





● Northern Midlands Sports Centre

● Cover: Perth Early Learning Centre

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Vision

Northern Midlands is an enviable place to live, work and play. Connected communities enjoy safe, secure lives in beautiful historical towns and villages. Our clean, green agricultural products are globally valued. Local business and industry is strongly innovative and sustainable.

Values

HONESTY

Treat all with honesty, respect and trust.

INTEGRITY

Listen, learn and proactively deliver Council's vision.

INNOVATION

Explore, expand and adapt to achieve a shared vision.

PRIDE

Serve community with pride and energy.

MUNICIPAL GOALS

- *Bold leadership guides innovation and growth;*
- *Economically sound and flexible management;*
- *Sustainable progress creates a vibrant future;*
- *We strategically plan and deliver infrastructure;*
- *Our culture respects the past in building the future;*
- *Our historical landscapes are cherished and protected;*
- *Connected communities are strong and safe; and*
- *The municipality is diverse and innovative.*



Mission

LEAD AND PROGRESS

Leadership

Serve with honesty, integrity, innovation and pride.

Council is committed to strong advocacy and community collaboration. Living responsibly within our means, through transparent financial planning and governance. Staff culture espouses integrity, honesty and pride.

Progression

Nurture and support economic health and wealth. Economic health and wealth – grow and prosper.

Our infrastructure growth builds capacity and economic sustainability. We support diverse, innovative, independent business and industry. We thrive with strong collaborative regional partnerships.

PEOPLE AND PLACE

People

Build a vibrant society that respects the past.

Culture and society – a vibrant future that respects the past.

Diverse towns and villages service a rural-based industry. Connectivity challenges are innovatively managed to unite disparate communities. Equitable delivery of quality assets, programs and services supports sustainability.

Place

Nurture our heritage environment.

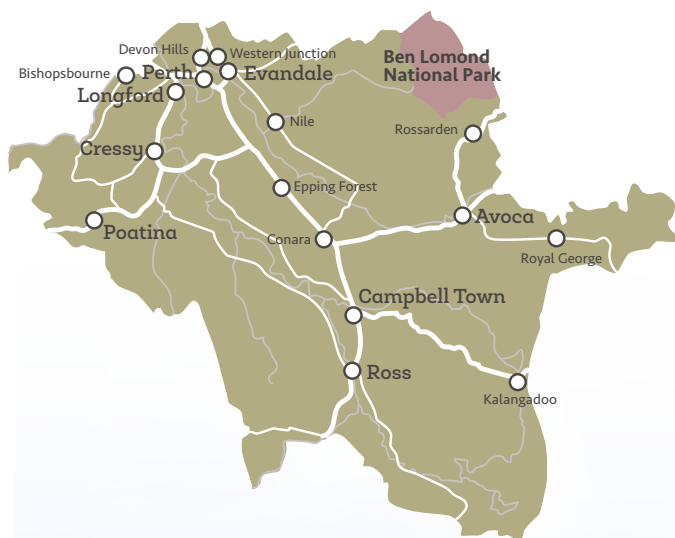
We cherish the historical heritage of our culture and all its people. It is firmly embedded in planning for the future – an enviable place to live, work and play. We protect our environment and work with business and industry to protect inherent values.

The Annual Report

The Annual Report to the community concludes the annual corporate planning and reporting cycle of Council.

As a Council we have a statutory duty to annually report on how well we have performed as an organisation. The Annual Report is Council's report card and provides Council with the opportunity to formally inform the community of the achievements of Council over the past year and how the monies raised via rates, charges, fees and from grants received have been expended. It is specifically required by the *Local Government Act 1993* that Council report on:

- The context in which Council worked
- An organisational overview
- Council's operations, our achievements
- The key activities and priorities identified in the budget
- A set of audited standard, financial and performance statements
- Each year Council, in consultation with the community, prepares an Annual Budget within the context of the actions identified in the *Strategic Plan 2021–2027*.



Profile

The Northern Midlands Council was created on the 2nd April 1993 from the merger of the former Municipalities of Longford, Evandale, Campbell Town and Ross, together with the towns of Rossarden, Avoca and Royal George from the Fingal municipality.

The municipal area covers an area of 5,130 square kilometres, extending from Liffey Bluff in the west to Mount St John in the east (150 kms) and from Relbia in the north to Tooms Lake in the south (95 kms). Northern Midlands is one of the largest and most diverse municipal areas in Tasmania.

It ranges from mountainous country on its eastern and western boundaries to extensive grazing lands renowned for fine wool production, the rich agricultural river flats of the South Esk, Lake and Macquarie Rivers; historic towns and villages, and from small businesses to multi-million dollar enterprises.

The 'jewel in the Northern Midlands crown' is the TRANSlink commercial, industrial and logistics precinct adjacent to Launceston Airport which is now homebase for close to 100 businesses.

Our towns and villages have distinctive heritage qualities which make them attractive places to live. Residents in Evandale, Cressy, Perth and Longford relish the benefits of rural lifestyle living within easy reach of the services, facilities and employment of Launceston.

The 2021 ABS Census recorded the Northern Midlands' population as 13,745: equating to 2.5% of Tasmania's population. The Northern Midlands is experiencing steady growth; with the population increasing 20.3% between the 2001 and 2021 ABS Census (from 11,427 to 13,745).

In addition, statistics for the Northern Midlands provided by .id record the number of local jobs at 6,688 and the number of local residents in employment at 6,986.



Message from the Mayor

While our communities continue to grow Council again focused on key identified infrastructure projects in 2022/2023 including the re-roofing of Evandale Town Hall, upgrades to the Cressy Memorial Swimming Pool, completion of the Cressy Recreation Ground alfresco barbeque shelter.

One of the many highlights was the opening of the new \$3.8m Perth Early Learning Centre which was completed in March 2023. The purpose-built centre provides for 46 long day care places and 40 after school care places, for children from Perth, Evandale, Devon Hills, Longford, Cressy, Bishopsbourne, and the surrounding rural properties. That's 86 places in total.

Featuring four specialised rooms (0 years to 18months; 18months to 3 years; 3 years to 5 years; and before school, after school and vacation care 5 years to 12 years), the facility also boasts a separate meeting room, staff room, laundry, and kitchen. The Centre was federally funded through the Community Development Grant Program (\$2.6m), and a Local Roads, Community Infrastructure Grant (\$1.1m), and provides local families with more spaces for childcare, enabling the return of the Perth Community Centre for usage by the community.

The \$1,577m Cressy War Memorial Pool redevelopment included: a new pool complex entrance directly from Main Street, a renovated and modernised kiosk/office and storage area, a new raised, shaded, and sheltered sun deck, new shade shelter over the toddler's pool, upgrades to the concourse and underground pipework surrounding the pool including building the concourse to create a flush entry to the pool rather than a "step up and in" and sealing, line marking and landscaping of the complex carpark.

It was initially envisaged that it would take several years to complete the scope of work required but Council officers were able to achieve this over three years thanks to funding availability. Following the completion of the upgrade at the Cressy War Memorial Swimming Pool, Council maintained a full season of lifeguards and the Committee again did a fantastic job throughout the season ensuring users enjoyed this facility to the fullest.

While relatively small, the Cressy Recreation Ground is important and is an integral component of our sport and recreation infrastructure, serving as the town's main sport and recreation precinct. A year-round all-inclusive facility, the redevelopment included: kitchen/kiosk infrastructure upgrades; new clubroom furniture; new clubroom verandah; new roof and repainting inside and out and a new undercover spectator viewing area.

With Northern Tasmania's economy being well positioned to grow and take advantage of the strong

demand for our agricultural exports, foods, manufactured products, and tourism experiences, critical to this growth is the development and maintenance of the TRANSlink industrial and logistic precinct which is able to support trade flows to and from our trading partners in Australia and overseas.

The TRANSlink Precinct Renewal Program aims to achieve sufficient stormwater capacity in the precinct to deal with the run-off from a 1 in 100-year storm event; to this end the commissioning of the Gatty Street detention basin in Western Junction during April is a small but critical piece of that infrastructure.

During the reporting period the Tasmanian Government announced the introduction of a levy on all waste sent to landfill across Tasmania, Council subsequently chose to commence a kerbside Food Organics, and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service to divert waste away from landfill thus reducing costs to Northern Midlands residents in the longer term. The program was rolled out in January 2023 and Council successfully diverted 488 tonnes of green waste from landfill to the end of June 2023.

Moving beyond the infrastructure programs, Council has prepared the following draft community strategies and has commenced consultation on some of the strategies.

- Communications and Engagement
- Arts and Culture
- Economic Development
- Health and Wellbeing
- Youth Strategy
- Domestic and Family Violence Strategy

Community feedback is now being incorporated into the draft strategies for Council's consideration.

In March 2023, the Future of Local Government Review Board released the Future of Local Government Review Stage 2 – Interim Report. The Review's objectives are to create a more robust and capable system of local government, ready for the challenges and opportunities of the future and to make recommendations on the future role, functions, and design of local government. The Review argues that change is necessary because some councils are unable to provide services, maintain current infrastructure, attract necessary qualified staff



and/or meet the needs of their communities now and into future. The Review presented several community catchment area scenarios for amalgamation, as a rationale for achieving economies of scale, "leading a successful and sustainable future system of local government in Tasmania". It is Council's view Northern Midlands residents would be severely disadvantaged under all Community Catchment scenarios presented in the Future of Local Government Review.

Northern Midlands Council continues to meet with State Government representatives and strongly encourages all residents to have a say on our future and provide your Councillors and the State Government with a clear view of your preference for the future of the Northern Midlands municipality.

I am pleased the government confirmed its commitment to no forced amalgamations which means the Northern Midlands Council can continue to maintain and strengthen its strong association with its community and retain the necessary balanced industry, small business, residential and rural ratepayer base which has put the municipality in such an enviable position while minimising cost of living pressures through rates on residents.

Choosing the right region or neighbourhood for your lifestyle is one of the most important decisions anyone can make, and the Northern Midlands offers the perfect

blend of work and leisure with close-knit communities that value work-life balance and wellbeing, along with a diverse range of activities for every traveller. With that in mind, Northern Midlands Council has substantially progressed a marketing campaign known as "Choose the Scenic Route". Building on the substantial growth that has already occurred and set to launch in August 2023, the aim of the campaign is to attract people to the region, converting visitors to residents, and highlighting the lifestyle benefits of choosing the "Scenic Route".

I have continued to work closely with the State Government and agencies on the issue of family and domestic violence, with a focus on providing housing for women and their children who are forced into homelessness.

Council has made significant progress through the year, and I would like to thank our Management and staff for their ongoing dedication in achieving such great outcomes while continuing to support our communities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank my fellow Councillors for their commitment and ongoing support throughout the past year enabling the Northern Midlands to continue to be a leader in growth and development.



Mary Knowles OAM, Mayor

• Opening of the refurbished Cressy Recreation Ground club rooms



General Manager's Message

The past year has been a very successful and satisfying one for Northern Midlands Council. This annual report shows we continued our long-term strategic approach while maintaining a strong financial position and putting our residents at the heart of everything we do.

Our position is the envy of many councils and this would not be possible without the dedication of our staff as they work diligently to deliver on our vision to make the Northern Midlands an enviable place to live, work and play.

Community is at the heart of all our policies, whether they be to generate jobs and attract investment, provide opportunities for our youth, encourage creativity, protect the environment, improve the quality of life or to protect the vulnerable; and that is evident from our strategic infrastructure program where we spent more than \$11.1 million on social, recreational and environment infrastructure to drive the local economy and promote a healthy lifestyle.

• Footbridge at Perth's William Street Reserve



• Opening of the Gatty Street detention basin at Western Junction



This included:

- Construction of Early Learning Centre at Perth **\$3,800,000**
- Re-roof Evandale Town Hall **\$251,403**
- Complete the extension of the William Street Reserve to George Street at Perth with footbridge and associated footpath **\$250,915**
- Perth Recreation Ground goal post netting **\$30,040**
- Perth Recreation Ground carpark construction **\$114,642**
- Perth Talisker Street, car park toilet facility replacement **\$128,262**
- Road Safety Park at Longford **\$113,971**
- Longford Sports Centre exhaust fan system **\$33,159**
- Stormwater line improvements from Main Street to Cressy School **\$135,659**
- Improvements at the Cressy Swimming Pool concourse, fencing and carpark **\$701,217**
- Replace kerb and seal verge in Falmouth Street, Avoca from Churchill to Gray Street **\$82,390**
- Lake Leake amenities upgrade **\$165,294**
- Tooms Lake amenities upgrade **\$125,311**
- Rural Road Reconstruction of a section of Glen Esk Road at Nile **\$761,257**
- Reseal programs of roads and streets **\$590,080**
- Footpath Program **\$962,730**
- Fleet Replacement Program **\$283,531**

We are focussed on maintaining and improving our strategic approach and are working on the finalisation and implementation of the following strategies which are aligned and support the objectives of our *Strategic Plan 2021–2027*:

Arts and Culture Strategy:

Northern Midlands Council seeks to support the provision of vibrant, inclusive, accessible, innovative and collaborative arts and cultural programs and services, recognising the role arts and culture plays in developing individual wellbeing, building community connectivity, contributing to a vibrant and dynamic community and creating jobs in the arts and tourism sectors.

Liveability is in many ways a response to local culture, how we feel in our living and working neighbourhoods, how we interact with others, and how well we believe our towns and rural landscapes support our identity and values. Northern Midlands is a local government area that is enjoyed and valued by residents, workers and visitors. Culture plays a central role in how it is experienced. Managing and supporting the culture of the Northern Midlands will ensure the area remains attractive to residents and visitors.

Communications and Engagement Strategy

Effective communication is essential in the delivery of local government services and good governance.

Through strong and effective communication with our community, Council aims to:

- Keep all stakeholders, including our residents, councillors, staff, government agencies, non-government community organisations and businesses informed about our plans, policies and decisions
- Engage with residents to improve community awareness of our programs, activities and services
- Provide mechanisms for effective and timely feedback to encourage active participation and support of projects
- Actively promote the municipality widely in Tasmania and Australia as a place to live, invest in existing businesses and new projects, and visit.

Council's communication and engagement methods must be inclusive and accessible to all community members.

Economic Development Strategy

The purpose of local economic development is to further build the economic capacity of a local area to improve its economic future and the quality of life for all. It is a process by which the public, businesses and the non-government sector work collaboratively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment generation.

Council will continue to work in partnership with all stakeholders to ensure the Northern Midlands economy develops in a way that, insofar as it is possible, meets the needs and aspirations of the municipality's people and businesses.

Domestic and Family Violence Strategy

Domestic and family violence is a serious social, health and safety issue for all levels of government and social agencies to be responding to as a matter of urgency.

Council is acutely aware that domestic and family violence has significant impacts, including personal emotional trauma for individuals, and far-reaching costs for the broader community.

Local government can play a crucial role in driving change and preventing domestic and family violence in our community. Our Council has had longstanding commitments to preventing domestic and family violence, and promoting gender equity. This strategy articulates how Council will continue, and grow, this commitment.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Northern Midlands Council's ambition is that everyone in our community has the opportunity to lead a happy and healthy life. This Strategy sets the direction for achieving this ambition, building on the great strengths within our community, as well as addressing the challenges and causes that lead to poor health outcomes.

Northern Midlands Council is committed to improving the quality of life within the local areas through building strong partnerships, delivering programs, services and events, and providing vital infrastructure and places.

Youth Strategy

Council strives to make the Northern Midlands a place where young people are valued, supported and celebrated. To achieve this goal Council will work with young people and their families to enhance their participation across all aspects of life including social, cultural, environmental and economic.

Council's Youth Strategy is designed with young people at its heart, and raising the wellbeing of Northern Midland's young people is its core mission. Council values our young people, and we are committed to supporting and empowering them to develop and thrive.

We continue to develop these strategies in consultation with the community and will identify a number of priority projects to be implemented in the coming years.



• Council's Management team

Projects 2023/2024

TRANSlink Intermodal Feasibility Study

An intermodal site close to the main road, rail corridors and airport would potentially provide:

- All levels of government the opportunity to undertake an integrated and coordinated approach to deliver the best outcomes for infrastructure, transport, and land use planning;
- A more efficient and safe freight transport system; and
- An improved regional freight network in northern Tasmania.

Located at Western Junction the TRANSlink precinct is adjacent to the airport and major northern rail interchange.

Council has received a funding commitment of \$5m from the Federal Government for the planning process of a TRANSlink Intermodal Facility, with further funding commitment of \$30m for the implementation and delivery of infrastructure for that development.

Main Street Streetscape Development: Campbell Town, Longford and Perth

The development and beautification of the main streets of the 3 major Northern Midlands towns, which incorporates urban design and traffic management strategies, is

- In response to the existing conditions, opportunities and constraints;
- To promote an attractive and vibrant centre with a high level of amenity, capitalising upon the rich built heritage, existing features and assets within the centre;
- To improve overall levels of accessibility, particularly cycle and pedestrian connections to and from the town centre; and
- To reinforce and enhance the overall function, safety and accessibility of the town centre and major public open space assets, through the streetscape and other improvements.

“Choose the Scenic Route”

Council has embarked on a marketing campaign known as “Choose the Scenic Route”. We place an emphasis on work life balance and lifestyle choices for our current and future resident and business operators, the Northern Midlands offers the perfect blend of work and leisure with close-knit communities and a diverse range of activities for every traveller.

Substantial growth has occurred in the region in recent years and the population trend of lifestyle choices and community, the Northern Midlands offers the choice of urban, peri-urban and rural lifestyle.

The media campaign to be launched in August 2023 will aim to tell our story and publicise the liveability of our diverse council area.

I would like to express my thanks to all staff and councillors for the delivery of our 2022-2023 program. I am proud to lead such a committed and passionate team who continually strive to improve our community services.

I look forward to continuing to meet our obligations to residents and visitors.



Des Jennings, General Manager



● Cressy War Memorial Pool

Our Council, People and Organisation

COUNCIL FACTS IN BRIEF

Approximately 60% of the population resides in 5% of the area, that is, generally in the north which includes Longford, Perth and Evandale.

Council is responsible for maintenance of 960kms of roads and 12,724m² bridge deck area; **more than any other council in the state.**

Council's annual turnover (all functions) in 2022/2023 was **\$24.2 million** (2021/2022: \$22.9 million).

In 2022/2023, **54% of the total recurrent revenue of the municipality came from rates**; 25% from Government Grants, the remainder from user fees and other sundry revenue.

Many of the features that make the Northern Midlands unique also present some challenges for Council and residents, such as

- the size of the Council area: although large, is an area with overall low population density, generating its financial resources from a comparatively small number of ratepayers;
- the various constituent communities: these have different levels of involvement in local government activities and services, and vary widely in their priorities and objectives.

Facilities maintained:

575kms of sealed roads



385kms of unsealed roads



248 concrete bridge structures (12,724m²)



8 ovals for sporting activities



8 residential units

24 community halls/centres

4 waste transfer stations

2 caravan parks

3 swimming pools



14 public toilet facilities

3 visitor information centres/kiosks

100 parks and reserves



- Early Learning Services – Perth and Cressy five days per week
- Midlands Kids Club Before and After School Care Services, Perth
- Midlands Kids Club Vacation Care Services, Perth
- Lawn Cemetery, Rose Garden and Niche Wall, Longford
- Rose Garden, Evandale
- Lawn Cemetery, and Niche Wall, Perth



Council controls written down value of property, plant and infrastructure assets amounting to **\$419 million; including:**

\$119.5 million of land (including land under roads) and buildings

\$279.1 million of roads and bridges

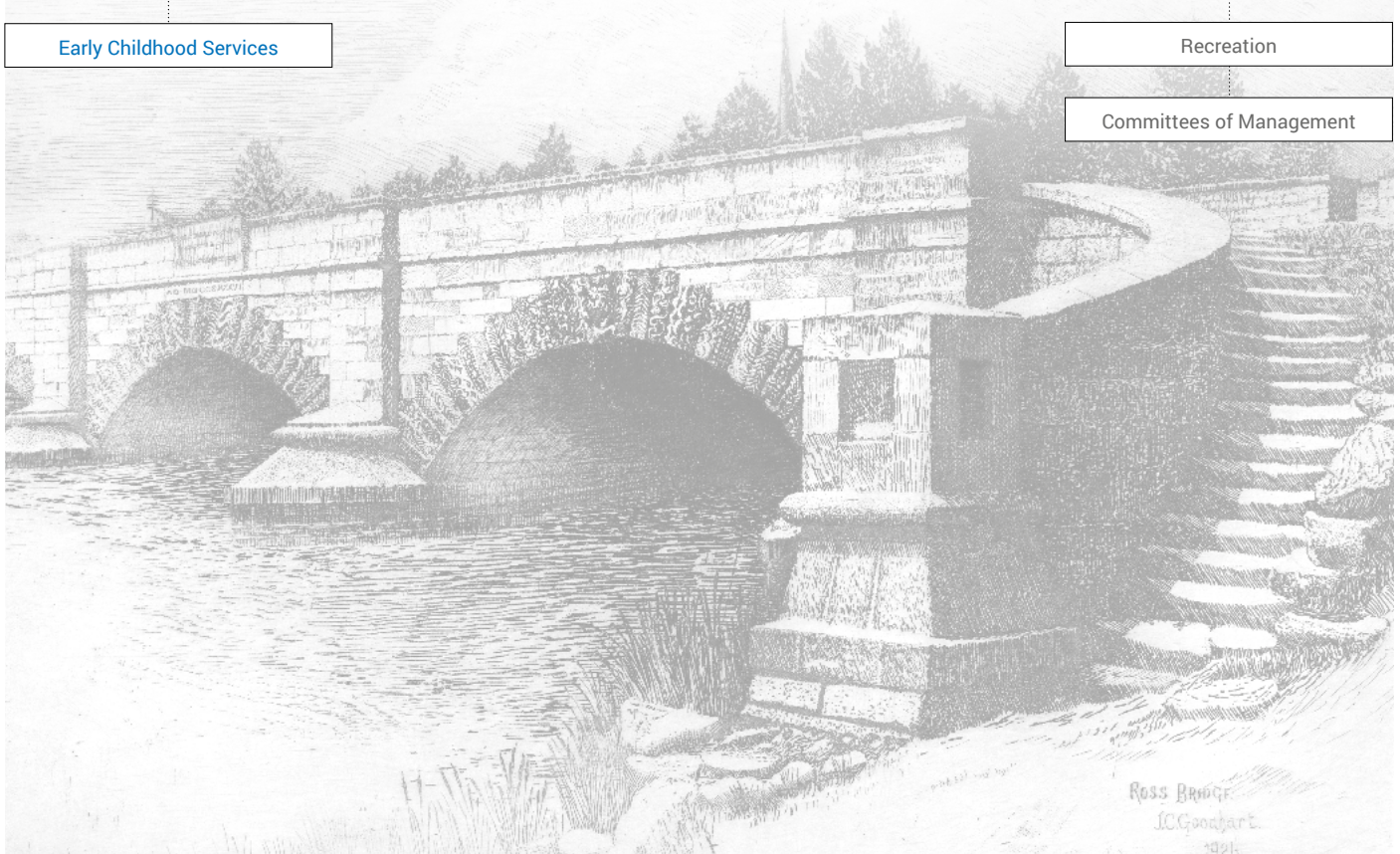
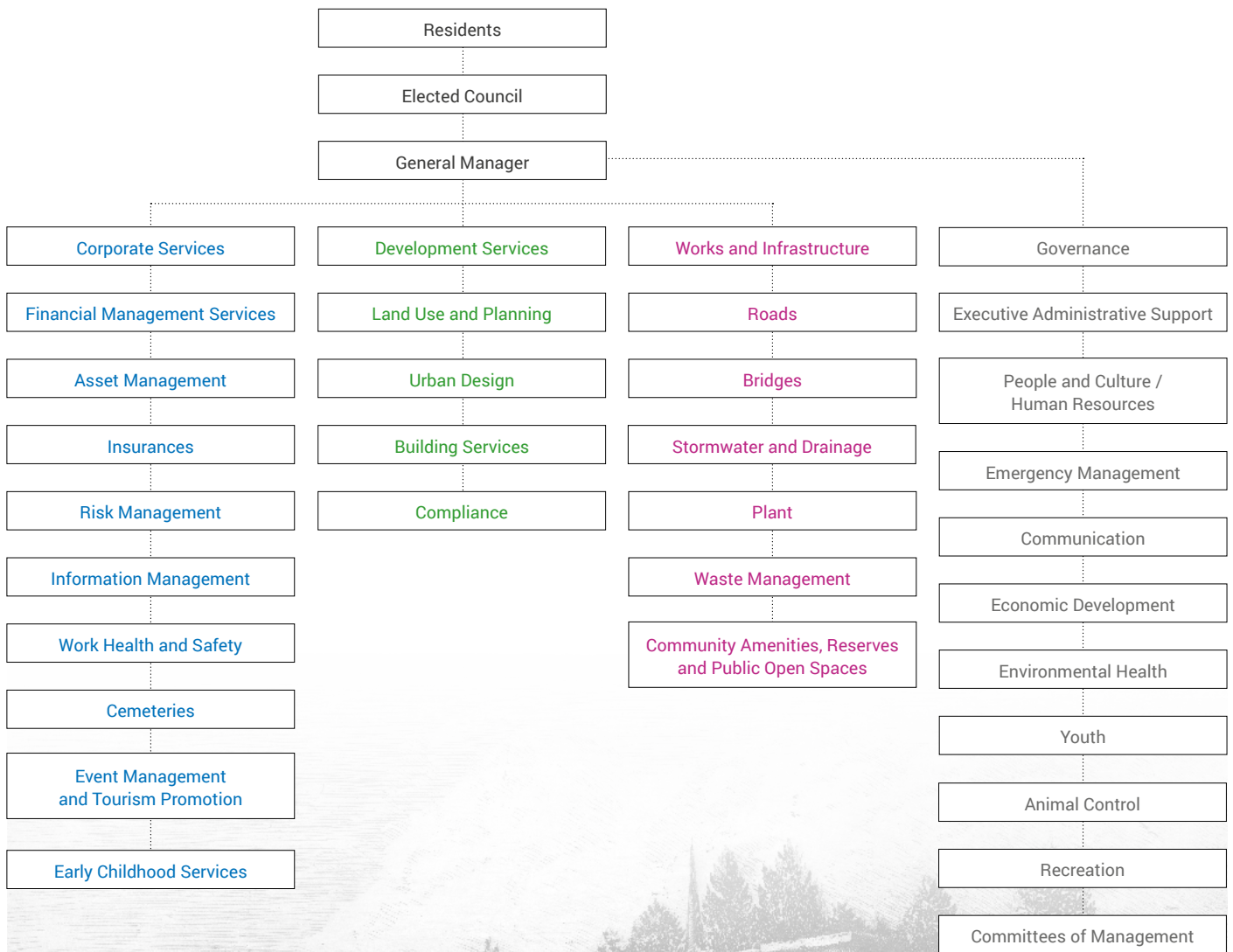
\$44.3 million of stormwater infrastructure

\$9.7 million of other assets and works in progress

Our staff:

2022/23	Employees	FTE
Permanent	86	80
Casual	16	5
Total	102	85
2021/22	Employees	FTE
Permanent	78	71
Casual	10	3
Total	88	74

Organisational Structure



Role of Council

Council Meetings

The *Local Government Act 1993* provides that Councillors have the following functions:

- To provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community;
- To represent and promote the interests of the community; and
- To provide for the peace, order and good government of the municipal area.

In performing its functions, the Councillors are to consult, involve and be accountable to the community.

The Northern Midlands Council held Ordinary Council meetings monthly in accordance with the following schedule for 2022/2023:

- Monday 18 July 2022;
- Monday 15 August 2022;
- Monday 26 September 2022;
- Monday 24 October 2022;
- Monday 28 November 2022;
- Monday 12 December 2022;
- Monday 30 January 2023;
- Monday 20 February 2023;
- Monday 20 March 2023;
- Wednesday 26 April 2023;
- Monday 15 May 2023; and
- Monday 26 June 2023.

Council's 2022 Annual General Meeting was held on 12 December 2022.

At the monthly meetings officers of Council provide Councillors with reports on a range of issues which are dealt with under the following Business Units:

- Governance;
- Corporate Services;
- Community and Development; and
- Works and Infrastructure.

Ordinary Council meetings are open to the general public and commence at 5pm. At 5.30pm Council holds Public Question Time, at this time members of the public are given the opportunity to ask questions,

make a representation and/or present information, on a matter in which they have an interest, which is before the Council for decision e.g. development applications. Council adjourns the meeting for a 30 minute meal break at a convenient time after 6pm.

Proceedings of the open session of Council Meetings are recorded.

Generally two Councillor workshops are held monthly, one immediately prior to the Council meeting and the other two weeks before. At this time Councillors and Officers meet to discuss forthcoming reports, key strategies and receive presentations from industry stakeholders and community groups.

Number of Resolutions Recorded

2022/2023	414
2021/2022	497
2020/2021	465
2019/2020	453

Councillor Attendance

2022/2023	88.9%
2021/2022	93.8%
2020/2021	94.9%
2019/2020	91.9%

Total Reimbursements

2022/2023	\$229,710
2021/2022	\$221,216
2020/2021	\$213,595
2019/2020	\$214,137

Councillor Allowances and Reimbursements

	2022/2023	2021/2022	2020/2021
Mayor	75,274	69,829	69,330
Deputy Mayor	48,678	31,470	30,773
Councillors	105,759	119,917	113,492

Meeting Dates: Councillor Attendance

Council meeting date	Meeting type	Mayor Knowles	**Deputy Mayor Lambert	*Deputy Mayor Goss	Cr Adams	Cr Andrews	Cr Archer	Cr Brooks	Cr Calvert	Cr Davis	Cr Goninon	Cr McCullagh	Cr Polley	Cr Terrett
18/07/2022	Ordinary	✓	✗	✗	✓			✗	✓	✓	✓		✓	
15/08/2022	Ordinary	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✗	✗	✓		✗	
26/09/2022	Ordinary	✓	✓	✗	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
24/10/2022	Ordinary	✓	✓	✓	✗			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
28/11/2022	Ordinary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
12/12/2022	AGM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✗		✓
12/12/2022	Ordinary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✗		✓
30/01/2023	Ordinary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✗
20/02/2023	Ordinary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
20/03/2023	Ordinary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗				✗		✓
26/04/2023	Ordinary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
15/05/2023	Ordinary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
26/06/2023	Ordinary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓

* Deputy Mayor Goss incumbent 2018 to October 2022

** Deputy Mayor Lambert elected November 2022



• William Street Reserve

Elected Members of Council

Mayor Mary Knowles OAM

Elected to Council in 2009, and then as Mayor in 2018 I am passionate about the sustainability, health and wellbeing of our communities; encouraging progressive development supporting farmers, industry, small business, tourism and youth with infrastructure to keep our towns vibrant and viable.

I have a common-sense approach to getting things done while using rates wisely.

Living self-sufficiently off-the-grid for 34 years in a bush environment has given me unique insights into respecting our natural environment and mitigating climate change.

Inducted onto the Honour Roll of Women in 2011, I was awarded an OAM for my community work in 2018 and last year I was awarded the International Women's Day 'Inspiring Leader in Local Government' award. I represent the 29 Councils on the Family and Sexual Violence Consultative Group and was this year invited by the State Government to be the Ambassador for the 'Hearing Lived Experience' campaign against family violence.

Deputy Mayor Janet Lambert

Elected to council in October 2011. My family and I are proud to call the Northern Midlands home. I am passionate about continuing the work I have started in the local government sector, not only being a strong voice for regional and rural communities but also a person of action, ensuring positive change happens and communities thrive.

This is a wonderful place to live— and I want to do all I can to secure our community's long-term future.

Through my community activities and role within the council, I hope to leave a lasting legacy for the future, ensuring our region is strong and sustainable. I consider myself very approachable, honest and transparent; applying a common sense point of view towards all issues put forward. It is important to me that I demonstrate these values at all times to the communities I am privileged to represent.

Councillor Dick Adams OAM

Elected in 2014, I was the former Federal Member for Lyons for twenty years and also previously served with the State Government. I have lived most of my life in Northern Midlands, starting work at the Longford meatworks, and I am currently again living in Longford. I know the Northern Midlands very well and want to see it develop as an exciting place to live while valuing the

heritage and tourism opportunities more fully. I believe we need greater investment and more careful planning to ensure Northern Midlands goes forward itself before involving us with other Northern Tasmania priorities.

Councillor Alison Andrews AM

The former Northern Midlands Courier editor and publisher Alison Andrews (nee Carins) has been a journalist and writer since she started her journalism cadetship at The Examiner Newspaper, Launceston, Tasmania in 1970.

She has worked for a number of media organisations both locally and interstate, is a published author and has run her own media and public relations company.

