

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a vast field of yellow flowers, likely rapeseed, in full bloom. The field stretches to a dark treeline on the horizon. Above the horizon, the sky is a mix of soft pinks, oranges, and blues, with wispy white clouds catching the low light of the setting or rising sun.

Hindmarsh Shire Council **ANNUAL REPORT** **2022-2023**

Adopted 25 October 2023



Hindmarsh
Shire Council



Hindmarsh Shire Council acknowledges the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations as Traditional Owners of Country.

We recognise the important ongoing role that Indigenous people have in our community and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

The background image is a composite of two photographs. The top half shows a park area with a wooden shelter structure, a white car, and a building in the background. The bottom half shows a close-up of a fire burning in a metal barrel, with smoke rising and large rocks in the foreground.

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Welcome.

This Annual Report details the achievements and performance of Hindmarsh Shire Council (Council) during the 2022/2023 financial year. We are committed to transparent reporting and accountability to the community and the report of operations provides a transparent record of Council's operations and performance during the financial year.

The Victorian *Local Government Act 2020* requires all Councils to prepare an Annual Report and present the report at a public Council meeting within four months of the end of the financial year.

The report details our performance against our commitments as set out in the Council Plan 2021-2025 and provides an analysis of our financial performance.

This report also demonstrates the breadth of our operations and the diversity of services delivered on a daily basis to the Hindmarsh community.

The Annual Report acknowledges all of the great things that have been happening across the municipality and notes the challenges that have marked the year.

We hope you enjoy reading about the 2022-2023 financial year and we thank our community for your continued support and direction.

How to read this report

This Report is designed to serve the needs of our community by informing them of what we have been doing, how we've followed through on the Council Plan and how we performed over the past 12 months, as well as to meet legislative requirements.

The Report presents the information that our community might find most interesting at the start, with information that is more detailed and specific such as the Financial Report, contained towards the back of the document.

The Report is divided into the following sections:

Overview

Find out all about Hindmarsh Shire and your Council.

Part One - Year in Review

We take a look back on some of the great things Council and the community have achieved in 2022/2023.

Part Two - Performance Report

This section details how we have set about achieving the goals of the Council Plan. It includes what we have undertaken to achieve our strategic direction over the last financial year and how this measures against our budget.

Part Three - Governance Report

Presents the Corporate Governance and statutory information.

Part Four - Financial Report

Presents the audited performance and financial statements detailing our financial performance over the last financial year. A quick and easy-to-read summary of the finances is provided to make the finances easy to understand and transparent.

Giving Feedback

We are keen to hear any thoughts or ideas regarding the Annual Report. If there is information that you think needs to be included or any ideas on how we can improve the document, please let us know - info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au.



Snapshot of our Council

Hindmarsh Shire Council is located in the Wimmera region in Western Victoria, covering an area of 7,527 km².

We are bound by two National Parks, the Little Desert in the South and Wyperfeld in the North.

Hindmarsh Shire is based in or around the Shire's four main towns of Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.

We are a closely linked community of approximately 5,698 people, with a median age of 50 years.

Hindmarsh Shire is rich in natural beauty like the Wimmera River and Lake Hindmarsh, Pink Lake and Lake Albacutya.

The economy is largely dependent on agriculture (primary and secondary), health services, manufacturing and retail.

The median average weekly household income is \$1,159 with the median monthly mortgage repayments being \$750 and median rent \$180 per week.

50.1% of the population are Male and 49.9% are female. 82.6% of people were born in Australia, with English the only language spoken in 86.0% of homes. 1.6% of Hindmarsh's population are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, with the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Nations being the recognised Traditional Owners of Country in the Wimmera region.

83.5% of people were born in Australia, with English the only language spoken in 88.0% of homes. Our most significant group of migrants are Karen refugees from Burma (Myanmar), with approximately 213 people speaking Karen language at home.



Vision.

Working together to be a connected, inclusive and prosperous community.

We will achieve our vision through four key themes woven into our Council Plan and Vision:

- Our Community
- Built and Natural Environment
- Competitive and Innovative Economy
- Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

Values.

Council addresses key values through:

- Transparent and accountable actions and decisions
- Inclusion and collaboration with residents
- Showing respect and integrity to all
- Being proactive and responsible by encouraging innovation

Mission.

- Increase accessible services to enable the community to be healthy, active and engaged.
- Provide infrastructure essential to support the community; and to protect and enhance our natural environment.
- Foster a sustainable and diversified local economy where economic growth is encouraged and supported.
- Promote user friendly services to ensure transparency, good governance and financial sustainability
- Advance gender equality, equity and inclusion for all.



Elected Councillors

Hindmarsh Shire Council comprises six democratically-elected Councillors who represent our community. As the locally-elected representatives, they advocate on behalf of residents and undertake critical tasks such as approving the Council Plan and Council Budget.

Councillors have a responsibility, as stewards of community resources, to manage Council's assets, provide a wide range of services and facilities and ensure finances are allocated in the best interests of the whole community.



Cr Brett Ireland, Mayor
Elected Mayor from November 2022

Cr Brett Ireland is enjoying his time as a Councillor within Hindmarsh Shire. He has been enjoying meeting and interacting with a wide and diverse range of people in all four (4) of our towns.

He welcomes new ideas and lively debate.



Cr Melanie Albrecht, Deputy Mayor
Elected Deputy Mayor from November 2022

Cr Melanie Albrecht's priorities for Hindmarsh are communities that thrive in their rural setting. From economic opportunities, to recreation and lifestyle options, liveability of Hindmarsh is essential to the future of our municipality.

She has expertise in governance, risk, infrastructure, project management, law, health, finance and communications and is proud to be raising a family in Hindmarsh.



Cr Debra Nelson
Elected Councillor from October 2020

Cr Debra Nelson has been honoured to represent the East Ward of Hindmarsh Shire since 2012. She has raised her family and lived in Dimboola for twenty years. Consequently, she has been a member of or involved with numerous community groups and volunteer activities. With a background in Nursing, Mental Health and financial services, as well as a stint, filling in, and writing for the local newspaper, Debra brings a range of skills and life experience to the table.



Cr Rob Gersch OAM

Elected Councillor from October 2020

Cr Rob Gersch OAM has been a long-time-serving councillor and has served several terms as Mayor. He has also represented the Shire on regional and state committees, has lived in Nhill all his life and has a great understanding of rural life.

Having owned and run several businesses in Nhill, he understands how important shopping locally is. Cr Gersch is also a Justice of the Peace.



Cr Wendy Bywaters

Elected Councillor from December 2020

Cr Wendy Bywaters is proud to be a resident of Hindmarsh where she has lived, worked and raised her family. Owner of Wendy's Retreat Nhill, she is an experienced Manager with a demonstrated history of working in the hospitality industry and the Agri Business sector.

Skilled in Negotiation, Business Planning, Team Building, and Rural Development, she is wanting to listen to everyone.



Cr Ron Ismay

Elected Councillor from October 2020

Cr Ron Ismay is a lifelong resident, businessman, and active member of Rainbow. He is the owner and operator of a hardware store in Rainbow that was opened by his Grandfather over 100 years ago.

He has been CFA Captain, Town Committee chair, Councillor and Shire President in the Shire of Dimboola, School Council President, and has spent over 20 years on the board of the local health service.



The Executive

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



Greg Wood
Chief Executive Officer

Greg Wood was appointed to the Chief Executive Officer of Hindmarsh Shire Council in September 2016. Greg provides strategic guidance for the management of Council,, and is responsible for the organisation's overall operations.



Monica Revell
Director Corporate and Community Services

Monica Revell was appointed to the role of Director Corporate and Community Services in December 2017. Monica is responsible for Finance, Governance, Information Technology, Business Development, Families, Youth and Leisure, Libraries, Social Welfare, and Economic Development.



Jessie Holmes
Director Infrastructure Services

Jessie Holmes was appointed to the role of Director Infrastructure Services on 11 July 2022. The Director Infrastructure Services is responsible for Asset planning, Engineering and Traffic, Environment and Sustainability, Infrastructure, Parks and Gardens, Environmental Health, Local Laws, Building, Planning and Development.



Michael Tudball
Acting Director Infrastructure Services

With Jessie Holmes taking leave prior to the end of the financial year, Michael Tudball joined the Hindmarsh Executive Team in a temporary capacity from 21 June 2023 to 6 October 2023. Michael has almost 30 years of experience in state and local government and was Interim CEO at Corangamite Shire Council prior to taking the position at Hindmarsh.

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 Community	Built and Natural Environment	Competitive and Innovative Economy	Good Governance and Financial Sustainability	Total FTE
Permanent FT - F	5.0	3.0	1.0	5.0	14.0
Permanent FT - M	3.0	50.0	5.0	1.0	59.0
Permanent FT - X	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent PT - F	7.5	1.6	2.9	4.0	16.0
Permanent PT - M	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.9
Permanent PT - X	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Casual - F	1.5	0.1	1.1	0.0	2.7
Casual - M	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.7
Casual - X	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SO FT - F	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.0
SO FT - M	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0
Total	17.0	56.0	10.3	13.0	96.3

FT-Full time PT-Part time F-Female M-Male SO-Senior Officer

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

Structure	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8	All other	Total
Classification	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Permanent Full Time - Female	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	5.0	4.0	1.0	3.0	2.0	16.0
Permanent Full Time - Male	0.0	11.0	26.0	7.0	6.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	60.0
Permanent Full Time - Self Described	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent Part Time - Female	1.6	5.7	0.0	4.5	2.7	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
Permanent Part Time - Male	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9
Permanent Part Time - Self Described	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Casual - Female	1.5	0.9	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7
Casual - Male	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
Casual Self Described	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	3.4	18.9	26.0	12.7	13.8	8.5	4.0	6.0	3.0	96.3

Staff

Equal Employment Opportunity Program

Council is committed to the principles of equal opportunity. In all policies and practices of 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.

In 2023, Council participated in the LGPro Inclusive Employment Pathways program. The program connected Council to diverse employers, jobseekers and other stakeholders to help identify and respond to barriers to inclusive employment.

Enterprise Agreement

After a negotiation process with management, staff, union delegates, and union officers, the Hindmarsh Shire Council Enterprise Agreement No 10 2022 effective from 5 June 2023. The Agreement remains in force until 30 June 2025.

Gender Equality Action Plan

Under the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, Hindmarsh Shire Council must deliver a Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) as well as implement Gender Impact Assessments in policy, service and community engagement processes. The GEAP is an organisational commitment to improving gender equality in the workplace. Workplace gender equality is achieved when people are able to access and enjoy the same rewards, resources and opportunities regardless of gender.

Hindmarsh Shire Council is committed to addressing how gender inequality can interact with other inequalities and strives to improve gender equality for all.

Act @ Work

Hindmarsh Shire Council is participating in a program called Act@Work. The organisation-wide program developed by Women's Health Grampians provides intensive support to organisations in planning and implementing an Action Plan for ensuring a safe and respectful workplace. Staff throughout the organisation have undertaken training on Act@Work.



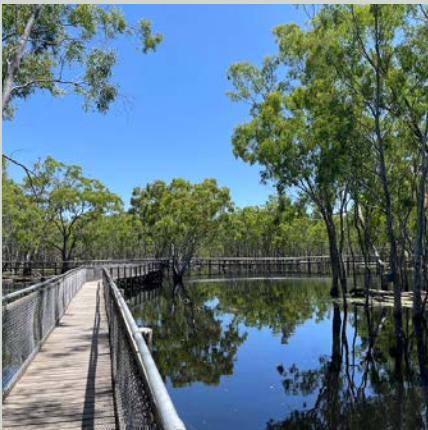
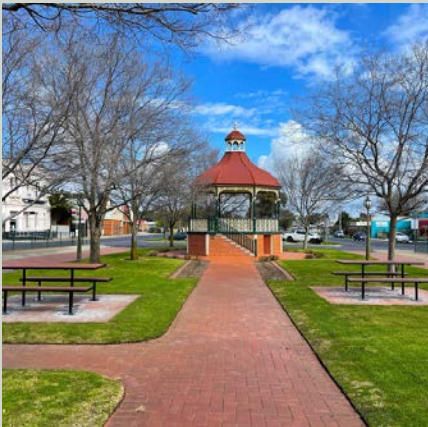
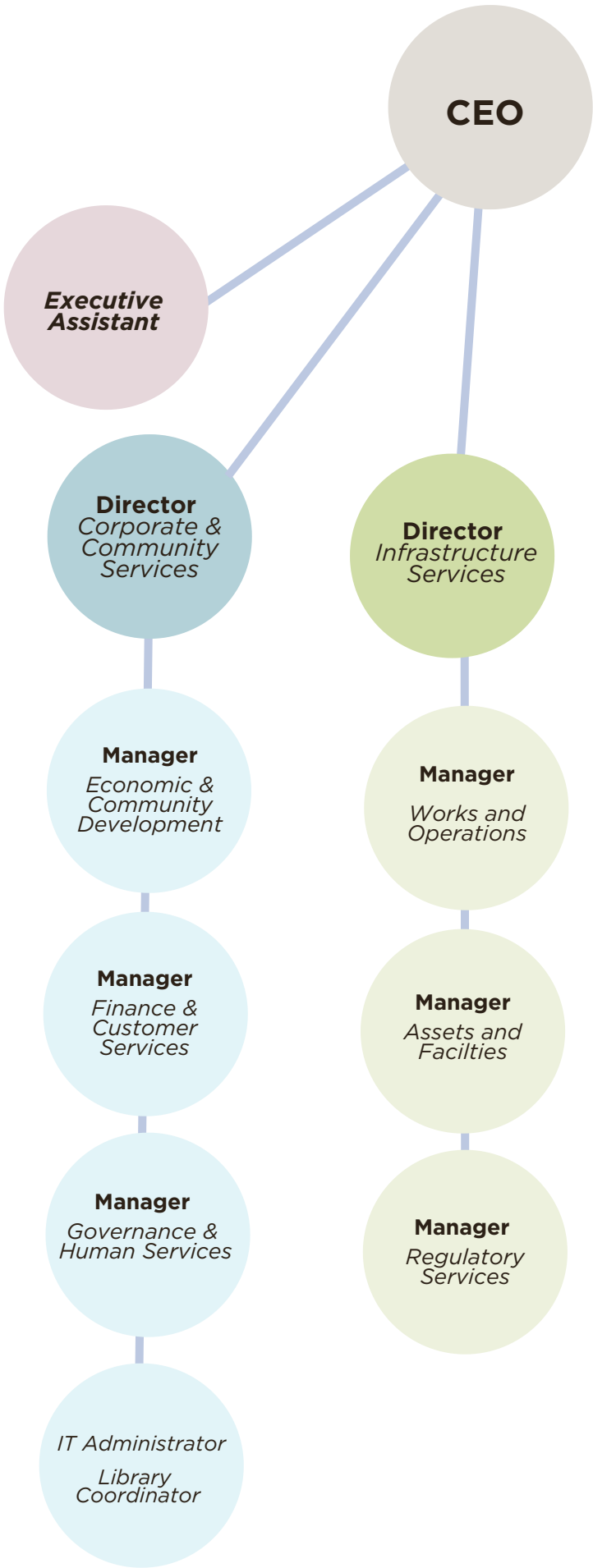
Health & Safety

Hindmarsh Shire Council is committed to the provision of the highest levels of Occupational Health and Safety. Council's aim is to maintain a safety culture that supports an incident and injury-free workplace for all employees, councillors, contractors, visitors and the public.

Professional Development

Hindmarsh Shire Council offers study assistance for staff undertaking relevant undergraduate or postgraduate studies. In the past year, four (4) staff were successful in obtaining this form of support. Council also provides a comprehensive corporate learning program that supports a broad range of staff development needs. This is developed in alignment with strategic priorities as well as in response to needs identified through performance and development plans. A variety of learning methodologies are used including e-learning, facilitated workshops and personal coaching.

Organisational Chart as of 30 June 2023



Council Offices & Libraries



Nhill Office

92 Nelson Street
NHILL VIC 3418
P: 03 5391 4444



Dimboola Office & Library

101 Lloyd Street
DIMBOOLA VIC 3414
P: 03 5391 4452



Jeparit Office & Library

10 Roy Street
JEPARIT VIC 3423
P: 03 5391 4423



Rainbow Office & Library

49 Federal Street
RAINBOW VIC 3424
P: 03 5391 4451



Nhill Library

5 Clarence Street
NHILL VIC 318
P: 03 5391 4449

Postal address:

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

Website: www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil



Message from the Mayor and CEO



Cr Brett Ireland
Mayor



Greg Wood
Chief Executive Officer

On behalf of Hindmarsh Shire Council, it is a great pleasure to present Council's 2022/2023 Annual Report. We are proud of the work we have done in the community and acknowledge the challenges that continue to impact our residents and our projects and services.

Councillor Achievements

Two (2) Councillors received honours this year as a result of their ongoing service to the Hindmarsh Community. Councillor Ron Ismay received a Mayor Emeritus award from the Municipal Association of Victoria in recognition of his service as Mayor for three terms. Councillor Rob Gersch also received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his service to local government and to the community.

Community Consultation

To assist the community in staying in touch with Council, live streaming of Council meetings continued, with community members able to send their questions to Council for answering during the Council meeting and tune in via Council's Facebook Page. A recording of the Council meetings is available on Council's Facebook page and a link to the meetings is also available on the Hindmarsh Shire website. To facilitate this, Council developed a Live-Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy and Procedure.

The new fortnightly e-newsletter remains positively received, providing subscribers with relevant information on Council projects, activities and events, as well as sharing important information from organisations and government. A hard copy monthly newsletter is also available at each of Council's Customer Service Centres and Libraries and at various businesses across each of the four towns. Council sought community feedback on a number of proposed plans, policies and projects. Community members were given the opportunity to have their say on the Public Art Policy, Public Interest Disclosure Policy, Financial Hardship Policy, Llew Schilling Rainbow Silo Development, Nhill Streetscape Masterplan and the Governance Rules and Election Period Policy.

During October 2022 four (4) community consultation meetings were held throughout the Shire. The meetings were well attended and allowed our community to discuss and put forward ideas to be considered for Council Plan Actions and Budget development. The Nhill consultation session was live-streamed, giving the opportunity to those who could not attend the meetings to contribute to the consultation.

In late March and early April 2023, sessions were also held in Rainbow, Jeparit, Nhill and Dimboola around each area's Community Plan and Economic Development Strategy. Further sessions were held in each town in May 2023 around the Draft Budget 2023/2024 and Council Plan Actions 2023/2024. Each month representatives from Council attend the Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow Town Committee meetings. Town Committees provide a link between their respective communities and Council.

Hindmarsh Pride Committee

In 2022/2023, Hindmarsh Shire Council established the LGBTIQ+ Reference Group, renamed to the Hindmarsh Pride Committee in May 2023. The Committee was established to strengthen the voice of the LGBTIQ+ community by providing advice to ensure Council's broader policy issues and Council Plan and programs reflect the interests of the LGBTIQ+ community. The Committee has provided Council assistance in identifying and planning activities on days of significance for the LGBTIQ+ community and assisted in the delivery of the hugely successful Drag Bingo event. Council is committed to working through the Rainbow Ready Roadmap and ensuring our community is safe and inclusive for all.

Events

Hindmarsh Shire continues to be a great place to live. This is attributable to the many community groups who work tirelessly to assist Council in hosting events and activities. Hindmarsh has showcased some amazing events during the year.

Message from the Mayor and CEO Cont.

Some of the events held in the last 12 months include the second iteration of the Wimmera Steampunk Festival; Nhill Town Committee's Christmas Carols and the Rainbow Twilight Market.

We thank the hardworking volunteers involved in delivering a busy schedule of events across our Shire

Volunteers

The contribution of our volunteers is greatly appreciated, and we thank the many volunteers who support our operations around the Shire. They contribute in many ways to make Hindmarsh a great place to live.

Council has 10 Community Asset Management Committees established under the Local Government Act 2020 to manage Council-owned community assets. Committees range from Hall Committees to larger assets such as the Yurunga Homestead Committee of Management and the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum.

Council also has four Town Committees, who undertake an extraordinary amount of work within our towns and perform a valuable role as Council's conduit to our community. The contributions that these committees make to our Shire are significant and Council is very grateful for their support.

In addition to Council Committee volunteers, in 2022/2023 Council also relied on volunteers to assist with the delivery of Meals on Wheels, Community Taxi services and the operation of the Nhill Visitor Information Centre. Volunteer opportunities are also available at Council's libraries across the Shire.

Flood and Water Management

Alongside most communities in Victoria, Hindmarsh Shire Council, in collaboration with a number of other local government areas and stakeholder organisations, was required to undertake significant flood mitigation activities in late 2022 in response to significant rainfall. Council proactively managed water levels along the portion of the Wimmera River within our municipality through the regulation of two weirs, ensuring that the risk of flooding for riverside areas was mitigated. Council also arranged for sandbags to be made available to community members most likely to have properties impacted by rising river levels.

The rainfall also posed a significant challenge through its impact on Council's sealed and unsealed road network. Council was required to close a number of roads both due to water across roads and to significant water damage to roads. The cost of remedying damaged roads had significant impacts on the capital works allocation within the 2022/2023 budget. Engineering assessment of affected roads was undertaken, with estimates for repair being submitted and awaiting government funding approval.

Capital Works

During 2022/2023 Council undertook the following capital works:

22 Reseal/Final Seals	\$631,564
8 Resheets	\$648,264
2 Sealed Footpaths	\$1,292,660
4 Footpaths	\$127,970
4 Shoulder Resheets	\$188,923
1 Underground Drainage	\$193,680
1 Bridge (completed of Albacutya)	\$57,292
1 Carpark	\$121,309

During 2022/2023 Council's construction team completed a large number of infrastructure projects, including roads, footpaths and underground drainage works. Some of these projects are listed below.

