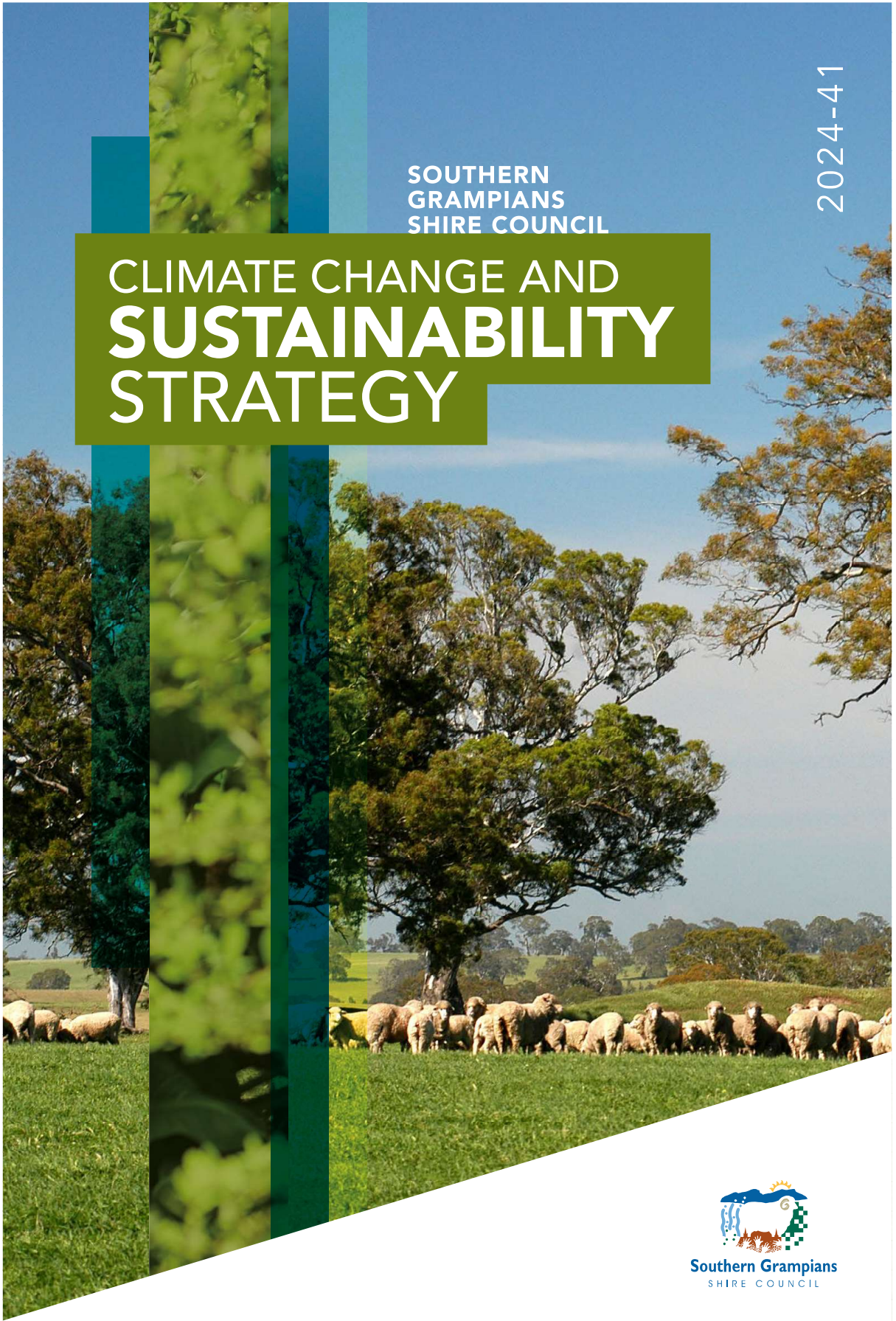


2024-41

SOUTHERN
GRAMPIANS
SHIRE COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE AND **SUSTAINABILITY** STRATEGY





Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Southern Grampians Shire Council acknowledges that our shire is on the traditional lands of the Gunditjmara, Tjap Wurrung, Jardwadjali and Buandig people.

We recognise the important ongoing role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have in our community and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.





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"A shared vision for a Sustainable Future"

INTRODUCTION

The Southern Grampians Shire Council Sustainability Strategy is the key strategic document for delivering an environmentally sustainable Southern Grampians Shire. This strategy sets ambitious targets that align with State and Federal Governments emission reductions policies, as well as a roadmap for Council and the community to achieve a net-zero carbon future and to prepare our Shire for the challenges of a changing climate.

This strategy has been created based on Council's Notice of Motion tabled at the Ordinary Council Meeting on the 8 December 2021, Councillors resolved:

- + That the Southern Grampians Shire Council takes the strong leadership position of recognising and urgently responding to Climate Change
- + That the Southern Grampians Shire develop a Climate Change Urgent Action Plan in conjunction with the current review of the Sustainability Plan and further recommendations with strong targets and bold action.



OUR REGION

The Southern Grampians Shire is located in southwestern Victoria, Australia. It covers an expansive area of approximately 6,200 square kilometres and is home to a diverse range of landscapes, including rolling hills, volcanic plains, and the iconic Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.

The Shire is comprised of several townships, including Hamilton, the main administrative centre, as well as Balmoral, Branxholme/Byaduk, Cavendish, Coleraine, Dunkeld, Glenthompson, Peshurst and Tarrington. With a population of approximately 17,000 residents, the Southern Grampians Shire offers a unique blend of rural charm, natural beauty, and rich cultural heritage.

Agriculture plays a vital role in the Southern Grampians Shire's economy, with a focus on livestock farming, wool production, and cropping. The region is known for its high-quality wool and fine merino sheep.

In recent years, the Southern Grampians Shire has committed to sustainability and environmental stewardship. The community has shown commitment to preserving the region's natural assets, protecting biodiversity, and promoting sustainable land management practices.





The threat of a changing climate poses increasing risks to life on our planet. In our region, extreme temperatures mean increasingly destructive bushfires, decreased water security and impacts to health and wellbeing from extreme weather events.

Many governments globally, including Australia have set emissions reduction targets based on the IPCC's most recent comprehensive assessment report, known as the "AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023". This report highlights the importance of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels to avoid the most severe impacts of climate change. The report suggests that achieving this target would require achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by around 2050. It also emphasises the need for rapid and ambitious emission reductions in the coming years.

As described in Council's Climate Adaptation Plan 2017-2027, the climate for Great South Coast region has changed, since 1950 average temperatures for the region are over 1 degree higher and average annual rainfall has dropped by over 100mm.

The region has been getting warmer and drier, in the future the region can expect:

- + Temperatures to continue to increase year round
- + Less rainfall in winter and spring
- + Harsher fire weather and longer fire season

- + Increased frequency and height of extreme sea level events
- + More hot days and warm spells, and fewer frosts
- + More frequent and more intense downpours
- + Rising sea levels

Change in climate for the Southern Grampians Shire will create threats across all sectors of our community including:

- + Environmental damage to waterways from more intense rainfall events
- + Increased irrigation requirements of plants
- + Stress and demand on communication networks
- + Increased insurance costs (or reduction of coverage)
- + Loss of business continuity to extreme weather events
- + Inability to access essential services or commute to place of employment

This strategy intends to mitigate the impact of climate change and ensure our Shire and its community is prepared and adapted for a change in climate.



COUNCIL'S ROLE

The success of the strategy and an effective climate response will require Council, community, private business and other government agencies working together towards reducing the emissions profile within the Shire while adapting to a changing climate.

The strategy is divided into six Key Themes, and it includes actions for both Council and the community. Council will lead by example and set ambitious targets to guide both our organisation, and our community.

In order to achieve the goals, targets and actions set within the strategy, Council will be required to be a:

- + Driver**
Directly responsible for service delivery or asset management.
- + Partner**
Shared responsibility for funding or on-ground service delivery.
- + Advocate**
High priority projects or needs within the community beyond Council capacity or legislated role to deliver.