Alison worked for many years as The Examiner's chief reporter and chief of staff and in media and communications in federal politics before taking over ownership and operation of The Courier.

She sold The Courier to a Tasmanian independent publishing company late last year after a record couple of years for circulation and advertising revenue for the newspaper.

The following month she was elected as one of the Northern Midlands Council's new councillors.

Alison and her husband Rex Heathcote, moved home to Longford to live nearly 10 years ago.

She grew up here and is the third generation of her family to live on Wellington Street, Longford and serve as a local government councillor.

Councillor Richard Archer

I am a farmer at Longford, married with three adult children and elected to Council in 2022.

Our family also runs a heritage/agri-tourism business which was started in 1987.

I am determined to preserve the environment, lifestyle and prosperity that we enjoy in the Northern Midlands and have been involved in many community groups over the years.

Good management is increasingly complex around the key issues of governance, planning, financial sustainability and climate change.

Councillor Matthew Brooks

Born in Longford and I'm still here 53 years later and have worked hard in the municipality during my 13 years in local government.



• Councillors L–R: Richard Goss, Matthew Brooks, Janet Lambert (Deputy Mayor), Andrew McCullagh, Mary Knowles OAM (Mayor), Richard Archer, Alison Andrews AM, Dick Adams OAM, Paul Terrett

An active councillor that has stood by and listened to local residents on issues that affect everyday people and will always continue to do so. A broad working knowledge of legislation and policies gives me the experience to continue to serve the entire Northern Midlands, representing your views and ideas I'm always available 24/7 seven days a week with no exceptions, and relied on for standing with the community as I'm passionate about the municipality.

I want to continue to grow the Northern Midlands together as I believe it's a special place to live, work and raise a family.

Councillor Richard Goss

First elected in 2007, I am a high school teacher with a mechanical and construction trade background.

I gained a tertiary education at the University of Tasmania (Bachelor of Education). I am married with three children and live at Longford. I grew up

at Cressy and I have gained first hand experienced living, working and building my dreams and hopes in the Northern Midlands. I have a strong commitment to the environment and heritage and will ensure that all residents and businesses are fairly represented and consulted on the future decisions of the Northern Midlands Council.

Councillor Andrew McCullagh

Born and bred in the township of Longford, attended Longford Primary, before moving onto St Patricks College for secondary education.

Although having significant business interests beyond the NMC district, Longford and the Northern Midlands will always truly be home.

Up until 2022, I was privileged to play in Longford Football Club's last premiership in 1991 and before that the 1986 NTFA Centenary Premiership Cup.

Having the utmost confidence and passion for the long terms opportunities the Northern Midlands District presents, I will do all possible to seek the highest levels of Governance to ensure the growth and confidence of residents and businesses residing under this great Historical Municipality.

Councillor Paul Terrett

Elected in 2022 and I live in Devon Hills. I spent my career in Local Government working as a Departmental Inspector, Councillor and Senior Ministerial Advisor. As a Ministerial Chief of Staff for the portfolios Primary Industries, Water and Small Business I have facilitated the development of innovative and constructive policies and strategies for the betterment of the community.

I know the challenges facing farmers formally running a sheep and cattle property. In my spare time I enjoy volunteering at Woolmers Estate informing visitors on Tasmania's rich colonial history. I also am an active member of the Clarendon gardening group.

I am passionate about serving the community and making the Northern Midlands an even better place to live.

Council's Executive Committee

Council's executive committee consists of Mayor Mary Knowles, Deputy Mayor Janet Lambert and Councillor Richard Archer.

• Longford streetscape



Members Serving on District Committees

Membership of Committees spans a 2-year period (1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023); however the 2021-2023 term of operation of the current Memorandum of Understanding has been extended until 30 June 2024

(or sooner if resolved) to allow additional time for a review of the Memorandum of Understanding to be undertaken. The following memberships were active at 30 June 2023:

Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden Local District Committee

Chairperson

- Shirley Freeman

Members

- Helen Reynolds
- Carol Wearing
- Leesa Rundell
- Helen Richardson
- Jane Mitchell
- Vicki Burn

Councillor Representative

- Mayor Mary Knowles OAM

Secretary

- Gail Eacher

Council Contact

- Gail Eacher

Campbell Town District Forum

Chairperson

- Jillian Clarke

Members

- Jill Davis
- Danny Saunders
- Owen Diefenbach
- Sally Hills
- Tracy Spencer – Lloyd
- Elizabeth Porter
- Leisa Gordon

Councillor Representative

- Councillor Alison Andrews AM
- Councillor Paul Terrett

Secretary

- Lorraine Wyatt

Council Contact

- Lorraine Wyatt

Cressy Local District Committee

Chairperson

- Daniel Rowbottom

Members

- Helen Howard
- Angela Jenkins
- Helen Williams
- Peter Goss
- Maurita Taylor
- Ann Green
- Andrew Byard
- Katie Lamprey

Council Representative

- Councillor Richard Goss

Secretary

- Committee appointed

Council Contact

- Lorraine Wyatt

Evandale Advisory Committee

Chairperson

- John Lewis

Members

- Henrietta Houghton
- Barry Lawson
- Stephanie Kensitt
- Bruce Argent-Smith
- Louis Sauer

Councillor

Representatives

- Councillor Janet Lambert
- Councillor Paul Terrett

Secretary

- Lorraine Wyatt

Council Contact

- Lorraine Wyatt

Longford Local District Committee

Chairperson

- Timothy Flanagan

Members

- Neil Tubb
- Bron Baker
- Dennis Pettyfor
- Doug Bester
- Simon Bower
- Joanne Clarke
- Peter Munro
- Annette Aldersea

Councillor

Representatives

- Councillor Dick Adams OAM
- Councillor Matthew Brooks

Secretary

- Simon Bower

Council Contact

- Lorraine Wyatt

Perth Local District Committee

Chairperson

- Russell MacKenzie

Members

- Tony Purse
- Don Smith
- Jonathan Targett
- Samantha Beattie
- Jo Saunderson
- Michelle Elgersma

Councillor

Representatives

- Councillor Janet Lambert
- Councillor Paul Terrett

Secretary

- Gail Eacher

Council Contact

- Gail Eacher

Ross Local District Committee

Chairperson

- Arthur Thorpe

Members

- Marcus Rodrigues
- Jill Bennett
- Christine Robinson
- Helen Davies
- Michael Smith
- Sally Langridge
- Julie Smith

Councillor

Representatives

- Councillor Alison Andrews AM
- Councillor Richard Archer

Secretary

- Ann Thorpe (Hon Secretary)

Council Contact

- Lorraine Wyatt



• New cricket nets at Morven Park, Evandale

Major Strategic Issues

Major Strategic Issues

Across 2022/2023 Council addressed a number of key issues which were identified in the Strategic Plan 2021-2027; with the projects undertaken to address these issues being incorporated in Council's Annual Plan for 2022/2023.

The Annual Plan sets out the objectives as listed in Council's Strategic Plan and shows the performance in each activity.

Economic Development

The Northern Tasmania Regional Economic Development Strategy was adopted in 2019. It sets a vision for Northern Tasmania to be Australia's most liveable and innovative region by 2031, with growing incomes and falling levels of disadvantage. Council's Integrated Priority Projects Plan together with Council's Economic Development Strategy adopted during 2023 articulate how Council will contribute to achieving this vision for Northern Tasmania.

The purpose of local economic development is to further build the economic capacity of a local area to improve its economic future and the quality of life for all. It is a process by which the public, businesses and the non-government sector work collaboratively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment generation.

Council continues to work in partnership with all stakeholders to ensure the Northern Midlands economy develops in a way that, insofar as possible, meets the needs and aspirations of the municipality's people and businesses.

Council welcomed the Federal Government's announcement in May 2020 of a new multi-million dollar Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. The program is supporting local councils to deliver priority road and infrastructure projects thus supporting jobs and the resilience of local economies to bounce back from the pandemic. Council has been allocated three rounds of this funding to date; totalling \$3.8 million.

A number of factors which influence economic development are outside of Council's control; however, through long-term planning, strategies and the nurturing of partnerships Council does its utmost to ensure it is well-placed to sustain our diverse economy and facilitate future development within our region.

Sustainable Development

Council is committed to a sustainable approach to economic development that fosters economic growth whilst preserving the quality of the environment for future generations.

Council ensures environmental and social issues are taken into account not only when encouraging economic development, but also in the provision of land use planning, engineering infrastructure, waste management and environmental health. The community is also looking to Council to play a pro-active role in natural resource management through programs such as landcare initiatives.

Council has worked closely with NRM North and the local community groups to facilitate and administer a number of projects including Perth's Sheepwash Creek Water Sensitive Urban Design project, the West Perth urban drainage improvements, solar energy on new buildings and a bandicoot garden in Union Street, Longford.

Community Wellbeing

Council's ambition is that everyone in our community has the opportunity to lead a happy and healthy life. In 2023 Council adopted a Health and Wellbeing Strategy that sets the direction for achieving this ambition, building on the great strengths within our community as well as addressing the challenges and causes that lead to poor health outcomes.

Council is committed to improving the quality of life within the local areas through building strong partnerships, delivering programs, services and events, providing vital infrastructure, and advocating on behalf of the Northern Midlands community.

Across 2022/2023 Council actively advocated for the provision of locally-based health and wellbeing services, with the priorities being the establishment of a community/ neighbourhood house at Longford, and domestic violence support services.

Council promotes community capacity building by continuing to resource the Local District Committees at Campbell Town, Cressy, Evandale, Longford, Perth, Ross and the Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden area.

Climate Change

Carbon Emission accounts

The Tasmanian Government has committed to net zero emissions by 2050. Local Government have a role to play in reducing emissions over time. Annual carbon accounting is an important step in understanding the sources and magnitudes of Council's carbon emissions. Tracking changes in our emissions over time allows us to assess the impacts of investments we have already undertaken as well as to identify areas where future emissions reduction activities should focus.

The annual report card is published on Council's website.

What activities do we account for?

Northern Midlands Council's carbon emissions come from 3 main activities:

- Fuel used by our vehicle fleet;
- Electricity used by streetlights; and
- Electricity used by our properties, inclusive of pools, recreation facilities/areas, community buildings and depots/offices.

What have we done to reduce emissions?

Council has undertaken a program of replacement of streetlights with more energy efficient models. This has seen the replacement of a number of sodium vapour, mercury vapour bulbs and fluorescent bulbs with more energy efficient LED models. This program is ongoing and expected to lead to further reductions in future years.

Investment in carbon reducing internal activities is also being undertaken by Council such as tree planting, urban stormwater design activities, reuse and recycling programs.

What further actions are we planning?

Emissions from our fleet through fuel usage have been increasing over time and remain an issue. We are investigating options for reducing emissions from our fleet including transitioning to lower emissions vehicles, hybrid or electric vehicles over time.

Northern Tasmanian Alliance for Resilient Councils

The collaborative state-wide proposal *Implementing climate change action planning in local government a state-wide approach* represents the entirety of the Tasmanian local government sector, Northern Tasmanian Alliance for Resilient Councils (NTARC) is leveraging key elements of the Southern Council's Climate Collaboration across the eight northern councils. NTARC considers this to be critical in strengthening and bringing consistency to Tasmanian local government climate action, and to finding local solutions and increasing the corporate capability and capacity of councils to develop climate responses that are scalable and increase resource efficiencies.

NTARC has reviewed, and made minor updates to the Council Carbon and Energy Footprints Calculator and Fact Sheets which are being used to develop inventories for councils. Consideration is also being given toward the inclusion of climate risks assessments in the development of Individual Support Plans for NTARC member councils. NTARC is also liaising with the Cradle Coast Authority to mirror the climate programs, ensuring a harmonised approach across the entire sector.

The role of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority is acknowledged in the development of NTARC's key resources. The Northern Midlands Council, together with the NTARC member group look forward to opportunities to collaborate and cooperate in climate and resilient action that supports thriving and resilient communities.

Maintaining Core Functions of Council

One of the Council's core responsibilities is the on-going management of its total asset base. While Council has acknowledged its expanding role in community development, it must balance this with adequate maintenance and renewal of its assets.

Council maintained its Long-Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plans during 2022/2023 which provide a framework for Council to create, renew and maintain major infrastructure in a sustainable manner.

During 2022/2023 Council spent \$4.01 million (2021/22 \$3.54m) towards upgrading and renewal of Council's Road network and \$2.5 million (2021/22 \$2.0m) towards maintaining the road asset base. In addition, an amount of \$0.161 million (2021/22 \$0.597m) was spent on the replacement of a bridge, and \$1.03 million (2021/22 \$0.396m) on additional stormwater assets recognised. Building assets recognised totalled \$4.48 million (2021/22 \$2.0m).

Future Funding

Council is responsible for the maintenance of 575kms of sealed roads and 385kms of unsealed roads, making this the Council with the most road length in the state. Council welcomes the additional Australian Government Roads to Recovery funding and lobbies for the continuation of this grants program.

Council continues to object to the ongoing reallocation of responsibilities to Local Government from the State and Federal Governments without commensurate financial support.

Council is appreciative of the ongoing Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funding Program that the Australian Government introduced in 2020 to assist a community-led recovery from COVID-19 pandemic by supporting local jobs, businesses and procurement.

Funding was secured in 2022 through the new Australian Government Priority Community Infrastructure Program for the upgrade of the main streets of Campbell Town and Perth, and the planning process for the TRANSlink Intermodal Facility. It is anticipated the funding agreements for these major infrastructure projects will be executed during the first half of 2023/2024, and work will commence by the end of that financial year.

An application is currently being prepared to the new Australian Government Growing Regions Program for funding to develop a shared pathways network connecting Youngtown via Perth to Longford, and from Longford to the Illawarra-Bishopsbourne Road intersection. It is anticipated the outcome of the application will be known in the first quarter of 2024.

In mid-2021 Council secured funding through the Australian Government's Recovery for Regional Tourism Program to enable implementation of stage one of the REASSIGN Heritage Tourism Interpretation Project. The products and experiences created during stage one were launched in November 2022, and have been highly successful, engaging locals and tourists with the intriguing stories of the assignment and gentry systems, and the Aboriginal significance of the northern landscape. Council is collaborating with Visit Northern Tasmania to seek funding for REASSIGN stages two and three.

Council will continue to

- apply for grant funding including the Black Spot Roads Program, Regional Development Funding rounds, Tasmanian Community Fund grants, Active Tasmania grants and Cricket Australia grants; and
- look for new grants and other financial revenue streams to lighten the rate burden on its community.

Annual Review of Council Programs

Governance

Governance includes provision of elected representation, executive support, public relations, strategic planning, economic development, and community development and services, including health, youth, animal control and emergency management.

Integrated Priority Projects Plan

INTEGRATED PRIORITY PROJECTS PLAN:

Project	Status		Budget 2022-23	\$	Scheduled
Lead: <i>Serve with honesty, integrity, innovation and pride</i>					
Progress: <i>Economic health and wealth – grow and prosper</i>					
Foundation Projects					
4.1 Main Street Upgrades: Campbell Town, Longford and Perth	On Track	Campbell Town Construction of Midland Highway underpass at Campbell Town completed. Business Case being prepared to secure the 2022 Election Commitment	Budget allocation 2022-23 plus contribution from \$8m Federal Government Election Commitment 2022.	1,450,000	Development Application 2023
	On Track	Longford Commitment of \$4m from National Party prior to 2019 Federal Election. Memorial hall upgrade contractor selected at Council's February 2023 meeting – work underway	Budget allocation 2022-23.	1,293,000	Development Application 2023
	On Track	Perth Council has endorsed the plan and draft amendments to planning scheme to be prepared. Main Street upgrades included in NMC Priority Projects document Business Case being prepared to secure the 2022 Election Commitment	Budget allocation 2022-23 plus contribution from \$8m Federal Government Election Commitment 2022.	1,141,000	Development Application 2023
4.4 TRANSLink Intermodal Facility	On Track	Including precinct renewal – stormwater and gas pipeline. Seeking grant assistance to fund planned works. Included in NMC Priority Projects document. Application being prepared to secure the \$5m election commitment.	Federal Election commitment of \$5m for planning stage. No Council funded Budget allocation 2022-23. Further \$30m commitment subject to planning stage.	5,000,000	Application due by end of 2023
5.1 Perth Sports Precinct and Community Centre	On Track	Concept master plan developed October 2020. Included in NMC Priority Projects document.	Valuation to be updated for land then provide to property owner for consideration. No budget allocation 2022-23 staff resources only.	–	Not scheduled at this stage
5.1 Ben Lomond Public Shelter Development	On Track	Feasibility Study: Investment in Ben Lomond Ski Field Northern Tasmania study being driven by external stakeholders, Council support provided when requested. Included in NMC Priority Projects document. Government has committed to infrastructure expenditure and development of a master plan.	No allocation 2022-23 staff resources only.	–	Not scheduled at this stage
5.3 Campbell Town – Town Hall Sale or Lease	On Track	Real estate agent appointed.	Small gain/loss in Budget 2022-23 expected if sold.		For Sale, Council initiated rezoning.

Project	Status		Budget 2022-23	\$	Scheduled
5.3 Longford Library and exhibition Building on the Village Green	On Track	Longford Motor Sport Museum Alternative sites for museum being sought by proponents. Included in NMC Priority Projects document.	No budget allocation staff resources only.	–	Not scheduled at this stage

People: Cultural and society – a vibrant future that respects the past

Enabling Projects

5.1 Oval Upgrades (several)	On Track	Campbell Town War Memorial Oval Precinct Implementation of Final Stages. Included in NMC Priority Projects document.	Irrigation system adjacent to tennis area \$45,000, building acoustics and minor improvements \$41,500, and carpark sealing \$126,000 included in 2022-23 Budget.	212,500	In progress, October 2023
	Completed	Cressy Recreation Ground Implementation of Final Stages Levelling the Playing Field funding received – building work completed. Final report and acquittal submitted.	Budget allocation in 2022-23 Budget	128,000	Completed
		BBQ facility and landscaping to be funded through Local Roads and Community Infrastructure grant.	BBQ shelter completion.		Completed March 2023
		Cricket Australia funding secured towards the upgrade of the practice facility.	Cricket Australia grant \$18,500 State Government 2021 Election commitment \$5,400 NMC \$13,100		Acquittal stage
5.1 Morven Park Master Plan	On Track	Implementation of Final Stages Works substantially completed: grant acquittal report submitted.	Budget commitment 2022-23 towards future drainage improvements \$26,582.	10,000	Drainage when balance funding sought.
	Completed	Relocation of cricket nets completed – acquittal report submitted to State Government	Budget allocation for removal of old cricket nets and surrounds \$10,000		Completed
5.1 Swimming Pool Upgrades (several)	On Track	Covering of Campbell Town and Cressy Swimming Pools Included in NMC Priority Projects document.	No allocation 2022-23 staff resources only.	–	Not scheduled at this stage
	Completed	Cressy Implementation of final stages. State election funding grant of \$100,000 received. \$400,000 commitment from National Party prior to 2019 federal election. Grant acquittals submitted. Concourse, carpark and landscaping completed 2022/2023.	Budget allocation 2022-23 for renewal of concourse and fencing. LRCI grant allocated to the project.	600,000	Completed
	On Track	Ross Pool operation to continue (as per the current funding model) whilst structurally/operationally safe to do so.	Budget allocation 2022-23 towards WHS issues.	10,000	October 2023
5.2 Shared Pathways	On Track	Committee established and program to be prepared. Included in NMC Priority Projects document.	Funding application being prepared to Growing Regions Grants Program and Better Active Transport in Tasmania Grants Program.	250,000	Design stage

Project	Status	Budget 2022-23	\$	Scheduled
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Place: Nurture our heritage environment

Foundation Projects

4.2 Perth South Esk River Parklands	Completed	Building Better Regions Fund grant secured towards the extension of the walkway, installation of footbridge and BBQ. Included in NMC Priority Projects document.	Building Better Regions Fund grant of \$187,500	310,000	Completed
4.3 Sheepwash Creek Corridor and Open Space	On Hold	Grants to be sought for major new/ improved infrastructure. Included in NMC Priority Projects document.	Commonwealth Government Disaster Ready funding successfully sought	3,700,000 (Grants - \$1.8m)	

Enabling Projects

5.1 Conara Park Upgrade	On Hold	Concept prepared: awaiting funding opportunities. Included in NMC Priority Projects document.	No budget allocation staff resources only.	-	Not scheduled at this stage
5.3 Redevelop Cressy Park	On Track	Liaising with Local District Committee to establish/ prepare plans for upgrade.	Budget allocation 2023/2024.	-	Not scheduled at this stage

CONTEXT PLAN



LEGEND

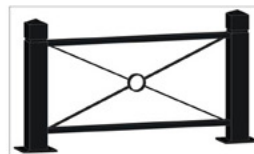
- Diverging kerb crossover with concrete driveway pavement.
- Pedestrian kerb ramps.
- Line marking and green surfacing to highlight take lanes across intersections.
- Shared bike lane and vehicle movement symbol with directional arrow.
- 1800mm (w) Min. concrete footpath.
- Concrete pavement with feature saw cut grid to add interest to the streetscape.
- Feature pavement to highlight point of interest nodes.
- Hardy colourful groundcovers to a height of 300mm max.
- Existing trees to be retained.
- New ornamental street trees to allow shade in summer and solar access in winter.

NUMBER LEGEND

- 1 Designated pedestrian crossing node centrally located to provide maximum safety and accessibility for people to cross Main Street. The node will include larger pavement areas for street furniture, planting and interpretation signage. Contrasting pavement will also be included to highlight the pedestrian link across to street.
- 2 Existing shop awning over the footpath.
- 3 Tall and narrow ornamental street trees highlight the pedestrian crossing node, and to add seasonal colour to the streetscape.
- 4 Formalised footpath widths provide areas for planting along existing fence lines to add colour, texture and interest to the streetscape.
- 5 Line marked parking bays ensure spaces are maximised throughout the central business area.
- 6 Street trees in raised kerb planters, adapted to allow stormwater access to provide passive irrigation.
- 7 New planting beds with low growing hardy shrubs and groundcovers to provide greenery to the streetscape.
- 8 Potential for seating for rest stops and interpretation signage to showcase the history of Perth.
- 9 New kerb extensions to assist in vehicle and pedestrian management between Main Street and adjoining streets.
- 10 Kerb extensions allow intersections to be realigned to achieve a 90 degree approach to Main Street for vehicle traffic.
- 11 Pedestrian barriers within gardens to provide additional pedestrian safety and to highlight the shopping area.
- 12 Potential for rain gardens to assist with harvesting and managing stormwater flows from the road, as well as providing passive irrigation for the surrounding planting.
- 13 Existing kerb build-outs to Tolstik Street to be retained.
- 14 Existing pavement adjoining the CIA building to be refurbished to maintain continuity throughout the central business area of the streetscape.
- 15 Pedestrian barriers with a narrow garden bed on the street side separates the Queens Head Inn outdoor dining area from pedestrian movements along the streetscape.



Artists Impression - View south down Main Street of the pedestrian crossing node.



Future pedestrian barriers for crossing nodes.



Seating style.



Interpretation signage node.

PERTH STREETScape REDEVELOPMENT

Main Street Perth Tasmania

CONCEPT PLAN

0 2.5 5 10m
30 August 2023
Sheet 3 of 6 Issue E



Governance

Objective:

Provision of quality governance and effective leadership to support and enrich community life.

Performance:

- Our decision making processes will be fair and accountable and will always take account of the economic, environmental and social sustainability of any proposed action.
- Council is committed to provide innovative, efficient, equitable and quality service for all the community and respect for each and every customer.
- Staff will deal with customers in an open, honest and courteous manner and respect their privacy at all times.
- Council's administrative headquarters is based at 13 Smith Street, Longford and a range of services are also provided by Service Tasmania at the Town Hall, Campbell Town.
- Council reviews and implements organisational values in its day to day operations.
- Nine Councillors represent the Northern Midlands municipal area.
- Local Government elections were held in October 2022. The certificate of election, provided by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission advising of the nine elected councillors was tabled at the 28 November 2022 Council meeting.
- 12 Ordinary Meetings were held during 2022/2023.
- No Special Meetings were held during the 2022/2023 year.
- Council held its 2022 Annual General Meeting on 12 December 2022.
- Council generally meets on the third Monday of each month with public agendas, together with supporting documentation, available prior to each meeting.
- Attendance by the public at Council Meetings is welcomed and at 5.30pm a twenty (20) minute public question time is provided at each Council meeting.
- This year, Council determined to hold the annual Councillors Bus Tour on 19 April 2023.
- Local District Committees at Evandale, Campbell Town, Ross, Longford, Cressy, Perth and Avoca, Royal George and Rossarden, continued to provide valuable input into various issues considered by Council.

- Council updates its Delegations Register as required.
- Council adopted/reviewed the following policies during the year:
 - Local Government Election Caretaker Period policy on 18 July 2022
 - Councillors, Allowances, Travelling and Other Expenses policy on 12 December 2022
 - Code of Conduct for Elected Members on 30 January 2023
- Council adopted a new Footpath Trading By-Law on 26 September 2022, Footpath Trading By-Law No.1 of 2022 was published in a Special Government Gazette on 12 October 2022.

Future of Local Government Review

- Northern Midlands Council presented its submission to the Local Government Board Review hearings on 10 August 2023, at which time it was clearly articulated that any changes to its present boundaries or mergers with neighbouring councils, along the lines of proposed Community Catchment scenarios outlined in the Local Government Review Board's Stage 2 Interim Report, would be vehemently opposed.
- The Board is scheduled to hand down its final report on October 31, 2023, after which time each council will be invited to review the final report and make a further submission to Government.

Councillors attended the following conferences and seminars during the year:

- 1-2 July 2022: Cr Mary Knowles attended the LGAT AGM Elected Representatives Professional Development Day in Hobart.
- 31 August – 2 September 2022: Cr Mary Knowles attended SEGRA Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia Conference, Devonport.
- 15 September 2022: Cr Mary Knowles attended the Mayors Professional Development Day in Devonport.
- 19 October 2022: Cr Mary Knowles attended LGAT on line workshops – Infrastructure and Service Delivery; Planning and Regulatory Services; Strategic and Regional Capacity; and Draft Tasmanian Planning Policies.
- 2-3 November 2022: Cr Mary Knowles and Cr Matthew Brooks attended the 2022 National Local Roads and Transport Congress in Hobart.

- 21 November 2022: Cr Mary Knowles, Cr Janet Lambert, Cr Dick Adams, Cr Alison Andrews, Cr Richard Archer, Cr Matthew Brooks, Cr Richard Goss, Cr Andrew McCullagh and Cr Paul Terrett attended Council's in-house Professional Development Workshop.
- 26 November 2022: Cr Janet Lambert, Cr Alison Andrews, Cr Richard Archer, Cr Paul Terrett attended the Elected Member Development Session (councillor induction) in Launceston.
- 6 December 2022: Cr Mary Knowles attended Department of State Growth Climate and Future Industries forum.
- 8-9 December 2022: Cr Mary Knowles and Cr Paul Terrett attended the MAV Insurance LGAT Annual Conference in Hobart.
- 9 February 2023: Cr Mary Knowles attended Department of Premier and Cabinet On-line Planning Session.
- 14 February 2023: Cr Mary Knowles attended On-line Regional Planning Framework Session.
- 16 March 2023: Cr Mary Knowles attended the Mayors Professional Development Day in Launceston.
- 29 March 2023: Cr Mary Knowles attended Health Department Local Grants Workshop at Oatlands.
- 6 April 2023: Cr Mary Knowles attended NTDC Economic Development Session at Riverside.
- 28 April 2023: Cr Mary Knowles, Cr Matthew Brooks, Cr Andrew McCullagh and Cr Paul Terrett attended LGAT's professional development event, Planning Authority and Managing Growth in Devonport.
- 3 May 2023: Cr Mary Knowles attended the LGAT Presidential Candidates Online Forum.
- 26 May 2023: Cr Mary Knowles attended NTDC Members Forum and Strategic Planning Workshop, Launceston.
- 13-16 June 2023: Cr Mary Knowles and Cr Janet Lambert attended the National General Assembly (Australian Local Government Association annual conference), Canberra.



● Governance Department team

Council allocated Special Project grants totalling \$14,670 in 2022/2023 to sporting and community groups as follows:

Longford Legends Park – recognition plaques	180
Evandale Tennis Club – hotshots court and resurfacing for practice wall	3,442
Morven Park – security camera, gas hot water, ticket box improvements	1,891
Cressy Bowls Club – junior bowls	1,091
Evandale Community Centre – dishwasher and heat pump contribution	4,212
Ross Pool – improvements	2,944
Longford RSL	910

In 2022/2023 Council provided donations totalling \$19,796 under Section 77 of the Local Government Act to:

Reptile Rescue	Donation to service	\$1,000.00
Campbell Town District High School	Inspiring Positive Futures Program	\$7,272.73
Cressy District High School	Inspiring Positive Futures Program	\$8,000.00
Campbell Town, Cressy, Evandale, Longford	End of Year School Presentations 2022	\$450.00
Longford Fire Brigade	Christmas Lolly run 2022	\$100.00
Longford Care a Car	Donation	\$1,000.00
Helping Hand Association	Donation	\$1,500.00
Tasmanian Truck Owners Association	40th Annual Truck Run 2023	\$200.00
Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre	Donation to Mayors Croquet Challenge 2023	\$100.00
Help4Kids Association	Donation	\$25.00
Assistance to Campbell Town SES	Council wages and plant	\$148.45

People and Culture: Human Resources

Objective:

People and Culture generates professionalism: staff are engaged, committed, stable and innovative; employment relations are fair and consistent; the People and Culture framework is best practice; organisational and personal development is valued.

Performance:

Bargaining meetings for the Northern Midlands Council Enterprise Agreement 2022-2025 that had commenced in May 2022 were concluded in July 2022, and took effect from 1 July 2022. The key changes for the three year agreement were an annual increase of 3.5% for all employees, an increase of 0.5% for superannuation contributions up to 13% for the life of the agreement, access to 2 weeks unpaid Pandemic Leave, and changes to Sick Leave access to assist with government isolation directives.

As the immediate impacts of COVID-19 on the workplace have subsided, in their wake we have had a year characterised by growth and change as decisions about retirement or new challenges that were postponed during the pandemic have now been made.

Sadly that has meant saying farewell to some long standing team members. The Works team lost 5 of its long-standing team members with a total of 118 years of service to Council between them. This included Ray Webb who celebrated his 40-year milestone shortly before his retirement. Across all divisions, the average years of service for the permanent team members leaving this year was 11 years.

Other service milestones celebrated this year were: Michelle Campbell and Michelle Frankcombe 25 years and Ola Howe 10 years.

It has been exciting to see 3 of our Apprentices complete their qualifications during the year, and they have remained with Council as permanent employees in the Works team. With a very competitive employment market in the Civil Construction and Local Government sector in Tasmania, we have continued to focus on investing in both internal and external training and development, leveraging on the skills and experience of our existing talent to help us develop the next generation. This hasn't been without its challenges as 28% of our workforce has less than 1 year of service as the year comes to a close, compared to 22% last year. At 30 June 2023 the average length of service for our permanent workforce was 6.9 years, compared to 9.2 years last year.

As at 30 June 2023, Northern Midlands Council had 80 personnel employed on a full-time or part-time basis and 5 casual employees. The turnover rate for the reporting period was 20.8% (2021/2022 11.5%), which is higher than the previous reporting period.

Specific data	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
Total Payroll Costs	7,058,106	6,356,124	\$6,174,416
Including: Superannuation contributions	698,803	617,331	\$614,340
Workers Compensation insurance and expenses	124,762	124,168	\$129,051
Leave – annual, long service and sick and provisions	1,032,026	961,892	\$1,019,270
State Government payroll tax and other employee costs	323,423	277,789	\$267,185
% of total payroll costs capitalised	6.4%	8.0%	7.2%
Permanent staff EFTs (at year end)	80	71	64
Casual Staff EFTs (at year end)	5	3	4
Sick leave taken (permanent employees – paid days)	2.6	9.0	4.7

- Ola Howe receiving 10 years long service certificate



Emergency Management

Objective:

The framework that provides for planned and coordinated measures that reduce vulnerabilities and enhance capacities to withstand emergencies, as well as cope with and recover from their impacts.

Performance:

The COVID-19 emergency which was declared early in 2020 came to an end on 23 November 2022 at which time the Director of Public Health, Dr Mark Veitch, wrote to the Premier, the Hon. Jeremy Rockliff, to advise that in accordance with section 27 of the COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020, in his opinion the emergency circumstances as described under section 5(2) of that Act no longer existed.

Council has continued involvement in emergency management planning.

The Emergency Unit at Campbell Town has 12 members and its role is to provide roadside rescue assistance and other needs as per the Emergency Services Act 1976.

Council funds the purchase and maintenance of road accident rescue related equipment and services.

Fire hazards are identified within the municipal area and abatement notices are issued.