- Albacutya Rd sealed reconstruction
- Park Street Nhill underground drainage
- Ellerman Street Dimboola reseal
- Kurnbrunin Road shoulder resheet
- Church Street Nhill footpath
- Eldorado Road resheet
- Dimboola Library carpark

The 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.

Council is responsible for 3,200 kilometres of local road network. One of the main focuses of Council's capital works program is asset renewal. Council faces significant challenges in the future primarily due to the responsibility for a large local road network.

Council will 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.

Message from the Mayor and CEO Cont.

Community Satisfaction

In 2022/2023 Council undertook quarterly Community Satisfaction Surveys, the results of which are shown below -

Performance Measures	Hindmarsh 2019	Hindmarsh 2020	Hindmarsh 2021	Hindmarsh 2022	Hindmarsh 2023	Small Rural Shires 2022
Overall Performance	65	61	61	58	53	58
Community Consultation (community consultation & engagement)	60	59	56	52	54	54
Advocacy (lobbying on behalf of the community)	61	61	59	55	53	54
Making Community Decisions (decisions made in the interest of the community)	61	59	59	55	52	50
Sealed Local Roads (condition of sealed local roads)	54	50	53	55	48	50
Customer Service	70	72	69	69	64	67
Overall Council Direction	53	52	48	48	42	67

Lobbying

During 2022/2023 Council continued to lobby and advocate on behalf of the community. Advocacy has included:

- Reduction in the speed limit in the central business districts of each town to improve pedestrian safety;
- Replacement of the ageing Jeparit Weir;
- Funding for upgrades to Davis Park;
- Increased funding for rural roads;
- Daily rail shuttle service from Nhill to Ararat.

Grant Funding

Grants are an important funding source for Council to allow us to deliver projects big and small to our community that could not be funded from our small budget.

Council received funding through the Federal Governments Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program which enabled us to construct a new tennis club room in Nhill, shade structures at Dimboola and Nhill Skateparks, Jeparit Riverbank Precinct upgrades including new amenities, swimming pool package, and infrastructure upgrades at Rainbow Rises.

Grants were also received for running facilitated playgroup, community care services, youth activities and events, premiers reading challenge, and roadside pest and weeds.

Council also received grants for roads, flood recovery, transfer station upgrades, Nhill Aerodrome, and caravan park cabins.

Summary

Council is proud of the extremely skilled and hardworking team of staff members who are committed to the Hindmarsh community. We look forward to delivering a significant number of projects in 2023/2024, continuing to make our community liveable for our residents.



Brett Ireland
Mayor



Greg Wood
Chief Executive Officer





PART ONE: YEAR IN REVIEW

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Service Achievements

Hindmarsh Shire Council is responsible for more than 110 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 services and facilities are described in our Council Plan 2021-2025 and the associated budget 2022/2023 and reported upon in this document. More information about Council services is contained in Section 2: Performance Report.



Libraries

Hindmarsh Shire Libraries is not just about physical items on shelves. Council's libraries also offer a free content streaming service through the Kanopy platform. So far, 153 people have accessed Council's Kanopy service and streamed 212 films. 54.9% are watching movies on their mobiles and 3.9% on their iPads and laptops.

In the 2022/2023 financial year, 6,873 items were loaned from Council's library collection. Even with the disruption to the Courier Service and an embargo being placed on hold for a period, borrowers have placed 1870 items on hold in this period for items across Victoria.

Hindmarsh Shire Libraries continues to grow.



Planning

In 2022/2023 57 Planning Applications were received and 55 determinations were made. The following table summarises the category of determination -

Alterations to building structure	4
Change of use	2
Consolidation	11
Demolition	5
Extension to existing dwelling	3
Native vegetation removal	1
One or more new buildings	11
Other buildings and works	1
Other vegetation removal	4
Signage	3
Single dwellings	3
Subdivision (realignment of boundary)	1
Subdivision (buildings)	2
Subdivision (land)	5
Telecommunications facility	1
Waiving parking requirements	3
Other	8



Sale of Assets

As a way to contribute to Council's financial and environmental sustainability, a number of assets that no longer met Council use requirements were sold by auction. The sale of these assets contributed over \$170,000.00 to Council's revenue in 2022/2023.



Transfer Stations and Waste Management

In the 2022/2023 financial year, 1,690 nett tonnes of waste were delivered to Doon Landfill, 1,258 tonnes were from kerbside waste bins and 432 tonnes were delivered from transfer station skips. The total amount of kerbside recycling collection amounted to 336 tonnes. In early 2023, Council initiated the purple bin glass collection program with promising collection results. A portion of the glass collected through this program is recycled for use in local infrastructure projects.

Council offers a voucher system for deposits at transfer stations. In the 2022/2023 financial year, residents claimed \$4,155.49 worth of vouchers - \$2,903.03 in Nhill, \$577.91 in Rainbow and \$674.55 in Jeparit.



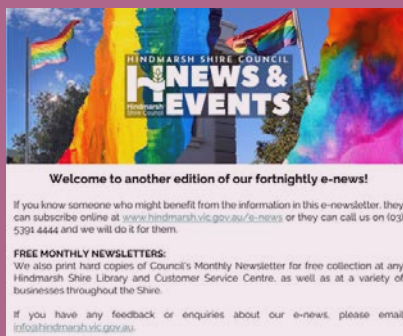
Council Communications

Council continues to proactively provide information to the community on our programs, plans and services. In the 2022/2023 financial year, 29 e-newsletters were distributed to 335 subscribers on top of our monthly newsletter distribution.

Council's Facebook reach (an increase of 157.4% from the previous year) and visit (an increase of 93.2% from the previous year) engagement levels indicated a strong growth from 2021/2022.

Council also has active social media pages for tourism, libraries, youth and the Nhill Cinema, as well as pages run by members of Committees of Council.

The growth across our communication activity evidences the commitment of Council to increasing community engagement and awareness of Council's services, programs, projects and events.



Tourism

As the region recovered from the impacts of COVID-19, Council saw a revitalised interest in our tourism attractions across the Shire. The rainfall in late 2022 continued to ensure that the river and Lake Hindmarsh retained a significant amount of water. Work progressed on the Wimmera River Discovery Trail, and we were able to support a significant number of community events that brought large numbers of visitors to the Shire and provided an economic boost for our local businesses and venues.

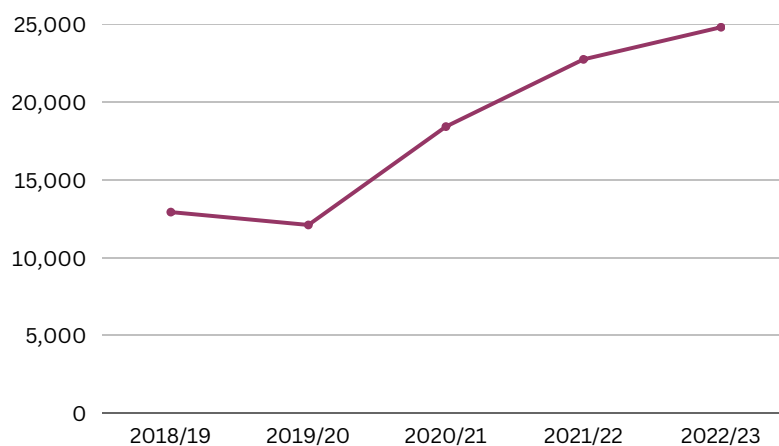


Riverside Holiday Park - Dimboola

The graph below shows the total occupancy (visitor nights) at the RPH for each financial year. This illustrates how successfully we've bounced back from COVID due to such things as:

- Interest and knowledge in the region during state border lockdowns (people visiting different areas of Victoria rather than travelling interstate or overseas)
- Better standard of park management and presentation
- Increased numbers of cabins
- Development of more silo art
- Growth of niche shopping/visitor attractions in Dimboola

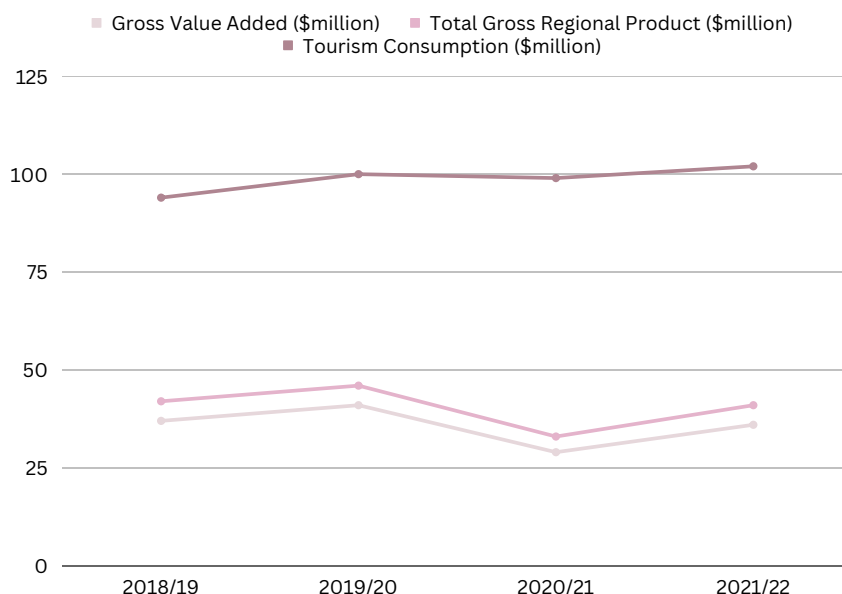
Riverside Holiday Park Occupancy



Overall Tourism Performance

- GRP is the total value of final goods and services produced in the region over the period of one year. As can be seen from the table, this includes exports but subtracts imports
- Value-added data represents the marginal economic value that is added by each industry sector in the Wimmera Tourism Region.
- This report shows the number of employees whose place of work is located within the Wimmera Tourism Region.
- Tourism Consumption is an amalgam of activities across various industry sectors such as retail, accommodation and food services, and arts and recreation services.

Wimmera Tourism Region



Wimmera Mallee Tourism Campaign Impact Results

Amount Spent	\$14,996
Reach/Add Impressions	1,830,338
Video Views	257,226
Click to Website	9,659
Conversions	2,039





Nhill Cinema

Nhill Cinema screened an incredible number of movies in 2022/2023 as part of Council's School Holiday activities, Classic Movie sessions and our general screening schedules. In the 2022/2023 period, Council established a Nhill Cinema Facebook Page that increased community awareness of upcoming cinema events and allowed for greater community involvement in selecting future films. The following films were screened in this period –

- My Name is Gulpilil (8 July)
- **What Ever Happened to Baby Jane (19 July)**
- We of the Never Never (16 August)
- **A Patch of Blue (29 September)**
- Ten Canoes (18 October)
- **The Drover's Wife (19 August)**
- Where the Crawdads Sing (16 September)
- **Minions: The Rise of Gru (22 September)**
- Jurassic World: Dominion (29 September)
- **Downton Abbey: A New Era (14 October)**
- St Kilda Film Festival (4 November)
- **Elvis (11 November)**
- Brazen Hussies (1 December)
- **Top Gun: Maverick (9 December)**
- Move Over, Darling (17 January)
- **Don't Worry Darling (20 January)**
- It's a Wonderful Life (13 December)
- **Lyle, Lyle Crocodile (5 February)**
- Mrs Harris goes to Paris (16 February)
- **The Quiet Man (21 February)**
- A Fish Called Wanda (14 March)
- **Bullet Train (17 March)**
- 9-5 (11 April)
- **I Wanna Dance with Somebody (26 April)**
- Love Story (23 May)
- **Super Mario Bros (7 May)**
- Love Syort (28 May)
- **80 for Brady (8 June)**
- The Big Year (20 June)



LL CINEMA PRESENTS CLASSIC MOVIES



MA AND PA KETTLE GO TO TOWN
10 SEPTEMBER 2022
MOVIE AT 10:30AM
TEA PROVIDED AFTER MOVIE
COIN DONATION AT DOOR

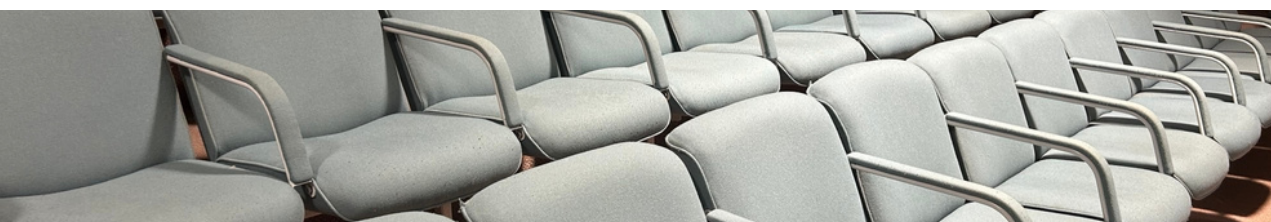
A PATCH OF BLUE
18 OCTOBER 2022

COMMUNITY CENTRE
ST, NHILL
OR CATERING
3 5391 4444

VICTORIA
Government
Hindmarsh
Shire Council

Classic Movie Screenings

As part of Council's regular screening schedule, Council offers matinee 'Classic Movie' screenings targeted at older residents and those who may be at a greater risk of social isolation. The movies are accompanied by a morning tea and paid for by voluntary gold coin donation. A total of 339 people attended Classic Movie Screenings throughout the financial year.





School Holidays

June/July 2022

- Portable Cinema: Night at the Museum
- NAIDOC Week Story time
- Crafty Art with Danelle
- Science with Cam

September 2022

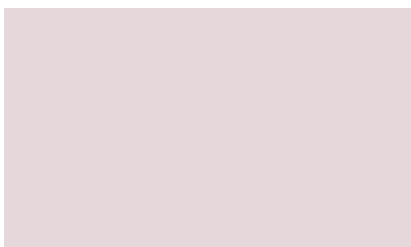
- Level Up! Gaming
- Games Day
- Outdoor Cinema
- Painting with Maria
- Animal and Human First Aid
- Tennis Coaching
- Cricket Fun Day
- Crafty Art with Danelle
- Science with Cam

April 2023

- Crafty Art with Danelle
- Cooking with Sharon
- Science
- Level Up! Gaming
- Shredability Skate/BMX/Scooter Lessons
- Shredability Skate/BMX/Scooter Competition

June 2023

- Yoga with Sukha Pilates
- Movie (NMCC)
- Crafty Art with Danelle
- Science with Jo
- Level Up! Gaming





Youth



In 2022, Youth Councillors had a fantastic end to the year with two successful events made possible with FReeZA and Engage! Funding. After a short period of no events, the youth of Hindmarsh were excited to attend a Neon Disco in Rainbow. With almost 70 in attendance and some great feedback, Youth Councillors were keen to get another event organised. This saw their End of Year Formal, themed "Under the Sea", come to fruition. Grasping the attention and participation of almost 100 youth in Hindmarsh this event certainly was something to be proud of and a great end to the year.



2023 Youth Councillors started their Term in February and after a couple of meetings planning their year, they were ready to host their first event in Dimboola. Wanting to pique the interest of several demographics, they hosted a "Games Night", where they ran their own games but also set up several games throughout the event location for people to use with friends or on their own if they pleased - 76 people attended this event. Youth Councillors were then already busy planning their next event for Jeparit, with a chosen "80s" theme - close to 100 people attended this event and based on feedback Youth Councillors have received, these events are really popular throughout the Youth of Hindmarsh as it allows them to socialise, dance and enjoy an exciting environment.



In the midst of all these events, Youth Councillors have also attended Teen Mental Health First Aid Training to better prepare them for future initiatives and to be a leader in their communities. They undertook a 2-day Teamwork and Leadership Retreat in Dimboola to further strengthen their skills, and bond with each other. They have been an integral part of the planning and execution of several school holiday activities, and they have made an effort to bring awareness to particular days/weeks/months that they are passionate about, including but not limited to "Do it for Dolly" day. They have also planned all podcast episodes for their Youth Mental Health Podcast which they will record in the 2023-2024 Financial Year, this is set to be another wonderful achievement for the Youth Council where they will continue to make a difference in their community.





Awards and Citizenship Ceremonies

Awards and Australian Citizenship Ceremonies held throughout 2022/2023 included:

Rae Keam Scholarships and Award Recipients

Imogen Bird – *Dimboola Memorial Secondary College*

Zara Clark – *Nhill College*

Heidi Smith and Clarissa Bigham – *Rainbow P-12 College*

Australia Day Hindmarsh Award Recipients

Ayla Roberts – *Young Citizen of the Year*

Christine Dufty – *Citizen of the Year*

Peter Taylor Memorial Barefoot Tournament and Night Jump, Dimboola
– *Community Event of the Year*

Australian Citizenship Ceremonies

5 October 2022 -

Antonio De Carvalho

Gho Reh Poe

Christy Tan Villare

Rian Leigh Tan Villare

24 January 2023 -

Jocelyn James

Rayloe Lerhtoo

Harago Osman

Yudhveer Singh

Diana Taw

21 March 2023 -

Kimberley Bermudez

Bleh Bleh Wah

Eh Wah Htoo Shwe

5 June 2023 -

Soe Khaing Kay

Aye Aye Tun Kay

Tar Pu Loo

Lah June Paw

Sandra Schofield

Thaw Eh Htoo Taw



Major Challenges and Opportunities

Like most small rural councils, Hindmarsh continues to face many changes. Farming enterprises are consolidating, creating larger farms, which decreases Council's rate base. The requirement for Council to maintain existing infrastructure, particularly roads while seeking funding for projects to improve liveability within our Shire remains a challenge. Inclement weather conditions in late 2022 also caused significant damage to Council's Road system and redirected a number of Council's resources to immediately managing flooding and water damage and facilitating ongoing repairs to Council's roads and other infrastructure.

The decline in the impacts and risk of COVID-19 has reestablished some normalcy in Council's operations, with minimal disruptions to Council's activities. We continue to advocate for measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, with free N95 masks and RAT tests available at Council's Customer Service Centres.

The rises in interest rates and the costs of living have impacted Council's community, and the impacts on the cost of materials, fuel, contractors and other resources critical to Council's functions remain closely managed. Council has proactively ensured that project scoping is reflective of increased costs and remains flexible and adaptive to changing economic environments, rescoping as needed to ensure the original intent of projects is maintained within a limited budget.

Council continues to apply for and advocate the State and Federal for funding to upgrade Davis Park facilities after the 1950s build timber-framed grandstand was demolished in early 2020 after being independently assessed as unfit for purpose. Council is optimistic that progress will be made in 2023/2024 to identify and fund facilities that meet this community need.

From an operational perspective, there were two major changes to Council's organisation – a restructuring of the infrastructure directorate and the cessation of delivering Home and Community Services, resulting in a number of redundancies.

The restructure allowed Council to best manage its human resources more effectively and efficiently and to meet community expectations as well as project and service requirements in the operations and works, regulatory services and asset management teams.

As of 1 July 2023, Council ceased delivery of home and community care services through the Victorian Government HACC-PYP and Commonwealth Government CHSP funding streams. Over the past decade, there have been significant reforms in the aged and disability services sector. As a result, Council assessed its current home-based aged care service model and determined that it would be unable to adapt to meet the requirements of the future model, including the transition to the Support at Home program in mid-2024. Council undertook consultation with impacted staff and ensured that assistance and support were provided to those who wished to either retire or transition to alternative employment. Council worked closely with the new providers to ensure a smooth as possible transition was executed to ensure the continuity of services for clients and to secure employment opportunities for staff in redundant positions.





TURNER



ER PAVILION

Major Community Development Projects

During 2022/2023 major Community Development projects undertaken included the following:

Rainbow Female Friendly Netball Change Rooms

Several years ago, Council began the process of developing the design for a new Change Room facility and subsequently, securing the funding to build it. The new Change Rooms represent a huge improvement in conditions for netballers, meeting the latest Netball Australia Facility Guidelines and are expected to be the envy of Clubs from across the Horsham & District Football Netball League. The Change Rooms will also benefit other Clubs and organisations utilising the Recreation Reserve being able to access the change rooms.

Extensive support was secured for the delivery of this project; with funding from Sport & Recreation Victoria's Female Friendly Facilities program, the Federal Government's Local Roads & Community Infrastructure program, Hindmarsh Shire Council, Rainbow Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, and the Jeparit Rainbow Football Netball Club. The new changerooms were officially opened in the Dimboola Recreation Reserve on Thursday 8 June 2023.



Nhill Tennis Clubrooms

Tennis in Nhill has a new home, with the official opening of the clubrooms being held on 10 February 2023, with Federal Member for Mallee Dr Anne Webster officiating the event.

It has been a long wait for the Nhill Lawn Tennis Club, without proper facilities for several years, after their original club room required demolition when a freak windstorm in October 2019 caused irreparable damage. Since this time the Club has been 'making do' with the erection of portable shade structures to provide shelter for their season of tennis each Summer.

In a further boost to the local community and economy, construction of the new club room has been completed by Nhill builder, Leyonhjelm Building Services, who successfully tendered for completion of the project in 2022.

Construction of the new Nhill Lawn Tennis Club Room has been made possible with funding from the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program, Hindmarsh Shire Council and Nhill Lawn Tennis Club.

Caravan Park Cabins - Dimboola, Jeparit and Rainbow

Council successfully secured a contractor for the design, construction, fit-out and installation of 6 cabins across three of our caravan parks. Construction is underway for one 2-bedroom cabin to be located at Jeparit Caravan Park, two 2-bedroom cabins to be located at Rainbow Caravan Park, and one 2-bedroom cabin, one 3-bedroom cabin and one 2-room studio cabin to be located at Riverside Holiday Park Dimboola. The additional cabins, which are expected on site in late 2023, will increase the availability of accommodation for visitors to the Hindmarsh Shire.



