

BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL



Sunset at Lake Benanee, Euston NSW
(Photo courtesy of "flickr")

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

2023-2024

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

Council acknowledges the Custodians of the lands and waters within our Shire and recognises their continuing responsibilities to caring for country and of teaching and learning.

We pay respects to Elders past and present and emerging and extend our respects to all Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander First Nations Peoples.



The Walls of China, Mungo National Park

Photo Credit: Outback Geo Adventures

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ABOUT OUR ANNUAL REPORT

This annual report has been compiled to outline Council's achievements for the **2023/2024** financial year, as well as providing a detailed financial analysis on Council's operations. The annual report not only reports on the work of Council during the financial year, but also takes the opportunity to acknowledge our achievements for the community.

The Annual Report highlights the diversity of services Council provides to the community and how these services were achieved with the resources available to Council.

The report also presents how Council met its statutory requirements, as required by various Acts.

Annual Report – Summary

Key focuses of the annual report are:

- An overview of who we are;
- How the achievements occurred against Council's commitments, as outlined in the Community Strategic Plan;
- Measurement against expected results;
- How Council met its statutory reporting requirements; and
- Council's overall financial performance.

Further Information

Hard copies of this annual report are available from the Balranald Shire Council Office, 70 Market Street Balranald, during business hours.

Electronic copies are also available on our website. To request a copy, email or phone our Customer Service Centre using the details below:

Web: www.balranald.nsw.gov.au
Email: council@balranald.nsw.gov.au
Phone: (03) 5020 1300



ABOUT BALRANALD SHIRE

Balranald Shire Council (BSC) is located in the south western district of NSW, approximately 850km south west from Sydney and 450km north of Melbourne. It covers an area of 21,699 square kilometres, making it the fifth largest Shire in the State. The main townships are Balranald (population 1,159) and Euston (population 822) which are located on the banks of the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers respectively. Other localities in the Shire include Kyalite, Oxley, Penarie (Homebush), Hatfield and Clare. The total population of the Balranald Shire is just approximately 2,208 people. Approximately 6.4 percent of the Shire's population is indigenous.

The Balranald Shire is often described as 'a potential geographer's living classroom' (Toohey, 2010). It is the pivotal place of two great Australian landscapes: to the east the Riverine Plain and to the west the Murray Darling Depression. Their respective formation processes have created today's unique vegetative landscape.

Balranald Shire's waterscape is unique with 5 Rivers meandering and converging within and around the shire (the Murrumbidgee, Murray, Lachlan, Wakool & Edward rivers). This makes the area an ideal destination for fishing, camping, boating, canoeing, kayaking or just chilling on the banks of the rivers.

Culturally, the Shire is rich in both Indigenous and non-indigenous history. Mungo National Park, which is part of the world heritage listed Willandra Lakes region, is primarily located in the Balranald Shire and has world archaeological significance with evidence of human occupation dating back at least 50,000 years. South-western NSW was settled by Europeans from the late 1840's, and the Shire has important sites showcasing pastoral industry, inland port heritage and colonial built infrastructure.

The economy of the Balranald Shire Council is strongly connected to agriculture including grains (dryland and irrigated), sheep and cattle. However diversification has occurred to encompass horticulture, viticulture, organic agriculture, tree (fruit and nut), timber harvesting and tourism. The Sturt Highway provides the east west route for the flow of goods, services and visitors to the Shire.



ABOUT BALRANALD SHIRE

Community Key Stats & Facts



POPULATION - 2,208

Male: 50.4%

Female: 49.6%

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people: 6.4% (NSW 3.4%)

Country of birth (Australia): 77.8% (NSW 65.4%)



AGE

Median age: 43 years (NSW 39 years)

Working age population: people aged 15-64 years form 59.6% of the population (NSW 64.2%)

20.4% of the population are aged 65 years and over (NSW 17.7%)



ALL PRIVATE DWELLINGS - 1,075

20.8% of dwellings were unoccupied (NSW 9.4%)

Average number of people per household: 2.5 people (NSW 2.6)

\$200 / week was the median rent (NSW \$420)



HOUSEHOLDS

68.7% were family households (NSW 71.2%)

28.4% (208 people) were single person households (NSW 25.0%)

2.9% were group households (NSW 3.8%)

5.7% of households had no registered motor vehicle (NSW 9.0%)



HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Across the Balranald LGA 22.1% of households had a weekly household income of less than \$650 (NSW 16.3%) and 13.2% of households had a weekly income of more than \$3,000 (NSW 26.9%)



HEALTH

2.8% of the Balranald LGA residents reported three or more long-term health conditions (NSW 3.0%)

Not Stated: 17.0% (NSW 8.1%)



CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Language used at home: English only (76.8%), Italian (2.2%), Mandarin (1.7%), Fijian (1.0%), Tongan (0.7%), Vietnamese (0.6%)

Countries of Birth: Australia (77.8%), Malaysia (1.6%), Fiji (0.8%), England (0.8%), Italy (0.7%), India (0.5%)



EMPLOYMENT STATUS

62.8% worked full-time (NSW 55.2%)
27.9% worked part-time (NSW 29.7%)
3.1% (31 people) were Unemployed (NSW 4.9%)
6.0% were away from work (NSW 10.2%)



PARTICIPATION IN LABOUR FORCE

In the labour force: 56.4% (NSW 58.7%)
Not in the labour force: 27.9% (NSW 35.5%)
Not stated: 15.3% (NSW 5.9%)



EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED

Employed people aged 15 years and over worked:
1-19 hrs - 11.0% (NSW 13.7%) and 20-34 hrs - 17.7% (NSW 17.6%)
35-44 hrs - 34.3% (NSW 41.3%) and 45 hrs or more - 29.7% (NSW 16.8%)



OCCUPATION, TOP RESPONSES

Managers: 24.5% (NSW 14.6%)
Labourers: 17.0% (NSW 8.2%)
Technicians and Trades Workers: 11.0% (NSW 11.9%)
Machinery Operators and Drivers: 10.6% (NSW 6.0%)
Community and Personal Service Workers: 10.3% (NSW 10.6%)
Clerical and Administrative Workers: 10.2% (NSW 13.0%)
Professionals: 9.0% (NSW 25.8%)
Sales Workers: 5.5% (NSW 8.0%)



INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT, TOP RESPONSES

Grape Growing: 6.7% (NSW 0.0%)
Sheep Farming (Specialised): 5.1% (NSW 0.2%)
Other Fruit and Tree Nut Growing: 4.6% (NSW 0.0%)
Hospitals (except Psychiatric Hospitals): 4.3% (NSW 4.2%)
Local Government Administration: 4.2% (NSW 1.3%)



LEVEL OF HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

People aged 15 years and over:
Bachelor Degree level and above: 8.3% (NSW 27.8%)
Advanced Diploma and Diploma level: 5.5% (NSW 9.3%)
Year 9 or below: 13.7% (NSW 7.4%)
Not stated: 18.0% (NSW 8.3%)

Source: ABS Census Quickstats 2021

ABOUT BALRANALD SHIRE

Economy Key Stats & Facts



GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT - \$196M

Up from \$159M in 2017/2018

2023 NIER State of the Regions Economic Indicators



ANNUAL CHANGE IN GRP +16.65%

Regional NSW 1.03%

2023 NIER State of the Regions Economic Indicators



GROSS VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION (2021/2022) - \$148.2M

Data by Region Australian Bureau of Statistics



LOCAL JOBS (2021/2022) - 960

Up from 867 in 2017/2018

2023 NIER State of the Regions Economic Indicators



ANNUAL CHANGE IN LOCAL JOBS +1.04%

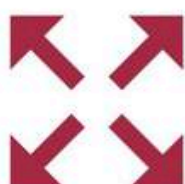
Regional NSW 1.02%

2023 NIER State of the Regions Economic Indicators



EMPLOYED RESIDENTS (2021/2022) - 1,020

2023 NIER State of the Regions Economic Indicators



LARGEST INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT (2021, PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER) - AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING 33.9%

Data by Region Australian Bureau of Statistics



EMPLOYMENT STATUS

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27.9% worked part-time (NSW 29.7%)
3.1% (31 people) were Unemployed (NSW 4.9%)
6.0% were away from work (NSW 10.2%)



PARTICIPATION IN LABOUR FORCE

In the labour force: 56.4% (NSW 58.7%)
Not in the labour force: 27.9% (NSW 35.5%)
Not stated: 15.3% (NSW 5.9%)



TOTAL NUMBER OF BUSINESSES (2021/2022) - 319

Data by Region Australian Bureau of Statistics



BUSINESS ENTRIES (2021/2022) - 34 BUSINESS EXITS (2021/2022) - 28

Data by Region Australian Bureau of Statistics



NUMBER OF BUSINESSES BY INDUSTRY (2021/2022)

Agriculture (165),
Construction (26),
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (25),
Transport, Postal and warehousing (23)
Data by Region Australian Bureau of Statistics



NUMBER OF BUSINESSES WITH A TURNOVER OF \$5M OR MORE (2021/2022) - 16

Number of businesses with a turnover of \$2M to less than \$5M (2021/2022) - 21
Number of businesses with a turnover of \$200k to less than \$2M (2021/2022) - 141
Data by Region Australian Bureau of Statistics

Source: ABS Census Quickstats 2021

ADMINISTRATOR'S FOREWORD

Mr Mike Colreavy

M LG & Env Law; B Bus; B Leg S; ALGA; FLGPA



Following a public inquiry in 2019, I was appointed as Council's Administrator by the NSW Governor on 29 January 2020.

In her Public Inquiry Report, Commissioner Roslyn McCulloch had recommended that:

- 1.** All civic offices at Balranald Shire Council be declared vacant, effective immediately.
- 2.** An Administrator be appointed until the ordinary Council elections scheduled for 2024.
- 3.** The Administrator to ensure the completion of the Implementation Plan approved by the Minister on 19 December 2017, in relation to:
 - a reliable long-term financial plan
 - ensuring the Balranald caravan park produces realistic income with minimum risk to the Council
 - continued rates review to ensure equity and income maximisation
 - the possibility of an SRV for mines and solar farms
 - a developer contributions plan for all development types
 - community engagement and awareness
- 4.** Prior to the next ordinary Council election involving Balranald Shire Council, that an information session for prospective candidates be conducted to provide information about the obligations and burdens on future Councillors.
- 5.** An Administrator be appointed until the ordinary Council elections scheduled for 2024.
- 6.** Within three months of the next ordinary Council election involving Balranald Shire Council, that mandatory training be provided to each Councillor, including training relating to the Model Code of Conduct and the Model Code of Meeting Practice.

The initial years of BSC's period of administration were affected by emergence from a prolonged period of drought, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in 2022-2023 the worst floods in many years – all of which demanded extraordinary attention and remarkable effort at Council. Although these events were a major distraction to implementing the public inquiry recommendations listed above, significant progress was still made implementing requirements of the 2017 Performance Improvement Order imposed on Council. Twenty-eight actions had been completed at 30 June, 2024. Currently, there are still eleven actions outstanding. It is expected that five of these will be completed by the end of December 2024, leaving six outstanding actions at 31 December 2024. It is anticipated that these six remaining actions will be completed by 30 June 2025.

Although Council has updated its 10-year Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) it is not yet linked to Asset Management Plans. There needs to be more work undertaken on the Asset Management Plans and links A fresh LTFP will be developed as part of the next round of Integrated Planning and Reporting that will commence from October 2024.

Options for future management of the Balranald Caravan Park have been considered and Council has determined to run it under in-house management for the time being. A draft masterplan has been prepared but this requires careful reconsideration before any commitment is made to it since the projected costs are excessive and not justifiable.

The incoming governing body needs to carefully assess the viability of the Bidgee Haven Hostel before committing to any form of upgrades. I have resisted proceeding with the proposed upgrade from 15 to 30 beds due to my doubts about its ongoing viability.

The Special Rate Variation (SRV) granted in 2018-2019 has reached the end of its approved timeframe. Council is still looking at the possibility of SRVs for mines and solar farms approved or planned and needs to determine a position on this by June 2025.

A Development Contribution Plan was adopted in May 2024 and Council recently agreed to a revised voluntary planning agreement with Iluka Resources, the first major development to occur during the period of administration, with more developments anticipated in the future.

The establishment and operation of our advisory committees delivered close community engagement across their respective portfolios. Around fifty people participated in these committees. Council publishes a regular newsletter, frequent media releases, and has a regular information timeslot on commercial radio.

Ahead of the October 2024 Council election, two information sessions for prospective candidates were conducted in both Balranald and Euston to provide information about the obligations and burdens on future Councillors.

Mandatory training has been arranged to be provided to each Councillor after the 2024 Council election, including training relating to the Model Code of Conduct and the Model Code of Meeting Practice.

The drought, floods, and the pandemic delivered unprecedented levels of natural disaster and economic stimulus funding from the State and Commonwealth Governments for which I was extremely grateful, especially when the grant funding contributed significantly to keeping the local economy alive in tough economic times, mostly through new infrastructure, and through extensive reinstatement and renewals. While access to this funding was advantageous to Council, it was very challenging to scale up and deliver the necessary programs.



From a governance, financial, and asset management perspective, obstacles to the restoration of an elected governing body at the forthcoming local government election have been removed. Council will finish off the 2023/2024 financial year with another healthy surplus, growing cash reserves, and in a relatively sound financial position. While there will always be financial challenges, the incoming governing body will inherit a stable financial platform as their starting point.



New infrastructure projects are coming to fruition around the Shire now. There are some projects/plans in the pipeline with no binding commitment yet. They include possible extension of the Bidgee Haven Hostel, possible redevelopment of the Balranald Caravan Park, and consideration of an Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan. Council is urged to adopt a risk management approach when considering these and to ensure that reliable business cases support the relevant projects before committing.

My term of office will cease upon the declaration of the Council election to occur in early October 2024. The earnest interest and support that I constantly received from local people from all parts of the Shire throughout the period of administration was greatly appreciated. I particularly acknowledge the valuable support and advice that I received from Council's advisory committees upon which I relied heavily. They contributed significantly to BSC's successes over my term at Council.

A governing body of eight new Councillors will take my place from October 2024, with the future looking bright. I would like to wish the newly elected council all the best with their future deliberations.

I wish to thank everyone else connected to Balranald Shire Council for making me welcome, and for their collaboration with me and Council during my time as Administrator. I extend my best wishes to everyone across BSC's widespread communities for a very prosperous future.

Again, I want to thank Council's workforce for their tireless commitment to the local service levels.

Farewell & Thank You.

Mike Colreavy
ADMINISTRATOR

ABOUT THE BALRANALD SHIRE ADMINISTRATOR

On Wednesday 29 January 2020, the Governor of New South Wales appointed Mr Michael Colreavy as the Administrator of the Balranald Shire Council. Mr Colreavy replaced the elected Mayor and Councillors whose offices were declared vacant by the NSW Governor. Mr Colreavy has been appointed for a term of more than four years, which will conclude at the next local government elections in September 2024.

Mr Colreavy's appointment provides independent leadership with priorities to:

- Restore good governance in cooperation with the Balranald Shire Council Executive Team
- Restore good relationships with the community
- Ensure that the community's voice is heard and represented

In the **2023/2024** financial year, under Administration, Council held 12 Ordinary Meetings. Meetings are generally held at the Council Chambers every third Tuesday of the month (except January

Council meetings are open to the public, except in circumstances where matters require confidentiality due to legal or commercial-in-confidence matters. Business papers are made available on Council's website at:

<https://balranald.nsw.gov.au/business/council-documents/council-agenda/>

Payments for the Administrator were as follows:

Expense Category	Amount
Salary	\$ 123,809
Accommodation & Away from Home Allowance	\$ 810.64
Telephone	\$ 301.64
Meeting Expenses	\$ 7,791.96
TOTAL	\$132,713.24

Growing Business, Industry & Tourism

Strategic Focus:

- Represent the Shire community to encourage equitable access to the benefits of economic development and industry growth (includes identifying opportunities for increased local employment and local training needs to ensure improved employment options for residents)
- Maintain a Tourism Asset Portfolio to ensure the preservation and/or development of natural, heritage/cultural and built assets (sites), historic stories and narratives
- Assist with the establishment of new tourism events and the development of existing tourism events.
- Assist Council with investment attraction and tourism promotion
- Organise Business after dark events (as per Business Chamber and BEC topics/initiatives)
- Support infrastructure and event grant funding prioritisation and applications
- Actively seek and develop small business – industry synergy/ partnerships
- Develop a term and annual (or biennial) Action Plan to guide Advisory Committee priorities and actions
- Establish and nurture a volunteership of members (both from committee and community) to resource on-the-ground activity for tourism development
- Actively support and collaborate with the Euston Progressive Committee for business and tourism promotion and development



Achievements

- Continued research and investigations into establishing a Community Foundation in preparation for funds from the Renewable Energy and mining proponents
- Key in conducting ongoing research and increasing Council's knowledge base on the South West REZ renewable energy and mining projects and activities.
- Two new members join the committee during the reporting year
- Active in progressing the Discovery Centre/ Visitor Information Centre
- Supported the reintroduction of the bike hire at the Discovery Centre which will be reintroduced after the construction of the new pavilion at Visitor Information Centre and the Discovery Centre precinct upgrade
- The committee's Chair attended (online) the Gippsland New Energy Conference to obtain more information on the community impact, social licence and legacy
- Participated in the Drought Resilience Planning workshop
- Key advocacy group for the replacement of the Balranald Low Level Weir
- Recommended that new businesses in town be featured in Council Shire's newsletter Future Industry Workforce Forum
- Helped to progress the Riverside Trail & Loop project
- Key instigators and advocates of progressing the development of a shire-wide Housing Strategy



Achievements (cont.)

- Participated in the Economic Development Strategy discussion group
- The Chair attended the Cross-Border Future Industry Workforce Forum
- Supported Council's Business XChange initiative
- Provided input throughout the development of the Balranald Caravan Park Masterplan
- Provided Letters of Support for tourism/economic development related grant applications
- Provided ongoing input towards the development of Council's Destination Management Plan

Guest Speakers during the reporting year included:

- Boyde Darvill, Latrobe Valley Authority
- Bill Mundy, Federation University
- Andrew Pomeroy, Wellington Shire Council
- Rachael Williams, Local Logic Place
- James Maguire, Senior Environmental Water Management Officer (Murrumbidgee, Yanco/Billabong)

Key Projects on the GBITAC Rolling Action Plan as at the 30th June 2024 include:

- Addressing Housing Challenges/Housing Strategy
- Reopening the Trade Training Center at the BCS
- Upgrade of the Ben Scott Memorial Trail and the development of a shire-wide bird trail
- Addressing the current and future employment challenges
- Development of a Splash Park
- New Town Entry Signs in both Balranald and Euston
- Development of a Heritage & Cultural Plan
- Address Council's town maintenance challenges
- Development of festivals and events to attract visitation
- Development of the Frog Sculptures Trail - Add to the current sculptures
- Community Garden
- Big Industry Tourism
- Indigenous Cultural Tourism
- Riverside Restaurant
- Reactivate Bike Hire at the VIC and development of a town bike track
- Upgrade of shop front facades
- Welcoming pack for new businesses
- Geo Caching project

Strengthening Community Access, Inclusion & Well-Being

Strategic Focus:

- Map & monitor provision of health, well-being and connection/inclusion services and programs
- Plan and advocate regarding closing service gaps and increasing equitable access
- Support and promote community knowledge of, and access to, all available services
- Provide a platform for increased coordination and collaboration of health, well-being and connection services and programs (both local and visiting)
- Identify and promote inclusion of community diversity and events and programs which celebrate diversity
- Develop a term and annual (or biennial) Action Plan to guide Advisory Committee priorities and actions
- Assist Council with decisions regarding infrastructure, service and program growth and advocacy within mandate



Achievements

- Investigated the Out of School Hours Care service (OSHC) gap remediation
- Instigated and supported activities in the recruitment of a new GP when it was announced that Balranald's long time GP was leaving
- Advocated for solutions to the Early Childhood Education and Care challenges that arose during the reporting year
- Supported the application for funding for the delivery of the URSTRONG and MESH programs into the local schools
- Continued activities with the development of a Service Directory
- Worked with Council's project manager on the refurbishment of the Emergency Accommodation facility as part of the ORG Community Development Funding received by Council
- Developed the Balranald Emergency Accommodation Model (BEAM) for the management of the Emergency Accommodation facility
- Staged the October 2023 Services Expo in conjunction with Maari Ma Balranald as part of the ORG Mental Health Training grant funding
- Recommended Reconciliation Action Plan be included in the next Community Strategic Plan
- Recommended that Council become an accredited White Ribbon organisation
- Commenced discussions regarding mental health initiatives
- Commenced the recruitment of a Project Officer as part of the ORG Mental Health First Aid Training Funding

PHOTO: The staff participants of the MESH & URSTRONG training funded by the the Children and Young People Wellbeing and Recovery Initiative grant received by Council. The application was initiated by the SCAIW Advisory Committee



Achievements (cont.)

- Participated in the Drought Resilience Planning workshop
- Initiated conversations and investigations into the risk of reduced operations or possible closure of the Balranald Early Learning Centre
- Provided information to the Department of Regional NSW as part of their research to understand community needs relating to early childhood development

Guest Speakers during the reporting year included:

- Greg Perrett, Director of Regional Futures
- Meredith Harrison, Regional Coordination Manager
- Hodi Beauliv, Economic Development & Coordination Manager for Regional NSW
- Peter Broadhurst, General Manager with Aspire
- Luke Passfield & Murray Benton, Senior Regional Insights Team, Corporate and Performance Department of Regional NSW



PHOTOS: A few photos of the Emergency Accommodation Housing Upgrade a key project of the SCAIW Advisory Committee during the 2023/2024 year.

Balranald Beautification Strategic Focus:

- Represent Shire communities in a coordinated and considered approach to town beautification
- Collaborate in the planning of larger beautification efforts to ensure consistent focus and branding
- Develop a term and annual (or biennial) Action Plan to guide Advisory Committee priorities and actions
- Assist Council with decisions regarding infrastructure, service and program growth and advocacy within mandate



PHOTOS (Above) are some of the large and attractive Christmas decorations purchased by the Balranald Beautification Advisory Committee & the Euston Advisory Committee to beautify the two towns during the Christmas period.



Achievements

- Progressed forward the Windmill project along with Council's Community Projects, Tourism & Economic Development Coordinator. The windmill was mended and will be ready for installation after the extension build at the Discovery Centre precinct. The installation site has been allocated and the interpretive signage has been designed.
- Recommended the installation an Emergency Access Gate that leads in the walking trails on the Common side of the River
- Recommended the installation of the permanent bin near the gate that leads into the walking trails on the Common side of the River
- Purchased Christmas Decorations for the Balranald community with their committee allocated budget
- Purchased seating for the cemetery with their 2023-2024 allocated committee funds
- Recommendation that the gates at ANZAC
- Instigated and funded (committee funds) the Trimming and pruning of trees along Market Street, Balranald
- Recommended that watering system on Market Street be reviewed/upgraded
- Instigated the maintenance of the White Crosses at the cemetery
- Support Council staff in decorating the Christmas Tree allocated at the Discovery Centre



Achievements (cont.)

- Instigated for all Emergency Services to access the Emergency Gate enabling access to the walking trails in an emergency

Projects on BBAC's Rolling Action Plan as at the 30th June 2024 include:

- Shed at the cemetery for the chairs that were purchased
- Enhancement of the riverbend project
- Signage audit across Balranald
- Screen around the gas bottles at the Balranald Discovery Centre
- Addition of more frog sculptures as part of the current Funky Frog Sculpture Trail
- Installation of a Rotunda at the Theatre Royal
- Review shading at the Discovery Centre precinct after the extension project is completed
- Splash Park at the Swimming Pool complex
- Street Art to attract visitor to stop
- Review landscaping at the Discovery Centre precinct after the extension project is completed
- Review disability parking and access along the main Street (Market Street & business district)

The Willow Vale Windmill

The Willow Vale Windmill is a 6ft Southern Cross head on a 20ft tower. Both were purchased from Les Bodinnar of Balranald and erected by Lyndon Duryea, also of Balranald in 1950. The windmill worked effectively for almost 50 years providing domestic water to the Gorman family of "Willow Vale" Balranald.

The windmill drew water from a 3000 yard water storage tank that was filled with rainwater running off surrounding terrain. It was constructed by Hughie Smith and his son Harold. They used a team of 6 horses to pull a "Tumbling Tommy" scoop that Harold walked behind to operate the scoop control ropes.

In 1968 the windmill finished it's working life but remained a fixture on the northern horizon for many years. In 2022 it was donated by the Hawkins family to display at the Balranald Discovery Centre precinct.





PHOTO: Design of the Willow Vale Windmill interpretive sign in readiness for construction and installation at the Discovery Centre precinct

Euston Progressive Strategic Focus:

- Provide the Euston community a platform through which to connect with Council in the absence of elected representatives
- Advocate for the Euston community identified areas of interest and priority
- Develop a term and annual (or biennial) Action Plan to guide Advisory Committee priorities and actions
- Collaborate regularly with Business, Industry, Tourism Committee to ensure a whole-of-Shire approach is taken on tourism, beautification and economic development

Reggie



Regent Parrot



Euston, NSW

Regent Parrot



Euston, NSW



Achievements

- The established key items for their Rolling Action Plan – key actions to move Euston forward
- Established the Regent Parrot branding for Euston
- Worked with Council's Community Projects, Tourism & Economic Development Coordinator along with Adrian Wells from Pretaurus re the Regent Parrot project and interpretive signage along the river walking trail
- Instigated a range of Euston Town Approach signage as part of the LRCI Round 2 funding
- Established the tourism branding logo for Euston
- Recommended new footbaths from the Euston roundabout to river walk
- Supported the Works Schedule for the LRCI4 Funding for the Euston Recreation Reserve upgrade
- Instigated new Defibrillator to be installed at the Euston Recreation Reserve
- Instigated the following projects which are now in progress:
 - Euston Netball Change Rooms & public toilets Upgrade & lighting to the Euston Netball Courts (SSCF 4 funding)
 - Euston Multicourt upgrade and shade shelter (LRCI 3)
 - Euston Recreation Reserve Upgrade (LRCI4)
- Participated in the Drought Resilience Planning workshop
- Instigated the Kilpatrick Road project which is currently in progress
- Instigated review of the maintenance of the Euston Courthouse on behalf of the Euston Historical Society
- Instigated the multi-purpose tennis courts project to be constructed at the Euston Club riverfront. The concrete base was constructed during the reporting period from the Euston Club's Club Grant funding



Achievements (cont.)

- Instigated the town entry signage and beautification project which is currently in progress
- Provided support in the delivery of the 2023 Great Murray River Salami Festival held in Euston
- Participated in the Economic Development Strategy discussion group
- Instigated the review of traffic calming measures for Bertram & Taylor Roads

Projects on EPAC's Rolling Action Plan as at the 30th June 2024 include:

- Regent Parrot Branding Project
- Regent Parrot/Riverwalk Project with Pretaurus
- Eucalyptus Oil Factory as part of the history/heritage context of Euston
- Council support of the Great Murray River Salami Festival (marketing, funding and sustainability)
- Upgrade of the Walking/Bike Trail from Euston to the Robinvale Bridge
- Euston Visitor Guide and Map Pad
- Euston Branded Merchandise
- Eco Trails - Euston to the the Weir Trail
- Eco Trails - Euston State Forest Eco Trail
- Upgrade of Anderson Playground (Shade Shelter) and potential new playgrounds
- Upgrade of Warf and accessibility to houseboats
- Painting of the Water Tower with the Regent Parrot artwork
- New Noticeboard & Advertising Boards (Digital)
- Euston as part of the FSW Heritage & Cultural Trail project
- Euston as part of a shire-wide First Nations Cultural & Heritage Trail (Interpretive Signage)
- Ongoing support of the Robinvale Euston Workforce Network (REWN)
- Prungle Road

COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

1. Council Highlights

- Council hosted 2 Grant writing workshops, one in Balranald on the 10th July and the other in Euston on the 11th July 2023 to support local businesses and community groups to source grant funding opportunities and to write their own grant funding applications
- Balranald Council Library increased its opening hours from 3 days to 5 days a week
- At the 18th July 2023 Ordinary Council meeting Council resolved to adopt the Settlement Strategies of Balranald and Euston
- Throughout the year Council advertised Project EnergyConnects' construction timeline and activities in reference to the 700km of new power lines from the SA border to the regional energy hub of Wagga Wagga
- In August 2023 Council hired Adrian Edgcome-Lucas as the Interim Director of Infrastructure & Planning. When this role was officially filled in March 2024, Adrian became Council's contracted Project Manager to ensure the delivery and completion of key grant funded projects across the shire
- Throughout the year Council worked with Renewable Energy proponents who are vying to establish in the area and connect to the South West REZ grid. Council was supportive in promoting various community drop-in information sessions by proponents to keep the community informed and engaged.
- In October 2023 Council hosted a Small Business dinner event named "Small Business and the Visitor Economy" which focused on the importance of Small Business in the Visitor Economy and included guest speakers from the tourism & business industries.
- Council supported and attended the book launch "La Famiglia Matarazzo" at the Gallery. This book has been written and illustrated by four students from Balranald Central School – Kayla Harding, Camden Matarazzo, Lilian Matarazzo and Anna Scoleri. It documents the history of 'LaFamiglia Matarazzo' - four generations of the Matarazzo family. The project was coordinated by the Pretaurus Education Group and funded by the NSW Government through the Stronger Country Communities Fund.



