



Ararat Rural City

MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 25 June 2024

Held in the Council Chambers, Shire Offices
(Livestreamed)

Commencing at 6.00pm

Council:

Cr Bob Sanders (Mayor)

Cr Gwenda Allgood

Cr Jo Armstrong

Cr Rob Armstrong

Cr Peter Beales

Cr Henry Burridge

Cr Bill Waterston

A recording of this meeting is being made for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of the minutes of the Council Meeting.

The recording is being streamed live via Facebook, to improve transparency between council and the community and give more people the opportunity to view what decisions are being made. You do not require a Facebook account to watch the live broadcast, simply enter www.facebook.com/araratruralcitycouncil into your address bar.

Recordings of Council Meetings (excluding closed sessions) are made available on Council's website.

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PRESENT:

Cr Gwenda Allgood, Cr J Armstrong, Cr Rob Armstrong, Cr Henry Burrridge, Cr Bob Sanders, Cr Bill Waterston, Dr Tim Harrison - Chief Executive Officer, Chandra Willmott - Governance & Risk Lead, Rebecca Rodger- Contracts and Procurement Lead and Thomas Duncan - Theatre Technical Officer

SECTION 1 – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 LIVE STREAMING

Council is keen to engage with members of the community and live streams the formal Council Meetings to make them accessible. The stream is available to view on Council’s Facebook page from 6pm and on Council’s website following the Council Meeting.

1.2 TRADITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/OPENING PRAYER/COUNCILLORS PLEDGE

Traditional acknowledgement – CR WATERSTON

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

Opening Prayer – CR J ARMSTRONG

Almighty God, we humbly ask you to help us, as elected Councillors of the Ararat Rural City Council. Guide our deliberations. Prosper what is your will for us, to your honour and glory and for the welfare and benefit of the people whom we serve in the Ararat Rural City.

Councillors Pledge- CR BURRIDGE

We will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions invested in us under the *Local Government Act 2020* and any other Act to the best of our skill and judgement.

1.3 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDATION

That the apology of Cr Beales be accepted.

MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG

SECONDED CR BURRIDGE

That the apology of Cr Beales be accepted.

CARRIED 4997/24

1.4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 May 2024 be confirmed.

MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG

SECONDED CR WATERSTON

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 May 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED 4998/24

1.5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A Councillor who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered at a *Council meeting* at which he or she:

- 1 is present must disclose that conflict of interest by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present at the *Council meeting* immediately before the matter is considered; or
- 2 intends to be present must disclose that conflict of interest by providing to the *Chief Executive Officer* before the *Council meeting* commences a written notice:
 - (a) advising of the conflict of interest;
 - (b) explaining the nature of the conflict of interest; and
 - (c) detailing, if the nature of the conflict of interest involves a Councillor's relationship with or a gift from another person, the:
 - name of the other person;
 - nature of the relationship with that other person or the date of receipt, value and type of gift received from the other person; and
 - nature of that other person's interest in the matter,

and then immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting announcing to those present that he or she has a conflict of interest and that a written notice has been given to the *Chief Executive Officer* under this sub-Rule.

The Councillor must, in either event, leave the *Council meeting* immediately after giving the explanation or making the announcement (as the case may be) and not return to the meeting until after the matter has been disposed of.

Cr Allgood advised that she had a conflict of interest to declare in relation to Item 9.1.

SECTION 2 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2.1 PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

- 1 Unless *Council* determines to consider it as an item of urgent business, no motion (other than a motion to receive the same) may be made on any petition, joint letter, memorial or other like application until the next *Council meeting* after that at which it has been presented.
- 2 It is incumbent on every Councillor presenting a petition or joint letter to acquaint himself or herself with the contents of that petition or joint letter, and to ascertain that it does not contain language disrespectful to *Council*.
- 3 Every Councillor presenting a petition or joint letter to *Council* must:
 - write or otherwise record his or her name at the beginning of the petition or joint letter; and
 - confine himself or herself to a statement of the persons from whom it comes, the number of signatories to it, the material matters expressed in it and the text of the prayer or request.
- 4 Every petition or joint letter presented to *Council* must be in *writing* (other than pencil), typing or printing, contain the request of the petitioners or signatories and be signed by at least 12 people.
- 5 Every petition or joint letter must be signed by the persons whose names are appended to it by their names or marks, and, except in cases of incapacity or sickness, by no one else and the address of every petitioner or signatory must be clearly stated.
- 6 Any signature appearing on a page which does not bear the text of the whole of the petition or request may not be considered by *Council*.
- 7 Every page of a petition or joint letter must be a single page of paper and not be posted, stapled, pinned or otherwise affixed or attached to any piece of paper other than another page of the petition or joint letter.
- 8 If a petition, joint letter, memorial or other like application relates to an operational matter, *Council* must refer it to the *Chief Executive Officer* for consideration.

There were no new Petitions or Joint Letters received.

SECTION 3 – REPORTS REQUIRING COUNCIL DECISION

3.1 YEAR 2024 GENERAL VALUATION

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 15817

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 27 May 2024 Council received notification from the Valuer-General, certifying the 2024 General Valuation to be generally true and correct.

The Valuer-General has reported to the Minister for Planning that the 2024 General Valuation is generally true and correct with respect to each of the bases of value.

Once the Minister has made his declaration that the valuation is suitable to be adopted and used Council can raise rates for the 2024/25 financial year.

DISCUSSION

The Valuer-General Victoria is the valuation authority responsible for revaluing all properties in the municipality each year.

The Valuer-General Victoria appointed Wigg and Partners as the valuer. Mr Peter Wigg has delivered valuations for rateable and non-rateable leviable properties to Council. The non-rateable leviable valuations are returned to enable Council to calculate the Fire Services Levy for these properties. The Valuer-General has audited the valuations to ensure they are generally true and correct. The Minister for Planning will make a declaration under the provisions of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 that allows the returned valuations to be used to raise rates for 2024/25.

	2024 Rateable Valuations	2024 Non Rateable Leviable Valuations	Total
Site Value	\$5,350,309,500	\$59,272,500	\$5,409,582,000
Capital Improved Value	\$6,697,928,000	\$473,860,500	\$7,171,788,500
Net Annual Value	\$339,708,000	\$35,457,375	\$375,165,375

The following table illustrates the change in Capital Improved Valuations (CIV) between each category of property as a result of the revaluation. The categories included in this table are based on Valuation Best Practice Guidelines which are not consistent with the classifications used for rating purposes. For example, the rural category includes urban farm land that may not necessarily be defined as farmland for rating purposes. There are several properties that are rated at the general rate but are classed as rural for the fire services levy.

Category	2024 CIV\$	2023 CIV\$	% Change
Residential	\$1,805,175,000	\$1,773,948,000	1.76%
Commercial	\$171,812,500	\$165,305,500	3.94%
Industrial	\$60,840,500	\$71,894,500	-15.38%
Rural (including Urban Farm Land)	\$4,660,100,000	\$4,742,680,000	-1.74%
Non Rateable Leviable (including Wind Farms)	\$473,860,500	\$99,425,500	376.60%
Totals	\$7,171,788,500	\$6,853,253,500	4.65%

Please note, the wind farm properties have been reclassified from industrial to non rateable leviable resulting in a decrease in the percentage change for industrial properties and a significant increase in the percentage change for non rateable leviable properties

Residential properties

In comparison to 2023 valuations, residential property valuations have increased by 1.76%.

Commercial and Industrial properties

In comparison to 2023 valuations, commercial property valuations have increased by 3.94%.

Industrial property valuations have decreased by 15.38% due to wind farm properties being reclassified as Non rateable leviable properties. Removing the effect of this movement, Industrial property valuations have increased by approximately 5% compared to 2023 valuations.

Rural properties

In comparison to 2023 valuations, rural valuations have decreased by 1.74%.

Non rateable leviable properties

In comparison to 2023 valuations, non-rateable leviable property valuations have increased by 376.60%. Wind farm properties have significantly increased in Capital Improved Value as a result of the 2024 Revaluation.

Whilst these properties are non-rateable for municipal rates, they are charged the *Fire Services Levy*. Land in this category includes properties such as Council owned properties and churches.

The table below outlines the movement in valuations over previous years:

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Residential	1.76%	12.18%	33.85%	14.73%	3.07%	4.32%	3.45%
Commercial	3.94%	12.65%	8.97%	1.17%	0.29%	1.43%	8.69%
Industrial	-15.38%	12.69%	-88.83%	0.36%	3.83%	0.09%	0.75%
Rural	-1.74%	7.33%	50.23%	39.00%	21.79%	2.72%	24.48%
Non Rateable	376.60%	8.50%	0.18%	5.67%	37.49%	3.06%	1.15%

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

6.1 Deliver responsible budget outcomes, linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation and rating fairness

Budget Implications

The Valuer-General Victoria is now responsible for the cost of the annual general revaluation. Council is required to pay for the costs of supplementary valuations during the year and these costs are included in the budget each year.

Policy/Relevant Law

The Valuer-General Victoria is required to revalue all properties in accordance with the Valuation of Land Act 1960

Sustainability Implications

The report does not raise any sustainability implications.

Risk Assessment

Low

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Revaluing properties every year allows current land values to be used for Council Rating purposes and Land Tax purposes.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The valuation process is undertaken by the Valuer-General Victoria and widely promoted to ratepayers across various websites including the Department of Transport and Planning, State Revenue Office and the Council's.

RECOMMENDATION

That

Subject to Ministerial approval, Council adopts the General Valuation for 2024 conducted by Mr Peter Wigg for:

- 1. Total Site Value of \$5,409,582,000 (rateable Site Value of \$5,350,309,500 and non-rateable leviable Site Value of \$59,272,500);*
- 2. Total Capital Improved Value of \$7,171,788,500 (rateable Capital Improved Value of \$6,697,928,000 and non-rateable leviable Capital Improved Value of \$473,860,500); and*
- 3. Total Net Annual Value of \$375,165,375 (rateable Net Annual Value of \$339,708,000 and non-rateable leviable Net Annual Value of \$35,457,375)*

**MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR BURRIDGE**

That

Subject to Ministerial approval, Council adopts the General Valuation for 2024 conducted by Mr Peter Wigg for:

- 4. Total Site Value of \$5,409,582,000 (rateable Site Value of \$5,350,309,500 and non-rateable leviable Site Value of \$59,272,500);**
- 5. Total Capital Improved Value of \$7,171,788,500 (rateable Capital Improved Value of \$6,697,928,000 and non-rateable leviable Capital Improved Value of \$473,860,500); and**
- 6. Total Net Annual Value of \$375,165,375 (rateable Net Annual Value of \$339,708,000 and non-rateable leviable Net Annual Value of \$35,457,375)**

CARRIED 4999/24

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments relating to this item.

3.2 ARARAT RURAL CITY COUNCIL DRAFT BUDGET 2024/2025

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 15818

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council is required to prepare a budget for each financial year and the subsequent 3 financial years by 30 June each year, or any other date fixed by the Minister by notice published in the Government Gazette.

Section 96 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires Council to develop the budget in accordance with the financial management principles and its community engagement policy.

DISCUSSION

Council's 2024/2025 budget represents a continuation of Council's financially responsible approach that has been in place taken over the past six budget cycles. The headlines of the 2024/2025 Budget continue to be returning an efficiency dividend to the community through a net zero percent rate rise and an ongoing commitment to renewing the community's assets through a \$15,513,000 investment in capital works.

Council will continue to return a dividend to the community for increased organisational efficiency through a zero percent rate rise in 2024/2025. This yields an average zero percent rate rise over the seven-year period up to and including 2024/2025.

Key Budget Influences include:

- a. Ararat Rural City Council's 2024/2025 Budget has a zero percent rate rise that will maintain a zero percent rate increase for a seven-year average.

In contrast, had Council increased rates to the amount allowable under the State Government's Fair Go Rates System, over the seven-year period up to 2024/2025 this would have increased the total burden to ratepayers by 16.25%, during the same seven-year period Council has delivered a net zero percent rate rise.

- b. In July 2022, Council adopted key drivers of financial sustainability, which form the basis for developing the 2024/2025 Budget. These drivers of financial sustainability are provided below:

Rating

Maintenance of the "pie model" to provide some form of long-term rating equity and reduce rate shock across rating sectors based on annual valuation fluctuations.

Debt

Debt is only used to fund strategic infrastructure outcomes with an emphasis on intergenerational equity.

Asset Preservation

Maintain the asset renewal and upgrade ratio to at least 110% of depreciation.

Surplus Budgets

Maintain cash and operating surpluses in each financial year.

Managing Expenditure

Managing expenditure is a key driver of financial sustainability at Ararat Rural City Council.

Rate Rises

Rate rises will be kept to a minimum based on seeking organisational efficiency. These efficiencies will be returned to the ratepayer as a dividend through lower rate rises or rate cuts.

Service Standards

Expenditure savings and ratepayer dividends will not come at the price of lower service standards.

Key elements of Council's 2024/2025 Budget are:

- \$6,250,000 investment in reconstructing at least six kilometres of Mt William Road – a local road of regional significance to agriculture and tourism.
- \$100,000 commitment to delivery of young people's programs across primary and secondary schools, largely through the Crazy Ideas College.
- \$500,000 contribution to an ongoing partnership commitment to Ararat Housing Enterprise P/L.
- \$230,000 contribution to community infrastructure projects.
- \$200,000 to modernise and upgrade the Ararat Library.
- \$400,000 to upgrade footpath network
- \$100,000 to support a resident attraction program to support development of an increasingly skilled workforce for the municipality.
- \$2,143,000 to reconstruct an initial two-kilometre section of Buangor – Ben Nevis Road commencing at the Western Highway.
- \$100,000 to support the successful, ongoing business façade program.
- \$1,461,000 to reconstruct sections of Webb Street and Churchill Avenue in Ararat.
- \$80,000 Council contribution to a \$330,000 project to redevelop the Tatyoon sports oval. \$250,000 is provided through the Country Football and Netball funding stream.
- \$1,800,000 renewing rural gravel roads through resheeting or sealing treatments such as OTTA Seal.
- \$750,000 to fund Year Three of Council's five-year commitment to improve urban drainage systems.
- \$239,000 to renew kerb and channel assets.
- Ongoing commitment to developing key skills areas in the municipality through graduate and cadet appointments and development of a trades apprenticeship program in 2024/2025.
- Continuing to fund free access to Outdoor Pools.

Revenue

Council's first considerations in framing the 2024/2025 Budget are on the revenue side. Key considerations are:

- returning efficiency dividends to the community through a zero percent rate rise
- ensuring a commitment to maintaining relativities in rating burden by each identified rating sector
- attempting to ease the impact of rates rises on individual ratepayers
- avoiding where possible "rate shock" experiences of large and unexpected rate increases.

It is proposed that the best mechanism for ensuring this is to propose a rating approach in 2024/2025 that, as far as possible, provides similar revenue outcomes across each sector as 2023/2024. Council believes that the approach taken is perfectly consistent with Section 101 (1) (c) where *"the financial policies and strategic plans, including the Revenue and Rating Plan, must seek to provide stability and predictability in the financial impact on the municipal community"*.

In the 2024 valuation there have again been some shifts in valuations across the classes of properties, although these have not been as significant as 2021/2022 and 2022/2023. The 2024 valuation has again yielded some asymmetry in valuations compared to the previous year. The table below demonstrates the nature of this uneven distribution of revaluations between 2023 and 2024:

Rates Sector	Total 2023 CIV	Total 2024 CIV	Increase/Decrease in CIV - 2023 to 2024	Average % change in CIV
General	\$2,024,772,000	\$2,025,125,000	\$353,000	0.02%
Commercial	\$147,712,500	\$153,962,000	\$6,249,500	4.23%
Industrial	\$47,625,500	\$49,899,000	\$2,273,500	4.77%
Farm	\$4,536,156,000	\$4,468,650,500	-\$67,505,500	-1.49%
Total	\$6,756,266,000	\$6,697,636,500	-\$58,629,500	-0.87%

If the current 0.38 farm differential rate and 1.44 commercial/ industrial differential rates are maintained there will be a change in relativities in rates burden between farm, commercial/industrial and general rates between 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 (assuming a 0.0% rate cap increase), as shown in the table below.

Rates Sector	Rating Differential	2023/2024	2024/2025
General	1.00	51.6%	51.7%
Commercial	1.44	5.3%	5.5%
Industrial	1.44	1.7%	1.8%
Farm	0.38	41.4%	41.0%

The mechanism for maintaining relativities in rate burden between rating sectors, created through asymmetries in valuation movement is through alteration of rating differentials. The table below demonstrates the impact of a movement in farm rate differential from 0.38 to 0.385 on adjusting the relative rate burden.

Rates Sector	Rating Differential 2023/2024	2023/2024 Rates Burden	Rating Differential 2024/2025	2024/2025 Rates Burden
General	1.00	51.3%	1.00	51.6%
Commercial	1.44	5.3%	1.40	5.3%
Industrial	1.44	1.7%	1.40	1.7%
Farm	0.38	41.7%	0.385	41.4%

Council is proposing a change in the farm rate differential from 0.38 to 0.385 in order to ensure relative burden between rating sectors is maintained from 2023/2024 to 2024/2025.

A zero percent rate increase in 2024/2025

Council has budgeted for a zero percent increase to rates in 2024/2025 in order to ensure that the community receives a dividend for improved organisational efficiency and cost savings

Expenditure

The key driver of the 2024/2025 Draft Budget expenditure is to continue to deliver long-term, sustainable value to the Ararat Rural City community. This will be achieved by focussing on the following key areas:

- strategic renewal of Council's key assets
- driving organisational effectiveness through managing performance and efficiency
- implementing a digital transformation program
- implementation of key projects contained in Council's adopted advocacy program
- ongoing commitment to service review

The proposed Ararat Rural City Council Budget 2024/2025 document outlines the key expenditure areas, which are informed by Council's operational activity, key projects and the Council Plan 2021-2025.

Other considerations

The waste management kerbside collection charges for residential properties will not be increased.

The Municipal Charge will be fixed at \$96 for 2024/2025.

The budgeted operating result for 2024/2025 is a surplus of \$8.163 million, compared to a budgeted result of \$1.296 million surplus in 2023/2024.

The budgeted cash flow statement indicates an increase in cash & cash equivalents of \$2.063 million.

The following written submissions were made to Council's Budget 2024/2025.

Feedback	Notes
<p>This a submission on behalf of Ararat Landcare Group, as a result of discussion at their meeting of 10/6/24. Regarding Strategic Objective Three- 2.3.1 Services- Ararat Landcare Group would like to see a specific budget line to cover the costs associated with the planting of 200 street trees per annum. This initiative is supported by the recent study and recommendations of the Urban Trees booklet, which was supported by Council and ALG, and Council's Environmental Strategy.</p>	<p>Council has existing operational plans to replace inappropriate or damaged street tree stock with plantings recommended in the Urban Trees booklet. This will involve in excess of 200 trees in 2024/2025. This program will replace trees that cause damage to overhead power or underground water and drainage infrastructure.</p>
<p>I would like to suggest some improvements to our Barkly St Street scape and approaches into Ararat. As someone who has travelled Victoria, NSW, and SA extensively and observed how inviting their approaches and main streets are, I think we could do much better. A lot of the towns I am thinking of would have a much smaller budget than ours but are still able to beautify these area better than we do. For example, the garden beds around the post office and Westpac leave a lot to be desired, along with other areas within Barkly St. I know pedestrians take shortcuts and walk all over these areas, but in other towns they use low barricades or rocks to prevent this. Our grapevines are an asset, however I think more trees and more colourful plants, for example Nandinas need to be added rather than just grasses. There was no mention in the budget to improve these areas, which disappoints myself and many others who I know think the same. It appears little has been spent here for a long, long time. I believe this would encourage visitors to spend more time here if this was improved, and as ratepayers I believe we deserve better. As we are the Gateway to the Grampians let's beautify our entrances to our city and our main street.</p>	<p>Some operational works can be undertaken to improve Council assets such as garden beds in the areas identified. Larger scale development work of town entrances and Barkly Street will require extensive community consultation ahead of grant applications to state and federal governments to fund majors works. This work can be managed in house through our communication and engagement team and grants officer. Rather than being considered as a budget amendment this can be subject to consideration at the August 2024 Council meeting as an ongoing project if Council desires this outcome.</p>

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

6 Strong and Effective Governance

6.1 Deliver responsible budget outcomes, linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation and rating fairness

Budget Implications

The Draft Budget has been prepared within the following parameters:

- The Draft Budget proposes the following differential rates - general rate – 100%, commercial and industrial rate – 140% of the general rate and farm rate – 38.5% of the general rate
- A 0% increase in the total amount received from general rates and charges;

- No increase in the Municipal Charge which will remain at \$96 per rateable property in 2024/2025;
- A balanced budget in terms of a cash result and an operating surplus of \$8.163 million in terms of an accrual accounting result;
- A net increase in cash and cash equivalents of \$2.063 million;
- A capital works program of \$15.513 million;
- No new loan borrowings; and
- Capital budgets have been prepared in accordance with good asset management principles.

More detailed information is contained in the Budget document.

Policy/Relevant Law

Council is required under Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020 to prepare a budget for each financial year. The budget contains the Financial Statements, a description of services and initiatives to be funded in the budget, service outcome indicators, and major initiatives to be undertaken during the financial year and the performance measures in relation to each major initiative.

Sustainability Implications

In developing the Draft Budget 2024/2025 all environmental, social and economic impacts have been considered.

Risk Assessment

Council must implement the principles of sound financial management, which includes managing financial risks faced by Council and ensuring that decisions are made and actions taken having regard to their financial effects on future generations. The reduction in rates and charges are not considered to affect Council's long term financial sustainability.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The Draft Budget has been prepared over a considerable period of time, with significant input from Council officers and Councillors. The Draft Budget allows Council to consider all forms of revenue that are required to fund Council services.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer have discussed the Draft Budget 2024/2025 at briefings held on 9 April, 14 May and 18 June 2024.

Consultation on the Draft Budget 2024/2025 was carried out over a 4-week period, which included:

- Engage Ararat website – Council sought community feedback through this platform; and
- Community information sessions held in Tatyoon, Moyston, Elmhurst, Ararat, Willaura, Pomonal and Lake Bolac between 27 May 2024 and 29 May 2024
- Drop-in sessions on 30 May 2024 at the Council offices

RECOMMENDATION

That Council, having considered the draft Budget 2024/2025 and having distributed the budget for community consultation, resolves as follows:

- 1 To adopt the Budget 2024/2025, comprising the 2024/2025 financial year plus the subsequent three financial years 2025/2026 to 2027/2028, pursuant to Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020
- 2 To declares Rates and Charges for the 2024/2025 financial year as follows
 - a. An amount of \$17,197,816 be declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by General Rates, Municipal Charge and Annual Service Charges which amount is calculated as follows:

	Amount
<i>General Rates</i>	
<i>Residential</i>	\$7,102,113
<i>Commercial</i>	\$755,953
<i>Industrial</i>	\$245,004
<i>Farm</i>	\$6,032,678
<i>Municipal Charge</i>	\$638,976
<i>Annual Service Charges</i>	
<i>Kerbside Collection Charges</i>	\$2,423,092
TOTAL	\$17,197,816

- b. A general residential rate of 0.3507 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value be declared for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
- c. A commercial/industrial differential rate of 0.4910 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value be declared for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
- d. A farm differential rate of 0.1350 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value be declared for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
- e. Council resolves to adopt a municipal charge of \$96 per rateable assessment for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
- f. Annual Service Charge be declared for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 on properties where the service is provided, as follows:

i. Kerbside collection – 4 bin system	\$462
ii. Kerbside collection – 3 bin system	\$410
iii. Kerbside collection – additional 140 litre garbage	\$162
iv. Kerbside collection – additional 240 litre recycling	\$139
v. Kerbside collection – additional 240 litre organics	\$139
vi. Kerbside collection – additional 80 litre glass	\$22
- 3 To declare the Fees and Charges for the 2024/2025 financial year, contained in Section 6- Schedule of Fees and Charges of the Budget document.

**MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR R ARMSTRONG**

That Council, having considered the draft Budget 2024/2025 and having distributed the budget for community consultation, resolves as follows:

- 4 To adopt the Budget 2024/2025, comprising the 2024/2025 financial year plus the subsequent three financial years 2025/2026 to 2027/2028, pursuant to Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020
- 5 To declares Rates and Charges for the 2024/2025 financial year as follows
 - a. An amount of \$17,197,816 be declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by General Rates, Municipal Charge and Annual Service Charges which amount is calculated as follows:

	Amount
General Rates	
Residential	\$7,102,113
Commercial	\$755,953
Industrial	\$245,004
Farm	\$6,032,678
Municipal Charge	\$638,976
Annual Service Charges	
Kerbside Collection Charges	\$2,423,092
TOTAL	\$17,197,816

- b. A general residential rate of 0.3507 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value be declared for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
- c. A commercial/industrial differential rate of 0.4910 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value be declared for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
- d. A farm differential rate of 0.1350 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value be declared for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
- e. Council resolves to adopt a municipal charge of \$96 per rateable assessment for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
- f. Annual Service Charge be declared for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 on properties where the service is provided, as follows:
- | | | |
|------|--|-------|
| i. | Kerbside collection – 4 bin system | \$462 |
| ii. | Kerbside collection – 3 bin system | \$410 |
| iii. | Kerbside collection – additional 140 litre garbage | \$162 |
| iv. | Kerbside collection – additional 240 litre recycling | \$139 |
| v. | Kerbside collection – additional 240 litre organics | \$139 |
| vi. | Kerbside collection – additional 80 litre glass | \$22 |
- 6 To declare the Fees and Charges for the 2024/2025 financial year, contained in Section 6- Schedule of Fees and Charges of the Budget document.

CARRIED 5000/24

ATTACHMENTS

The Draft Budget 2024/2025 is included as Attachment 3.2



Ararat Rural City

ARARAT RURAL CITY COUNCIL

2024/2025

BUDGET



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Executive Summary

Council's 2024/25 Budget represents a continuation of Council's financially responsible approach that has been in place taken over the past six budget cycles. The headlines of the 2024/2025 Budget continue to be returning an efficiency dividend to the community through a net zero percent rate rise and an ongoing commitment to renewing the community's assets through a \$15,513,000 investment in capital works.

Council will continue to manage financial, quality, and timely outcomes through focussing service delivery and capital works programs on in-house service provision.

Council's commitment to ensuring financial sustainability of the municipality through delivering a budget result that projects a comprehensive operating surplus of \$8,163,000, an underlying operating surplus of \$2,200,000 and a net cash increase of \$2,063,000 for 2024/25.

Key things we are funding:

The 2024/25 Budget continues to reflect Council's commitment to support service delivery, economic development and responsible delivery of community and transport infrastructure during a period of volatile markets in the construction sector.

Highlights and new initiatives for 2024/25:

- \$6,250,000 investment in reconstructing at least six kilometres of Mt William Road – a local road of regional significance to agriculture and tourism.
- \$100,000 commitment to delivery of young people's programs across primary and secondary schools, largely through the Crazy Ideas College.
- \$500,000 contribution to an ongoing partnership commitment to Ararat Housing Enterprise P/L.
- \$230,000 contribution to community infrastructure projects.
- \$200,000 to modernise and upgrade the Ararat Library.
- \$400,000 to upgrade footpath network
- \$100,000 to support a resident attraction program to support development of an increasingly skilled workforce for the municipality.
- \$2,143,000 to reconstruct an initial two-kilometre section of Buangor – Ben Nevis Road commencing at the Western Highway.
- \$100,000 to support the successful, ongoing business façade program.
- \$1,461,000 to reconstruct sections of Webb Street and Churchill Avenue in Ararat.
- \$80,000 Council contribution to a \$330,000 project to redevelop the Tatyoon sports oval. \$250,000 is provided through the Country Football and Netball funding stream.
- \$1,800,000 renewing rural gravel roads through resheeting or sealing treatments such as OTTA Seal.
- \$750,000 to fund Year Three of Council's five-year commitment to improve urban drainage systems.
- \$239,000 to renew kerb and channel assets.
- Ongoing commitment to developing key skills areas in the municipality through graduate and cadet appointments and development of a trades apprenticeship program in 2024/2025.
- Continuing to fund free access to Outdoor Pools.

Key Budget Influences

- a) Ararat Rural City Council's 2024/25 Budget has a zero percent rate rise that will maintain a zero percent rate increase for a seven-year average.

In contrast, had Council increased rates to the amount allowable under the State Government's Fair Go Rates System, over the seven-year period up to 2024/25 this would have increased the total burden to ratepayers by 16.25%, during the same seven-year period Council has delivered a net zero percent rate rise.

- b) In July 2022, Council adopted key drivers of financial sustainability, which form the basis for developing the 2024/2025 Budget. These drivers of financial sustainability are provided below:

Rating

Maintenance of the "pie model" to provide some form of long-term rating equity and reduce rate shock across rating sectors based on annual valuation fluctuations.

Debt

Debt is only used to fund strategic infrastructure outcomes with an emphasis on intergenerational equity.

Asset Preservation

Maintain the asset renewal and upgrade ratio to at least 110% of depreciation.

Surplus Budgets

Maintain cash and operating surpluses in each financial year.

Managing Expenditure

Managing expenditure is a key driver of financial sustainability at Ararat Rural City Council.

Rate Rises

Rate rises will be kept to a minimum based on seeking organisational efficiency. These efficiencies will be returned to the ratepayer as a dividend through lower rate rises or rate cuts.

Service Standards

Expenditure savings and ratepayer dividends will not come at the price of lower service standards.

Key Statistics

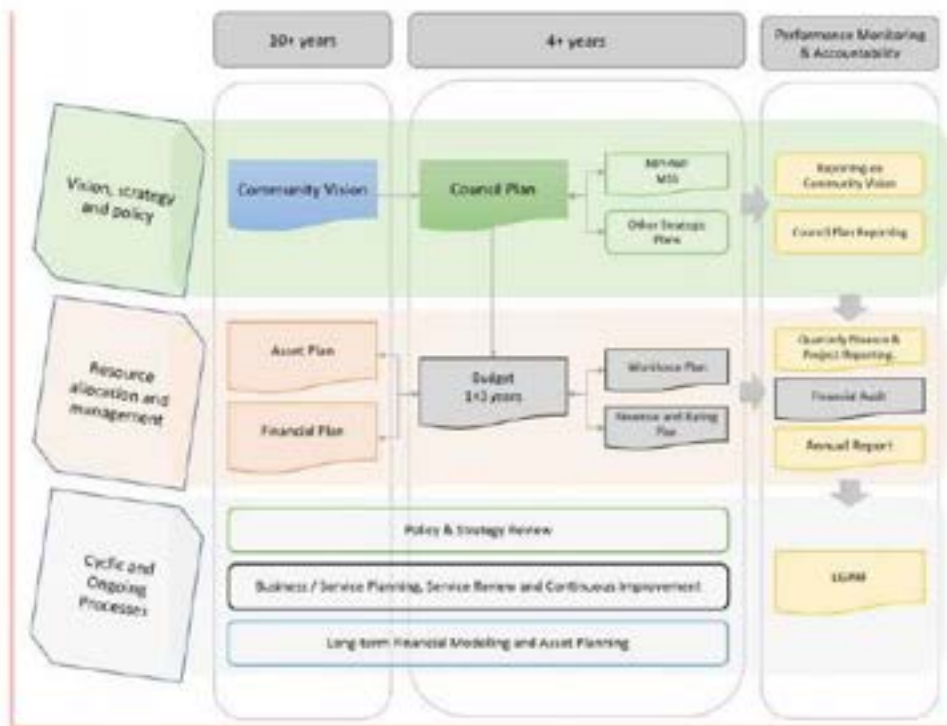
Key Statistics	2023/24 Budget \$million	2024/25 Budget \$million
Total Revenue	\$28.545	\$36.186
Total Expenditure	\$27.249	\$28.023
Accounting Result	\$1.296 Surplus	\$8.163 Surplus
(Refer Income Statement in Section 3)		
Underlying operating result:		
(Note: Underlying operating result is an important measure of financial sustainability as it excludes income which is to be used for capital from being allocated to cover operating expenses)	\$1.196 Surplus	\$2.220 Surplus
Cash result:		
(Refer Statement of Cash Flows in Section 3)		
This is the net funding result after considering the funding requirements to meet loan principal repayments and the reserve transfers.	\$1.294 Deficit	\$2.063 Surplus
Total Capital Works Program	\$9.540	\$15.513
- Council operations (rates funded)	\$8.207	\$8.209
- External grants	\$0.533	\$7.304
- Council reserves	\$0.800	\$0.000

1 Links to the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

The Budget is closely linked to three key long term Council plans; Community Vision 3031, Asset Plan 2021-2031, and the Financial Plan 2021-2031. There are links to the planning window of the current Council through the Council Plan 2021-2025, Capital Works Plan 2021-2025 and the Revenue and Rating Plan. It is important to note that Council's conservative Capital Works investment in 2022/2023 and projected in 2023/2024 is a strategic response to market pricing volatility.