The General Manager is appointed as the Municipal SES co-ordinator, with Corporate Services Manager appointed as Deputy Municipal SES co-ordinator and the Work Health & Safety Officer as assistant SES coordinator.

Council staff participated in Regional Social Recovery training, networking forums and exercises, and provided social recovery services.

Council has continued to participate in the Launceston Airport emergency management committee.

Council reviewed its Management of Donated Goods After a Disaster Policy – 15 August 2022.



• Flooding at Bridge Street, Campbell Town

Communication

Objective:

Council engages and connects Councillors and the organisation with the community to maximise participation and increase community satisfaction.

Performance:

Council:

- collaborated with the community to develop a Communications and Engagement Strategy;
- supports the need for coherent regional leadership and collaborative planning and economic policy frameworks, to promote the regions potential;
- is an active member of the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) and Northern Tasmania Development Corporation (NTDC); and supports Visit Northern Tasmania (the regional tourism organisation);
- investigates opportunities to resource share prior to implementing new programs;
- has a vital and demanding role to play in working with the people of Northern Midlands to shape a common future, provides public consultation on major plans and programs where practical;
- continues with master planning and design in conjunction with community consultation and participation on major projects throughout the municipal area;
- continually lobbies/ liaises with Ministers of Governments on issues of importance to the community;
- encourages and supports active local committees;
- aims to provide an environment that is safe and provides the opportunity for residents to pursue a quality lifestyle. It encourages a spirit of pride and appreciation of the community and its assets; and
- is committed to the End Men's Violence Against Women campaign, promoting community education and awareness.

A 20-minute public question and statements time is provided at all Council Meetings to encourage public awareness of activities.

Council news and activities were brought to the attention of residents via:

- One page in fortnightly publication of the Northern Midlands Courier newspaper
- Council's website
- via Facebook
- media releases
- media advertising / short film promotion – 'Choose the Scenic Route'.

Council reviewed the Aboriginal and Dual Naming policy on 20 February 2023.

Council lobbied Government for support and/or funding for:

- Future of Local Government
- Northern Midlands Community House
- Longford Racecourse Master Plan Implementation
- Proposed new Perth Recreation Precinct and Community Centre
- Sheepwash Creek Stormwater Upgrades
- Ross Recreation Ground Upgrades

Council consulted extensively with stakeholders in relation to the following proposed municipal development plans and community strategies:

- Longford Township CBD Urban Design Strategy
- Napoleon Street Park in Perth
- Arts and Culture Strategy
- Communications and Engagement Strategy
- Economic Development Strategy
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Youth Strategy

Council's Annual Awards and Australia Day event

The council's 2023 event was held at Cressy on Saturday 26 January 2023 and was well attended. The formal proceedings included an address by returning Australia Day Ambassador Ella Dixon, who is the CEO of not-for-profit organisation, Migrant Resource Centre. Prior to this, she spent 8 years working for the Department of Premier and Cabinet as Regional Manager of Women Tasmania.

The following awards were presented:

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – MAUREEN SHADBOLT

Maureen was awarded Citizen of the Year for her contribution to the wellbeing of the community including:

- Facilitating the Longford community pantry – a service assisting community members in need;
- Coordinating "Neighbours" a friendship group that helps community members develop connections and social inclusivity;
- Daily check-in phone calls to people in the community who live on their own or are vulnerable. If they don't answer, Maureen personally goes and checks on them;
- Being part of the "bread collection" team that collects unsold bread and makes it available to community members in need;
- Sets up and monitors wildlife cameras on a Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, bandicoot conservation project;
- Keeps swag packs in her garage to hand out to homeless people; and
- Actively seeks solutions and assistance for the homeless and disadvantaged.

YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – JAKE QUINN

Jake has been an active member of Scouts Australia since the age of 11 and is now a Venturer Scout with Norfolk Plains Group at Perth.

After attending the 2019 Australian Scout Jamboree in South Australia, Jake was then selected to attend the 2023 World Scout Jamboree in South Korea.

His leadership abilities are demonstrated by him being elected House Captain at Cressy District High School 4 times between grades 5 and 10, before being elected to the School Leadership Council in 2021 and 2022, serving as Secretary and then Vice President.

Jake also represented Cressy District High School at

- Cressy ANZAC services in 2021 and again in 2022 where he wrote and delivered a speech on behalf of the school;
- the opening of the 2022 Bowls season at Cressy Bowls club; and
- the launch of the upgraded of the Cressy NBN tower in 2022.

Jake was selected to be a Senior Student Support for Cressy District High Schools Grade 7 camp at Port Arthur and is a Senior Student Help for students transitioning from feeder schools to high school.

Jake was successfully nominated to attend Rotary Tasmania's Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment in September 2022. The weekend seminar is designed for young leaders and promotes leadership, communication of ideas, problem solving and social experiences. Jake made a presentation at the Longford Rotary meeting about his experience, and everyone was impressed by his confidence and the fluency of his presentation.

• Australia Day Awards



EVENT OF THE YEAR – VERANDAH MUSIC FESTIVAL

This two-day event featured 24 musical performances on 10 of Evandale's most beautiful verandahs.

Performances incorporated a range of genres including folk, blues, jazz, funk, soul, classical, community choirs and more.

The festival attracts patrons from all around the Northern Midlands and beyond.

The event attracted national TV coverage and was attended by approximately 1,000 people.

Northern Midlands Council Volunteer Recognition Awards

KARIN MUIR

Karin was nominated for her dedication and commitment to maintaining a clean environment for the Ross community. Several times a week, Karin walks the streets of Ross collecting rubbish.

PETER COOPER

Peter drives a Carer car two days a week, delivers meals on wheels one day a week and volunteers at Toosey two days a week.

• Citizenship Ceremony on Australia Day



Economic Development

Objective:

To further build the economic capacity of the Northern Midlands to improve its economic future and the quality of life for all. To achieve this, Council will continue to work in partnership with all stakeholders to ensure the Northern Midlands economy develops in a way that, in so far as it is possible, meets the needs and aspirations of the municipality's people and businesses.

Performance:

Council is a member and shareholder of Northern Tasmania Development Corporation (NTDC) that has the primary objective of providing proactive, engaged and strategic regional economic leadership in order to facilitate significant improvement in prosperity in Northern Tasmania. Council ratepayers benefit from the investment via direct and material economic, employment and investment outcomes. Council's annual fees for 2022/2023 were \$52,605.

Collaborated with NTDC, Regional Development Australia (RDA) and other Northern Councils to:

- Continue the implementation of the Northern Tasmania Regional Development Plan which identifies where future economic growth and employment is likely to come from, and ensures the Launceston City Deal is of benefit to the surrounding region;
- Conclude a review of the Greater Launceston Plan;
- Continue the implementation of the Northern Tasmania Population Strategy that focusses on attracting working age population to the region by promoting the region's lifestyle, liveability and diverse employment opportunities.

Developed Council's 2023 Economic Development Strategy, adopted by Council in June 2023, that dovetails with the regional economic development plan, and clearly articulates Council's role in improving the economic future of the Northern Midlands.

Continued to collaborate with key stakeholders to advocate for the upgrade and expansion of infrastructure in the TRANSLink commercial, industrial and logistic precinct adjacent to Launceston Airport, including the stormwater renewal program, the intermodal facility and gas reticulation. Council received an Australian Government commitment of \$35m towards the furthering of planning for the intermodal facility and associated infrastructure, and has commenced the application process to secure this funding commitment.

Collaborated with Visit Northern Tasmania to secure an Australian Government Recovery for Regional Tourism grant of \$353,030 for the REASSIGN Heritage Tourism Interpretation Project. Stage one of the project was completed in November 2022 and the installations and augmented reality experiences now embedded at heritage sites across the Northern Midlands are engaging locals and visitors in the intriguing stories of Tasmanian Aboriginal people, colonial estate owners and convicts.

Provided funding to the Northern Midlands Business Association to enable the association to undertake activities to foster economic activity in the Northern Midlands, including implementing the Association's Business Enablement, Growth and Resilience Program.

In accordance with the Northern Tasmania Population Strategy, Council strived to improve the liveability of Northern Midlands communities through:

- Further planning and preliminary implementation of town urban design and structure plans for Campbell Town, Perth and Longford, supported by an Australian Government funding commitment of \$4m towards the revitalisation of Longford's town heart streetscape and community facilities; and \$8m towards the revitalisation of the main streets of Campbell Town and Perth;
- Ongoing implementation of Perth's Sheepwash Creek Water Sensitive Urban Design Open Space Plan, and development of the Norfolk Street Open Corridor;
- Securing an Australian Government Building Better Regions Fund grant of \$187,500 to enable further implementation of the Perth South Esk Riverwalk Master Plan;
- Completing construction of the new Perth Early Learning Centre on a green field site adjacent to Perth Primary School's Kindergarten, assisted by Australian Government funding of \$3.8m;
- Working with landowners seeking to develop significant numbers of new subdivisions in Evandale, Perth, Cressy and Longford;
- Developing a plan for a Northern Midlands Shared Pathways Network connecting Youngtown to Longford, and commencing an application to the Growing Regions Grant Programs towards implementation of the plan;
- Developing a concept plan for a tourist park at Campbell Town and seeking to identify sources of funding for implementation of the plan.

Collaborated with the Heritage Highway Tourism Region Association to facilitate the development of new tourism experiences and promotions, and to market the Northern Midlands/Heritage Highway Region as a 'must- see' destination.

Completed the upgrade of campground facilities including the construction of new toilet facilities at Lake Leake and Tooms Lake, assisted by grants through the State Government's Recreational Fishing and Camping Facilities Program, (\$72,628 and \$80,000 respectively), and Island Fisheries Service (\$20,000).

Continued to advocate for funding to implement the recommendations of the Ben Lomond Tourism Feasibility Studies. The resultant significant infrastructure upgrades will enable this national park to be promoted as a family friendly tourism destination all-year round.

Council officers proactively worked with potential investors interested in establishing businesses or undertaking developments in the Northern Midlands.

Council advocated with key agencies including TasWater, TasNetworks and NBN for infrastructure upgrades and expansions.

Council welcomed the news the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association are relocating their Head Office from Launceston to Longford.

Council continued to collaborate with State Growth on the upgrade of Illawarra Road from Perth to the Bass Highway.

Council collaborated with the Pacific Labour Mobility Stream to plan support services for the overseas workers employed within the Northern Midlands.

Council advocated for the Commonwealth Bank to maintain, and ideally, expand its services in the Northern Midlands.

NUMBER LEGEND

1. Main entry point into the Ross Community Sports Ground (RCSG), with proposed landscaping works to include new plantings and retaining to create a new ground and around the corner for smaller 50m. The existing gate will be upgraded, with existing fencing to be retained on the other side for another 10m.
2. Existing 100mm high concrete fence to be retained including replacement of damaged sections and then repaired.
3. Existing perimeter fence consisting of a combination of steel and timber with concrete and stone pillars and existing to be upgraded with traditional 'herringbone' style timber fencing including boring the bottom to prevent burrowing rabbits.
4. Existing macrocarpa trees to be retained with lower branches trimmed back clear from vehicle and pedestrian movement.
5. Existing practice cricket wicket consisting of a short concrete pitch with a three sided chain-link mesh fence. Existing chain-link mesh fencing to be retained.
6. Proposed large shade trees to provide shade for spectators.
7. Proposed 1.5m x 2m Concrete general access gate to provide all weather pedestrian access around the park for passive and active recreational activities.
8. Proposed 100mm x 100mm chain-link mesh and steel post and rail over perimeter fence.
9. Existing Concrete fire wall break along the northern boundary of the grounds to be replaced with a more suitable industrial building species to restrict bushrangers gaining access.
10. Proposed maintenance vehicle access gate off Badajos Street with direct path on to the oval to be upgraded to a new heavy duty vehicle gate.
11. Existing lighting and steel perimeter fence to be retained to allow for the proposed redesigned fencing.
12. Existing storage and maintenance shed to be demolished with new shed located along the Park Street property boundary.
13. Proposed 1.5m x 2m concrete gate to be retained with new shed located along the Park Street property boundary.
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NUMBER LEGEND

- 1 Divided lane entrance to enable controlled traffic entering and exiting the precinct.
- 2 **Cafe/hoop** with pre-entry turnaround point.
- 3 Large feature trees within the centre island provide a strong avenue leading into the sports complex.
- 4 Large roundabout with signage direct visitors to the various areas of the sports complex.
- 5 72 Bay formalised car park with shade trees.
- 6 Oval loop road to provide access for vehicle based spectators.
- 7 Large feature shade trees to add structure to the landscape and shade during summer.
- 8 2.8m (w) Shared gravel exercise pathway around the perimeter of the complex.
- 9 Buffer planting consisting of Tasmanian native trees, shrubs and groundcovers.
- 10 Open space for informal training purposes.
- 11 Medium size shade trees to provide structure to the landscape and shade during summer.
- 12 Combined 140 x 160m **AFL and Cricket Oval**
- 13 Low picket fence to enclose the oval.
- 14 **Regional Football & Cricket Clubrooms** incorporating AFL & Cricket Australia standards, multi-gender facilities in addition to Club House & Function Areas with all access capability.
- 15 8 Bay disabled & signatory car park.
- 16 Lobby for drop off/pick up and bus parking for the adjoining building.
- 17 12 Bay AFL and Cricket car park.
- 18 Lockable 3 bay cricket nets.
- 19 Existing creek bed to be revegetated with Tasmanian native trees, shrubs and ground covers, whilst maintaining above view through out for passive surveillance.
- 20 2m (w) Concrete loop path to enclose the adventure playground area and provide a connection to the gravel perimeter pathway.

- 21 User pays **Adventure Playground** with nature based play elements, water play, flying fox and kids clubhouse.
- 22 Skate circuit for skateboards, scooters and roller blades.
- 23 20 Bay car park with disabled bays for close proximity to the community centre.
- 24 **Multi-purpose Community Centre** incorporating gymnasium, administration / meeting spaces, on-line access centre, history room, etc. Also available for social and formal gatherings and functions.
- 25 Ornamental feature trees add shade and seasonal change between the Community Centre and swimming pool complex.
- 26 **Community Aquatic Centre** with locally sourced indoor swimming / recreation centre incorporating 25 metre pool, toddler pool, free electric BBQ, shade area, change rooms, toilets and cloak in an "access-for-all" environment. Appropriately equipped to cater for local / inter-school / club swimming carnivals.
- 27 Designated bus parking area for the complex.
- 28 Four netball courts.
- 29 Designated pedestrian access point with a 3m (w) pathway leading through the sports complex.
- 30 Four tennis courts with tennis clubhouse.
- 31 80 Bay car park centrally placed to accommodate the Community Centre, swimming pool complex, netball courts, tennis courts and town bowls complex.
- 32 **Multi-purpose Community Bowls Club Croquet facility** incorporating indoor arena, clubrooms & outdoor areas that fosters interaction of all age groups.
- 33 Green keepers shed.
- 34 Wetlands and water storage for irrigation purposes around the sports complex.



POTENTIAL PERTH SPORTS PRECINCT
Main Street Perth Tasmania

DRAFT Master Plan

0 5 10 20m
9 October 2020
Sheet 1 of 1 Issue A



• Northern Tasmanian Alliance for Resilient Councils (NTARC)

Environmental Health

Objective:

Provide for community wellbeing through a healthy living environment, healthy lifestyles and reducing disease.

Performance:

To investigate and resolve environmental nuisances.

To pro-actively implement programs/measures to protect community health by:

- Investigating and actioning Notifiable Disease cases;
- Monitoring recreational waters; and
- Regulating food businesses

To regulate registered premises by monitoring, inspecting and taking action in relation to their activities, level 1 activities (as defined by *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*) and on-site wastewater disposal systems.

Council's environmental health officer has worked in conjunction with various government departments in the assessment and resolution of incidents of potential environmental harm. The departments include the Environment Protection Authority, the Department of Health and Human Services, TasWater and Tasmania Police.

Matters addressed include:

- Odour and dust complaints;
- Food safety related concerns and complaints;
- Noise complaints;
- Local industry odour emissions;
- Sewerage connection and odour;
- Asbestos related complaints;

- Other local industry environmental concerns including industrial waste storage and reuse; and
- Air quality (smoke) incidents.

The Community Health Report addressed objectives within the areas of:

- Prevention and control of notifiable diseases;
- General infectious diseases control;
- The school immunisation program was contracted to the Northern Midlands Medical Service;
- Public Health Risk activities including tattooing;
- Regulated systems (cooling towers) to prevent the transmission of legionella;
- Control and mitigation of noise nuisances;
- Recreational water quality monitoring in accordance with the Public Health Act 1997, Guidelines for Recreational Water Quality;
- Food safety initiatives and regulatory control including food business registrations and inspections; and
- Assessment and monitoring of on-site wastewater management (septic tank systems).

Council adopted/reviewed the following policies during the year:

- Mobile Food Vendors Policy – 18 August 2022

Specific data	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
Licensed places of assembly	9	14	1



• Lake Leake

Animal Control

Objective:

Promote responsible and considerate animal ownership through the control and regulation of pet animals and livestock to minimise public nuisance and maximise community benefit.

Performance:

Council regulates dog control within the municipal area in accordance with the provisions of the *Dog Control Act 2000* and Council's Dog Control Policy.

Roles and responsibilities include:

- Promoting responsible dog ownership;
- Maintaining a register of all dogs aged over 6 months;
- Licensing kennels;
- Providing declared areas where dogs can be exercised off lead if under effective control;
- Investigating complaints relating to dog nuisances;
- Investigating attack incidents;
- Impounding stray dogs;
- Responding to reports of livestock on public roads;
- Municipal patrols of streets, parks and off lead exercise areas;
- Microchipping;
- Dog registration audits; and
- Levying annual dog registration fees.

	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
Dog Registration	4,229	4,272	4,240
Kennel Licences	93	102	88
No. of Impounded Animals	44	30	27



• Perth's Bicentenary Dog Park

Recreation

Objective:

Enhance the quality and viability, and increase the provision of, community and sporting facilities, to ensure community recreation and wellbeing needs are met into the future.

Performance:

In 2022/2023 Council has worked to promote the health and wellbeing of Northern Midlands residents and visitors by undertaking the following projects in accordance with relevant sport and recreation facility master plans:

- Enhancement of the sporting facilities at Morven Park by the installation of a new cricket practice facility with three pitches, assisted by a State Government grant of \$94,318;
- Continued improvements at the Cressy Recreation Ground by upgrading the cricket practice facility, assisted by a Cricket Australia grant of \$18,500 and a State Government grant of \$5,400; and the development of a new shelter/BBQ facility and associated landscaping, assisted by Local Road and Community Infrastructure funding of \$100,000;
- Completed the implementation of the Cressy Swimming Pool Master Plan by redeveloping the concourse, upgrading the perimeter fencing, and sealing the car park, assisted by Local Roads and Community Infrastructure funding of \$600,000;
- Enhancement of the sporting facilities at the Perth Recreation Ground by the installation of a new post goal net system assisted by a State Government grant of \$15,000; and planning for the renovation of the cricket practice facility, assisted by a Cricket Australia grant of \$30,000;
- Creation of the Fred Davis Interpretation Memorial at the entrance to the Longford Recreation Ground \$78,626;
- Commenced the redevelopment of the public toilet facilities in Evandale's Pioneer Park, assisted by Local Road and Community Infrastructure funding of \$100,000;
- Upgraded dog exercise parks by installing double-entry gates at Longford's Union Street park, creation of a small dogs' separate exercise area at Perth's Mulgrave Street park and development of a dog exercise area at the Ross Recreation Ground;
- Refreshed the facilities at the Lake Leake Campground by refurbishing the shower and toilet facility, relocating and upgrading the dump point, installing a fire pit, upgrading and extending the day shelter, and creating

access pathways, assisted by a State Recreational Fishing and Camping Facilities Program grant of \$72,628;

- Constructed a younger children’s Road Safety Park at Longford’s St George’s Square, assisted by a State Government grant of \$100,000;
- Upgraded the camping area infrastructure at Tooms Lake including constructing a new pump-out toilet facility, undertaking arborist work, landscaping the area to create level campsites, drainage and resurfacing of the parking area, upgrading the walking paths and upgrading signage, assisted by a State Recreational Fishing and Camping Facilities Program grant of \$80,000, and an Inland Fisheries Service grant of \$20,000;
- Continued developing the South Esk Riverbank Walkway at Perth, assisted by a Building Better Regions Fund grant of \$187,500;
- Secured Vulnerable Road User grant funding of \$50,000 towards the installation of a raised pavement platform adjacent to the playground and toilet facility in Perth’s Seccombe Street reserve;
- Commenced planning for a submission to the new Australian Government Growing Regions Program for funding to develop a shared pathways network connecting Youngtown via Perth to Longford, and from Longford to the Illawarra-Bishopsbourne road intersection;
- At the Campbell Town War Memorial Oval Precinct:
 - installed irrigation system near Cenotaph and tennis courts \$26,613
 - constructed carpark area near public toilets \$106,811 and
 - undertook building alteration \$18,995;
- Installed Exhaust Fan System at the Longford Sports Centre \$33,159.

During the period Council progressed recreation and wellbeing projects/plans including:

- Collaborating with other Northern Tasmanian Councils to develop the Northern Tasmania Sports Facility Plan that is due for completion in the first quarter of 2023/2024;
- Development of Perth’s Napoleon Street Park Concept Plan and undertaking community consultation with regard to the plan;
- Ongoing advocacy for the proposed green-field Perth Recreation and Community Centre Precinct;

- Securing a State Government Lift Local Grant to assist with funding the development of funding applications and partnerships towards a Healthy Northern Midlands project (aligned to the highly successful Active Launceston model);
- Ongoing advocacy for funding to develop a Tourist Park at Campbell Town;
- Working with the State Government to progress the implementation of the Northern Midlands component of the Access to Health Services project;
- Ongoing advocacy for the development of a Neighbourhood House/Community Hub at Longford.

In 2022/2023 Sporting Achievement donations totalling \$700 were provided to:

Andrew G Upton	Donation – State Representative for Darts Tasmania Senior Mens Team	\$100.00
Lucy Johnston	Australian Interschools Championships Equestrian 2022	\$100.00
Debbie Mahar	Australian Multi Disability Bowls Champions 2022	\$100.00
Ryan Sansom	Represent Tasmanian Junior 8-Ball Team in Nationals	\$100.00
Rhiana Morrison	U18 Boys Singles Bowls Australia Open	\$100.00
Lachlan Oliver	Tour De Brisbane/Oceania Road Cycling Championships	\$100.00
Vaughan and Kristy Springer	U16 2023 National Indoor Cricket Championships	\$100.00



● Playground at Seccombe Street Perth

NUMBER LEGEND

- 1 Pathway connections with adjoining streets.
- 2 Signature trees to highlight every pathway connection to adjoining streets.
- 3 Screen planting along property boundary to consist of native trees, shrubs, tussocks, and groundcovers.
- 4 Large ornamental trees within open lawn areas to provide seasonal interest and shade in summer.
- 5 1800mm (w) exposed concrete footpaths to form a network throughout the park.
- 6 Informal path along the top of the proposed detention basin mound.
- 7 Slopes greater than 1:4 shall be mass planted with native grasses due to mechanical mowing restrictions.
- 8 Planting buffer between the property boundary and pathway to consist of hardy narrow shrubs and tussocks.
- 9 Large evergreen shade trees along Napoleon Street footpath to provide shade and visual interest to the open space.
- 10 Proposed sewer and stormwater services as per engineer's drawings.
- 11 Future inclusive single cubicle toilet facility.
- 12 Picnic shelter (5 x 5m), over an accessible picnic table and coloured concrete pavement.
- 13 Shelter (4 x 2m), over an inclusive electric BBQ with two hotplates. The BBQ will be linked to the adjoining shelters with a 1500mm (w) concrete path.
- 14 1500mm (w) coloured concrete circular paths to surround the play space and to provide inclusive access to all play elements.
- 15 Five large ornamental trees to provide seasonal interest as well as shade in summer and solar access in winter. A seat will be placed under each tree to overlook the play space.
- 16 Large Oak tree centrally placed provides a focal point as well as shade in summer and solar access in winter.
- 17 Three boy swing consisting of a basket for all children. Inclusive swing and a girl swing. Earth brown coloured timber boarder provide interpretive play and quiet play opportunities.
- 18 Large natural hardwood timber log and tree stump supports, together with various sized stone boulders provide interpretive play and quiet play opportunities.
- 19 Surfacing within the play space shall consist organic mulch with areas of wet pour rubber artificial to provide inclusive access to all play elements.
- 20 Multi-play structure for a variety of age groups and challenges.
- 21 Three large natural hardwood timber logs to provide interpretive play and quiet play opportunities.
- 22 1800mm (w) Exposed concrete paths connect the play space with the network paths throughout the park.
- 23 Open lawn area for run-overs and space to the play space.

PROPOSED PLANTING SCHEDULE

Botanical Name	Common Name	H x W
Trees		
Acer species	Maple	12 x 8m
Allocasuarina species	Sheoak	10 x 6m
Banksia species	Banksia	8 x 5m
Banksia species	Banksia	10 x 6m
Eucalyptus species	Dwarf Gum trees	5 x 5m
Oak species	Oak	15 x 15m
Pinus species	Ornamental Pine	8 x 4m
Ulmus species	Elm	10 x 10m
Zelkova species	Zelkova	10 x 6m
Shrubs		
Callistemon species	Bottlebrush	4 x 3m
Cornus species	Cornea	1 x 2m
Leptospermum species	Tea tree	3 x 3m
Grasses & Groundcovers		
Dianella species	Native Flax lily	4 x 2m
Diatela species	Spanish Iris	1 x 1m
Oreoclea species	Grassless	5 x 1m
Lomandra species	Sagg	1 x 1m



NAPOLEON STREET PARK
Napoleon Street Perth Tasmania

Landscape Concept Plan

0 5 10m
20 January 2023
Issue A

NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL

LANGE design
landscape architects



• Council's youth activities

Youth Services

Objective:

Network and collaborate with a variety of agencies and organisations to identify, develop, implement and evaluate initiatives that address the numerous issues which impact young people within the municipality.

Performance:

Council:

- Facilitates healthy communities with a strong sense of wellbeing is a key in the council's strategic plan in which a number of sections address community safety, access, health and education issues;
- Employs a part time Youth Officer to support, improve access and service responses and programs for youth;
- Collaborates with Launceston PCYC to provide youth activity programs at Perth, Longford, Cressy and Campbell Town;
- Provides the Northern Midlands Further Education Bursary Program;
- Supports the Chaplaincy programs in Campbell Town and Cressy District High Schools;
- Networks with agencies including Youth Health North, Beacon Foundation, City Mission, Brave Hearts, Relationships Australia, Royal Flying Doctor Services, NEBHUB and Catholic Care to enhance their capacity to provide services and programs to Northern Midlands youth; and
- Participates in meetings such as Northern Youth Coordinating Committee and the Northern Midlands Interagency Meetings;

In 2022, implemented/continued to support the following youth-based projects in the Northern Midlands:

- Youth Mental Health Expo held at Campbell Town District High School working with service providers; connecting young people to services;
- Facilitate Free2b Girls groups in Longford and Campbell Town;
- Facilitated the Active Northern Midlands Youth program in Cressy and Campbell Town;
- Youth Week event with Cressy District High School and service providers;
- Assisted with developing Cressy District High School Breakfast Club;

- Supported and mentored students from Cressy District High School to develop kitchen/life skills, offering opportunities to engage in education whilst preparing foods for the Cressy Breakfast Club;
- SPARK Program- supporting youth focused initiatives and development of leadership and teamwork skills in young people;
- PCYC Mobile Activity Centre trailer at Perth for after school activities;
- Cartoon Drawing workshops for Campbell Town District High School students, offering activities that support mental health and wellbeing;
- PCYC Taiko Drumming and Recreational sessions for students at Evandale Primary School;
- Established Youth Advisory Group in the Northern Midlands;
- Leadership Development workshop sessions with local High School students;
- Secured community support for Free2b girls groups in the way of food donations from Banjo's Longford and Campbell Town, and financial support from Longford Rotary, JBS Australia and Thrive Womens Grants;
- The Recycling Trailer placed at Campbell Town District School.

In 2022/2023 Bursaries totalling \$9,000 were provided to:

Jonty Nicolson	Second Instalment further education bursary	\$1,000.00
Kalani C Brain	Second Instalment further education bursary	\$1,000.00
Erica Kirk	Second Instalment further education bursary	\$1,000.00
Alex Airey	Second Instalment further education bursary	\$1,000.00
Riley Flood	First Instalment further education bursary	\$1,000.00
Danielle Smith	First Instalment further education bursary	\$1,000.00
Charlotte McClennan	First Instalment further education bursary	\$1,000.00
Jessica Hutton	First Instalment further education bursary	\$1,000.00
Bree Lavelle	Second Instalment further education bursary	\$1,000.00

Committees of Management

Objective:

Support Council Committees of Management and Community Organisations.

Performance:

Provided ongoing financial and advisory assistance and support for recreation facility Management Committees and non-profit community organisations.

Council provides an annual allocation of funds for capital works requested by community groups which are assessed on a priority basis.

Special Committees represent \$192,147 (including Council maintenance grants) operating income and \$178,856 operating expenditure in Council's financial statement. Special Committees cash and cash equivalents represent \$218,308 in Council's financial statements (\$232,689 in 2021/2022).

Special committees of Council managed the following facilities during 2022/2023:

- Avoca Hall/Community Centre;
- Avoca Museum and Information Centre;
- Cressy Memorial Hall;
- Cressy Recreation Ground;
- Cressy War Memorial Pool;
- Evandale Community Centre;
- Evandale War Memorial Hall;
- Liffey Hall;
- Longford Town Hall;
- Longford Recreation Ground Oval;
- Morven Park Recreation Ground, Evandale;
- Perth Community Centre;
- Perth Recreation Ground; and
- Ross Recreation Ground and Swimming Pool.

Council administers the Lake River Riverworks District funds to minimise environmental harm and risk within the boundaries of its district, complying with the Water Management Act 1999 and its closing funds amounting to \$12,699.

- Longford Football Ground under lights



Community and Development Reports

Development Services includes provision of the following services: Building, Urban Design, Land Use and Planning and Compliance.

Integrated Priority Projects Plan

INTEGRATED PRIORITY PROJECTS PLAN:

Project	Status		Budget 2022-23	\$	Scheduled
Lead: <i>Serve with honesty, integrity, innovation and pride</i>					
Progress: <i>Economic health and wealth – grow and prosper</i>					
Foundation Projects					
4.1 Main Street Upgrades: Campbell Town, Longford and Perth	On Track	Campbell Town Construction of Midland Highway underpass at Campbell Town completed. Business Case being prepared to secure the 2022 Election Commitment	Budget allocation 2022-23 plus contribution from \$8m Federal Government Election Commitment 2022.	1,450,000	Development Application 2023
	On Track	Longford Commitment of \$4m from National Party prior to 2019 Federal Election. Memorial hall upgrade contractor selected at Council's February 2023 meeting – works underway	Budget allocation 2022-23. Designed and at DA	1,293,000	Development Application 2023
	On Track	Perth Council has endorsed the plan and draft amendments to planning scheme to be prepared. Main Street upgrades included in NMC Priority Projects document Business Case being prepared to secure the 2022 Election Commitment	Budget allocation 2022-23 plus contribution from \$8m Federal Government Election Commitment 2022.	1,141,000	Development Application 2023
Enabling Projects					
5.4 Subdivisions (several – Cressy, Evandale, Longford and Perth)	On Hold	Council to identify opportunities to provide infrastructure and secure funding. Included in NMC Priority Projects document	Evandale Drainage Easement secured. Awaiting DA from subdivider.	–	Not scheduled at this stage

People: *Cultural and society – a vibrant future that respects the past*

Place: *Nurture our heritage environment*

Land Use, Urban Design and Planning

Objective:

Provide a co-ordinated land use plan to facilitate controlled growth within the parameters of infrastructure availability, whilst maintaining certainty and harmony with local environs and community expectations; and

Shaping our communities, towns, villages and the region by planning and managing development, infrastructure and services.

Performance:

Approved 228 applications with a further 83 developments assessed as exempt under the provisions of the planning scheme.

- Significant investment into TRANSlink Precinct in the form of subdivision and resulting development applications for a variety of businesses.
- Longford Memorial Hall upgrade program.
- Longford Caravan Park amenities upgrades.
- Alterations to the Baptist Tabernacle to accommodate the operations of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association.
- Upgrades to Midland Highway, Ross.
- Public History Board, Bishopsbourne.
- 116 lot subdivision and public open space, Perth.

• Community and Development department team

Approved 34 subdivisions providing 203 new lots within the municipality, 48 new single dwellings, 31 new units and 8 Visitors Accommodation. Permitted developments within the municipality valued at over \$76 million.

Received 8 Notices of appeal from TASCAT.

