

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA



6:00 pm on Monday October 14, 2024

Livestreaming at <https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/about-us/council/council-meetings#live-stream>
Broadcast live on Phoenix FM 106.7

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<https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/about-us/council/council-meetings#register-attend-meeting>
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COMMUNITY VISION 2021–2031

Greater Bendigo celebrates our diverse community.

We are welcoming, sustainable and prosperous.

Walking hand-in-hand with the Traditional custodians of this land.

Building on our rich heritage for a bright and happy future.

The community vision is underpinned by five values –
Transparency, sustainability, inclusion, innovation and equity.

COUNCIL PLAN (MIR WIMBUL) – OUTCOMES

The [Council Plan](#) (Mir wimbul) is based on seven outcomes, which are the main focus of the Council Plan.

Each outcome has a set of goals, objectives and actions that will help to achieve the community vision, and indicators to measure achievement against each goal:

1. Lead and govern for all
 2. Healthy, liveable spaces and places
 3. Strong, inclusive and sustainable economy
 4. Aboriginal reconciliation
 5. A climate-resilient built and natural environment
 6. A vibrant, creative community
 7. A safe, welcoming and fair community
-

STAFF VALUES AND BEHAVIOURS

The City of Greater Bendigo's [values and behaviours](#) describe how Councillors and staff will work together to be the best we can for our community.

They are aligned to our strategic documents, such as the Council Plan, which ensure they are meaningful for Council and the organisation.

A shared commitment to living our values and behaviours will help us to build the type of culture we need to be able to work together and support each other to deliver the best possible outcomes for the community.



This Council Meeting is conducted in accordance with the

- Local Government Act 2020
- [Governance Rules](#)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	5
2. TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE STATEMENT	5
3. OPENING STATEMENT	5
4. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION	5
5. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	5
6. LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	5
7. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS	5
8. COMMUNITY RECOGNITION	5
9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	5
10. RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS.....	5
11. COUNCILLOR RECOGNITION AND REFLECTIONS (2020 - 2024)	6
11.1. Recognition of Retiring Councillors	6
11.2. Cr Jennifer Alden Reflections	19
11.3. Cr Matthew Evans Reflections	19
11.4. Cr David Fagg Reflections	19
11.5. Cr Margaret O'Rourke OAM Reflections.....	19
11.6. Cr Greg Penna Reflections	19
11.7. Cr Julie Sloan Reflections	19
11.8. Cr Rod Fyffe OAM In Memoriam	19
12. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST	19
13. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES	20
14. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS	20
15. LEAD AND GOVERN FOR ALL	21
15.1. Contracts Awarded Under Delegation	21
15.2. Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes	23

15.3. Annual Report 2023/2024	42
16. HEALTHY, LIVEABLE SPACES AND PLACES.....	233
16.1. 8 Highbury Court, Strathdale - Alterations and Extension to Existing Dwelling	233
17. STRONG, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY	270
18. ABORIGINAL RECONCILIATION	270
19. A CLIMATE-RESILIENT BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	270
20. A VIBRANT, CREATIVE COMMUNITY	270
21. A SAFE, WELCOMING AND FAIR COMMUNITY	270
22. URGENT BUSINESS	270
23. NOTICES OF MOTION	270
24. MAYOR'S REPORT	270
25. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT.....	270
26. CONFIDENTIAL (SECTION 66) REPORTS	271

- 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**
- 2. TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE STATEMENT**
- 3. OPENING STATEMENT**
- 4. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**
- 5. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**
- 6. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
- 7. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

RECOMMENDED MOTION

That Standing Orders be suspended to allow the conduct of the Community Recognition Section and Public Question Time.

8. COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Public Question Time is suspended during the Election Period in accordance with the [Election Period Policy](#).

10. RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

RECOMMENDED MOTION

That Standing Orders be resumed.

11. COUNCILLOR RECOGNITION AND REFLECTIONS (2020 - 2024)

11.1. Recognition of Retiring Councillors

Author:	Tiffany O'Connell, Governance Officer - Mayoral Support
Responsible Director:	Jessica Howard, Director Corporate Performance

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to acknowledge the service to the community of Councillors not recontesting the local government election in October 2024. This includes Councillors Jennifer Alden, Matthew Evans, David Fagg, Margaret O'Rourke OAM, Greg Penna, Julie Sloan and the late Rod Fyffe OAM.

Background

The October 14 Council Meeting is the last Council meeting for the 2020-2024 Council. It is a fitting opportunity for Councillors to formally recognise their years of service to the Eppalock, Lockwood and Whipstick Wards and the Greater Bendigo community.

Report

Council Achievements 2020 - 2024

2020 (Council elected in October)

- The City became the first local government in Australia to be accredited as a Welcoming City by the Welcoming Cities Network.
- The City announced plans for new female-friendly and accessible facilities at Strathfieldsaye Sports Centre community hub.

2021

- The 2021/2022 Budget included a \$2M COVID-19 support package for businesses and the community. It included \$729,000 for business support grants, which supported 104 local businesses.
- Council adopted a new Council Plan, community vision, 10-year Financial Plan, and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.
- The new Kangaroo Flat Library opened on Lockwood Road.
- The City was one of 46 Victorian councils to sign onto the Victorian Energy Collaboration, the largest-ever emissions reduction project undertaken by local government in Australia. The City's electricity is now powered with 100 per cent renewables.
- Construction started on the Larni Garingilang precinct at the Bendigo Botanic Gardens.

- The City of Sandhurst's 150th anniversary was marked with a plaque unveiling and a collection of Mayoress portraits was installed in the Bendigo Town Hall Council Chamber.
- The City purchased 155 hectares of land in Marong to support the development of the Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct.
- The Climate Change and Environment Strategy was adopted.
- *Djaara Lights* display unveiled in the City Centre.
- Construction on the Ewing Park precinct redevelopment and Mercy Junortoun Sports Precinct started.
- The updated Domestic Animal Management Plan was adopted.
- The updated Reducing Harm from Gambling Policy was adopted.

2022

- Bendigo Art Gallery exhibition *Elvis: Direct from Graceland* attracted more than 200,000 people.
- A Progress Pride Flag was unveiled on the forecourt of the Bendigo Town Hall as a symbol of support for the LGBTIQ+ community.
- The Gender Equality Action Plan and the Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan were adopted.
- Construction started on the Bendigo Airport terminal expansion and business park.
- The Bendigo Easter Fair celebrated 150 years.
- Bendigo Writers Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary.
- The Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration was launched to support the City's goal of zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- The Active and Healthy Greater Bendigo Framework was adopted to guide investment in sport and recreation opportunities.
- The City welcomed Ukrainian Ambassador to Australia, Vasyl Myroshnychenko, at a civic reception.
- The City and Bendigo Art Gallery appointed Jackson Clements Burrows and Clare Design to design the Gallery's expansion project.
- Kennington Recreation Reserve's pavilion redevelopment opened.
- The City coordinated the Emergency Relief Centre at the Bendigo Showgrounds in response to the impacts of floods in the region.
- The Larni Garingilang precinct at the Bendigo Botanic Gardens was opened.
- A permanent First Nations gallery, Djaa Djuwima was opened in the Bendigo Visitor Centre.
- The new Lake Weeroona play space opened in time for the Christmas school holidays.

2023

- Free soft plastic drop off points were set up at Strathfieldsaye, Goornong and Heathcote transfer stations, and at the Eaglehawk Recycle Shop.

- Council endorsed the Zero Carbon – Net Zero Emissions Plan for Council operations 2023- 2030.
- Bendigo became the first regional city in Australia to stage Richard Wagner's epic opera series, the Ring Cycle.
- The Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme Review 2022 was adopted to enhance the scheme's effectiveness.
- A new Youth Action Plan was approved.
- Work started on the redevelopment of the former Municipal Baths.
- The Positive Ageing Action Plan adopted, which outlined its commitment to older adults in the community.
- A majority of City staff moved into Galkangu – Bendigo GovHub.
- The Community Aquatic Facilities Strategy was adopted to guide investment in public aquatic facilities for the next 10 years.
- Mercy Junortoun Sports Precinct opened.
- Hargreaves Mall Action Plan was adopted to revitalise Hargreaves Mall and City Centre.
- Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was adopted.
- Stage two of the Ewing Park redevelopment was completed.
- City farewells CEO Craig Niemann and appoints new CEO Andrew Cooney.
- Planning Scheme Amendment adopted to protect miners' cottages built during the gold rush.
- Purchase of Ryalls Lane, Strathfieldsaye.
- Purchase of BARC.

2024

- Bendigo Athletics Track renamed Lar Birpa.
- City responds to three significant flood events and continued impacts across the municipality.
- Bendigo producers showcased at the G'Day USA Gala event in Los Angeles.
- Indian Consul-General, Dr Sushil Kumar, and the Indian High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr Gopal Baglay, visited Bendigo.
- The 150th anniversary of Australia's first women's cricket match, which was played in Bendigo, was celebrated with a commemorative game between Bendigo and Ballarat.
- Council endorses upgrades to the Bendigo Bowls Club and Croquet Club, Bendigo Showgrounds and Bendigo Stadium funded by the Victorian Government.
- E-scooter trial is launched in Bendigo.
- Council adopted the Managed Growth Strategy.
- Works on Strathfieldsaye Town Square commenced - a major \$1.5M project to create a town square and commercial heart where residents can shop, gather, meet, attend events and enjoy.
- The \$3M second stage of the redevelopment of the main building at the Strathfieldsaye Community Hub, Club Court was completed.

- Textile and soft plastics drop off made available at Eaglehawk, Strathfieldsaye, Goornong or Heathcote transfer stations.
- From February 2024 the weekly pick up of the residential organics bin commenced.
- Purchase of Backhaus Oval finalised.

Cr Jennifer Alden

Cr Alden has been a Councillor with the City of Greater Bendigo since 2016 and served as Mayor 2020/21 and Deputy Mayor 2017/18 and 2022/23. Whilst Mayor, Cr Alden was Chair, Loddon Campaspe Councils Group and Deputy Chair for Regional Cities Victoria.

Cr Alden served on the following committees during the 2016 – 2020 Council term.

2016-2017

Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee
Finance Committee
Greater Bendigo Rural Support Network
Rural Communities Committee
Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee

2017-2018

Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee
Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance
Finance Committee
Greater Bendigo Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan Community Reference Group
Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee

2018-2019

Audit Committee
Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee
Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance
City of Gastronomy Application Management Team (internal)
City of Gastronomy Application Reference and Advisory Group
Farming Advisory Committee
Finance Committee
Gender Equity Working Group (Internal) and Gender Equity Coalition (External)
Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee

2019-2020

Affordable Housing Action Plan Project Steering Committee
Audit Committee
Bendigo Tourism Board Incorporated

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance
City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee
Finance Committee
Gender Equity Working Group and Gender Equity Coalition
Public Spaces Advisory Committee
Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee

Cr Alden served as a Council representative on the following committees during the current term:

2020-2021

Audit and Risk Committee
Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee
Bendigo Safe Community Forum
Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA) Board
Creative City of Gastronomy Committee
Economic Statement and Strategy Steering Committee
Finance Committee
Food System Strategy Reference Group
Gender Equity Coalition
Greater Bendigo Pandemic Relief and Recovery Committee
Industrial Land Development Steering Committee
Public Spaces Advisory Committee
Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)

2021-2022

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA) Board
Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee
Finance Committee
Food System Strategy Reference Group
Greater Bendigo Climate Collaborative (formally Bendigo Drawdown Project)
Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
Public Spaces Advisory Committee
Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)

2022-2023

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA) Board
Finance Committee
Food System Strategy Reference Group
Greater Bendigo Climate Collaborative
Healthy Greater Bendigo Partnership Group
Public Spaces Advisory Committee
Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee
Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)

2023-2024

Bendigo Art Gallery Board

Bendigo Writers Festival

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA) Board

Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee

Farming and Agribusiness Advisory Committee

Finance Committee

Food System Strategy Reference Group

Cr Matthew Evans

Cr Evans has been a Councillor with the City of Greater Bendigo since 2020 and served as Deputy Mayor 2021/22 and 2023/24.

Cr Evans served as a Council representative on the following committees during this term:

2020-2021

Arts and Creative Industries Advisory Committee

Bendigo Easter Festival Reference Group

Bendigo Invention and Innovation Festival (BIIF) Executive Committee

Bendigo Tourism Board Incorporated (deputy)

Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan Steering Committee

Finance Committee

Gender Equity Coalition

Public Spaces Advisory Committee

2021-2022

Arts and Creative Industries Advisory Committee

Bendigo Tourism Board Incorporated

Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan Steering Committee

Disability Inclusion Reference Committee (DIRC)

Finance Committee

Pandemic Relief and Recovery Committee

2022-2023

Arts and Creative Industries Advisory Committee

Bendigo Tourism Board Incorporated

Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan Steering Committee

Disability Inclusion Reference Committee (DIRC)

Finance Committee

2023-2024

Arts and Creative Industries Advisory Committee
Bendigo Tourism Board Incorporated
Disability Inclusion Reference Committee (DIRC)
Finance Committee

Cr David Fagg

Cr Fagg has been a Councillor with the City of Greater Bendigo since 2020.

Cr Fagg served as a Council representative on the following committees during this term:

2020-2021

Affordable Housing Acton Plan Project Steering Committee
Bendigo Manufacturing Group
Finance Committee
Municipal Fire Management Committee
Public Spaces Advisory Committee

2021-2022

Finance Committee
Heritage Advisory Committee

2022-2023

Finance Committee
Heritage Advisory Committee

2023-2024

Finance Committee
Heritage Advisory Committee

Cr Margaret O'Rourke OAM

Cr O'Rourke OAM has been a Councillor with the City of Greater Bendigo since 2016 and has served as Mayor four times 2016 – 2020.

Whilst Mayor, Cr O'Rourke OAM served in the following roles.

Chair Regional Cities Victoria (2017, 2018 & 2019)
Chair Loddon Campaspe Councils Group (2016-2020)
Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel (2017 & 2019)
Commenced the Pandemic Committee of leaders in Greater Bendigo.

Cr O'Rourke OAM served on the following committees during the 2016 – 2020 Council term.

2016-2017

Audit Committee
Bendigo Airport Advisory Committee
Disability Inclusion Reference Group
Farming Advisory Committee
Finance Committee
Greater Bendigo Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan Community Reference Group

2017-2018

Audit Committee
Bendigo Airport Advisory Committee
Disability Inclusion Reference Group
Epsom Ascot Huntly Structural Flood Mitigation Advisory Group
Farming Advisory Committee
Finance Committee
Greater Bendigo Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan Community Reference Group
Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy (ITLUS) Community Reference Group
Plan Greater Bendigo Steering Committee
Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee

2018-2019

Audit Committee
Bendigo Manufacturing Group (BMG)
Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee
City of Gastronomy Application Management Team (internal)
City of Gastronomy Application Reference and Advisory Group
Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan Community Reference Group (CDIP)
Disability Inclusion Reference Committee (DIRC)
Farming Advisory Committee
Finance Committee
Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy (ITLUS) Community Reference Group
Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy (ITLUS) Steering Committee
Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee

2019-2020

Audit Committee
Bendigo Manufacturing Group (BMG)
Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee
Bendigo Safe Community Forum
City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee
Community Buildings Policy Project Working Group

Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan Steering Committee
Disability Inclusion Reference Committee
Economic Statement and Strategy Steering Committee
Farming Advisory Committee
Finance Committee
Gender Equity Working Group and Gender Equity Coalition
Industrial Land Development Steering Committee
Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee
Wolstencroft Reserve Community Reference Group

Cr O'Rourke OAM served as a Council representative on the following committees during the current term:

2020-2021

Audit and Risk Committee
Bendigo Manufacturing Group
Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee
Bendigo Tourism Board Incorporated
Creative City of Gastronomy Committee
Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan Steering Committee
Disability Inclusion Reference Committee (DIRC)
Farming and Agribusiness Advisory Committee
Finance Committee
Municipal Association of Victoria (deputy)
National Chinese Museum of Australia Limited trading as Golden Dragon Museum
Rural Communities Committee
Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)

2021-2022

Audit and Risk Committee
Bendigo Manufacturing Group
Finance Committee
National Chinese Museum of Australia Limited trading as Golden Dragon Museum

2022-2023

Audit and Risk Committee
Bendigo Manufacturing Group
Finance Committee
Municipal Association of Victoria (deputy)
National Chinese Museum of Australia Limited trading as Golden Dragon Museum

2023-2024

Audit and Risk Committee
Bendigo Manufacturing Group

Finance Committee
Municipal Association of Victoria
National Chinese Museum of Australia Limited trading as Golden Dragon Museum
Public Spaces Advisory Committee

Cr Greg Penna

Cr Penna has been a Councillor with the City of Greater Bendigo since 2020.

Cr Penna served as a Council representative on the following committees during this term:

2020-2021

Bendigo Airport Stakeholders Committee
Bendigo Manufacturing Group
Calder Highway Improvement Committee
Finance Committee
Positive Ageing Advisory Committee

2021-2022

Calder Highway Improvement Committee
Finance Committee
Fosterville Gold Mine Environmental Review Committee
Positive Ageing Advisory Committee

2022-2023

Calder Highway Improvement Committee
Finance Committee
Fosterville Gold Mine Environmental Review Committee
Positive Ageing Advisory Committee

2023-2024

Bendigo Agricultural Show Society CoM
Calder Highway Improvement Committee
Finance Committee
Fosterville Gold Mine Environmental Review Committee
Positive Ageing Advisory Committee

Cr Julie Sloan

Cr Sloan has been a Councillor with the City of Greater Bendigo since 2020.

Cr Sloan served as a Council representative on the following committees during this term:

2020-2021

Arts and Creative Industries Advisory Committee
Audit and Risk Committee (observer only)
Bendigo Livestock Exchange Stakeholders Group
Bendigo Manufacturing Group
Creative City of Gastronomy Committee (observer only)
Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan Steering Committee
Finance Committee
Gender Equity Coalition
Greater Bendigo Pandemic Relief and Recovery Committee (deputy)
Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group Forum (deputy)
Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)

2021-2022

Audit and Risk Committee
Bendigo Livestock Exchange Stakeholders Group
Finance Committee
Fosterville Gold Mine Environmental Review Committee
Greater Bendigo Coalition for Gender Equity
Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)

2022-2023

Audit and Risk Committee
Bendigo Livestock Exchange Stakeholders Group (resigned in April 2023)
Finance Committee
Fosterville Gold Mine Environmental Review Committee
Greater Bendigo Coalition for Gender Equity
Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)

2023-2024

Audit and Risk Committee
Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan Steering Committee
Finance Committee
Greater Bendigo Coalition for Gender Equity
Greater Bendigo Environment Partnership

Cr Rod Fyffe OAM

Cr Fyffe served as Mayor four times 2003/04, 2004/05, 2010/11, 2015/16 and Deputy Mayor twice in 2016/17 and 2018/19.

Cr Fyffe has been quoted as saying some of his proudest decisions as a Councillor include voting to fly the Aboriginal Flag on the Bendigo Town Hall and returning Council meetings to the historic Bendigo Town Hall. He loved spending time in the Chamber making decisions and fulfilling the Councillor role to the best of his ability.

Some of the important projects that held a special place in his heart include construction of the new Bendigo Hospital, development of the Bendigo Art Gallery and the visioning of the View Street arts precinct. Cr Fyffe contributed to 38 budgets.

Cr Fyffe was appointed as Council representative to many committees over his 38 years on Council. Cr Fyffe served as Council representative on the following committees during this term:

2020-2021

Arts and Creatives Industries Advisory Committee
Bendigo Agricultural Show Society
Bendigo Art Gallery Board
Bendigo Easter Festival Reference Group
Bendigo Livestock Exchange Stakeholders Group (deputy)
Bendigo Regional Archive Centre (BRAC) Committee of Management
Calder Highway Improvement Committee (deputy)
Farming and Agribusiness Advisory Committee
Finance Committee
Freight Rail Alliance
Goldfields Library Corporation Board
Heritage Advisory Committee
Municipal Association of Victoria
Positive Ageing Advisory Committee
Rural Communities Committee

2021-2022

Arts and Creatives Industries Advisory Committee
Bendigo Agricultural Show Society
Bendigo Art Gallery Board
Bendigo Easter Festival Reference Group
Finance Committee
Goldfields Library Corporation Board
Municipal Association of Victoria

2022-2023

Arts and Creatives Industries Advisory Committee
Bendigo Agricultural Show Society
Bendigo Art Gallery Board
Bendigo Easter Festival Reference Group

Bendigo Writers Festival
Finance Committee
Goldfields Library Corporation Board
Municipal Association of Victoria

2023-2024

Finance Committee
Goldfields Library Corporation Board
Municipal Association of Victoria (deputy)

Policy Context

Primary Council Plan Reference

City of Greater Bendigo Council Plan *Mir wimbul* 2021-2025
Outcome 1 - Lead and govern for all

Secondary Council Plan Reference(s)

Goal 1 - Accountable, financially responsible, equitable, transparent decision making

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation or approval of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Attachments

Nil

11.2. Cr Jennifer Alden Reflections

11.3. Cr Matthew Evans Reflections

11.4. Cr David Fagg Reflections

11.5. Cr Margaret O'Rourke OAM Reflections

11.6. Cr Greg Penna Reflections

11.7. Cr Julie Sloan Reflections

11.8. Cr Rod Fyffe OAM In Memoriam

12. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) (**the Act**) provides that a relevant person must disclose a conflict of interest in respect of a matter and exclude themselves from the decision making process in relation to that matter including any discussion or vote on the matter at any Council meeting or delegated committee meeting and any action in relation to that matter.

The procedure for declaring a conflict of interest at a Council Meeting is set out at rule 18.2.4 of the Governance Rules.

Section 126 of the Act sets out that a relevant person (Councillor, member of a delegated Committee or member of Council staff) has a conflict of interest if the relevant person has a **general conflict of interest** or a **material conflict of interest**.

A relevant person has a **general conflict of interest** in a matter if an impartial, fair minded person would consider that the person's private interests could result in that person acting in a manner that is contrary to their public duty.

A relevant person has a **material conflict of interest** in a matter if an *affected person* would gain a benefit or suffer a loss depending on the outcome of the matter.

13. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

RECOMMENDED MOTION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on September 16, 2024, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed.

Previous minute location:

<https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/about-us/council/council-meetings#past-meetings>

14. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

Nil

15. LEAD AND GOVERN FOR ALL

15.1. Contracts Awarded Under Delegation

Author:	Corinne Fisher, Procurement Officer
Responsible Director:	Jessica Howard, Director Corporate Performance

Purpose

To inform Council of contracts signed under Delegation.

Recommended Motion

That Council note the contracts awarded under delegation during the previous reporting period.

Policy Context

Primary Council Plan Reference

City of Greater Bendigo Council Plan *Mir wimbul* 2021-2025
Outcome 1 - Lead and govern for all

Secondary Council Plan Reference(s)

Goal 1 - Accountable, financially responsible, equitable, transparent decision making

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation or approval of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Attachments

1. Contracts Awarded Under Delegation Council Report October 2024 [**15.1.1** - 1 page]

Capital Contracts							
Contract No	Project	Successful Contractor	Delegated Officer	Date Signed	Price (ex GST)	Practical Completion	Budget
CT000711	Annual Provision of Bridge Maintenance under a Panel Contract Arrangement	West Pacific Group Pty Ltd, CPR AUS Pty Ltd & G. & G. Engineering (Aust.) Pty Ltd	Brian Westley	19-Sep-24	Schedule of Rates	3 Years with the option of 1 x 2 years	\$100,000 per annum
Service Contracts							
Contract No	Project	Successful Contractor	Delegated Officer	Date Signed	Price (ex GST)	Contract Term & Options	Budget
Contracts Awarded at Council							
Contract No	Project	Successful Contractor	Delegated Officer	Date Signed	Price (ex GST)	Practical Completion / Contract Term & Options	Budget
CT000713	CEO Employment Remuneration Contract	TMS Consulting Pty Ltd	Kylie Cheal	26-Sep-24	Schedule of Rates	3 Years	\$18,000.00

15.2. Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes

Author:	Rachael Watts, Review Officer
Responsible Director:	Jessica Howard, Director Corporate Performance

Purpose

The Audit and Risk Committee (Committee) Charter requires the minutes of Committee meetings be provided to Council for information at the first available opportunity following each Committee meeting.

Recommended Motion

That Council:

1. Note the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on September 4, 2024; and
2. Note the minutes will be tabled for confirmation at the next Audit and Risk Committee meeting, scheduled to be held in early December, 2024.

Executive Summary

The Committee Charter requires the minutes of Committee meetings be reviewed by the Director Corporate Performance and the Committee Chair and then provided to Council for information at the next opportunity following each Committee meeting. Minutes from the Committee meeting held on September 4, 2024 are attached to this report for information.

Background

Council is committed to good governance, public transparency and accountability to the City of Greater Bendigo's community. The Committee has been established to strengthen Council's governance, risk management, financial management and to drive continuous improvement.

Report

The Committee Chair has reviewed the unconfirmed minutes of the September 4, 2024 Committee meeting and has approved their release. The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting are attached to this report.

Primary Council Plan Reference

City of Greater Bendigo Council Plan *Mir wimbul* 2021-2025

Outcome 1 - Lead and govern for all

Secondary Council Plan Reference(s)

Goal 1 - Accountable, financially responsible, equitable, transparent decision making

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation or approval of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Attachments

1. Audit and Risk Committee Minutes 4 September 2024 [**15.2.1** - 17 pages]

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES

1:00 pm WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

BENDIGO TOWN HALL

Unconfirmed

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
1.1. Welcome.....	3
1.2. Acknowledgement of Country	3
1.3. Attendance and Apologies	3
2. DECLARATIONS	4
2.1. Declarations of Interest, Conflict of Interest and Pecuniary Interest	4
3. STANDING ITEMS.....	5
3.1. Previous Minutes	5
3.2. Actions Management	6
3.3. Finance Update	6
3.4. External Auditor Update	8
3.5. Internal Auditor Update	9
3.6. Risk and Assurance Update	10
3.7. CEO Report	11
3.8. Councillor Expenses and Gifts Report	12
3.9. Employee Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Register	13
3.10. ARC Workplan for 2024	14
3.11. Internal Control Environment 2024 to 2027	15
4. GENERAL ITEMS	16
4.1. Independent Member Appointments	16
5. URGENT BUSINESS	17
6. CLOSE OF MEETING	17

1. INTRODUCTION**1.1. Welcome****1.2. Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge that the City of Greater Bendigo is on Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Country.

We would like to acknowledge and extend our appreciation to the Dja Dja Wurrung People, the Traditional Owners of the land that we are standing on today.

Today, we pay our respects to leaders and Elder's past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Dja Dja Wurrung People.

We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land, our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing and our hope that we may walk forward together in harmony and in the spirit of healing.

1.3. Attendance and Apologies**Attendance**

- Jovana Obradovic-Tantra (Chair)
- Stephen Brown
- Robert Stephenson
- Dan Butel (via TEAMS)
- Cr Andrea Metcalf
- Cr Margaret O'Rourke

- Nick Walker, HLB Mann Judd, External Auditor (via TEAMS)
- Je Lyn, HLB Mann Judd, External Auditor (via TEAMS)
- Katie Dempster, AFS and Associates Pty Ltd, Internal Auditor
- Andrew Cooney, Chief Executive Officer
- Jessica Howard, Director Corporate Performance
- Nathan Morsillo, Manager Financial Strategy
- Erin Haughton, Acting Coordinator Finance Operations
- Jessica Clarke-Hong, Manager Governance
- Rebecca Maple, Risk and Assurance Advisor
- Rebecca Watkins, Acting Risk and Assurance Officer
- Rachael Watts, Acting Risk and Assurance Officer
- Lauren Cail, Bendigo Livestock Exchange Manager (Item 3.4 Internal Auditor Update only)
- Judith Holt, Observer (from 1:49pm)

Apologies

- Cr Julie Sloan

2. DECLARATIONS

2.1. Declarations of Interest, Conflict of Interest and Pecuniary Interest

Committee recommendations must be transparent and accountable, to protect the public interest, maintain the integrity of the Committee and Council and enable the public to be confident that the Committee is performing its duties properly. If a conflict of interest exists, it must be declared and managed.

Division 2 of Part 6 of the *Local Government Act 2020* applies to Independent Members, as if the member were a member of a delegated Committee.

A member has a **conflict of interest** if they have:

1. a general conflict of interest within the meaning of section 127 of the Act
2. a material conflict of interest within the meaning of section 128 of the Act

Members of the Committee will provide declarations in accordance with statutory requirements.

At the beginning of each committee meeting, members are required to declare any conflict of interest that may apply to matters on the meeting agenda and will then be required to leave the room while those items are considered. Declared conflicts will be appropriately recorded in the minutes.

Declarations of interest outlined below considered standing declarations:

- Stephen Brown declared he is an employee of the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank.
- Stephen Brown declared he is on the Board of Directors of Vision Super.
- Robert Stephenson declared he is currently Advocacy lead of Be Bendigo.
- Cr O'Rourke declared she is a customer of AFS and Associates Pty Ltd.
- Dan Butel declared he is on the Board of the Star Cinema, Eaglehawk.

Updates to standing declarations of interest:

- Stephen Brown advised he is no longer an employee of the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, and the standing declaration of conflict is no longer relevant;
- Robert Stephenson advised:
 - he is no longer Advocacy lead of BeBendigo and the standing declaration of conflict of interest is no longer relevant;
 - he is on the Board for Heathcote Health and this conflict of interest declaration is to be added as a standing declaration;
 - his intention to nominate as a candidate for the City of Greater Bendigo local government elections.

Minutes - Audit and Risk Committee - September 4, 2024

3. STANDING ITEMS

3.1. Previous Minutes

Presenters: Jovana Obradovic-Tantra (Chair)

Feedback/questions:

Nil

Outcomes/Actions:

The Committee approved the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held May 15, 2024.

Moved: Cr Andrea Metcalfe

Seconded: Robert Stephenson

Unconfirmed

3.2. Actions Management

Presenters: Jovana Obradovic-Tantra (Chair)

Feedback/questions:

- Presentation by Jardine Lloyd Thompson no longer required by the Committee.

Resolution:

Remove '14/9/2023 Item 3.4 Invite Jardine Lloyd Thompson as a guest speaker' from the Action Register

Moved: Jovana Obradovic-Tantra

Seconded: Cr Margaret O'Rourke

Unconfirmed

3.5. Finance Update

Note Finance Update (Agenda Item 3.5) brought forward prior to External Auditor Update (Agenda Item 3.3),

Presenters: Nathan Morsillo, Manager Financial Strategy

Feedback/questions:

- The Committee discussed the draft Financial Statements and draft Performance Statements for the financial year ended June 30, 2024, and the Q4 Quarterly Finance and Capital Management Report including:
 - fines recovery
 - rate debtors and impact of movement to rate payments in quarterly instalments
 - total value of rates debtors at year end. This amount includes Fire Services Levy (FSL) amounts in management reporting for debt collection, but splits FSL to another account in the statutory financial accounts.

Resolution:

The Committee recommends the draft Financial Statements and the draft Performance Statement be presented to Council for approval with the following steps:

1. That Council:
 - a. approve in principle the draft Financial Statements and the draft Performance Statement as presented; and
 - b. authorise the Mayor Cr Metcalf and Cr O'Rourke or Cr Sloan (or their delegates), as the Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) representatives to certify the Financial Statements and the Performance Statement in their final form on behalf of the Council of City of Greater Bendigo.
2. The Principal Accounting Officer (Manager Financial Strategy) be authorised to make any non-material changes to the Financial Statements and the Performance Statement that may arise from the audit.
3. The Chair of the Committee be notified of any material changes proposed to be made to any of the Statements so that it may be decided whether the Committee needs to meet further to consider such proposed changes prior to two Councillors signing off the Statements.
4. A copy of the Statements in their final form be forwarded to the members of the Committee.

Moved: Stephen Brown

Seconded: Cr Margaret O'Rourke

3.3. External Auditor Update

Presenters: Nick Walker, HLB Mann Judd, External Auditor

Feedback/questions:

- The Committee discussed the draft management letter and closing report from the June 30, 2024, audit of the Financial Statements and Performance Statement.
- The Committee noted the draft financial statements have been provided to VAGO for review.
- Query regarding adjustments discussed and noted advice this a timing issue and considered immaterial.
- Expected conclusion that financial report and performance statement presented fairly.
- The Committee met with the external auditors in the absence of management.

Outcomes/Actions:

The Committee noted the draft closing report for the year ended June 30, 2024.

3.4. Internal Auditor Update

Presenters: Katie Dempster, AFS and Associates, Internal Auditor

Feedback/questions:

- Discussed the Strategy, Business and Service Planning and Implementation Framework and Organisational Culture and internal audit scopes.
- Thanked Lauren Cail and her team at the Bendigo Livestock Exchange and discussed findings from the Livestock Exchange Operations internal audit noting 16 strengths, 2 moderate findings and 2 opportunities.
- Discussed issues around heavy vehicle requirements and how this was addressed within the Livestock Exchange internal audit.
- Discussed Local Government update and pilot led by City of Greater Bendigo of shared services model for cybersecurity, procurement and legal.
- The Committee met with the internal auditor in the absence of management.

Outcomes/Actions:

Noted the Social Justice Framework and Equity in Decision Making scope approved out of session.

Noted the Assets - Infrastructure Asses (including roads, bridges, footpaths and cycleways, curb and channel) approved out of session.

Noted finalised internal audit scopes to be circulated out of session for the following:

- Strategy, Business and Service Planning and Implementation Framework
- Organisational Culture

Internal Auditor to provide information to the Committee addressing heavy vehicles and chain of responsibility risk at the Bendigo Livestock Exchange.

Noted Bendigo Livestock Exchange report and management comments.

3.6. Risk and Assurance Update

Presenters: Rebecca Maple, Risk and Assurance Advisor

Feedback/questions:

- The Committee discussed:
 - overdue audit actions and extensions
 - Cyber Liability insurance coverage

Outcomes/Actions:

Committee requested Audit Actions Progress Report to include date of commencement of audit actions.

Committee requested further information to be provided on limit for Cyber Liability insurance.

The Committee endorsed the Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Framework subject to changes to emphasise risk management is responsibility of all employees.

The Committee endorsed the Fraud and Corruption Policy subject to changes to emphasise protections for individuals making disclosures.

The Committee confirmed:

- November Committee meeting to be rescheduled to Tuesday, December 3, 2024;
- Meeting dates for 2025 to be scheduled for February, May, September and November with two hours per meeting and dates to be advised.

Resolution:

The Committee approves extensions for the following audit actions:

- #2 Payroll extension to October 31, 2024
- #3, #4, #13 Native Vegetation extension to June 30, 2025
- #7 Business Continuity Management, DR and EM extension to 31 December 2024
- #11 Workforce and Succession Planning extension to June 30, 2025
- #12 Workforce and Succession Planning extension to December 31, 2024

Moved: Cr Margaret O'Rourke

Seconded: Cr Andrea Metcalfe

3.7. CEO Report

Presenters: Andrew Cooney, CEO

Feedback/questions:

- The Committee discussed the current organisational restructure.
- The Mayor and CEO acknowledged thanked Jovana Obradovic-Tantra for her contribution to the Committee over the past six years with her term ending on 30 September 2024.

Outcomes/Actions:

The Committee noted the CEO Report.

Unconfirmed

Minutes - Audit and Risk Committee - September 4, 2024

3.8. Councillor Expenses and Gifts Report

Presenters: Jessica Clarke-Hong, Manager Governance

Feedback/questions:

Nil

Outcomes/Actions:

The Committee noted the:

- Councillor Expenses for Quarter 4, 2024
- Councillor Gift Register for Quarter 4, 2024

Unconfirmed

Minutes - Audit and Risk Committee - September 4, 2024

3.9. Employee Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Register

Presenters: Rebecca Maple, Risk and Assurance Advisor

Feedback/questions:

Nil

Actions/outcomes:

The Committee noted the Employee Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Register.

Unconfirmed

Minutes - Audit and Risk Committee - September 4, 2024

3.10. ARC Workplan for 2024

Presenters: For information only

Feedback/questions:

Nil

Outcomes/Actions:

For information only

Unconfirmed

Minutes - Audit and Risk Committee - September 4, 2024

3.11. Internal Control Environment 2024 to 2027

Presenters: For information only

Feedback/questions:

Nil

Outcomes/Actions:

For information only

Unconfirmed

4. GENERAL ITEMS

4.1. Independent Member Appointments

Presenters: Jessica Howard, Director Corporate Performance.

Feedback/questions:

- The Committee welcomed Judith Holt independent member with term commencing October 2024.

Outcomes/Actions:

Independent members interested in taking on the role of Committee Chair for 2025 to email Risk and Assurance Advisor.

Unconfirmed

Minutes - Audit and Risk Committee - September 4, 2024

5. URGENT BUSINESS

5.1. Urgent Business - Nil

6. CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2:52pm.

Unconfirmed

15.3. Annual Report 2023/2024

Author:	Emma Young, Coordinator Business Improvement
Responsible Director:	Jessica Howard, Director Corporate Performance

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Councillors to receive the City of Greater Bendigo Annual Report 2023/2024.

Recommended Motion

That Councillors receive the City of Greater Bendigo Annual Report 2023/2024.

Executive Summary

The Annual Report is a comprehensive summary of the City of Greater Bendigo's operations, accomplishments, and interactions with our community, government, and vital partners. Preparation of the Annual Report is a requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

Background

All Victorian Councils are required to report under the Victorian Government mandatory system of performance reporting. Section 98 of the Act prescribes the information to be included in the Annual Report:

- A report of operations of the Council
- An audited performance statement
- Audited financial statements
- A copy of the auditor's report on the performance statement
- A copy of the auditor's report on the financial statements under Part 3 of the *Audit Act 1994*
- Any other matters prescribed by regulations

Report

The City has completed its Annual Report for the year ended June 30, 2024, which follows this report. The Annual Report provides an account of the City's activities throughout the year, highlighting its achievements. It reports to the Victorian Government, residents of Greater Bendigo, and the broader community about the actions taken in line with the strategic objectives outlined in the Council Plan for the 2023/2024 financial year, as well as mandated information.

To meet legislative requirements, the Annual Report must be presented to a council meeting open to the public within 4 months of the end of the financial year (October 31).

The system of performance reporting prescribes performance information to be included in the Annual Report, including:

The Report of Operations must contain the following:

- A statement of progress on implementation of the Council Plan, which includes the results of the strategic indicators
- A statement of progress in relation to the major initiatives and initiatives identified in the budget
- The prescribed indicators of service performance for the services provided by Council and funded in the budget during the financial year, the prescribed measures relating to those indicators and the results achieved in relation to those performance indicators and measures.

The Audited Performance Statement includes the following:

- A description of the Municipal district
- Results against LGPRF prescribed service performance outcome indicators and measures
- Results against LGPRF prescribed financial performance indicators and measures
- Results against LGPRF prescribed sustainable capacity indicators and measures
- An explanation of any material variations between results.
- Audited Financial Statements:
- This statement is determined by Local Government Victoria format requirements
- The statements have been audited by the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO).

Audited Financial Statements:

- This statement is determined by Local Government Victoria format requirements
- The statements have been audited by the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO).

Timelines

The Annual Report is to be presented to an open council meeting by October 31, 2024.

Communications/Engagement

External Engagement

- Following consideration by Council, residents will be informed of the Annual Report's preparation and availability for inspection. Copies of the Annual Report will be available via the City's website.

Internal Engagement

- Regular data collection, as part of the Council Plan reporting and the LGPRF reporting requirements have provided the core content.
- The Audit and Risk Committee, at the September 2024 meeting reviewed the Draft Financial Statements and the Draft Performance Statement for the 2023/2024 financial year prior to audit clearance by the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO). Both the Performance Statement and the Financial Statements have been certified by the Principal Accounting Officer, Chief Executive Officer and two Councillors. The draft statements were presented to Council for endorsement at its council meeting on September 16, 2024.

Policy Context

Primary Council Plan Reference

City of Greater Bendigo Council Plan *Mir wimbul* 2021-2025
Outcome 1 - Lead and govern for all

Secondary Council Plan Reference(s)

Goal 1 - Accountable, financially responsible, equitable, transparent decision making

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation or approval of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Attachments

1. Annual Report 2023-2024 [**15.3.1** - 188 pages]



ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The City of Greater Bendigo is on Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Country. We acknowledge and extend our appreciation to the Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Peoples, the Traditional Owners of the land. We pay our respects to leaders and Elders past, present and future, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Peoples. We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land, our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing, and our hope that we may walk forward together in harmony and in the spirit of healing.

I CONTENTS

Introduction	4	Our performance	48
Welcome to the Report of Operations for 2023/2024	4	Council Plan (Mir wimbul) 2021-2025	49
Greater Bendigo profile	5	Outcome 1: Lead and govern for all	50
Snapshot of Council	6	Outcome 2: Healthy, liveable spaces and places	54
Demographic profile	7	Outcome 3: Strong, inclusive and sustainable economy	62
The year in review	8	Outcome 4: Aboriginal reconciliation	66
Highlights of the year	11	Outcome 5: A climate resilient and healthy landscape	68
Challenges and future outlook	22	Outcome 6: A vibrant, creative community	72
Message from the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer	26	Outcome 7: A safe, welcoming and fair community	75
Financial summary	28	Services	80
Description of operations	32	Governance, management and other information	85
Our Council	36	Governance	85
Current councillors	36	Management	88
Our people	38	Governance and management checklist	90
Executive Management Team	38	Statutory information	93
Organisation structure	40	Glossary	99
City staff	42	Financial Statements 2023/2024	102
Equal employment opportunity	44	Performance Statements 2023/2024	172
Other staff matters	46		

WELCOME TO THE REPORT OF OPERATIONS FOR 2023/2024

Council is committed to transparent reporting and accountability to the community, and the Report of Operations for 2023/2024 is the primary means of advising the City of Greater Bendigo community about Council's operations and performance during the financial year.



GREATER BENDIGO PROFILE

The City of Greater Bendigo is in the centre of Victoria, covering almost 3,000 square kilometres.

Greater Bendigo is a vibrant, creative and culturally enriched major regional centre for northern Victoria and southern New South Wales, and has the third largest urban area in Victoria. It also includes productive agricultural areas and many small towns and villages such as Heathcote, Axedale, Huntly, Marong, Elmore, Goornong, Kamarooka, Lockwood, Neilborough, Sebastian, Woodvale, Raywood, Mia

Mia and Redesdale, which are renowned for their strong sense of community and lifestyle.

