conduct of meetings of Council and special committees)	Meeting procedures local law made in accordance with section 91(1) of the Act Date local law made: 23 June 2014	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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



Cr Ron Lowe
Mayor
16 September 2015



Tony Doyle
Chief Executive Officer
16 September 2015

Statutory Information

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

Documents Available for Public Inspection

In accordance with Part 5 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2004, the following is a list of the prescribed documents that are available for inspection or copies of the documents can be obtained for the purposes of section 222 of the Local Government Act 1989 at 92 Nelson Street, Nhill:

- > details of current allowances fixed for the Mayor and Councillors
- > details of senior officers' total salary packages for the current financial year and the previous year
- > details of overseas or interstate travel (with the exception of interstate travel by land for less than three days) undertaken in an official capacity by Councillors or any member of Council staff in the previous 12 months
- > names of Council officers who were required to submit a return of interest during the financial year and the dates the returns were submitted
- > names of Councillors who submitted returns of interest during the financial year and the dates the returns were submitted
- > agendas for and minutes of ordinary and special meetings held in the previous 12 months, except if the minutes relate to parts of meetings which have been closed to members of the public
- > a list of all special committees established by Council and the purpose for which each committee was established
- > a list of all special committees established by the Council which were abolished or ceased to function during the financial year
- > minutes of meetings of special committees held in the previous 12 months except if the minutes relate to parts of meetings which have been closed to members of the public
- > a register of delegations
- > submissions received in accordance with Section 223 of the Act during the previous 12 months
- > agreements to establish regional libraries
- > details of all property, finance and operating leases involving land, buildings, plant, computer equipment or vehicles entered into by the Council as lessor or lessee, including the name of the other party to the lease and the terms and the value of the lease
- > a register of authorised officers
- > a list of donations and grants made by the Council during the financial year
- > a list of the names of the organisations of which the Council was a member during the financial year and details of all membership fees and other amounts and services provided during that year to each organisation by the Council
- > a list of contracts valued at \$150,000 or more which the Council entered into during the financial year without first engaging in a competitive process.

Best Value

In accordance with section 208B(f) of the Local Government Act 1989, at least once every year a Council must report to its community on what it has done to ensure that it has given effect to the Best Value Principles. Council incorporates Best Value Principles through regular business planning and performance monitoring processes and through a commitment to continuous improvement and innovation. To further reflect Council's commitment to Best Value, Council has commenced the design and planning of a Service Planning Program which will be rolled out in stages across the whole organisation. This program will provide additional review and improvement mechanisms to ensure that Council's services achieve best practice standards in regards to service performance.

The following Best Value initiatives were undertaken during 2014-15:

- › budget process – development of guidelines and processes for the preparation of the annual budget
- › accounting policies – development and adoption of accounting policies and procedures
- › long term financial planning – further evaluation and improvement of underlying assumptions

Carers Recognition

In accordance with the Carers Recognition Act 2012, Council is required to report annually on its care measurement obligations under Section 11 of that Act. Council has taken all practicable measures to comply with its responsibilities outlined in the Carers Recognition Act 2012. Council has promoted the principles of that Act to people in care relationships who receive council services, to people in care relationships, and to the wider community by:

- › Distributing printed material through relevant council services
- › Providing information at Council's customer service centres.

Council has taken all practicable measures to ensure staff, council agents and volunteers working for Council are informed about the principles and obligations of the Act by including information on the care relationship in:

- › council induction and training programs for staff working in Aged and Disability Services
- › council induction and training programs for staff working in front-line positions with the general community
- › induction and training programs for volunteers working directly with the community.

Council has taken all practicable measures to review and modify policies, procedures and supports to include recognition of the carer relationship and has provided the following additional activities and resources to recognise the care relationship:

- › provision of respite services for carers
- › providing regular carer support in the form of Memory Lane Cafés.

Contracts

During the year Council did not enter into any contracts valued at \$150,000 or more without first engaging in a competitive process.

Disability Action Plan

In accordance with section 38 of the Disability Act 2006, Council has prepared a Disability Action Plan - Positive Ageing and Inclusion in Hindmarsh Shire 2013 – 2018. It must report on the implementation of the Disability Action Plan in its annual report.

Council has prepared a Disability Action Plan and implemented the following actions:

- › incorporation of accessibility standards in the design brief for Council's new corporate and tourism website
- › continued participation in Wimmera Disability Access Forum
- › professional development – National Relay Service training
- › reviewed Hindmarsh Mobility Maps (to be reissued in 2015/16).

Domestic Animal Management Plan

In accordance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994, Council is required to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan at four yearly intervals and evaluate its implementation in the annual report.

Council adopted the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2013-17 in September 2013. The plan was developed through consultation with Council's Local Laws Team and consideration of input from other Council departments. An operational review of the plan was undertaken in 2014/15.

Food Act Ministerial Directions

In accordance with section 7E of the Food Act 1984, Council is required to publish a summary of any Ministerial Directions received during the financial year in its annual report.

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

Freedom of Information

In accordance with section 7(4AA)(a) and 7(4AA)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 1982, Council is required to publish certain statements in its annual report or separately such as on its website, concerning its functions and information available. Council has chosen to publish the statements separately, however provides the following summary of the application and operation of the Freedom of Information Act 1982.

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

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

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

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

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

Protected Disclosure Procedures

In accordance with section 69 of the Protected Disclosure Act 2012, a Council must include in its annual report information about how to access the procedures established by the Council under Part 9 of that Act. It is also required to provide certain information about the number and types of protected disclosures complaints investigated during the financial year.

The Protected Disclosure Act 2012 aims to ensure openness and accountability in government by encouraging people to disclose improper conduct within the public sector and provide protection for people who make disclosures. Procedures on how to make a disclosure are publicly available on Council's website.

During the 2014/15 year no disclosures were notified to Council officers appointed to receive disclosures, or to Independent Broad Based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC).

Road Management Act Ministerial direction

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

Victorian Local Government Indicators

The Victorian Government requires all Victorian councils to measure and annually report against 11 Victorian Local Government Indicators (VLGIs). These indicators provide information regarding expenditure, cost of services and infrastructure provision, customer satisfaction and governance. The following table presents the results of the VLGIs for the 2014/15 year.

Indicator		Calculation	2015	2014	2013	2012
Affordability/Cost of Governance			\$	\$	\$	\$
1	Average Rates and Charges per Assessment	Total rates and charges receivable at beginning of year/ Number of assessments in the adopted budget	1,435	1,359	1,287	1,216
2	Average Rates and Charges per Residential Assessment	Rates and charges declared for residential assessments receivable at beginning of year/Number of residential assessments in the adopted budget	1,059	990	880	824
Sustainability						
3	Average Liabilities Per Assessment	Total liabilities/Number of assessments in the adopted budget	500	764	928	1,178
4	Operating Result Per Assessment	Net surplus/Number of assessments in the adopted budget	395	(147)	3,069	(446)
Services						
5	Average Operating Expenditure per Assessment	Operating expenditure/Number of assessments in adopted budget	3,302	3,263	4,010	3,788
6	Community Satisfaction Rating for Overall Performance Generally of the Council*	Result from the Annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey	64	63	59	53
Infrastructure						
7	Average Capital Expenditure Per Assessment	Capital expenditure/Number of assessments in the adopted budget	1,136	2,383	3,980	1,305
8	Renewal Gap	Capital renewal/Average annual asset consumption	72%	72%	321%	129%
Ratio of current spending on renewal to the long term Average Annual Asset Consumption (AAAC)						
9	Renewal and Maintenance Gap	Capital renewal and maintenance/Average annual asset consumption plus planned maintenance	103%	103%	129%	112%
Ratio of current spending on renewal plus Maintenance to the AAAC						
Governance						
10	Community Satisfaction Rating for Council's Advocacy and Community Representation on Key Local Issues	Result from the Annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey	59	60	55	50
11	Community Satisfaction Rating for Council's Engagement in Decision Making on Key Local Issues	Result from the Annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey	59	62	54	50

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL

Performance Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2015

Our Municipality

Hindmarsh Shire is located in the Wimmera region in western Victoria and covers an area of 7,527 km². Situated on the Western Highway, 375km west of Melbourne and 350km east of Adelaide, Hindmarsh Shire is alive with business opportunities as it lies on the second-busiest freight corridor in Australia.

Our Shire is bound by two National Parks, the Little Desert in the South and Wyperfeld in the North. Other distinct natural features include the Big Desert Wilderness Area to the West, as well as the Wimmera River and Lakes Hindmarsh and Albacutya. The central part of the Shire is utilised primarily for broad acre cropping and grazing.