Refused 5 applications and actively followed up illegal works and non-compliance with planning permits.

Completed the Local Provisions Schedule and implemented the roll out of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Northern Midlands.

Undertook a number of Tasmanian Planning Commission directed amendments to the Northern Midlands Local Provisions Schedule, in accordance with their decision in November 2022.

Participated in consultation relating to the Tasmanian Planning Policies and Regional Planning Framework Discussion Paper and draft Structure Plan Guidelines, as well as preliminary involvement in the review of the State Planning Provisions.

Council adopted/reviewed the following policies during the year:

- Solar Panels Policy – 18 August 2022
- Wind Turbines Policy – 18 August 2022
- Landscaping Requirements for Development Proposals – 24 October 2022



Building Services

Objective:

Provide regulatory framework to ensure all private and public buildings are constructed in accordance with the Building Act and Regulations, Building Code of Australia and other regulatory standards.

Performance:

- Processed building and plumbing applications within statutory timeframes;
- Provided reporting statistics to relevant agencies on a monthly basis;
- Issued 223 building approvals totalling \$62.6 million (last year approvals totalled 253, at \$66.5m); and
- Issued 1,154 Property Certificates (Sec 132 and 337), compared to 1,525 last year.

Council adopted/reviewed the following policy during the year:

- Exempt Temporary Buildings or Works, including Shipping Containers Policy – 24 October 2022

Specific data	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
Applications approved	223	253	275
Dwellings	93	107	135
Additions to dwelling, incl. out-buildings and sheds	124	113	105
Industrial/Commercial	6	28	35
Value	\$62.6	\$66.4	\$76.3
Average processing time (days)			
Building Permit	7	7	7
Certificate of Likely Compliance	8	8	9
Plumbing Permit	7	8	9
No of Inspections	280	285	316
Septic Tank and AWTS Applications	27	15	25



• Redevelopment of Longford's Memorial Hall

Compliance

Objective:

Monitor all relevant regulatory areas to ensure statutory compliance, ensuring the Northern Midlands is a safe environment in which to live, visit and work.

Performance:

Respond to complaints regarding non-compliance with legislation regulated by Council, including:

- Planning;
- Building;
- Animal Control; and
- Environmental Health (including noise and pollution).

Action any breaches of legislation and enforce accordingly.

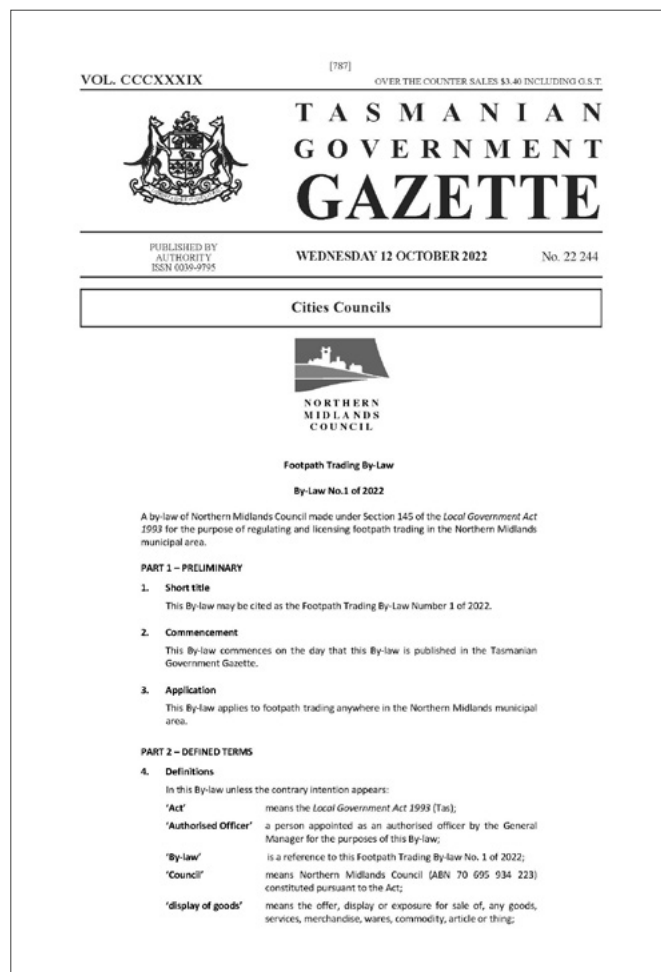
Actively promote compliance with legislation throughout the municipality and provide information where necessary.

Council adopted/reviewed the following during the year:

- Non-Conforming Signs Policy on 18 August 2022
- Footpath Trading By-Law on 26 September 2022, Footpath Trading By-Law No.1 of 2022 was published in a Special Government Gazette on 12 October 2022.

Specific achievements / issues within the Community Health Report

	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
Notifiable diseases investigated	8	1	0
School immunisations administered	62	45	168
Recreation water monitoring	48	32	
River water compliance	84%	84%	100%
Pool water compliance	100%	100%	100%
Environmental nuisance complaints	209	174	50
Registered food premises	229	201	146
Food premises inspected	133	184	69
Registered temporary food premises	18	37	24
Environmental incidents/ complaints		2	4



Corporate Services Reports

Corporate Services includes provision of financial services, information systems, community and social (human) services, work health and safety and event management and tourism promotion.

Integrated Priority Projects Plan

INTEGRATED PRIORITY PROJECTS PLAN:

Project	Budget 2022-23	\$	Scheduled
<i>Lead: Serve with honesty, integrity, innovation and pride</i>	-	-	
<i>Progress: Economic health and wealth – grow and prosper</i>	-	-	
<i>People: Cultural and society – a vibrant future that respects the past</i>	-	-	
<i>Place: Nurture our heritage environment</i>	-	-	



• Corporate Services department team

Financial Management

Objective:

Financial Management: provide practical, viable, sustainable financial management, policies and procedures.

The financial management unit includes the following functions:

ASSET MANAGEMENT:

Assist Council in improving the way it delivers services from infrastructure including roads, bridges, footpaths, stormwater drainage, buildings and plant and equipment and any other classes of assets.

Council's asset management strategy enables Council to show:

- how its asset portfolio will meet the service delivery needs of its community into the future;
- enable Council's asset management policies to be achieved; and
- ensure the integration of Council's asset management with its long-term strategic plan.

INSURANCES:

Protect Council from financial claims or loss arising from a negligent act, error or omission, legal liability for personal injury and/or property damage claims.

RISK MANAGEMENT:

Identify any potential threats to financial and business operations; and take necessary steps to mitigate/eliminate threats likely to affect Council's ability to achieve objectives.

Performance:

This unit incorporates the provision of financial management and the related services of asset management, insurances and risk management.

Financial services provided include: rates administration, receipts and payments, wages and salaries, budgeting and annual report preparation, investments, insurance, loans, asset registers and depreciation.

Council identifies potential significant risks and obtains insurance cover accordingly.

Council is committed to embedding enterprise risk management to create and maintain an environment that enables Council to deliver high quality services and meet performance objectives. Council recognises that risk management is an essential tool for sound strategic

and financial planning and the ongoing physical operations of the organisation.

To meet this commitment, all employees are required to be competent and accountable for adequately managing risk within their area of responsibility.

Council's risk management policy is the umbrella policy for all supportive activities and documentation, which have the objective of improving processes by reducing the uncertainty of outcomes, thereby minimising loss within the activities and services provided by Council.

Adopted the 2022/2023 Annual Plan and Budget on 27 June 2022.

The revaluation of the municipal area was undertaken during 2018 by LG Valuation Services and the values were effective from 1 July 2019, and adjustment factors are implemented bi-annually.

Ruddick Chartered Accountants on behalf of the Tasmanian Audit Office has undertaken the Financial Audit services for Council during 2022/2023.

The Financial and Risk Management Audit Committee met during the year and provided input into Council's operations.

Council collects a volunteer fire service levy in respect of land in Cressy, Campbell Town, Longford, Evandale and Perth; and a general fire service levy for all other land.

The Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023 is appended to this report; included is the Independent Audit report provided by the Tasmanian Audit Office.

Council adopted/ reviewed the following policies during the year:

- Access to Units – 18 July 2022
- Rural Refuse Collection Service – 18 July 2022
- Rates and Charges – 26 June 2023

Council's recurrent revenue during 2022/2023 was \$24.258 million (\$22.896m 2021/2022), capital income \$4.764 million (\$3.129m 2021/2022) resulting in total income of \$29.022 million (\$26.025m 2021/2022).

Operating expenditure was \$23.369 million (\$21.231m 2021/2022), which resulted in a surplus of \$5.653 million (\$4.794m 2021/2022).

The overall surplus was less than the 2022/2023 budgeted surplus of \$8.7 million; mainly due to decreased capital grants funding received for projects not yet meeting their milestones, and higher depreciation costs.

Rate Revenue was raised via a differential rating system in 2022/2023 based generally on the same amount of rate revenue, plus indexation and development, as previous years for each land use category. The General Rate in the dollar of assessed annual value was increased in 2022/2023 by 3.75 percent to commence recovery from the pandemic resulting in total rate revenue amounting to \$13.1 million (\$12.3m last year) or 54% of operating revenue and was generally within budget expectations. Rate receivables as at 30 June 2023 represent 40.5% (35.0% at June 2022) of rate revenue (or 4.26% with the debt impairment adjustment). The increase being mainly due to one large rate debtor.

Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant Revenue increased by \$422,055 in 2022/2023 to \$3.78 million (adjusted for advance payments). Grant revenue in 2022/2023 includes advance Financial Assistance payments of \$4.477 million (\$2.977m 2021/2022).

Federally funded capital grants received specifically for new or upgraded assets include:

Perth Early Learning Centre	\$ 2,210,000
Local Road and Community Infrastructure (Phase 1, 2 and 3)	\$ 1,283,444
Roads to Recovery	\$ 799,321
Bridge Replacement	\$ 39,550
Extension to Perth's South Esk River Parklands Walkway	\$ 33,078

Federally funded recurrent grants amounted to \$131,112 for Perth Early Learning Centre operations, employee training programs, youth activity programs and \$77,040 for the Heritage Interpretation REASSIGN Project.

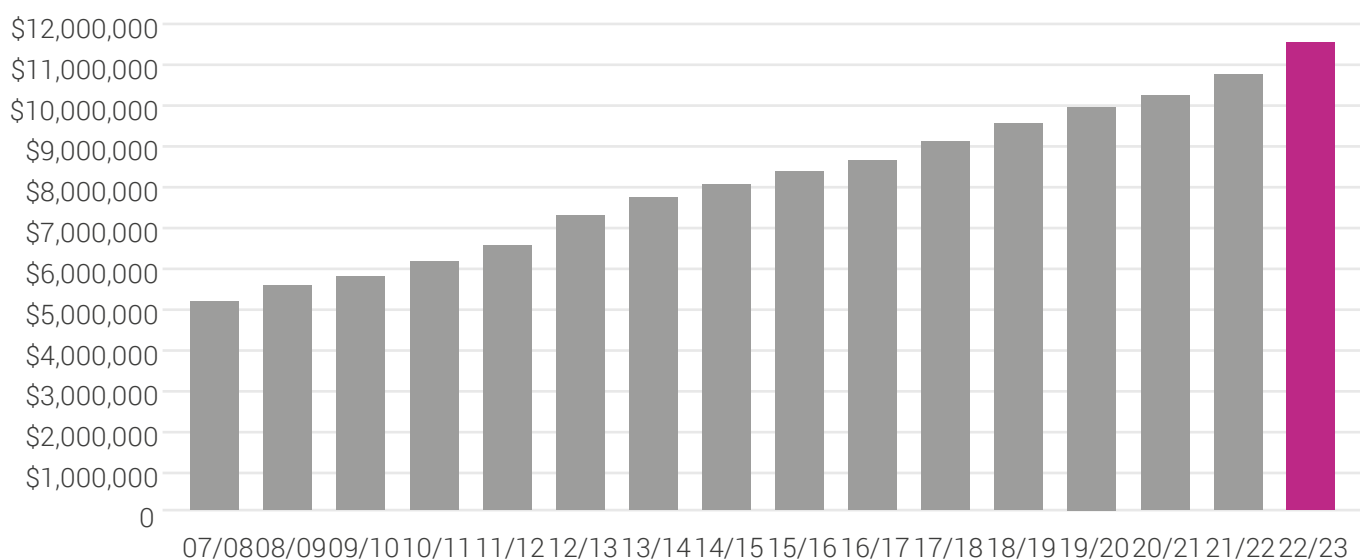
State funded capital grants received specifically for new and upgraded assets amount to \$367,347 and the major projects include:

Longford Road Safety Park	\$ 100,000
Lake Leake Amenities Upgrade	\$ 67,226
Tooms Lake Amenities Upgrade	\$ 47,827
Detention Basin Gatty Street Western Junction (NDRGP)	\$ 40,000
Gate Automation Back Creek Flood Levee (NDGRP)	\$ 33,137
Minor improvements: Cressy Recreation Ground Cricket Net upgrade; Penstock Valve Union Street Flood Levy (NDRGP); Vulnerable Road Users Wellington Street Intersection; Morven Park Cricket Net Relocation; Longford Town Hall lighting	\$ 79,157

State funded recurrent grants amount to \$313,701 for youth and health programs, emergency flood works and heavy vehicle motor tax.

Cash, cash equivalents and short term investments totalling \$17.95 million were on hand at the end of the reporting period, which is a decrease of \$5.2 million on last year's balance of \$23.1 million.

NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL GENERAL RATE REVENUE



Cash, cash equivalents and short term investments on hand represent money quarantined for the following areas:

- Financial: unspent grant funds \$4,24 million;
- Management of long term financial asset management \$5.79 million;
- Leave provisions \$1.75 million;
- Monies held in trust \$0.93 million;
- Rate review received in advance \$0.68 million;
- Special Committee funding held \$0.22 million;
- User charges paid in advance \$5,746; and
- Unrestricted cash of \$7.34 million.

Investment revenue from TasWater (dividends / tax equivalent income) of \$561,600 was received being 120% of normal revenue from TasWater making up for lower-than-normal dividends being received due to TasWater's COVID-19 policy in 2020/2021.

Council's ownership interest in TasWater decreased from 2.39% at 30 June 2022 to 2.33% on 30 June 2023.

Depreciation actual cost increased from the previous year by \$587,809 to \$7,219 million, due to revaluation/indexation, construction/upgrade of assets and condition revaluation of bridge assets..

Council recorded a net increase in asset revaluation of non-current assets of \$25.7 million (\$28.6 million

2021/2022) on Property and Infrastructure.

Council's total equity in 2022/2023 increased by \$32.7 million to \$476.44 million (\$34.5 million to \$443.7 million 2021/2022).

Council recorded non-current property, infrastructure, plant and equipment assets with a written down value of \$419.5 million or Gross Value of \$579.8 million as at 30 June 2023 (2021/2022 \$390.0 million or Gross Value of \$535.5 million)*. Note 5 in the financial statement provides a breakdown of asset values recognised.

Payments for purchase/construction of fixed assets totalled \$11.17 million, representing 65% of total annual cashflow expenditure during 2022/2023.

The Tasmanian State Audit Office was appointed auditor for financial period ending 30 June 2023 at a cost of \$33,000 (2021/2022 \$27,030).

The Auditor General advised that to be sustainable, local government needs to have sufficient capacity to be able to manage future financial risks and shocks without having to radically adjust their current revenue or expenditure policies. Council's 2022/2023 underlying result is a \$1.114million deficit or a -5% underlying surplus ratio* (see Note 9.3). A negative result indicates a deficit which is unable to be sustained in the long term, while Council has had a negative result in two of the last five years, Council believes it is sustainable in the long term and continues to work towards achieving an ongoing annual positive result.

• Ben Lomond



Information Management

Objective:

Provide practical, viable, sustainable information management policies and procedures; deliver information management services to meet organisation, statutory and community needs.

Performance:

Council operates a computer network connecting all users within the administrative headquarters. Remote users at the Longford Works Depot are connected to the network via a fibre optic cable.

Council utilises the ReadyTech Local Government Enterprise suite of programs for financials, and the Technology One information management system and Intramaps mapping application.

Council utilises an Infonet and Office 365 mailing system throughout the office as well as being connected to the Internet.

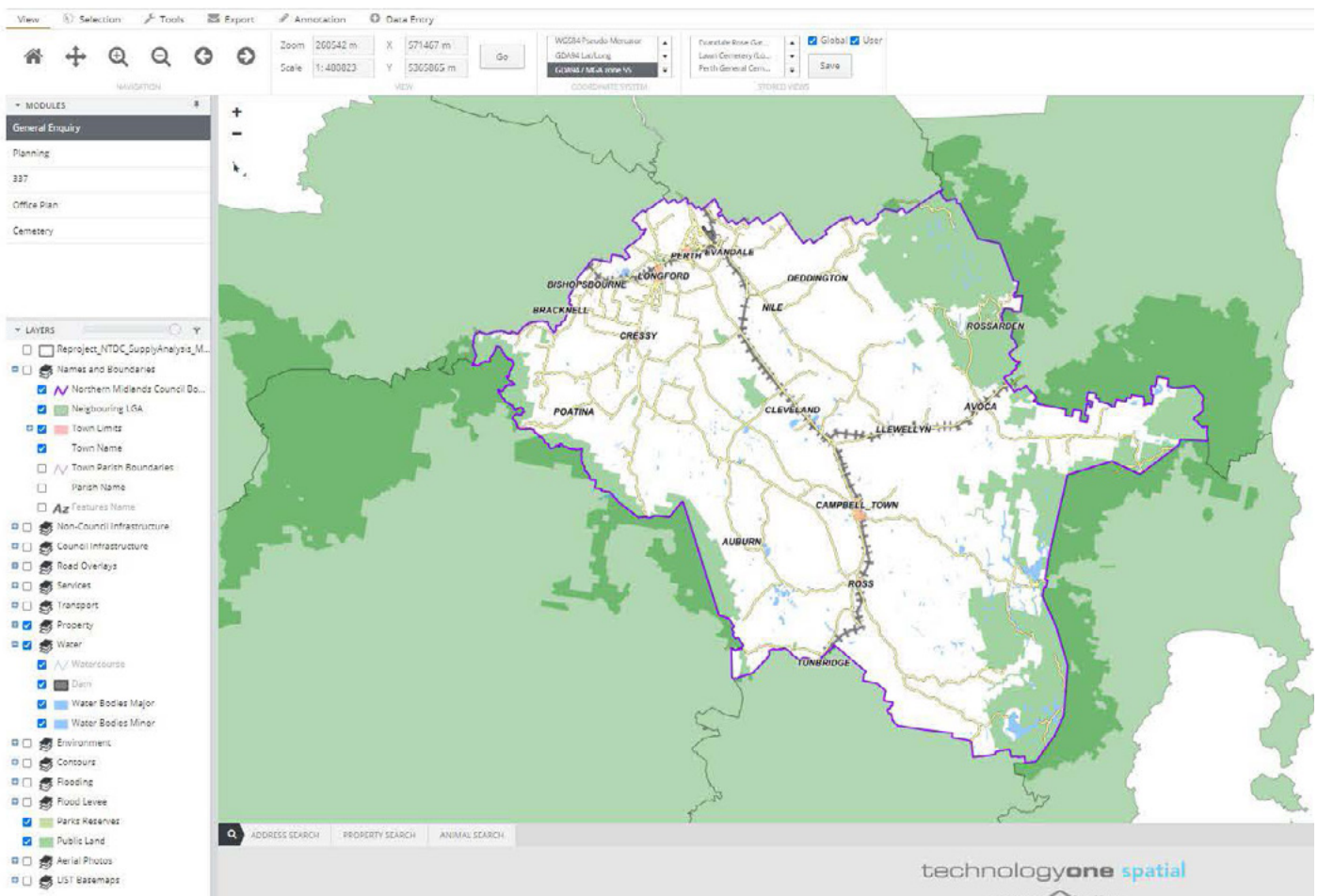
Council's email address is: council@nmc.tas.gov.au.

Council maintains an on-line presence through the website: www.northernmidlands.tas.gov.au; and Facebook.

Council is an active member of the Tasmanian Technology One (ECM Records Management) User Group.

During the period undertook improvements to Information Technology systems as follows:

- New Perth Early Learning Centre electronic equipment \$12,518
- Laptops for General Manager and Councillors for access to secure Minutes/Agenda/Information system \$43,140
- Laptop replacements \$4,827
- Ipad/Tablets for Works employees \$10,290
- Iphones \$3,798
- Monitors \$1,756
- Bodycam and CCTV Cameras and Cameras \$6,826.



Work Health and Safety

Objective:

Protect the health and safety of all stakeholders in the workplace from exposure to hazards and risks resulting from workplace conduct.

Performance:

Council aims to provide a safe, healthy and supportive environment where employees are valued, respected and are able to realise their full potential.

Council continues to encourage staff participation in workplace reform by holding regular staff and department meetings as well as supporting a Consultative Committee.

During the year:

- Council reviewed the risk register incorporating council's strategic, operational, and emergency management risks undertaken.
- Delivered Work Health and Safety training for all workers including inductions for volunteers of council committees.
- Delivered the Health and Wellbeing program.

Council audited and updated Plant Assessor System for all plant items.

Council reviewed Contractor/Volunteer/Staff induction system and updated.

Council appointed Worksafe Solutions to undertake compliance audits of community buildings.

Cemeteries

Objective:

Maintain and manage the Perth and Longford general cemeteries and associated infrastructure and services.

Performance:

Council own and operate:

- the Lawn Cemetery, Rose Garden and Niche Wall at Cressy Road, Longford;
- a Rose Garden in Pioneer Park, Evandale; and
- Perth Cemetery (taken over from 24 June 2000).

A service is provided, in conjunction with Arrow Engraving Pty Ltd, to supply memorial plaques.

• Cemetery at Christ Church, Longford



Event Management and Tourism Promotion

Objective:

Provide advice and support to event managers ensuring events in the municipality are run safely and successfully; and

Promote Northern Midlands as a tourist destination in a way that benefits local businesses, visitors, and residents alike.

Performance:

VISITOR INFORMATION

- Participated in Tourism Visitor Information Network northern area meetings representing the Northern Midlands region and its five Visitor Centres on a state-wide platform, including hosting the February 2023 meeting at Council Chambers;
- Visitor numbers across all five Visitor Centres in the first quarter of 2023 were over 16,000, indicating visitation to the region and the Visitor Centres is still increasing as recovery from the pandemic continues.

HERITAGE HIGHWAY TOURISM REGION ASSOCIATION

- Continued to support the Association through financial contributions and provision of administrative support;
- Facilitated a presentation by an Association representative at the Tourism Visitor Information Network annual forum.

GENERAL TOURISM AND INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

- Longford Legends Committee placed 2022 inductees;
- Council participated in Zero Waste Events Tasmania workshops during 2022/2023;
- Launched the Bishopsbourne History Board on 18 March 2023 at the community centre grounds.

EVENTS

- Council maintains an up-to-date events list for the Heritage Highway region, including updating online events calendars and notification to approximately 300 email recipients, including tourism operators, state-wide visitor centres and key tourism agencies.
- During the reporting period, 45 events were held in the Northern Midlands, ranging from small community functions and gatherings to large and major events. Council assisted with each in some way, ranging from simple promotion on our distributed events list, to more comprehensive assistance with venues, and compliance requirements such as Risk Assessment, and Covid Safety Plans.

Supported and promoted Special Events within the area and provided \$38,935, as follows:

Evandale Village Fair	\$1,467
Longford Cup	\$6,364
Australia Day and Volunteer Recognition celebrations	\$1,250
Longford Blooms Open Gardens	\$1,408
Tas Trout Fishing Expo (Cressy)	\$1,650
Tour of Tasmania (5 day event)	\$3,157
P. E. Green Memorial Cycling Road Race	\$345
Remembrance Day	\$50
ANZAC Day	\$8,402
Tas Municipal Bowls Championships Longford	\$500
Longford Jazz Festival	\$1,763
Festival of Small Halls	\$1,650
Tas Chamber Music Festival	\$3,000
Northern Tasmania Light Horse Troop – Animal War Remembrance Day	\$249
Northern Midlands Event Assoc – Longford Motorama	\$3,421
Evandale Verandah Music Festival	\$1,747
NMC Volunteer Community Expo	\$1,153
Mood Mission Roadshop (mental health)	\$1,071
Longford Community End of Year Concert	\$288
All Events Covid Compliance and Safety Contributions and Expenses	\$2,699

- Ivan Badcock and Andrew Badcock, researchers and designers of the Bishopsbourne History Board



Early Childhood Services

Objective:

Provide service within the limits of resource availability and without detriment to existing 'traditional' provision by private and government services rather than Council.

Performance:

In June 2023 Council opened the new purpose-built Perth Early Learning Centre on a green field site in Fore Street adjacent to Perth Primary School's kindergarten.

The Perth facility provides 46 early learning and 40 after school places, and has been designed to accommodate expansion in the future.

Council operates Long Day Childcare Services five days per week between the hours of 8am and 6pm at the Perth Early Learning Centre and the Cressy Childcare Centre. Avoca Childcare Centre is operated each Monday between 9am and 5pm.

The Midlands Kids Before and After School Care Services are operated from the Perth Early Learning Centre, and the Midlands Kids Club Vacation Care Services are provided during school holiday periods.



• Perth Early Learning Centre official opening, L-R: Mayor Knowles, Abby Dean (Principal - Perth Primary School) and Kate Lee (Director - PELC)



• Perth Early Learning Centre: Childcare team

Works

Works includes the provision of maintenance and construction of Council infrastructure and facilities.

Engineering Services includes the provision of the Engineering Design and Services, Waste Management and Infrastructure Management.

Integrated Priority Projects Plan

Integrated Priority Projects Plan:

Project	Status	Budget 2022-23	\$	Scheduled
Lead: <i>Serve with honesty, integrity, innovation and pride</i>				
Progress: <i>Economic health and wealth – grow and prosper</i>				
Enabling Projects				
5.3 Power Undergrounding in Evandale, Longford and Perth	On Hold	Awaiting funding streams to come available. Included in NMC Priority Projects document.	–	Not scheduled at this stage
People: <i>Cultural and society – a vibrant future that respects the past</i>				
Place: <i>Nurture our heritage environment</i>				
Foundation Projects				
4.5 Municipal Tree Planting Program	On Track	Annual program being implemented. Included in NMC Priority Projects document.	Budget allocation 2022-23.	100,000 Ongoing



• Works department team

Roads

Objective:

Maintain through cost effective operations, a safe and effective road network to meet the needs of all users.

Performance:

Council has northern and southern based road works crews and responsibilities include asset management, road construction, resealing, re-sheeting, grading, edging and potholing, footpaths, roadside slashing, roadside spraying, safety railing, signage, kerb and channel, roadside drainage and emergency maintenance.

Northern Midlands has a total road network consisting of:

- 110 kilometres urban sealed roads;
- 465 kilometres rural sealed roads;
- 15 kilometres urban gravel roads; and
- 370 kilometres rural gravel roads.

Council undertakes a scheduled revaluation of road infrastructure assets valued in accordance with Accounting Standards using the Fair Value Measurement. The current replacement cost is calculated using current construction costs provided by qualified staff/consultants.

A full assessment and valuation of road assets was undertaken by Moloney Asset Management Systems as at 1 July 2019. Council officers have subsequently applied a Road and Bridge Construction Australia index factors obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics to determine the valuation as at 30 June 2023.

Following annual cost indexation, additions and disposals, and depreciation the breakdown of road infrastructure value at 30 June 2023 is as follows:

Replacement cost	\$339,808,897
Accumulated Depreciation	\$103,684,939
Net amount at Fair Value	\$236,123,958

Reseals

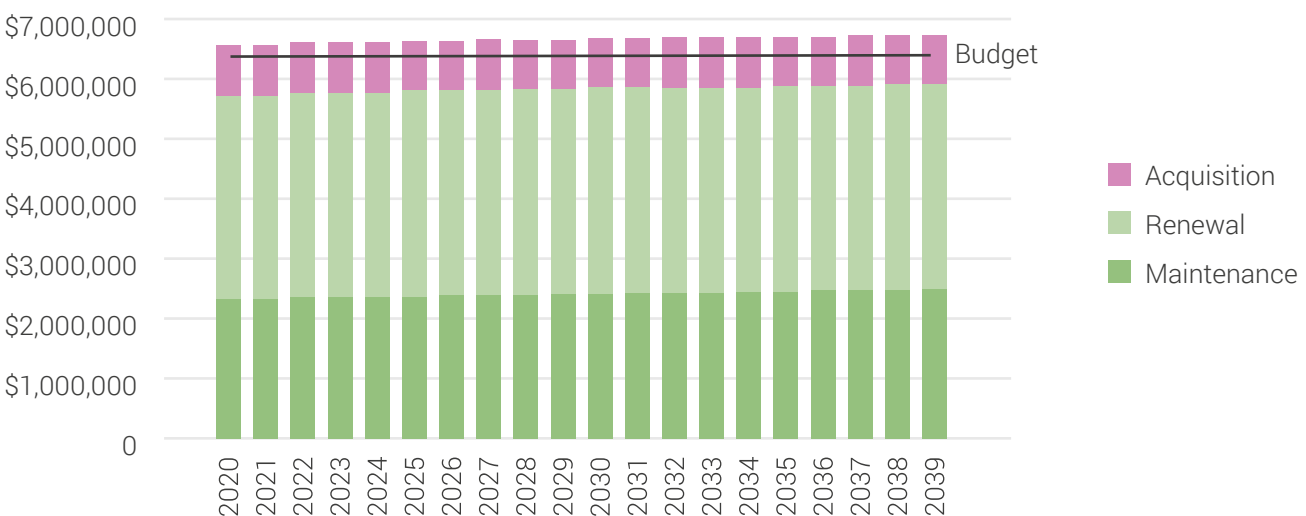
Sealed 5,296 m² of new seal and upgraded 23,275 m² seal and resealed 139,650 m² at a total cost of \$1.159 million.

Resheeted gravel roads at a total cost of \$274,038.

Road Construction

Reconstructed 19,616m² rural sealed pavements, and 6,065m² urban sealed pavements at a cost of \$1.217 million; including: Glen Esk Road Evandale, Recreation Ground carpark at Campbell Town, Hay Street and Wellington Street at Longford, Falmouth Street verge at Avoca, Drummond Street verge and carparks at the Early Learning Centre and Recreation Ground at Perth.

TRANSPORT – LIFECYCLE COSTS VS PLANNED BUDGET



Footpaths

Constructed/reconstructed footpaths at a cost of \$1.195 million:

- 4,952m² new concrete;
- 1,263m² new asphalt;
- 650m² replaced concrete; and
- 161m² replaced asphalt.

(Note: cost of works include 12% overhead allocation.)

Other Road Infrastructure

- During 2022/2023 the reconstruction of a section of Glen Esk Road, Nile was achieved through Roads to Recovery funding of \$799,320;
- Constructed 1,802m kerb and channel at a cost of \$453,197;
- Purchased new UHF radio system \$30,544.



• Kerb and channel construction Falmouth Street, Avoca



• Glen Esk Road construction

Bridges

Objective:

Manage bridges to ensure safety and maximum life span.

Performance:

Northern Midlands is responsible for construction and maintenance of the following bridge and major culvert structures:

Type	Length	Number
Box culvert	952m ²	37
Concrete	10,360m ²	124
Concrete footbridge	177m ²	3
Concrete bridge structures	11,489m²	166
Pipe culverts	1,303m ²	87
Timber bridge structures	29m ²	1
Total	12,821m²	254

This year Council constructed a new footbridge connecting the northern and southern ends of William Street Reserve at Perth at a total cost of \$153,279, and extended a concrete culvert at Philip Street, Perth costing \$49,011.

- Footbridge at Perth's William Street Reserve



- Gatty Street detention basin at Western Junction

Stormwater and Drainage

Objective:

Provide a stormwater network within town areas to drain the majority of properties, road reservations and public open spaces; and

Maintain a safe and effective stormwater system (including kerb and gutter and drains), whilst utilising Water Sensitive Urban Design principles to mitigate the impact of development on waterways and improving visual and recreational amenity of the urban landscape.

Performance:

Continued to progress the stormwater flood study for the TRANSlink Precinct and West Perth Urban Stormwater Plan.

Received donations of stormwater infrastructure from new subdivisions totalling 0.809kms, valued at \$344,824.

Membership of the Northern Stormwater Program, TEER Committee, \$16,681.

Undertook stormwater/drainage works, installed 0.717kms stormwater pipes and associated manholes and gully pits at a cost of \$756,888, including:

- Extension of stormwater line in St Pauls Place at Avoca;
- Extension of stormwater line in Anstey Street, Longford;
- Upgrade stormwater line in Banksia Grove, Perth;
- Upgrade to a penstock valve through the Longford Flood Levee in Union Street, Longford.