The local population is continuing to grow and is becoming increasingly culturally, religiously and ethnically diverse.

Council is committed to Greater Bendigo being a community that understands and respects cultural and religious differences, supports multiculturalism and actively promotes cultural inclusion.



SNAPSHOT OF COUNCIL

The City of Greater Bendigo has nine councillors across three wards.

Whipstick Ward

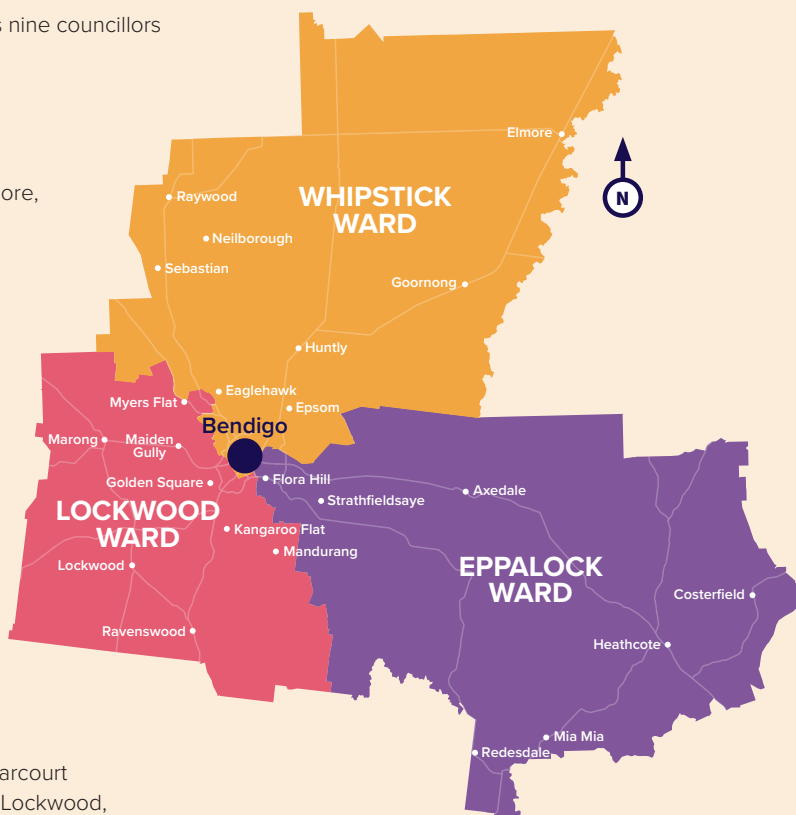
Localities include: Ascot, Avonmore, Bagshot, Bagshot North, Barnadown, Bendigo, California Gully, Drummartin, Eaglehawk, Eaglehawk North, East Bendigo, Elmore, Epsom, Fosterville, Goornong, Hunter, Huntly, Huntly North, Ironbark, Jackass Flat, Kamarooka, Long Gully, Neilborough, North Bendigo, Raywood, Sebastian, Wellsford, Whipstick, White Hills, Woodvale.

Lockwood Ward

Localities include: Big Hill, Golden Gully, Golden Square, Harcourt North, Kangaroo Flat, Leichardt, Lockwood, Lockwood South, Maiden Gully, Mandurang, Mandurang South, Marong, Myers Flat, Quarry Hill, Ravenswood, Sailors Gully, Sedgwick, Shelbourne, Spring Gully, West Bendigo, Wilsons Hill.

Eppalock Ward

Localities include: Argyle, Axe Creek, Axedale, Bendigo, Costerfield, Derrinal, East Bendigo, Emu Creek, Eppalock, Flora Hill, Heathcote, Junortoun, Kennington, Kimbolton, Knowsley, Ladys Pass, Longlea, Lyal, Mia Mia, Mount Camel, Myrtle Creek, Redcastle, Redesdale, Strathdale, Strathfieldsaye, Toolleen.



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Greater Bendigo has an
estimated population of

124,174
people

26.2%
are 60 years or older

The median age is

40

9.7%
of the population were
born overseas

2.3% of the
population identify as
Aboriginal or Torres
Strait Islander

Median weekly
household income
\$1,466

27.3%
of people live
on their own

**Birthplace ranking
from overseas:**
United Kingdom,
India, New Zealand,
Burma (Myanmar) and
Thailand

33.3%
own their property
outright

34.2%
own their property
with a mortgage

26%
are couples
with children

25.9%
are couples
without children

25.8%
of households rent
their home

15.3% of
people aged 15+ have
volunteered at an
organisation over the
past 12 months

Gross Regional Product
\$9.89B*

Victoria's
third
largest economy

55,242
jobs in Greater
Bendigo*

Largest employing industries:
Healthcare and social assistance, retail trade,
construction, education and training and
manufacturing*

The compound annual
growth rate between
2012-2022 was
1.7%*

All figures are from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2021 unless otherwise stated. * REMPLAN Economy

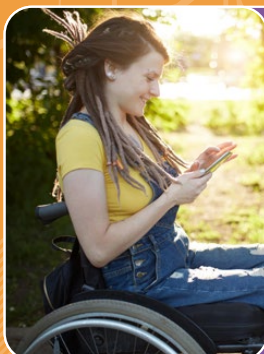
THE YEAR IN REVIEW

10

FReeZa events
for young people

**21,896**

Number of City
Facebook likes

**1,357**

Inspections at
food premises

**822**

Number of
dogs and cats
reclaimed from
the Bendigo
Animal Relief
Centre

**65,472**

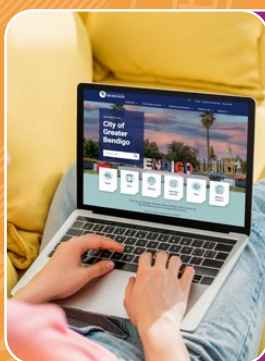
Attendances
at Ulumbarra
and The Capital
performances



ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

9

**1,770,364**

Number of
visitors to the
City website

**714**

New citizens
welcomed

18,563

Maternal
child health
consultations

**25**

Summer in
the Parks
events

**5**

Living Arts
Space
exhibitions

**735**

Flights to and
from Bendigo
and Sydney

32,000

Spring bulbs
planted

**18,197**

Total tonnes of
organic waste
from residential
properties





Electric Wonderland

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

July

- Around 400 City staff moved into the newly-built Galkangu – Bendigo GovHub on Lyttleton Terrace. A project more than a decade in the making, it was an amazing opportunity to bring Local and State government departments together in one building that also celebrates our Traditional Owner culture
- Bendigo and Heathcote both won silver at the 2023 TAC Victorian Top Tourism Town Awards
- Electric Wonderland, part of the Ignite winter program, transformed Rosalind Park into a colourful spectacle with large, illuminated sculptures and giant tulips
- The Community Grants Program was improved and re-opened to better support local groups
- Council decided to move its Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony to January 25 with a commitment to work with local First Nations Peoples on more inclusive events on January 26
- The Holistic Grazing Course program helped land managers in improving grazing practices, enhancing soil health and increasing native pasture species
- Nineteen purple glass drop-off points were installed throughout Greater Bendigo for recycling glass bottles and jars into products like road base sand



August

- A new Qantas flight schedule added an extra weekly return flight on the Bendigo to Sydney route
- The Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration reached the finals in the 2023 Cities Power Partnership Climate Award. The awards recognise the work of local governments who are paving the way to a zero-carbon future.
- An amended Community Aquatic Facilities Strategy was adopted to modernise and maintain 12 public pools and a splash park over the next decade
- The community provided feedback on the future development of the Maiden Gully Recreation Reserve for all residents in the future to enjoy

September

- The \$25.9M Mercy Junortoun Sporting Precinct opened, offering new joint-use community facilities at Catherine McAuley College
- Over 400 people attended the Bendigo Jobs Expo, connecting job seekers with 30 high profile local employers
- The Hargreaves Mall Action Plan was adopted to revitalise the city centre with event activations, improved cleanliness and new business attractions. As part of improved landscaping and changes to infrastructure, Cotton Palm trees were introduced
- Bendigo Venues & Events won a prestigious Performance Arts Centres Australia Impact Award for staging Richard Wagner's *Ring Cycle*
- Council adopted a Greater Bendigo Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2033 to guide the management and protection of our local unique landscapes and species for the next 10 years
- The Djaa Djuwima gallery opened its third exhibition, *Strength in Stories: This is what we do*, showcasing First Nations creativity



- The Bloom spring tourism campaign featured stunning tulip displays and 60 experiences for residents and visitors to enjoy
- The 2030 Greater Bendigo Zero Emissions Roadmap was adopted with 35 priority projects and 50 advocacy topics, including energy, transport, food and circular economy
- The City launched a new-look website with clearer, more accessible information covering community services, strategies and policies aligned to the Council Plan
- A diverse range of new video works from talented local creatives were unveiled on Hargreaves Mall's big screen. The works were produced through the City's Create Lab small grants program, which supported local artists using a digital medium





Ewing Park

October

- The impressive \$4.97M Ewing Park redevelopment was officially opened, featuring a skate park, learn-to-ride park and fitness areas
- Rachel Lee was welcomed as the City's new Director of Strategy and Growth
- The City launched its Rural Regeneration Grants aimed at assisting local farmers and lifestyle property owners
- Andrew Cooney was appointed as the new CEO of the City of Greater Bendigo and successor to Craig Niemann
- Cr Andrea Metcalf was re-elected as Mayor, and Cr Matthew Evans was elected Deputy Mayor
- The popular 2023 FunLoong Fun Day offered free activities and entertainment in Hargreaves Mall
- Bendigo Art Gallery announced its next international exhibition, *Paris: Impressions of Life 1880-1925*

November

- The City's organic waste collection was extended to include 5,500 rural households
- Public consultation began to identify significant landscapes in Big Hill and Mandurang
- Greater Bendigo City Council endorsed the City's first LGBTIQA+ Inclusion Action Plan. It is believed to be the first Local Government to formally endorse the Victorian Government's Rainbow Ready Roadmap
- A Bendigo Airport community survey was launched to gather ideas for new flight routes for a business case
- The Living Arts Space exhibition *PICNIC* celebrated summer gatherings with various artistic contributions
- Planning Scheme Amendment C275gben was adopted to protect miners' housing built during the gold rush era
- An updated planning application was submitted for the Bendigo Art Gallery expansion, including new artist impressions depicting the rear of the building that show the relocation of the café to the sculpture annex



The organic waste collection was extended to all rural households in November 2023



December

- Greater Bendigo won three golds at the Victorian Tourism Awards. Bendigo Visitor Centre's gold win earned a place in the Hall of Fame after winning its third gold in a row in the Visitor Information Services category. The City also won gold for its *Ring Cycle* Festival, presented by Bendigo Venues & Events in partnership with Melbourne Opera, and in the Local Government category
- It was a fond farewell for Craig Niemann who served as CEO of the City of Greater Bendigo for 16 years. Mr Niemann was thanked for his remarkable 40-year career in Local Government by staff, state MPs and community members
- Contestants from the hit television show *MasterChef* were filmed at Bendigo Art Gallery and Bendigo Town Hall to showcase the region's produce and vibrancy as Australia's first UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy
- The renewal of The Capital's historic slate roof started. The works were part of the City's heritage renewal program to remove and replace damaged slate with new Welsh slate to match the original. The project will also include replacement of all associated ridge capping, box gutters, eaves gutters, valleys and flashings
- The Cushion Concerts program celebrated 10 years entertaining preschoolers with live performances at The Capital. The program encourages children to explore a range of musical styles

January

- Greater Bendigo switched from an off-leash to an on-leash default municipality for dogs. New designated areas were announced where dogs could be exercised off-leash
- The City won the Local Government award at the 2023 Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence
- Sun Loong made a rare appearance to celebrate the Year of the Dragon as part of the Chinese Lunar Calendar
- New soft plastic drop-off points were introduced in response to the REDcycle pause
- First Nations artist Daikota Nelson unveiled a new artwork to celebrate The Capital's 150th anniversary. The striking contemporary artwork depicts growth, acknowledging years of knowledge and sharing stories
- The La Trobe University Bendigo Athletics Complex was renamed Lar Birpa Athletics Complex
- Heather Wearne and Montanna Maud were named Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year for 2024
- The City responded to more than 1,000 customer requests relating to flood damage after Greater Bendigo experienced three significant rain events in a two-week period

February

- Kerbside waste collections switched to fortnightly and organics collections became weekly to reduce the amount of general waste and divert about 7,000 tonnes of organic material and 4,500 tonnes of recyclable material per year from landfill
- Work on the draft Garden Gully Reserve master plan began to guide upcoming programmed renewals in addition to future development opportunities
- Some of our region's best produce had a starring role in the G'Day USA Gala event to showcase Bendigo and central Victoria as Australia's first UNESCO Creative City and Region of Gastronomy
- Bendigo was named the number one travel destination in Australia by Wotif, one of the most prestigious awards in the country reflecting travellers' reviews and experiences
- The *Surviving and Thriving* exhibition opened at the First Nations gallery Djaa Djuwima

March

- The Bendigo sign was decorated with local women's art for the Women of Gold project to mark International Women's Day
- Greater Bendigo's cultural diversity was celebrated through art, music and food at the Harmony Fair, a major highlight during the month-long festivities
- Bonjour Bendigo marketing campaign was launched to complement the Bendigo Art Gallery's exclusive Paris exhibition featuring a fantastic range of experiences and events with a French flavour
- As the birthplace of Australian women's cricket, Greater Bendigo celebrated the 150th anniversary of the first women's cricket match, which was played at the Bendigo Easter Fair in 1874 at Camp Hill (now known as Rosalind Park)
- Indian Consul-General Dr Sushil Kumar visited the region to discuss future business opportunities in Greater Bendigo



Women of Gold project



April

- The Bendigo Easter Festival celebrated the Year of the Dragon with big crowds attending the Gala Parade to see the longest Golden Dragon in the world, Dai Gum Loong
- A major maintenance project to repair the Kennington Reservoir dam wall began. With funding from the Victorian Fisheries Authority, the City took advantage of this rare opportunity to also improve environmental and recreational fishing conditions in the reservoir
- Bendigo Airport's new terminal and business park officially opened providing an economic boost to the region. The terminal includes new check-in facilities and departure lounge, upgraded restrooms, provision for future security screening, and an indoor arrival area and baggage collection
- The City, Agriculture Victoria and BlazeAid invited flood-impacted farmers in the Greater Bendigo region to attend a free barbecue dinner and presentation with 'Unbreakable Farmer' Warren Davies
- Community members were invited to get involved in the preparation of a post-war era heritage background study. The study, known as a Post-War Thematic Environmental History, will primarily focus on the history of development in Greater Bendigo from 1945-1980
- The Victorian Government announced a new sports funding package for Greater Bendigo. Red Energy Arena (Bendigo Stadium) will receive a new two-court annex and upgrades to two existing courts, and upgraded lighting to support netball courts and car park. Bendigo Bowls Club and Bendigo Croquet Club will receive upgrades, and a new multipurpose pavilion at Bendigo Showgrounds is also planned to draw visitors

May

- The 2024/2025 Budget was presented and adopted at the May Council meeting with a focus on community priorities following public consultation
- The RAW Arts Awards recognised young creatives in visual arts, literature, performing arts and short film. The awards attracted 76 applicants

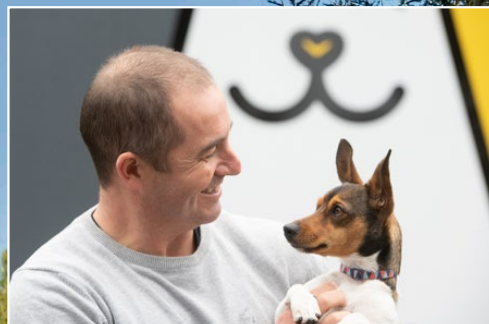


Beam Mobility's e-scooter trial

- The City won the First Nations Community Partnership Initiative Award for the First Nations gallery Djaa Djuwima at the LG Pro Awards. The City also won in the Diversity and Inclusion awards category for its work in developing a Social Justice Framework and Equity Impact Assessment (EIA) tool to improve equity, inclusion and support human rights in the community
- Funds were committed for the \$4.3M Civic Precinct upgrade in Heathcote, which will incorporate an upgraded Heathcote Library to be a key community hub, including technology access, flexible community spaces, co-working spaces, a customer service centre, maternal and child health service, and landscaping
- The City began planting over 3,000 advanced trees in local streets and parklands as part of its annual Greening Greater Bendigo tree planting program
- Volunteers were honoured at a special morning tea at Ulumbarra Theatre during Volunteer Week
- Beam Mobility's e-scooter trial was launched in Bendigo to assess e-scooters as an alternative transport option for residents and visitors
- A smoke and vape-free trial began at selected public sites
- The Bendigo Writers Festival program was launched with TV broadcasters and authors Annabel Crabb and Julie Goodwin among the guest speakers
- Thistle Street bridge was closed for repair and strengthening works
- A draft Managed Growth Strategy was developed to manage future growth in the region over the next 30 years. It aims to provide clear guidance on housing growth, with a focus on directing more housing to areas that are close to existing services, infrastructure, transport, services and job opportunities. A draft Housing and Neighbourhood Character Strategy was prepared at the same time. There was public consultation on both strategies

June

- Cr Margaret O'Rourke was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the King's Birthday Honours List
- The City welcomed the Victorian Government's \$5M funding announcement for the Bendigo Low Line project, a separated walking-cycling shared path along the Bendigo Creek Channel
- The proposed Marong Township Structure Plan and Planning Scheme Amendment C263gben was adopted at Council
- Healthy Loddon Campaspe launched new physical activity activations in Heathcote
- The community was reminded about the new cat containment rules set to commence on July 1, 2024
- An exciting range of winter school holiday activities were announced including an ice skating rink in Hargreaves Mall and Electric Wonderland in Rosalind Park
- The O'Keefe Rail Trail Plan was adopted to improve the way the rail trail is governed, managed, maintained, promoted, funded, activated and evaluated. The 49 kilometre O'Keefe Rail Trail, which runs from Bendigo to Heathcote, is one of Greater Bendigo's primary nature-based attractions for both residents and visitors to the region for walking, cycling, trail running and horse riding in some sections
- Bendigo Animal Relief Centre offered discounted dog desexing opportunities for residents with a concession card



Bendigo Low Line

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

21

- Rate payment options changed for the 2024/2025 financial year to encourage ratepayers to opt for smaller, more regular payments. The full payment option in February each year was removed
- In late June 2024, Council adopted the Landscape Design Guidelines outlining the City's requirements for the planning, design and construction of landscapes in new subdivisions, giving the development industry more certainty on the City's expectations for open space and landscapes



CHALLENGES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

Climate change

The region's changing climate resulted in severe floods in January and a series of storms that impacted the community and the City's infrastructure. In 2023/2024, the City continued to work on climate mitigation initiatives in collaboration with partner organisations through the Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration. This resulted in finalisation of the Greater Bendigo Zero Emissions Roadmap, which sets out a program of actions aimed at reducing emissions across the city. We also continued the City's program of organisation emission reduction works, which resulted in transitioning a series of community facilities off gas and an increase in the number of electric vehicles in the City's fleet.

The floods earlier in the year had a significant impact on infrastructure in the region, with more than 5,700 defects identified ranging from small-culvert clearing through to full reconstruction of sections of sealed and unsealed roads in various pockets. Approximately 80 per cent of the rural road network experienced some form of damage to it. The total estimated value of these works is approximately \$25M. City units have been prioritising and programming works, and advocacy continues for funding from the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. This program is a cost sharing arrangement between the Commonwealth and the Victorian governments to support certain relief and recovery activities.

The City sought funding to support four key projects – Huntly drainage analysis and flood mitigation plan; minor drainage and culvert improvement program across the region, including debris removal in waterways; waterway flood management plans for Epsom, Huntly, Junortoun and Heathcote; and a Goornong Flood Study.

Communities in many parts of the region have been impacted, including across Heathcote, Redesdale,

White Hills, Huntly, Goornong, Bagshot, Junortoun, Strathfieldsaye and Axedale. Approximately 115 properties experienced above floor flooding, 157 properties experienced under floor flooding, impacts to septic tanks or damage to fencing, and 62 properties experienced flooding to garages or sheds. The City supported the flood affected communities by connecting them to services and establishment of a BlazeAid camp in Goornong. This work is ongoing as we continue to work with local communities on emergency planning and community resilience.

Revenue and inflation

More than 60 per cent of the City's Budget revenue comes from rates. As in previous years, Council did not apply for a variation to the rate cap for the 2023/2024 Budget, which meant the City had to balance cost increases alongside lower forecast revenue (in real terms). This continues to limit funds for new projects and initiatives, whilst the City continues to prioritise its role in mitigation, relief and recovery from the recent flood events.

It is a continuous challenge to make rates, fees, charges and grants stretch to maintain services for our community. The City's Budget is built around continuing to fund existing services, increases to certain fees, seeking efficiencies wherever possible, and the prioritisation of works and services. In future annual Budgets, there will be a need to further prioritise the allocation of funds. However, at the centre of our decision-making is a focus on clear and achievable outcomes and to ensure financial responsibility from the organisation.



City assets

The City looks after \$2.9B worth of assets. The growing challenge is to balance the demand for new infrastructure with maintaining (or upgrading) existing assets to meet community needs. Given the significant value of the City's asset base, investment in renewing existing assets forms a significant part of the capital works budget. Appropriate renewal investment helps ensure the City's assets continue to deliver the service levels and standards expected by the community.

Opportunities

Around 400 City staff moved into Galkangu – Bendigo GovHub in July 2023, which has been a fantastic opportunity to bring Local and State government departments together in a building that celebrates our Traditional Owner culture and provides a wide variety of services for the community under one roof.

The City has adopted a proactive new Hargreaves Mall Action Plan to propel business attraction and ensure the city centre becomes a destination of choice for businesses, residents and visitors. With

the cost of living and the changing nature of retail, a more targeted approach has been approved to create a more vibrant, active and inviting city centre.

It's estimated that by 2056 around 87,000 more people will call Greater Bendigo home and 38,000 new dwellings will be needed. Work has progressed to prepare a Managed Growth Strategy that includes a 30-year residential framework plan. This plan aims to identify the most suitable locations for growth while minimising impacts on neighbourhood character and maintaining Greater Bendigo's overall reputation as a desirable place to live. The draft strategy recommends a greater focus on developing new dwellings of all types in areas with good services and infrastructure. In addition, work progresses on the next steps for the city centre planning amendment proposal to provide a clear and responsive framework on future development in the city centre.

In partnership with the Victorian Government, \$5.5M has been secured for a new multipurpose kinder in Marong to help meet the demand for kindergarten places in the community. Works will begin in the new financial year for the multipurpose facility, which will provide a 99-place kinder and two allied health rooms.

As part of the Growing Regions Program from the Federal Government, \$2M will be invested in stage one of the Heathcote Civic Precinct, which will incorporate Heathcote Library, a technology access hub, flexible community spaces, co-working spaces, a customer service centre, maternal and child health service, and landscaping. Heathcote Library will be upgraded to serve as a prominent community hub. This project, to be led by the City, will deliver community-focused infrastructure.

New advocacy projects are encouraging active travel including the Bendigo Low Line project. This is an opportunity to develop a separated walking-cycling shared path within the Bendigo Creek channel to provide safe and active travel through the Bendigo city centre, increase active travel and reduce reliance on motor vehicles for everyday use.

The 12-month e-scooter trial in urban Bendigo operated by Beam will allow Council to assess the scheme's effectiveness as an alternative mode of transport for residents and visitors. The trial aims to improve links between significant precincts and key destinations across the city, assist in better connections to public transport, such as buses and trains, and encourage a shift away from cars for shorter trips.

With the cancellation of the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games, the Victorian Government committed to deliver infrastructure improvements that were already planned for Bendigo as a host city. These are upgrades for Bendigo Bowls Club and Bendigo Croquet Club, Red Energy Arena (Bendigo Stadium) and Bendigo Showgrounds. These projects will help increase sports participation across Bendigo and bring more elite sport to regional Victoria, supporting local businesses and creating more local jobs.

The Victorian Government has also made a \$1B funding commitment for 1,300 new houses across regional Victoria, and \$1B for other programs, including tourism attraction, community sport, tourism infrastructure and much more. The City will continue to leverage opportunities to ensure investment in infrastructure provides a lasting legacy for the community

The future

- An updated planning application has been lodged by the City to progress the expansion of Bendigo Art Gallery, Council's number one priority project. Included in the application are new artist impressions depicting the rear of the building that show the relocation of the café to the sculpture annex. The City has also submitted a separate planning application to Heritage Victoria, which has been closely involved in the development of architectural plans for the Gallery's expansion. The project continues to seek a Federal Government funding commitment, and the City will be applying for round two of the Growing Regions program when it opens next year
- With the fantastic new terminal and facilities at Bendigo Airport, the focus is to advocate for future airport growth and new opportunities. A business case is also being developed to grow the airport's passenger services to other destinations. This follows a successful public engagement project where the community was asked about their ideas about potential flight paths in the future. New routes would only be possible for airline carriers with a fleet size suitable for Bendigo Airport, so there are many considerations required to make a business case to potential airlines
- Initial planning for the Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct (BREP) continues to progress. An industrial precinct is essential to support central Victoria's advanced manufacturing sector. BREP, located in Marong, will provide a long-term pipeline of industrial land to meet growing industry needs and will secure jobs close to a growing residential population. It will also reduce land use conflicts and reduce freight movements through central Bendigo
- Having won the prestigious Wotif Aussie Town of the Year, new opportunities and diverse markets are opening up for Greater Bendigo's tourism sector to attract more visitors, encourage tourists to stay longer and help boost the local economy. The award has raised the profile and promotion of the region. This has been reinforced with Bendigo winning three golds at the Victorian Tourism Awards, and silvers for Bendigo and Heathcote in the Top Tourism Awards for 2023

- The City continues to capitalise on Greater Bendigo's designation as the first UNESCO Creative City and Region of Gastronomy in Australia and membership to the Creative Cities Network. The City, together with Creative Victoria, is actively building relations with Victoria's Creative Cities Network: Geelong (City of Design), Ballarat (City of Craft and Folk Art) and Melbourne (City of Literature)



TV show MasterChef filmed at Bendigo Art Gallery

Engaging with our community

The City is committed to informing and engaging with residents about issues that affect them. The City reviewed its Community Engagement Policy and this was endorsed by Council in April 2024. The City continues to demonstrate its commitment to listening to our community and offering various ways for our community to get involved with our work. Thirty-seven of the City's projects were listed on [Let's Talk Greater Bendigo](#) over the last 12 months asking for community input. The Let's Talk platform received 60,619 views, 37,238 visits to the site and 4,806 contributions. In addition to Let's Talk, the City engages with community through social media posts, media releases, letters and emails to residents. Councillors engage with residents in their wards through listening posts and attending numerous events. The City also helps to keep our community engaged and connected through the [CONNECT Greater Bendigo](#) website, with 304 services/groups/clubs registered and 1,200 events promoted through the website in the past six months.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf



Chief Executive Officer Andrew Cooney

The City of Greater Bendigo is pleased to present the Annual Report for 2023/2024.

The financial year started with the move to Galkangu – Bendigo GovHub. A project more than a decade in the making and an amazing opportunity to bring Local and State government departments together in a building that also celebrates our Traditional Owner culture.

Investment in our region's infrastructure received a welcome boost with significant funds from the Victorian Government confirmed to upgrade Red Energy Arena, Bendigo Showgrounds, and Bendigo Bowls and Bendigo Croquet clubs.

In June, a further commitment of \$5M was made towards the Bendigo Low Line project, a transformative 4.4km off-road shared walking and cycling path in the Bendigo Creek, between Golden Square and White Hills. This project had been flagged as one that would have helped move people around our city centre had the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games progressed, so to still deliver this is a welcome legacy.

The final funding puzzle piece also fell into place to deliver a new Heathcote Civic Precinct, following a commitment from the Federal Government. This \$4.3M project has been on the wish list for the Heathcote community for some time and is also funded by the Victorian Government and the City.

In another example of all three levels of government working together, Council celebrated the completion of the \$12M Bendigo Airport terminal expansion and business park. The new terminal paves the way for Bendigo to welcome flights to new destinations and complementary businesses to work on-site.

This financial year, there was a changing of the guard at the City, when the organisation farewelled CEO of 16 years, Craig Niemann. In his last year at the City, Craig also marked 40 years in Local Government, a career that has been based entirely serving central Victorian communities.

Following an extensive search and rigorous recruitment process, Andrew Cooney was appointed and officially started in the role in December 2023.

There was also a change at the Director level when the City farewelled Director Strategy and Growth Steve Hamilton and welcomed Rachel Lee into the role.

“IN JUNE, A FURTHER COMMITMENT OF \$5M WAS MADE TOWARDS THE BENDIGO LOW LINE PROJECT, A TRANSFORMATIVE 4.4KM OFF-ROAD SHARED WALKING AND CYCLING PATH IN THE BENDIGO CREEK, BETWEEN GOLDEN SQUARE AND WHITE HILLS.”

A major flood event in January 2024 had the City in response mode. Unprecedented rain fell over the region in three rain events within a two-week period, with the areas of Epsom/White Hills/Huntly, Heathcote, Goornong, Junortoun, Strathfieldsaye and Redesdale most affected.

A post-flood assessment found more than 5,000 defects to City assets, with repair works valued at \$25M. The City will continue to pursue funding from State and Federal governments for the repairs and also applied for separate Federal funding to complete targeted flood recovery projects.

We took our well-regarded UNESCO Creative City and Region of Gastronomy brand international, when local producers were profiled in a gift bag given to all attendees of the G'Day USA Gala dinner, an important annual event that celebrates Australian-American relations.

January 2024 marked the City's first Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony held on January 25 instead of January 26. This is a commitment of the organisation going forward and is another way the City can contribute to local reconciliation efforts. In doing so, it also allowed Councillors more time to attend community events on Australia Day, which remain unchanged.

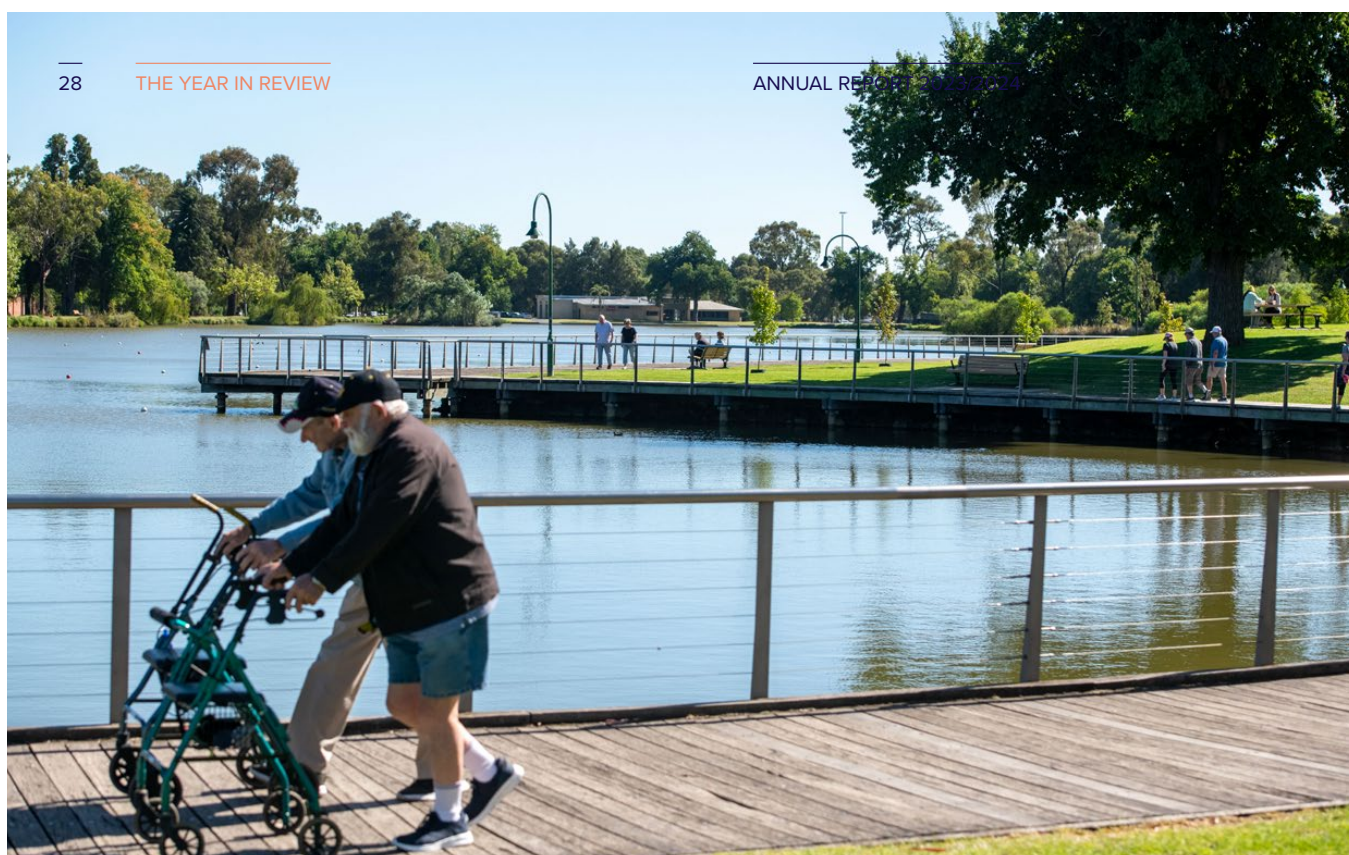
In one of the most significant behaviour changes for our community, organic waste collection moved to weekly and general waste collection moved to fortnightly. The changes are already delivering on the intended benefits and with the great work of our residents, we have diverted an extra 3,186 tonnes of organic waste from landfill. That's a 33 per cent reduction in general waste and a 54 per cent increase in food organics and garden organics.

To help plan for the future of our community and help direct our growth, Council released its most significant strategy of its term - the draft Managed Growth Strategy, which sets out where an additional 87,000 people will live in Greater Bendigo by mid-2056.

Please refer to highlights of the year for many more memorable events and decisions that have shaped 2023/2024.

Thank you to Councillors and staff for how they worked together. We are proud of the work highlighted in the Annual Report and hope you enjoy reading it.

**Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf and
Chief Executive Officer Andrew Cooney**



28

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The City is in a sustainable financial position guided by its Financial Plan model, in line with the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Financial Plan and subsequent Budget adopted in May 2024, outline how Council plans to manage community funds and ensure financial sustainability.

Like many other local government areas, over the coming years the City is facing expenditure growing faster than income due to population growth, the rate of inflation and increased construction costs. Greater Bendigo's population is forecast to reach 155,000 by 2036 and 200,000 by 2050. Managing additional growth will require a disciplined approach to funding current services and projects, along with new initiatives that may be required. A summary of financial performance is outlined on the opposite page, with further details available in the Financial and Performance Statements at the end of this report.

Operating position

The City's operating result for 2023/2024 was a surplus of \$4.6M. It should be noted that the City's headline surplus is reported in line with the Australian Accounting Standards and incorporates many non-cash items, including \$24M in 'income' for assets brought to account upon the finalisation of subdivisions by developers and additional grants related to the next financial year.

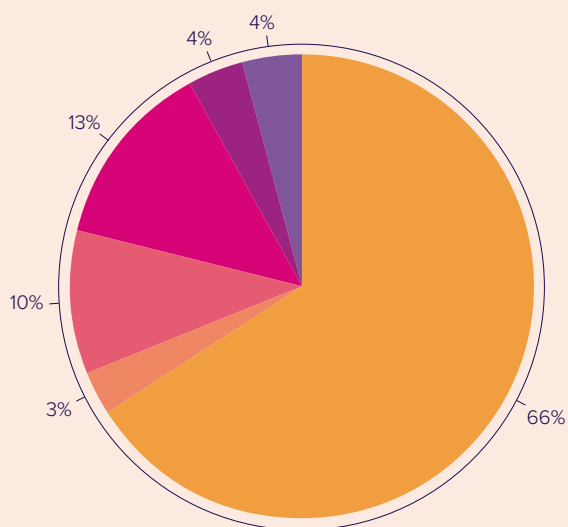
Income

The City receives income from a wide range of sources, including rates, user fees, fines, grants, contributions and other income. Total income for 2023/2024 was \$245M, which was in line with the Budget for most income sources. Higher than budgeted grant funding was received, however, this was offset by government grant income of \$22.3M budgeted to be received in 2023/2024 not being received until after the end of the financial year (July 2024). Higher than anticipated contributions (non-monetary) were recorded for assets brought to account upon the finalisation of subdivisions by developers.

The City's main income is from rates and charges, which represents 66 per cent of income (excluding developer-contributed assets). The City continues to provide a range of financial hardship measures to support the community in paying their rates.

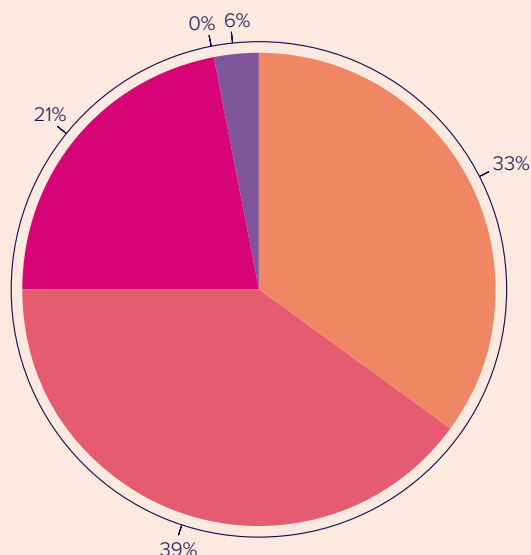
Expenses

The City's total operating expenditure, including depreciation for 2023/2024, was \$240M and was allocated to delivering services that benefit the community. Total operating expenditure increased from the previous year and includes expenditure on salaries, materials, contracts and services. The City supported Bendigo Stadium Limited (BSL) with a \$9.3M payment as part of a financial sustainability package. A report to Council was considered as a confidential item at the July 2023 Council Meeting. This payment went directly toward paying down BSL's loan with Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, valued at \$11.9M. The loan was to service BSL's contribution to the 2018 expansion and upgrade of the stadium (a City asset) and supported additional cash flow during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Sources of income 2023/2024

Excluding contributions – non-monetary



Categories of operating expenditure 2023/2024



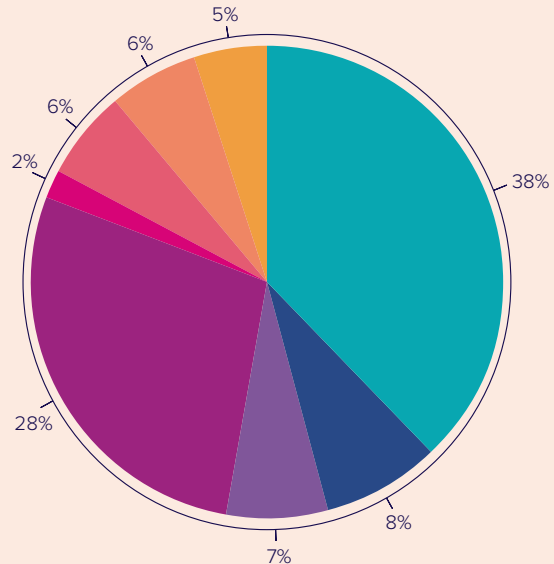
Capital works expenditure

The City invested \$61.6M for projects to renew, develop and maintain City assets throughout the financial year. Multi-year investments included the completion of the Ewing Park precinct, the Strathfieldsaye Sports Clubrooms, the delivery of the joint use sporting facility at Catherine McAuley College's Junortoun campus and the Bendigo Airport terminal expansion.

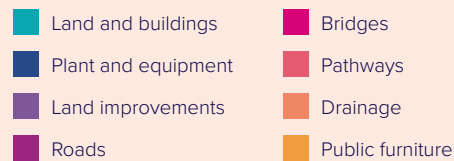
Maintaining essential infrastructure saw significant investment in 2023/2024, including \$11.5M for sealed roads, \$2.3M for drainage and \$25.6M in buildings, including the Bendigo Airport terminal.

Asset renewal

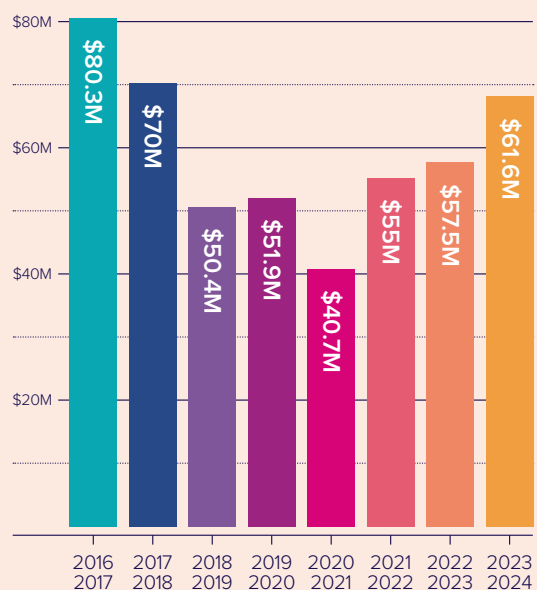
The City's Asset Plan provides a 10-year strategic framework to guide how to manage \$2.9B worth of City-owned fixed infrastructure. These assets support, or provide, services to the community. Like many other local governments in Victoria, the City is facing the challenge of development growth, which is creating an increasing number of City assets at a time when less funding is available to manage them in the long term. The City faces a growing gap between the demand to renew existing assets and the funds available to maintain this renewal. The City's renewal gap is forecast to reach around \$70M by 2031/2032.



Capital works by type 2023/2024



Capital works expenditure by year



Council assets by type**Financial sustainability**

In 2023/2024, the City's Budget was based on a 3.5 per cent rate cap in line with the Victorian Government's *Fair Go Rates System*. Like previous years, Council did not seek a variation to the rate cap and continues to absorb increasing costs and significantly lower forecast revenue within current allocations. This becomes more of a challenge each year and the drive to find efficiencies within operations is ongoing to minimise impacts on service delivery.

The Budget is supported by borrowings in the next financial year of up to \$3M. To remain sustainable and responsible, the City takes a conservative approach to borrowings.

The City relies heavily on support from the State and Federal governments to deliver key infrastructure projects and provide support for other important programs in the region. A significant level of advocacy is involved in many grant funding applications. Overall, the City received \$29M in grant funding from State and Federal governments during the 2023/2024 financial year.