Rainbow Lake

The Rainbow Lake was officially opened on Wednesday 7 December 2022. The manmade permanent recreational water source is around 2km from Rainbow and was developed in partnership with the Rainbow Lake Committee in conjunction with GWM Water, the Federal Government, the Victorian Fisheries Authority and Hindmarsh Shire Council. The area surrounding the lake offers plenty of parking and non-powered camping areas.

Out and About - Other Community Projects

Dimboola Library Gardens Upgrade

A new 6-meter x 4-meter shelter was constructed in the Dimboola Library gardens to cover two existing picnic settings, and two 4-meter x 4-meter shelters were constructed within Nine Creeks Reserve and adjacent to the Wimmera Street bridge and boating pontoon.

Funding for this project was through the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund, the Victorian Government Outdoor Activation Program and Hindmarsh Shire Council.



Shade Shelters and Solar Lighting at Nhill and Dimboola Skate Parks

As part of its program to provide improved shade conditions, Council commissioned the construction of a new shade shelter at the Nhill Skate Park in Jaypex Park and the Dimboola Skate Park in the Dimboola Recreation Reserve.

Both shelters include direct concrete pathways between the skate parks and the shelters and were also fitted with solar powered lighting and picnic settings.

Construction of the new Skate Park shelters was made possible through the Federal Governments Local Roads and Community Infrastructure funding program.



Solar Lighting Installed at Dimboola Library

The installation of solar-powered lighting was completed in the car park at the rear of the Dimboola Library. This lighting was installed as a security safety measure.

This project was made possible through funding from the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

Power Upgrade at Rainbow Caravan Park

An 'unseen' major improvement has been completed at Rainbow Caravan Park, with an extensive power upgrade securing supply to existing facilities and also providing capacity for further development at the site.

The initial stage included a power delivery upgrade by PowerCor to the Recreation Reserve via Swinbourne Ave, ensuring the available supply would meet the needs of both the Recreation Reserve facility and the Caravan Park. After this was completed, contractors undertook a comprehensive revamp of power supply to each site, which included supply to the new Netball change rooms, the new cabin (with provision for future cabins) and the new Amenities building (design and permits currently being finalised). As a part of the upgrade, several new power heads (for connection to caravans) have also been installed.



Major Capital Works Projects

During 2022/2023 major Capital Works projects undertaken included the following:

Albacutya Road Sealed Reconstruction

Works were completed by Council's in-house operations team and included upgrading the Albacutya road up to the Krelle Rd intersection. The works included widening the seal width to 8m and upgrading the pavement. The road is utilised by large heavy vehicles accessing gypsum pits and farms.

Resheet Program

The resheet program included renewing several rural roads used to access farming areas and was completed by Council's in-house operations team. This included sections of Propodollah Netherby Rd, Boundary Rd, Tarranyurk East and West Rd's, Dahlenburg Rd, Lavertys Rd and Eldorado Rd. All roads were reformed and had a new gravel layer installed.

Reseal Program

The reseal program included over \$600k worth of work across 22 projects. Some of the projects included Reserve Rd Rainbow, Ellerman St Dimboola, Riverside St Jeparit, and Thomas St Nhill.

Footpaths

New footpaths were constructed in Church St Nhill, Lower Roy St Jeparit, Railway St Rainbow and Taverner St Rainbow. The footpaths were constructed with concrete at a 1.5m width.

Drainage Projects

Park St Nhill from Davis Ave intersection through to Dart St intersection had underground drainage installed. This project will improve drainage functionality for the street.

Shoulder Resheet program

Several shoulder resheet projects were completed throughout the shire including Mt Elgin Rd, Kurnbrunin Rd, Yanac Netherby Rd and Broughton Rd. These projects included grading and reforming the shoulder and installing new gravel.



Major Achievements

Llew Schilling Silo Art Trail Development

In a busy year for the Llew Schilling Silo project, 2022/2023 saw Council progress from the appointment of an Architect and associated consultancies (structural engineers, building surveyor etc.) through concept design and community consultation to project planning approval, the development of tender drawings and specifications. This culminated in the project being advertised for tender late in the financial year though unfortunately, a limited response saw proposed costs well in excess of the available budget.

Council is currently working with the relevant consultancies to redesign the project in order for it to be constructed within the project budget. This documentation is likely to be completed in time for the project to be once again advertised for tender before the end of 2023. It is hoped that all major elements of the project including the elevator, stairway, viewing platform and both internal and external art activations will be retained.

Rainbow Enduro Infrastructure Upgrades

Council received \$500,000.00 from the Victorian Government, alongside a contribution of \$125,000.00 from the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program, to improve infrastructure and services at the Rainbow Rises Events Centre. This includes appropriate and fit-for-purpose access roads and pathways, facilities and services required for catering, public amenities, spectator viewing areas and the provision of services such as power and water for competitors and their crew, staff, marshals, volunteers and spectators form part of the planned infrastructure improvements.

Through the 2022/2023 financial year, major improvements were completed to develop the Rainbow Rises Events Centre site, though cost pressures have also delayed other elements of this project. Local earthmoving contractors Mallee Earthmoving completed the construction of a new pit/hardstand area at the site, which is serviced via an all-new access road. The pit/hardstand area allows off-road racing competitors to prepare and service their race vehicles on an all-weather surface on race weekends. It will also support the staging of other community events such as tractor pulls and camping club weekends.

Council also progressed to tender for a new catering facility and toilet building to be constructed/installed onsite, though unfortunately, a limited response saw proposed costs well outside Council's project budget. A revised layout and scope for both builds is being developed and will be retendered later in 2023.

Hindmarsh Shire Libraries

It has been another full and successful year for Hindmarsh Shire Libraries. We continue to grow into our own unique and independent, rural library service, aiming to not only meet but exceed the needs of our community and their expectations. Our regular library sessions include our Primary School Book Club, Book Chat, Story Time, Jigsaw Club, Monthly Kids Craft Club, Writer's Hour and Hindmarsh Shire Libraries are proud to host the ever-popular Cuppa Connections at all of our four (4) branches.

This year saw us successfully obtain a grant to purchase a Library Outreach Van – you may see her striking design around the streets of your town soon! Our intention is for continued home deliveries of library items and further outreach to our institutional borrowers such as nursing homes and local primary schools. Our new van is equipped to be fully sustainable – complete with solar panels, an onboard computer, plenty of space for library items such as books, magazines and DVDs as well as many other incredible features.

Hindmarsh Shire Libraries staff have assisted over 100 people in Dimboola alone with applying for the \$250 power savings bonus. Hindmarsh Shire Libraries are committed to assisting our community with their needs, regardless of what it is. We can help you with tech support and assistance across all four of our branches.

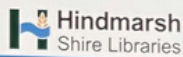
Our libraries and their resources continue to grow with over 15,600 physical items available for loan. We also have over 5,000 digital items available for loan, including over 4,000 digital magazines from around the world. We have also proudly hosted just over 18,000 visitors to our branches this last financial year.

Hindmarsh Shire Libraries continues to develop relationships within our communities that allow our libraries to become centralised spaces for education, culture and information. Our small, independent, rural library service offers dynamic community spaces for building on imagination, social inclusion and connection.



Welcome to
Nhill Library

Ph. 5391 4449



Opening Hours

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	2pm to 5pm
Wednesday	2pm to 5pm
Thursday	10am to 12pm
Friday	10am to 5pm
Saturday	CLOSED
Sunday	CLOSED

www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

Community Action Grants and Business Assistance Grants

During 2022/2023 Council's Community Action Grants and Business Assistance Grants schemes awarded \$9,818.95 to 11 community groups and \$15,790.70 to 7 businesses across our Shire, totalling \$25,609.65.

Community Action Grant recipients included:

- Rainbow Lake Association
- Wimmera Band Group
- Nhill-Dimboola Band
- CWA Nhill Twilight Branch
- Rainbow Bowls Club
- Nhill A and P Society
- Lions Club of Nhill Inc.
- Nhill Golf Club Inc.
- Jeparit Golf Club
- Lowan Lodge 107
- Boyeo Hall and Recreational Reserve

Business Assistance Grant recipients included:

- West Wimmera Health Services
- Shalom Hair Salon
- Daring2Adventure
- Rough Jewels Enterprise
- Rainbow Newsagency
- AVR Group (Nhill Dine Inn)
- Nhill and District Funerals

Wimmera River Discovery Trail

Council has continued to make progress on the Wimmera River Discovery Trail throughout the 2022/2023 financial year.

In 2022/2023, the following works were undertaken -

- Procurement process commenced for construction of the pedestrian bridges.
- Procurement of trail markers/bollards completed.
- Contractor secured for
 - Installation of traffic management and control devices; and
 - Improvements to the surface of the trail at various sections.
- Construction of the Jeparit Visitor Node at the Jeparit swimming hole precinct underway

These works will continue into 2023/2024.

For more information on the Wimmera River Discovery Trail and to view the master plan, visit www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/plans-and-strategies.

Dimboola Visitor Node Carpark and Laneway Sealing

Works were undertaken to upgrade the laneway and car park to the rear of the Dimboola Library. This included sealing Old Weir Lane, upgrading the car park near the toilet block and laying asphalt, and sealing the laneway adjoining the toilet block. Works were completed by council staff and contractors.

Jeparit Swimming Hole Deck and Retaining Wall

Works have commenced at the Jeparit Swimming hole, with a contractor removing the derelict old structure and beginning works installing a new retaining wall, decking and staircase down to the water. The works are on track to be completed early in the 2023/2024 financial year. Once completed, the structure will provide a picturesque view of the river and access to the water for those wishing to take a swim.



Highlights of the Year

July 2022

- Citizenship ceremony held welcoming 10 new Australian citizens.
- New seating installed at Jaypex Park with funding from the State Government's Outdoor Activation Program.
- 2022-2027 Strategy launched by Wimmera Mallee Tourism
- Rainbow Library landscaping and garden complete
- Council's Construction team gravel re-sheet Dahlenburg Road, Park Street Nhill and Albacutya Road.
- Six Brand New Caravan Park Cabins were installed at Dimboola, Nhill, Jeparit and Rainbow.



August 2022

- Seating at Goldsworthy Park installed with funding from the State Government's Outdoor Activation Program.

September 2022

- New shelters in Dimboola
- Nhill Heritage Weekend takes place, with activities across the Nhill area, including at the Aerodrome and Aviation Heritage Museum.



October 2022

- Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council hold a Rainbow Neon Disco event for 12-18-year-old young people across the community.
- Youth Councillors completed their Teen Mental Health First Aid Course.
- Cr Ron Ismay Receives Mayor Emeritus Award from the Municipal Association of Victoria.
- Hindmarsh Shire Council receives funding for subsidised cat desexing for eligible Hindmarsh residents.
- Senior Concert ft THE BEATLEZ held at the Nhill Memorial Community Centre.

November 2022

- Works commenced on the Jeparit Swimming Hole redevelopment.
- 16 days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence activities commence.

December 2022

- Council received funding from Safe and Equal-Respect Victoria and provides a free community screening of the documentary Brazen Hussies
- Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council Annual Youth Formal was held with over 100 young people in attendance.
- Rainbow Lake's official opening is held, with Dr Anne Webster (MP) in attendance.
- Nhill Christmas Carols in the Park are held, and organised by the Nhill Town Committee.

January 2023

- New Skate Park shelters completed in Dimboola and Nhill
- Citizenship ceremony held welcoming 5 new Australian citizens.
- Australia Day Awards 2023 held, celebrating the achievements of local residents and community groups.
- Nhill Tennis Club Room official opening held.
- Hindmarsh Pool Parties held across the Shire, supported by the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council.
- New Picnic settings installed in Jeparit, increasing the amenity of public spaces.

February 2023

- Hindmarsh welcomed the 2023 Youth Councillors with a certificate presentation:
 - Amelie Fuller
 - Bailee White
 - Breanna Francis
 - Cooper Stasinowsky
 - Eliza Clarke
 - Hanna Cannell
 - Liam Campbell
 - Marcel Badua
 - Messi Ehdohpaw
 - Sally Smith
 - Tarah Bond
- Council introduced a new Youth Mentor Program with two youth councillors Alexis Bone and Alissa Trenery supporting the newly appointed Youth Councillors.



March 2023

- Harmony Day events and Australian Citizenship Ceremony held, welcoming three new Australian Citizens.

April 2023

- April Schools Holidays program implemented across the Shire, including a number of activities in our libraries.
- Wimmera Steampunk Festival held in Dimboola with the support of Council.



May 2023

- Dimboola Games Night held by the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council



June 2023

- Drag Bingo held at the Nhill Memorial Community Centre
- Official Opening of the Rainbow Netball Change Rooms
- Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Annual Vintage Rally 2023 held in Jeparit.
- Cr Rob Gersch receives Order of Australia Medal (OAM)
- Australian Citizenship Ceremony welcomed 6 new Australian Citizens
- The June/July school holiday program kicks off across the Shire, with two weeks of activities held across all four towns.
- Volunteer Thank-You Event held at the Nhill Memorial Community Centre
- Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council hold an 80's Themed Disco
- Dimboola NAIDOC Art Exhibit held at the Dimboola Library for NAIDOC week.



PART TWO: PERFORMANCE REPORT

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Our Community 50

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Built and Natural Environment 60

Strategic Objective 3:

Competitive and Innovative Economy 68

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Good Governance and Financial
Sustainability 73

Performance Report

This part of the Annual Report provides a summary of how we're performing in the five key themes identified in the 2021-2025 Council Plan. The Council Plan 2021-2025 includes strategic objectives, strategies for achieving these for the four-year period, strategic indicators for monitoring achievement of the strategic objectives and a strategic resource plan. The following are the four strategic objectives as detailed in the Council Plan.

1	Our Community	We want to increase accessible services to enable the community to be healthy, active and engaged.
2	Built and Natural Environment	We want to provide infrastructure essential to support the community; and to protect and enhance our natural environment.
3	Competitive and Innovative Economy	We want to foster a sustainable and diversified local economy where economic growth is encouraged and supported.
4	Good Governance and Financial Sustainability	We want to promote user friendly services to ensure transparency, good governance and financial sustainability, and to advance gender equality, equity and inclusion for all.

Each section of the following report contains three sets of information.

Performance Against Objectives	Financial Performance	Performance Monitoring Data
Results achieved in relation to the 2022/2023 Action Plan in the Council Plan.	<p>Progress in relation to the major initiatives identified in the budget.</p> <p>Services funded in the budget and the persons or sections of the community who are providing those services.</p>	Results against the prescribed service performance indicators and measures.

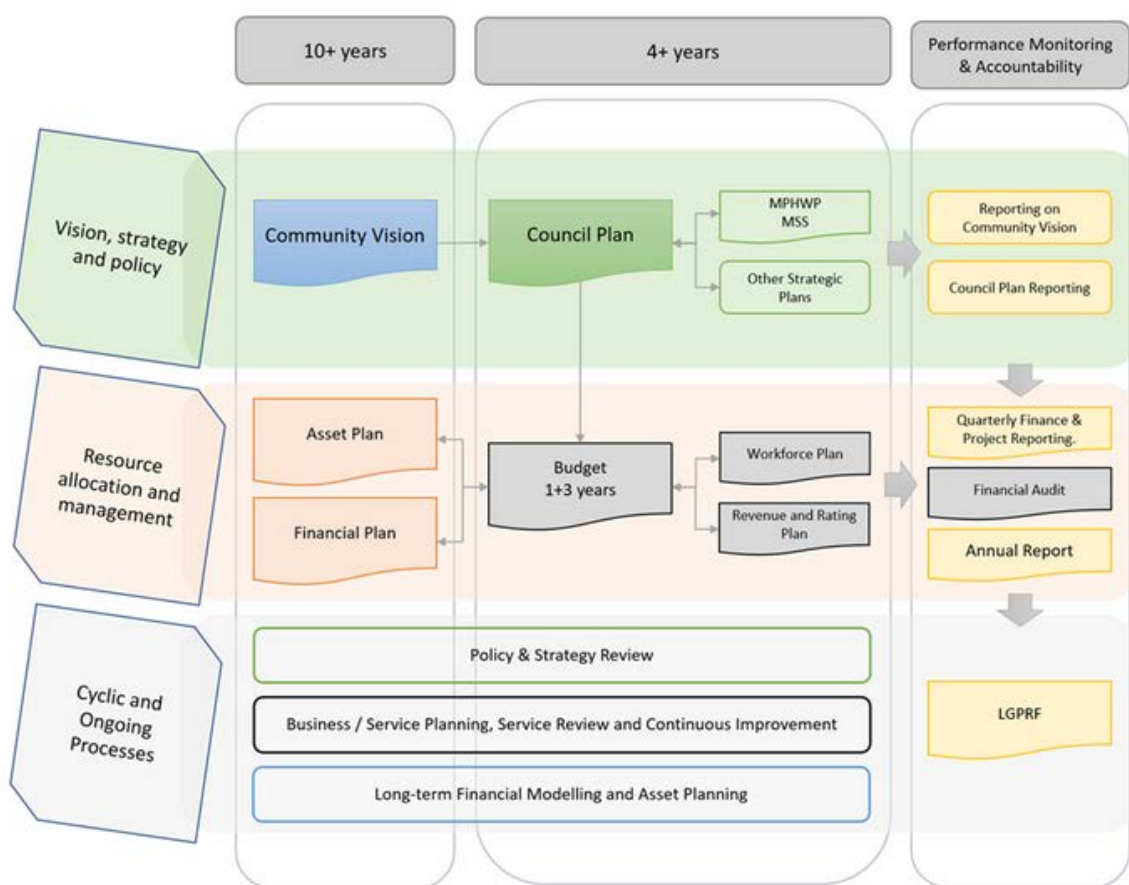


Planning and Accountability Framework

The Planning and Accountability Framework is found in part 4 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Act requires councils to prepare the following planning and reporting documents:

- A Council Vision with a scope of at least ten financial years by 31 October in the year following a general election.
- A Council Plan on or by 31 October in the year following a general election.
- A Financial Plan with a scope of at least 10 financial years by 31 October in the year following a general election.
- An Asset Plan with a scope of at least 10 financial years by 31 October in the year following a general election.
- A Revenue and Rating Plan by 30 June after a general election for a period of at least the next 4 financial years.
- A budget for each financial year.
- A quarterly budget report.
- 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.



Strategic Objective 1: Our Community

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to the 2022/2023 Actions included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
Monthly and fortnightly e-newsletters distributed through emails and available on Council's website	Ongoing	Council continues to prepare and circulate fortnightly e-newsletters and monthly newsletters. Monthly Newsletters are printed for collection at all libraries, Council offices and a variety of businesses in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow. Previous editions of Council's fortnightly e-newsletters and monthly newsletters are available on Council's website. To view previous newsletters please visit www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/newsletters
Establish LGBTQ+ Focus Groups to advise Council on key projects and initiatives	Ongoing	The LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee was established by Council resolution on 26 October 2022. The Committee met for the first time in December 2022 and continue to advise on events, inclusive actions and days of significance. In 2023, the Committee was formally renamed the Hindmarsh Pride Committee.
Councillors and Council Officers attend advisory committees including Town Committees, Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum and Yurunga Homestead meetings	Ongoing	Officers and Councillors continue to represent Council on Town Committees, WMPM & Yurunga.
Advocate for after school care and an increase childcare in Hindmarsh Shire.	Ongoing	The State Government is currently providing funding for schools to establish after school care. Council is supporting the Wimmera Southern Regional Partnership Childcare feasibility study for the region. Council representatives met with By-five executives to discuss childcare in the region. A report was commissioned by By-five identifying gaps in the region. Discussions have been held with local schools to assess the feasibility of establishing childcare spaces within their existing facilities. Emerge (Council's Early Years provider) attended the March 2023 briefing session to discuss services with Councillors.
Implement the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Strategy	Ongoing	Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council are regularly achieving activities and initiatives that assist with implementing the 2021-2025 Youth Strategy. The 2023 Youth Councillors have also successfully recorded their first two episodes of their Youth Council Mental Health Podcast.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
Work with various agencies to host and promote school holiday activities throughout the Shire	Ongoing	Hindmarsh Shire Council staff and Youth Councillors worked closely to implement school holiday activities across the Shire – ensuring that they are accessible, inclusive and cater to a variety of interests, skills and needs. We are seeing and consistent growth in numbers at all of our activities.
Continue to support early years services in Hindmarsh Shire	Ongoing	Council continues to provide buildings and funding to support early years services in Hindmarsh. Council liaises regularly with its early Years Service provider Emerge, to ensure facilities meet the needs of Hindmarsh Shire families.
Partner with Nhill Learning Centre to ensure barriers and views of the Karen and other multicultural communities are considered	Ongoing	Council continues to discuss engagement activities with Karen representatives and hosted a successful waste management session in Karen language in March 2023. Council has an organisational Cultural Audit planned for mid 2023 to identify barriers to access to services and employment at Council for CALD community members. Council's Youth Officer continues to work closely with Centre for Multicultural Youth who are creating positive activities and opportunities at Nhill Learning Centre. Council are strengthening their relationship and supporting CMY where appropriate to bring about more opportunities for our Karen and other multicultural community and young people.
Support and host youth events that are accessible to all Hindmarsh Shire youth.	Ongoing	The 2022 and 2023 Youth Councillors have successfully delivered a range of events throughout the financial year for young people, including discos, games nights, podcast recordings, school holidays activities and more. The Youth Council continues to focus on ensuring that a range of activities are delivered, representative of the interests of their peers.
Key documents translated into Karen	Ongoing	Libraries ensure that books are available in Karen Language. Other items translated into Karen language include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cat desexing program poster • Waste management poster • Recycling information video • Wimmera emergency management posters.
Undertake Cultural Audit and Develop Strategy	Underway	The Cultural Audit is in progress, with meetings planned with Council Staff and community stakeholders.
Support our ageing community through hosting seniors concert, social connection activities including movie matinees and morning teas, and delivery of community care services	Ongoing	Keith Potger played to an audience in August 2022. We continue to hold movie matinees monthly and host 'Cuppa Connections' in all of our libraries. Community Care Services were delivered through 2022/2023, however these ceased at the end of the Financial Year as Council is no longer funded through CHSP and HACC-PYP. RAS is still delivered by Council.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
Support local community events including the Rainbow Desert Enduro, Great Victorian Bike Ride, Dimboola inaugural Steampunk Festival, Nhill Friday Fiestas in February, Peter Taylor Barefoot Tournament etc.	Ongoing	Council Officers continue to support event organisers through a range of different channels including permit processing, promotion and assistance with signage. Support for events continues across a range of services provided by Council. Recent examples of events include the Wimmera Steampunk Festival, Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Vintage Rally and local markets.
Celebrate volunteers week, International Day of People with Disability and Harmony day	Completed	Hindmarsh celebrated International Day of People with Disability with an event held at the croquet club in Dimboola where members of the club assisted in teaching a number of individuals how to play croquet. Council celebrated Harmony Day with a citizenship ceremony and celebration which included guest speakers, videos coordinated by Hindmarsh Shire Youth Councillors in Nhill where young people and teachers discussed culture and what it meant to them. Council hosted a function at the NMCC on 21 June 2023 to acknowledge and thank volunteers from across the shire. Free bus travel was also provided for volunteers who live outside of Nhill. Catering and a free screening of a film was also provided.
Support culturally significant days including for first nations people	Ongoing	Council hosted an art exhibition featuring the work of local indigenous artists in the Old Shire Hall Dimboola during NAIDOC week. The exhibition also featured the unveiling of two works of art by Gail Harradine that will be on permanent display in the Dimboola Library.
Provide community action grants to support Hindmarsh community groups and organisations.	Completed	Council advertised two rounds of the community action grants program awarding funding to 11 community groups and organisations.
Continue to advocate for funding for the Rural Outreach Program	Ongoing	Council places quarterly posts on Facebook promoting this valuable service to our community. Officers advocate for continuation of this important program at every opportunity.
Support and coordinate the volunteer taxi service in Nhill	Ongoing	Council continues to coordinate of the volunteer taxi service in Nhill, providing much-needed community transport.
Work with community groups including Senior Citizens to re-establish following the COVID-19 pandemic	Ongoing	Council's Community Development and Social Support Officer continues to liaise with Senior Citizens and has assisted Nhill Senior Citizens to re-establish.
Consider community garden opportunities in Dimboola	Ongoing	A community garden was prioritised at the Dimboola Community Planning meeting in March 2023. Dimboola Urban Landcare group are also considering options for the establishment of a community garden.