Hindmarsh Shire's four main towns are Nhill, Dimboola, Jeparit and Rainbow. Each community has its own spirit and identity, but all towns offer spacious rural living, inclusive small communities and wonderful natural amenities.

The first Australians in the Hindmarsh area were the Wotjobaluk people. Communities were located near the Nhill Swamp, the Wimmera River at Dimboola, Lake Hindmarsh near Jeparit and Lake Albacutya near Rainbow, while the majority made their home along the Red Gum lined banks of the Wimmera River and Nine Creeks area in Dimboola.

Today, 5800 people live in Hindmarsh Shire, with a median age of 47 years. 89% of people in Hindmarsh Shire were born in Australia, with English the only language spoken in 93.2% of homes. Our most significant group of migrants are Karen refugees from Burma (Myanmar), with approximately 180 calling Nhill home.

The median weekly household income is \$789, and most people own their homes outright. Most people are employed in farming, with employment in health care coming a close second, followed by retail, manufacturing, education and transport. Hindmarsh has a very high rate of volunteering, 20% higher than the national average.

Sustainable Capacity Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2015

Indicator/Measure	Results 2015	Material Variations
Own-source revenue		
Own-source revenue per head of municipal population [Own-source revenue / Municipal population]	\$1,661	
Recurrent grants		
Recurrent grants per head of municipal population [Recurrent grants / Municipal population]	\$1,330	
Population		
Expenses per head of municipal population [Total expenses / Municipal population]	\$2,890	
Infrastructure per head of municipal population [Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]	\$18,805	
Population density per length of road [Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]	1.83	
Disadvantage		
Relative socio-economic disadvantage [Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage by decile]	3	

Definitions

"adjusted underlying revenue" means total income other than—

- (a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and
- (b) non-monetary asset contributions; and
- (c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b)

"infrastructure" means non-current property, plant and equipment excluding land

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

"population" means the resident population estimated by council

"own-source revenue" means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)

"relative socio-economic disadvantage", in relation to a municipality, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipality is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Catalogue Number 2033.0.55.001) of SEIFA

"SEIFA" means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet website

"unrestricted cash" means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash.

Service Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2015

Service/Indicator/Measure	Results 2015	Material Variations
Governance		
Satisfaction		
Satisfaction with council decisions [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]	60	
Statutory Planning		
Decision making		
Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT [Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100	N/A	No planning matters were taken to VCAT during 2014/15.
Roads		
Satisfaction		
Satisfaction with sealed local roads [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]	47	
Libraries		
Participation		
Active library members [Number of active library members / Municipal population] x100	14%	
Waste Collection		
Waste diversion		
Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100	24%	
Aquatic Facilities		
Utilisation		
Utilisation of aquatic facilities [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	3	Aquatic facilities for the period November to March.
Animal management		
Health and safety		
Animal management prosecutions [Number of successful animal management prosecutions]	N/A	No animal prosecutions during 2014/15.

Service/Indicator/Measure	Results 2015	Material Variations
Food safety		
Health and safety		
Critical and major non-compliance notifications [Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about food premises] x100	100%	
Home and community care		
Participation		
Participation in HACC service [Number of people that received a HACC service / Municipal target population for HACC services] x100	30%	
Participation		
Participation in HACC service by CALD people [Number of CALD people who receive a HACC service / Municipal target population in relation to CALD people for HACC services] x100	31%	
Maternal and child health		
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	N/A	Not applicable. Council has no operational control over MCH services.
Participation		
Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	N/A	Not applicable. Council has no operational control over MCH services.

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

"Community Care Common Standards" means the Community Care Common Standards for the delivery of HACC services, published from time to time by the Commonwealth

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

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

"HACC program" means the Home and Community Care program established under the Agreement entered into for the purpose of the Home and Community Care Act 1985 of the Commonwealth

"HACC service" means home help, personal care or community respite provided under the HACC program

"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

"target population" has the same meaning as in the Agreement entered into for the purposes of the Home and Community Care Act 1985 of the Commonwealth

"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

For the year ended 30 June 2015

Dimension/Indicator/Measure	Results 2015	Forecasts				Material Variations
		2016	2017	2018	2019	
Operating position						
Adjusted underlying result						
Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	5.91%	-0.62%	-6.07%	-7.59%	-5.30%	The result for this measure is expected to decrease over the 4 years to 2019. The decreasing trend is mainly due to the introduction of rates capping.
[Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100						
Liquidity						
Working capital						
Current assets compared to current liabilities	356.0%	134.8%	137.8%	130.8%	134.4%	At 30 June 2015 Council held significantly higher cash at bank due to the additional grants commission payment being received on 30 June 2015 and a large number of Infrastructure projects not being completed.
[Current assets / Current liabilities] x100						
Unrestricted cash						
Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities	204.1%	49.9%	38.2%	37.7%	39.7%	At 30 June 2015 Council held significantly higher cash at bank due to the additional grants commission payment being received on 30 June 2015 and a large number of Infrastructure projects not being completed.
[Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities] x100						
Obligations						
Loans and borrowings						
Loans and borrowings compared to rates	N/A	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Council do not hold any loans or borrowings.
[Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100						

Dimension/Indicator/Measure	Results 2015	Forecasts				Material Variations
		2016	2017	2018	2019	
Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates [Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	N/A	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Council do not hold any loans or borrowings.
Indebtedness						
Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue [Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100	1.2%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	No material variations
Asset renewal						
Asset renewal compared to depreciation [Asset renewal expenses / Asset depreciation] x100	50.8%	64.0%	72.2%	73.1%	74.6%	No material variations

Stability

Rates concentration

Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue	40.8%	45.9%	48.9%	48.8%	48.7%	No material variations
[Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100						

Rates effort

Rates compared to property values [Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	No material variations
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Dimension/Indicator/Measure	Results	Forecasts				Material Variations
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Efficiency						
Expenditure level						
Expenses per property assessment [Total expenses / Number of property assessments]	\$3,286	\$3,347	\$3,387	\$3,522	\$3,538	No material variations
Revenue Level						
Average residential rate per residential property assessment [Residential rate revenue / Number of residential property assessments]	\$1,059	\$1,136	\$1,160	\$1,186	\$1,213	No material variations
Workforce turnover						
Resignations and terminations compared to average staff [Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x100	16%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	No material variations

Definitions

"adjusted underlying revenue" means total income other than—

- (a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and
- (b) non-monetary asset contributions; and
- (c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b)

"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

Definitions

"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.

Other Information

For the year ended 30 June 2015

1. Basis of preparation

Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its annual report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed 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 1989 and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.

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 Council's strategic resource plan. The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement, which have been provided where applicable as appropriate in this first year of reporting under the new Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

The forecast figures included in the performance statement are those adopted by Council in its strategic resource plan on 17 June 2015, 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 at its municipal offices at 92 Nelson Street Nhill, by email to info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au or phone 03 5391 4444.

Certification of the performance statement

In my opinion, the accompanying performance statement has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.



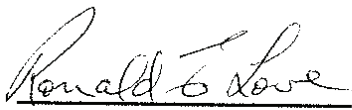
Ms Anne Champness
Director Corporate & Community Services
Dated: 16 September 2015

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the Hindmarsh Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2015 presents fairly the results of council's performance in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.

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 2014 to certify this performance statement in its final form.