Two indicators with a high risk rating are the underlying result and internal financing. The underlying surplus indicator includes significant (non-cash) depreciation charges on the City's assets, which is calculated by subtracting any non-cash contributions and removing any one-off or non-recurrent transactions.

Key financial sustainability indicators

Indicator	2023/2024 Result	2022/2023 Result	Risk indicator
Net result (%)	1.89%	12.03%	LOW
Adjusted underlying result (%)	-21.07%	-3.27%	HIGH
Liquidity (ratio)	1.72	2.26	LOW
Internal financing (%)	66.53%	113.73%	HIGH
Indebtedness (%)	37.69%	39.38%	LOW
Renewal gap (ratio)	0.75	0.77	MEDIUM

The internal financing indicator looks at net operating cash flows compared to capital expenditure and reflects the higher operating expenditure this year with the payment to Bendigo Stadium LTD of \$9.3M.

These results highlight the medium term challenges the City will face in a revenue constrained environment.

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS

The City is responsible for delivering 68 important services for our community, including waste collections, street cleaning, road maintenance, environmental health, statutory planning, tourism and visitor services, maintenance of our award-winning parks, gardens and recreation facilities, early years services, our prestigious Bendigo Art Gallery, Ulumbarra and The Capital theatres, and much more. This broad range of community services and important infrastructure continues to support the wellbeing and needs of our community.

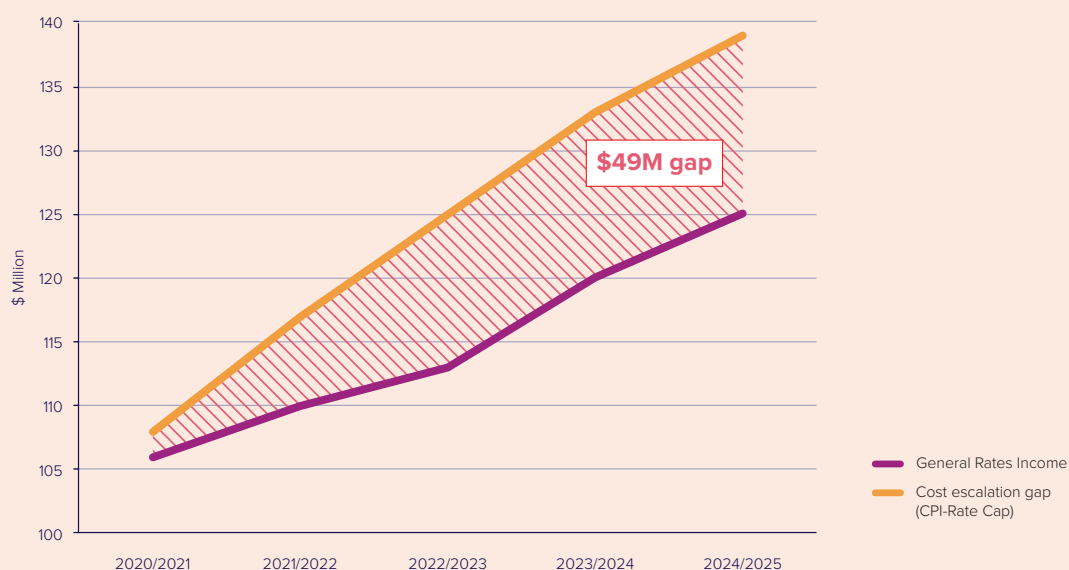
Towards the end of the financial year and following extensive consultation, Council adopted the 2024/2025 Budget. Public engagement began much earlier during the Budget process, allowing Councillors to identify important themes and make informed decisions. The community was asked

to rank priorities and clear themes emerged from the feedback, prioritising investment in roads, bridges and drainage, followed by waste, recycling, resource recovery, parks, gardens, open spaces, and footpaths, tracks, and trails. The Budget was adopted in May, allowing the City to start preparing early, ready to deliver projects, works and other initiatives at the start of the new financial year in July.

Economic factors

Inflation continued to be high, with the Reserve Bank of Australia reporting 3.8 per cent to June 2024. This remains higher than the 3.5 per cent rate cap set for the sector by the State Government for 2023/2024. Construction and other costs continue to increase significantly faster than CPI.

Compounding impact of CPI v Rate Cap





Communications board at
Lake Weeroona playspace



Major changes

- After 16 years leading the City, Craig Niemann was farewelled and thanked for his role as CEO. Mr Niemann had worked in Local Government for 40 years. Andrew Cooney took over as the CEO of the City of Greater Bendigo in December
- The City's Resource Recovery and Education unit made a significant waste management change in the community. The general waste bin collection for households was changed from weekly to fortnightly, and the organics bin collection changed from fortnightly to weekly. The changes applied to approximately 45,500 households within the organics collection service area. The changes followed a service review completed in 2022 that found household general waste bins contained 46 per cent of waste that should either be in the recycling bin or organics bin, and not be going to landfill. By changing the frequency of organics and general waste bin collections, the City could reduce the amount of general waste collected and divert about 7,000 tonnes of organic material and 4,500 tonnes of recyclable material per year from landfill
- From January 2024, the municipality became a default on-lead local authority. Dogs can now only be off leash in designated public areas. As part of the Domestic Animal Management Plan, a 24-hour cat containment requirement will come into effect from July 1, 2024. It means that all cats will need to be securely confined to their owner's property 24 hours a day
- The City launched a new-look website with clearer, more accessible information covering community services, strategies and policies aligned to the Council Plan. This was a great opportunity to encourage more people to visit the site
- Following community engagement, the Greater Bendigo City Council voted in May to commence a process to sell seven properties that were not planned for future use, in line with any City strategies or plans. The properties were identified as part of an ongoing review of City-owned property holdings and determined as surplus. As part of the City's strategic asset management and long-term financial plan, the asset portfolio is continually reviewed

Major capital works

The new terminal and business park opened at Bendigo Airport in April and will provide an economic boost to the region, following \$12M invested from all three levels of government. It is approximately four times larger than the previous building and includes new check-in facilities and departure lounge, upgraded restrooms, provision for future security screening, and an indoor arrival area and baggage collection.

Bendigo's emergency services facilities have been bolstered through the addition of a new helipad that can accommodate a wide array of emergency service helicopters, such as flood and fire response, as well as military and police activity.

The City delivered \$61.6M in capital works throughout the financial year. The \$3M, second stage of the redevelopment of the main building at Strathfieldsaye Community Hub was delivered. The hub now boasts a multipurpose, inclusive and accessible space that caters for a range of community functions and activities, and new amenities. The \$4.97M Ewing Park redevelopment delivered a multipurpose community and sporting precinct that supports recreation and participation for people of all ages and abilities. The joint use sporting facility at Catherine McAuley College's Junortoun campus was also completed.

Major achievements

Council has adopted its first Biodiversity Strategy to guide the management and protection of our local unique landscapes and species for the next 10 years.

The City's changes in waste management have seen great results. It has led to an extra 3,186 tonnes of organic waste being diverted from landfill.

That's a 33 per cent reduction in general waste and a 54 per cent increase in food organics and garden organics.

Greater Bendigo's reputation as a must-see destination continues to be celebrated and recognised with three golds at the Victorian Tourism Awards and the prestigious Wotif Aussie Town of the Year.



OUR COUNCIL

Greater Bendigo is divided into three wards, each with rural areas, small towns and parts of urban Bendigo. Each ward is represented by three Councillors. They have the responsibility for setting the strategic direction for the municipality, policy development, identifying service standards and monitoring performance across the organisation.

Councillor emails, like other correspondence, are the property of the City and may be referred to a staff member for action.

Whipstick Ward



Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf

T 4408 6697

M 0499 009 096

E a.metcalf@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Date elected: October 22, 2016

*Mayor 2021/2022, 2022/2023,
2023/2024, Deputy Mayor
2020/2021*



Cr David Fagg

T 4408 6698

M 0437 892 918

E d.fagg@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Date elected: October 24, 2020



Cr Julie Sloan

T 4408 6689

M 0437 862 975

E j.sloan@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Date elected: October 24, 2020

Lockwood Ward



Cr Dr Jennifer Alden

T 4408 6695

M 0499 005 735

E j.alden@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Date elected: October 22, 2016

Mayor 2020/2021, Deputy Mayor 2017/2018, 2022/2023



Cr Rod Fyffe OAM

T 4408 6688

M 0419 874 015

E r.fyffe@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Date elected: First elected 1996

Mayor 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2010/2011, 2015/2016, Deputy Mayor 2016/2017, 2018/2019



Cr Vaughan Williams

T 4408 6696

M 0437 858 776

E v.williams@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Date elected: October 24, 2020

Eppalock Ward



**Deputy Mayor
Cr Matthew Evans**

T 4408 6694

M 0437 867 028

E m.evans@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Date elected: October 24, 2020

Deputy Mayor 2021/2022, 2023/2024



Cr Margaret O'Rourke OAM

T 4408 6692

M 0429 061 096

E m.orourke@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Date elected: October 22, 2016

Mayor 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020



Cr Greg Penna

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Date elected: October 24, 2020

OUR PEOPLE

Council appoints a Chief Executive Officer who is responsible for the day-to-day management of operations in accordance with the strategic directions of the Council Plan. The CEO and four Directors make up the Executive Management Team.

Pictured (L-R): Jessica Howard, Brian Westley, Andrew Cooney, Stacy Williams and Rachel Lee.



ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

OUR PEOPLE

39

Andrew Cooney

*Chief Executive Officer
(commenced December 2023)**

Areas of responsibility:

- Operational matters for the organisation
- Communications

Brian Westley

Director Presentation and Assets

Areas of responsibility:

- Roads, footpaths and drainage
- Urban and landscape design
- Parks and gardens
- Waste management
- Community buildings and facilities maintenance

Rachel Lee

*Director Strategy and Growth
(commenced October 2023)*

Areas of responsibility:

- Business services
- Economic development
- Strategic planning
- Statutory planning
- Tourism and visitor services
- Arts and cultural activities
- Bendigo Airport and Bendigo Livestock Exchange

**Director Commonwealth Games (until August 2023)*

Stacy Williams

Director Healthy Communities and Environments

Areas of responsibility:

- Home support (aged and disability)
- Children and families
- Community engagement
- Youth development
- Cultural development
- Recreation planning and development
- Increasing and improving the access and availability of active and passive open space
- Environmental health, parking and animal services
- Climate change and environment

Jessica Howard

Director Corporate Performance

Areas of responsibility:

- Finance and Budget
- Business transformation
- Rates and valuations
- Customer service
- Human resources
- Governance
- Information technology

**Craig Niemann**

*Chief Executive Officer
(until December 2023)*

Areas of responsibility:

- Operational matters for the organisation
- Communications

**Steve Hamilton**

*Director Strategy and Growth
(until August 2023)*

Areas of responsibility:

- Business services
- Economic development
- Strategic planning
- Statutory planning
- Tourism and visitor services
- Arts and cultural activities
- Bendigo Airport and Bendigo Livestock Exchange

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



N.B. Director Commonwealth Games until August 2023

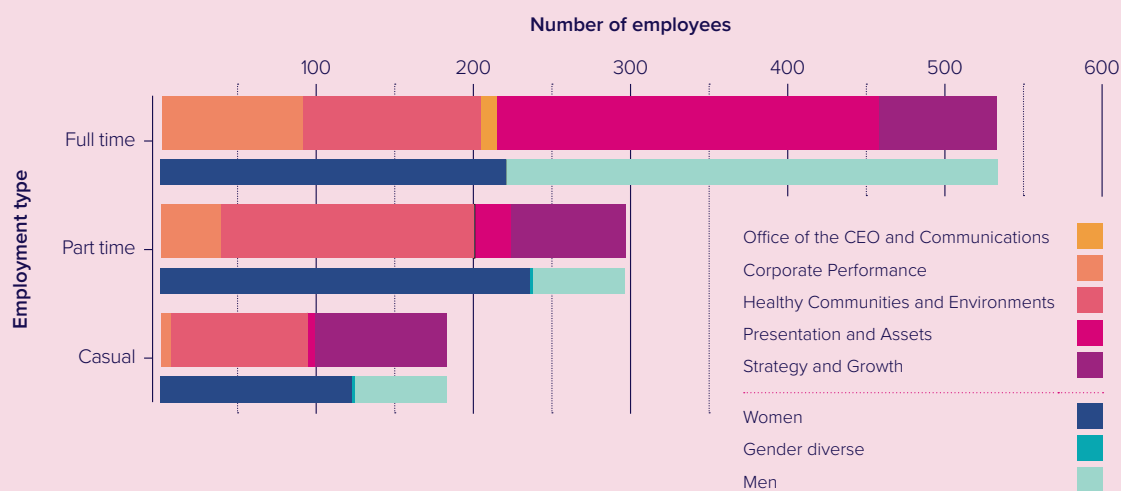


Latin Festival – Garden for the Future

CITY STAFF

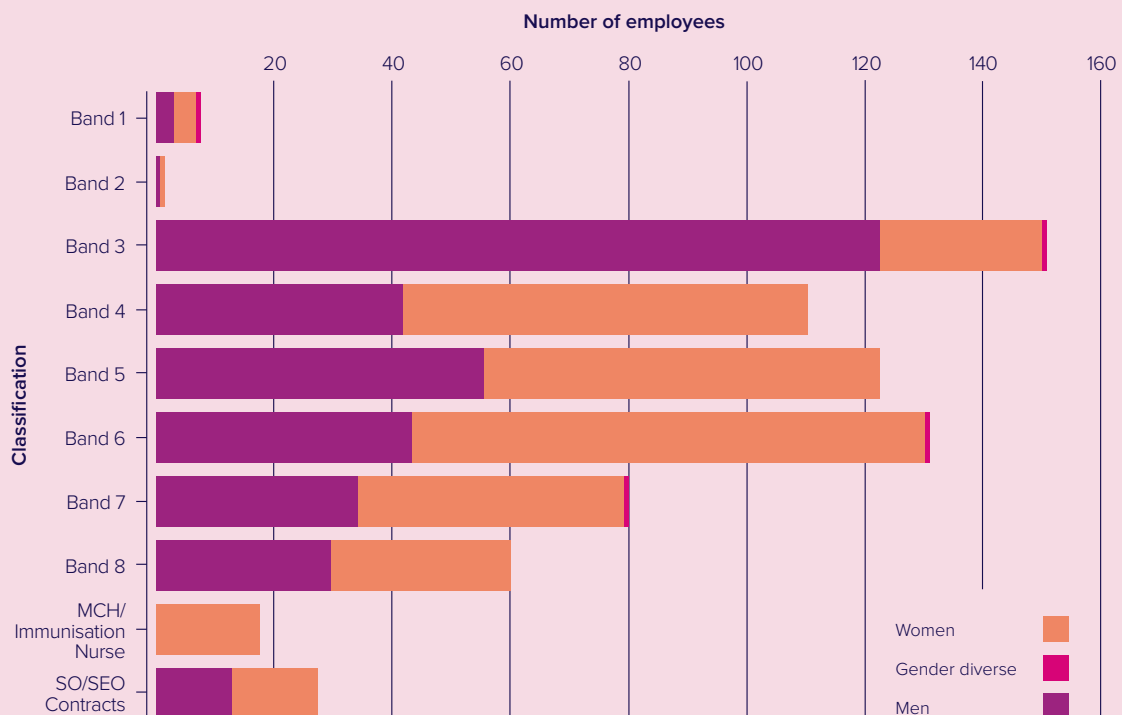
Number of full time equivalent (FTE) staff by organisational structure and employment type

	Office of the CEO and Communications		Corporate Performance		Healthy Communities and Environments		Presentation and Assets		Strategy and Growth		Total	
Full time	Head count	FTE	Head count	FTE	Head count	FTE	Head count	FTE	Head count	FTE	Head count	FTE
Women	6	6	58	56.6	78	77.7	34	34	44	43.6	220	217.9
Gender diverse												
Men	4	4	32	32	36	35	210	209.88	31	31	313	312.68
Part time												
Women	1	0.8	32	20.97	132	73.92	13	9.81	57	36.13	235	141.64
Gender diverse					<5	<5					<5	<5
Men			6	3.9	27	13.048	10	7.08	16	9.24	59	33.27
Casual												
Women			3	1	66	0.03	1		52	1.01	122	2.04
Gender diverse									<5	<5	<5	<5
Men			3		20		4		31	0.01	58	0.0058
Total	11	10.8	134	114.47	362	202.1	272	260.79	232	120.99	1,011	709.16



Number of full time equivalent (FTE) staff categorised by employment classification

Classification	Women	Gender diverse	Men	Total
Band 1	4.14	<5	3.15	7.3
Band 2	0.0002		1	1
Band 3	27.48	<5	122.84	150.33
Band 4	68.08		42.43	110.52
Band 5	67.03		56.04	123.07
Band 6	86.46	<5	43.6	130.86
Band 7	45.12	<5	34.3	80.23
Band 8	30.5		29.8	60.3
MCH/Immunisation Nurse	17.75		0.0001	17.75
SO/SEO Contracts	15		12.8	27.8
Total	361.59	<5	345.97	753.7



EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The City is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing a safe and supportive work environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, victimisation and bullying, and where all individuals treat each other with respect.

The City has policies and processes that outline the expected standards of behaviour and why these standards are important. Employees and people managers continue to receive training on values and behaviours, the Code of Conduct and acceptable workplace behaviour, including what to do if unacceptable behaviour occurs.

The City also has a network of trained Contact Officers in place who are available to provide employees with information and impartial support regarding concerns about inappropriate workplace behaviour and equal opportunity matters.

The City provides confidential support and assistance to employees who have experienced family violence through the Employee Assistance Program and leave provisions in the Enterprise Agreement. Promotion of the support and resources available to employees experiencing family violence is via an information brochure and the intranet. Several Contact Officers have attended targeted training to be able to provide a higher level of appropriate support and/or referral for employees.

“THE CITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT THAT IS FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, VICTIMISATION AND BULLYING, AND WHERE ALL INDIVIDUALS TREAT EACH OTHER WITH RESPECT.”

Organisation culture

The organisation values our diverse and skilled workforce, and is committed to maintaining an inclusive and collaborative workplace culture.

The City does this by:

- Implementing the *Barpangu* Reconciliation Action Plan, Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan and Disability Inclusion Reference Committee that focus on support for reconciliation, cultural diversity and inclusion
- Reducing barriers to people with a disability obtaining and maintaining employment
- Maintaining a safe and inclusive working environment through the delivery of all staff training and targeted Working Safely training sessions
- Ensuring that recruitment processes adhere to equal employment opportunity requirements
- Attracting and retaining talented people with a broad range of skills and experiences
- Providing targeted employment opportunities through our traineeship and apprenticeship program
- Building a flexible organisation by providing opportunities for work arrangements that accommodate different career and life stages (including flexible and part time work, job share arrangements, remote working and transition to retirement options)
- Supporting employees' cultural obligations through the inclusion of employment provisions within our Enterprise Agreement
- Creating an equitable environment for employees and their people managers to encourage open, two-way communication about responsibilities, performance, feedback and career planning

The seventh employee engagement survey was conducted in April 2024. It was completed by 67 per cent of employees, which was a higher response rate than the previous survey conducted in October 2023.

The Standard Engagement Statements that employees were asked to rate were:

- **Expectations** – I know what is expected of me at work
- **Recognition** – I receive recognition for doing good work
- **Communication** – I am happy with the communication from the Executive team
- **Team** – My team is committed to doing quality work
- **Future** – I am happy about my future at this organisation
- **Safety** – I work in a safe environment
- **Resources** – I have the tools and resources to do my job

The highest satisfaction level for respondents was in the **Team** area, with **Expectations** and **Safety** also scoring highly. This is similar to previous surveys.

The City's results in all the standard areas were higher than the Local Government benchmark.

Comparison with benchmark scores

Survey areas	Aug 2020 (%)	Mar 2021 (%)	Apr 2022 (%)	Oct 2022 (%)	Mar 2023 (%)	Oct 2023 (%)	Apr 2024 (%)	Benchmark (%)
Expectations	84.8	83.3	84.0	83.8	83.0	84.0	83.8 ▲	77.1
Recognition	72.5	72.5	73.0	74.0	71.3	73.0	72.8 ▲	68.5
Communication	69.5	68.5	68.8	66.5	67.5	69.0	70.8 ▲	62.0
Team	87.8	88.0	86.8	85.8	85.8	86.5	86.5 ▲	84.2
Future	73.0	68.8	72.8	74.0	69.0	72.5	72.3 ▲	68.2
Safety	84.8	83.8	81.8	82.0	80.0	80.8	79.5 ▲	78.4
Resources	75.5	74.8	73.0	76.0	75.3	75.5	75.5 ▲	70.2
Overall	78.3	77.0	77.3	77.3	76.0	77.3	77.3 ▲	72.7

Customised Engagement Statements were also in the survey:

Survey areas	Aug 2020 (%)	Mar 2021 (%)	Apr 2022 (%)	Oct 2022 (%)	Mar 2023 (%)	Oct 2023 (%)	Apr 2023 (%)
■ People Manager – I am happy with the communication from my people manager							
■ Flexible Work – I am supported to take up flexible work options							
■ Opportunities – In the last year, I have had opportunities to learn and develop							
■ Opinion – At work, my opinions seem to count							
■ Valued – My people manager, or someone at work, seems to value me as a person							
People Manager	67.0	74.0	76.3	77.0	75.8	76.5	76.0
Flexible Work	73.3	77.8	78.0	76.3	75.8	76.5	76.0
Opportunities	69.8	73.3	74.3	75.8	73.3	76.8	75.8
Opinion	66.8	70.3	73.8	74.5	73.3	74.3	73.5
Valued	73.8	80.0	81.5	81.0	79.0	80.5	81.0
Overall	70.0	75.0	76.8	76.8	75.3	76.8	76.5

The results remained stable in all these areas compared to previous surveys and continue to be a positive result in terms of staff satisfaction.

OTHER STAFF MATTERS

Professional development

The City has a comprehensive learning and development program with four focus areas: All staff training, corporate systems and processes, professional development and working safely. The program is developed in alignment with legislative requirements, strategic priorities, and in response to needs identified through performance and development plans. The program is delivered via e-learning, online training and in-person sessions.

Forty facilitator-led training events were held in 2023/2024, totalling 213 sessions. These were attended by 1,441 employees. A blended program was delivered by internal and external facilitators and included both in-person and online sessions. Learning and development is also supported through e-learning with 42 courses available for employees. Nine courses are required to be completed and include legislative and organisational expectations related to Discrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity, Sexual Harassment Prevention, and Workplace Bullying and Occupational Violence. The completion rate for required courses was 76.5 per cent.

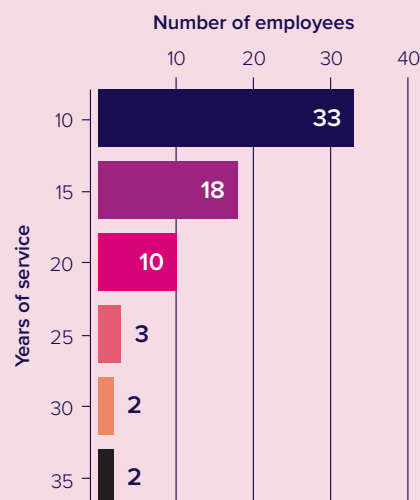
The City also offers study support for employees undertaking further education to enhance their skills and effectiveness in their current role or in preparation for future career opportunities with the City. In the past year, 12 study support applications were approved, and 14 employees received financial reimbursements.

Reward and recognition

The City is committed to recognising and rewarding the work performance and behaviours of employees that reflect, support, or contribute to our vision and our values and behaviours through our reward and recognition program. There were 138 employees and 16 teams that received a Culture Champion Award during 2023/2024 for displaying the City's values and contributing to organisational culture.

Years of service

In December 2023, 68 employees were recognised for reaching significant service milestones with the City.



Our Values and Behaviours

Working together to be the best we can for our community

1. We have a clear vision and understand our purpose
2. We encourage each other to be the best we can
3. We listen and think things through
4. We work together to make a difference in our community

1. We talk to each other and share information and knowledge
2. We nurture ideas, creativity and innovation
3. We use feedback to improve our performance
4. We work together to continuously improve what we do

1. We plan and deliver quality programs, projects and services
2. We help each other to make informed decisions and take action
3. We make the best use of our resources
4. We work together as a team

1. We support each other
2. We recognise contribution, performance and achievement
3. We take responsibility for our actions
4. We work together to create a safe and healthy workplace

1. We get to know our customers and understand their needs
2. We do what we say we will do
3. We follow our policies and procedures
4. We work together to provide great service

1. We are friendly, professional and treat each other with courtesy
2. We recognise and value diverse backgrounds and perspectives
3. We gain the trust of others by acting fairly and with integrity
4. We work together to create and maintain a positive culture



OUR PERFORMANCE

Integrated Strategic Planning Framework

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) introduced strategic planning principles for Victorian councils, which includes an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting.

In June 2023, the Council endorsed its first Integrated Strategic Planning (ISP) Framework. The following diagram provides an overview of the main legislated elements of the framework.



Community Vision 2021-2031

Greater Bendigo celebrates our diverse community. We are welcoming, sustainable and prosperous. Walking hand-in-hand with the Traditional Custodians of this land. Building on our rich heritage for a bright and happy future.

The community vision is underpinned by five values:

- **Transparency** – honesty and accountability, integrity and clarity of language, to ensure that understandable, clear and concise language is used
- **Sustainability** – a focus on our environment, being both built and natural, and our health, our economy and our heritage
- **Inclusion** – capturing our cultural and community diversity
- **Innovation** – to help with ongoing growth, including creativity, adaption, continuous improvement and efficiency, so as the city and community continues to evolve and prosper
- **Equity** – provide support and give opportunity to others to be part of this community

Council Plan

The Council Plan (Mir wimbul) 2021-2025 is based on seven outcomes, which are the main focus areas of the Council Plan.

Performance

Each outcome has a set of goals, objectives and actions that will help to achieve the community vision and indicators to measure achievement against each goal.

The seven outcomes as detailed in the Council Plan

Outcome 1. Lead and govern for all	A community that works together to achieve our shared vision.
Outcome 2. Healthy, liveable spaces and places	A community where all people can live healthy, safe, harmonious lives in affordable and accessible settings.
Outcome 3. Strong, inclusive and sustainable economy	An inclusive, sustainable and prosperous community where all people can thrive.
Outcome 4. Aboriginal reconciliation	A community that recognises and respects Aboriginal people and culture, and enables the self-determination of Traditional Owners.
Outcome 5. A climate-resilient built and natural environment	A regional community that enjoys a restored and thriving natural environment.
Outcome 6. A vibrant, creative community	A community that inspires a culture of creativity, activates its spaces, nurtures and supports talent, champions inclusion and access, and shows the world.
Outcome 7. A safe, welcoming and fair community	A community where people are respected, safe to participate in all aspects of community life and have equitable access to the resources they need.

Outcome 1: Lead and govern for all

A community that works together to achieve our shared vision.

The following statements refer to the Annual Action Plan quarterly progress report aligned with the Council Plan (Mir wimbul) 2021-2025.

1.1 Accountable, financially responsible, equitable, transparent decision-making

- Establishment of integrated governance, reporting, data management and evaluation systems
- Better long-term scoping, planning, monitoring and evaluation of projects
- Focusing on the sustainability of our infrastructure, improve our renewal and maintenance of current assets

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
1.1.1	Develop and procure (if required) improvements to Council's corporate software to manage Development Contributions Plan transactions to improve transparency	In progress	The Information Technology team are working with the Strategic Capital Management team to look at possible solutions.
1.1.2	Facilitate local procurement engagement sessions to support local businesses obtain work from the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games	Completed	Due to the cancellation of the Commonwealth Games by the State Government, this action is no longer relevant.
1.1.3	Complete procurement for the community competition venues that Council will deliver for the Commonwealth Games	Completed	Due to the cancellation of the Commonwealth Games by the State Government, this action is no longer relevant.

1.2 Commitment to innovation, systems improvement and learning

- Integrate data management and use
- Developing digital tools and technologies to improve service delivery and our customer experience
- Enable a customer-focused approach that delivers efficient and responsive service
- Implement a program of service reviews

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
1.2.1	Implementation of software to improve the City's overall cyber security	Completed	Two vendors and their respective suite of products have been chosen to manage the cyber security practise at the City. These are Rapid7 and Microsoft. Over the coming years these tools will be configured and optimised to maximise protection for the City.
1.2.2	Implement wayfinding technology to assist with locating vacant parking bays	Completed	The PayStay App has been activated to display parking availability with a traffic light system showing green for high availability and red for low availability. Further system expansion will be explored when both multi-storey car park systems are upgraded in 2024.

1.3 Active community engagement and excellence in customer service

- Strengthen our digital engagement capacity and plan for appropriate community engagement to enhance decision-making of Council, including the use of deliberative approaches where necessary
- Develop models for co-management/co-investment of facilities with community
- Build community understanding of the City's services and strategies
- Work to employ a greater diversity of staff representative of the wider community
- Encourage and equip a broader range of the population to stand for Council

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
1.3.1	Review the Customer Service Centre software	In progress	Migration to ePathway is complete. Further internal system enhancements are being planned.
1.3.2	Deliver a new website and develop a customer portal for improved customer experience	Completed	Our new website was launched in September 2023. Work currently underway on an initial portal offering.

1.4 Leadership that sets a standard for good governance and integrity in action, working in partnership with regional councils

- Implement and evaluate the Organisation Strategy
- Work with partners to develop a GovHub for Greater Bendigo
- Prioritise investment in rural/suburban areas/outside the city centre
- Advocate for more State and Federal funding
- Develop a new model for delivery of library services
- Establish and implement a Good Governance Framework
- Ensure Council has appropriate policy and practices that align with the *Local Government Act 2020*

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
1.4.1	Provide executive support and develop regional priorities for the Loddon Campaspe Group of Councils	Completed	The June Loddon Campaspe Councils meeting was rescheduled to accommodate a visit to Bendigo by the Hon. Melissa Horne, Minister for Local Government to discuss the group's Shared Services pilot project and the financial challenges being faced by the sector.



Performance indicators: The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of results in the comments.

Service/indicator/measure	Results				Comments
GOVERNANCE	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Transparency <i>Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public</i> [Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council, or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors, closed to the public / Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors] x100	15.25%	8.19%	8.06%	11.88%	There were more commercial in confidence decisions made during this reporting period. As these numbers are low, the variation percent fluctuates each year.
Consultation and engagement <i>Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement</i> [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement]	55	51	52	49	
Attendance <i>Councillor attendance at council meetings</i> [The sum of the number of Councillors who attended each Council meeting / (Number of Council meetings) × (Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election)] x100	96.3%	89.68%	94.02%	87.18%	
Service cost <i>Cost of elected representation</i> [Direct cost of the governance service / Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election]	\$61,424.67	\$66,713.44	\$68,235	\$84,493.33	Costs include a VEC electoral restructure review (which is charged to individual Councils). There are also some recruitment costs for the position of CEO in this period.
Satisfaction <i>Satisfaction with Council decisions</i> [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]	54	53	54	49	

Outcome 2: Healthy, liveable spaces and places

A community where all people can live healthy, safe, harmonious lives in affordable and accessible settings.

The following statements refer to the Annual Action Plan quarterly progress report aligned with the Council Plan (Mir wimbul) 2021-2025.

2.1 Strengthened community health and wellbeing

- Plan and implement the Greater Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Lead the Loddon Campaspe Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative
- Implement actions for Greater Bendigo from the Goldfields Library Plan
- Invest in Early Years development

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
2.1.1	Secure land and progress the design for the multi-year stormwater infrastructure project in Epsom	In progress	Work has progressed and there are ongoing discussions for land purchases.
2.1.2	Deliver the Activation Program for the Healthy Loddon Campaspe initiative for communities across the region	Completed	The 2023/2024 activation program is occurring across the region and the 2024/2025 activation proposals have been submitted to the Regional Steering Group for assessment in July 2024.
2.1.3	Commence year 1 works to construct an underpass at Emu Creek in Strathfieldsaye	Completed	Project commencement checklist has been approved and works on site have commenced.
2.1.4	Commence works on the multi-year Strathfieldsaye Town Square and Linear Link project	In progress	Works on ground are in progress.
2.1.5	Complete the concept design for the Quarry Hill Recreation Reserve (Ken Wust) Pavilion renewal	In progress	Designs and cost plans have been completed. Architects have been awarded the contract and sketch options were presented to the community reference group for feedback. The City is reviewing the feedback to provide to the architect for development of two concepts.

2.2 A healthy, equitable and sustainable food system

- Implement the Greater Bendigo Food Systems Strategy
- Assist local producers to transition to sustainable agriculture practices
- Conduct a rural and environmental study to protect productive agricultural land (as part of the Managed Growth Strategy)

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
2.2.1	In partnership with Bendigo Community Health Services and the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation, progress the implementation of the Healthy Facilities policy in line with adopted targets	In progress	One year pilot phase is complete. Review of the policy, including an update of the implementation and monitoring, evaluation and learning plans are currently underway.

2.3 Everyday walking and cycling is easier for all ages and abilities

- Implement the Public Space Plan and Walk, Cycle City of Greater Bendigo including defining and implementing a 10-year walking and cycling infrastructure plan

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
2.3.1	Design shared paths for Rennie Street and Gungurru Street, Huntly	In progress	Design of shared paths in progress.
2.3.2	Construction of the Ironbark Gully Trail Stage 1 from Nolan Street to Holmes Road	In progress	DEECA is commissioning a detailed site investigation and report to determine the presence, concentration and extent of any contaminants. The City is also awaiting DEECA's advice for any special conditions of the proposed licence.
2.3.3	Plan for the advocacy and implementation of the 10-year walking and cycling infrastructure plan	Completed	Protected Walking and Cycling Network Infrastructure Plan endorsed. Funding for the Bendigo Low Line (stages 1 & 2) and Mundy Street walking and cycling infrastructure projects has been confirmed. Ongoing advocacy and future budget consideration will be needed for implementation of the plan.
2.3.4	Work with the Department of Transport and Planning to finalise designs and secure funding for shared cycleways into the Bendigo City Centre	In progress	Funding agreement has been executed. Expect detailed design to be completed early in 2025 calendar year, with delivery to occur prior to June 2026.

2.4 The supply and quality of affordable housing is increased

- Implement the Affordable Housing Action Plan

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
2.4.1	Investigate how Council can support the delivery of social and/or affordable housing in collaboration with housing agencies	Completed	City officers provide regular support and advice to housing agencies about social and affordable housing proposals being undertaken as part of the Big Housing Build.

2.5 More sustainable active and public transport services

- Implement relevant priorities from the Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy, Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo, and the Climate Change and Environment Strategy

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
2.5.1	Design the Bendigo Low Line separated walking cycling network between Maple Street, Golden Square and Lake Weeroona consisting of seven exit ramps to navigate in and out of the trail	In progress	Detailed design for Bendigo Low Line project nearing completion. Funding for delivery has been secured.
2.5.2	Construction of new concrete footpaths in various high priority locations throughout the municipality	Completed	All 2023/2024 new footpath projects have been completed.

2.6 More people live in 10-minute neighbourhoods

- Direct growth to 10-minute neighbourhoods
- Develop a network of Community Hubs
- Implement the short-medium term priorities of the Public Space Plan

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
2.6.1	Finalise the Managed Growth Strategy	In progress	Consultation on the draft Managed Growth Strategy will finish on 12 July 2024. It is expected a report will be provided to Council at a future meeting.
2.6.2	Review Maternal and Child Health service points of delivery	In progress	The review has commenced.
2.6.3	Facilitate planning scheme amendments to implement endorsed structure plans	Completed	Marong Township has been submitted to DTP for final approval. Authorisation for Golden Square to proceed to exhibition is expected in mid-July. Heathcote Township has gone through a Panel Hearing and will be reported back to Council in the next couple of months. Maiden Gully framework plan will depend on the outcomes of the Managed Growth Strategy.

2.7 Sustainable population growth is planned for

- Complete the Greater Bendigo Managed Growth Strategy
- Advocate for provision of required water and other infrastructure

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
2.7.1	Commence Stage 1 of the Marong Kindergarten and Community Hub (subject to external funding)	Completed	The external funding has been secured. A public tender process has been conducted and evaluation of submissions received is underway.
2.7.2	Commence design for the Spring Gully Kindergarten expansion to meet the needs of the growing community (subject to external funding)	Completed	Concept design complete. Design will progress for future funding opportunity.
2.7.3	Advocate for additional funding to commence delivery of the multi-year Heathcote Civic Precinct Project	Completed	Funding outcome was successful.
2.7.4	Scope and design the amenities upgrade and car park improvements for Axedale Kindergarten and Public Hall	Completed	Work has been completed on the public hall and preschool amenities. Concept design work on the car park has been completed, ready for budget consideration.
2.7.5	Undertake design for the redevelopment of the Bendigo Library loading bay to better reflect the increased workflow in the area	In progress	Concept design has been completed and is being reviewed.
2.7.6	Design and erect gateway entrance signs for Junortoun on the Mclvor Highway	Completed	Signs installed and in place, however significant defects (bubbles in the clear coat finish) were identified. Project being managed through defects process. New signs are currently in manufacture with anticipated completion ready for installation by end of August 2024. Inspection of new signage in the factory prior to installation has been scheduled
2.7.7	Improve accessibility at Red Energy Arena (Bendigo Stadium) to courts 9 and 10, upgrades to the Sky Lounge and the design for the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC)	In progress	Design underway for accessibility improvements included in the scope announced on 10/04/2024 for major expansion of the site.



2.8 Targeted investment in services, facilities, and programs to communities most in need

- Finalise and implement the Active Bendigo Framework
- Finalise and implement the Community Aquatics Strategy
- Implement community infrastructure upgrade and renewal projects
- Implement the 10-year Asset Plan

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
2.8.1	Deliver the renewal of Bagshot Hall including roof, weatherboards and painting	Completed	Project cancelled due to review of service need and impact of flood damage.
2.8.2	Upgrade the kitchen cabinetry and floor covering at Elmore Community Hub	Completed	Project completed.
2.8.3	Commence the Maiden Gully Public Hall renewal by re-rendering and painting the external mudbrick wall	Completed	Project completed
2.8.4	Complete the external painting of the Lockwood South Public Hall	Completed	External painting completed and Committee of Management satisfied with work.
2.8.5	Commence painting the interior of the Marong Historic Council Chamber	Not proceeding	Due to significant building cracking, an engineer's assessment and recommendations are currently being sought to understand the cause/s of the building defects.

Performance indicators: The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of results in the comments.

Service/indicator/measure	Results				Comments
AQUATIC FACILITIES	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Service standard <i>Health inspections of aquatic facilities</i> [Number of authorised officer inspections of Council aquatic facilities / Number of Council aquatic facilities]	0.93	0.62	1.46	1.42	
Utilisation <i>Utilisation of aquatic facilities</i> [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	2.92	4.16	5.17	6.25	Our newest indoor aquatic facility continues to grow in popularity with user numbers increasing each year.
Service cost <i>Cost of aquatic facilities</i> [Direct cost of aquatic facilities less income received / Number of visits to aquatic facilities]	\$7.69	\$5.69	\$5.00	\$3.97	This indicator measures the cost per number of visits and there has been an increase in facility usage this reporting period. There has also been a slight saving in the contracted management of facilities.
FOOD SAFETY	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Timeliness <i>Time taken to action food complaints</i> [Number of days between receipt and first response action for all food complaints / Number of food complaints]	2.40	2.85	4.39	4.10	
Service standard <i>Food safety assessments</i> [Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that receive an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984 / Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that require an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984] x100	6.10%	48.73%	81.48%	79.59%	

Service/indicator/measure	Results				Comments
Food safety samples [Number of food samples obtained / Required number of food samples] × 100	New	New	New	214.88%	
Service cost Cost of food safety service [Direct cost of the food safety service / Number of food premises registered or notified in accordance with the Food Act 1984]	\$542.48	\$596.86	\$666.82	\$690.44	
Health and safety Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100	71.23%	63.44%	98.10%	92.98%	
LIBRARIES	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Resource currency Recently purchased library collection [Number of library collection items purchased in the last 5 years / Number of library collection items] x100	72%	78.13%	72%	60.63%	Fewer new items were purchased for Bendigo Library during the reporting period.
Service cost Cost of library service per population [Direct cost of the library service / Population]	\$25.53	\$26.66	\$28.22	\$27.93	
Utilisation Loans per head of population [Number of library collection item loans / Population]	New	New	New	5.09	
Participation Library membership [Number of registered library members / Population] x100 Library visits per head of population [Number of library visits / Population]	New	New	New	17.52%	
	New	New	New	3.13	

Service/indicator/measure	Results				Comments
STATUTORY PLANNING	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Timeliness <i>Time taken to decide planning applications</i> [The median number of days between receipt of a planning application and a decision on the application]	58	75	86	84	
Service standard <i>Planning applications decided within required time frames</i> [(Number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (Number of VicSmart planning application decisions made within 10 days) / Number of planning application decisions made] x100	67.78%	62.32%	58.19%	53.38%	Vacancies in planning officer positions has meant that the target to increase the result for this indicator has not been met in this reporting period.
Service cost <i>Cost of statutory planning service</i> [Direct cost of the statutory planning service / Number of planning applications received]	\$2,190.81	\$2,329.80	\$2,705.72	\$2,865.89	
Decision-making <i>Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT</i> [Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100	87.50%	73.33%	61.11%	39.13%	The number of planning decisions upheld at VCAT remains consistent with previous years but due to the low numbers, the percentage fluctuates each year.

Outcome 3: Strong, inclusive and sustainable economy

An inclusive, sustainable and prosperous community where all people can thrive.

The following statements refer to the Annual Action Plan quarterly progress report aligned with the Council Plan (Mir wimbul) 2021-2025.

3.1 Inclusive employment opportunities for all, sustainable jobs and investment and a diverse economy

- Implement economic development strategy, A Stronger Greater Bendigo 2030
- Support the redevelopment of the Bendigo Showgrounds
- Upgrade the Bendigo Livestock Exchange
- Support the roll out of the Startup Central Victoria project to support regional innovation
- Support the development of the Bendigo Regional Dementia Village in Heathcote

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
3.1.1	Partnering with local jobs facilitators to hold a Jobs Fair in September 2023 focused on opportunities for school leavers	Completed	Jobs Fair was completed with over 400 people attending.
3.1.2	Progress the business case and advocate for funding to install a roof at the Livestock Exchange to improve shelter	In progress	Design and business case have been completed. Advocacy for funding continues.
3.1.3	Develop an agreement with the Office of Commonwealth Games that outlines Council's responsibilities for the delivery of community competition venues	Completed	Due to the cancellation of the Commonwealth Games by the State Government, this action is no longer relevant.
3.1.4	Develop an agreement with the Organising Committee that outlines Council's responsibilities for Commonwealth Games operations	Completed	Due to the cancellation of the Commonwealth Games by the State Government, this action is no longer relevant.
3.1.5	Complete detailed design for the Commonwealth Games community competition venues that Council will deliver	Completed	Due to the cancellation of the Commonwealth Games by the State Government, this action is no longer relevant.