Strategic Objective 1: Our Community

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2022/2023 budget for the year.

Major Initiative	Progress
Upgrade infrastructure for the Rainbow Enduro	<p>Development of an expansive new Pit / Hardstand Area and Access Road has been completed at the Rainbow Rises Events Centre, the unofficial home of off road racing in Victoria. Competitors attending events including the Big Desert 400 and Rainbow Rises 240, will now enjoy the benefits of a dedicated space for preparation and maintenance of their race vehicles .</p> <p>The new access road and pit area has been constructed by local contractors with limestone from a local quarry and weatherproofs future events at the facility. Design development continues for a new Kitchen Canteen facility and Amenities building which will further enhance the experience of both competitors and race fans.</p>
Additional shade sails at the rear of Dimboola library to increase shade	<p>The erection of the additional shade will be completed in spring. The shade sails are removed during winter to ensure longevity, and allow for any minor damage to be fixed.</p>
Undertake repairs at the Nhill library	<p>Repairs were completed at Nhill library including fixing the large internal cracks and repainting the walls.</p>

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2022/2023 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service:

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual <u>Budget</u> Variance \$
Community Development	Work with community groups, organisations and individuals to assist communities reach their aspirations and be healthy, active and engaged.	(130,537) <u>(286,091)</u> (155,554)
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.)	84,718 <u>17,497</u> (12,779)
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)	(58,434) <u>88,708</u> (147,142)
Youth Services	Improve the wellbeing and opportunities for youth within the Shire.	16,675 <u>83,950</u> (67,275)
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. 	10,066 <u>75,962</u> (65,896)
Health Promotion	To protect and enhance the health of the community.	53,123 <u>95,545</u> 41,422
Community Transport	Provision of community bus for community groups and organisations in Hindmarsh Shire	0 <u>0</u> 0
Libraries	Provision of permanent library services in Dimboola and Nhill and mobile library services in Jeparit and Rainbow.	(41,796) <u>238,170</u> (279,966)
Arts, Culture and Community Events	Promote and support activities relating to arts, culture and community events throughout the Shire.	97,799 <u>105,501</u> (7,702)

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual <u>Budget</u> Variance \$
Recreation Programs	Providing a range of recreation programs that encourage an active and healthy life.	14,609 <u>14,713</u> (104)
Public Order and Safety	Educate the community about public order and safety and enforce 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.	99,870 <u>149,331</u> (49,461)
Early Years	Lead a joint effort that will give Hindmarsh children the best start in life, working collaboratively with community and early years providers.	18,978 <u>37,941</u> (18,963)



Service Indicator/Measure	Result 2023	Result 2022	Result 2021	Result 2020	Material Variations
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)					
Satisfaction Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit [Number of 4-week key age and stage visits / Number of birth notifications received] x100	n/a	n/a	n/a	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	n/a	n/a	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	n/a	n/a	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	n/a	n/a	n/a	Not applicable. Council has no operational control over MCH services.
Service Cost Cost of the MCH service [Cost of the MCH service / Hours worked by MCH nurses]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Not applicable. Council has no operational control over MCH services.
Food Safety					
Timeliness Time taken to action food complaints [Number of days between receipt and first response action for all food complaints / Number of food complaints]	1.0	1.0	n/a	1.0	Council responds to food complaints within one business day.
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	80.00%	73.25%	77.53%	84.09%	Difficulty recruiting an Environmental Health Officer meant that a number of inspection were delayed to the end of 2022 and completed by agency staff.

Service Indicator/Measure	Result 2023	Result 2022	Result 2021	Result 2020	Material Variations
Food Safety					
Timeliness Time taken to action food complaints [Number of days between receipt and first response action for all food complaints / Number of food complaints]	1.0	1.0	n/a	1.0	Council responds to food complaints within one business day.
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	80.00%	73.25%	77.53%	84.09%	Difficulty recruiting an Environmental Health Officer meant that a number of inspection were delayed to the end of 2022 and completed by agency staff.
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]	80.00%	73.27%	77.53%	84.09%	No material variation.
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	n/a	n/a	n/a	100%	During 2022/2023 Council received no non-compliance notifications.
Libraries					
Utilisation Physical library collection usage [Number of physical library collection item loans / Number of physical library collection items]	0.54	0.61	0.30	0.75	Council continues to see a strong usage of its public libraries. The lifting of Covid restrictions has seen a slight reduction of visitors into the library.
Resource Standard Standard of library collection [Number of library collection items purchased in the last 5 years / Number of library collection items] x100	33.41%	25.16%	39.10%	38.37%	Council has purchased additional library materials, including books, to maintain a update to date collection of recently released materials.

Service Indicator/Measure	Result 2023	Result 2022	Result 2021	Result 2020	Material Variations
Libraries					
Service Cost Cost of library service per population [Direct cost of the library service / Population]	\$61.44	\$55.85	\$66.95	\$65.21	Council has purchased additional library materials, including books, to maintain a current collection.
Participation Active library members in municipality [Number of active library borrowers in the last three years / The sum of the population for the last three years] x10	6.87%	6.50%	6.64%	6.81%	No material variation.
Animal Management					
Timeliness Time taken to action animal management requests [Number of days between receipt and first response action for all animal management requests / Number of animal management requests]	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	Animal management requests are responded to within 1 business day.
Service Standard Animals reclaimed [Number of animals reclaimed / Number of animals collected] x100	62.96%	40.54%	37.10%	18.60%	Council collected 27 animals, of which 17 were able to be reclaimed during 2022/2023.
Animals Rehomed [Number of animals rehomed / Number of animals collected] x100	29.63%	59.46%	54.84%	72.09%	Eight animals were able to be rehomed during 2022/2023.
Service Cost Cost of animal management service per population [Direct cost of the animal management service / Population]	\$41.97	\$44.81	\$42.05	\$35.06	No material variation.
Health and Safety Animal management prosecutions [Number of successful animal management prosecutions]	100%	100%	100%	n/a	Council did not have any animal prosecutions in 2022/2023.



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 2022/2023 Actions included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
Seal Dimboola Civic Hub Carpark; laneway between Lochiel Street and public amenities and Road between Wimmera Street and Carpark.	Completed	Works were completed sealing the laneways and carpark in late 2022. Solar lighting was installed in 2023.
Implement glass collection throughout the Shire	Completed	Council implemented glass collection in April 2023. Glass collection will transition to eight (8) weekly in mid-late 2023.
Work with Hindmarsh Landcare in addressing pest and weed problems throughout Hindmarsh including the weed Gazania which is spreading along roadside verges.	Ongoing	Council collaborated with Hindmarsh Landcare to accurately map target areas. Rabbit ripping and weed spraying was carried out by contractors across the identified locations.
Seek funding for BMX dirt tracks, pocket parks, dog parks	Ongoing	Funding opportunities continue to be monitored. Rainbow Neighbourhood House were successful in obtaining funding for a BMX track at the Rainbow Recreation Reserve and continue to work with Council to plan and obtain approvals prior to construction.
Hold free green waste month in September and encourage residents to tidy their properties	Completed	Free Green Waste month was held from 1 September to 30 December 2022 due to the significant rain event in October.
Implementation of Nhill streetscape plan	Underway	Following consultation with the community, 64% of respondents said the Nhill Lake Pathway was the highest priority. Final designs have been completed in consultation with the Nhill Lake committee and approvals are being sought from relevant authorities to enable the work to be completed.
Installation of solar heating on Nhill swimming pool	Underway	The current solar heating was decommissioned due to the Department of Education undertaking works on the stadium roof. Council continues to negotiate with the Department of Education for consent to install the new solar heating on the recently replaced stadium roof.
Develop playground strategy	Underway	The playground strategy is currently being developed, with community consultation scheduled for late 2023.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
Seek funding for all abilities access to the swimming pool and changeroom at Dimboola Swimming Pool	Underway	All ability hoists were ordered and installed in mid-2023 ready for the 2023/2024 swimming season.
Seek funding to develop a Masterplan for the Dimboola Recreation Reserve	Delayed	Council was unsuccessful with a grant application for the masterplan development.
Seek funding to undertake a solar assessment on Council buildings and halls	Delayed	Awaiting suitable Sustainability Victoria funding.
Construction of shade structures at Dimboola and Nhill Skateparks	Completed	Construction of shade shelters at Dimboola and Nhill Skateparks were completed with additional security lighting also installed.
Consider opportunities and seek funding for lighting in public areas	Ongoing	Public lighting was installed in the Dimboola Library carpark, the laneway beside the Dimboola SES building, in Lochiel Street Dimboola, and the Dimboola and Nhill Skateparks. Council will continue to monitor funding opportunities for increased lighting in public areas.
Ensure Council representation on Western Highway Action Committee, Wimmera Regional Transport Group and Hindmarsh Landcare Network	Ongoing	Council continues to have representatives on the Western Highway Action Committee, Regional Transport Group, and Hindmarsh Landcare Network.
Continue to advocate for funding for Davis Park improvements	Ongoing	Council continues to advocate for funding for improvements to Davis Park. Council resolved to fund stage 1 of the upgrades through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program phase 4 and Council.

Strategic Objective 2: Built and Natural Environment

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2022/2023 budget for the year.

Major Initiative	Progress
Undertake sealed road construction on Mt Elgin Road	Mt Elgin Road construction is currently underway and scheduled for completion in October 2023.
Undertake gravel resheet on Eldorado Road	Eldorado Road resheet was completed in May 2023. Works included resheeting from Block 40 Road intersection to the end of the all weather section.
Undertake sealed road construction on Woorak Ni-Ni Lorquon Road	Woorak Ni-Ni Lorquon sealed road construction was delayed, the works are scheduled for commencement early 2024.
Seal between Wimmera and Lochiel Street including the carpark at the rear of the Dimboola Visitor Node and the laneway between Lochiel Street and amenities	Dimboola Visitor node works were completed in December 2022. Works included sealing the lane from Wimmera Street to Lochiel Street, asphaltting and line making the carpark, and sealing the laneway from Lochiel Street to the amenities block.
Footpaths in High Street and Ellerman Street Dimboola	High Street and Ellerman Street Dimboola footpaths are underway and expected to be completed in September 2023. The works include construction of a concrete footpath and drainage works from Upper Regions Street along High Street and Ellerman Street through to Lowan Street.
Footpath in Church Street Nhill	Church Street Nhill footpath was completed in May 2023. The works included construction of a concrete footpath from Leahy Street through to Rockley Street.
Introduction of glass recycling	Glass recycling was introduced in April 2023. In mid-late 2023 collection will move to eight (8) weekly.

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2022/2023 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual <u>Budget</u> 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.	2,501,881 <u>4,501,732</u> (1,999,851)
Drainage Management	The aim of this program is to have well maintained, fit for purpose drainage systems within townships.	457,235 <u>659,221</u> (201,986)
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.	(76,544) <u>244,838</u> (321,382)
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.	378,300 <u>357,940</u> (20,360)
Town Beautification	The aim of Council's Town Beautification program is to maintain and redevelop public open spaces in Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow.	554,853 <u>729,676</u> (174,823)
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.	237,580 <u>244,540</u> (6,960)
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.	923,796 <u>963,940</u> (40,144)
Waste Management	Management of Council's transfer stations and collection and disposal of domestic waste and recyclables across the Shire.	(114,858) <u>56,144</u> (171,002)
Quarry Operations	Management of Council-owned and controlled quarries and gravel pits for extraction of gravel for road making.	251,957 <u>233,788</u> (18,169)
Waterway Management	Management of Council-controlled waterways including weir pools and lakes.	100,196 <u>77,142</u> (23,054)

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual <u>Budget</u> Variance \$
Environment Management	Manage, protect and enhance Council's natural assets in conjunction with Government departments and environmental groups.	3,573 <u>160,069</u> (126,496)
Fire Protection	To identify potential fire hazards and to prevent loss to life and property caused by fire.	46,171 <u>110,677</u> (64,506)

Service Indicator/Measure	Result 2023	Result 2022	Result 2021	Result 2020	Material Variations
Roads					
Satisfaction of Use Sealed local road requests [Number of sealed local road requests / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	11.99	3.11	9.34	8.82	A heavy rainfall event in November 2022 saw an increase in the number of requests for road repairs.
Condition Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards [Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	98.29%	99.83%	99.83%	99.83%	No material variation.
Service cost Cost of sealed local road reconstruction [Direct cost of sealed local road reconstruction / square metres of sealed local roads reconstructed]	\$49.79	\$34.22	\$20.77	\$30.74	Road materials, including bitumen, fuel and quarry materials, have seen a significant cost increase in the last 12 months.
Cost of sealed local road resealing [Direct cost of sealed local road resealing / Square metres of sealed local roads resealed]	\$6.03	\$5.17	\$5.08	\$5.04	Road materials, including bitumen, fuel and quarry materials, have seen a significant cost increase in the last 12 months.
Satisfaction Satisfaction with sealed local roads. [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]	48	55	53	50	A heavy rainfall event in November 2022 may have resulted in the community satisfaction with sealed roads decreasing.
Aquatic Facilities					
Service Standards Health inspections of aquatic facilities. [Number of authorised officer inspections of Council aquatic facilities / number of Council aquatic facilities]	0.00	1.00	1.50	2.00	No inspections were completed of the aquatic facilities during 2022/2023.
Utilisation Utilisation of aquatic facilities. [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	0.53	2.08	2.14	2.92	Council experienced maintenance issues with a number of the different pools owned by Council resulting in the aquatic facilities being closed for a significant number of days during the opening period.
Service Cost Cost of aquatic facilities. [Direct cost of aquatic facilities less income received / Number of visits to aquatic facilities]	\$136.36	\$40.41	\$29.45	\$32.92	Council have awarded a contract for the management of the four pools within the municipality. The cost of aquatic facilities reflects the payment to the contractor plus significant maintenance costs incurred during 2022/2023.

Service Indicator/Measure	Result 2023	Result 2022	Result 2021	Result 2020	Material Variations
Waste Collection					
Satisfaction Kerbside collection bin requests [Number of kerbside garbage and recycling bin collection requests / Number of kerbside bin collection households] x1000	31.62	41.74	25.72	14.76	Council has continued to work with contractors to ensure bins are collected in a timely fashion.
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	0.00	0.18	0.09	0.66	Council was not notified of any bin collections being missed during 2022/2023.
Service Cost Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service [Direct cost of the kerbside garbage bin collection service / Number of kerbside garbage collection bins]	\$227.59	\$212.62	\$198.18	\$196.46	No material variation.
Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service [Direct cost of the kerbside recyclables bin collection service / Number of kerbside recyclables collection bins]	\$125.94	\$125.25	\$121.17	\$88.86	No material variation.
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	34.54%	32.29%	30.10%	5.37%	No material variation.



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 2022/2023 Actions included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
Upgrades to ensuites at Dimboola Caravan Park	Underway	Upgrades were completed to two (2) ensuites.
Provide the business assistance grants program	Completed	Council advertised two (2) rounds of business assistance grants. Funding was provided to seven (7) businesses.
Promote Hindmarsh as a tourism destination to stop, stay and play	Ongoing	Council continues to increase Visit Hindmarsh content across social media channels through posts, reels and videos. Brochures are regularly being redesigned and printed for distribution throughout Victoria and South Australia.
Partner with West Vic Business to provide events and education for Hindmarsh businesses to come together, network and learn	Ongoing	Council hosted Hindmarsh Business Networking sessions in Nhill, Rainbow and Dimboola. A session will be held in July 2023 in Jeparit.
Tourism information available in Hindmarsh Shire business	Ongoing	Council provides tourist information to interested businesses throughout Hindmarsh.
Seek funding for continued development of Hindmarsh Shire Caravan Parks including a Masterplan for Nhill Caravan Park	Underway	A consultant has been appointed to prepare a masterplan for the Nhill Caravan Park. Funding was received for the installation of an additional six cabins at Jeparit, Rainbow and Dimboola.
Implementation of Council's economic development strategy	Underway	A consultant has been appointed to prepare the Hindmarsh Shire Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028. The strategy will be finalised in late 2023.
Seek funding and implement components of the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Masterplan	Ongoing	Council continues to work with the WMPM committee to implement the masterplan. A key priority was the collection significant assessment which was completed. Council also assisted with the design and installation of 12 interpretive signs.

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 2022/2023 Actions included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
Support Wimmera Development Association housing strategy	Ongoing	Council continues to support the WDA housing strategy.
Commence Silo Art at Llew Schilling Silo in Rainbow and Arkona Silo	Underway	Planning, engineering assessment and design work continues. Drop-in sessions were held in Rainbow to provide an update on the project.
Construct new amenities at Rainbow Caravan Park	Underway	The tender for the construction of new amenities at the Rainbow Caravan Park was awarded by Council in October 2022. Construction is underway with the project expected to be completed late 2023.

Strategic Objective 3: Competitive and Innovative Economy

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2022/2023 budget for the year.

Major Initiative	Progress
Upgrades to Ensuites at Riverside Holiday Park, Dimboola	Two (2) ensuites were upgraded during 2022/2023.
New ensuite cabins for Jeparit and Rainbow Caravan Parks, and for Dimboola Holiday Park (subject to grant funding)	The contract for the construction and installation of new cabins for Dimboola, Jeparit, and Rainbow has been awarded. Cabins are expected to be delivered in late 2023.
Development of a masterplan for Nhill Caravan Park	A consultant has been engaged to undertake the development of the Nhill Caravan Park masterplan.

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual <u>Budget</u> Variance \$
Economic Development	To encourage Economic Development throughout the municipality.	261,928 <u>122,717</u> (139,211)
Tourism	To develop a thriving Wimmera Mallee Tourism industry predominantly based on, but not limited to, the Shire's heritage and environmental assets.	(179,459) <u>(414,117)</u> (234,658)
Private Works	Provision of private civil works services. 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.	(66,229) <u>(14,095)</u> (52,134)
Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds	Maintenance, renewal and upgrade of Council Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds.	(530,436) <u>(818,949)</u> (288,513)
Aerodrome	Manage and maintain the Nhill Aerodrome.	69,073 <u>(35,232)</u> (104,305)
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. 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.	156,885 <u>224,101</u> (67,216)
Building Control	To provide statutory and private building services to the community. 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.	222,988 <u>225,143</u> (2,155)

Service Indicator/Measure	Result 2023	Result 2022	Result 2021	Result 2020	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]	107.00	69.00	43.00	43.00	There has been an increase in the complexity of planning applications received.
Service Standard Planning applications decided within required time frames. [(Number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (Number of VicSmart planning application decisions made within 10 days) / Number of planning application decisions made] x100	54.55%	90.16%	76.19%	80.49%	There has been an increase in the complexity of planning applications received.
Service Cost (\$) Cost of statutory planning service. [Direct cost of the statutory planning service / Number of planning applications received]	4,413.35	4,465.98	4,314.92	5,266.76	No material variation.
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%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	No planning matters were taken to VCAT during 2022/2023.