Completed the Gatty Street detention basin at Western Junction at a cost of \$329,000.

Undertook stormwater line improvements from Main Street Cressy to the Cressy District High School at a cost of \$135,660.

Plant

Objective:

Procure, maintain and utilise plant and machinery in a safe, cost effective and efficient manner in the service and provision of community infrastructure assets.

Performance:

Council provide fleet cars for managerial activities and community services.

Heavy plant including graders, backhoes, tractors, trucks are held for maintenance and construction of Council infrastructure assets.

A 10-year plant replacement program is maintained and hire rates are costed to each project/activity to cover running and replacement expenses.

Purchased road plant/vehicles at a net cost of \$283,531 including: a Ventrac 4500Y tractor/mower, 1 utility, 3 sedans, 1 Kubota mower, 3 trailers and Water Jetter.

Plant budgeted for in 2022/23 was ordered during the financial year and delivered in 2023/2024 financial year.

- New plant ordered in 2022/2023 financial year



Waste Management

Objective:

Disposal of all forms of waste economically and effectively with a high level of environmental awareness.

Strategy emphasises recycling, waste minimisation, litter reduction and service availability.

Performance:

Council provides a fortnightly door-to-door domestic waste and recycle collection service to the townships of Avoca, Cressy, Evandale, Longford, Nile, Campbell Town, Ross, Rossarden, Conara, Epping Forest, Perth and Royal George as well as some rural properties within the northern area.

- The Avoca, Evandale, Campbell Town and Longford waste transfer stations are supervised and green waste is accepted.
- Introduced a Food Organics and Garden Organics service to the towns of Avoca, Cressy, Evandale, Longford, Campbell Town, Ross and Perth in February 2023. Bin purchases \$286,215. 488 Tonnes collected to 30 June 2023.
- Provided a street sweeping/cleaning service and litter collection service of town streets and some recreational areas.
- Provided an annual 'special' garbage collection in township areas during December.
- Provided a 'special' refuse collection service for all urban areas for the purpose of assisting those with limited access to dispose of unwanted goods to Council's Waste Transfer Stations.
- Participated in the Northern Tasmanian Development Regional Waste Management Committee and adopted the Waste Management Budget for 2022/2023.
- Replaced mobile garbage bins as required.
- Reviewed the Rural Refuse Collection Service policy on 18 July 2022.

Championed through the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation, Northern Tas Waste Management Group member councils have signed up to ASPIRE's circular economy initiative: a digital platform connects producers of waste with those who can reuse, repair, remake and recycle products. Council encourages local businesses to embrace circular economy principles.

Council maintains its mobile recycling hub which can be moved around the municipal area and provides a safe path for hard to recycle items such as CDs, DVDs, X-Rays and bread tags. The bright green mobile hub is

placed at local schools, community centres and events and helps to raise awareness in the Northern Midlands community on the importance of recycling and the reduction of waste.

Council's Local Recycling Committee continues to meet on a regular basis to consider waste initiatives, ideas and waste services.

What Can't go in my FOGO bin?

DO NOT place any of the following items in your FOGO bin	What should I do with these items?
✗ Clinical, medical, or pharmaceutical wastes	Contact Council
✗ Concrete, rocks, ceramics, stones, bricks	Can be taken to your nearest Transfer Station
✗ E-waste	Can be taken to your nearest Transfer Station
✗ Food packaging	Place cleaned items in your recycle bin
✗ Glass	Place broken glass in your waste bin. Place undamaged, clean bottles and jars in your recycle bin
✗ Garden hoses	Place in your general waste bin
✗ Fertilisers, light globes, gas bottles, pens	Contact your Transfer Station
✗ Chemicals and other hazardous household waste	Contact your Transfer Station
✗ Mirrors, insulating materials, glass, steel cans/tins, and sump metal	Can be taken to your nearest Transfer Station
✗ Nails	Place in your general waste bin
✗ Plant pots	Can be taken to your nearest Transfer Station
✗ Plastics, including bottles, containers and plastic bags	Plastic bags can be taken to your nearest Transfer Station. Cleaned plastic bottles and containers can be placed in your recycle bin
✗ Soil	Can be taken to your nearest Transfer Station
✗ Tyre stumps	Can be taken to your nearest Transfer Station
✗ Treated, painted, stained, or laminated timber, joint, deckboard, or plywood	Can be taken to your nearest Transfer Station
✗ Bags of compostable or biodegradable	Place in your general waste bin
✗ Dirty litter	Place in your general waste bin

Frequently Asked Questions?

What is the cost for this service?
This service is being provided at no additional cost to ratepayers. By separating the FOGO from the general waste, it is expected that the reduced costs to Council will offset the cost of the FOGO service over time.

I already compost my garden and food scraps so why do I need a FOGO bin?
FOGO allows you to dispose of more items than a standard household compost system including perennial weeds, dairy, meat and bones, avoiding the need for these items to go to general waste.

When do I put the FOGO bin out?
The FOGO bin (lime green lid) is collected fortnightly on the opposite week of your recycling bin (yellow lid). Place your bin out by 6am on the morning of collection.

What happens if my bin is too heavy?
The maximum weight is 80kg. The mechanical arm on the collection vehicle cannot lift bins over this weight. You will be required to remove some organic material and wait two weeks until the next collection.

How can I keep my FOGO below 80kg?

- Mow lawns when they are dry (wet grass is heavier than dry).
- Ensure leaf matter and clippings are dry.
- Aerate the FOGO from time to time to release moisture.
- Follow the "what can", and "what can't" go in the FOGO bin guides.
- Shake soil off all weeds and unwanted plants.
- Don't add large limbs or trunks from trees and shrubs.

Can I use compostable or biodegradable bags?
No. We cannot accept plastic, compostable or biodegradable bags or liners of any kind. Due to the many different types of compostable and biodegradable bags on the market, it can result in people using the wrong type and unknowingly contaminate the product. Line your kitchen caddy or bin with newspaper or paper towel, which can also be used to wrap your organic waste before placing it in the FOGO bin.

FOGO

Food Organics Garden Organics

Northern Midlands Council is commencing a FOGO service in 2023.

Your FOGO bin will be delivered to your property from 9 January 2023, with the first collection service to start from 8 February 2023.

If in doubt, leave it out!

For enquiries and more information visit northernmidlands.tas.gov.au/
Contact council@nmc.tas.gov.au or phone: 6397 7303

What Can I put in my FOGO bin?

Food Organics

- Fruit and vegetable scraps, including citrus
- De-packaged, out of date/left over food
- Meat, bones and eggshell
- Bread, pasta and rice
- Tea leaves and coffee grounds
- Dairy Products
- De-packaged takeaway foods
- De-packaged baked goods
- Pizza boxes
- Paper towels and used tissues
- Seafood

Garden Organics

- Prunings
- Grass clippings
- Weeds
- Branches (max, 20cm length)
- Plants and small shrubs
- Twigs (no logs)
- Leaves and flowers
- Untreated timber (no logs)
- Newspaper
- Shredded paper
- Hair and fur

Community Amenities

Objective:

Provide, maintain and manage Council's public building and recreation infrastructure assets.

Performance:

Council maintains public buildings bus shelters and other street furniture throughout the municipal area; and project manages construction of, and alterations to, Council buildings.

Council supplies and maintains sport and recreation facilities throughout the Northern Midlands area.

Council actively supports local recreation ground management committees and encourages/promotes the use of existing recreation facilities.

Council also provides and maintains a variety of:

- parks and reserves to provide public open space and enjoyment for the community;
- the peaceful and manicured cemetery grounds at Longford, Perth and Evandale; and
- public amenities and buildings are maintained across the municipal area.

Facilities maintained, include:

- 8 ovals for sporting activities;
- 24 community halls/centres;
- 2 caravan parks;
- 3 swimming pools;
- 4 waste transfer stations;
- 3 visitor information centres/kiosks;
- 14 public toilet facilities;
- 100 parks and reserves;



• Upgraded amenities at Lake Leake

Infrastructure provided during 2022/23 includes:

- Avoca: Septic System upgrade for public toilets \$66,580;
- Campbell Town: Renovations to Residential Unit \$47,222; Pool – family changeroom/toilet \$9,515;
- Cressy: Pool kiosk, entrance, concourse and carpark upgrade \$0.7m; Recreation Ground undercover BBQ area \$105,996;
- Evandale: War Memorial Hall roof replacement and electrics upgrade \$251,403; Falls Park pavilion weatherboard replacement \$28,285;
- Longford: Sports Centre level 1 user ready, including lift \$283,032
- Lake Leake: Camp site amenities upgrade (buildings) \$129,718;
- Perth: Construction of Perth Early Learning Centre (buildings) \$3.44m; Replacement of Talisker Street public toilet \$128,262;
- Ross: Replacement of Ross Recreation Ground grandstand \$7,402; Town Hall and Library – painting and carpeting \$40,733.



• New barbecue shelter at Perth's William Street Reserve



• Cressy Community Hall

Major Projects and Works

Major Projects and Works

With the support of State and Australian Government funding, Council has been able to fast track a number of priority projects across 2022/2023

Major projects completed during the financial year, include:

Perth Early Learning/Child Care Centre

The Perth Early Learning Centre, a 20-place centre, was constructed as an extension of the Perth Community Centre in 2002/2003. Demand for the service increased in line with the rapid growth of the area's population, and by the mid-2010s, that demand warranted planning for the development of a new purpose-built centre with an increased capacity.

In 2018 Council purchased a green field site in Fore Street adjacent to Perth Primary School's kindergarten. The land purchase and associated site works, valued at \$433,000 was funded by Council.

During the 2019 Federal Election, the Coalition committed \$2.6m to build the new Early Learning Centre. Onsite works commenced in February 2022 and the project was completed in June 2023. The official launch was held 9 June 2023 and the centre became fully operational in mid-June 2023.

- Perth Early Learning Centre



This contemporary facility includes a light-filled foyer and reception centre, office space, meeting rooms, commercial kitchen, laundry, storage rooms, and three key areas that cater for the play, education and sleep needs of children from nine weeks of age to the completion of primary school. Each of the three areas open onto their own outdoor playground where child-friendly native shrubbery is combined with both artificial turf and natural grass. Ample off-street car parking is provided.

The facility provides 46 early learning and 40 before and after school places, and has been designed to accommodate expansion in the future.

The total cost of the project was \$3.8m. Council allocated \$1,121,874 from its Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Phase Three grant to the project, with the balance of the funding being the Australian Government grant of \$2.6m.

Evandale Memorial Hall Re-roof

The Evandale Memorial Hall has had several additions over the years, a combination of these additions and the age of the building created issues in certain weather events. These weather events are becoming more frequent, and the deterioration of the existing roof and its storm water management system required major works.

A roof design incorporating the entire Northern side of the building under one roof structure was approved. This design eliminated the stepped roofs, internal gutters/down pipes and skylights.

As part of the roof replacement new structural supports, windows, ceilings, LED lighting, power circuits and underground power supply were included in the project.

Construction was completed in late December 2022 at a total project cost of \$251,403.



- Evandale Memorial Hall

Lake Leake

Council was successful in securing funding from the Recreational Fishing and Camping Facilities Program to undertake upgrades of the amenities and day use area. Extensions to the existing shelter, insect proofing amenities, drainage works, additional seating and relocating the dump point were all carried as part of the project. The area is used by many day visitors and overnight campers and has proved them with fantastic amenities provided.

Total cost of the project was \$165,000 with \$72,628 funded by the Recreational Fishing and Camping Facilities Funding Program.

Cressy Recreation Ground – Cricket Nets

The recreation ground's aged cricket practice facility was upgraded in 2022-2023, at a total cost of \$34,444 (to date in 2023/2024 a further \$7,667 has been spent, totalling \$42,111). A Cricket Tasmania grant of \$18,500, together with a State Government grant of \$5,400 was secured towards the upgrade. Council funded the balance of the project's cost. This work was completed in June 2023.

The upgraded facilities will not only enable the Western Tiers Cricket Club (established in 2022 from the amalgamation of Cressy and Bracknell Cricket Clubs) to attract and retain members, but also these facilities will be utilised by the Longford, Perth and Evandale cricket clubs during the lengthy periods when their ovals will be closed for upgrades in forthcoming years.

• Lake Leake Amenities



Cressy Swimming Pool Complex

This complex opened in 1965 and is the only public swimming facility in the 'top end' of the Northern Midlands, and thus draws its patrons from Cressy, and the nearby towns of Longford, Perth, Evandale, and surrounding farming properties. Apart from the renovation of the changerooms in 2010, the complex had until 2021 only had regular maintenance work undertaken.

In 2016 Council commissioned the development of a master plan for the pool complex. The plan identified a number of priorities to address OH&S, compliance standards and contemporary community expectations.

Implementation of the recommendations of the master plan commenced in March 2021 and was completed in November 2022. The total cost of the upgrade was \$1,582,000. Council secured a State Government grant of \$100,000, an Australian Government grant of \$400,000, and allocated \$800,000 of Council's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Phases Two and Three grants towards the project. Council funded the balance of the project's cost.

The upgrade has included the modernisation of the kiosk/office/storage building, the development of a new entrance directly from Cressy Main Street, construction of a raised shaded and sheltered deck, gel coating of the two pools and relining of the main pool, installation of a new shade shelter over the toddler's pool, redevelopment of the concourse, new fencing and upgrading of the car park.

• New cricket nets at Cressy Recreation Ground



REASSIGN Heritage Tourism Interpretation Project

Council received \$353,050 through the 2021 Australian Government's Recovery for Regional Tourism Program to undertake Stage One of the REASSIGN project. ROAR Films, a Hobart-based company, was contracted to undertake the work which included the development of enhanced visitor experience interpretation blueprints for five Northern Midlands heritage sites, and the designated 'precinct' they belong within, all connected by a mobile app (available free at www.reassign.net.au).

A range of innovative digital techniques were utilised – augmented reality, 3D models, videos and songs - to deliver surprising and thought-provoking outcomes, bringing history to life, by telling compelling stories of the Aboriginal people, convicts, bushrangers, pastoralists, politicians and soldiers of Tasmania's 'grassy woodlands' (Northern Midlands).

Stage One was completed and launched in November 2022. Council is now seeking funding to enable the implementation of Stage Two of the project.



• Upgrade of Longford's Memorial Hall under construction

Major projects commenced during the financial year, include:

Perth Stormwater

Stormwater upgrades in Perth have started at the Southern end of Main Road. Works are scheduled in two locations along the Main Road, Drummond Street intersection to Old Bridge Road and Talisker Street intersection down Scone Street to Drummond Street. Upgrades to damaged infrastructure and improvements will increase Councils piped stormwater network and reduce surface flooding in certain weather events.

Promotional Short Films and Advertisements – Choose the Scenic Route

Council has embarked on a marketing campaign known as "Choose the Scenic Route". We place an emphasis on work life balance and lifestyle choices for our current and future resident and business operators, the Northern Midlands offers the perfect blend of work and leisure with close-knit communities and a diverse range of activities for every traveller.

Substantial growth has occurred in the region in recent years and the population trend of lifestyle choices and community, the Northern Midlands offers the choice of urban, peri-urban and rural lifestyle. The aim of the campaign is to attract people to the region, converting visitors to residents, and highlighting the lifestyle benefits of choosing the "Scenic Route".

The media campaign to tell our story and publicise the liveability of our diverse council area will be launched in August 2023.



Longford Urban Design Project

Council has over the years commissioned a number of studies to provide future direction as to how Longford could realise its untapped potential as a vibrant town for locals and tourists alike. A recurring theme across the study reports was to primarily focus on revitalising the historic heart of the town that encompasses the town's Village Green and surrounding main streets.

The Longford Urban Design Project synthesises the key findings and recommendations of the studies and provides a vision of the heart of Longford being a well designed public open space with strong social connections that bring people – residents and tourists – and energy to the precinct. The project components included the redevelopment of the ageing memorial hall on the Village Green to become a contemporary community facility, the construction of new public toilet and BBQ facilities on the Village Green, and a significant upgrade of the streetscape infrastructure in the heart of the town.

During the 2019 Federal Election, the Coalition committed \$4m to implement the Longford Urban Design Project. After extensive community consultation and architectural planning, onsite works for the redevelopment of the memorial hall, the new public toilet and BBQ facilities commenced on 1 March 2023. It is anticipated the work will be completed in December 2023.

The streetscape upgrade component of the project is being finalised and it is anticipated the on-site works will commence in early 2024.



• Wellington Street, Longford

Campbell Town and Perth Main Street Upgrades

Council secured an Australian Government 2022 Election Commitment of \$8m towards the implementation of the plans for the revitalisation of the main streets of Campbell Town and Perth. The project Vision is that the hearts of the two towns will be well designed public spaces with strong social connections, that bring people – residents and tourists – and energy to the precincts. The outcome will be sustainable economic growth for the towns in terms of attracting new residents and more tourists, and contributing to the future prosperity of local businesses.

Council will submit the project's Business Case to the funding body in August 2023, and aims to commence onsite works during 2023-2024.

Cressy Hall

The upgrade of the front entrance of the Cressy Memorial Hall to comply with current regulations and standards for Access and Mobility is to be completed in 2023/2024. A new ramp, stairs, landing, planter boxes and entry door are included in the works, together with reinstatement of gardens. The works are to complement the building and its surrounding streetscape.

Total Cost of the Project \$87,000



• Cressy Community Hall

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2022/2023

In 2022/23, Council progressed a number of projects of various scales across the municipal area.

The list below includes some of Council's primary infrastructure achievements over the past financial year.

- Completion of the construction of the new Perth Early Learning Centre
\$3.8 million
- Footpath Program
\$1,078,000
- Rural Road Reconstruction of a section of Glen Esk Road at Nile
\$761,000
- Reseal programs of roads and streets
\$752,000
- Improvements at the Cressy Swimming Pool concourse, fencing and carpark
\$700,000
- Completion of the detention basin in Gatty Street Western Junction
\$329,000
- Fleet Replacement Program
\$283,000
- Re-roof Evandale Town Hall
\$251,403
- Complete the extension of the William Street Reserve to George Street at Perth with footbridge and associated footpath
\$251,000
- Lake Leake amenities upgrade
\$165,000
- Stormwater line improvements from Main Street to Cressy School
\$135,000
- Perth's Talisker Street, car park toilet facility replacement
\$128,000
- Tooms Lake amenities upgrade
\$125,000
- Road Safety Park at Longford
\$114,000
- Perth Recreation Ground carpark construction
\$114,000
- Food Organic and Garden Organic kerbside collection service in urban areas
\$136,000
- Cressy Recreation Ground barbeque shelter
\$106,000
- Replace kerb and seal verge in Falmouth Street, Avoca from Churchill to Gray Street
\$82,000
- Cressy Recreation Ground cricket practice net upgrade
\$34,000
- Longford Sports Centre exhaust fan system
\$33,000
- Perth Recreation Ground goal post netting
\$30,000



• Longford Safety Park

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2023/2024

In 2023/24, Council is focused on delivering major capital works items.

Key identified infrastructure projects for the year include:

- Campbell Town, Longford, and Perth main street improvement works

\$5.8m

- Longford Memorial Hall extensions and refurbishments

\$4.0m

- Bridge replacements upgrades at Liffey Road, Jones Road, and Blackwood Creek Road

\$1.1m

- Footpath program

\$900,000

- Fleet replacement program

\$754,000

- Bishopsbourne Road construction between railway crossings at Toiberry

\$500,000

- Reconstruction of a section of Ashby Road at Ross

\$500,000

- Development of a new playground at the corner of Laycock/Pultney, Wellington Streets at Longford

\$500,000

- Playground upgrades at Pioneer Park Evandale, Bartholomew Park Cressy and Perth Train Park

\$500,000

- Replace Longford Caravan Park amenities

\$450,000

- Construct kerb footpath and new road verge Youl Road Perth

\$350,000

- Longford Recreation Ground oval irrigation system

\$209,000

- Upgrade Pioneer Park Public toilets at Evandale

\$100,000

- Replace Cressy Pool solar heating system

\$50,000

- Ross Recreation Ground Clubrooms kitchen upgrade

\$50,000

- Replace kerb and seal in Falmouth Street, Avoca

\$50,000

- Perth practice cricket net upgrade

\$50,000



• Perth Recreation Ground

Capital Works: Program Status

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE	
Undertake road maintenance program	ACHIEVED
Undertake footpath reconstruction program	ONGOING
All Areas	
<i>Replacement of existing cracked asphalt footpath with concrete</i>	ONGOING
Avoca	
Falmouth Street – Church to Gray streets	ACHIEVED
Campbell Town	
High Street – Urban street design	DEFERRED
Recreation Ground – Car park sealing near public toilets	ACHIEVED
Cressy	
Main Street –Saundridge Road to Church Street	DEFERRED
Evandale	
Barclay Street – Barclay Street toward White Hills Road	ACHIEVED
Scone/Murray Street – Construction	DEFERRED
Glen Esk Road – Reconstruction	ACHIEVED
Longford	
Goderich Street – William to Archer streets	DEFERRED
Sports Centre – footpath to old gym area	ACHIEVED
Pakenham Street – Hobhouse to Bulwer streets	DEFERRED
Bulwer Street – Wellington 0 to 172	ACHIEVED
Bulwer Street – Wellington to Laycock streets	ACHIEVED
Bulwer Street – Laycock to Stocker streets	ACHIEVED
Bulwer Street – Stocker to Marlborough streets	ACHIEVED
Wellington Street – Urban street design	DEFERRED
Bishopsbourne Road – reconstruction	DEFERRED
Hobhouse Street – Catherine to Burghley streets – Reconstruction	DEFERRED
Laycock/Wellington Street – kerb and gutter, footpath and verge	ACHIEVED
Hay Street – Park Street to end – Reconstruct verge	ACHIEVED
High Street – Burghley Street to car park – kerb and gutter and verge	DEFERRED
Waste Transfer Station – seal entrance, ramp area and security fence	DEFERRED
Perth	
Edward Street – Napoleon to Cromwell streets	DEFERRED
Frederick Street – Scone to Clarence streets	DEFERRED
Little Mulgrave Street – Main Street to Unit development	DEFERRED
William Street Reserve – from/to footbridge	ACHIEVED
Main Street – Urban street design , streetscape improvements	DEFERRED
Recreation Ground – Car park	ACHIEVED
Drummond Street – 58D Drummond St to Drummond Cres – kerb and gutter, seal, verge	ACHIEVED
Perth Bypass – North and South – landscaping	ACHIEVED

Western Junction

Hobart Road – Off-road Shared Path	ONGOING
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BRIDGES

Undertake a bridge maintenance program	ACHIEVED
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Guardrail Replacement Program – All areas	ONGOING
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Undertake bridge works	
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Saundridge Road, Cressy – Poatina Tailrace – guardrail replacement	DEFERRED
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Delmont Road, Cressy – Unnamed Creek – guardrail replacement	DEFERRED
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William Street Reserve, Perth – footbridge	ACHIEVED
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URBAN STORMWATER/DRAINAGE

Undertake Stormwater maintenance program	ACHIEVED
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Undertake Flood Levee maintenance program	ACHIEVED
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Undertake specific stormwater/drainage projects as detailed in the works program	
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Campbell Town – High Street to Esplanade	DEFERRED
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Cressy – School from Main Street – pipe upgrade	ACHIEVED
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Longford – Union Street Flood Levee – NDRG penstock valve	ACHIEVED
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Ross – Waterloo Street – culvert	DEFERRED
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Side Entry Pit Program	DEFERRED
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Minor Projects	ACHIEVED
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RECREATION, BUILDING AND COMMUNITY AMENITIES

Building Improvement Program – Upgrade buildings:

Asbestos Removal Program	ACHIEVED
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Public Toilet Painting Program	ACHIEVED
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Public Toilet LED Lighting	ACHIEVED
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General Improvements	ACHIEVED
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Upgrade parks and reserves	ACHIEVED
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Undertake Parks and Reserves maintenance program	ACHIEVED
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Install street furniture, play equipment	ACHIEVED
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Install shelters and fencing	ACHIEVED
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Install noticeboards and fencing (upgrades) – dog parks	ONGOING
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Upgrade private power poles and LED lighting	ACHIEVED
--	----------

Undertake street tree program	ACHIEVED
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Upgrade signage	ACHIEVED
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Undertake Public Amenities maintenance services	ACHIEVED
---	----------

Special Building Project Management	ACHIEVED
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Manage public buildings and support management committees	ACHIEVED
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Manage camping grounds at Lake Leake and Tooms Lake	ACHIEVED
---	----------

Prepare and implement cyclic maintenance programs for the Council's buildings	ACHIEVED
Avoca	
Memorial Hall – toilet upgrade	DEFERRED
Bishopsbourne	
Community Centre – church, electric barbecue and history board	ONGOING
Campbell Town	
Units – Upgrade	ACHIEVED
Recreation Ground – memorabilia and equipment joinery, kitchen access entry, acoustics upgrade	ACHIEVED
Recreation Ground – whiteboard	ACHIEVED
Men's Shed (Ross) – upgrade preliminaries	DEFERRED
Recreation Ground – cenotaph and tennis areas – TasWater upgrade and irrigation system	ACHIEVED
King Street Oval – security cameras	DEFERRED
Cressy	
Swimming Pool – stage 2 – concourse, fencing and carpark	ACHIEVED
Hall – entrance ramp	ACHIEVED
Recreation Ground – fence	ACHIEVED
Macquarie Street – river reserve fencing, carpark and picnic tables	DEFERRED
Recreation Ground –stage 2 – barbecue shelter	ACHIEVED
Evandale	
Memorial Hall – roof replacement	ACHIEVED
Community Centre and Tourist Information Centre – shingles maintenance	DEFERRED
Pioneer Park – Toilet upgrade	ONGOING
Falls Park – pavilion painting	ACHIEVED
Pioneer Park – masterplan and play equipment update	ONGOING
Pioneer Park – toilet upgrade – male and disabled	ONGOING
Morven Park Recreation Ground – demolition of old cricket nets and surrounds	ACHIEVED
Lake Leake	
Amenities upgrade	ACHIEVED
Longford	
Sports Centre (gym) – exhaust fans/system	ACHIEVED
Library – entrance ramp	ACHIEVED
Memorial Hall (Main Street Program) – improvements/extension	ONGOING
Caravan Park – amenities upgrade	DEFERRED
Cemetery – Toilet upgrade	DEFERRED
Railway Bridge – restoration of pillars	DEFERRED
Recreation Ground – irrigation system	ONGOING
Recreation Ground – Little Athletics – top dressing	DEFERRED
Recreation Ground #2 – place fill, form and fence	DEFERRED
St George's Square – road safety park and lighting	ONGOING
Tannery Road – boom gate	ACHIEVED

Perth	
Early Learning Centre, Fore Street	ACHIEVED
Train Park – barbecue shelter and toilet upgrade	ONGOING
William Street Reserve – barbecue shelter	ACHIEVED
Bicentennial Dog Park – separation fence	ACHIEVED
Bicentennial Dog Park – culvert	ACHIEVED
Mural Project	DEFERRED
Train Park – play equipment update	DEFERRED
Recreation Ground – amenities repairs and painting	DEFERRED
Recreation Ground – Scorer’s box	ACHIEVED
Ross	
Hall – painting, carpet	ACHIEVED
Hall – roof replacement	ACHIEVED
Village Green – barbecue	ACHIEVED
Recreation Ground – dog designated area	ACHIEVED
Swimming Pool – WH&S issues	ONGOING
Tooms Lake	
Facilities improvements	ACHIEVED

- Ivan Badcock and Mayor Knowles at the launch of the Bishopsbourne History Board



Reporting on Legislative Requirements

Public Tenders

LIST OF CONTRACTS AWARDED OVER \$250,000 excl. GST (Local Government Act)

Description of contract	Period of contract	Value of tender awarded (excl. GST)	Business name (successful contractor)	Business address (successful contractor)	Minute reference	Contract number
Kerbside Waste Collection	1 July 2019 to 30 June 2026	Urban & rural fortnightly refuse collection	JJ's Waste & Recycling	PO Box 235, Cleveland QLD 4163	263/19	19/11
Kerbside Recycling Collection	1 July 2020 to 1 April 2027	Collections @ \$1.49	Veolia Environmental Services	PO Box 431, Rosny 7018	095/20	19/25
Kerbside Recycling Processing	Commenced 1 July 2010	Tonnes collected @ \$48.20 per Tonne	Veolia Environmental Services	PO Box 431, Rosny 7018	134/10 & 26/19	10/03A
Council Waste Clearance & Bin Hire	20 January 2023 to 7 June 2029	Est \$134,895 clearance \$22,848 bin hire but based on no. of clearances	Just Waste	PO Box 499, Prospect 7250	101/18	18/03
Management of Waste Transfer Stations	1 July 2020 to 30 June 2023	\$242,355	Just Waste	PO Box 499, Prospect 7250	135/20	20/04
Food Organic Garden Organic Collection	1 February 2023 to 31 January 2027	Collection cost \$2.29 estimated value per annum \$120,484	Veolia Environmental Services	PO Box 431, Rosny 7018	227/22	
Bridge Replacement # 3473 Jones Road		\$243,020	Bridgepro Engineering Pty Ltd	21 Faulkner Drive, Latrobe, 7307	23/0243	
Bridge Replacement # 4927 Liffey Road		\$334,950	Bridgepro Engineering Pty Ltd	21 Faulkner Drive, Latrobe, 7307	23/0243	
Bridge Replacement # 1172 Blackwood Creek Road		\$498,620	Bridgepro Engineering Pty Ltd	21 Faulkner Drive, Latrobe, 7307	23/0243	
Longford Memorial Hall		\$2,692,276	Darcon Construction	109 St Leonards Road, St Leonards	23/076	22/11
Perth Main Street – Stormwater Upgrades		\$726,900	Sherriff Civil Contracting	PO Box 23 Legana, 7277	23/0245	23/12

BIENNIAL CONTRACTS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Description of contract	Period of contract	Value of tender awarded (excl. GST)	Business name (successful contractor)	Business address (successful contractor)	Minute reference	Contract number
Spraying of Roadsides and Footpaths	to 30 June 2023	Bi-Annual Tender	Spider Pest & Weed Control	PO Box 329, Beauty Point 7270	243/21	21/07
Supply and Delivery of Road Maintenance Gravel	to 30 June 2023	Bi-Annual Tender	Gradco	79-81 St Leonards Road, St Leonards 7250	243/21	21/08
Supply and Delivery of Road Maintenance Gravel	to 30 June 2023	Bi-Annual Tender	Boral Construction Materials	PO Box 36, Launceston 7250	243/21	21/08
Supply and Delivery of Road Pug Base Gravel	to 30 June 2023	Bi-Annual Tender	BIS Industrial Logistics	PO Box 196, Kings Meadows, 7249	243/21	21/08
Supply of locally sourced Crumb Rubber PMB spray seal and Dense Grade Crumb Rubber Asphalt	to 30 June 2023	Bi-Annual Tender	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	572 Swan Street, Richmond VIC 3121	291/21	21/03
Supply of Bituminous Resealing of Roads	to 30 June 2023	Bi-Annual Tender	Crossroads Civil Contracting Pty Ltd	73-79 Lilydale Road, Rocherlea 7248	243/21	21/03
Construction of Concrete Kerb and Gutter & Crossovers	to 30 June 2023	Bi-Annual Tender	Crossroads Civil Contracting Pty Ltd	73-79 Lilydale Road, Rocherlea 7248	243/21	21/05
Construction of Concrete Kerb and Gutter & Crossovers	to 30 June 2023	Bi-Annual Tender	PJ Contracting & Kerbing	PO Box 31, Mowbray Heights 7248	243/21	21/05
Construction of asphalt footpaths, driveways and digouts	to 30 June 2023	Bi-Annual Tender	North Seal Pty Ltd	5A Ray Street, Invermay 7248	243/21	21/06
Construction of Concrete Footpaths & Driveways	to 30 June 2023	Bi-Annual Tender	Crossroads Civil Contracting Pty Ltd	73-79 Lilydale Road, Rocherlea 7248	243/21	21/04
Construction of Concrete Footpaths & Driveways	to 30 June 2023	Bi-Annual Tender	BINC (Elite Concrete)	18 Boral Road, Western Junction TAS 7212	243/21	21/04

NON APPLICATION OF PUBLIC TENDER POLICY

Description of contract	Period of contract	Value of tender awarded (excl. GST)	Business name (successful contractor)	Business address (successful contractor)	Contract number
Nil					

Attendance at Council and Committee Meetings by Councillors

(Local Government Act 1993)

Please refer to table on page 13 for details of attendance.

Elected Member Allowances and Expenses

(Local Government Act 1993)

During 2022/2023 Council provided allowances and reimbursements of all reasonable expenses to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors. The total amount of these payments was \$229,710 (compared to \$221,216 the previous year). Please refer to page 12 for further breakdown of allowance and expense payments.