3.2 Education and training pathways that fulfil the city's employment needs

- Work with local education and training providers to respond to community needs
- Implement the Early Years Infrastructure Strategy
- Support the continued roll out of the Bendigo Education Plan

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
3.2.1	Develop and roll out the Leadership Framework and the Capability Framework	In progress	A new online Personal Development Plan (PDP) system is in development for roll out in September 2024. This will allow employees to clearly link their development to the Capability Framework. Development of the Leadership Framework will begin once the online PDPs are rolled out.

3.3 A transformed and revitalised City Centre

- Implement the City Centre Plan
- Support the roll out of 100GB Bendigo, establishing Greater Bendigo as the technology hub of Victoria

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
3.3.1	Facilitate a planning scheme amendment to implement the endorsed City Centre planning framework	In progress	An authorisation request to exhibit the City Centre Planning scheme amendment was lodged with the Department of Transport and Planning on 1 July 2024. Given the timing, exhibition will either be in late 2024 or early 2025.

3.4 Employment land available for industry expansion and attraction

- Implement the Industrial Land Strategy
- Deliver a large-scale employment (industrial land) precinct in Greater Bendigo

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
3.4.1	Support the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) to prepare a master plan and planning scheme amendment to rezone the land for the Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct (BREP)	Completed	Regular support is provided to the VPA in their preparation of the BREP master plan and rezoning package. Monthly meetings are held to track the project's progress.

3.5 A strong vibrant tourism sector

- Implement the Bendigo Regional Destination Management Plan
- Continue development of the Bendigo Airport Terminal and business park
- Continue to implement the Bendigo Botanic Gardens Master Plan

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
3.5.1	Complete the Bendigo Airport terminal expansion	Completed	Bendigo Airport terminal expansion project is complete and was officially opened on April 26, 2024.
3.5.2	Support the new Visitor Economy Partnership to develop and implement the new Destination Management Plan (DMP) for the City and neighbouring regions	In progress	DMP is now with the State Government for final sign off, once this step is complete our work will begin in implementing the DMP. Expect approval of the DMP sometime in late July 2024.

3.6 Improved safe freight networks

- Implement priorities from the Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy and Road Management Plan

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
3.6.1	Advocate to the Department of Transport and Planning for a more safe and efficient freight network as identified in the Bendigo Freight Study	Completed	City officers from a range of units participate in a regular 'movement and access' working group with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), where improvements to all transport modes are discussed. Further advocacy will be investigated. As part of the \$6M BREP grant, DTP is currently leading the Marong Freight Corridor Assessment.

Performance indicators: The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of results in the comments.

Service/indicator/measure	Results				Comments
ROADS	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Satisfaction of use <i>Sealed local road requests</i> [Number of sealed local road requests / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	42.54	46.85	72.28	60.57	The road requests for the last two reporting periods have been higher than usual due to flooding events.
Condition <i>Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards</i> [Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	99.33%	99.35%	99.24%	97.48%	The 2022-2024 flooding events had an impact on the condition of roads and this is reflected in the condition data.
Service cost <i>Cost of sealed local road reconstruction</i> [Direct cost of sealed local road reconstruction / Square metres of sealed local roads reconstructed]	\$132.62	\$143.36	\$154.12	\$238.77	Due to the flooding events of 2022-2024 there has been a focus on road reconstruction. This has increased expenditure in this area in the current 2023-2024 financial year.
<i>Cost of sealed local road resealing</i> [Direct cost of sealed local road resealing / square metres of sealed local roads resealed]	\$7.17	\$6.59	\$8.36	\$5.72	There was more focus on road reconstruction following recent rain events, with focused efforts on reconstruction rather than resealing.
Satisfaction <i>Satisfaction with sealed local roads</i> [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]	61	54	53	46	The 2022-2024 flooding events greatly affected the quality of our sealed roads and this is reflected in the satisfaction result.

Outcome 4: Aboriginal reconciliation

A community that recognises and respects Aboriginal people and culture and enables the self-determination of Traditional Owners.

The following statements refer to the Annual Action Plan quarterly progress report aligned with the Council Plan (Mir wimbul) 2021-2025.

4.1 Respecting and celebrating our Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and cultures through all levels of our organisation

- Implement *Barpangu* Reconciliation Plan
- Provision of support for NAIDOC and Reconciliation weeks
- Implementation of the Aboriginal Place Naming Project
- Implementing the City of Gastronomy Action Plan

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
4.1.1	Encourage increased participation by First Nations peoples in events such as the Bendigo Easter Festival and Summer in the Parks through regular consultation	In progress	2024 Bendigo Easter Festival featured a Djarra float at the beginning of the Gala Parade and Torchlight Parade. Major events like the Lost Trades Fair featured a smoking ceremony at the opening of the 2024 event.
4.1.2	Finalise the commission of a major First Nations art work to hang in perpetuity in The Capital main foyer to mark the 150th anniversary of the building in 2023	Completed	Official unveiling of the artwork was held on Thursday January 18, 2024,

4.2 Strengthening our trust, relationships and partnerships with Traditional Owners and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

- Implement *Barpangu* Reconciliation Plan
- Implement Climate Change and Environment Strategy
- Strengthen partnership and collaboration work in alignment with the principles agreed in the respective Memorandums of Understanding
- Support and empower Traditional Owners' priorities in public land and cultural landscape management

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
4.2.1	Identify a Service Lead for delivery of Yalingga Marna, the 12-month Local Area Agreement between Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DJAARA) and the City	Completed	Governance structures developed and under review to ensure the implementation of Yalingga Marna. Partnership Officer appointed at DJAARA to support implementation. Key City staff identified and implementation plan to be drafted.

4.3 Enhanced wellbeing of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

- Implement *Barpangu* (Reconciliation Plan)
- Implement the Greater Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Strengthen Council's Procurement Policy
- Strengthen Council's employment practices
- Implement Greater Creative Bendigo 2030
- Implement A Stronger Greater Bendigo

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
4.3.1	Investigate changing the Citizenship Ceremony date from January 26 to January 25	Completed	Council endorsed changing the date of the Citizenship Ceremony from January 26 to January 25 in future years on July 24, 2023.

Artwork to celebrate The Capital's
150th anniversary from First Nations
Artist Daikota Nelson

Outcome 5: A climate resilient and healthy landscape

A regional community that enjoys a restored and thriving natural environment.

The following statements refer to the Annual Action Plan quarterly progress report aligned with the Council Plan (Mir wimbul) 2021-2025.

5.1 Zero carbon

- Implement the Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026
- Use 100% renewable electricity and transition to locally generated renewable energy
- Increase Council building energy efficiency
- Transition off fossil gas
- Transition to an electric fleet

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
5.1.1	Replace gas appliances at approximately 20 small community facilities, including early years centres, senior citizen centres and community halls	Completed	Gas cooking facilities, heating and / or hot water appliances were replaced at Annie Galvin Early Learning Centre, Epsom Kindergarten, Eaglehawk Town Hall, Goornong Memorial Hall, Marong Public Hall, Quarry Hill Recreation Reserve, Shadforth Park, Sailors Gully, Heathcote Senior Citizens Centre and Bendigo Airport.
5.1.2	Finalise a Zero Emissions Roadmap for the City and the broader region and commence implementation	In progress	The Greater Bendigo Zero Emissions Roadmap was adopted by Council on September 25, 2023. The draft Loddon Mallee Zero Emissions Roadmap is now complete and will be released for broader public consultation in the coming months.
5.1.3	Develop the detailed design and tender specifications for the electrification of the Bendigo Library, Council's fourth-largest gas user	In progress	Detailed design underway and due for completion in the coming months.

5.2 Circular economy

- Implement the Circular Economy and Zero Waste Policy
- Implement the Single-use Plastics Policy
- Engage with the community to reuse and recycle materials
- Support businesses to procure and supply recycled content, reused material or take-back products in their business

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
5.2.1	Deliver against the Circular Economy and Zero Waste Policy targets	Completed	Resource Recovery and Education staff have delivered Circular Economy workshop sessions. Circular Economy outcomes will form part of future business plans, with reporting to be included in the Climate Change and Environment Strategy Annual Report.

5.3 Thriving landscapes and ecosystems

- Implement relevant priorities from the Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan
- Implement Greening Greater Bendigo
- Develop and implement a Biodiversity Policy
- Develop and implement a management and monitoring plan for ecological restoration projects on Council-managed land
- Increase involvement of Traditional Owners in the management of public spaces
- Engage the wider community in actions to support our goals

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
5.3.1	Implementation of a Sustainable Land Management Program, which involves delivery of education and engagement activities complemented by a grant to rural land owners for works that achieve positive environmental outcomes on their land	Completed	Delivery of the Sustainable Land Management Program is complete for 2023/2024, including allocation of the Rural Regeneration Grant and delivery of workshops, field days and farm visits.
5.3.2	Set up a biodiversity monitoring program that uses citizen scientists to assist with implementation	In progress	The development of a monitoring program is nearing completion and will include mammal, bird, reptile and plant surveys, and citizen science activities. These surveys will give us more accurate data on the City's contribution to supporting native plants, animals and ecosystems.
5.3.3	Finalise a Biodiversity Strategy for the City	Completed	The Biodiversity Strategy was adopted by Council on September 25, 2023.
5.3.4	Establish a biodiversity community engagement program, which includes providing support to Friends and Landcare groups	Completed	A program of engagement activities is being delivered by Council's new Biodiversity Engagement Officer in collaboration with other agencies.

5.4 Water Sensitive Bendigo

- Implement Reimagining Bendigo Creek
- Monitor and raise awareness about waterway health across the city and region
- Retrofit urban catchments with flood mitigation and Water Sensitive Urban Design Infrastructure. Identify and implement alternative water supply and water efficiency infrastructure for Council assets
- Support and facilitate water security planning
- Advance the adoption of Water Sensitive Urban Design principles in new developments and urban renewals
- Implement the Domestic Waste Water Management Strategy

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
5.4.1	Implement year 2 of the in-stream work in Bendigo Creek	In progress	Delays experienced. Partnership with DJAARA and Djandak underway with works to commence in 2024.
5.4.2	Progress development of a Stormwater Management Strategy	In progress	Preliminary work underway including an audit of Water Sensitive Urban Design assets and stormwater modelling, which will inform the strategy.



Performance indicators: The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of results in the comments.

Service/indicator/measure	Results				Comments
WASTE MANAGEMENT	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Service standard <i>Kerbside collection bins missed</i> [Number of kerbside garbage and recycling collection bins missed / Number of scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts] x10,000	4.05	3.71	4.41	5.79	The implementation of the change of bin collection frequency resulted in a slight increase in missed bins through the adjustment period.
Service cost <i>Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service</i> [Direct cost of the kerbside garbage bin collection service / Number of kerbside garbage collection bins]	\$154.42	\$156.17	\$188.85	\$143.14	Following the bin collection frequency change, there is less waste going to landfill and therefore a decrease in fees for this stream. However the increased cost of organics collection has offset this saving.
<i>Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service</i> [Direct cost of the kerbside recyclables bin collection service / Number of kerbside recyclables collection bins]	\$66.46	\$53.44	\$66.55	\$74.56	Over the reporting period, contractor fees have increased by 30%.
Waste diversion <i>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</i> [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100	50.19%	52.25%	52.96%	58.29%	The amount of Food Organics and Green Organics (FOGO) diverted from landfill has increased since the City implemented a change to the collection frequency during 2023/2024.

Outcome 6: A vibrant, creative community

A community that inspires a culture of creativity, activates its spaces, nurtures and supports talent, champions inclusion and access, and shows the world.

The following statements refer to the Annual Action Plan quarterly progress report aligned with the Council Plan (Mir wimbul) 2021-2025.

6.1 A culture of creativity

- Implement Greater CREATIVE Bendigo
- Create opportunities to promote the unique contribution of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creatives

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
6.1.1	Through the Fair Play program, develop an Equity Action Plan with specific goals and actions to develop greater equity and inclusion in regional Victorian arts organisations	Completed	Fair Play course completed by Manager and Bendigo Venues & Events Coordinators and certificates of completion have been issued. A draft Bendigo Venues & Events Equity Action Plan was submitted as part of this coursework.

6.2 More activated spaces

- Develop and implement a Public Art Strategy and Policy
- Expand the Bendigo Art Gallery

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
6.2.1	Redevelop the Municipal Baths to be a publicly accessible open space	In progress	Construction is well underway. Earthworks, path and retaining walls have been finalised, with the board walk and balustrades currently under construction. Extensive planting will be undertaken by Djandak in spring 2024.
6.2.2	Launch philanthropic and Federal funding campaign phase for the Bendigo Art Gallery redevelopment	In progress	Philanthropic campaign underway and federal funding advocacy continues.

6.3 Nurturing and supporting talent and championing inclusion and access for creatives

- Hold regular networking events, mentoring and grant opportunities
- Establish a digital strategy for creative industries
- Develop artist-in-residence programs that connect business and creatives
- Explore opportunities for career pathways in creative industries for young people

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
6.3.1	Deliver the State-funded Innovative Young Minds program, providing gallery-based learning opportunities for high-ability regional students, levels F - 12, enrolled in government schools. The program will foreground First Nations contributions to art and culture and encourage cultural leadership skills	In progress	Program continues to deliver opportunities for quality engagement. Recent achievements include a First Nations mural created with students at Maryborough Education Centre. More projects with Bendigo based schools are planned for the second half of year.

6.4 Build international recognition for our designation as a UNESCO Creative City – A City of Gastronomy

- Implement the Creative City of Gastronomy Implementation Framework and Action Plan

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
6.4.1	Attend the International UNESCO Creative Cities Network meeting and submit the first four-yearly monitoring report to UNESCO	Completed	The UNESCO Creative Cities Network meeting was cancelled in 2023. The four-year monitoring report was submitted in December 2023 and representatives are booked to attend the Creative Cities Network Annual Conference being held in Portugal from July 1 to 5, 2024.
6.4.2	Develop a showcase event to celebrate our designation as a City and region of Gastronomy	In progress	Initial planning has commenced for development of a showcase event in 2025. Products from the City and region were featured as part of the G'Day USA Gala dinner in February 2024, Bendigo Writers Festival 2024 has a Gastronomy theme and MasterChef featured our gastronomy designation in an episode that was broadcast on Network 10 in May 2024.

6.5 Recognise and celebrate our significant national and international heritage

- Develop a Heritage Strategy
- Complete heritage studies and review old studies, including information about Aboriginal culture and history and post-contact history, and contributions from other cultural groups (e.g. Chinese)
- Complete the Gas Works project
- Support the bid for World Heritage listing for the Central Victorian Goldfields Region
- Redevelop the National Chinese Museum of Australia (Golden Dragon Museum)
- Expand the Central Deborah Gold Mine
- Complete the Municipal Baths project

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
6.5.1	Expand the Bendigo Tramways workshop to increase workshop capacity, while expanding the heritage and cultural experience	Completed	Bendigo Tramways Expansion project completed and officially opened on 24 May 2024.



Outcome 7: A safe, welcoming and fair community

A community where people are respected, safe to participate in all aspects of community life and have equitable access to the resources they need.

The following statements refer to the Annual Action Plan quarterly progress report aligned with the Council Plan (Mir wimbul) 2021-2025.

7.1 A community that values gender equity and is free from violence against women

- Implement initiatives from the Coalition for Gender Equity Strategy
- Ensure compliance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*
- Work with local partners to prevent violence against women

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
7.1.1	Support the review and refresh of the Gender Equity Coalition Strategy	Completed	Leadership group membership has been extended. Discussion with broader group around strategy, re-engagement of members and sustainability is progressing. The City will remain involved and continue to support the Coalition.

7.2 A welcoming community that understands and respects cultural and religious differences and supports multiculturalism

- Finalise and implement the Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan (CDIP)

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
7.2.1	Achieve the Welcoming Cities re-accreditation	In progress	Evidence and data collection across the organisation continues, while working with Welcoming Cities to trial the new standards.

7.3 Young people are supported to explore, engage and be empowered to shape the world they live in

- Provide support to the Greater Bendigo Youth Council
- Implement youth-focused actions from the Greater Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Partner with other youth services across Greater Bendigo to strengthen collaboration

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
7.3.1	Development and endorsement of the 2023-2025 Youth Action Plan	Completed	Council endorsed the Youth Action Plan 2023-2025 on April 24, 2023.

7.4 A community that values and engages with people of all ages, abilities, genders and sexualities

- Promote CONNECT Greater Bendigo
- Implement the Community Volunteering Strategy
- Strengthen Greater Bendigo as a Child Friendly / Age Friendly / Welcoming City
- Improve disability access across Greater Bendigo
- Celebrate our LGBTIQA+ community

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
7.4.1	Design and construction of a Changing Places toilet in Heathcote	In progress	Design has been completed and construction commenced on-site.
7.4.2	Construction and upgrade of non-compliant disabled car parking, pedestrian crossings and minor footpath/kerb areas	Completed	Program of works completed. Further projects are funded for construction in 2024/2025.

7.5 A community who feels safe

- Develop and implement a Community Safety Strategy

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
7.5.1	Commence the multi-year upgrade of the Midland Highway/Waratah Road intersection in Huntly with traffic signals to maximise the community's ability to cross the Midland Highway safely	Completed	Construction is planned to commence in 2024/2025
7.5.2	Commence stage 1 redevelopment of the Adam Street Depot with the relocation of the wash bay	In progress	Site works commenced. Excavation of material prior to construction of retaining wall
7.5.3	Implement the orders from the adopted Domestic Animal Management Plan	Completed	Dog on leash orders came into effect on January 1, 2024 and cat containment will come into effect on July 1, 2024.

7.6 A community that promotes equity and addresses poverty and disadvantage

- Implement the recommendations of the Bendigo Human Rights Charter evaluation

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
7.6.1	Deliver Celebrating Capacity training for staff and local community based organisations	Future Action	Future action for 2024/2025.
7.6.2	Increase visibility of Equity Impact Assessments across the organisation	Completed	This is now ongoing work - embedded through 'road shows' to unit meetings, inclusion through review of relevant policies and also included in report writing process through embedding templates etc. Ongoing focus on education and increasing visibility.
7.6.3	Establish a secure annual funding program for Neighbourhood Houses to provide valuable support to local communities	Completed	Community Grants Policy review was completed and endorsed by Council, which included an annual \$25,000 allocation for Community Houses to be supported by a work plan and KPIs that align with the City's strategic objectives.

7.7 Emergencies are prevented or mitigated

- Implement the Integrated Municipal Emergency Management Plan
- Implement the Municipal Fire Management Plan

Code	Actions	Status	Progress comments
7.7.1	Progress the design for the Bendigo Creek Levee between Howard Street and Leans Road in Epsom	In progress	Alignment has been determined with community and landowner consultation expected to commence in August 2024.

Performance indicators: The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including explanation of results in the comments.

Service/indicator/measure	Results				Comments
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Timeliness <i>Time taken to action animal management requests</i> [Number of days between receipt and first response action for all animal management requests / Number of animal management requests]	1.02	1.15	1.06	1.18	These results are consistent with previous years but due to the low number of days to action complaints, the percentage fluctuates each year.
Service standard <i>Animals reclaimed</i> [Number of animals reclaimed / Number of animals collected] x100 <i>Animals rehomed</i> [Number of animals rehomed / Number of animals collected] x100	42.76%	31.91%	28.71%	31.8%	Slightly higher reclaiming rates have seen a minor increase in the percent result but the figures are consistent with previous years. The indicator calculation has changed this year, causing an inflated percentage of animals rehomed. The number of animals rehomed is consistent with previous year results.
Service cost <i>Cost of animal management service per population</i> [Direct cost of the animal management service / Population]	\$16.90	\$18.49	\$22.45	\$22.12	
Health and safety <i>Animal management prosecutions</i> [Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100	100%	100%	100%	100%	

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Service standard <i>Infant enrolments in the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) service</i> [Number of infants enrolled in the MCH service (from birth notifications received) / Number of birth notifications received] x100	100.9%	101.2%	100.7%	101.29%	
Service cost <i>Cost of the MCH service</i> [Cost of the MCH service / Hours worked by MCH nurses]	\$54.81	\$63.73	\$67.11	\$67.22	
Participation <i>Participation in the MCH service</i> [Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100 <i>Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children</i> [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	77.34%	75.93%	76.51%	77.59%	Attendance was slightly higher this year, the figures are comparable with previous years.
	72.20%	69.88%	71.29%	78.85%	
Satisfaction <i>Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit</i> [Number of 4-week key age and stage visits / Number of birth notifications received] x100	98%	97.11%	96.16%	97.12%	



I SERVICES

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2023/2024 Budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

Service unit	Progress comments	Net cost
		Budget (less) Actual (equals) Variance \$000
Office of the CEO and Communications	The Office of the CEO and Communications provides strategic leadership to the organisation, implementation of Council decisions including the Council Plan and other key strategic directions. It provides representation and advocacy on key issues of importance to Greater Bendigo and the region. Communications ensures the community is well informed of City news and information is distributed using various communication channels available. It promotes the City's services and events to the community, and manages the City's brand.	1,958 1,974 (16)
Commonwealth Games Directorate	The directorate of Commonwealth Games will inform, coordinate, and lead the City through the planning and delivery of its responsibilities as a host city for the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games. The Director will work with the Organising Committee, Sport and Recreation Victoria, and Development Victoria to deliver infrastructure, cultural and entertainment programs. The Director will also work with key local stakeholders to ensure the needs of our First Nations people, our local businesses, sporting groups and community are considered through the Commonwealth Games planning and delivery.	692 95 597

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

OUR PERFORMANCE

81

Service unit	Progress comments	Net cost Budget (less) Actual
		(equals) Variance \$000
Corporate Performance directorate	The Corporate Performance directorate leads, enables and strengthens our organisation to ensure it has the resources and capability to deliver on the Council Plan. The directorate does this through developing our people and culture, systems and processes, good governance practices and financial stewardship to ensure the delivery of high-quality services and programs. The directorate leads innovation and business transformation to ensure we are ready to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future in partnership with our community.	425 403 21
Customer Experience and Corporate Planning	The Customer Experience and Corporate Planning unit supports the organisation to continuously review and improve its service and program delivery. Customer service needs are met effectively and efficiently, including providing multiple options for customers to access Council services.	2,471 2,142 329
Information Management	The Information Management unit is responsible for providing technology and information management support and assistance for the range of IT services used within the City. The unit is central in ensuring that the City's technology systems are innovative and fit for purpose so that staff are able to deliver services to our community.	6,645 6,971 (327)
People and Culture	The People and Culture unit supports the organisation to recruit, develop and retain the people and skills required to deliver the best services we can for the community. The unit works across the organisation to embed our preferred culture and values to ensure our workplaces are safe and inclusive.	4,591 4,370 221
Organisational Change Management	The Organisational Change Management unit is responsible for leading the City into the new Galkangu building and for facilitating all aspects of change related to people, process and technology going forward.	332 359 (27)
Governance	The Governance unit is responsible for providing advice and support to the Councillors and organisation to aid decision making and ensure that the Council is compliant with legislative responsibilities and good governance practices. The unit also supports effective risk management, legal advice, and ensures procurement is undertaken in a considered and responsible way to deliver on Council's and the community's objectives.	5,453 5,122 331
Financial Strategy	The Financial Strategy unit is responsible for finance operations, rates, strategic asset management and the project management framework. The unit provides long-term financial planning to support the ongoing financial sustainability of Council's operations. This includes delivery of the annual Budget, financial plan, asset plan, financial statements, performance statements and a range of other Local Government regulatory reporting.	2,800 432 2,369
Healthy Communities and Environment Directorate	The Healthy Communities and Environments directorate leads service delivery and partnership work to ensure the community is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy and well • Safe and secure • Able to participate • Connected to culture and community • Liveable and environmentally sustainable <p>It does this by leading exceptional service delivery, research, planning, policy development, capacity building and facilitating key partnership initiatives using approaches that are evidence informed, apply an equity lens and are continuously evaluated.</p>	430 394 36

Service unit	Progress comments	Net cost Budget (less) Actual
		(equals) Variance \$000
Active and Healthy Communities	The Active and Healthy Communities unit delivers integrated policy, planning, programs and infrastructure that support our community to be more physically active, consume healthy food, promote positive wellbeing and reduce harmful behaviours. The unit aims to enable residents to participate in their community, contributes to the liveability, and aligns with the Greater Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Plan priorities and framework.	5,270 5,280 (10)
Climate Change and Environment	The Climate Change and Environment unit provides a coordinated approach to the development and implementation of environmental policies, strategies and programs that aim to address the climate change and biodiversity breakdown. The unit works across the organisation and with the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance biodiversity, support sustainable land management practices, and improve waterway health.	2,241 2,043 198
Community Partnerships	The Community Partnerships unit works closely with the community to plan and develop policies and programs that increase community safety, engagement and connection, prevent discrimination, and improve access and inclusion for diverse groups across the community.	4,038 4,061 (23)
Community Wellbeing	The Community Wellbeing unit delivers a broad range of services to children and families across the City that aim to promote children's learning and development. It also provides community-based services to support older adults navigate the aged care systems and provide advocacy support across the sector. In addition, the unit also delivers the school crossing supervisor program for the City.	2,926 1,924 1,003
Goldfields Library Corporation	The Goldfields Library Corporation provides a public library service from six sites throughout the municipality, with branches in Bendigo, Kangaroo Flat, Eaglehawk and Heathcote, along with Library agencies at Axedale and Elmore. The Bendigo Library also includes the Bendigo Regional Archive Centre. This service is delivered under a Funding and Service Agreement in partnership with Loddon, Mount Alexander and Macedon Ranges Shires.	3,302 3,357 (55)
Safe and Healthy Environments	The Safe and Healthy Environments unit's purpose is to advocate, enable and mediate with and on behalf of the community to promote and protect health, prevent the spread of infectious disease and ensure safe development and support the protection of our environments. The unit is also responsible for Parking Services, Local Laws and provides Animal Services, including operation of the City's pound and animal shelter services at BARC.	2,622 2,593 (29)
Strategy and Growth directorate	The Strategy and Growth directorate incorporates responsibility for Bendigo Art Gallery, Economic Development, Bendigo Venues & Events, Economic Development, Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, and Tourism and Major Events. The overarching role of the Strategy and Growth directorate is to contribute to the economic, cultural and social prosperity of our region by identifying and supporting investment opportunities, employment generation, and the integrated planning for the sustainable growth of our City and region.	398 9,751 (9,354)

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

OUR PERFORMANCE

83

Service unit	Progress comments	Net cost
		Budget (less) Actual (equals) Variance \$000
Economic Development	The Economic Development unit looks to improve the standard of living within Greater Bendigo by facilitating the growth and diversity of local jobs, support for innovation, and development of a socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable economy that is growing and productive. The unit also incorporates the day-to-day operations and guides the strategic direction of the Bendigo Airport and Bendigo Livestock Exchange, and leads the organisation's business partnerships and relationships with Red Energy Arena (Bendigo Stadium), Golden Dragon Museum, Bendigo Showgrounds, Discovery Science and Technology Centre, and Bendigo Heritage Attractions.	2,825 2,373 452
Statutory Planning	The Statutory Planning unit facilitates the delivery of timely and quality planning decisions and advice and ensures compliance with relevant legislation and permit requirements. Many of the services delivered by the Statutory Planning unit are in accordance with State Government legislation and local strategies and policies adopted by Council following intensive community consultation.	140 48 92
Tourism and Major Events	The Tourism and Major Events unit promotes Greater Bendigo as an attractive destination for business, leisure and tourism to domestic and international visitors. The unit's role is to deliver key initiatives that have a positive economic and social impact for our region.	4,590 4,445 144
Bendigo Art Gallery	Bendigo Art Gallery develops and delivers exhibitions, public programs and associated events that are educational and appealing to a diverse range of audiences and add to the attraction of Bendigo as a centre for arts and culture.	3,094 3,135 (41)
Bendigo Venues & Events	The Bendigo Venues & Events unit provides quality performing arts programming and activities to the central Victorian region and provides facilities and opportunities for participation in the arts. The unit manages Ulumbarra Theatre, The Capital, The Engine Room, Bendigo Town Hall, Dudley House, Djaa Djuwima (First Nations art gallery) and coordinates temporary public art.	2,302 2,314 13
Strategic Planning	The Strategic Planning unit is strategic and visionary in its outlook. It develops integrated, long term strategies and plans to guide the physical, social, heritage and cultural development of Greater Bendigo. The unit strategically positions Greater Bendigo to plan and prepare for a population of 200,000 by the year 2050, including undertaking planning scheme amendments to implement the strategies and plans.	3,309 2,969 340
Presentation and Assets directorate	The Presentation and Assets directorate provides and maintains high quality assets and services that help make Greater Bendigo a great place to live, while planning and delivering new assets and services to support Bendigo's ongoing growth. Demonstrating and committing to environmentally responsible thinking and practices, and encouraging this throughout the organisation and community, is an important focus for the directorate. Business units include Engineering, Resource Recovery and Education, Works, Parks and Open Space, and Property Services.	1,100 791 309

Service unit	Progress comments	Net cost
		Budget (less) Actual (equals) Variance \$000
Engineering	The Engineering unit develops and delivers physical infrastructure to support a broad range of services to the community. This includes the development of capital works projects to provide renewal and new assets to meet the expanding population of Bendigo and increasing community expectations. The unit is also responsible for strategic planning of infrastructure through asset management and development of strategic plans for asset groups. The unit provides support services across the organisation in areas of asset management and GIS.	4,812 4,065 747
Works	The Works unit is responsible for the renewal, reconstruction and maintenance of the City's civil infrastructure. The infrastructure includes the City's sealed and unsealed roads, including works in accordance with the Road Management Plan, drains, footpaths, street furniture and signs. The unit also supports other parts of the City business through the construction of civil works such as sporting facilities and car parks. The plant and fleet assets including purchase, maintenance and disposal are also the responsibility of the unit.	15,837 14,965 872
Parks and Open Space	The Parks and Open Space unit is responsible for the management and design of a large portfolio of parks, gardens, reserves, sports fields and areas of open space for the City. The unit has a range of specialised park, design, horticultural, and environmental management techniques and practices. The aim of the unit is to effectively and sustainably manage these assets through the efficient use of available resources and the provision of high levels of customer service whilst meeting both Council and stakeholder needs.	12,227 12,540 (312)
Resource Recovery and Education	The Resource Recovery and Education unit provides waste management and resource recovery services to meet our customers' expectations efficiently and effectively, and in compliance with current legislation. The unit is responsible for street and footpath cleaning, weed management and the cleaning at bus stops, bus shelters and roundabouts, the rehabilitation of landfills to community expectations and EPA standards, and reducing waste to landfill through achieving a circular economy.	21,747 20,586 1,161
Property Services	The Property Services unit is responsible for managing the City's property portfolio of approximately 1,400 buildings and structures valued in excess of \$400M. The unit undertakes ongoing property audit inspections to determine condition of building facilities, enabling identification of renewal and upgrade packages as well as supporting new construction proposals and submissions delivered for the City. The unit is responsible for the implementation of programmed maintenance schedules, such as cleaning services, essential safety measures, and the completion of urgent or immediate maintenance works, ensuring that council facilities are safe for public use and comply with the relevant codes and standards. The unit leads the administration of agreements for land and building use and is also responsible for all City owned and managed contaminated land, land disposal, purchases and associated conveyancing and supporting tasks.	9,867 10,173 (305)

GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND OTHER INFORMATION

I GOVERNANCE

The Greater Bendigo City Council is constituted under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and the local community. Council has a number of roles including:

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

The Act also specifies overarching governance principles for councils including:

- Achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations
- Promoting the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks
- Engaging the municipal community in strategic planning and strategic decision-making
- Ensuring Council's ongoing financial viability
- Ensuring the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information

Council is committed to effective and sustainable forms of democratic and corporate governance as the key to ensuring that Council and its administration meet the community's priorities.

The community has many opportunities to provide input into Council's decision-making processes, including community consultation, public forums such as ward meetings, and the ability to make submissions on strategies and plans.

Council's formal decision-making processes are conducted solely through Council meetings. The Act clearly distinguishes between the roles and responsibilities of the Council as elected Councillors and the administrative (Council employees) arm of Local Government. This demarcation of roles is sometimes referred to as the separation of powers.

The internal day-to-day work of Local Government is carried out by City staff members under the direction of the CEO. This operational work is directed by the decisions of the Council through the Council Plan and/or other adopted Council policies.

Councillor expenses

In accordance with Section 40 of the Act, Council is required to reimburse a Councillor for expenses incurred whilst performing their duties as a Councillor. Council is also required to adopt and maintain a policy in relation to the reimbursement of expenses for Councillors. The policy provides guidance for the payment of reimbursements of expenses and the provision of resources, facilities

and other support to the Mayor and Councillors to enable them to discharge their duties. The details of the expenses for the 2023/2024 year are set out in the table below.

Councillor allowances

In accordance with section 39 of the Act, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance while performing their duty as a Councillor. These are determined by the [Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal](#) via their [annual adjustments](#). As a Category Three Council, the City of Greater Bendigo allowances (inclusive of superannuation or equivalent) are:

	Jul 1, 2023 – Dec 17, 2023 (\$)	Dec 18, 2023 – Jun 30, 2024 (\$)	Jul 1, 2024 – Dec 17, 2024 (\$)	Dec 18, 2024 – Dec 17, 2025 (\$)
Mayor	126,958	130,390	134,954	138,506
Deputy Mayor	63,480	65,195	67,477	69,252
Councillors	38,316	39,390	40,769	*

**This figure is not yet available and will be based on annual adjustments.*

Councillor expenses for 2022/2023

Councillors	TR (\$)	CM (\$)	CC (\$)	IC (\$)	CT (\$)	Total (\$)
Cr Dr Jennifer Alden	1,798	1,772	-	638	1,708	5,915
Cr Matthew Evans	781	-	-	638	1,377	2,796
Cr David Fagg	161	-	-	638	-	799
Cr Rod Fyffe OAM	161	-	-	640	109	911
Cr Andrea Metcalf	7,751	-	-	489	377	8,616
Cr Margaret O'Rourke	628	3,440	-	401	200	4,669
Cr Greg Penna	201	4,962	-	401	-	5,564
Cr Julie Sloan	374	384	-	401	-	1,159
Cr Vaughan Williams	353	668	-	401	-	1,422

TR = Travel. CM = Car mileage. CC = Child care. IC = Information and communication expenses. CT = Conferences and training expenses.



Meetings of Council 2023/2024

Council conducts monthly open public meetings that members of the community are welcome to observe from the gallery, via live stream on the Council website or broadcast on Phoenix FM. Council meetings also provide the opportunity for community members to submit a question to the Council on any matter, except for planning matters on the agenda that night.

For the 2023/2024 financial year Council held 13 Council meetings.

Delegated committees

Council does not have any delegated committees.

Code of conduct

The Act requires all Victorian municipalities to maintain a Councillor Code of Conduct as part of good governance. On February 15, 2021, the Council adopted its Code, which covers:

- Treatment of others
- Performing the role of a Councillor
- Compliance with good governance measures
- Prevention of discrediting or misleading Council and the public
- Dispute resolution procedure
- Maintenance of robust public debate

Conflict of interest

Councillors are elected by the residents and ratepayers to act in the best interests of the community. When a Council delegates its powers to a City officer or a committee, the committee or officer also needs to act in the public interest. A conflict of interest occurs when a personal or private interest might compromise a Councillor's, officer's or Committee member's ability to act in the public interest. A conflict of interest exists even if no improper act results from it.

Council has a comprehensive procedure in place to accommodate the disclosure of a conflict of interest. Declaration of a conflict of interest is a standard agenda item for all Council and Committee meetings. While the procedures vary depending on the particular role and circumstances, in general they involve disclosing the relevant interests in a specific way and then stepping aside from the relevant decision-making process or from the exercise of the public duty. All disclosed conflicts of interest are recorded. During 2023/2024, five conflicts of interest were declared at Council meetings.

I MANAGEMENT

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee is a formally appointed advisory committee to Council. The Audit and Risk Committee provides independent assurance and advice to Council in relation to financial management, audit, risk management, internal controls, regulatory compliance and reporting, and council operations. The membership of the Committee during 2023/2024 was:

Independent members

- Jovana Obradovic-Tantra (Chair) (October 1, 2018 to present)
- Stephen Brown (October 1, 2020 to present)
- Robert Stephenson (from October 1, 2021 to present)
- Dan Butel (October 1, 2023 to present)

Council Members

- Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf (2023 and 2024)
- Cr Margaret O'Rourke (2023 and 2024)
- Cr Julie Sloan (2023 and 2024)

Attending officers

- Craig Niemann - Chief Executive Officer
- Andrew Cooney – Chief Executive Officer
- Jessica Howard - Director, Corporate Performance
- Jessica Clarke-Hong - Manager Governance
- Ryan Millard – Acting Manager Governance
- Chris Mitchell – Acting Manager Governance
- Nathan Morsillo - Manager Financial Strategy
- Nathan Cutting – Coordinator Finance Operations
- Anna Connolly - Risk and Assurance Advisor
- Rosemary Broad – Acting Risk and Assurance Advisor
- Rebecca Maple – Risk and Assurance Advisor

The Audit and Risk Committee meets a minimum of four times per year to consider various issues, submissions and reports, and to make recommendations to Council and staff in relation to such matters as:

- Endorsement of Council's internal audit plan
- Review the status of the Internal Audit Plan, scopes of upcoming audits and the findings of completed audits
- Endorsement of Council's annual statement of financial accounts and performance reports;
- Oversee the implementation of audit recommendations made by the Victorian Auditor General Officer (VAGO) and Victorian Ombudsman
- Review and provide advice on a range of reports of activities across Council
- Endorsement of Council's key policies
- Endorsement of Council's Risk Management Policy and Framework and Strategic Risk Register

During the 2023/2024 year, the Audit and Risk Committee met on four occasions on the following dates:

- September 14, 2023
- November 9, 2023
- February 22, 2024
- May 15, 2024

Agendas and minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meetings are forwarded to all Councillors and Audit and Risk Committee members and attendees. The Chair reports to Council twice yearly, which includes a summary of the activities and achievements of the Committee during the year. One of the reports also includes how the committee has discharged its responsibilities as set out in the Charter for the year.

Internal audit

AFS and Associates was reappointed as the Internal Auditor on July 1, 2024 after a competitive tender process. The internal audit function provides an independent review of the effectiveness and efficiency of selected internal control processes and forms a key component of the City's Governance and Risk Management Framework.

A risk based three-year Strategic Internal Audit Plan (SIAP) is revised annually to ensure the audit resources remain focused on the appropriate areas. The review process considers the City's risk framework, the Council Plan, the impact of any change on operations, systems or the business environment; prior audit coverage and outcomes and management input. The SIAP is reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee annually.

The Internal Auditor attends each Audit Committee meeting to report on the status of the SIAP, to provide an update on the implementation of audit recommendations and to present findings of completed reviews. The responsible Director and Manager for each area reviewed are required to attend the Audit Committee meeting to respond to questions in relation to the review. All audit issues identified are risk rated. Recommendations are assigned to the responsible Manager and tracked in the City's Pulse software. Managers provide quarterly status updates that are reported to the Executive Management Team and the Audit and Risk Committee.

The following audits were completed during the 2023/2024 year:

- Low Value Procurement
- Workforce and Succession Planning
- Payroll
- Past issues review on Management of Contaminated Land
- Past issues review on Bendigo Animal Relief Centre

External audit

All Local Government entities in Victoria are required to be audited by the Victoria Auditor-General's Office (VAGO). VAGO utilises contractors for audit fieldwork, which for the City is HLB Mann Judd in 2023/2024. The external auditor's primary role is to provide an assurance that the financial statements fairly present the financial performance for the financial year and the financial position at the end of the year.

Risk management

Risks have the potential to impact on the City's ability to meet our objectives. While we acknowledge that many risks cannot be eliminated, they can be identified, controlled and managed. The City's Risk Management Policy and Framework continue to be embedded across the City and has improved the City's risk management culture by enhancing reporting as well as integrating risk management considerations into all aspects of the City's operations and decision-making processes.

Fraud

The Fraud and Corruption Policy and Fraud and Corruption Control Plan are in place to ensure that City employees act with integrity, accountability, impartiality, fairness, equity and consistency, and in the public interest. The Fraud Risk Register is also reviewed regularly, and Fraud and Corruption awareness training has been rolled out to staff to complete via a mandatory e-learning module.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

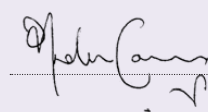
The following are the results in the prescribed form of Council's assessment against the prescribed governance and management checklist.