Strategic Objective 4: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to the 2022/2023 Actions included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
Implementation of strategies identified in the Workforce Plan	Ongoing	Council officers continue to implement strategies identified in the Workforce Plan.
Online streaming of Council meetings through Council's Facebook page	Ongoing	Council meetings are livestreamed through Council's Facebook page, with a link placed on the website for community members to watch recordings if they were unable to watch the livestream. Council adopted a <i>Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy</i> to provide structure to Council's processes and intentions for live-streaming and recording of Council meetings, as well as making sure Council is adhering to privacy obligations.
Consideration of employing a trainee, or apprentice when vacancies arise throughout the year	Ongoing	Council continues to consider employing trainees or apprentices when positions become vacant. During 2022/2023 Council employed a Customer Service Trainee, Engineering Cadet, Planning Cadet, and Environmental Health Officer Cadet.
Community conversation sessions held annually in our four main towns	Ongoing	Community Conversations were held in October 2022 and March / April 2023.
Drop-in sessions held allowing for community input on key documents or projects	Ongoing	Drop-in sessions were held in Nhill seeking input on the Nhill Streetscape Plan implementation, and Nhill, Dimboola, Jeparit, and Rainbow to inform and assist businesses and committees to list services and attractions on the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse.
Update Long Term Financial Plan	Complete	The long term financial plan was adopted along with the 2023/2024 budget at the Council meeting held on Wednesday 28 June 2023.
Quarterly finance reporting to Council	Complete	Quarterly financial reports were presented to Council throughout 2022/2023.

Strategic Objective 4: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results achieved in relation to the 2022/2023 Actions included in the Council Plan.

Strategic Indicator/Measure	Result	Comments
Ensure Council representation on Wimmera Development Association, Rural Council's Victoria, and Municipal Association of Victoria	Ongoing	Council continues to have representatives on the Wimmera Development Association, Rural Council's Victoria and Municipal Association of Victoria.
Quarterly Council plan reporting to Council	Complete	Quarterly Council Plan updates were presented to Council throughout 2022/2023
Implementation of gender equality action plan	Ongoing	Council officers continue to implement the gender equality action plan.
Collaborate with Horsham Rural City Council, and Loddon Shire to implement the Rural Council Transformation Project	Ongoing	Council continues to collaborate with Horsham Rural City Council and Loddon on the Rural Council Transformation Project.
Audit & Risk Committee meetings review and consider Council risks at each meeting	Complete	Council's risk register is provided at each Audit & Risk Committee meeting for discussion and consideration.

Strategic Objective 4: Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2022/2023 budget for the year.

Major Initiative	Progress
Collaboration with neighbouring Councils in the Rural Council's Transformation Project	Council continues to collaborate with Horsham Rural City Council and Loddon to implement financial software and customer engagement software.

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual <u>Budget</u> Variance \$
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. 	(184) <u>0</u> (184)
Information Technology	Using Information Technology as a tool to connect with the community and provide efficient and effective services.	343,269 <u>360,922</u> (17,653)
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 	1,056,437 <u>1,095,057</u> (38,620)
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. 	541,420 <u>482,630</u> (58,790)
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 	(6,350,80) <u>(7,065,116)</u> (714,316)

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance \$
Rating and Valuations	<p>Management of Council's rating system, including valuation of properties and the levying of rates and charges.</p> <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. 	<p>(8,092,896)</p> <p><u>(8,014,684)</u></p> <p>(78,212)</p>
Records Management	<p>Effective and efficient recording, storage, retrieval and disposal of records in line with the standards of the Public Records Office of Victoria.</p> <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. 	<p>67,866</p> <p><u>80,602</u></p> <p>(12,736)</p>
Risk Management	<p>Monitor and manage Council's risks in relation to operations, employment and infrastructure.</p> <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. 	<p>482,606</p> <p><u>561,938</u></p> <p>(79,332)</p>
Contract Management	<p>Preparation of contract specifications, administration of tender processes and management of Council's contracted services.</p> <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. 	<p>197,411</p> <p><u>190,725</u></p> <p>(6,686)</p>
Payroll and Human Resources Services	<p>Provision of payroll services to Council employees and the provision of human resources services to management.</p>	<p>331,247</p> <p><u>367,708</u></p> <p>(36,461)</p>
Emergency Management	<p>Provide support to the community in the areas of emergency preparedness, emergency response and emergency recovery.</p>	<p>71,056</p> <p><u>73,837</u></p> <p>(2,781)</p>

Service	Description	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance \$
Depots and Workshops	<p>Operation of Council's depots and workshops including the provision of heavy plant and equipment.</p> <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 	<p>1,578,907</p> <p><u>1,108,139</u></p> <p>(470,768)</p>
Asset Management	<p>Provision of skills, resources and systems to ensure the most efficient and effective management of Council's assets.</p> <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. 	<p>239,158</p> <p><u>251,236</u></p> <p>(12,078)</p>
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>144,634</p> <p><u>201,051</u></p> <p>(56,417)</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>33,946</p> <p><u>38,428</u></p> <p>(4,482)</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>(6,962)</p> <p><u>18,410</u></p> <p>(25,372)</p>

Service Indicator/Measure	Result 2023	Result 2022	Result 2021	Result 2020	Material Variations
Governance					
Transparency Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public. [Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council, or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors, closed to the public / Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors] x100	24.39%	15.35%	14.07%	15.97%	Decisions made in closed council relate to personnel matters, contractual matters, hardship applications, and legal advice.
Consultation and Engagement Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement]	53.00	55.00	55.00	59.00	No material variation
Attendance Councillor attendance at council meetings [The sum of the number of Councillors who attended each Council meeting / (Number of Council meetings) × (Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election)] x100	97.44%	98.81%	95.24%	97.92%	No material variation
Service Cost (\$) Cost of elected representation [Direct cost of the governance service / Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election]	53,870.37	48,490.50	42,056.33	41,701.00	The increase in costs reflect the allowance payable to the deputy mayor being recently legislated.
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]	52.00	55.00	59.00	59.00	No material variation





PART THREE: GOVERNANCE REPORT

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Governance



Governance Overview

Hindmarsh Shire Council is constituted under the *Local Government Act 2020* 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.



Council Meetings

Hindmarsh Shire Council operates in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and holds Council meetings monthly, generally on the first Wednesday of each month with the exception of January when no meeting is held.

Council encourages members of the public to attend Council meetings or to view our Council meetings live through Hindmarsh Shire Council's Facebook page. In 2022/2023 Council adopted its Live-Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy to support the accessibility of Council meetings and to create a compliant and consistent framework around doing so.

Community members wishing to ask questions at council meetings may do so, in writing, at least 24 hours prior to the council meeting. Both the question and answer will be read out at the meeting. Questions may be submitted by mail, email info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au or delivered in person to a council customer centre but are limited to two questions and 100 words including any pre-amble. Offensive, trivial and repetitive questions or questions, that have been recently answered, may be excluded at the discretion of the Mayor.

The question must be accompanied by a name and the locality where the questioner resides or works, which will be read out at the meeting. By submitting a question, the questioner gives consent to this information being read out in public. Anonymous questions will not be answered.

For the 2022/2023 financial year, Council held the following meetings:

12 ordinary Council meetings

1 special Council meeting

The following table provides a summary of Councillor attendance at Council meetings and Special Council meetings for the 2022/2023 financial year.

Councillor	Council Meeting	Special Council Meeting	Total
Cr Brett Ireland	12	1	13
Cr Melanie Albrecht	12	1	13
Cr Rob Gersch	12	1	13
Cr Deb Nelson	12	1	13
Cr Ron Ismay	11	1	12
Cr Wendy Bywaters	11	1	12
Total Meetings Held	12	1	13



Special Committees

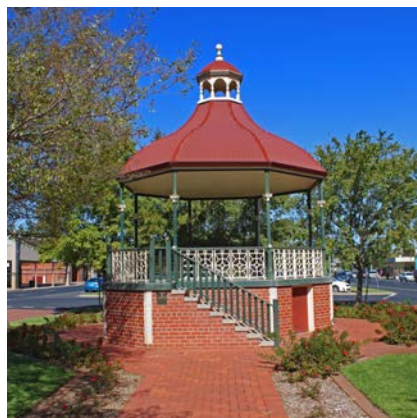
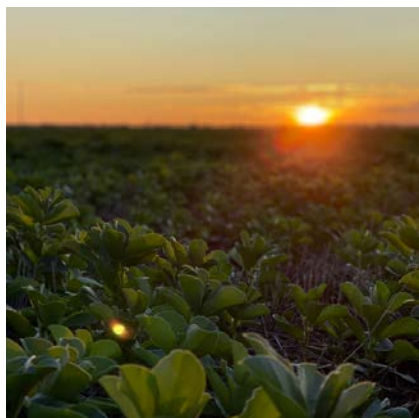
The *Local Government Act 2020* allows Council to establish one or more special committees consisting of -

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

The following table contains a list of all special committees established by Council and the purpose for which each committee was established.

Advisory Committee	Councillor	Officer	Other	Purpose
Nhill Town Committee	1	1	7	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	9	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	10	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	9	To represent the diverse members of the Rainbow community, identify community needs and interests, and advocate on behalf of the community.
Hindmarsh Pride Committee	1	1	3	To strengthen the voice of the LGBTIQ+ community by providing advice to ensure Council's broader policy issues and Council Plan and programs reflect the interests of the LGBTIQ+ community.

Community Asset Committee	Councillor	Officer	Other	Purpose
Antwerp Hall Committee	No delegate	No delegate	11	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	6	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	8	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	4	To provide a public hall facility for the use and benefit of the citizens of Lorquon and district.
Rainbow Civic Centre Committee	1	No delegate	7	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 to 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.
Rainbow Recreation Reserve Committee	1	No delegate	5	To provide a public hall and recreation reserve facilities for the use and benefit of the citizens of Rainbow and district.
Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Committee	1	1	6	To manage the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum.
Yurunga Homestead Committee	1	1	6	To manage the Yurunga Homestead.





Policies and Compliance Documents

The following table provides a summary of the plans and policies that were adopted during 2022/2023:

Policy/Document Title	Month Adopted
Procurement Policy	July 2022
Governance Rules and Election Period Policy	August 2022
Councillor Code of Conduct	November 2022
Advisory Committee Terms of Reference	November 2022
Advisory Committee Policy	November 2022
Heavy Transport and Freight Working Party Terms of Reference	November 2022
Financial Hardship Policy	February 2023
Media Policy	March 2023
Policy Framework Policy	March 2023
Fraud Prevention and Control Policy and Plan	April 2023
Public Interest Disclosure Policy	April 2023
Public Art Policy	May 2023
CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy	May 2023
Advisory Committee Policy	May 2023
Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Council Meetings Policy	May 2023
Hindmarsh Pride Terms of Reference	May 2023
Annual Budget 2023/2024	June 2023
Council Plan 2021-2025 Action Plan 2023/2024 incorporating Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan	June 2023



Code of Conduct

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Councils to develop and approve a Councillor Code of Conduct within 12 months after each general election. On 3 February 2021, Council adopted a revised Councillor Code of Conduct which is designed to:

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

In addition to setting out the Councillors 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.

A reviewed Councillor Code of Conduct, updated to incorporate the provisions required through the implementation of the new Child Safe Standards, was adopted in November 2022.



Conflict of Interest

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

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

While the procedures vary depending on the particular role and circumstances, in general, they involve disclosing the relevant interests in a specific way and then stepping aside from the relevant decision-making process or from the exercise of the public duty. A register is maintained to record all disclosed conflicts of interest. During 2022/2023, 51 conflicts of interest were declared at Council meetings, including those declared during Council briefing sessions.



Councillor Allowances

In accordance with Section 39 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance while performing their duty as a Councillor. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are 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.

The following table contains a summary of the allowances paid to each Councillor during the year.

Councillor	Allowance (\$)
Cr Brett Ireland	57,062.99
Cr Melanie Albrecht	51,526.03
Cr Rob Gersch	24,665.57
Cr Deb Nelson	24,665.57
Cr Ron Ismay	24,665.57
Cr Wendy Bywaters	24,665.57



Councillor Expenses

In accordance with Section 40 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is required to reimburse a Councillor for expenses incurred whilst performing his or her duties as a Councillor. Council is also required to adopt and maintain a policy in relation to the reimbursement of expenses for Councillors. The policy provides guidance for the reimbursement 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 2022/2023 year are set out in the following table (overleaf).

Councillor	TR \$	CM \$	CC \$	IC \$	CE\$	CT \$
Cr Brett Ireland	473.76					2,995.52
Cr Melanie Albrecht						259.00
Cr Rob Gersch					720.00	1,224.59
Cr Deb Nelson	645.12					
Cr Ron Ismay						630.19
Cr Wendy Bywaters						920.79

Legend: TR-Travel CM-Car Mileage CC-Child Care IC-Information and CE-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 a strong governance and management framework 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 assessment in its report of operations. Council's Governance and Management Checklist results are set out in the section below.



Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk 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 assists Council in identifying and assessing the operational and financial risks to which it is exposed. The internal audit function monitors compliance to ensure that internal controls over financial and operational areas are effective. The Audit and Risk Committee consists of four independent members, Mr Simon Coutts, Mr Darren Welsh, Mr Ashley Roberts, Mr Aaron Cordy and two Councillors. The desired Audit and Risk Committee membership comprises two Councillors and up to four independent members and their term of membership coincides with the term of the Councillors of the Hindmarsh Shire Council. The members of the Audit and Risk Committee elect a Chair to fill that role, with an election held at the first meeting of each calendar year to elect a new Chair.

The Audit and Risk Committee meets at least three times in each financial year. The Internal Auditor, Chief Executive Officer, Director Corporate & Community Services, Manager Finance & Customer Services and Manager Governance and Human Services attend all Audit and Risk Committee meetings. Other management representatives attend as required to present reports. The external auditors generally attend the June and September Audit and Risk Committee meetings to present the annual audit plan and Independent Audit Report.

Copies of the minutes of the meetings from each Audit and Risk Committee meeting are subsequently reported to and considered by Council.



Internal Audit

Council's internal audit function provides independent and objective assurance that the appropriate processes and controls are in place across Council. 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 Audit Committee meetings to report on the status of the audit plan, comment on the implementation of audit recommendations and present findings of completed reviews.

During 2022/2023 an internal audit was completed on Capital Works and commenced on Records Management .



External Audit

Council is externally audited by the Victorian Auditor-General. For 2022/2023, the annual external audit of Council's Financial Statements and Performance Statement was conducted by the Victorian Auditor-General's representative, Mr Martin Thompson of Crowe. Crowe, VAGO's representative since the 2014/15 financial year, attended the September 2022 Audit Committee meeting to present the independent audit report for the 2021/2022 financial year and also attended the March 2023 meeting to present the 2022/2023 audit strategy, and the June 2022 meeting to discuss the interim 2022/2023 audit. The external audit management letter and responses are also provided to the Audit and Risk Committee.



Risk Management

In 2022/2023 Council reviewed and re-established its Strategic Risk Register in consultation with the Audit and Risk Committee. The identified Strategic Risks as of 30 June 2023 are -

1	Environmental Sustainability
2	Financial Sustainability
3	Technology Security
4	Government Political and Policy Changes
5	Governance
6	Organisational Culture and Capability
7	Asset Management
8	Project Management and Strategic Execution
9	Community Needs

In May 2021, Council adopted the Risk Management Policy and Framework in line with current best practices. In October 2014, Council adopted the Risk Management Framework and Policy in line with current best practices in the management of business enterprise risks and current AS/NZS 31000 guidelines. The Risk Management Framework and Policy addresses items such as:

- risk management culture and branding
- communication and training
- best practice in risk management
- responsibilities of and to internal and external stakeholders
- risk registers and risk management software development
- the Council planning cycle, budget cycle and annual audit cycle
- a performance measurement system to determine the effectiveness of the framework.





Governance & 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 Checklist Items	Assessment	X
Community engagement policy (policy outlining council's commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest)	Adopted in accordance with section 55 of the Act. It combines policy document and guidelines. Date of adoption: 3 February 2021	X
Community engagement guidelines (guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community)	Adopted in accordance with section 55 of the Act. It combines policy document and guidelines. Date of adoption: 3 February 2021	X
Financial Plan (plan under section 91 of the Act outlining the financial and non-financial resources required for at least the next 10 financial years)	Adopted in accordance with the section 91 of the Act. Date of adoption: 28 June 2023	X
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)	Adopted in accordance with section 92 of the Act. Date of adoption : 1 June 2022	X
Revenue and Rating Plan (plan setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges)	Adopted in accordance with section 93 of the Act. Date of adoption: 28 June 2023	X
Annual budget (plan setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken over the next 12 months and the funding and other resources required)	Adopted in accordance with section 130 of the Act. Date of adoption: 28 June 2023	X
Risk policy (policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to Council's operations)	Date of operation of current policy: 05 May 2021	X
Fraud policy (policy outlining council's commitment and approach to minimising the risk of fraud)	Date of operation of current policy: 5 April 2023	X
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: January 2023	X
Procurement policy (policy outlining the matters, practices and procedures that will apply to all purchases of goods, services and works)	Prepared and approved in accordance with section 108 of the Local Government Act 2020. Date of approval: 27 July 2022	X
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)	Council has in place a business continuity plan, updated 01 September 2020, currently under review.	X
Disaster recovery plan (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to recover and restore business capability in the event of a disaster)	Council has in place a disaster recovery plan included within Business Continuity Plan, updated 01 September 2020, current under review.	X
Risk management framework (framework outlining council's approach to managing risks to the Council's operations)	Date of operation of current Risk Management Framework, 5 May 2021.	X

Governance and Management Checklist Items	Assessment	X
Audit and Risk Committee (advisory committee of council under section 53 and 54 of the Act)	Established in accordance with section 54 of the Act Date of establishment: 15 July 2020	X
Internal audit (independent accounting professionals engaged by the council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving council's governance, risk and management controls)	Date of engagement of current provider: 9 June 2021	X
Performance reporting framework (a set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the Local Government Act 1989)	Date of operation of current framework: 1 July 2014. The Framework is audited and updated yearly.	X
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: 27 July 2022, 26 October 2022, 1 February 2023, 3 May 2023 and 28 June 2023.	X
Quarterly budget reports (quarterly reports to Council under section 97 of the Act comparing budgeted revenue and expenditure with actual revenue and expenditure)	Statements presented to Council in accordance with section 97 of the Act Date statements presented: 27 July 2022, 28 September 2022, 1 February 2023 and 3 May 2023.	X
Risk reporting (six-monthly reports of strategic risks to council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies)	Reports were presented to the Audit and Risk Committee meetings on 21 September 2022, 8 March 2023 & 14 June 2023.	X
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)	Date of reports: 28 September 2022 and 1 February 2023.	X
Annual report (annual report under sections 98 and 99 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 100 of the Act. Annual report considered: 26 October 2022	X
Councillor Code of Conduct (Code setting out the conduct principles and the dispute resolution processes to be followed by Councillors)	Reviewed and adopted in accordance with section 139 of the Act Date reviewed: 23 November 2022	X
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 11(7) of the act and a register kept in accordance with sections 11(8) and 47(7) of the Act Date of review: 04 August 2021	X
Meeting procedures (Governance Rules governing the conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees)	Governance Rules adopted in accordance with section 60 of the Act. Date adopted: 31 August 2022	X

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



Cr Brett Ireland
Mayor

Dated: 27 September 2023



Greg Wood
Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 27 September 2023

Statutory Information

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



Documents available for Public Inspection

In accordance with regulation 12 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2015 the following are prescribed documents that are available for public inspection or copies of the documents can be obtained for the purposes of section 222 of the Act at 92 Nelson Street, Nhill and online at www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au:

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

Council adopted a Public Transparency Policy on 19 August 2020 in accordance with sections 57 and 58 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The following public transparency principles are contained within the policy:

1. Council decision-making processes must be transparent except when Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of the Act or any other Act;
2. Council information must be publicly available unless –
 - a. the information is confidential by virtue of the Act or any other Act;
 - b. public availability of the information would be contrary to the public interest;
3. Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the municipal community; and
4. Public awareness of the availability of Council information must be facilitated.

A copy of the policy is available on Council's website (www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au) under the heading Governance and Transparency.



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 the 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.



Domestic Animals 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 its Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025 on 22 September 2021. The plan was developed through consultation with Council's Local Laws Team and consideration of input from other Council departments.

A report on the progress of the Domestic Animal Management Plan was presented to Council on 1 February 2023.



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:

- Requests should be in writing.
- Requests should identify as clearly as possible what documents are being requested.
- Requests should be accompanied by the appropriate application fee (the fee may be waived in certain circumstances).

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

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

Further information regarding Freedom of Information can be found at www.foi.vic.gov.au and on our website www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au.

Council's FOI Part II Statement was reviewed in the 2022/23 financial year and made available for public access online and via its offices.



Disability Action Plan

In accordance with section 38 of the Disability Act 2006, Council is required to prepare a Disability Action Plan and report in its annual report. Council incorporated Positive Ageing and Inclusions into the Council Plan 2021-2025.

The following actions have been implemented from the Council Plan 2021-2025 Actions 2022/2023:

- Monthly and fortnightly e-newsletters are distributed through emails and available on Council's website
- Support and host youth events that are accessible to all Hindmarsh Shire youth.
- Support our ageing community through hosting senior's concert, social connection activities including movie matinees and morning teas, and delivery of community care service
- Celebrate volunteers week, International Day of People with Disability and Harmony day
- Advocate for and host a range of learning and skill development opportunities for all ages throughout Hindmarsh
- Support and coordinate the volunteer taxi service in Nhill
- Seal Dimboola Civic Hub Carpark; laneway between Lochiel Street and public amenities and Road between Wimmera Street and Carpark.
- Seek funding for all abilities access to the swimming pool and changeroom at Dimboola Swimming Pool

We continue to explore funding opportunities and partnerships to enhance integrated and specific programs for people with disabilities.