Remuneration Statement

(Local Government Act 1993)

The remuneration statement is provided for those positions designated by Council as senior positions under the Act, and includes salary payable plus any other allowances or benefits paid or provided for the benefit of the employee. Reported in Financial Statements, see Note 10.1(iii).

Grants and Benefits

(Local Government Act 1993)

During 2022/2023 Council donations under section 77 are listed on pages 28 and 40, and rate remissions under its Rate Remission Policy totalling \$5,736 (2021/2022 \$6,044), and under Rate Incentive for New Development policy nil (2021/22 nil).

Donation of Land

(Local Government Act 1993)

During 2022/2023 Council made no donations of land under section 177.

Public Interest Disclosures Statement

(Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012)

Copies of the current *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002* procedures of the Northern Midlands Council can be accessed on Council's website at www.northernmidlands.tas.gov.au or in hard copy at the Council offices situated at 13 Smith Street, Longford.

During the 2022/2023 financial year, the following disclosures were made to the Northern Midlands Council with regard to the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002*.

Legislative requirement	Number	Type of disclosure
Number and types of disclosures made to Northern Midlands Council during the year that the Northern Midlands Council determines to be public interest disclosures.	Nil	N/A
Number of disclosures determined by the Northern Midlands Council to be public interest disclosures that it investigated during the year.	Nil	N/A
Number and types of disclosed matters referred to the Northern Midlands Council by the Ombudsman during the year.	Nil	N/A
Number and types of disclosed matters referred during the year by the Northern Midlands Council to the Ombudsman.	Nil	N/A
Number and types of investigations of disclosed matters taken over by the Ombudsman from the Northern Midlands Council during the year.	Nil	N/A
Number and types of disclosed matters the Northern Midlands Council has decided not to investigate during the year.	Nil	N/A
Number and types of disclosed matters that were substantiated on investigation and the action taken on completion of the investigation.	Nil	N/A

There were no recommendations of the Ombudsman under this Act that relate to the Northern Midlands Council in 2022/2023.

Environmental Health Statement

(Public Health Act 1997 and the Food Act 2003)

Council is committed to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of its communities and spent \$135,494 on health projects in 2022/2023 (2021/2022 \$116,682). Please refer to page 36 for further details of Council's Community Health Report.

Right to Information

(Right to Information Act 2009)

The *Right to Information Act* provides the opportunity for public access to Council documents.

The Act establishes a legally enforceable right for the community to access information in document form held by Council. Council received six applications under the Right to Information for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. Requests for access to information under the Right to Information Act should be in writing. Requests are to be lodged with the General Manager at the Council Chambers in Longford. Enquiries regarding Right to Information can also be made by telephone.

Code of Conduct Complaints

(Local Government Act 1993)

The requirements in relation to Code of Conduct, Complaints and Complaint Resolution are stipulated in Division 3A of the *Local Government Act 1993*. Council has in place a Code of Conduct for Elected Members policy as per the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Six Code of Conduct complaints were received during 2022/2023. One complaint was upheld.

Customer Requests / Complaints Received

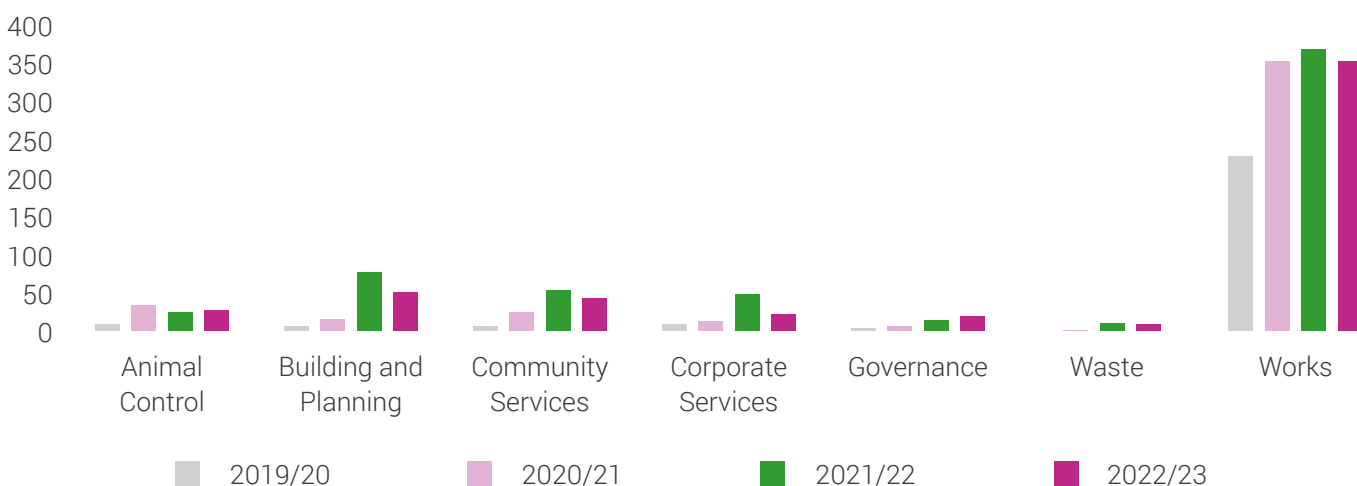
(Local Government Act 1993)

In accordance with s339F(5) of the *Local Government Act*, the General Manager is to provide the council with a report at least once a year of the number and nature of complaints received.

A total of 531 customer requests were recorded by Council in the period, the following graph depicts the nature of the requests.

The Integrity Commission advised that 12 complaints were received in the 2022/2023 year in relation to the Northern Midlands Council. None of the complaints progressed to investigation.

CUSTOMER REQUESTS 2022/2023



Understanding the Financial Statements

Council prepares its financial statements in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, using particular terminology and conventions that may not be familiar to some readers. This overview may assist readers to understand outcomes stated in the financial statements.

What are the Financial Statements?

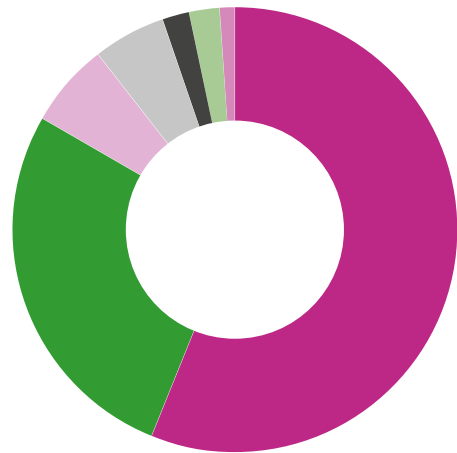
What are the Financial Statements

The four major disclosures, which are

- Statement of Comprehensive Income
- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Changes in Equity
- Statement of Cash Flows

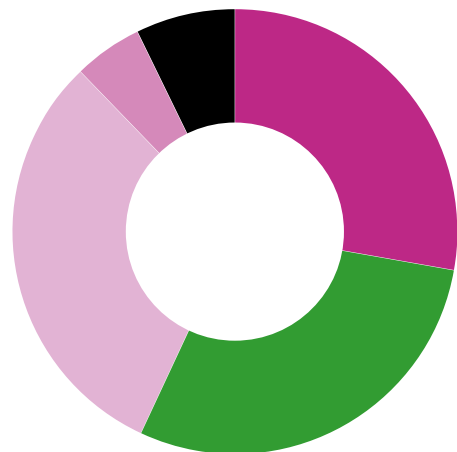
are collectively known as the “Financial Statements”, these documents provide an overview of the transactions that occurred during the year and a summary of the financial status of Council at the end of the year.

WHERE THE DOLLARS COME FROM OPERATING INCOME



- Rate revenue **54%**
- Grants – recurrent **26%**
- User charges **6%**
- Interest **5%**
- Investment revenue from Water Corporation **2%**
- Other **2%**
- Other reimbursements **1%**

WHERE THE DOLLARS GO OPERATING EXPENDITURE



- Employee Benefits **28%**
- Materials and Services **29%**
- Depreciation and Amortisation **31%**
- Government Levies and Charges **5%**
- Other **7%**

The Statement of Comprehensive Income

The Statement of Comprehensive Income provides information relating to:

- the sources of revenue earned (where the money comes from); and
- the operating expenses incurred (what the money has been spent on);

during the financial year.

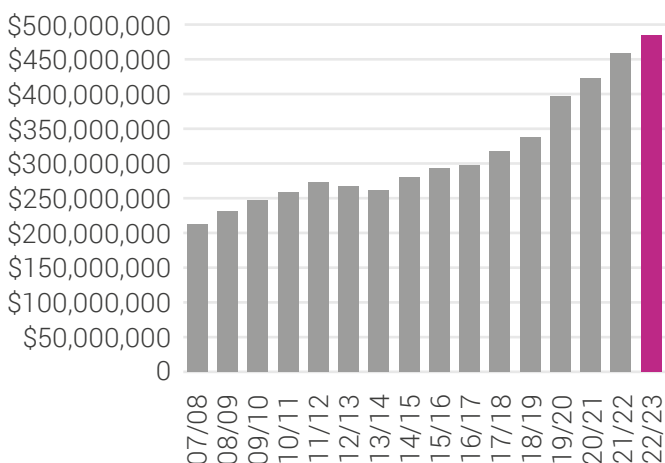
It should be noted that the expenses relate only to the operating expenses (or day-to-day expenses) and do not include costs associated with the purchase or building of assets.

Although the costs of the purchase or building of assets are not included in these operating expenses, provision for the cost of the depreciation of these assets is included in the operating expenses.

The depreciation expense is the equivalent portion of the asset that has been used during the financial year. The inclusion of depreciation on these assets in the operating expenses ensures that Council matches the cost of the asset to the period in which it is used rather than just the period in which it was constructed or purchased.

It is important to note the *Surplus (Deficit)* for the period.

COUNCIL ASSETS



Statement of Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Position provides a snapshot of Council's financial situation at the end of the financial year (30 June). It reflects

- what Council owns – its assets; and
- what Council owes – its liabilities.

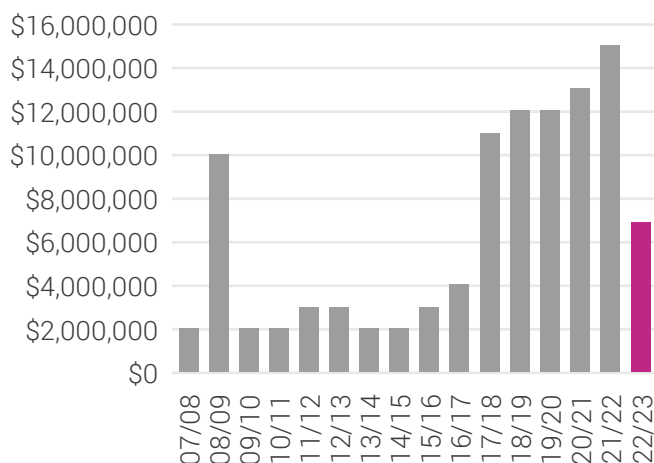
The bottom line of the Statement of Financial Position is Net Assets (Liabilities). This reflects the net worth of Council. The Assets and Liabilities are separated into Current and Non-Current categories, Current Assets and Liabilities are those which will fall due within the next reporting period (the next financial year).

Current and Non-Current Assets

Current and Non-Current Assets include:

- Cash and cash equivalents – cash held in the bank, petty cash and cash investments such as term deposits.
- Trade and other Receivables – monies owed to Council by ratepayers and others who have been invoiced or billed.
- Other Assets – inventory and services which have been prepaid and monies owed to Council for which no invoice had been raised as at 30 June.
- Property held for Resale – land which Council plans to sell in the next financial year.
- Property, Plant and Infrastructure – land, buildings, roads, vehicles, equipment, etc. which have been accumulated by Council.
- Investments and Loans (receivable).

COUNCIL LIABILITIES



Current and Non-Current Liabilities

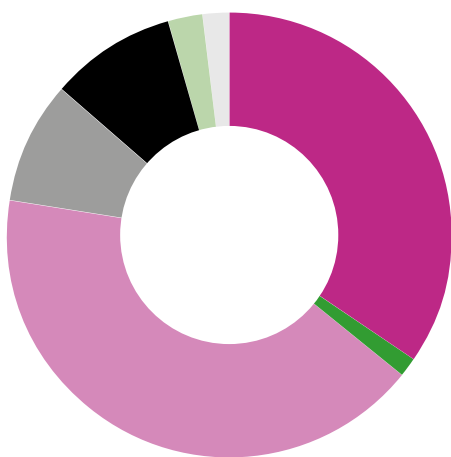
Current and Non-Current Liabilities include:

- Trade and other Payables – people and businesses to whom Council owes money;
- Trust Funds and Deposits – money held by Council on behalf of third parties;
- Provisions (Employee Benefits) – the accrued value of Long Service Leave and Annual Leave payable to employees of Council; and
- Interest Bearing Liabilities – the outstanding balance Council owes on bank loans or on any bank overdraft. Current borrowings represent the amount to be repaid in the next financial year.

Net Assets

This term describes the difference between the value of Total Assets and Total Liabilities and represents the net worth of Council as at 30 June.

2022/23 ASSETS PURCHASED / CONSTRUCTED / RECEIVED



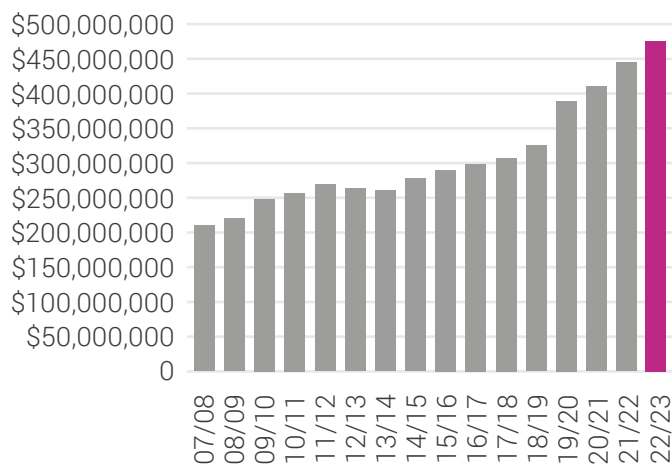
- Roads **34.7%**
- Bridges **1.4%**
- Land under roads **0%**
- Land, buildings and heritage **41.6%**
- Stormwater **8.9%**
- Plant and equipment **9.1%**
- Fleet **2.5%**
- Furniture and office equipment **1.8%**

Ratepayer Equity

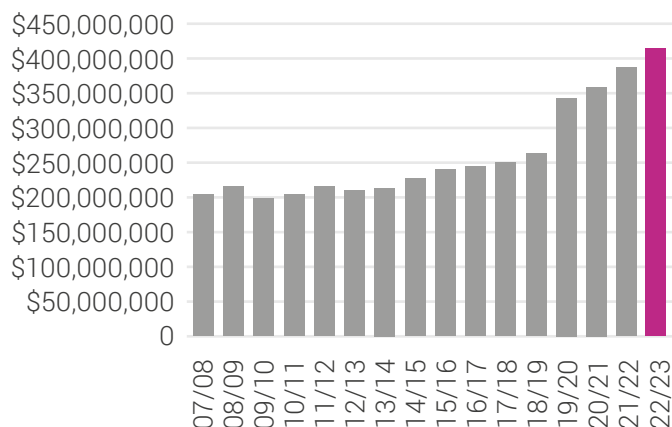
This is the term used to describe the components of the Net Assets, which are:

- Accumulated Surplus – the value of all net assets, other than the Asset Revaluation Reserve and Other Reserves (listed below), which have been accumulated over time.
- Asset Revaluation Reserve – the difference between the previously recorded value of assets and their current valuations.
- Other Reserves – Funds that have restrictions placed on their use and are not readily available for use by Council.

COUNCIL EQUITY



TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET VALUE



Statement of Changes in Equity

During the course of the year the values which make up Equity can change. This statement shows the values of such changes and how these changes arose.

The main reasons for a change in equity stem from:

- the "Surplus(Deficit)" from operations, described in the Statement as Surplus(Deficit) from continuing operations;
- the use of monies from Council's reserves; and
- revaluation of assets - this takes place on a regular basis and when existing assets are taken up in the books for the first time.

Statement of Cash Flows

The Statement of Cash Flows summarises cash payments and cash receipts for the year. The value in this Statement may differ from those shown in the Income Statement because the Income Statement is prepared on an accrual accounting basis. Council's cash arises from, and is used in, three main areas:

Cash Flows from Operating Activities

- Payments (outflows) – all cash paid by Council from its bank account to staff, creditors and other persons, but does not include any costs associated with the creation of any assets.
- Receipts (inflows) – all cash receipts arising from the general operations of Council. It includes rates, general trading sales and debtors, grants and interest earnings, but does not include cash from the sale of any assets.

Cash Flows from Investing Activities

The accounting term Investing Activities relates to the construction and purchase of fixed assets (outflows) and sale of assets (inflows) such as land, buildings, equipment and other long-term revenue producing assets.

Cash Flows from Financing Activities

This is where the receipt and repayment of borrowed funds are recorded.

The bottom line of the Statement of Cash Flows is the Cash at the End of the Financial Year. This shows the cash position of Council to meet its debts and other liabilities.

Notes to the Accounts

The Notes are a very important and informative section of the report. The Australian Accounting Standards are not prescriptive in a lot of issues. Therefore, to enable the reader to understand the basis on which the values shown in the Statements are established it is necessary to provide details of Council's accounting policies. These are described in Note 1.

Apart from the accounting policies, the Notes also give details behind many of the summary figures contained in the Statements. The Note numbers are shown beside the relevant items in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Cash Flows.

Where Council wishes to disclose other information which cannot be incorporated into the Statements then this information is shown in the following Notes. Other Notes, include:

- the cost of the various functions of Council;
- the breakdown of expenses, revenues, reserves and other assets;
- contingent assets and liabilities;
- transactions with persons related to Council; and
- financial performance indicators.

The Notes should be read at the same time as, and together with, the other parts of the Financial Report to have a clear understanding of the accounts.

Certification

The Certification of the Accounts is made by the General Manager that, in his opinion, the Financial Statements met all the statutory and professional report requirements.

Auditor General's Report

The Independent Audit Report provides the reader with an external independent opinion of the Financial Statements. It confirms that the Financial Report has been prepared in accordance with relevant legislation and professional standards and that it is a fair representation of the financial affairs of Council.

Financial Report

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	NOTE	BUDGET \$	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income from continuing operations				
Recurrent income				
Rates and charges	2.1	12,989,463	13,107,649	12,309,583
Statutory fees and fines	2.2	1,089,002	1,132,888	1,291,193
User fees	2.3	1,482,390	1,508,227	1,385,616
Grants	2.4	4,260,496	6,231,990	5,788,110
Interest	2.6	945,893	1,027,467	669,415
Other income	2.7	574,639	395,558	452,538
Reimbursement interest expense stimulus loans		101,728	101,728	303,957
Other reimbursements		44,625	190,535	134,424
Investment revenue from Water Corporation	2.9, 5.1	468,000	561,600	561,600
		21,956,236	24,257,643	22,896,435
Capital Income				
Capital grants received specifically for new or upgraded assets	2.4	8,686,722	4,732,739	2,572,873
Contributions – non-monetary assets	2.5	-	534,670	120,256
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	2.8	-	(503,320)	436,411
		8,686,722	4,764,089	3,129,540
Total Income from continuing operations		30,642,958	29,021,733	26,025,975
Expenses from continuing operations				
Employee benefits	3.1	(6,415,996)	(6,633,067)	(5,869,681)
Interest expense stimulus loans		(100,368)	(101,728)	(303,957)
Materials and services	3.2	(6,376,332)	(6,701,539)	(5,908,342)
Depreciation and amortisation	3.3	(6,651,715)	(7,219,285)	(6,631,476)
Government levies and charges		(1,161,962)	(1,187,127)	(989,679)
Other expenses	3.4	(1,227,516)	(1,526,137)	(1,528,136)
Total expenses from continuing operations		(21,933,889)	(23,368,883)	(21,231,271)
Result from continuing operations		8,709,069	5,652,850	4,794,704
Net result for the year		8,709,069	5,652,850	4,794,704
Other comprehensive income				
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to net result				
Change in fair value of investment	5.1,9.1	-	1,265,087	1,100,461
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	9.1	-	25,750,318	28,648,936
Total other comprehensive income		-	27,015,405	29,749,397
Total comprehensive result		8,709,069	32,668,255	34,544,101

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

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2023

	NOTE	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4.1	4,443,718	1,723,755
Trade and other receivables	4.2	1,505,149	1,514,090
Investments	4.3	13,512,454	21,428,395
Inventories	4.4	399	2,672
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	4.5	885,635	1,074,773
Total current assets		20,347,356	25,743,685
Non-current assets			
Investments	4.3	3,000,000	3,000,000
Investment in water corporation	5.1	40,823,227	39,558,140
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.1	419,527,644	390,076,355
Total non-current assets		463,350,870	432,634,495
Total assets		483,698,226	458,378,180
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7.1	2,151,733	2,008,918
Provisions	7.2	1,569,618	1,549,029
Contract liabilities	7.3	354,358	1,304,009
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	8.1	-	6,570,000
Total current liabilities		4,075,710	11,431,956
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	7.2	183,820	175,777
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	8.1	3,000,000	3,000,000
Total non-current liabilities		3,183,820	3,175,777
Total liabilities		7,259,530	14,607,733
Net assets		476,438,696	443,770,448
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		181,342,428	175,689,580
Reserves	9.1	295,096,268	268,080,868
Total equity		476,438,696	443,770,448

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

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2023

2023	NOTE	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS \$	ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE \$	FAIR VALUE RESERVE \$	TOTAL \$
Balance at beginning of the financial year		175,689,579	271,920,373	(3,839,506)	443,770,448
Net result for the year		5,652,850	-	-	5,652,850
Other comprehensive income					
Fair Value adjustment on equity investment assets	5.1,9.1	-	-	1,265,087	1,265,087
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	9.1	-	25,750,318	-	25,750,318
Total comprehensive income		181,342,429	297,670,692	(2,574,419)	476,438,696
Transfers between reserves		-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		181,342,428	297,670,692	(2,574,419)	476,438,696

2022	NOTE	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS \$	ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE \$	FAIR VALUE RESERVE \$	TOTAL \$
Balance at beginning of the financial year		170,894,873	243,271,438	(4,939,967)	409,226,344
Net result for the year		4,794,704	-	-	4,794,705
Other comprehensive income					
Fair Value adjustment on equity investment assets	5.1,9.1	-	-	1,100,461	1,100,461
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	9.1	-	28,648,936	-	28,648,938
Total comprehensive income		175,689,579	271,920,373	(3,839,506)	443,770,448
Transfers between reserves		-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		175,689,579	271,920,373	(3,839,506)	443,770,448

The above statement should be read with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	NOTE	2023 INFLOWS/ (OUTFLOWS) \$	2022 INFLOWS/ (OUTFLOWS) \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Rates		12,317,891	11,625,196
User charges		3,097,788	2,685,606
Government Grants		5,350,382	6,316,688
Interest received		1,027,327	634,080
Investment Revenue from Water Corporation		561,600	561,600
Other Receipts		586,093	586,962
Receipts from Australian Taxation Office		1,628,610	1,159,289
Materials and contractors		(8,895,747)	(7,697,789)
Levies paid		(1,015,930)	(989,679)
Employee costs		(6,577,888)	(5,737,505)
Other payments		(738,792)	(875,659)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	9.2	7,341,334	8,268,789
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(11,173,296)	(8,877,631)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		484,395	1,561,621
Capital grants		4,732,739	2,643,253
Transfer of investments to Cash		7,915,947	3,550,000
Transfer of cash to investments		-	(15,554,428)
Net cash provided used in investing activities		1,959,785	(16,677,185)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Interest paid Stimulus Loans		(101,728)	(303,957)
Reimbursement of Interest Paid Stimulus Loans		90,571	167,953
Repayment of borrowings		(6,570,000)	-
Proceeds from interest bearing loans and borrowings		-	3,000,000
Net cash used in financing activities		(6,581,157)	2,863,996
Net Cash at the start of reporting period		1,723,755	7,268,155
Net movement in cash for period		2,719,963	(5,544,400)
Net cash at end of reporting period	4.1	4,443,718	1,723,755

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

NOTE 1: OVERVIEW

1.1 REPORTING ENTITY

- a) The Northern Midlands Council was established on 2nd of April 1993 and is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal. Council's main office is located at 13 Smith Street, Longford, Tasmania.
- b) The purpose of the Council is to:
- to promote the social, economic and environmental viability and sustainability of the municipal area;
 - provide for the peace, order and good government in the municipality.
 - to ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively and services are provided in accordance with the Best Value Principles to best meet the needs of the local community;
 - to improve the overall quality of life of people in the local community;
 - to promote appropriate business and employment opportunities;
 - to ensure that services and facilities provided by the Council are accessible and equitable;
 - to ensure the equitable imposition of rates and charges; and
 - to ensure transparency and accountability in Council decision making.

1.2 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, and notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and the *Local Government Act 1993* (LGA1993) (as amended). Council has determined that it does not have profit generation as a prime objective. Consequently, where appropriate, Council has elected to apply options and exemptions within accounting standards that are applicable to not-for-profit entities.

This financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis, on an going concern basis, and under the historical cost convention except for the revaluation of certain assets (as described in the Notes), with all amounts presented in Australian dollars.

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

All funds through which Council controls resources to carry out its functions have been included in the financial report. In the process of reporting on the Northern Midlands Council as a single unit, all transactions and balances between those funds (e.g. loans and transfers) have been eliminated. The recording of transactions and balances for internal borrowings has been eliminated.

1.3 USE OF JUDGEMENTS AND ESTIMATES

Judgements and Assumptions

In the application of Australian Accounting Standards, Council is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Council has made no assumptions concerning the future that may cause a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period. Judgements made by Council that have significant effects on the financial report are disclosed in the relevant notes as follows:

EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS

Assumptions are utilised in the determination of Council's employee entitlement provisions. These assumptions are discussed in note 7.2

DEFINED BENEFIT SUPERANNUATION FUND OBLIGATIONS

Actuarial assumptions are utilised in the determination of Council's defined benefit superannuation fund obligations.

FAIR VALUE OF PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

Assumptions and judgements are utilised in determining the fair value of Council's property, infrastructure, plant and equipment including useful lives and depreciation rates. These assumptions are discussed in note 6.1.

INVESTMENT IN WATER CORPORATION

Assumptions utilised in the determination of Council's valuation of its investment in TasWater are discussed in note 5.1.

1.4 FUNCTIONS/ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL

(a) Revenue, expenditure and assets attributable to each function as categorised in (b) below:

	GRANTS \$	OTHER \$	TOTAL REVENUE \$	TOTAL EXPENDITURE \$	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) \$	ASSETS \$
Governance						
2022 – 2023	29,601	1,214,655	1,244,256	(2,586,082)	(1,341,827)	87,497,434
2021 – 2022	17,714	906,453	924,167	(2,339,511)	(1,415,344)	119,106,772
Corporate services						
2022 – 2023	2,074,134	13,839,012	15,913,146	(3,875,294)	12,037,852	68,507,613
2021 – 2022	1,754,716	13,118,383	14,873,099	(2,397,678)	12,475,421	28,851,597
Economic and community development						
2022 – 2023	1,500	652,882	654,382	(1,193,614)	(539,231)	664,862
2021 – 2022	275,991	213,537	489,528	(998,700)	(509,172)	125,603
Planning and environment						
2022 – 2023	87,039	205,804	292,843	(929,721)	(636,878)	325
2021 – 2022	17,453	743,310	760,763	(1,097,400)	(336,637)	216,769
Works						
2022 – 2023	8,772,455	2,144,652	10,917,107	(14,784,174)	(3,867,066)	327,027,992
2021 – 2022	6,295,109	2,246,899	8,542,008	(13,961,571)	(5,419,564)	310,077,439
Total						
2022 – 2023	10,964,729	18,057,005	29,021,734	(23,368,885)	5,652,849	483,698,226
2021 – 2022	8,360,983	17,228,582	25,589,565	(20,794,860)	4,794,704	458,378,180

(b) Component functions/activities

GOVERNANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

The provision of elected representation, executive support, strategic planning and public relations services to Council.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The provision of the following services to Council:

- Community Services Management
- Economic Development
- Tourism Promotion
- Health and Environmental Management

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

The provision of the following services to Council

- Planning
- Building and Plumbing

WORKS

Maintenance and construction of Council's infrastructure and facilities.

NOTE 2: REVENUE

2.1 RATES AND CHARGES

Council uses assessed annual value (AAV) determined by the Valuer General as the basis for calculation of general rates for all properties within the Municipality. The latest general revaluation of properties for rating purposes was first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2019. The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2022-23 was \$240,339,152 (2021-22, \$174,207,318).

	2023 \$	2022 \$
General rates	11,370,524	10,702,031
Other rates	-	24,184
Kerbside refuse collection	1,047,334	924,426
Fire levy	689,791	658,942
Total rates and charges	13,107,649	12,309,583

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Council recognises revenue from rates and annual charges for the amount it is expected to be entitled to at the beginning of the rating period to which they relate, or when the charge has been applied. Rates and charges in advance are recognised as a financial liability until the beginning of the rating period to which they relate.

2.2 STATUTORY FEES AND FINES

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Statutory fees	1,132,888	1,291,193
Total statutory fees and fines	1,132,888	1,291,193

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Fees and fines (including parking fees and fines) are recognised when or as the performance obligation is completed, or when the taxable event has been applied and Council has an unconditional right to receive payment.

2.3 USER FEES

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Rental/leases	514,587	469,699
Non-statutory fees	993,640	915,917
Total user fees	1,508,227	1,385,616

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Council recognises revenue from user fees and charges when or as the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided. Rental Income is recognised as revenue when the payment is due. Rental payments received in advance are recognised as payable until they are due.

2.4 GRANTS

Grants were received in respect of the following:

Summary of grants

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Federally funded grants	10,283,682	7,343,859
State funded grants	681,047	1,017,124
Total	10,964,730	8,360,983

Grants – recurrent

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Federally funded recurrent grants		
Employee training	22,690	107,083
Perth Child Care – Special Circumstances	-	55,616
Rural & remote child care	108,422	123,999
Rural & Remote Child Care – Landcare / Woolworths	-	779
FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation	-	3,000
Re-Assign Project	77,040	275,990
Commonwealth Government Financial Assistance Grants – General Purpose (Untied)	1,978,522	1,549,502
Commonwealth Government Financial Assistance Grants – Roads (Untied)	3,731,616	3,358,815
State funded recurrent grants		
Free2b Girls program	17,944	1,946
Health promotion – Active Northern Midlands Youth	11,657	12,769
Heavy vehicle motor tax grants	74,611	74,611
Perth bypass associated works	-	224,000
Enhancing Health Outcomes in the NM	10,000	-
Bus Shelter Improvements	3,100	-
Local Roads Emergency Flooding Repairs	196,389	-
Total recurrent grants	6,231,990	5,788,110

Capital grants received specifically for new or upgraded assets

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Federally funded capital grants received specifically for new or upgraded assets		
Community Infrastructure (Phase 1)	96,093	39,880
Community Infrastructure (Phase 2)	148,664	554,446
Community Infrastructure (Phase 3)	1,038,687	111,313
Cressy Pool Infrastructure Upgrades	-	200,000
Bridges Capital Pisa Bridge B1940 Replacement	39,550	-
Extension of Perth's South Esk River Parklands Walkway	33,078	-
Ross Pool Stronger Communities Equipment Purchases	-	2,500
Perth Early Learning Centre	2,210,000	-
Roads to Recovery	799,321	960,936
State funded capital grants received specifically for new or upgraded assets		
Campbell Town Tennis Centre Hit Up Wall	-	33,448
Cressy Pool Infrastructure Upgrade	-	32,369
Cressy Recreation Ground Amenities Upgrade	-	124,330
Cressy Recreation Ground Clubroom Roof Replacement	-	45,000
Lake Leake Amenities Upgrade	67,226	5,402
Longford Legends Lych Gate Stokes Park	-	15,000
Longford Town Hall Lighting	-	15,936
Morven Park Cricket Net Relocation	-	75,195
Perth Bypass Associated Works	-	123,839
Perth Dog Park Training Exercise Equipment	-	20,000
Perth Recreation Ground Goal Post Netting	-	15,000
Recreation Ground Pitch Covers and Applicator	-	18,270
Tooms Lake Amenities Upgrade	47,827	32,173
Vulnerable Road Users Queen St Campbell Town	-	94,866
Penstock Valve Union Street Flood Levy (NDRGP)	20,000	-
Cressy Recreation Ground Cricket Net upgrade	23,900	-
Longford Town Hall lighting	2,064	-
Longford Road Safety Park	100,000	-
Vulnerable Road Users Wellington St Intersection	20,000	-
Morven Park Cricket Net Relocation	13,193	-
Gate Automation Back Creek Flood Levee (NDRGP)	33,137	-
Detention Basin Gatty Street Western Junction (NDRGP)	40,000	-
Waste Transfer Station Shed Longford	-	52,970
Total capital grants	4,732,739	2,572,873

Unspent grants and contributions

Grants and contributions which were obtained on the condition that they be spent for specified purposes or in a future period, but which are not yet spent in accordance with those conditions, are as follows:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Operating		
Balance of unspent funds at 1 July	3,031,143	1,886,765
Add: Funds recognised as revenue in the reporting year but not yet spent in accordance with the conditions	4,477,576	2,977,471
Add: Funds received and not recognised as revenue in the current year	10,000	41,754
Less: Funds recognised as revenue in previous years that have been spent during the reporting year	(2,977,471)	(1,857,133)
Less: Funds received in prior year but revenue recognised and funds spent in current year	(53,392)	(17,714)
Balance of unspent funds at 30 June	4,487,856	3,031,143
Capital		
Balance of unspent funds at 1 July	1,250,338	777,238
Add: Funds received and not recognised as revenue in the current year	188,147	1,160,644
Less: Funds received in prior year but revenue recognised and funds spent in current year	(1,094,407)	(687,544)
Balance of unspent funds at 30 June	344,078	1,250,338
Total unspent funds	4,831,934	4,281,481

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Council recognises unspent grant revenue and those without performance obligations when received. In cases where there is an enforceable agreement which contains sufficiently specific performance obligations, revenue is recognised as or when control of each performance obligation is satisfied. (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or provides a service.) A contract liability is recognised for unspent funds received in advance and then recognised as income as obligations are fulfilled.