BACKGROUND CONTEXT



The Strategic Context

This strategy has been built on Council's Community Vision Framework 2041 principles to be a growing, inclusive and connected community that fosters sustainability, diversity and innovation.

Over 400 people helped to shape the vision of the community plan where sustainability is strongly represented across three strategic pillars – Economy and Business, Built Environment and Infrastructure and Natural Environment.

This strategy was outlined as a Key Strategic Indicator in the Southern Grampians Shire Council Plan 2021 – 2025 as part of the Key Priority no. 4 Protect Our Natural Environment and in the Southern Grampians 2041 Community Vision Framework.

At a State Level, the Victorian Government has committed to net-zero emissions by 2045 with a 75-80% reduction by 2035.

In addition, the sustainability strategy will support key priorities of the Council's plan:

- + Support our community
- + Grow our Regional Economy
- + Maintain and Renew our Infrastructure
- + Protect our Natural Environment
- + Provide Strong Governance and Leadership.

Past Actions and Achievements

Development of the Sustainability Strategy will formalise the link between the Sustainability goals of the Shire and the projects required to deliver outcomes previously guided by the Sustainability Strategy 2010–2020.

Such past, in-progress and ongoing work includes:

- + Construction of a Waste Transfer Shed at the Hamilton Transfer Station
- + Continued Solar Panel and Rainwater Capture Rollout on Council Buildings
- + A commercial waste exchange platform for regional business
- + A community mulch program
- + Replacement of streetlights to LED
- + Installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- + Council driven School Sustainability Competition.



OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE

SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY

GOALS

Southern Grampians Shire Council will show bold leadership in Sustainability Initiatives through creating strong connections with our business stakeholders and community. When tackling the impacts of climate change, we need to share a singular focus and work together to create a future we can all be proud of. Council will prioritise transparency to build a landscape of trust and accountability. Progress will be shared, along with lessons learned, to ensure that our efforts are continually refined and improved.

HOW

By fostering a collaborative environment, we will harness diverse perspectives and expertise to drive innovative solutions. This approach will not only enhance our sustainability outcomes but also strengthen our community and economic resilience. Together, we will set ambitious goals, track our progress, celebrate our successes, and address challenges head-on, always striving for a greener, more sustainable future for the Southern Grampians Shire.

KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS

Collaboration and Partnerships

Foster collaborations and partnerships with local businesses, community organisations, and neighbouring councils to leverage collective resources, share best practices, and collaborate on sustainability initiatives. Seek opportunities for joint projects, knowledge exchange, and funding partnerships to accelerate progress towards the net-zero vision.

Monitoring and Reporting

Council will ensure accountability of delivering the actions in this strategy by embedding it into its planning and performance systems. We will establish a robust monitoring and reporting system to track progress towards net-zero goals. Yearly measure and report on key indicators such as energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and waste diversion rates.

A separate four-year action plan document will be developed which will include actions, measures, timeline, budget and monitoring to achieve the strategic objectives.

Council will undertake a review of the Sustainability Strategy every 4 years to track our progress, identify areas for improvements, and to ensure we are meeting the current needs and requirements of community.

DEVELOPING THIS PLAN

THEME	KEY STRATEGIC ACTION		
Towards Net Zero	Transition to Renewable Energy		Energy Efficiency Measures
Built Environment	Sustainable Transport Solutions	Tree Planting and Urban Greening	Environmentally Sustainable Design
Circular Economy	Circular Economy and Sustainable Consumption		Waste Management
Land Use and Biodiversity	Sustainable Agriculture Practices	Natural Resource Conservation	
Integrated Water Management	Water Conservation and Sustainable Water Management		Carbon Offsetting and Sequestration
Community Engagement	Climate Resilience and Adaptation	Community Engagement and Education	



TOWARDS NET ZERO

GOALS

Net-Zero Emissions

Southern Grampians Shire Council will commit to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions for all Council operations by 2035 and will work with our community, businesses and industries to create opportunities and develop partnerships to be a carbon neutral shire by 2040.

Council will transition to 100% renewable energy and achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions for all council operations by 2035 and a net-zero carbon Shire by 2040. This will require innovation and changing the way we currently live our lives.

- + Develop a zero-carbon action plan for Council operations and our community to meet the targets
- + Develop a carbon emission framework to monitor and report on greenhouse gas emissions
- + Support community-led renewable energy and battery storage initiatives.

HOW

Council and the community will be bold and embrace innovative ideas and technologies to enable a net-zero carbon future.

KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS

Transition to Renewable Energy

Facilitate the transition to renewable energy sources by supporting and facilitating the development of renewable energy sites, community-led renewable energy initiative and setting ambitious targets for carbon emission reduction and renewable energy adoption.

Deliverables

- + Council will reduce 50% of its carbon emission from 2024 levels by 2030
- + Council operations to be carbon neutral by 2035
- + SGS carbon emission reductions (as Shire) of 30% from 2025 levels by 2035

Energy Efficiency Measures

Implement energy efficiency programs targeting council-owned buildings, facilities, and infrastructure. This includes energy audits, retrofitting projects, and the installation of energy-efficient lighting and equipment. Educate and engage the community on energy-saving practices and offer incentives for energy-efficient upgrades in residential and commercial properties.

Deliverables

- + Transition away from the use of fossil fuels for council buildings (renewable energy)
- + Continue the rollout of solar panels for Council buildings
- + Continue the installation of LED lights for Council building and street lighting across the Shire
- + Transition to battery technology where feasible.



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

GOALS

Environmentally Sustainable Design

Establish Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) building standards and guidelines for new constructions and major renovations within the council's jurisdiction. Provide support and incentives for developers and homeowners to meet sustainable building requirements, such as energy-efficient design, water-saving features, and use of sustainable materials.

Innovative and Sustainable Urban Development

Leverage new and innovative technologies, planning, and projects to enhance the quality of life in the Shire. This includes creating a healthy environment and living conditions, ensuring robust infrastructure to support industry and high-quality jobs such as road and rail networks, energy, digital connectivity, and essential services.

This will involve expanding public transportation networks, promoting active transportation infrastructure such as cycling lanes and pedestrian pathways, incentivizing electric vehicle adoption through charging infrastructure and parking incentives, and continuing to provide and support digital access to council services.

Green Open Spaces

Continue to provide and expand on our community Green Open Spaces including parks, public gardens, reserves, waterways, squares, community project areas (including gardens and compost hubs) playgrounds and other community infrastructure. Green Open Spaces will be prioritised in council development projects and centred around integrated and connected multifunctional spaces.

HOW

Through integrating environmentally sustainable design principles, harnessing the potential of innovative and sustainable urban development, and preserving and expanding green open spaces, we will create communities that thrive while prioritising sustainability.

KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS

Environmentally Sustainable Design

Establish ESD building standards and guidelines for new constructions and major renovations within the Council's jurisdiction. Provide support and incentives for developers and homeowners to meet sustainable building requirements, such as energy-efficient design, water-saving features, and use of sustainable materials.

Deliverables

- + Develop an internal ESD policy which will contain minimum Sustainability Standards for all new build, upgrade and expansion projects
- + Integrate minimum ESD standards into the planning scheme for future growth and new development within the Shire
- + Advocate for new developments or subdivisions to feature sustainable design principles.

Sustainable Transport Solutions

Encourage sustainable transportation options by expanding public transportation networks, promoting active transportation infrastructure such as cycling lanes and pedestrian pathways, and incentivizing electric vehicle adoption through charging infrastructure and parking incentives.

Deliverables

- + Integrate bicycle network with CBD upgrade including bicycle parking in new developments.
- + Advocate and support State Government initiatives to increase access to public transport across the Shire
- + Facilitate the roll out of EV charging stations across the Shire.

Tree Planting and Urban Greening

Implement tree planting and urban greening programs to increase green spaces, improve air quality, and enhance biodiversity. Collaborate with community groups and organizations to engage residents in tree planting initiatives and urban greening projects.