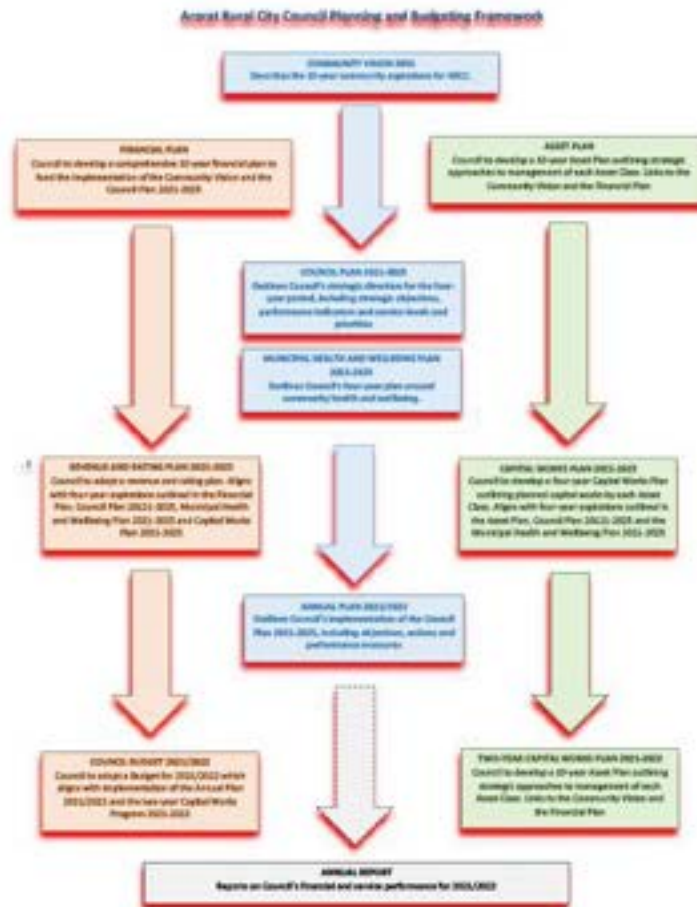
1.1 Legislative Planning and Accountability Framework

The diagram below provides a model of local government planning and accountability in Victoria. The Council budget is a key element of resource planning both for the current financial year and for its projected impact over a four-year planning cycle. The Council Budget 2024/2025 will provide the basis for Council planning across the 2021-2025 window.



Source - Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

To provide focus in resource planning Council has developed a local model, ARCC Planning and Budgeting Framework, which picks up the key elements of the planning and accountability model. This is shown on the model provided on the next page.



1.1.1 Key Planning Considerations

Service Level Planning

During 2018/2019, Council undertook a significant internal review of all services. This provided an opportunity to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of Council services and the process yielded significant organisational savings.

With the implementation of the Local Government Act 2020, and the adoption by Council of the Community Engagement Policy and Public Transparency Policy, it is timely for Council to undertake more broad-based reviews of Council services involving higher levels of community engagement and

participation. It is proposed that three reviews of key community facing services be undertaken in 2024/2025. These reviews will be in Building Services, Library Services and Community Safety.

1.2 Our Purpose

Council's purpose is defined by the Community Vision 2031.

Over the next ten years Ararat Rural City Council will develop into a community characterised by:

- Strong population growth trajectories that buck trends in rural Victoria.
- Continuous and sustainable economic development, which is focussed on job creation, through value adding in agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and tourism.
- Leadership in pragmatic approaches to local environmental management.
- Sustainable and effective local transport networks underpinned by careful technical and financial planning undertaken jointly between asset users and asset owners.
- Communities that are enhanced by access to artistic, cultural, sporting, and recreational opportunities that meet needs and expectations.
- Strong and robust democratic processes underpinned by transparent governance, good financial management and organisational innovation.

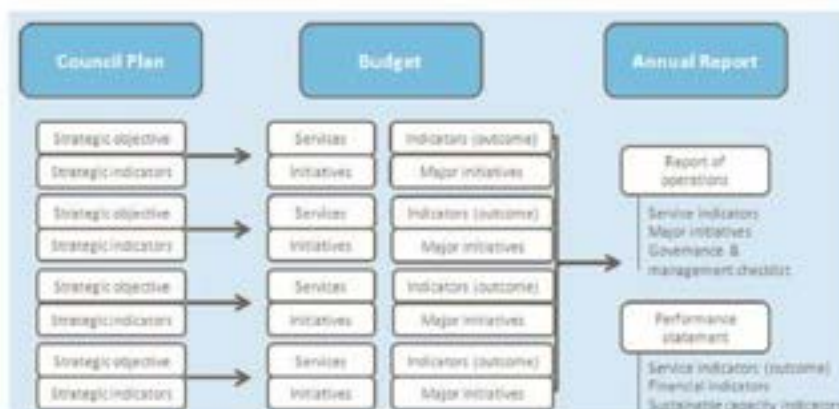
1.3 Strategic Objectives

The following table identifies and describes Council's six strategic objectives for the period 2021-2025.

Strategic Objective	Description
1. Growing our place	We will create the settings to support growth across our municipality through an improved planning scheme, actively pursuing new housing options and exploring models for in-migration.
2. Building robust local economies	We will develop strong relationships to build and strengthen a diverse local economy, focussed on creating jobs and wealth through adding value to existing strengths in agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and hospitality.
3. Preserving our environment	We will take pragmatic approaches to ensuring that Ararat Rural City Council takes a regional lead in responsible environmental management and engagement with the circular economy.
4. Developing and maintaining key enabling infrastructure	We will ensure that we plan, fund, and develop new infrastructure in ways that delivers strong public value. Existing infrastructure will be managed, renewed, and maintained to ensure that it continues to serve identified public needs.
5. Enhancing community life	We will work with the communities of the Ararat Rural City to maintain social cohesion, support community activity and cultural life, and enhance safety.
6. Strong and effective governance	We will work hard to build models of governance that place delivering public value at the centre through effective financial management; well measured risk management; and implementation of effective community engagement practices

2 Services and service performance indicators

This section identifies the alignment between strategic objectives in the Council Plan 2021-2025, key areas of Council service delivery, new initiatives related to strategic outcomes and the budget allocated to the key services and activities. Council is required by legislation to identify major initiatives and major service outcome indicators in the Budget and report against them in the Annual Report to support transparency and accountability. The relationship between these accountability requirements in the Council Plan, Budget and Annual Report is shown below.



Source: Department of Job, Precincts and Regions

2.1 Strategic Objective One – Growing Our Place

We will create the settings to support growth across our municipality through an improved planning scheme, actively pursuing new housing options and exploring models for in-migration.

We will do this through:

- Developing a new planning scheme for Ararat Rural City that is clear in its intention, supports growth and builds confidence and certainty around land use.
- Supporting innovative housing models that work to overcome market failure and create the capacity to increase the population of Ararat Rural City.
- Working with other levels of government, business, and not-for-for profits to develop programs to increase in-migration to Ararat Rural City to grow our population.

2.1.1 Services

Business area	Description of services provided	2023/24	2024/25
		Budget Income	Budget Income
		Expenses	Expenses
		Surplus/(deficit)	Surplus/(deficit)
		\$'000	\$'000
Planning	The statutory planning service is responsible for administering the Ararat Rural City Council Planning Scheme. It considers new planning scheme amendment	215	215
		(530)	(626)
		(315)	(411)

proposals and reviews the Municipal Strategic Statement of the Ararat Planning Scheme.

Building Control	This service provides statutory building services to the Council community including processing of building permits, fire safety inspections, audits of swimming pool barriers and investigations of complaints and illegal works.	72	62
		(236)	(297)
		(164)	(236)
Environmental Health	This service protects the community's health and well-being by coordinating food safety programs, Tobacco Act activities, and oversees wastewater systems and installations. The service also works to rectify any public health concerns relating to unreasonable noise emissions, housing standards and pest controls.	65	85
		(214)	(219)
		(153)	(134)

2.1.2 Service Performance Outcome Indicators and 2024/2025 targets

These indicators are currently based on appropriate LGPRF performance measures with targets set for 2024/2025.

Performance Indicator	Expected range	2024/2025 target
FS1 Time taken to action food complaints	1 to 10 days	1.0 days
FS2 Food safety assessments	50% to 120%	98%
FS3 Cost of food safety service	\$300 to \$1,200	\$350
FS4 Critical and major food safety non-compliance outcome notifications	60% to 100%	100%
SP1 Time taken to decide planning applications	30 to 110 days	30
SP2 Planning applications decided within required time frames	40% to 100%	90%
SP3 Cost of statutory planning service	\$500 to \$4,000	\$2,100
SP4 Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT	30% to 100%	100%
CSS Planning and Building Permits	-	60

2.1.3 Major Initiatives

Council will undertake the following major initiatives during 2024/2025 to support **Growing Our Place**:

Initiative	Budget 2024/2025
Undertake trunk infrastructure study for Ararat East Development Zone	\$ 80,000
Provide additional resources to support building and planning outcomes, including engagement of a Cadet Planner and Cadet Building Surveyor	\$150,000
Partnership in the Ararat Housing Enterprise P/L	\$500,000
Development of a resident attraction program	\$100,000
Support further migrant resettlement work commended through the Workforce Pilot Program.	\$ 80,000

2.1.4 Strategic Performance Indicators and 2024/2025 targets

Performance Indicator	2021-2025 target	2024/2025 target
Completion of new planning scheme	Review required based on impact of WGT (Windfall Gains Tax)	Project targets met
Available residential land increase	600 lots	150 lots
Residential housing stock increase	300 properties	70 properties
ARCC population increase	750	150
% increase in developable industrial/commercial land	20%	5%

2.2 Strategic Objective Two - Building Robust Local Economies

We will develop strong relationships to build and strengthen a diverse local economy, focussed on creating jobs and wealth through adding value to existing strengths in agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and hospitality.

We will do this through:

- Partner with Federation University Australia to deliver the Ararat Jobs and Technology Precinct.
- Work with other levels of government, local business, and private investors to develop a business park within Ararat Rural City, focused on agricultural value adding and advanced manufacturing, potentially leveraging “behind the meter” power.
- Engage with Grampians Tourism and local businesses to drive growth in high yield tourist outcomes.

2.2.1 Services

Business area	Description of services provided	2023/24	2024/25
		Budget Income	Budget Income
		Expenses	Expenses
		Surplus/(deficit)	Surplus/(deficit)
		\$'000	\$'000
Economic Development	The economic development service assists in facilitation of business opportunity across the municipality. It aims to grow the local business sector and provide support for growth and development in employment.	18 (629) <u>(611)</u>	23 (791) <u>(768)</u>

2.2.2 Service Performance Outcome Indicators and 2024/2025 targets

These indicators are currently based on appropriate LGPRF performance measures with targets set for 2024/2025.

Performance Indicator			Expected range	2024/2025 target
Community	Satisfaction	Survey	-	67
Business/community development tourism				

2.2.3 Major Initiatives

Council will undertake the following major initiatives during 2024/2025 to support **Building Robust Local Economies**:

Initiative	Budget 2024/2025
Ararat Jobs and Technology Precinct (ongoing support for equivalent of 2 PhD scholarships)	\$ 80,000
Contribution to Grampians Tourism	\$ 75,000
Expansion of business facades program	\$100,000
Development of a resident attraction program	\$100,000

2.2.4 Strategic Performance Indicators and 2024/2025 targets

Performance Indicator	2021-2025 target	2024/2025 target
Percentage increase in jobs in local economy	15%	5%
Number of PhD students engaged at the Ararat Jobs and Technology Precinct	8	2
Agricultural value add businesses established	4	1
Increase in tourism visitation to Ararat Rural City	50%	10%
Increase in nights stayed in Ararat Rural City	50%	10%

2.3 Strategic Objective Three - Preserving our Environment

We will take pragmatic approaches to ensuring that Ararat Rural City Council takes a regional lead in responsible environmental management and engagement within the circular economy.

We will do this through:

- Positioning Ararat Rural City Council as a prime mover in driving circular economy policy in waste management, including local processing and management of recyclables, and in use of renewable energy for Council purposes.
- Developing innovative energy solutions utilising locally produced waste.
- Partnering with local organisations and scientific experts to develop an appropriate and pragmatic local government Environment Strategy, focussed on the circular economy, emission reduction through renewable energy and management of Council assets.

2.3.1 Services

Business area	Description of services provided	2023/24	2024/25
		Budget	Budget
		Income	Income
		Expenses	Expenses
		Surplus/(deficit)	Surplus/(deficit)
		\$'000	\$'000
Waste Management	This service provides for collection and processing of four materials streams from household collection. General waste, mixed recyclables, glass, and green organics. Council has committed to local processing where possible. Council has local processing of green organics and glass at the Ararat Transfer Station	2,850	2,848
		(2915)	(3,010)
		(66)	(162)
Sustainability	This service promotes environmentally sustainable development principles, coordinates and implements environmental projects and works with other services to improve Council's environmental performance. Projects include roadside pest, plant and animal and renewable energy projects.	70	70
		(119)	(79)
		(49)	(9)
Parks & Gardens	This service covers a range of areas such as grass and turf cutting, tree pruning, planting, removal, planning and street tree strategies, management of conservation and parkland areas, creeks, and other areas of environmental significance. The function is responsible for playground maintenance and safety improvement programs.	4	4
		(1,366)	(1,552)
		(1362)	(1,548)
Emergency Management	This service includes emergency services management and fire prevention.	76	63
		(151)	(145)
		(75)	(82)

2.3.2 Service Performance Outcome Indicators and 2024/2025 targets

These indicators are currently based on appropriate LGPRF performance measures with targets set for 2024/2025.

	Performance Indicator	Expected range	2024/2025 target
WC1	Kerbside bin collection requests	10 to 300 requests	30
WC2	Kerbside collection bins missed	1 to 20 bins	2.0
WC3	Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service	\$40 to \$150	\$135.00
WC4	Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service	\$10 to \$80	\$75.00
WC5	Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill	20% to 60%	40%
	CSS Waste management	-	68
	CSS Appearance of public areas	-	78
	CSS Disaster and emergency management		80

2.3.3 Major Initiatives

Council will undertake the following major initiatives during 2024/2025 to support **Preserving Our Environment**:

Initiative	Budget 2024/2025
Increased investment in parks and gardens staffing to manage key new assets and improve public presentation	\$180,000
Seek environmentally and economically beneficial outcomes for compost derived from FOGO (Food Organics, Garden Organics) processing	Existing internal resources and grant funding
Endorse Council's Environmental Strategy and implement Year One Initiatives	Existing internal resources and grant funding
Finalise rehabilitation of remaining landfill sites	\$100,000

2.3.4 Strategic Performance Indicators and 2024/2025 targets

Performance Indicator	2021-2025 target	2024/2025 target
100% of ARCC energy needs met by renewables	100%	85%
Environmental Working Group completes the Ten Year Environmental Strategy 2021-2031	-	Year One initiatives completed
Environment Working Group holding quarterly meetings	4 meetings per annum	4 meetings per annum

2.4 Service Objective Four - Developing and Maintaining Key Enabling Infrastructure

We will ensure that we plan, fund, and develop new infrastructure in ways that delivers strong public value. Existing infrastructure will be managed, renewed, and maintained to ensure that it continues to serve identified public needs.

We will do this through:

- Ensuring that asset development and renewal during the planning period matches that identified in Council's Asset Plan 2021-2031.
- Working directly with asset users to manage and develop new and existing assets.
- Delivering infrastructure outcomes that support economic growth, promotes community wellbeing and safety, and aligns with Council's financial sustainability.

2.4.1 Services

Business area	Description of services provided	2023/24	2024/25
		Budget	Budget
		Income	Income
		Expenses	Expenses
		Surplus/(deficit)	Surplus/(deficit)
		\$'000	\$'000
Design & Project Management	This service conducts capital works planning for Council's main civil infrastructure assets including roads, laneways, car parks, foot/bike paths, drains, and bridges. This service undertakes design and supervision of Council's capital works program. Most staffing and design costs are capitalised within completed projects.	0	0
		(107)	(189)
		(107)	(189)
Property Maintenance	This service prepares maintenance management programs for Council's property assets including municipal buildings, pavilions, and other community buildings. The service also includes emergency building and facility maintenance.	0	0
		(321)	(451)
		(321)	(451)
City Services	This service includes street lighting, aerodrome operations and operations, maintenance, and clearing of public conveniences throughout the municipality.	8	8
		(930)	(823)
		(922)	(815)
Infrastructure Miscellaneous	The increase in cost is due to increases in staff time to manage increased cleaning services. This service includes private works, maintenance of water supplies and emergency bores.	3	3
		(76)	(75)
		(74)	(72)

Business area	Description of services provided	2023/24	2024/25
		Budget Income Expenses Surplus/(deficit)	Budget Income Expenses Surplus/(deficit)
Road Maintenance	This service provides for management and maintenance on Council's infrastructure incorporating roads, bridges, drainage, footpaths, kerb and channel, street furniture, line marking and signage.	0 (3,320) (3,320)	0 (3,344) (3,344)
Major Plant	This service operates and maintains Council's major plant and equipment, to meet functionality and safety needs and to maximise the performance and minimise operational cost of the fleet.	0 (1,084) (1,084)	0 (1,040) (1,040)
Major Plant Recoups	Plant used on works generates plant hire income used to fund operations and maintenance and the replacement of the major plant.	0 1,450 1,450	0 1,800 1,800
Minor Plant	This service purchases and maintains Council's minor plant and equipment, including trailers.	0 (9) (9)	0 17 17
Property - Capital	This service includes capital expenditure on Council's property assets to optimise their strategic value and service potential. These include municipal buildings, pavilions, and other community buildings. The \$800k revenue is a transfer from reserve to undertake stage 1 works in the Ararat Leisure Centre redevelopment.	800 (1,350) (550)	0 (550) (550)
Infrastructure - Capital	This service provides for capital expenditure on Council's infrastructure incorporating roads, bridges, drainage, footpaths, kerb and channel, streetscapes, and car parks. This budget includes recurrent grants from Victorian Grants Commission and Roads to Recovery.	3,153 (8,150) (4,997)	4,375 (7,530) (3,155)
Funded Infrastructure Projects - Capital	This service provides for capital expenditure on Council's infrastructure incorporating roads, bridges, drainage, footpaths, kerb and channel, streetscapes, and car parks. There are a number of non-recurrent capital grants for infrastructure projects included in the budget for 2024/2025.	0 0 0	5,843 (7,393) (1,550)
Major Plant - Capital	This service purchases Council's major plant and equipment, to meet functionality and safety needs and to maximise the performance and minimise operational cost of the fleet. Council will be exploring lease and hire options for major plant in 2024/2025.	100 0 100	0 0 0
Asset Management	This service predominantly provides asset management services.	18 (314) (296)	21 (119) (98)

2.4.2 Service Performance Outcome Indicators and 2024/2025 targets

These indicators are currently based on appropriate LGPRF performance measures with targets set for 2024/2025.

	Performance Indicator	Expected range	2024/2025 target
R1	Sealed local road requests	10 to 120 requests	8
R2	Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards	80% to 100%	100
R3	Cost of sealed local road reconstruction	\$20 to \$200	\$85.00
R4	Cost of sealed local road resealing	\$4 to \$30	\$5.80
	CSS sealed local roads	-	60
	CSS unsealed local roads	-	50
	CSS local roads and footpaths	-	65

2.4.3 Major Initiatives

Council will undertake the following major initiatives during 2024/2025 to support **Developing and Maintaining Key Enabling Infrastructure**:

Initiative	Budget 2024/2025
Urban Road and Laneway Sealing or alternative treatment	\$ 700,000
Mt William Road reconstruction (section)	\$ 6,250,000
Gravel road resheeting or alternative treatment	\$ 1,800,000
Road resealing	\$ 1,000,000
Footpath and cycleway improvement program	\$ 400,000
Urban drainage renewal	\$ 750,000
Community Infrastructure	\$ 550,000
Kerb and channel	\$ 239,000
Increased allocation for maintenance of community facilities	\$ 240,000

2.4.4 Strategic Performance Indicators and 2024/2025 targets

Performance Indicator	2021-2025 target	2024/2025 target
Staged progress on Aradale Development Strategy implementation	Implementation Plan on target	Targets met for 2024/2025
Completion of 2024/2025 Capital Work program		Complete by 30 June 2025

2.5 Service Objective Five - Enhancing Community Life

We will work with the communities of Ararat Rural City to maintain social cohesion, support community activity and cultural life, and enhance safety.

We will do this through:

- Opening Council's arts and culture assets to greater community participation, ownership, and engagement in decision-making.
- Develop models of volunteering that recognise, support, and properly utilise the skills that community volunteers bring to community life.
- Partner with community groups, not-for-profits, and traditional owner organisations to develop Ararat Rural City as a more inclusive and diverse community.

2.5.1 Services

Business area	Description of services provided	2023/24	2024/25
		Budget	Budget
		Income	Income
		Expenses	Expenses
		Surplus/(deficit)	Surplus/(deficit)
		\$'000	\$'000
Gallery TAMA	This service includes the operations, projects, exhibitions, acquisitions, and administration of the Ararat Gallery TAMA.	103 (450) <hr/> (347)	103 (446) <hr/> (343)
Town Hall	This service operates and manages the Ararat Town Hall which provides artistic programs for the region. Savings have been made through projected increases in usage and bar sales.	170 (530) <hr/> (360)	175 (615) <hr/> (440)
Gum San Chinese Heritage Museum	Management of Gum San has been handed over to the Friends of Gum San. Council has an MOU with the group and continues to provide financial and maintenance support.	0 (34) <hr/> (34)	0 (25) <hr/> (25)
Community & Events Support	This service provides for the employment of community development staff who work with communities to develop community action plans and implement other community building initiatives. The cost to community of this service relates to staff redeployment.	75 (171) (96) <hr/> (96)	75 (131) (56) <hr/> (56)
Youth Services	This service provides services to young people.	0 (33) <hr/> (33)	0 (114) <hr/> (114)
Ararat Fitness Centre & Outdoor Pools	This service operates and maintains a range of recreational facilities including aquatic facilities, indoor (1) and outdoor swimming pools (3). The Ararat Fitness Centre provides an extensive range of recreational programs and opportunities accessible to individuals of all ages, sexes and abilities which contribute to the general wellbeing of the community. Liaison with sporting clubs and management of the Alexandra Oval and Great Hall have been included in this function.	488 (1,144) (656) <hr/> (656)	534 (1,180) (646) <hr/> (646)

Business area	Description of services provided	2023/24	2024/25
		Budget	Budget
		Income	Income
		Expenses	Expenses
		Surplus/(deficit)	Surplus/(deficit)
		\$'000	\$'000
Alexandra Oval Community Centre & Great Hall	This service operates and maintains the Alexandra Oval Community Centre and Great Hall. The facility provides the Ararat and greater Grampians community, clubs, and businesses with a centrally located high quality, modern, flexible, and dynamic multipurpose community, and recreation space. Salaries related to this service are now included in the Ararat Fitness Centre Budget.	110 (122) 110	115 (135) (20)
Library Services	This service provides public library services at the Ararat Library, the Lake Bolac Business, and Information Centre and through the mobile library outreach service to rural communities. The increase in cost to the community is related to Council employing a Digital Literacy Officer.	169 (446) (277)	169 (419) (250)
Positive Ageing	This service now only includes Senior Citizens support.	0 (6) (6)	0 (7) (7)
Children Services	This service provides family-oriented support services including maternal and child health, immunisation and early childhood education and support.	385 (430) (25)	334 (384) (50)
Community Safety	This service maintains and improves the health and safety of people, animals, and the environment in Council by providing animal management services including a cat trapping program, a dog and cat collection service, a pound service, a registration and administration service, and an after-hours emergency service.	137 (382) (245)	137 (268) (131)
Library - Capital	This service also includes the operations of the school crossings and parking enforcement. This service covers capital works relating to Library Services e.g., Library books.	0 (40) (40)	0 (40) (40)

2.5.2 Service Performance Outcome Indicators and 2024/2025 targets

These indicators are currently based on appropriate LGPRF performance measures with targets set for 2024/2025.

	Performance Indicator	Expected range	2024/2025 target
AF2	Health inspections of aquatic facilities	1 to 4 inspections	4 inspections
AF6	Utilisation of aquatic facilities	1 to 10 visits	4 visits
AF7	Cost of aquatic facilities per visit	\$0 to \$30	\$20.00
AM1	Time taken to action animal management requests	1 to 10 days	1 day
AM2	Animals reclaimed	30% to 90%	60%
AM5	Animals rehomed	30% to 90%	45%
AM6	Cost of animal management service per population	\$3 to \$40	\$16.00
AM7	Animal management prosecutions	50% to 200%	0%
LB1	Physical library collection usage	1 to 9 items	3 items
LB2	Recently purchased library collection (< 5 years old)	40% to 90%	65%
LB4	Active library borrowers in municipality	7% to 40%	20%
LB5	Cost of library service per population	\$10 to \$90	\$25.00
MC2	Infant enrolments in the MCH service	90% to 110%	100%
MC3	Cost of the MCH service	\$50 to \$200	\$75.00
MC4	Participation in the MCH service	70% to 100%	85%
MC5	Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children	60% to 100%	85%
MC6	Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit	90% to 110%	100%
	CSS Art centre and libraries	-	80%
	CSS Recreational facilities	-	75%
	CSS Elderly support services	-	75%
	CSS Community and cultural	-	75%

2.5.3 Major Initiatives

Council will undertake the following major initiatives during 2024/2025 to support **Enhancing Community Life**:

Initiative	Budget 2024/2025
Review Ararat leisure facilities needs	\$ 40,000
Trainee Town Hall technician	\$ 65,000
Programs for young people through Crazy Ideas College	\$ 100,000
Support for volunteering development/engagement program	\$ 50,000

2.5.4 Strategic Performance Indicators and 2024/2025 targets

Performance Indicator	2021-2025 target	2024/2025 target
Increase in annual visitation to the Ararat Art Gallery	30%	10%
Increase in community use of the Town Hall	20%	5%
Increase in audience sizes at commercial and funded performances at the Town Hall	20%	5%
Increase in ARCC volunteer numbers	80%	20%

2.6 Service Objective Six - Strong and Effective Governance

We will work hard to build models of governance that place delivering public value at the centre through effective financial management; well measured risk management; and implementation of effective community engagement practices.

We will do this by:

- Delivering responsible budget outcomes, linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation, and rating fairness.
- Ensuring appropriate risk management is applied to Council and organisational decisions. Council's internal function is applied to areas of perceived risk.
- Continuously improving Council's community engagement process and practices in line with deliberative engagement practices, while acknowledging the need for a range of different techniques to ensure effective engagement.

2.6.1 Services

Business area	Description of services provided	2023/24	2024/25
		Budget Income Expenses Surplus/(deficit) \$'000	Budget Income Expenses Surplus/(deficit) \$'000
Corporate Revenue	This service includes Council's rates and charges revenue, interest income and general-purpose grant funds received from the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission.	20,105 0 20,105	20,556 0 20,556
Financial Services & Corporate Support	This service predominantly provides financial based services to both internal and external customers including the management of Council's finances, procurement practices and contracting of services, raising rates and charges and the processing of accounts payable and receivables. This service includes corporate expenses including stationery, telecommunications, revenue collection fees and valuations.	60 (1,009) (950)	60 (1,135) (1075)
Customer Services	This service includes the customer service function.	0 (214) (214)	0 (324) (324)
Property Operations	This service is responsible for the operations of Council's assets, including insurances and utility charges such as water and electricity. The service also includes Council's building, land and property leases and licenses.	154 (122) 33	234 (124) 111
Vehicles	This service operates and maintains Council vehicles, excluding major plant and equipment, to meet functionality and safety needs and to maximise the performance and minimise operational cost of the fleet.	12 (221) (210)	12 (207) (196)

Business area	Description of services provided	2023/24	2024/25
		Budget	Budget
		Income	Income
		Expenses	Expenses
		Surplus/(deficit)	Surplus/(deficit)
		\$'000	\$'000
Vehicles - Capital	This service purchases Council vehicles, excluding major plant and equipment, to meet functionality and safety needs and to maximise the performance and minimise operational cost of the fleet. Vehicle lease options will be explored during 2024/2025.	100	0
		0	0
		100	0
Strategy, Advocacy and Engagement (CEO's Office)	This area includes Chief Executive Officer and executive support. It also includes communications, marketing, strategy, community engagement and government relations	0	0
		(942)	(1,129)
		(942)	(1,129)
CEO Projects	The funding of all significant Council funded projects is managed from the CEO's Office.	0	65
		0	-43
		0	22
Community Support Grants	This service provides grants to community organisations for projects, sponsorships, and minor capital and community infrastructure.	0	0
		(100)	(100)
		(100)	(100)
Human Resources	This service provides Council with strategic and operational organisation development support. The service develops and implements strategies, policies, and procedures through the provision of human resources and industrial relations services. The service includes training programs and business excellence. This service also includes payment of salaries and wages to Council employees.	0	0
		(392)	(407)
		(392)	(407)
Governance	This service provides support to the Mayor, Councillors, and executive support. This service provides statutory and corporate support services to Council, including coordination of business papers for meetings of the Council and maintenance of statutory registers. This service also provides facilities maintenance grants for recreation reserves & public halls and coordinates risk management.	0	0
		(1,065)	(1,214)
		(1,065)	(1,214)
Business Transformation	This service includes service reviews and business improvement. Reorganisation of staff resources has led to an increase in cost in this area. This is balanced by a consequent decrease in cost to other service units.	0	0
		(497)	(492)
		(497)	(492)
Information Services	This service provides, supports, and maintains reliable and cost-effective communications and computing systems, facilities and infrastructure to Council staff enabling them to deliver services in a smart, productive, and efficient way.	0	0
		(786)	(738)
		(786)	(738)

2.6.2 Service Performance Outcome Indicators and 2024/2025 targets

These indicators are currently based on appropriate LGPRF performance measures with targets set for 2024/2025.

Performance Indicator		Expected range	2024/2025 target
G1	Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public	0% to 30%	15%
G3	Councillor attendance at council meetings	80% to 100%	95%
G4	Cost of elected representation	\$30k to \$80K	\$42,000
	CSS Overall performance	-	75%
	CSS Overall council direction	-	75%
	CSS Customer service	-	75%
	CSS Informing the community	-	75%
	CSS Community decisions	-	75%
	CSS Consultation & engagement	-	75%
	CSS Lobbying	-	75%

2.6.3 Major Initiatives

Council will undertake the following major initiatives during 2024/2025 to support **Strong and Effective Governance**:

Initiative	Budget 2024/2025
Investment in organisational capacity around strategy, advocacy and engagement	\$ 319,477
Developing strong connection with traditional owners	\$ 100,000
VEC (Victorian Electoral Commission) conduct of 2024 Council Election	\$ 129,000
Smart Rural City Fund – to seek efficiency through technology use	\$ 100,000

2.6.4 Strategic Performance Indicators and 2024/2025 targets

Performance Indicator	2021-2025 target	2024/2025 target
Return efficiency dividends to community through rate reduction	Annual rate rise 0.5% less than rate cap	0% rate rise
Maintenance of effective risk management regime	Annual approval by Audit and Risk Committee	Annual approval by Audit and Risk Committee
Growth in participation in engage.ararat.vic.gov.au	Annual growth of 25%	Growth of 40%

2.7 Reconciliation with Budgeted Operating Result

Strategic Objective	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Expenditure	Revenue
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Growing our place	(781)	(1,142)	362
Building robust local economies	(768)	(791)	29
Preserving our environment	(4,224)	(4,780)	561
Developing and maintaining key enabling infrastructure	(12,362)	(10,807)	7,335
Enhancing community life	(2,122)	(3,764)	1,642
Strong and effective governance	(5,041)	(5,013)	872
Total	(25,298)	(36,093)	10,795
Expenses added in:			
Capital expenditure	15,513		
Depreciation	(7,681)		
Amortisation – right of use assets	(302)		
Written down value on assets sold	-		
Loan repayment	150		
Lease repayment	283		
Transfer from reserves	-		
Transfer to reserves	107		
Surplus/(Deficit) before funding sources	<u>(17,228)</u>		
Funding sources added in:			
Rates and charges revenue	15,527		
Waste charge revenue	2,423		
General purpose financial assistance grant	<u>7,441</u>		
Total funding sources	25,391		
Operating surplus/(deficit) for the year	8,163		

3 Financial Statements

This section presents information regarding the Financial Statements and Statement of Human Resources. The budget information for the year 2024/25 has been supplemented with projections to 2027/28.