Cr Ron Lowe
Councillor
Dated: 16 September 2015



Cr Debra Nelson
Councillor
Dated: 16 September 2015



Mr Anthony Doyle
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 16 September 2015

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL

Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2015

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Comprehensive Income Statement

For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

Income	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Rates and charges	3	7,283,754	6,878,919
Statutory fees and fines	4	172,263	187,167
User fees	5	847,326	814,053
Grants - operating	6	7,288,257	3,056,520
Grants - capital	6	1,729,512	3,768,129
Contributions - monetary	7	118,755	72,420
Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	8	(7,267)	(632,373)
Share of net profits of associates	15	23,696	8,300
Other income	9	1,312,804	1,587,121
Total income		18,769,100	15,740,255
Expenses			
Employee costs	10(a)	(5,608,315)	(5,114,024)
Materials and services	11	(4,644,800)	(4,270,010)
Bad and doubtful debts	12	-	(172,910)
Depreciation	13	(5,109,102)	(5,453,284)
Other expenses	14	(1,400,778)	(1,500,428)
Total expenses		(16,762,995)	(16,510,656)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		2,006,105	(770,401)
Other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods			
Net asset revaluation increment	24	6,505,076	-
Share of other comprehensive income of associates	15	-	28,246
Total comprehensive result		8,511,182	(742,155)

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

Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2015

Assets	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	16	7,684,557	5,090,018
Trade and other receivables	17	815,551	2,290,899
Inventories	18	119,889	101,062
Other assets	19	-	47,280
Total current assets		8,619,997	7,529,259
Non-current assets			
Trade and other receivables	17	3,009	4,449
Investments in associates	15	440,092	403,750
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	20	111,403,934	105,346,913
Total non-current assets		111,847,035	105,755,112
Total assets		120,467,032	113,284,371
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	21	760,377	2,337,082
Trust funds and deposits	22	12,447	42,168
Provisions	23	1,648,475	1,378,367
Total current liabilities		2,421,299	3,757,617
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	23	118,502	110,705
Total non-current liabilities		118,502	110,705
Total liabilities		2,539,801	3,868,322
Net assets		117,927,231	109,416,049
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		59,377,302	57,371,197
Reserves	24	58,549,928	52,044,852
Total Equity		117,927,231	109,416,049

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

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

2015	Note	Total \$	Accumulated Surplus \$	Revaluation Reserve \$
Balance at beginning of the financial year		109,416,049	57,371,197	52,044,852
Surplus for the year		2,006,105	2,006,105	-
Net asset revaluation increment	24	6,505,076	-	6,505,076
Balance at end of the financial year		117,927,231	59,377,302	58,549,928

2014	Note	Total \$	Accumulated Surplus \$	Revaluation Reserve \$
Balance at beginning of the financial year		110,158,204	58,141,598	52,016,606
(Deficit) for the year		(770,401)	(770,401)	-
Share of other comprehensive income in associates	15	28,246	-	28,246
Balance at end of the financial year		109,416,049	57,371,197	52,044,852

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

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 Inflows/ (Outflows)	2014 Inflows/ (Outflows)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Rates and charges		7,309,396	6,843,444
Statutory fees and fines		13,439	37,973
User fees		1,112,046	1,217,098
Grants - operating		7,429,854	4,099,002
Grants - capital		2,829,512	2,686,099
Contributions - monetary		118,755	72,420
Interest received		176,665	334,553
Trust funds and deposits taken		(27,082)	2,294
Other receipts		1,111,890	1,236,762
Net GST refund/payment		163,809	(97,858)
Employee costs		(5,319,619)	(6,406,788)
Materials, services and other payments		(6,211,112)	(6,580,806)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	25	8,707,553	3,444,193
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	20	(6,323,905)	(10,950,685)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		223,537	125,546
Contribution in an associate		(12,646)	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(6,113,014)	(10,825,139)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Finance Costs		-	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		2,594,539	(7,380,947)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		5,090,018	12,470,965
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	26	7,684,557	5,090,018

The above statement of cash flow should be read with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Capital Works

For the year ended 30 June 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Property		
Land	-	10,711
Total land	-	10,711
Buildings	4,971	1,814,034
Heritage Buildings	3,382	-
Work in progress - Building	43,992	7,130
Total buildings	52,345	1,821,164
Total property	52,345	1,831,875
Plant and equipment		
Plant, machinery and equipment	608,306	1,148,163
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	60,659	21,387
Total plant and equipment	668,965	1,169,550
Infrastructure		
Roads	1,941,806	2,388,832
Bridges	52,475	2,991,833
Footpaths and cycleways	251,039	162,868
Drainage	596,862	170,509
Other infrastructure	689,836	2,487,978
Work in progress - Roads	206,610	181,028
Work in progress - Bridges	-	116,948
Work in progress - Footpaths and cycleways	-	16,934
Work in progress - Drainage	12,485	110,088
Work in progress - Other infrastructure	373,789	428,114
Total infrastructure	4,124,902	9,055,132
Total capital works expenditure	4,846,212	12,056,557
Represented by:		
New asset expenditure	208,508	1,232,802
Asset renewal expenditure	2,595,361	3,918,732
Asset expansion	3,867	6,044,781
Asset upgrade	2,038,476	860,242
Total capital works expenditure	4,846,212	12,056,557

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

Notes to the Financial Report

For the year ended 30 June 2015

Introduction

The Hindmarsh Shire Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 20 January 1995 and is a body corporate. The Council's main office is located at 92 Nelson Street, Nhill, Victoria.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the Local Government Act 1989, and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.

Note 1 Significant accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting

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.

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 1 (i))
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to note 1 (k))
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to note 1 (o))

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.

(b) Changes in accounting policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies from the previous period.

(c) Accounting for investments in associates

Associates

Associates are all entities over which Council has significant influence but not control or joint control. Investments in associates are accounted for using the equity method of accounting, after initially being recognised at cost.

(d) Revenue recognition

Income is recognised when the Council obtains control of the contribution or the right to receive the contribution, it is probable that the economic benefits comprising the contribution will flow to the Council and the amount of the contribution can be measured reliably.

Note 1 Significant accounting policies (cont.)

Rates and Charges

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

Statutory fees and fines

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

User fees

User fees are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided or the payment is received, whichever first occurs.

Grants

Grant income is recognised when Council obtains control of the contribution. This is normally obtained upon their receipt (or acquittal) or upon earlier notification that a grant has been secured, and are valued at their fair value at the date of transfer.

Where grants or contributions recognised as revenues during the financial year were obtained on condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period and those conditions were undischarged at balance date, the unused grant or contribution is disclosed in note 6. The note also discloses the amount of unused grant or contribution from prior years that was expended on Council's operations during the current year.

Contributions

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

Sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

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

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.

(e) Fair value measurement

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.

Note 1 Significant accounting policies (cont.)

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.

(f) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of 90 days or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

(g) Trade and other receivables

Receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. A provision for doubtful debts is recognised when there is objective evidence that an impairment has occurred.

(h) Inventories

Inventories held for distribution are measured at cost adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential. Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(i) Recognition and measurement of property, plant and equipment, infrastructure, intangibles 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 amount for which the asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

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 detailed in Note 1(k) have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

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. 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 on an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. Further details regarding the fair value hierarchy are disclosed at Note 20, Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment.

In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 2 to 5 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts.

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

Note 1 Significant accounting policies (cont.)

Land under roads

Land under roads acquired after 30 June 2008 is brought to account using the cost basis. Council does not recognise land under roads that is controlled prior to that period in its financial report.

(j) Depreciation of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

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 below and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

(k) Depreciation of property, infrastructure plant and equipment (cont'd)

Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods

The threshold limits for Property, Plant & Equipment and Infrastructure is \$1,000.

Property

Buildings
buildings

Plant and Equipment
plant, machinery and equipment
fixtures, fittings and furniture

Infrastructure
roads - unsealed pavement
roads - sealed surface
roads - sealed road pavement
roads substructure
road kerb, channel and minor culverts
bridges
footpaths and cycleways
drainage
other infrastructure

(l) Repairs and maintenance

Routine maintenance, repair costs, and minor renewal costs are expensed as incurred. Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

(m) 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 to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's 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.

Note 1 Significant accounting policies (cont.)

(n) 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 (refer to Note 22).

(o) Employee costs and benefits

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

Wages and salaries and annual leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulated sick leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits in respect of employee services up to the reporting date, classified as current liabilities and measured at their nominal values.

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 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.

Current Liability - unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability even when the council does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months because it will not have the unconditional right to defer settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months.

The components of this current liability are measured at:

- present value - component that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months.
- nominal value - component that is expected to be wholly settled within 12 months.

Classification of employee costs

Non-current liability - 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. There is an unconditional right to defer settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service.

This non-current LSL liability is measured at present value.

(p) Landfill rehabilitation provision

Council is obligated to restore Dimboola, Nhill & Rainbow transfer station sites to a particular standard. These sites have not operated as landfill sites for 9 years. The provision for restoration has been calculated based on the present value of the expected cost of works to be undertaken. The expected cost of works has been estimated based on current understanding of work required to reinstate the site to a suitable standard. Accordingly, the estimation of the provision required is dependent on the accuracy of the forecast timing of the work, work required and related costs.

(q) Quarry restoration provision

Council is obligated to restore quarry sites to a particular standard. The provision for quarry restoration has been calculated based on the present value of the expected costs 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.

Note 1 Significant accounting policies (cont.)

(r) Leases

Operating leases

Lease payments for operating leases are required by the accounting standard to be recognised on a straight line basis, rather than expensed in the years in which they are incurred.