Contracts

For Council contracts greater than a value of \$250,000, Council conducts strategic reviews to determine

- whether the service is still required
- the strategic approach for delivering and providing the service
- how the service aligns with Council's strategic objectives
- analysis of the supplier market
- the best procurement methodology and delivery.

Council issued 19 tenders in 2022/2023, covering the following service categories:

- Creation of a panel of approved suppliers for goods and services
- Sale of seized vehicles
- Design and/or construction of infrastructure
- Design and development of tourism initiatives
- Higher-level inspections of Council assets
- Retendering of ongoing services contracts

During the 2022/23 financial year Council did not enter into any other contracts valued at \$200,000 or more for works without first engaging in a competitive process.



Public Interest Disclosure Procedures

In accordance with section 69 of the *Public Interest Disclosures 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 disclosure complaints investigated during the financial year.

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

During the 2022/2023 year, no disclosures were notified to Council officers appointed to receive disclosures.

Road Management Act Ministerial Direction



In accordance with section 22 of the Road Management Act 2004, a 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.

Infrastructure Development Contributions



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

No such contributions were received by Council during the financial year.



PART FOUR: FINANCIAL REPORT

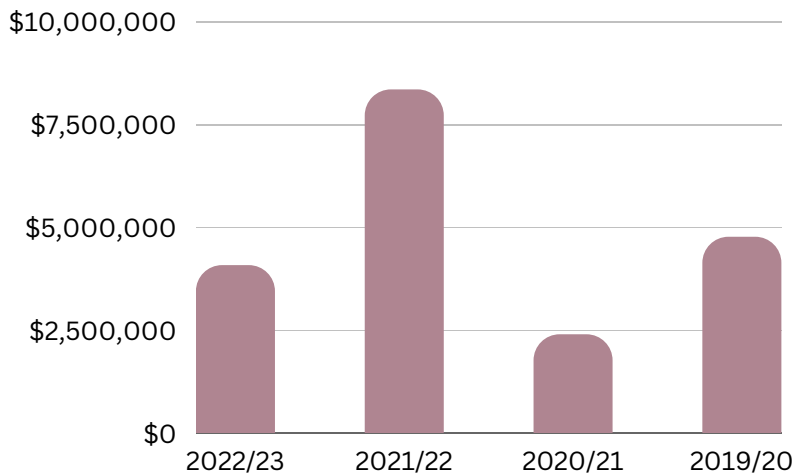
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Financial Summary

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

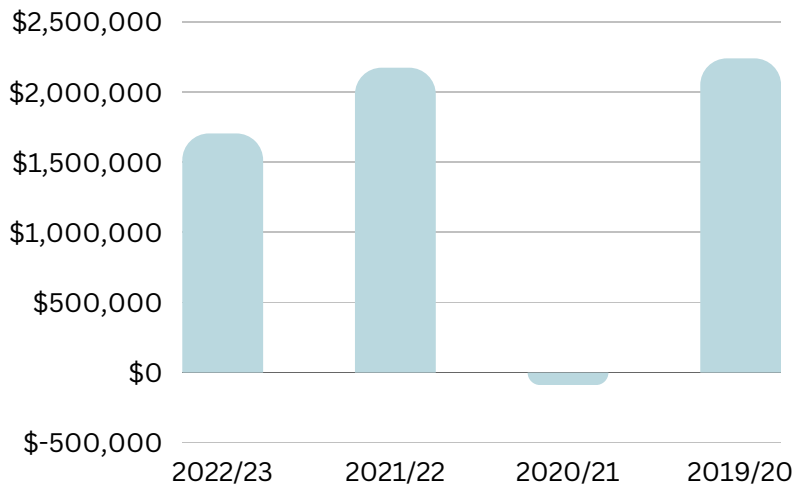
Operating Position

Council reported a surplus of \$4.078 million in 2022/2023.



Surplus / (deficit) for the year

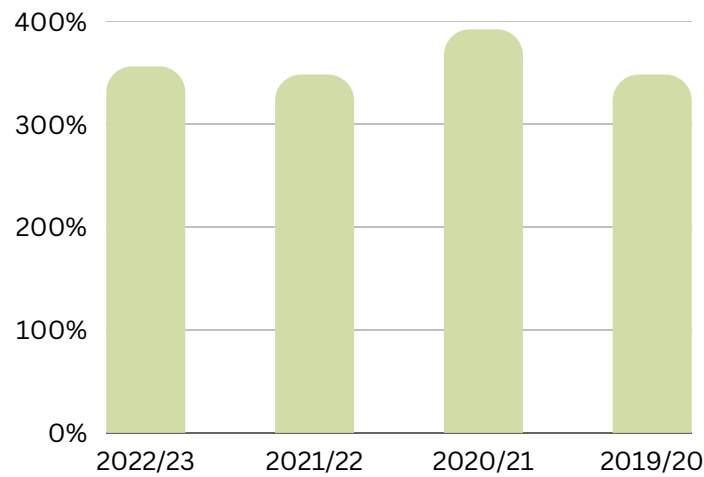
Council’s adjusted underlying result, that is, the result after removing non-recurrent capital grants, cash capital contributions and non-monetary capital contributions, is a surplus of \$1.702 million.



Adjusted Underlying Surplus / (deficit) for the year

Liquidity

Cash decreased by \$2.339 million from the previous financial year due to a number of items carried forward from previous years being completed or purchases arriving. The working capital ratio which assesses Council’s ability to meet its 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 Council’s strong financial position and well within the band of 150% or more for the Victorian Auditor Generals Office (VAGO) assessment as ‘low risk’.

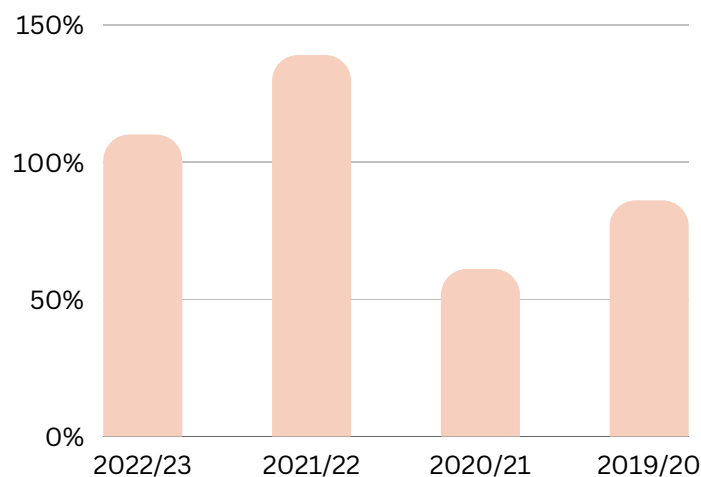


Working capital ratio %

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 its community.

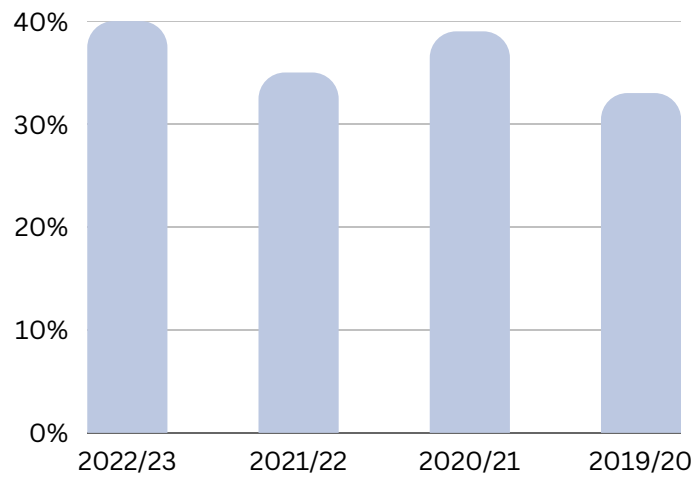
With land, building and infrastructure assets valued at more than \$150 million, it is a challenge to maintain them with an income of just \$26.57 million. Assets deteriorating faster than their maintenance and renewal can be funded creates an 'infrastructure renewal gap'. To bridge this gap, Council invested \$5.25 million in infrastructure renewal works during the 2022/2023 year. Council's asset renewal ratio which is measured by comparing asset renewal expenditure to depreciation (the reduction in the value of our assets over time, due in particular to wear and tear) was 110%. Council's budget is focused on renewal expenditure as a priority and utilises grants for new assets and upgrades to assets.



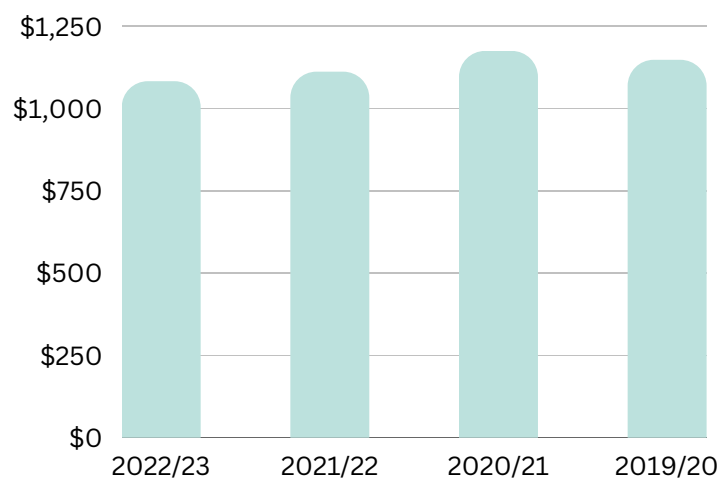
Asset renewal ratio %

Stability and Efficiency

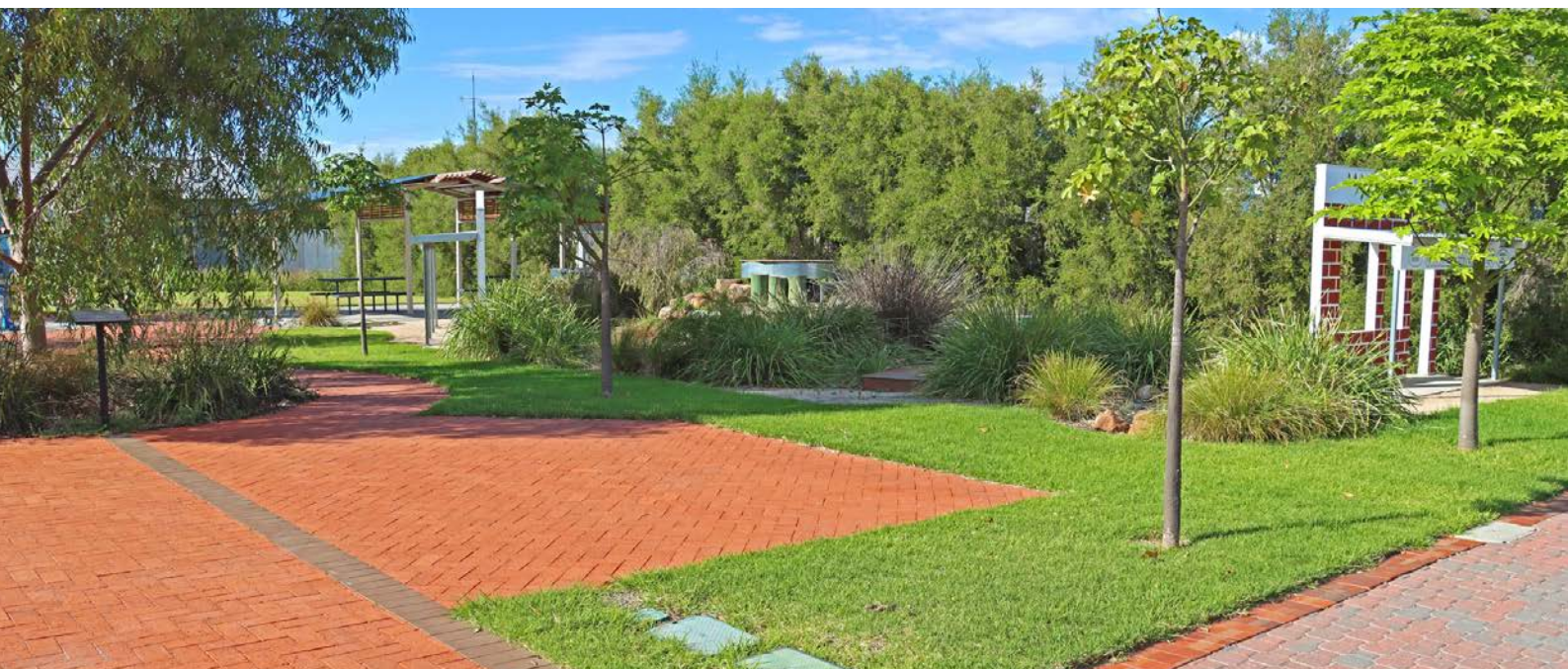
Council raises a wide range of revenues including rates, user fees, fines, grants and contributions. Despite this, Council's rates concentration which compares rate revenue to total revenue was 40% for the 2022/2023 year which is at the lower end of the expected target band of 40% - 80%. Council continues to advocate for additional grants and appreciates the State Government's COVID recovery grants and increase in the Victorian Grants Commission Grant payment, as well as the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure grants. Average residential rates per residential assessment for 2022/2023 was \$1,082 which compares favourably to similar small rural councils.



Rates concentration ratio %



Rates per residential assessment



Certification of the Financial Statements

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



Heather Boyd, BBAA, MBA
Principal Accounting Officer
Dated: 27 September 2023
Nhill

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transaction of the Hindmarsh Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2023 and the financial position of the Council as at that date.

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

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



Mayor Brett Ireland
Councillor
Dated: 27 September 2023
Nhill



Cr Debra Nelson
Councillor
Dated: 27 September 2023
Nhill



Mr Greg Wood
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 27 September 2023
Nhill

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Hindmarsh Shire Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of Hindmarsh Shire Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance sheet as at 30 June 2023 • comprehensive income statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • statement of cash flows for the year then ended • statement of capital works for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies • certification of the financial statements. <p>In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the council as at 30 June 2023 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>, the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's <i>APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Councillors' responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Councillors of the council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i>, and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

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

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

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

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

MELBOURNE
11 October 2023



Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria



Comprehensive Income Statement For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Income / Revenue			
Rates and charges	3.1	9,450	9,222
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	220	247
User fees	3.3	2,021	1,549
Grants - operating	3.4	7,769	7,711
Grants - capital	3.4	3,459	7,064
Contributions - monetary	3.5	77	86
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.6	34	128
Share of net profits (or loss) of associates and joint ventures	6.2	(62)	82
Other income	3.7	624	283
Total income / revenue		23,592	26,373
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	(8,208)	(7,651)
Materials and services	4.2	(5,063)	(5,519)
Depreciation	4.3	(4,946)	(4,524)
Bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses	4.4	75	(31)
Other expenses	4.5	(1,371)	(1,345)
Total expenses		(19,514)	(19,070)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		4,079	7,303
Other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods			
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	6.1	-	33,051
Total other comprehensive income		-	33,051
Total comprehensive result		4,079	40,354

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

Balance Sheet As at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	10,589	8,980
Trade and other receivables	5.1	2,050	1,903
Other financial assets	5.1	4,000	6,000
Inventories	5.2	725	503
Prepayments	5.2	250	84
Total current assets		17,613	17,471
Non-current assets			
Trade and other receivables	5.1	2	2
Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries	6.2	233	295
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.1	203,818	201,580
Total non-current assets		204,053	201,877
Total assets		221,667	219,347
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3	868	725
Trust funds and deposits	5.3	101	102
Unearned income/revenue	5.3	1,726	2,029
Provisions	5.4	2,244	2,166
Total current liabilities		4,939	5,021
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	5.4	207	198
Total non-current liabilities		207	198
Total liabilities		5,146	5,220
Net assets		216,521	214,128
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		83,961	79,882
Reserves	9.1	132,561	134,245
Total Equity		216,521	214,127

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

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

	Note	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000
2023				
Balance at beginning of the financial year		214,127	79,882	134,245
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		4,079	4,079	-
Net asset impairment	6.1	(1,684)	-	(1,684)
		<u>216,521</u>	<u>83,961</u>	<u>132,561</u>
Balance at end of the financial year		216,521	83,961	132,561

		Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000
2022				
Balance at beginning of the financial year		172,727	71,533	101,194
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		8,349	8,349	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	6.1	33,051	-	33,051
		<u>214,127</u>	<u>79,882</u>	<u>134,245</u>
Balance at end of the financial year		214,127	79,882	134,245

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

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

		2023 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$'000	2022 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$'000
	Note		
Cash flows from operating activities			
Rates and charges		9,418	9,261
Statutory fees and fines		16	34
User fees		2,190	1,378
Grants - operating		7,771	7,707
Grants - capital		3,155	4,326
Contributions - monetary		77	86
Interest received		328	77
Other receipts		285	1,252
Net GST refund/payment		(32)	(420)
Employee costs		(8,105)	(7,741)
Materials and services		(6,749)	(5,270)
Trust funds and deposits repaid		-	(1,406)
Other payments		114	(0)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		8,467	9,284
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.1	(9,102)	(12,180)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		243	557
Payments for investments		-	(6,000)
Redemption of term deposit		2,000	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(6,859)	(17,623)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		1,608	(8,339)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		8,980	17,319
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		10,588	8,980
 Financing arrangements	5.5	2,030	2,030
Restrictions on cash assets	5.1	101	102

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

Statement of Capital Works For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Property			
Land		-	32
Total land		<u>-</u>	<u>32</u>
Buildings		2,198	1,822
Total buildings		<u>2,198</u>	<u>1,822</u>
Total property		<u>2,198</u>	<u>1,854</u>
Plant and equipment			
Plant, machinery and equipment		1,972	2,306
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		37	22
Computers and telecommunications		75	67
Library books		27	42
Total plant and equipment		<u>2,111</u>	<u>2,436</u>
Infrastructure			
Roads		3,262	3,696
Bridges		57	3,076
Footpaths and cycleways		251	313
Drainage		80	24
Other infrastructure		1,142	781
Total infrastructure		<u>4,792</u>	<u>7,890</u>
Total capital works expenditure		<u>9,102</u>	<u>12,180</u>
Represented by:			
New asset expenditure		2,139	1,521
Asset renewal expenditure		5,258	6,294
Asset upgrade expenditure		1,705	4,365
Total capital works expenditure		<u>9,102</u>	<u>12,180</u>

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



Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Note 1 OVERVIEW

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

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

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

Significant accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

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

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

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

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

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

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

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2)
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.5)
- the determination of landfill provisions (refer to Note 5.5)
- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers or AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (refer to Note 3)
- the determination, in accordance with AASB 16 Leases, of the lease term, the estimation of the discount rate when not implicit in the lease and whether an arrangement is in substance short-term or low value (refer to Note 5.8)
- whether or not AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors is applicable
- other areas requiring judgements

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

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Note 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS

2.1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold of the lower of 10 percent or \$100,000 where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

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

2.1.1 Income / Revenue and expenditure

	Budget 2023 \$'000	Actual 2023 \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %	Ref
Income / Revenue					
Rates and charges	9,434	9,450	16	0	1
Statutory fees and fines	42	27	(15)	(36)	2
User fees	1,713	2,215	502	29	3
Grants - operating	5,894	7,771	1,877	32	4
Grants - capital	5,492	3,457	(2,035)	(37)	5
Contributions - monetary	12	77	65	540	6
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	332	34	(298)	(90)	7
Share of net profits/(losses) of associates and joint ventures	0	(62)	(62)	(100)	8
Other income	238	624	386	162	9
Total income / revenue	23,157	23,593	435	2	
Expenses					
Employee costs	8,177	8,208	(31)	(0)	10
Materials and services	7,132	5,063	2,069	29	11
Depreciation	6,190	4,946	1,244	20	12
Bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses	9	(75)	84	932	13
Other expenses	(360)	1,371	(1,731)	481	14
Total expenses	21,148	19,514	1,634	8	
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	2,009	4,079	(1,199)	(60)	

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

(I) Explanation of material variations

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Rates and charges	Rates and charges are above budget due to additional Windfarm charges and supplementary valuations.
2	Statutory fees and fines	Animal control fines were lower than budgeted. Fire prevention fines were lower than expected due to high rainfall in November.
3	User fees	Agency home care fees are higher than budget due to an increase in clients. Additional income has been received from Rural Roads Victoria (RRV) to repair damage caused to roads during floods in November 2022. Fees from the Caravan Parks are higher than budgeted due to new facilities and cabins becoming available.
4	Grants - operating	Unbudgeted operating grants received during the year include for the Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) program, Library Digital Literacy, Kindergarten grant and the State Library Innovation Grant. Council also received 100% of the Grants Commission funding relating to 2023/2024.
5	Grants - capital	Revenue was lower than expected due to funding which has yet to be received from the Local Roads and Infrastructure Program for Phases 1, 2 and 3.
6	Contributions - monetary	Recorded internal contributions to the Town Committees which is offset by the budget allocation under materials.
7	Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure. Plant and equipment recognises the difference in the sale of the asset and its written down value. The budget allows for the total expected income from sale of assets.
8	Share of net profits/(losses) of associates and joint ventures	An expense was recognised due to the decrease in Hindmarsh Shire Council's share in the Wimmera Development Association. This is a result of the WDA distributing funds as per their charter.
9	Other income	Higher than budget income was received from interest due to an increase in interest rates. Income was received from insurance. Plant and Fleet recovery has been applied to other expenses.
10	Employee expenses	Employee expenses are higher than budgeted due to the finalisation of the Aged Care Service.
11	Materials and services	Quarry rehabilitation and restoration is less than budgeted for. Changes in the treatment of water charges have seen a reduction in this area. High rainfall in November resulted in delays to general road maintenance work. Plant and equipment recoups. As well as quarry recovery has been transferred to materials and services from other expenses.
12	Depreciation	The revaluation of Roads in 2021/2022 has resulted in lower than budgeted depreciation of Roads in 2022/2023.
13	Bad and doubtful debts	A review of bad and doubtful debts has resulted in the reduction of the provision held.
14	Other expenses	Other expenses are higher than expected due to the recovery of plant and equipment recoups as well as landfill being transferred to materials and services.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