This section includes the following financial statements prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

- Comprehensive Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Statement of Changes in Equity
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Statement of Capital Works
- Statement of Human Resources

Comprehensive Income Statement
For the four years ending 30 June 2028

	NOTES	Budget	Budget	Projections		
		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income						
Rates and charges	4.1.1	17,881	17,950	18,418	19,070	19,866
Statutory fees and fines	4.1.2	262	272	277	283	289
User fees	4.1.3	1,454	1,515	1,561	1,608	1,656
Grants - Operating	4.1.4	7,746	8,323	8,531	8,744	8,963
Grants - Capital	4.1.4	533	7,304	1,481	1,481	1,481
Contributions - monetary	4.1.5	100	100	100	100	100
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant, and equipment		28	-	-	-	-
Other income	4.1.6	542	722	629	636	643
Total income		28,545	36,186	30,975	31,992	32,978
Expenses						
Employee costs	4.1.7	11,134	11,333	11,729	12,199	12,687
Materials and services	4.1.8	8,035	8,259	8,590	8,933	9,291
Depreciation	4.1.9	7,492	7,681	7,844	7,973	8,108
Depreciation - right of use assets	4.1.10	167	302	302	302	302
Borrowing costs		11	6	2	-	-
Finance costs - leases		45	74	59	42	24
Other expenses	4.1.11	365	368	379	390	402
Total expenses		27,249	28,023	28,905	29,839	30,814
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		1,296	8,163	2,070	2,063	2,164
Total comprehensive result		1,296	8,163	2,070	2,063	2,164

Balance Sheet

For the four years ending 30 June 2028

	NOTES	Budget	Budget	Projections		
		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Assets						
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents		8,814	7,808	7,485	7,230	6,894
Trade and other receivables		2,039	98	144	210	289
Inventories		64	64	64	64	64
Prepayments		13	13	13	13	13
Total current assets	4.2.1	10,731	7,983	7,686	7,517	7,260
Non-current assets						
Trade and other receivables		0	4	2	1	-
Investments in associates, joint arrangement, and subsidiaries		-	1,001	1,001	1,001	1,001
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment		285,188	306,643	308,411	310,722	313,173
Right-of-use assets		605	1,071	769	468	166
Investment property		1,409	1,661	1,661	1,661	1,661
Total non-current assets	4.2.1	287,298	310,380	311,844	313,853	316,001
Total assets		298,029	318,363	319,530	321,370	323,261
Liabilities						
Current liabilities						
Trade and other payables		2,004	2,218	1,701	1,840	1,809
Trust funds and deposits		254	305	305	305	305
Contract and other liabilities		-	-	-	-	-
Provisions		1,745	2,084	2,084	2,084	2,084
Interest-bearing liabilities	4.2.3	150	156	-	-	-
Lease liabilities	4.2.4	112	290	308	326	178
Total current liabilities	4.2.2	4,325	5,053	4,458	4,561	4,464
Non-current liabilities						
Provisions		184	123	123	123	123
Interest-bearing liabilities	4.2.3	156	-	-	-	-
Lease liabilities	4.2.4	579	810	502	178	-
Total non-current liabilities	4.2.2	919	933	625	299	123
Total liabilities		5,244	5,986	5,083	4,860	4,587
Net assets	4.2.5	292,785	312,377	314,447	316,510	318,674
Equity						
Accumulated surplus		100,384	107,944	110,014	112,077	114,241
Reserves		192,401	204,433	204,433	204,433	204,433
Total equity	4.3.1	292,785	312,377	314,447	316,510	318,674

Statement of Changes in Equity
For the four years ending 30 June 2028

	NOTES	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Other Reserves \$'000
2024 Forecast					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		312,899	92,600	199,783	20,518
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(8,685)	(8,685)	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	(107)	-	107
Transfers from other reserves		-	18,080	-	(18,080)
Balance at end of the financial year		304,214	99,888	199,783	4,543
2025 Budget					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		304,214	99,888	199,783	4,543
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		8,163	8,163	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	(107)	-	107
Transfers from other reserves		-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year	4.3.1	312,377	107,944	199,783	4,650
2026					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		312,377	107,944	199,783	4,650
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		2,070	2,070	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	-	-	-
Transfers from other reserves		-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		314,447	110,014	199,783	4,650
2027					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		314,447	110,014	199,783	4,650
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		2,063	2,063	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	-	-	-
Transfers from other reserves		-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		316,510	112,077	199,783	4,650
2028					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		316,510	112,077	199,783	4,650
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		2,164	2,164	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	-	-	-
Transfers from other reserves		-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		318,674	114,241	199,783	4,650

Statement of Cash Flows
For the four years ending 30 June 2028

	Notes	Budget	Budget	Projections		
		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
		Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities						
Rates and charges		17,806	17,943	18,369	19,004	19,787
Statutory fees and fines		262	272	277	283	289
User fees		1,454	1,515	1,561	1,608	1,656
Grants - operating		7,746	10,278	8,531	8,744	8,963
Grants - capital		533	7,304	1,461	1,461	1,461
Contributions - monetary		100	100	100	100	100
Interest received		400	508	400	400	400
Other receipts		142	222	229	236	243
Net GST refund / payment		806	-	-	-	-
Employee costs		(11,134)	(11,333)	(11,729)	(12,199)	(12,667)
Materials and services		(9,458)	(8,336)	(9,047)	(8,848)	(9,238)
Other payments		(365)	(368)	(379)	(390)	(402)
Net cash provided by/ (used in) operating activities	4.4.1	8,354	18,089	9,773	10,398	10,572
Cash flows from investing activities						
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant, and equipment		(9,540)	(15,513)	(9,613)	(10,284)	(10,558)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant, and equipment		200	-	-	-	-
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities	4.4.2	(9,340)	(15,513)	(9,613)	(10,284)	(10,558)
Cash flows from financing activities						
Finance costs		(11)	(6)	(2)	-	-
Repayment of borrowings		(148)	(150)	(156)	-	-
Interest paid - lease liabilities		(45)	(74)	(59)	(42)	(24)
Repayment of lease liabilities		(106)	(283)	(290)	(308)	(326)
Net cash provided by/ (used in) financing activities	4.4.3	(310)	(513)	(507)	(350)	(350)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents		(1,296)	2,063	(347)	(236)	(336)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		9,908	5,735	7,798	7,451	7,215
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		8,612	7,798	7,451	7,215	6,879

Statement of Capital Works
For the four years ending 30 June 2028

	NOTES	Budget		Projections		
		2023/24 \$'000	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000
Property						
Buildings		1,350	550	550	561	572
Total property		1,350	550	550	561	572
Plant and equipment						
Library books		40	40	47	47	47
Total plant and equipment		40	40	47	47	47
Infrastructure						
Roads		7,000	13,693	8,293	8,908	9,156
Bridges		-	80	200	285	270
Footpaths and cycleways		400	400	177	181	185
Drainage		750	750	318	322	328
Total infrastructure		8,150	14,923	9,016	9,676	9,939
Total capital works expenditure	4.5	9,540	15,513	9,613	10,284	10,558
Represented by:						
New asset expenditure		338	138	138	140	143
Asset renewal expenditure		7,876	13,434	8,440	9,087	9,329
Asset upgrade expenditure		1,326	1,941	1,025	1,057	1,086
Total capital works expenditure	4.5	9,540	15,513	9,613	10,284	10,558
Funding sources represented by:						
Grants		533	7,304	1,401	1,401	1,401
Council cash		8,207	8,209	8,152	8,623	9,097
Council reserves		800	-	-	-	-
Total capital works expenditure	4.5	9,540	15,513	9,613	10,284	10,558

Statement of Human Resources
For the four years ending 30 June 2028

	Budget		Projections		
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Staff expenditure					
Employee costs - operating	11,134	11,333	11,720	12,100	12,087
Employee costs - capital	1,048	1,091	1,130	1,174	1,221
Total staff expenditure	12,182	12,424	12,850	13,273	13,308
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Staff numbers					
Employees	132.0	128.4	128.4	128.4	128.4
Total staff numbers	132.0	128.4	128.4	128.4	128.4

A summary of human resources expenditure categorised according to the organisational structure of Council is included below:

Department	Budget		Comprises		
	2024/25	Full Time	Part time	Casual	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Growing our place	748	685	83	-	
Building robust local economies	495	428	-	67	
Preserving our environment	1,972	1,817	76	279	
Developing and maintaining key enabling infrastructure	2,891	2,676	128	89	
Enhancing community life	2,365	1,147	828	392	
Strong and effective governance	2,862	2,387	474	21	
Total permanent staff expenditure	11,333	8,920	1,565	848	
Capitalised labour costs	1,091				
Total expenditure	12,424				

A summary of the number of full time equivalent (FTE) Council staff in relation to the above expenditure is included below:

Department	Budget		Comprises		
	2024/25	Full Time	Part time	Casual	
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	
Growing our place	6.7	6.0	0.7	-	
Building robust local economies	4.7	4.0	-	0.7	
Preserving our environment	22.3	19.0	0.8	2.5	
Developing and maintaining key enabling infrastructure	45.8	43.0	1.8	1.0	
Enhancing community life	24.9	13.0	7.8	4.1	
Strong and effective governance	24.0	19.0	4.7	0.3	
Total staff	128.4	104.0	15.8	8.6	

3.1 Summary of Planned Human Resources Expenditure

For the four years ending 30 June 2028

	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000
Growing our place				
Permanent - Full time				
Women	303	314	326	339
Men	362	395	411	426
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time				
Women	63	65	68	71
Men	-	-	-	-
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total - Growing our place	748	774	805	837
Building robust local economies				
Permanent - Full time				
Women	298	308	321	334
Men	130	135	140	140
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time				
Women	-	-	-	-
Men	-	-	-	-
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total - Building robust local economies	428	443	461	479
Preserving our environment				
Permanent - Full time				
Women	108	112	116	121
Men	1,509	1,562	1,624	1,669
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time				
Women	76	79	82	85
Men	-	-	-	-
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total - Preserving our environment	1,693	1,752	1,822	1,895
Developing and maintaining key enabling infrastructure				
Permanent - Full time				
Women	494	501	521	542
Men	2,193	2,270	2,361	2,455
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time				
Women	46	48	50	51
Men	80	83	86	90
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total - Developing and maintaining key enabling infrastructure	2,803	2,901	3,017	3,138

	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000
Enhancing community life				
Permanent - Full time				
Women	533	552	574	597
Men	614	635	661	687
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time				
Women	798	820	859	893
Men	28	29	30	31
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total - Enhancing community life	1,973	2,042	2,124	2,209
Strong and effective governance				
Permanent - Full time				
Women	1,683	1,742	1,812	1,884
Men	683	707	735	765
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time				
Women	427	442	460	478
Men	47	49	51	53
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total - Strong and effective governance	2,840	2,939	3,057	3,179
Casuals, temporary and other expenditure	848	878	913	949
Capitalised labour costs	1,091	1,130	1,174	1,221
Total staff expenditure	12,424	12,859	13,373	13,908

	2024/25 FTE	2025/26 FTE	2026/27 FTE	2027/28 FTE
Growing our place				
Permanent - Full time				
Women	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Men	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time				
Women	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Men	-	-	-	-
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total - Growing our place	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
Building robust local economies				
Permanent - Full time				
Women	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Men	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time				
Women	-	-	-	-
Men	-	-	-	-
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total - Building robust local economies	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Preserving our environment				
Permanent - Full time				
Women	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Men	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time				
Women	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Men	-	-	-	-
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total - Preserving our environment	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7
Developing and maintaining key enabling infrastructure				
Permanent - Full time				
Women	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Men	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time				
Women	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Men	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total - Developing and maintaining key enabling infrastructure	32.9	32.9	32.9	32.9
Enhancing community life				
Permanent - Full time				
Women	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Men	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time				
Women	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
Men	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total - Enhancing community life	20.8	20.8	20.8	20.8

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Strong and effective governance				
Permanent - Full time				
Women	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
Men	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time				
Women	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3
Men	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total - Strong and effective governance	23.7	23.7	23.7	23.7
Casuals and temporary staff	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6
Capitalised labour	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Total staff numbers	128.4	128.4	128.4	128.4

4 Notes to the Financial Statements

4.1 Comprehensive Income Statement

4.1.1 Rates and charges

Rates and charges are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's budget.

As per the Local Government Act 2020, Council is required to have a Revenue and Rating Plan which is a four-year plan for how Council will generate income to deliver the Council Plan, program and services and capital works commitments over a four-year period.

In developing the Budget, rates and charges were identified as an important source of revenue. Planning for future rate increases has therefore been a vital component of the financial planning process. The Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) sets out the maximum amount councils may increase rates in a year. For 2024/25 the FGRS cap has been set at 2.75%. The cap applies to both general rates and municipal charges and is calculated based on council's average rates and charges.

The level of required rates and charges has been considered in this context, with reference to Council's other sources of income and the planned expenditure on services and works to be undertaken for the community.

Council has prepared the budget based on a nil increase in the amount raised by general rates and municipal charges.

This will raise total rates and charges for 2024/25 of \$17.950 million.

4.1.1(a) The reconciliation of the total rates and charges to the Comprehensive Income Statement is as follows:

	Budget 2023/24	Budget 2024/25	Change	%
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
General rates*	14,009	14,136	67	0.5%
Municipal charge*	630	639	9	1.4%
Service rates and charges	2,423	2,423	-	0.0%
Supplementary rates and rate adjustments	100	100	-	0.0%
Interest on rates and charges	103	96	-7	-7.0%
Revenue in lieu of rates	556	556	-	0.0%
Total rates and charges	17,881	17,950	69	0.4%

*These items are subject to the rate cap established under the FGRS

4.1.1(b) The rate in the dollar to be levied as general rates under section 158 of the Act for each type or class of land compared with the previous financial year:

Type or class of land	Budget 2023/24	Budget 2024/25	Change	
	cents/\$CIV	cents/\$CIV	\$	%
General rate for rateable general properties	0.3508	0.3507	-0.0001	-0.0%
General rate for rateable commercial properties	0.5052	0.4910	-0.0142	-2.8%
General rate for rateable industrial properties	0.5052	0.4910	-0.0142	-2.8%
General rate for rateable farm properties	0.1333	0.1350	0.0017	1.3%

4.1.1(c) The estimated total amount to be raised by general rates in relation to each type or class of land, and the estimated total amount to be raised by general rates, compared with the previous financial year:

Type or class of land	Budget 2023/24	Budget 2024/25	Change	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
General	7,031	7,102	71	1.0%
Commercial	748	756	8	1.1%
Industrial	239	245	6	2.5%
Farm	6,051	6,033	-18	-0.3%
Total amount to be raised by general rates	14,069	14,136	67	0.4%

4.1.1(d) The number of assessments in relation to each type or class of land, and the total number of assessments, compared with the previous financial year.

Type or class of land	Budget 2023/24	Budget 2024/25	Change	
	Number	Number	Number	%
General	5,275	5,367	92	1.7%
Commercial	307	307	-	0.0%
Industrial	115	115	-	0.0%
Farm	1,600	1,610	10	0.6%
Total number of assessments	7,297	7,399	102	1.4%

4.1.1(e) The basis of valuation to be used is the Capital Improved Value (CIV).

4.1.1(f) The estimated total value of each type or class of land, and the estimated total value of land, compared with the previous financial year:

Type or class of land	Budget 2023/24	Budget 2024/25	Change	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
General	2,004,426	2,025,125	20,699	1.0%
Commercial	148,036	153,962	5,926	4.0%
Industrial	47,320	49,899	2,579	5.5%
Farm	4,539,101	4,468,650	-70,451	-1.6%
Total value of land	6,738,883	6,697,636	-41,247	-0.6%

4.1.1(g) The municipal charge under Section 159 of the Act compared with the previous financial year:

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property 2023/24	Per Rateable Property 2024/25	Change	
	\$	\$	\$	%
Municipal	96	96	-	0.0%

4.1.1(h) The estimated total amount to be raised by municipal charges compared with the previous financial year:

Type of Charge	Budget 2023/24	Budget 2024/25	Change	
	\$	\$	\$	%
Municipal	630,330	638,976	8,640	1.4%

4.1.1(i) The rate or unit amount to be levied for each type of service rate or charge under Section 162 of the Act compared with the previous financial year:

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property 2023/24	Per Rateable Property 2024/25	Change	
	\$	\$	\$	%
Kerbside collection - 4 Bin System	462	462	-	0.0%
Kerbside collection - 3 Bin System	410	410	-	0.0%
Kerbside collection – additional 140 litre Garbage	162	162	-	0.0%
Kerbside collection – additional 240 litre Recycling	139	139	-	0.0%
Kerbside collection – additional 240 litre Organics	139	139	-	0.0%
Kerbside collection – additional 80 litre Glass	22	22	-	0.0%

4.1.1(j) The estimated total amount to be raised by each type of service rate or charge, and the estimated total amount to be raised by service rates and charges, compared with the previous financial year:

Type of Charge	Budget 2023/24	Budget 2024/25	Change	
	\$	\$	\$	%
Kerbside collection - 4 Bin System	2,014,320	2,010,624	-3,696	-0.2%
Kerbside collection - 3 Bin System	387,450	387,040	-410	-0.1%
Kerbside collection – additional 140 litre Garbage	13,770	16,362	2,592	18.8%
Kerbside collection – additional 240 litre Recycling	5,838	7,506	1,668	28.6%
Kerbside collection – additional 240 litre Organics	417	834	417	100.0%
Kerbside collection – additional 80 litre Glass	610	726	110	17.9%
Total	2,422,411	2,423,092	681	0.0%

4.1.1(k) The estimated total amount to be raised by all rates and charges compared with the previous financial year:

	Forecast	Budget	Change	
	2023/24	2024/25	\$	%
	\$'000	\$	\$	%
General Rates	14,009	14,136	67	0.5%
Municipal Charge	630	639	9	1.4%
Service rates and charges	2,423	2,423	-	0.0%
Supplementary rates and rate adjustments	100	100	-	0.0%
Interest on rates and charges	103	96	-7	-7.0%
Revenue in lieu of rates	556	556	-	0.0%
Total Rates and charges	17,881	17,950	69	0.4%

4.1.1(l) Fair Go Rates System Compliance

Ararat Rural City Council is required to comply with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS). The table below details the budget assumptions consistent with the requirements of the Fair Go Rates System.

	2023/24	2024/25
Total Annualised General Rates & Municipal Charges	\$14,775,420	
Number of rateable properties	7,399	7,399
Base Average Rate	\$1,006.95	
Maximum Rate Increase (set by the State Government)	3.50%	2.75%
Capped Average Rate		\$2,051.88
Maximum General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue		\$15,191,744
Budgeted General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue		\$14,774,725
Budgeted Supplementary Rates		\$100,000
Budgeted Total Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue		\$14,874,725

4.1.1(m) Any significant changes that may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges.

There are no known significant changes which may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges. However, the total amount to be raised by rates and charges may be affected by:

- The making of supplementary valuations.
- The variation of returned levels of value (e.g., valuation objections and appeals).
- Changes of use of land such that rateable land becomes non-rateable land and vice versa.
- Changes of use of land such that farm land becomes general land and vice versa.
- Granting single farm enterprises, the exemption from payment of the municipal charge.

4.1.1(n) Differential Rates

Rates are essentially property taxes that allow Council to raise revenue to fund delivery of a range of services to their municipal community. Importantly, it is a taxation system that includes flexibility for councils to utilise different tools in its rating structure to accommodate issues of equity and to ensure fairness in rating for all ratepayers. Councils can use these tools in different ways to yield results seen as fair by their communities.

Council utilises a rating structure comprised of three key elements. These are:

- **General Rates** – Based on property values (using the Capital Improved Valuation methodology), which are indicative of capacity to pay and form the central basis of rating under the Local Government Act. Within the general rating model ARCC has four differentiated rating sectors general, industrial, commercial and farm.
- **Service Charges** - A 'user pays' component for council services to reflect benefits provided by Council to ratepayers who benefit from a service. The only service charge applied by ARCC is the Waste Charge, applied to domestic waste management.
- **Municipal Charge** – ARCC applies a municipal charge, currently \$96, as a 'fixed rate' portion per property or farm enterprise to cover some of the fixed administrative costs of Council.

Impact of 2024 Valuation

The expected final outcome of the 2024 general revaluation has been a 0% increase in valuations for general/residential properties, a 4.2% increase in commercial valuations, a 4.8% increase in industrial valuations and a 1.5% decrease in farming valuations.

The following table illustrates the expected changes in capital improved valuations for each class of property as a result of the revaluation.

Class of Property	2023 Capital Improved Value (CIV) \$	2024 Capital Improved Value (CIV) \$	% Change in CIV from 2023 to 2024
General	2,024,772,000	2,025,125,000	0.0%
Commercial	147,712,500	153,062,000	4.2%
Industrial	47,625,500	49,899,000	4.8%
Farm	4,536,156,000	4,468,650,500	-1.5%
Totals	6,756,266,000	6,697,636,500	-0.9%

A revaluation does not result in additional rate income for Council – even with no increase in the total amount raised by rates and municipal charges, some ratepayers may pay more in rates and others may pay less than the previous year, depending on the percentage change in the value of the individual properties.

General Rates

The formula for calculating General Rates, excluding any additional charges, arrears or additional supplementary rates is:

$$\text{Valuation (Capital Improved Value)} \times \text{Rate in the Dollar (Differential Rate Type)}$$

The rate in the dollar for each rating differential category is included in Council's annual budget and represents Council's key mechanism for building a rating model that shares rating burden predictably and fairly between the four rating sectors.

Rates and charges are an important source of revenue, accounting for 49.6% of the budgeted operating revenue expected to be received by Council in 2024/25. The collection of rates is an important factor in funding Council services. Planning for future rate increases is therefore an essential component of the long-term financial planning process and plays a significant role in funding both additional service delivery and the increasing costs related to providing Council services.

Council makes a further distinction when applying general rates by applying a rating differential based on the purpose for which the property is used. That is, whether the property is used for general,

commercial, industrial, or farming purposes. This distinction is based on the concept that different property categories should pay a fair and equitable contribution, considering the benefits those properties derive from the local community.

Ararat Rural City Council has made a clear decision, supported by the outcomes of the RSAG and Citizen's Jury, and by the community more generally, that rating fairness is measured by a consistent sharing of "rates burden" between rating sectors from year to year. It has become known as the "pie model" through the RSAG process. It means that each year, each rating sector should contribute a very similar amount of the rating "pie". This reflects the intent of Section 101(1)(c) of the Local Government Act 2020 which requires that Council's "seek to provide stability and predictability in the financial impact on the municipal community".

To maintain consistency in the percentage of rating burden across the four rating sectors, it is critical to understand that the differential is not a "discount" or a fixed element that underpins rating fairness, rather that it is an economic lever to be used to ensure that the current rates burden is maintained between rating sectors.

This equilibrium in burden between rating sectors is often disturbed through asymmetric changes in property valuations between rating sectors. If valuations in one sector increase or decrease disproportionately to the overall movement in valuations it will skew the proportion of rates paid by one sector and this needs to be adjusted through alteration of one or more differentials.

Council will continue to attempt to minimise the impact of rating burden on the whole municipal community through seeking ongoing organisational efficiencies during the life of this Revenue and Rating Plan. These savings will be returned as a dividend to community.

There is a general "understanding" in the local government sector that forgoing the opportunity to increase rates to the maximum allowed under the FGRS results in significant losses in future revenue which undermines ongoing organisational sustainability, particularly in small rural Councils. ARCC challenges this thinking as delivering ongoing and sustainable efficiencies has the same impact on long term sustainability as increasing the rate base. There may be rate increases in the period 2021-2025, to meet increased costs, but the first option to be exercised will always be efficiency dividends.

Valuation Methodology

Ararat Rural City Council applies Capital Improved Value (CIV) to all properties within the municipality to take into account the fully developed value of the property. This basis of valuation considers the total market value of the land plus buildings and other improvements. The CIV approach also provides the most effective mechanism for Council to raise differential rates under the *Ministerial Guidelines for Differential Rating, 2013*.

Rationale for Differential Rating Sectors

The council believes each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of council functions. The application of the "pie model" in terms of a generally accepted community measure of rating equity has been discussed previously as a key driver of the rating sectors developed under Council's Revenue and Rating plan 2021-2025.

Details of the objectives of each differential rate, the classes of land which are subject to each differential rate and the uses of each differential rate are set out below.

GENERAL RATE

Definition: General land is any rateable land which does not have the characteristics of Farm Rate land and Commercial/Industrial Rate land.

Objectives: To ensure that Council has adequate funding to undertake its strategic, statutory, service provision and community services obligations and to ensure that the differential rate in the dollar declared for defined general rate land properties is fair and equitable, having regard to the cost and the level of benefits derived from provision of Council services.

Characteristics: The characteristics of the planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of vacant land which will be subject to the rate of residential land. The vacant land affected by this rate is that which is zoned residential under the Ararat Rural City Council Planning Scheme. The classification of the land will be determined by the occupation of that land for its best use and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

Types and

Classes: Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described below:
a) used primarily for residential purposes; or
b) any land that is not defined as Farmland or Commercial/Industrial Land.

Use of Rate: The General Differential Rate is the default rate in instances where land does not meet the characteristics of any other differential rate. It will be used to fund items of expenditure described in the Budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which the Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Level of Rate: 100% of General Rate.

Use of Land: Any use permitted under the Ararat Rural City Council Planning Scheme.

Geographic

Location: Wherever located within the municipal district.

Planning Scheme

Zoning: The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Ararat Rural City Council Planning Scheme.

Types of

Buildings: All buildings which are already constructed on the land, or which are constructed prior to the end of the financial year.

FARM RATE

Definition: Farm Land means any rateable land within the Council's municipal district defined as farm land under Section 2 of the Valuation of Land Act 1960, on the condition that the owner or occupier of the land is a person carrying on the activities defined by the Valuation of Land Act 1960, and who is regarded as a Primary Producer by the Australian Taxation Office.

Section 2(1) of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* states:

- a) Farm Land means any rateable land that is 2 or more hectares in area.
- b) used primarily for primary producing purposes from its activities on the land; used primarily for grazing (including agistment), dairying, pig-farming, poultry farming, fish farming, tree farming, bee keeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit growing or the growing of crops of any kind or for any combination of those activities; and

That is used by a business –

- That has a significant and substantial commercial purpose of character.
- That seeks to make a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis from its activities on the land; and
- That is making a profit from its activities on the land, or that has a reasonable prospect of making a profit from its activities on the land if it continues to operate in the way that it is operating.

Objectives: To ensure that Council has adequate funding to undertake its strategic, statutory, service provision and community services obligations and to ensure that the differential rate in the dollar declared for defined Farm Rate land properties is fair and equitable, having regard to the cost and the level of benefits derived from provision of Council services with considerations to maintain agriculture as a major industry in the municipal district, to facilitate the longevity of the farm sector and achieve a balance between providing for municipal growth and retaining the important agricultural economic base.

Characteristics: The characteristics of the planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of farm land which will be subject to the rate of Farm land. The classification of the land will be determined by the occupation of that land for its best use and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

Types and

Classes: Farm land having the relevant characteristics described below:
a) used primarily for primary production purposes by an owner or occupier who is regarded as a Primary Producer by the Australian Taxation Office; or
b) any land that is not defined as General Land or Commercial/Industrial Land.

Use of Rate: The differential rate will be used to fund items of expenditure described in the Budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which the Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Level of Rate: The level of the rate will be determined annually by Council and the community in preparation and adoption of Council's budget. The Farm differential is an economic lever required to maintain consistency in rating burden between rating sectors. It is proposed to be 38.5% of the General Rate in 2024/2025.

Use of Land: Any use permitted under the Ararat Rural City Council Planning Scheme.

Geographic

Location: Wherever located within the municipal district.

Planning Scheme

Zoning: The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Ararat Rural City Council Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings: All buildings which are already constructed on the land, or which are constructed prior to the end of the financial year.

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL RATE

Although acknowledged as two separate rating sectors the rationale for striking a Commercial/Industrial differential rate is the same and will be described as a single class in the Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025.

Definition: Commercial/Industrial Land is any land, which is:

- Used primarily for carrying out the manufacture or production of, or trade in goods or services (including tourist facilities and in the case of a business providing accommodation for tourists, is prescribed accommodation under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act (Vic) 2008*; or
- Unoccupied building erected which is zoned Commercial or Industrial under the Ararat Rural City Council Planning Scheme; or
- Unoccupied land which is zoned Commercial or Industrial under the Ararat Rural City Council Planning Scheme.

Objectives: To ensure that Council has adequate funding to undertake its strategic, statutory, service provision and community services obligations and to ensure that the differential rate in the dollar declared for defined Commercial/Industrial Rate land properties is fair and equitable, having regard to the cost and the level of benefits derived from provision of Council services.

The commercial businesses of Ararat Rural City Council benefit from ongoing significant investment by the Council in services and infrastructure. Council also notes the tax deductibility of Council rates for commercial properties which is not available to the residential sector, and the income generating capability of commercial based properties.

The Commercial differential rate is applied to promote the economic development objectives for the Ararat Rural City Council as outlined in the Council Plan. These objectives include an ongoing significant investment to create a vibrant economy and includes the maintenance and improvement of tourism infrastructure. Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure, development and provision of health and community services and the general provision of support services and promotion of business in the municipality.

Characteristics: The characteristics of the planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of vacant land which will be subject to the rate applicable to Commercial/Industrial Land. The classification of the land will be determined by the occupation of that land for its best use and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

Types and Classes: Commercial/Industrial having the relevant characteristics described below:

- used primarily for commercial purposes; or
- any land that is not defined as General Land or Farm Land.

Use of Rate: The differential rate will be used to fund items of expenditure described in the Budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which the Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Level of Rate: The level of the rate will be determined annually by Council and the community in preparation and adoption of Council's budget. The differential rate is an economic lever required to maintain consistency in rating burden between rating sectors. It is proposed to be 140% of the General Rate in 2024/2025. It is less likely that the Commercial/Industrial differential will need to be altered significantly from budget to budget as there are much less volatile property markets in these two rating sectors.

Use of Land: Any use permitted under the Ararat Rural City Council Planning Scheme.

Geographic

Location: Wherever located within the municipal district.

Planning Scheme

Zoning: The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Ararat Rural City Council Planning Scheme.

Types of

Buildings: All buildings which are already constructed on the land, or which are constructed prior to the end of the financial year.

4.1.2 Statutory Fees and Fines

	Budget		Change	
	2023/24	2024/25	\$'000	%
	\$'000	\$'000		
Infringements and costs	23	23	-	0.0%
Town planning fees	215	215	-	0.0%
Land information certificates	15	15	-	0.0%
Permits	9	19	10	111.1%
Total statutory fees and fines	262	272	10	3.8%

Statutory fees relate mainly to fees and fines levied in accordance with legislation and include town planning fees, and animal and parking fines. Increases in statutory fees are made in accordance with legislative requirements.

Statutory fees are forecast to increase by 3.8% or \$0.010 million compared to 2023/24.

A detailed listing of statutory fees is included in Section 6.

4.1.3 User Fees

	Budget		Change	
	2023/24	2024/25	\$'000	%
	\$'000	\$'000		
Leisure centre	488	534	46	9.4%
Childcare/children's programs	8	8	-	0.0%
Registration and other permits	150	160	10	6.7%
Building services	70	60	-10	-14.3%
Waste management services	427	425	-2	-0.5%
Ararat Town Hall charges	120	125	5	4.2%
Visitor Information Centre	10	5	-5	-50.0%
Alexandra Oval/Great Hall charges	110	115	5	4.5%
Road occupancy	8	10	2	25.0%
Other fees and charges	65	75	10	15.4%
Total user fees	1,454	1,515	61	4.2%

User fees relate mainly to the recovery of service delivery costs through the charging of fees to users of Council's services. These include use of leisure, entertainment and other community facilities and the provision of waste management services.

User fees are projected to increase by 4.2% or \$0.061 million compared to 2023/24. Ararat Fitness Centre charges are forecast to increase by \$0.046 million with increased patronage occurring.

A detailed listing of user fees is included in Section 6.

4.1.4 Grants

Grants are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's budget.

	Budget	Budget	Change	
	2023/24 \$'000	2024/25 \$'000	\$'000	%
Grants were received in respect of the following:				
Summary of grants				
Commonwealth funded grants	7,309	14,746	7,347	99.3%
State funded grants	880	881	1	0.1%
Total grants received	8,279	15,627	7,348	88.8%
(a) Operating Grants				
<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>				
Financial Assistance Grants	6,806	7,441	575	8.4%
<i>Recurrent - State Government</i>				
Aged care	3	3	-	0.0%
School crossing supervisors	15	15	-	0.0%
Libraries	157	157	-	0.0%
Maternal and child health	315	328	13	4.1%
Culture	140	140	-	0.0%
Administration	44	44	-	0.0%
Emergency Management	73	60	-13	-17.6%
Environment	70	70	-	0.0%
Total recurrent grants	7,683	8,258	575	7.5%
<i>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>				
Community development				
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>				
Maternal and child health	63	65	2	3.2%
Total non-recurrent grants	63	65	2	3.2%
Total operating grants	7,746	8,323	577	7.4%
(b) Capital Grants				
<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>				
Roads to recovery	533	1,461	928	174.1%
Total recurrent grants	533	1,461	928	174.1%
<i>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>				
Transport	-	5,843	5,843	100.0%
Total non-recurrent grants	-	5,843	5,843	100.0%
Total capital grants	533	7,304	6,771	1270.4%
Total Grants	8,279	15,627	7,348	88.8%

Operating grants include all monies received from State and Federal sources for the purposes of funding the delivery of Council's services to ratepayers. Overall, the level of operating grants is projected to increase by 7.4% or \$0.577 million compared to 2023/24.