(s) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

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

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

(t) 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.

(u) Pending accounting standards

Certain new AAS's have been issued that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2015 reporting period. Council has assessed these pending standards and has identified that no material impact will flow from the application of these standards in future reporting periods.

(v) Rounding

Unless otherwise stated, amounts in the financial report have been rounded to the nearest dollar. Figures in the financial statement may not equate due to rounding.

(w) Comparatives

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation.

Note 2 Budget comparison

The budget comparison notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold of the lower of 10 percent or \$10,000 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.

The budget figures detailed below are those adopted by Council on 23 June 2014. The Budget was based on assumptions that were relevant at the time of adoption of the Budget. Council sets guidelines and parameters for revenue and expense targets in this budget in order to meet Council's planning and financial performance targets for both the short and long-term. The budget did not reflect any changes to equity resulting from asset revaluations, as their impacts were not considered predictable.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.

a) Income and Expenditure

	Budget 2015 \$	Actual 2015 \$	Variance 2015 \$	Ref
Income				
Rates and charges	7,268,843	7,283,754	14,911	
Statutory fees and fines	175,600	172,263	(3,337)	
User fees	910,467	847,326	(63,141)	1
Grants - operating	4,848,554	7,288,257	2,439,703	2
Grants - capital	3,182,000	1,729,512	(1,452,488)	3
Interest received	114,500	176,665	62,165	4
Contributions - monetary	-	118,755	118,755	5
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	104,000	(7,267)	(111,267)	6
Share of net profits of associates	-	23,696	23,696	7
Other income	1,135,755	1,136,139	384	
Total income	17,739,719	18,769,100	1,029,381	
Expenses				
Employee costs	6,013,515	5,608,315	405,200	8
Materials and services	4,243,312	4,644,800	(401,488)	9
Depreciation	5,017,953	5,109,102	(91,149)	10
Other expenses	1,895,627	1,400,778	494,849	11
Total expenses	17,170,407	16,762,995	407,412	
Surplus for the year	569,312	2,006,105	1,436,793	

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
1	User fees	Council budgeted to receive \$910,467 in revenue from User fees during 2014/15. The unfavourable variance is due to decreased collection of Meals on Wheels fees, General Home care fees, Health Registration fees and Transfer station fees.
2	Grants - operating	Council budgeted to receive \$3.998m from the Victorian Grant Commission in 2014/15. An additional payment of \$2.036m was received June 2015 which was not budgeted in 2014/15. Council was successful in obtaining grants for Bushfire Recovery, Karen Community Capacity, Karen Settlement Program, Youth Inclusion, Walk to school, and Hindmarsh Trail grants received were not budgeted in the 2014/15.
3	Grants - capital	Council budgeted to receive \$1m in 2014/15 for Local Roads and Bridges funding. This funding has not been received. Council budgeted to receive funding for the Rainbow Recreation Reserve Facility Redevelopment, and Rainbow Recreation Reserve Power Upgrade which have not been received in 2014/15.
4	Interest	Interest shows a favourable variance of \$62,165. This is a result of Council investing at a higher rate than anticipated and coupled with surplus funds being available.
5	Contributions - monetary	Council received contributions towards Davis Park Umpire Change Rooms and Menzies Square Redvelopment that were not in the 2014/15 budget.
6	Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	The unfavourable variance is due to the loss on sale of various items of plant.
7	Share of net profits/(losses) of associates and joint ventures	Council holds equity in the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation and the Wimmera Development Association. Council do not budget for the share of profits / (losses) in these associates.
8	Employee costs	Employee costs were lower than budgeted due to a number of positions being vacant during 2014/15.
9	Materials and services	The unfavourable variance is due to a number of carry forward projects from 2013/14 being completed in 2014/15.
10	Depreciation	Increase in depreciation is due to large infrastructure projects being completed in 30 June 2013 starting to be depreciated in 2014/15.
11	Other expenses	Other expenses show a favourable variance due to Council's contributions to various organisations being less than budgeted. Transportation of waste to Landfill, telephone, and internal audit fees were lower than budgeted.

Note 2 Budget comparison (cont)

b) Capital Works

	Budget 2015 \$	Actual 2015 \$	Variance 2015 \$	Ref
Property				
Land	-	-	-	
Total Land	-	-	-	
Buildings	418,100	52,345	(365,755)	1
Total Buildings	418,100	52,345	(365,755)	
Total Property	418,100	52,345	(365,755)	
Plant and Equipment				
Plant, machinery and equipment	437,000	608,306	171,306	2
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	133,949	60,659	(73,290)	3
Total Plant and Equipment	570,949	668,965	98,016	
Infrastructure				
Roads	2,747,218	2,148,416	(598,802)	4
Bridges	-	52,475	52,475	5
Footpaths and cycleways	190,944	251,039	60,095	6
Drainage	240,774	609,347	368,573	7
Other infrastructure	1,599,300	1,063,625	(535,675)	8
Total Infrastructure	4,778,236	4,124,902	(653,334)	
Total Capital Works Expenditure	5,767,285	4,846,212	(921,073)	
Represented by:				
New asset expenditure	325,000	208,508	(116,492)	
Asset renewal expenditure	3,427,678	2,595,361	(832,317)	
Asset expansion expenditure	-	3,867	3,867	
Asset upgrade expenditure	2,014,607	2,038,476	23,869	
Total Capital Works Expenditure	5,767,285	4,846,212	(921,073)	

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Buildings	Work on the Nhill Early Years Centre was yet to commence at 30 June 2015.
2	Plant, machinery and equipment	Council took delivery of the Street Sweeper and Premix Loader that were carried over from the 2013/14 financial year.
3	Fixtures, fittings and furniture	A number of items were not purchased at 30 June 2015 including Council Chamber table, office furniture and cupboards for the IT room.
4	Roads	The variance is due to project efficiencies, and Disaster Recovery works not commencing at 30 June 2015.
5	Bridges	Works on the Bothe Road Bridge carried over from 2013/14 were completed during 2014/15.
6	Footpaths and cycleways	The variance on footpaths and cycleways is due to carry over projects from 2013/14 being completed in 2014/15.
7	Drainage	The variance on drainage is due to carry over projects from 2013/14. This includes the Dimboola Drainage Project and Wundersitz Crossing.
8	Other Infrastructure	Various projects were yet to commence or were incomplete in 2014/15. This includes Nhill Wi-Fi, Town and Corporate Signage, Quarry Work Authorities, Menzies Square and Rainbow Recreation Reserve Community Pavilion. Work on the Open Spaces project was not completed in 2014/15 and will be completed in 2015/16.

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Note 3 Rates and charges		
<p>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 value of the land and all its improvements.</p> <p>The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2014/15 was \$1,112 million (2013/14 \$1,039 million). The 2014/15 general rate in the dollar was general rate 0.0056982 cents, business / industrial / commercial rate was 0.0051284 cents, farm rate was 0.0051284 cents, cultural / recreation rate was 0.0028491 cents, urban vacant land was 0.0113965 cents (2013/14 general rate 0.0057308 cents, business / industrial / commercial rate was 0.0051577 cents, farm rate was 0.0051577 cents, cultural / recreation rate was 0.0028654 cents, urban vacant land was 0.011467 cents).</p>		
General Rates	5,887,247	5,517,287
Municipal charge	659,325	661,232
Waste management charge	737,182	700,400
Total rates and charges	7,283,754	6,878,919
<p>The date of the latest general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2014, and the valuation will be first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2014.</p>		
Note 4 Statutory fees and fines		
Building fees	50,767	63,053
Infringements and costs	26,549	37,973
Town planning fees	20,774	16,975
Animal registration fees	74,173	69,166
Total statutory fees and fines	172,263	187,167
Note 5 User fees		
Aged services	311,043	306,760
Health fees	23,486	22,810
Private works	155,559	106,264
Aerodrome fees	15,076	8,063
Lease income	36,883	25,144
Caravan parks and camping fees	152,384	166,607
Rural summit fees	236	59,988
Transfer station fees	40,411	44,457
Commercial garbage collection fees	35,873	35,337
Saleyard fees	4,736	7,225
Film screenings & hall hire	42,046	-
Other fees and charges	29,593	31,398
Total user fees	847,326	814,053