PHOTO: Back row: Previous BSC General Manager, Craig Bennett, Administrator Mike Colreavy, Camden, Lilian, Charlie, Joe, Veny, Hamish and Nadine Matarazzo. Front row: Pretaurus Project Officer, Bronwyn Hicks & teacher Fleur Cullenward



PHOTO: Book authors and illustrators - Kayla Harding, Anna Scoleri, Camden Matarazzo and Lilian Matarazzo

- Council promoted a series of courses, workshops and surveys throughout the reporting year including Sport-related Concussion Short Course, PDCN Courses (Physical Disability Council of NSW), Australian Farm Crime Survey 2023, Women's Resilience Centre Employment Readiness Sessions, Euston Public School Regent Parrot Program, Helping Learner Drivers become Safer Drivers Online Workshop, Rural Recovery Support Service Workshop, Local Lands Services Feral Pig Management Workshop, Fire Service Instruction Session
- Council held the Christmas Light Competition once again in December 2023. The wonderful winners were:
1st Prize: Lucas and Lennie Griffiths; 2nd Prize: Hines Children; 3rd Prize: Natalie Hussy
- Balranald Shire Council and Wentworth Shire Council worked together in developing a Regional Drought Resilience Plan. A series of community consultation workshops and surveys was conducted between October 2023 and February 2024
- In October 2023 Council hosted a Small Business dinner event named "Small Business and the Visitor Economy" which focused on the importance of Small Business in the Visitor Economy.
- During the reporting year Council installed automatic defibrillators at the Balranald Swimming Pool and at the Euston Recreation Reserve. These were additional to the ones that had already been installed at various venues across the shire.
- In January 2024 Council funded and supported the staging of both the Balranald and Euston Australia Day events.
- In February 2024 Council welcomed two new Directors to the team, Mr Glenn Carrol as Director of Governance, Business and Community Services and David McKinley as Director of Infrastructure and Planning Services.



PHOTO: The winning house of the Christmas Lights Competition: Lucas & Lennie Griffiths

- In January 2024 Stacey Armstrong held the Royal Life Saving Swimming Lessons at the Balranald Swimming Pool. There were 47 kids involved over the 10 days, ranging from 10 months to 11 years of age. This program is available for children aged from aged 6 months until 12 years old
- In February 2024 Council commenced its Community Consultation for the development of its Economic Development Strategy. The final draft of the plan was completed in June 2024.
- In March 2024 Council hosted a visit from the Governor of NSW' Her Excellency Margaret Beazley along with her husband Mr Dennis Wilson. Her Excellency visited Mungo National Park, Tronox Atlas Mine, Clare Public School students and parents, The Discovery Centre precinct and the upgraded Balranald Interpretive Pavilion, Cadell Almond Farm and the Kyalite Progress Association at the Kyalite Community Pub.
- In April 2024 Council participated in three (3) ANZAC Day events in the Shire. These were held in Kyalite, Balranald and Euston
- In May 2024 Council ran two Candidate Awareness Programs one in Balranald and the other in
- During the reporting year Balranald Shire welcomed 5 (five) new Citizens in Euston and 1 (one) in Balranald. Christopher, Arljille, Austin, Cyjille and Luhjille Villegas of Euston and Tommy Tan of Balranald. Each were presented with a Certificate and gold coin or an Australian Book



PHOTO (top): New citizens Christopher, Arljille, Austin, Cyjille and Luhjille Villegas of Euston

PHOTO (right): New citizen Tommy Tan of Balranald with his family



2. Events

Within the 2023/2024 reporting period, Council staged and/or supported through funding and/or paid promotions the following events:

- Comedy Night at Euston
- Film screening of the film “Watandar”
- The Small Business Dinner titled “Small Business & the Visitor Economy
- The Candidate Awareness Program events in Balranald and Euston
- The Services Expo (organised by Mari Ma Balranald & funded by Council via the ORC Community Benefit Fund
- The Great Murray River Salami Festival
- The Sounds & Scribbles Youth Festival
- Balranald Southern Cross 90th Anniversary of the Southern Cross Landing in Balranald
- The Balranald Races
- Art Exhibitions at the Balranald Gallery
- The Stop Shop Stay Market Day - Buy Local Christmas Event
- Australia Day Events in Balranald and Euston
- The Kyalite Fishing Classic
- The Balranald Murrumbidgee Fishing Classic
- The Robinvale Euston Ski Race
- The Balranald Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Sunday Market
- The Homebush Rodeo
- The Business XChange event
- Heartland Performance Event with William Barton & Veronique Serret
- Youth Week & Youth Holiday Programs



PHOTOS (above): A few photos from the Sounds & Scribbles Youth Festival held in December 2023

PHOTOS: The Great Murray River Salami Festival - November 2023



PHOTOS: Stop, Shop, Stay Market Day - December 2023



PHOTOS: Australia Day - January 2024



AUSTRALIA DAY 2024 - AWARD RECIPIENTS - BALRANALD & EUSTON

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR: Heather Mitchell; **SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR:** Hannah Morton;

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Helen Dalton and the Balranald Can Assist Branch;

COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR: BFNC - Can Assist Footy Weekend;

SPORTING TEAM OF THE YEAR: Balranald A Grade Netball Team; Balranald Senior Football Team;

YOUNG CITIZEN AWARD: Kaitley Amy; **YOUNG SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR:** Brandon Bulzomi (Euston).
Ryan Johnstone (Balranald).

PHOTOS: Easter Egg Hunt - April 2024



3. Tourism & Economic Development Highlights

Over the 2023/2024 year we continued to attract travellers and visitors to our shire with a consistent stream of visitors coming to the Discovery Centre precinct and Visitor Information Centre which provided our high performing tourism service staff the opportunity to persuade travelers to stay longer and spend within our towns and shire. The tourism department continued to push our destination marketing messages across the digital and social media platforms with outstanding results in audience reach, impressions and audience engagement. During the April to June 2024 quarter the department achieved a new milestone of over 1 million people in our social media audience reach and impressions. During the year we escalated our Economic Development activities to address both the emerging opportunities and challenges Council is and will be facing in the area.

Snapshot of Activities & Performance

MEDIUM/MEDIA	CONTENT/PERFORMANCE
Visitor Walk-In at the VIC	There was an average of 4,000 per quarter that visited the Balranald Visitor Information Centre with a 43% increase in the last quarter compared to previous quarters
Merchandise Sales at the VIC	There was an average of \$18.000 of merchandise sales per quarter at the Balranald Visitor Information Centre with a 38% increase in the last quarter compared to previous quarters
Social Media Audience Reach & Impressions (with targeted audiences) Reach: The number of people who saw our posts at least once Impressions: The number of times our posts were seen on screen	Our social media performance was exceptional throughout the year achieving a milestone by surpassing a million audience reach & impressions in the last quarter of the year. In total gained a total of 4,255,820 audience reach and impressions over the year with an average of 1,063,955 per quarter.
Social Media Audience Engagement (Comments, likes, shares)	We gained a total of 402,038 people engaging with our promotional posts throughout the year with an average of 100,510 people per quarter
Bookings & Enquiries	We generated a total of 4,618 enquiries throughout the year with an average of 1,155 enquiries per quarter

MEDIUM/MEDIA

Media Promotions



The full page advert & Flyer for the Sounds & Scribbles Youth Festival



The full page advert & Flyer for the Easter Events in the Shire

CONTENT/PERFORMANCE

- During the 2023/2024 financial year we had a **full page advertisement** plus a **full page editorial** in both the Autumn and Spring editions of **Caravanning Australia**
- We ran a series of multi-media promotions for the Candidate Awareness Program including:
 - 6 X Half Page adverts in the Guardian
 - 120 x 30second Ads with 3SH & MIXX FM
 - 3 X Half Page adverts in the Hay Grazier
 - 3 X Half Page Adverts in the Robinvale Sentinel
 - Shire-wide mail drop
 - Social Media postings
- We ran a series of multi-media promotional and marketing activities to promote shopping in Balranald for Christmas via the Shop, Stop, Stay Market Day event. This included:
 - Print Media adverts in various publications with QR codes linked to a web landing page promoting al our local retailers and business operators and their Christmas offerings;
 - A series of 30 second Radio commercials over a 3 weeks period;
 - Social Media promotional posts;
 - Promotional flyer to Shire households via direct mail;
 - Council's Corporate & Tourism Websites; and
 - Advert in Council's Newsletter
- We ran a series of multi-media promotional and marketing activities to promote the Sounds & Scribbles Youth Festival event including radio advertising, print media, social media and direct mail.
- We ran a series of multi-media promotional and marketing activities during the first week of April to promote the Easter events. The media and mediums used included:
 - 2 x Full page Advert in the Guardian;
 - A series of 90X30 second Radio commercials;
 - Social Media promotional posts;
 - Flyer to Shire households via direct mail;
 - Council's Corporate & Tourism Websites; and
 - Council's Newsletter

MEDIUM/MEDIA

Media Promotions (cont.)



STOP, SHOP, STAY
DISCOVER BALRANALD
MARKET DAY!
Balranald NSW | Wednesday 20th December

- **LOTS of CHRISTMAS SPECIALS** from our local business operators across the town. Lots of gift options for Christmas!
- **LIVE RADIO BROADCAST** at Balranald with 3SH/MIXXFM @10am - 2pm outside the Senior Citizen's Hall - 106 Market Street, Balranald
- **COMPETITION DRAW:** Make a purchase in any shop between 10am - 1.45pm & bring your docket to the broadcasting area & go in a draw for a voucher valued at **\$250** to be redeemed in any shop of your choice **within the Balranald Shire**. Winner announced at 2.00pm
- **ROVING ENTERTAINER TIM TIM** will be roaming the streets entertaining shoppers and children with his special kind of magic!
- **FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE** will be sizzling from **11.00am** in front of **Meat on Market**, 105A Market St, Balranald
- **MUSIC** to make your shopping extra enjoyable!
- **GRAB A BITE** at one of our eateries during & after shopping!
- **STAY** a night or two if you're travelling through and visit some of the shire's popular attractions!
- Contact the Visitor Information Centre **03 5020 1599**

The full page advert & Flyer for the Easter Events in the Shire



The double full page spread featured in the Caravanning Australia magazine's Autumn 2024 edition. The double page spread included a full page advert and full page editorial.

CONTENT/PERFORMANCE

During the April-June 2024 quarter, we took part of a special promotional campaign with the **Australian Traveller Magazine** to coincide with **Mungo National Park** being featured in the magazine as one of the **100 Aussie Wonders**.

Apart from the full page advert, the promotional package also included advert on the **Australian Traveller social media platforms, banners on their website** and Electronic Direct Mail (EDM) campaign.



The full page advert in the Australian Traveller to coincide with Mungo National Park being featured in the magazine.



Mungo National Park being featured in the Traveller Magazine as one of the 100 Aussie Wonders

MEDIUM/MEDIA

Economic Development & Tourism related workshops, forums, plans & activities



The Cross-Border Future Industry Workforce Forum



The Small Business Dinner hosted by Council's Tourism & Economic Development Department

CONTENT/PERFORMANCE

The economic development & tourism related workshops, forums, plans & activities the department was involved in included:

- Carrying out activities in the development of our Regional Drought Resilience Plan in partnership with Wentworth Shire Council
- During the reporting year we carried out activities in the development of our Economic Development Strategic Plan
- Attendance at the FER Industry Forum Planning Session
- Robinvale Euston Business Association (REBA) monthly meetings
- Staging of the Small Business Dinner Event
- Riverina Economic Development Officers Online Meetings
- Riverina Tourism Working Group – Online Meetings
- Flood Recovery Tourism Working Group – Online Meetings
- Proposed Euston Wind Farm – Introductions
- Attendance at the 'Beyond Bricks & Mortar' Housing Forum
- Sponsored and attended the Cross-Border Future Industry Workforce Forum
- Regional Development Australia Murray (RDA Murray) workshops and meetings
- Robinvale Euston Workforce Network (REWN) meetings and workshops
- Riverina Economic Development Officers online meetings
- Riverina Tourism Working Group online meetings
- South West REZ webinars
- 6 weekly Destination NSW Riverina Murray Online meetings
- NSW Visitor Economy Review Workshop
- NSW AVIconnect meeting

MEDIUM/MEDIA

Destination & Visitor Economy Conference in Wagga Wagga



CONTENT/PERFORMANCE

In May 2024 Council's we attended the Destination & Visitor Economy Conference in Wagga Wagga NSW. It was a wonderful opportunity not only to learn the latest trends and opportunities in the tourism and the visitor economy sector but also to connect with key stakeholders, government agencies and with personnel and colleagues from our neighbouring and regional LGAs.

Events Calendar



Photos above is from the Homebush Rodeo one of the events promoted via the Calendar of Events

During the reporting year we produced regular calendar of events which were released on community social media platforms, in Council's Newsletter and Council's website. Events promoted included:

- Comedy Night at Euston
- Film Screening of the film Watandar
- Naidoc Film Screening
- Mallee Almond Blossom Festival
- BFNC Roo Ball
- MaryMac in the Outback play
- Balranald Craft Group Quilting Weekend
- 80s Themed Disco at the Club
- Balranald Field & Game September Shoot
- St Dympna's Youth Night
- Shattered Glass Mosaic Workshop
- Being the Best You Workshop
- Poker Run event
- Small Business Dinner
- Balranald Races
- Beats at the Bend event
- Great Murray River Salami Festival
- Sounds & Scribbles Youth Festival
- Robinvale Euston Christmas Carnival
- Art Exhibition – "Just A Little Exhibition"
- Happy Health Families – Balranald Maari Ma events
- Euston Robinvale Historical Society Open Day;
- An evening with John Wood at the Balranald Club;
- St Joseph's Annual Christmas Fete;
- Shop Stop Stay Market Day Christmas Event
- Balranald Auxiliary Christmas Stall event
- Balranald Community Carols event
- Australia Day events in Balranald & Euston
- Artworks by Prowse at the Balranald Art Gallery
- Murrumbidgee Fishing Classic
- Kyalite Fishing Classic
- The Homebush Rodeo
- Easter In Balranald Shire Events

4. Balranald Shire Library Happenings

The **2023/2024** financial year was a very successful year for The Balranald Shire. The library delivered many new experiences and successful range of activities during the year including the following:



Throughout the year completed Library Infrastructure 1 projects and commenced Library Infrastructure 2 projects



Held an event for elders for NAIDOC Week July 2023



Delivered children's activities for NAIDOC Week



Ran a series of children's activities – Holiday Program in July 2023



Hosted a puppet making show session in July with South West Arts



Organised for assessments to be conducted by KipMcgrath in August 2023



Australian children's author Robyn Nell visited in August 2023



Celebrated Book Week in August 2023 with some cool activities for the children



Senior Citizen's visit to the Library in August 2023 – Sharing morning tea and stories



The Balranald Early Learning Centre's visit with a book reading with Council's GM in August 2023



Visit by Radio Presenter Mrs Jan Dale with PBS FM 106.7 Melbourne and author of "Chasing Music". She is also daughter of Jack Hull who's adventures brought him to Paika in 1923 who wrote a book "Yarns of Cowra Jack"



Ran a series of children activities – Holiday Program in September 2023



New covers for the chairs as part of the Library Infrastructure 1 funding (September 2023)



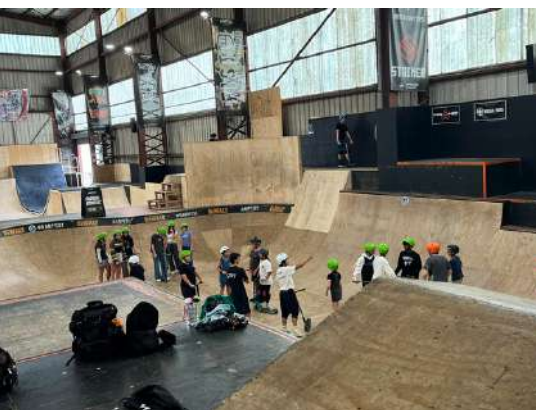
Special Arts Display by artist Logan Pascoe and Chat as part of September 2023 holiday program

-  The library supports community recycling and installed a battery, mobile, light and alarm recycling box inside the library
-  In November 2023 our Librarian visited the NSW State Library and gained lots of ideas!
-  Received funding by Sunraysia Solar Farm to paint murals outside the Library walls
-  The library supported student artwork – Paige Eames artwork
-  Delivered a series of children activities – Summer Holiday Program in January 2024
-  Staged the Pool movie night in January 2024
-  Organised and supervised the Rampfest Indoor Skatepark excursion January 2024
-  Skate Workshop at Balranald Skatepark in January
-  Throughout the year the Library held activities for local residents with a disability
-  Supported school-based training students
-  Commence the Book Tasting evening – Share a Book & Platter
-  Staged the Youth Week activities in May 2024



The Library was the happening place!



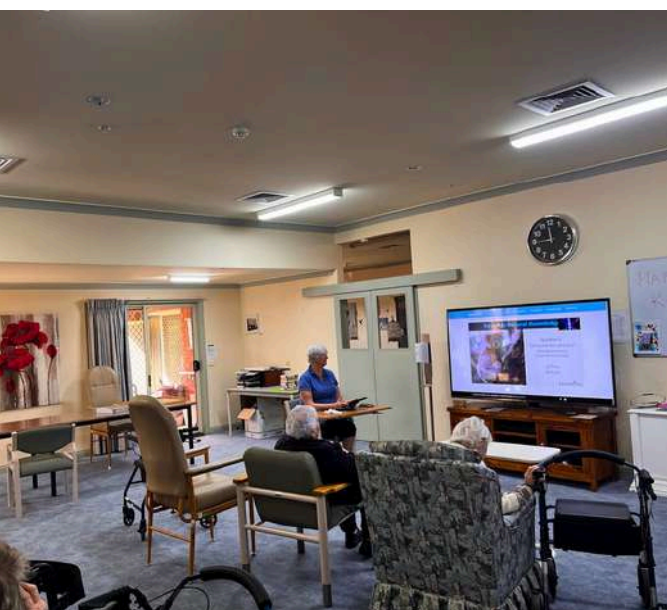


5. Bidgee Haven Happenings

The key happenings at the Bidgee Haven Hostel included:

- A BBQ lunch in April 2024 for the residents
- Recruiting activities throughout the 2023/2024 year
- The residents were invited to attend Australia's Biggest Morning Tea Hosted by Live Better Balranald
- Quizzes for the residents were introduced via the Smart TV
- Recruitment of Michelle Lightbody, The Lifestyle and Activities Coordinator
- Introduced new fun activities such as Ball Pong and Balloon Tennis for the residents
- Sharing of stories – Agnes and Father Pat both taught in Port Moresby
- Footpaths were replaced
- The Hostel Hosted Australia's Biggest Morning Tea in June 2024





THE INTEGRATED PLANNING & REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The Local Government Act 1993 (The Act) requires all Councils in NSW to operate within the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. This allows Council to draw their various plans together, understand how they interact and get the maximum leverage from their efforts by planning holistically for the future.



HOW WE DELIVER ON THE VISION

What you want / Vision



Your Community Strategic Plan (CSP)

Sitting above all other Council plans and policies in the planning hierarchy, the Community Strategic Plan identifies the main priorities and aspirations of the community and provides a clear set of strategies to achieve this vision.

While Council has a custodial role in preparing and maintaining the Community Strategic Plan, other stakeholders, including NSW Government agencies and community groups, may also be engaged in developing and delivering the long-term objectives of the Plan.

How we propose to deliver



Delivery Program

The Delivery Program translates the goals of the community, as contained in the Community Strategic Plan, into actions. The Program sets out the principal activities to be undertaken by Council in implementing the Plan within the resources available under the Resourcing Strategy.

What we propose to do



Operational Plan

Spelling out the details of the Delivery Program, the Operational Plan lists the individual projects and activities that will be undertaken for the year to achieve the commitments made in the Delivery Program.

Enabling delivery of the CSP



Resourcing Strategy

The Resourcing Strategy articulates how Council intends to deliver the Community Strategic Plan. The Strategy consists of three components:

- Long Term Financial Plan
- Workforce Management Plan
- Asset Management Plan



STRATEGIC PLAN

Balranald Shire's Community Strategic Plan

“Balranald Shire **Community Strategic Plan 2032** was released in February 2022. The plan was prepared in partnership with the community and taking into account their views and aspirations.

PILLAR 1

OUR LIFESTYLE

A community that maintains & beautifies its towns, improves access to services & promotes community safety

PILLAR 2

OUR COMMUNITY

A liveable community that focuses on community inclusion & wellbeing, innovates & improves services & activities, provides sport & recreation opportunities & encourages cultural & artistic expression

PILLAR 3

OUR ECONOMY

A thriving community that supports the expansion of local industries, nurtures local businesses and increases tourism & visitation to the area

PILLAR 4

OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

A community that maintains and improves its infrastructure, public buildings, facilities and Council assets

PILLAR 5

OUR ENVIRONMENT

A community that celebrates and promotes its unique environment, protects its water assets and manages its waste sustainably

PILLAR 6

OUR COUNCIL

A Council that develops its capabilities, engages and informs its community, is financially sustainable & maximises planning & partnerships

Each pillar has community strategic objectives that the Council aims to deliver on. The six pillars were developed after listening to the community. Values that were highly appreciated by the community are identified.

The **Community Vision Statement** expresses what the community aspires to become and what we value most about the area: **“In Balranald Shire we grow and develop our lifestyle, our services, our businesses, our infrastructure, our natural environment and our Council to support a thriving, resilient and engaged community.”**

The following outlines the strategic objectives from the Community Strategic Plan and a summary of what was achieved in **2023/2024** financial year under each strategic pillar.

THE SIX PILLARS - Objectives & Achievements

PILLAR 1. Our Lifestyle

A community that maintains & beautifies its towns, improves access to services & promotes community safety



Key Objectives

- Maintaining and beautifying our town centres
- Improving access to a diverse range of housing opportunities
- Improving local access to education and careers
- Promoting community safety



PHOTOS (Above) are some of the large and attractive Christmas decorations purchased by the Balranald Beautification Advisory Committee & the Euston Advisory Committee to beautify the two towns during Christmas.



Achievements

- The Riverfront Enhancement Eco Trail was completed during the year as part of the Our Region Our Rivers funding and included the completion of 1.9km Loop trail and interpretive signage
- The Kyalite Memorial Park Forshore Development project funded by the Community Building Partnership 2021 was completed and included solar lighting along the steps from the foreshore to the main street and Information Bay and Interpretive Signage
- Council's Beautification Committee instigated and funded (committee funds) the trimming and pruning of trees along Market Street Balranald
- The Beautification Advisory Committee also recommended that the watering system be reviewed/upgraded which was actioned.
- The Balranald Beautification Advisory Committee & Euston Advisory Committee purchased (committee funds) a number of large and attractive Christmas Decorations to beautify the main streets of Balranald and Euston during the Christmas period. T
- Street amenity services were conducted regularly throughout the year in both Balranald and Euston to keep our towns clean and attractive. Dates of street amenity services for both Balranald and Euston are published on social media and in Council's newsletter.
- Council staff attended the "Beyond Bricks & Mortar" Housing Forum held in Swan Hill for a regional perspective on the regional housing challenges and proposed solutions.



Achievements (cont.)

- Council has sought funding throughout the year to develop a Housing Strategy and remains high on Council's agenda
- Throughout the 2023/2024 year Council staff consistently worked with the Robinvale Euston Workforce Network (REWN) and is also part of the Cross-border Taskforce in addressing the workforce and education challenges in our region.
- Council committed to employing school-based trainees and supporting Balranald Central School with their school-based training programs.
- Council's library increased its services to 5 days a week during the year and now offers a "Tech Hub" facility as well as offering educational programs such as online training. Records show that there has been an increase in uptake in the online services provided
- The Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) met quarterly where Policing matters are discussed. Council also worked closely with the NSW Police in monitoring, reporting and responding to incidents.



PHOTO: The Balranald Shire Library increased its services to 5 days a week during the year and now offers a "Tech Hub" facility

PILLAR 2. Our Community

A liveable community that focuses on community inclusion & wellbeing, innovates & improves services & activities, provides sport & recreation opportunities & encourages cultural & artistic expression



Key Objectives

- Focus on community inclusion and wellbeing
- Innovate and improve community services, activities and events
- Provide opportunities for sport and recreation across the shire
- Encourage local culture and opportunities for artistic expression



PHOTOS: A few photos taken at the Balranald Health, Wellbeing & Support Services Expo 2023



Achievements

- Council's Strengthening Community Access, Inclusion & Well-Being Advisory Committee (SCAIWAC) has been successful in overseeing and delivering on health and wellbeing programs for the community.
- The Emergency Accommodation facility funded through the Office of Responsible Gambling funding was completed
- Funding received from the Office Of Responsible Gambling for the Mental Health First Aid Training grant funded the Services & Wellbeing Expo held in October 2023. The event was organised by Maari Ma Health Balranald with the support of SCAIWAC
- The SCAIWAC provided advice and recommendations in health and wellbeing issues and challenges that arose with the Balranald Shire communities
- Any new build and/or infrastructure upgrades that commenced during the year all physical access to everyone as part of the Disability Inclusion Plan
- Council's SCAIWAC worked closely throughout the year with Maari Ma Health Services and with Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Council to ensure that our Aboriginal community has access to health and wellbeing services and support
- Council supported regular and new events either by funding support and/or promoting the events.
- Council produced a fortnightly events calendar that was promoted via social media, Council's website, newsletter and weekly GM's radio interviews.
- Council's SCAIWAC and the Bidgee Haven committee provide ongoing reviews of Council's community services and facilities and made recommendations to Council



Achievements (cont.)

- SCAIWAC provided support and advocacy for improved childcare services.
- The Balranald Shire Council Library's infrastructure upgrades completed during the reporting year as well as increasing to 5 days a week which has enabled the availability of an increase in children's services including an IT Hub.
- The library ran a series of youth and children's programs after school and also runs a number of events and activities after school over school holidays
- The Balranald Shire Library delivered a number of services and programs throughout the year including:
 - JP NSW services
 - Seniors' technology sessions
 - Book tasting (book club)
 - Sureway Employment & Training (They work out of the Tec Hub once a week)
 - After school program
 - School Holiday Programs
 - Youth hub
 - Youth resume writing
 - Internet / free Wi-Fi
 - Historical research
 - Story time for youngsters/ Mums and bubs group
 - ESL support
 - Free Seed library
 - Free community food Bowl
 - Free book box x 2 in town and 1 in Euston
 - Online book borrowing – Borrow Box
 - Book drop support for residents unable to make the library
 - Support with Grant writing and submissions for community
 - Audio books to palliative care unit.
 - Community events when required
- Council **completed** the following upgrade of parks and sporting facilities throughout the year:
 - The concrete base for Euston's upcoming multi-purpose tennis court
 - The Euston Recreation Reserve Playground Upgrade (LRCI2)
 - New cricket pitch and cricket nets at Balranald
 - New pool fencing at the Balranald Public Pool
- Council **commenced** the upgrade/new construction of the following sporting parks and facilities:
 - Balranald's Lions Park
 - Euston's Recreation Reserve
 - Euston Netball Change Rooms and public toilets & Netball Courts lighting
 - Euston Oval Multicourt upgrade and Shade Shelter
 - Balranald Netball Courts upgrade and lighting
 - Construction of new Balranald Basketball Courts



Achievements (cont.)

- During the reporting year Council:
 - Commenced the Information Centre Upgrade/Extension and Discovery Centre precinct upgrade
 - Commenced the development of a Conservation Plan for the Euston Courthouse
- Council promoted all community arts and culture events and activities taking place across the shire via a fortnightly events calendar that is promoted via social media, Council's website, newsletter and weekly GM's radio interviews.