2.1.2 Capital works

	Budget 2023 \$'000	Actual 2023 \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %	Ref
Property					
Land	-	-	-	-	
Land improvements	-	-	-	-	
Total land	-	-	-	-	
Buildings	2,159	2,199	40	2	1
Total buildings	2,159	2,199	40	2	
Total property	2,159	2,199	40	2	
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,358	1,972	614	45	2
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	5	37	32	648	3
Computers and telecommunications	85	75	(10)	(12)	4
Library books	45	27	(18)	(40)	5
Total plant and equipment	1,493	2,111	618	41	
Infrastructure					
Roads	2,333	3,069	736	32	6
Bridges	-	57	57	100	7
Footpaths and cycleways	196	251	55	28	8
Drainage	166	80	(86)	(52)	9
Kerb & Channel	15	194	179	1,191	10
Other infrastructure	2,635	1,142	(1,493)	(57)	11
Total infrastructure	5,345	4,792	(553)	(10)	
Total capital works expenditure	8,997	9,102	105	1	
Represented by:					
New asset expenditure	2,959	2,139	(820)	(28)	
Asset renewal expenditure	3,798	5,258	1,460	38	
Asset upgrade expenditure	2,240	1,705	(535)	(24)	
Total capital works expenditure	8,997	9,102	105	1	

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

(I) Explanation of material variations

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Buildings	Work on the new Holiday park cabins, Dimboola Depot and Jeparit Workshop have commenced, but were not completed at 30 June 2023. A number of projects carried forward from 2021/2022 were completed during 2022/2023 including the Rainbow Recreation Reserve Female Friendly change rooms, and the Wimmera Southern Mallee Caravan Park upgrades.
2	Plant and Machinery	Plant and Machinery is higher than budget as plant ordered in 2021/2022 was received in 2022/2023.
3	Fixtures, fittings and furniture	Furniture and Fixtures includes the fit out of the Park Cabins purchased with the Wimmera Southern Mallee Caravan Park upgrades grant.
4	Computers and telecommunications	Hindmarsh replacement of workstations and Ipads was less than budgeted for.
5	Library Books	Books ordered in 2022/2023 have yet to be delivered.
6	Roads	The expenditure is higher than budgeted due to construction of the Albacutya Bridge Road extension which was carried forward from 2021/2022.
7	Bridges	Work carried forward from 2021/2022 was completed on the Albacutya Bridge.
8	Footpaths and cycleways	Work commenced on the Wimmera River Discovery Trail carried forward from previous years.
9	Drainage	Drainage is over budget due to urgent work being undertaken to correct drainage issues in the Dimboola Recreation Reserve.
10	Kerb & channel	Kerb & channel included work on Park Street carried over from the previous financial year.
11	Other infrastructure	The under expenditure compared to budget is due to the phasing of the budgeted projects, in particular the Silo Art trail and the transfer stations upgrades.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

2.2 Analysis of Council results by program

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following programs.

2.2.1 Our Community

Our Community's mission is to increase accessible services to enable the community to be healthy, active and engaged.

Built and Natural Environment

Built and Natural Environment's mission is to provide infrastructure essential to support the community; and to protect and enhance our natural environment.

Competitive and Innovative Economy

Competitive and Innovative Economy's mission is to foster a sustainable and diversified local economy where economic growth is encouraged and supported.

Good Governance and Financial Sustainability

Good Governance and Financial Sustainability's mission is to promote user friendly services to ensure transparency, good governance and financial sustainability, and to advance gender equality, equity and inclusion for all.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

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

	Income / Revenue	Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Grants included in income / revenue	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2023					
Our Community	2,453	(2,539)	(85)	1,739	1,811
Built and Natural Environment	4,080	(9,345)	(5,264)	2,319	172,922
Competitive and Innovative Economy	2,099	(2,033)	65	813	4,374
Good Governance and Financial Sustainability	14,959	(5,597)	9,363	6,358	42,325
Unattributed	-	-	-	-	235
	23,592	(19,513)	4,079	11,228	221,667

	Income / Revenue	Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Grants included in income / revenue	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2022					
Our Community	2,025	(2,605)	(580)	1,456	1,618
Built and Natural Environment	6,434	(9,088)	(2,654)	4,647	183,199
Competitive and Innovative Economy	2,355	(1,985)	371	1,235	3,816
Good Governance and Financial Sustainability	15,559	(4,346)	11,212	7,437	29,363
Unattributed	-	-	-	-	1,350
	26,373	(18,024)	8,349	14,775	219,347

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Note 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000

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 land and all of its improvements.

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2022/23 was \$2,813.4 million (2021/22 \$2,037.2 million).

General rates	7,401	7,280
Municipal charge	742	747
Waste management charge	1,179	1,099
Revenue in lieu of rates	127	96
Total rates and charges	9,450	9,222

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

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

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
3.2 Statutory fees and fines		
Animal Registration Fees	63	64
Building Fees	9	27
Infringements and costs	26	42
Town planning fees	109	102
Land information certificates	8	8
Permits	5	4
Total statutory fees and fines	220	247

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.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
3.3 User fees		
Aged and health services	485	379
Private works	38	164
Caravan parks & camping fees	818	523
Transfer station fees	115	113
Commercial garbage collection fees	58	43
Film screenings and hall hire	12	6
Regional Roads Victoria works	350	197
Lease fees	39	36
Certificates	33	17
Events	53	-
Other fees and charges	19	71
Total user fees	2,021	1,549

User fees by timing of revenue recognition

User fees recognised at a point in time	2,021	1,549
Total user fees	2,021	1,549

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
3.4 Funding from other levels of government		
Grants were received in respect of the following :		
Summary of grants		
Commonwealth funded grants	8,225	7,976
State funded grants	3,003	6,800
Total grants received	11,228	14,775
(a) Operating Grants		
<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Financial Assistance Grants	6,338	6,333
General home care	551	519
Other	21	24
<i>Recurrent - State Government</i>		
Delivered Meals	36	35
Home care services	65	78
Home maintenance	6	9
Senior citizens	-	7
School crossing supervisors	7	6
Facilitated Playgroup	77	40
Kindergarten central enrolment	39	6
Libraries	124	122
Freeza Youth participation program	36	30
Engage!	50	25
Roadside weeds and pest management	150	75
Case assessment	27	25
Other	13	30
Total recurrent operating grants	7,538	7,363
<i>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Other	10	19
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
Regional events funding	6	-
LG Business Concierge & Hospitality	-	60
Outdoor dining	-	200
Covid relief program	90	-
Community climate change adaption	-	5
Rural Roads Support Program	-	22
Recycling Transition Plan	-	10
WasteTransition Plan	-	22
Kindergarten Infrastructure & Services	42	-
VicHealth	30	-
Premiers Reading Challenge	6	-
Digital Literacy	12	-
Animal Welfare - Pet Desexing	7	-
Kerbside Reform	22	-
Other	6	11
Total non-recurrent operating grants	231	348
Total operating grants	7,769	7,711

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
(b) Capital Grants		
<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Roads to recovery	1,081	1,081
<i>Recurrent - State Government</i>		
Other	-	-
Total recurrent capital grants	1,081	1,081
<i>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Buildings	150	-
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
Local Roads & Infrastructure Program	-	1,081
Nhill Early Learning Facility upgrade	-	21
Dimboola Early Learning Facility upgrade	-	22
CFA Fire Access Grant	-	15
Regional Arts Fund	-	4
Living Libraries	-	388
Albacutya Bridge	-	2,300
Agrilinks	(55)	481
Heavy Vehicles Safety & Productivity	-	420
TAC Community Road Safety	12	12
Rainbow Rec Reserve Change Rooms	21	183
Vic Fisheries Authority Large Grant Program	-	23
Silo Art	267	200
Nhill Caravan Park Amenities	-	185
WSM Caravan Park Upgrades	-	650
Redevelop Rainbow Rises	282	-
Libraries to You, Library Van	70	-
Pieces of You Libraries for Health & Wellbeing	8	-
Flood Recovery	500	-
TAC Road Safety	35	-
Wimmera River Discovery Trail	300	-
Transfer Station Upgrades	243	-
Yurunga Homestead Living Heritage	166	-
Park Cabins WDA	380	-
Total non-recurrent capital grants	2,379	5,983
Total capital grants	3,459	7,064

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

(c) Recognition of grant income

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

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

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

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

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Income recognised under AASB 1058 <i>Income of Not-for-Profit Entities</i>		
General purpose	6,482	6,357
Specific purpose grants to acquire non-financial assets	5,192	7,207
Other specific purpose grants	434	396
Revenue recognised under AASB 15 <i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i>		
Specific purpose grants	847	816
	12,955	14,775

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
(d) Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner		
Operating		
Balance at start of year	47	49
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	-	47
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(47)	(49)
Balance at year end	0	47
Capital		
Balance at start of year	1,982	4,722
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	724	1,982
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(979)	(4,722)
Balance at year end	1,726	1,982

Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
3.5 Contributions		
Monetary	77	86
Non-monetary	-	-
Total contributions	77	86

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

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
3.6 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		
Proceeds of sale	243	557
Written down value of assets disposed	(209)	(429)
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	34	128

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

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
3.7 Other income		
Plant operations	-	84
Quarry operations	2	1
Interest	328	77
Recoupments	168	10
Fire services levy administration	46	45
Scrap metal and transfer station fees	31	47
Vicroads agency administration		4
Other	50	15
Total other income	624	283

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Note 4 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES		
4.1 (a) Employee costs		
Wages and salaries	6,065	5,938
WorkCover	155	250
Annual leave, sick leave and long service leave	667	480
Superannuation	797	727
Fringe benefits tax	109	93
Training	179	125
Other	236	37
Total employee costs	8,208	7,651
 (b) Superannuation		
Council made contributions to the following funds:		
 Defined benefit fund		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	40	49
	40	49
Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	-	-
 Accumulation funds		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	349	323
Employer contributions - other funds	431	361
	780	684
Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	-	-

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
4.2 Materials and services		
Contract payments	206	297
Building maintenance	295	183
Depots and workshops	50	47
Emergency assistance and fire prevention	32	50
Flood Recovery	110	-
Health promotion	91	185
Home and community care	197	132
Community development, tourism and youth activities	250	211
Garbage and recycling collection and waste disposal	928	623
Utilities	125	366
Office administration	177	69
Information technology	365	389
Parks, reserves and aerodromes	88	68
Plant and fleet operations	(158)	1,070
Printing, stationery and advertising	26	71
Quarry operations	193	450
Rating and valuation	10	13
Roads, footpaths, bridges and drainage management	1,382	761
Swimming pool maintenance and management	340	340
Town beautification	116	40
Consultants and labour hire	195	15
Other	48	141
Total materials and services	5,063	5,519

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

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
4.3 Depreciation		
Property	586	512
Plant and equipment	1,171	1,058
Infrastructure	3,189	2,954
Total depreciation	4,946	4,524

Refer to note 5.2(c), 5.8 and 6.2 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation charges and accounting policy.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
4.4 Bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses		
Rates debtors	(55)	78
Other debtors	(20)	31
Total bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses	(75)	109

Movement in allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors

Balance at the beginning of the year	109	78
Movement in provisions in the year	(75)	31
Balance at end of year	34	109

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
4.5 Other expenses		
Advertising	60	37
Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	43	59
Auditors' remuneration - Internal Audit	12	14
Bank charges	35	30
Community action grants	13	20
Council contributions - other	24	85
Councillors' allowances	213	196
Fire services levy	24	23
Insurance	384	316
Landfill charges	288	314
Legal costs	44	59
Postage	21	19
Subscriptions	151	148
Telecommunications	10	19
Town committees	30	30
Others	17	(24)
Total other expenses	1,371	1,345

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Note 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
5.1 Financial assets		
(a) Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand	4	4
Cash at bank	3,585	4,976
Term deposits	7,000	4,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	10,589	8,980
(b) Other financial assets		
Current		
Term deposits - current	4,000	6,000
Total current other financial assets	4,000	6,000
Total other financial assets	4,000	6,000
Total financial assets	14,589	14,980
Councils cash and cash equivalents are subject to external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary use. These include:		
- Trust funds and deposits (Note 5.3)	101	102
Total restricted funds	101	102
Total unrestricted cash and cash equivalents	10,488	8,878
Intended allocations		
Although not externally restricted the following amounts have been allocated for specific future purposes by Council:		
- Grants received in advance - capital works	1,726	2,747
- Grants received in advance - operating	-	47
Total funds subject to intended allocations	1,726	2,794

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

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

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
(c) Trade and other receivables		
Current		
<i>Statutory receivables</i>		
Rates debtors	563	514
Provision for doubtful debts - rates	(21)	(78)
Building Permit debtors	17	13
Infringement debtors	188	176
Net GST receivable	195	163
<i>Non statutory receivables</i>		
Other debtors	183	134
Sundry debtors	935	1,010
Provision for doubtful debts - other debtors	(11)	(31)
Total current trade and other receivables	2,050	1,903
Non-current		
<i>Non statutory receivables</i>		
Street Scheme debtors	2	2
Total non-current trade and other receivables	2	2
Total trade and other receivables	2,052	1,905

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

(d) Ageing of Receivables

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

Current (not yet due)		-
Past due by up to 30 days	58	591
Past due between 31 and 180 days	856	20
Past due between 181 and 365 days	118	135
Past due by more than 1 year	87	398
Total trade and other receivables	1,119	1,145

(e) Ageing of individually impaired Receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$11,372 (2022: \$17,034) were impaired. The amount of the provision raised against these debtors was \$11,372 (2022: \$17,034). They individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

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

Past due by more than 1 year	11	17
Total trade & other receivables	11	17

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

5.2 Non-financial assets	2023	2022
(a) Inventories	\$'000	\$'000
Inventories held for distribution	725	503
Total inventories	725	503

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

(b) Prepayments	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Prepayments	250	84
Total other assets	250	84

5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and unearned income/revenue	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Trade and other payables		
Current		
<i>Non-statutory payables</i>		
Trade payables	663	454
Accrued expenses	205	271
Total current trade and other payables	868	725

(b) Trust funds and deposits		
Current		
Refundable deposits	-	12
Fire services levy	101	90
Total current trust funds and deposits	101	102

(c) Unearned income/revenue		
Current		
Grants received in advance - operating	-	47
Grants received in advance - capital	1,726	1,982
Total current unearned income/revenue	1,726	2,029

Unearned income/revenue represents contract liabilities and reflect consideration received in advance from grant providers in respect of the completion of obligations contained within funding agreements. Unearned income/revenue are derecognised and recorded as revenue when promised goods and services are transferred to the customer. Refer to Note 3.

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

Purpose and nature of items

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.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

5.4 Provisions

	Employee \$ '000	Landfill restoration \$ '000	Quarry \$ '000	Total \$ '000
2023				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	2,140	28	196	2,364
Additional provisions	706	1	-	707
Amounts used	(602)	-	(19)	(620)
Balance at the end of the financial year	2,244	29	177	2,451
<i>Provisions - current</i>	2,130	30	85	2,244
<i>Provisions - non-current</i>	114	-	93	207
2022				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	2,264	28	154	2,446
Additional provisions	316	-	42	358
Amounts used	(440)	-	-	(440)
Balance at the end of the financial year	2,140	28	196	2,364
<i>Provisions - current</i>	2,034	28	103	2,166
<i>Provisions - non-current</i>	106	-	93	198

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
(a) Employee provisions		
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual leave	806	702
Long service leave	127	51
	933	753
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual leave	252	213
Long service leave	944	1,068
	1,197	1,281
Total current employee provisions	2,130	2,034
Non-current		
Long service leave	114	106
Annual leave	-	-
Total non-current employee provisions	114	106
Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:		
Current	2,130	2,034
Non-current	114	106
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions	2,244	2,140

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

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

Annual leave

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

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

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

Long service leave

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

Key assumptions:

- discount rate	4.063%	3.693%
- index rate	6.000%	3.850%

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
(b) Landfill restoration		
Current	30	28
Non-current	-	-
	30	28

Council is obligated to restore a number of landfill and quarry sites to a particular standard. The provision for landfill restoration has been calculated based on the present value of the expected cost of works to be undertaken. The expected cost of works has been estimated based on current understanding of work required to reinstate the site to a suitable standard. Accordingly, the estimation of the provision required is dependent on the accuracy of the forecast timing of the work, work required and related costs.

Council reviews the landfill and quarry restoration provision on an annual basis, including the key assumptions listed below.

Key assumptions:

- discount rate	4.063%	3.693%
- index rate	6.000%	3.850%

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
(c) Quarry restoration		
Current	85	103
Non-current	93	93
	178	196

Key assumptions:

- discount rate	4.063%	3.693%
- index rate	6.000%	3.850%

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
(d) Summary of Provisions		
Current		
Annual Leave	1,058	916
Long Service Leave	1,071	1,119
Landfill	30	28
Quarry	85	103
Total current provisions	<u>2,244</u>	<u>2,166</u>
Non-current		
Annual Leave	-	-
Long Service Leave	114	106
Quarry	93	93
Total non-current provisions	<u>207</u>	<u>198</u>
 5.5 Financing arrangements	 2023	 2022
	\$'000	\$'000
The Council has the following funding arrangements in place as at 30 June 2023.		
Bank overdraft	2,000	2,000
Credit card facilities	30	30
Total facilities	<u>2,030</u>	<u>2,030</u>
Used facilities	13	10
Unused facilities	<u>2,017</u>	<u>2,020</u>

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

5.6 Commitments

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

Commitments for expenditure

	Not later than 1 year	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years	Later than 5 years	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2023					
Operating					
Town Planning Services	139	-	-	-	139
Printers/Copiers	11	11	6	-	28
Garbage collection	984	1,033	1,084	1,139	4,239
Swimming pool management	357	375	98	-	831
Internal audit services	19	20	20	-	59
Kindergarten services	22	23	24	26	95
Information communication and technology	44	46	-	-	90
Quarry Material	236	248	260	273	1,017
Total	1,811	1,755	1,494	1,437	6,497

	Not later than 1 year	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years	Later than 5 years	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2022					
Operating					
Town Planning Services	120	126	132	-	378
Recycling	188	-	-	-	188
Garbage collection	264	-	-	-	264
Transport waste and recycling to Doen	88	-	-	-	88
Swimming pool management	309	324	340	357	1,331
Meals for delivery	100	165	174	-	439
Internal audit services	17	17	18	-	52
Kindergarten services	20	20	20	-	60
Information communication and technology	40	40	40	-	120
Quarry Material	214	214	214	-	642
Total	1,360	906	938	357	3,562

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

5.7 Leases

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Short-term and low value leases

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

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Expenses relating to:		
Short-term leases	-	-
Leases of low value assets	-	5
Total	-	5

Non-cancellable lease commitments - Short-term and low-value leases

Commitments for minimum lease payments for short-term and low-value leases are payable as follows:

Payable:

Within one year	2	2
Later than one year but not later than five years	-	-
Total lease commitments	2	2

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

6.1 PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

	Carrying amount 30 June 2022 \$'000	Additions \$'000	Impairment Losses \$'000	Revaluation \$'000	Depreciatio n \$'000	Disposal \$'000	Write-off \$'000	Transfers \$'000	Carrying amount 30 June 2023 \$'000
Property	26,610	1,086	-	-	(422)	-	-	1,197	28,471
Plant and equipment	7,672	2,078	-	-	(1,336)	(209)	(37)	-	8,169
Infrastructure	160,902	3,532	(1,684)	-	(3,190)	-	-	4,264	163,824
Work in progress	6,395	2,420	-	-	-	-	-	(5,461)	3,354
	201,579	9,116	(1,684)	-	(4,947)	(209)	(37)	-	203,818

Summary of Work In Progress

	Opening \$'000	Additions \$'000	Write-off \$'000	Transfers \$'000	Closing \$'000
Property	1,199	1,122	-	(1,197)	1,124
Plant and equipment	22	32	-	-	54
Infrastructure	5,174	1,265	-	(4,264)	2,176
Total	6,395	2,420	-	(5,461)	3,354

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

(a) Property

	Land - specialised	Total Land & Land Improvement ts	Heritage buildings	Buildings - specialised	Total Buildings	Work In Progress	Total Property
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2022	2,592	2,592	1,364	23,016	24,380	1,199	28,172
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2022	-	-	(22)	(341)	(363)	-	(363)
	2,592	2,592	1,342	22,675	24,017	1,199	27,809
Movements in fair value							
Additions	15	15	-	1,071	1,071	1,122	2,208
Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	1,197	1,197	(1,197)	(0)
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	15	15	-	2,268	2,268	(75)	2,208
Movements in accumulated depreciation							
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-	(22)	(399)	(422)	-	(422)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	(22)	(399)	(422)	-	(422)
At fair value 30 June 2023	2,607	2,607	1,364	25,284	26,648	1,124	30,380
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023	-	-	(44)	(741)	(785)	-	(785)
Carrying amount	2,607	2,607	1,320	24,544	25,863	1,124	29,595

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

(b) Plant and Equipment

	Plant machinery and equipment	Fixtures fittings and furniture	Library books	Work in Progress	Total plant and equipment
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2022	12,954	1,519	272	22	14,767
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2022	(5,882)	(1,145)	(46)	-	(7,072)
	7,073	374	226	22	7,694
Movements in fair value					
Additions	1,971	80	27	32	2,110
Contributions	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-
Disposal	(717)	-	-	-	(717)
Write-off	-	(524)	-	-	(524)
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-
	1,254	(444)	27	32	869
Movements in accumulated depreciation					
Depreciation and amortisation	(1,171)	(138)	(27)	-	(1,336)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	508	487	-	-	996
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
	(663)	350	(27)	-	(340)
At fair value 30 June 2023	14,208	1,075	299	54	15,635
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023	(6,544)	(795)	(73)	-	(7,413)
Carrying amount	7,664	280	226	54	8,223

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

(c) Infrastructure

	Roads \$'000	Bridges \$'000	Footpaths and cycleways \$'000	Drainage \$'000	Kerb & Channel \$'000	Other Infrastructure \$'000	Work In Progress \$'000	Total Infrastructure \$'000
At fair value 1 July 2022	119,901	6,752	7,363	6,818	22,201	12,627	5,174	180,837
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2022	(1,937)	(1,538)	(3,969)	(2,406)	(220)	(4,690)	-	(14,760)
	117,965	5,214	3,394	4,412	21,981	7,936	5,174	166,076
Movements in fair value								
Additions	2,995	62	168	-	205	101	1,265	4,797
Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	648	3,297	17	-	151	151	(4,264)	-
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3,643	3,359	185	-	356	252	(2,998)	4,797
Movements in accumulated depreciation								
Depreciation and amortisation	(2,115)	(101)	(162)	(85)	(225)	(500)	-	(3,190)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	(1,684)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,684)
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(3,800)	(101)	(162)	(85)	(225)	(500)	-	(4,874)
At fair value 30 June 2023	123,544	10,111	7,548	6,818	22,557	12,879	2,176	185,634
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023	(5,736)	(1,640)	(4,132)	(2,492)	(444)	(5,190)	-	(19,634)
Carrying amount	117,808	8,471	3,417	4,327	22,113	7,689	2,176	166,000

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Acquisition

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

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

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

	Depreciation Period	Threshold Limit \$'000
<i>Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods</i>		
Land & land improvements		
land	-	1
Buildings		
buildings	30 - 100 years	1
Plant and Equipment		
plant, machinery and equipment	2 - 20 years	1
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	2 - 50 years	1
Infrastructure		
roads - pavements, substructure, formation and earthworks	15 - 110 years	1
roads - kerb, channel and minor culverts and other	60 - 100 years	1
bridges - deck and substructure	70 - 120 years	1
footpaths and cycleways	15 - 80 years	1
drainage	80 - 120 years	1
others	5-100 years	1

Land under roads

Council recognises land under roads it controls at fair value.