Capital grants include all monies received from State and Federal sources for the purposes of funding the capital works program. Overall, the level of capital grants is projected to increase by 1270.4% or \$6.771 million compared to 2023/24.

4.1.5 Contributions

	Budget	Budget	Change	
	2023/24	2024/25	\$'000	%
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Monetary	100	100	-	0.0%
Total contributions	100	100	-	0.0%

Contributions relate to monies paid by the community in regard to community projects.

Contributions are projected to remain consistent at \$0.100 million for 2024/25.

4.1.6 Other Income

	Budget	Budget	Change	
	2023/24	2024/25	\$'000	%
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Interest	400	500	100	25.0%
Investment property rental	142	222	80	56.3%
Total other income	542	722	180	33.2%

Other income relates to a range of items such as property rentals and other miscellaneous income items. It also includes interest revenue on investments.

Other income is forecast to increase by 33.2% or \$0.180 million compared to 2023/24 due to the higher market interest rates and the leasing of additional Council property.

4.1.7 Employee costs

	Budget		Change	
	2023/24	2024/25	\$'000	%
	\$'000	\$'000		
Wages and salaries	10,782	10,912	130	1.2%
Less capitalised wages and salaries	-1,048	-1,091	-43	4.1%
WorkCover	199	245	46	23.1%
Superannuation	1,135	1,211	76	6.7%
Fringe benefits tax	66	56	-10	-15.2%
Total employee costs	11,134	11,333	199	1.8%

Employee costs include all labour related expenditure such as wages, salaries, and on-costs such as allowances, leave entitlements, employer superannuation, etc.

Employee costs are forecast to increase by 1.8% or \$0.199 million compared to 2023/24.

Movements in employee costs are influenced by a number of factors:

- Renegotiation of Council's Enterprise Agreement (EA).
- An increase in Council's WorkCover premiums.
- Movement of some staff in line with the Local Government Award upon their work anniversary.
- Various externally funded positions impact on employment staff costs from year to year.
- An increase in the Superannuation Guarantee percentage from 11% to 11.5%.

Refer to Section 3 for the Statement of Human Resources, along with a summary of human resources expenditure categorised according to the organisational structure of Council and a summary of the number of full time equivalent (FTE) Council staff in relation to the expenditure.

4.1.8 Materials and services

	Budget		Change	
	2023/24	2024/25	\$'000	%
	\$'000	\$'000		
Materials and services	4,402	4,628	420	9.7%
Contract Payments	774	804	30	3.9%
Plant and equipment maintenance	1,588	1,448	-140	-8.8%
Utilities	667	764	97	14.5%
Consultants	605	415	-190	-31.4%
Total materials and services	8,036	8,259	223	2.8%

Materials and services include the purchases of consumables, payments to contractors for the provision of services and utility costs.

Materials and services are forecast to increase by 2.8% or \$0.223 million compared to 2023/24.

4.1.9 Depreciation

	Budget	Budget	Change	
	2023/24	2024/25	\$'000	%
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Property	1,212	1,243	31	2.6%
Plant & equipment	750	769	19	2.5%
Infrastructure	5,530	5,689	139	2.5%
Total depreciation	7,492	7,681	189	2.5%

Depreciation is an accounting measure which attempts to allocate the value of an asset over its useful life for Council's property, plant and equipment including infrastructure assets such as roads and drains. The increase of \$0.189 million for 2024/25 is due mainly to the completion of the 2024/25 capital works program and the full year effect of depreciation on the 2023/24 capital works program.

4.1.10 Amortisation – Right of Use Assets

	Budget	Budget	Change	
	2023/24	2024/25	\$'000	%
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Right of use assets	167	302	135	80.8%
Total amortisation - right of use assets	167	302	135	80.8%

Amortisation is an accounting measure to allocate the value of the right of use asset across the life of the asset. Council has entered into leases for several major plant items with the right to use the vehicles amortised over the term of the leases.

4.1.11 Other Expenses

	Budget	Budget	Change	
	2023/24	2024/25	\$'000	%
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Auditors' remuneration - External (Victorian Auditor-General)	60	60	-	0.0%
Auditors' remuneration - Internal	65	65	-	0.0%
Councillors' allowances	250	253	3	1.2%
Total other expenses	365	368	3	0.8%

Other items of expense relate to a range of unclassified items including Councillors allowances, Mayoral allowance, and audit fees. Other expenses are forecast to increase by 0.8% or \$0.003 million compared to 2023/24.

4.2 Balance Sheet

4.2.1 Assets

Cash and cash equivalents include cash and investments such as cash held in the bank and in cash on hand and the value of investments in deposits or other highly liquid investments with short term maturities of three months or less. These balances are projected to decrease by \$0.806 million compared to 2023/24.

Trade and other receivables are monies owed to Council by ratepayers and others. Short term debtors are not expected to change significantly in the budget.

Prepayments are expenses that Council has paid in advance of service delivery.

By 2024/25 Council will have invested \$1.000 million in a joint venture with a private investor to address the availability of affordable housing for the growing labour force within the municipality. The venture will see four new houses constructed per year over the next 15 years, for a total of 60 new homes, to be leased for a period of four years and then sold.

Property, infrastructure, plant, and equipment is the largest component of Council's worth and represents the value of all the land, buildings, roads, vehicles, equipment, etc which has been built up by Council over many years.

A right of use asset has been included in the 2024/25 budget due to Council entering into four leases for major plant items. The right of use asset will be amortised over the term of the leases.

4.2.2 Liabilities

Trade and other payables are those to whom Council owes money as at 30 June. These liabilities are budgeted to remain consistent with 2023/24 levels.

Provisions include accrued long service leave, annual leave and rostered days owing to employees. These employee entitlements are expected to remain consistent during 2024/25.

Interest-bearing loans and borrowings are borrowings of Council. Council is budgeting to take out no new loans in 2024/25 and loan principal repayments of \$0.150 million will become due.

Council has entered into four leases for major plant. Balances are separated into current and non-current lease liabilities.

4.2.3 Borrowings

The table below shows information on borrowings specifically required by the Regulations.

	Budget	Budget	Projections		
	2023/24 \$'000	2024/25 \$'000	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000
Amount borrowed as at 30 June of the prior year	455	307	157	-	-
Amount proposed to be borrowed	-	-	-	-	-
Amount projected to be redeemed	-148	-150	-157	-	-
Amount of borrowings as at 30 June	307	157	-	-	-

4.2.4 Leases by Category

As a result of the introduction of AASB 16 Leases, right-of-use assets and lease liabilities have been recognised as outlined in the table below.

	Budget	Budget
	2023/24 \$	2024/25 \$
Right-of-use assets	-	-
Plant and equipment	605,313	1,206,383
Total right-of-use assets	605,313	1,206,383
Lease liabilities		
Current lease Liabilities		
Plant and equipment	112,181	290,454
Total current lease liabilities	112,181	290,454
Non-current lease liabilities		
Plant and equipment	579,069	809,645
Total non-current lease liabilities	579,069	809,645
Total lease liabilities	691,250	1,100,099

4.2.5 Net Assets

This term is used to describe the difference between the value of total assets and the value of total liabilities. It represents the net worth of Council as at 30 June.

The increase in net assets of \$19.592 million results predominantly from the operating surplus, asset revaluations and the net movement of non-current assets.

4.3 Statement of Changes in Equity

4.3.1 Equity

Total equity is projected to increase by \$19.592 million during the year. Total equity always equals net assets and is made up of the following components:

- Asset revaluation reserve which represents the difference between the previously recorded value of assets and their current valuations
- Other reserves that are funds that Council wishes to separately identify as being set aside to meet a specific purpose in the future and to which there is no existing liability. These amounts are transferred from the Accumulated Surplus of the Council to be separately disclosed.
- Accumulated surplus which is the value of all net assets less Reserves that have accumulated over time. \$8.163 million of the increase in accumulated surplus results directly from the surplus for the year. An amount of \$0.107 million (net) is budgeted to be transferred from accumulated surplus to other reserves as an allocation towards future plant replacement. This is a transfer between equity balances only and does not impact on the total balance of equity.

4.4 Statement of Cash Flows

4.4.1 Net cash flows provided by/used in operating activities

Operating activities refers to the cash generated or used in the normal service delivery functions of Council. Cash remaining after paying for the provision of services to the community may be available for investment in capital works, or repayment of debt.

The increase in net cash flows from operating activities of \$9.735 million is mostly due to an increase in operating grants of \$2.524 million and an increase in capital grants of \$6.771 million.

The net cash flows from operating activities does not equal the surplus (deficit) for the year as the expected revenues and expenses of the Council include non-cash items which have been excluded from the Cash Flow Statement.

4.4.2 Net Cash Flows Provided by/used in Investing Activities

Investing activities refers to cash generated or used in the enhancement or creation of infrastructure and other assets. These activities also include the acquisition and sale of other assets such as vehicles, property, and equipment.

The payments for investing activities represent the proposed capital works program disclosed in Section 4.5. The payments for property, infrastructure, plant, and equipment are budgeted to increase by \$5.973 million.

4.4.3 Net Cash Flows Provided by/used in Financing Activities

Financing activities refers to cash generated or used in the financing of Council functions and include borrowings from financial institutions. These activities also include repayment of the principal component of loan repayments for the year.

For 2024/25 the total principal repayments will be \$0.150 million and finance costs will be \$0.006 million. Council is budgeting to take out no new loans in 2024/25.

During 2023/24 Council has entered into four leases for major plant items. For 2024/25 the interest for the lease liabilities will be \$0.074 million and the lease repayments will be \$0.283 million.

4.5 Capital Works Program

This section presents a listing of the capital works projects that will be undertaken for the 2024/25 year, classified by expenditure type and funding source.

4.5.1 Summary

	Budget	Budget	Change	%
	2023/24 \$'000	2024/25 \$'000	\$'000	
Property	1,050	550	-499	-48.3%
Plant and equipment	40	40	-	0.0%
Infrastructure	8,150	14,823	6,773	83.1%
Total	9,240	15,513	6,273	68.0%

	Project Cost \$'000	Asset expenditure types			Summary of Funding Sources			
		New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contrib. \$'000	Council cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property	550	138	138	274	-	-	550	-
Plant and equipment	40	-	40	-	-	-	40	-
Infrastructure	14,823	-	13,255	1,068	7,304	-	3,819	-
Total	15,513	138	13,433	1,342	7,304	-	8,209	-

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4.5.2 Capital Budget

Capital Works Area	Project Cost \$'000	Asset expenditure types			Summary of Funding Sources			
		New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contrib. \$'000	Council cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
PROPERTY								
Buildings								
Community projects	358	138	83	149	-	-	350	-
Ararat Library Internal Upgrade	208	-	75	135	-	-	200	-
TOTAL PROPERTY	550	138	138	274	-	-	550	-
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT								
Library books								
Bookstock	40	-	40	-	-	-	40	-
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	40	-	40	-	-	-	40	-
INFRASTRUCTURE								
Roads								
Gravel road re-laying and alternative surfacing	1,804	-	1,800	-	-	-	1,800	-
Reseal program	1,804	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	-
McWilliam Road reconstruction	6,294	-	5,313	937	5,000	-	1,280	-
Buangor-Den Nevils Road reconstruction	2,143	-	1,872	171	843	-	1,500	-
Churchill Avenue reconstruction	781	-	854	107	781	-	-	-
Wells Street reconstruction	700	-	800	100	700	-	-	-
Urban gravel to seal	700	-	700	-	-	-	700	-
Major patching	100	-	-	100	-	-	100	-
Kerb and channel renewal program	239	-	239	-	-	-	239	-
Bridges								
Bridge renewal program	80	-	-	80	-	-	80	-
Footpaths and Cycleways								
Footpaths and cycleways	400	-	340	80	-	-	400	-
Drainage								
Urban drainage	756	-	856	112	-	-	750	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	14,823	-	13,255	1,067	7,304	-	7,819	-
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS	15,513	138	13,434	1,341	7,304	-	8,209	-

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4.6 Summary of Planned Capital Works Expenditure

For the four years ended 30 June 2028

2025/26	Total \$'000	Asset Expenditure Types			Grants \$'000	Funding Sources		
		New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000		Contributions \$'000	Council Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property								
Buildings	590	138	138	274	-	-	590	-
Total Property	590	138	138	274	-	-	590	-
Plant and Equipment								
Library books	47	-	47	-	-	-	47	-
Total Plant and Equipment	47	-	47	-	-	-	47	-
Infrastructure								
Roads	3,263	-	7,624	639	1,481	-	6,802	-
Bridges	290	-	225	36	-	-	290	-
Footpaths and cycleways	177	-	150	27	-	-	177	-
Drainage	315	-	269	47	-	-	315	-
Total Infrastructure	3,915	-	8,264	702	1,481	-	7,589	-
Total Capital Works Expenditure	3,913	138	8,449	1,026	1,481	-	3,152	-

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2026/27	Total \$'000	Asset Expenditure Types			Grants \$'000	Funding Sources		
		New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000		Contributions \$'000	Council Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property								
Buildings	581	140	140	281	-	-	581	-
Total Property	581	140	140	281	-	-	581	-
Plant and Equipment								
Library books	47	-	47	-	-	-	47	-
Total Plant and Equipment	47	-	47	-	-	-	47	-
Infrastructure								
Roads	3,808	-	8,247	601	1,481	-	3,447	-
Bridges	285	-	225	40	-	-	285	-
Footpaths and cycleways	181	-	154	27	-	-	181	-
Drainage	322	-	274	48	-	-	322	-
Total Infrastructure	3,576	-	8,899	716	1,481	-	3,215	-
Total Capital Works Expenditure	10,284	140	9,087	1,052	1,481	-	3,822	-

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2027/28	Asset Expenditure Types			Funding Sources				
	Total \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property								
Buildings	572	143	143	288	-	-	572	-
Total Property	572	143	143	288	-	-	572	-
Plant and Equipment								
Library books	47	-	47	-	-	-	47	-
Total Plant and Equipment	47	-	47	-	-	-	47	-
Infrastructure								
Roads	9,156	-	8,473	683	1,461	-	7,695	-
Bridges	270	-	230	40	-	-	270	-
Footpaths and cycleways	185	-	157	28	-	-	185	-
Drainage	328	-	279	49	-	-	328	-
Total Infrastructure	9,939	-	9,139	800	1,461	-	8,478	-
Total Capital Works Expenditure	10,558	143	9,329	1,086	1,461	-	9,097	-

5a. Targeted Performance Indicators

The following table highlights Council's current and projected performance across a selection of targeted service and financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's intentions and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.

The targeted performance indicators below are the prescribed performance indicators contained in Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. Results against these indicators and targets will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Targeted Performance Indicators – Service

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual				Target Projections			Trend
			2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	+/-	
Governance Consultation and Engagement (Council decisions made and implemented with community input)	Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council		60	77	85	67	89	71	+	
Roads Condition (sealed local roads are maintained at the adopted condition standard)	Sealed local roads below the intervention level Number of kms of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kms of sealed local roads		100.0%	98.5%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	o	
Statutory Planning Service Standard (planning application processing and decisions are in accordance with legislative requirements)	Planning applications decided within the relevant required time Number of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time / Number of planning application decisions made		74.8%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%	90.0%	90.0%	+	
Waste Management Waste Diversion (amount of waste diverted from landfill is maximised)	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		22.8%	35.0%	35.0%	38.0%	41.0%	44.0%	+	

Targeted performance indicators – Financial

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual	Budget	Target	Target Projections		Trend	
			2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	+/-
Liquidity									
Working Capital (sufficient working capital is available to pay bills as and when they fall due)	Current assets compared to current liabilities		321.8%	248.1%	158.0%	172.4%	164.8%	162.8%	o
	Current assets / current liabilities								
Obligations									
Asset Renewal (assets are renewed as planned)	Asset renewal compared to depreciation		90.9%	122.8%	200.2%	120.8%	127.2%	128.5%	o
	Asset renewal and upgrade expense / Asset depreciation	1							
Stability									
Rates Concentration (revenue is generated from a range of sources)	Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue		51.5%	62.6%	59.2%	59.5%	59.8%	60.2%	o
	Rate revenue / adjusted underlying revenue	2							
Efficiency									
Expenditure Level (resources are used efficiently in the delivery of services)	Expenses per property assessment		\$4,616	\$3,734	\$3,787	\$3,888	\$3,654	\$4,043	+
	Total expenses / no. of property assessments								

5b. Financial Performance Indicators

The following table highlights Council's current and projected performance across a range of key financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's financial position and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives. The financial performance indicators below are the prescribed financial performance indicators contained in Part 3 of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. Results against these indicators and targets will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual 2022/23	Budget 2023/24	Target 2024/25	Target Projections			Trend
						2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	
Operating Position									
Adjusted underlying result (an adjusted underlying surplus is generated in the ordinary course of business)	Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue	3	2.1%	4.5%	7.6%	6.7%	6.5%	6.6%	o
Liquidity									
Unrestricted cash (sufficient cash that is free of restrictions is available to pay bills as and when they fall due)	Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities Unrestricted cash / current liabilities	4	64.4%	191.0%	145.0%	157.0%	148.0%	144.0%	o
Obligations									
Loans and borrowings (level of interest bearing loans and borrowings is appropriate to the size and nature of Council's activities)	Loans and borrowings compared to rates Interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue	5	7.1%	1.7%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	+
Loans and borrowings (level of interest bearing loans and borrowings is appropriate to the size and nature of Council's activities)	Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue		1.2%	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	+
Indebtedness (level of long term liabilities is appropriate to the size and nature of a Council's activities)	Non-current liabilities compared to own-source revenue Non-current liabilities / own source revenue		5.5%	4.6%	4.6%	3.0%	1.4%	0.5%	+
Stability									
Rates effort (rating level is set based on the community's capacity to pay)	Rates compared to property values Rate revenue / CIV of rateable properties in the municipal district		0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	o
Efficiency									
Revenue level (resources are used efficiently in the delivery of services)	Average rate per property assessment General rates and municipal charges / no. of property assessments		\$2,016	\$2,028	\$1,987	\$2,006	\$2,008	\$1,966	o
Sustainability Capacity									
Population (population is a key driver of a Council's ability to fund the	Rates Revenue per head of population Total rate revenue / Municipal population		\$1,507	\$1,462	\$1,490	\$1,509	\$1,542	\$1,588	o

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual 2022/23	Budget 2023/24	Target 2024/25	Target Projections			Trend
						2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	
delivery of services to the community) Population	Expenses per head of population								
(population is a key driver of a Council's ability to fund the delivery of services to the community) Population	Total expenses/ Population		\$2,880	\$2,227	\$2,326	\$2,368	\$2,413	\$2,460	o
(population is a key driver of a Council's ability to fund the delivery of services to the community) Population	Infrastructure per head of population								
(population is a key driver of a Council's ability to fund the delivery of services to the community) Population	Value of infrastructure / Population		\$25,148	\$23,311	\$25,450	\$25,267	\$25,129	\$25,002	o
(population is a key driver of a Council's ability to fund the delivery of services to the community) Population	Population density per length of road								
(population is a key driver of a Council's ability to fund the delivery of services to the community) Population	Population / Kilometres of local roads		4.8	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.1	o
Own-source revenue	Own-source revenue per head of population								
(revenue is generated from a range of sources in order to fund the delivery of services to the community) Recurrent grants	Own source revenue / Population		\$1,744	\$1,648	\$1,698	\$1,711	\$1,747	\$1,793	+
(revenue is generated from a range of sources in order to fund the delivery of services to the community) Workforce turnover	Recurrent grants per head of population								
(resources are used efficiently in the delivery of services)	Recurrent grants / Population		\$917	\$871	\$807	\$812	\$819	\$826	+
	Resignations and terminations compared to average staff								
	Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations for the financial year / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year		23.4%	10.6%	10.6%	10.6%	10.6%	10.6%	o

Key to Forecast Trend:

- + Forecasts improvement in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator
- o Forecasts that Council's financial performance/financial position indicator will be steady
- Forecasts deterioration in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator

Notes to Indicators

5a

1. Asset Renewal

This percentage indicates the extent of Council's renewal and upgrade of assets against its depreciation charge (an indication of the decline in value of its existing capital assets). A percentage greater than 100 indicates Council is maintaining its existing assets, while a percentage less than 100 means its assets are deteriorating faster than they are being renewed and upgraded and future capital expenditure will be required to renew and upgrade assets. The total capital works program for 2024/25 is \$15.513 million.

2. Rates Concentration

Reflects extent of reliance on rate revenues to fund all of Council's on-going services. This indicator demonstrates Council relies heavily on rates as a source of income. The trend indicates Council will continue to be reliant on rate revenue compared to all other revenue sources.

5b

3. Adjusted Underlying Result

An indicator of the sustainable operating result required to enable Council to continue to provide core services and meet its objectives. The adjusted underlying result calculation includes recurrent capital funding such as Roads to Recovery funding.

4. Unrestricted Cash

Council's cash and cash equivalents are subject to external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary use, which includes trust funds and deposits. This indicator measures the proportion of current liabilities represented by unrestricted cash.

5. Debt Compared to Rates

This indicator measures the level of Council's total debt as a percentage of rate revenue. 30\%

5 Schedule of Fees and Charges

Council provides a range of services. The main sources of income are Rates and Charges and Government Grants. Costing services is complex. The full cost of delivering services or providing a facility includes the direct cost, such as the cost of labour which could include part of the supervisor's wage, materials, and plant hire to provide that service, and indirect costs such as a range of "back office" operations that are not directly tied to the service, such as payroll processing, information technology costs.

Pricing services is also complex as Council provides numerous "public" services (e.g. public parks) as well as "private" services (e.g. waste collection, leisure centres and pools). Ideally full cost recovery should be applied to "private" services. In reality, recipients of the service may not be able to afford the full cost recovery. As full cost recovery is not possible for a number of services, Council is required to use rate income and other sources of income, such as the Victorian Grants Commission general assistance grant, to subsidise the cost of providing these services.

Council reviews the income generated from fees and charges every year as part of the budget process. Council recognises statutory fees are set by legislation/regulation but attempts to maximise the amount of income generated from other user fees.

This schedule presents the fees and charges of a statutory/non-statutory nature which will be charged in respect to various goods and services during the financial year 2024/25.

Fees and charges are based on information available at the time of publishing and may vary during the financial year subject to any changes in Council's policy or legislation.

PRICING BASIS	
(Z) Zero Cost Recovery	This good/service is provided at no cost. The costs are met entirely from rates and general purpose income. Generally, where there is no fee or charge, the service provided is not mentioned in the fees and charges list.
(P) Partial Cost Recovery	The price for this good/service is set to make a significant contribution towards the cost-of-service provision. The remainder of the costs are met from rate and general purpose income.
(F) Full Cost Recovery	The price for this good/service is set to recover the cost-of-service provision.
(R) Regulatory	The price for this good/service is a statutory charge set by government regulation.
(M) Market Price	The price for this good/service is set by reference to prices charged for similar goods/services by like Councils or competitors.

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee Inc GST		2024/25 Fee Inc GST		Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
			\$		\$					
Administration										
Freedom of Information										
Application Fee	Per Request	Non-Taxable	\$31.80		\$32.70		\$0.90	2.8%	Statutory	R
Access Charge - Search Time	Per Hour	Non-Taxable	\$23.90		\$24.50		\$0.60	2.5%	Statutory	R
Access Charge - Printing (A4)	Per Page	Non-Taxable	\$0.20		\$0.20		-	-	Statutory	R
Land Information Certificate	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$28.90		\$29.70		\$0.80	2.8%	Statutory	R
Priority Request - Land Information Certificate	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$60.00		\$60.00		-	-	Non-statutory	F
Direct Debit Rejection Fee	Per Rejection	Taxable	\$6.00		\$6.00		-	-	Non-statutory	F
Request for Refund	Per Refund	Taxable	\$25.00		\$25.00		-	-	Non-statutory	F
Reprint Rate Notice Fee	Per Notice	Taxable	-		\$10.00		\$10.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	F
Library										
Library - Damaged/lost items	Per Item	Taxable	cost of replacement		cost of replacement		-	-	Non-statutory	F
Library - Processing	Per Item	Taxable	\$6.00		\$6.00		-	-	Non-statutory	F
Library - Book Club per person	Per Person	Taxable	\$44.00		\$44.00		-	-	Non-statutory	F
Library - Bags	Per Item	Taxable	\$3.00		\$3.00		-	-	Non-statutory	F
Library - Debt collection	Per Item	Taxable	\$15.00		\$15.00		-	-	Non-statutory	F
Gum San Great Hall Hire										
Day Rate										
Community	Per Hire	Taxable	\$100.00		\$200.00		\$100.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	P
Commercial	Per Hire	Taxable	\$400.00		\$500.00		\$100.00	25.0%	Non-statutory	P
Evening Rate										
Community	Per Hire	Taxable	\$100.00		\$200.00		\$100.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	P
Commercial	Per Hire	Taxable	\$400.00		\$500.00		\$100.00	25.0%	Non-statutory	P
Upstairs Meeting Room	Per Hire	Taxable	\$100.00		\$100.00		-	-	Non-statutory	P
Ararat Gallery TAMMA										
Gallery membership										

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee Inc GST		2024/25 Fee Inc GST		Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
			\$		\$					
Single	Per Person	Taxable	\$45.00		\$45.00		-	-	Non-statutory	P
Double/Family	Per Family	Taxable	\$80.00		\$80.00		-	-	Non-statutory	P
Single (Concession)	Per Person	Taxable	\$35.00		\$35.00		-	-	Non-statutory	P
Ararat Town Hall										
Whole Complex (kitchen, supper room, green room, dressing rooms, foyer)										
Standard	Per Event	Taxable	\$1,560.00		\$1,560.00		-	-	Non-statutory	P
Community	Per Event	Taxable	\$500.00		\$500.00		-	-	Non-statutory	P
Main Auditorium										
Venue Hire - Ticketed Event / Performance										
Standard	Per Event	Taxable	\$1,200.00		\$1,200.00		-	-	Non-statutory	P
Community	Per Event	Taxable	\$450.00		\$450.00		-	-	Non-statutory	P
Rehearsals/ Bump In (non-performance day)										
Standard	Per Hour	Taxable	\$75.00		\$75.00		-	-	Non-statutory	P
Community	Per Hour	Taxable	\$25.00		\$25.00		-	-	Non-statutory	P
Built stage										
Standard	Per Event	Taxable	\$400.00		\$450.00	\$50.00	12.5%	Non-statutory	P	
Community	Per Event	Taxable	\$200.00		\$250.00	\$50.00	25.0%	Non-statutory	P	
Piano - Steinway Baby Grand										
Standard	Per Event	Taxable	\$300.00		\$200.00	-\$100.00	(33.3%)	Non-statutory	P	
Community	Per Event	Taxable	-		-	-	-	Non-statutory	Z	
Piano Tuning	Per Event	Taxable	Quoted		Quoted	-	-	Non-statutory	P	
Projector	Per Event	Taxable	\$50.00		\$50.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P	
Festoon Lights	Per Event	Taxable	-		\$150.00	\$150.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	P	
Security (if required)	Per Event	Taxable	Quoted		Quoted	-	-	Non-statutory	P	
Front of House Staff	Per Event	Taxable	Quoted		\$50.00	\$50.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P
Technician	Per Event	Taxable	Quoted		\$70.00	\$70.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P
Stand alone Art & Craft Room hire										
Standard	Per Event	Taxable	\$200.00		\$200.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P	
Community	Per Event	Taxable	\$100.00		\$100.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P	
Stand alone Green Room hire										
Standard	Per Event	Taxable	\$200.00		\$200.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P	
Community	Per Event	Taxable	\$100.00		\$100.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P	

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee		2024/25 Fee		Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
			Inc GST	\$	Inc GST	\$				
Stand alone Foyer Hire										
Standard	Per Event	Taxable	\$200.00		\$200.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P	
Community	Per Event	Taxable	\$100.00		\$100.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P	
Stand alone Supper Room Hire										
Standard	Per Event	Taxable	\$200.00		\$200.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P	
Community	Per Event	Taxable	\$100.00		\$100.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P	
Ticket Selling Commission										
Standard	Per Ticket	Taxable	\$3.70		\$4.50	\$0.80	21.6%	Non-statutory	P	
Community - Paid Ticket Event	Per Ticket	Taxable	-		\$0.50	\$0.50	100.0%	Non-statutory	Z	
All venues - catering tea and coffee	Per Person	Taxable	\$1.00		\$2.00	\$1.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	P	
Town Hall Auditorium - out of contracted hours	Per 15 mins	Taxable	-		\$200.00	\$200.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	P	
Planning										
Request copies of Planning permits	Per Request	Taxable	\$66.00		\$68.25	\$3.25	5.0%	Non-statutory	F	
Request copies of Endorsed Plans - standard search fee (print fees apply)	Per Request	Taxable	\$66.00		\$68.25	\$3.25	5.0%	Non-statutory	F	
Reg 6 Fees for Amendment to Planning Scheme										
Stage 1 - For considering a request to amend a planning scheme	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$3,275.40		\$3,364.00	\$88.60	2.7%	Statutory	R	
Stage 2										
For considering up to 10 submissions	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$16,233.90		\$16,672.90	\$439.00	2.7%	Statutory	R	
For considering 11 to 20 submissions	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$32,436.00		\$33,313.20	\$877.20	2.7%	Statutory	R	
For considering in excess of 20 submissions	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$43,359.30		\$44,531.90	\$1,172.60	2.7%	Statutory	R	
Stage 3 - For adopting the amendment	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$516.80		\$530.70	\$13.90	2.7%	Statutory	R	
Reg 9 Fees for Applications for permits under Section 47										
Class 1 - Use only	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,415.10		\$1,463.40	\$38.30	2.7%	Statutory	R	
To develop land or to use and develop land for a single dwelling per lot and undertake development ancillary to the use of land for a single dwelling per lot if the estimated cost of development is:										
Class 2 - \$10,000 or less	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$214.70		\$220.50	\$5.80	2.7%	Statutory	R	

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee Inc GST		2024/25 Fee Inc GST		Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
			\$	\$	\$	\$				
Class 3 - more than \$10,000 but not more than \$100,000	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$875.80	\$694.00	\$18.20	2.7%	Statutory	R		
Class 4 - more than \$100,000 but not more than \$500,000	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,383.30	\$1,420.70	\$37.40	2.7%	Statutory	R		
Class 5 - more than \$500,000 but not more than \$1,000,000	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,494.80	\$1,535.00	\$40.40	2.7%	Statutory	R		
Class 6 - more than \$1,000,000 but not more than \$2,000,000	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,605.90	\$1,649.30	\$43.40	2.7%	Statutory	R		
VicSmart application if the estimated cost of development is										
Class 7 - \$10,000 or less	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$214.70	\$220.50	\$5.80	2.7%	Statutory	R		
Class 8 - more than \$10,000	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$481.10	\$473.60	\$12.50	2.7%	Statutory	R		
Class 9 - VicSmart application to subdivide or consolidate land	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$214.70	\$220.50	\$5.80	2.7%	Statutory	R		
Class 10 - VicSmart application (other than a class 7, 8 or 9 permit)	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$214.70	\$220.50	\$5.80	2.7%	Statutory	R		
To develop land (other than for a single dwelling per lot) if the estimated cost of development is:										
Class 11 - less than \$100,000	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,232.30	\$1,265.60	\$33.30	2.7%	Statutory	R		
Class 12 - more than \$100,000 and not more than \$1,000,000	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,881.60	\$1,708.50	\$44.90	2.7%	Statutory	R		
Class 13 - more than \$1,000,000 and not more than \$5,000,000	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$3,665.00	\$3,764.10	\$99.10	2.7%	Statutory	R		
Class 14 - more than \$5,000,000 and not more than \$15,000,000	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$9,341.30	\$9,593.90	\$252.60	2.7%	Statutory	R		
Class 15 - more than \$15,000,000 and not more than \$50,000,000	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$27,546.80	\$28,291.70	\$744.90	2.7%	Statutory	R		
Class 16 - more than \$50,000,000*	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$61,914.60	\$63,589.00	\$1,674.40	2.7%	Statutory	R		
Class 17 - To subdivide an existing building	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,415.10	\$1,453.40	\$38.30	2.7%	Statutory	R		
Class 18 - To subdivide land into two lots	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,415.10	\$1,453.40	\$38.30	2.7%	Statutory	R		
Class 19 - To effect a realignment of a common boundary between lots or consolidate two or more lots	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,415.10	\$1,453.40	\$38.30	2.7%	Statutory	R		
Class 20 - All other subdivisions of land (per 100 lots created)	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,415.10	\$1,453.40	\$38.30	2.7%	Statutory	R		