PHOTOS: Council promoted various art and cultural events and exhibitions that took throughout the reporting year via social media promotions, Council's newsletter and the GM's weekly radio interviews.

PILLAR 3. Our Economy

A thriving community that supports the expansion of local industries, nurtures local businesses and increases tourism & visitation to the area



Key Objectives

- Support the expansion of our local businesses
- Nurture local businesses
- Increase tourism and visitation to the area



Achievements

- The Growing Business, Industry & Tourism Advisory Committee held regular monthly meetings with recommendations made to and addressed by Council.
- The Euston Progressive Advisory Committee held regular monthly meeting with recommendations made to and addressed by Council.
- Council hosted a Small Business Dinner event titled “Small Business and the Visitor Economy” which focused on the importance of small business in the Visitor Economy and included guest speakers from the tourism and business industries. This was followed by a day of one-on-one training on how to access funding and support for small business.
- Council hosted its first “Business XChange catch-ups. These events will be a regular networking opportunity for businesses to exchange news, ideas and identifying ways to work together to grow the local economy.
- In February 2024 Council commenced its Community Consultation for the development of its Economic Development Strategy. The final draft of the plan was completed in June 2024.
- Council attended the monthly Robinvale Euston Business Association (REBA) monthly meetings.
- Completion of the Enhancements/Upgrade of the IT multi-media communications and displays at the Interpretive Pavilion to help increase visitation to the centre.



Achievements (cont.)

- In May 2023 Council's Tourism & Economic Development Coordinator attended the Destination & Visitor Economy Conference in Wagga Wagga NSW. It was a wonderful opportunity not only to learn the latest trends and opportunities in the tourism and the visitor economy.
- During the reporting year the Tourism & Economic Development department achieved outstanding results in promoting the Balranald Shire as a destination of choice to attract visitors to the region. These results were collated and submitted to Council via a quarterly report. A snapshot of the department's performance can be viewed in this report under "Council Happenings - Tourism & Economic Development Highlights".
- During the 2024/2024 financial year Council's Tourism & Economic Development Coordinator attended a number of regional economic and development workshops & meetings including:
 - Riverina Tourism Working Group
 - Riverina Economic Development Officers Online meetings
 - Attendance at the "Beyond Bricks & Mortar Housing Forum
 - Regional Australia Murray (RDA Murray) meetings and workshops
 - South West REZ webinars
 - NSW Visitor Economy Review Workshop
- In December 2023 Council sponsored and attended the Cross-Border Future Industry Workforce Forum
- In December 2023 Council funded (via the Reconnecting Regional NSW Events grant) the Stop, Shop Stay Market Day and marketing campaign which included an integrated strategy incorporating print media, radio adverts and social media promotions. It also included a market day with the radio live broadcasting on-site on Market Street and a "Shop Till You Drop - Buy Local" competition to drive traffic into the retail shops;
- Council continued to work collaboratively with government agencies, regional organisations and neighbouring Councils to identify collaborative economic development and destination marketing opportunities;
- Road works to improve access to Mungo National Park continued to be scheduled and completed through Council's ongoing capital works program for roads; and
- Council continued regular engagement and marketing activities with business operators to expand and strengthen business and tourism activities and growth
- During the last quarter of the reporting year, Council's Tourism & Economic Development Coordinator commenced Community Consultation and market research for the development of Council's Destination Management Plan
- Council continues to promote funding opportunities to local businesses and hosted a Grant Writing workshop to support businesses with sourcing and writing funding applications.

PILLAR 4. Our Infrastructure

A community that maintains and improves its infrastructure, public buildings, facilities and Council assets



Key Objectives

- Maximising grant funding to improve infrastructure
- Explore opportunities to better manage public buildings and facilities
- Adequately plan for and maintain all Council assets



PHOTO: Footpath installation in Euston



Achievements

- Council was active and successful in sourcing and applying for various infrastructure grants
- Infrastructure projects and grants information were reported monthly
- Heavy patching works of the Balranald Ivanhoe Road
- Potholes repair edge sealing works on Oxley Road
- Ongoing Maintenance grading and road repair for unsealed roads
- Road reformation and compaction works were carried out on Clare Mossziel Road, Mildura Ivanhoe Road and Prungle Marma Road
- Ongoing repair works was conducted on flood damaged roads
- New footpaths were constructed in both Balranald and Euston
- Old fencing at the Balranald Swimming Pool was replaced new fencing and Council staff drained and cleaned the pools and carried out repair and maintenance works in readiness for summer activities
- Planning works for the servicing of the Balranald and Euston water towers was progressing during the reporting year. Council worked with a water advisory professional to develop scope for works to go to tender. A report had been submitted to Council.



Achievements (cont.)

- An Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan (IWCM) is currently being assessed NSW Public Works
- A progress meeting between Public Works and Council was conducted during July 2023. This identified several options to improve the water supply in both Euston and Balranald. These options were being evaluated to provide the best outcome to both of these communities.

Infrastructure projects/grants completed within the 2023/2024 year included:

- Community Building Partnership 2021 fund which funded the Kyalite Memorial Park Foreshore Development. This included solar lighting along steps from the foreshore to the main street, information slab and structure for the Information Bay Signage
- Regional Roads Repair Program 2022/23 for the Oxley Road construction and sealing of 2km of existing unsealed Road and for the widening of the road to have a 9m pavement formation
- Public Library Infrastructure Grant 2021/22 for Stage 1 of the Library Refurbishment Project
- Public Library Infrastructure Grant 2022/23 for Stage 2 of the Library Refurbishment Project
- Regional & Local Roads Repair Program which funded projects that were impacted by floods, storm and persistent weather events in 2022
- Fixing Local Roads Pothole Repair Program for the repair of potholes in Balranald & Euston town areas
- Fixing Local Roads Community Infrastructure Fund Round 4 for the re-sheeting of Benanee Gravel Road
- Office of Responsible Gambling NSW Community Development Fund for the Emergency Accommodation Housing Refurbishment project
- Hatfield Community Hall Upgrade as part of the Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 5 projects
- Projects that were completed under the LRCI 3 grant included construction of the new cricket practice nets at Greenham Park; Construction of the new cricket pitch to replace the damaged pitch at Greenham Park; Balranald Swimming pool fence & facilities; Heavy Patching of the Balranald/Ivanhoe Road; Reseal of the Weimby Kyalite Road
- An Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan (IWCM) is currently being assessed by NSW Public Works
- A progress meeting between Public Works and Council was conducted during July 2023. This identified several options to improve the water supply in both Euston and Balranald. These options were being evaluated to provide the best outcome to both of these communities.



Achievements (cont.)

- Council has commenced a program to treat unsealed road surfaces with a product called Polytahr, which is mixed with the road surface material. When treated with Polytahr, the road surface is stronger, with increased water run-off and surface longevity. The road surface remains in better condition for longer and undergoes less damage from rain. The cost of the addition of Polytahr to the road surface is offset by the reduced need for maintenance grading and the benefit of roads that are able to remain open after moderate rainfall.
- Roads treated with Polytahr so far were: Benanee Road, Guthul Road, Thompson Road, Abbotts Tank Road, Euston Prungle Road, Prungle Mail Road, Magenta Wampo Road, Tapalin Mail Road, Tammit Road, Meilman Road and Tillara Road.



The pictures detail the difference between not using Polytahr (left) to using Polytahr (right) for construction works on Benanee Road. This was communicated to the community via Council's Newsletter



Infrastructure works in progress as at the end of June 2024:

- Balranald Discovery Centre precinct upgrade /Visitor Information Centre new Pavilion
- Balranald Lions Park Upgrade Project
- Caravan Park Upgrade Project
- Euston Recreation Reserve Upgrade
- Euston Recreation Netball Change room and toilet facilities upgrade
- Construction of the new Basketball Courts
- Resurfacing of the Balranald Netball courts and lighting
- Euston oval-multicourt upgrade & shade shelter
- Tennis Court lighting installation
- Marma Box Creek Road & Wampo Magenta Road Intersection Upgrade
- Kyalite Memorial Park Rest Area Upgrade

PILLAR 5. Our Environment

A community that celebrates and promotes its unique environment, protects its water assets and manages its waste sustainably



Key Objectives

- Celebrate and promote our unique local environment
- Protect our water assets
- Manage our waste sustainability



Achievements

- The river walking trail projects under the Our Region Our Rivers grant were completed during the 2023/24 year including the completion of the 1.9km loop trail
- During the reporting year Council was successful in receiving AGRN 1034 Floods 2022 Grant Funding. This grant will be allocated between 3 projects:
 - Ben Scott Memorial Trail remediation Project
 - Balranald Riverfront Precinct remediation
 - Euston Riverfront Precinct remediation Project
- As at the 30th June 2024 the Tourism & Economic Development Department commenced work on developing a shire-wide bird trail including product collateral
- The Tourism & Economic Development Department regularly promoted the unique local environment via social media and print media including our rivers, walking trails, Yanga National Park and Mungo National Park
- During the reporting period the Tourism & Economic Development Department developed Euston's tourism brand to promote the Regent Parrot

PHOTOS: The completed 1.9km loop trail as part of the Our Regions Our Rivers grant funding



Achievements (cont.)

- As at the A new Funky Frog Sculpture Trail flyer and other collateral was being developed to further promote our unique environment and connection to the Southern Bell Frog
- Public trees were regularly assessed and maintained for safety, shade and aesthetical purposes.
- Council's Beautification Committee instigated and funded (committee funds) the trimming and pruning of trees along Market Street Balranald
- Council worked with the relevant agencies in reference to environmental projects undertaken
- Council continued to advocate for the reconstruction/raising of Balranald's Low Level Weir project
- Council staff have actively participated in regional water security forums and committees
- As at the 30th June 2024 Interflow had completed the sewer relining works for the 2023-2024 Financial Year. Interflow have a two-year contract with Council, and further works will be carried out in the next financial year.
- As at the 30th June 2024 works on both Balranald and Euston Filtered Water Towers (Reservoirs) had been included in the Draft Capital Works Budget for the 2024/2025 financial year
- As at the 30th June 2024 NSW Public Works was currently reviewing the Draft Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Plan
- As at the 30th June 2024 NSW Public Works was currently reviewing the Draft Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Plan
- Operational maintenance works on Balranald Drainage and Euston Sewage Program was ongoing during the reporting year
- As at the 30th June 2024 Council's Waste Management Strategy was in review

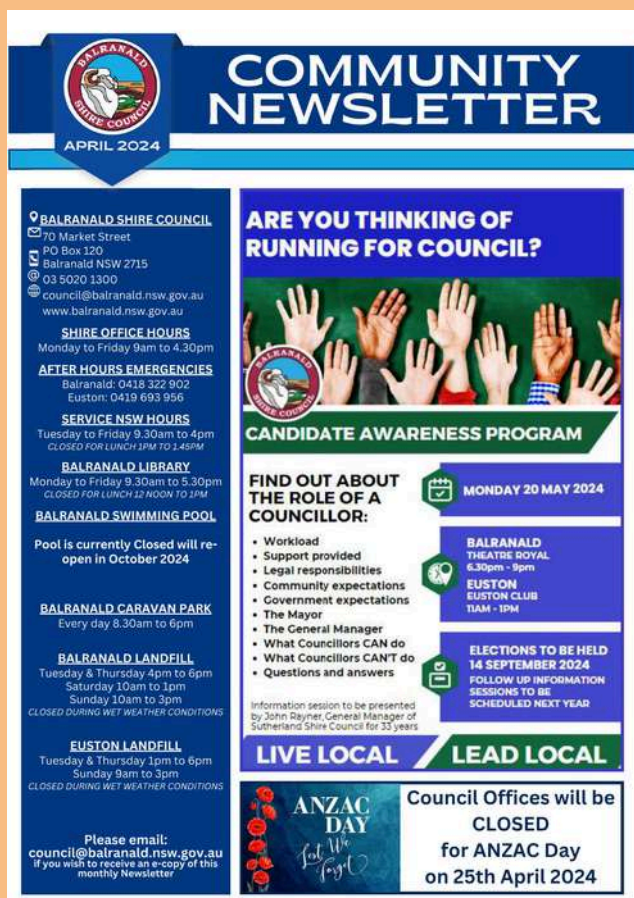
PILLAR 6. Our Council

A Council that develops its capabilities, engages and informs its community, is financially sustainable & maximises planning & partnerships



Key Objectives

- Develop Capabilities
- Engage and inform the local Community
- Address financial sustainability
- Develop and maximise strategic planning and partnerships



Council distributed a monthly newsletter via mail to all residents as well as uploading the newsletter onto Council's website.



Achievements

- Council's **Advisory Committees** met regularly (predominantly monthly) throughout the 2023/2024 financial year and remained diligent in their commitment to ensuring the community's voice is heard and consistently playing a pivotal role in informing and guiding the decisions of Council in an equitable, open and democratic manner
- Council ran community training programs as required in support of civic leadership, this included training in Grant Writing for community organisations and small businesses, business improvement workshops for local businesses and Candidate Awareness Programs for potential Councillor candidates
- Council distributed a monthly newsletter via mail to all residents as well as uploading the newsletter onto Council's website. The newsletter provides the community with the latest Council updates on services, infrastructure projects, planning, Council events and community happenings and events.
- Council also uses its social media platform and community platforms to disseminate the latest news, events and information. Specific mail-drops were also used to promote specific events.



Achievements

- During the reporting year Council conducted comprehensive community consultation in the development of its Drought Resilient Strategy to ensure all voices were heard.
- During the reporting year Council conducted comprehensive community consultation in the development of its Economic Development Strategy to ensure all community voices were heard.
- Council established staff training programs for individual staff as part of staffs' Performance Review process
- At the June 2024 Ordinary Meeting the Draft Budget for the 2024/2025 Financial Year, the Draft Operational Plan for the 2024/2025 Financial Year, the Draft Revenue Policy and Draft Fees and Charges for the 2024/2025 Financial Year were all adopted.
- A Legislative Compliance Register continued to allow Council to report publicly any legislative non-compliances. This is an improvement process to allow staff and the community to learn from the reporting process.
- Council provided annual and regular finance reports to provide the community up-to-date information on the finances of Council.
- Council conducted **12 Ordinary Meetings** over the reporting Year. Two (2) Ordinary Meetings were held in December 2023, these were held on the 19th and 22nd December 2023.
- In July 2023 Council's Settlement Strategies (Village Plans) were adopted. These plans were key documentation that guided the Growing Business, Industry & Tourism Advisory Committee and the Euston Progress Advisory Committees in establishing key actions for their respective Rolling Action Plans. These plans were also key strategic plans used in grant funding applications.
- Council management and senior staff attended regional development workshops to ensure ongoing awareness and learning of regional challenges and opportunities - current and emerging; and
- Council has supported grant applications that address the disadvantaged in our community and that help to deliver community services for effectively.

PLANS & POLICIES ADOPTED

In the the **2023/2024** financial year, the following Plans & Policies were adopted by Council:

Plans & Policies	Month Adopted
Business Case to increase the opening days of the Balranald Shire Library from 3 to 5 days	18th July 2023
Settlement Strategies for Balranald & Euston	18th July 2023
Aged Care Prudential Standards Policy	21st November 2023
Draft Operational Plan for the 2024/2025 Financial Year	25th June 2024
Draft Budget for the 2024/2025 Financial Year	25th June 2024
Draft Revenue Policy and Draft Fees and Charges for the 2024/2025 Financial Year	25th June 2024
Development Contribution Plan of Management	21st May 2024
The Heritage Park Reserve Plan of Management	21st May 2024
Corporate Uniform Policy	21st May 2024
Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for the Administrator, Mayor and Councillors Policy	21st May 2024 - Reviewed
Concealed Water Leak Policy	21st May 2024



PHOTOS: The Settlement Strategies for Balranald & Euston were adopted 18th July 2023

SUMMARY OF GRANTS & PROJECTS

✓ **Completed Grants/Projects in the 2023/2024 financial year as per the Grants/Projects Report & the Grants Register**

GRANT/PROJECT	Funding Value	Alignment with our Six Pillars					
		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
TRANSPORT ACCESS REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS (TARP) 2019-2023 1. Beating Isolation - \$20,000 2. Transport for Balranald Youth - \$25,000 3. Building Resources Balranald - \$18,000	Total Grant Funding \$63,00	✓	✓				✓
NATIONAL AUSTRALIA DAY GRANT 2024 Funding for the 2024 Australia Day events	\$10,000	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
LIBRARY PRIORITY GRANT 2022/23 Funding for shelving and workstation spaces, book replacement, technology hub resources	\$18,507	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP GRANT 2022 Enhancements/Upgrade of IT multi-media communications and displays at the Interpretive Pavilion	\$40,000 Grant \$40,000 Council Contribution	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP 2021 From Kyalite Memorial Park Foreshore Development. The grant funded: · Solar Lighting Along Steps from the foreshore to the main street · Information Bay Slab & Structure · Information Bay Interpretive Signage	\$32,572	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
NSW Small Business Month Grant 2023 Funded the Small Business Dinner "Small Business & The Visitor Economy"	\$2,500		✓	✓			✓

✓ Completed Projects (cont.)

GRANT/PROJECT	Funding Value	Alignment with our Six Pillars					
		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
REGIONAL ROADS REPAIR PROGRAM 2022/23 MR514 Oxley Road Construction and seal 2km of existing unsealed road. Widen the road to have a 9m pavement formation with a 7m wide seal.	\$195,000 Grant \$195,000 Council Contribution	✓			✓	✓	✓
PUBLIC LIBRARY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT 2021/22 Funding for Stage 1 of the Library Refurbishment project	\$67,862	✓	✓		✓		✓
REGIONAL & LOCAL ROADS POTHOLE REPAIR PROGRAM Funds for the impact of floods, storm and persistent weather events in 2022	\$2,882,580	✓			✓	✓	✓
YOUTH HOLIDAY DAY BREAK FUND 2023/24 Funds youth activities to deliver during the 2023/24 Summer Break	\$15,000	✓	✓				✓
RECONNECTING REGIONAL NSW COMMUNITY EVENTS GRANT From Funding that helped to stage the following events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sounds & Scribble Youth Summer Festival in December 2023 • The Salami Festival in Euston in November 2022 • SW Arts Regional Events & Touring Program during 2023 • Stop Shop Stay Market Day events in December 2022 and December 2023 	\$150,854		✓	✓		✓	✓

✓ Completed Projects (cont.)

GRANT/PROJECT	Funding Value	Alignment with our Six Pillars					
		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
REGIONAL DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLANNING PROGRAM Funding for the Development of a Drought Resilient Plan for Balranald Shire & Wentworth Shire	\$200,000 (Managed by Wentworth)	✓	✓			✓	✓
TELEHEALTH SUPPORT FUNDING - PHN WESTERN NSW Funding to assist RACFs and MPSs to have appropriate telehealth facilities and equipment to enable their residents to consult virtually with their primary health care professionals	\$11,000	✓	✓				✓
FIXING LOCAL ROADS ROUND 4 Re-sheeting Benanee Gravel Road	\$1,650,000	✓			✓	✓	
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES & JUSTICE - YOUTH WEEK 2024 Funding for interactive activities and games that promote connectedness and a positive sense of social wellbeing and belonging in our young people	\$3,412 Grant \$2,588 Council	✓	✓				✓
THE CLUB GRANT - EUSTON CLUB GRANT 2022 Concrete Base for Multipurpose Tennis Court & • Power Box to Euston Riverfront	\$108,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
PUBLIC LIBRARY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND 2022/2023 Funding for Stage 2 of the Library Refurbishment Project	\$172,610	✓	✓		✓		✓

✓ Completed Projects (cont.)

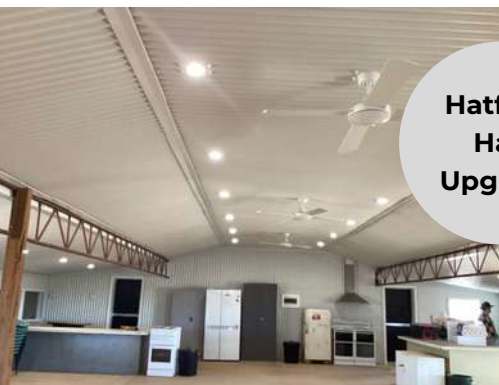
GRANT/PROJECT	Funding Value	Alignment with our Six Pillars					
		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
OUR REGION OUR RIVERS - BAL2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverfront Enhancement Eco Trail; Swing Bridge widening, 3km swing bridge loop trail plus additional 1.9km Trail; • Riverbend Reserve Place-making includes BBQ., toilet, furniture, gym equipment, fish cleaning station and interpretive signs 	\$820,234.30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
LOCAL ROADS COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND ROUND 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerodrome Fencing • Toilet at Balranald Cemetery • Balranald Irrigation Automation; • Euston Town Approaches; • Euston Rec Reserve Playground Upgrade; Kyalite Riverside Reserve – Steps & Railings; • Seal Off Street Parking Areas; • Theatre Royal Refurbishments; • Church & Harben Street Drainage Improvements; • Balranald Riverfront Accessibility Works 	\$616,739	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
OFFICE OF RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING NSW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND 2022 Funding for the Refurbishment of Emergency Accommodation housing	\$240,000	✓	✓		✓		✓
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WELLBEING RECOVERY INITIATIVE Funding for Community MESH Training & URSTRONG programs in Balranald Shire Schools	\$49,853	✓	✓		✓		✓

✓ Completed Projects (cont.)

GRANT/PROJECT	Funding Value	Alignment with our Six Pillars					
		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
EPA – APPROVED PROJECTS IN ILLEGAL DUMPING PREVENTION PROGRAM ROUND 1 Funding for the development of Illegal dumping baseline data	\$20,000	✓			✓	✓	✓
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY GRANT 2023 Funding for the development of 2 Economic Development Strategies – Balranald Shire Council & for Wentworth Shire Council	40,000		✓	✓			✓
BSC LIBRARY SUNRAYSIA SOLAR FARM GRANT 2023 To establish a seating area to service the community needs by improving access to the library outdoor resources both current and in the future	\$2,970	✓	✓		✓		✓
ROADS TO RECOVERY 2019-2024 Funding for a series of road works across the shire	\$4,997,524	✓			✓	✓	
STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES FUND ROUND 5 – (2 out of 5 projects completed) Hatfield Community Hall Upgrade & Safe Fencing at the Balranald Pool	Total Funds \$943,758	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
LOCAL ROADS COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE ROUND 3 - (5 out of 10 projects completed) New cricket pitch & practice nets at Greenham Park; Balranald Pool Fencing, Heavy Patching Balranald/Ivanhoe Road & Reseal Weimby Kyalite Road	Total Funds \$1,665,842	✓	✓		✓		

Project Photos

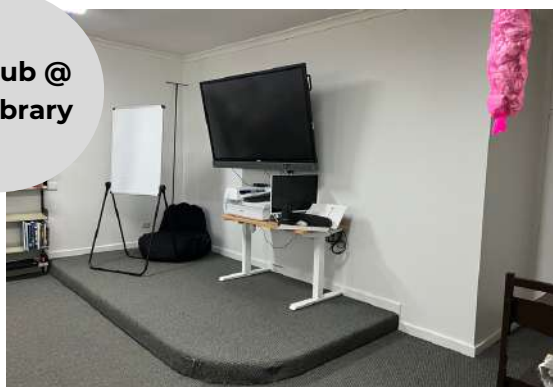
Photos of a few projects completed in the 2023/24 year



**Hatfield
Hall
Upgrade**



**Tec Hub @
the Library**



**Interpretive
Pavilion
Upgrade**



**Interpretive
Signage @
Kyalite**



**New
Cricket
Pitch in
Balranald**



Water & Sewer

Water & Sewer works during the 2022/2023 financial year included:

- As at the 30th June 2024 Interflow had completed the sewer relining works for the 2023-2024 Financial Year. Interflow have a two-year contract with Council, and further works will be carried out in the next financial year.
- As at the 30th June 2024 works on both Balranald and Euston Filtered Water Towers (Reservoirs) had been included in the Draft Capital Works Budget for the 2024/2025 financial year.
- As at the 30th June 2024 NSW Public Works was currently reviewing the Draft Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Plan.
- As at the 30th June 2024 NSW Public Works was currently reviewing the Draft Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Plan.
- Operational maintenance works on Balranald Drainage and Euston Sewage Program was ongoing during the reporting year.
- As at the 30th June 2024 Council's Waste Management Strategy was in review.



Street Sweeping

During the 2023/24 year street sweeping occurred on the following dates:

BALRANALD	EUSTON
20 July 2023	12 July 2023
10 August 2023	9 August 2023
31 August 2023	13 September 2023
21 September 2023	11 October 2023
12 October 2023	8 November 2023
2 November 2023	13 December 2023
23 November	10th January 2023
14 December 2023	7th February 2024
4th January 2024	13th March 2024
6h February 2024	10th April 2024
7th March 2024	8th May 2024
28th March 2024	19th June 2024
18th April 2024	
9th May 2024	
27th June 2024	

DONATIONS BY COUNCIL

One way Council supports and actively participates in the community is through it's donations and contributions program. Each year, Council makes available to community groups the opportunity to apply for grants that can be used in programs that provide community benefit.

Total donations made by Council to support our local community across different funding streams in the **2023/24** year is **\$11,380**. Donations and contributions can be either in the form of a cash donation, a waiver of fees or in-kind. For the 2022/23 year, Council approved the following donations and contributions:

Recipient & Purpose	Amount Donated
Balranald Child & Family Health & Maari Ma Health Fee Waiving of Greenham Park Hall	\$ 990.00
Maari Ma Health - Fee Waiving of Theatre Royal	\$ 540.00
Andrew Blake - Cemetery Fees Waived	\$ 4,100.00
Balranald Parents &Citizens Association - Donation Application	\$ 500.00
Ryan Johnstone - Donation Application	\$ 150.00
Balranald Football Netball Club - Fee Waiving of Theatre Royal	\$ 1,210.00
Maari Ma Health - Fee Waiving of Theatre Royal	\$ 540.00
Maari Ma Health - Fee Waiving of Theatre Royal	\$ 430.00
Council Youth Festival - Fee Waiving of Greenham Park Hall	\$ 390.00
Combined Churches (Dennis Rayson) - Fee Waiving of Greenham Park Hall	\$ 270.00
Lani Jones - Donation Application	\$ 250.00
Lucas Griffiths - Donation Application	\$ 500.00
Jett Militto - Donation Application	\$ 500.00
Bob Helgeland - Donation Application	\$ 500.00
Western Local Health District - Fee Waiving - Theatre Royal - Breast Screening Van	\$ 510.00
TOTAL	11,380.00

STATUTORY INFORMATION



Contracts Awarded Greater than \$150,000

One way Details of each contract awarded by Council during the **2023/24** financial year are presented in the table below. Note that employment contracts are excluded.

Contract Description	Awarded To	Cost (Inc. GST)
Sealing of MR 514	Primal Surfacing	\$168,630
Resealing on Weimby Kyalite Road	Primal Surfacing	\$320,166
Resealing on Marma Box Creek Road	Primal Surfacing	\$1,063,062
Resealing on Tapalin Mail Road	Primal Surfacing	\$124,894
Construction Works on Marma Box Creek Road	Coburns Earthmoving	\$254,280.84
Construction Works on Euston Prungle Road	G & K Woodhead	\$116,429.50
Construction Works on Kilpatrick Road	G & K Woodhead	\$94,429.40
Supply of Materials for Road Works on Benanee Road	GBM	\$494,054.55
Supply of Materials for Road Works on Benanee Road	MME	\$443,189.56
Footpath Erections	Slade Concreting	\$265,000



Disability Inclusion Act 2014 No 14

In accordance with the Disability Inclusion Act 2014, Council adopted its **Disability Inclusion Action Plan** on the **20th September 2022** at it's September 2022 Ordinary Meeting.

Balranald Shire Council embraces the inclusion of people with a d disability in all aspects of community life. 5.6% of the Balranald Shire population identify as needing assistance because of a disability.





Equal Employment Opportunities

Code of Conduct training is delivered to all staff across the organisation. Council has the appropriate policies and procedures in place to govern the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) management Plan. Council actively supports the principles and practices of EEO.

The induction process and job advertisements adhere with Equal Employment policies.



Functions Delegated to Other Organisations

Council did not delegate any functions to other organisations in the **2023/24** financial year.



Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 and Regulation sl 25(1)

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 and Regulation sl 25(1) Part 7 Section 125 (1) of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, known as the GIPA Act, states that each agency (of which Balranald Shire Council is one) must, within 4 months after the end of each reporting year, prepare an annual report on the agency's obligations under this Act for submission to the Minister responsible for the agency.

Council fulfilled its responsibilities in regard to reporting for the **2023/24** year. Council's GIPA reportable totals during the year are as follows:

- Received zero (0) access application requests
- Received zero (0) access application invalid requests
- Zero (0) applications reviewed Under Part 5 of the Act; and,
- Zero (0) applications transferred to other agencies

Council makes available to the public all relevant policies, Agendas of Council Meetings, including Advisory Committee Minutes, minutes of Council meetings, and any other documents where there is a public interest content, including the Community Strategic Plans, Operational Plans and Budget. This information is available on Council's website, and is also on display at Council's office. Documents to be adopted with a period of community consultation are displayed at Council's office, as well as at public venues, and when possible, in the other population centres within the Shire area. These locations and times are advertised in local media sources to raise awareness within the community.



Public Interest Disclosure Act 1994 and Regulation s31 c14

Public Interest Disclosure Act 1994 and Regulation s31 c14, similar to the reporting requirement under the GIPA Act and Regulations, Councils are required to submit a Public Interest Disclosures Annual Report to the Minister and a copy is also provided to the NSW Ombudsman. Council submitted their Public Interest Disclosure (PID) Annual Report with the required time frame, which is within 4 months after the end of the financial year. Council received **zero (0)** submissions for the **2023/24** financial year.

Council's policy conforms to its Code of Conduct, Equal Employment Opportunity Policy, Workplace Harassment Policy and Workplace Grievance Procedure Policy.

The policy is accessible to all staff and the public via Council's website and is required to be reviewed every two years (the current version was adopted in February 2017).

In the 2023/24 financial year there were:

- Zero (0) Public Officials who made PIDs
- Zero (0) PID's Received
- Zero (0) PIDs Finalised



Planning Agreements

Council did not enter into any planning agreements for the **2023/24** financial year.



Rates and Charges Written Off

The following rates were Written Off in the **2023/24** financial year:

General Rates:	\$	5,071.19
Filtered Water:	\$	603.92
TOTAL	\$	5,675.11



Legal Proceedings

A summary of legal proceedings either commenced by, or commenced against, Council are summarised as follows. The figures show the total cost to Council.

Description	Status as at 30th June 2024	Cost to Council
Debt Recovery - Recovered as port of rates, water and debtors	Completed	\$3,465.00
Legal Advice Iluka VPA etc.	Completed	\$28,592.50
Debt Recovery Recovery of Gypsum Mining Rates	Completed	\$4362.00



Special Rate Variation

In 2019 Council applied for a multi-year special variation to:

- increase its general income by 10% for each year from 2019/2020 to 2024/2025, a cumulative
- increase of 94.87% over seven years, and retain this increase in its rate base permanently

The SRV only applies to the General rate component of the annual rates notices – the increases under this SRV do not apply to the waste, water and sewer access charges.

The IPART decision highlighted the fact that even with the SRV, Council's forecast average rate in 2024/2025 financial year of \$555 is lower than neighbouring council's current rates and significantly below the NSW state average. **The additional funding generated for the 2023/24 financial year from the SRV was \$200,025.**

The additional funding raised through the SRV was allowed to be spent for the purposes of funding operating and capital expenditure for its key assets - buildings, roads, bridges and drainage networks, and improving its financial sustainability.

In accordance with Section 217 (1) (b) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 the following information is provided:



General Manager's Remuneration - 2022/2023 Financial Year

The total remuneration package for Council's General Manager during the **2023/24** financial year is broken down in the following components:

DESCRIPTION OF COMPONENTS OF PACKAGES	AMOUNT
(i) The total value of the salary components of their packages	\$ 236,670
(ii) the total amount of any bonus payments or other payments made to the general manager that do not form part of the salary components of their packages.	\$ 0
(iii) The total amount payable by the Council by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which any of them may be a contributor	\$ 30,450
(iv) The total value of any non-cash benefits for which any of the general managers may elect under the package.	\$ 10,400
(v) the total amount payable by the Council by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits	\$ 12,480
TOTAL	\$290,000



Work Carried Out on Private Land

Council undertakes private works. For the **2023/2024** financial year, the revenue generated from private works was **\$231,614.82**. Council is, under Section 67 of the Local Government Act 1993, able to perform private works by agreement with the owner or occupier of any private land.

Examples of works done during 2023/24 year under Section 67 included:

- Water and sewer maintenance - Endeavour Drive (Mission)
- Supply of Materials, Plant, Equipment & Labour hire
- Water from Council's standpipe - Raw & Filtered



Swimming Pool Inspections

Under the Swimming Pools Act 1992, Council is required to make provision for the inspection, at least once every 3 years, of any swimming pool situated on premises on which there is tourist and visitor accommodation or more than 2 dwellings.

For the **2023/24** financial year, Council undertook **One (1)** inspection on Swimming Pools.



Companion Animals Management, Companion Animals Act (1998)

Only dogs are kept at the Council pound. For the **2023/2024** financial year, pound statistics were:

Description	Number
Placed into the Pound or owner surrender	21
Stolen from Council Pound	0
Return to Owners	12
Euthanised Dogs	0
Sold/Re-homed	0
Released to re-homing organisations	8

There were **zero** dog attacks reported to Council for the 2023/2024 financial year.

Funding spent by Council in **2023/2024** totaled **\$6,274.35** compared with \$5,747.31 for the previous 2022/23 year. Expenditure includes animal upkeep, repairs to the pound and ranger costs. There are no designated off-leash areas within the Balranald Shire Council local government area.



Labour Statistics on the 14th February 2024 as per the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

Wednesday 14th February 2024 was chosen as the "relevant day" for Councils to report on their labour statistics in their annual reports under Section 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

Description	Total Number of persons who performed paid work on Wednesday 14th February 2024
Permanent Full Time	35
Permanent Part-time	3
Casual	8
Fixed Term Contract	3
The number of staff members employed by council who are senior staff for purposes of LG Act 1993	3
The number of persons engaged by Council under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, this is wholly or principally for the labour of the person	0
The number of persons supplied to the Council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, as an apprentice or trainee	0

FINANCIAL REPORT

The following is Balranald Shire Council's Annual Financial Statements for the **year ending 30th June 2024.**

Balranald Shire Council

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024



Balranald Shire Council

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024



General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

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Overview

Balranald Shire Council is constituted under the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) and has its principal place of business at:

70 Market Street
Balranald NSW 2715

Council's guiding principles are detailed in Chapter 3 of the LGA and includes:

- principles applying to the exercise of functions generally by council,
- principles to be applied when making decisions,
- principles of community participation,
- principles of sound financial management, and
- principles for strategic planning relating to the development of an integrated planning and reporting framework.

A description of the nature of Council's operations and its principal activities are provided in Note B1-2.

Through the use of the internet, we have ensured that our reporting is timely, complete and available at minimum cost. All press releases, financial statements and other information are publicly available on our website: www.balranald.nsw.gov.au.

Balranald Shire Council

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Understanding Council's Financial Statements

Introduction

Each year NSW local governments are required to present audited financial statements to their council and community.

What you will find in the Statements

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

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

About the Councillor/Management Statement

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

About the Primary Financial Statements

The financial statements incorporate five "primary" financial statements:

1. The Income Statement

Summarises Council's financial performance for the year, listing all income and expenses. This statement also displays Council's original adopted budget to provide a comparison between what was projected and what actually occurred.

2. The Statement of Comprehensive Income

Primarily records changes in the fair value of Council's Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

3. The Statement of Financial Position

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

4. The Statement of Changes in Equity

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

5. The Statement of Cash Flows

Indicates where Council's cash came from and where it was spent. This statement also displays Council's original adopted budget to provide a comparison between what was projected and what actually occurred.

About the Notes to the Financial Statements

The Notes to the Financial Statements provide greater detail and additional information on the five primary financial statements.

About the Auditor's Reports

Council's financial statements are required to be audited by the NSW Audit Office.

In NSW the auditor provides 2 audit reports:

1. an opinion on whether the financial statements present fairly the Council's financial performance and position, and
2. their observations on the conduct of the audit, including commentary on the Council's financial performance and financial position.

Who uses the Financial Statements?

The financial statements are publicly available documents and must be presented at a Council meeting between seven days and five weeks after the date of the audit report.

The public can make submissions to Council up to seven days subsequent to the public presentation of the financial statements.

Council is required to forward an audited set of financial statements to the Office of Local Government.

Balranald Shire Council

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Statement by Administrator and Management

Statement by Administrator and Management made pursuant to Section 413(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)

The attached general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:


- the *Local Government Act 1993* and the regulations made thereunder,
- the Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 20 August 2024.



Michael Colreavy
Administrator
20 August 2024



Glenn Carroll
Acting General Manager
20 August 2024



Glenn Carroll
Responsible Accounting Officer
20 August 2024

Balranald Shire Council

Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Original unaudited budget 2024 \$ '000		Notes	Actual 2024 \$ '000	Actual 2023 \$ '000
Income from continuing operations				
5,613	Rates and annual charges	B2-1	5,419	5,052
2,080	User charges and fees	B2-2	3,462	2,225
388	Other revenues	B2-3	470	263
9,622	Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	B2-4	12,945	14,216
3,940	Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	B2-4	4,017	2,762
890	Interest and investment income	B2-5	1,570	665
108	Other income	B2-6	87	148
–	Net gain from the disposal of assets	B4-1	295	–
22,641	Total income from continuing operations		28,265	25,331
Expenses from continuing operations				
7,700	Employee benefits and on-costs	B3-1	5,594	4,936
7,185	Materials and services	B3-2	11,323	6,763
90	Borrowing costs	B3-3	89	101
6,114	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	B3-4	6,312	5,893
1,263	Other expenses	B3-5	541	424
–	Net loss from the disposal of assets	B4-1	–	300
100	Net share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method	D2	61	65
22,452	Total expenses from continuing operations		23,920	18,482
189	Operating result from continuing operations		4,345	6,849
189	Net operating result for the year attributable to Council		4,345	6,849
Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes				
(3,751)			328	4,087

The above Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Balranald Shire Council

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Net operating result for the year – from Income Statement		4,345	6,849
Other comprehensive income:			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to the operating result			
Gain (loss) on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-6	11,505	12,125
Impairment (loss) reversal / (revaluation decrement) relating to infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-6	1,109	(3,649)
Total items which will not be reclassified subsequently to the operating result		12,614	8,476
Total other comprehensive income for the year		12,614	8,476
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to Council		16,959	15,325

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Balranald Shire Council

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	5,333	5,723
Investments	C1-2	29,500	26,522
Receivables	C1-4	3,499	3,121
Inventories	C1-5	300	216
Other	C1-8	26	22
Total current assets		38,658	35,604
Non-current assets			
Receivables	C1-4	82	110
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)	C1-6	240,207	226,452
Investments accounted for using the equity method	D2	806	867
Total non-current assets		241,095	227,429
Total assets		279,753	263,033
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	C3-1	3,380	2,951
Contract liabilities	C3-2	4,122	4,510
Borrowings	C3-3	227	215
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	782	839
Total current liabilities		8,511	8,515
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	C3-3	1,198	1,425
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	121	129
Provisions	C3-5	170	170
Total non-current liabilities		1,489	1,724
Total liabilities		10,000	10,239
Net assets		269,753	252,794
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		75,469	71,124
IPPE revaluation reserve	C4-1	194,284	181,670
Council equity interest		269,753	252,794
Total equity		269,753	252,794

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Balranald Shire Council

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024			2023		
		Accumulated surplus \$ '000	IPPE revaluation reserve \$ '000	Total equity \$ '000	Accumulated surplus \$ '000	IPPE revaluation reserve \$ '000	Total equity \$ '000
Opening balance at 1 July		71,124	181,670	252,794	64,275	173,194	237,469
Net operating result for the year		4,345	–	4,345	6,849	–	6,849
Net operating result for the period		4,345	–	4,345	6,849	–	6,849
Other comprehensive income							
Gain (loss) on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-6	–	11,505	11,505	–	12,125	12,125
Impairment (loss) reversal / (revaluation decrement) relating to infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-6	–	1,109	1,109	–	(3,649)	(3,649)
Other comprehensive income		–	12,614	12,614	–	8,476	8,476
Total comprehensive income		4,345	12,614	16,959	6,849	8,476	15,325
Closing balance at 30 June		75,469	194,284	269,753	71,124	181,670	252,794

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Balranald Shire Council

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Original unaudited budget 2024 \$ '000		Notes	Actual 2024 \$ '000	Actual 2023 \$ '000
Cash flows from operating activities				
Receipts:				
5,613	Rates and annual charges		5,420	4,891
2,080	User charges and fees		3,059	2,185
890	Interest received		1,127	424
9,622	Grants and contributions		16,816	18,298
–	Bonds, deposits and retentions received		170	543
496	Other		2,530	795
Payments:				
(7,700)	Payments to employees		(5,847)	(4,788)
(7,185)	Payments for materials and services		(12,682)	(8,136)
(101)	Borrowing costs		(90)	(106)
–	Bonds, deposits and retentions refunded		(6)	(540)
(1,263)	Other		(1,129)	(1,087)
2,452	Net cash flows from operating activities	G1-1	9,368	12,479
Cash flows from investing activities				
Receipts:				
–	Sale of investments		5,022	3,000
–	Proceeds from sale of IPPE		865	–
Payments:				
–	Purchase of investments		(8,000)	(11,522)
(5,753)	Payments for IPPE		(7,430)	(2,551)
(5,753)	Net cash flows from investing activities		(9,543)	(11,073)
Cash flows from financing activities				
Payments:				
(214)	Repayment of borrowings		(215)	(206)
(214)	Net cash flows from financing activities		(215)	(206)
(3,515)	Net change in cash and cash equivalents		(390)	1,200
5,000	Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		5,723	4,523
1,485	Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	C1-1	5,333	5,723
25,000	plus: Investments on hand at end of year	C1-2	29,500	26,522
26,485	Total cash, cash equivalents and investments		34,833	32,245

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Balranald Shire Council

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Balranald Shire Council

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A About Council and these financial statements

A1-1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements were authorised for issue by Council on 20 August 2024. Council has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements in cases where critical information is received from public submissions or where the OLG directs Council to amend the financial statements.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below.

These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations, the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act) and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (Regulation), and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. Council is a not for-profit entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain infrastructure, property, plant and equipment and investment property.

Significant accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Council's accounting policies. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on the Council and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

Council makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future.

The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

- (i) estimated fair values of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment – refer Note C1-6
- (ii) estimated tip remediation provisions – refer Note C3-5
- (iii) employee benefit provisions – refer Note C3-4

A1-1 Basis of preparation (continued)

Significant judgements in applying the Council's accounting policies

(i) Impairment of IPPE

Council has made a significant judgement about the impairment of road assets – refer Note C1-6.

Monies and other assets received by Council

The Consolidated Fund

In accordance with the provisions of Section 409(1) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW), all money and property received by Council is held in the Council's Consolidated Fund unless it is required to be held in the Council's Trust Fund.

Cash and other assets of the following entities have been included as part of the Consolidated Fund:

- General purpose operations
- Balranald water supply
- Euston water supply
- Balranald sewerage service
- Euston sewerage service

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

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 Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities that are recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

Volunteer services

Council has not recognised volunteer services in the income statement as they are neither material nor able to be reliably measured.

New accounting standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

New accounting standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2024 reporting period. Council has not applied any pronouncements before its operative date in the annual reporting period beginning 1 July 2023.

As at the date of authorisation of these financial statements Council does not consider that any of these new (and still to be applied) standards and interpretations are likely to have a material impact on the Council's future financial statements, financial position, financial performance or cash flows.

New accounting standards adopted during the year

During the year Council adopted all accounting standards and interpretations (as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board) which were mandatorily effective from the first time at 30 June 2024.

B Financial Performance

B1 Functions or activities

B1-1 Functions or activities – income, expenses and assets

Income, expenses and assets have been directly attributed to the following functions or activities. Details of those functions or activities are provided in Note B1-2.

	Income		Expenses		Operating result		Grants and contributions		Carrying amount of assets	
	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Functions or activities										
Governance	109	27	207	203	(98)	(176)	–	–	16	19
Administration	449	354	3,089	4,304	(2,640)	(3,950)	10	20	37,307	35,221
Public order and safety	214	136	572	517	(358)	(381)	–	107	1,649	1,401
Health	–	66	6	5	(6)	61	–	–	552	552
Environment	701	521	684	609	17	(88)	–	71	8,719	8,474
Community services and education	2,060	1,469	2,395	1,486	(335)	(17)	1,514	1,349	1,344	1,313
Housing and community amenities	445	134	294	209	151	(75)	321	19	10,118	8,397
Water supplies	2,061	1,342	1,362	1,014	699	328	56	–	18,192	16,881
Sewerage services	852	1,320	620	510	232	810	–	–	12,234	11,523
Recreation and culture	1,797	598	630	518	1,167	80	1,800	1,591	5,449	4,953
Mining, manufacturing and construction	15	10	108	71	(93)	(61)	–	–	329	37
Transport and communication	8,385	8,006	12,559	8,026	(4,174)	(20)	7,593	6,761	181,711	172,262
Economic affairs	961	813	1,333	945	(372)	(132)	170	160	1,327	1,134
General Purpose Income	10,216	10,535	–	–	10,216	10,535	5,498	6,900	–	–
FSWJO	–	–	61	65	(61)	(65)	–	–	806	866
Total functions and activities	28,265	25,331	23,920	18,482	4,345	6,849	16,962	16,978	279,753	263,033

B1-2 Components of functions or activities

Details relating to the Council's functions or activities as reported in B1-1 are as follows:

Governance

Includes costs relating to Council's role as a component of democratic government, including elections, members' fees and expenses, subscriptions to local authority associations, meetings of Council and policymaking committees, public disclosure (e.g. GIPA), and legislative compliance.

Administration

Includes corporate support and other support services, engineering works, and any Council policy compliance.

Public order and safety

Includes fire and emergency services, fire protection, enforcement of regulations and animal control.

Health

Includes immunisation, food control, health centres etc.

Environment

Includes noxious plants and insect/vermin control; other environmental protection; solid waste management, including domestic waste; other waste management; other sanitation; and garbage, street cleaning, drainage and stormwater management.

Community services and education

Includes administration and education; social protection (welfare); migrant, Aboriginal and other community services and administration (excluding accommodation – as it is covered under 'housing and community amenities'); youth services; aged and disabled persons services; children's services, including family day care; child care; and other family and children services.

Housing and community amenities

Includes public cemeteries; public conveniences; street lighting; town planning; other community amenities, including housing development and accommodation for families and children, aged persons, disabled persons, migrants and Indigenous persons.

Water supplies

Includes management of water schemes, costs of reticulation, treatment and supply, and management of water infrastructure.

Sewerage services

Includes management of sewerage schemes, costs of reticulation and treatment, and management of sewer infrastructure.

Recreation and culture

Includes public libraries; museums; art galleries; community centres and halls, including public halls and performing arts venues; sporting grounds and venues; swimming pools; parks; gardens; lakes; and other sporting, recreational and cultural services.

Mining, manufacturing and construction

Includes building control, quarries and pits, mineral resources, and abattoirs.

Transport and communication

Urban local, urban regional, includes sealed and unsealed roads, bridges, footpaths, parking areas, and aerodromes.

Economic affairs

Includes camping areas and caravan parks; tourism and area promotion; industrial development promotion; sale yards and markets; real estate development; commercial nurseries; and other business undertakings.

General Purpose Income

This includes financial assistance grant funding which has no specific function allocation and is expended in areas of council.

B2 Sources of income

B2-1 Rates and annual charges

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Ordinary rates		
Residential	458	433
Farmland	1,725	1,607
Business	1,227	1,094
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	(18)	(19)
Rates levied to ratepayers	3,392	3,115
Pensioner rate subsidies received	10	11
Total ordinary rates	3,402	3,126
Annual charges (pursuant to s496, 496A, 496B, 501 & 611)		
Domestic waste management services	400	361
Water supply services	853	819
Sewerage services	685	677
Waste management services (non-domestic)	78	68
Stormwater Charges	19	19
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	(39)	(40)
Annual charges levied	1,996	1,904
Pensioner annual charges subsidies received:		
– Water	6	7
– Sewerage	6	6
– Domestic waste management	9	9
Total annual charges	2,017	1,926
Total rates and annual charges	5,419	5,052

Council has used 2022 year valuations provided by the NSW Valuer General in calculating its rates.

Material accounting policy information

Rates and annual charges are recognised as revenue at the beginning of the rating period to which they relate. Prepaid rates are recognised as a financial liability until the beginning of the rating period.

Pensioner rebates relate to reductions in rates and certain annual charges for eligible pensioners' place of residence in the local government council area.

Pensioner rate subsidies are received from the NSW Government to provide a contribution towards the pensioner rebates and are recognised within the underlying revenue item based on their substance.

B2-2 User charges and fees

	Timing	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Specific user charges (per s502 - specific 'actual use' charges)			
Sewerage services	2	98	100
Sewerage services contract aboriginal mission	2	14	27
Water service contract aboriginal mission	2	27	54
Water supply services	2	844	713
Total specific user charges		983	894
Other user charges and fees			
(i) Fees and charges – statutory and regulatory functions (per s608)			
Private works – section 67	2	1,021	108
Registration fees	2	–	1
Section 603 certificates	2	5	5
Tapping fees	2	12	6
Town planning	2	65	55
Other	2	1	15
Building services	2	27	13
Total fees and charges – statutory/regulatory		1,131	203
(ii) Fees and charges – other (incl. general user charges (per s608))			
Aged care	2	357	332
Caravan park	2	678	481
Cemeteries	2	90	71
Lease rentals	2	4	5
Library and art gallery		3	–
Refuse and effluent disposal	2	4	8
Transport for NSW works (state roads not controlled by Council)	2	20	142
Waste disposal tipping fees	2	160	56
Water connection fees	2	1	3
Other	2	31	30
Total fees and charges – other		1,348	1,128
Total other user charges and fees		2,479	1,331
Total user charges and fees		3,462	2,225
Timing of revenue recognition for user charges and fees			
User charges and fees recognised over time (1)		–	–
User charges and fees recognised at a point in time (2)		3,462	2,225
Total user charges and fees		3,462	2,225

Material accounting policy information

Revenue arising from user charges and fees is recognised when or as the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided.

The performance obligation relates to the specific services which are provided to the customers and generally the payment terms are within 30 days of the provision of the service or in some cases such as caravan parks, the customer is required to pay on arrival or a deposit in advance. There is no material obligation for Council in relation to refunds or returns.

Where an upfront fee is charged such as joining fees for the leisure centre the fee is recognised on a straight-line basis over the expected life of the membership.

Licences granted by Council are all either short-term or low value and all revenue from licences is recognised at the time that the licence is granted rather than over the term of the licence.

B2-3 Other revenues

	Timing	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Commissions and agency fees	2	81	77
Diesel rebate	2	–	2
Insurance claims recoveries	2	57	–
Motor vehicle contributions	2	25	23
Raw water standpipe sales	2	161	8
Rebates	2	39	58
Sales – miscellaneous	2	10	3
Tourist information centre sales	2	80	70
Other	2	17	22
Total other revenue		470	263

Timing of revenue recognition for other revenue

Other revenue recognised over time (1)	–	–
Other revenue recognised at a point in time (2)	470	263
Total other revenue	470	263

Material accounting policy information for other revenue

Where the revenue is earned for the provision of specified goods / services under an enforceable contract, revenue is recognised when or as the obligations are satisfied.

Statutory 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 occurs first.

Other revenue is recorded when the payment is due, the value of the payment is notified, or the payment is received, whichever occurs first.

B2-4 Grants and contributions

		Operating 2024 \$ '000	Operating 2023 \$ '000	Capital 2024 \$ '000	Capital 2023 \$ '000
	Timing				
General purpose grants and non-developer contributions (untied)					
General purpose (untied)					
Current year allocation					
Financial assistance	1	375	1,403	–	–
Payment in advance - future year allocation					
Financial assistance	1	5,123	5,497	–	–
Amount recognised as income during current year		5,498	6,900	–	–
Special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)					
Cash contributions					
Previously specific grants:					
Pensioners' rates subsidies:					
Water supplies	2	50	–	6	–
Aged care	2	1,511	1,299	–	–
Bushfire and emergency services	2	–	107	–	–
Community care	2	85	39	216	1
Employment and training programs	2	–	6	–	–
Environmental programs	2	–	39	–	–
Library – per capita	2	105	23	179	83
Noxious weeds	2	–	32	–	–
Recreation and culture	2	–	–	1,514	1,387
Youth week	2	3	3	–	–
Tourism	2	28	161	142	–
Street lighting	2	20	19	–	–
Transport (roads to recovery)	2	833	822	–	–
Transport (other roads and bridges funding)	2	4,212	3,426	1,757	798
Other specific grants	2	10	20	–	–
Previously contributions:					
Recreation and culture	2	–	–	–	98
Transport for NSW contributions (regional roads, block grant)	2	590	1,320	200	395
Other contributions	2	–	–	3	–
Total special purpose grants and non-developer contributions – cash		7,447	7,316	4,017	2,762
Total special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)		7,447	7,316	4,017	2,762
Total grants and non-developer contributions		12,945	14,216	4,017	2,762
Comprising:					
– Commonwealth funding		7,842	8,732	3,085	1,954
– State funding		5,100	5,484	932	705
– Other funding		3	–	–	103
		12,945	14,216	4,017	2,762

B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Developer contributions

	Operating 2024 \$ '000	Operating 2023 \$ '000	Capital 2024 \$ '000	Capital 2023 \$ '000
Total grants and contributions	12,945	14,216	4,017	2,762
Timing of revenue recognition for grants and contributions				
Grants and contributions recognised over time (1)	5,498	—	—	1,387
Grants and contributions recognised at a point in time (2)	7,447	14,216	4,017	1,375
Total grants and contributions	12,945	14,216	4,017	2,762

B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Unspent grants and contributions

Certain grants and contributions are obtained by Council on the condition they be spent in a specified manner or in a future period but which are not yet spent in accordance with those conditions are as follows:

	Operating 2024 \$ '000	Operating 2023 \$ '000	Capital 2024 \$ '000	Capital 2023 \$ '000
Unspent grants and contributions				
Unspent funds at 1 July	5,867	119	4,765	3,212
Add: Funds received and not recognised as revenue in the current year	7,459	7,317	3,683	2,646
Less: Funds recognised as revenue in previous years that have been spent during the reporting year	(11,185)	(1,569)	(1,142)	–
Less: Funds received in prior year but revenue recognised and funds spent in current year	(50)	–	(3,046)	(1,093)
Unspent funds at 30 June	2,091	5,867	4,260	4,765

Material accounting policy information

Grants and contributions – enforceable agreement with sufficiently specific performance obligations

Grant and contribution revenue from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised as or when control of each performance obligations is transferred.

The performance obligations vary according to the agreement but include achievement of specified levels of service, delivery of specific goods or services, or the completion of agreed asset development. Payment terms vary depending on the terms of the grant, cash is received upfront for some grants and on the achievement of certain payment milestones for others.

Performance obligations may be satisfied either at a point in time or over time and this is reflected in the revenue recognition pattern. Point in time recognition occurs when the beneficiary obtains control of the goods / services at a single time (e.g. completion of the project when a report / outcome is provided), whereas over time recognition is where the control of the services is ongoing throughout the project (e.g. provision of community health services through the year).

Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods being either costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

Capital grants

Capital grants received by Council under an enforceable contract for the acquisition or construction of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment to identified specifications which will be under Council's control on completion are recognised as revenue as and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed.

For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred since this is deemed to be the most appropriate measure of the completeness of the construction project.

For acquisitions of assets, the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Council.

Other grants and contributions

Assets, including cash, received from other grants and contributions are recognised at fair value when the asset is received. Council considers whether there are any related liability or equity items associated with the asset which are recognised in accordance with the relevant accounting standard.

Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised then income is recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received.