Depreciation and amortisation

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

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

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

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

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

Repairs and maintenance

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Valuation of land and buildings

Valuation of land and buildings were undertaken by a qualified independent valuer Ben Sawyer AAPI Reg 63163 of Preston Roe Patterson Horsham and Wimmera Pty Ltd as at 30 June 2021. 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 2023 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of Valuation	Type of Valuation
Land	-	-	2,607	Jun-21	Full
Heritage Buildings	-	-	1,320	Jun-21	Full
Buildings	-	-	24,544	Jun-21	Full
Total	-	-	28,471		

Valuation of infrastructure

Valuation of infrastructure assets has been determined in accordance with an independent valuation undertaken by Peter Moloney MIEAust from Moloney Asset Management Systems.

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

Details of the Council's infrastructure and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2023 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of Valuation	Type of Valuation
Roads	-	-	117,808	Jul-21	Full
Bridges	-	-	8,471	Jun-18	Full
Footpaths and cycleways	-	-	3,417	Jun-20	Full
Drainage	-	-	4,327	Jun-20	Full
Kerb & Channel	-	-	22,113	Jul-21	Full
Other infrastructure	-	-	7,689	Jun-20	Full
Total	-	-	163,824		

Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations

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

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
6.2 Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries		
(a) Investments in associates		
Wimmera Development Association	233	295
Wimmera Development Association		
<i>Background</i>		
Hindmarsh Shire Council, in conjunction with Horsham Rural City Council, Northern Grampians Shire Council, West Wimmera Shire Council and Yarriambiack Shire Council, had an interest in the Wimmera Development Association. Hindmarsh Shire has a 10.34% interest in equity (10.34% in 2021/2022)		
Fair value of Council's investment in Wimmera Development Association	233	295
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit)		
Council's share of accumulated surplus(deficit) at start of year	271	189
Reported surplus(deficit) for year	(62)	82
Transfers (to) from reserves	-	-
Distributions for the year	-	-
Council's share of accumulated surplus(deficit) at end of year	209	271
Council's share of reserves		
Council's share of reserves at start of year	24	24
Transfers (to) from reserves	21	-
Council's share of reserves at end of year	45	24
Movement in carrying value of specific investment		
Carrying value of investment at start of year	295	213
Share of surplus(deficit) for year	(62)	82
Share of asset revaluation	-	-
Distributions received	-	-
Carrying value of investment at end of year	233	295

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.

(b) Community Asset Committee

All entities controlled by Council that have material income, expenses, assets or liabilities, such as community asset committees, have been included in this financial report. Any transactions between these entities and Council have been eliminated in full.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Note 7 PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS

7.1 Council and key management remuneration

(a) Related Parties

Parent entity

Hindmarsh Shire Council Council is the parent entity.

Subsidiaries and Associates

Interests in subsidiaries and associates are detailed in Note 6.3.

(b) Key Management Personnel

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

Details of KMP at any time during the year are:

Councillors	Councillor M Albrecht (Mayor 1/7/2022 to 8/11/2022 and Deputy Mayor 9/11/2022)
	Councillor W Bywaters
	Councillor R Gersch
	Councillor B Ireland (Deputy Mayor from 1/7/2022 to 8/11/2022 and Mayor 9/11/2022)
	Councillor R Ismay
	Councillor D Nelson
	Chief Executive Officer
	Director - Corporate and Community Services
	Director - Infrastructure
	Director - infrastructure Temporary 6/6/2023

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Total Number of Councillors	6	6
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	4	3
Total Number of Key Management Personnel	10	9

(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

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

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

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

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

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

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term employee benefits	816	762
Other long-term employee benefits	18	11
Post-employment benefits	78	56
Termination benefits	-	18
Total	911	847

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
\$10,000 - \$10,999	1	-
\$20,000 - \$29,999	4	4
\$30,000 - \$39,999	-	1
\$50,000 - \$59,999	2	1
\$170,000 - \$179,999	-	1
\$190,000 - \$199,999	1	-
\$200,000 - \$209,999	1	1
\$270,000 - \$279,999	-	1
\$290,000 - \$299,999	1	-
	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>

7.2 Related party disclosure

(a) Transactions with related parties

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

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
<i>T. Ismay & Co (a related party to Cr R. Ismay)</i>	24	32
<i>Purchases of hardware 30 day terms</i>		
<i>Nhill IGA (a related party to Cr W Bywaters)</i>	16	-
<i>Groceries and newspapers 30 day terms</i>		
<i>Rural Councils Victoira (a related party to Cr R Gersch)</i>	4	-
<i>Membership and conferences 30 day terms</i>		
<i>Hindmarsh Landcare Network (a related party to Cr D Nelson)</i>	2	-
<i>Membership 30 days terms</i>		
<i>Hot Spark Fabrication (a related party to Cr W Bywaters)</i>	47	22
<i>Plant repairs 30 day terms</i>		
<i>Wimmera Development Association (a related party to Cr M Albrecht)</i>	81	-
<i>Membership and conferences 30 day terms</i>		

(b) Outstanding balances with related parties

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

Nil	Nil
-----	-----

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Note 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES

8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities

(a) Contingent assets

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

Operating Lease Receivables

Council receives lease payments for telephone towers, small sections of land and rooms within Council owned buildings. The receivable is incidental to the purpose for holding the property. The lease terms are between 1 and 10 years and include a CPI based revision annually.

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

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Not later than one year	47	52
Later than one year and not later than five years	161	197
Later than five years	4	44
	212	293

(b) Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

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

Superannuation

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

Future superannuation contributions

In addition to the disclosed contributions, Hindmarsh Shire Council has paid unfunded liability payments to Vision Super totalling \$0 during the 2022/2023 year (2021/2022 \$0). There were no contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2023. The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2024 are \$21,273.

Liability Mutual Insurance

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

MAV Workcare

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

(c) Guarantees for loans 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 purpose 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 of Council.

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

8.2 Change in accounting standards

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2023 reporting period. Council assesses the impact of these new standards. As at 30 June 2023 there were no new accounting standards or interpretations issued by the AASB which are applicable for the year ending 30 June 2024 that are expected to impact Council.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

8.3 Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables). Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

(b) Market risk

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

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Council's interest rate liability risk arises primarily from long term loans and borrowings at fixed rates which exposes council to fair value interest rate risk / Council does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rates.

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

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

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

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

(c) Credit risk

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

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

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

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

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

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

(d) Liquidity risk

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

To help reduce these risks Council:

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

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

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

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

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

(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

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

- A parallel shift of + 2% and -1% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 4.1%.

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.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

8.4 Fair value measurement

Fair value hierarchy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Revaluation

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

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use of an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 3 to 5 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts. The following table sets out the frequency of revaluations by asset class.

Asset class	Revaluation
Land	3 to 5 years
Buildings	3 to 5 years
Roads	3 to 5 years
Bridges	3 to 5 years
Footpaths and cycleways	3 to 5 years
Drainage	3 to 5 years
Other infrastructure	3 to 5 years

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.

Impairment of assets

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

8.5 Events occurring after balance date

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Note 9 OTHER MATTERS

	Balance at beginning of reporting period	Increment (decrement)	Balance at end of reporting period
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
9.1 Reserves			
(a) Asset revaluation reserves			
2023			
Property			
Land and land improvements	1,832	-	1,832
Buildings	8,176	-	8,176
	10,008	-	10,008
Infrastructure			
Roads	112,742	(1,684)	111,057
Bridges	218	-	218
Footpaths and cycleways	1,479	-	1,479
Drainage	2,416	-	2,416
Other infrastructure	7,354	-	7,354
Share of asset revaluation in associates	28	-	28
	124,237	(1,684)	122,553
Total asset revaluation reserves	134,245	(1,684)	132,561
2022			
Property			
Land and land improvements	1,832	-	1,832
Buildings	8,176	-	8,176
	10,008	-	10,008
Infrastructure			
Roads	86,443	26,299	112,742
Bridges	218	-	218
Footpaths and cycleways	1,479	-	1,479
Drainage	2,416	-	2,416
Other infrastructure	602	6,752	7,354
Share of asset revaluation in associates	28	-	28
	91,186	33,051	124,237
Total asset revaluation reserves	101,194	33,051	134,245

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	4,079	8,349
Profit/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	34	128
Depreciation	4,946	4,524
Other	15	(302)
<i>Change in assets and liabilities:</i>		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(147)	(765)
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(166)	43
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	208	206
(Decrease)/increase in unearned income /revenue	(303)	(2,742)
(Decrease)/increase in other liabilities	1	-
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(222)	(74)
(Decrease)/increase in provisions	87	(120)
(Decrease)/increase in trust funds	(1)	1
(Decrease)/increase in accrued expenses	(65)	34
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	8,467	9,284

9.3 Superannuation

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

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation category, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2023, this was 10.5% as required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) legislation (2022: 10%)).

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 [Employer name] in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Fund Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Funding arrangements

Council makes employer contributions to the Defined Benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund Actuary. A triennial actuarial investigation is currently underway for the Defined Benefit category which is expected to be completed by 31 December 2023. Council was notified of the 30 June 2023 VBI during August 2023 (2022: August 2022). The financial assumptions used to calculate the 30 June 2023 VBI were:

Net investment returns 4.45% pa
Salary information 1.37% pa
Price inflation (CPI) 6.00% pa

As at 30 June 2022, an interim actuarial investigation was held as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer was 102.2%. The financial assumptions used to calculate the VBI were:

Net investment returns 5.5% pa
Salary information 2.5% pa to 30 June 2023, and 3.5% pa thereafter
Price inflation (CPI) 3.0% pa

Council was notified of the 30 June 2022 VBI during August 2022 (2021: August 2021). Vision Super has advised that the estimated VBI at June 2023 was 104.1%.

The VBI is used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 30 June 2022 actuarial investigation determined the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Employer contributions

(a) Regular contributions

On the basis of the results of the 2022 interim actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, Council makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2023, this rate was 10.5% of members' salaries (10.0% in 2021/22). This rate is expected to increase in line with any increases in the SG contribution rate and was reviewed as part of the 30 June 2022 interim valuation.

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

(b) Funding calls

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

The 2022 interim actuarial investigation surplus amounts

An actuarial investigation is conducted annually for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer. Generally, a full actuarial investigation is conducted every three years and interim actuarial investigations are conducted for each intervening year. An interim investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2022 and the last full investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2020.

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

	2022 (Interim) \$m	2021 (Interim) \$m
- A VBI Surplus	45.7	214.7
- A total service liability surplus	105.8	270.3
- A discounted accrued benefits surplus	112.9	285.2

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 2022.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2022.

The discounted accrued benefits surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category exceeds the value of benefits payable in the future but accrued in respect of service to 30 June 2022.

Superannuation contributions

Contributions by Council (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 are detailed below:

Scheme	Type of Scheme	Rate	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Vision super	Defined benefits	10.5% (2022:10.0%)	40	49
Vision super	Accumulation	10.5% (2022:10.0%)	349	323
Other Funds	Accumulation	10.5% (2022:10.0%)	431	361

[In addition to the above contributions, Council has paid unfunded liability payments to Vision Super totalling \$0 (2021/22 \$0).

There were \$14,465 contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2023.

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2024 is \$21,273.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Note 10 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

There have been no changes to accounting policies in the 2022-23 year.



Performance Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Our Municipality

Hindmarsh Shire is located in the Wimmera region in western Victoria and covers an area of 7,527km². 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 four 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 it is estimated 5,698 people live in Hindmarsh Shire, with a median age of 50 years. According to the 2021 Census, 82.6% of people in Hindmarsh were born in Australia, with English the only language spoken in 86% of homes. Our most significant group of migrants are Karen refugees from Burma (Myanmar), with approximately 220 calling Nhill home.

The median weekly household income is \$1,159, 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, 15.4% higher than the national average.

Sustainable Capacity Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Indicator/measure	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Results 2023	Material Variations
Own-source revenue Own-source revenue per head of municipal population [own-source revenue / municipal population]	\$2,199	\$2,242	\$2,069	\$2,204	No material variation.
Recurrent grants Recurrent grants per head of municipal association [recurrent grants / municipal population]	\$1,235	\$1,204	\$1,505	\$1,539	No material variation.
Population Expenses per head of municipal population [total expenses / municipal population]	\$3,918	\$3,684	\$3,239	\$3,494	No material variation.
Infrastructure per head of municipal population [value of infrastructure / municipal population]	\$28,683	\$28,387	\$35,763	\$35,917	No material variation.
Popularity density per length of road [municipal population / kilometres of local roads]	1.85	1.85	1.84	1.85	No material variation.
Disadvantage Relative socio-economic disadvantage [index of relative socio-economic disadvantage by decile]	2	2	2	1	No material variation.
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	11.5%	19.6%	23.1%	28.6%	The increased turnover a result of Council ceasing the delivery of in-home aged care services on 30 June 2023

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 above

"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 2023

Indicator/measure	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Results 2023	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]	59	59	55	52	No material variation.
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	n/a	n/a	n/a	No planning applications were taken to VCAT during 2022/2023.
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]	50	53	55	48	A heavy rainfall event in November 2022 may have resulted in the community satisfaction with sealed roads decreasing.
Libraries Participation Active library borrowers in municipality [number of active library borrowers in the last three years / municipal population] x100	6.8%	6.6%	6.5%	6.87%	No material variation.
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	5.4%	30.1%	32.4%	34.5%	No material variation.
Aquatic Facilities Utilisation Utilisation of aquatic facilities [number of visits to aquatic facilities / municipal population]	2.9	2.1	2.08	0.53	Council experienced maintenance issues with a number of the different pools owned by Council resulting in the aquatic facilities being closed for a significant number of days during the opening period.
Animal Management Health and Safety Animal management prosecutions [number of successful animal management prosecutions]	n/a	100%	100%	n/a	Council did not have any animal prosecutions in 2022/23.

Indicator/measure	Results 2020	Results 2021	Results 2022	Results 2023	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%	n/a	n/a	n/a	There were no critical or non-compliance notifications to the Environmental Health Officers in 2022/23.
Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Participation Participation in the MCH service [number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Council does not provide this service.
Maternal and Child Health (MCH) 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	n/a	n/a	n/a	Council does not provide this service.

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 borrower" 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 98 of the Act

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

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

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

"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

Financial Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Dimension/ indicator/ measure	Results				Forecasts				Material Variations
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Operating Position Adjusted Underlying Result Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) [adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / adjusted underlying revenue] x100	7.92%	-1.98%	11.6%	7.99%	-6.16%	-6.66%	-7.47%	-8.24%	Council's result at 30 June 2023 was an underlying surplus due to the early receipt of 100% of the 2023/24 Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant.
Liquidity Working Capital Current assets compared to current liabilities [current assets / current liabilities] x100	347.7%	248.8%	347.9%	356.6%	97.6%	104.3%	118.0%	113.6%	Council received 100% of the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant for 2023/24 in June 2023.
Unrestricted Cash Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities [unrestricted cash / current liabilities] x100	295.4%	164.9%	138.4%	179.4%	47.5%	46.01%	52.27%	40.23%	Council received 100% of the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant for 2023/24 in June 2023.
Obligations Loans and Borrowings Loans and borrowings compared to rates [interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue] x100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Council continues to remain debt free with no loans or borrowings.
Loans and Borrowings Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates [interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue] x100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Council continues to remain debt free with no loans and borrowings.
Indebtedness Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue [non-current liabilities / own source revenue] x100	2.1%	1.2%	1.7%	1.68%	1.9%	1.94%	1.94%	1.94%	No material variation.

Dimension/ indicator/ measure	Results				Forecasts				Material Variations
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Asset Renewal & Upgrade Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation [asset renewal and asset upgrade expenses / asset depreciation] x100	155.2%	93.1%	235.6%	140.8%	143.0%	88.5%	80.5%	91.1%	Due to November 2022 rainfall event a number of renewal projects were unable to be completed. Council aims to maintain levels close to 100%.
Stability Rates Concentration Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue [rate revenue / adjusted underlying revenue] x100	37.1%	44.9%	45.2%	44.4%	51.3%	52.6%	52.7%	52.8%	No material variance.
Rates Effort Rates compared to property values [rate revenue / capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	The decrease in result is due to the valuations significantly increasing in the Farm category as a result of higher prices being paid for land, but rate revenue increases are capped by the rate cap.
Efficiency Expenditure Level Expenses per property assessment [total expenses / number of property assessments]	\$4,253	\$4,015	\$3,504	\$3,785	\$3,927	\$3,963	\$4,104	\$4,248	No material variation.
Revenue Level Average rate per property assessment [general rates and municipal charge / number of property assessments]	\$1,508	\$1,541	\$1,561	\$1,574	\$1,629	\$1,677	\$1,728	\$1,780	No material variation.

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 above

"adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)" means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure

"asset renewal expenditure" means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability

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

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

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

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

"non-recurrent grant" means a grant obtained on the condition that it be expended in a specified manner and is not expected to be received again during the period covered by a council's Strategic Resource Plan

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

"population" means the resident population estimated by council

"rate revenue" means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges

"recurrent grant" means a grant other than a non-recurrent grant

"residential rates" means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges levied on residential properties

"restricted cash" means cash and cash equivalents, within the meaning of the AAS, that are not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year

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

Other Information

For the year ended 30 June 2023

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 2020* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

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

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the results forecast by Council's strategic resource plan. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

The forecast figures included in the performance statement are those adopted by Council in its annual budget on 28 June 2023. The estimates are 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 annual budget can be obtained by contacting Council at its municipal offices at 92 Nelson Street Nhill, online at www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au by email to info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au or phone 03 5391 4444.

Certificate of the Performance Statement

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



Heather Boyd

Manager Governance and Customer Service

Dated: 27 September 2023

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the Hindmarsh Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2023 presents fairly the results of council's performance in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

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

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

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



Cr Brett Ireland

Mayor

Dated: 27 September 2023



Cr Debra Nelson

Councillor

Dated: 27 September 2023



Mr Greg Wood

Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 27 September 2023

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Hindmarsh Shire Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the accompanying performance statement of Hindmarsh Shire Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • description of municipality for the year ended 30 June 2023 • sustainable capacity indicators for the year ended 30 June 2023 • service performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2023 • financial performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2023 • other information and • certification of the performance statement. <p>In my opinion, the performance statement of Hindmarsh Shire Council in respect of the year ended 30 June 2023 presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of Part 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i>.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the performance statement</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the performance statement in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Councillors' responsibilities for the performance statement	<p>The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020</i> and for such internal control as the Councillors determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a performance statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p>

**Auditor's
responsibilities
for the audit of
the performance
statement**

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

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the performance statement, including the disclosures, and whether performance statement represents the underlying events and results in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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

MELBOURNE
11 October 2023



Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria







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