Governance and management items		Assessment
1	Community engagement policy Policy outlining Council's commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest.	Date of adoption: April 22, 2024 ✓
2	Community engagement guidelines Guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community.	Date of operation: April 28, 2024 ✓
3	Financial Plan Plan under section 91 of the Act outlining the financial and nonfinancial resources required for at least the next 10 financial years	Date of adoption: October 18, 2021 ✓
4	Asset Plan Plan under section 92 of the Act setting out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for at least the next 10 years.	Date of operation for all plans: June 27, 2022 ✓
5	Revenue and Rating Plan Plan under section 93 of the Act setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges.	Date of adoption: April 27, 2024 ✓
6	Annual Budget Plan under section 94 of the Act setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken during the budget year and the funding and other resources required.	Date of adoption: April 27, 2024 ✓
7	Risk Policy Policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to Council's operations.	Date of operation: December 11, 2019 ✓
8	Fraud Policy Policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to Council's operations.	Date of operation: December 11, 2019 ✓

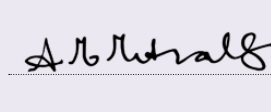
Governance and management items		Assessment
9	Municipal Emergency Management Planing Council's participation in meetings of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC).	Date of operation: ✓ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 3, 2023 • November 16, 2023 • February 15, 2024 • May 16, 2024.
10	Procurement Policy Policy under section 108 of the Act outlining the principles, processes and procedures that will apply to the purchase of goods and services by the Council	Date of adoption: ✓ December 13, 2021
11	Business Continuity Plan Plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to ensure that key services continue to operate in the event of a disaster.	Date of operation: ✓ April 2, 2024
12	Disaster Recovery Plan Plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to recover and restore business capability in the event of a disaster.	Date of operation: ✓ September 28, 2022
13	Complaint Policy Policy under section 107 of the Act outlining Council's commitment and approach to managing complaints.	Date of adoption: ✓ June 17, 2020
14	Workforce Plan Plan outlining Council's commitment and approach to planning the current and future workforce requirements of the organisation.	Date of operation: ✓ October 9, 2021
15	Payment of Rates and Charges Hardship Policy Policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to assisting ratepayers experiencing financial hardship or difficulty paying their rates.	Date of adoption ✓ June 24, 2024
16	Risk Management Framework Framework outlining Council's approach to managing risks to the Council's operations.	Date of operation: ✓ December 11, 2019
17	Audit and Risk Committee Advisory committee of Council under section 53 and section 54 of the Local Government Act whose role is to monitor the compliance of Council policies and procedures, monitor Council's financial reporting, monitor and provide advice on risk management, and provide oversight on internal and external audit functions.	Date of establishment: ✓ April 10, 1994
18	Internal Audit Independent accounting professionals engaged by the Council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving Council's governance, risk and management controls.	Date of engagement of current provider: ✓ July 1, 2019
19	Performance Reporting Framework A set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance including the performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the Local Government Act 2020.	Date of operation of current framework: ✓ July 1, 2014

Governance and management items		Assessment
20 Council Plan Report	Report reviewing the performance of the Council against the Council Plan including the results in relation to the strategic indicators for the first six months of the financial year.	Reported to Executive Management Team on: ✓ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 15, 2023 • November 14, 2023 • February 13, 2024 • May 7, 2024 Tabled at Council on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 23, 2023 • February 19, 2024
21 Quarterly Budget Reports	Quarterly reports presented to Council under section 97 of the Local Government Act 2020 comparing actual and budgeted results and an explanation of any material variations.	Tabled at Council on: ✓ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 23, 2023 • November 20, 2023 • February 26, 2024 • May 27, 2024
22 Risk Reporting	Six-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies.	Reported on: ✓ November 9, 2023 and May 15, 2024
23 Performance reporting	Six-monthly reports of indicators measuring results against financial and non-financial performance including the performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the Act 2020.	Reported on: ✓ October 23, 2023 and February 22, 2024
24 Annual Report	Annual report under sections 98, 99 and 100 of the Act 2020 to the community containing a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements.	Date presented: ✓ October 23, 2023
25 Councillor Code of Conduct	Code under section 139 of the Act setting out the standards of conduct to be followed by Councillors and other matters.	Date of adoption: ✓ January 15, 2022
26 Delegations	Documents setting out the powers, duties and functions of Council and the Chief Executive Officer that have been delegated to members of staff, in accordance with sections 11 and 47 of the Act.	Updated: ✓ June 24, 2024
27 Meeting Procedures	Governance Rules under section 60 of the Act governing the conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees.	Governance Rules adopted on: ✓ March 28, 2022

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



Andrew Cooney
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: October 10, 2024



Cr Andrea Metcalf
Mayor
Dated: October 10, 2024

STATUTORY INFORMATION

Best value

The City has a range of indicators that monitor performance outcomes. These include the Council Plan actions, Budget actuals and variances, and indicators set out in the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

A hierarchy of plans in the framework seeks to ensure that services are responsive to the community needs that have been identified through service reviews and a variety of community engagement processes such as workshops, listening posts, surveys, social media and customer requests.



Carers recognition

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

- Distributing printed material through relevant Council services
- Providing information to organisations represented in Council/community networks.

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

- Council induction and training programs for staff working in customer-facing positions in the community
- Induction and training programs for volunteers working directly with the community

Community grants

The City continues to support community groups through its Community Grants program. The application process for community groups continues to be supported through face-to-face information sessions and updates to the SmartyGrants online application process. Grants are offered through different streams aiming to meet the individual needs of the community. Further information can be accessed via the City's website and one of the Community Strengthening team members can also be available to provide information on request. Successful community grant applicants are listed on the City's website.



Domestic Animal Management Plan

The *Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025* (DAMP) was adopted in November 2021. Some of the key actions of the DAMP achieved this year were:

- Patrols and education visits to areas popular for walking and exercising dogs
- Annual inspection of dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dog enclosures
- Annual inspections of registered domestic animal businesses
- Implementation of the *Domestic Animals Act* S.25 and S.26 Orders
- Investigation and resolution of 211 reports of dog attacks and more than 5,500 customer requests

- The City's in-house animal pound and shelter services completed a fifth year of operations caring for more than 2,750 animals, with approximately 900 reclaims and close to 1,000 animals rehomed or transferred to rescue organisations
- Registration of over 22,000 domestic animals

Documents available for public inspection

Council adheres to the public transparency principles prescribed in the Act. The City's Public Transparency Policy sets out the many documents and classes of information made available to the public. These documents are made available in a variety of ways, including on the City's website or at the City offices. Some information may only be available by request.

Table 4 – Land, works, services or facilities delivered in 2023/2024 financial year from DCP levies collected

Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
Shared path - Rennie Street	PC-02	Huntly Growth Area DCP (2020)	\$5,108	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,108	0.62%
Shared path - Gungurru Road	PC-03	Huntly Growth Area DCP (2020)	\$5,108	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,108	1.16%
Midland Highway / Waratah Road intersection	IT-01b	Huntly Growth Area DCP (2020)	\$24,608	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$24,608	0.40%
Total			\$34,824	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$34,824	

Development Contributions Plans

A Development Contributions Plan (DCP) is a mechanism used to fund infrastructure requirements through the application of a levy on development approvals pursuant to Part 3B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Contributions can be collected either by a cash contribution or works in-kind credit that is applied across relevant developable land to ensure that the required infrastructure is provided to service primarily new growth areas.

A DCP specifies the type of infrastructure to be provided, project costs and apportionment, and allows the City to collect development contribution levies.

The City currently has two DCPs that cover the Huntly Growth Area (residential) and the Marong Business Park (industrial).

The Marong Business Park DCP was approved on August 31, 2017 and is currently inactive. The Marong Business Park is yet to see development progress and is unlikely to see development in the short term.

The Huntly Growth Area DCP was approved on December 7, 2020 and is currently active. The Huntly Growth Area has a current DCP levy of \$117,910 per net developable hectare (July 2024 dollars).

Development of the Huntly Growth Area is well advanced, including three active development fronts within the Harlowe, Provenance and View Point estates.

The following projects have been delivered by developers as work-in-kind projects:

- Waratah Road, between Whirrakee Parade and Sherwood Rd (233 metres), stage 2
- Shared path on the north side of Waratah Road (245 metres), stage 2
- Collector road and shared path - Anaheim Avenue (254 metres)

Council has also continued design work for the upgrade of the Midland Highway / Waratah Road intersection to traffic signals. Land acquisition and service relocations are anticipated to occur in 2024/2025 and traffic signal construction in 2025/2026.

Design work is complete for shared paths along Rennie Street and Gungurru Road, with construction programmed for 2024/2025.

The City is currently preparing a development contributions framework for the growing Marong Township. This will ensure the delivery of essential infrastructure required to service new residential and industrial growth areas. This is due for completion in 2024/2025.

Road Management Act Ministerial Direction

In accordance with section 22 of the *Road Management Act 2004*, a council must publish a copy or summary of any Ministerial Direction in its annual report. No such Ministerial Directions were received by Council during the 2023/2024 financial year.

Food Act Ministerial Directions

There were no Ministerial Directions provided to Council this year.

Public Interest Disclosures

In accordance with section 69 of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* (Vic) a council must include in its annual report information about how to access the procedures established by the council under Part 9 of that Act. It is also required to provide certain information about the number and types of protected disclosures complaints investigated during the financial year.

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* (Vic) aims to ensure openness and accountability in government by encouraging people to disclose improper conduct within the public sector and provide protection for people who make disclosures. Further information, including procedures detailing how to make a disclosure, is available on Council's website at www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-organisation/policies-and-governance/public-interest-disclosures

During the 2023/2024 year, there were no disclosures notified to council officers appointed to receive disclosures or to IBAC.



Freedom of information

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

Access to documents may be sought via written request to the Freedom of Information Officer, as detailed in section 17 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Vic) and, in summary, as follows:

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

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

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

Further information regarding FOI and an online application form can be found at www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-organisation/policies-and-governance/freedom-information-requests

Contracts

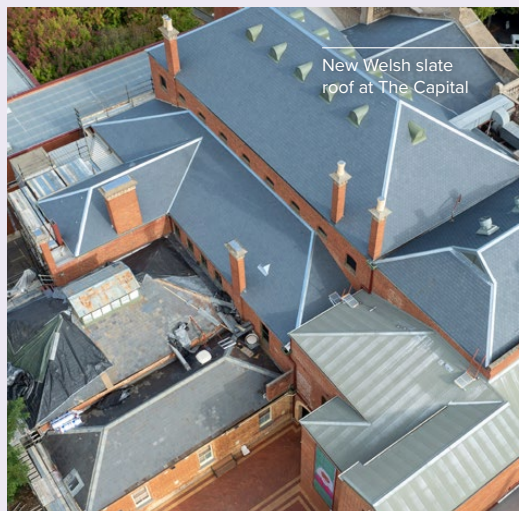
For contracts greater than a value of \$300,000, prior to undertaking a public tender, a strategic review is undertaken to determine:

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

Council issued 38 tenders in 2023/2024, covering the following service categories:

- events services
- marketing services
- community services
- consultancy and other work
- capital and infrastructure works
- operational services
- technology

Council did not enter any contracts valued at \$300,000 or more for goods or services without engaging in a competitive process.





Disability Action Plan

In accordance with the *Victorian Disability Amendment Act 2017*, Council must report on the implementation of the Disability Action Plan in its annual report. To comply with the Act, which directs that we should be fostering an integrated planning approach, all actions related to people with a disability are linked directly to Council's strategic documents: the Council Plan (Mir wimbul) and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan, Healthy Greater Bendigo.

An intersectional lens also enables the City to include people living with a disability in many other plans, with City staff educating themselves through the Disability Inclusion Reference Committee and regularly accessing the specialist knowledge of the dedicated Access and Inclusion Officer. The following actions have been achieved during the 2023/2024 period:

- Disability Inclusion Reference Committee completed induction and commenced providing advice utilising their lived experience of navigating access on City infrastructure projects and policies

- Communication board, Access Keys and Social Stories created for Lake Weeroona Playspace
- Building has begun for both Heathcote and Elmore's Changing Place public toilet facilities
- Hosted the Be Well Be Connected Expo for older adults and people with disabilities. This free expo showcased aged care, community, and disability products and services allowing visitors to meet face-to-face with service providers, advisors and community groups
- Completed a full review of the Let's Talk Greater Bendigo engagement platform to increase accessibility and inclusion for all community, specifically enhancing the experience for people with dyslexia, colour blindness and those using screen readers

Special committees

No special committees in this financial year.

I GLOSSARY

Annual Report	means a report of the Council's operations of the previous financial year and contains a report of operations, audited financial statements and an audited performance statement
Appropriateness	means indicators or measures that provide users with sufficient information to assess the extent to which an entity has achieved a pre-determined target, goal or outcome
Budget	means a plan setting out the services and initiatives to be funded for the financial year and how they will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives specified in the Council Plan
Council Plan	means a plan setting out the medium-term strategic objectives, strategies, strategic indicators and resources reflecting vision and aspirations of the community for a four-year period
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
Financial performance indicators	means a prescribed set of indicators and measures that assess the effectiveness of financial management in a council covering operating position, liquidity, obligations, stability and efficiency
Financial statements	means the financial statements and notes prepared in accordance with the Local Government Model Financial Report, Australian Accounting Standards and other applicable standards as they apply to the general purpose financial reports and a statement of capital works and included in the annual report
Financial year	means the period of 12 months ending on June 30 each year
Governance and management checklist	means a prescribed checklist of policies, plans and documents that councils must report the status of in the report of operations, covering engagement, planning, monitoring, reporting and decision-making
Indicator	means what will be measured to assess performance
Initiative	means actions that are one-off in nature and/or lead to improvements in service
Major initiative	means significant initiatives that will directly contribute to the achievement of the Council Plan during the current year and have a major focus in the budget
Measure	means how an indicator will be measured and takes the form of a computation, typically including a numerator and denominator

Minister	means the Minister for Local Government
Performance statement	means a statement including the results of the prescribed service outcome indicators, financial performance indicators and sustainable capacity indicators for the financial year and included in the annual report
Planning and accountability framework	means the key statutory planning and reporting documents that are required to be prepared by councils to ensure accountability to local communities in the performance of functions and exercise of powers under the Act
Regulations	means the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014
Relevance	means indicators or measures that have a logical and consistent relationship to an entity's objectives and are linked to the outcomes to be achieved
Report of operations	means a report containing a description of the operations of the Council during the financial year and included in the annual report
Services	means assistance, support, advice and other actions undertaken by a council for the benefit of the local community
Service outcome indicators	means the prescribed service performance indicators to be included in the performance statement which measure whether the stated service objective has been achieved
Service performance indicators	means a prescribed set of indicators measuring the effectiveness and efficiency of Council services covering appropriateness, quality, cost and service outcomes
Strategic objectives	means the outcomes a council is seeking to achieve over the next four years and included in the Council Plan
Strategic resource plan	means a plan of the financial and non-financial resources for at least the next four years required to achieve the strategic objectives in the Council Plan. It is also referred to as a long-term financial plan
Strategies	means high level actions directed at achieving the strategic objectives in the Council Plan
Sustainable capacity indicators	means a prescribed set of indicators measuring whether councils have the capacity to meet the agreed service and infrastructure needs of the local community and absorb foreseeable changes and unexpected shocks into the future, covering financial performance, capacity and governance and management

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023/2024

Greater Bendigo City Council Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024.



I CONTENTS

Financial Report	103	Note 5: Our financial position	132
Certification of the Financial Statements	103	5.1 Financial assets	132
Financial Statements	106	5.2 Non-financial assets	136
Comprehensive Income Statement	107	5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and unearned income/revenue	137
Balance Sheet	108	5.4 Interest-bearing liabilities	139
Statement of Changes in Equity	109	5.5 Provisions	140
Statement of Cash Flows	110	5.6 Financing arrangements	142
Statement of Capital Works	111	5.7 Commitments	143
Notes to Financial Statements	112	5.8 Leases	146
Note 1: Overview	112	Note 6: Assets we manage	148
Note 2: Analysis of our results	114	6.1 Property, infrastructure plant and equipment	148
2.1 Performance against budget	114	6.2 Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries	155
2.1.1 Income and expenditure	114	Note 7: People and relationships	156
2.1.2 Capital works	117	7.1 Council and key management remuneration	156
2.2 Analysis of Council results by program	120	7.2 Related party disclosure	159
Note 3: Funding for the delivery of our services	121	Note 8: Managing uncertainties	160
3.1 Rates and charges	121	8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities	160
3.2 Statutory fees and fines	121	8.2 Change in accounting standards	161
3.3 User fees	122	8.3 Financial instruments	161
3.4 Funding from other levels of government	123	8.4 Fair value measurement	164
3.5 Contributions	126	8.5 Events occurring after balance date	165
3.6 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	127	Note 9: Other matters	166
3.7 Other income	127	9.1 Reserves	166
Note 4: The cost of delivering services	128	9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)	168
4.1 Employee costs	128	9.3 Superannuation	168
4.2 Materials and services	129	Note 10: Change in accounting policy	171
4.3 Depreciation	130	Performance Statement	172
4.4 Amortisation - Intangible assets	130	Certification of Performance Statement	180
4.5 Amortisation - Right of use assets	130		
4.6 Finance Costs - Leases	131		
4.7 Other expenses	131		

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Annual Financial Report
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Certification of the Financial Statements

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

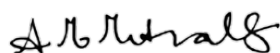


Nathan Morsillo
Responsible Accounting Officer
Dated: 17/09/2024
Bendigo

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

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

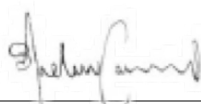
We have been authorised by the Council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to certify the financial statements in their final form.



Andrea Metcalf
Mayor
Dated: 17/09/2024
Bendigo



Margaret O'Rourke
Councillor
Dated: 17/09/2024
Bendigo



Andrew Cooney Chief
Executive Officer
Dated: 17/09/2024
Bendigo



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Greater Bendigo City Council

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

**Auditor's
responsibilities
for the audit of
the financial
report**

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

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

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

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



MELBOURNE
20 September 2024

Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Annual Financial Report

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Understanding Council's Financial Statements

Introduction

Each year, individual Local Governments across Victoria are required to present a set of audited financial statements to their council and community.

What you will find in the Report

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

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

About the Certification of the Financial Statements

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

About the Primary Financial Statements

The financial statements incorporate 5 "primary" financial statements:

1. Comprehensive Income Statement

Summarises Council's financial performance for the year, listing all income & expenses.

Includes other comprehensive income which primarily records changes in the fair values of Council's property, infrastructure, plant and equipment.

2. Balance Sheet

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

3. Statement of Changes in Equity

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

4. Statement of Cash Flows

Indicates where Council's cash came from and where it was spent.

5. Statement of Capital Works

This statement details all amounts expended by Council on capital works.

About the Notes to the Financial Report

The Notes to the financial statements provide greater detail and additional information on the 5 primary financial statements.

About the Auditor's Reports

Council's financial statements are required to be audited by external accountants (that generally specialise in local government).

The auditor provides an audit report which gives an opinion on whether the financial statements present fairly the Council's financial performance and position.

Who uses the Financial Report?

The financial report is a publicly available document and is used by (but not limited to) Councillors, residents and ratepayers, employees, suppliers, contractors, customers, Local Government Victoria, state and federal governments, and financiers including banks and other financial institutions.

The financial statements must be presented at a Council meeting no later than 1 month after submitting the annual report to the Minister.

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023/2024

107

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Comprehensive Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Income / Revenue			
Rates and charges	3.1	146,778	139,172
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	5,992	5,848
User fees	3.3	22,096	29,068
Grants - operating	3.4	14,558	39,136
Grants - capital	3.4	14,826	16,883
Contributions - monetary	3.5	8,725	6,769
Contributions - non monetary	3.5	24,347	17,007
Share of net profits of associates and joint ventures	6.2	54	14
Other income	3.7	7,736	5,456
Total income / revenue		245,112	259,353
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	79,322	81,548
Materials and services	4.2	94,229	85,803
Depreciation	4.3	46,662	43,500
Amortisation - Intangible assets	4.4	1,500	1,513
Depreciation - Right of use assets	4.5	4,040	3,030
Allowance for impairment losses	4.6	737	385
Borrowing costs	4.7	774	977
Finance Costs - Leases	4.8	2,251	358
Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.6	8,772	9,712
Other expenses	4.9	2,197	1,332
Total expenses		240,484	228,158
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		4,628	31,195
Other comprehensive income:			
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods			
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	6.1,9.1	85,928	144,012
Total items which will not be reclassified subsequently to the operating result		85,928	144,012
Total other comprehensive income		85,928	144,012
Total comprehensive result		90,556	175,207

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

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Balance Sheet

as at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	11,420	23,532
Trade and other receivables	5.1	16,133	10,608
Other financial assets	5.1	56,000	67,038
Inventories	5.2	143	169
Contract assets	5.1	4,793	1,521
Other assets	5.2	1,848	1,576
Total current assets		90,337	104,444
Non-current assets			
Trade and other receivables	5.1	41	71
Other financial assets	5.1	—	5,000
Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries	6.2	3,804	3,749
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.1	2,009,220	1,893,968
Intangible assets	5.2	487	1,744
Right-of-use assets	5.8	44,706	44,574
Forestry plantation	5.2	141	105
Total non-current assets		2,058,399	1,949,211
Total assets		2,148,736	2,053,655
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3	14,935	9,482
Trust funds and deposits	5.3	4,566	3,686
Contract and other liabilities	5.3	11,671	10,967
Provisions	5.5	13,723	14,908
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.4	5,214	4,996
Lease liabilities	5.8	2,418	2,146
Total current liabilities		52,527	46,185
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	5.5	15,020	13,004
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.4	9,958	15,172
Lease liabilities	5.8	43,915	42,534
Total non-current liabilities		68,893	70,710
Total liabilities		121,420	116,895
Net assets		2,027,316	1,936,760
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		858,011	833,944
Reserves	9.1	1,169,305	1,102,816
Total Equity		2,027,316	1,936,760

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

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	Total \$ '000	Accumulated Surplus \$ '000	Revaluation Reserves \$ '000	Other Reserves \$ '000
2024					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,936,760	833,944	1,062,727	40,089
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		4,628	4,628	–	–
Other comprehensive income					
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	6.1,9.1	85,928	–	85,928	–
Other comprehensive income		85,928	–	85,928	–
Total comprehensive income		90,556	4,628	85,928	–
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	–	(3,549)	–	3,549
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	–	22,988	–	(22,988)
Balance at end of the financial year		2,027,316	858,011	1,148,655	20,650
2023					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,761,553	804,021	918,715	38,817
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		31,195	31,195	–	–
Other comprehensive income					
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	6.1,9.1	144,012	–	144,012	–
Other comprehensive income		144,012	–	144,012	–
Total comprehensive income		175,207	31,195	144,012	–
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	–	(24,937)	–	24,937
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	–	23,665	–	(23,665)
Balance at end of the financial year		1,936,760	833,944	1,062,727	40,089

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

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$ '000	2023 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$ '000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Rates and charges		144,448	139,144
Statutory fees and fines		5,480	5,790
User fees		23,596	30,772
Grants - operating		11,943	37,029
Grants - capital		14,592	17,105
Contributions - monetary		9,003	7,440
Interest received		3,241	2,890
Trust funds and deposits taken		880	(406)
Other receipts		2,025	4,037
Net GST refund/payment		11,435	10,309
Employee costs		(80,616)	(82,037)
Materials and services		(104,727)	(106,622)
Other payments		(271)	(12)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	9.2	41,029	65,439
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.1	(58,644)	(55,189)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		1,263	1,473
Proceeds from sale of investments		16,037	(26,038)
Payments for intangible assets		(1,257)	(744)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(42,601)	(80,498)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Finance costs		(774)	(978)
Repayment of borrowings		(4,996)	(4,793)
Interest paid - lease liability		(2,251)	(359)
Repayment of lease liabilities		(2,519)	(3,189)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		(10,540)	(9,319)
Net Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(12,112)	(24,378)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		23,532	47,910
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		11,420	23,532

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

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Statement of Capital Works

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Property		
Land	564	151
Total land	564	151
Buildings	25,670	15,423
Total buildings	25,670	15,423
Total property	26,234	15,574
Plant and equipment		
Plant, machinery and equipment	5,387	5,216
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	163	6,115
Fountains, statues and monuments	16	32
Total plant and equipment	5,566	11,363
Infrastructure		
Land improvements	6,611	4,508
Bridges	176	862
Sealed roads	11,455	12,455
Unsealed roads	3,629	3,690
Footpaths and cycleways	3,024	3,984
Drainage	2,331	1,545
Public furniture and fittings	2,648	3,558
Total infrastructure	29,874	30,602
Total capital works expenditure	61,674	57,539
Represented by:		
New asset expenditure	26,574	23,982
Asset renewal expenditure	34,900	33,510
Asset upgrade expenditure	200	47
Total capital works expenditure	61,674	57,539

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

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Overview

Introduction

The Greater Bendigo City Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 10th September 1993 and is a body corporate.

The Council's main office is located at 189 - 229 Lyttleton Terrace, Bendigo, Victoria.

Statement of compliance

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

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

Accounting policy information

1.1 Basis of accounting

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

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

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

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

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

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

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1.)
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1.).
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.5.).
- the determination of landfill provisions (refer to Note 5.5.)
- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (refer to Note 3)
- the determination, in accordance with *AASB 16 Leases*, of the lease term, the estimation of the discount rate when not implicit in the lease and whether an arrangement is in substance short-term or low value (refer to Note 5.8)
- whether or not *AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors* is applicable
- other areas requiring judgements

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Overview (continued)

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

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

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

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2. Analysis of our results

Note 2.1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. *The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold with explanations provided if the operational expense variance is greater than 10% and is greater than \$2,500,000 (capital expenditure greater than 10% and \$1,000,000). Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

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

	Budget 2024 \$ '000	Actual 2024 \$ '000	Variance \$ '000	Variance %	Ref
2.1.1 Income / Revenue and expenditure					
Income / Revenue					
Rates and charges	147,243	146,778	(465)	(0.32)%	
Statutory fees and fines	5,848	5,992	144	2.46%	
User fees	21,984	22,096	112	0.51%	
Grants - operating	28,252	14,558	(13,694)	(48.47)%	1
Grants - capital	20,243	14,826	(5,417)	(26.76)%	2
Contributions - monetary	2,738	8,725	5,987	218.66%	3
Contributions - non monetary	12,698	24,347	11,649	91.74%	4
Share of net profits of associates and joint ventures	95	54	(41)	(43.16)%	
Other income	4,269	7,736	3,467	81.21%	5
Total income / revenue	243,370	245,112	1,742	0.72%	
Expenses					
Employee costs	79,826	79,322	504	0.63%	
Materials and services	80,400	94,229	(13,829)	(17.20)%	6
Depreciation	46,011	46,662	(651)	(1.41)%	
Amortisation - intangible assets	—	1,500	(1,500)	∞	
Depreciation - right of use assets	3,670	4,040	(370)	(10.08)%	
Allowance for impairment losses	315	737	(422)	(133.97)%	
Borrowing costs	798	774	24	3.01%	
Finance costs - leases	287	2,251	(1,964)	(684.32)%	
Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	4,020	8,772	(4,752)	(118.21)%	7
Other expenses	504	2,197	(1,693)	(335.91)%	
Total expenses	215,831	240,484	(24,653)	(11.42)%	
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	27,539	4,628	(22,911)	(83.19)%	

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2.1 Performance against budget (continued)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance Explanation

Ref

1. Grants - operating:

In recent years the Commonwealth Government have paid large portions of the financial assistance grant in advance. For the 2023/24 financial year the Commonwealth Government made no advance payment for the 2024/25 financial year. The Council included a budget of \$20.4M for this advance payment to occur in June, however the decision was made to make this payment in early July rather than late June as per previous financial years.

The Council also received \$4.6M in grants as part of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) in response to both the October 2022 and December 2023 Victorian flood events. This funding has been categorised as operational grants due to the guidelines requiring the assets to be reinstated to pre disaster condition with no capital improvements being included in the claimable expenditure.

2. Grants - capital:

\$4.8M of grants which were budgeted for the Bendigo Tramways Workshop expansion project were re-classified as cash contributions as they were received via VicTrack rather than a government department. (See also note 3.4)

3. Contributions - monetary:

\$4.8M of grants which were budgeted for the Bendigo Tramways Workshop expansion project were re-classified as cash contributions as they were received via VicTrack rather than a government department. A number of other contributions were received as part of user groups contributions to capital projects. The Council also received \$400k in relation to the container deposit scheme which was not included in the budget. A large number of lower valued unbudgeted contributions were also received throughout the year to assist with the delivery of various capital works projects and other initiatives.

4. Contributions - non-monetary:

The Council's contributions - non-monetary budget is set based on an assessment of recent years actual contributions received, the majority of which is infrastructure received through the subdivision process. It is difficult to get an estimate of when subdivision infrastructure will be handed over to the Council at the time the budget is set. The actual recognised was greater than the estimate by \$12M, representing non-monetary income to the Council.

5. Other income:

Term deposit rates stayed constant during the financial year however a much more conservative approach was taken at the time the budget was being developed in line with the volatile economy at the time. The Council received an additional \$2.06M of unbudgeted interest income. The Council also received \$1.1M in insurance reimbursements as a result of the December 2022 floods that caused damage to a number of Council's assets.

6. Materials and services:

\$5.7M of major works that were budgeted through the Capital Works Statement were reclassified as 'operating' after being assessed through the capitalisation process. \$3.5M of this total related to the Council contribution to the Catherine McAuley Sporting Hub which is not a Council owned asset.

During the year the Council also endorsed a contribution of \$9.35M towards the Bendigo Stadium Limited debt with the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank. The Council is currently listed as a guarantor of Bendigo Stadium Limited loan with the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank.

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2.1 Performance against budget (continued)

7. **Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant & equipment:**
The Council's net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant & equipment budget is based on an assessment of recent year actuals. This is generally for assets that are being renewed and the loss is the residual value of these assets.

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2.1 Performance against budget (continued)

	Budget 2024 \$ '000	Actual 2024 \$ '000	Variance \$ '000	Variance %	Ref
2.1.2 Capital works					
Property					
Land	2,000	564	(1,436)	(71.80)%	1
Total land	2,000	564	(1,436)	(71.80)%	
Buildings	21,818	25,670	3,852	17.66%	2
Total buildings	21,818	25,670	3,852	17.66%	
Total property	23,818	26,234	2,416	10.14%	
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	4,000	5,387	1,387	34.68%	3
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	1,405	163	(1,242)	(88.40)%	4
Fountains, statues and monuments	45	16	(29)	(64.44)%	
Total plant and equipment	5,450	5,566	116	2.13%	
Infrastructure					
Land improvements	9,655	6,611	(3,044)	(31.53)%	5
Bridges	581	176	(405)	(69.71)%	
Sealed roads	13,145	11,455	(1,690)	(12.86)%	6
Unsealed roads	3,880	3,629	(251)	(6.47)%	
Footpaths and cycleways	3,374	3,024	(350)	(10.37)%	
Drainage	5,622	2,331	(3,291)	(58.54)%	7
Public furniture and fittings	2,309	2,648	339	14.68%	
Total infrastructure	38,566	29,874	(8,692)	(22.54)%	
Total capital works expenditure	67,834	61,674	(6,160)	(9.08)%	
Represented by:					
New asset expenditure	31,789	26,574	(5,215)	(16.41)%	8
Asset renewal expenditure	35,825	34,900	(925)	(2.58)%	
Asset upgrade expenditure	220	200	(20)	(9.09)%	
Total capital works expenditure	67,834	61,674	(6,160)	(9.08)%	

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2.1 Performance against budget (continued)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance Explanation Ref

1. **Land:**
Council budgeted \$2M to progress the strategic land purchase of Backhaus Oval. Negotiations are still on-going and this budget will be carried forward into 2024/2025. Throughout the year Council also endorsed the purchase of Ryalls Lane for \$564K.
2. **Buildings:**
Significant building projects such as Tramways Shed Expansion, Bendigo Airport Terminal and Strathfieldsaye Community Hub were delivered this financial year. As these are all multi-year projects and commenced in previous years they included approximately \$3.9M in budget carried forward from last financial year, but expended in 2023/2024. In addition, the Council progressed with the purchase of the Bendigo Animal Relief Centre building (BARC) one year ahead of schedule.
3. **Plant, Machinery and Equipment:**
Plant & Fleet lead times have improved significantly over the last 12 months. As a result, additional purchases were made this financial year which will reduce the available plant budget for 2024/2025 financial year. Council also had 1 off new purchases for the plant and fleet to maintain the new Catherine McAuley Junortoun Sports Facility.
4. **Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture:**
There was a total of \$1.2M in expenditure for improving and maintaining Council's IT equipment, due to the nature of IT equipment, and in accordance with the capitalisation policy, only \$163K was actually capitalised.
5. **Land Improvements:**
The Council budgeted \$3.5M of capital expenditure for the joint use facility being constructed at Catherine McAuley College. This was Council's contribution for the year, however this asset ownership will remain with the College, so this expenditure is not considered capital for financial reporting purposes.
6. **Sealed Roads:**
Council budgeted \$1.15M for a contribution to the Midland H/way North Connector Road Intersection. Council is not delivering this project, and as the timing is uncertain the contribution payment has been pushed into the 2024/2025 year. Epsom Barnadown Road Blackspot project adopted a budget of \$800K but was deferred to next year, and the resealing of Mitiamo Rd, Elmore was only 50% delivered by the end of the financial year, the remaining \$480K unspent budget will be carried forward also.

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2.1 Performance against budget (continued)

7. **Drainage:**

Bendigo Regional Employee Precinct accounts for \$1.7M of the total budget, this is a multi-year program and \$1.2M will be carried forward to 2024/2025 for delivery. Bendigo Creek Nolan Street section had to be postponed to progress the Bendigo Creek High St to Thistle St section. The High St to Thistle St section was ultimately impacted by extended permit delays, \$1.2M of budget will be carried forward for delivery next financial year. Kennington Reservoir Dam Wall renewal commenced this year, although the optimal time to deliver the renewal works is after the summer month's meaning \$1.3M of the budget will be carried forward to 2024/2025.

8. **New Asset Expenditure:**

A number of large new capital projects were delayed or deferred this financial year. Epsom Barnadown Road Blackspot and Midland H/way Waratah Rd Signalisation within the Sealed Roads class and Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct within the Drainage class. These projects are expected to be delivered throughout the 2024/2025 financial year. Catherine McAuley Junortoun Sports Facility expenditure was not capitalised, and therefore excluded from financial reporting.

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2.2 Analysis of Council results by program

2.2.1 Analysis of Council results by program

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following programs.

Corporate Performance

The Corporate Performance directorate leads, enables and strengthens the organisation to ensure it has the resources and capability to deliver on the Community Plan. The directorate does this through developing our people and culture, systems and processes, good governance practices and financial stewardship to ensure the delivery of high quality services and programs. The directorate leads innovation, change, transformation and project management, to ensure we are ready to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future in partnership with our community.

Healthy Communities and Environments

The Healthy Communities and Environment directorate plans and delivers a broad and diverse range of community services and programs aimed at supporting people to live their lives fully and be active, safe, engaged and healthy. The focus of the directorate is on developing policy, plans and programs in partnership with the community, delivering services, and supporting the delivery of community infrastructure projects.

Presentation and Assets

The Presentation and Assets directorate provides and maintains high quality assets and services that help make Greater Bendigo a great place to live, while planning and delivering new assets and services to support Bendigo's ongoing growth. Demonstrating and committing to environmentally responsible thinking and practices and encouraging this throughout the organisation and community is an important focus for the directorate. Business units include Engineering, Resource Recovery and Education, Works, Parks and Open Space and Property Services.

Strategy and Growth

The Strategy and Growth directorate incorporates responsibility for Bendigo Art Gallery, Economic Development, Bendigo Venues and Events, Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, and Tourism and Major Events. The overarching role of the directorate is to contribute to the economic, cultural and social prosperity of our region by identifying and supporting investment opportunities, employment generation and the integrated planning for the sustainable growth of our Council and region.

Further details on the services provided by each directorate can be found within the Council's annual Budget, published on the Council's website.

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

Functions/activities	Income / Revenue \$ '000	Expenses \$ '000	Surplus / (Deficit) \$ '000	Grants included in income / revenue \$ '000	Total assets \$ '000
2024					
Corporate Performance	152,916	27,248	125,668	1,007	155,629
Healthy Communities and Environments	26,305	43,207	(16,902)	10,010	252,704
Presentation and Assets	42,773	134,272	(91,499)	11,030	1,665,925
Strategy and Growth	23,119	35,758	(12,639)	7,337	74,478
Total functions and activities	245,113	240,485	4,628	29,384	2,148,736
2023					
Corporate Performance	169,370	27,364	142,006	26,255	148,743
Healthy Communities and Environments	30,628	42,204	(11,576)	14,269	241,522
Presentation and Assets	35,862	127,828	(91,966)	9,502	1,592,208
Strategy and Growth	23,493	30,762	(7,269)	5,993	71,182
Total functions and activities	259,353	228,158	31,195	56,019	2,053,655

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000

3.1 Rates and charges

The Council declares rates on the Capital Improved Value (CIV) of all rateable property within the municipal district. The CIV is the value of the land and all its improvements. Valuations are undertaken annually by the Valuer General of Victoria.

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2023/24 was \$39,294,428,000 (2022/23 \$36,210,207,000).

General rates	117,429	112,220
Supplementary rates and rate adjustments	984	934
Garbage charge	16,747	15,314
Recyclable charge	6,338	5,879
Organics charge	4,750	4,347
Interest on rates and charges	530	478
Total rates and charges	146,778	139,172

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

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

3.2 Statutory fees and fines

Building and planning	2,150	2,526
Parking	487	525
Regulatory service	439	261
Fines	1,835	1,702
Other fees and charges	1,081	834
Total statutory fees and fines	5,992	5,848

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

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
3.3 User fees		
Leisure centre and recreation	470	356
Child care/children's programs	4,553	4,340
Parking	4,152	3,797
Saleyard yarding	1,039	962
Regulatory service	1,346	1,207
Ticket income *	2,046	6,332
Sales income	898	1,294
Waste management services	4,464	6,735
Other fees / charges	3,128	4,045
Total user fees	22,096	29,068
User fees by timing of revenue recognition		
User fees recognised over time	2,046	6,332
User fees recognised at a point in time	20,050	22,736
Total user fees	22,096	29,068

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

(*) Ticket income consists of ticket sales through Ulumbarra Theatre, Capital Theatre, Bendigo Art Gallery and the Visitor Information Centre.

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000

3.4 Funding from other levels of government

Grants were received in respect of the following:

Summary of grants

Commonwealth funded grants	8,665	40,282
State funded grants	20,719	15,737
Total grants received	29,384	56,019

(a) Operating Grants

Recurrent - Commonwealth Government

Financial Assistance Grants - Unallocated	752	20,738
Financial Assistance Grants - Local Roads	195	5,426
Aged services	–	4,541
Health services - immunisation	13	11

Recurrent - State Government

Aged services	20	24
Arts and culture	295	308
Environment	86	56
Family and children	678	301
Health services - immunisation	66	128
Maternal and child health	2,038	2,050
Rural access initiative	776	790
School crossing supervisors	365	355
Youth	82	88
Total recurrent operating grants	5,366	34,816

Non-recurrent - State Government

Arts and culture	312	227
Business support	73	363
Community and strategy planning	433	125
Community employment connectors	148	128
Community safety	177	267
Cultural diversity	312	204
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements	4,602	599
Disaster Recovery	173	564
Emergency management	132	33
Environment	147	78
Family and children	9	96
Recreation / healthy communities	2,444	1,027
Tourism / events projects	210	94
Other	20	515
Total non-recurrent operating grants	9,192	4,320

Total operating grants	14,558	39,136
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Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
(b) Capital Grants		
<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Roads to recovery	1,287	2,246
Total recurrent capital grants	1,287	2,246
<i>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Airport	2,953	2,001
Local roads and community infrastructure	3,057	5,320
Local roads and streets	408	—
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
Airport	1,175	2,823
Arts and culture	—	14
Community Buildings	269	—
Drainage	516	—
Family and children	284	105
Footpaths	—	83
Golden Dragon Museum and precinct	—	110
Heritage	1,911	—
Libraries infrastructure	—	35
Local roads and streets	812	1,497
Parks and open spaces	16	613
Recreation / healthy communities	1,392	1,701
Waste	739	335
Other	7	—
Total non-recurrent capital grants	13,539	14,637
Total capital grants	14,826	16,883

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000

(c) Recognition of grant income

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

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

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

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

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

General purpose	947	26,164
Specific purpose grants to acquire non-financial assets	14,824	16,778
Other specific purpose grants	5,320	480
Revenue recognised under AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers		
Specific purpose grants	8,293	12,597
	29,384	56,019

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

Balance at start of year	3,099	3,040
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	2,161	3,099
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(3,099)	(3,040)
Balance at year end	2,161	3,099

Capital

Balance at start of year	4,494	6,344
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	7,230	3,580
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(3,580)	(5,430)
Balance at year end	8,144	4,494

Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
3.5 Contributions		
Monetary contributions		
Monetary	8,725	6,769
Total monetary contributions	8,725	6,769
Non-monetary contributions		
Non-monetary	2,022	467
Non-monetary - developer contributed assets	22,325	16,540
Total non-monetary contributions	24,347	17,007
Total contributions	33,072	23,776

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

Artworks	2,022	467
Buildings	185	696
Land	4,176	1,970
Sealed roads	7,703	5,935
Unsealed Roads	62	–
Pathways	3,304	2,766
Drainage	6,895	5,173
Total non-monetary contributions	24,347	17,007

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

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
3.6 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		
Proceeds of sale	1,263	1,473
Written down value of assets disposed	(10,035)	(11,185)
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(8,772)	(9,712)
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(8,772)	(9,712)

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

3.7 Other income

Interest on investment	4,112	2,890
Rental income	1,804	1,757
Revenue from volunteer services	289	418
Other	1,495	391
Net increase in market value of forestry plantation	36	—
Total other income	7,736	5,456

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

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

Landfill rehabilitation income represents the movement in the rehabilitation estimate for closed sites due to the change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate.

Under AASB 1058, government sectors are required to recognise Volunteer Services as income at fair value if it can be measured reliably and the services would have been purchased if they were not provided by volunteers. This revenue matches the cost of volunteer services expenditure Note 4.9 other expenses.

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 4. The cost of delivering services

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000

4.1 Employee costs

(a) Employee costs

Wages and salaries	68,173	71,054
WorkCover	1,733	1,294
Superannuation	7,342	7,044
Fringe benefits tax	179	205
Agency staff	1,895	1,951
Total employee costs	79,322	81,548

(b) Superannuation

Council made contributions to the following funds:

Defined benefit fund

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	274	293
	274	293

Employer contributions payable at reporting date.

– –

Accumulation funds

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	3,357	3,465
Employer contributions - Australian Super	511	555
Employer contributions - Hostplus Super	365	318
Employer contributions - VicSuper	273	255
Employer contributions - other funds	2,562	2,158
	7,068	6,751

Employer contributions payable at reporting date

686 58

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

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 4. The cost of delivering services (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
4.2 Materials and services		
Contract payments (by Service Unit) *		
Resource Recovery & Education	11,329	12,205
Parks & Open Space	4,138	3,616
Library Services	3,411	3,298
Bendigo Venues and Events	1,016	5,316
Active and Healthy Communities	1,768	1,962
Capital/Major Projects	555	1,958
Engineering	904	942
Works	2,686	2,310
Art Gallery	775	593
Tourism and Major Events	1,038	754
Economic Development	244	491
Property Services	1,600	1,209
Safe & Healthy Environments	610	628
Strategic Planning	1,375	1,305
Community Wellbeing	2	453
Other	1,374	1,607
Administration expense	7,951	7,744
Information technology	247	—
Utility expenses	5,945	5,675
Materials, concrete products and hardware	7,646	7,595
Maintenance and consumables	12,546	11,105
Plant and equipment operating expenses	7,524	8,257
Contributions and donations	17,124	4,693
Insurance	2,421	2,087
Total materials and services	94,229	85,803

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

(*) The Council has disclosed larger categories of Contract payments by Service Unit.