B2-5 Interest and investment income

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Interest on financial assets measured at amortised cost		
– Overdue rates and annual charges (incl. special purpose rates)	40	21
– Cash and investments	1,530	644
Total interest and investment income (losses)	1,570	665
Interest and investment income is attributable to:		
Unrestricted investments/financial assets:		
Overdue rates and annual charges (general fund)	21	13
General Council cash and investments	1,383	514
Restricted investments/funds – external:		
Water fund operations	112	96
Sewerage fund operations	54	42
Total interest and investment income	1,570	665

B2-6 Other income

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Rental income			
Commercial related		24	54
Room/Facility Hire		3	–
Health and day care related		1	1
Leaseback fees - council vehicles		6	31
Staff housing		53	62
Total rental income	C2-2	87	148
Total other income		87	148

B3 Costs of providing services

B3-1 Employee benefits and on-costs

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Salaries and wages	4,458	3,894
Employee leave entitlements (ELE)	425	362
Superannuation – defined contribution plans	473	386
Superannuation – defined benefit plans	45	39
Workers' compensation insurance	146	168
Fringe benefit tax (FBT)	5	24
Protective clothing	9	55
Medicals	7	9
Recruitment	42	29
Total employee costs	5,610	4,966
Less: capitalised costs	(16)	(30)
Total employee costs expensed	5,594	4,936
Number of 'full-time equivalent' employees (FTE) at year end	53	45
Number of 'full-time equivalent' employees (FTE) at year end (incl. vacancies)	72	58

Material accounting policy information

Retirement benefit obligations

All employees of the Council are entitled to benefits on retirement, disability or death. Council contributes to various defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans on behalf of its employees.

Superannuation plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

Council participates in a defined benefit plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, however, sufficient information to account for the plan as a defined benefit is not available and therefore Council accounts for its obligations to defined benefit plans on the same basis as its obligations to defined contribution plans, i.e. as an expense when it becomes payable – refer to Note E3-1 for more information.

B3-2 Materials and services

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Raw materials and consumables		6,890	3,800
Consultancy & contractor costs		1,615	562
– Waste		538	431
Administrator fees and associated expenses	F1-2	133	127
Advertising		61	34
Audit Fees	F2-1	67	63
Bank charges		21	18
Cleaning		31	23
Computer software charges		6	1
Electricity and heating		331	218
Insurance		507	460
Office expenses (including computer expenses)		255	334
Postage		13	12
Printing and stationery		18	17
Repairs and maintenance		112	32
Subscriptions and publications		55	64
Telephone and communications		51	39
Tourism expenses (excluding employee costs)		248	243
Training costs (other than salaries and wages)		82	57
Travel expenses		82	61
Valuation fees		14	13
Other expenses		61	66
Legal expenses:			
– Legal expenses: other		43	40
Lease expenses:			
Expenses from leases of low value assets		11	10
Other		78	38
Total materials and services		11,323	6,763

B3-3 Borrowing costs

(i) Interest bearing liability costs

Interest on loans	89	101
Total interest bearing liability costs	89	101
Total borrowing costs expensed	89	101

B3-4 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Depreciation and amortisation			
Furniture and fittings		20	17
Office equipment		35	29
Plant and equipment		409	405
Land improvements (depreciable)		31	31
Infrastructure:	C1-6		
– Buildings – non-specialised		637	621
– Buildings – specialised		21	19
– Footpaths		35	33
– Kerb and gutter		55	52
– Other structures		238	180
– Roads and bridges		4,196	3,997
– Sewerage network		163	99
– Stormwater drainage		70	65
– Swimming pools		16	15
– Water supply network		297	130
Other assets:			
– Library books		12	10
Other assets		77	38
Total depreciation and amortisation costs		6,312	5,741
Impairment / revaluation decrement of IPPE			
Plant and equipment		–	152
Infrastructure:	C1-6		
– Roads and bridges		(1,109)	3,649
Total gross IPPE impairment / revaluation decrement costs		(1,109)	3,801
Amounts taken through revaluation reserve	C1-6	1,109	(3,649)
Total IPPE impairment / revaluation decrement costs charged to Income Statement		–	152
Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment for non-financial assets		6,312	5,893

Material accounting policy information

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation and amortisation are calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives. Useful lives are included in Note C1-6 for IPPE assets and Note C1-7 for intangible assets. Depreciation is capitalised where in-house assets have contributed to new assets.

Impairment of non-financial assets

Council assets held at fair value that are not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash flow, and that are deemed to be specialised, are not tested for impairment since these assets are assessed on an annual basis to ensure that the carrying amount is not materially different from fair value and therefore an impairment loss would be captured during this assessment. Intangible assets not yet available for use, are tested annually for impairment, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that they might be impaired.

Other non-financial assets that do not meet the criteria above are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units). Impairment losses for revalued assets are firstly offset against the amount in the revaluation surplus for the class of asset, with only the excess to be recognised in the Income Statement.

B3-5 Other expenses

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Impairment of receivables			
Rates and annual charges		24	–
User charges and fees		35	27
Other		102	20
Total impairment of receivables	C1-4	161	47
Other			
Contributions/levies to other levels of government			
– Emergency services levy (includes FRNSW, SES, and RFS levies)		380	371
Donations, contributions and assistance to other organisations (Section 356)		–	6
Total other		380	377
Total other expenses		541	424

B4 Gains or losses

B4-1 Gain or loss from the disposal, replacement and de-recognition of assets

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Gain (or loss) on disposal of plant and equipment	C1-6		
Proceeds from disposal – plant and equipment		865	–
Less: carrying amount of plant and equipment assets sold/written off		(149)	–
Gain (or loss) on disposal		716	–
Gain (or loss) on disposal of infrastructure	C1-6		
Less: carrying amount of infrastructure assets sold/written off		(421)	–
Gain (or loss) on disposal		(421)	–
Gain (or loss) on disposal of investments	C1-2		
Proceeds from disposal/redemptions/maturities – investments		5,022	3,000
Less: carrying amount of investments sold/redeemed/matured		(5,022)	(3,000)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		–	–
Gain (or loss) on disposal of intangible assets	C1-7		
Proceeds from disposal – intangible assets		–	–
Less: carrying amount of intangible assets sold/written off		–	(300)
Gain (or loss) on disposal		–	(300)
Net gain (or loss) from disposal of assets		295	(300)

B5 Performance against budget

B5-1 Material budget variations

Council's original budget was adopted by the Council on 20 June 2023 and is not required to be audited. The original projections on which the budget was based have been affected by a number of factors. These include state and federal government decisions, including new grant programs, changing economic activity, environmental factors, and by decisions made by Council.

While these General Purpose Financial Statements include the original budget adopted by Council, the Act requires Council to review its financial budget on a quarterly basis, so it is able to manage the variation between actuals and budget that invariably occur during the year.

Material variations of more than 10% between original budget and actual results or where the variance is considered material by nature are explained below.

Variation Key: **F** = Favourable budget variation, **U** = Unfavourable budget variation.

\$ '000	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2024 ----- Variance -----	
Revenues				
Rates and annual charges	5,613	5,419	(194)	(3)% U
User charges and fees	2,080	3,462	1,382	66% F
User Charges and Fees were higher than original budget due to:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water usage increased due to lower seasonal rainfall (\$120K); Waste tipping fees were boosted by a once-off charge for major demolition works (\$100K); Private works charges were inflated by a contribution of \$800K towards road restoration works; and Caravan park fees were higher than expected due to a return to regular tourist travel following severe flooding in the previous season. 				
Other revenues	388	470	82	21% F
Increase in Other Revenues is due mainly to reimbursements of Workers Compensation claims and bulk water standpipe sales, not included in original budget.				
Operating grants and contributions	9,622	12,945	3,323	35% F
Operating grants increased due to receipt of a number of major new funding arrangements following recent storm and flood events that were not included in the original budget.				
Capital grants and contributions	3,940	4,017	77	2% F
Interest and investment revenue	890	1,570	680	76% F
Investment income was higher than expected due to the combination of larger grant allocations and continuing higher interest rates during the year.				
Net gains from disposal of assets	–	295	295	∞ F
While gains or losses from sales of assets are not factored into the original budget, Council benefited from a major clearing sale of aged and obsolete plant and equipment during the year.				
Other income	108	87	(21)	(19)% U
Rental income and leaseback of vehicles was lower than expected due to delays in staff recruitment to senior positions, and also due to delays in re-leasing of some premises during the year.				

B5-1 Material budget variations (continued)

\$ '000	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2024 ----- Variance -----	
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Expenses

Employee benefits and on-costs	7,700	5,594	2,106	27%	F
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The original budget anticipated recruitment to various vacant positions as per Council's organisation structure, however much of the recruitment activity was delayed while director positions were finalised in February 2024, consequently savings resulted in wages and salaries and related staffing costs for the year.

Materials and services	7,185	11,323	(4,138)	(58)%	U
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Materials and services costs were higher than expected as a result of significant grant expenditure on both operational and capital works throughout the year.

Borrowing costs	90	89	1	1%	F
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Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	6,114	6,312	(198)	(3)%	U
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Depreciation of infrastructure, plant & equipment was higher than original budget due to annual indexation of asset values, where the cost of material inputs has increased over recent years due to higher inflation and supply chain costs. This is also impacted by an increase in capitalisation of infrastructure funded by significant grant funding.

Other expenses	1,263	541	722	57%	F
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Council's original budget included items of repairs and maintenance and operating costs which were incorrectly allocated to Other Expenses, instead of Materials and Services. Corrections were made in subsequent quarterly budget reviews.

Joint ventures and associates – net losses	100	61	39	39%	F
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The movement in costs for the Far South West Joint Organisation is not factored into Council's budget process.

Statement of cash flows

Cash flows from operating activities	2,452	9,368	6,916	282%	F
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Net cashflow from operating activities was higher than anticipated, largely due to items already identified above, including increases in receipts from user charges, significant increases in operating grants, lower than expected employee costs, offset somewhat by higher cash outflows from the purchase of materials and services.

Cash flows from investing activities	(5,753)	(9,543)	(3,790)	66%	U
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Payments for acquisition of IPPE was higher than budgeted for, due to the completion of a number of grant funded works which had been delayed due to adverse weather in the previous year. Council was also able to increase its investments due to available grant funds through the year.

Cash flows from financing activities	(214)	(215)	(1)	0%	U
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C Financial position

C1 Assets we manage

C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Cash assets		
Cash on hand and at bank	5,321	4,211
Cash equivalent assets		
– Deposits at call	12	12
– Short-term deposits	–	1,500
Total cash and cash equivalents	5,333	5,723

Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents

Total cash and cash equivalents per Statement of Financial Position	5,333	5,723
Balance as per the Statement of Cash Flows	5,333	5,723

C1-2 Financial investments

	2024 Current \$ '000	2024 Non-current \$ '000	2023 Current \$ '000	2023 Non-current \$ '000
Debt securities at amortised cost				
Long term deposits	29,500	–	26,522	–
Total	29,500	–	26,522	–
Total financial investments	29,500	–	26,522	–
Total cash assets, cash equivalents and investments	34,833	–	32,245	–

C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments

	2024 Current \$ '000	2024 Non-current \$ '000	2024 \$ '000	2023 Current \$ '000	2023 Non-current \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
(a) Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments						
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	34,833	–	34,833	32,245	–	32,245
Less: Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	(13,542)	–	(13,542)	(16,605)	–	(16,605)
Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions	21,291	–	21,291	15,640	–	15,640
					2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000

External restrictions**External restrictions – included in liabilities**

External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:

Specific purpose unexpended grants – general fund	4,122	4,504
Specific purpose unexpended grants – water fund	–	6
External restrictions – included in liabilities	4,122	4,510

External restrictions – other

External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:

Specific purpose unexpended grants (recognised as revenue) – general fund	2,229	6,122
Water fund	4,598	3,664
Sewer fund	1,968	1,715
Stormwater management	39	20
Domestic waste management	586	574
External restrictions – other	9,420	12,095
Total external restrictions	13,542	16,605

Cash, cash equivalents and investments subject to external restrictions are those which are only available for specific use by Council due to a restriction placed by legislation or third-party contractual agreement.

C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments (continued)

	2024 Current \$ '000	2024 Non-current \$ '000	2024 \$ '000	2023 Current \$ '000	2023 Non-current \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
(b) Internal allocations						
Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions	21,291	–	21,291	15,640	–	15,640
Less: Internally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	(13,785)	–	(13,785)	(12,996)	–	(12,996)
Unrestricted and unallocated cash, cash equivalents and investments	7,506	–	7,506	2,644	–	2,644
					2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000

Internal allocations

At 30 June, Council has internally allocated funds to the following:

Plant and vehicle replacement	2,048	1,933
Infrastructure replacement	1,665	1,514
Employees leave entitlement	252	278
Council election	20	–
Insurance	20	–
Caravan park reserve	589	500
Council property maintenance	70	–
Gravel pits rehabilitation	242	242
Hostel bonds	1,583	1,813
Self care unit maintenance	16	4
Self care unit bonds	300	140
Water supply infrastructure upgrade	361	–
Sewer infrastructure upgrade	201	–
Levee bank restoration	160	–
Asset revaluation	60	–
Financial Assistance Grant in advance	5,123	5,497
Future development fund	1,075	1,075
Total internal allocations	13,785	12,996

Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions may be internally allocated by resolution or policy of the elected Council.

	2024 Current \$ '000	2024 Non-current \$ '000	2024 \$ '000	2023 Current \$ '000	2023 Non-current \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
(c) Unrestricted and unallocated						
Unrestricted and unallocated cash, cash equivalents and investments	7,506	–	7,506	2,644	–	2,644

C1-4 Receivables

	2024 Current \$ '000	2024 Non-current \$ '000	2023 Current \$ '000	2023 Non-current \$ '000
Rates and annual charges	426	30	274	46
Interest and extra charges	37	3	23	4
User charges and fees	822	49	394	60
Accrued revenues				
– Interest on investments	724	–	294	–
– Other income accruals	–	–	1	–
Government grants and subsidies	1,640	–	1,722	–
Net GST receivable	125	–	537	–
Total	3,774	82	3,245	110
Less: provision for impairment				
Rates and annual charges	(204)	–	(64)	–
User charges and fees	(31)	–	(27)	–
Other debtors	(40)	–	(33)	–
Total provision for impairment – receivables	(275)	–	(124)	–
Total net receivables	3,499	82	3,121	110
Externally restricted receivables				
Water supply				
– Rates and availability charges	100	22	77	13
– Other	180	–	173	52
Sewerage services				
– Rates and availability charges	45	8	40	7
– Other	15	–	23	8
Total external restrictions	340	30	313	80
Unrestricted receivables	3,159	52	2,808	30
Total net receivables	3,499	82	3,121	110

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Movement in provision for impairment of receivables		
Balance at the beginning of the year	124	169
Add: new provisions recognised during the year	312	47
– amounts already provided for and written off this year	(161)	(92)
Balance at the end of the year	275	124

Material accounting policy information

Receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

Impairment

Impairment of financial assets measured at amortised cost is recognised on an expected credit loss (ECL) basis.

When determining whether the credit risk of a financial asset has increased significantly since initial recognition, and when estimating ECL, the Council considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on Council's historical experience and informed credit assessment, and including forward-looking information.

C1-4 Receivables (continued)

When considering the ECL for rates debtors, Council takes into account that unpaid rates represent a charge against the rateable property that will be recovered when the property is next sold. For non-rates debtors, Council uses the presumption that an asset which is more than 30 days past due has seen a significant increase in credit risk.

The Council uses the presumption that a financial asset is in default when:

- the other party is unlikely to pay its credit obligations to the Council in full, without recourse by the Council to actions such as realising security (if any is held) or
- the financial assets (for non-rates debtors) are more than 90 days past due.

Credit losses are measured as the present value of the difference between the cash flows due to the entity in accordance with the contract, and the cash flows expected to be received. This is applied using a probability weighted approach.

On initial recognition of the asset, an estimate of the expected credit losses for the next 12 months is recognised. Where the asset has experienced significant increase in credit risk then the lifetime losses are estimated and recognised.

Council uses the simplified approach for trade receivables where the expected lifetime credit losses are recognised on day 1.

There has been no change in the estimation techniques or significant assumptions made during the current reporting period.

The Council writes off a trade receivable when there is information indicating that the debtor is in severe financial difficulty and there is no realistic prospect of recovery, e.g. when the debtor has been placed under liquidation or has entered into bankruptcy proceedings, or when the receivables are over 6 years past due, whichever occurs first.

None of the receivables that have been written off are subject to enforcement activity.

Where the Council renegotiates the terms of receivables due from certain customers, the new expected cash flows are discounted at the original effective interest rate and any resulting difference to the carrying value is recognised in profit or loss.

Rates and annual charges outstanding are secured against the property.

C1-5 Inventories

	2024 Current \$ '000	2024 Non-current \$ '000	2023 Current \$ '000	2023 Non-current \$ '000
Inventories at cost				
Stores and materials	274	–	188	–
Trading stock	26	–	28	–
Total inventories at cost	300	–	216	–
Total inventories	300	–	216	–

Material accounting policy information

Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods

Costs are assigned to individual items of inventory on the basis of weighted average costs. Costs of purchased inventory are determined after deducting rebates and discounts. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

C1-6 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2023			Asset movements during the reporting period								At 30 June 2024		
	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions renewals ¹	Additions new assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	Impairment reversal (recognised in equity)	WIP transfers	De-capitalis ed WIP	Revaluation increments to equity (ARR)	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
Capital work in progress	2,827	–	2,827	426	2,601	–	–	–	(1,235)	(200)	–	4,420	–	4,420
Plant and equipment	6,168	(4,778)	1,390	–	820	(149)	(409)	–	–	–	–	5,555	(3,903)	1,652
Office equipment	600	(474)	126	–	10	–	(35)	–	–	–	–	609	(510)	99
Furniture and fittings	358	(259)	99	–	21	–	(20)	–	–	–	–	377	(278)	99
Land:														
– Operational land	3,607	–	3,607	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,607	–	3,607
– Community land	2,573	–	2,573	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,573	–	2,573
Land improvements – non-depreciable	798	–	798	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	798	–	798
Land improvements – depreciable	311	(203)	108	–	–	–	(31)	–	–	–	–	311	(234)	77
Infrastructure:														
– Roads and bridges	196,777	(47,700)	149,077	3,091	–	–	(4,196)	1,109	1,159	–	7,667	211,124	(53,215)	157,909
– Other structures	9,487	(2,159)	7,328	242	72	(6)	(238)	–	34	–	424	10,400	(2,545)	7,855
– Swimming pools	1,239	(300)	939	–	–	–	(16)	–	–	–	64	1,326	(338)	988
– Sewerage network	13,751	(3,808)	9,943	140	–	–	(163)	–	–	–	496	14,588	(4,173)	10,415
– Water supply network	18,345	(8,537)	9,808	–	127	–	(297)	–	–	–	482	19,402	(9,282)	10,120
– Buildings – specialised	1,562	(416)	1,146	–	84	–	(21)	–	–	–	78	1,754	(467)	1,287
– Stormwater drainage	6,101	(1,498)	4,603	–	–	–	(70)	–	–	–	230	6,410	(1,648)	4,762
– Kerb and gutter	4,761	(1,610)	3,151	–	–	–	(55)	–	–	–	166	5,016	(1,755)	3,261
– Footpaths	2,001	(638)	1,363	–	–	–	(35)	–	–	–	71	2,108	(709)	1,399
– Buildings – non-specialised	44,893	(17,860)	27,033	574	–	(415)	(637)	–	42	–	1,802	48,021	(19,623)	28,398
Other assets:														
– Library books	167	(133)	34	–	17	–	(12)	–	–	–	–	186	(145)	41
– Other	846	(347)	499	–	–	–	(77)	–	–	–	25	845	(398)	447
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	317,172	(90,720)	226,452	4,473	3,752	(570)	(6,312)	1,109	–	(200)	11,505	339,430	(99,223)	240,207

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

C1-6 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2022			Asset movements during the reporting period							At 30 June 2023		
	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions renewals ¹	Additions new assets	Depreciation expense	Impairment loss / revaluation decrements (recognised in P/L)	Impairment loss / revaluation decrements (recognised in equity)	WIP transfers	Revaluation increments to equity (ARR)	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
Capital work in progress	2,974	–	2,974	773	136	–	–	–	(1,056)	–	2,827	–	2,827
Plant and equipment	5,914	(4,221)	1,693	228	27	(405)	(152)	–	–	–	6,168	(4,778)	1,390
Office equipment	558	(446)	112	–	9	(29)	–	–	32	–	600	(474)	126
Furniture and fittings	330	(241)	89	5	22	(17)	–	–	–	–	358	(259)	99
Land:													
– Operational land	3,607	–	3,607	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,607	–	3,607
– Community land	2,214	–	2,214	–	–	–	–	–	–	359	2,573	–	2,573
Land improvements – non-depreciable	798	–	798	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	798	–	798
Land improvements – depreciable	311	(171)	140	–	–	(31)	–	–	–	–	311	(203)	108
Infrastructure:													
– Buildings – non-specialised	41,674	(16,046)	25,628	237	–	(621)	–	–	–	1,788	44,893	(17,860)	27,033
– Buildings – specialised	1,457	(369)	1,088	–	–	(19)	–	–	–	76	1,562	(416)	1,146
– Other structures	8,045	(1,850)	6,195	24	122	(180)	–	–	850	317	9,487	(2,159)	7,328
– Roads	186,383	(38,047)	148,336	725	–	(3,997)	–	(3,649)	162	7,502	196,777	(47,700)	149,077
– Footpaths	1,889	(570)	1,319	–	–	(33)	–	–	–	76	2,001	(638)	1,363
– Stormwater drainage	5,664	(1,326)	4,338	–	–	(65)	–	–	–	329	6,101	(1,498)	4,603
– Water supply network	17,028	(7,796)	9,232	–	3	(130)	–	–	1	702	18,345	(8,537)	9,808
– Sewerage network	12,761	(3,436)	9,325	–	3	(99)	–	–	3	712	13,751	(3,808)	9,943
– Swimming pools	1,156	(265)	891	–	–	(15)	–	–	–	63	1,239	(300)	939
– Kerb and gutter	4,447	(1,469)	2,978	–	47	(52)	–	–	5	173	4,761	(1,610)	3,151
Other assets:													
– Library books	152	(123)	29	15	–	(10)	–	–	–	–	167	(133)	34
– Other	796	(289)	507	–	–	(38)	–	–	3	28	846	(347)	499
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	298,158	(76,665)	221,493	2,007	369	(5,741)	(152)	(3,649)	–	12,125	317,172	(90,720)	226,452

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

C1-6 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

Material accounting policy information

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are held at fair value. Independent comprehensive valuations are performed at least every five years, however the carrying amount of assets is assessed by Council at each reporting date to confirm that it is not materially different from current fair value.

Water and sewerage network assets are indexed at each reporting period in accordance with the Rates Reference Manual issued by DCCEEW.

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Plant and equipment	Years	Other equipment	Years
Office equipment	5 to 10	Playground equipment	5 to 15
Office furniture	10 to 20	Benches, seats etc.	10 to 20
Computer equipment	3 to 4		
Vehicles	5 to 8	Buildings	
Heavy plant/road making equipment	5 to 8	Buildings: masonry	50 to 100
Other plant and equipment	5 to 15	Buildings: other	20 to 40
Water and sewer assets		Stormwater assets	
Dams and reservoirs	20 to 100	Drains	70 to 100
Bores	10 to 50	Culverts	50 to 80
Reticulation pipes: PVC	50 to 80	Flood control structures	20 to 80
Reticulation pipes: other	25 to 50		
Pumps and telemetry	8 to 20		
Transportation assets		Other infrastructure assets	
Sealed roads: surface	15	Bulk earthworks	Indefinite
Sealed roads: structure	35 to 150	Swimming pools	25 to 140
Unsealed roads	90 to 150	Other open space/recreational assets	20
Bridge: concrete	80 to 120	Other infrastructure	20
Bridge: other	80 to 120		
Road pavements	35 to 130		
Kerb, gutter and footpaths	40		

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

Land under roads

Land under roads is land under roadways and road reserves including land under footpaths, nature strips and median strips.

Council has elected not to recognise land under roads acquired before 1 July 2008. Land under roads acquired after 1 July 2008 is recognised in accordance with the IPPE accounting policy.

Crown reserves

Crown reserves under Council's care and control are recognised as assets of the Council. While ownership of the reserves remains with the Crown, Council retains operational control of the reserves and is responsible for their maintenance and use in accordance with the specific purposes to which the reserves are dedicated.

Improvements on Crown reserves are also recorded as assets, while maintenance costs incurred by Council and revenues relating to the reserves are recognised within Council's Income Statement.

Rural Fire Service assets

Council has assessed the value of rural firefighting assets ("Red fleet") and determined that the value of these assets are not material and have not recognised them in the financial statements.

Externally restricted infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

	as at 30/06/24			as at 30/06/23		
	Gross carrying amount \$ '000	Accumulated depn. and impairment \$ '000	Net carrying amount \$ '000	Gross carrying amount \$ '000	Accumulated depn. and impairment \$ '000	Net carrying amount \$ '000
Water supply						
WIP	514	—	514	536	—	536
Plant and equipment	315	94	221	315	94	221
Land						
– Operational land	34	—	34	34	—	34
Infrastructure	19,402	9,282	10,120	18,345	8,537	9,808
Total water supply	20,265	9,376	10,889	19,230	8,631	10,599
Sewerage services						
WIP	3	—	3	2	—	2
Plant and equipment	285	74	211	285	74	211
Land						
– Operational land	88	—	88	88	—	88
Infrastructure	14,588	4,173	10,415	13,751	3,808	9,943
Total sewerage services	14,964	4,247	10,717	14,126	3,882	10,244
Total restricted infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	35,229	13,623	21,606	33,356	12,513	20,843

C1-7 Intangible assets

Intangible assets are as follows:

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Other Intangibles		
Opening values at 1 July		
Gross book value	18	318
Accumulated amortisation	(18)	(18)
Net book value – opening balance	–	300
Movements for the year		
Gross book value written off	–	(300)
Closing values at 30 June		
Gross book value	18	18
Accumulated amortisation	(18)	(18)
Total intangible assets – net book value	–	–

C1-8 Other

Other assets

	2024 Current \$ '000	2024 Non-current \$ '000	2023 Current \$ '000	2023 Non-current \$ '000
Prepayments	26	–	22	–
Total other assets	26	–	22	–

C2 Leasing activities

C2-1 Council as a lessee

Council had no leases in place as at 30 June 2023.

(a) Income Statement

The amounts recognised in the Income Statement relating to leases where Council is a lessee are shown below:

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Expenses relating to leases of low-value assets	11	10
	11	10

(b) Leases at significantly below market value – concessionary / peppercorn leases

Council has elected not to separate non-lease components from lease components for any class of asset and has accounted for payments as a single component.

The right-of-use asset is measured using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises: the lease liability, initial direct costs, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration, less any lease incentives received. The right-of-use asset is depreciated over the lease term on a straight-line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of asset accounting policy.

Exceptions to lease accounting

Council has applied the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. Council recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Leases at significantly below market value / Concessionary leases

Council has elected to measure the right of use asset arising from the concessionary leases at cost which is based on the associated lease liability at initial recognition.

C2-2 Council as a lessor

Operating leases

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000

The amounts recognised in the Income Statement relating to operating leases where Council is a lessor are shown below

(i) Assets held as property, plant and equipment

Lease income (excluding variable lease payments not dependent on an index or rate)	87	148
Total income relating to operating leases for Council assets	87	148

C3 Liabilities of Council

C3-1 Payables

	2024 Current \$ '000	2024 Non-current \$ '000	2023 Current \$ '000	2023 Non-current \$ '000
Goods and services – operating expenditure	296	–	439	–
Goods and services – capital expenditure	652	–	59	–
Accrued expenses:				
– Borrowings	3	–	4	–
– Salaries and wages	112	–	90	–
Security bonds, deposits and retentions	448	–	284	–
ATO – net GST payable	1	–	1	–
Retirement home contributions	1,583	–	1,813	–
Other	82	–	79	–
Prepaid rates	203	–	182	–
Total payables	3,380	–	2,951	–

Payables relating to restricted assets

	2024 Current \$ '000	2024 Non-current \$ '000	2023 Current \$ '000	2023 Non-current \$ '000
Externally restricted assets				
Water	170	–	61	–
Sewer	–	–	12	–
Payables relating to externally restricted assets	170	–	73	–
Total payables relating to restricted assets	170	–	73	–
Total payables relating to unrestricted assets	3,210	–	2,878	–
Total payables	3,380	–	2,951	–

Current payables not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
The following liabilities, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.		
Payables – security bonds, deposits and retentions	2,205	1,904
Total payables	2,205	1,904

C3-2 Contract Liabilities

		2024 Current \$ '000	2024 Non-current \$ '000	2023 Current \$ '000	2023 Non-current \$ '000
	Notes				
Grants and contributions received in advance:					
Unexpended capital grants (to construct Council controlled assets)	(i)	4,122	–	4,510	–
Total grants received in advance		4,122	–	4,510	–
Total contract liabilities		4,122	–	4,510	–

Notes

(i) Council has received funding to construct assets including sporting facilities, roads, library and other infrastructure. The funds received are under an enforceable contract which require Council to construct an identified asset which will be under Council's control on completion. The revenue is recognised as Council constructs the asset and the contract liability reflects the funding received which cannot yet be recognised as revenue. The revenue is expected to be recognised in the next 12 months.