Deliverables

- + Develop a Tree Strategy
- + Develop a heat mapping study across the Shire
- + Continue to support community led initiative to enhance canopy cover and biodiversity.



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

GOALS

Zero Waste to Landfill

Council is committed to a Zero recoverable waste to landfill target by 2030. This will involve a robust bin audit framework and a community education program around Recycling and Food and Garden Organics.

Improved Recycling

Council will maximise the value of waste streams through multiple projects including upgraded transfer station infrastructure, glass bin rollout and investigating business opportunities in the resource recovery space from a regional perspective.

Circular Economy

Council will support the Victorian Circular Economy transition and will facilitate this through revaluation of our asset requirements to reduce the need or extend the life of Council Assets, shifting procurement policies favouring circular design and engaging with community on projects that support a Circular Economy.



Deliverables

- + Zero recoverable waste to landfill by 2030
- + Support community led projects and operations to promote circular economy principles
- + Develop sustainability and waste education programs to increase waste diversion rates from landfill
- + Advocate for expanded CDS infrastructure across the Shire
- + Procurement policy to include Circular Economy metrics.

HOW

Together we will build a future where waste is no longer a burden on the environment, but a valuable resource. We are committed to achieving zero recoverable waste to landfill by adopting sustainable practices that maximise the value of waste streams.

KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS

Circular Economy and Sustainable Consumption

Promoting recycling, reuse, and repair initiatives, reducing single-use products, and encouraging sustainable consumption patterns through awareness campaigns and educational programs.

Waste Management

Develop comprehensive waste management and recycling programs that promote waste reduction, recycling, and composting. Provide education and resources to residents and businesses to facilitate proper waste separation and recycling. Explore opportunities for local recycling infrastructure development and collaborate with neighbouring councils for joint waste management initiatives.

Deliverables

- + Implement Bin audit and waste reporting frameworks (heading- baseline data collection)
- + Dedicated Glass Bin Rollout
- + Feasibility study for in-house organics processing infrastructure options.



LAND USE AND BIODIVERSITY

GOALS

Responsible Land Management

Council will practice responsible land management by implementing land use plans that consider long term ecological and social implications of development and promote responsible land use practices. In addition, Council will encourage and advocate for sustainable agriculture by promoting digital platforms and process innovations, working with industry and community groups to develop local markets to support small scale producers and reduce the carbon footprint of long-distance transport.

Biodiversity Protection

Council is committed to protecting, integrating, and regenerating our biodiverse natural ecosystems through good planning and governance of biodiversity actions, prioritisation of existing biodiversity and habitat on both council and private land and collaboration with the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority and community Landcare Groups.

HOW

Our focus on sustainable land use through responsible land management practices that prioritise the protection and conservation of biodiversity will create a harmonious balance between environmental preservation and societal needs for a sustainable future.

KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS

Sustainable Agriculture Practices

Encourage and support sustainable agricultural practices among local farmers, such as precision farming techniques, water-efficient irrigation systems, and regenerative farming methods. Provide resources, workshops, and incentives for farmers to adopt sustainable practices that reduce emissions and enhance carbon sequestration.

Deliverables

- + Create Sustainable Land Use Guidelines
- + Foster partnerships with key industry to enhance sustainable agricultural practices within the Shire.

Natural Resource Conservation

Implement measures to protect and conserve natural resources, including land, water, and biodiversity. This involves land stewardship programs, protection of natural habitats, promotion of sustainable land management practices, and initiatives to enhance water efficiency and waterway health.

Deliverables

- + Implement Land Use Plans with a focus on biodiversity conservation
- + Expand Protected Areas
- + Facilitate Habitat Restoration Projects
- + Increase habitat quality and connectivity across Council managed sites
- + Increase the number of significant roadside vegetation sites
- + Increase the protection of remnant native vegetation and biodiversity values, especially large paddock trees and native grasslands.

INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT



GOALS

Sustainable Water Use

Through an integrated water management principle across all projects, Council will reduce its potable water usage by implementing further rainwater capture infrastructure, minimising the water intensity of its operations and investigate a waste to energy biogas facility at the Hamilton Saleyards.

Healthy Waterways

Council will continue to improve the health and regeneration of our natural waterways through facilitating regeneration projects, urban planning and stormwater design that enhances the natural environment and through continued community education programs around waste, contaminated stormwater, and runoff impacts.



HOW

Our precious water resources will be utilised responsibly, supporting the current and future needs of communities, industries, and ecosystems by fostering sustainable practices and protecting the vitality of our waterways.

KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS

Water Conservation and Sustainable Water Management

Implement water conservation measures, such as promoting water-saving practices, encouraging water-efficient landscaping, and implementing water-efficient irrigation systems. Invest in water infrastructure upgrades, including rainwater harvesting systems and wastewater treatment and reuse facilities.

Deliverables

- + Reduce usage of potable water in non-potable applications 30% by 2035 based on 2025 levels
- + Incorporate water intelligence and integrated water management principles into the design of all new and upgraded Council assets.
- + Investigate and apply the use of water sensitive urban design guidelines in the planning and designing of new urban areas
- + Develop and monitor potable water usage across all Council facilities.
- + Review and upgrade storm water infrastructure and practices in the Shire
- + Development partnerships and collaboration with key stakeholders on water conservation and preservation of our natural resources.

Teal Carbon Offsetting and Sequestration

Explore opportunities for carbon offsetting and sequestration projects within the Council's jurisdiction. This can include reforestation and afforestation programs, conservation and restoration of carbon-rich ecosystems, and the establishment of carbon offset schemes in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

Deliverables

- + Continue to partner with local authorities on regeneration and wetland restoration projects
- + Investigate teal carbon (wetland) opportunities within the shire.



CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION

GOALS

Connected Communities

Council will engage with community members and stakeholders to develop and implement sustainability initiatives, raise awareness about environmental issues, and foster a sense of collective responsibility for creating a sustainable future. Through education programs and targeted projects, Council will work with community groups and schools to reconnect people to nature and foster a socially and environmentally responsible community.

Climate Resilience

Council is committed to climate resilience and will foster and empower connected communities to mitigate the impacts of climate change events such as fires, floods and heatwaves. These actions will be facilitated through community engagement programs, organisational partnerships and education.

HOW

By fostering connections, sharing knowledge, and mobilising resources, we create a strong network of resilient communities ready to tackle climate change and build a sustainable and thriving future.



KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS

Climate Resilience and Adaptation

Develop and implement climate resilience and adaptation plans to address the impacts of climate change. This includes conducting vulnerability assessments, enhancing infrastructure resilience, and implementing nature-based solutions for flood mitigation and heat island reduction.

Deliverables

- + Improve preparedness to extreme weather events through projects such as heat mapping and cool refuges.
- + Support the community to improve their environmentally sustainable practices and build their capacity to respond to environmental changes
- + Supporting Policy and Plans: Climate Adaptation Plan 2017 – 2027 – this plan sets out our priority risks and action areas for the next 10 years.
- + Empower youth to increase their understanding of climate change and take climate action.
- + Support our community to develop Community Climate Emergency Responses and take broader community action, facilitate localised climate change discussions and encourage action.
- + Seek opportunities for local businesses to share their environmental initiatives and efforts to reduce emissions and waste with each other and the community.

Community Engagement and Education

Engage and educate the local community about the net-zero vision, climate change impacts, and the role of sustainable practices in achieving carbon neutrality. Organise community events, workshops, and information sessions to raise awareness and foster behavioural changes that support the net-zero goal.

Deliverables

- + Facilitate Community Awareness and Education around Climate Change and its associated impacts
- + Develop tailored and effective community communication and engagement programs
- + Create and expand volunteer and community action programmes to tackle sustainability projects including clean-up campaigns, tree planting activities, and energy-saving challenges
- + Create partnerships with community members and/or organisations on the implementation and delivery of sustainable initiatives.
- + Engaging and empowering the regional community to participate and partner in regional biodiversity management.
- + Promote Council's Community Partnership Grants sustainability stream, develop the capacity of community groups and individuals to write successful grant applications.