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 4. The cost of delivering services (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
4.3 Depreciation		
Property		
Heritage buildings	4,059	2,962
Buildings - specialised	7,068	6,638
Buildings - non specialised	113	147
Total depreciation - property	11,240	9,747
Plant and equipment		
Plant machinery and equipment	2,774	2,603
Fixtures fittings and furniture	264	298
Fountains, statues and monuments	145	144
Total depreciation - plant and equipment	3,183	3,045
Infrastructure		
Bridges	815	771
Footways and cycleways	3,942	3,719
Drainage	4,220	3,911
Sealed roads	14,441	13,536
Unsealed roads	2,673	2,476
Land improvements	3,594	3,540
Public furniture and fittings	2,354	2,355
Landfill	200	400
Total depreciation - infrastructure	32,239	30,708
Total depreciation	46,662	43,500

Refer to note 5.2(c), 5.8 and 6.1 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation charges and accounting policy.

4.4 Amortisation - Intangible assets

Landfill airspace	1,500	1,513
Total Amortisation - Intangible assets	1,500	1,513

4.5 Depreciation - Right of use assets

Property	2,462	1,766
Plant and equipment	1,531	1,229
Other	47	35
Total Depreciation - Right of use assets	4,040	3,030

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023/2024

131

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 4. The cost of delivering services (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
4.6 Allowance for impairment losses		
Parking fine debtors	725	385
Other debtors	12	–
Total allowance for impairment losses	737	385
Movement in allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors		
Balance at the beginning of the year	2,113	1,745
New allowances recognised during the year	737	379
Amounts already allowed for and written off as uncollectible	–	(11)
Amounts allowed for but recovered during the year	(2)	–
Balance at end of year	2,848	2,113

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

4.7 Borrowing costs

Interest - Borrowings	774	977
Total borrowing costs	774	977

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

4.8 Finance Costs - Leases

Interest - Lease Liabilities	2,251	358
Total finance costs	2,251	358

4.9 Other expenses

Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	77	66
Auditors' remuneration - Internal Audit	47	62
Cost of service for volunteer services	289	418
Landfill rehabilitation *	1,784	786
Total other expenses	2,197	1,332

(*) Landfill rehabilitation expenditure represents the change in the estimate for future rehabilitation works required at landfill sites. This includes any change as a result of updated rates used in the net present value calculation of the landfill provision. Refer to Note 5.5 for more detail on the provision for landfill rehabilitation.

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations

	Note	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
5.1 Financial assets			
(a) Cash and cash equivalents			
Current			
Cash on hand		19	21
Cash at bank		11,401	19,511
Term deposits		–	4,000
Total current cash and cash equivalents		11,420	23,532
Total cash and cash equivalents		11,420	23,532
(b) Other financial assets			
Current			
Term deposits		56,000	67,038
Total current other financial assets		56,000	67,038
Non-current			
Term deposits		–	5,000
Total non-current other financial assets		–	5,000
Total other financial assets		56,000	72,038
Total current financial assets		67,420	90,570
Total non-current financial assets		–	5,000
Total cash and cash equivalents and other financial assets		67,420	95,570

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	Note	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
External restrictions			
Councils cash and cash equivalents are subject to external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary use. These include:			
Trust funds and deposits	5.3	4,566	3,686
Grants received in advance		10,305	9,548
Total restricted funds		14,871	13,234
Total unrestricted cash and cash equivalents, and financial assets (term deposits)		52,549	82,336
Intended allocations			

Although not externally restricted the following amounts have been allocated for specific future purposes by the Council:

Cash allocated for carried forward capital projects	25,371	18,503
Other reserves - internal allocation determined by Council	20,650	40,089
Total funds subject to intended allocations	46,021	58,592

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

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

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

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
(c) Trade & Other Receivables		
Current		
<i>Statutory receivables</i>		
Rates debtors	4,862	2,532
Infringement debtors	5,368	4,834
Allowance for expected credit loss - infringements	(2,800)	(2,075)
Net GST receivable	737	1,398
<i>Non-statutory receivables</i>		
Other debtors	307	311
Allowance for expected credit loss - other debtors	(48)	(38)
General debtors - grants	2,637	1,512
General debtors - other	5,070	2,134
Total current trade and other receivables	16,133	10,608
Non-Current		
<i>Statutory receivables</i>		
<i>Non-statutory receivables</i>		
Other debtors	41	71
Total non-current trade and other receivables	41	71
Total trade and other receivables	16,174	10,679

Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount. An allowance for expected credit losses is recognised based on past experience and other objective evidence of expected losses. Long term receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
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(d) Ageing of receivables

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

Current (not yet due)	7,068	1,738
Past due by up to 30 days	466	334
Past due between 31 and 180 days	241	1,755
Past due between 181 and 365 days	65	53
Past due by more than 1 year	215	148
Total trade and other receivables	8,055	4,028

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000

(e) Ageing of individually impaired receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$2,848,412 (2023: \$2,113,028) were impaired. The amount of the allowance raised against these debtors was \$2,848,412 (2023: \$2,113,028). They individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

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

Past due by more than 1 year	2,848	2,113
Total trade and other receivables	2,848	2,113

(f) Contract assets**Current**

Contract Assets	4,793	1,521
Total Current	4,793	1,521

Total contract assets	4,793	1,521
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Contract assets are recognised when Council has transferred goods or services to the customer but where Council is yet to establish an unconditional right to consideration.

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000

5.2 Non-financial assets

(a) Inventories

Current

Inventories held for sale	143	169
Total current inventories	143	169

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

(b) Other assets

Current

Prepayments	1,848	1,576
Total current other assets	1,848	1,576

Non-current

Forestry plantation	141	105
Total Forestry plantation	141	105

(c) Intangible assets

Landfill air space	243	1,500
Water rights	244	244
Total intangible assets	487	1,744

	Landfill \$ '000	Water Rights \$ '000	Total \$ '000
Gross Carrying Amount			
Balance at 1 July 2023	7,172	244	7,416
Other additions	243	—	243
Balance at 30 June 2024	7,415	244	7,659
Accumulated amortisation and impairment			
Balance at 1 July 2023	5,672	—	5,672
Amortisation expense	1,500	—	1,500
Balance at 30 June 2024	7,172	—	7,172
Net book value at 30 June 2023	1,500	244	1,744
Net book value at 30 June 2024	243	244	487

Intangible assets with finite lives are amortised as an expense on a systematic basis over the asset's useful life. Amortisation is generally calculated on a straight line basis, at a rate that allocates the asset value, less any estimated residual value over its estimated useful life. Estimates of the remaining useful lives and amortisation method are reviewed at least annually, and adjustments made where appropriate.

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023/2024

137

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and contract and other liabilities		
(a) Trade and other payables		
Current		
<i>Non-statutory payables</i>		
Trade payables	496	2,657
Accrued expenses	999	780
Sundry creditors	13,440	6,045
Total current trade and other payables	14,935	9,482
(b) Trust funds and deposits		
Current		
Refundable security holding deposits	3,961	2,537
Fire services levy (held for the state revenue office)	401	870
Other refundable deposits	204	279
Total current trust funds and deposits	4,566	3,686

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
(c) Contract and other liabilities		
Contract liabilities		
Current		
Grants received in advance:		
Grants received in advance - operating	2,161	3,099
Grants received in advance - capital	8,144	6,449
Total grants received in advance	10,305	9,548
User fees received in advance:		
Pre sold ticket income	1,366	1,419
Total user fees received in advance	1,366	1,419
Total current contract liabilities	11,671	10,967
Total current contract and other liabilities	11,671	10,967

Trust funds and deposits

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

Contract liabilities

Contract liabilities reflect consideration received in advance from customers in respect of delivering a service or constructing an asset that will benefit Council's residents. Contract liabilities are derecognised and recorded as revenue when promised goods and services are transferred to the customer. Refer to Note 3.

Purpose and nature of items

Fire Service Levy - the Council is the collection agent for fire services levy on behalf of the State Government. Payments receipted by the City before the end of financial year are held in trust until the payment is made to the State Revenue Office on due dates.

Refundable security holding deposits - deposits are taken by the Council as a form of surety in a number of circumstances, including in relation to building works, tender deposits, contract deposits and the use of civic facilities.

Pre sold ticket income - sales for upcoming performances, predominantly at the Capital and Ulumburra theatres, are held as a deposit and only recognised as income once the performance has occurred.

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
5.4 Interest-bearing liabilities		
Current		
Borrowings - secured	5,214	4,996
Total current interest-bearing liabilities	5,214	4,996
Non-current		
Borrowings - secured	9,958	15,172
Total non-current interest-bearing liabilities	9,958	15,172
Total	15,172	20,168

Borrowings are secured against a charge over the Council's rate revenue

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

Not later than one year	5,214	4,996
Later than one year and not later than five years	9,337	14,235
Later than five years	621	937
	15,172	20,168

Borrowings are initially measured at fair value, being the cost of the interest bearing liabilities, net of transaction costs. The measurement basis subsequent to initial recognition depends on whether the Council has categorised its interest-bearing liabilities as either financial liabilities designated at fair value through the profit and loss, or financial liabilities at amortised cost. Any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value is recognised in net result over the period of the borrowing using the effective interest method.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the interest bearing liabilities. The Council determines the classification of its interest bearing liabilities based on contractual repayment terms at every balance date.

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	Employee provisions \$ '000	Landfill restoration \$ '000	Total \$ '000
5.5 Provisions			
2024			
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	16,632	11,280	27,912
Additional provisions	6,219	–	6,219
Change in provision estimate	–	3,064	3,064
Amounts used	(7,291)	(53)	(7,344)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	(71)	(1,037)	(1,108)
Balance at the end of the financial year	15,489	13,254	28,743
Provisions			
Provisions - current	13,552	171	13,723
Provisions - non-current	1,937	13,083	15,020
Total Provisions	15,489	13,254	28,743
2023			
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	16,791	9,953	26,744
Additional provisions	6,769	–	6,769
Change in provision estimate	–	919	919
Amounts used	(6,987)	(203)	(7,190)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	59	611	670
Balance at the end of the financial year	16,632	11,280	27,912
Provisions			
Provisions - current	14,733	175	14,908
Provisions - non-current	1,899	11,105	13,004
Total Provisions	16,632	11,280	27,912

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
(a) Employee provisions		
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual leave	4,044	4,345
Long service leave	1,562	1,590
Sick leave	13	13
	5,619	5,948
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual leave	882	1,118
Long service leave	6,924	7,540
Sick leave	127	127
	7,933	8,785
Total current employee provisions	13,552	14,733
Non-Current		
Long service leave	1,937	1,899
Total Non-Current Employee Provisions	1,937	1,899
Aggregate Carrying Amount of Employee Provisions:		
Current	13,552	14,733
Non-current	1,937	1,899
Total Aggregate Carrying Amount of Employee Provisions	15,489	16,632

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

Annual leave

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

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

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

Long service leave, Sick Leave (contracted employees)

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

Effective 6 May 1996, the Sick Leave Gratuity Scheme (former City of Bendigo) arrangements and payments ceased to operate. However a number of staff who are entitled to this scheme remain employed by the Council. It shall be adjusted annually within one (1) month of the publication of the Consumer Price Index.

Effective 1 April 1998, the Accumulated Sick Leave Scheme arrangements and payments cease to operate. However a number of staff who are entitled to this scheme remain employed by Greater Bendigo City Council. This balance is adjusted based on the individuals applicable pay rate.

Key assumptions:

- discount rate	4.35%	4.06%
- index rate	4.45%	4.35%

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
(b) Landfill restoration		
Current		
Current	171	175
Total current	171	175
Non-current		
Non-current	13,083	11,105
Total non-current	13,083	11,105

Council is obligated to restore the active Eaglehawk landfill site once it reaches capacity. The forecast life of the Eaglehawk site is based on current estimates of remaining capacity and the forecast rate of infill. Council is also required to undertake aftercare works and monitoring at the Wolstencroft and White Hills closed sites. The provision for landfill restoration and aftercare has been calculated based on the present value of the expected cost of works to be undertaken. The expected cost of works has been estimated based on current understanding of work required to reinstate the sites to a suitable standard. Accordingly, the estimation of the provision required is dependent on the accuracy of the forecast timing of the work, work required and related costs.

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

Key assumptions:

- discount rate	4.35%	3.36%
- index rate (short term rehabilitation costs)	6.00%	6.00%
- index rate (long term after care costs)	3.20%	3.36%

5.6 Financing arrangements

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

Bank overdraft	3,500	3,500
Credit card facilities	400	400
Interest-bearing liabilities	15,173	20,168
Total Facilities	19,073	24,068
Used facilities	15,260	20,269
Used facilities	15,260	20,269
Unused facilities	3,813	3,799

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

5.7 Commitments

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

(a) Commitments for expenditure

	Not later than 1 year \$ '000	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years \$ '000	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years \$ '000	Later than 5 years \$ '000	Total \$ '000
2024					
Operating					
Aquatic and leisure facilities	1,652	1,642	2,845	1,467	7,606
Building essential services	2,196	1,910	4,193	86	8,385
Car parking	365	—	—	—	365
Cleaning contracts	443	201	—	—	644
Communications	113	340	—	—	453
Community events	325	122	127	—	574
Community funding	545	387	7	—	939
Contract management	1,680	853	841	810	4,184
Exhibitions	627	—	—	—	627
Galkangu - shared services	930	958	3,051	18,375	23,314
Internal audit	48	50	53	—	151
IT / telecommunications	3,440	3,249	1,232	—	7,921
Organics collection	681	704	—	—	1,385
Processing organic waste	695	—	—	—	695
Processing recyclable garbage	1,556	77	2	—	1,635
Recyclable garbage collection	3,682	2,876	4,634	—	11,192
Sanitary services	—	19	—	—	19
Theatre costs	172	—	—	—	172
Transportation of waste from Eaglehawk Landfill	6,035	1,540	—	—	7,575
Veterinary services	259	—	—	—	259
Waste disposal	4,105	3,807	6,774	40,656	55,342
Total	29,549	18,735	23,759	61,394	133,437
Capital					
Car parking	92	—	—	—	92
Construction works	10,842	—	—	—	10,842
Plant	5,581	—	—	—	5,581
Total	16,515	—	—	—	16,515

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	Not later than 1 year \$ '000	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years \$ '000	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years \$ '000	Later than 5 years \$ '000	Total \$ '000
2023					
Operating					
Aquatic and leisure facilities	1,540	1,551	2,175	—	5,266
Building essential services	653	534	340	—	1,527
Car parking	289	—	—	—	289
Cleaning contracts	790	520	520	—	1,830
Communications	219	96	—	—	315
Community events	337	167	208	—	712
Contract management	659	83	56	—	798
Exhibitions	429	—	—	—	429
Galkangu - shared services	903	930	2,962	19,422	24,217
Insurance	14	—	—	—	14
Internal audit	53	—	—	—	53
IT / telecommunications	1,265	1,236	220	—	2,721
Organics collection	734	—	—	—	734
Processing organic waste	367	—	—	—	367
Processing recyclable garbage	880	—	—	—	880
Recyclable garbage collection	1,584	1,584	660	—	3,828
Sanitary services	3	—	—	—	3
Theatre costs	130	—	—	—	130
Transportation of waste from Eaglehawk Landfill	330	—	—	—	330
Veterinary services	242	259	—	—	501
Waste disposal	6,723	8,314	9,213	40,656	64,906
Total	18,144	15,274	16,354	60,078	109,850
Capital					
Car parking	85	—	—	—	85
Construction works	14,691	—	—	—	14,691
Plant	3,924	584	—	—	4,508
Total	18,700	584	—	—	19,284

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000

(b) Operating lease receivables***Operating lease receivables***

Council has entered into commercial property leases on its investment property, consisting of surplus freehold office complexes. These properties held under operating leases have remaining non-cancellable lease terms of between 1 and 10 years. All leases include a CPI based revision of the rental charge annually.

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

Not later than one year	1,151	1,159
Later than one year and not later than five years	3,463	1,052
Later than five years	1,343	365
	<u>5,957</u>	<u>2,576</u>

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

5.8 Leases

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

(a) Right-of-Use Assets

	Property \$ '000	Plant & Equipment \$ '000	Other \$ '000	Total \$ '000
2024				
Balance at 1 July 2023	41,576	2,969	29	44,574
Disposals	(82)	(966)	—	(1,048)
Additions *	163	5,000	57	5,220
Depreciation charge	(2,462)	(1,530)	(48)	(4,040)
Balance at 30 June 2024	39,195	5,473	38	44,706
2023				
Balance at 1 July 2022	1,309	3,226	64	4,599
Disposals	—	(33)	—	(33)
Additions *	42,092	972	—	43,064
Depreciation charge	(1,825)	(1,196)	(35)	(3,056)
Balance at 30 June 2023	41,576	2,969	29	44,574

(*) In 2022/2023, Council entered into an initial 20-year lease agreement with the Department of Treasury and Finance. The lease accounting standard capitalises these future payments (over 20 years) into a Right-of-Use Asset as an addition and future liability.

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

(b) Lease Liabilities

Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows

Less than one year	4,711	4,263
One to five years	15,866	13,208
More than five years	50,672	53,595
Total undiscounted lease liabilities as at 30 June:	71,249	71,066

Lease liabilities included in the Balance Sheet at 30 June:

Current	2,418	2,146
Non-current	43,915	42,534
Total lease liabilities	46,333	44,680

148

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023/2024

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

2023/2024 Financial Report

Greater Bendigo City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Assets we manage

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	Carrying amount 30 June 2023 \$ '000	Additions \$ '000	Contributions \$ '000	Revaluation \$ '000	Disposal \$ '000	Depreciation \$ '000	Write-off \$ '000	Transfers \$ '000	Carrying amount 30 June 2024 \$ '000
Property	714,051	564	4,361	—	(3,852)	(11,240)	—	9,278	713,162
Plant and equipment	93,405	5,705	2,022	—	(1,525)	(3,183)	—	35	96,459
Infrastructure	1,030,617	—	17,964	85,928	(4,102)	(32,239)	—	31,206	1,129,374
Work in progress	55,895	55,405	—	—	—	—	(556)	(40,519)	70,225
Total	1,893,968	61,674	24,347	85,928	(9,479)	(46,662)	(556)	—	2,009,220

Summary of Work in Progress	Opening WIP \$ '000	Additions \$ '000	Write-off \$ '000	Transfers \$ '000	Closing WIP \$ '000
Property	23,260	24,386	(315)	(9,278)	38,053
Plant and equipment	36	9	—	(35)	10
Infrastructure	32,599	31,010	(241)	(31,206)	32,162
Total	55,895	55,405	(556)	(40,519)	70,225

2023/2024 Financial Report

Greater Bendigo City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024					FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023/2024					149
Property										
	Land specialised \$ '000	Land non specialised \$ '000	Land under roads \$ '000	Total land \$ '000	Heritage buildings \$ '000	Buildings specialised \$ '000	Buildings non specialised \$ '000	Total buildings \$ '000	Work in progress \$ '000	Total property \$ '000
At fair value 1 July 2023	297,835	7,539	14,207	319,581	235,726	340,704	7,100	583,530	23,260	926,371
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	-	-	-	-	(79,160)	(109,775)	(125)	(189,060)	-	(189,060)
	297,835	7,539	14,207	319,581	156,566	230,929	6,975	394,470	23,260	737,311
Movements in fair value										
Additions	564	-	-	564	-	-	-	-	24,386	24,950
Contributions	2,878	-	1,298	4,176	-	324	-	324	-	4,500
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposal	(1,074)	-	-	(1,074)	-	(3,973)	(160)	(4,133)	-	(5,207)
Write-off	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(315)	(315)
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	9,278	-	9,278	(9,278)	-
	2,368	-	1,298	3,666	-	5,629	(160)	5,469	14,793	23,928
Movements in accumulated depreciation										
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-	-	-	(4,059)	(7,068)	(113)	(11,240)	-	(11,240)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	-	-	-	-	1,228	127	1,355	-	1,355
Accumulated depreciation of contributions	-	-	-	-	-	(139)	-	(139)	-	(139)
Accumulated depreciation on revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	(4,059)	(5,979)	14	(10,024)	-	(10,024)
At fair value 30 June 2024	300,203	7,539	15,505	323,247	235,726	346,333	6,940	588,999	38,053	950,299
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	-	-	-	-	(83,219)	(115,754)	(111)	(199,084)	-	(199,084)
Carrying amount	300,203	7,539	15,505	323,247	152,507	230,579	6,829	389,915	38,053	751,215

150

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023/2024

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

2023/2024 Financial Report

Greater Bendigo City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	Plant and equipment \$ '000	Office equipment, furniture and fittings \$ '000	Artworks \$ '000	Fountains, statues and monuments \$ '000	Total \$ '000	Work in progress \$ '000	Total plant and equipment \$ '000
Plant and Equipment							
At fair value 1 July 2023	35,568	10,141	62,663	14,000	122,372	36	122,408
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	(15,885)	(8,747)	—	(4,335)	(28,967)	—	(28,967)
	19,683	1,394	62,663	9,665	93,405	36	93,441
Movements in fair value							
Additions	5,661	44	—	—	5,705	9	5,714
Contributions	—	—	2,022	—	2,022	—	2,022
Revaluation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disposal	(5,671)	—	—	—	(5,671)	—	(5,671)
Write-off	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transfers	—	—	—	35	35	(35)	—
	(10)	44	2,022	35	2,091	(26)	2,065
Movements in accumulated depreciation							
Depreciation and amortisation	(2,774)	(264)	—	(145)	(3,183)	—	(3,183)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	4,146	—	—	—	4,146	—	4,146
Accumulated depreciation on revaluation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transfers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accumulated depreciation of contributions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1,372	(264)	—	(145)	963	—	963
At fair value 30 June 2024	35,568	10,185	64,685	14,035	124,463	10	124,473
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	(14,513)	(9,011)	—	(4,480)	(28,004)	—	(28,004)
Carrying amount	21,045	1,174	64,685	9,555	96,459	10	96,469

2023/2024 Financial Report

Greater Bendigo City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024					FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023/2024					151
	Sealed roads \$ '000	Unsealed roads \$ '000	Bridges \$ '000	Pathways \$ '000	Drainage \$ '000	Land improve- ments \$ '000	Public furniture and fittings \$ '000	Landfill \$ '000	Total \$ '000	Work in progress \$ '000	Total infra- structure \$ '000
Infrastructure											
At fair value 1 July 2023	758,008	61,146	80,227	162,476	439,536	97,355	50,129	4,807	1,653,684	32,599	1,686,283
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	(298,734)	(17,021)	(31,920)	(56,493)	(141,929)	(46,237)	(26,126)	(4,607)	(623,067)	–	(623,067)
	459,274	44,125	48,307	105,983	297,607	51,118	24,003	200	1,030,617	32,599	1,063,216
Movements in fair value											
Additions	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	31,010	31,010
Contributions	7,703	63	–	3,355	7,017	–	–	–	18,138	–	18,138
Revaluation	66,035	5,302	5,205	12,582	26,260	–	–	–	115,384	–	115,384
Disposal	(5,323)	(3,078)	(105)	(926)	(165)	(1,342)	(1,595)	–	(12,534)	–	(12,534)
Write-off	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	(241)	(241)
Transfers	12,941	3,691	2,352	4,464	1,105	2,687	3,966	–	31,206	(31,206)	–
	81,356	5,978	7,452	19,475	34,217	1,345	2,371	–	152,194	(437)	151,757
Movements in accumulated depreciation											
Depreciation and amortisation	(14,441)	(2,673)	(815)	(3,942)	(4,220)	(3,595)	(2,353)	(200)	(32,239)	–	(32,239)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	3,740	1,484	88	533	46	1,058	1,483	–	8,432	–	8,432
Accumulated depreciation on contributions	–	(1)	–	(51)	(122)	–	–	–	(174)	–	(174)
Accumulated depreciation on revaluation	(14,175)	(1,500)	1,066	(6,179)	(8,668)	–	–	–	(29,456)	–	(29,456)
	(24,876)	(2,690)	339	(9,639)	(12,964)	(2,537)	(870)	(200)	(53,437)	–	(53,437)
At fair value 30 June 2024	839,364	67,124	87,679	181,951	473,753	98,700	52,500	4,807	1,805,878	32,162	1,838,040
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	(323,610)	(19,711)	(31,581)	(66,132)	(154,893)	(48,774)	(26,996)	(4,807)	(676,504)	–	(676,504)
Carrying amount	515,754	47,413	56,098	115,819	318,860	49,926	25,504	–	1,129,374	32,162	1,161,536

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

Acquisition

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Refer also to Note 8.4 for further disclosure regarding fair value measurement.

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

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

Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods

	Depreciation Period	Threshold Limit \$ '000
Land and Buildings		
land	n/a	–
buildings	20-150 years	10
Plant and Equipment		
plant and equipment	2-25 years	2
office equipment, furniture and fittings	2-25 years	2
artwork	n/a	–
fountains, statues and monuments	80-100 years	5
Infrastructure		
sealed roads	15-100 years	10
unsealed roads	15-100 years	10
pathways	25-50 years	5
bridges	100 years	10
drainage	100-200 years	5
public furniture and fittings	15-40 years	2
land improvements	20-80 years	5
landfill	6-10 years	–
Intangible assets		
landfill airspace	6-10 years	–

Land under roads

The Council recognises land under roads it controls at fair value.

Depreciation and amortisation

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

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

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

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

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

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

Repairs and maintenance

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

Valuation of land and buildings

Valuation of land and buildings were undertaken by a qualified independent valuer William Wright, Opteon Property Group Pty Ltd Member No: 80899 at 30 June 2023. The valuation of land and buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Specialised land is valued at fair value using site values adjusted for englobo (undeveloped and/or unserved) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

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

The date and type of the current valuation is detailed in the following table.

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

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of valuation	Type of Valuation
Land	–	7,539	–	Jun/23	full
Specialised land	–	–	300,203	Jun/23	full
Land under roads	–	–	15,505	Jun/23	full
Buildings	–	6,829	–	Jun/23	full
Buildings - specialised	–	–	230,579	Jun/23	full
Buildings - heritage	–	–	152,507	Jun/23	full
Total	–	14,368	698,794		

Valuation of Infrastructure

Valuation of Infrastructure assets and specialised buildings has been determined in accordance with contemporary asset management standards and are independently verified. The valuation process is managed by Mr. Nathan Sartori, Acting Manager Engineering (Certified Practicing Engineer) and Mr. Paul Nicholson, Coordinator GIS and Asset Information utilising internal professional engineering and technical resources. The valuation process for sealed roads, unsealed roads, pathways, bridges and drainage is performed annually with a third of each asset class inspected and valued. The valuation of land improvements and public furniture and fittings asset classes are completed on a three year cycle.

The date and type of the current valuation is detailed in the following table.

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

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

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of valuation	Type of Valuation
Sealed roads	–	–	515,754	Jun/24	full
Unsealed roads	–	–	47,413	Jun/24	full
Pathways	–	–	115,819	Jun/24	full
Bridges	–	–	56,098	Jun/24	full
Drainage	–	–	318,860	Jun/24	full
Public furniture and fittings	–	–	25,504	Jun/22	full
Land improvements	–	–	49,926	Jun/22	full
Total	–	–	1,129,374		

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations

Specialised land and land under roads is valued using a market based direct comparison technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the extent and impact of restriction of use and the market cost of land per square metre. The extent and impact of restrictions on use varies and results in a reduction to surrounding land values between 10% and 95%. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions. Currently land values range between \$1 and \$1,557 per square metre.

Specialised buildings are valued using a current replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement costs are calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from \$305 to \$10,620 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 1 years to 100 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

Infrastructure assets are valued based on the current replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 1 year to 200 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

Reconciliation of specialised land

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Land under roads	15,505	14,207
Land	300,203	297,835
Total specialised land	315,708	312,042

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000

6.2 Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries

(a) Investments in associates

Investments in associates and joint arrangements accounted for by the equity method are:

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation (NCGRLC)	3,804	3,749
Total investments in associates and joint arrangements	3,804	3,749

North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation (NCGRLC)

Background

Council is a member of the North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation. Council has a 60.94% share of the net assets (60.98% 2023). At 30 June 2024 Council's equity in the Corporation was \$3,803,722 (30 June 2023 \$3,749,351).

Fair value of Council's investment in North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation (NCGRLC)

Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit)

Council's share of accumulated surplus(deficit) at start of year	3,041	3,047
Reported surplus(deficit) for year	56	17
Transfers (to) from reserves	(15)	(22)
Distributions for the year	(1)	(1)
Council's share of accumulated surplus(deficit) at end of year	3,081	3,041

Council's share of reserves

Council's share of reserves at start of year	708	686
Transfers (to) from reserves	15	22
Council's share of reserves at end of year	723	708

Movement in carrying value of specific investment

Carrying value of investment at start of year	3,749	3,735
Share of surplus(deficit) for year	56	17
Share of equity adjustment	(1)	(3)
Carrying value of investment at end of year	3,804	3,749

Council's Share of Expenditure Commitments

Operating commitments	144	148
Council's Share of Expenditure Commitments	144	148

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

Community Asset Committee

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

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 7. People and relationships

7.1 Council and key management remuneration

(a) Related Parties

Parent entity

Greater Bendigo City Council is the parent entity.

Subsidiaries and Associates

Interests in subsidiaries and associates are detailed in Note 6.2.

(b) Key Management Personnel

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

Details of KMP at any time during the year are:

Councillors

Andrea Metcalf - Mayor
 Matthew Evans - Councillor (01/07/2023 to 07/11/2023) and Deputy Mayor (08/11/2023 to 30/06/2024)
 Jennifer Alden - Deputy Mayor (01/07/2023 to 07/11/2023) and Councillor (08/11/2023 to 30/06/2024)
 Margaret O'Rourke OAM
 Rod Fyffe OAM
 Gregory Penna
 Vaughan Williams
 Julie Sloan
 David Fagg

Executive

Andrew Cooney - Chief Executive Officer (16/12/2023 to 30/06/2024) and Director Commonwealth Games (01/07/2023 to 20/08/2023 and 06/11/2023 to 15/12/2023) and Director Strategy and Growth (21/08/2023 to 05/11/2023)
 Craig Niemann - Chief Executive Officer (01/07/2023 to 15/12/2023)
 Jessica Howard - Director Corporate Performance
 Stacy Williams - Director Healthy Communities and Environments
 Brian Westley - Director Presentation and Assets
 Steve Hamilton - Director Strategy and Growth (01/07/2023 to 18/08/2023)
 Rachel Lee - Director Strategy and Growth (06/11/2023 to 30/06/2024)

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Total Number of Councillors	9	9
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	7	7
Total Number of Key Management Personnel	16	16

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 7. People and relationships (continued)

(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

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

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

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

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

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

The below remuneration values are calculated on an accrual basis. Annual leave and long service leave utilised during the year will impact the values reported. These values will not always represent the annualised current value of the employment contract with the Council.

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term employee benefits	1,924	2,074
Other long-term employee benefits	66	69
Post-employment benefits	192	201
Termination benefits	199	—
Total	2,381	2,344

	2024 No.	2023 No.
--	-------------	-------------

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

\$30,000 - \$39,999	—	2
\$40,000 - \$49,999	6	5
\$50,000 - \$59,999	2	1
\$60,000 - \$69,999	1	—
\$80,000 - \$89,999	—	1
\$120,000 - \$129,999	—	1
\$140,000 - \$149,999	1	—
\$180,000 - \$189,999	1	—
\$240,000 - \$249,999	—	1
\$250,000 - \$259,999	—	1
\$260,000 - \$269,999	1	—
\$270,000 - \$279,999	1	1
\$280,000 - \$289,999	—	1
\$290,000 - \$299,999	1	1
\$380,000 - \$389,999	1	—
\$390,000 - \$399,999	1	—
\$440,000 - \$449,999	—	1
	16	16

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 7. People and relationships (continued)

(d) Remuneration of other senior staff

Other senior staff are officers of Council, other than Key Management Personnel, whose total remuneration exceeds \$170,000 and who report directly to a member of the KMP.

Total remuneration of other senior staff was as follows:

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Short-term employee benefits	1,922	3,228
Other long-term employee benefits	51	107
Post-employment benefits	215	335
Termination benefits	64	—
Total	2,252	3,670

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

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Income Range:		
\$160,000 - \$169,999	—	8
\$170,000 - \$179,999	4	8
\$180,000 - \$189,999	4	4
\$190,000 - \$199,999	1	1
\$200,000 - \$209,999	2	—
\$210,000 - \$219,999	1	—
	12	21

(*) In 2023, the threshold for reporting senior staff remuneration was \$160,000. In 2024, the threshold has increased to \$170,000.

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Total remuneration for the reporting year for other senior staff included above, amounted to:	2,252	3,670

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 7. People and relationships (continued)

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000

7.2 Related party disclosure

(a) Transactions with related parties

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

Income

Financial services provided to NCGRLC	84	79
Rent and outgoings received from NCGRLC for the Bendigo Library headquarters	42	48
	<u>126</u>	<u>127</u>

Expenses

Contribution to NCGRLC	3,411	3,298
Reimbursement for running the Bendigo Regional Archive Centre (BRAC), paid to NCGRLC	94	92
Grants paid to NCGRLC	27	93
Contributions paid to NCGRLC	13	—
	<u>3,545</u>	<u>3,483</u>

The North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation operate library services from a number of Council owned buildings free of charge. The buildings that Council does not charge any rent for are located at Heathcote, Eaglehawk and Kangaroo Flat.

(b) Outstanding balances with related parties

There were no material balances outstanding at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties.

(c) Loans to/from related parties

There are no loans in existence at balance date which have been made, guaranteed or secured by Council to a related party.

(d) Commitments to/from related parties

The aggregate amount of commitments in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by Council to a related party are as follows:

Council had an agreement with the North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation to provide accounting and financial services to 30 June 2024 for which a fee is paid. The agreement had an option to extend for a year, this extension has been executed. The agreement will expire at 30 June 2025. Council also has a 10 year lease agreement for buildings with the Corporation which commenced on 1 July 2015, for which rental is charged.

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 8. Managing uncertainties

8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed and if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable, respectively.

(a) Contingent assets

Construction of infrastructure assets by developers in the course of creating new subdivisions results in the infrastructure assets being vested in Council, when Council issues a statement of compliance. These assets are brought to account as revenue and capitalised.

At reporting date, developers had commenced construction of assets that will eventually be transferred to Council upon Council issuing a statement of compliance.

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

(b) Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

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

Superannuation

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

Landfill

Council has confirmed the presence of ten past and one current landfill sites that may require some form of rehabilitation or remediation works. White Hills, Wolstencroft and part of the Eaglehawk Landfill sites have had rehabilitation works completed over the past 3 years with a rehabilitation plan currently being developed for the remainder of the Eaglehawk site once it reaches capacity. This has allowed Council to include an accurate provision within the financial statements at the 30 June 2024. The remainder of the former landfill sites that have been identified are considered a low risk and the level of rehabilitation works required, if any, is unknown.

Liability Mutual Insurance

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

(c) Guarantees for loans to other entities

The amount disclosed for financial guarantee in this note is the nominal amount of the underlying loan that is guaranteed by Council, not the fair value of the financial guarantee. Council maintains representation on Bendigo Stadium Ltd board and finance committee as part of arrangements related to the loan guarantee provided. In 2023, Councillors agreed to contributions which refinanced the loan, reducing the principle by \$9.35M.

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

Name of Organisation	Current Loan Guarantee Exposure	Financial Institution	Date Approved by Council	Guarantee Maturity Date
Bendigo Stadium Ltd	\$2,616,040	Bendigo Bank	4/05/2016	11/11/2026

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 8. Managing uncertainties

8.2 Change in accounting standards

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

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

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

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

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

Council will assess any impact of the modifications to AASB 101 ahead of the 2024-25 reporting period.

8.3 Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

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

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 8. Managing uncertainties (continued)

(b) Market risk

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

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Council's interest rate liability risk arises primarily from long term loans and borrowings at fixed rates which exposes Council to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rates.

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

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

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

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

(c) Credit risk

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

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

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

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

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

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

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 8. Managing uncertainties (continued)

(d) Liquidity risk

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

To help reduce these risks Council:

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

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

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

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

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

(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

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

- A parallel shift of +1% and -1% in market interest rates (AUD) from average year end interest rates on term deposits of 5.13%.

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

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 8. Managing uncertainties (continued)

8.4 Fair value measurement

Fair Value Hierarchy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Revaluation

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

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use of an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 1 to 5 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts. The following table sets out the frequency of revaluations by asset class.

Asset Class	Revaluation frequency
Land and Buildings	
Land	2 years
Specialised land	2 years
Land under roads	1 year
Buildings	2 years
Buildings - specialised	2 years
Buildings - heritage	2 years
Plant and Equipment	
Plant and equipment	N/A
Office equipment, furniture and fittings	N/A
Artworks	3 years
Fountains, statues and monuments	5 years
Infrastructure	
Sealed roads	1 year
Unsealed roads	1 year
Bridges	1 year

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 8. Managing uncertainties (continued)

Drainage	1 year
Land improvements	3 years
Public furniture and fittings	3 years
Intangible Assets	
Landfill	N/A

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

Impairment of assets

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

8.5 Events occurring after balance date

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

This was the first year in some time that Financial Assistance Grants have been received in early July (usually received in late June) with \$18.9M receipted on 6th July 2024. All impacts to this change in timing have been reflected in these statements.

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 9. Other matters

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$ '000	Increase (decrease) \$ '000	Balance at end of reporting period \$ '000
9.1 Reserves			
(a) Asset revaluation reserves			
2024			
Property			
Land	229,694	–	229,694
Buildings	212,189	–	212,189
	441,883	–	441,883
Plant and equipment			
Plant and equipment	1,541	–	1,541
Library resources	820	–	820
Artwork	50,983	–	50,983
	53,344	–	53,344
Infrastructure			
Drainage	90,614	17,592	108,206
Roads, bridges and pathways	431,961	68,336	500,297
Land improvements	31,435	–	31,435
Public furniture and fittings, statues and monuments	13,490	–	13,490
	567,500	85,928	653,428
Total asset revaluation reserves	1,062,727	85,928	1,148,655
2023			
Property			
Land	208,844	20,850	229,694
Buildings	154,797	57,392	212,189
	363,641	78,242	441,883
Plant and equipment			
Plant and equipment	1,541	–	1,541
Library resources	820	–	820
Artwork	48,582	2,401	50,983
	50,943	2,401	53,344
Infrastructure			
Drainage	76,535	14,079	90,614
Roads, bridges and pathways	382,671	49,290	431,961
Land improvements	31,435	–	31,435
Public furniture and fittings, statues and monuments	13,490	–	13,490
	504,131	63,369	567,500
Total asset revaluation reserves	918,715	144,012	1,062,727

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

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 9. Other matters (continued)

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$ '000	Transfer from Accumulated Surplus \$ '000	Transfer to Accumulated Surplus \$ '000	Balance at end of reporting period \$ '000
(b) Other reserves				
2024				
Open Space	6,281	849	(176)	6,954
Development Contributions	4,699	318	(579)	4,438
Tree Amenity	155	34	—	189
Native Vegetation	136	—	—	136
Waste Management	3,765	1,507	(475)	4,797
Land and Buildings	463	—	—	463
Car Parking	832	—	—	832
Defined Benefits	2,000	—	—	2,000
Unexpended Grants and Donations	21,758	841	(21,758)	841
Total Other reserves	40,089	3,549	(22,988)	20,650
2023				
Open Space	5,853	759	(331)	6,281
Development Contributions	4,452	390	(143)	4,699
Tree Amenity	110	45	—	155
Native Vegetation	119	17	—	136
Waste Management	2,466	2,134	(835)	3,765
Land and Buildings	5,651	—	(5,188)	463
Car Parking	832	—	—	832
Defined Benefits	2,000	—	—	2,000
Unexpended Grants and Donations	17,334	21,592	(17,168)	21,758
Total Other reserves	38,817	24,937	(23,665)	40,089

Open Space

Statutory developer contribution funds to be used for future recreation facility additions or improvements.

Development Contributions

Statutory developer contribution funds for future drainage, road, fencing and tree planting.

Tree Amenity

This reserve was established to set aside revenue received from the replacement of trees, whilst taking into account the removal of trees.

Native Vegetation

This reserve was established to recognise the cost savings by utilising Council owned native vegetation offsets to deliver council projects. These cost savings are held in a reserve to contribute to future expenditure associated with maintaining and establishing future native vegetation offset credits.

Waste Management

This reserve was established to make some provision for a replacement waste treatment facility when the Eaglehawk Landfill is exhausted and to contribute to rehabilitation requirements for closed landfill sites.

Land and Buildings

The purpose of this reserve is to provide funds for future strategic purchases of land and building assets within the municipality.

Car Parking

This reserve was established to make provision for future car parking solutions in the city centre.

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 9. Other matters (continued)

Defined Benefits

This reserve is used to assist with the funding of any call that may be made on the Council as a result of shortfall in the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund Defined Benefits Plan.

Unexpended Grants and Donations

This reserve is used to set aside grant and donation monies in relation to specific projects received in one financial year that will not be expended until a later financial year. Funds in this account are predominantly not discretionary. This was the first year in some time that Financial Assistance Grants have been received in early July (usually received in late June) with \$18.9M received on 6th July 2024. Therefore, the amount held in this reserve at balance date was significantly less than the prior year.

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	4,628	31,195
Non-cash adjustments:		
Depreciation/amortisation	52,202	48,043
Profit/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	8,772	9,712
Contributions - Non-monetary assets	(24,347)	(17,007)
Net share of net profits of associates and joint ventures	(54)	(14)
Amounts disclosed in financing activities	3,025	1,335
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(5,495)	81
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	26	45
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(272)	(360)
(Increase)/decrease in contract assets	(3,272)	1,011
(Increase)/decrease in other assets	(36)	—
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	3,437	(7,562)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	831	1,172
(Decrease)/increase in trust funds and deposits	880	56
(Decrease)/increase in contract and other liabilities	704	(2,268)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	41,029	65,439

9.3 Superannuation

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

Accumulation

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

Defined Benefit

Council does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 9. Other matters (continued)

is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of Council in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Fund Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119.

Funding Arrangements

Council makes employer contributions to the Defined Benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund Actuary.