Each performance obligation is considered to ensure that the revenue recognition reflects the transfer of control. Within grant agreements there may be some performance obligations where control transfers at a point in time and others which have a continuous transfer of control over the life of the contract. 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.

If the transaction is a transfer of a financial asset to enable Council to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset to be controlled by Council (i.e. an in-substance acquisition of a non-financial asset), a contract liability is recognised for the excess of the fair value of the transfer over any related amounts recognised and revenue as the unspent funds are expended at the point in time at which required performance obligations are 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 as there is no profit margin. For the acquisitions of assets, revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Council. Government funds received in relation to pensioner rates of \$528,045 (2021-22:\$498,033) have been treated in the Statement of Comprehensive Income as rate revenue.

The Australian Commonwealth Government provides Financial Assistance Grants to Council for general purpose use and the provision of local roads. In 2022-23 the Commonwealth made early payment of four quarterly instalments for the following year totalling \$4,477,576 (2021-22: three quarterly instalments totalling \$2,977,471). The early receipt of an additional instalment (4 not 3) had not been anticipated by Council in its original budget and therefore has resulted in Commonwealth Government Financial Assistance Grants being greater than budget in 2022-23 by \$1,740,177.

2.5 CONTRIBUTIONS

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Non-monetary assets		
Stormwater	340,024	120,256
Plant and Equipment	4,800	-
Roads	189,846	-
Total	534,670	120,256
Total contributions	534,670	120,256

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Council recognises contributions without performance obligations when received. In cases where the contributions is for a specific purpose to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset, a liability is recognised for funds received in advance and income recognised as obligations are fulfilled.

2.6 INTEREST

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Interest on financial assets	639,303	343,374
Interest on rates	388,164	326,041
Total	1,027,467	669,415

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Interest is recognised progressively as it is earned.

2.7 OTHER INCOME

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Other	395,558	452,538
Total other income	395,558	452,538

2.8 NET GAIN/(LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Proceeds of sale	484,395	1,561,625
Write down value of assets disposed	(987,715)	(1,125,214)
Total	(503,320)	436,411

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Gains and losses on asset disposals

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

2.9 INVESTMENT REVENUE FROM WATER CORPORATION

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Dividend revenue received	561,600	561,600
Total investment revenue from water corporation	561,600	561,600

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Investment revenue

Dividend revenue is recognised when Council's right to receive payment is established and it can be reliably measured.

NOTE 3: EXPENSES

3.1 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Wages and salaries	4,831,414	4,334,384
Workers compensation	124,762	124,168
Superannuation	698,803	617,331
Fringe benefits tax	29,662	22,703
Annual, sick, long service & other leave paid	1,032,026	961,892
State Government payroll tax	323,423	277,789
Redundancy	47,678	40,560
	7,087,768	6,378,827
Less amounts capitalised	(454,701)	(509,146)
Total employee benefits	6,633,067	5,869,681

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Employee benefits

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably. Employee benefits include, where applicable, entitlements to wages and salaries, annual leave, sick leave, long service leave, superannuation and any other post-employment benefits.

3.2 MATERIALS AND SERVICES

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Contract payments	4,072,990	3,139,135
Materials purchased	1,014,309	935,686
Audit fees	33,000	27,030
Insurance	253,706	238,151
Telecommunication costs	55,461	49,108
Other	80,302	296,239
Utilities	184,529	207,601
Consultants	1,007,242	1,015,392
Total materials and services	6,701,539	5,908,342

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Materials and services expense

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

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

3.3 DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION EXPENSE

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Property		
Buildings		
Buildings	732,369	636,898
Heritage buildings	12,498	11,974
Plant and Equipment		
Plant, machinery and equipment	318,067	274,921
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	140,268	128,338
Computers and telecommunications	81,433	81,907
Fleet	462,085	460,416
Infrastructure		
Flood levee infrastructure	19,872	18,882
Roads	4,519,678	4,169,626
Bridges	436,001	395,769
Drainage	497,015	452,745
Total depreciation	7,219,285	6,631,476

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Depreciation and amortisation expense

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

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

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

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

The estimated useful lives used for each class of depreciable asset are shown below:

FIXED ASSET CLASS	PERIOD
Land	Unlimited
Land under Roads	Unlimited
Buildings	5 to 124 years
Flood levee infrastructure	
– depreciable component	100 years
– non-depreciable component	Unlimited
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	2 to 20 Years
Computers and telecommunications	2 to 20 Years
Fleet	2 to 20 Years

FIXED ASSET CLASS	PERIOD
Heritage Assets	
– Depreciable Component	20 to 100 years
– Non Depreciable Component	Unlimited
Plant	10 to 50 years
Roads Infrastructure	
– Formation	Unlimited
– Pavement	10 to 90 years
– Surface treatment	12 to 80 years
– Footpaths	15 to 70 years
– Kerb and channel	15 to 100 years
– Street furniture	15 to 100 years
Bridges	20 to 100 years
Drainage	80 to 100 years

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

3.4 OTHER EXPENSES

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Bad Debts	760,893	649,581
Donations and contributions	275,610	248,588
Councillors' allowances	231,382	221,216
Rate remissions and discounts	25,816	26,594
Special Committee expenditure	178,856	228,507
Refunds and reimbursements	41,899	82,624
Work in progress from prior years not capitalised	11,681	71,026
Total other expenses	1,526,137	1,528,136

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Other expenses

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in an asset, or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

NOTE 4: CURRENT ASSETS

4.1 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash on hand	1,000	1,000
Cash at bank	4,218,863	505,979
Cash held by Special Committees of Council	218,308	216,769
Short term fixed deposits	-	1,000,000
Money market call account	5,547	7
Total cash and cash equivalents	4,443,718	1,723,755

Council's cash and cash equivalents are subject to a number of external restrictions and internal commitments that limit amounts available for discretionary or future use. These include:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Restricted funds		
Capital grants received in advance	344,077	1,250,337
Operating grants received in advance	10,281	53,672
Monies held in trust	579,145	668,738
Rate revenue in advance	677,734	450,559
User charges in advance	5,746	4,286
Unspent grant funds with conditions (note 2.4)	4,242,509	4,281,481
	5,859,492	6,709,073
Internal committed funds		
Leave provisions (note 7.2)	1,753,438	1,724,806
Cash held by Special Committees of Council	218,308	216,769
Management and long term financial plans calculated at 1% of gross value of property, plant and infrastructure.	5,789,231	5,320,280
Committed funds	13,620,470	13,970,928
Total Investments (note 4.3)	16,512,454	24,428,395
Total uncommitted funds	7,335,702	12,181,222

Riverworks District

Under section 182 of the Water Management Act 1999, Council Administers funds on behalf of:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Opening cash balance	12,699	12,699
Closing cash balance	12,699	12,699

The Lake River Riverworks District aims to minimise environmental harm and risk within the boundaries of its district, complying with all statutory provisions. It is overseen by a management committee that held its most recent meeting on 15 June 2022.

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Cash and cash equivalents

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

Restricted and internally committed funds include:

- Includes refundable building, contract and other refundable amounts held in trust by Council for completion of specific purposes.
- Represents grant funding received in advance until specific performance obligations required under funding arrangements are completed.
- Monies set aside to meet employee provision obligations
- Cash held by Special Committees of Council
- Management and long term financial plans of gross value of property, plant and infrastructure.

4.2 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current		
Rates debtors	5,304,210	4,313,693
Provision for expected credit loss – rates debtors	(4,745,253)	(3,984,363)
Sundry debtors	857,848	1,096,557
Accrued revenue	88,343	88,203
Total	1,505,149	1,514,090

Reconciliation of movement in expected credit loss		
Carrying amount at 1 July	3,984,363	3,335,782
Amounts written off during the year	760,890	648,581
Carrying amount at 30 June	4,745,253	3,984,363

Ageing of trade and other receivables		
Current (not yet due)	1,424,716	1,105,852
Past due by up to 30 days	6,889	18,597
Past due between 31 and 60 days	18,578	27,632
Past due greater than 60 days	54,966	362,009
Total	1,505,149	1,514,090

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component are measured at amortised cost, which represents their transaction value. Impairment is recognised on an expected credit loss (ECL) basis. When determining whether the credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition, and when estimating the ECL, 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, an informed credit assessment and forward-looking information. Council has established a provision matrix to facilitate the impairment assessment.

For rate debtors, Council takes the view that unpaid rates represent a charge against the rateable property that will be recovered when the property is next sold. For non-rate debtors, Council uses the presumptions that assets more than 30 days past due have a significant increase in credit risk and those more than 90 days will likely be in default. Council writes off receivables when there is information indicating that the debtor is in severe financial difficulty and there is no realistic prospect of recovery.

Certain amounts raised by way of rates equivalents (which are not a charge on the land) in respect of Launceston Airport are subject to dispute which had not been resolved at balance date. The amount raised but unpaid at 30 June 2023 was \$4,737,031 (30 June 2022: \$3,984,363). This matter was heard in the Federal Court of Australia and a judgement handed down on the 24 of September 2019 deeming that Council had no standing in the proceedings and as such the decisions was awarded in favour of Launceston Airport. Council appealed this decision that it had no standing in the matter and a decision on this appeal was subsequently awarded in Councils favour on the 6 August 2020. A subsequent appeal of this decision to the High Court by the owners of the airport was dismissed on the 9 March 2022 and proceedings were returned to the primary judge in the Federal Court for a decision. On 13th December'22 Judge O'Callaghan ordered that the applicants (councils) proceeding be dismissed. On 30th January'23 Council decided to appeal to full court and a hearing is scheduled on 15th-16th November 2023.

4.3 INVESTMENTS

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current	13,512,454	21,428,395
Short term investments	13,512,454	21,428,395
Non-current		
Managed funds	3,000,000	3,000,000

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Investments

Investment in financial assets with cash flows that are not solely payments of principal and interest are classified and measured at fair value through profit or loss, irrespective of the business model. As Council's Managed funds are actively managed and their performance is evaluated on a fair value basis, these investments are mandatorily required to be measured at fair value through profit or loss.

4.4 INVENTORIES

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Inventories	399	2,672
Total inventories	399	2,672

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Inventories

Inventories held for distribution are measured at cost adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential. Other inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Where inventories are acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, the cost shall be the current replacement cost as at the date of acquisition.

4.5 ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Opening balance	1,074,773	315,081
Internal transfer from Land	-	74,292
Internal transfer from Buildings	-	811,343
Disposals of land held for sale	(189,138)	(125,943)
Total	885,635	1,074,773

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Assets held for sale

A non-current asset held for sale (including disposal groups) is measured at the lower of its carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell, and is not subject to depreciation. Non-current assets, disposal groups and related liabilities are treated as current and classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. This condition is regarded as met only when the sale is highly probable and the asset's sale (or disposal group sale) is expected to be completed within 12 months from the date of classification. Council had subdivided land at 10 and 32 Norfolk Street Perth which was originally purchased to improve stormwater management in the West Perth area and provide public open space for the community. The resultant subdivision created a large area of public open space along with 10 blocks of land, one of which has a cottage situated on it. All available for sale land resulting from this subdivision with the exception of the lot with a cottage on it were sold in 2021/22 and the remaining lot is in the hands of a real estate agent with sale close to finalisation as at the 30 of June. During 2021/22 the Council resolved to sell the Campbell Town Hall located at 75-77 High St Campbell Town. This building and the associated land is in the hands of a real estate agent and is expected to be sold within one year. These assets held for sale are valued at written down value. During 22-23 this lot with cottage was sold.

NOTE 5: OTHER INVESTMENTS

5.1 INVESTMENT IN WATER CORPORATION

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Opening balance	39,558,140	38,457,679
Change in fair value of investment	1,265,087	1,100,461
Total investment in water corporation	40,823,227	39,558,140

Council has derived returns from the water corporation as disclosed at note 2.9.

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Equity Investment

As Council's investment in TasWater is held for long-term strategic purposes, Council has elected under AASB 9: Financial Instruments to irrevocably classify this equity investment as designated at fair value through other comprehensive income. Subsequent changes in fair value on designated investments in equity instruments are recognised in other comprehensive income (for fair value reserve, refer note 9.1) and not reclassified through the profit or loss when derecognised. Dividends associated with the equity investments are recognised in profit and loss when the right of payment has been established and it can be reliably measured.

Fair value was determined by using Council's ownership interest against the water corporation's net asset value at balance date. Council holds 2.33% ownership interest in TasWater which is based on Schedule 2 of the Corporation's Constitution.

NOTE 6: NON-CURRENT ASSETS

6.1 PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Summary	2023 \$	2022 \$
at cost	23,750,001	24,087,095
Less accumulated depreciation	(8,950,694)	(8,044,083)
	14,799,307	16,043,012
at fair value as at 30 June	556,045,529	511,479,730
Less accumulated depreciation	(151,317,191)	(137,446,387)
	404,728,338	374,033,343
Total	419,527,644	390,076,355

Property

Land		
at fair value as at 30 June	17,418,737	16,771,818
	17,418,737	16,771,818
Land under roads		
at fair value as at 30 June	17,094,467	17,094,467
	17,094,467	17,094,467
Total Land	34,513,203	33,866,285

Buildings

at fair value as at 30 June	72,659,272	63,803,426
Less accumulated depreciation	(22,146,503)	(20,480,633)
	50,512,769	43,322,793

Heritage buildings		
at fair value as at 30 June	1,584,679	1,467,330
Less accumulated depreciation	(238,304)	(227,457)
	1,346,375	1,239,873
Total Buildings	51,859,144	44,562,666
Total Property	86,372,347	78,428,951

Plant and Equipment

Plant, machinery and equipment		
at cost	7,537,510	6,502,796
Less accumulated depreciation	(3,442,936)	(3,145,879)
	4,094,574	3,356,917
Fleet		
at cost	5,674,111	5,546,390
Less accumulated depreciation	(3,059,700)	(2,645,795)
	2,614,411	2,900,595
Furniture, fittings, office equipment		
at cost	2,325,041	2,200,005
Less accumulated depreciation	(1,388,470)	(1,248,620)
	936,570	951,385
Computers and telecommunications		
at cost	1,099,921	1,093,095
Less accumulated depreciation	(772,997)	(737,070)
	326,924	356,025
Total Plant and Equipment	7,972,479	7,564,922

Infrastructure

Roads		
at fair value as at 30 June	339,808,897	318,151,269
Less accumulated depreciation	(103,684,939)	(95,005,226)
	236,123,958	223,146,043
Bridges		
at fair value as at 30 June	54,559,237	44,312,096
Less accumulated depreciation	(11,562,042)	(9,109,556)
	42,997,196	35,202,540
Flood levee		
at cost value as at 30 June	5,355,338	5,205,942
Less accumulated depreciation	(286,591)	(266,719)
	5,068,747	4,939,223
Drainage		
at fair value as at 30 June	52,920,241	49,879,324
Less accumulated depreciation	(13,685,403)	(12,623,515)
	39,234,837	37,255,809
Total Infrastructure	323,424,737	300,543,615

Works in progress

Buildings	895,056	2,318,291
Roads	500,338	564,741
Furniture	7,633	-
Heritage	-	101,207
Drainage	78,332	296,812
Plant & Equipment	201,168	64,225
Land	55,255	132,467
Bridges	20,299	61,123
Total works in progress	1,758,081	3,538,867
Total property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	419,527,644	390,076,355

6.1 PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

Reconciliation of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

2023	BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF FINANCIAL YEAR \$	ACQUISITION OF ASSETS \$	REVALUATION INCREMENTS (DECREMENTS) \$	DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION \$	WRITTEN DOWN VALUE OF DISPOSALS \$	TRANSFERS \$	TRANSFER TO ASSETS HELD FOR SALE \$	TRANSFER TO EXPENSES \$	BALANCE AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR \$
Property									
Land	16,771,818	327,404	242,303	-	-	77,212	-	-	17,418,737
Land under roads	17,094,467	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,094,467
Total land	33,866,284	327,404	242,303	-	-	77,212	-	-	34,513,203
Buildings	43,322,793	4,458,941	2,113,814	(732,369)	(73,644)	1,423,235	-	-	50,512,769
Heritage buildings	1,239,873	26,220	-	(12,498)	(8,427)	101,207	-	-	1,346,375
Total buildings	44,562,666	4,485,160	2,113,814	(744,867)	(82,071)	1,524,442	-	-	51,859,144
Total property	78,428,951	4,812,564	2,356,117	(744,867)	(82,071)	1,601,654	-	-	85,025,972
Plant and equipment									
Plant, machinery and equipment	3,356,917	1,057,873	-	(318,067)	(2,150)	-	-	-	4,094,574
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	951,385	127,242	-	(140,268)	(1,789)	-	-	-	936,570
Computers and telecommunications	356,025	83,158	-	(81,433)	(30,826)	-	-	-	326,924
Fleet	2,900,595	283,531	-	(462,085)	(107,631)	-	-	-	2,614,411
Total plant and equipment	7,564,922	1,551,804	-	(1,001,852)	(142,395)	-	-	-	7,972,479
Infrastructure									
Roads	223,146,043	4,008,811	13,841,520	(4,519,678)	(417,143)	64,404	-	-	236,123,958
Bridges	35,202,540	161,468	8,028,364	(436,001)	-	40,824	-	-	42,997,196
Drainage	37,255,809	883,232	1,524,317	(497,015)	(149,985)	218,480	-	-	39,234,837
Flood Levee	4,939,223	149,396	-	(19,872)	-	-	-	-	5,068,747
Total infrastructure	300,543,615	5,202,907	23,394,201	(5,472,565)	(567,128)	323,708	-	-	323,424,737
Works in progress									
Buildings	2,318,291	-	-	-	-	(1,423,235)	-	-	895,056
Furniture	-	7,633	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,633
Roads	564,741	-	-	-	-	(64,404)	-	-	500,338
Heritage	101,207	-	-	-	-	(101,207)	-	-	-
Drainage	296,812	-	-	-	-	(218,480)	-	-	78,332
Plant & Equipment	64,225	136,943	-	-	-	-	-	-	201,168
Land	132,467	-	-	-	-	(77,212)	-	-	55,255
Bridges	61,123	-	-	-	-	(40,824)	-	-	20,299
Total works in progress	3,538,867	144,576	-	-	-	(1,925,363)	-	-	1,758,081
Total property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	390,076,356	11,711,850	25,750,318	(7,219,285)	(791,594)	-	-	-	419,527,644

(a) Impairment losses

Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income under other expenses. Reversals of impairment losses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income under other revenue.

6.1 PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

2022	BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF FINANCIAL YEAR \$	ACQUISITION OF ASSETS \$	REVALUATION INCREMENTS (DECREMENTS) \$	DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION \$	WRITTEN DOWN VALUE OF DISPOSALS \$	TRANSFERS \$	TRANSFER TO ASSETS HELD FOR SALE \$	TRANSFER TO EXPENSES \$	BALANCE AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR \$
Property									
Land	16,580,298	69,336	236,075	-	(39,600)	-	(74,292)	-	16,771,817
Land under roads	17,094,467	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,094,467
Total land	33,674,765	69,336	236,075	-	(39,600)	-	(74,292)	-	33,866,284
Buildings	38,533,719	2,012,668	4,353,322	(636,898)	(128,674)	-	(811,343)	-	43,322,794
Heritage buildings	1,251,847	-	-	(11,974)	-	-	-	-	1,239,873
Total buildings	39,785,566	2,012,668	4,353,322	(648,872)	(128,674)	-	(811,343)	-	44,562,667
Total property	73,460,331	2,082,004	4,589,397	(648,872)	(168,274)	-	(885,635)	-	78,428,951
Plant and equipment									
Plant, machinery and equipment	3,028,210	610,201	-	(274,921)	(6,573)	-	-	-	3,356,917
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	1,241,068	277,385	-	(210,245)	(798)	-	-	-	1,307,410
Fleet	3,117,031	309,158	-	(460,416)	(65,178)	-	-	-	2,900,595
Total plant and equipment	7,386,309	1,196,744	-	(945,582)	(72,549)	-	-	-	7,564,922
Infrastructure									
Roads	206,135,508	3,537,761	18,149,101	(4,169,626)	(506,701)	-	-	-	223,146,043
Bridges	32,441,125	597,634	2,667,603	(395,769)	(108,053)	-	-	-	35,202,540
Drainage	34,213,153	396,256	3,242,835	(452,745)	(143,690)	-	-	-	37,255,809
Flood Levee	4,958,105	-	-	(18,882)	-	-	-	-	4,939,223
Total infrastructure	277,747,891	4,531,651	24,059,539	(5,037,022)	(758,444)	-	-	-	300,543,615
Works in progress									
Buildings	1,770,415	547,876	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,318,291
Furniture	27,150	-	-	-	-	-	-	(27,150)	-
Roads	283,295	281,447	-	-	-	-	-	-	564,741
Heritage	-	101,207	-	-	-	-	-	-	101,207
Drainage	264,051	32,761	-	-	-	-	-	-	296,812
Plant & Equipment	-	64,225	-	-	-	-	-	-	64,225
Land	-	132,466	-	-	-	-	-	-	132,466
Bridges	6,470	54,653	-	-	-	-	-	-	61,123
Total works in progress	2,351,382	1,214,635	-	-	-	-	-	(27,150)	3,538,867
Total property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	360,945,913	9,025,034	28,648,936	(6,631,476)	(999,267)	-	(885,635)	(27,150)	390,076,955

(a) Impairment losses

Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income under other expenses. Reversals of impairment losses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income under other revenue.

6.1 PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Recognition and measurement of assets

Acquisitions of assets are initially recorded at cost. Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition.

Property, plant and equipment and infrastructure received in the form of contributions, are recognised as assets and revenues at fair value by Council valuation where that value exceeds the recognition thresholds for the respective asset class. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell the asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

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

The following classes of assets have been recognised. In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits detailed below have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year:

	THRESHOLD \$
Land	Nil
Land Under Roads	Nil
Buildings	5,000
Flood Levee	3,000
Furniture, Fittings, Office Equipment and Computers	1,000
Fleet	1,000
Plant	1,000
Roads	5,000
Bridges	5,000
Drainage	3,000
Heritage Assets	1,000
Revaluation	
Council has adopted the following valuation bases for its non-current assets:	
Land	Fair value
Land under roads	Fair value
Buildings	Fair value
Flood levee	Cost
Furniture, fittings, office equipment & computers	Cost
Fleet	Cost
Plant	Cost
Roads	Fair value
Bridges	Fair value
Drainage	Fair value
Heritage assets	Fair value

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment listed above as at cost, are measured at their fair value in accordance with AASB 116 *Property, Plant & Equipment* and AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*. At balance date, Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset class materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date the class of asset was revalued.

In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis to ensure valuations represent fair value. The valuation is performed either by experienced Council officers or independent experts.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use on an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset.

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

Impairment of assets

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

Assets that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to amortisation and are tested annually for impairment. Assets that are subject to amortisation are reviewed 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 non-cash generating assets of Council such as roads, bridges, stormwater & drainage and the like, value in use is represented by the deprival value of the asset approximated by its written down replacement cost.

Maintenance Vs Capitalisation

Officers of the Council will determine at the occurrence of an event whether to capitalise or expense costs incurred in property, plant and infrastructure. The following formula is provided as a guide, "maintenance, repair costs and minor renewals are charged as expenses as incurred unless their total value exceeds 10% of the written down current value and increases the economic life by more than 10%.

profit or loss when derecognised. Dividends associated with the equity investments are recognised in profit and loss when the right of payment has been established and it can be reliably measured.

NOTE 7: CURRENT LIABILITIES

7.1 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Trade payables	806,098	828,911
Wages accrued	82,971	56,424
Monies held in trust	579,145	668,738
Rate revenue in advance	677,774	450,559
User charges in advance	5,746	4,286
Total trade and other payables	2,151,733	2,008,918

7.1 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES (CONTINUED)

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Trade and other payables

Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services provided to Council as at balance date whether or not invoices have been received. General Creditors are unsecured, not subject to interest charges and are normally settled within 30 days of invoice receipt.

Rates and charges in advance represents amounts received by Council prior to the commencement of the rating or charging period. Revenue is recognised by Council at the beginning of the rating or charge period to which the advance payment relates

7.2 PROVISIONS

2023	ANNUAL LEAVE \$	LONG SERVICE LEAVE \$	TOTAL \$
Balance at beginning of the financial year	697,179	1,027,627	1,724,806
Additional provisions	520,369	126,918	647,287
Amounts used	(482,580)	(136,074)	(618,655)
Balance at the end of the financial year	734,968	1,018,470	1,753,438
Current	734,968	834,650	1,569,618
Non-current	-	183,820	183,820
Total	734,968	1,018,470	1,753,438

2022	ANNUAL LEAVE \$	LONG SERVICE LEAVE \$	TOTAL \$
Balance at beginning of the financial year	632,466	1,020,375	1,652,841
Additional provisions	650,804	50,914	701,718
Amounts used	(586,091)	(29,947)	(616,038)
Increase in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	-	(13,715)	(13,715)
Balance at the end of the financial year	697,179	1,027,627	1,724,806
Current	697,179	851,850	1,549,029
Non-current	-	175,777	175,777
Total	697,179	1,027,627	1,724,806

ACCOUNTING POLICY – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

i) Short term obligations

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liability for annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

ii) Other long term employee benefit obligations

The liability for long service leave and annual leave which 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.

The obligations are presented as current liabilities in the statement of financial position if the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur.

iii) Sick leave

No accrual is made for sick leave as Council experience indicates that, on average, sick leave taken in each reporting period is less than the entitlement accruing in that period, and this experience is expected to recur in future reporting periods. Council does not make payment for untaken sick leave.

Rostered days off – A liability for accrued rostered days off is recognised at the current rates of pay including related oncosts, for expected future payments to be made in respect of accruals by employees of the Council.

7.3 CONTRACT LIABILITIES

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current		
Funds received to acquire on construct an asset controlled by Council	344,077	1,250,337
Funds received prior to performance obligation being satisfied (Upfront payments)	10,281	53,672
Total	354,358	1,304,009

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Council recognised the following contractual liabilities:

- Grant funds received in advance includes the construction of a new health facility for the provision of community health and family and children services. The funds received are under an enforceable contract which requires 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. Revenue is expected to be recognised in the next 12 months.
- Upfront payments of funds from contracts with customers are recognised as a contract liability until performance obligations are satisfied. Revenue is recognised as performance obligations are progressively fulfilled.

NOTE 8: NON-CURRENT

8.1 INTEREST-BEARING LOANS AND BORROWINGS

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current		
Borrowings – secured	-	6,570,000
	-	6,570,000
Non-current		
Borrowings – secured	3,000,000	3,000,000

8.1 INTEREST-BEARING LOANS AND BORROWINGS (CONTINUED)

	2023 \$	2022 \$
	3,000,000	3,000,000
Total	3,000,000	9,570,000
Borrowings		
The maturity profile for Council's borrowings is:		
Not later than one year	-	-
Later than one year and not later than five years	3,000,000	6,570,000
Later than five years	-	-
Total	3,000,000	9,570,000

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Interest bearing liabilities

The borrowing capacity of Council is limited by the *Local Government Act 1993*. Interest bearing liabilities are initially recognised at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred. Subsequent to initial recognition these liabilities are measured at amortised cost. Any difference between the proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the redemption amount is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income over the period of the liability using the effective interest method.

Council has received the total sum of \$11.47 million from Tascorp under the State Governments Accelerated Local Government Capital Program. \$1.9m of this funding was paid back to Tascorp during 2021/22, \$5.52m paid back in July' 22 and \$1.05m paid back on 28/6/23. The remaining loan of \$3.00m (15/12/21 3 year term) have been retained by Council to be used for stormwater infrastructure projects. Interest is applied to this Councils loan from Tascorp at a rate of 2.13%. The State Government will provide a full rebate of the interest paid for a period up to the term of loan. Council intends to pay loan back in full at the end of the three year term on 16/12/24.

NOTE 9: OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION

9.1 RESERVES

(a) Asset revaluation reserve	BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF REPORTING YEAR \$	INCREMENT \$	(DECREMENT) \$	BALANCE AT END OF REPORTING YEAR \$
2023				
Property				
Land	10,897,956	242,303	-	11,140,260
Land under roads	2,739,044	-	-	2,739,044
Land and Buildings Available for Sale	(496,260)	-	-	(496,260)
Buildings	32,129,396	2,113,814	-	34,243,209
Plant	296,277	-	-	296,277
Computer equipments	25,000	-	-	25,000
	45,591,413	2,356,117	-	47,947,530
Infrastructure				
Roads	178,279,187	13,841,520	-	192,120,707
Bridges	19,860,799	8,087,179	(58,814)	27,889,164
Drainage	28,188,974	1,957,042	(432,725)	29,713,291
	226,328,960	23,885,741	(491,540)	249,723,162
Total asset revaluation reserve	271,920,373	26,241,858	(491,540)	297,670,692

(a) Asset revaluation reserve	BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF REPORTING YEAR \$	INCREMENT \$	(DECREMENT) \$	BALANCE AT END OF REPORTING YEAR \$
2022				
Property				
Land	10,661,881	236,075	-	10,897,956
Land under roads	2,739,044	-	-	2,739,044
Land and Buildings Available for Sale	(496,260)	-	-	(496,260)
Buildings	27,776,074	4,353,322	-	32,129,396
Plant	296,277	-	-	296,277
Computer equipments	25,000	-	-	25,000
	41,002,016	4,589,397	-	45,591,413
Infrastructure				
Roads	160,130,085	33,223,975	(15,074,874)	178,279,187
Bridges	17,193,197	2,885,302	(217,700)	19,860,799
Drainage	24,946,140	3,247,029	(4,195)	28,188,974
	202,269,422	39,356,307	(15,296,768)	226,328,960
Total asset revaluation reserve	243,271,438	43,945,704	(15,296,768)	271,920,373

9.1 RESERVES (CONTINUED)

The asset revaluation reserve was established to capture the movements in asset valuations upon the periodic revaluation of Council's assets.