2024-41

For further information or
to provide feedback on this
Strategy, please contact:

**SOUTHERN
GRAMPIANS
SHIRE COUNCIL**

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Sustainability Strategy 2024 - 41 Community Submissions		
Submission Received:	Comment / feedback:	Notes
Submission No. 1 26/08/2024	Most of your solar was purchased from NSW companies!	Comment
Submission No. 2 GHCMA 04/09/2024	<p>Good alignment with the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy, particularly around a focus on climate resilience and adaptation; regeneration and wetland restoration projects; healthy waterways; and the key strategic actions identified for land use and biodiversity.</p> <p>Under the climate resilience and adaptation theme, consider including: the update of flood investigations and overlays / planning controls to incorporate the latest climate change projections; and longer term, conducting regional scale flood investigations to strengthen knowledge of flooding impacts in agricultural areas and on road networks. Under sustainable agriculture practices, could include a focus on encouraging and supporting sustainable agricultural practices that reduce the risks of soil acidification, salinity and erosion; and practices that encourage maintenance of ground cover over the summer period.</p> <p>The CMA would be happy to support the development of Sustainable Land Use Guidelines.</p>	<p>Non comment, opportunity for partnership.</p> <p>To be included.</p> <p>Inclusion as part of the first action plan.</p>
Submission No. 3 25/08/2024	<p>Produce this strategy as a phased roadmap of 3 clearly defined phases, for example:</p> <p>Phase 1 2024/5-2030</p> <p>Phase 2 2031-2036</p> <p>Phase 3 2037-2041</p> <p>Each Phase would require Council to introduce staged actions to meet clearly defined targets. This will strengthen Council's focus, its ability to budget and its accountability in meeting its targets. It would enable each phase to respond to new innovations and thinking in a rapidly evolving field</p>	<p>Detail included on action plans in the strategy which clarify the next steps, timeframes for review of the document. The 5 year action plan will include budget, timeframes and targets.</p>

Council Meeting 11 December 2024 Attachments - Agenda

	<p>This is an opportunity to present Council's goals and include bold statements which affirms Councils commitment. For example:</p> <p>Embed sustainability and climate change awareness and action into all Council processes</p> <p>Ensure all council decisions are made through a sustainability and climate change lens</p> <p>What does this 'robust monitoring and reporting system' look like?</p> <p>How often is 'regular'?</p> <p>The Strategy needs to include specific details about what the community can expect. For example:</p> <p>Council commits to report on its net-zero goals utilizing effective monitoring and evaluation processes in an accurate and transparent manner every 12 months.</p>	<p>This is has been addressed in Council's commitment to carbon neutrality for council operations including minimal sustainability design guidelines.</p> <p>Inclusion in the Monitoring and Reporting pillar. Carbon emission inventory to be a live feature on Council's website, Yearly reporting as part of Council plan reporting.</p>
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Council Meeting 11 December 2024 Attachments - Agenda

	<p>Please consider the inclusion of more specific actions/broad areas of focus. It would mean that progress of the roadmap to net zero is trackable. It would align with the stated desire to introduce a transparent monitoring and evaluation process</p> <p>Suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a comprehensive fleet transition plan for all Council vehicles Develop a carbon neutral building plan for reducing emissions from Council assets Review Council procurement policies and contracts to ensure alignment with Net-Zero targets Undertake a vulnerability assessment to understand the risks to Council assets and services from extreme weather. (Note: This work would provide valuable information to Council, of particular value for State and Federal funding opportunities) Council will develop a sustainability and climate change decision making framework to assist Council officers and Councilors consider the implications of decisions on climate change 	<p>Inclusion as part of action plan.</p>
	<p>I think it's worth considering how to incentivize sustainability and climate actions for local businesses and community. I'd like to see included, a reference to the investigation of Sustainability Certification Schemes. These can be limited to holiday accommodation and tourist activities or developed more broadly to provide a credentialled 'Green Tick' for businesses and service providers operating in Southern Grampians. Schemes such as this provide value in promoting green thinking within our Shire and can assist with turning the lens to present Southern Grampians as a green and innovative region.</p>	<p>To be considered as part of community and business engagement activities over the life of the strategy</p>

Council Meeting 11 December 2024 Attachments - Agenda

	<p>Please include a reference to illegal dumping and illegal burning of waste: Develop incentives and stronger penalties.</p> <p>Please also consider including specific opportunities/problem areas to reduce the volume of waste going into landfills, for example:</p> <p>Surplus paint and nappies</p> <p>Review the use and content of public waste bins</p> <p>Please include a requirement to protect roadside native grasslands within towns, as well as outside townships. - how they are identified and what controls?</p> <p>(Note: Dunkeld has extensive high conservation value native grasslands within the township. Planning regulations often require the installation of large drainage pipes and extensive driveways with new build. These works can negatively impact 'significant roadside vegetation')</p>	<p>Waste to zero pillar with focus on some of these areas through community engagement and education, including feasibility for processing different waste streams of Council transfer stations</p> <p>Addressed in Emergency Management Plans, and Heat Mapping Project.</p>
	<p>Council could map towns (outside of Hamilton) to understand what is already available within a community resilience model;</p> <p>Develop and promote 'Community Resilience Hubs' as places/communities of safety and assets of value when considering local responses to extreme weather emergencies. These facilities may have a fridge, phone charging facilities, food, water, emergency power storage and communication during outages.</p> <p>(For example, as manager of Sterling Place, Dunkeld Community Centre in Dunkeld, I note that the facility has solar power and battery storage capacity which provides power in the event of a power outage, it has SkyMuster access in the event of an emergency to provide localized internet availability. It runs a Heat Safe Initiative which aligns with Department of Health and CFA directions for days over 35 degrees.</p>	

Council Meeting 11 December 2024 Attachments - Agenda

To be included in the deliverables of the community engagement pillar

Form a loose advisory group for members and interested participants to share ideas and information on sustainability and climate change. It could be a digital platform rather than regular meetings. It simply provides a forum for interested people to engage/share information on sustainability and climate change matters

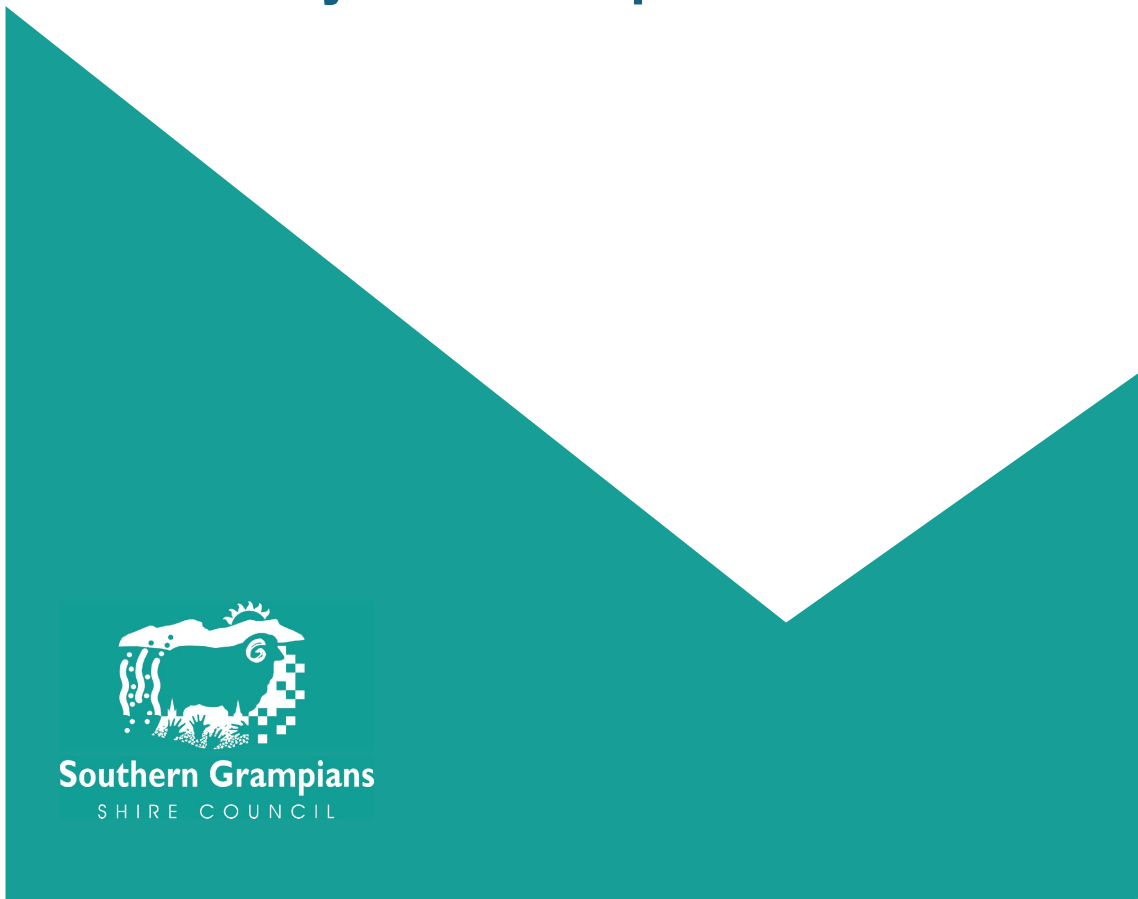
Community Champions – is anyone doing good work in the sustainability/climate change area? Ensure that they are promoted