A triennial actuarial investigation for the Defined Benefit category as at 30 June 2023 was conducted and completed by 31 December 2023. The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category as at 30 June 2023 was 104.1%. Council was notified of the 30 June 2023 VBI during August 2023.

The financial assumptions used to calculate the 30 June 2023 VBI were:

Net investment returns	5.7% pa
Salary information	3.5% pa
Price inflation (CPI)	2.8% pa

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

Employer contributions

(a) Regular contributions

On the basis of the results of the 2023 triennial actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, Council makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2024, this rate was 11.0% of members' salaries (10.5% in 2022/23). This rate is expected to increase in line with any increases in the SG contribution rate and was reviewed as part of the 30 June 2023 triennial valuation.

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

(b) Funding calls

If the Defined Benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at an actuarial investigation or the Defined Benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the Defined Benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 98% from 26 July 2024 (previously 97%).

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including Council) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall.

Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's Defined Benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up.

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers.

In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 9. Other matters (continued)

The 2023 triennial actuarial investigation surplus amounts

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

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

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

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2023.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2023.

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

The 2024 interim actuarial investigation

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

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

Net investment returns	5.6% pa
Salary information	3.5% pa
Price inflation (CPI)	2.7% pa

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

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

The 2020 triennial investigation

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

	2020 Triennial investigation	2023 Triennial investigation
	\$m	\$m
Net investment return	5.6% pa	5.7% pa
Salary inflation	2.5% pa for two years and 2.75% pa thereafter	3.50% pa
Price inflation	2.0% pa	2.8% pa

Greater Bendigo City Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 9. Other matters (continued)

Superannuation contributions

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

Scheme	Type of scheme	Rate	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Vision Super	Defined benefits	11.0% (2023:10.5%)	274	293
Vision Super	Accumulation	11.0% (2023:10.5%)	3,357	3,465

There was \$349,925 of accumulation scheme contributions and no defined benefits scheme contributions outstanding at 30 June 2024..

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2025 is \$280,000.

Note 10. Changes in accounting policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies in the 2023-24 year.

172

PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS 2023/2024

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS 2023/2024

Greater Bendigo City Council Annual Performance Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023.



I CONTENTS

Performance Statements	174
Certification of the performance statement	174
Victorian Auditor-General's Office audit report	175
Section 1. Description of municipality	177
Section 2. Service performance indicators	178
Section 3. Financial performance indicators	180
Section 4. Sustainable capacity indicators	183
Section 5. Notes to the accounts	184
5.1. Basis of preparation	184
5.2. Definitions	182

Greater Bendigo City Council
2023/2024 Performance Statement

Certification of the Performance Statements

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



Nathan Morsillo, FCPA
Principal Accounting Officer / Chief Financial Officer

Dated : 17/09/2024
Bendigo

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the Greater Bendigo City Council for the year ended 30 June 2024 presents fairly the results of council's performance in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

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

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

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



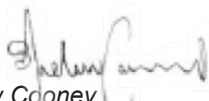
Andrea Metcalf
Mayor

Dated : 17/09/2024
Bendigo



Margaret O'Rourke
Councillor

Dated : 17/09/2024
Bendigo



Andrew Cooney
Chief Executive Officer

Dated : 17/09/2024
Bendigo



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Greater Bendigo City Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the accompanying performance statement of Greater Bendigo City Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • description of municipality for the year ended 30 June 2024 • service performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2024 • financial performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2024 • sustainable capacity indicators for the year ended 30 June 2024 • notes to the accounts • certification of the performance statement. <p>In my opinion, the performance statement of Greater Bendigo City Council in respect of the year ended 30 June 2024 presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of Part 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the performance statement</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the performance statement in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Councillors' responsibilities for the performance statement	<p>The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 and for such internal control as the Councillors determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a performance statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p>

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

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

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

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



MELBOURNE
20 September 2024

Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Greater Bendigo City Council
2023/2024 Performance Statement

Section 1. Description of Municipality

The City of Greater Bendigo is located in the geographic centre of Victoria about 90 minute drive north of Melbourne. Greater Bendigo has an estimated population of 124,174 at 30 June 2024 and covers approximately 3,000 square kilometres of the central Victorian landscape, including smaller towns and villages such as Heathcote, Axedale, Huntly, Marong, Elmore, Goornong, Neilborough, Sebastian, Woodvale, Raywood, Mia Mia and Redesdale.

The resident population of Greater Bendigo at 30 June 2024 was estimated at 124,174, which represents an annual growth rate of 1.3% or 1,623 people since 30 June 2023.

The service age structure of Greater Bendigo shows different populations at their different life stages. Looking at age structure this way can better inform the level of demand on specific age based services as well as specific housing needs. At the 2021 Census the age structure shows that overall 18.7% of the population was aged between 0 and 15 and 19.9% of residents were over the age of 65.

Additional demographic information is contained earlier in the annual report.

Greater Bendigo City Council
2023/2024 Performance Statement

Section 2. Service Performance Indicators						
Service/indicator/measure	2021		2022		2023	
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Aquatic Facilities						
Utilisation						
Utilisation of aquatic facilities [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	2.92	4.16	5.17	N/A	6.25	
Animal Management						
Health and safety						
Animal management prosecutions [Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x100	100%	100%	100%	N/A	100%	
Food Safety						
Health and safety						
Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100	71.23%	63.44%	98.10%	N/A	92.98%	Post COVID-19 there was a focus on food premises coming out of lockdowns, however, resourcing and other commitments has not permitted this focus on a single area to continue in the same way as previous years.
Governance						
Satisfaction						
Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement (community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council)	55	51	52	52	49	
Libraries						
Participation						
Library membership [percentage of the population that are registered library members] x100	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.52%	

*Greater Bendigo City Council
2023/2024 Performance Statement*

Section 2. Service Performance Indicators (cont.)						
Service/indicator/measure	2021		2022		2023	
	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Actual
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)						
Participation Participation in the MCH service [Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	77.34%		75.93%		76.51%	77.59%
Participation Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	72.20%		69.88%		71.29%	78.85%
Roads						
Condition Sealed local roads below the intervention level (percentage of sealed local roads that are below the renewal intervention level set by Council and not requiring renewal)	99.33%		99.35%		99.24%	97.48%
Statutory Planning						
Service standard Planning applications decided within the relevant required time (percentage of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time)	67.78%		62.32%		58.19%	53.38%
Waste Collection						
Waste diversion Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100	50.19%		52.25%		52.96%	58.29%
Material Variations						
Attendance was slightly higher this year, the figures are comparable with previous years.						
The 2022-2024 flooding events had an impact on the condition of roads and this is reflected in the condition data.						
Vacancies in planning officer positions has meant that the target to increase the result for this indicator has not been met in this reporting period.						
The amount of Food Organics and Green Organics (FOGO) diverted from landfill has increased since the City implemented a change to the bin collection frequency in during 2023/24.						

Greater Bendigo City Council
2023/2024 Performance Statement

Section 3. Financial Performance Indicators										
Dimension/indicator/measure	2021	2022	2023	2024		2025	2026	2027	2028	Material Variations
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	
Efficiency										
Expenditure level Expenses per property assessment [Total expenses / Number of property assessments]	\$3,230	\$3,413	\$3,679	\$3,473	\$3,824	\$3,545	\$3,614	\$3,691	\$3,762	
Revenue level Average rate per property assessment [Sum of all general rates and municipal charges / Number of property assessments]	\$1,794	\$1,778	\$1,831	\$1,926	\$1,882	\$1,981	\$2,035	\$2,089	\$2,139	
Liquidity										
Working capital Current assets compared to current liabilities [Current assets / Current liabilities] x100	160.09%	195.68%	226.13%	123.00%	171.98%	194.50%	185.64%	176.73%	175.98%	Financial Assistance grant were not paid early in 2024, which changes underlying revenue estimates and actuals for the 2023/2024 financial year.
Unrestricted cash** Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities [Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities] x100	68.98%	62.08%	-41.54%**	55.00%	-76.56%**	73.01%	68.38%	53.78%	48.91%	** The prescribed calculation method excludes term deposits with an original maturity of greater than 90 days (Financial Assets) of \$56M. With term deposits included in the definition of unrestricted cash, the result for 2023-24 is 29%. This amended result is a better representation of available funds than the negative ratio in the 2024-25 column. The actual result is lower predominantly as a result of changed timing of Federal Assistance Grant payments. The forecast has been prepared on the assumption that all term deposits are unrestricted in the future.
Obligations										
Loans and borrowings Loans and borrowings compared to rates [Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	32.10%	18.75%	14.49%	16.70%	10.34%	8.88%	7.76%	4.25%	3.58%	The City held a loan portfolio of \$15.1M as at 30 June 2024. Borrowings have been reduced as the City continues to repay principal loan liabilities. Projections assume limited borrowings will be utilised in future years.
Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates [Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	4.74%	12.74%	4.15%	4.00%	3.93%	3.55%	3.83%	3.62%	2.22%	
Indebtedness Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue [Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100	28.86%	19.81%	39.38%	40.00%	37.69%	31.16%	28.06%	23.98%	21.83%	

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS 2023/2024

181

Greater Bendigo City Council
2023/2024 Performance Statement

**** Unrestricted Cash** - The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework considers term deposits with an original maturing age of greater than 90 days to be considered restricted. Due to this it has resulted in a negative result for the 2023/2024 financial year. The Greater Bendigo City Council consider term deposits with an original maturing date of greater than 90 days to be unrestricted for cash management purposes and is treated this way in the long term financial plan.

Greater Bendigo City Council
2023/2024 Performance Statement

Section 3. Financial Performance Indicators (cont.)												
Dimension/indicator/measure	2021	2022	2023	2024		2025	2026	2027	2028	Material Variations		
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast			
Asset renewal and upgrade Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation [Asset renewal and asset upgrade expense / Asset depreciation] x100	67.88%	83.95%	77.03%	78.30%	75.22%	77.73%	94.01%	96.99%	87.25%	There is minimal change in the current financial year on this measure. In future years, where capacity enables it - larger renewal projects may be scheduled.		
Operating position Adjusted underlying result Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) [Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit)/ Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	-6.84%	2.66%	-3.27%	-3.90%	-21.07%	-1.30%	0.39%	0.69%	0.86%	The current financial year actuals were impacted significantly by the Financial Assistance Grant funding not paid early (\$18.9M received on 5 July 24); additional expenses related to flood and significant rain events; and a one off payment on a guaranteed loan - related to the Bendigo Stadium asset (leased by Bendigo Stadium Limited) owned by the City. Forward budgets plan to improve the City's long term underlying result.		
Stability Rates concentration Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue [Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	70.84%	61.63%	62.99%	70.20%	73.89%	70.27%	70.06%	70.50%	70.90%	Financial Assistance grant were not paid early in 2024, which changes underlying revenue estimates and actuals for the 2023/2024 financial year.		
Rates effort Rates compared to property values [Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100	0.53%	0.50%	0.38%	0.50%	0.37%	0.38%	0.39%	0.40%	0.41%			

Greater Bendigo City Council
2023/2024 Performance Statement

Section 4. Sustainable Capacity Indicators					
Indicator/measure	2021	2022	2023	2024	Material Variations
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	
Population					
<i>Expenses per head of municipal population</i> [Total expenses / Municipal population]	\$1,588	\$1,732	\$1,862	\$1,937	
<i>Infrastructure per head of municipal population</i> [Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]	\$11,970	\$11,810	\$12,847	\$13,578	
<i>Population density per length of road</i> [Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]	38.19	38.61	38.83	39.19	
Own-source revenue					
<i>Own-source revenue per head of municipal population</i> [Own-source revenue / Municipal population]	\$1,184	\$1,421	\$1,465	\$1,472	
Recurrent grants					
<i>Recurrent grants per head of municipal population</i> [Recurrent grants / Municipal population]	\$226	\$290	\$302	\$54	Financial Assistance grant were not paid early in 2024 (\$18.9M received on 1 July 24). With the previous year paid in 2022-2023 financial year, this has a large impact on this measure.
Disadvantage					
<i>Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage</i> [Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by decile]	4	4	4	4	
Workforce turnover					
<i>Percentage of staff turnover</i> [Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year x100]	10.9%	14.3%	23.9%	16.3%	Staff turnover results for 2022/2023 were inflated due to exiting the Home Care service in that financial year. The 2023-24 results are slightly elevated, but closer to previous year averages.

Section 5. Notes to the accounts

5.1. Basis of Preparation

Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its annual report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed, service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district, an explanation of material variations in the results and notes to the accounts. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

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

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and the previous three years, along with the current year's target, if mandated by the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. Additionally, for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the performance statement includes the target budget for the current year and the results forecast for the period 2024-25 to 2027-28 by the council's financial plan.

The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

5.2 Definitions

Key term	Definition
Aboriginal children	means a child who is an Aboriginal person
Aboriginal person	has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
adjusted underlying revenue	means total income other than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and • non-monetary asset contributions; and • contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to above
adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure
annual report	means an annual report prepared by a council under section 98 of the Act
asset renewal expenditure	means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability
asset upgrade expenditure	means expenditure that— (a) enhances an existing asset to provide a higher level of service; or (b) extends the life of the asset beyond its original life
critical non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the <i>Food Act 1984</i> , or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health
current assets	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
current liabilities	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
food premises	has the same meaning as in the <i>Food Act 1984</i>
intervention level	means the level set for the condition of a road beyond which a council will not allow the road to deteriorate and will need to intervene
local road	means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the <i>Road Management Act 2004</i>
major non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the <i>Food Act 1984</i> , or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken
MCH	means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age
non-current liabilities	means all liabilities other than current liabilities
own-source revenue	means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)
population	means the resident population estimated by council
rate revenue	means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges
relative socio-economic disadvantage	in relation to a municipal district, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipal district is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage of SEIFA
restricted cash	means cash, cash equivalents and financial assets, within the meaning of the Australian Accounting Standards, not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year
SEIFA	means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet site
unrestricted cash	means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash

I NOTES

Council offices

City of Greater Bendigo office locations and service points:

Main office

189-229 Lyttleton Terrace, Bendigo

T | 1300 002 642
E | requests@bendigo.vic.gov.au
W | www.bendigo.vic.gov.au

Heathcote Service Centre

125 High Street, Heathcote

T | (03) 5433 3211

Bendigo Livestock Exchange

Wallenjo Road, Huntly

T | (03) 5448 8111
E | livestockexchange@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Bendigo Art Gallery

42 View Street, Bendigo

T | (03) 5434 6088
E | bendigoartgallery@bendigo.vic.gov.au
W | www.bendigoartgallery.com.au

Bendigo Venues & Events

50 View Street, Bendigo

T | (03) 5434 6100
E | bendigovenuesandevents@bendigo.vic.gov.au
W | www.bendigovenuesandevents.com.au

Adam Street Depot

64 Adam Street, Golden Square

CONTACT US

City of Greater Bendigo

W | www.bendigo.vic.gov.au

E | requests@bendigo.vic.gov.au

P | 1300 002 642

If you are deaf, or have a hearing impairment or speech impairment, contact us via the National Relay Service. Phone 133 677 then ask for 1300 002 642

A | Bendigo: 189-229 Lyttleton Terrace, Bendigo
Heathcote: 125 High Street, Heathcote

M | PO Box 733 Bendigo VIC 3552



16. HEALTHY, LIVEABLE SPACES AND PLACES

16.1. 8 Highbury Court, Strathdale - Alterations and Extension to Existing Dwelling

Author:	Beth Lavery, Senior Statutory Planner
Responsible Director:	Rachel Lee, Director Strategy and Growth

Summary/Purpose

Application No:	DR/100/2024
Applicant:	Jin Ying Pty Ltd
Land:	8 Highbury Court, STRATHDALE 3550
Zoning:	General Residential Zone
Overlays:	Heritage Overlay – Schedule 915
No. of objections:	5
Consultation meeting:	<p>A consultation meeting was held on 18 July 2024, which was attended by four of the objectors, along with the permit applicant, architect and property owners.</p> <p>A <i>Draft</i> Landscape Concept Plan was distributed following this consultation meeting, including an invitation for all objectors to participate in a follow up meeting to discuss this plan, however none of the objectors elected to participate in this further consultation.</p> <p>As a result, no objections were withdrawn at the conclusion of the consultation process.</p>
Key considerations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the proposal consistent with planning policy surrounding heritage restoration and preservation; and Does the proposal accord with the purpose and decision guidelines of the Heritage Overlay and represent an appropriate response to the site.
Conclusion:	<p>The proposal is in accordance with relevant planning policy and the objectives of the Heritage Overlay.</p> <p>The proposed additions and alterations to the existing dwelling on the site are acceptable and give due regard and consideration to the heritage significance of this building.</p> <p>The proposed extension has been sensitively designed and located so as to ensure that will not unreasonably dominate the site, nor adversely affect the significance of the heritage place.</p>

	The proposal will ensure the restoration and ongoing preservation of Nanga Gnulle and will enhance the site for future generations to enjoy.
--	--

Recommended Motion

That Council issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit for Alterations and extension to an existing dwelling at 8 Highbury Court, Strathdale subject to the conditions at the end of this report.

Background Information

8 Highbury Court Strathdale was created following approval of planning permit AM/867/2016/A, which allowed for the subdivision of land at 40 Harley Street Strathdale into 12 lots, the removal of vegetation, removal and creation of easements, demolition of amenities block and works within the Heritage Overlay. The subdivision was completed, and titles issued for the new allotments on 16 February 2024. 8 Highbury Court is known as Lot 9 on Plan of Subdivision 807999Q.

Prior to subdivision, 40 Harley Street had previously been used and developed as a wedding and function centre and contained several buildings on the site including a mud brick dwelling, other residential buildings, a hall, and sheds, collectively known as Nanga Gnulle.

During the assessment of the aforementioned subdivision application, the potential heritage value of Nanga Gnulle was identified, and a process to assess its heritage value and apply the Heritage Overlay to part of the overall site commenced through the preparation of an Amendment to the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme.

This Amendment, known as Amendment C234gben, was exhibited between 2 November and 4 December 2017, a Panel Hearing held to consider submissions on 21 May 2018 (with report containing recommendations received 12 June 2018), was adopted by Council on 15 August 2018, and was approved with changes and gazetted in the Government Gazette on 11 October 2018. All documentation relating to the Amendment can be found in the following link:

<https://planningschemes.app.planning.vic.gov.au/Greater%20Bendigo/amendments/C234>.

The Panel Report included the following (summarised) conclusions:

- The original curtilage of 5 metres proposed in the exhibited amendment did not adequately respect the original setting, environment, heritage significance and value of the mud brick house (the exhibited version and the gazetted version are shown below at Figure 1).

- Internal alteration controls should not be applied given there has been no detailed assessment of the interior.
- No other buildings on the site are of heritage significance.
- The gardens have been assessed against HERCON heritage criteria and are not considered to be of heritage significance to warrant inclusion in the Heritage Overlay.

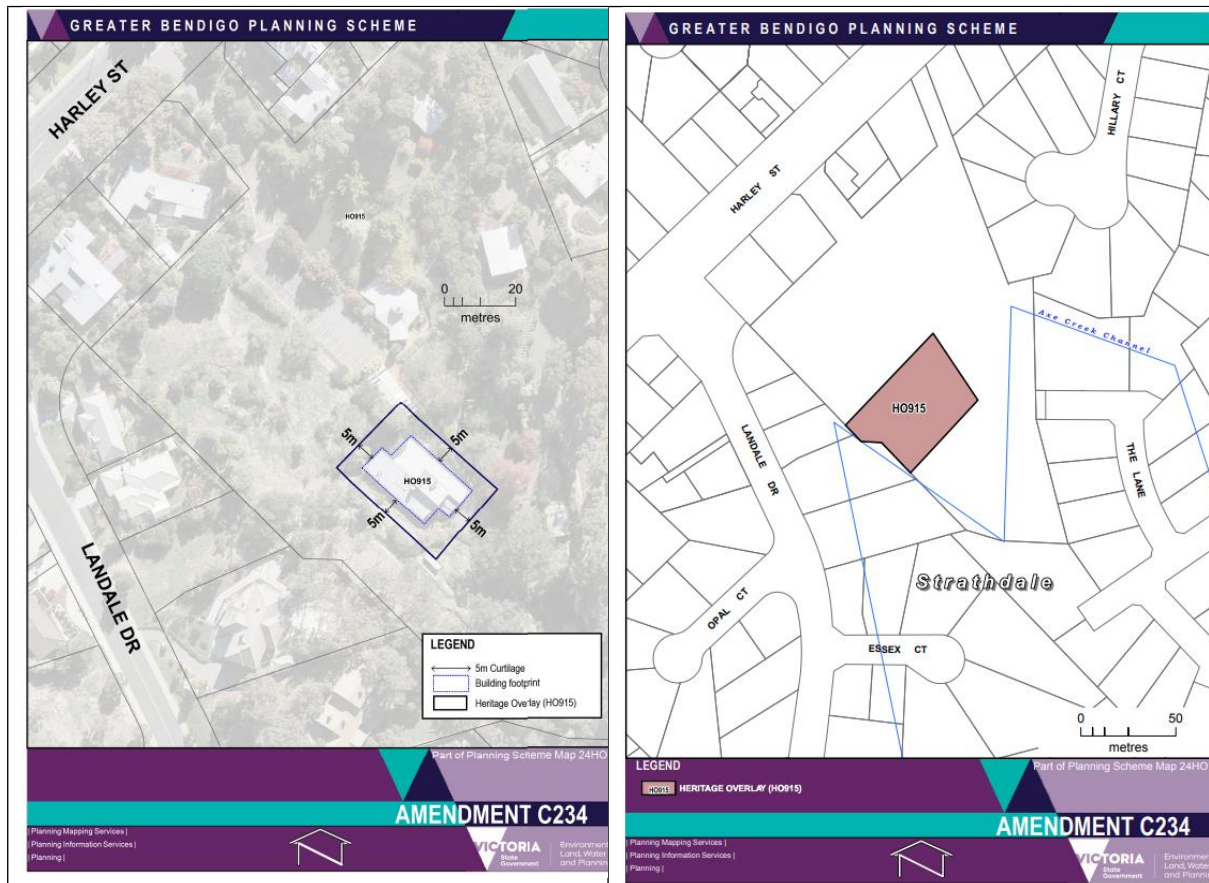


Fig 1. Original curtilage proposed (left) and approved curtilage (right), which indicates how the Heritage Overlay has been applied to the site.

The recommendations of the Panel were to:

1. Amend the citation for the mud brick house 'Nanga Gnulle' at 40 Harley Street in accordance with the changes shown in Appendix C to the Panel Report.
2. Amend planning scheme map 24HO to show the recommended location of the Heritage Overlay polygon for HO915.

These recommended changes from the Panel Report would result in both the Planning Scheme maps and the citation for the cite correlating to apply the Heritage Overlay to essentially the whole of the site now known as 8 Highbury Court Strathdale.

The Planning Scheme maps were updated in accordance with these recommendations prior to adoption of the Amendment, and the Heritage Overlay (HO915) now applies to the site as indicated below in Figure 2 below.

While the citation for Nanga Gnulle was also updated in line with the recommendations of the Panel (referring to the greater curtilage around the dwelling which accords with HO915), unfortunately a subsequent amendment to the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme has resulted in the incorrect reference document/citation being inserted as an Incorporated Document to the Planning Scheme. The citation currently contained as an Incorporated Document incorrectly refers to the 5 metre curtilage as was originally proposed.

The City's Strategic Planning Department is aware of the above inconsistency and will seek to correct this and insert the correct citation for HO915 into the Planning Scheme as part of a future Planning Scheme Amendment.

The map extents of the Heritage Overlay were not altered as part of this later amendment and *remain correct*.



Figure 2. Aerial photo of 8 Highbury Court Strathdale, with shaded area indicating the extent of the Heritage Overlay which applies to the land.

While the current citation for the site references the incorrect 5 metre curtilage, this does not impact the City's assessment of the application given that the Heritage Overlay applies to (essentially) the whole of the site as was intended. The application

and its impact on the whole of 8 Highbury Court will be assessed on its merits and is discussed as part of the report below.

Report

Subject Site and Surrounds

The subject land is irregular in shape, with a total area of 2671 square metres. The site contains an existing mud brick house known as 'Nanga Gnulle' centrally on the allotment, which is surrounded by established landscaping, which are remnants of the larger original garden on the site. The dwelling has been the subject of vandalism in recent times, requiring the dwelling to be boarded up to restrict access into the building.

The land falls significantly from the rear to the front of the site adjoining Highbury Court, with native vegetation along the higher portion of the land. Remnants of a disused concrete water race are also located along this rear boundary.

The dwelling is the only current building within Highbury Court, however established dwellings surround the site to the immediate south, and further north, east and west. Highbury Court connects to Harley Street, north west of the site, with Harley Street running between Condon Street and McIvor Highway, both being major transport routes into central Bendigo. The site is located approximately 750 metres east of Kennington Village/Strath Village shopping centres, 450 metres south east of Kennington Reservoir, and 3.5 kilometres south east of the Bendigo CBD.



Figure 3. Aerial photo of subject land and surrounds.



Figure 4. View of Nanga Gnulle and associated landscaping from Highbury Court



Figure 5. View of Nanga Gnulle and associated landscaping from Highbury Court



Figure 6. View of Nanga Gnulle and associated landscaping from Highbury Court

Proposal

The application proposes an extension to the existing mud brick dwelling (Nanga Gnulle), along with minor alterations to its exterior.

The works to the existing dwelling include:

- Partial demolition to the rear to allow for construction of the extension and a minor addition of an ensuite. This demolition includes windows and doors, and small sections of the wall indicated below at Figure 7.
- Replacement of two non-original verandah columns.



Figure 7. Areas where partial demolition is proposed



Figure 8. Verandah columns to be replaced

Designed to allow for multi-generational living, the dwelling extension will include:

- An entry and dining room which will form part of the link between the existing dwelling and new extension. A courtyard and pool will flank either side of this link.
- Three bedrooms each with ensuite, an open kitchen and living area, family room and laundry.
- A new double garage.
- A rooftop garden extending across the rooftop of most of the extension.

Owing to the fall of the land, the extension will be cut into the site, in order to reduce its overall bulk.



Figure 9. Existing site plan and photos

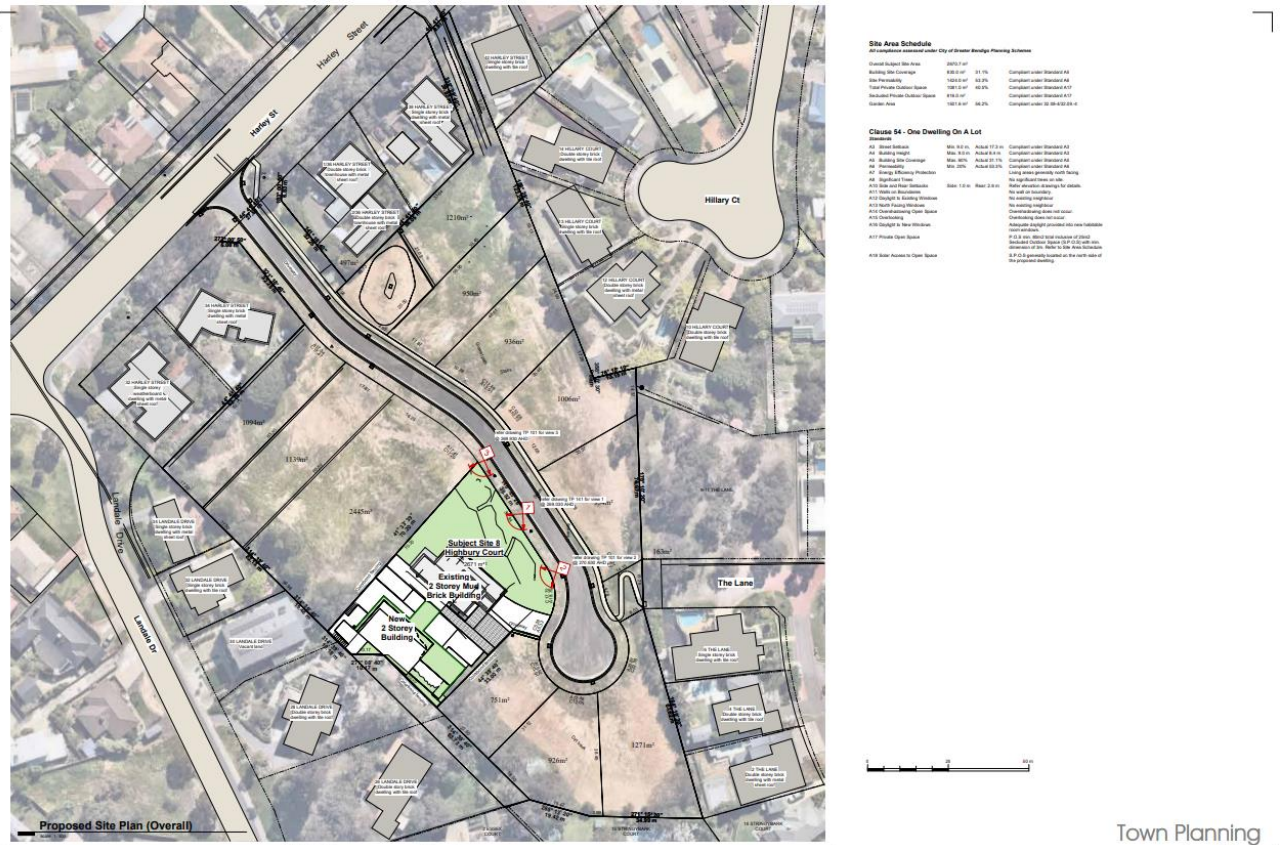


Figure 10. Proposed site plan.

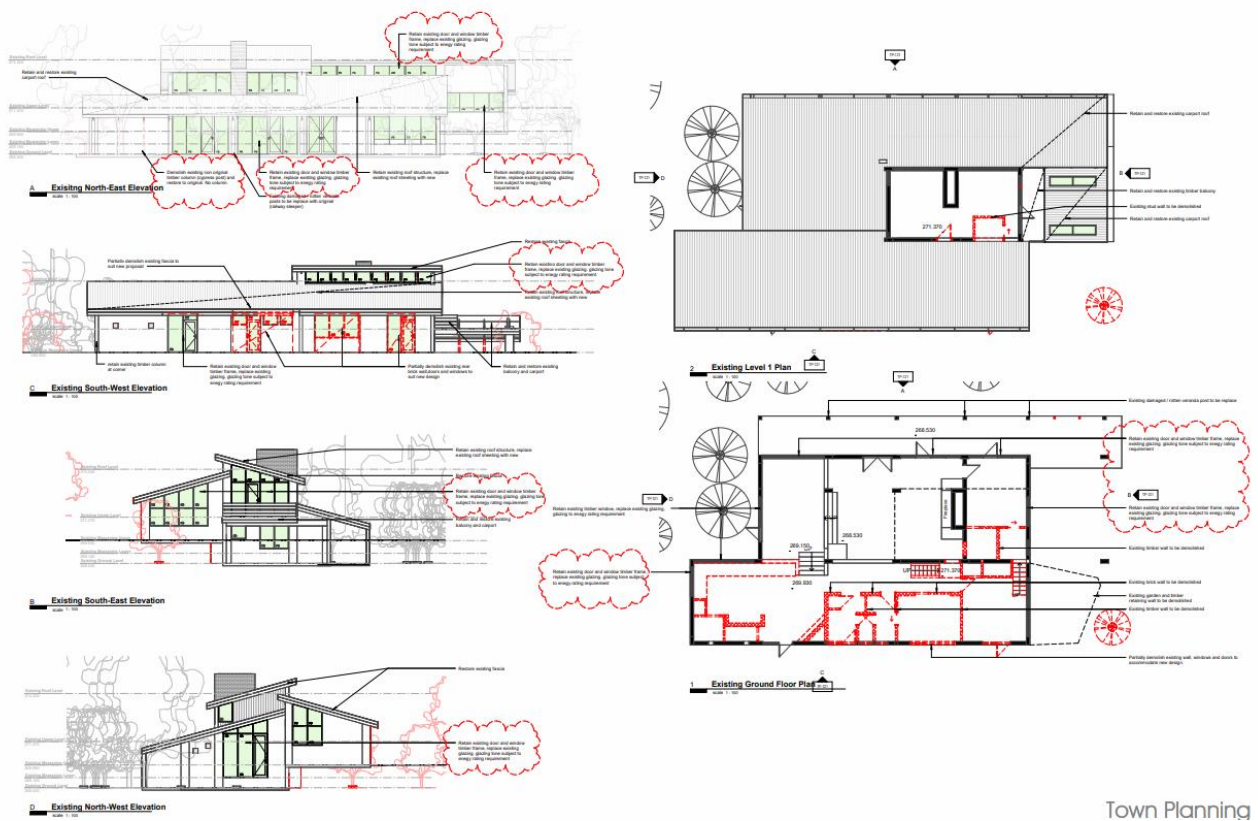


Figure 11. Existing elevations and extent of demolition proposed

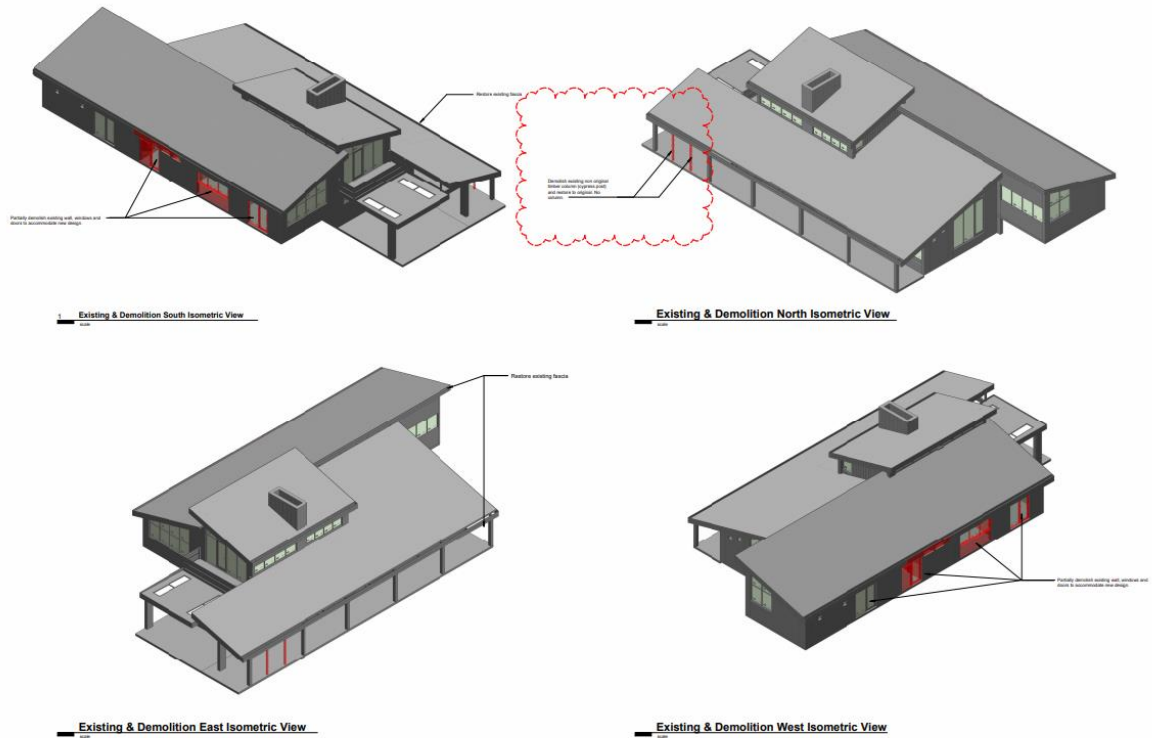


Figure 12. Existing 3D renders showing extent of external demolition/alterations proposed.

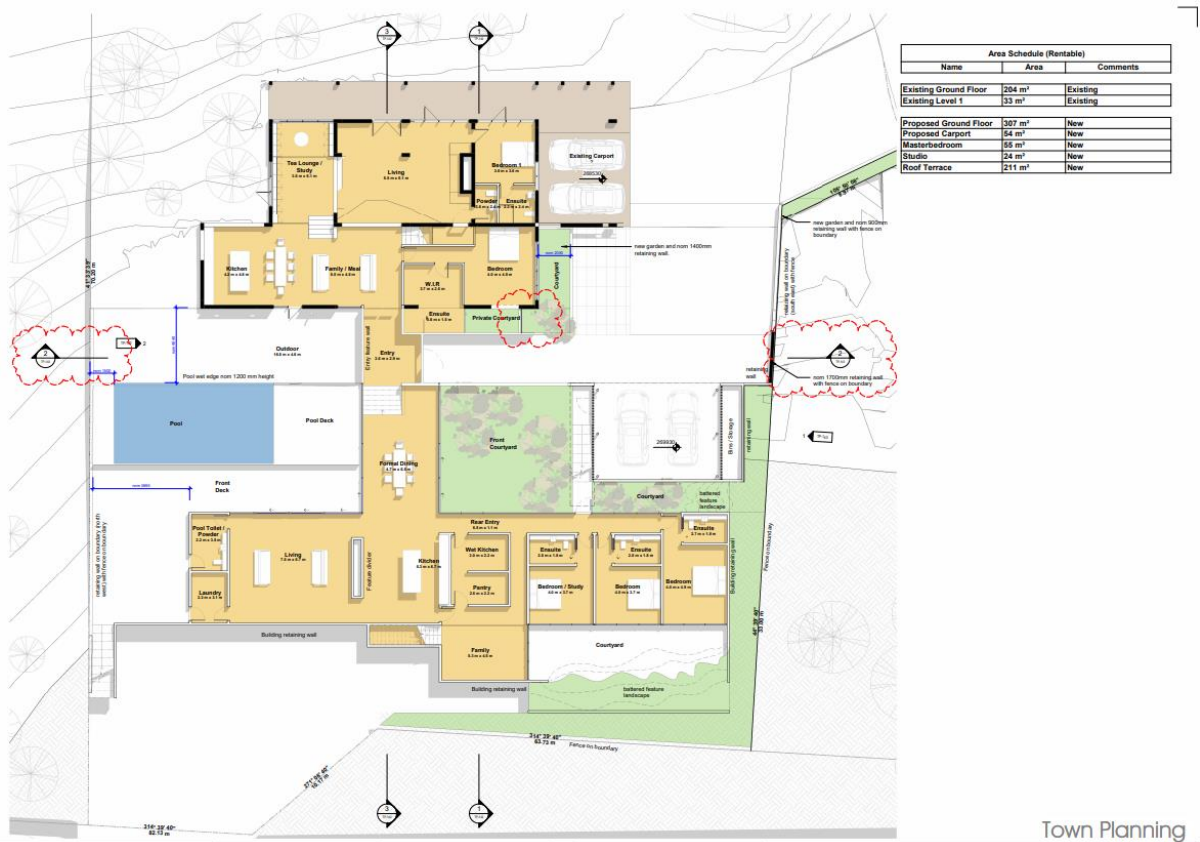


Figure 13. Proposed floor plan – ground floor.

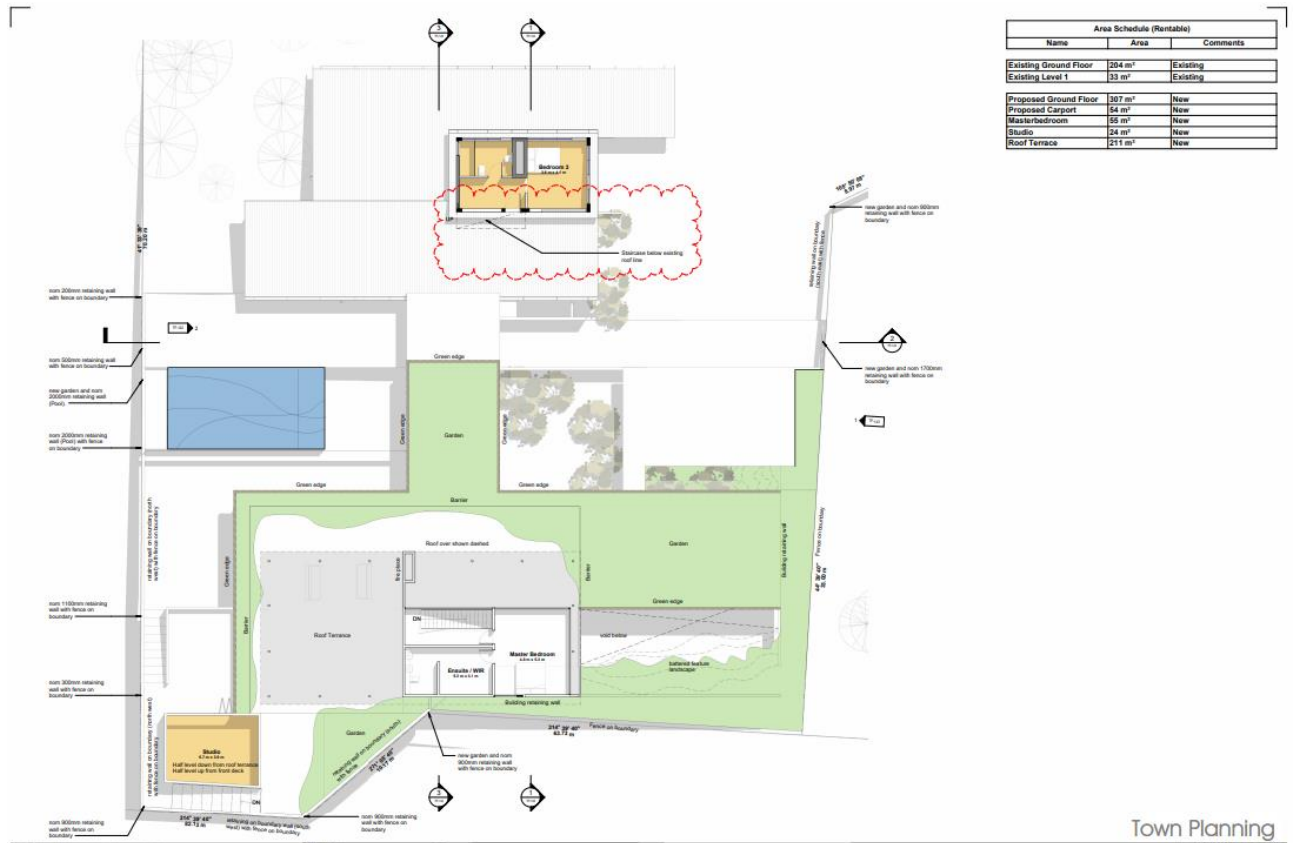


Figure 14. Proposed floor plan – upper floor.