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Note 6 Grants		
Grants were received in respect of the following:		
Summary of grants		
Commonwealth funded grants	6,958,752	2,865,245
State funded grants	2,059,017	3,959,404
Total	9,017,769	6,824,649
Operating Grants		
<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Victoria Grants Commission - General purpose	3,795,632	1,259,131
Victoria Grants Commission - Local roads	2,329,595	750,684
<i>Recurrent - State Government</i>		
Delivered meals	33,923	33,294
Home care services	428,750	421,315
Home maintenance	42,012	37,709
Senior citizens	38,861	38,143
School crossing supervisors	4,480	4,370
Libraries	103,224	88,984
Volunteer week	27,044	9,270
Youth participation project	62,282	49,600
State emergency services	25,706	25,706
Other	46,216	44,394
Total recurrent operating grants	6,937,725	2,762,600
<i>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Karen settlement program	40,050	-
Other	2,000	-
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
Karen community capacity building	27,000	25,000
Municipal emergency resourcing program	-	121,750
Nhill alive with business opportunity	-	30,500
Recreation strategic plan	-	27,000
Regional Victoria living expo	10,000	10,000
Roadside weeds and pest management	50,000	50,000
Streetlife program	-	9,000
Western Highway - median maintenance	-	7,544
Community precinct plans	54,000	-
Hindmarsh trail	50,000	-
Economic development strategy	90,000	-
Bushfire recovery event	15,000	-
Other	12,482	13,126
Total non-recurrent operating grants	350,532	293,920
Total operating grants	7,288,257	3,056,520
Capital Grants		
<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Roads to recovery	776,428	855,430
<i>Recurrent - State Government</i>		
Country Roads and Bridges	-	1,000,000
Total recurrent capital grants	776,428	1,855,430

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
Dimboola drainage improvements	-	150,000
Dimboola visitor amenities improvement	-	90,000
Flood recovery grants	-	1,100,000
Jeparit boat ramp	-	17,926
Jeparit visitor amenities improvement	-	80,000
Lochiel street redevelopment	132,000	88,000
Nhill aviation heritage centre	-	100,000
Nhill memorial community centre digital equipment	7,500	67,500
Seasonal pools	-	85,472
Town access pathways	-	30,000
Transfer station upgrade	-	92,500
Nhill early years centre	100,000	-
Hindmarsh open spaces	141,750	-
Rainbow recreation reserve change rooms	120,000	-
Dimboola caravan park infrastructure upgrade	240,000	-
Nhill aerodrome runway	161,139	-
Recreation strategic plan	27,000	-
Other	23,695	11,301
Total non-recurrent capital grants	953,084	1,912,699
Total capital grants	1,729,512	3,768,129

Conditions on grants

Grants recognised as revenue during the year that were obtained on condition that they be expended in a specified manner that had not occurred at balance date were:

Karen community capacity building	-	25,000
Recreation strategic plan	-	27,000
Flood recovery grants	-	440,000
Lochiel street redevelopment	-	88,000
Nhill memorial community centre digital upgrade	-	67,500
Nhill early years centre	100,000	-
Karen settlement program	40,050	-
Hindmarsh trail	50,000	-
Dimboola caravan park infrastructure upgrade	240,000	-
	<u>430,050</u>	<u>647,500</u>

Grants which were recognised as revenue in prior years and were expended during the current year in the manner specified by the grantor were:

Flood recovery grants	440,000	5,115,526
Town access pathways	-	162,878
Karen community capacity building	25,000	-
Lochiel street redevelopment	88,000	-
Nhill memorial community centre digital upgrade	67,500	-
	<u>620,500</u>	<u>5,278,404</u>

Net (decrease) in restricted assets resulting from grant revenues for the year:

(190,450)	(4,630,904)
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	2015 \$	2014 \$
Note 7 Contributions - Monetary		
Gypsum Roads	4,384	5,061
Nhill Aviation Heritage centre	-	50,000
Tobacco activity	7,898	7,808
Jeparit playground	-	4,680
Rainbow MECCA lighting	1,818	2,000
FreeZa fundraising	1,838	2,871
Davis Park umpire change rooms	67,081	-
Menzie's square redevelopment	35,000	-
Others	736	-
Total contributions	118,755	72,420
Note 8 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		
Proceeds of sale	223,537	125,546
Write down value of assets disposed - Plant	(230,804)	(126,239)
Write down value of assets disposed - Building (Nhill office)	-	(631,680)
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(7,267)	(632,373)
Note 9 Other income		
Fire services levy administration	37,545	56,521
Interest received	176,665	334,553
Plant operations	691,612	693,186
Quarry operations	251,664	237,610
Recoupments	64,988	8,711
Reimbursement bush fire works	-	59,879
Scrap metal and transfer station sales	15,913	60,676
Vicroads agency administration	6,201	3,689
Other income	68,216	132,296
Total other income	1,312,804	1,587,121
Note 10 Employee costs		
(a)		
Wages and salaries	4,019,975	3,722,434
WorkCover	130,566	130,296
Annual leave, sick leave and long service leave	713,043	620,548
Training	133,279	159,010
Superannuation	477,973	450,537
Fringe benefits tax	116,131	14,884
Other	17,348	16,315
Total employee costs	5,608,315	5,114,024

Note 10 Superannuation
(b)

Council made contributions to the following funds:

Defined benefit fund

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)

	2015 \$	2014 \$
	73,824	96,123
	73,824	96,123

Employer contributions payable at reporting date.

\$nil

Accumulation funds

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)

Employer contributions - other funds

	213,477	213,884
	190,672	163,921
	404,149	377,805

Employer contributions payable at reporting date.

\$nil

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 Comprehensive Income Statement when they are made or due.

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation categories, 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 2015, this was 9.5% required under Superannuation Guarantee legislation (for 2013/14, this was 9.25%)).

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 Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119.

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Note 11 Materials and services		
Administrative services	47,178	48,937
Animal control	4,169	9,823
Building maintenance	63,785	131,114
Building services	202,015	163,474
Caravan parks and camping grounds	89,063	116,775
Climate change adaptation initiatives	85,000	50,000
Community development & youth activities	162,730	60,761
Delivered meals	69,487	90,468
Depots and workshops	24,904	27,465
Emergency assistance	40,405	99,178
Fire Prevention	28,084	28,259
Flood and bushfire recovery expenditure	787,335	4,748
Garbage collection	239,338	200,597
Guide posts	7,957	22,355
Health promotion	78,603	95,452
Home & community care	24,426	70,405
Information technology	78,851	236,159
Land use planning	94,236	77,029
Materials and contractors	245,411	230,589
Parks and reserves	55,262	35,225
Plant and fleet operations	743,070	763,142
Printing and stationery	30,653	83,546
Quarry operations	173,184	169,585
Rating and valuation	82,527	69,941
Recycling collection	179,960	191,902
Roads and drainage management	246,664	286,484
Rural summit	-	89,044
Street beautification	27,572	18,824
Swimming pool maintenance and management	254,929	252,512
Tools & traffic signs	13,866	31,602
Tree lopping and replacement	22,660	27,852
Utilities	295,629	272,325
Vehicle registrations	62,778	78,598
Waste disposal	13,628	57,839
Other	69,441	78,001
Total materials and services	4,644,800	4,270,010

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Note 12 Bad and doubtful debts		
Infringements	-	37,294
Other debtors including rates	-	135,616
Total bad and doubtful debts	-	172,910
Note 13 Depreciation		
Property	541,458	515,864
Plant and equipment	769,247	662,354
Infrastructure	3,798,397	4,274,976
Total depreciation	5,109,102	5,453,194
Refer to note 20 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation charges		
Note 14 Other expenses		
Advertising	27,023	28,919
Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	37,200	31,700
Auditors' remuneration - Internal	12,381	32,585
Bank charges	24,851	24,559
Community action grants	17,859	28,871
Council election	-	25,448
Council contributions - other	35,747	19,442
Councillors' allowances	160,189	152,988
Fire services levy	19,040	22,800
Hindmarsh landcare network contribution	20,000	10,500
Insurance	224,408	199,626
Kindergartens	35,235	33,063
Landfill charges	235,158	222,000
Legal costs	15,891	38,596
Postage	18,233	15,674
Regional library contribution	252,355	219,250
State emergency service contribution	37,706	38,000
Subscriptions	103,340	75,213
Telecommunications	69,653	67,441
Town committees	29,705	17,000
Tourism Association	-	20,000
Wimmera emergency management coordination	-	75,000
Other	24,804	101,753
Total other expenses	1,400,778	1,500,428