As part of Council's annual awards program, include an award to celebrate sustainability/climate mitigation achievements

Extend the grants program to include sustainability and climate change mitigation initiatives

FINANCE REPORT

1 July 2024 - 30 September 2024



Financial Report Executive Summary

REPORT SUMMARY

The Finance Report is prepared for Council each quarter and is a requirement set out in the Local Government Act 2020. Following the end of the financial year the annual financial statements are prepared and included in the Annual Report.

The Finance Reports set out actual results compared to Budget for the first three months of the 2024/25 financial year and contain the Standard Statements, namely:

- Comprehensive Income Statement,
- Balance Sheet,
- Statement of Cash Flows, and
- Statement of Capital Works.

The Report also includes information on cash, debtors, creditors and loans.

Narratives accompany each of the statements for major variances and key data has been included in graphs and ratios such as the debt commitment ratio.

Impacts on the Financial Report to 30 September 2024

Comprehensive Income Statement

The Comprehensive Income Statement result for the three months to 30 September is a surplus of \$21,776m and the forecasted result for the same period was a surplus of \$21,718m. The actual and forecasted result for the period is very positive and is due to the rates for the full year being raised in the first quarter, which means that 99% of the annual forecasted rates revenue is recognised in this period.

The main variances within the report are identified with an explanation provided for what has transpired, which includes:

1. REVENUE

- User fees for the livestock exchange exceeded expected revenue by \$116k;
- Gain on sale of assets was below forecast due to timing of the forecast with sales expected after 30 September;
- Interest income from investments is recognised upon maturity of the term deposit and due to timing of these maturities, along with reduced amounts invested the interest received is below forecasted amounts.

2. EXPENDITURE

- External contract work below forecast by \$240k which includes rural road maintenance works;
- Insurance exceeds budget due to the cost being incurred at the beginning of the year however the forecast expenditure was spread across the year evenly;
- Plant and fleet operations is the net cost and includes internal hire (allocation) of Council owned fleet usage to projects. Plant usage is lower during the November to April period and is expected to improve this position throughout this period;
- Waste disposal costs is below expected expenditure due to contract works being lower than anticipated for the first quarter;
- contributions to community groups was lower than expected for the first quarter.

Carry Forward items from 2023/24

Forecast details have been updated to include items and projects not completed in 2023/24 with financial balances carried forward to the 2024/25 financial year. The impact of carry forwards can be summarised as:

Increase to operational expenses - \$841k

Increase to operational revenue \$7,876m

Increase to capital works expenditure - \$11.001m.

The total impact on the cash position from carry forward items is \$3.965m which is in large part offset by the difference in the opening budgeted cash position compared to the actual opening cash position was \$3.466m.

Balance Sheet

Cash is below the expected amount due mainly to the timing of asset sales with revenue received being below forecast amounts.

Debt servicing and debt commitment ratios are both strong, being well below the acceptable maximum level which is due to the low level of borrowings.

Capital Works

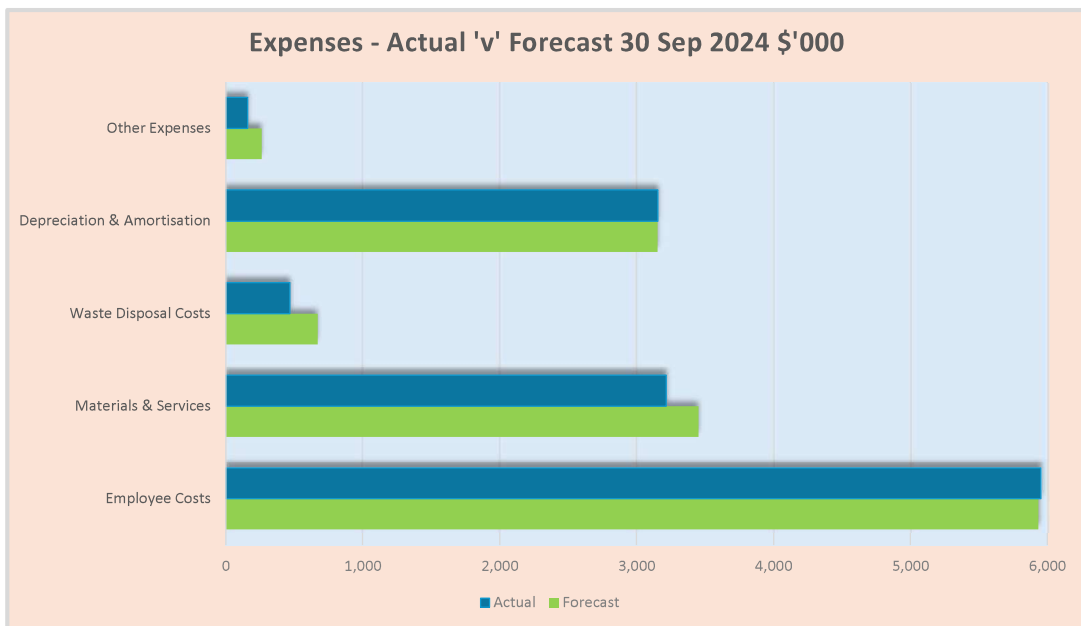
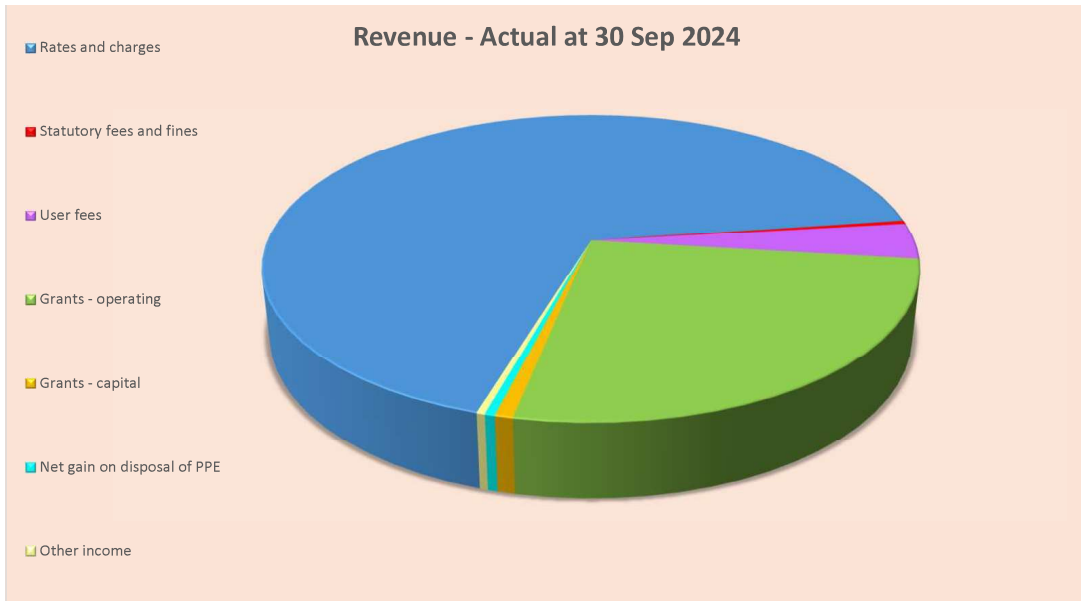
Detailed reports on the financial progress of the capital works and major projects are also provided for information. Capital works for the YTD to September were \$3.609m completed compared to a YTD forecast of \$6.349. The capital works carried forward from 2023/24 was a total net amount of \$10.986m. Expenditure incurred included progression of the works at Melville Oval of \$1.089m along with plant acquired of \$588k, road renewal works of \$519k and Pedrina Park works of \$362k.