Contract liabilities relating to restricted assets

	2024 Current \$ '000	2024 Non-current \$ '000	2023 Current \$ '000	2023 Non-current \$ '000
Externally restricted assets				
Water	–	–	6	–
Unspent grants held as contract liabilities (excl. Water & Sewer)	4,122	–	4,504	–
Contract liabilities relating to externally restricted assets	4,122	–	4,510	–
Total contract liabilities relating to restricted assets	4,122	–	4,510	–
Total contract liabilities	4,122	–	4,510	–

Significant changes in contract liabilities

Contract Liabilities reduced during the year by \$388,000. This was due in part, to Council being able to budget for and begin expenditure on grant funded capital projects, which had previously been on hold due to adverse weather events.

C3-3 Borrowings

	2024 Current \$ '000	2024 Non-current \$ '000	2023 Current \$ '000	2023 Non-current \$ '000
Loans – secured ¹	227	1,198	215	1,425
Total borrowings	227	1,198	215	1,425

(1) Loans are secured over the general rating income of Council.

Disclosures on liability interest rate risk exposures, fair value disclosures and security can be found in Note E1-1.

Borrowings relating to restricted assets

	2024 Current \$ '000	2024 Non-current \$ '000	2023 Current \$ '000	2023 Non-current \$ '000
Externally restricted assets				
Water	83	397	79	480
Borrowings relating to externally restricted assets	83	397	79	480
Total borrowings relating to restricted assets	83	397	79	480
Total borrowings relating to unrestricted assets	144	801	136	945
Total borrowings	227	1,198	215	1,425

(a) Changes in liabilities arising from financing activities

	2023		Non-cash movements				2024
	Opening Balance \$ '000	Cash flows \$ '000	Acquisition \$ '000	Fair value changes \$ '000	Acquisition due to change in accounting policy \$ '000	Other non-cash movement \$ '000	Closing balance \$ '000
Loans – secured	1,640	(215)	–	–	–	–	1,425
Total liabilities from financing activities	1,640	(215)	–	–	–	–	1,425

	2022		Non-cash movements				2023
	Opening Balance \$ '000	Cash flows \$ '000	Acquisition \$ '000	Fair value changes \$ '000	Acquisition due to change in accounting policy \$ '000	Other non-cash movement \$ '000	Closing balance \$ '000
Loans – secured	1,846	(206)	–	–	–	–	1,640
Total liabilities from financing activities	1,846	(206)	–	–	–	–	1,640

C3-3 Borrowings (continued)

(b) Financing arrangements

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Total facilities		
Total financing facilities available to Council at the reporting date are:		
Bank overdraft facilities ¹	200	200
Credit cards/purchase cards	150	150
Total financing arrangements	350	350
Drawn facilities		
Financing facilities drawn down at the reporting date are:		
– Credit cards/purchase cards	5	5
Total drawn financing arrangements	5	5
Undrawn facilities		
Undrawn financing facilities available to Council at the reporting date are:		
– Bank overdraft facilities	200	200
– Credit cards/purchase cards	145	145
Total undrawn financing arrangements	345	345

Additional financing arrangements information**Breaches and defaults**

During the current and prior year, there were no defaults or breaches on any of the loans.

(1) The bank overdraft facility may be drawn at any time and may be terminated by the bank without notice.

C3-4 Employee benefit provisions

	2024 Current \$ '000	2024 Non-current \$ '000	2023 Current \$ '000	2023 Non-current \$ '000
Annual leave	414	–	369	–
Long service leave	307	116	330	124
Other entitlements	28	–	111	–
ELE on-costs	33	5	29	5
Total employee benefit provisions	782	121	839	129
Total employee benefit provisions relating to unrestricted assets	782	121	839	129
Total employee benefit provisions	782	121	839	129

Current employee benefit provisions not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
The following provisions, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.		
Provisions – employees benefits	430	453
	430	453

Description of and movements in provisions

	ELE provisions				
	Annual leave \$ '000	Long service leave \$ '000	ELE on-costs \$ '000	Other employee benefits \$ '000	Total \$ '000
2024					
At beginning of year	369	454	34	111	968
Additional provisions	363	41	12	7	423
Amounts used (payments)	(318)	(72)	(8)	(90)	(488)
Total ELE provisions at end of year	414	423	38	28	903
2023					
At beginning of year	427	330	33	40	830
Additional provisions	341	177	17	89	624
Amounts used (payments)	(399)	(53)	(16)	(18)	(486)
Total ELE provisions at end of year	369	454	34	111	968

Material accounting policy information

Long-term employee benefit obligations

The liability for long-service leave and annual leave that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

C3-5 Provisions

	2024 Current \$ '000	2024 Non-Current \$ '000	2023 Current \$ '000	2023 Non-Current \$ '000
Asset remediation/restoration:				
Asset remediation/restoration (future works)	–	170	–	170
Sub-total – asset remediation/restoration	–	170	–	170
Total provisions	–	170	–	170

Description of and movements in provisions

	Other provisions	
	Asset remediation \$ '000	Total \$ '000
2024		
At beginning of year	170	170
Total other provisions at end of year	170	170
2023		
At beginning of year	170	170
Total other provisions at end of year	170	170

Nature and purpose of provisions

Asset remediation

Council has a legal/public obligation to make, restore, rehabilitate and reinstate the council tip.

Material accounting policy information

Provisions are recognised when Council has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount has been reliably estimated.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

Provisions are measured at the present value of management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date. The discount rate used to determine the present value reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as a borrowing cost.

Asset remediation – tips and quarries

Close-down and restoration costs include the dismantling and demolition of infrastructure, and the removal of residual materials and remediation of disturbed areas. Estimated close-down and restoration costs are provided for in the accounting period when the obligation arising from the related disturbance occurs, whether this occurs during the development or during the operation phase, based on the net present value of estimated future costs. Provisions for close-down and restoration costs do not include any additional obligations which are expected to arise from future disturbance.

The cost estimates are calculated annually during the life of the operation to reflect known developments, e.g. updated cost estimates and revisions to the estimated lives of operations, and are subject to formal review at regular intervals.

The ultimate cost of environmental remediation is uncertain and cost estimates can vary in response to many factors, including changes to the relevant legal requirements, the emergence of new restoration techniques, or experience at other locations. The expected timing of expenditure can also change, for example in response to changes in quarry reserves or production rates. As a result, there could be significant adjustments to the provision for close down and restoration and environmental clean-up, which would affect future financial results.

Other movements in the provisions for close-down and restoration costs, including those resulting from new disturbance, updated cost estimates, changes to the estimated lives of operations, and revisions to discount rates, are capitalised within infrastructure, property, plant and equipment. These costs are then depreciated over the lives of the assets to which they relate.

C4 Reserves

C4-1 Nature and purpose of reserves

IPPE Revaluation reserve

The infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE) revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements in the revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

D Council structure

D1 Results by fund

General fund refers to all Council activities other than water and sewer. All amounts disclosed in this note are gross i.e. inclusive of internal charges and recoveries made between the funds. Assets and liabilities shown in the water and sewer columns are restricted for use for these activities.

D1-1 Income Statement by fund

	General 2024 \$ '000	Water 2024 \$ '000	Sewer 2024 \$ '000
Income from continuing operations			
Rates and annual charges	3,769	940	710
User charges and fees	2,501	857	104
Interest and investment revenue	1,404	112	54
Other revenues	268	188	14
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	12,895	50	—
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	4,011	6	—
Net gains from disposal of assets	295	—	—
Other income	87	—	—
Total income from continuing operations	25,230	2,153	882
Expenses from continuing operations			
Employee benefits and on-costs	5,352	184	58
Materials and services	10,014	904	405
Borrowing costs	57	32	—
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	5,852	297	163
Other expenses	480	37	24
Share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method	61	—	—
Total expenses from continuing operations	21,816	1,454	650
Operating result from continuing operations	3,414	699	232
Net operating result for the year	3,414	699	232
Net operating result attributable to each council fund	3,414	699	232
Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	(597)	693	232

D1-2 Statement of Financial Position by fund

	General 2024 \$ '000	Water 2024 \$ '000	Sewer 2024 \$ '000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	(133)	3,998	1,468
Investments	28,400	600	500
Receivables	3,159	280	60
Inventories	300	—	—
Other	26	—	—
Total current assets	31,752	4,878	2,028
Non-current assets			
Receivables	52	22	8
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	218,601	10,889	10,717
Investments accounted for using the equity method	806	—	—
Total non-current assets	219,459	10,911	10,725
Total assets	251,211	15,789	12,753
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	3,210	170	—
Contract liabilities	4,122	—	—
Borrowings	144	83	—
Employee benefit provision	782	—	—
Total current liabilities	8,258	253	—
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	801	397	—
Employee benefit provision	121	—	—
Provisions	170	—	—
Total non-current liabilities	1,092	397	—
Total liabilities	9,350	650	—
Net assets	241,861	15,139	12,753
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus	63,647	7,512	4,310
Revaluation reserves	178,214	7,627	8,443
Council equity interest	241,861	15,139	12,753
Total equity	241,861	15,139	12,753

D2 Interests in other entities

	Council's share of net assets	
	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000
Council's share of net income		
Net share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method – expenses		
Joint ventures	61	65
Total net share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method – expenses	61	65
Total Council's share of net income	(61)	(65)
Council's share of net assets		
Net share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method – assets		
Joint ventures	806	867
Total net share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method – assets	806	867
Total Council's share of net assets	806	867

D2-1 Interests in joint arrangements

The following information is provided for joint arrangements that are individually material to the Council. Included are the amounts as per the individual joint arrangement's financial statements, adjusted for fair-value adjustments, rather than Council's share.

Council is a member of the Far South West Joint Organisation of Councils (FSWJO). Details of Council's membership and participation is as follows:

The FSWJO is a separately constituted entity pursuant to Part 7 (Sections 400O to 400ZH) of the Local Government Act (NSW) 1993, as amended, and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2008. The FSWJO has the same year end date as the Council.

The principal functions of the Far West Joint Organisation will be to:

Establish strategic regional priorities for the joint organisation area and develop strategies and plans for delivering these priorities:

1. Provide regional leadership for the joint organisation area and to be an advocate for strategic regional priorities,
2. Identify and take up opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation on matters relating to the joint organisation area,
3. Enhancing strategic capacity to support member councils to deliver services to their communities,
4. Service delivery to provide services directly to communities within the region.

The percentage ownership interest held is equivalent to the percentage voting rights for all associates as follows:

FSWJO comprises the Councils of the Shires of Balranald, Wentworth, Broken Hill and Central Darling Shire Councils. The Board of the FSWJO comprises 4 voting members being the Mayors of the four member Councils, and non-voting members being the General Managers of the four member Councils, as well as 3 appointed members from the State Government and Cabinet (non-voting).

Balranald Shire Council, as a member of the FSWJO, has a one quarter voting right (25%) in respect to the decisions of the Board.

For the 2023/24 year, no member Councils were required to make contributions to the FSWJO. Members of the FSWJO are indemnified from liability for functions and duties carried out or omitted honestly, in good faith and with due care and diligence.

The FSWJO has engaged an Executive Officer on a standard Local Government employment contract for 3 years.

There are no liability issues identified for Council in the short to medium term.

D2-1 Interests in joint arrangements (continued)

Far South West Joint Organisation Equity Method

\$'000 \$'000
2024 2023

Summarised Statement of Financial Position

Current assets	3,467	3,476
Current liabilities	(245)	(10)
Net assets	3,222	3,466

Summarised Statement of Income and other Comprehensive Income

Grant funding	-	-
Interest income	9	3
Total income from continuing operations	9	3

Employee benefits	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-
Administration expenses	(253)	(263)
Other expenses	-	-
Total expense from continuing operations	(253)	(263)

Gain/(Loss) from continuing operations	(244)	(260)
Total comprehensive income	(244)	(260)

Summarised statement of Cash Flows

Cashflow from operating activities	(10)	(186)
Cashflow from investing activities	-	-

Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(10)	(186)
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Reconciliation of carrying amount of interest in the joint arrangement to summarised financial information for FWJO accounted for using the Equity method:

Balranald Shire Council's share of net assets	806	867
Carrying amount of net assets	806	867

E Risks and accounting uncertainties

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held

Council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks including **(1)** price risk, **(2)** credit risk, **(3)** liquidity risk and **(4)** interest rate risk.

The Council's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Council.

Council does not engage in transactions expressed in foreign currencies and is therefore not subject to foreign currency risk.

Financial risk management is carried out by Council's finance section under policies approved by the Council.

The fair value of Council's financial assets and financial liabilities approximates their carrying amount.

	Carrying value 2024 \$ '000	Carrying value 2023 \$ '000	Fair value 2024 \$ '000	Fair value 2023 \$ '000
Financial assets				
Measured at amortised cost				
Cash and cash equivalents	5,333	5,723	5,333	5,723
Receivables	3,581	3,231	3,581	3,231
Investments				
– Debt securities at amortised cost	29,500	26,522	29,500	26,522
Total financial assets	38,414	35,476	38,414	35,476
Financial liabilities				
Payables	3,380	2,951	3,380	2,951
Loans/advances	1,425	1,640	1,425	1,640
Total financial liabilities	4,805	4,591	4,805	4,591

Council's objective is to maximise its return on cash and investments whilst maintaining an adequate level of liquidity and preserving capital.

Council's finance area manages the cash and Investments portfolio.

Council has an investment policy which complies with the Local Government Act 1993 and Minister's investment order 625. This policy is regularly reviewed by Council and it's staff and an investment report is tabled before Council on a monthly basis setting out the portfolio breakup and its performance as required by Local Government regulations.

The risks associated with the instruments held are:

- **Price risk** – the risk that the capital value of Investments may fluctuate due to changes in market prices, whether these changes are caused by factors specific to individual financial instruments or their issuers or are caused by factors affecting similar instruments traded in a market.
- **Interest rate risk** – the risk that movements in interest rates could affect returns and income.
- **Liquidity risk** – the risk that Council will not be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
- **Credit risk** – the risk that the investment counterparty will not complete their obligations particular to a financial instrument, resulting in a financial loss to Council – be it of a capital or income nature.

Council manages these risks (amongst other measures) by diversifying its portfolio and only purchasing investments with high credit ratings or capital guarantees.

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

(a) Market risk – interest rate and price risk

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
<p>The impact on result for the year and equity of a reasonably possible movement in the price of investments held and interest rates is shown below. The reasonably possible movements were determined based on historical movements and economic conditions in place at the reporting date.</p>		
Impact of a 1% movement in interest rates		
– Equity / Income Statement	353	322

(b) Credit risk

Council's major receivables comprise (i) rates and annual charges and (ii) user charges and fees.

Council manages the credit risk associated with these receivables by monitoring outstanding debt and employing stringent debt recovery procedures. Council also encourages ratepayers to pay their rates by the due date through incentives.

The credit risk for liquid funds and other short-term financial assets is considered negligible, since the counterparties are reputable banks with high quality external credit ratings.

There are no significant concentrations of credit risk, whether through exposure to individual customers, specific industry sectors and/or regions.

The level of outstanding receivables is reported to Council monthly and benchmarks are set and monitored for acceptable collection performance.

Council makes suitable provision for doubtful receivables as required and carries out credit checks on most non-rate debtors.

There are no material receivables that have been subjected to a re-negotiation of repayment terms.

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

Credit risk profile

Receivables – rates and annual charges

Credit risk on rates and annual charges is minimised by the ability of Council to recover these debts as a secured charge over the land; that is, the land can be sold to recover the debt. Council is also able to charge interest on overdue rates and annual charges at higher than market rates which further encourages payment.

	Not yet overdue \$ '000	overdue rates and annual charges				Total \$ '000
		< 5 years \$ '000	1 - 2 years \$ '000	2 - 5 years \$ '000	≥ 5 years \$ '000	
2024						
Gross carrying amount	–	365	71	17	3	456
2023						
Gross carrying amount	–	220	54	46	–	320

Receivables - non-rates and annual charges and contract assets

Council applies the simplified approach for non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets to provide for expected credit losses, which permits the use of the lifetime expected loss provision at inception. To measure the expected credit losses, non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due.

The loss allowance provision is determined as follows. The expected credit losses incorporate forward-looking information.

	Not yet overdue \$ '000	0 - 30 days \$ '000	Overdue debts			Total \$ '000
			31 - 60 days \$ '000	61 - 90 days \$ '000	> 91 days \$ '000	
2024						
Gross carrying amount	–	253	226	1,141	1,780	3,400
Expected loss rate (%)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.00%	2.09%
ECL provision	–	–	–	–	71	71
2023						
Gross carrying amount	2,036	–	3	1	995	3,035
Expected loss rate (%)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.00%	1.97%
ECL provision	–	–	–	–	60	60

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

(c) Liquidity risk

Payables, lease liabilities and borrowings are both subject to liquidity risk; that is, the risk that insufficient funds may be on hand to meet payment obligations as and when they fall due.

Council manages this risk by monitoring its cash flow requirements and liquidity levels, and by maintaining an adequate cash buffer. Payment terms can be extended, and overdraft facilities drawn upon in extenuating circumstances.

Borrowings are also subject to interest rate risk: the risk that movements in interest rates could adversely affect funding costs. Council manages this risk through diversification of borrowing types, maturities and interest rate structures.

The finance team regularly reviews interest rate movements to determine if it would be advantageous to refinance or renegotiate part or all of the loan portfolio.

The timing of cash flows presented in the table below to settle financial liabilities reflects the earliest contractual settlement dates. The timing of expected outflows is not expected to be materially different from contracted cashflows.

The amounts disclosed in the table are the undiscounted contracted cash flows for non-lease liabilities (refer to Note C2-1(b) for lease liabilities) and therefore the balances in the table may not equal the balances in the Statement of Financial Position due to the effect of discounting.

	Weighted average interest rate %	Subject to no maturity \$ '000	payable in: ≤ 1 Year \$ '000	1 - 5 Years \$ '000	> 5 Years \$ '000	Total cash outflows \$ '000	Actual carrying values \$ '000
2024							
Payables	0.00%	448	1,267	1,583	82	3,380	3,380
Borrowings	0.00%	–	276	921	228	1,425	1,425
Total financial liabilities		448	1,543	2,504	310	4,805	4,805
2023							
Payables	0.00%	2,097	854	–	–	2,951	2,951
Borrowings	6.42%	–	215	1,034	391	1,640	1,640
Total financial liabilities		2,097	1,069	1,034	391	4,591	4,591

Loan agreement breaches

There were not any breaches to loan agreements which have occurred during the reporting year.

E2-1 Fair value measurement

The Council measures the following asset and liability classes at fair value on a recurring basis:

– Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

The fair value of assets and liabilities must be estimated in accordance with various accounting standards for either recognition and measurement requirements or for disclosure purposes.

AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a 'level' in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

Fair value measurement hierarchy									
\$ '000	Notes	Date of latest valuation		Level 2 Significant observable inputs		Level 3 Significant unobservable inputs		Total	
		2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-6								
Plant and equipment				–	–	1,652	1,390	1,652	1,390
Office equipment				–	–	99	126	99	126
Furniture and fittings				–	–	99	99	99	99
Land – operational		30/06/22	30/06/22	3,607	3,607	–	–	3,607	3,607
Land community		30/06/23	30/06/23	–	–	2,573	2,573	2,573	2,573
Land improvements		30/06/22	30/06/22	–	–	875	906	875	906
Buildings non - specialised		30/06/22	30/06/22	–	–	28,398	27,033	28,398	27,033
Buildings specialised		30/06/22	30/06/22	–	–	1,287	1,146	1,287	1,146
Other structures		30/06/22	30/06/22	–	–	7,855	7,328	7,855	7,328
Roads and bridges		30/06/22	30/06/22	–	–	157,909	149,077	157,909	149,077
Kerb and channels		30/06/22	30/06/22	–	–	3,261	3,151	3,261	3,151
Footpaths		30/06/22	30/06/22	–	–	1,399	1,363	1,399	1,363
Stormwater drainage		30/06/22	30/06/22	–	–	4,762	4,603	4,762	4,603
Water supply network		30/06/22	30/06/22	–	–	10,120	9,808	10,120	9,808
Sewerage network		30/06/22	30/06/22	–	–	10,415	9,943	10,415	9,943
Swimming pools		30/06/22	30/06/22	–	–	988	939	988	939
Other		30/06/22	30/06/22	–	–	488	533	488	533
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment				3,607	3,607	232,180	220,018	235,787	223,625

Valuation techniques

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)

Where Council is unable to derive fair valuations using quoted market prices of identical assets (ie. level 1 inputs) Council instead utilises a spread of both observable inputs (level 2 inputs) and unobservable inputs (level 3 inputs).

The fair valuation techniques Council has employed while utilising level 2 and level 3 inputs are as follows:

Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

Plant & Equipment, Office Equipment and Furniture & Fittings

Plant & equipment, Office Equipment and Furniture & fittings are valued at cost but are disclosed at fair value in the notes. The carrying amount of these assets is assumed to approximate fair value due to the nature of the items. Examples of assets within these classes area as follows:

- Plant & equipment- Graders, Trucks, rollers, tractors and motor vehicles.
- Office equipment- Computers, photocopies, calculators etc.

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

- Furniture & Fittings- Chairs, desks and display boards.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Operational & Community Land

Operational & community Land are based on either the market value approach (level 2) or the cost approach (level 3). Operational Land is represented by actual market values in the Balranald Shire LGA. Operational land was valued based on observable market values (level 2). Community land is based on values supplied by the Valuer General which is not based on market value and as such have been classified at a level 3.

Council changed its methodology for valuation of Community Land during FY 2022/23 to accord with the methodology supported by the NSW Auditor General. Council uses valuations supplied by the NSW Valuer General with a current base date of 2022.

Buildings- Non Specialised & Specialised

Non- Specialised & Specialised Buildings have been valued externally by APV Valuers and Asset Management of Level 18, 344 Queen Street Brisbane QLD 4000 using the market or cost approach, with effective date 30 June 2022. The approaches estimated the replacement cost of each building by componentising the building into significant parts.

While all buildings were physically inspected and the unit rates based on square market based evidence (level) 2 was established for some building assets, the majority of building assets were valued at a level 3.

Valuations for all building assets have been indexed at 30 June 2024 in line with relevant ABS indices.

Other Structures

Other structures comprise of aerodrome runway, lighting, irrigation systems and fencing etc. have been valued externally by APV Valuers and Asset Management of Level 18, 344 Queen Street Brisbane QLD 4000 using the cost approach, with effective date 30 June 2022. The approach estimated the replacement cost of the asset by componentising the asset into significant parts. No market evidence (level 2) inputs are available therefore level 3 valuation inputs were used for this asset class.

Valuations for all other structures have been indexed at 30 June 2024 in line with relevant ABS indices.

Roads, Bridges, Footpaths & Drainage Infrastructure.

Roads comprise roads carriageway, roadside shoulders & Kerb and Gutter and Channels. Bridges comprised of Bridges and Major Culverts. All these asset classes were valued externally by APV Valuers and Asset Management of Level 18, 344 Queen Street Brisbane QLD 4000 using the cost approach, with effective date 30 June 2022.

The approach estimated the replacement cost for each asset by componentising the assets into significant parts using Balranald Shire Council's internal data base of costs. From field observations taken during this revaluation most of the unsealed road network has been reclassified from a formed and paved road asset to a formed only road asset.

Unit rates applied to the most recent valuation have increased significantly from previous valuations and this is based on the valuer's determination of unit rates applicable to similar local government entities. The increase in unit rates has resulted in a substantial increase in the carrying value of Roads assets at 30 June 2022.

Valuations for all roads and transport assets have been indexed at 30 June 2024 in line with relevant ABS indices.

Water Supply Network

Assets within this class comprise reservoirs, pumping stations and water pipelines.

The cost approach estimated the replacement cost for each asset by componentising the asset into significant parts with different useful lives and taking into account a range of factors. All Water Supply Network Assets were valued externally by APV Valuers and Asset Management of Level 18, 344 Queen Street Brisbane QLD 4000 using the cost approach, with effective date 30 June 2022.

This valuation is based on inventory information provided by Council validated by onsite inspections and CCTV data. No market based evidence (level 2) inputs are available therefore Level 3 valuation inputs were used for this asset class.

Valuations for all water supply assets have been indexed at 30 June 2024 in line with relevant NSW Reference Rates Manual indices.

Sewerage Network

Assets within this class comprise treatment works, pumping stations and, sewerage mains.

The cost approach estimated the replacement cost for each asset by componentising the asset into significant parts with different useful lives and taking into account a range of factors. All Water Supply Network Assets were valued externally by APV

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Valuers and Asset Management of Level 18, 344 Queen Street Brisbane QLD 4000 using the cost approach, with effective date 30 June 2022.

This valuation is based on inventory information provided by Council validated by onsite inspections and CCTV data. No market based evidence (level 2) inputs are available therefore Level 3 valuation inputs were used for this asset class.

Valuations for all sewer assets have been indexed at 30 June 2024 in line with relevant NSW Reference Rates Manual indices.

Swimming Pools

Assets within this class comprise Council's outdoor swimming pool. valued externally by APV Valuers and Asset Management of Level 18, 344 Queen Street Brisbane QLD 4000 using the market or cost approach, with effective date 30 June 2022. The approach estimated the replacement cost for each pool by componentising its significant parts.

While some elements of gross replacement values may be supported from market evidence (Level 2 input) other inputs (such as estimates of pattern of consumption, residual value, asset condition and useful life) required extensive professional judgement and impacted significantly on the final determination of fair value.

Valuations for all swimming pool assets have been indexed at 30 June 2024 in line with relevant ABS indices.

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3)

Significant unobservable valuation inputs used (for level 3 asset classes) and their relationship to fair value.

The following table summarises the quantitative information relating to the significant unobservable inputs used in deriving the various level 3 asset class fair values.

	Valuation technique/s	Unobservable inputs
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		
Plant and equipment	Replacement Cost	Current Replacement Cost, Remaining Useful Life, Residual Value
Office equipment	Replacement Cost	Current Replacement Cost, Remaining Useful Life
Furniture and fittings	Replacement Cost	Current Replacement Cost, Remaining Useful Life
Community Land	Unimproved Value	New South Wales Valuer Generals Unimproved Value
Land improvements	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Current Replacement Cost, Remaining Useful Life, Residual Value
Buildings non specialised	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Current Replacement Cost, Remaining Useful Life, Residual Value
Building specialised	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Current Replacement Cost, Remaining Useful Life, Residual Value
Other structures	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Current Replacement Cost, Remaining Useful Life, Residual Value
Roads and bridges	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Current Replacement Cost, Remaining Useful Life, Residual Value
Kerb and gutter	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Current Replacement Cost, Remaining Useful Life, Residual Value
Footpaths	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Current Replacement Cost, Remaining Useful Life, Residual Value
Stormwater drainage	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Current Replacement Cost, Remaining Useful Life, Residual Value
Water supply network	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Current Replacement Cost, Remaining Useful Life, Residual Value
Sewerage network	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Current Replacement Cost, Remaining Useful Life, Residual Value
Swimming pools	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Current Replacement Cost, Remaining Useful Life, Residual Value
Other assets	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Current Replacement Cost, Remaining Useful Life, Residual Value

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

A reconciliation of the movements in recurring fair value measurements allocated to Level 3 of the hierarchy is provided below:

	Plant and equipment		Office equipment		Furniture and fittings		Community Land	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
Opening balance	1,390	1,693	126	112	99	89	2,573	2,214
Total gains or losses for the period								
Other movements								
Purchases (GBV)	820	255	10	41	21	27	–	–
Disposals (WDV)	(149)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Depreciation and impairment	(409)	(557)	(35)	(29)	(20)	(17)	–	–
Adjustments and Transfers	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	359
Rounding	–	(1)	(2)	2	(1)	–	–	–
Closing balance	1,652	1,390	99	126	99	99	2,573	2,573

	Land improvement		Buildings n/spec'd		Building specialised		Other structures	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
Opening balance	906	938	27,033	25,628	1,146	1,088	7,328	6,195
Total gains or losses for the period								
Other movements								
Purchases (GBV)	–	–	616	237	84	–	314	996
Disposals (WDV)	–	–	(415)	–	–	–	(6)	–
Depreciation and impairment	(31)	(31)	(637)	(621)	(21)	(19)	(238)	(180)
Adjustments and Transfers	–	–	–	–	–	–	34	–
Revaluations	–	–	1,802	1,788	78	76	424	317
Rounding	–	(1)	(1)	1	–	1	(1)	–
Closing balance	875	906	28,398	27,033	1,287	1,146	7,855	7,328

	Roads and bridges		Kerb and gutter		Footpaths		Stormwater drainage	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
Opening balance	149,077	148,336	3,151	2,978	1,363	1,319	4,603	4,338
Total gains or losses for the period								
Other movements								
Purchases (GBV)	4,250	887	–	52	–	–	–	–
Depreciation and impairment	(4,196)	(7,646)	(55)	(52)	(35)	(33)	(70)	(65)
Adjustments and Transfers	1,109	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Revaluations	7,667	7,502	166	173	71	76	230	329
Rounding	2	(2)	(1)	–	–	1	(1)	1
Closing balance	157,909	149,077	3,261	3,151	1,399	1,363	4,762	4,603

	Water supply network		Sewerage network		Swimming pool		Other assets	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
Opening balance	9,808	9,232	9,943	9,325	939	891	533	536
Total gains or losses for the period								
Other movements								
Purchases (GBV)	127	4	140	6	–	–	17	18
Depreciation and impairment	(297)	(130)	(163)	(99)	(16)	(15)	(89)	(48)
Revaluations	482	702	496	712	64	63	25	28
Rounding	–	–	(1)	(1)	1	–	2	(1)
Closing balance	10,120	9,808	10,415	9,943	988	939	488	533

continued on next page ...