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee Inc GST \$	2024/25 Fee Inc GST \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
<p>Class 21 To: a) create, vary or remove a restriction within the meaning of the Subdivision Act 1988; or b) create or remove a right of way; or c) create, vary or remove an easement other than a right of way; or d) vary or remove a condition in the nature of an easement (other than right of way) in a Crown grant.</p>	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,415.10	\$1,453.40	\$38.30	2.7%	Statutory	R
<p>Class 22 - A permit not otherwise provided for in the regulation</p>	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,415.10	\$1,453.40	\$38.30	2.7%	Statutory	R
<p>Reg 11 Fees for Applications to Amend Permits under Section 72</p>								
<p>Class 1 - Amendment to a permit to change the use of land allowed by the permit or allow a new use of land</p>	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,415.10	\$1,453.40	\$38.30	2.7%	Statutory	R
<p>Class 2 - Amendment to a permit (other than a permit to develop land for a single dwelling per lot or to use and develop land for a single dwelling per lot or to undertake development ancillary to the use of land for a single dwelling per lot) to change the statement of what the permit allows or to change any or all of the conditions which apply to the permit.</p>	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,415.10	\$1,453.40	\$38.30	2.7%	Statutory	R
<p>Amendment to a class 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 permit, * if the cost of any additional development permitted by the amendment is:</p>								
<p>Class 3 - \$10,000 or less</p>	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$214.70	\$220.50	\$5.80	2.7%	Statutory	R
<p>Class 4 - more than \$10,000 but not more than \$100,000</p>	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$875.80	\$894.00	\$18.20	2.7%	Statutory	R
<p>Class 5 - more than \$100,000 but not more than \$500,000</p>	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,383.30	\$1,420.70	\$37.40	2.7%	Statutory	R
<p>Class 6 - more than \$500,000</p>	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,494.90	\$1,535.00	\$40.40	2.7%	Statutory	R
<p>Amendment to a permit * that is the subject of VicSmart application, if the estimated cost of the additional development is:</p>								
<p>Class 7 - \$10,000 or less</p>	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$214.70	\$220.50	\$5.80	2.7%	Statutory	R

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee Inc GST	2024/25 Fee Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
			\$	\$	\$	%		
Class 8 - more than \$10,000	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$461.10	\$473.80	\$12.50	2.7%	Statutory	R
Class 9 - Amendment to a class 9 permit *	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$214.70	\$220.50	\$5.80	2.7%	Statutory	R
Class 10 - Amendment to a class 10 permit *	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$214.70	\$220.50	\$5.80	2.7%	Statutory	R
Amendment to a class 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 or 16 permit * if the estimated cost of the additional development to be permitted by the amendment is:								
Class 11 - \$100,000 or less	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,232.30	\$1,265.60	\$33.30	2.7%	Statutory	R
Class 12 - more than \$100,000 but not more than \$1,000,000	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,661.60	\$1,706.50	\$44.90	2.7%	Statutory	R
Class 13 - more than \$1,000,000	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$3,665.00	\$3,764.10	\$99.10	2.7%	Statutory	R
Class 14 - Amendment to a class 17 permit *	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,415.10	\$1,453.40	\$38.30	2.7%	Statutory	R
Class 15 - Amendment to a class 18 permit *	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,415.10	\$1,453.40	\$38.30	2.7%	Statutory	R
Class 16 - Amendment to a class 19 permit *	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,415.10	\$1,453.40	\$38.30	2.7%	Statutory	R
Class 17 - Amendment to a class 20 permit * (per 100 lots created)	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,415.10	\$1,453.40	\$38.30	2.7%	Statutory	R
Class 18 - Amendment to a class 21 permit *	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,415.10	\$1,453.40	\$38.30	2.7%	Statutory	R
Class 19 - Amendment to a class 22 permit	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$1,415.10	\$1,453.40	\$38.30	2.7%	Statutory	R
* Refer to Reg 9 Fees to see the relevant Class of permit								
Reg 15 For a Certificate of Compliance	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$349.80	\$359.30	\$9.50	2.7%	Statutory	R
Reg 16 For an agreement to a proposal to amend or end an agreement under section 173	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$707.60	\$726.70	\$19.10	2.7%	Statutory	R
Reg 18 Where a planning scheme specifies that a matter must be done to the satisfaction of a responsible authority, Minister, public authority or municipal Council.	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$349.80	\$359.30	\$9.50	2.7%	Statutory	R
Subdivision Fees								
Reg 6 For Certification of a Plan of Subdivision	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$187.60	\$192.70	\$5.10	2.7%	Statutory	R
Reg 7 Alteration of plan under section 10(2) of the Act	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$119.30	\$122.50	\$3.20	2.7%	Statutory	R
Reg 8 Amendment of certified plan under section 11(1) of the Act	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$151.10	\$155.10	\$4.00	2.6%	Statutory	R

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee	2024/25 Fee	Fee Increase	Fee Increase	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
			Inc GST	Inc GST	/(Decrease)	/(Decrease)		
			\$	\$	\$	%		
Public Open Space Valuation	Per Application	Taxable	\$500.00	\$525.00	\$25.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Statement of Compliance Final Inspection	Per Application	Taxable	\$280.00	\$273.00	\$13.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
Advertising of Planning Application - letters only	Per Application	Taxable	\$100.00	\$105.00	\$5.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Advertising of Planning Application - letters and signs within Ararat	Per Application	Taxable	\$200.00	\$210.00	\$10.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Advertising of Planning Application - letters and signs outside Ararat	Per Application	Taxable	\$300.00	\$315.00	\$15.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Extension of Time - 1st Request	Per Application	Taxable	\$220.00	\$231.00	\$11.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
Extension of Time - 2nd Request	Per Application	Taxable	\$440.00	\$462.00	\$22.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
Extension of Time - 3rd Request	Per Application	Taxable	\$880.00	\$882.50	\$32.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
Secondary Consent	Per Application	Taxable	\$300.00	\$315.00	\$15.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
Planning Enquiry Fee	Per Enquiry	Taxable	\$50.00	\$52.50	\$2.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Environmental Health								
Septic Tank Application Fees								
Construct, install or alter - up to 8.2 hours assessment	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$777.20	\$788.20	\$21.00	2.7%	Statutory	R
Construct, install or alter - addition hours or part thereof	Per hour or part	Non-Taxable	\$97.30	\$99.90	\$2.60	2.7%	Statutory	R
Construct, install or alter - Maximum fee		Non-Taxable	\$2,153.30	\$2,211.60	\$58.30	2.7%	Statutory	R
Minor Alteration	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$592.30	\$608.30	\$16.00	2.7%	Statutory	R
Transfer	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$157.90	\$162.20	\$4.30	2.7%	Statutory	R
Amend permit	Per Amendment	Non-Taxable	\$165.00	\$168.50	\$3.50	2.7%	Statutory	R
Exemption - up to 2.6 hours assessment	Per application	Non-Taxable	\$233.30	\$239.60	\$6.30	2.7%	Statutory	R
Exemption - additional hours or part thereof	Per hour or part	Non-Taxable	\$94.40	\$97.00	\$2.60	2.8%	Statutory	R
Exemption - Maximum fee		Non-Taxable	\$976.40	\$1,002.80	\$28.40	2.7%	Statutory	R
Renewal of septic tank application	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$132.10	\$135.70	\$3.60	2.7%	Statutory	R
Food Act Fixed Premises Registrations								
Class 1 - Food premises that predominantly handle potentially hazardous food that is served to vulnerable groups	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$513.00	\$538.65	\$25.65	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Class 2 - Food premises handling any potentially hazardous unpackaged foods	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$431.00	\$452.55	\$21.55	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Class 2 Community Group - Class 2 Premises, where the premises is primarily a community group or not for profit organisation	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$200.00	\$210.00	\$10.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee Inc GST \$	2024/25 Fee Inc GST \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
Class 3a - Accommodation getaway premises preparing and or cooking of potentially hazardous foods which are served to guests for immediate consumption. A home based premises preparing or cooking of potentially hazardous foods using hot fill process ie chutney, relish, salsa, tomato sauce	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$370.00	\$388.50	\$18.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Class 3 - Food premises handling unpackaged low risk foods or selling potentially hazardous pre-packaged foods	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$308.00	\$323.40	\$15.40	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Class 3 Community Group - Class 3 Premises, where the premises is primarily a community group or not for profit organisation	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$143.00	\$150.15	\$7.15	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Class 4 Food premises handling pre-packaged low risk foods	Per Application	Non-Taxable	-	-	-	-	Non-statutory	Z
Streatrader Registration								
Class 2c - Community Group - Streatrader per event	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$31.00	\$32.55	\$1.55	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Class 2 & 3 - Temporary Stall (Fixed Premises as well as Streatrader) Annual fee	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$87.00	\$91.35	\$4.35	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Class 2 - Streatrader - Community Group Temporary/Mobile	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$169.00	\$177.45	\$8.45	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Class 3 - Streatrader - Community Group Temporary/Mobile	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$105.00	\$110.25	\$5.25	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Class 2 - Streatrader - Temporary/Mobile	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$267.00	\$280.35	\$13.35	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Class 3 - Streatrader - Temporary/Mobile	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$195.00	\$204.75	\$9.75	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Class 4 - Streatrader - Mobile	Per Application	Non-Taxable	-	-	-	-	Non-statutory	Z
Requested Inspection and Report on a Premises	Per Application	Taxable	50% of Relevant Registration Fee	50% of relevant Registration Fee	-	-	Non-statutory	F
Urgent Requested Inspection and Report on a Premises (less than 7 days notice)	Per Application	Taxable	\$410.00	\$430.50	\$20.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Initial Registration of New Premises	Per Application	Non-Taxable	Additional 50% of Relevant Registration Fee	Additional 50% of Relevant Registration Fee	-	-	Non-statutory	F

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee Inc GST		2024/25 Fee Inc GST		Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
			\$	50% of Relevant Registration Fee	\$	50% of relevant Registration Fee				
Late Payment Fee	Per Application	Non-Taxable	-	50% of Relevant Registration Fee	-	50% of relevant Registration Fee	-	-	Non-statutory	F
Additional Fee for inspection due to non compliance	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$246.00	50% of Relevant Registration Fee	\$258.30	50% of relevant Registration Fee	\$12.30	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Additional Fee for Sampling non compliance	Per Application	Non-Taxable	At Cost + 40%	At Cost + 40%	At cost + 40%	At cost + 40%	-	-	Non-statutory	F
Health Act Registrations										
Prescribed Accommodation	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$431.00	50% of Relevant Registration Fee	\$452.55	50% of relevant Registration Fee	\$21.55	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Tattooist/ Ear Piercing/ Beauty & Physical Therapies/ Barbers/ Electrolysis	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$343.00	50% of Relevant Registration Fee	\$360.15	50% of relevant Registration Fee	\$17.15	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Hairdresser/ Physical Therapies	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$174.00	50% of Relevant Registration Fee	\$182.70	50% of relevant Registration Fee	\$8.70	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Mobile/ Part Time/ Low Risk	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$174.00	50% of Relevant Registration Fee	\$182.70	50% of relevant Registration Fee	\$8.70	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Private Caravan Park	Per Application	Non-Taxable	As Prescribed in the Residential Tenancies (Caravan Parks) Regulations 2010	As Prescribed in the Residential Tenancies (Caravan Parks) Regulations 2010	As Prescribed in the Residential Tenancies (Caravan Parks) Regulations 2010	As Prescribed in the Residential Tenancies (Caravan Parks) Regulations 2010	-	-	Statutory	R
Archive Search of Documents & copy of plans/permits	Per Application	Taxable	Minimum \$65.00 plus printing	Minimum \$65.00 plus printing	Minimum \$65.00 plus printing	Minimum \$65.00 plus printing	-	-	Non-statutory	F
Building										
Building Permit Application Fees										
Item 1 Class 1B & 2-9 Residential & Commercial works other than Class 1A										
Up to \$50,000	Per Application	Taxable	\$1,950.00	50% of Relevant Registration Fee	\$1,732.50	50% of relevant Registration Fee	\$82.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
\$50,001 to \$100,000	Per Application	Taxable	\$2,200.00	50% of Relevant Registration Fee	\$2,310.00	50% of relevant Registration Fee	\$110.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
\$100,001 to \$150,000	Per Application	Taxable	\$3,300.00	50% of Relevant Registration Fee	\$3,465.00	50% of relevant Registration Fee	\$165.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
\$150,001 to \$200,000	Per Application	Taxable	\$4,400.00	50% of Relevant Registration Fee	\$4,620.00	50% of relevant Registration Fee	\$220.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
> \$200,000	Per Application	Taxable	\$5,500.00	50% of Relevant Registration Fee	\$5,775.00	50% of relevant Registration Fee	\$275.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee		2024/25 Fee		Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
			Inc GST	\$	Inc GST	\$				
Item 2 Class 1A										
All Dwellings - Single Detached Houses or attached Multi-Units Development										
Up to \$100,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$2,200.00		\$2,310.00	\$110.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
\$100,001 to \$150,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$3,300.00		\$3,465.00	\$165.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
\$150,001 to \$200,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$4,400.00		\$4,620.00	\$220.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
\$200,001 to \$250,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$5,500.00		\$5,775.00	\$275.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
\$250,001 to \$300,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$6,050.00		\$6,352.50	\$302.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
> \$300,000	Per Application	Taxable		Large Projects Negotiable		Large Projects Negotiable	-	-	Non-statutory	F
Item 3 Class 1A Dwellings - Extensions/ Alterations (including Demolitions)										
Up to \$10,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$1,650.00		\$1,732.50	\$82.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
\$10,001 to \$20,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$2,200.00		\$2,310.00	\$110.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
\$20,001 to \$50,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$3,300.00		\$3,465.00	\$165.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
\$50,001 to \$100,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$4,400.00		\$4,620.00	\$220.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
\$100,001 to \$150,001	Per Application	Taxable		\$5,500.00		\$5,775.00	\$275.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
> \$150,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$6,050.00		\$6,352.50	\$302.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Item 4 Class 1A Dwellings - Internal Alterations/ Minor Works										
Up to \$10,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$1,650.00		\$1,732.50	\$82.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
\$10,001 to \$20,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$2,200.00		\$2,310.00	\$110.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
\$20,001 to \$50,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$3,300.00		\$3,465.00	\$165.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
\$50,001 to \$100,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$4,400.00		\$4,620.00	\$220.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
> \$100,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$5,500.00		\$5,775.00	\$275.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Item 5 Class 10A/10B Minor Works - Garages, Carports, Pools, Fences, etc										
Up to \$5,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$1,650.00		\$1,732.50	\$82.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
\$5,001 to \$10,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$2,200.00		\$2,310.00	\$110.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
\$10,001 to \$20,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$3,300.00		\$3,465.00	\$165.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
\$20,001 to \$50,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$4,400.00		\$4,620.00	\$220.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
\$50,001 to \$100,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$5,500.00		\$5,775.00	\$275.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
> \$100,000	Per Application	Taxable		\$6,050.00		\$6,352.50	\$302.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Item 7 Sundry										
Any Additional Inspections										

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee Inc GST		2024/25 Fee Inc GST		Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
			\$	\$	\$	\$				
Domestic	Per Application	Taxable	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	-	-	Non-statutory	F
Commercial	Per Application	Taxable	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	-	-	Non-statutory	F
Pools and spas registration & compliance										
Registration fees	Per Application	Non -Taxable	\$34.20	\$34.20	\$35.10	\$35.10	\$0.90	2.6%	Statutory	R
Search fee	Per Application	Non -Taxable	\$50.70	\$50.70	\$52.10	\$52.10	\$1.40	2.8%	Statutory	R
Lodgement of certificate for pool barrier compliance	Per Application	Non -Taxable	\$21.90	\$21.90	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$0.60	2.7%	Statutory	R
Lodgement of certificate for pool barrier non-compliance	Per Application	Non -Taxable	\$413.40	\$413.40	\$424.90	\$424.90	\$11.20	2.7%	Statutory	R
Regulation 45(1) Lodgement Fees under section 30 of the Act and clause 1(d) of Schedule 2 to the Act	Per Application	Non -Taxable	\$130.90	\$130.90	\$134.40	\$134.40	\$3.50	2.7%	Statutory	R
Building Certificate Fees	Per Application	Non -Taxable	\$50.70	\$50.70	\$52.10	\$52.10	\$1.40	2.8%	Statutory	R
Regulation 52 Fees for Requests for Information under Regulation 51(1), 51(2) or 51(3) of the Regulations	Per Application	Non -Taxable	\$50.70	\$50.70	\$52.10	\$52.10	\$1.40	2.8%	Statutory	R
Additional Building Fees										
Regulation 39 - Maximum Fee for Report and Consent (1) Under section 29A of the Act	Per Application	Non -Taxable	\$81.40	\$81.40	\$83.90	\$83.90	\$2.50	2.7%	Statutory	R
(2) Permit referred under Parts 5, 8 or 10 or under Regulation 132(1) or 134(2)	Per Application	Non -Taxable	\$311.80	\$311.80	\$320.20	\$320.20	\$8.40	2.7%	Statutory	R
(3) Permit referred under regulation 116(4)	Per Application	Non -Taxable	\$316.40	\$316.40	\$325.00	\$325.00	\$8.60	2.7%	Statutory	R
(4) Permit referred under regulation 133(2) (Legal Point of Discharge)	Per Application	Non -Taxable	\$155.30	\$155.30	\$159.50	\$159.50	\$4.20	2.7%	Statutory	R
Amendment and/or extension of Building Permits, Amendment of Approved Plans	Per Application	Taxable	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$262.50	\$262.50	\$12.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Building Notice - Administration Fee	Per Application	Taxable	min \$250 + double building permit fee if applicable	min \$250 + double building permit fee if applicable	min \$250 + double building permit fee if applicable	min \$250 + double building permit fee if applicable	-	-	Non-statutory	F
Building Order - Administration Fee	Per Application	Taxable	min \$250 + double building permit fee if applicable	min \$250 + double building permit fee if applicable	min \$250 + double building permit fee if applicable	min \$250 + double building permit fee if applicable	-	-	Non-statutory	F

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee Inc GST	2024/25 Fee Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
			\$	\$	\$	%		
Temporary Structure Siting Approval	Per Application	Taxable	\$400.00	\$420.00	\$20.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Temporary Structure Siting Approval - Community Activity	Per Application	Taxable	\$250.00	\$262.50	\$12.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Places of Public Entertainment Occupancy Permit								
Low Risk (less than 5,000 people)	Per Application	Taxable	\$370.00	\$388.50	\$18.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Medium Risk (more than 5,000 but less than 15,000 people)	Per Application	Taxable	\$1,270.00	\$1,333.50	\$63.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
High Risk (more than 15,000 people)	Per Application	Taxable	\$2,500.00	\$2,625.00	\$125.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Provide Copy of Building Permit or Occupancy Permit (with owners consent)	Per Permit	Taxable	\$65.00	\$68.25	\$3.25	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Provide Copy of Building Permit including plans (with owners consent)	Per Permit	Taxable	\$65.00	\$68.25	\$3.25	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Additional Inspection Fee - eg for non-compliance	Per Application	Taxable	\$500.00	\$500.00	-	-	Non-statutory	F
Additional Inspection Fee - Lapsed Permits	Per Application	Taxable	\$500.00	\$500.00	-	-	Non-statutory	F
Essential Services Determination Report	Per Application	Taxable	\$500.00	\$500.00	-	-	Non-statutory	F
Reports other	Per Hour	Taxable	\$250.00	\$262.50	\$12.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Request for Building Permits / Occupancy Certificate or Plans	Per Permit	Taxable	\$65.00	\$68.25	\$3.25	5.0%	Non-statutory	F
Administration Fee (Change to a Permit Application)	Per Application	Taxable	25% of current fee	25% of current fee	-	-	Non-statutory	F
Maternal & Child Health								
Immunisation Charges	Per Item	Non-Taxable	\$28.00	\$28.00	-	-	Non-statutory	F
Breast Pump Hire	Per Hire	Taxable	-	\$60.00	\$60.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	F
Waste Management								
Transfer Station Charges								
Airconditioners, Refrigerators, Freezers - Ararat and Lake Bolac only	Per Item	Taxable	Free if de-gassed	Free if de-gassed	-	-	Non-statutory	P
Aluminium, brass, copper, steel, scrap metals	Per Item	Taxable	Free	Free	-	-	Non-statutory	Z
Batteries (lead acid vehicle batteries)	Per Item	Taxable	Free	Free	-	-	Non-statutory	Z
Chemical containers (drumMUSTER) triple rinse or pressure wash, dry, no lids	Per Item	Taxable	Free	Free	-	-	Non-statutory	Z
Oil (waste automotive oil domestic quantities only)								
Resident	Per Item (max 20L)	Taxable	\$5.00	\$8.00	\$3.00	37.5%	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident	Per Item (max 20L)	Taxable	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$5.00	50.0%	Non-statutory	P

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee Inc GST		2024/25 Fee Inc GST		Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
			\$	\$	\$	\$				
Other recyclables (mixed/commingled): Cans, cardboard, glass bottles, drink cartons, paper, milk containers, plastics numbered 1-7	Per Load (240L bin or max 3m ³)	Taxable	\$5.00-\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P	
Building or commercial waste										
Resident	Per Cubic Metre (max 3m ³)	Taxable	\$50.00	\$70.00	\$20.00	40.0%	Non-statutory	P		
Non Resident	Per Cubic Metre (max 3m ³)	Taxable	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	P		
Concrete/bricks (uncontaminated) - Ararat only.										
Resident	Per Cubic Metre (max 3m ³)	Taxable	\$30.00	\$40.00	\$10.00	25.0%	Non-statutory	P		
Non Resident	Per Cubic Metre (max 3m ³)	Taxable	\$30.00	\$80.00	\$30.00	50.0%	Non-statutory	P		
E-Waste per item or bag of mixed items (E.g TVs, DVDs, PCs, printers) Ararat only										
Resident										
Small	Per Item/ Bag	Taxable	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$-	-	Non-statutory	P		
Medium	Per Item/ Bag	Taxable	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$10.00	50.0%	Non-statutory	P		
Large	Per Item/ Bag	Taxable	\$10.00	\$30.00	\$20.00	66.7%	Non-statutory	P		
Extra-Large	Per Item/ Bag	Taxable	\$10.00	\$50.00	\$40.00	80.0%	Non-statutory	P		
Non Resident										
Small	Per Item/ Bag	Taxable	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$5.00	33.3%	Non-statutory	P		
Medium	Per Item/ Bag	Taxable	\$10.00	\$25.00	\$15.00	80.0%	Non-statutory	P		
Large	Per Item/ Bag	Taxable	\$10.00	\$40.00	\$30.00	75.0%	Non-statutory	P		
Extra-Large	Per Item/ Bag	Taxable	\$10.00	\$80.00	\$50.00	83.3%	Non-statutory	P		
Photocopiers										
Resident	Per Item	Taxable	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$25.00	50.0%	Non-statutory	P		
Non Resident	Per Item	Taxable	\$25.00	\$80.00	\$35.00	58.3%	Non-statutory	P		
Gas bottles										
Resident	Per Item	Taxable	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$5.00	50.0%	Non-statutory	P		
Non Resident	Per Item	Taxable	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	75.0%	Non-statutory	P		
General waste (household/domestic and contaminated green waste):										
120 Litre Bin										
Resident	Per Load	Taxable	\$5.00	\$8.00	\$3.00	37.5%	Non-statutory	P		
Non Resident	Per Load	Taxable	\$5.00	\$12.00	\$7.00	58.3%	Non-statutory	P		
240 Litre bin										

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee	2024/25 Fee	Fee Increase	Fee Increase	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
			Inc GST	Inc GST	/(Decrease)	/(Decrease)		
			\$	\$	\$	%		
Resident	Per Load	Taxable	\$8.00	\$12.00	\$4.00	33.3%	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident	Per Load	Taxable	\$8.00	\$16.00	\$8.00	50.0%	Non-statutory	P
Car boot load								
Resident	Per Load	Taxable	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$5.00	25.0%	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident	Per Load	Taxable	\$15.00	\$30.00	\$15.00	50.0%	Non-statutory	P
Single axle trailer / utility								
Resident	Per Load	Taxable	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$10.00	33.3%	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident	Per Load	Taxable	\$20.00	\$40.00	\$20.00	50.0%	Non-statutory	P
Tandem axle trailer								
Resident	Per Load	Taxable	\$30.00	\$40.00	\$10.00	25.0%	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident	Per Load	Taxable	\$30.00	\$60.00	\$30.00	50.0%	Non-statutory	P
Truck load								
Resident	Per Cubic Metre (max 3m ³)	Taxable	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$5.00	16.7%	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident	Per Cubic Metre (max 3m ³)	Taxable	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$25.00	50.0%	Non-statutory	P
Green waste (uncontaminated):								
Minimum load / car boot								
Resident	Per Load	Taxable	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$5.00	33.3%	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident	Per Load	Taxable	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$10.00	50.0%	Non-statutory	P
Single axle trailer / utility								
Resident	Per Load	Taxable	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$5.00	25.0%	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident	Per Load	Taxable	\$15.00	\$30.00	\$15.00	50.0%	Non-statutory	P
Tandem axle trailer								
Resident	Per Load	Taxable	\$18.00	\$25.00	\$7.00	28.0%	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident	Per Load	Taxable	\$18.00	\$35.00	\$17.00	48.6%	Non-statutory	P
Truck load								
Resident	Per Cubic Metre	Taxable	\$20.00	\$20.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident	Per Cubic Metre	Taxable	\$20.00	\$40.00	\$20.00	50.0%	Non-statutory	P
Mattresses:								
Single mattress or smaller								
Resident	Per Item	Taxable	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$10.00	33.3%	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident	Per Item	Taxable	\$20.00	\$40.00	\$20.00	50.0%	Non-statutory	P
Double / queen / king								
Resident	Per Item	Taxable	\$25.00	\$40.00	\$15.00	37.5%	Non-statutory	P

Description of Fees and Charges		Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee Inc GST	2024/25 Fee Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Fee Increase / (Decrease)	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
				\$	\$	\$	%		
Non Resident		Per Item	Taxable	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$25.00	50.0%	Non-statutory	P
Tyres (not taken in commercial quantities, add \$3.00 per tyre if on rim):									
Motor cycle									
Resident		Per Item	Taxable	\$6.00	\$15.00	\$9.00	60.0%	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident		Per Item	Taxable	\$6.00	\$30.00	\$24.00	80.0%	Non-statutory	P
Cars									
Resident		Per Item	Taxable	\$12.00	\$20.00	\$8.00	40.0%	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident		Per Item	Taxable	\$12.00	\$30.00	\$18.00	60.0%	Non-statutory	P
Light truck									
Resident		Per Item	Taxable	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$10.00	33.3%	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident		Per Item	Taxable	\$20.00	\$40.00	\$20.00	50.0%	Non-statutory	P
Heavy truck									
Resident		Per Item	Taxable	\$35.00	\$60.00	\$25.00	41.7%	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident		Per Item	Taxable	\$35.00	\$100.00	\$65.00	65.0%	Non-statutory	P
Super single									
Resident		Per Item	Taxable	\$50.00	\$90.00	\$30.00	37.5%	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident		Per Item	Taxable	\$50.00	\$150.00	\$100.00	66.7%	Non-statutory	P
Small tractor / grader (up to 1m diameter)									
Resident		Per Item	Taxable	\$95.00	\$140.00	\$55.00	39.3%	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident		Per Item	Taxable	\$95.00	\$180.00	\$85.00	52.8%	Non-statutory	P
Large tractor (more than 1m diameter)									
Resident		Per Item	Taxable	\$170.00	\$250.00	\$80.00	32.0%	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident		Per Item	Taxable	\$170.00	\$350.00	\$180.00	51.4%	Non-statutory	P
Earth movers (# obtain price from site staff- dependant on tyre size).									
Resident		Per Item	Taxable	-	as determined	-	-	Non-statutory	P
Non Resident		Per Item	Taxable	-	as determined	-	-	Non-statutory	P
Community Safety (Local Laws)									
State Government Animal Levy (included in Registrations)									
Dog		Per Animal	Non-Taxable	\$4.39	\$4.39	-	-	Statutory	R
Cat		Per Animal	Non-Taxable	\$4.39	\$4.39	-	-	Statutory	R

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee Inc GST		2024/25 Fee Inc GST		Fee Increase / (Decrease)		Pricing Basis
			\$	%	\$	%			
Dog Registrations									
Dogs (within category of reduced fee - prescribed by Act) with Pensioner Concession	Per Animal	Non-Taxable	\$40.00	-	\$40.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P
Dogs full fee	Per Animal	Non-Taxable	\$20.00	-	\$20.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P
Dogs with Pensioner Concession	Per Animal	Non-Taxable	\$125.00	-	\$125.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P
Restricted breed/declared menacing/dangerous	Per Animal	Non-Taxable	\$62.50	-	\$62.50	-	-	Non-statutory	P
	Per Animal	Non-Taxable	\$200.00	-	\$200.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P
Cat Registrations									
Cats (within category of reduced fee - prescribed by Act) with Pensioner Concession	Per Animal	Non-Taxable	\$35.00	-	\$35.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P
Cats full fee	Per Animal	Non-Taxable	\$17.50	-	\$17.50	-	-	Non-statutory	P
Cats with Pensioner Concession	Per Animal	Non-Taxable	\$100.00	-	\$100.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P
	Per Animal	Non-Taxable	\$50.00	-	\$50.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P
Domestic Animal Business Registrations									
Registered Community Foster Care Network Registration	Per Business	Non-Taxable	\$275.00	-	\$275.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P
	Per Person	Non-Taxable	\$15.00	-	\$15.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P
Pound Fees									
Replacement dog/cat registration tags	Per Animal	Non-Taxable	\$128 first day, plus \$36.00 for each additional day	-	\$128 first day, plus \$36.00 for each additional day	-	-	Non-statutory	F
	Per Tag	Non-Taxable	\$15.00	-	\$15.00	-	-	Non-statutory	F
Parking Fines									
	Per Infringement	Non-Taxable	\$90.00	-	\$90.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P
Local Laws Permit Fees, Charges and Bonds Schedule 10									
NALL15, Burning of materials	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$25.00	5.0%	\$26.25	\$1.25	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
NALL63 Lighting fires	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$150.00	5.0%	\$157.50	\$7.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
NALL28, Motorbikes and Motorised Recreation Vehicles (refundable)	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$50.00	5.0%	\$52.50	\$2.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
Bond if required to protect Council asset	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	as determined	-	as determined	-	-	Non-statutory	P
NALL39, Advertising signs	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	as determined	-	as determined	-	-	Non-statutory	P
NALL60, Activity within a Municipal Reserve - Permitted Activities	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$70.00	5.0%	\$73.50	\$3.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	P

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee Inc GST		2024/25 Fee Inc GST		Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
			\$		\$					
NALL62, Camping Prohibited on Council Land	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$75.00		\$78.75		\$3.75	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
NALL16, Camping on Private Property	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$75.00		\$78.75		\$3.75	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
NALL64 Filming on Council Land	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$125.00		\$131.25		\$6.25	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
NALL65, Parking on Municipal Reserve	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	as determined		as determined		-	-	Non-statutory	P
NALL22, Keeping animals	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$50.00		\$52.50		\$2.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
or for life of animal or time kept at property	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$250.00		\$262.50		\$12.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
NALL43, Drainage tapping and Discharging Groundwater	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	as determined		as determined		-	-	Non-statutory	P
NALL45, Constructing a Vehicle Crossings	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$70.00		\$73.50		\$3.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
Bond if required to protect/reinstate asset (refundable)	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	as determined		as determined		-	-	Non-statutory	P
NALL41, Collections	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$70.00		\$73.50		\$3.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
Registered charities, religious or not for profit	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	-		-		-	-	Non-statutory	Z
NALL34, Roadside Trading or Performing	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$130.00		\$136.50		\$6.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
NALL36, Display of Goods for Sale	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$60.00		\$63.00		\$3.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
NALL37, Use of Council Land for Outdoor Eating Facilities - 3 tables & 12 chairs	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$70.00		\$73.50		\$3.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
plus extra table & 4 chairs	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$25.00		\$26.25		\$1.25	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
plus place menu board	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$35.00		\$36.75		\$1.75	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
NALL27, Place bulk rubbish container	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$70.00		\$73.50		\$3.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
each subsequent 7 days	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$30.00		\$31.50		\$1.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
NALL50, Occupation of Roads	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$66.00		\$68.25		\$3.25	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
Bond if required to protect/reinstate assets (refundable)	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	as determined		as determined		-	-	Non-statutory	P
NALL33, Street Parties & Street Festivals	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$70.00		\$73.50		\$3.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
NALL31, Heavy or Long Vehicles on a Road or Private Property	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$150.00		\$157.50		\$7.50	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
NALL48, Asset protection Generally	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$125.00		\$131.25		\$6.25	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
Bond if required to protect/reinstate asset (refundable)	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	as determined		as determined		-	-	Non-statutory	P
NALL19, Shipping Containers	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$75.00		\$75.00		\$0.00	0.0%	Non-statutory	P
NALL30, Derelict, Abandoned and Unregistered Vehicles	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$75.00		\$75.00		\$0.00	0.0%	Non-statutory	P
NALL32, Storing of Vehicles	Per Permit	Non-Taxable	\$75.00		\$75.00		\$0.00	0.0%	Non-statutory	P
Fire Prevention Notice Contractor appointment administration fee	Per Notice	Taxable	\$175.00		\$183.75		\$8.75	5.0%	Non-statutory	P
Schedule 13 Permit to Burn	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$100.00		\$105.00		\$5.00	5.0%	Non-statutory	P