1. Comprehensive Income Statement

	Budget 30 Jun 2025 \$'000	Forecast 30 Jun 2025 \$'000	% Forecast Diff to Budget	YTD Forecast 30 Sep 2024 \$'000	Actual 30 Sep 2024 \$'000	% of YTD Forecast	Note
Operating Revenue							
Rates and charges	(24,054)	(23,800)	99%	(23,616)	(23,610)	100%	
Statutory fees and fines	(469)	(469)	100%	(117)	(122)	104%	
User fees	(6,281)	(6,281)	100%	(1,142)	(1,310)	115%	1
Contributions - cash	0	0	0%	0	(36)	0%	
Grants - operating	(10,720)	(11,314)	106%	(8,723)	(9,117)	105%	
Grants - capital	(3,000)	(9,782)	326%	0	(261)	0%	
Net gain on disposal of PPE	(5,640)	(6,140)	109%	(1,325)	(147)	11%	2
Other income	(852)	(1,106)	130%	(263)	(123)	47%	3
	(51,016)	(58,891)	115%	(35,186)	(34,727)	99%	
Operating Expenses							
Employee benefits							
Wages and Salaries	17,874	17,873	100%	4,985	4,884	98%	
Superannuation	1,984	1,984	100%	469	569	121%	
Workcover	475	475	100%	468	500	107%	
Fringe Benefits Tax	55	55	101%	14	0	0%	
Materials and services							
External Works (Contractors)	2,768	3,088	112%	739	499	68%	4
Support Service and Supplies	3,646	3,941	108%	887	779	88%	
Community Grants	555	556	100%	150	219	146%	
Utilities	1,134	1,135	100%	309	262	85%	
Office Administration	437	437	100%	127	187	147%	
Information Technology	1,193	1,193	100%	296	356	120%	
Insurance	611	612	100%	435	158	36%	5
Consultants	332	533	160%	121	114	94%	
Plant and Fleet Operations	523	523	100%	385	641	166%	6
Waste Disposal Costs	2,683	2,683	100%	671	468	70%	7
Depreciation and amortisation	12,608	12,608	100%	3,152	3,154	100%	
Finance costs	21	21	100%	5	6	119%	
Other expenses	1,051	1,050	100%	255	154	60%	8
	47,950	48,768	102%	13,468	12,951	96%	
(Surplus) Deficit resulting from operations	(3,066)	(10,123)		(21,718)	(21,776)		

Notes:

- Hamilton Regional Livestock Exchange user fees 166k greater than forecast for first quarter.
- Disposal of property and other assets will be after 30 September 2024.
- Income from investments is below forecast due to timing of the maturity of term deposits and also the amount invested.
- Various contract works lower than forecast for first quarter, including rural roads maintenance.
- Forecasts show full costing for insurance premium in the first quarter however the costs are now allocated monthly.
- Historically maintenance costs higher in first quarter and internal income generated from plant usage is lower than during November to April.
- Various contract works lower than forecast for first quarter, including transfer stations and waste collection contractors.
- Contributions paid in first quarter to community groups lower than forecast however will equate to Budget by year end.



2. Balance Sheet

	Budget 30 Jun 2025 \$'000	Forecast 30 Jun 2025 \$'000	% Forecast Diff to Budget	YTD Forecast 30 Sep 2024 \$'000	Actual 30 Sep 2024 \$'000	% of YTD Forecast	Note
Current Assets							
Cash & Cash equivalents	7,608	7,173	94%	10,057	9,207	92%	
Trade & Other Receivables	4,179	4,179	100%	14,768	15,089	102%	
Other Financial Assets	0	0	0%	5,781	5,370	93%	
Inventories	533	533	100%	533	401	75%	1
Non-Current Assets classified as held for resale	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	
Other Assets (Prepayments & Accrued Income)	505	505	100%	505	533	105%	
	12,825	12,390	97%	31,644	30,600	97%	
Non Current Assets							
Investments, Trade & Other Receivables	17	17	100%	17	13	76%	
Investment Property	1,700	1,700	100%	1,700	690	41%	2
Property, Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment	522,956	533,941	102%	505,513	501,254	99%	
	524,673	535,658	102%	507,230	501,957	99%	
Total Assets	537,498	548,048	102%	538,874	532,556	99%	
Current Liabilities							
Trade & Other Payables	(2,853)	(2,853)	100%	(2,853)	(1,007)	35%	3
Trust Funds & Deposits	(387)	(387)	100%	(387)	(430)	111%	
Contract and other liabilities	(71)	(71)	100%	(71)	(71)	100%	
Interest Bearing Loans & Liabilities Provisions	(999)	(999)	100%	(999)	(971)	97%	4
	(4,472)	(4,472)	100%	(4,472)	(4,677)	105%	4
	(8,782)	(8,782)	100%	(8,782)	(7,155)	81%	
Non Current Liabilities							
Interest Bearing Loans & Liabilities Provisions	(5,931)	(5,931)	100%	(931)	(931)	100%	4
	(1,812)	(1,812)	100%	(1,812)	(1,464)	81%	4
	(7,743)	(7,743)	100%	(2,743)	(2,395)	87%	
Net Assets	520,973	531,523	102%	527,349	523,006	99%	
Accumulated Surplus	(149,781)	(160,331)	107%	(156,157)	(143,742)	92%	
Asset Revaluation Reserve	(370,621)	(370,621)	100%	(370,621)	(378,667)	102%	
Other Reserves	(571)	(571)	100%	(571)	(597)	105%	
Net Equity	(520,973)	(531,523)	102%	(527,349)	(523,006)	99%	

Notes:

1. Inventories fluctuate during the year depending on timing of purchases and works allocation.
2. Value has decreased of investment properties with sale of property expected in 2024-25.
3. Trades and Payables fluctuate in line with liabilities as they are recognised during the year.
4. Provisions and liabilities have been updated between current and non-current however overall values have not materially changed.