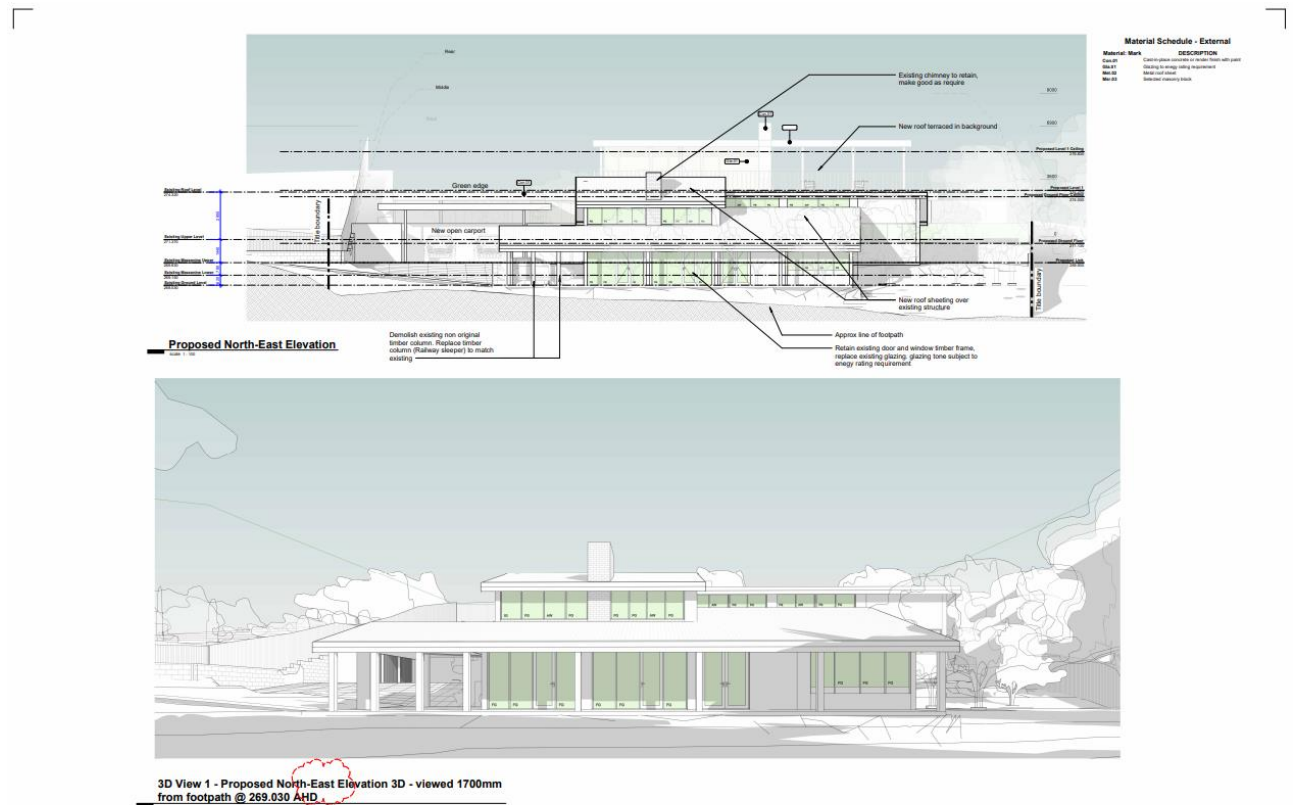


Figure 15. Proposed elevation plans – north east

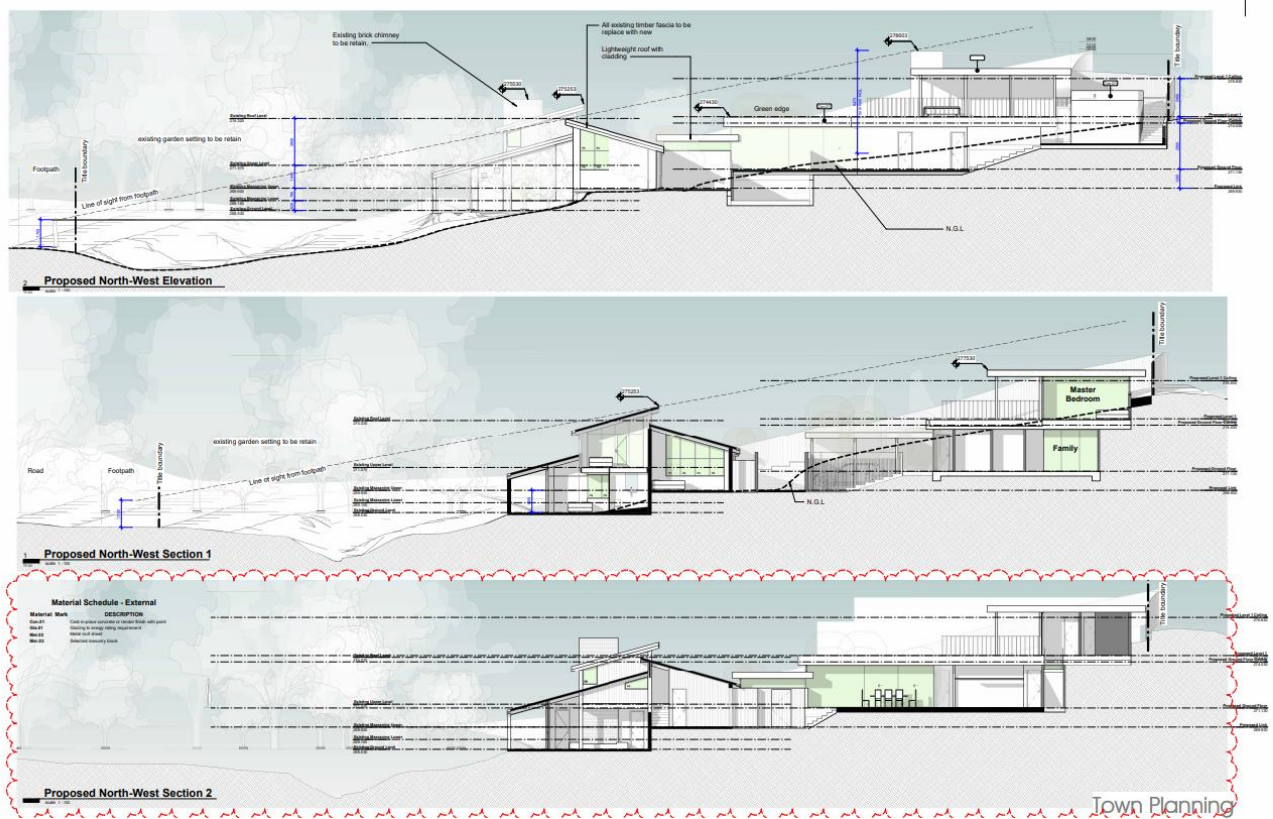


Figure 16. Proposed sections – north west

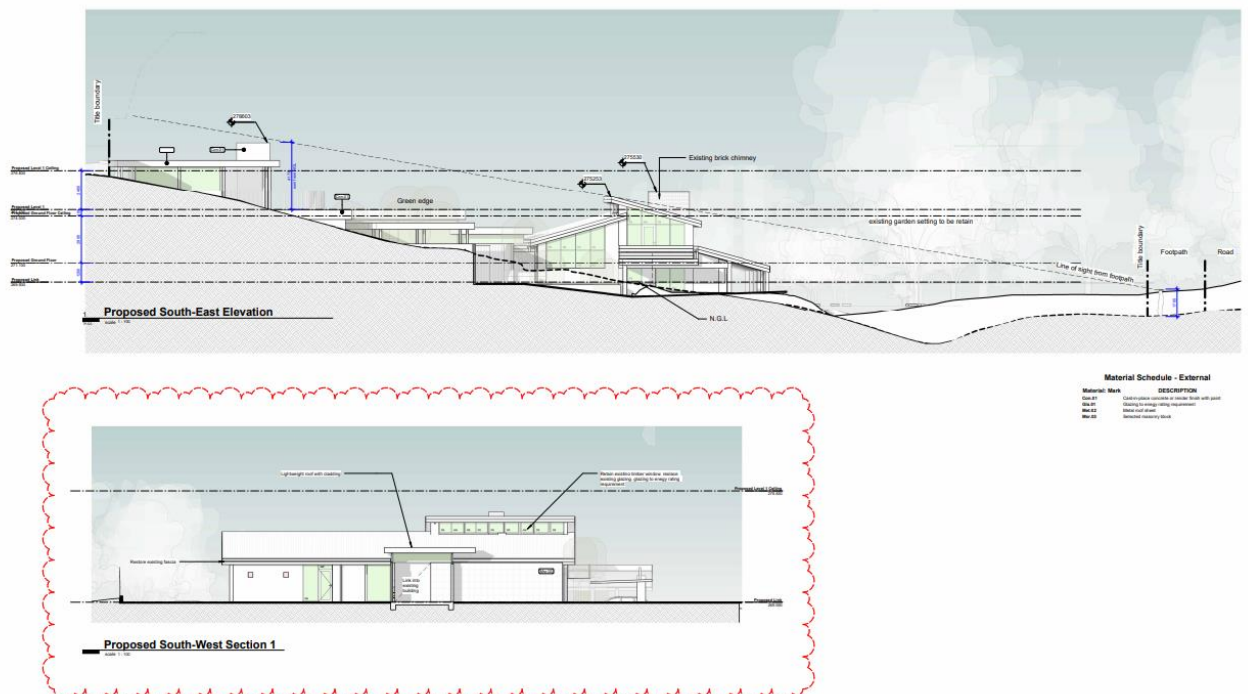


Figure 17. Proposed sections – south west.



Figure 18. Indicative landscaping.

Planning Controls - Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme

Why is a permit required?

The need for a planning permit is triggered by the following clauses:

Planning Control	Why is a permit required?	Does any exemption from notice and review apply?
Clause 43.01-1 Heritage Overlay	<p>A permit is required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolish or remove a building • Construct a building and carry out works 	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Clause 43.01-4 states that an application under this Overlay for any of the following classes of development is exempt from the notice requirements of section 52(1) (a), (b) and (d), the decision requirements of section 64(1), (2) and (3) and the review rights of section 82(1) of the Act:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• External alteration of a building• Carry out works, repairs and routine maintenance• Construction of a fence• Construction of a carport, garage, pergola, verandah, deck or similar structure
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Note: With respect to the elements of the proposal which are exempted from Notice and Review rights; the following is relevant:

Clifftop at Hepburn Pty Ltd v Hepburn SC [2023] VCAT 201 involved a question of law which was:

“What is the extent to which respondents can make submissions about matters relating to the Bushfire Management Overlay and other bushfire related matters having regard to the exemptions from notice, decision requirements and rights of review set out in Clause 44.06-7 of the Hepburn Planning Scheme?”

The answer to that question of law was that:

“Third parties are not entitled to be involved in the Tribunal’s consideration of the permit trigger under the BMO through the making of submissions or the cross-examination of any witness dealing with the BMO permission sought.... In the application before us the BMO ‘covers the field’ with respect to bushfire hazard assessment and management...”

Myers v Southern Grampians SC (Red Dot) [2022] VCAT 695 and *Myers v Southern Grampians Shire Council [2023] VSC 658*, involved consideration of whether third parties (who were objectors to an application for Group accommodation) had rights to make submissions on matters pertaining to a Design and Development Overlay (DDO) that included exemptions from third party notice and review rights, and subsequently whether the Tribunal had jurisdiction to consider matters under the DDO given the appeal was a section 82 appeal only.

This means that in the event that the application was to be appealed, it would only be the non-exempt permissions which would be able to be reviewed – which in this case relate to the permission required for demolition and the building and works for the dwelling extension.

Municipal Planning Strategy

- 02.03-1 – Settlement
- 02.03-5 – Built environment and heritage
- 02.03-6 – Housing

Planning Policy Framework

- 11 – Settlement
- 11.01-1S – Settlement
- 11.01-1R – Settlement – Loddon Mallee South
- 11.01-1L-01 – Settlement – Greater Bendigo
- 15.01—1S – Urban design
- 15.01-2S – Building design
- 15.03-1S – Heritage conservation
- 15.03-1L – Post contact heritage conservation – Greater Bendigo

Other Provisions

- 43.01 – Heritage Overlay
- 65.01 – Approval of an application or plan

Policy Context

Primary Council Plan Reference

City of Greater Bendigo Council Plan *Mir wimbul* 2021-2025

Outcome 2 – Healthy, liveable spaces and places

Secondary Council Plan Reference(s)

Goal 7 – Sustainable population growth is planned for

Consultation/Communication

Referrals

The following authorities and internal departments have been consulted on the proposal:

Referral	Comment
Heritage Advisor	Some minor alterations to the plans were required in response to the initial referral. Following subsequent amendments to the plans and re-referral, the proposal is supported, subject to requiring additional detail regarding proposed colours. Should a permit issue, this can be included as a condition.

Public Notification

The application was advertised by way of notice on the site and letters to adjoining and nearby owners and occupiers. As a result of advertising, 5 objections were received. It is noted that none of the objectors reside proximate to the site.

The grounds of objection can be summarised as:

- Application does not address all of the requirements of the Heritage Overlay.
- Vegetation on the site should be protected. Vegetation removal is proposed which is contrary to the Heritage Overlay. No landscape plan provided. Concerns with the extent of vegetation to be removed.
- A Heritage Impact Statement has not been provided
- The extension does not reflect the heritage place in terms of setbacks from existing dwelling, materials and appearance.
- Concerns with extent of curtilage referred to.

The above grounds of objection will be discussed within the planning assessment below.

Planning Assessment

Consistency with planning policy

Heritage conservation is referred to within the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme at Clauses 02.03-5 (*Built Environment and Heritage*), 15.03-1S (*Heritage conservation*) and 15.03-1L (*Post contact heritage conservation – Greater Bendigo*).

Clause 02.03-5 of the Municipal Planning Strategy notes that strategic directions for heritage include protecting the city's valuable heritage sites and balancing this protection of heritage places with support for sensitive and innovative development to accommodate projected population growth. Further, high quality and sympathetic design should be supported when undertaking any new development within a heritage

place, along with encouraging the restoration and sympathetic development of heritage places.

The proposal accords with many of these strategic objectives given that the development will result in the protection and restoration of the historic Nanga Gnulle mud brick dwelling which is currently at risk of its heritage values being undermined through non occupation of the site and vandalism, and the construction of a sympathetic extension which will both enhance the site and complement the existing dwelling, while also providing for housing diversity and growth.

State planning policy at Clause 15.03-1S includes strategies to encourage appropriate development that respects places with identified heritage values, retain those elements which contribute to the importance of the heritage place and ensure that an appropriate setting and context for heritage places is maintained and enhanced, and to encourage conservation and restoration of contributory elements of a heritage place.

Again, the proposal accords with these strategies and objectives through an appropriately designed extension to the existing heritage dwelling on the site, which respects the context of the existing building including the preservation of existing landscaping where possible and will result in the restoration of the dwelling and continued maintenance of the site.

Local policy at Clause 15.03-1L sets out a number of strategies applying to all applications within the Heritage Overlay. Those relevant to this application are included in the following table, along with a brief response provided against each of these broader strategy groupings.

Strategy	Response
<p><u>General</u></p> <p>Ensure integration of new development by encouraging design that respects the heritage place through its setting, location, bulk, form, materials and appearance.</p> <p>General policy guidelines are to consider the <i>Heritage Design Guidelines</i> (City of Greater Bendigo, September 2020) and any statements of significance.</p>	<p>The proposed extension has been designed to be visually recessive and appear as a secondary element on the site. This is achieved through an appropriate setback from the existing mud brick dwelling, the provision of a simple linking element between both, and through the proposed excavation to set the dwelling into the existing slope of the site to reduce visual bulk.</p> <p>An assessment of the relevant Heritage Design Guidelines is included later within this report.</p>

<p><u>Addition and alterations</u></p> <p>Retain and protect the main architectural style, structure and significance of the heritage place.</p> <p>Locate additions and alternations to be concealed from the public realm, or if this cannot be achieved to not dominate the heritage place.</p> <p>Avoid additions and alterations that detract from the significance or views of adjoining heritage places and precincts.</p>	<p>The proposed alterations to the mud brick dwelling are minimal and limited to the replacement of some posts (which are later additions with no heritage significance) and some partial demolition at the rear of the dwelling to create the link to the extension.</p> <p>An appropriate and simple link is provided between the existing dwelling and the proposed extension which provides for adequate separation between both elements and a clear delineation between the old and new built form on the site.</p>
<p><u>Car parking</u></p> <p>Support car parking, car accommodation and associated accessways that do not dominate or affect the significance of a heritage place.</p> <p>Car parking policy guidelines are to consider locating car parking to the rear or to the side of the building, at least 1 metre behind the primary façade.</p>	<p>A new (open) double garage is proposed as part of the extension, which has been sited behind the line of the existing dwelling. The open nature of the garage will ensure that it does not become a visual focus for the site.</p>
<p><u>Demolition strategies</u></p> <p>Support the retention of significant or contributory heritage buildings or places.</p> <p>Retain original elements that contribute to the significance of a heritage place including but not limited to windows, doors, chimneys, verandahs, shopfronts, fences, outbuildings and trees.</p> <p>Allow the demolition of non-contributory buildings in heritage precincts provided the replacement building does not adversely affect the heritage significance of the precinct.</p>	<p>There is only minor demolition proposed, which is limited to some windows and doors at the rear of the dwelling to allow for the creation of the link between the existing dwelling and the extension as well as a small ensuite area to the rear of the existing dwelling, and replacement of non-original verandah posts. This extent of demolition is considered acceptable and will not detract from the significance of the heritage place.</p> <p>The demolition will facilitate the long term conservation of the heritage place.</p> <p>The existing form of the mud brick dwelling will remain clear following these works</p>

<p>Discourage demolition that results in the retention of only the front building façade.</p> <p>Ensure any replacement building, where demolition is supported, is of high quality design and does not adversely affect the significance of the heritage place.</p> <p>Allow for the partial demolition of significant and contributory buildings where either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The fabric to be demolished is of no significance. ○ The demolition reveals the original fabric of the building. ○ The demolition will assist in the long term conservation of the heritage place. <p>Retain the three-dimensional form for the partial removal of a building and ensure that not just the façade is retained.</p> <p>Ensure archival recording of sites by a heritage professional where demolition is supported, as appropriate.</p>	
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Along with these heritage policies, the proposal is also consistent with broader policy objectives surrounding settlement and housing, infill development and neighbourhood character.

Clause 02.03-7 (*Housing*) seeks to facilitate a wide diversity of housing typologies to suit all household types, needs and incomes, and make best use of land and environmental resources. The multigenerational living arrangements proposed as part of this development and facilitated by the design of the extension will contribute to providing greater housing choice, on existing residential land. The themes of Clause 02.03-7 are further built on at Clause 16.01-1S (*Housing supply*), which seeks to facilitate diverse housing that offers choice and meets changing household needs by widening housing diversity through a mix of housing types. Again, the proposed living arrangements will result in increased housing choice and diversity in the housing provided within the municipality.

Clause 15.01-5L-13 (*Strathdale/Kennington neighbourhood character*) sets out policy objectives and strategies for various precincts within both suburbs, with the subject land falling within Precinct 6. The strategies for Precinct 6 are to maintain and strengthen existing neighbourhood character which is drawn from newly developed large dwellings with small setbacks, garden setting of dwellings that are a mix of exotic and native, an open streetscape due to an absence of front fences, and to encourage individually designed buildings that respond to the garden setting. It could be said that the proposal achieves these intended outcomes with a site responsive bespoke design which has given consideration to the existing garden setting on the site and intentions to enhance such. No front fencing is proposed.

Overall, it is considered that the proposal has a strong level of policy support.

Does the proposal accord with the purpose and decision guidelines of the Heritage Overlay and is the proposed development an acceptable response to the site?

The purpose of the Heritage Overlay is:

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To conserve and enhance heritage places of natural or cultural significance.
- To conserve and enhance those elements which contribute to the significance of heritage places.
- To ensure that development does not adversely affect the significance of heritage places.
- To conserve specified heritage places by allowing a use that would otherwise be prohibited if this will demonstrably assist with the conservation of the significance of the heritage place.

The proposal has been assessed against the decision guidelines of the Heritage Overlay as follows:

Decision guideline	Response
The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.	The proposal has been assessed against relevant planning policy earlier within this report. The proposal is considered consistent with relevant policy objectives regarding heritage preservation and infill development on sites with heritage significance, as well as housing and neighbourhood character outcomes.

<p>The significance of the heritage place and whether the proposal will adversely affect the natural or cultural significance of the place.</p>	<p>Heritage Overlay – Schedule 915 applies to the site, which refers to ‘Nanga Gnulle’ mud brick and reclaimed materials house.</p> <p>The proposal does not adversely affect the significance of the site, for reasons which are explored further in the assessment below.</p>
<p>Any applicable statement of significance (whether or not specified in the schedule to this overlay), heritage study and any applicable conservation policy.</p>	<p>The Statement of Significance :40 Harley Street, Strathdale, September 2020 notes the following:</p> <p>What is significant? <i>Nanga Gnulle at 40 Harley Street, Strathdale, a split-level timber and mudbrick house incorporating skillion roofs clad in corrugated steel, clerestory windows and reclaimed brick chimneys is significant. The significant fabric is defined as the exterior of the entire house (including verandah, carport and brick paving), with a nominal curtilage (minimum five metres to all sides) to preserve its immediate setting. The mudbrick outbuildings, of relatively recent date and far more conventional in their expression, are not considered to be significant. <u>Although of some interest, the brick shed and landscaping (with which Alistair Knox was not involved) are similarly not considered to be crucial to an understanding of the cultural significance of the house</u> (emphasis added).</i></p> <p>How is it significant? <i>Nanga Gnulle is of significance for research potential, aesthetic and associative significance to the City of Greater Bendigo.</i></p> <p>Why is it significant? <i>Nanga Gnulle is significant for the carefully considered integration of recycled building materials that were salvaged from numerous important (or merely representative) nineteenth</i></p>

	<p><i>century structures in and around Bendigo that were demolished in the early 1970s. These materials, which would otherwise have been lost, collectively form part of the story of the Bendigo region, and their rare retention within this building has the potential to yield information to contribute to an understanding of the region's rich history. (Criterion C).</i></p> <p><i>This house is significant as a notable example of the highly distinctive aesthetic style associated with the self-building subculture that became hugely popular in Victoria during the 1970s (continuing into the 1980s and beyond). Characterised by the extensive use of building materials that were either made from scratch (for example mudbricks) or salvaged from demolition sites (for example, reclaimed bricks, stone, weathered timber and architectural antiques), and by a preference for open planning, split levels and often unusual plan or roof forms, these houses are noted for their ruggedness and organic style. Although such houses became widely popular in Bendigo from the early 1980s, Nanga Gnulle stands out as a significantly earlier manifestation that must be seen as an important predecessor of a local trend that still continues to this day (Criterion E).</i></p> <p><i>The house is significant as an excellent and notably intact example of the work of Alistair Knox, an important and influential figure in the development of post-war residential architecture in Victoria (and beyond), specifically for his role in promoting mudbrick construction, self-building and the integration of architectural salvage, all of which became widely popular in the 1970s. One of only three houses that Knox designed in what is now the City of Greater Bendigo, Nanga Gnulle is one of only two that were built, and stands out as the earliest, largest and best example of this work in the municipality (Criterion H).</i></p>
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	<p>This Statement of Significance has been considered both through the design of the dwelling extension and through the assessment of the proposal. See previous discussion regarding the curtilage referred to within this Statement of Significance.</p> <p>It is noted (see underlined section) that the landscaping of the site is not considered to be crucial to the understanding of the house. The lack of heritage protection for the garden surrounding the dwelling is discussed later within this report.</p>
Any applicable heritage design guideline specified in the schedule to this overlay.	<p>The Heritage Design Guidelines (City of Greater Bendigo, September 2020) are an Incorporated Document within the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme.</p> <p>Of relevance to this application are the guidelines regarding additions and alterations, car parking and demolition. These will be considered in turn below.</p> <p><u>Additions and alterations</u></p> <p>The objectives for additions and alterations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage additions and alterations that retain and protect the main architectural style, structure and significance of the heritage place. • To ensure integration of new development by encouraging design that respects the heritage place through its setting, location, bulk, form, height, materials and appearance. • To encourage alterations and additions to heritage places that are concealed from the public realm, or if this cannot be achieved, do not dominate the heritage place. • To ensure that additions and alterations to a heritage place do not detract from the significance or views

	<p>of adjoining heritage places and/or precincts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage additions and alterations that avoid demolition of a heritage place and/or contributory elements; retaining facades only is discouraged. <p>Design advice includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additions should be set back in a way that allows the retention and view of the existing contributory elements, particularly chimneys and roof form. • While both contemporary and conservative design approaches are appropriate, additions should be distinguishable from the existing heritage place; designs that copy the decorative detail of the heritage place on new additions should be avoided. • The design of additions should be comprised of simple shapes of a similar scale and proportion to the existing building or be designed in a way that ensures that they do not dominate the heritage place or nearby heritage places. • Where possible, additions should be located at the rear, behind the main roof ridgeline, have a separate roof form to that of the heritage dwelling and not be visible from the street. • The original roof form should be retained, including chimneys. <p>For large and/or double storey additions the following design advice is provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger additions can be joined to the heritage place with a recessed, unobtrusive link. • When joined by a link, additions should be setback a minimum of 1 metre from rear of the original dwelling. • Additions should be setback as far as possible from the front building façade (or primary façade) to ensure that the new additions are concealed or partially concealed from public view.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where additions are taller than the heritage dwelling, the addition should not dominate when viewed from points 1.7m above natural ground level on the opposite footpath, from directly in front and from a position aligned with the side boundary two allotments away, on both sides. <p>The proposal has responded to this design advice by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporating a setback from the existing dwelling of approximately 4.64 metres, which allows the form of the mud brick dwelling to remain clear. • Utilising a modern design which ensures it is clearly distinguishable from the existing heritage place. • Setting the building into the landscape so that it does not dominate the heritage dwelling. • Locating the extension to the rear of the dwelling to minimise visibility from the street. • Using an unobtrusive recessed link to join the heritage place to the addition. • Ensuring through building form, siting and height that the addition does not dominate the site or streetscape when viewed from a height of 1.7m above natural ground level. Indicated <p><u>Car parking</u></p> <p>The objectives for car parking are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that car accommodation, including open parks, carports and garages, and car access points do not dominate or affect the significance of the heritage place. • To encourage car parking to be located at the rear or to the side of the building, at least 1 metre behind the primary façade. • To ensure that the location, bulk, form, materials and appearance of the structure does not dominate the
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	<p>contributory elements of a heritage place.</p> <p>Design advice includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, new car parking structures should be set back a minimum of 1 metre from the front building line (primary façade with main entry). • Where it is not possible to site a new structure behind the front building line or is likely to become a dominant feature in the streetscape, an open parking space to the side of the property is preferred. • Where possible carports and/or garages should be freestanding and should not block views from the public realm of any contributory elements. • Existing access points should be used where possible and more than one access point per allotment is discouraged. • New structures should be proportionately smaller in scale than the dwelling. • New structures should have a simple skillion, hipped, gable or flat roof. • New structures should be of simple design so as not to dominate the street façade and not use elaborate ornamentation. • Where there is an existing garage that is original to the house and is contributory to the house's significance, it should be retained. <p>The proposal has responded to this design advice by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting the new garage well behind the line of the existing dwelling where it will not obscure views of the existing building. • Incorporating an open design to the new garage to ensure that it does not visually dominate the site. • Utilising the existing access point to the land and retaining the existing
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	<p>carport associated with the mud brick dwelling.</p> <p><u>Demolition</u></p> <p>The objectives for demolition are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage the retention of a significant or contributory heritage buildings or places unless it is structurally unsound and beyond repair. • To encourage the retention of original elements that contribute to the significance of a heritage place including but not limited to windows, doors, chimneys, verandahs, shopfronts, fences, outbuildings and trees. • Allow the demolition of non-contributory buildings in heritage precincts provided the replacement building positively contributes to the heritage significance of the precinct. • Where demolition is supported, ensure any replacement building displays design excellence and positively contributes to the heritage significance of the place. • Allow for partial demolition where the fabric is of no significance or reveals original fabric or will assist in long term conservation of the building. • To encourage the retention of the three dimensional form; retention of the façade only is not supported. • Require archival recording of sites by a heritage professional where demolition is supported, as appropriate. <p>Partial demolition will only be supported when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That part is not visible from the street frontage (other than a laneway), abutting park or public open space, and the main building form including roof form, and a substantial portion of the side walls are maintained. Inadequate retention of fabric can
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	<p>result in façadism which should be avoided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The removal of the part would not adversely affect the significance of the place or the contribution of the building to the heritage precinct. In most cases, the removal of elements of a heritage place that do not contribute to its heritage significance, such as recent alterations or additions, are permitted. • It reveals original fabric. • It assists in the conservation of the heritage place. • The Contributory Elements are beyond repair. In most cases, contributory elements that have been damaged (for example through neglect, fire, storm) may be repaired with appropriate professional advice. <p>The proposal has responded to these guidelines by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only proposing minor demolition to the rear of the dwelling where it is not visible from the street. • Only proposing demolition of elements which will not adversely affect the significance of the heritage place. <p>The works will assist the conservation of the existing dwelling.</p>
<p>Whether the location, bulk, form or appearance of the proposed building will adversely affect the significance of the heritage place.</p>	<p>Each of these elements is considered below:</p> <p><u>Location</u></p> <p>The dwelling extension has been set back 4.64 metres behind the line of the existing dwelling, to ensure that there is a clear delineation between the old and the new on the site. A link will provide a connection between these buildings. Additionally, the siting of the dwelling has considered the topography of the site and the potential impacts this may have on siting a new dwelling behind the original</p>

	<p>and has incorporated a design which sees the extension set into the slope. This reduces the visual dominance of the extension.</p> <p><u>Bulk</u></p> <p>While on its own the scale of the development would be considered extensive, by setting the building into the slope of the site, this achieves a significant reduction in the overall bulk of the dwelling extension.</p> <p><u>Building form and appearance</u></p> <p>Relatively simple forms have been chosen for the extension, which in conjunction with the proposed rooftop landscaping and the siting of the extension, will soften its visual impact.</p> <p>The design of the dwelling extension has appropriately considered the sensitivities of the site and the significance of the heritage dwelling on the site and has sought to ensure that each of the elements can be read appropriately as the new and the old, while being respectful to the design and built form of the existing dwelling. It is considered the extension will complement the existing dwelling and will assist in ensuring that the heritage significance of the site is maintained for current and future generations.</p>
<p>Whether the location, bulk, form and appearance of the proposed building is in keeping with the character and appearance of adjacent buildings and the heritage place.</p>	<p>The existing mud brick dwelling is currently the only development within Highbury Court, and the site is surrounded by vacant allotments. As such, there is not a need to ensure that the development on the site is in keeping with the character and appearance of adjacent buildings given that there are none. The development will however be consistent with the broader neighbourhood character of the area where there are expansive dwellings set within landscaping.</p>

	<p>The impact of the proposal on the heritage dwelling on the site has been considered above.</p>
<p>Whether the demolition, removal or external alteration will adversely affect the significance of the heritage place.</p>	<p>The extent of demolition proposed on the site is minimal, limited to existing openings at the rear of the dwelling and small parts of the wall adjoining these. Given the location of the proposed demolition, and that the remainder of the dwelling will remain intact, this demolition will not adversely affect the significance of the heritage place but will rather ensure its ongoing conservation and protection through occupation of the site.</p> <p>Likewise, the replacement of two (later) verandah posts is not likely to detract from the appearance of the site, or its heritage significance, but will rather enhance its appearance and ensure its significance is maintained.</p>
<p>Whether the proposed works will adversely affect the significance, character or appearance of the heritage place.</p>	<p>The impact of all works on the site has been considered above, and will not affect the significance, character or appearance of the heritage place. It is reiterated that the proposed works to the site are likely to enhance the appearance of the site and ensure that the dwelling is conserved and protected into the future.</p>
<p>Whether the proposed subdivision will adversely affect the significance of the heritage place.</p>	<p>N/A – no subdivision proposed as part of this application</p>
<p>Whether the proposed subdivision may result in development which will adversely affect the significance, character or appearance of the heritage place.</p>	<p>N/A – no subdivision proposed as part of this application.</p>
<p>Whether the proposed sign will adversely affect the significance, character or appearance of the heritage place.</p>	<p>N/A – no signage proposed as part of this application.</p>

Whether the logging or development will adversely affect the health, appearance or significance of the tree.	N/A – the Schedule to the Overlay does not specify that there are Tree Controls applying to the land, and therefore any removal of vegetation does not required approval.
Whether the location, style, size, colour and materials of the proposed solar energy system will adversely affect the significance, character or appearance of the heritage place.	N/A – no solar energy systems are proposed on the heritage dwelling.

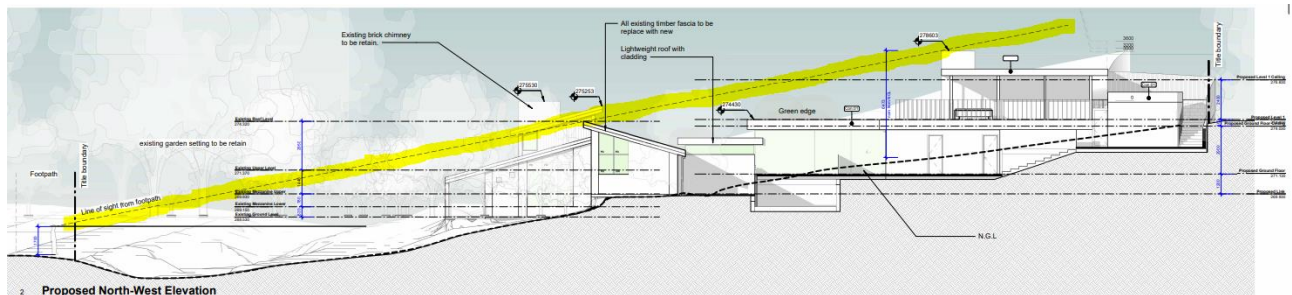


Figure 19. Line of sight from footpath.

It is considered that the proposal accords with the objectives and purposes of the Heritage Overlay and will result in an acceptable outcome which will ensure the ongoing preservation and conservation of Nanga Gnulle.

Remaining objector concerns

- *Landscaping and extent of vegetation removal proposed*

The protection of the gardens surrounding Nanga Gnulle is one of the key concerns raised within objections.

The issues regarding protection of the existing garden setting surrounding the dwelling were considered at length during Amendment C234gben which applied the Heritage Overlay to the site. There is an ability within the Heritage Overlay to protect trees on the site, however there is no mechanism to protect gardens, and gardening is not a use which requires planning permission in any case. The Panel considered whether the gardens should be protected in some way, ultimately concluding that the gardens are not of local heritage significance, and there is not sufficient justification for inclusion of the gardens within the Heritage Overlay, nor any other protection within the Planning Scheme.

Despite this, following on from the consultation meeting and in recognition that this was still a matter that concerned objectors, the applicant prepared a Draft Landscape

Concept Plan for the site for discussion, with a view to resolving some of these concerns.

This Draft Concept Plan provided an assessment of all existing vegetation surrounding the existing dwelling, identified vegetation for retention, and included recommendations for future landscaping on the site surrounding the mud brick dwelling.

This landscape plan was prepared on a without prejudice basis and as an act of good faith in response to the concerns of the objectors and does not form part of the application documentation.

Objectors were given the opportunity to further engage and meet with the applicant to discuss this landscape concept given that the garden treatment of the site remained a significant element of contention, however all declined to participate in this further consultation process.

Despite the lack of specific heritage protection or landscaping controls on the site, it is not unusual to require by condition a landscape plan for residential development of this type. A condition to this effect is recommended to be included if a permit is issued.

- *Curtilage*

This matter was discussed earlier within the Background Section of this report. There is currently some discrepancy between the citation/statement of significance which is incorporated into the Planning Scheme for this site and the one approved as part of the Amendment to the Planning Scheme facilitating introduction of the Heritage Overlay to the site. Given that the mapping correctly identifies where the Heritage Overlay applies, this issue is of no material consequence in terms of the assessment of the application. The assessment of the application, outlined above, considers the impact of the proposed works on the whole of the site, regardless of the curtilage referred to in any documentation.

- *The need for a Heritage Impact Statement and Heritage Protection Plan*

The Heritage Overlay nor the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay does not specify a Heritage Impact Statement as being an application requirement, therefore there is no mandatory requirement that the applicant prepare one to support their application. Typically, a Heritage Impact Statement is prepared in association with an application for works under the Victorian Heritage Register, which are not assessed by the City. In some circumstances it may be appropriate to request the preparation of a Heritage Impact Statement for an application under the Heritage Overlay, however the extent of works proposed as part of this application do not necessitate or warrant such a request in this instance.

A Heritage Protection Plan is a document designed to ensure protection of heritage assets and heritage places before, during and at the completion of construction works to ensure that the works do not compromise the heritage place. Again, they are often required for permits under the Victorian Heritage Register and are not a mandatory application requirement under the Planning Scheme.

Consideration has been given as to whether it would be appropriate to include conditions requiring protection details for the mud brick dwelling during the construction phase of the extension, should a permit issue. Given the extent of earthworks required to the site to facilitate the extension, it is considered that in this instance, such a condition would not be unreasonable. On this basis a condition requiring the submission of a site specific Construction Management Plan has been included in the draft conditions.

Conclusion

It is considered that the proposed additions and alterations to the existing dwelling on the site (Nanga Gnulle) are acceptable and give due regard and consideration to the heritage significance of this building, while also providing an opportunity for the efficient use of land which will facilitate housing diversity and in this instance aid multigenerational living.

The siting of the extension away from the existing dwelling, along with the use of the terrain will ensure that the new works will read as a secondary element to the site and will not unreasonably dominate the site or detract from the heritage significance of the existing mud brick dwelling.

Options

Council, acting as the responsible authority for administering the Planning Scheme, may resolve to: grant a permit, grant a permit with conditions, or refuse to grant a permit.

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation or approval of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Proposed Notice of Decision Conditions

1. Plans required

Before the development start(s), the following plans/documents must be prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority and must be submitted to and approved by the responsible authority. When approved, the plans/documents will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit.

- (a) Schedule of Materials in accordance with Condition 3
- (b) Construction Management Plan in accordance with Condition 5
- (c) Landscape Plan in accordance with Condition 6

2. No layout alteration

The development permitted by this permit as shown on the endorsed plans and/or described in the endorsed documents must not be altered or modified (for any reason) except with the prior written consent of the responsible authority.

3. Schedule of materials

Prior to the commencement of development, a schedule of the proposed materials and colours to be used for the building shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the responsible authority.

4. Demolition activities

All activities associated with the demolition permitted by this permit must be carried out to the satisfaction of the responsible authority and all care must be taken to minimise the effect of such activities on the amenity of the locality.

5. Construction management plan

Prior to commencement of works the owner or applicant must submit a Construction Management Plan (CMP) for approval by the responsible authority. This plan shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) A site specific plan showing proposed erosion and sedimentation control works, and measures to protect the existing dwelling on the land during earthworks associated with construction of the dwelling extension.
- (b) Techniques and intervention levels to prevent a dust nuisance.
- (c) Techniques to prevent mud and dirt being transported from the site to adjacent streets.
- (d) The protection measures taken to preserve any vegetation identified for retention.

During construction of works associated with the subdivision, the applicant must employ and provide the protection methods contained in the Construction Management Plan to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

6. Landscape plan

Before the development starts, a landscape plan to the satisfaction of the responsible authority must be submitted to and approved by the responsible authority. When approved, the plan will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plan must be drawn to scale with dimensions.

The plan must show:

- (a) A survey (*including botanical names*) of all existing vegetation to be retained and/or removed
- (b) Details of surface finishes of pathways and driveways
- (c) Planting schedule of all proposed trees, shrubs and ground covers, including botanical names, common names, pot sizes, sizes at maturity, and quantities of each plant

All species selected must be to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

7. Completion of Landscaping

Before the occupation of the development starts or by such later date as is approved by the responsible authority in writing, the landscaping works shown on the endorsed plans must be carried out and completed to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

8. Landscaping Maintenance

The landscaping shown on the endorsed plans must be maintained to the satisfaction of the responsible authority, including that any dead, diseased or damaged plants are to be replaced.

9. Heritage Conservation Works - Nanga Gnulle

Prior to any works commencing:

- (a) An archival record of the buildings must be prepared and submitted to the responsible authority.
- (b) A detailed Conservation and Reconstruction Methodology must be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced heritage consultant and submitted to the responsible authority. The methodology should include the following:
 - i. Heritage protection plan
 - ii. Dismantling process (recording condition, sequence of works etc)
 - iii. Conservation process (removal of coatings and recoating, reconstruction of elements)
 - iv. Reconstruction and repair process (sequence of works, introduction of new materials and elements).
- (c) A qualified and experienced heritage consultant must be appointed to advise on the conservation and reconstruction works.

10. **Heritage Conservation Works - Nanga Gnulle (Submission of validation report)**
Prior to occupation of the development, a validation report authored by a qualified and experienced heritage consultant must be submitted and approved confirming that the works in the endorsed Conservation and Reconstruction methodology have been carried out in accordance with that plan.
11. **General Drainage – Buildings & Houses**
The development must be drained to the satisfaction of the City of Greater Bendigo as the responsible drainage authority.
12. **Expiry of permit**
This permit will expire if the development permitted by this permit is not completed within 2 years from the date hereof. The time within which the development must be completed may be extended, on written request to the responsible authority, before or within 6 months after the expiry of this permit where the development has not yet started or 12 months where the development has commenced.

Attachments

Nil

17. STRONG, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Nil

18. ABORIGINAL RECONCILIATION

Nil

19. A CLIMATE-RESILIENT BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Nil

20. A VIBRANT, CREATIVE COMMUNITY

Nil

21. A SAFE, WELCOMING AND FAIR COMMUNITY

Nil

22. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

23. NOTICES OF MOTION

Notices of Motion are suspended during the Election Period in accordance with the [Election Period Policy](#).

24. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor's Report is suspended during the Election Period in accordance with the [Election Period Policy](#).

25. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

26. CONFIDENTIAL (SECTION 66) REPORTS

RECOMMENDED MOTION

That Council close the meeting to members of the public pursuant to Section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020, to consider (a) report(s) relating to:

- (g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that -(i) relates to trade secrets; or(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.