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee Inc GST		2024/25 Fee Inc GST		Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
			\$	\$	\$	\$				
Alexandra Oval Reserve										
Ground Hire - Not for profit (Full Day Rate)	Per Hire	Taxable	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$100.00	100.0%	\$100.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	P
Ground Hire - Not for profit (Training Session) (2 Hrs)	Per Hire	Taxable	\$34.00	\$88.00	\$34.00	100.0%	\$34.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	P
Ground Hire - Not for profit (Pre Season Training Session) (2 Hrs)	Per Hire	Taxable	\$34.00	\$88.00	\$34.00	100.0%	\$34.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	P
Commercial Group - more than 4 hrs	Per Hire	Taxable	\$235.00	\$350.00	\$115.00	48.9%	\$115.00	48.9%	Non-statutory	P
Commercial Group - half day rate	Per Hire	Taxable	\$130.00	\$200.00	\$70.00	53.8%	\$70.00	53.8%	Non-statutory	P
Football Finals	Per Hire	Taxable	\$150.00	\$400.00	\$250.00	166.7%	\$250.00	166.7%	Non-statutory	P
Netball Courts - Not for profit (Day Rate)	Per Hire	Taxable	\$25.00	\$90.00	\$65.00	220.0%	\$65.00	220.0%	Non-statutory	P
Netball Courts - Not for profit (Training Session) (2 Hrs)	Per Hire	Taxable	\$15.00	\$50.00	\$35.00	233.3%	\$35.00	233.3%	Non-statutory	P
Netball Courts - Not for profit (Pre Season Training Session) (2 Hrs)	Per Hire	Taxable	\$15.00	\$50.00	\$35.00	233.3%	\$35.00	233.3%	Non-statutory	P
Junior Clinics (SSA Provider)	Per Hire	Taxable	\$15.00	-	-\$15.00	(100.0%)	-\$15.00	(100.0%)	Non-statutory	P
Group Fitness (2 Hrs)	Per Hire	Taxable	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$10.00	25.0%	\$10.00	25.0%	Non-statutory	P
School groups(ARC Only)	Per Hire	Taxable	50% discount	50% discount	-	-	-	-	Non-statutory	P
Lights towers (Casual User - per hour)										
1 x tower	Per Hour	Taxable	\$14.00	\$20.00	\$6.00	42.9%	\$6.00	42.9%	Non-statutory	P
2 x towers	Per Hour	Taxable	\$25.00	\$40.00	\$15.00	60.0%	\$15.00	60.0%	Non-statutory	P
4 x towers	Per Hour	Taxable	\$40.00	\$80.00	\$40.00	100.0%	\$40.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	P
6 x towers	Per Hour	Taxable	\$65.00	\$120.00	\$55.00	84.6%	\$55.00	84.6%	Non-statutory	P
Change rooms (Fiscalini pavilion)										
Training Session - half day up to four hours	Per Hire	Taxable	\$40.00	\$90.00	\$40.00	100.0%	\$40.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	P
Full day more than four hours	Per Hour	Taxable	\$70.00	\$140.00	\$70.00	100.0%	\$70.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	P
Junior Clinics (SSA Provider)	Per Hire	Taxable	\$20.00	-	-\$20.00	(100.0%)	-\$20.00	(100.0%)	Non-statutory	P
Group Fitness	Per Hire	Taxable	\$30.00	\$90.00	\$30.00	100.0%	\$30.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	P
Pre/post event inspection service	Per Hire	Taxable	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	100.0%	\$50.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	P
Canteen	Per Hire	Taxable	\$35.00	\$70.00	\$35.00	100.0%	\$35.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	P
Function Centre										
Community not for profit Local										
Day	Per Hire	Taxable	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$100.00	100.0%	\$100.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	P
Evening	Per Hire	Taxable	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$100.00	100.0%	\$100.00	100.0%	Non-statutory	P
Commercial / Private										
Day	Per Hire	Taxable	\$400.00	\$500.00	\$100.00	25.0%	\$100.00	25.0%	Non-statutory	P

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee	2024/25 Fee	Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
			Inc GST \$	Inc GST \$				
Evening	Per Hire	Taxable	\$400.00	\$500.00	\$100.00	25.0%	Non-statutory	P
Meeting Room	Per Hire	Taxable	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$10.00	25.0%	Non-statutory	P
Casual Community not for profit non local	Per Hire	Taxable	\$100.00	\$125.00	\$25.00	25.0%	Non-statutory	P
Commercial/Private	Per Hire	Taxable	\$100.00	\$125.00	\$25.00	25.0%	Non-statutory	P
Asset Management								
Road Discontinuance Fee	Per Application	Taxable	\$750.00	\$750.00	-	-	Non-statutory	P
Work Within Municipal Road Reserves	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$685.30	\$703.80	\$18.50	2.7%	Statutory	R
Works within carriageway or pathway >50km/h (statutory)*	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$514.00	\$527.80	\$13.80	2.7%	Non-statutory	P
Works within carriageway or pathway >50km/h (council)	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$373.70	\$383.80	\$10.10	2.7%	Statutory	R
Works within carriageway or pathway ≤ 50km/h (statutory)*	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$280.30	\$287.80	\$7.50	2.7%	Non-statutory	P
Works within carriageway or pathway ≤ 50km/h (council)	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$147.80	\$151.80	\$4.00	2.7%	Statutory	R
Minor works within carriageway or pathway >50km/h (statutory)*	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$110.80	\$113.80	\$3.00	2.7%	Non-statutory	P
Minor works within carriageway or pathway >50km/h (council)	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$147.80	\$151.80	\$4.00	2.7%	Statutory	R
Minor works within carriageway or pathway ≤50km/h (statutory)*	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$110.80	\$113.80	\$3.00	2.7%	Non-statutory	P
Minor works within carriageway or pathway ≤50km/h (council)	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$373.70	\$383.80	\$10.10	2.7%	Statutory	R
Works within the verge > 50km/h (statutory)*	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$280.30	\$287.80	\$7.50	2.7%	Non-statutory	P
Works within the verge > 50km/h (council)	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$95.40	\$98.00	\$2.60	2.7%	Statutory	R
Works within the verge ≤ 50km/h (statutory)*	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$71.80	\$73.50	\$1.70	2.7%	Non-statutory	P
Works within the verge ≤ 50km/h (council)	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$95.40	\$98.00	\$2.60	2.7%	Statutory	R
Minor works within the verge > 50km/h (statutory)*	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$71.80	\$73.50	\$1.70	2.7%	Non-statutory	P
Minor works within the verge > 50km/h (council)	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$95.40	\$98.00	\$2.60	2.7%	Statutory	R
Minor works within the verge ≤ 50km/h (statutory)*	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$71.80	\$73.50	\$1.70	2.7%	Non-statutory	P
Minor works within the verge ≤ 50km/h (council)	Per Application	Non-Taxable	\$95.40	\$98.00	\$2.60	2.7%	Statutory	R
*Statutory fees apply if council conditions are not met								
Ararat Fitness Centre								
Casual Visit	Per User	Taxable	\$6.00	\$6.00	-	-	Non-statutory	M
Adult Swim	Per User	Taxable	\$5.00	\$5.00	-	-	Non-statutory	M
Teen/Concession	Per User	Taxable	\$5.00	\$5.00	-	-	Non-statutory	M

Description of Fees and Charges	Unit of Measure	GST Status	2023/24 Fee	2024/25 Fee	Fee Increase	Fee Increase	Basis of Fee	Pricing Basis
			Inc GST	Inc GST	/(Decrease)	/(Decrease)		
			\$	\$	\$	%		
Outdoor Pools Season Pass								
Adult	Per User	Taxable	\$80.00	-	-\$80.00	(100.0%)	Non-statutory	M
Child	Per User	Taxable	\$80.00	-	-\$80.00	(100.0%)	Non-statutory	M
Family	Per User	Taxable	\$150.00	-	-\$150.00	(100.0%)	Non-statutory	M
Outdoor Pool Casual								
Adult	Per User	Taxable	\$5.00	-	-\$5.00	(100.0%)	Non-statutory	M
Child	Per User	Taxable	\$4.00	-	-\$4.00	(100.0%)	Non-statutory	M
Family	Per User	Taxable	\$15.00	-	-\$15.00	(100.0%)	Non-statutory	M
Hire Fees								
Swimming Lane Hire	Per Lane Per Hour	Taxable	\$35.00	\$35.00	-	-	Non-statutory	M
Swim Instructor	Per Hour	Taxable	\$40.00	\$45.00	\$5.00	12.5%	Non-statutory	M
Life Guard	Per Hour	Taxable	\$40.00	\$45.00	\$5.00	12.5%	Non-statutory	M
Basketball Court Hire (casual)	Per Court Per Hour	Taxable	\$40.00	\$40.00	-	-	Non-statutory	M
Basketball Court Hire (regular)	Per Court Per Hour	Taxable	\$36.00	\$36.00	-	-	Non-statutory	M

3.3 NORFOLK ISLAND PINE TREES ON BARKLY STREET, ARARAT

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 15819

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the Council resolution at the February 2024 Council Meeting, community consultation has been undertaken through the Engage Ararat platform regarding the Norfolk Island pine trees along Barkly Street, Ararat. The feedback overwhelmingly endorses the removal of the current trees, along with a few suggestions on replacement species selection.

Council have previously worked with the Ararat Landcare Group to identify a list of suitable species for planting throughout urban Ararat. The species included in the Ararat Landcare Group Urban Trees booklet are indigenous, climate appropriate and will not impact utilities. Replacements for the Norfolk Island pines, where appropriate for the urban landscape, are proposed to be drawn from this booklet.

This report seeks Council's endorsement to remove the Norfolk Island pine trees on Barkly Street to enable the process of re-landscaping to commence.

DISCUSSION

The table below contains the feedback received from the community in relation to the Norfolk Island pine trees on Barkly Street, Ararat. Information that relates to potentially personal information as been removed.

Submissions Received (edited to remove personal information)
The Norfolk Island pine trees look dead and don't provide a welcoming aspect to the town. They need to be replaced by native trees adapted to the new climate ie climate change.
Perhaps it's time to get rid of these trees as they are dangerously and often drop large limbs. Also get rid of the trees in Barkly Street West as they drop large and unsightly leaves. Replace all these trees with something safer and more practical.
There are replacement trees already growing on the nature strips. Remove the Norfolk pines and let the other trees thrive.
I have only lived to the region as of last year. In my honest opinion Ararat isn't the most aesthetic town. The grape vines and fairy lights are the saving grace. It's a big suggestion but what about installing a median strip along Barkly Street? With the possibility of High and Moore streets also. This could be lined with trees which provide autumn colour and provide shade in the summer. Suggestions such as pin oak, sawtooth oak, red maple, alder, liquidambar. As long as the plantings are consistent it should look very colourful.
Due to the condition of the Norfolk Pines they need to be replaced with an attractive deciduous tree. If it is possible a Norfolk Pine seedling could be planted at the gardens with a plaque to show where they once were and why the shift.

<p>The council need to engage someone with the knowledge of what would look the best, what would be most suitable for the area, and not just rely on locals who may not have the expertise as the professionals, would be money well spent in the long run.</p>
<p>This a submission on behalf of Ararat Landcare Group, as a result of discussion at their meeting of 10/6/24. Regarding Strategic Objective Three- 2.3.1 Services- Ararat Landcare Group would like to see a specific budget line to cover the costs associated with the planting of 200 street trees per annum. This initiative is supported by the recent study and recommendations of the Urban Trees booklet, which was supported by Council and ALG, and Council's Environmental Strategy.</p>
<p>The Norfolk Island Pine in front of our house has been dead a considerable time. We have alerted council officers of this. There have been a number of inspections and numbers left on the trees meaning what we are not sure. It is our opinion that the tree in front of our house needs removing as do a number of others. It offers a risk with fallen limbs. The trees are not suitable for Ararat with the changing climate. It will be an expensive exercise but needs to be done. There are more suitable trees already planted in Barkly Street nature strip. More may be required.</p>
<p>These trees provide home to many magpies (a family which have lived in them for 15+ years), crows, cockatoos, black birds and starlings just to name a few. Removal would no doubt upset the life span of these birds that rely on them for living. Would new trees be planted in their place to accommodate this? (Instead focus on doing something about the crime rate and youth gangs that are forming in town causing chaos)</p>
<p>Maybe dig back all the asphalt, mulch and give them a really good drink with some seaweed solution! Easy</p>
<p>Unfortunately I think they are beyond saving and now need to be replaced with a more appropriate indigenous option to the area that is suitable to the local climate.</p>
<p>Perhaps the Norfolk Island Pines were not the best choice in the first place and it certainly seems time to choose a new species. Many of the Oaks around Ararat are doing well and certainly there are many Quercus species which are drought and heat tolerant. Above all there just needs to be lots of trees planted. There are some streets which look not only beautiful (like the lower end of Barkly with its overarching Elms) but benefit from the heat reduction that trees bring. There are however, many streets which are underplanted. Fast growing, heat resistant trees of varied species is what is needed - the bigger the better. it is a race against climate change. The council needs to be prepared to water the trees -heat resistance is more important then drought resistance. Eucalypts which close their stomata early do not do a great job of cooling. I would recommend Quercus palustris, Koelruteria, Ginkgo, Lagerstroemia, Fraxinus, Gleditsia, Pyrus ussuriensis, Pistacia chinensis and Ulmus parvifolium.</p>
<p>Ararat is a beautiful town and could be more beautiful still plus be a shelter for our future summers if many more trees could be planted.</p>

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

4.3 Deliver infrastructure outcomes that support economic growth, promote community wellbeing and safety, and align with Council's financial sustainability.

Budget Implications

The removal of the Norfolk Island pine trees is expected to have a minimal impact on the overall Council Budget, and will eliminate the public safety risks associated with trees that are already deceased or in poor condition.

Policy/Relevant Law

The Road Authority for Barkly Street, Ararat, where the Norfolk Island pine trees are located is VicRoads.

The Council's Tree Asset Management Plan excludes roadside trees pursuant to Section 107 of the Road Management Act 2004, which states that Council does not have a statutory duty or a common law duty to perform road management functions in respect of a public highway which is not a public road or to maintain, inspect or repair the roadside of any public highway (whether or not a public road).

Sustainability Implications

The potential replacement tree species will be better adapted to the local climate and deliver improved environmental sustainability outcomes for the community.

Risk Assessment

The removal of the existing trees will support a reduction in risk from falling branches and other potential hazards associated with trees in poor or very poor condition. The replacement of trees that are better suited to urban Ararat will reduce future risks and provide environmental and amenity benefits.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The process of consultation with the community has seen an increase in engagement with the Engage Ararat website. This will contribute towards continued innovation and improvement of the Council's community consultation and engagement processes into the future.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

Community and stakeholder consultation and engagement has occurred following the Council resolution at the February 2024 Council Meeting. Notification of this engagement was shared via social media, media release, and the Council's Focus Page in the local newspapers. Feedback was collected via the Council's Engage Ararat platform, which provided a simple and easy to use form for respondents to have their say.

Twelve submissions were received between 24 May and 14 June 2024. It is noted that this topic has received the highest volume of responses to an issue on Engage Ararat thus far. It is hoped that this represents an overall greater use of the platform by the community.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. Council endorse the removal the Norfolk Island pine trees on Barkly Street; and*
- 2. Replacement trees, where appropriate, will be sourced from the Ararat Landcare Group's Urban Trees booklet.*

MOVED CR WATERSTON

SECONDED CR R ARMSTRONG

That:

- 1. Council endorse the removal the Norfolk Island pine trees on Barkly Street; and**
- 2. Replacement trees, where appropriate, will be sourced from the Ararat Landcare Group's Urban Trees booklet.**

CARRIED 5001/24

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments in relation to this item

3.4 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2024-2035

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 15820

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's most recent Environmental Sustainability Strategy became outdated as of 2020. An updated Environmental Sustainability Strategy is proposed to provide a clear direction for the sustainable development and environmental management of the Ararat municipality. This report presents the new draft 10-year strategy for acceptance by Council prior to release for community consultation.

DISCUSSION

The environment of the Ararat Rural City is vast and diverse, encompassing the agricultural land which is a pillar of the local character and economy, the parks and gardens that provide space for recreation and connection, and the natural reserves and corridors which home many iconic and threatened species and ecological communities.

Council has undertaken significant work in recent years towards environmental sustainability:

- Increasing local renewable energy production through the development of the biofuel plant.
- Updating data on threatened species and communities and revising protection measures in the planning scheme.
- Reducing waste and improving local recycling and reuse through the implementation of the 4-bin system, and local green waste and glass recycling facilities.

However, a comprehensive and unified strategy is required to ensure that environmental actions are informed by the most up-to-date scientific information available, are consistent across all facets of Council functioning, and progress towards objectives and targets that reflect local, state, and national targets. The proposed strategy details:

- Council's objectives for the municipality's environment and natural resources.
- The risks posed to the municipality from environmental threats (such as climate change, land-use practices, and pollution) and how Council seeks to mitigate them.
- Council's capacity and role in meeting these objectives, and how they are prioritised.

The proposed strategy contains ten objectives, pertaining to three key themes of environmental sustainability:

Theme 1: Climate change

- 1.1 We will contribute to climate change mitigation.
- 1.2 We are prepared for the impacts of climate change.
- 1.3 Council infrastructure, businesses and the community are adaptive and resilient to a changing climate.

Theme 2: Natural Landscapes and Biodiversity

- 2.1. The environment is well monitored and understood, and conditions are maintained above legislatively required standards.
- 2.2. Threats to our environment are identified and controlled.
- 2.3. Native species, populations, and communities are enhanced.

Theme 3: Sustainable living

- 3.1. The municipality is energy efficient, supported largely by renewable sources.

- 3.2. Water is used and reused effectively.
- 3.3. Waste generation is avoided. Reusable, recyclable and compostable products are diverted from landfill.
- 3.4. Our waste and energy needs are managed locally.

The proposed strategy will be supported by measures of success to ensure continual alignment and progress towards these objectives.

In addition to providing greater clarity and consistency within Council's internal functioning, the proposed Environmental Sustainability Strategy will also communicate Ararat Rural City's priorities for future State and Federal funding across the municipality.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

This strategy directly addresses the Council Plan 2021-2025 objective to:

3. Preserving our natural environment:

We will take pragmatic approaches to ensuring that Ararat Rural City Council takes a regional lead in responsible environmental management and engagement with the circular economy.

- 3.3** Partner with local organisations and scientific experts to develop an appropriate and pragmatic local government Environment Strategy, focussed on the circular economy, emission reduction through renewable energy and management of Council assets.

This strategy also assists in addressing the other objectives of theme 3:

- 3.1** Position Ararat Rural City Council as a prime mover in driving circular economy policy in waste management, including local processing and management of recyclables, and in use of renewable energy for Council purposes.
- 3.2** Develop innovative energy solutions utilising locally produced waste.

Budget Implications

Implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2024-2034 will be incorporated into the Council's annual budget development and forecasting processes to ensure the measures of success are achieved whilst ensuring Council's financial position.

Policy/Relevant Law

The development of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2024-2034 aligns with the Local Government Act 2020, section 9 (2) (c), which states "the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted".

The proposed strategy aligns with several internal documents which are currently adopted, as well as State and Federal environmental legislation. Key examples include:

Internal policies:

- Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025: Develop environmentally positive health and wellbeing initiatives.
- Waste and Resource Recovery Plan 2021-2025: Reduce community waste production and increase in waste diverted from landfill.
- Ararat Residential Land Use Strategy 2005-2035: Ecologically sustainable design is a base position, and housing will be integrated consistently with the protection of the environment.
- Ararat Sustainable Growth Future Strategy 2014: Protect and enhance environmental and landscape values.

State:

- Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
- Local Government Act 1989 & 2020
- Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994

- Climate Change Act 2017
- Environmental Protection Act 2017
- Planning and Environment Act 2018
- Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021
- Victorian Planning Provisions

Federal:

- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999
- Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000
- Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020
- Nature Repair Act 2023

Sustainability Implications

As detailed above, the proposed strategy will guide positive environmental, economic, and social sustainability impacts across the municipality.

Risk Assessment

The strategy seeks to mitigate risks incurred through inconsistent approaches to sustainability across all areas of Council, and the risk of environmental harm caused by Council activities.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

In implementing the proposed strategy and monitoring the measures of success, Council will better align with best-practice recommendations for environmental sustainability and ensure greater accountability to the community. The measures of success will also ensure actions and targets are continually reviewed and aligned with scientific consensus, the needs and values of the community, and state and national targets.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The Environmental Working Group, comprised of representatives from local Landcare, scientific experts, and land developers, was engaged with at all stages of this strategy's development. The composition of the Environmental Working Group was as follows:

- Ararat Rural City Council Chief Executive Officer, or Nominee (Chair)
- Dr Anthea Nicholls
- Dr Ayesha Burdett
- Marion Da Costa
- Russell Pearse
- Martin Purcell
- Janene Trickey, Regional Manager Community and Partnerships Programs, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
- Prof Peter Gell, Professor of Environmental Management, Federation University
- Lauren Jakob, Ecology PhD Candidate, Federation University

Upon acceptance of this draft strategy, both will be made available for broader community comment using the Engage Ararat Portal.

RECOMMENDATION

That

1. Council accepts the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2024-2034 and releases these for consultation purposes and review the feedback at the September 2024 Council meeting.

**MOVED CR BURRIDGE
SECONDED CR J ARMSTRONG**

That

- 1. Council accepts the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2024-2034 and releases these for consultation purposes and review the feedback at the September 2024 Council meeting.**

CARRIED 5002/24

ATTACHMENTS

The Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2024-2034 is provided as Attachment 3.4



ARARAT RURAL CITY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2024 - 2034

Climate Change

Proactively addressing the current and potential effects of climate change is a central tenet of Council's strategy. We will work to mitigate and ultimately reduce our municipality's environmental impact, and ensure the community is prepared for the emergencies a changing climate may bring. We will cultivate adaptation and resilience across Council operations, infrastructure development, and by working collaboratively with businesses and residents.

Natural Landscapes and Biodiversity

Council is committed to environmental stewardship exceeding legislative requirements. We will actively monitor and manage our local environment, prioritising the health of native species, waterways, and our unique landscapes. We will encourage and maintain a thriving ecosystem through sustainable and environmentally conscious land-use practices.

Sustainable Living

A sustainable future for everyone in our community is of core priority for Council. We will promote energy efficiency, renewable resources, water conservation and responsible waste management. Through minimising waste generation and maximizing reuse, we will close the economy loop and bring management of our resource needs back to a local level.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land where we live, and pays its respects to their Elders, past and present. We recognise the Eastern Maar, Wadawurrung, Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk peoples' continuing, deep, spiritual connection to the land and their rights to their Country.

ARARAT RURAL CITY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2024 - 2034

1. Climate Change

Climate change poses many risks to our community, including damage to infrastructure, disruption to operational services and processes, reduced or prevented access to vital products and services, and threatening the health and safety of people, domestic animals and wildlife. Vulnerable people are the most impacted by these risks, including people with a disability, who represented 24% of the municipality's population in 2018, and elderly people (75+), whose percentage is expected to increase from 10% to 16% of the municipality by 2036.

We will inform the community of the local risks of climate change, and we will grow resilience by implementing and supporting adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Objectives:

- 1.1 We will contribute to climate change mitigation.
- 1.2 We are prepared for the impacts of climate change.
- 1.3 Council infrastructure, businesses and the community are adaptive and resilient to a changing climate.



2. Natural Landscapes and Biodiversity

Ararat municipality boasts several unique and diverse natural landscapes that are home to a number of iconic and rare Australian species. Important species include endangered plants and animals such as the Yarra gum, brolga, golden sun-moth and fat-tailed dunnart. Important landscapes include rare and endangered ecological vegetation classes (EVCs) including sandy forest, freshwater lake wetlands, and the western basalt plains grasslands. The municipality also hosts wetlands classed as significant due to use for breeding and habitat by threatened species, high biodiversity value, or their role as a link between other crucial habitat patches. These sites include Lake Buninjon, the Nerrin Nerrin wetland system, and the Woorndoo-Hopkins wetlands.

We will value, protect, and enhance our natural environment through effective monitoring, community engagement, and the implementation and incentivisation of protection measures.

Objectives:

- 2.1. The environment is well monitored and understood, and conditions are maintained above legislatively required standards.
- 2.2. Threats to our environment are identified and controlled.
- 2.3. Native species, populations, and communities are enhanced.

3. Sustainable Living

The consumption of resources must be managed to ensure that the health of the environment is protected, and that those resources are safeguarded for future generations. Ineffective use of products, water and electricity can also prevent economic growth, and is costly for Council, individuals, and businesses. The federal and Victorian governments are encouraging transition to a 'circular economy' framework of waste management and resource use, which is underpinned by the key principles of avoiding waste; designing to last, repair, recycle and reuse; using products to create more value; recycling more resources; and reducing harm from waste. Council aims to continue progressing towards effective circular economy and sustainable resource use with four key objectives.

We will reduce consumption of our limited resources, and we will develop infrastructure and processes to increase the sustainable and circular use of resources.

Objectives:

- 3.1. The municipality is energy efficient, supported largely by renewable sources.
- 3.2. Water is used and reused effectively.
- 3.3. Waste generation is avoided. Reusable, recyclable and compostable products are diverted from landfill.
- 3.4. Our waste and energy needs are managed locally.



MEASURES OF SUCCESS

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Municipality at net zero emissions.
- 50-54% reduction in emissions produced (from 2005 level).
- Canopy cover of at least 30% within all townships.
- 50% of municipality's electricity needs collected from renewable sources.
- Increase in native vegetation cover on public and private land.

NATURAL LANDSCAPE AND BIODIVERSITY

- Plant diversity at <5% single species, <10% single genera, <20% single family (of Recommended Species list).
- Increased vegetation, biodiversity and connectivity between habitat patches; more protection measures along riparian areas, waterways, and wetlands.
- Maintenance or increase in significant roadside vegetation, extent and condition of protected grassland EVCs, and populations of threatened species.
- All priority pest animal and weed populations contained or eradicated.
- Landfill sites and quality of stormwater to meet EPA requirements.
- Decrease in number and severity of environmental hazard incidents.

- Majority of primary production properties maintain 70% of groundcover in paddocks all year, and native vegetation permitted to be removed is offset locally.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

- All new homes to have minimum 7-star building standard under National Construction Code.
- 50% of organic waste from agriculture diverted to biofuel plant.
- 72% of waste diverted from landfill by 2025 and 80% by 2030 (from 2020).
- Waste generation per capita cut to 15%.
- 20% reduction in volume of organic material to landfill by 2025, and halved by 2030 (from 2020).
- All glass and organic material collected, aggregated, sorted and processed within the region/municipality.
- Contaminated recyclable or compostable waste sent to landfill is halved, and litter collected reduced by 40% (from 2020).
- Amount of wastewater recycled for reuse is doubled, with no net increase in potable water consumption (from 2020).
- 10% of all open space irrigation requirements met with non-potable water sources.
- Decrease in potable water consumption in all Council buildings.



3.5 PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY POLICY

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: GOVERNANCE AND RISK LEAD
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 15822

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government Act 2020 Act requires all Councils in Victoria to adopt and maintain documents to give effect to good governance and transparency principles.

In accordance with the *section 57 of the Local Government Act 2020* Council is required to adopt re periodically review the Public Transparency Policy.

DISCUSSION

The Public Transparency Policy formalises Council's commitment to open and transparent decision making. A Public Transparency Policy covers both documentary information, process information and how information will be made available to the public and is an integral part of Council's Governance Framework.

The Policy follows the public transparency principles of:

- (a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act;
- (b) Council information must be publicly available unless—
 - (i) the information is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act; or
 - (ii) public availability of the information would be contrary to the public interest;
- (c) Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the municipal community;
- (d) public awareness of the availability of Council information must be facilitated.

The changes made were to section 5.1 to better define what "Information" represents and some minor administrative changes

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

6. Strong and Effective Governance

6.2 Ensure appropriate risk management is applied to Council and organisational decision. Council's internal function is applied to areas of perceived risk

Budget Implications

There are no budget implications in relation to the development of the Public Transparency Policy.

Policy/Relevant Law

Council must adopt and maintain a Public Transparency Policy under section 57 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). This policy gives effect to the *Public Transparency Principles* outlined in section 58 of the Act

Sustainability Implications

Environmental, social and economic impacts have been considered in the development of the Public Transparency Policy.

Risk Assessment

The development of the Public Transparency Policy provides clarity and transparency for Councillors and delegated committee members.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The development of the Public Transparency Policy will ensure public transparency, good governance and community engagement is consistent.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

This policy was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee on the 4 June 2024 and the Councillor briefing held on 18 June 2024

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the Public Transparency Policy; and*
- 2. Place the Public Transparency Policy on the Council website.*

MOVED CR ALLGOOD

SECONDED CR R ARMSTRONG

That Council:

- 2. Adopt the Public Transparency Policy; and**
- 3. Place the Public Transparency Policy on the Council website.**

CARRIED 5003/24

ATTACHMENTS

The Public Transparency Policy is provided as attachment 3.5



Public Transparency Policy

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Category Type: Policy
Type: Council
Responsible Officer: Governance and Administration Coordinator

Last Review Date: 21 July 2020
Date Approved: xxxxxxxxx
Next Review Date: July 2028

Revision No: New

Stakeholder Engagement:
Councillors
Chief Executive Officer
Community

Public Transparency Policy



1. PURPOSE

This policy supports Council in its ongoing drive for good governance and the importance of open and accountable conduct and how council information is to be made publicly available. Council must maintain a public transparency policy under section 57 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). This policy gives effect to the *Public Transparency Principles* outlined in section 58 of the Act and as provided in Appendix 1.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objective of Council's Public Transparency Policy is to formalise its support for transparency in its decision-making processes and the public awareness of the availability of Council information. As a result, this policy seeks to promote:

- a) Greater clarity in Council's decision-making processes;
- b) Increased confidence and trust in the community through greater understanding and awareness;
- c) Enhanced decision making by the community;
- d) Improved Council performance;
- e) Access to information that is current, easily accessible and disseminated in a timely manner;
- f) Reassurance to the community that Council is spending public monies wisely.

A transparency policy needs to cover both documentary information, process information and how information will be made available to the public and is an integral part of council's Good Governance Framework.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to Councillors and Council employees.

4. WHAT WILL COUNCIL BE TRANSPARENT WITH

4.1 Decision Making at Council Meetings

- Will be undertaken in accordance with the Act and the Governance Rules.
- Will be conducted in an open and transparent forum, unless in accordance with the provisions in the Act and Governance Rules.
- Will be informed through community engagement, in accordance with the Community Engagement Principles and the Community Engagement Policy.
- Will be made fairly and on the merits.
- Where any person whose rights will be directly affected by a decision of the Council, that person will be entitled to communicate their views and have their interests considered.

Public Transparency Policy



4.2 Council Information

A list of available information is provided in the Part II Statement published in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. Part II of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* requires government agencies and local councils to publish a number of statements designed to assist members of the public in accessing the information it holds. This information includes but is not limited to:

Documents such as:

- Plans and Reports adopted by Council;
- Policies;
- Project and service plans;
- Grant application, tenders and tender evaluation material;
- Service agreements, contracts, leases and licences;
- Council leases, permits and notices of building and occupancy; and
- Relevant technical reports and / or research that informs decision making.

Process information such as:

- Practice notes and operating procedures;
- Application processes for approvals, permits, grants, access to Council services;
- Decision making processes;
- Guidelines and manuals;
- Community engagement processes;
- Complaints handling processes.

Council records will, at a minimum, be available on Council's website:

- Council meeting agendas;
- Minutes of Council meetings;
- Reporting from Advisory Committees to Council through reporting to Council;
- Audit and Risk Committee Performance Reporting;
- Terms of Reference or charters for Advisory Committees;
- Registers of gifts, benefits and hospitality offered to Councillors or Council Employees;
- Registers of travel undertaken by Councillors or Council Employees;
- Registers of Conflicts of Interest disclosed by Councillors or Council Employees;
- Submissions made by Council;
- Registers of donations and grants made by Council;
- Registers of leases entered into by Council, as lessor and lessee;
- Register of Delegations;
- Register of Authorised officers;
- Register of Election campaign donations.
- Summary of Personal Interests
- Any other Registers or Records required by legislation or determined to be in the public interest.

Consistent with the Part II statement, Council will make available the following records for inspection. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Summary of Personal Interests ('Register of interests' until 24 October 2020); and
- Submissions received under section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* until its repeal or received through a community engagement process undertaken by Council.