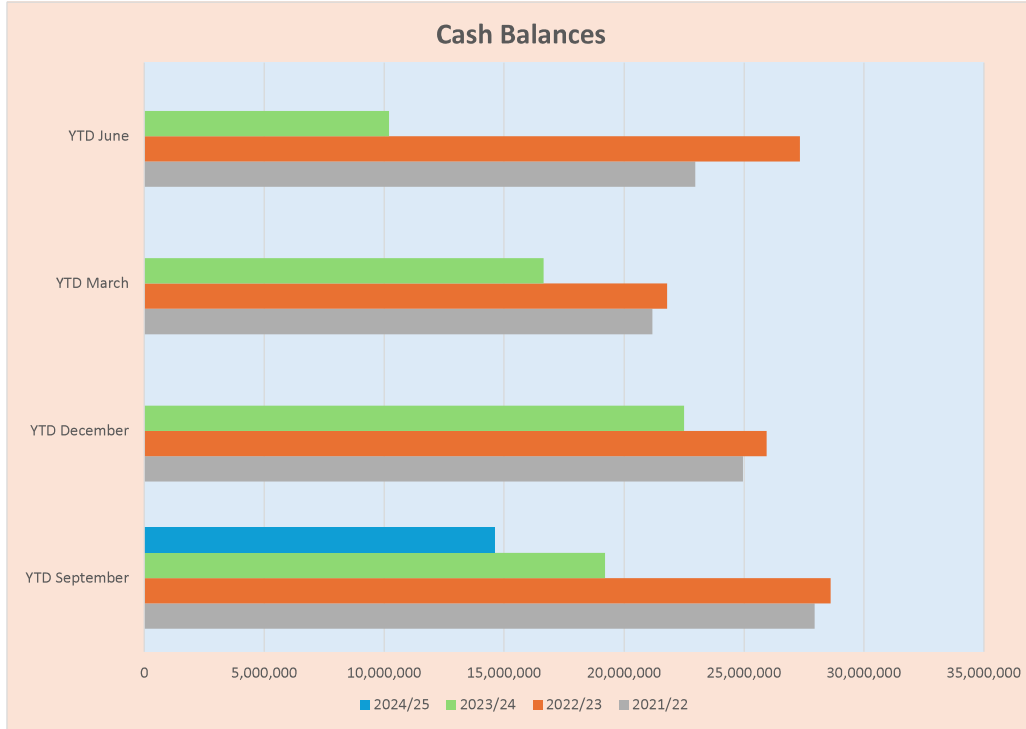
Core Ratios	Prudential Guideline	Adopted Budget	Forecast Budget	YTD Actual
Working Capital Ratio/Liquidity Ratio (Current Assets/Current Liabilities)	> 150%	146.0%	141.1%	427.6%
Debt Servicing Ratio (Interest as a % of total Rate Revenue)	< 5%	0.1%	0.1%	0.03%
Debt Commitment Ratio (Interest & Loan repayments as a % of total Rate Revenue)	< 15%	0.9%	0.9%	0.2%

3. Cash Flow Statement

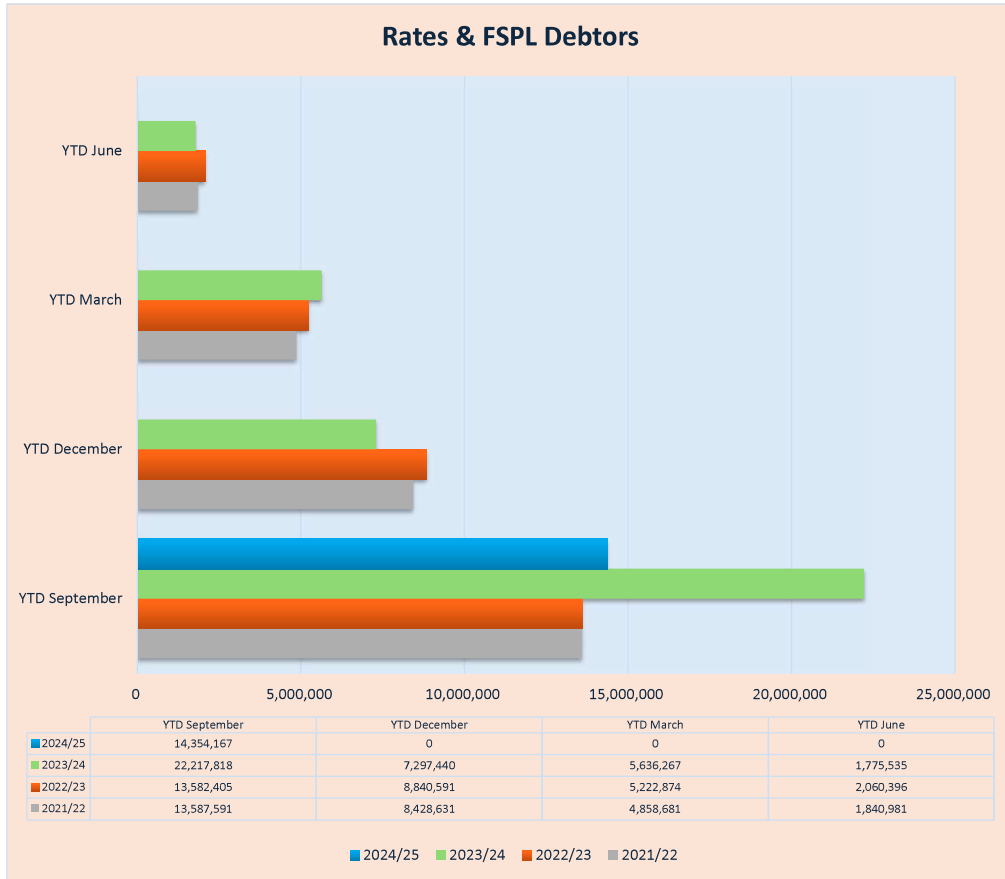
	Budget 30 Jun 2025 \$'000	Forecast 30 Jun 2025 \$'000	% Forecast Diff to Budget	YTD Forecast 30 Sep 2024 \$'000	YTD Actual 30 Sep 2024 \$'000	% of YTD Forecast	Note
Cash flows from Operations							
Operating Revenue							
Rates and charges	23,759	24,054	101%	11,578	11,851	102%	
Grants - operating	10,590	11,314	107%	8,723	9,117	105%	
Grants - capital	3,845	7,782	202%	0	261	0%	1
Interest	505	505	100%	125	92	73%	
User fees	6,204	5,742	93%	1,032	1,170	113%	2
Statutory fees and fines	475	557	117%	119	123	103%	
Other revenue	661	601	91%	138	32	23%	3
	46,039	50,554	110%	21,716	22,645	104%	
Operating Expenses							
Employee benefits	(20,160)	(20,388)	101%	(5,935)	(5,902)	99%	
Materials and consumables	(13,209)	(14,701)	111%	(4,120)	(3,670)	89%	
Other expenses	(1,598)	(1,034)	65%	(252)	(153)	61%	4
	(34,967)	(36,123)	103%	(10,307)	(9,725)	94%	
Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities	11,072	14,431		11,409	12,920	113%	
Cash Flows From Financing Activities							
Finance Costs	(21)	(21)	100%	(5)	(6)	119%	
Proceeds from Borrowings	5,800	5,800	-3%	0	0	0%	
Repayment of Borrowings	(187)	(187)	0%	(49)	(49)	99%	
Net cash flows from financing activities	5,592	5,592	100%	(55)	(55)	101%	
Cash Flows From Investing Activities							
Payments for investing activities	(20,625)	(31,610)	153%	(6,349)	(3,639)	57%	5
Proceeds from Asset Sales	5,640	6,140	109%	1,325	1,281	97%	
Payments from investments	(800)	(800)	100%	0	0	0%	
Net Cash Flows From Investing Activities	(15,785)	(26,270)	166%	(5,024)	(2,358)	47%	
Net Cash Flows From Movements in Balance Sheet	0	6,691		2,778	(2,660)		
Net increase (decrease) in Cash	879	444		9,108	7,847		
Cash (Overdraft) at the beginning of the period	6,729	6,729		6,730	6,730		
Cash (Overdraft) at the end of the period	7,608	7,173		15,838	14,577		

Notes:

1. Grant paid for Art Gallery 200k, Silvester Oval 25k and Pedrina Park 36k were not forecast into first quarter.
2. Hamilton Regional Livestock Exchange user fees greater than forecast for first quarter.
3. Pensioner Reimbursements 113k forecast but not received in first quarter.
4. Contributions to various community groups forecast but not yet paid in first quarter.
5. Cash payments for capital lower in first quarter due to timing of creditor payments.