(b) Fair value reserve	BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF REPORTING YEAR \$	INCREMENT \$	(DECREMENT) \$	BALANCE AT END OF REPORTING YEAR \$
2023				
Equity Investment assets				
Investment in water corporation	(3,839,506)	1,265,087	-	(2,574,419)
Total fair value reserve	(3,839,506)	1,265,087	-	(2,574,419)

(b) Fair value reserve	BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF REPORTING YEAR \$	INCREMENT \$	(DECREMENT) \$	BALANCE AT END OF REPORTING YEAR \$
2022				
Equity Investment assets				
Investment in water corporation	(4,939,967)	1,100,461	-	(3,839,506)
Total fair value reserve	(4,939,967)	1,100,461	-	(3,839,506)

Council has to designate its investment in Taswater as an equity investment at fair value through other comprehensive income. Subsequent changes in fair value are reflected in the reserve and will not be reclassified through the profit or loss when derecognised.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Total Reserves	295,096,268	268,080,868

9.2 RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO SURPLUS (DEFICIT)

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Result from continuing operations	5,652,850	4,794,704
Capital grants received specifically for new or upgraded assets	(4,732,739)	(2,572,874)
Recognition of Assets Received at No Cost to Council	(534,670)	(120,256)
Net Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	503,320	(436,411)
Non-Cash flows in surplus:		
Depreciation	7,219,285	6,631,476
Changes in Assets and Liabilities		
(increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables	9,222	(342,760)
(increase) / decrease in inventories	2,273	3,636
increase / (decrease) in creditors	(85,860)	(313,142)
increase / (decrease) in income received in advance	(720,978)	552,452
increase / (decrease) in provisions	28,632	71,964
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	7,341,334	8,268,789

9.2A COMMITMENTS

Contractual commitments at end of financial year but not recognised in the financial report are as follows (inclusive of GST):

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Payable not later than one year	5,416,242	4,435,104
Payable later than one year but not later than two years	1,517,832	1,171,133
Payable later than two years	2,293,999	2,837,765
	9,228,073	8,444,002

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Contractual commitments		
Contractual commitments at end of financial year but not recognised in the financial report are as follows:		
Kerbside Waste Collection	1,063,233	1,193,778
Kerbside Recycling Collection	1,355,376	1,594,563
Management of Waste Transfer Stations	515,739	751,367
Council Waste Clearance and Bin Hire	864,923	943,374
Food Organic Garden Organic Collection	1,413,559	531,865
Design Longford Memorial Hall	-	107,929
Longford Memorial Hall	2,202,489	-
4a Gatty Street, Western Junction	-	123,452
Perth Early Learning Centre	-	3,079,676
Footbridge for William Street Reserve at Perth	9,265	117,998
Perth Main Street – Stormwater Upgrades	726,900	-
Bridge Replacement # 3473 Jones Road	243,020	-
Bridge Replacement # 4927 Liffey Road	334,950	-
Bridge Replacement # 1172 Blackwood Creek Road	498,620	-
Total contractual commitments	9,228,073	8,444,002

9.3 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Interest Rate Risk

The exposure to interest rate risk and the effective interest rates of financial assets and non-lease financial liabilities, both recognised and unrecognised, at balance date are as follows.

2023	WEIGHTED AVERAGE INTEREST RATE \$	FLOATING INTEREST RATE \$	FIXED INTEREST MATURING IN:			NON- INTEREST BEARING \$	TOTAL \$
			1 YEAR OR LESS \$	OVER 1 TO 5 YEARS \$	MORE THAN 5 YEARS \$		
Financial assets							
Cash and cash equivalents	3.51%	4,441,482	-	-	-	1,236	4,442,718
Financial assets	4.67%	-	13,512,454	-	-	-	13,512,454
Investments	1.60%	-	-	3,000,000	-	-	3,000,000
Trade and other receivables							
Rates	6.50%	-	558,957	-	-	-	558,957
Sundry	-	-	-	-	-	857,848	857,848
Revenue accrual	-	-	-	-	-	88,343	88,343
Investment in water corporation	-	-	-	-	-	40,823,227	40,823,227
Total financial assets		4,441,482	14,071,411	3,000,000	-	41,770,654	63,283,548
Financial liabilities							
Trade and other payables							
Sundry creditors	-	-	-	-	-	(889,068)	(889,068)
Monies held in trust	-	-	-	-	-	(579,145)	(579,145)
Rate revenue in advance	-	-	-	-	-	(677,774)	(677,774)
User charges in advance	-	-	-	-	-	(5,746)	(5,746)
Capital grants in advance	-	-	-	-	-	(344,077)	(344,077)
Operating grants in advance	-	-	-	-	-	(10,281)	(10,281)
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings – Non Current	2.13%	-	-	(3,000,000)	-	-	(3,000,000)
Total financial liabilities		-	-	(3,000,000)	-	(2,506,091)	(5,506,091)
Net financial assets (liabilities)		4,441,482	14,071,411	-	-	39,264,563	57,777,456

2022	WEIGHTED AVERAGE INTEREST RATE \$	FLOATING INTEREST RATE \$	FIXED INTEREST MATURING IN:			NON- INTEREST BEARING \$	TOTAL \$
			1 YEAR OR LESS \$	OVER 1 TO 5 YEARS \$	MORE THAN 5 YEARS \$		
Financial assets							
Cash and cash equivalents	0.56%	686,360	1,000,000	-	-	37,388	1,723,748
Financial assets	3.08%	-	21,428,401	-	-	-	21,428,401
Investments	1.60%	-	-	3,000,000	-	-	3,000,000
Trade and other receivables							
Rates	6.50%	-	329,330	-	-	-	329,330
Sundry	-	-	-	-	-	1,096,557	1,096,557
Revenue accrual	-	-	-	-	-	88,203	88,203
Investment in water corporation	-	-	-	-	-	39,558,140	39,558,140
Total financial assets		686,360	22,757,731	3,000,000	-	40,780,288	67,224,379
Financial liabilities							
Trade and other payables							
Sundry creditors	-	-	-	-	-	(885,336)	(885,336)
Monies held in trust	-	-	-	-	-	(668,738)	(668,738)
Rate revenue in advance	-	-	-	-	-	(450,559)	(450,559)
User charges in advance	-	-	-	-	-	(4,286)	(4,286)
Capital grants in advance	-	-	-	-	-	(1,250,337)	(1,250,337)
Operating grants in advance	-	-	-	-	-	(53,672)	(53,672)
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings – Current	3.20%	-	(6,570,000)	-	-	-	(6,570,000)
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings – Non Current	2.13%	-	-	(3,000,000)	-	-	(3,000,000)
Total financial liabilities		-	(6,570,000)	(3,000,000)	-	(3,312,928)	(12,882,928)
Net financial assets (liabilities)		686,360	16,187,731	-	-	37,467,360	54,341,451

9.3 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

(a) Risks and mitigation

The General Manager has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Council's risk management framework. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse risks faced by the Council, to set appropriate risk limits and controls, and to monitor risk and adherence to limits.

The risk associated with Council's main financial instruments and our practices for minimising these risks are detailed below.

CREDIT RISK

Credit risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties fail to perform as contracted, and arises principally from trade and other receivables and cash and investments.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any allowances for impairment losses, represents the Council's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of any collateral or other security.

To help manage credit risk Council ensures financial institutions holding Council's cash deposits and investments have sufficient security by investing in appropriately rated Financial Institutions.

Market risk

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

Council's liabilities are either non-interest bearing or at fixed rates, so there is no ongoing exposure to interest rate risk for existing financial liabilities. Council obtains loans with competitive fixed interest rates to manage its exposure to interest rate risk when loans are taken.

A component of Council's cash is subject to floating interest rates. It is predicted any variations in future cash flows from interest rate movements will not have a material effect on Council's income. Interest rate risk on deposits is managed by adopting practices that ensures:

- Conformity with State and Federal regulations and standards,
- Adequate safety,
- Appropriate liquidity,
- Monitoring of return on investments,
- Staggering maturity dates to provide for interest rate variations,
- Benchmarking of returns and comparisons with budget.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that Council will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. Council's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities as they fall due. Due to significant amounts of readily available cash the exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant. Council falls well within the lending benchmarks set by Treasury. These amounts represent the discounted cash flow payments (ie principal only).

(b) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performances, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, Council believes the following movements are "reasonably possible" over the next 12 months (Base rates are sourced from the Federal Bank of Australia).

The table below discloses the impact on net operating result and equity for each category of financial instruments held by Council at year-end, if the above movements were to occur.

It is Council's view that the carrying value of its financial assets approximates fair value. Council measures and recognises the following assets at fair value on a recurring basis:

		INTEREST RATE RISK			
		-1%		+1%	
		-100 BASIS POINTS		+100 BASIS POINTS	
		PROFIT	EQUITY	PROFIT	EQUITY
		\$	\$	\$	\$
2023					
	Financial assets:				
	Cash and cash equivalents	17,956,172	(179,562)	(179,562)	179,562
	Investments	3,000,000	(30,000)	(30,000)	30,000
	Loan and receivable	558,957	(5,590)	(5,590)	5,590
	Financial liabilities:				
	Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	(3,000,000)	30,000	30,000	(30,000)

		INTEREST RATE RISK			
		-1%		+1%	
		-100 BASIS POINTS		+100 BASIS POINTS	
		PROFIT	EQUITY	PROFIT	EQUITY
		\$	\$	\$	\$
2022					
	Financial assets:				
	Cash and cash equivalents	23,152,149	(231,521)	(231,521)	231,521
	Investments	3,000,000	(30,000)	(30,000)	30,000
	Loan and receivable	329,330	(3,293)	(3,293)	3,293
	Financial liabilities:				
	Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	(9,570,000)	95,700	95,700	(95,700)

9.4 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

It is Council's view that the carrying value of its financial assets approximates fair value. Council measures and recognises the following assets at fair value on a recurring basis:

Investment in water corporation

Property, infrastructure plant and equipment

- Land
- Land under roads
- Buildings
- Heritage Buildings
- Roads
- Bridges
- Drainage

(a) Fair Value Hierarchy

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 Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

As at 30 June 2023	NOTE	LEVEL 1 \$	LEVEL 2 \$	LEVEL 3 \$	TOTAL \$
Recurring fair value measurements					
Investment in water corporation	5.1	-	-	40,823,227	40,823,227
Land	6.1	-	17,418,737	-	17,418,737
Land under roads	6.1	-	17,094,467	-	17,094,467
Buildings	6.1	-	-	50,512,769	50,512,769
Heritage buildings	6.1	-	-	1,346,375	1,346,375
Roads	6.1	-	-	236,123,958	236,123,958
Bridges	6.1	-	-	42,997,196	42,997,196
Drainage	6.1	-	-	39,234,837	39,234,837
		-	34,513,203	411,038,361	445,551,565
Non-recurring fair value measurements					
Assets held for sale	4.5	-	885,635	-	885,635
		-	35,398,839	-	446,437,200

As at 30 June 2022	NOTE	LEVEL 1 \$	LEVEL 2 \$	LEVEL 3 \$	TOTAL \$
Recurring fair value measurements					
Investment in water corporation	5.1	-	-	39,558,140	39,558,140
Land	6.1	-	16,771,817	-	16,771,817
Land under roads	6.1	-	17,094,467	-	17,094,467
Buildings	6.1	-	-	43,322,794	43,322,794
Heritage buildings	6.1	-	-	1,239,873	1,239,873
Roads	6.1	-	-	223,146,043	223,146,043
Bridges	6.1	-	-	35,202,540	35,202,540
Drainage	6.1	-	-	37,255,810	37,255,810
		-	33,866,284	379,725,200	413,591,484
Non-recurring fair value measurements					
Assets held for sale	4.5	-	1,074,773	-	1,074,773
		-	34,941,057	379,725,200	414,666,257

9.4 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (CONTINUED)

(a) Fair Value Hierarchy (Continued)

TRANSFERS BETWEEN LEVELS OF THE HIERARCHY

Council's policy is to recognise transfers in and out of the fair value hierarchy levels as at the end of the reporting period. Land and Building Assets identified as being Assets held for sale were transferred to level 1 from Level 2 and Level 3 respectively at year end.

There were no transfers between levels 1 and 2 during the year, nor between levels 2 and 3.

(b) Highest and best use

AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement, requires the fair value of non-financial assets to be calculated based on their "highest and best use", all assets valued at fair value in this note are being used for their highest and best use.

(c) Valuation techniques and significant inputs used to derive fair values

LAND

Land fair values were determined by Tim Grant the Valuer-General as at 1 July 2019. Level 2 valuation inputs were used to value land in freehold title as well as land used for special purposes, which is restricted in use under current planning provisions. Sales prices of comparable land sites in close proximity are adjusted for differences in key attributes such as property size. The most significant input into this valuation approach is price per square metre. This valuation by the valuer general was recognised in Councils accounts on the 1 July 2020 with Council Officers have applied adjustment factors provided by the Valuer-General on 28 February 2023 (45% Commercial, Industrial, Community Services and Other; 90% Primary Production; 125% Residential) to determine a valuation at 30 June 2023.

Land under roads

The Valuer General issued adjusted unit rates by class in relation to this valuation effective 1 July 2019, with these rates being applied by Councils Officers to its Land under roads asset as at 1 July 2019

BUILDINGS

The fair value of buildings was determined by LG Valuation Services Pty Ltd as at 1 July 2019. Council Officers have applied a Non-Residential building construction index factor of 4.6% (10.9% 30 June 2022) obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics to determine a valuation as at 30 June 2023.

Where there is a market for Council building assets, fair value has been derived from the sales prices of comparable properties after adjusting for differences in key attributes such as property size. The most significant input into this valuation approach was price per square metre.

Where Council buildings are of a specialist nature (eg heritage buildings) and there is no active market for the assets, fair value has been determined on the basis of replacement with a new asset having similar service potential. The gross current values have been derived from reference to market data for recent projects and costing guides.

In determining the level of accumulated depreciation the asset has been disaggregated into significant components which exhibit useful lives. Allowance has been made for the typical asset life cycle and renewal treatments of each component, residual value at the time the asset is considered to be no longer available for use.

While the unit rates based on square metres can be supported by market evidence (level 2), the estimates of residual value and useful life that are used to calculate accumulated depreciation comprise unobservable inputs (level 3). Where these other inputs are significant to the valuation the overall valuation has been classified as level 3.

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

All Council infrastructure assets were fair valued using written down current replacement cost. This valuation comprises the asset's current replacement cost (CRC) less accumulated depreciation calculated on the basis of such cost to reflect the already consumed or expired future economic benefits of the asset. Council first determined the gross cost of replacing the full service potential of the asset and then adjusted this amount to take account of the expired service potential of the asset.

CRC was measured by reference to the lowest cost at which the gross future economic benefits of the asset could currently be obtained in the normal course of business. The resulting valuation reflects the cost of replacing the existing economic benefits based on an efficient set of modern equivalent assets to achieve the required level of service output.

The unit rates (labour and materials) and quantities applied to determine the CRC of an asset or asset component were based on a "Greenfield" assumption meaning that the CRC was determined as the full cost of replacement with a new asset including components that may not need to be replaced, such as earthworks.

The level of accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets was determined based on the age of the asset and the useful life adopted by Council for the asset type. Estimated useful lives and residual values are disclosed in note 6.1.

The calculation of CRC involves a number of inputs that require judgement and are therefore classed as unobservable. While these judgements are made by qualified and experienced staff, different judgements could result in a different valuation.

The methods for calculating CRC are described under individual asset categories below.

Roads, including footpaths and cycleways

A full Assessment and Valuation of Roads and Streets was undertaken by Moloney Asset Management Systems as at 1 July 2019. Council Officers having applied this valuation to its Road Infrastructure Asset at the effective date have subsequently applied a Road and Bridges Construction Australia index factor of 6.2% (8.8% 30 June 2022) obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics to determine a valuation as at 30 June 2023.

Council categorises its road infrastructure into urban and rural roads and then further sub-categorises these into sealed and unsealed roads. Urban roads and rural roads are managed in segments of varying lengths. All road segments are then componentised into formation, pavement, sub-pavement and seal (where applicable). Council assumes that environmental factors such as soil type, climate and topography are consistent across each segment. Council also assumes a segment is designed and constructed to the same standard and uses a consistent amount of labour and materials. As part of this valuation process each segment of road was individually assessed.

CRC is based on the road area multiplied by a unit price; the unit price being an estimate of labour and material inputs, services costs, and overhead allocations. Council assumes that pavements are constructed to depths of x cms for high traffic areas and y cms for lower traffic locations. For internal construction estimates, material and services prices are based on existing supplier contract rates or supplier price lists and labour wage rates are based on Council's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA). Where construction is outsourced, CRC is based on the average of completed similar projects over the last few years.

Bridges

A full valuation of bridges assets was undertaken by independent valuers, AusSpan, effective 30 June 2023. Each bridge is assessed individually and componentised into sub-assets representing the deck and sub-structure. The valuation is based on the material type used for construction and the deck and sub-structure area.

Drainage

A full valuation of Drainage was undertaken by Consulting Engineers Pitt & Sherry as at 1 July 2020. Council Officers having applied this valuation to its Stormwater Infrastructure Asset at the effective date

have subsequently applied an Other heavy and civil engineering construction index factor of 5.1% (9.1% 30 June 2022) obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics to determine a valuation as at 30 June 2023. Similar to roads, drainage assets are managed in segments; pits and pipes being the major components. Consistent with roads, Council assumes that environmental factors such as soil type, climate and topography are consistent across each segment and that a segment is designed and constructed to the same standard and uses a consistent amount of labour and materials.

CRC is based on the unit price for the component type. For pipes, the unit price is multiplied by the asset's length. The unit price for pipes is based on the construction material as well as the depth the pipe is laid.

Investment in Water Corporation

Council's investment in TasWater is valued at its fair value at balance date. Fair value was determined by using Council's ownership interest against the Water and Sewerage Corporation's net asset value at balance date. Council's ownership interest in TasWater, which is based on Schedule 2 of the Corporation's Constitution, decreased from 2.39% at 30 June 2022 to 2.33% at 30 June 2023.

Council's investment is not traded in an active market and is only sensitive to fluctuations in the value of TasWater's net assets.

(d) Changes in recurring level 3 fair value measurements

There have been no transfers between level 1, 2 or 3 measurements during the year.

9.5 EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER BALANCE DATE

Nil.

(i) Councillor remuneration

2023	Period	ALLOWANCES \$	TOTAL COMPENSATION AASB 124 \$	EXPENSES ¹ \$	TOTAL ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES \$
Mayor	Full Year	58,103	58,103	17,171	75,274
Deputy Mayor	Full Year	47,468	47,468	1,209	48,677
Councillors	Full Year	99,288	99,288	6,471	105,759
Total		204,859	204,859	24,851	229,710

2022	Period	ALLOWANCES \$	TOTAL COMPENSATION AASB 124 \$	EXPENSES ¹ \$	TOTAL ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES \$
Mayor	Full Year	56,414	56,414	13,415	69,829
Deputy Mayor	Full Year	31,470	31,470	-	31,470
Councillors	Full Year	111,552	111,552	8,365	119,917
Total		199,436	199,436	21,780	221,216

¹ Section 72(1)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires the disclosure of expenses paid to Councillors. (Travel, Telephone and Information technology)

NOTE 10: OTHER MATTERS

10.1 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

(a) Responsible persons

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

COUNCILLORS:

- Clr Dick Adams
- Clr Alison Andrews (from 1 November 2022)
- Clr Richard Archer (from 1 November 2022)
- Clr Matthew Brooks
- Clr Andrew Calvert (until 31 October 2022)
- Clr Jan Davis (until 31 October 2022)
- Clr Ian Gonion (until 31 October 2022)
- Clr Richard Goss (Deputy Mayor until 31 October 2022)
- Mayor Mary Knowles
- Deputy Mayor Janet Lambet (Deputy Mayor from 1 November 2022)
- Clr Andrew McCullagh (from 1 November 2022)
- Clr Paul Terrett (from 1 November 2022)
- Clr Michael Polley (until 31 October 2022)

STAFF:

- General Manager – Des Jennings
- Corporate Services Manager / Acting General Manager – Maree Bricknell
- Project Manager – Trent Atkinson
- Works and Infrastructure Manager – Leigh McCullagh

10.1 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (CONTINUED)

(ii) Remuneration Principles

COUNCILLORS

Remuneration levels for Councillors is set in accordance with Regulation 42(2) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2015.

SENIOR EXECUTIVES

Remuneration levels for the General Manager is set in accordance with a Common Law Contract. The employment terms and conditions of other senior executives are contained in individual employment contracts and the Northern Midlands Enterprise Agreement 2022-2025 which prescribes total remuneration, superannuation, annual and long service leave, vehicle and salary sacrifice provisions. In addition to their salaries, Council also provides non-cash benefits and contributes to post-employment superannuation plans on their behalf.

The employment terms and conditions of senior executives are contained in individual employment contracts and prescribe total remuneration, superannuation, annual and long service leave, vehicle and salary sacrifice provisions. In addition to their salaries, Council also provides non-cash benefits and contributes to post-employment superannuation plans on their behalf.

The performance of each senior executive, including the General Manager, is reviewed annually which includes a review of their remuneration package.

The terms of employment the General Manager, contains a termination clause that requires the Council provide a minimum notice period of six months prior to termination of the contract, and for the General Manager to provide Council with a minimum notice period of three months prior to termination of the contract.

(iii) Transactions with related parties

KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL REMUNERATION BANDS

Remuneration band \$	2023 NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	2022 NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
120,001 to 140,000	1	1
160,001 to 180,000	1	2
180,001 to 200,000	1	0
240,001 to 260,000	1	1

KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL REMUNERATION

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Short term employee benefits	646,830	622,775
Post employment benefits	76,372	71,753
Other long term benefits	49,962	26,291
Total	773,164	720,819

TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

NATURE OF TRANSACTION	AMOUNT OF TRANSACTION DURING THE YEAR \$	TERMS & CONDITIONS
2023		
Fees and charges ¹	903	Council's approved fees
2022		
Fees and charges ²	12,654	Council's approved fees
Supply of towing services ³	915	7 Day terms on invoice

¹ Development fees were received in relation to applications from companies which are associated with a Council KMP. The applications relate to land in Bedford Street, Charles Street, Church Street, Devon Hills Road, Gay Street and Summit Drive (2021 - Church Street, Frederick Street, Howick Street, Gay Street and Wellington Street).

² Council purchased in aggregate during the year towing services from NM Towing PTY Ltd, a company which has a member of Councils KMP as a director.

No balances relating to these transactions were outstanding at year end, no provision for doubtful debts has been made in relation to any of these transactions.

(iv) Loans and guarantees to/from related parties

No loan and guarantee amounts have been notified to the General Manager.

(v) Commitments to/from related parties

No commitments have been notified to the General Manager.

(vi) Transactions with related parties that have not been disclosed

Most of the entities and people that are related parties of council live and operate within the municipality. Therefore, on a regular basis ordinary citizen transactions occur between Council and its related parties. Some examples include:

- Payment of rates on a primary residence/ farm
- Dog registration and Kennel Licenses
- Use of Council's recreational facilities

Council has not included these types of transaction in its disclosure, where they are made on the same terms and conditions available to the general public.

10.2 OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND PENDING ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

(a) Taxation

Council is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax, Payroll Tax and the Goods and Services Tax.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

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

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

(b) Impairment of non-financial assets

At each reporting date, Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the Statement of Other Comprehensive Income, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation reserve in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset. For non-cash generating assets of Council such as roads, drains, public buildings and the like, value in use is represented by the deprival value of the asset approximated by its written down replacement cost.

(c) Allocation between current and non-current

In the determination of whether an asset or liability is current or non-current, consideration is given to the time when each asset or liability is expected to be settled. The asset or liability is classified as current if it is expected to be settled within the next twelve months, being Council's operational cycle, or if Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting date.

(d) Financial guarantees

Financial guarantee contracts are recognised as a liability at the time the guarantee is issued. The liability is initially measured at fair value, and if there is material increase in the likelihood that the guarantee may have to be exercised, at the higher of the amount determined in accordance with AASB 137 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets* and the amount initially recognised less cumulative amortisation, where appropriate. In the determination of fair value, consideration is given to factors including the probability of default by the guaranteed party and the likely loss to Council in the event of default.

(e) Contingent assets, contingent liabilities and commitments

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position, but are disclosed by way of a note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

Commitments are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value inclusive of the GST payable. There is no contingent assets, liabilities and commitments identified by council as on 30th June'23.

(f) Budget

The estimated revenue and expense amounts in the Statement of Other Comprehensive Income represent revised budget amounts (20/02/23) and are not audited.

(g) Adoption of new and amended accounting standards

In the current year, Council has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current annual reporting period.

(h) Pending Accounting Standards

Nil.

10.3 MANAGEMENT INDICATORS

(a) Underlying surplus or deficit

	BENCH -MARK	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Recurrent income*		22,758	22,896	19,609	19,306
Less recurrent expenditure		(23,872)	(20,795)	(19,894)	(20,483)
Underlying surplus/ (deficit)	0	(1,114)	2,101	(285)	(1,177)

*Recurrent income excludes income received specifically for new or upgraded assets, physical resources received free of charge or other income of a capital nature..

COMMENTARY

A negative result indicates a deficit which is unable to be sustained in the long term, while Council has had a negative result in two of the last four years Council has achieved a positive result in the current year, believes it is sustainable in the long term and continues to work towards maintaining a ongoing positive result.

(b) Underlying surplus ratio

	BENCH -MARK	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Underlying surplus or deficit		(1,114)	2,101	(285)	(1,177)
Recurrent income*		22,758	22,896	19,609	19,306
Underlying surplus ratio %	0%	(5%)	9%	(1%)	(6%)

This ratio serves as an overall measure of financial operating effectiveness.

COMMENTARY

A negative result indicates a deficit which is unable to be sustained in the long term, while Council has had a negative result in two of the last four years Council has achieved a positive result in the current year, believes it is sustainable in the long term and continues to work towards maintaining a ongoing positive result.

(c) Net financial assets/(liabilities)

	BENCH -MARK	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Liquid assets		19,461	24,666	14,248	11,384
Less total liabilities		(7,260)	(14,608)	(13,196)	(12,430)
Net financial liabilities	0	12,202	10,058	1,052	(1,046)

COMMENTARY

A positive result indicates Council's ability to meet its liabilities from its liquid assets.

(d) Net financial assets/(liabilities) ratio

	BENCH -MARK	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Net financial liabilities		12,202	10,058	1,052	(1,046)
Recurrent income*		22,758	22,896	19,609	19,306
Net financial liabilities ratio %	0% – (50%)	54%	44%	5%	(5%)

COMMENTARY

A positive result indicates Council's ability to meet its liabilities from its liquid assets.

(e) Asset consumption ratio

An asset consumption ratio has been calculated in relation to each asset class required to be included in the long-term strategic asset management plan of Council.

	BENCH -MARK	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Buildings					
Fair value (Carrying amount)		50,513	43,323	38,534	32,047
Current replacement cost (Gross)		72,659	63,803	57,311	48,577
Asset consumption ratio %		70%	68%	67%	66%
Road and bridge infrastructure					
Fair value (Carrying amount)		279,121	258,349	238,577	234,157
Current replacement cost (Gross)		394,368	362,463	332,550	324,060
Asset consumption ratio %		71%	71%	72%	72%
Drainage					
Fair value (Carrying amount)		39,235	37,256	34,213	32,395
Current replacement cost (Gross)		52,920	49,879	45,371	42,731
Asset consumption ratio %		74%	75%	75%	76%

COMMENTARY

These ratios show the depreciated replacement cost of classes of depreciable assets relative to their "as new" (replacement) value. They therefore show the average proportion of new condition left in the assets. Councils ratios for Roads and Bridge Infrastructure and Stormwater and Drainage have consistently over the four year period been above the established benchmark of 60% indicating, an appropriate level of investment in renewal of these asset classes..

(f) Asset renewal funding ratio

An asset renewal funding ratio has been calculated in relation to each asset class required to be included in the long-term strategic asset management plan of Council.

	BENCH -MARK	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Buildings					
Projected capital funding outlays**		9,615	16,407	10,916	10,916
Projected capital expenditure funding***		4,116	4,116	4,116	4,466
Asset renewal funding ratio %	90-100%	234%	399%	265%	244%
Road and bridge infrastructure					
Projected capital funding outlays**		48,796	43,170	29,509	29,509
Projected capital expenditure funding***		29,720	30,986	24,965	24,993
Asset renewal funding ratio %	90-100%	164%	139%	118%	118%
Drainage					
Projected capital funding outlays**		1,044	2,250	2,150	2,150
Projected capital expenditure funding***		684	684	684	390
Asset renewal funding ratio %	90-100%	153%	329%	314%	551%

** Current value of projected capital funding outlays for an asset identified in Council's long-term financial plan.

*** Value of projected capital expenditure funding for an asset identified in Council's long-term strategic asset management plan.

COMMENTARY

This ratio measures the capacity to fund asset replacement requirements, by comparing funding outlays in the Councils long-term financial plan with projected capital expenditure in Council's long-term strategic asset management plans. In all years the asset classes reported have exceeded the benchmark.

Asset sustainability ratio

	BENCH -MARK	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Capex on replacement/renewal of existing assets		2,931	5,750	4,666	5,280
Annual depreciation expense		7,219	6,631	6,356	6,284
Asset sustainability ratio %	100%	41%	87%	73%	84%

This ratio calculates the extent to which Council is maintaining operating capacity through renewal of their existing asset base.

COMMENTARY

This ratio compares the rate of spending on existing infrastructure, property, plant and equipment through renewing, restoring and replacing existing assets against depreciation. Councils average ratio of 98% over the past four years is below the benchmark of 100%, however this is a long term indicator as depreciation costs tend to be relatively stable over a period of time, whereas capital renewal can tend to be much more variable.

Council has focused its building asset related works in the last two years on substantial upgrades of its existing building stock rather than renewals, this has significantly reduced this ratio in the most recent three reporting periods.

2023	CAPITAL RENEWAL EXPENDITURE \$'000	CAPITAL NEW/UPGRADE EXPENDITURE \$'000	TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE \$'000
By asset class			
Land	13	314	327
Buildings	(67)	4,526	4,459
Heritage Assets	17	9	26
Furniture, Fittings, Office Equipment & Computers	5	213	218
Fleet	225	59	284
Plant	144	1,051	1,195
Road Infrastructure	2,280	1,535	3,815
Flood Levee Infrastructure	-	149	149
Bridges	13	148	161
Drainage	301	238	539
Total	2,931	8,242	11,173

2022	CAPITAL RENEWAL EXPENDITURE \$'000	CAPITAL NEW/UPGRADE EXPENDITURE \$'000	TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE \$'000
By asset class			
Land	13	56	69
Buildings	1,451	1,110	2,561
Heritage Assets	0	101	101
Furniture, Fittings, Office Equipment & Computers	99	151	250
Fleet	236	73	309
Plant	180	494	674
Road Infrastructure	3,107	843	3,950
Bridges	606	47	653
Drainage	58	251	309
Total	5,750	3,126	8,876

Certification of the Financial Report

The financial report presents fairly the financial position of the Northern Midlands Council as at 30 June 2023 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (as amended). Australian Accounting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements issued by the Australian Standards Board.



Maree Bricknell

Acting General Manager

Date: 2 October 2023



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Northern Midlands Council

Northern Midlands Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of Northern Midlands Council (Council), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023 and statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement of certification signed by the General Manager.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report:

- (a) presents fairly, in all material respects, Council's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended
- (b) is in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. I am independent of Council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

The *Audit Act 2008* further promotes the independence of the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Tasmanian public sector entities and can only be removed by Parliament. The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which audit powers are to be exercised. The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

My audit responsibility does not extend to the budget figures included in the financial report, nor the asset renewal funding ratio disclosed in note 10.3 to the financial report and accordingly, I express no opinion on them. Furthermore, I express no opinion on the General Manager's determination that Council did not have any Significant Business Activities for

inclusion in the financial report as required by Section 84(2)(da) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

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

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in my professional judgement, were of most significance in my audit of the financial report of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of my audit of the financial report as a whole, and in forming my opinion thereon, and I do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Why this matter is considered to be one of the most significant matters in the audit	Audit procedures to address the matter included
Valuation of property and infrastructure Refer to notes 6.1 and 9.4	
<p>At 30 June 2023, Council’s assets included land, land under roads, buildings and infrastructure assets valued at fair value totalling \$404.73 million. The fair values of these assets are based on market values and current replacement cost.</p> <p>Council undertakes formal revaluations on a regular basis to ensure valuations represent fair value. In between valuations, Council considers the application of indexation to ensure the carrying values reflect fair values.</p> <p>During 2022-23, Council undertook a full revaluation of bridge assets. Indexation was applied to land, buildings, roads, and drainage assets. The valuations were determined by experts and are highly dependent upon a range of assumptions and estimated unit rates.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing the scope, expertise and independence of experts involved to assist in the valuations. • Evaluating the appropriateness of the valuation methodology applied to determine fair values. • Critically assessed assumptions and other key inputs into the valuation model. • Reviewing the mathematical accuracy of valuation model calculations. • Evaluating indexation applied to assets between formal valuations. • Reviewing the reconciliation of asset balances in the general ledger to the underlying fixed asset register. • Evaluating the adequacy of disclosures made in the financial report, including those regarding key assumptions used.

Responsibilities of the General Manager for the Financial Report

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

In preparing the financial report, the General Manager is responsible for assessing Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Council is to be dissolved by an Act of Parliament or the Councillors intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

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

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

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

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

From the matters communicated with the General Manager, I determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial report of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. I describe these matters in my auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in my report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.



David Bond
Assistant Auditor-General
Delegate of the Auditor-General
Tasmanian Audit Office

5 October 2023
Hobart



● Refurbished Cressy Pool

Contact us

Street address

13 Smith Street, Longford, TAS 7301, Australia

Postal address

PO Box 156, Longford, TAS 7301, Australia

Tel: (03) 6397 7303

Fax: (03) 6397 7331

Email: council@nmc.tas.gov.au

www.northernmidlands.tas.gov.au