Public Transparency Policy



Publications

Council publishes a range of newsletters, reports and handbooks for residents, businesses and visitors to council. You can download them from the website or call Council for a copy. Some of these publications are available at Council's Library.

5. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

5.1 Information in accordance with the Part II statement made under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 will be made available on the Council website, from Council offices, or by request to the relevant business unit.

5.2 Members of the public can make different kinds of information request to the appropriate business unit within council (e.g. informal requests for documents and information or formal Freedom of Information request)

5.3 Consideration will be given to accessibility and cultural requirements in accordance with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

5.4 Consideration will be given to confidentiality in accordance with the *Act* and public interest test where appropriate.

Council will respond to requests for information in alignment with the *Act* including the Public Transparency Principles, and this policy

6. INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE

6.1 Some Council information may not be made publicly available. This will only occur if the information is confidential information or if its release would be contrary to the public interest or in compliance with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*

"Confidential information" is defined in section 3 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. It includes the types of information listed in the following table.

Type	Description
Council business information	Information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.
Security information	Information that is likely to endanger the security of Council property or the safety of any person if released.
Land use planning information	Information that is likely to encourage speculation in land values if prematurely released.
Law enforcement information	Information which would be reasonably likely to prejudice the investigation into an alleged breach of the law or the fair trial or hearing of any person if released.
Legal privileged information	Information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies.
Personal information	Information which would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs if released.

Public Transparency Policy



Private commercial information	Information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets or that would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage if released.
Confidential meeting information	Records of a Council and delegated committee meetings that are closed to the public to consider confidential information
Internal arbitration information	Confidential information relating internal arbitration about an alleged breach of the Councillor Code of Conduct.
Councillor Conduct Panel confidential information	Confidential information relating to a Councillor Conduct Panel matter.
Confidential information under the 1989 Act	Information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>

6.2 The Council may decide, in the interests of transparency, to release information to the public even though it is confidential under the Act. However, this will not happen if release is contrary to law or if releasing the information is likely to cause harm to any person or is not in the public interest to do so.

6.3 Where information is not confidential, and not already available, Council will apply the principles of a public interest test with consideration also of the resources required to respond to the request.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES

Party/parties	Roles and responsibilities	Timelines
Council	Champion the commitment and principles for public transparency through leadership, modelling practice and decision-making.	Ongoing
Leaders	Champion behaviours that foster transparency and drive the principles through policy, process and leadership. Monitor implementation of this policy and manage areas of responsibility to ensure public transparency, good governance and community engagement is consistent with this policy.	Ongoing
All Employees	Public transparency is the responsibility of all employees as appropriate to their role and function. All employees respond to requests for information and facilitate provision of information in consultation with their manager and in alignment with the Policy.	Ongoing
Governance Unit	To monitor implementation of this policy and conduct periodic reviews to drive continuous improvement.	Ongoing

8. HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

This policy has been reviewed against and complies with section 13 of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*, as this Policy aligns with and provides for the protection of an individual's right not to have their privacy unlawfully or arbitrarily interfered with. It is also

Public Transparency Policy



in line with section 18 which recognises a person's right to participate in the conduct of public affairs.

9. NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THIS POLICY

If a person wishes to question a decision about the release of information, this should be raised directly with the officer handling the matter in the first instance. If still not satisfied and would like to contest the decision, this can be reported to the Governance Unit on 5355 0261.

If not satisfied with Council's response, the concerns can be raised directly with the Victorian Ombudsman's office on (03) 9613 6222. or via the website – www.ombudsman.vic.gov.au.

10. OTHER WAYS TO ACCESS INFORMATION

- a. The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* gives a person right of access to documents that Council hold. Council is committed to, where possible, proactive and informal release of information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Professional Standards issued by the Victorian Information Commissioner. Read more at www.ovic.vic.gov.au.
- b. A list of available information is provided in the Part II Statement (Statement) published on Council's website in accordance the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. This Statement requires government agencies and local councils to publish a number of statements designed to assist members of the public in accessing the information it holds.

If you can't find the information you require, call us directly so we may assist you.

11. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Council commits to monitoring processes, information sharing and decision making to understand the overall level of success of the implementation of this Policy.

A periodic review of this policy will be undertaken to ensure any changes required to strengthen or update the policy are made in a timely manner.

Public Transparency Policy



12. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy, Council adopts the following definitions:

TERM	DEFINITION
Closed Meetings	When Council resolves to close the meeting to the general public, in order to consider a confidential matter regarding issues of a legal, contractual or personnel nature and other issues deemed not in the public interest.
Community	People of a municipality generally, including individuals or groups who live, work, play, study, visit, invest in or pass through the municipality. More specifically, it can refer to everyone affiliated with the municipality, or smaller groups defined by interest, identity or location, and not necessarily homogenous in composition or views. Different types of communities often overlap and extend beyond municipal boundaries. Communities may be structured, as in clubs or associations or unstructured, such as teens. Communities are flexible and temporary, subject individual identity and location
Consultation	The process of seeking input on a matter.
Public Interest	Council may refuse to release information if it determines that the harm likely to be created by releasing the information will exceed the public benefit in being transparent. When considering possible harm from releasing information, the Council will only concern itself with harm to the community or members of the community. Potential harm to the Council will only be a factor if it would also damage the community, such as where it involves a loss of public funds or prevents the council from performing its functions.
Public Participation	Commitment to engaging the community to support Council deliberation and decisions around issues affecting the municipality now and into the future.
Stakeholder	An individual or group with a strong interest in the decisions of Council and are directly impacted by their outcomes.
Transparency	A lack of hidden agendas or conditions, and the availability of all information needed in order to collaborate, cooperate and make decisions effectively. Importantly, "transparency" is also human rights issue: the right to have the opportunity, without discrimination, to participate in public affairs (s.58 of The Act).

Public Transparency Policy



13. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Council department, a change to the name of a Federal or State department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be by resolution of Council.

14. RELATED POLICIES & LEGISLATION

Council:
Governance Rules
Governance Framework (refer Chapter 2 Governance Rules)
Community Engagement Policy
Privacy and Data Protection and Health Records Policy

Legislation:
Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
Freedom of Information Act 1982
Local Government Act 2020
Local Government Act 1989
Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014
Equal Opportunity Act 2010

15. APPENDIX 1 – THE PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY PRINCIPLES (s58)

The following are the public transparency principles—

- (a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act;
- (b) Council information must be publicly available unless—
 - (i) the information is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act; or
 - (ii) public availability of the information would be contrary to the public interest;
- (c) Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the municipal community;
- (d) public awareness of the availability of Council information must be facilitated.

3.6 INTERNATIONAL AND INTERSTATE TRAVEL POLICY

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: GOVERNANCE AND RISK LEAD
DEPARTMENT: CEO's OFFICE
REFERENCE: 15823

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a direct or indirect interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council continues to work within legislative requirements which includes Council policies being updated as part of an ongoing policy review process. The International and Interstate Travel Policy have been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee and are presented to Council for consideration.

DISCUSSION

Council policies are a major component of the governance framework which supports the Council to make good decisions and will create positive outcome and guides the organisation decision making process. The International and Interstate Travel Policy has been reviewed within the schedule timeframes.

Along with a general review of the content, the main changes/additions to the policies are as follows:

Rewording and new paragraph for inclusion of rental car agreement:

“In the event that a rental car is required, the most appropriate car is to be arranged bearing in mind cost and travel requirements. Any infringements incurred during the use of a rental car will be at the personal responsibility of the driver. The Councillor or employee is responsible for ensuring they hold the appropriate licenses to drive the vehicle in the location of hire and that they adhere to the local laws in relation to driving.”

This policy will be updated on the Council website following adoption.

All forms referenced in these policies will be updated to reflect any necessary changes.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

6. Strong and Effective Governance

6.2 Ensure appropriate risk management is applied to Council and organisational decision. Council's internal function is applied to areas of perceived risk.

Budget Implications

Councillors and employee conferences and travel expenses are allocated in the 2023/2024 budget.

Policy/Legal/Statutory

Section 10(g) of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 outlines the Councillors expenses which should be included in the Annual Report.

R12(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2015 in relation to the keeping and maintaining of an Overseas and Interstate Travel Register.

Risk Assessment

Clarity and transparency of Council Policies.

Stakeholder Consultation and Communication

These policies were presented to the Audit and Risk Committee on the 4 June 2024 and the Councillor briefing held on 18 June 2024

RECOMMENDATION

That

Council adopt the International and Interstate Travel Policy.

**MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR WATERSTON**

That

Council adopt the International and Interstate Travel Policy.

CARRIED 5004/24

ATTACHMENTS

The International and Interstate Travel Policy is provided as Attachment 3.6



International and Interstate Travel Policy

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Category Type: Policy
Type: Council
Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Last Review Date: 17 March 2020
Date Approved: XXXXXXXXX
Next Review Date: March 2028

Revision No: 3

Stakeholder Engagement:
Councillors
Chief Executive Officer
Governance Team

International and Interstate Travel Policy



INTENT

It is recognised that there are occasions when Councillors or employee may be required to undertake international or interstate travel in the course of council business. This policy ensures that any such travel is transparent to the community and has an identifiable benefit to Council and/or to the municipality of Ararat Rural City Council.

POLICY

This policy has been developed to provide guidelines for business related travel for Councillors and employee, which include:

- Clarifying the approval process for international and interstate travel by Councillors and employees in an official capacity;
- Ensures effective reporting mechanisms are in place;
- Outlines the process for reimbursement of expenses associated with such travel; and
- Ensures the statutory register of overseas and interstate travel is maintained in accordance with the Regulations.

APPLYING FOR INTERNATIONAL OR INTERSTATE TRAVEL

All applications for international or interstate travel need to be made by the Councillor or employee through completing the 'Application for International & Interstate Travel' form and submitting it to the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer for approval.

International travel will be dealt with only in exceptional circumstances.

Councillors or employees applying for international or interstate travel must be able to demonstrate within their application:

- The benefit to themselves that the travel will allow for;
- The benefit to the organisation that the travel will allow for;
- The transferability of learning that will occur by undertaking the travel; and
- The process that they will undertake for sharing the learning they have obtained both personally and organisationally to other areas within Council.

Applications for international and interstate travel should be accompanied by the following where applicable:

- Details of budget provisions;
- All literature regarding the activity;
- Summary of travel dates, conference or study dates and the recognition of independent leisure time if applicable;
- Summary of cost implications for Council;
- Summary of personal costs incurred by the applicant;
- Any private activities that are to be undertaken in addition to business (e.g. additional travel following or preceding the event).

International and Interstate Travel Policy



Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application by the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer. Feedback surrounding the approval or refusal of the application will also be provided by the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer.

REQUIREMENTS SURROUNDING INTERNATIONAL AND INTERSTATE TRAVEL

International and interstate travel as discussed in this policy, can only be accessed by permanent employees with greater than 12 months of employment service to the Council unless otherwise approved by the Chief Executive Officer.

All international and interstate travel must be recorded in the travel register.

Councillors participating in international or interstate travel will be required to provide Council with a financial record and diary of activities and report on their return.

Employees participating in international or interstate travel will be required to provide the Chief Executive Officer with a full report of the programs undertaken. Such reports must reflect the organisational benefits surrounding the travel and associated activities, including how the knowledge gained could be best applied within Council.

In the circumstance where a Councillor or an employee has been invited to speak at a conference or provide educational / knowledge assistance, their expenses may be paid for by the external provider. For approval to attend in the above-mentioned circumstances the applicant must still submit an 'Application for International & Interstate travel' form for approval.

All Councillors and employees representing the Council within a public domain or undertaking activities that have been funded by the Council must always comply with the Councillor Code of Conduct or the Staff Code of Conduct.

TRAVEL PROVISIONS

All approved costs associated with overseas/interstate travel are to be funded within the relevant budget of the Councillor or employee undertaking the travel.

Air Travel

Air travel will be booked and paid for directly by Council. All international and interstate travel will be Economy Class. Should a Councillor or employee elect to use an alternate carrier or class of travel other than that recommended by Council then the increased cost difference must be met by the Councillor or employee.

It is the responsibility of the Councillor or employee to ensure they have all flight details and have confirmed their flights prior to travel. Additionally, the Councillor or employee must ensure they have allocated enough time to travel to the airport and be processed through check-in and security checks. Proof of identity (i.e. driver's licence or passport) is required at the airport check-in counter. Any excess baggage charge of a private nature over the assigned weight for the aircraft is the responsibility of the Councillor/employee travelling.

In the circumstances where flights are changed, rescheduled, cancelled, or missed due to the Councillor or employee's work commitments or an occurrence of an unforeseen event, there will be no charge to the individual. In all other instances the Councillor or employee travelling will incur the cost if they happen to miss flights through their own error.

International and Interstate Travel Policy



Ground Travel and Transfers

It is preferred that Councillors or employees use public transport (bus, train or ferry) to move around the area they are located in.

For travel to and from the airport, Councillors or employees can hire a taxi where the hotel / motel in which they are staying doesn't provide a free shuttle transfer service.

Reimbursement will be made for public transport and taxi fares or for fuel costs related to hire car usage for business purposes by the Councillor or employee issuing a receipt on return.

In the event that a rental car is required, the most appropriate car is to be arranged bearing in mind cost and travel requirements. Any infringements incurred during the use of a rental car will be at the personal responsibility of the driver. The Councillor or employee is responsible for ensuring they hold the appropriate licenses to drive the vehicle in the location of hire and that they adhere to the local laws in relation to driving.

Accommodation

Accommodation will be booked and paid for directly by Council prior to departure where possible. Accommodation should be booked giving consideration to the location where business is to be conducted and the costs of the accommodation.

Councillors or employees will be booked into suitable accommodation for the duration of the time they are required to be away. Accommodation will be booked at or within proximity of the conference, seminar, training course or meeting.

A Councillor or employee is entitled to their own private single room. Any additional accommodation costs incurred as a result of extra days and/or the attendance of partners and/or children shall be borne by the Councillor or employee.

All travel and accommodation are to be booked through the Governance Unit.

Meals

Where a Councillor or employee is required to stay away from their normal residence in order to attend a conference, seminar, training course or meeting, they will be entitled to receive reimbursement for their meals during this time.

Mobile Phone Usage

Where a Councillor or employee has a Council mobile phone for work related purposes they may apply for international roaming for the duration of their travel and discuss usage and data information rates with the Information Services team before departure. All usage of the mobile phone will be in accordance with the Council's Mobile Phone policy.

International and Interstate Travel Policy



Other Expenses

All legitimate and reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the Councillor or employee's duties will be paid or reimbursed. Council will not reimburse the Councillor or employee for out of pocket travel expenses without proof. A Councillor or employee must provide receipts or proof of expenditure for reimbursement to occur.

Reasonable expenses include:

- Air Fares;
- Ground Transfers;
- Accommodation;
- Meals;
- Parking;
- Course registration costs;
- Visa entry and exit fees;
- Departure taxes;
- Laundry expenses, where the travel period has been for more than five days.

As a guide the following are non-reimbursable expenses. This list is not all inclusive:

- Any items of personal expenditure;
- Excess baggage that is for personal use;
- Items purchased for travel;
- Mini-bar charges and in-house entertainment (movies, pay per view events);
- Laundry expenses, where the travel period has been for less than three days;
- Phone calls – land line and mobile phone.

Post Attendance Arrangements

Upon return from international or interstate travel, the Councillor or employee will make application for reimbursement of expenditures within five (5) working days.

Councillors will be required to provide reports and/or presentations to Council to show the benefit from the knowledge they have gained.

Employees who participate in international travel for business purposes will be required to provide a report and presentation to the Chief Executive Officer within 21 days of their return to Council. The content of the presentation and report will be at the request of the Chief Executive Officer. Employees will also be responsible for sharing all relevant learnings in line with Council's Training & Development policy.

Private activities in association with Business Travel

Councillors or employees seeking to undertake private travel/activities in conjunction with international business travel shall obtain the approval of the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer prior to making any arrangements. This should be noted in the 'Application for International & Interstate Travel' form and for employees accompanied by a completed 'Leave Application' form. If permission is granted to do so, the Councillor or employee will be responsible for all associated expenses relating to the private travel and activities.

International and Interstate Travel Policy



Where members of the Councillor or employee's family are travelling also, arrangements may be made to provide for the family to travel and stay together. The Councillor or employee will be responsible for all associated expenses for their family.

Travel and Personal Accident Insurance

Councillors and employees are provided travel insurance cover under Council's personal accident insurance policy for the following events:

- Capital Benefits (Death, disablement etc.);
- Weekly Benefits (average weekly income);
- Injury assistance benefits;
- Non-Medicare Medical and Out of Pocket Expenses;
- Overseas medical and additional expenses;
- Emergency travel assistance;
- Baggage and personal effects;
- Personal money, travellers' cheques and credit cards;
- Personal liability;
- Kidnap, ransom and extortion;
- Loss of Travel Deposits;
- Refund of excess following collision damage or theft
- Extra territorial cover;
- Environment and Natural Disaster Evacuation and Political Evacuation

For full cover details and exclusions refer to Council's current Personal Accident / Corporate Travel policy document available from the Governance Unit.

Council's policy of travel insurance provides for reimbursement of eligible claims for expenditures which are necessarily incurred for replacement of lost or stolen items. In circumstances where a person covered under Council's policy incurs a loss or theft of items whilst travelling, the loss or theft should be reported to the police or another appropriate independent and contactable party e.g. hotel management. Receipts for stolen items must be retained for submission to the insurer following the traveller's return to Australia. Councillors or employees should notify the Governance [and Risk Lead](#) of any incidents on their return.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Council department, a change to the name of a Federal or State department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be by resolution of Council.

International and Interstate Travel Policy



REFERENCES

Local Government (General) Regulations 2015 R12(a) in reference to the keeping and maintain of an Overseas of Interstate Travel Register
Local Government (Planning and Reporting) 2020
Application for International & Interstate Travel Form
Staff Training & Development Policy
Councillor Training & Development Policy
Staff Code of Conduct Policy
Councillors Code of Conduct Policy
Mobile Phone Policy
Travel Register

APPENDICES

NIL

3.7 COUNCIL EXPENSES AND SUPPORT POLICY

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: GOVERNANCE AND RISK LEAD
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 15824

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) requires all Councils in Victoria to adopt and maintain documents to give effect to good governance and transparency principles.

DISCUSSION

Section 41(1) of the Act – Council expenses policy, states that Council must adopt and maintain an expenses policy in relation to the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses for Councillors and members of delegated committees.

The Councillor Expenses and Support Policy reflects the legislative requirements of *the Act*.

The Policy incorporates the following:

- 1 As per section 41(2) of *the Act* the policy includes;
 - (a) specific procedures to be followed in applying for reimbursement and in reimbursing expenses; and
 - (b) requirements prescribed by the regulations in relation to the reimbursement of expenses; and
 - (c) provides for the reimbursement of childcare costs where the provision of childcare is reasonably required for a Councillor or member of a delegated committee to perform their role; and
 - (d) have particular regard to expenses incurred by a Councillor who is a carer in a care relationship within the meaning of section 4 of the **Carers Recognition Act 2012**.
- 2 The policy applies to both Councillors and delegated committee members.
- 3 Quarterly reporting of Councillor expenses to Council's Audit and Risk Committee; and
- 4 Policy monitoring and review section, which will allow for periodic review as required.

A review of this policy has seen an addition of a paragraph outlining a set of principals: to commit to as well as some minor administrative changes.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

6. Strong and Effective Governance

6.2 Ensure appropriate risk management is applied to Council and organisational decision. Council's internal function is applied to areas of perceived risk

Budget Implications

Councillor expenses have been allocated in the Budget 2024/2025

Policy/Relevant Law

The *Local Government Act*, section 41 – Council expenses policy

Sections 40 and 41 of *the Act* outlines what out-of-pocket expenses may be claimed. The policy outlines the procedure to make these reimbursement claims.

The Policy also outlines the resources and facilities available for the Mayor and Councillors.

Sustainability Implications

Environmental, social and economic impacts have been considered in the development of the Council Expenses and Support Policy.

Risk Assessment

The development of the Policy provides clarity and transparency for Councillors and delegated committee members.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

None identified.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

These policies were presented to the Audit and Risk Committee on the 4 June 2024 and the Councillor briefing held on 18th June 2024

RECOMMENDATION

That

the Council Expenses and Support Policy be adopted.

MOVED CR ALLGOOD

SECONDED CR R ARMSTRONG

That

the Council Expenses and Support Policy be adopted.

CARRIED 5005/24

ATTACHMENTS

The Council Expenses and Support Policy is provided as attachment 3.7



Council Expenses and Support Policy

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Category Type: Policy
Type: Council
Responsible Officer: Governance and Risk Lead

Last Review Date: 21 July 2020
Date Approved: July 2024
Next Review Date: July 2026

Revision No: 9

Stakeholder Engagement:
Councillors
Chief Executive Officer
Governance and Risk Lead

Council Expenses and Support Policy



1 PURPOSE

This policy supports Councillors and members of delegated committees to perform their role, as defined in the *Local Government Act 2020*, by ensuring that expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of their roles are reimbursed. The policy also provides guidance on:

- Entitlements
- Processes for reimbursement
- Support available to Councillors and delegated committees
- Reporting requirements.

The policy is intended to ensure that Councillors and members of delegated committees are supported to perform their duties without disadvantage.

2 SCOPE

Section 41 of the *Local Government Act 2020* provides that a Council must adopt and maintain an expenses policy in relation to reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses of Councillors and members of delegated committees.

This Policy applies to:

- Councillors of the Ararat Rural City Council
- Members of delegated committees of Ararat Rural City Council

Councillors' duties are those performed by a Councillor as a necessary part of their role in achieving the objectives of Council.

These duties may include (but are not limited to):

- Attendance at meetings of Council and its committees
- Attendance at briefing sessions, workshop, civic events or functions convened by Council
- Attendance at conferences, workshop, training programs related to the role of Councillor, Mayor or Deputy Mayor
- Attendance at meetings, events or functions representing Council
- Duties in relation to constituents concerning Council business.

Members of delegated committees exercise powers of Councillors, under delegation. This policy also applies to those members in the course of undertaking their role as delegated committee members.

Council Expenses and Support Policy



3 POLICY

Councillors and members of delegated committees are entitled, under section 40 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), to reimbursement of expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of their duties.

This policy ensures that the reimbursement of these expenses is in accordance with the Act and meets the Act's principles of public transparency; achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community; and ensuring the ongoing financial viability of the Council.

Councillors and members of delegated committees will be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses that are:

- Bona fide expenses and
- Have been reasonably incurred in the performance of the role of councillor, and
- Are reasonably necessary for the Councillor and member of a delegated committee to perform this role.

The Council commits to the following principles

- Reasonable expenses – Councillors and delegated committee members should not be out of pocket as a result of performing their Council functions and duties
- Proper conduct – reimbursement claimed by Councillors and delegated committee members must be expenses actually and necessarily incurred in performing their official Council functions and duties.
- Accountability and transparency – payment of any allowance, the reimbursement of expenses and the and the support provided to Councillors and delegated committee members must be accountable and transparent to the community
- Equity – there must be equitable access to expenses and facilities for Councillors and delegated committee members

4 REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

4.1 Carer and dependent-related expenses

Council will provide reimbursement of costs where the provision of childcare is reasonably required for a councillor or member of a delegated committee to perform their role (s 41(2)(c)).

This applies to the care of a dependent, while the councillor or delegated committee member is undertaking their official duties; and may include expenses such as hourly fees and booking fees, if applicable.

Council will provide reimbursement of costs where the provision of carer services is reasonably required when a councillor or delegated committee member who is a carer (see *Definitions*) incurs reasonable expenses in the performance of their duties (s 41(2)(d)).

Payments for carer and childcare services will not be made to a person who resides with the councillor or delegated committee member; has any financial or pecuniary interest with the councillor or delegated committee member; or has a relationship with the councillor, delegated committee member or their partner.

Council Expenses and Support Policy



4.2 Attendance and Travel Related Expenses

The Mayor and Councillors receive invitations in their role as advocates for Council and Regional Projects. Within the capacity of the Council's budget such attendance and associated costs will be funded by Council under the administration of the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer.

Reimbursement for attendance at all other events, training opportunities, seminars and conferences, will require prior approval of the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer. A "Conference – Seminar Attendance Application Form" must be completed and submitted to the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer.

Attendance at any event overseas will require the approval of the full Council (air travel will be economy class). Interstate and overseas travel must be recorded in the Travel Register (Refer to the *International and Interstate Travel Policy and Application for International and Interstate Travel Form*.)

Any other reasonable expense incurred whilst performing duties as a Councillor will be reimbursed only after approval by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer where practicable.

All claims for reimbursement of expenses are to be submitted monthly and within the financial year in which they are incurred (no later than 30 June).

No expenses will be reimbursed without the appropriate documentation/receipts. Council will retain records of all claims for audit purposes. When claiming reimbursement expenses Councillors must use the "Councillor Request for Reimbursement of Expenses Form". The form must include details of expenses and the community benefit along with copies of receipts/tax invoices.

Travel Expenses will be reimbursed for the following:

- Ordinary and Special Council Meetings, Briefings and formal Community Asset Committee Meetings;
- Meetings, seminars, conferences, events or functions as agreed by the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer from time to time, or by resolution of Council
- Council civic and ceremonial official functions.

Travel expenses will not be paid for travel undertaken at the choice of the Councillor or to inspect resident's inquiries or complaints.

Accommodation and related expenses (excluding mini bar costs and alcohol costs) required for attendance at seminars, conferences or attendance at events/functions will be approved by the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer.

When claiming travel reimbursement expenses Councillors must use the "Councillor Travel and Remote Travel Reimbursement Form". The form must include:

- Date of travel;
- Vehicle details;
- Destination;
- Odometer readings (start and finish);
- An explanation of the purpose of the business (ie function/event and the benefit to the community); and
- Signed confirmation of travel taken as part of role of Councillor.

All travelling expenses will be reimbursed at 85% of the current Australian Pay and Classification Scales as outlined in the Victorian Local Authorities Award 2001 (PLF011) clause 23.1.5.

Council Expenses and Support Policy



Where practicable, and by prior arrangement through the Governance Team, a Council pool vehicle will be made available to Councillors for travel outside the municipality where use of private vehicles or other means is not practicable.

The costs of a partner accompanying a Councillor on a Council business trip will be borne by the Councillor.

4.3 Exclusions

Any expense arising from a breach of road, traffic, parking or other regulations or laws, including Council Local Laws, will not be reimbursed or funded in any way by Council.

4.4 Other Expenses

Other expenses incurred by a Councillor or delegated committee member whilst performing duties may be claimable subject to prior approval by the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer.

The cost of a partner, spouse or companion accompanying a Councillor on a business trip must be borne by the person.

4.5 Reimbursement Claims Procedure

- All reimbursement claims must be made on the approved expense reimbursement form outlined above, which are available from the Governance Team
- Original receipts/tax invoices must be attached to all claims (credit card receipts will not be accepted)
- Claims must be lodged with the Governance Team by the last day of the month.
- Claims will be processed by the Governance Team with sign off by either the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer
- All reimbursements will be paid by electronic funds transfer within 21 days of a compliant claim form being submitted.

5 RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

5.1 Mayoral Car

The Mayor shall have access to a fully maintained vehicle (including servicing, fuel card and insurance).

The make and model of the Mayoral vehicle shall be in accordance with the Council's Procurement Policy or at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

The Mayoral vehicle shall be available for use by the Mayor in the discharge of his or her duties as the Mayor for their term. The vehicle may be used for reasonable private use by the Mayor.

The fuel card and an E-Tag are located in the Mayoral vehicle.

The Mayoral vehicle is required to be garaged off street.

An odometer reading will be requested each month.

Council Expenses and Support Policy



The Mayor is required to nominate any family member or associate who may drive the vehicle when accompanying the Mayor.

In the event of the Mayor taking leave of official duties or the Mayor not requiring full use of the vehicle, the Mayoral vehicle should be housed at the Municipal Depot and be available for the Deputy Mayor and Councillors in carrying out official duties on behalf of the Mayor and Council. Bookings for the Mayoral vehicle can be made through the Governance Team.

5.2 Access to Council's Pool Vehicles

Council vehicles should be utilised for use on Council related business. Council vehicles can be booked through the Governance Team.

Use of Councillor private vehicles must be with prior approval by the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer.

5.3 Public Transport

Where possible the public transport network should be utilised to attend meetings and conferences.

5.4 Administrative Support

The Governance Team will provide secretarial support for the Mayor and Councillors. This includes:

- Diary Management;
- Responding to all correspondence;
- Responding to invitations;
- Bookings of conference registrations, travel arrangements and meeting rooms; and
- Processing Mayoral and Councillor Allowances and Councillor requests for Reimbursement of Expenses/Travel Claims.

5.5 Mayor's Office

A suitably equipped Mayoral office is available at the Municipal Offices, 59 Vincent Street, Ararat. The Mayoral office is all abilities accessible and is available during business hours only.

5.6 Office Access

Councillors are entitled to have access to the Municipal Offices during normal business hours.

Councillors must ensure that when they are within a staff-only area they avoid giving rise to the appearance that they may improperly influence Council staff decisions.

Access to the Shire Hall building is only available on Tuesday for Council Meetings and on other days as scheduled in the Councillors calendar.

5.7 Office Equipment and Stationery

Councillors will be provided the following for use while conducting Council business:

Council Expenses and Support Policy



- Mobile phone
- Tablet
- Printer and printer consumables
- Provision of an email address
- Business Cards
- Name badges

In line with Council's waste management policy, wherever possible Councillor correspondence and information will be provided via email or electronic distribution.

5.8 Mobile Phones and Tablets

Mobile phones and tablets purchased, maintained and provided by Council are to be used only for the conduct of Council related business.

All mobile phone handsets, tablets and service numbers are and shall be deemed Council property. All mobile handsets, tablets and services must be used in compliance with applicable licences, notices, contracts and agreements.

Due to the high incidence of mobile phone and tablet theft and misuse after loss, a mobile phone and tablet service must be cancelled immediately once it is determined missing.

Councillors are required to take adequate care and ensure that measures are taken to secure the mobile phone and tablet. This includes ensuring the mobile phone and tablet is not left unattended out of the workplace or in a vehicle. A Councillor may be responsible for any costs incurred if due care has not been taken of the allocated mobile phone and/or tablet.

It is imperative that the theft or loss be reported to the nearest police station and to Council as soon as possible.

Mobile Phones and Tablets must be PIN or fingerprint access enabled.

All Mayor and Councillors equipment must be returned to Council prior to election day without exception.

5.9 Customer Relationship Management System (CRMS)

Council receives many requests from residents. These may take the form of requests for information, requests for service, or comments on community issues, proposals for increases to Council facilities and services.

A computerised Customer Relationship Management System has been established to record and manage responses to these enquiries.

Although most residents and visitors make requests by telephone, in person, at Council Customer Service Centres or by mail, they may also approach a Councillor and request that he or she seeks a response from Council staff on their behalf.

Councillors are encouraged to submit these requests for service directly to Chief Executive Officer or the Governance Team so that they will be recorded in the Customer Relationship Management System and followed up as soon as possible.

If you have any questions in relation to a request, please contact the Governance Team for assistance.

Council Expenses and Support Policy



5.10 Correspondence

All incoming correspondence to Councillors must be registered through Council's Customer Relationship Management System (CRMS).

Any item of correspondence addressed to the Mayor and/or Councillors will be registered and directed to the appropriate officer. A copy of correspondence addressed to the Mayor and/or Councillors will be provided to the Mayor or Councillors as addressed.

Correspondence received directly by Councillors should be forwarded to the Governance Team as soon as practicable so normal process can take place.

Any item of correspondence addressed to a particular Councillor by name, which is marked either confidential or personal, will be opened by the Governance Team, registered and directed as appropriate.

5.11 Invitations

The Mayor in consultation with Councillors will determine which Councillor/s will attend events on his or her behalf. An electronic calendar invitation will be forwarded to the Councillor/s attending the function/event. Invitations will also be listed on the Councillors diary (which is sent out weekly on the email).

Councillors should advise Governance Team of any invitations received, so the Mayor can discuss attendance with all Councillors.

5.12 Use of Corporate Stationery and General Stationery

Council's letterhead stationery is used only for official Council business and can only be used for official replies prepared for a Councillor by the Governance Team and signed/approved by the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer.

Any other use of Council's letterhead should be discussed with the Chief Executive Officer.

Councillors shall, upon request, be supplied with general stationery held or obtained general for the organisation's requirements. Stationery may include but not necessarily be limited to: Copy paper, writing pads, notebooks, business cards and personal diary.

5.13 Photocopying

Council related photocopying can only be carried out at the Municipal Offices upon authorisation by the Chief Executive Officer. Photocopying is not to be carried out at the Library, Visitor Information Centre or any other Council site. All photocopying will be carried out by an authorised officer.

5.14 Health and Wellbeing

In line with Ararat Rural City Council's commitment to promoting a healthy working environment, Councillors and delegated committee members are able to access (where required) Council's appointed confidential professional counselling service (EAP) to help resolve both personal and Council related problems or concerns that may impact on their capacity to effectively undertake their roles.