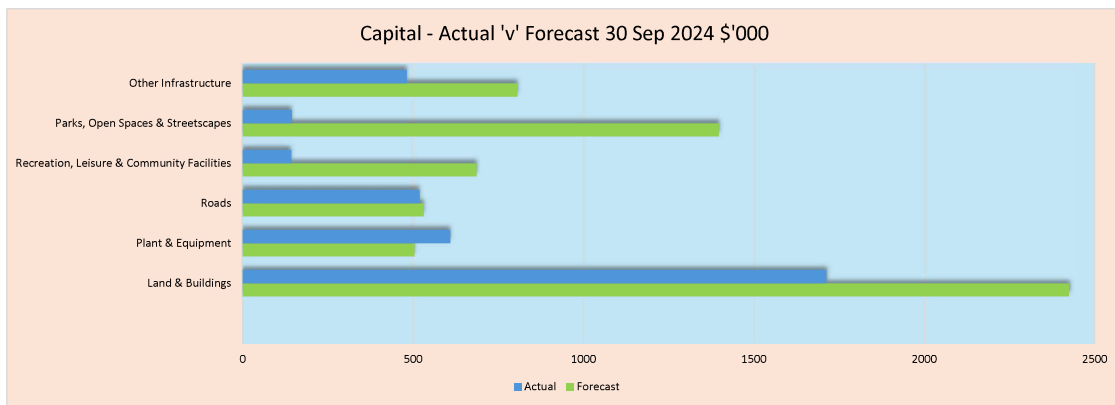
Reconciliation of Cash	Balance B/Fwd 01/07/24	Cumulative Balance 30/09/24	Cumulative Balance 31/12/24	Cumulative Balance 31/03/24	Cumulative Balance 30/06/22
General Account - Working Capital	1,449,578	7,112,255			
Section 65 Committee Holdings	105,425	105,425			
Investment - Unrestricted					
General Account	2,000,000	2,000,000			
Investment - Specific Purpose					
Trusts & Reserves	955,171	955,171			
Landfill Rehabilitation	1,100,000	1,100,000			
Defined Benefit Shortfall	1,281,200	0			
Yatchaw Drainage	39,803	129,599			
Investment - Restricted					
Sir Irving Benson Bequest	674,302	674,302			
Long Service Leave	2,500,000	2,500,000			
Total Cash & Investments	10,105,479	14,576,752	0	0	0





4. Capital Works

	Budget 30 Jun 2025	Forecast 30 Jun 2025	% Forecast Diff to Budget	YTD Forecast 30 Sep 2024	Actual 30 Sep 2024	% of Annual Forecast
Property						
Land	0	181		45	260	144%
Buildings	6,590	9,556	145%	2,379	1,453	15%
	6,590	9,737		2,424	1,713	
Plant & Equipment						
Plant, Machinery & Equipment	1,500	1,905	127%	476	588	31%
Fixtures, Fittings & Furniture		39		10	0	0%
Computers & Telecommunications	50	50	100%	0	2	4%
Library Books	71	71	100%	18	12	17%
Art Collection				0	6	0%
	1,621	2,064		504	609	
Infrastructure						
Roads	5,904	8,025	136%	532	519	6%
Bridges	246	443	180%	111	1	0%
Footpaths & Cycleways	246	625	254%	100	105	17%
Drainage	400	521	130%	130	0	0%
Recreation, Leisure & Community Facilities	2,239	2,747	123%	687	142	5%
Waste Management	89	995	1118%	249	5	1%
Parks, Open Spaces & Streetscapes	3,290	5,588	170%	1,397	144	3%
Off Street Carparks	0	497		124	362	73%
Other Infrastructure	0	384		92	9	2%
	12,414	19,824		3,421	1,287	
Total	20,625	31,625	153%	6,349	3,609	11%



5. Declaration by CEO

As per Section 97 of the Local Government Act 2020, as soon as practicable after the end of each quarter of the financial year, the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a quarterly budget report is presented to the Council at a Council meeting which is open to the public.

A quarterly budget report must include a comparison of the actual and budgeted results to date, an explanation of any material variations and any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

Tony Doyle
Chief Executive Officer
28 November 2024

2024-25 carry forward items - approved by ELT	
Location/Project	2024-25 Carry Forward items
<u>Operating</u>	
CEO - Priority Projects	30,000
Youth Services - Freeza (Opp-73571)	34,000
Strategic Planning - Structure Plan Cavendish	100,000
Strategic Planning - Structure Plan Coleraine	100,000
Asset Management - Inspections - Building Cond	67,084
Asset Management - Valuation & Condition Assess	198,360
Road Safety Audit - TAC Grant	30,000
Signage replacement shire wide	77,164
Outdoor Activation	109,078
Christmas Decorations - Outer townships	45,000
Art Gallery - collection valuation	50,000
<u>Capital</u>	
Martin Hynes Council Suite - roof & windows	244,000
Art Gallery Purchases	15,000
Corporate - Digital Hub for Gov - Detailed Design	15,000
Outdoor Pools renewal works	458,505
Hamilton Botanic Gardens - Skene Street Gates	15,167
Ansett Museum - Building Extension	4,557
Coleraine Mechanics Hall - Renewal Works	5,766
Hamilton Showground Carpark & Pedestrian Crossing	50,000
Lake Hamilton - Dam Wall Reinstatement	10,000
Lake Hamilton – Pump Track	180,000
Lake Hamilton – Skate Park	59,699
Melville Oval - Facilities Project	5,690,650
Pedrina Park - Carpark Upgrade	246,579
Pedrina Park - Soccer Drainage	50,000
PAC - Front of House Lighting Bridge	38,750
Playgrounds - General Renewal	20,000

2024-25 carry forward items - approved by ELT	
Location/Project	2024-25 Carry Forward items
Silvester Oval - Carpark Drainage	200,000
Silvester Oval (Pav & Change Rm Verand) Roof Clad	38,750
Silvester Oval Sewerage Works	315,795
Parking Services - Parking Meter Renewal	60,000
Hamilton Depot - EV Charger Installation	39,522
4205. Bridges & Culverts	
Bridge and culvert works	196,501
4215. Footpaths & Cycleways	
Footpath Renewal	177,300
Rail Trail Crossings - Commencing with Balmoral	201,900
4220. Livestock Exchange	
HRLX - Cattle Yard Upgrades	29,931
HRLX - Walkway Modifications	100,000
4225. Plant Management	
Plant Replacement - Heavy	285,000
4240. Roads, Streets & Kerbs	
Mill Road / Lakes Edge Connection	10,000
Road Safety Improvements Project	315,000
Road Rehab - Gallie Rd	761,373
Rural Reseals	50,535
Urban Reseals	223,386
Gravel Road Resheet - Masons Road	47,040
4245. Roadside & Streetscapes	
Cox Street Hamilton - Streetscape	1,900,000
Hamilton CBD Streetscape design	482,787
Hamilton Entrance Signs - Ballarat & Coleraine Rd	200,000
4250. Stormwater Drainage	
Stormwater Drainage	334,671
New - Flood recovery Betterment (increased resilliance)	400,000
4305. Waste & Environmental Sustainability	
Waste Options Implementation	539,613
4310. Landfill	
Coleraine Landfill Remediation	142,030

2024-25 carry forward items - approved by ELT	
Location/Project	2024-25 Carry Forward items
Hamilton Landfill - Leachate Bores and Pumps	74,176
Hamilton Landfill - Biofilter	150,000
4415. Facilities Management	
ESM Priority Upgrades	25,000
Asbestos Removal - VAEA Grant	-
4420. Land Development	
Industrial Land - Hamilton Gateway - Development	67,403
4430. Public Conveniences	
Glenthompson Public Toilet - Renewal Works	236,366
Hamilton Botanical Gardens Changing Places Public Toilet - Upgrade & Renewal Works	180,000
4440. Waterways & Water Sources	
Coleraine Flood Defence - Detailed Design	113,230
Total Carry Forward from 2023-2024	15,841,668
Summary	
Capital Carry Forwards	15,000,982
Less Hub project timing difference	-4,000,000
Total Capital Carry Forwards	11,000,982
Operating Carry Forwards	840,686