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Note 15 Investment in associates		
Investments in associates accounted for by the equity method are:		
- Wimmera Regional Library Corporation	393,662	364,524
- Wimmera Development association	46,430	39,226
	440,092	403,750
Wimmera Regional Library Corporation		
Background		
Hindmarsh Shire Council, in conjunction with Horsham Rural City Council, Buloke Shire Council, Northern Grampians Shire Council, West Wimmera Shire Council, and Yarriambiack Shire Council, have an interest in the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation. Hindmarsh Shire has a 12.60% equity in interest (12.18% in 2013/14)		
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit)		
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at start of year	168,962	161,255
Reported surplus/(deficit) for year	16,492	10,409
Transfers (to)/from reserves	(14,530)	(2,702)
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at end of year	170,924	168,962
Council's share of reserves		
Council's share of reserves at start of year	195,562	164,614
Transfers (to)/from reserves	14,530	2,702
Share of asset revaluation	-	28,246
Council's share of reserves at end of year	210,092	195,562
Movement in carrying value of specific investment		
Carrying value of investment at start of year	364,524	325,869
Share of surplus/(deficit) for year	16,492	10,409
Share of asset revaluation	-	28,246
Variation - Increase in equity	12,646	-
Carrying value of investment at end of year	393,662	364,524
Wimmera Development Association		
Background		
Hindmarsh Shire Council, in conjunction with Horsham Rural City Council, Northern Grampians Shire Council, West Wimmera Shire Council, and Yarriambiack Shire Council, have an interest in the Wimmera Development Association. Hindmarsh Shire has a 10.34% equity in interest (10.34% in 2013/14)		
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit)		
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at start of year	26,027	30,535
Reported surplus/(deficit) for year	7,204	(2,109)
Transfers (to)/from reserves	(541)	(2,399)
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at end of year	32,690	26,027
Council's share of reserves		
Council's share of reserves at start of year	13,199	10,800
Transfers (to)/from reserves	541	2,399
Council's share of reserves at end of year	13,740	13,199

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Movement in carrying value of specific investment		
Carrying value of investment at start of year	39,226	1,335
Share of surplus/(deficit) for year	7,204	(2,109)
Carrying value of investment at end of year	46,430	39,226
Note 16 Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash at bank	3,684,557	2,534,746
Term deposits	4,000,000	2,555,272
	7,684,557	5,090,018
Council's cash and cash equivalents are subject to external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary use. These include:		
- Trust funds and deposits (Note 22)	12,447	42,168
Total restricted funds	12,447	42,168
Total unrestricted cash and cash equivalents	7,672,110	5,047,850
Intended Allocations		
Although not externally restricted the following amounts have been allocated for specific future purposes by Council:		
- Cash held to fund carried forward capital works	2,311,000	2,637,037
- Grants unspent	430,050	647,500
Total funds subject to intended allocations	2,741,050	3,284,537
Note 17 Trade and other receivables		
Current		
Rates debtors	543,086	568,729
Building permit debtors	2,200	1,228
Fines and infringements	42,014	28,904
GST receivable	102,263	266,072
Grant debtors	-	1,100,000
Homecare debtors	-	40,347
Sundry debtors	74,743	265,784
Street scheme debtors	7,081	6,989
Other debtors	60,813	58,073
Provision for doubtful debts - other debtors	(16,649)	(45,227)
Total current trade and other receivables	815,551	2,290,899
Non-current		
Street scheme debtors	3,009	4,449
Total non-current trade and other receivables	3,009	4,449
Total trade and other receivables	818,560	2,295,348

Note 20 Property, infrastructure plant and equipment

Land and Buildings	Note	Total		Buildings		Total		Work In		Total
		Land	Land	Specialised	Buildings	Progress	Property			
At fair value 1 July 2014		2,393,111	2,393,111	17,278,113	17,278,113	7,130	19,678,354			
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2014		-	-	(1,869,899)	(1,869,899)	-	(1,869,899)			
		2,393,111	2,393,111	15,408,214	15,408,214	7,130	17,808,455			
Movements in fair value										
Acquisition of assets at fair value		-	-	8,353	8,353	43,992	52,345			
Revaluation increments/(decrements)		(23,111)	(23,111)	6,528,187	6,528,187	-	6,505,076			
Reclassification		-	-	307,132	307,132	-	307,132			
		(23,111)	(23,111)	6,843,672	6,843,672	43,992	6,864,553			
Movements in accumulated depreciation										
Depreciation		-	-	(541,467)	(541,467)	-	(541,467)			
Reclassification		-	-	(50,919)	(50,919)	-	(50,919)			
		-	-	(592,386)	(592,386)	-	(592,386)			
At fair value 30 June 2015		2,370,000	2,370,000	24,121,785	24,121,785	51,122	26,542,907			
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2015		-	-	(2,462,285)	(2,462,285)	-	(2,462,285)			
		2,370,000	2,370,000	21,659,500	21,659,500	51,122	24,080,621			
Plant and Equipment										
At fair value 1 July 2014		9,017,395	797,568	9,814,962						
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2014		(2,802,757)	(560,728)	(3,363,485)						
		6,214,638	236,840	6,451,477						
Movements in fair value										
Acquisition of assets at fair value		608,306	60,659	668,964						
Assets disposed		(542,071)	-	(542,071)						
		66,235	60,659	126,893						

Note 20 Property, infrastructure plant and equipment (cont'd)
Movements in accumulated depreciation

Depreciation	(731,566)	(37,681)	(769,247)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	311,267	-	311,267
	(420,299)	(37,681)	(457,979)
At fair value 30 June 2015	9,083,630	858,227	9,941,856
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2015	(3,223,056)	(598,409)	(3,821,464)
	5,860,574	259,818	6,120,392

Infrastructure	Roads	Bridges	Footpaths & cycleways	Drainage	Kerb & Channel	Other Infrastructure	Work in Progress	Total Infrastructure
At fair value 1 July 2014	116,690,017	6,376,329	5,976,033	5,496,186	7,736,891	7,626,635	931,170	150,833,261
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2014	(59,299,438)	(688,152)	(2,711,513)	(1,772,603)	(3,716,288)	(1,558,288)	-	(69,746,282)
	57,390,579	5,688,177	3,264,520	3,723,583	4,020,603	6,068,347	931,170	81,086,979
Movements in fair value								
Acquisition of assets at fair value	1,906,797	52,475	251,039	596,862	35,009	689,836	592,884	4,124,902
Reclassification	-	-	-	-	-	(307,132)	-	(307,132)
Transfers	146,129	116,948	16,934	119,860	11,709	222,666	(634,246)	-
	2,052,926	169,423	267,973	716,722	46,718	605,370	(41,362)	3,817,770
Movements in accumulated depreciation								
Depreciation	(3,131,238)	(61,565)	(145,423)	(68,683)	(126,666)	(264,812)	-	(3,798,387)
Reclassification	-	-	-	-	-	50,919	-	50,919
	(3,131,238)	(61,565)	(145,423)	(68,683)	(126,666)	(213,893)	-	(3,747,468)
At fair value 30 June 2015	118,742,943	6,545,752	6,244,006	6,212,908	7,783,609	8,232,005	889,808	154,651,031
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2015	(62,430,676)	(749,717)	(2,856,936)	(1,841,286)	(3,842,954)	(1,726,543)	-	(73,448,112)
	56,312,267	5,796,035	3,387,070	4,371,622	3,940,655	6,505,462	889,808	81,202,919

Note 20 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont'd)

Valuation of land and buildings

Valuation of land and buildings were undertaken by a qualified independent valuer Ben Sawyer certified practicing valuer AAPI Registration 63163 from Preston Rowe Patterson Horsham & Wimmera Pty Ltd. The valuation of land and buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions 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 unserviced) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

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

Details of the Council's land and buildings and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2015 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Land	-	2,370,000	-
Heritage Buildings	-	-	214,500
Buildings	-	-	21,444,500
Total	-	2,370,000	21,659,000

Valuation of infrastructure

Valuation of Council's infrastructure assets has been determined by Mr Douglas Gowans, Director Infrastructure Services.

The valuation is at fair value based on 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 2015 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Roads	-	-	56,312,267
Bridges	-	-	5,796,035
Footpaths and cycleways	-	-	3,387,071
Drainage	-	-	4,371,622
Kerb and Channel	-	-	3,940,653
Other Infrastructure	-	-	6,505,464
Total	-	-	80,313,112

Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations

Specialised buildings are valued using a depreciated replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 5 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. Current replacement costs is calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from \$300 to \$2,600 per square metre.

Infrastructure assets are valued based on the depreciated replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 10 years to 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.