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

	Total	
	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000
Opening balance	220,018	214,912
Purchases (GBV)	6,399	2,523
Disposals (WDV)	(570)	–
Depreciation and impairment	(6,312)	(9,542)
Adjustments and Transfers	1,143	359
Revaluations	11,505	11,766
Rounding	(3)	–
Closing balance	232,180	220,018

Information relating to the transfers into and out of the level 3 fair valuation hierarchy includes:

Buildings assets were revalued during the year and while a small number of assets were assessed with market inputs (level 2), Council has utilised the level 3 valuations effective 30 June 2023.

Highest and best use

All of Council's non-financial assets are considered as being utilised for their highest and best use.

E3-1 Contingencies

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but their knowledge and disclosure is considered relevant to the users of Council's financial report.

LIABILITIES NOT RECOGNISED

1. Guarantees

(i) Defined benefit superannuation contribution plans

Council is party to an Industry Defined Benefit Plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, named The Local Government Superannuation Scheme – Pool B (the Scheme) which is a defined benefit plan that has been deemed to be a 'multi-employer fund' for purposes of AASB119 Employee Benefits for the following reasons:

- Assets are not segregated within the sub-group according to the employees of each sponsoring employer.
- The contribution rates have been the same for all sponsoring employers. That is, contribution rates have not varied for each sponsoring employer according to the experience relating to the employees of that sponsoring employer.
- Benefits for employees of all sponsoring employers are determined according to the same formulae and without regard to the sponsoring employer.
- The same actuarial assumptions are currently used in respect of the employees of each sponsoring employer.

Given the factors above, each sponsoring employer is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers, and hence shares in the associated gains and losses (to the extent that they are not borne by members).

Description of the funding arrangements.

Pooled Employers are required to pay future service employer contributions and past service employer contributions to the Fund.

The future service employer contributions were determined using the new entrant rate method under which a contribution rate sufficient to fund the total benefits over the working life-time of a typical new entrant is calculated. The current future service employer contribution rates are:

Division B	1.9 times member contributions for non-180 Point Members; Nil for 180 Point Members*
Division C	2.5% salaries
Division D	1.64 times member contributions

* For 180 Point Members, Employers are required to contribute 8.5% of salaries for the year ending 30 June 2024 (increasing to 9.0% in line with the increase in the Superannuation Guarantee) to these members' accumulation accounts, which are paid in addition to members' defined benefits.

The past service contribution for each Pooled Employer is a share of the total past service contributions of \$20.0 million per annum for 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024, apportioned according to each employer's share of the accrued liabilities as at 30 June 2023. These past service contributions are used to maintain the adequacy of the funding position for the accrued liabilities.

The adequacy of contributions is assessed at each triennial actuarial investigation and monitored annually between triennials.

Description of the extent to which Council can be liable to the plan for other Council's obligations under the terms and conditions of the multi-employer plan

As stated above, each sponsoring employer (Council) is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers and hence shares in the associated gains and losses.

However, there is no relief under the Fund's trust deed for employers to walk away from their defined benefit obligations. Under limited circumstances, an employer may withdraw from the plan when there are no active members, on full payment of outstanding additional contributions. There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of the Council.

There are no specific provisions under the Fund's trust deed dealing with deficits or surplus on wind-up.

There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of an employer.

The amount of Council employer contributions to the defined benefit section of the Local Government Superannuation Scheme and recognised as an expense for the year ending 30 June 2024 was \$32,400.54. The last valuation of the Scheme was performed by Fund Actuary, Richard Boyfield, FIAA as at 30 June 2023. The amount of additional contributions included in

E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

the total employer contribution advised above is \$8,406.11. Council's expected contribution to the plan for the next annual reporting period is \$23,025.47.

The estimated employer reserves financial position for the Pooled Employers at 30 June 2024 is:

Employer reserves only *	\$millions	Asset Coverage
Assets	2,237.5	
Past Service Liabilities	2,141.9	104.5%
Vested Benefits	2,159.8	103.6%

* excluding member accounts and reserves in both assets and liabilities.

The share of any funding surplus or deficit that can be attributed to Council is 0.08%

Council's share of that deficiency cannot be accurately calculated as the Scheme is a mutual arrangement where assets and liabilities are pooled together for all member councils. For this reason, no liability for the deficiency has been recognised in Council's accounts. Council has a possible obligation that may arise should the Scheme require immediate payment to correct the deficiency.

The key economic long term assumptions used to calculate the present value of accrued benefits are:

Investment return	6.0% per annum
Salary inflation	3.5% per annum
Increase in CPI	3.5% for FY 23/24 2.5% per annum

The contribution requirements may vary from the current rates if the overall sub-group experience is not in line with the actuarial assumptions in determining the funding program; however, any adjustment to the funding program would be the same for all sponsoring employers in the Pooled Employers group.

Please note that the estimated employer reserves financial position above is a preliminary calculation, and once all the relevant information has been received by the Funds Actuary, the final end of year review, which will be a triennial actuarial investigation will be completed by December 2024.

(ii) Statewide Limited

Council is a member of Statewide Mutual, a mutual pool scheme providing liability insurance to local government.

Membership includes the potential to share in either the net assets or liabilities of the fund depending on its past performance. Council's share of the net assets or liabilities reflects Council's contributions to the pool and the result of insurance claims within each of the fund years.

The future realisation and finalisation of claims incurred but not reported to 30 June this year may result in future liabilities or benefits as a result of past events that Council will be required to fund or share in respectively.

(iii) StateCover Limited

Council is a member of StateCover Mutual Limited and holds a partly paid share in the entity. StateCover is a company providing workers compensation insurance cover to the NSW local government industry and specifically Council.

Council has a contingent liability to contribute further equity in the event of the erosion of the company's capital base as a result of the company's past performance and/or claims experience or as a result of any increased prudential requirements from APRA. These future equity contributions would be required to maintain the company's minimum level of net assets in accordance with its licence requirements.

E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

(iv) Other guarantees

Council has provided no other guarantees other than those listed above.

2. Other liabilities

(i) Third party claims

The Council is involved from time to time in various claims incidental to the ordinary course of business including claims for damages relating to its services.

Council believes that it is appropriately covered for all claims through its insurance coverage and does not expect any material liabilities to eventuate.

(ii) Potential land acquisitions due to planning restrictions imposed by Council

Council has classified a number of privately owned land parcels as local open space or bushland.

As a result, where notified in writing by the various owners, Council will be required to purchase these land parcels.

At reporting date, reliable estimates as to the value of any potential liability (and subsequent land asset) from such potential acquisitions has not been possible.

ASSETS NOT RECOGNISED

(i) Land under roads

As permitted under AASB 1051, Council has elected not to bring to account land under roads that it owned or controlled up to and including 30/6/08.

(ii) Infringement notices/fines

Fines and penalty income, the result of Council issuing infringement notices is followed up and collected by the Infringement Processing Bureau.

Council's revenue recognition policy for such income is to account for it as revenue on receipt.

Accordingly, at year end, there is a potential asset due to Council representing issued but unpaid infringement notices.

Due to the limited information available on the status, value and duration of outstanding notices, Council is unable to determine the value of outstanding income.

F People and relationships

F1 Related party disclosures

F1-1 Key management personnel (KMP)

Key management personnel (KMP) of the council are those persons having the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the council, directly or indirectly. The aggregate amount of KMP compensation included in the Income Statement is:

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000
Compensation:		
Short-term benefits	635	534
Termination benefits	20	40
Total	655	574

F1-2 Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000

The aggregate amount of Councillor and Administrator fees and associated expenses included in materials and services expenses in the Income Statement are:

Administrator fee	120	123
Other Councillors' expenses (including Administrator)	13	4
Total	133	127

F2 Other relationships

F2-1 Audit fees

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

During the year, the following fees were incurred for services provided by the auditor of Council, related practices and non-related audit firms

Auditors of the Council - NSW Auditor-General:

(i) Audit and other assurance services

Audit and review of financial statements

	67	63
Remuneration for audit and other assurance services	67	63
Total Auditor-General remuneration	67	63
Total audit fees	67	63

G Other matters

G1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information

Reconciliation of Operating Result

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Net operating result from Income Statement	4,345	6,849
Add / (less) non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortisation	6,312	5,741
(Gain) / loss on disposal of assets	(295)	300
Losses/(gains) recognised on fair value re-measurements through the P&L:		
– Revaluation decrements / impairments of IPP&E direct to P&L	–	152
Share of net (profits)/losses of associates/joint ventures using the equity method	61	65
Movements in operating assets and liabilities and other cash items:		
(Increase) / decrease of receivables	(501)	(794)
Increase / (decrease) in provision for impairment of receivables	151	(45)
(Increase) / decrease of inventories	(84)	42
(Increase) / decrease of other current assets	(4)	4
Increase / (decrease) in payables	(143)	(737)
Increase / (decrease) in accrued interest payable	(1)	(5)
Increase / (decrease) in other accrued expenses payable	22	10
Increase / (decrease) in other liabilities	(42)	(539)
Increase / (decrease) in contract liabilities	(388)	1,298
Increase / (decrease) in employee benefit provision	(65)	138
Net cash flows from operating activities	9,368	12,479

G2-1 Commitments

Capital commitments (exclusive of GST)

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

Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:

Property, plant and equipment

Sewerage and water infrastructure	–	6
Buildings	4,607	5,005
Roads	1,163	972
Other Structures	2,749	3,082
Total commitments	8,519	9,065

These expenditures are payable as follows:

Within the next year	4,239	4,785
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	4,280	4,280
Total payable	8,519	9,065

Sources for funding of capital commitments:

Future grants and contributions	4,280	4,280
Unexpended grants	4,239	4,785
Total sources of funding	8,519	9,065

G3-1 Events occurring after the reporting date

Council is unaware of any material or significant 'non-adjusting events' that should be disclosed.

G4 Statement of performance measures

G4-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results

\$ '000	Amounts 2024	Indicator 2024	Indicators 2023 2022		Benchmark
1. Operating performance ratio					
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions less operating expenses ^{1,2}	94	0.39%	20.40%	11.37%	> 0.00%
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions ¹	23,953				
2. Own source operating revenue ratio					
Total continuing operating revenue excluding all grants and contributions ¹	11,008	39.36%	32.98%	35.46%	> 60.00%
Total continuing operating revenue ¹	27,970				
3. Unrestricted current ratio					
Current assets less all external restrictions	24,776	16.51x	12.49x	7.15x	> 1.50x
Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities	1,501				
4. Debt service cover ratio					
Operating result before capital excluding interest and depreciation/impairment/amortisation ¹	6,495	21.37x	34.03x	24.01x	> 2.00x
Principal repayments (Statement of Cash Flows) plus borrowing costs (Income Statement)	304				
5. Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage					
Rates and annual charges outstanding	292	5.09%	5.45%	2.44%	< 10.00%
Rates and annual charges collectable	5,742				
6. Cash expense cover ratio					
Current year's cash and cash equivalents plus all term deposits	34,833	20.93	26.03	24.66	> 3.00
Monthly payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities	1,664	months	months	months	months

(1) Excludes fair value increments on investment properties, reversal of revaluation decrements, reversal of impairment losses on receivables, net gain on sale of assets and net share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method and includes pensioner rate subsidies

(2) Excludes impairment/revaluation decrements of IPPE, fair value decrements on investment properties, net loss on disposal of assets and net loss on share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method

G4-2 Statement of performance measures by fund

\$ '000	General Indicators ³		Water Indicators		Sewer Indicators		Benchmark
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	
1. Operating performance ratio							
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions less operating expenses ^{1, 2}	(3.97)%	17.43%	32.28%	42.85%	26.30%	42.21%	> 0.00%
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions ¹							
2. Own source operating revenue ratio							
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions ¹	32.20%	25.10%	97.40%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	> 60.00%
Total continuing operating revenue ¹							
3. Unrestricted current ratio							
Current assets less all external restrictions	16.51x	12.49x	0.22x	∞	∞	∞	> 1.50x
Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities							
4. Debt service cover ratio							
Operating result before capital excluding interest and depreciation/impairment/amortisation ¹	26.31x	45.77x	9.21x	8.56x	∞	∞	> 2.00x
Principal repayments (Statement of Cash Flows) plus borrowing costs (Income Statement)							
5. Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage							
Rates and annual charges outstanding	4.22%	4.15%	8.83%	9.61%	4.49%	6.38%	< 10.00%
Rates and annual charges collectable							
6. Cash expense cover ratio							
Current year's cash and cash equivalents plus all term deposits	19.07 months	25.30 months	35.99 months	33.83 months	36.33 months	28.48 months	> 3.00 months
Monthly payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities							

(1) - (2) Refer to Notes at Note G6-1 above.

(3) General fund refers to all of Council's activities except for its water and sewer activities which are listed separately.

End of the audited financial statements

H Additional Council disclosures (unaudited)

H1-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results (graphs)

1. Operating performance ratio



Purpose of operating performance ratio

This ratio measures Council's achievement of containing operating expenditure within operating revenue.

Commentary on 2023/24 result

2023/24 ratio 0.39%

The ratio has declined from previous years due to the increase in expenditures from previously unspent grant funds for projects that had been delayed for up to 2 years due to major flooding events across the regions. This made access to ground works impossible for an extended period and also restricted access to available contractors and suppliers, due to higher than normal demand. Council commenced accelerated works during FY 24 to reduce the backlog of project expenditure.

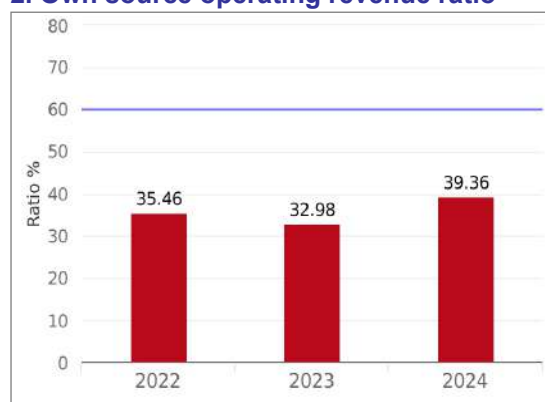
Benchmark: — > 0.00%

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

2. Own source operating revenue ratio



Purpose of own source operating revenue ratio

This ratio measures fiscal flexibility. It is the degree of reliance on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions.

Commentary on 2023/24 result

2023/24 ratio 39.36%

This ratio has increased slightly during FY 24 but remains relatively consistent with past year's performance and is typical of the level of own source funds available to smaller councils across the state which are heavily dependent on external funding.

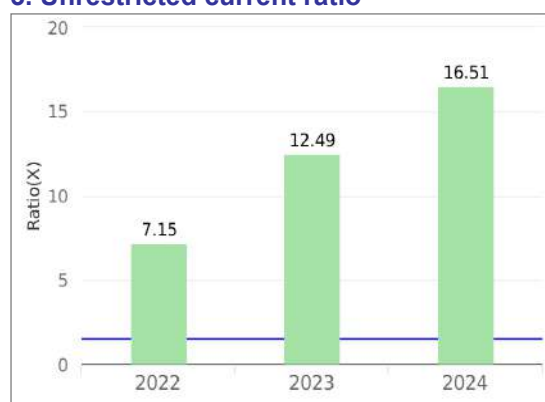
Benchmark: — > 60.00%

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

3. Unrestricted current ratio



Purpose of unrestricted current ratio

To assess the adequacy of working capital and its ability to satisfy obligations in the short term for the unrestricted activities of Council.

Commentary on 2023/24 result

2023/24 ratio 16.51x

Council's Unrestricted Current ratio has continued to improve over the past 3 years, indicating improvement in financial management and prudent budget control.

Benchmark: — > 1.50x

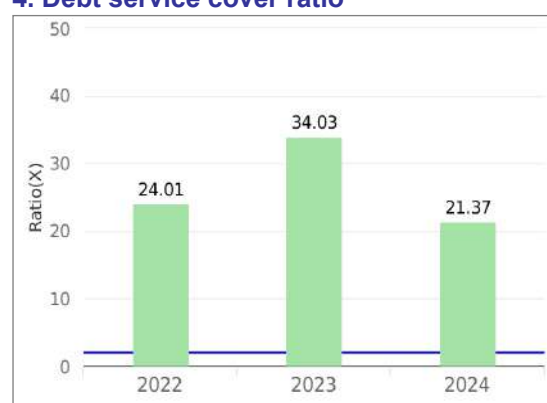
Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

H1-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results (graphs) (continued)

4. Debt service cover ratio



Purpose of debt service cover ratio

This ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments

Commentary on 2023/24 result

2023/24 ratio 21.37x

The ratio is in line with the decline in Operating Performance ratio above which reflects increased operating expenditures during FY 24. The ratio remains well above benchmark.

Benchmark: — > 2.00x

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

5. Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage



Purpose of rates and annual charges outstanding percentage

To assess the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts.

Commentary on 2023/24 result

2023/24 ratio 5.09%

Rates and Charges outstanding has declined slightly over the previous period, and remains well under benchmark of 10%. The performance against the benchmark remains very strong in comparison to smaller regional and remote councils across the state. Increased recovery action during FY 25 will further improve Council's position.

Benchmark: — < 10.00%

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

6. Cash expense cover ratio



Purpose of cash expense cover ratio

This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months a Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow.

Commentary on 2023/24 result

2023/24 ratio 20.93 months

Performance against this ratio is again reflective of increased expenditures during FY 24 to reduce the backlog of grant programs, however the ratio remains well above benchmark.

Benchmark: — > 3.00months

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

H1-2 Financial review

H1-2 Financial review (continued)

Key financial figures of Council over the past 5 years

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000	2022 \$ '000	2021 \$ '000	2020 \$ '000
Inflows:					
Rates and annual charges revenue	5,419	5,052	4,557	4,129	3,875
User charges revenue	3,462	2,225	2,191	1,980	2,297
Interest and investment revenue (losses)	1,570	665	119	74	153
Grants income – operating and capital	16,962	16,978	13,352	12,476	12,137
Total income from continuing operations	28,265	25,331	20,688	19,113	18,816
Sale proceeds from IPPE	865	–	43	–	40
Outflows:					
Employee benefits and on-cost expenses	5,594	4,936	5,432	5,777	5,020
Borrowing costs	89	101	119	125	143
Materials and contracts expenses	11,323	6,763	3,681	2,814	4,437
Total expenses from continuing operations	23,920	18,482	15,292	14,675	15,246
Total cash purchases of IPPE	7,430	2,551	7,730	6,386	8,277
Total loan repayments (incl. leases)	215	206	190	257	265
Operating surplus/(deficit) (excl. capital income)	328	4,087	1,656	753	(487)
Financial position figures					
Current assets	38,658	35,604	25,145	20,586	14,357
Current liabilities	8,511	8,515	8,548	7,613	4,432
Net current assets	30,147	27,089	16,597	12,973	9,925
Available working capital (Unrestricted net current assets)	9,986	4,716	3,050	4,888	2,569
Cash and investments – unrestricted	7,506	2,644	2,651	4,297	1,453
Cash and investments – internal restrictions	13,785	12,996	11,618	6,287	6,446
Cash and investments – total	34,833	32,245	22,523	18,042	11,784
Total borrowings outstanding (loans, advances and finance leases)	1,425	1,640	1,846	2,036	2,293
Total value of IPPE (excl. land and earthworks)	332,452	310,194	291,539	242,898	235,913
Total accumulated depreciation	99,223	90,720	76,665	102,491	97,192
Indicative remaining useful life (as a % of GBV)	70%	71%	74%	58%	59%

Source: published audited financial statements of Council (current year and prior year)

H1-3 Council information and contact details

Principal place of business:

70 Market street
BALRANALD NSW 2715

Contact details

Mailing Address:

PO Box 120
BALRANALD NSW 2715

Telephone: 03 5020 1300

Facsimile: 03 5020 1620

Opening hours:

8:30am - 5:00pm
Monday to Friday

Internet: www.balranald.nsw.gv.au

Email: council@balranald.nsw.gv.au

Officers

General Manager (Acting)

Mr Glenn Carroll

Administrator

Mr Michael Colreavy

Responsible Accounting Officer

Mr Glen Carroll

Public Officer

Carol Holmes

Auditors

Auditor General of NSW
Level 19, Darling Park Tower 2, 201 Sussex Street, Sydney
NSW 2000



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the general purpose financial statements

Balranald Shire Council

To the Councillors of Balranald Shire Council

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Balranald Shire Council (the Council), which comprise the Statement by Councillors and Management, the Income Statement and Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2024, the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2024, the Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information and other explanatory information.

In my opinion:

- the Council's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2 (the Division)
- the financial statements:
 - have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of this Division
 - are consistent with the Council's accounting records
 - present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2024, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards
- all information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained
- no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial statements have come to light during the audit.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

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

Other Information

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the special purpose financial statements and Special Schedules (the Schedules).

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the special purpose financial statements and Special Schedule - Permissible income for general rates.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1993* and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, 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.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- on the Original Budget information included in the Income Statement, Statement of Cash Flows, and Note B5-1 'Material budget variations
- on the Special Schedules. A separate opinion has been provided on Special Schedule - Permissible income for general rates
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.



Manuel Moncada

Director, Financial Audit
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

30 October 2024
SYDNEY



Cr Louie Zaffina
Mayor
Balranald Shire Council
PO Box 120
Balranald NSW 2715

Contact: Manuel Moncada
Phone no: 02 9275 7333
Our ref: R008-2124742775-8221

30 October 2024

Dear Mayor

**Report on the Conduct of the Audit
for the year ended 30 June 2024
Balranald Shire Council**

I have audited the general purpose financial statements (GPFS) of the Balranald Shire Council (the Council) for the year ended 30 June 2024 as required by section 415 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).

I expressed an unmodified opinion on the Council's GPFS.

This Report on the Conduct of the Audit (the Report) for the Council for the year ended 30 June 2024 is issued in accordance with section 417 of the Act. This Report should be read in conjunction with my audit opinion on the GPFS issued under section 417(2) of the Act.

INCOME STATEMENT

Operating result

	2024	2023	Variance
	\$m	\$m	%
Rates and annual charges revenue	5.42	5.05	7.3
Grants and contributions revenue	16.96	16.98	0.1
Operating result from continuing operations	4.35	6.85	36.6
Net operating result before capital grants and contributions	0.33	4.09	92.0

Rates and annual charges revenue (\$5.42 million) increased by \$0.37 million (7.3 per cent) in 2023–24 due to a special rate variation increase of 10 per cent.

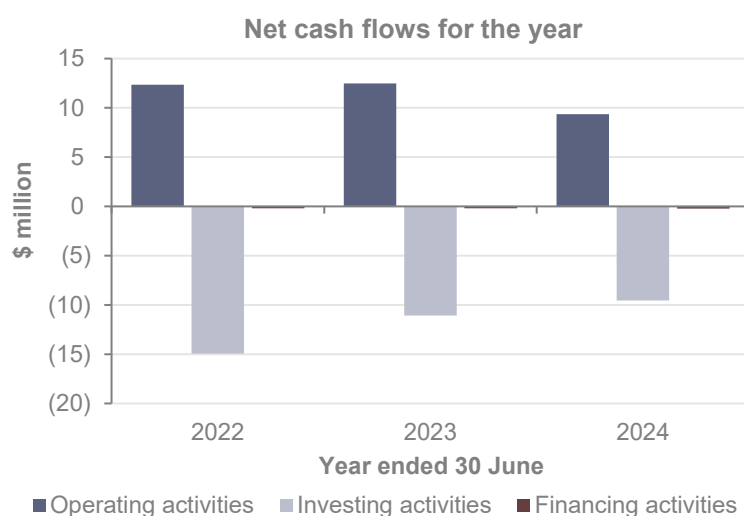
Grants and contributions revenue (\$16.96 million) decreased by \$0.02 million (0.1 per cent) in 2023–24.

Council's operating result from continuing operations (\$4.35 million including the effect of depreciation and amortisation expense of \$6.31 million) was \$2.50 million lower than the 2022–23 result. This was mainly due to increased expenditure on road repairs and maintenance.

The net operating result before capital grants and contributions (\$0.33 million) was \$3.76 million lower than the 2022–23 result.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

- The Statement of Cash Flows illustrates the flow of cash and cash equivalents moving in and out of Council during the year and reveals that cash decreased by \$0.4 million to \$5.3 million at the close of the year.



FINANCIAL POSITION

Cash and investments

Cash and investments	2024	2023	Commentary
	\$m	\$m	
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	34.8	32.2	Externally restricted balances comprise mainly of unspent grants and Domestic Waste Management Charges, and water and sewer funds.
Restricted cash and investments:			Internal allocations are determined by council policies or decisions, which are subject to change.
• External restrictions	13.5	16.6	
• Internal allocations	13.8	13.0	

PERFORMANCE

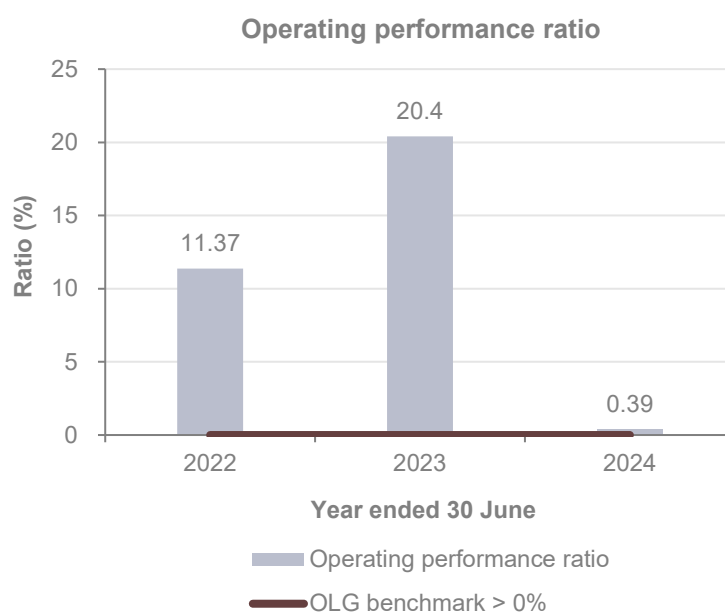
Performance measures

The following section provides an overview of the Council's performance against the performance measures and performance benchmarks set by the Office of Local Government (OLG) within the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

Operating performance ratio

The Council met the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.