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Note 21 Trade and other payables		
Trade payables	480,127	1,925,047
Accrued expenses	280,250	397,442
Amounts received in advance	-	14,593
Total trade and other payables	760,377	2,337,082
Note 22 Trust funds and deposits		
Refundable deposits	12,447	16,435
Fire services levy	-	3,368
Twigg family appeal trust	-	22,365
Total trust funds and deposits	12,447	42,168

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.

Twigg family trust - Council established the Twigg family trust following the tragic plane crash in August 2011 and closed it in September 2014. The appeal raised money to help provide cover for out of pocket expenses incurred by the Twigg family.

Note 23 Provisions

	Annual Leave & RDO \$	Long Service Leave \$	Landfill Restoration \$	Quarry Restoration \$	Total \$
2015					
Balance at beginning of the financial year	581,264	805,090	19,260	83,459	1,489,073
Additional provisions	369,717	272,381	2,100	11,945	656,143
Amounts used	(334,250)	(43,989)	-	-	(378,239)
Balance at the end of the financial year	616,731	1,033,482	21,360	95,404	1,766,977
2014					
Balance at beginning of the financial year	470,323	770,138	19,260	83,459	1,343,180
Additional provisions	484,524	94,317	-	-	578,841
Amounts used	(373,583)	(59,365)	-	-	(432,948)
Balance at the end of the financial year	581,264	805,090	19,260	83,459	1,489,073

	2015 \$	2014 \$
(a) Employee provisions		
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual leave & Rostered day off	520,763	461,056
Long service leave	68,300	35,527
	589,063	496,583
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Long service leave	846,680	658,858
Annual leave	95,968	120,208
	942,648	779,066
Total current provisions	1,531,711	1,275,649
Non-current		
Long service leave	118,502	110,705
Total non-current provisions	118,502	110,705
Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:		
Current	1,531,711	1,275,649
Non-current	118,502	110,705
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions	1,650,213	1,386,354

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

Weighted average increase in employee costs	4.44%	4.38%
Weighted average discount rates	3.03%	3.57%
Weighted average settlement period	12 mths	12 mths

(b) Quarry restoration

Current	95,404	83,459
	95,404	83,459

(c) Land fill restoration

Current	21,360	19,260
	21,360	19,260

Note 23 Provisions

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$	Increment (decrement) \$	Share of Increment (decrement) on associate \$	Balance at end of reporting period \$
Asset revaluation reserves				
2015				
Property				
Land	1,662,210	(23,111)	-	1,639,099
Buildings	3,298,513	6,528,187	-	9,826,700
	<u>4,960,723</u>	<u>6,505,076</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,465,799</u>
Infrastructure				
Roads	41,580,141	-	-	41,580,141
Bridges	978,437	-	-	978,437
Footpaths and cycleways	1,479,166	-	-	1,479,166
Drainage	2,415,701	-	-	2,415,701
Other infrastructure	602,438	-	-	602,438
Share of asset revaluation of associates	28,246	-	-	28,246
	<u>47,055,883</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,055,883</u>
Total asset revaluation reserves	52,016,606	6,505,076	-	58,521,682
2014				
Property				
Land	1,662,210	-	-	1,662,210
Buildings	3,298,513	-	-	3,298,513
	<u>4,960,723</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,960,723</u>
Infrastructure				
Roads	41,580,141	-	-	41,580,141
Bridges	978,437	-	-	978,437
Footpaths and cycleways	1,479,166	-	-	1,479,166
Drainage	2,415,701	-	-	2,415,701
Other infrastructure	602,438	-	-	602,438
Share of asset revaluation of associates	-	-	28,246	28,246
	<u>47,055,883</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,246</u>	<u>47,084,129</u>
Total asset revaluation reserves	52,016,606	-	28,246	52,044,852

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

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Note 25 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	2,006,105	(742,155)
Depreciation	5,109,102	5,453,284
(Profit)/loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	7,267	693
Share of (profit)/loss on investments in associates	(36,342)	(49,634)
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	1,476,788	349,826
(Increase)/decrease in other assets	47,280	(29,814)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(132,004)	(1,595,485)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	277,904	(33,087)
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(18,826)	(14,429)
(Increase)/decrease in trust funds and deposits	(29,721)	2,294
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	8,707,553	3,341,494
Note 26		
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents (see note 17)	7,684,557	5,090,018
	7,684,557	5,090,018

Financial Statements

Note 27 Commitments

The Council has entered into the following commitments

	Not later than 1 year	Later than 1 year & not later than 2 years	Later than 2 years & not later than 5 years	Later than 5 years	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2015					
Operating					
Meals on Wheels - Wimmera Health Care Group	14,000	14,350	-	-	28,350
Meals on Wheels - West Wimmera Health Service	55,487	58,228	-	-	113,715
Swimming Pool Management - Dimboola	55,600	56,990	-	-	112,590
Swimming Pool Management - Jeparit	58,085	59,537	-	-	117,622
Swimming Pool Management - Nhill	55,630	57,021	-	-	112,651
Swimming Pool Management - Rainbow	67,367	69,051	-	-	136,418
Kerbside Waste Collection	247,000	257,000	267,000	-	771,000
Kerbside Recycling Collection	150,000	158,000	164,000	-	472,000
Transport Waste & Recycling to Dooen	52,000	54,000	56,000	-	162,000
Total	755,169	784,177	487,000	-	2,026,346
2014					
Operating					
Meals on Wheels - Wimmera Health Care Group	23,862	33,824	-	-	57,686
Meals on Wheels - West Wimmera Health Service	81,630	115,711	-	-	197,341
Swimming Pool Management - Dimboola	72,450	94,389	-	-	166,839
Swimming Pool Management - Jeparit	58,995	76,859	-	-	135,854
Swimming Pool Management - Nhill	56,051	73,024	-	-	129,075
Swimming Pool Management - Rainbow	67,793	88,320	-	-	156,113
Total	360,781	482,127	-	-	842,908
Capital					
Lochiel Street Redevelopment	209,590	-	-	-	209,590
Total	209,590	-	-	-	209,590

2015 \$

2014 \$

Note 28 Operating leases**Operating lease receivables**

At the reporting date, the Council had the following obligations under non-cancellable operating leases:

Not later than one year	31,459	35,405
Later than one year and not later than five years	73,937	101,164
Later than five years	24,055	68,708
	<u>129,451</u>	<u>205,277</u>

Note 29 Contingent liabilities**(a) Superannuation**

Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme to ensure that the liabilities of the fund are covered by the assets of the fund. 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.

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's Actuary.

The Fund's latest actuarial investigation was held as at 30 June 2014 and it was determined that the vested benefit index (VBI) of the defined benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer was 103.4%. To determine the VBI, the fund Actuary used the following long-term assumptions:

Net investment returns	7.50% pa
Salary information	4.25% pa
Price inflation (CPI)	2.75% pa

Vision Super has advised that the estimated VBI at 30 June 2015 was 105.8%

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

Employer Contributions**Regular Contributions**

On the basis of the results of the most recent full actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund's Actuary as at 30 June 2014, 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 2015, this rate was 9.5% of members' salaries. This rate will increase in line with any increase to the Superannuation Guarantee (SG) contribution rate.

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.

Note 29 Contingent liabilities (cont'd)

Funding calls

If the defined benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at 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.

Latest actuarial investigation surplus amounts

The Fund's latest actuarial investigation as at 30 June 2014 identified the following in the defined benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer:

A VBI surplus of \$77.1 million; and a total service liability surplus of \$236 million.

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 2014.

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.

Council was notified of the results of the actuarial investigation during January 2015.

(b) Financial Guarantees to other entities

Council holds financial guarantees totalling \$131,000 held with the National Australia Bank on behalf of the Minister for Energy and Resources for the purposes of ensuring quarry sites are restored to an environmentally satisfactory condition. If Council fail to meet the conditions of these guarantees they may become future liabilities to Council.

No new guarantees were issued in 2014/15. \$19,000 remains available on this facility for future guarantees.

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

Note 30 Financial Instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), and payables (excluding statutory payables). Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in Note 1 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 rate.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the Local Government Act 1989. 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 us to make a financial loss. We have exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in our balance sheet. 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 29.

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

Note 30 Financial Instruments (cont'd)

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

The Council's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed in the face of the balance sheet and the amounts related to financial guarantees disclosed in Note 29, 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.

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

e) Fair value

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

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.

(f) 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 + 2.0% and -1.0% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 2.0%.