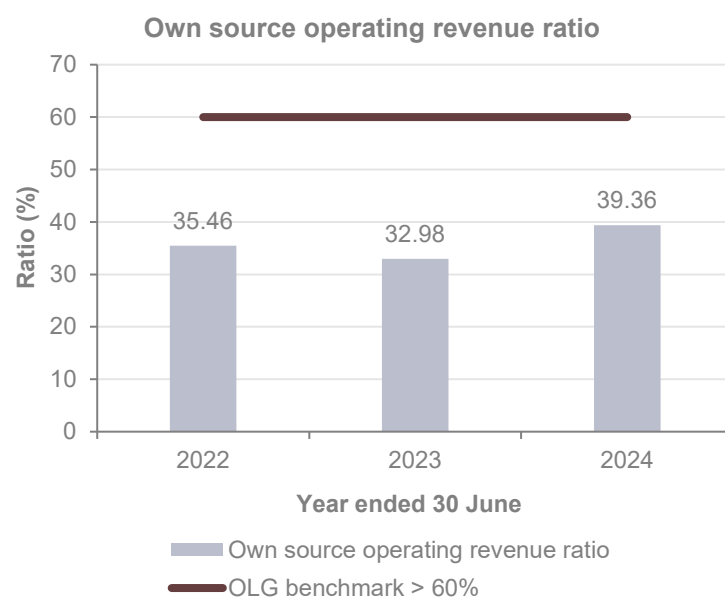
The 'operating performance ratio' measures how well council contained operating expenditure within operating revenue (excluding capital grants and contributions, fair value adjustments, and reversal of revaluation decrements). The benchmark set by OLG is greater than zero per cent.



Own source operating revenue ratio

The Council did not meet the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.

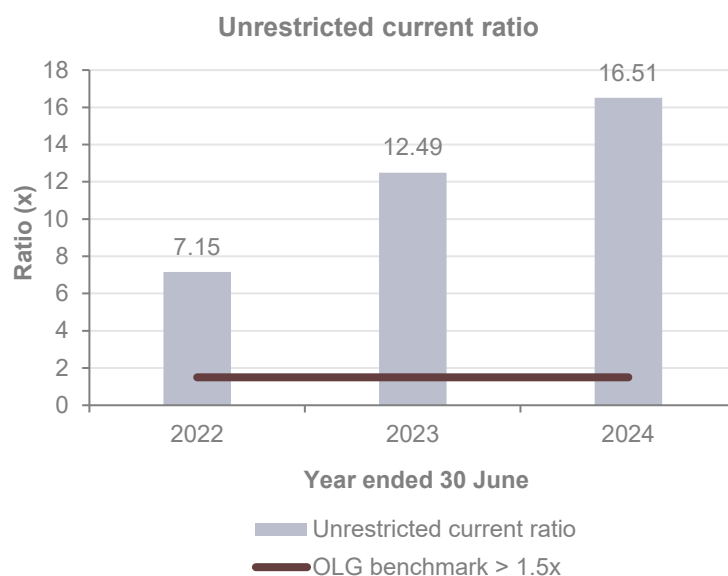
The 'own source operating revenue ratio' measures council's fiscal flexibility and the degree to which it relies on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 60 per cent.



Unrestricted current ratio

The Council met the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.

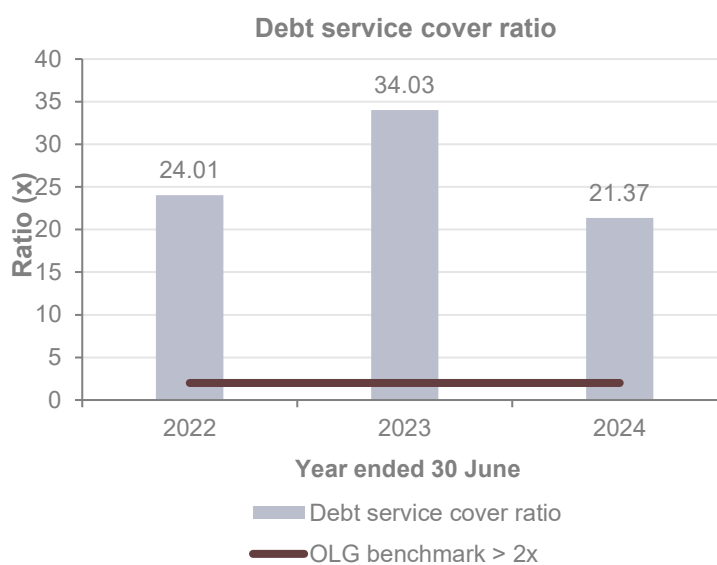
The 'unrestricted current ratio' is specific to local government and represents council's ability to meet its short-term obligations as they fall due. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 1.5 times.



Debt service cover ratio

The Council met the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.

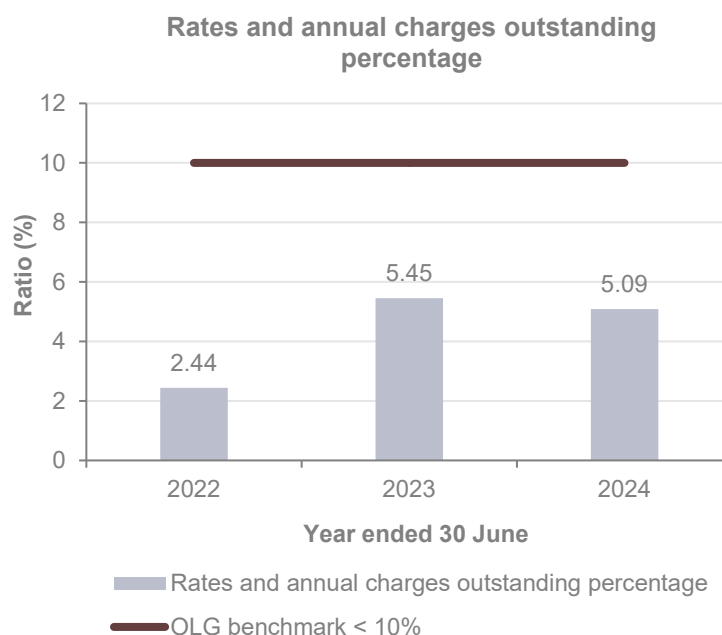
The 'debt service cover ratio' measures the operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than two times.



Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage

The Council met the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.

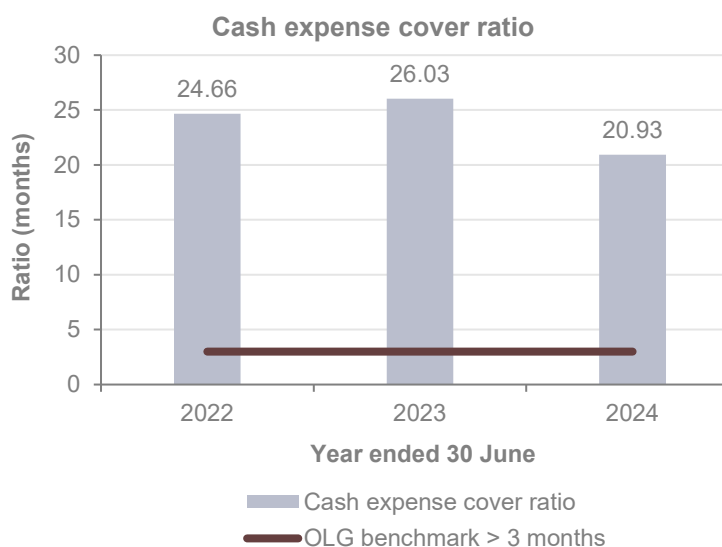
The 'rates and annual charges outstanding percentage' assesses the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on council's liquidity and the adequacy of debt recovery efforts. The benchmark set by OLG is less than 10 per cent for regional councils.



Cash expense cover ratio

The Council met the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.

This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months the council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than three months.



Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment renewals

- Council's asset renewal additions for the year were \$4.5 million compared to \$2.0 million for the prior year
- The level of asset renewals during the year represented 71 percent of the total depreciation expense (\$6.3 million) for the year.
-

OTHER MATTERS

Legislative compliance

My audit procedures did not identify any instances of non-compliance with legislative requirements or a material deficiency in the Council's accounting records or financial statements. The Council's:

- accounting records were maintained in a manner and form to allow the GPFS to be prepared and effectively audited
- staff provided all accounting records and information relevant to the audit.

The Council's:

- accounting records were maintained in a manner and form that facilitated the preparation and the effective audit of the GPFS
- staff provided all accounting records and information relevant to the audit.



Manuel Moncada
Director, Financial Audit

Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

Balranald Shire Council

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024



Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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Background

- i. These Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared for the use by both Council and the Office of Local Government in fulfilling their requirements under National Competition Policy.
- ii. The principle of competitive neutrality is based on the concept of a 'level playing field' between persons/entities competing in a market place, particularly between private and public sector competitors.

Essentially, the principle is that government businesses, whether Commonwealth, state or local, should operate without net competitive advantages over other businesses as a result of their public ownership.

- iii. For Council, the principle of competitive neutrality and public reporting applies only to declared business activities.

These include **(a)** those activities classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as business activities being water supply, sewerage services, abattoirs, gas production and reticulation, and **(b)** those activities with a turnover of more than \$2 million that Council has formally declared as a business activity (defined as Category 1 activities).

- iv. In preparing these financial statements for Council's self-classified Category 1 businesses and ABS-defined activities, councils must **(a)** adopt a corporatisation model and **(b)** apply full cost attribution including tax-equivalent regime payments and debt guarantee fees (where the business benefits from Council's borrowing position by comparison with commercial rates).

Balranald Shire Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Statement by Administrator and Management

Statement by Administrator and Management made pursuant to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

The attached Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

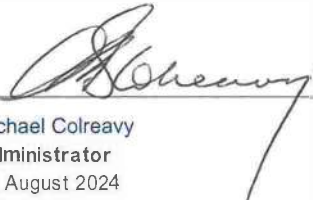
- the NSW Government Policy Statement '*Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government*',
- the Division of Local Government Guidelines '*Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality*',
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting,
- Sections 3 and 4 of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's (DCCEEW) *Regulatory and assurance framework for local water utilities*, July 2022

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the operating result and financial position for each of Council's declared business activities for the year, and
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.
- present overhead reallocation charges to the water and sewerage businesses as fair and reasonable.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 20 August 2024.



Michael Colreavy
Administrator
20 August 2024



Glenn Carroll
Acting General Manager
20 August 2024



Glenn Carroll
Responsible Accounting Officer
20 August 2024

Balranald Shire Council

Income Statement of water supply business activity

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Income from continuing operations		
Access charges	940	896
User charges	842	710
Fees	15	12
Interest and investment income	112	96
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	50	–
Other income	188	62
Total income from continuing operations	2,147	1,776
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	184	187
Borrowing costs	32	36
Materials and services	873	591
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	297	145
Water purchase charges	31	28
Other expenses	37	28
Total expenses from continuing operations	1,454	1,015
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	693	761
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	6	–
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	699	761
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	699	761
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	(173)	(190)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	526	571
Plus accumulated surplus	6,813	6,052
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Corporate taxation equivalent	173	190
Less:		
Closing accumulated surplus	7,512	6,813
Return on capital %	6.7%	7.5%
Subsidy from Council	–	–
Calculation of dividend payable:		
Surplus (deficit) after tax	526	571
Less: capital grants and contributions (excluding developer contributions)	(6)	–
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes	520	571
Potential dividend calculated from surplus	260	286

Balranald Shire Council

Income Statement of sewerage business activity

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Income from continuing operations		
Access charges	710	708
User charges	93	96
Liquid trade waste charges	4	8
Fees	7	5
Interest and investment income	54	42
Other income	14	27
Total income from continuing operations	882	886
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	58	49
Materials and services	405	349
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	163	114
Other expenses	24	—
Total expenses from continuing operations	650	512
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	232	374
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	232	374
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	232	374
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	(58)	(94)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	174	280
Plus accumulated surplus	4,078	3,704
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Corporate taxation equivalent	58	94
Less:		
Closing accumulated surplus	4,310	4,078
Return on capital %	2.2%	3.7%
Subsidy from Council	229	38
Calculation of dividend payable:		
Surplus (deficit) after tax	174	280
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes	174	280
Potential dividend calculated from surplus	87	140

Balranald Shire Council

Statement of Financial Position of water supply business activity

as at 30 June 2024

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,998	3,070
Investments	600	600
Receivables	280	250
Total current assets	4,878	3,920
Non-current assets		
Receivables	22	65
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	10,889	10,599
Total non-current assets	10,911	10,664
Total assets	15,789	14,584
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Contract liabilities	–	6
Payables	170	61
Borrowings	83	79
Total current liabilities	253	146
Non-current liabilities		
Borrowings	397	480
Total non-current liabilities	397	480
Total liabilities	650	626
Net assets	15,139	13,958
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	7,512	6,813
Revaluation reserves	7,627	7,145
Total equity	15,139	13,958

Balranald Shire Council

Statement of Financial Position of sewerage business activity

as at 30 June 2024

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,468	1,215
Investments	500	500
Receivables	60	63
Total current assets	2,028	1,778
Non-current assets		
Receivables	8	15
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	10,717	10,244
Total non-current assets	10,725	10,259
Total assets	12,753	12,037
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Payables	–	12
Total current liabilities	–	12
Total liabilities	–	12
Net assets	12,753	12,025
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	4,310	4,078
Revaluation reserves	8,443	7,947
Total equity	12,753	12,025

Note – Material accounting policy information

A statement summarising the supplemental accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the special purpose financial statements (SPFS) for National Competition Policy (NCP) reporting purposes follows.

These financial statements are SPFS prepared for use by Council and the Office of Local Government. For the purposes of these statements, the Council is a non-reporting not-for-profit entity.

The figures presented in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement criteria of relevant Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and Australian Accounting Interpretations.

The disclosures in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act), the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (Regulation) and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

The statements are prepared on an accruals basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, fair value of non-current assets. Certain taxes and other costs, appropriately described, have been imputed for the purposes of the National Competition Policy.

The Statement of Financial Position includes notional assets/liabilities receivable from/payable to Council's general fund. These balances reflect a notional intra-entity funding arrangement with the declared business activities.

National Competition Policy

Council has adopted the principle of 'competitive neutrality' in its business activities as part of the National Competition Policy which is being applied throughout Australia at all levels of government. The framework for its application is set out in the June 1996 NSW Government Policy statement titled 'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government'. *The Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality* issued by the Office of Local Government in July 1997 has also been adopted.

The pricing and costing guidelines outline the process for identifying and allocating costs to activities and provide a standard for disclosure requirements. These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and/or financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents, Council subsidies, and returns on investments (rate of return and dividends paid).

Declared business activities

In accordance with Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality, Council has declared that the following are to be considered as business activities:

Category 1

(where gross operating turnover is over \$2 million)

Nil

Category 2

(where gross operating turnover is less than \$2 million)

a. Balranald Shire Council combined water supplies

Comprising the whole of the operations and assets of the raw and filtered water supply systems, that services the towns of Balranald and Euston.

b. Balranald Shire Council sewerage service

Comprising the whole of the operations and assets of the sewerage reticulation and treatment systems, that services the towns of Balranald and Euston.

Taxation equivalent charges

Council is liable to pay various taxes and financial duties. Where this is the case, they are disclosed as a cost of operations just like all other costs.

However, where Council does not pay some taxes which are generally paid by private sector businesses, such as income tax, these equivalent tax payments have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities and are reflected in Special Purpose Financial Statements.

For the purposes of disclosing comparative information relevant to the private sector equivalent, the following taxation equivalents have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities (this does not include Council's non-business activities):

Note – Material accounting policy information (continued)

Notional rate applied (%)

Corporate income tax rate – 25%

Land tax – the first \$969,000 of combined land values attracts **0%**. For the combined land values in excess of \$969,000 up to \$5,925,000 the rate is \$100 + **1.6%**. For the remaining combined land value that exceeds \$4,616,000 a premium marginal rate of **2.0%** applies.

Payroll tax – **5.45%** on the value of taxable salaries and wages in excess of \$1,200,000.

In accordance with the section 4 of DCCEEW's regulatory and assurance framework, a payment for the amount calculated as the annual tax equivalent charges (excluding income tax) must be paid from water supply and sewerage business activities.

The payment of taxation equivalent charges, referred to in the regulatory and assurance framework as a 'dividend for taxation equivalent', may be applied for any purpose allowed under the Act.

Achievement of substantial compliance to sections 3 and 4 of DCCEEW's regulatory and assurance framework is not a prerequisite for the payment of the tax equivalent charges, however the payment must not exceed \$3 per assessment.

Income tax

An income tax equivalent has been applied on the profits of the business activities.

Whilst income tax is not a specific cost for the purpose of pricing a good or service, it needs to be taken into account in terms of assessing the rate of return required on capital invested.

Accordingly, the return on capital invested is set at a pre-tax level - gain/(loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts, as would be applied by a private sector competitor. That is, it should include a provision equivalent to the corporate income tax rate, currently 25% (22/23 25%).

Income tax is only applied where a gain/ (loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts has been achieved.

Since the taxation equivalent is notional – that is, it is payable to Council as the 'owner' of business operations - it represents an internal payment and has no effect on the operations of the Council. Accordingly, there is no need for disclosure of internal charges in the SPFS.

The rate applied of 25% is the equivalent company tax rate prevalent at reporting date. No adjustments have been made for variations that have occurred during the year.

Local government rates and charges

A calculation of the equivalent rates and charges for all Category 1 businesses has been applied to all assets owned, or exclusively used by the business activity.

Loan and debt guarantee fees

The debt guarantee fee is designed to ensure that Council business activities face 'true' commercial borrowing costs in line with private sector competitors. In order to calculate a debt guarantee fee, Council has determined what the differential borrowing rate would have been between the commercial rate and Council's borrowing rate for its business activities.

(i) Subsidies

Government policy requires that subsidies provided to customers, and the funding of those subsidies, must be explicitly disclosed. Subsidies occur where Council provides services on a less than cost recovery basis. This option is exercised on a range of services in order for Council to meet its community service obligations. The overall effect of subsidies is contained within the Income Statements of business activities.

(ii) Return on investments (rate of return)

The NCP policy statement requires that councils with Category 1 businesses 'would be expected to generate a return on capital funds employed that is comparable to rates of return for private businesses operating in a similar field'.

Funds are subsequently available for meeting commitments or financing future investment strategies. The rate of return is disclosed for each of Council's business activities on the Income Statement.

The rate of return is calculated as follows:

Note – Material accounting policy information (continued)

Operating result before capital income + interest expense

Written down value of I,PP&E as at 30 June

As a minimum, business activities should generate a return equal to the Commonwealth 10 year bond rate which is 4.30% at 30/6/24.

(iii) Dividends

Council is not required to pay dividends to either itself (as owner of a range of businesses) or to any external entities.

Local government water supply and sewerage businesses are permitted to pay an annual dividend from its water supply or sewerage business surplus.

Each dividend must be calculated and approved in accordance with the section 4 of DCCEEW's regulatory and assurance framework and must not exceed:

- 50% of this surplus in any one year, or
- the number of water supply or sewerage assessments at 30 June 2024 multiplied by \$30 (less the payment for tax equivalent charges, not exceeding \$3 per assessment).

In accordance with section 4 of DCCEEW's regulatory and assurance framework, statement of compliance and statement of dividend payment form and unqualified independent financial audit report are submitted to DCCEEW.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the special purpose financial statements

Balranald Shire Council

To the Councillors of Balranald Shire Council

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying special purpose financial statements (the financial statements) of Balranald Shire Council's (the Council) Declared Business Activities, which comprise the Statement by Councillors and Management, the Income Statement of each Declared Business Activity for the year ended 30 June 2024, the Statement of Financial Position of each Declared Business Activity as at 30 June 2024 and the Material accounting policy information note.

The Declared Business Activities of the Council are:

- Water Supply
- Sewerage

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council's declared Business Activities as at 30 June 2024, and their financial performance for the year then ended, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards described in the Material accounting policy information note and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting 2023–24 (LG Code).

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as the auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

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

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the Material accounting policy information note to the financial statements which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's financial reporting responsibilities under the LG Code. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

Other Information

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the general purpose financial statements and Special Schedules (the Schedules).

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the general purpose financial statements and Special Schedule 'Permissible income for general rates.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and for determining that the accounting policies, described in the Material accounting policy information note to the financial statements, are appropriate to meet the requirements in the LG Code. The Councillors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, 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.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.



Manuel Moncada

Director, Financial Audit
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

30 October 2024
SYDNEY

Balranald Shire Council

SPECIAL SCHEDULES
for the year ended 30 June 2024



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Balranald Shire Council

Permissible income for general rates

	Notes	Calculation 2023/24 \$ '000	Calculation 2024/25 \$ '000
Notional general income calculation ¹			
Last year notional general income yield	a	3,170	3,449
Plus or minus adjustments ²	b	5	(9)
Notional general income	c = a + b	3,175	3,440
Permissible income calculation			
Percentage increase	d	10.00%	10.00%
Plus percentage increase amount ³	f = d x (c + e)	318	344
Sub-total	g = (c + e + f)	3,493	3,784
Plus (or minus) last year's carry forward total	h	(30)	14
Sub-total	j = (h + i)	(30)	14
Total permissible income	k = g + j	3,463	3,798
Less notional general income yield	l	3,449	3,799
Catch-up or (excess) result	m = k - l	13	(2)
Carry forward to next year ⁴	p = m + n + o	13	(2)

Notes

- (1) The notional general income will not reconcile with rate income in the financial statements in the corresponding year. The statements are reported on an accrual accounting basis which include amounts that relate to prior years' rates income.
- (2) Adjustments account for changes in the number of assessments and any increase or decrease in land value occurring during the year. The adjustments are called 'supplementary valuations' as defined in the *Valuation of Land Act 1916 (NSW)*.
- (3) The 'percentage increase' is inclusive of the rate-peg percentage, and/or special variation and/or Crown land adjustment (where applicable).
- (4) Carry-forward amounts which are in excess (an amount that exceeds the permissible income) require Ministerial approval by order published in the *NSW Government Gazette* in accordance with section 512 of the Act. The OLG will extract these amounts from Council's Permissible income for general rates Statement in the financial data return (FDR) to administer this process.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Special Schedule – Permissible income for general rates

Balranald Shire Council

To the Councillors of Balranald Shire Council

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying Special Schedule – Permissible income for general rates (the Schedule) of Balranald Shire Council (the Council) for the year ending 30 June 2025.

In my opinion, the Schedule is prepared, in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting 2023–24 (LG Code) and is in accordance with the books and records of the Council.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

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

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the special purpose framework used to prepare the Schedule. The Schedule has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's reporting obligations under the LG Code. As a result, the Schedule may not be suitable for another purpose.

Other Information

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 includes other information in addition to the Schedule and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the general purpose financial statements, special purpose financial statements and Special Schedule 'Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024.

My opinion on the Schedule does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the general purpose financial statements and the special purpose financial statements.

In connection with my audit of the Schedule, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the Schedule or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Schedule

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation of the Schedule in accordance with the LG Code. The Councillors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the Schedule that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the Schedule, 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.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance whether the Schedule as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the Schedule.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the Schedule is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar8.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited Schedule on any website where it may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the Schedule.



Manuel Moncada

Director, Financial Audit
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

30 October 2024
SYDNEY

Balranald Shire Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

Asset Class	Asset Category	Estimated cost to bring assets to satisfactory standard	Estimated cost to bring to the agreed level of service set by Council	2023/24 Required maintenance ^a	2023/24 Actual maintenance	Net carrying amount	Gross replacement cost (GRC)	Assets in condition as a percentage of gross replacement cost				
		\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	1	2	3	4	5
Buildings	Buildings	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Buildings – non-specialised	170	125	409	290	28,398	48,021	35.0%	60.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Buildings – specialised	—	—	—	—	1,287	1,754	95.0%	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Sub-total	170	125	409	290	29,685	49,775	37.1%	57.9%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other structures	Other structures	—	—	554	622	7,855	10,400	10.0%	40.0%	40.0%	10.0%	0.0%
	Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Sub-total	—	—	554	622	7,855	10,400	10.0%	40.0%	40.0%	10.0%	0.0%
Roads	Roads	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Sealed roads	2,700	2,700	1,184	1,807	116,468	141,512	75.0%	5.0%	15.0%	3.0%	2.0%
	Unsealed roads	1,800	1,800	1,846	6,143	36,235	58,082	5.0%	10.0%	50.0%	30.0%	5.0%
	Bridges	—	—	—	—	1,495	2,824	7.0%	0.0%	93.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Footpaths	15	80	36	36	1,399	2,108	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Other road assets	—	—	42	49	3,711	8,706	70.0%	0.0%	30.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Kerb and channels	—	—	16	9	3,261	5,016	30.0%	45.0%	15.0%	10.0%	0.0%
	Other road assets (incl. bulk earth works)	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Sub-total	4,515	4,580	3,124	8,044	162,569	218,248	53.5%	7.2%	26.5%	10.2%	2.6%
Water supply network	Water supply network	800	2,200	939	732	10,120	19,402	20.0%	10.0%	50.0%	20.0%	0.0%
	Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Sub-total	800	2,200	939	732	10,120	19,402	20.0%	10.0%	50.0%	20.0%	0.0%
Sewerage network	Sewerage network	450	1,200	418	156	10,415	14,588	7.0%	50.0%	30.0%	13.0%	0.0%
	Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Sub-total	450	1,200	418	156	10,415	14,588	7.0%	50.0%	30.0%	13.0%	0.0%
Stormwater drainage	Stormwater drainage	750	150	—	—	4,762	6,410	15.0%	80.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Sub-total	750	150	—	—	4,762	6,410	15.0%	80.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Balranald Shire Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024 (continued)

Asset Class	Asset Category	Estimated cost to bring assets to satisfactory standard	Estimated cost to bring to the agreed level of service set by Council	2023/24 Required maintenance ^a	2023/24 Actual maintenance	Net carrying amount	Gross replacement cost (GRC)	Assets in condition as a percentage of gross replacement cost				
		\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	1	2	3	4	5
Open space / recreational assets	Swimming pools	—	—	20	31	988	1,326	10.0%	40.0%	45.0%	5.0%	0.0%
	Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Sub-total	—	—	20	31	988	1,326	10.0%	40.0%	45.0%	5.0%	0.0%
Other infrastructure assets	Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Sub-total	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total – all assets		6,685	8,255	5,464	9,875	226,394	320,149	44.5%	19.8%	24.8%	9.1%	1.8%

(a) Required maintenance is the amount identified in Council's asset management plans.

Infrastructure asset condition assessment 'key'

#	Condition	Integrated planning and reporting (IP&R) description
1	Excellent/very good	No work required (normal maintenance)
2	Good	Only minor maintenance work required
3	Satisfactory	Maintenance work required
4	Poor	Renewal required
5	Very poor	Urgent renewal/upgrading required

Balranald Shire Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

Infrastructure asset performance indicators (consolidated) *

\$ '000	Amounts 2024	Indicator 2024	Indicators 2023 2022		Benchmark
Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio					
Asset renewals ¹	4,473	98.01%	19.97%	89.06%	> 100.00%
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	4,564				
Infrastructure backlog ratio					
Estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory standard	6,685	2.94%	2.81%	1.82%	< 2.00%
Net carrying amount of infrastructure assets	227,553				
Asset maintenance ratio					
Actual asset maintenance	9,875	180.73%	185.67%	92.73%	> 100.00%
Required asset maintenance	5,464				
Cost to bring assets to agreed service level					
Estimated cost to bring assets to an agreed service level set by Council	8,255	2.58%	2.76%	2.23%	
Gross replacement cost	320,149				

(*) All asset performance indicators are calculated using classes identified in the previous table.

(1) Asset renewals represent the replacement and/or refurbishment of existing assets to an equivalent capacity/performance as opposed to the acquisition of new assets (or the refurbishment of old assets) that increases capacity/performance.

Balranald Shire Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

Infrastructure asset performance indicators (by fund)

\$ '000	General fund		Water fund		Sewer fund		Benchmark
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	
Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio							
Asset renewals ¹	105.58%	20.50%	0.00%	0.00%	85.89%	0.00%	> 100.00%
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment							
Infrastructure backlog ratio							
Estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory standard	2.63%	2.45%	7.91%	8.16%	4.32%	4.53%	< 2.00%
Net carrying amount of infrastructure assets							
Asset maintenance ratio							
Actual asset maintenance	218.82%	390.61%	77.96%	56.91%	37.32%	29.57%	> 100.00%
Required asset maintenance							
Cost to bring assets to agreed service level							
Estimated cost to bring assets to an agreed service level set by Council	1.70%	1.82%	11.34%	11.99%	8.23%	8.73%	
Gross replacement cost							

(1) Asset renewals represent the replacement and/or refurbishment of existing assets to an equivalent capacity/performance as opposed to the acquisition of new assets (or the refurbishment of old assets) that increases capacity/performance.