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 31 Related party transactions

(i) Responsible Persons

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

Councillors	Councillor R.L. Lowe (Mayor 29 October 2014 to 30 June 2015) Councillor R.L. Gersch (Mayor 1 July 2014 to 29 October 2014) Councillor D. Nelson Councillor W. Robins Councillor T. Schneider Councillor R. Ismay
Chief Executive Officer	A. Doyle

(ii) Remuneration of Responsible Persons

The numbers of Responsible Persons whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, excluding retirement benefits, fall within the following bands:

	2015 No.	2014 No.
\$1 - \$9,999	-	1
\$10,000 - \$19,999	-	5
\$20,000 - \$29,999	4	-
\$30,000 - \$39,999	1	-
\$40,000 - \$49,999	1	1
\$150,000 - \$159,999	-	-
\$160,000 - \$169,999	-	1
\$200,000 - \$209,999	1	-
	7	8
Total Remuneration for the reporting year for Responsible Persons included above amounted to:	\$ 368,729	\$ 334,209

(iii) Senior Officers Remuneration

A Senior Officer other than a Responsible Person, is an officer of Council who:

- a) has management responsibilities and reports directly to the Chief Executive; or
- b) whose total annual remuneration exceeds \$136,000

The number of Senior Officers other than the Responsible Persons, are shown below in their relevant income bands:

	2015 No.	2014 No.
Income Range:		
< \$136,000	1	2
\$136,000 - \$139,999	-	-
\$140,000 - \$149,999	1	-
	2	2
Total Remuneration for the reporting year for Senior Officers included above, amounted to	\$ 260,789	\$ 203,274

(iv) Responsible persons retirement benefits

The aggregate amount paid during the reporting period by Council in connection with the retirement of responsible persons was \$nil (2013/14 \$nil).

(v) Loans to responsible persons

The aggregate amount of loans in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a responsible person of the council, or a related party of a responsible person was \$nil (2013/14 \$nil).

(vi) Transactions with responsible persons

During the period Council entered into the following transactions with responsible persons or related parties of responsible persons.

Council entered into purchases of materials on normal commercial terms and conditions. The total value of materials provided by T. Ismay & Co during 14/15 financial year was \$33,666. (13/14 \$7,316).

Note 32 Events occurring after balance date

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

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*, the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*, Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.



Anne Champness

Director Corporate & Community Services

Date : 16-Sep-15
Dimboola

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of Hindmarsh Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2015 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 2014* to certify the financial statements in their final form.



Cr Ron Lowe

Councillor

Date : 16-Sep-15
Dimboola



Cr Debra Nelson

Councillor

Date : 16-Sep-15
Dimboola



Mr Anthony Doyle

Chief Executive Officer

Date : 16-Sep-15
Nhill



Victorian Auditor-General's Office

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Councillors, Hindmarsh Shire Council

The Performance Statement

The accompanying performance statement for the year ended 30 June 2015 of the Hindmarsh Shire Council which comprises the statement, the related notes and the certification of performance statement has been audited.

The Councillors' Responsibility for the Performance Statement

The Councillors of the Hindmarsh Shire Council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the *Local Government Act 1989*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the performance statement based on the audit, which has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the performance statement. The audit procedures selected depend on judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the performance statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, consideration is given to the internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the overall presentation of the performance statement.

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

Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

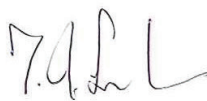
Independence

The Auditor-General's independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. The Auditor-General is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which his powers and responsibilities are to be exercised. In conducting the audit, the Auditor-General, his staff and delegates complied with all applicable independence requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the performance statement of the Hindmarsh Shire Council in respect of the 30 June 2015 financial year presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.

MELBOURNE
18 September 2015


R John Doyle M.Acc FCA
Auditor-General



Victorian Auditor-General's Office

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Facsimile 61 3 8601 7010
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Website www.audit.vic.gov.au

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Councillors, Hindmarsh Shire Council

The Financial Report

The accompanying financial report for the year ended 30 June 2015 of the Hindmarsh Shire Council which comprises the comprehensive income statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows, statement of capital works, notes comprising a summary of the significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification of the financial statements has been audited.

The Councillors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Councillors of the Hindmarsh Shire Council are responsible for the preparation and the fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

The Councillors are responsible for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the *Audit Act 1994* and the *Local Government Act 1989*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit, which has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The audit procedures selected depend on judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, consideration is given to the internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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 entity's internal control.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Councillors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Auditing in the Public Interest

Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

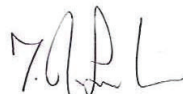
Independence

The Auditor-General's independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. The Auditor-General is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which his powers and responsibilities are to be exercised. In conducting the audit, the Auditor-General, his staff and delegates complied with all applicable independence requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Opinion

In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Hindmarsh Shire Council as at 30 June 2015 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

MELBOURNE
18 September 2015


R John Doyle M.Acc FCA
Auditor-General

Glossary

Act	means the Local Government Act 1989
Annual report	means a report of the council's operations of the previous financial year and contains a report of operations, audited financial statements and an audited performance statement
Appropriateness	means indicators or measures that provide users with sufficient information to assess the extent to which an entity has achieved a pre-determined target, goal or outcome
Australian Accounting Standards (AAS)	means the accounting standards published by the Australian Accounting Standards Board
Budget	means a plan setting out the services and initiatives to be funded for the financial year and how they will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives specified in the council plan
Council plan	means a plan setting out the medium-term strategic objectives, strategies, strategic indicators and resources reflecting vision and aspirations of the community for the next four years
Financial performance indicators	means a prescribed set of indicators and measures that assess the effectiveness of financial management in a council covering operating position, liquidity, obligations, stability and efficiency
Financial statements	means the financial statements and notes prepared in accordance with the Local Government Model Financial Report, Australian Accounting Standards and other applicable standards as they apply to the general purpose financial reports and a statement of capital works and included in the annual report
Financial year	means the period of 12 months ending on 30 June each year
Indicator	means what will be measured to assess performance
Initiatives	means actions that are one-off in nature and/or lead to improvements in service
Major initiative	means significant initiatives that will directly contribute to the achievement of the council plan during the current year and have a major focus in the budget
Measure	means how an indicator will be measured and takes the form of a computation, typically including a numerator and denominator
Minister	means the Minister for Local Government
Performance statement	means a statement including the results of the prescribed service outcome indicators, financial performance indicators and sustainable capacity indicators for the financial year and included in the annual report
Planning and accountability framework	means the key statutory planning and reporting documents that are required to be prepared by councils to ensure accountability to local communities in the performance of functions and exercise of powers under the Act
Principle accounting officer	means the person designated by a council to be responsible for the financial management of the council
Regulations	means the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014
Relevance	means indicators or measures that have a logical and consistent relationship to an entity's objectives and are linked to the outcomes to be achieved

Report of operations	means a report containing a description of the operations of the council during the financial year and included in the annual report
Services	means assistance, support, advice and other actions undertaken by a council for the benefit of the local community
Service outcome indicators	means the prescribed service performance indicators to be included in the performance statement which measure whether the stated service objective has been achieved
Service performance indicators	means a prescribed set of indicators measuring the effectiveness and efficiency of council services covering appropriateness, quality, cost and service outcomes
Strategic objectives	means the outcomes a council is seeking to achieve over the next four years and included in the council plan
Strategic resource plan	means a plan of the financial and non-financial resources for at least the next four years required to achieve the strategic objectives in the council plan. It is also referred to as a long term financial plan
Strategies	means high level actions directed at achieving the strategic objectives in the council plan
Sustainable capacity indicators	means a prescribed set of indicators measuring whether councils have the capacity to meet the agreed service and infrastructure needs of the local community and absorb foreseeable changes and unexpected shocks into the future covering financial performance, capacity and governance and management

References

Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (2014), Local Government Performance Reporting Framework Indicator Workbook 2014/15, State of Victoria

Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (2014), Local Government Better Practice Guide 2014/15, Performance Statement, State of Victoria

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (2015), Local Government Better Practice Guide 2014/15, Model Financial Report, State of Victoria

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (2015), Local Government Model Financial Report 2014/15, State of Victoria

A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.

Senior Management

Chief Executive Officer
Mr Tony Doyle

Director Infrastructure Services
Mr Douglas Gowans

Director Community
and Corporate Services
Mrs Anne Champness



Hindmarsh
Shire Council

The Hindmarsh Shire Council is a legally constituted entity under the Local Government Act 1989, and was formed from the former Dimboola and Lowan Shire Councils in 1995.

For further information or queries please visit:
www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au or email **info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au**