Council Expenses and Support Policy



5.15 Insurance

Section 43 of the *Local Government Act 2020* provides:

A Council must indemnify and keep indemnified each Councillor, member of a delegated committee and member of a Community Asset Committee against all actions or claims whether arising during or after their term of office in respect of anything necessarily done or reasonably done or omitted to be done in good faith—

- (a) in the performance of a duty or a function or the exercise of a power under this Act, the regulations or a local law or any other Act; or
- (b) in the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the performance of a duty or a function or the exercise of a power under this Act, the regulations or a local law or any other Act.

Council's insurance program provides coverage for Councillors and members of delegated committees under the following insurance policies

- Public Liability
- Professional Indemnity
- Councillors and Officers liability
- Travel

5.16 Councillors Profiles on Website

A page on Council's website will be provided outlining Councillor's profiles. The content for each Councillor profile will include a photograph, contact details, personal history, hobbies, vision and Council appointments.

6 COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT

6.1 Induction Program

Upon commencement of each electoral term, a purpose designed induction program will be provided to all Councillors. Councillors must actively participate in the induction program of Council.

The induction program will include the following elements:

- Relationships Building – Councillors and senior staff, led by the Chief Executive Officer, have shared responsibility for the strategy, priorities, efficient resource use and overall performance of services delivered to the community. The strong working relationship is therefore critical;
- Roles and Responsibilities – Understanding the separate but complementary roles of Council as a whole, Councillors, the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer is fundamental to achieving outcomes for the local community;
- Councillor and Meeting Conduct – Equally important to decision making is the smooth functioning of the elected Council and the cooperation of Councillors. The induction program will provide information about and discussion of the law and procedures of meetings as well as the provisions of the Councillor Code of Conduct.
- Strategic Directions – As an early priority the incoming Council needs to review the strategic direction and major projects agreed by the previous Council and determine whether they will continue to be endorsed. The induction program will include briefings with sufficient detail to ensure that all Councillors have a common understanding of key policy areas, strategies, plans and ongoing projects.

Council Expenses and Support Policy



- Values and Behaviours – The incoming Council is required to review and adopt a Councillor Code of Conduct within four months of the election. The induction program will provide the opportunity for Councillors to contribute to the review and adoption of the Councillor Code of Conduct.

Induction plans will be made available to candidates prior to a General Election.

6.2 Training and Conferences

Councillors will be given the opportunity to attend conferences and training sessions as they are important in enhancing the knowledge of Councillors and their ability to make contemporary, informed decisions.

The selection of the conference or training sessions should be based on its relevance to the responsibilities of the respective Councillor and any specific professional development needs.

6.3 Professional Development

Council is committed to the development of skilled, knowledgeable and dedicated Councillors. Council recognises the importance of Councillor training and education as an integral part of personal growth and organisational development in the performance of duties. Professional Development programs/courses are available to all Councillors.

Professional Development should be tested against the following criteria:

- Relevance in the Councillor's role and personal development needs;
- The desire of the Councillor to attend the course;
- The achievement of Council's Corporate aims and broad objectives;
- The efficient functioning of the council while absent from training;
- The availability of Councillor training funds;
- The consideration of time required for study; or
- The benefit to the community.

6.4 Councillor Training, Conference and Professional Development Reporting Requirements

Attendance at conference or professional development event will be subject to a report to Council. The report is to be written, tabled at a Council Meeting within 2 months of the conference or professional development event and may be a joint report if more than one Councillor attended.

The report should include:

- Details of course topic, content, location, date and duration;
- Relevance of conference, workshop, training to Council's business and Councillor's personal development requirements;
- Total cost covering course, course material, travel, accommodation and any other expenses for the Councillor; and
- Benefits to the community from attendance.

Council Expenses and Support Policy



7 MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

The Mayor and Councillors are entitled to receive from the Council an allowance.

Councillors should obtain taxation advice from their accountant as these allowances are taxable and may therefore have individual tax implications. If a deduction is required, please contact the Governance Team.

It is the individual Councillor responsibility to notify Council of any changes to banking details, address or contact details. Council cannot be held responsible if errors occur due to lack of notification or incorrect details.

Mayoral and Councillors allowances are paid monthly by Electronic Funds Transfer.

8 MONITORING, EVALUATING AND REVIEW

8.1 Audit Committee

Quarterly reports of all Councillor and delegated committee member expenses will be provided to Council's Audit and Risk Committee.

The report will include:

- expenses incurred by Councillors during the quarter
- reimbursement claims made by councillors during the quarter
- reimbursements made by councillors during the quarter.

8.2 Website

The Councillor and Delegated Committee Member Expenses Report is published on the Council's website on a monthly basis. The report outlines the monthly and year to date amounts of expenses, which includes travel expenses, car mileage expenses (Mayoral car), carer and dependent related expenses, information and communication technology expenses and conference and training expenses (as per Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 section 14(2)(db)).

8.3 Annual Report

The Annual Report shall include the amount paid or attributed to a Councillor and member of delegated committee and include travel expenses, car mileage expenses (Mayoral car), childcare expenses, information and Communication technology expenses and conference and training expenses.

8.4 Policy Monitoring and Review

Council commits to monitoring processes and decision making to understand the overall success of the policy's implementation.

A period review of the policy will be undertaken to ensure any changes required to strengthen or update the policy are made in a timely manner.

Council Expenses and Support Policy



9 ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Council department, a change to the name of a Federal or State department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be by resolution of Council.

10 DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
Carer	A carer as defined under section 4 of the <i>Carers Recognition Act 2012</i>
Delegated committee	Delegated committees are defined under section 63 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>
Expenses	Where pre-approved expenses are incurred by Councillors or members of delegated committees and meet the requirement of the Policy for reimbursement. <i>They must be accompanied by an official tax receipt.</i>

11 REFERENCES

Council Policies and Forms:

Governance Rules
Governance Framework
Public Transparency Policy
Councillors Code of Conduct
Councillors Code of Conduct Support Guide
International and Interstate Travel Policy
Application for International and Interstate Travel Form
Travel register
Councillors Travel and Remote Travel Reimbursement Form
Conference/Seminar Attendance Application Form
Request for EFT Payment form

Legislation:

Local Government Act 2020
Carers Recognition Act 2012
Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
Freedom of Information Act 1982
Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014
Equal Opportunity Act 2010
Gender Equity Bill 2020

SECTION 4 – INFORMATION REPORTS

4.1 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY 2024

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 15825

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received the results from the 2024 Annual Community Satisfaction Survey. The Survey provides insight on how the community views the performance of Council. Council's overall performance against small rural and state-wide averages has yet again demonstrated consistency across the board.

There are still opportunities for substantial service improvement in all areas of Council's operations that will again be a focus of activity in the next twelve months.

DISCUSSION

The Department of Government coordinates the survey, which this year has been conducted by the independent research group, JWS Research. The 2024 survey was conducted through interviews with 400 randomly selected households during the period of 29th January to 18th March 2024.

Of Victoria's 79 Councils, 62 have participated in the 2024 survey, providing data benchmarked against state-wide results and the 18 Councils within the small rural Council group.

The results of the 2024 Local Government Satisfaction Survey were provided on Thursday 6 June 2024. Overall, the results again show that Council is moving in the right direction in terms of meeting community expectations around performance. In terms of relativity with like Councils and the state average, Ararat Rural City is performing well.

As always it is important to understand that there is still plenty of room for improvement and we are still a long way in some cases from reaching excellence in service delivery. A private sector measure of excellence in service provision would be ranking of at least 85. It needs to be acknowledged that ranking of services in a public sector environment has a greater number of social and political complexities than the private sector.

The 2024 Survey yielded a number of Council service areas with satisfaction scores over 70. These were Customer Service (75), Arts Centres and Libraries (78), Emergency and Disaster Management (74), Waste Management (74), Recreational Facilities (73) and Appearance of Public Areas (72).

The table below shows the spread of services areas that had improved, the same of decreased levels of customer satisfaction from the 2023 Survey.




Changes in satisfaction ranking	Number
Improved on 2023 results	15
Stayed the same	2
Decreased on 2023 results	5

The table below demonstrates Council's sustained performance against like Councils and the state average for 2023 and 2024.

ARCC performance	2024		2023	
	Small rural	State-wide	Small rural	State-wide
Better than	21	22	19	21
Same as	0	0	2	1
Worse than	1	0	2	1

In a number of cases, Ararat Rural City Council rankings were around ten points higher than state and small rural averages. Examples are Overall Council Directions, Emergency Management, Community Decisions, Lobbying, Sealed Local Roads and Unsealed Roads.

The tables below show results in key measured areas.

Services	Ararat 2024	Ararat 2023	Small Rural 2024	State-wide 2024
 Overall performance	65	63	53	54
 Value for money	53	55	47	48
 Overall council direction	55	60	44	45
 Customer service	75	72	66	67
 Art centres & libraries	78	75	73	73
 Emergency & disaster mngt	76	72	66	65
 Waste management	74	66	67	67
 Recreational facilities	73	71	67	68
 Appearance of public areas	72	70	71	68
 Elderly support services	68	66	65	63

Services	Ararat 2024	Ararat 2023	Small Rural 2024	State-wide 2024
 Community & cultural	67	65	69	66
 Bus/community dev./tourism	66	65	59	57
 Environmental sustainability	63	63	59	60
 Community decisions	61	60	50	50
 Informing the community	61	60	56	56
 Lobbying	60	61	50	50
 Consultation & engagement	59	60	51	51
 Local streets & footpaths	57	55	51	52
 Sealed local roads	54	51	41	45
 Planning & building permits	54	54	43	45
 Slashing & weed control	48	52	46	45
 Unsealed roads	45	42	35	36

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

This report links to the following Council Plan objectives:

6 Strong and Effective Governance

We will work hard to build models of governance that place delivering public value at the centre through effective financial management; well measured risk management; and implementation of effective community engagement practices.

- 6.3 Continuously improve Council's community engagement process and practices, while acknowledging the need for a range of different techniques to ensure effective engagement.

Budget Implications

No budget implications.

Policy/Relevant Law

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework includes three measures taken directly from the Community Satisfaction Survey data.

Sustainability Implications

Nil.

Risk Assessment

Nil.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Careful analysis of the full 2024 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey Report will provide significant data to base further continuous improvement activity in each service area.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

This report is based on a survey of Ararat Rural City Council Residents seeking to measure their satisfaction with service delivery in several key service areas.

RECOMMENDATION

That

the Community Satisfaction Survey 2024 Report be received.

**MOVED CR WATERSTON
SECONDED CR BURRIDGE**

That

the Community Satisfaction Survey 2024 Report be received.

CARRIED 5006/24

ATTACHMENTS

The Final Community Satisfaction Survey 2024 and Comparison Results chart is provided as 4.1



2024 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey

Ararat Rural City Council

Coordinated by the Department of
Government Services on behalf of
Victorian councils





Contents

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<u>Condition of sealed local roads</u>	<u>62</u>		
<u>Informing the community</u>	<u>66</u>		
<u>Condition of local streets and footpaths</u>	<u>70</u>		
<u>Elderly support services</u>	<u>74</u>		
<u>Recreational facilities</u>	<u>78</u>		
<u>Appearance of public areas</u>	<u>82</u>		
<u>Art centres and libraries</u>	<u>86</u>		
<u>Communities and cultural activities</u>	<u>90</u>		



Background and objectives

The Victorian Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS) creates a vital interface between the council and their community.

Held annually, the CSS asks the opinions of local people about the place they live, work and play and provides confidence for councils in their efforts and abilities.

Now in its twenty-fifth year, this survey provides insight into the community's views on:

- councils' overall performance, with benchmarking against State-wide and council group results
- value for money in services and infrastructure
- community consultation and engagement
- decisions made in the interest of the community
- customer service, local infrastructure, facilities, services and
- overall council direction.

When coupled with previous data, the survey provides a reliable historical source of the community's views since 1998. A selection of results from the last ten years shows that councils in Victoria continue to provide services that meet the public's expectations.

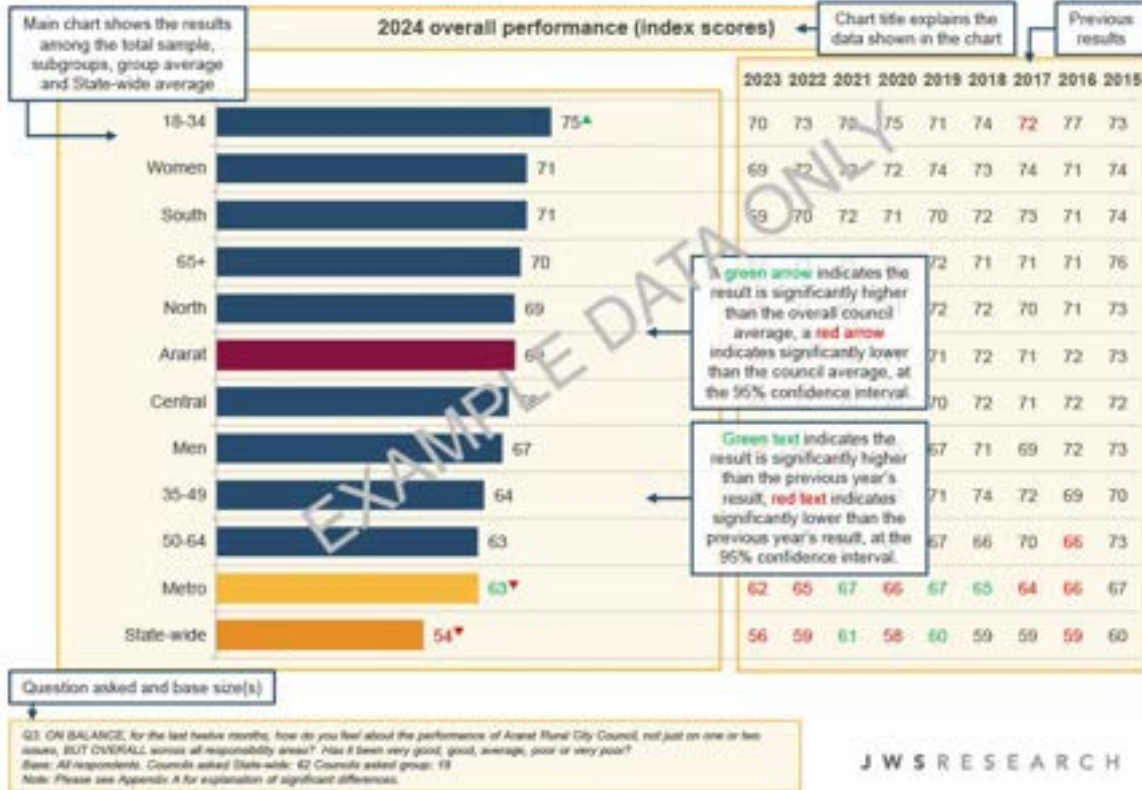
Serving Victoria for 25 years

Each year the CSS data is used to develop this State-wide report which contains all of the aggregated results, analysis and data. Moreover, with 25 years of results, the CSS offers councils a long-term measure of how they are performing – essential for councils that work over the long term to provide valuable services and infrastructure to their communities.

Participation in the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey is optional. Participating councils have various choices as to the content of the questionnaire and the sample size to be surveyed, depending on their individual strategic, financial and other considerations.

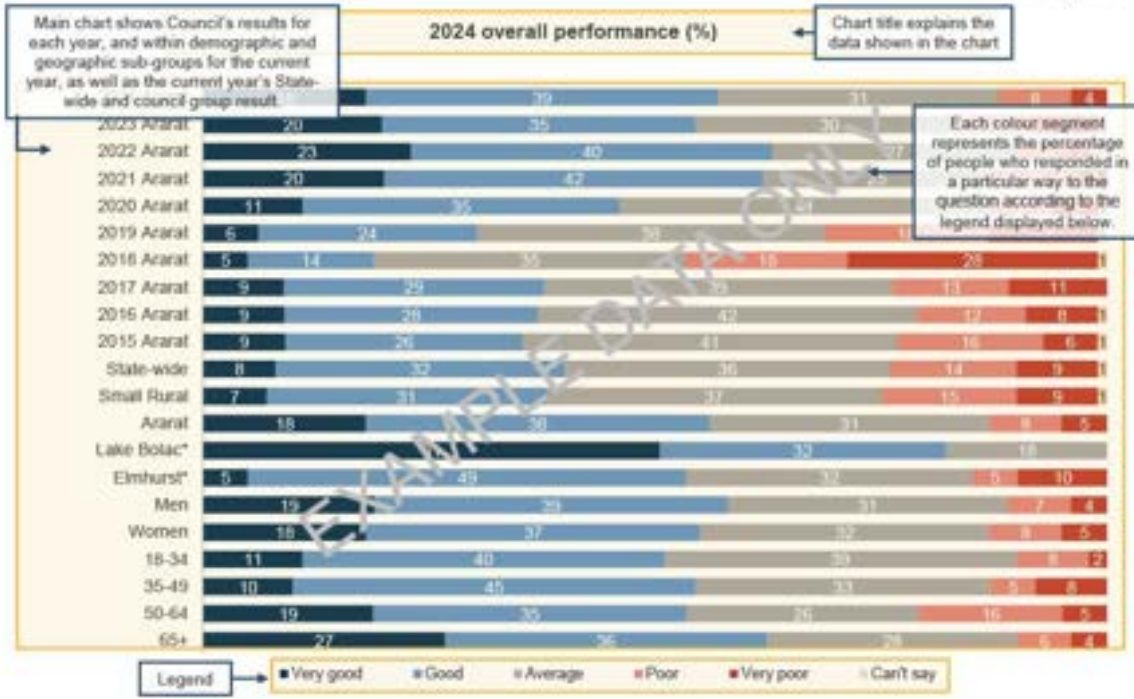


How to read index score charts in this report





How to read stacked bar charts in this report



Q3: ON BALANCE, for the last twelve months, how do you feel about the performance of Ararat Rural City Council, not just on one or two issues, BUT OVERALL across all responsibility areas? Has it been very good, good, average, poor or very poor?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 42 Councils asked group: 19
*Caution: small sample size n<30



Key findings and recommendations

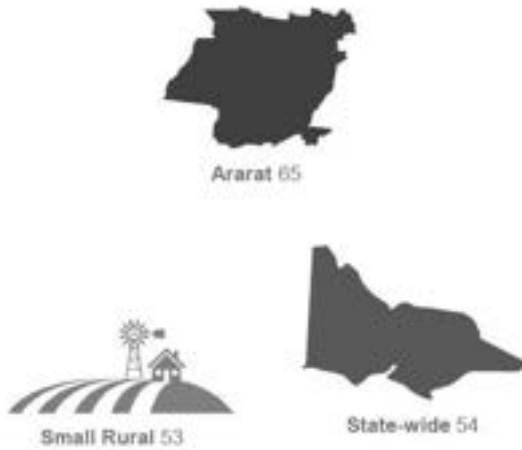
JWSRESEARCH 8

Ararat Rural City Council – at a glance



Overall council performance

Results shown are index scores out of 100.



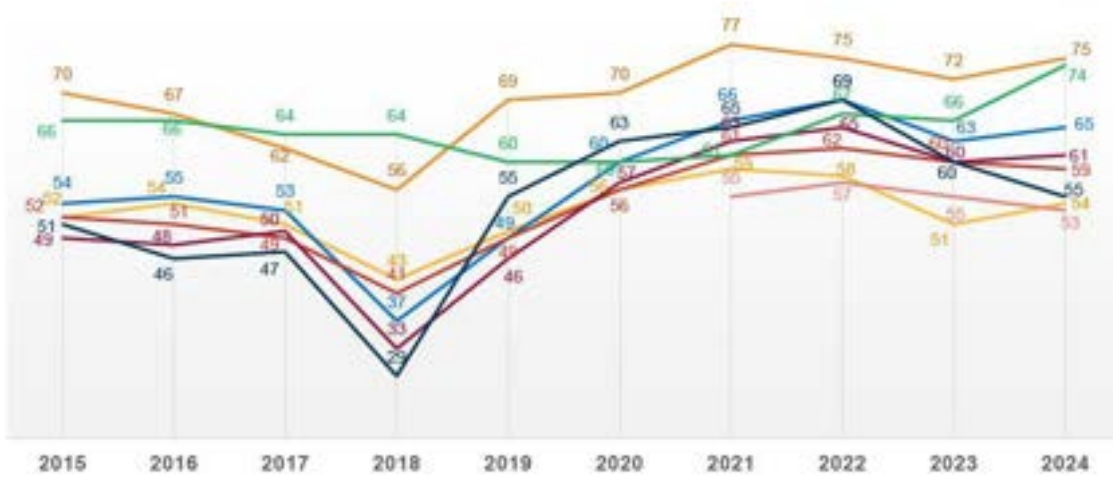
Council performance compared to group average

Top performing areas		
	Art centres & libraries	▲ higher
	Emergency & disaster mngt	▲ higher
	Waste management	▲ higher
Bottom performing areas		
	Slashing & weed control	▬ on par
	Unsealed roads	▲ higher
	Customer service	▲ higher



Summary of core measures

Index scores

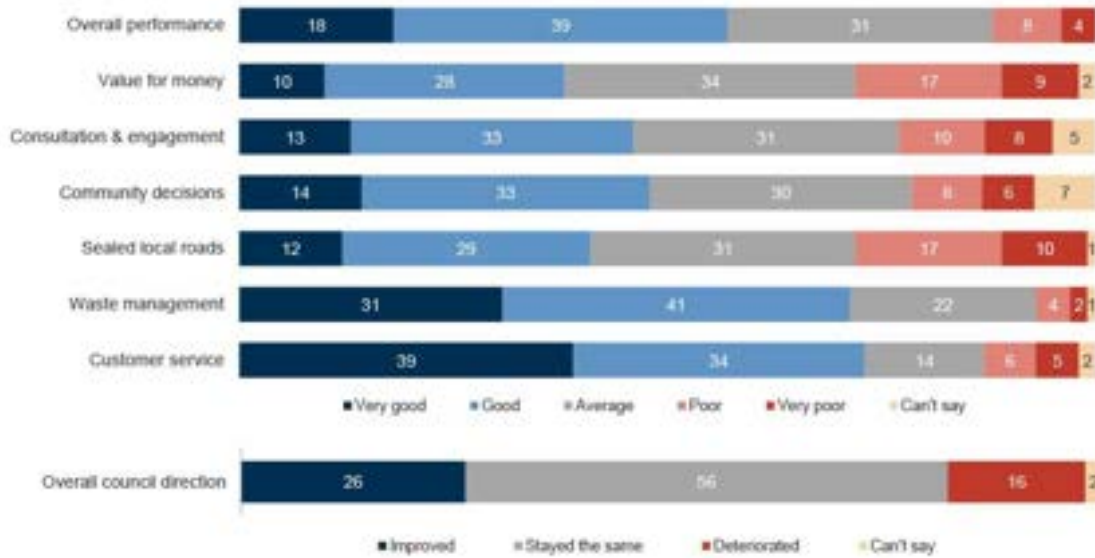


J W S R E S E A R C H R



Summary of core measures

Core measures summary results (%)

















Summary of Ararat Rural City Council performance

Services	Ararat 2024	Ararat 2023	Small Rural 2024	State-wide 2024	Highest score	Lowest score
 Overall performance	65	63	53	54	65+ years	35-49 years
 Value for money	53	55	47	48	65+ years	35-49 years
 Overall council direction	55	60	44	45	65+ years	18-34 years
 Customer service	75	72	66	67	50-64 years	35-49 years
 Art centres & libraries	78	75	73	73	Women	Men
 Emergency & disaster mngt	76	72	66	66	18-34 years	35-49 years
 Waste management	74	66	67	67	65+ years	18-34 years
 Recreational facilities	73	71	67	68	65+ years	35-49 years
 Appearance of public areas	72	70	71	68	65+ years	35-49 years
 Elderly support services	68	66	65	63	65+ years	50-64 years

Significantly higher / lower than Ararat Rural City Council 2024 result at the 95% confidence interval. Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.



Summary of Ararat Rural City Council performance

Services	Ararat 2024	Ararat 2023	Small Rural 2024	State-wide 2024	Highest score	Lowest score
 Community & cultural	67	65	69	66	65+ years	35-64 years
 Bus/community dev./tourism	66	65	59	57	65+ years	35-49 years
 Environmental sustainability	63	63	59	60	65+ years	35-49 years
 Community decisions	61	60	50	50	65+ years	35-49 years
 Informing the community	61	60	56	56	65+ years	50-64 years
 Lobbying	60	61	50	50	65+ years	35-49 years
 Consultation & engagement	59	60	51	51	65+ years	35-64 years
 Local streets & footpaths	57	55	51	52	65+ years	35-49 years
 Sealed local roads	54	51	41	45	65+ years	18-34 years
 Planning & building permits	54	54	43	45	65+ years	50-64 years
 Slashing & weed control	48	52	45	45	65+ years	18-34 years
 Unsealed roads	45	42	35	36	35-49 years	18-34 years

Significantly higher / lower than Ararat Rural City Council 2024 result at the 95% confidence interval. Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.

J W S R E S E A R C H 11



Focus areas for the next 12 months

Overview	Perceptions of Council performance on most service areas remained stable over the past year. The top three service areas – art centres and libraries (index score of 78), emergency and disaster management (76), and waste management (74) – are the areas with a significant improvement on the 2023 result. Waste management saw the greatest improvement this year, reaching the highest level yet (up eight index points from 2023). The only area where perceptions significantly declined is slashing and weed control.
Key influences on perceptions of overall performance	The service areas with the strongest influence on Council's overall performance rating are informing the community and the condition of sealed local roads. Improvements in these areas will help drive up Council's overall performance rating the most. More moderately influential service areas include community decisions, lobbying, elderly support services, community consultation and engagement, and the maintenance of unsealed roads. Council's poorly rated performance on unsealed roads is the area in most need of attention.
Comparison to state and area grouping	Council performs significantly higher than both the State-wide and Small Rural group averages in almost all areas evaluated. Notably, Council does not perform significantly below the group averages in any area. The only area where Council is in line with both the State-wide and Small Rural group averages is community and cultural activities. The appearance of public areas and roadside slashing and weed control are the two other areas where Council performs in line with the group average.
An opportunity to attend to the experiences of those aged 35 to 49 years	Perceptions of Council are higher among residents aged 65 years and over, and lower among residents aged 35 to 49 years. Residents aged 35 to 49 years tend to be more critical of Council's performance, so it is recommended that extra attention be paid to interactions with this cohort over the next year. People in this age group have among the highest rate of contact with Council (and lower customer service ratings), so there is opportunity to engage with them and improve their perceptions.

DETAILED FINDINGS

J W S R E S

13



Overall performance

JWSRESEARCH 14



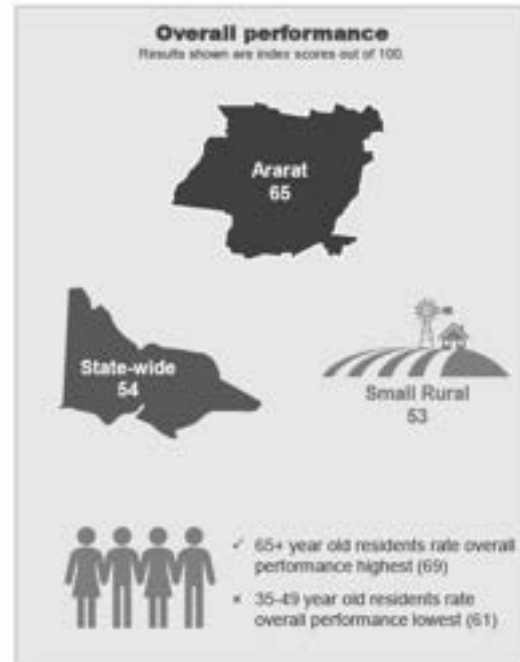
Overall performance

The overall performance index score of 65 for Ararat Rural City Council is in line with last year's result of 63, continuing an overall trend of improvement from 2018.

Ararat Rural City Council's overall performance is rated statistically significantly higher (at the 95% confidence interval) than the average rating for councils State-wide and in the Small Rural group (index scores of 54 and 53 respectively).

- All demographic groups rate Council's overall performance in line with the Council average.
- Residents aged 65 years and over rate Council's overall performance highest (index score of 69).
- Residents aged 35 to 49 years are the only sub-group to rate Council's overall performance significantly higher than they did in 2023 (index score of 61, up 11 index points). While this is a positive result, it is among this sub-group where perceptions of Council are typically lower on many core performance measures and service areas.

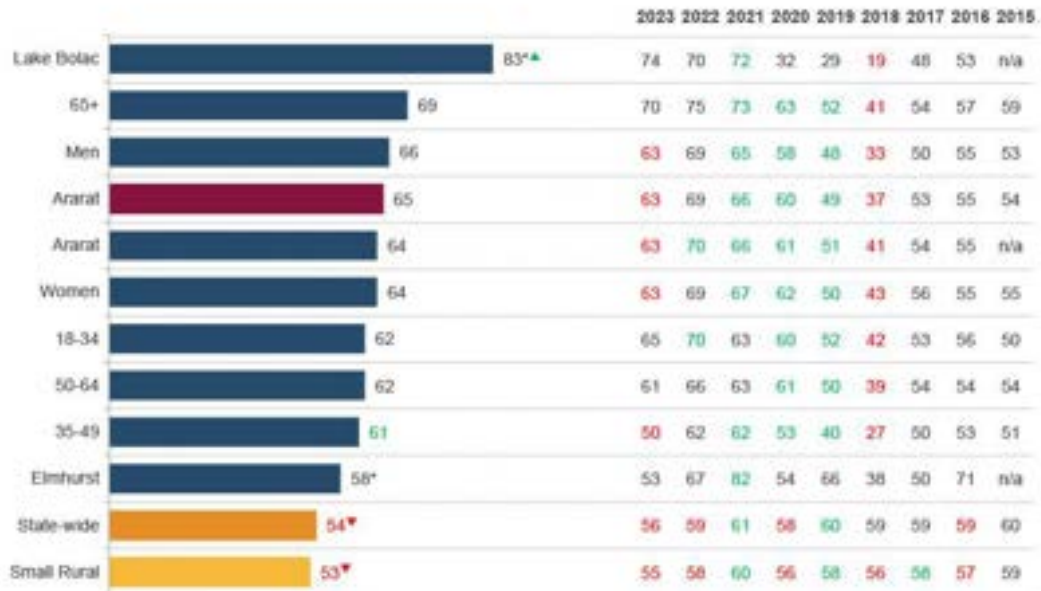
Almost four in 10 residents (38%) rate the value for money they receive from Council in infrastructure and services provided to their community as 'very good' or 'good'. Fewer residents (26%) rate it as 'very poor' or 'poor'. A further 34% rate Council as 'average' in terms of providing value for money.





Overall performance

2024 overall performance (index scores)

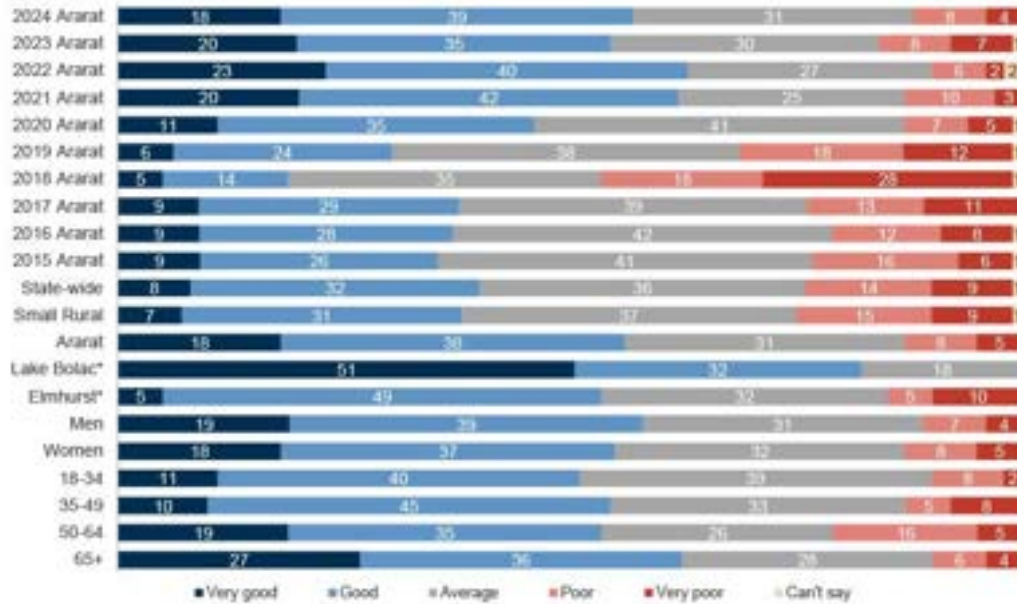


Q3. ON BALANCE, for the last twelve months, how do you feel about the performance of Ararat Rural City Council, not just in one or two areas, BUT OVERALL, across all responsibility areas? Has it been very good, good, average, poor or very poor?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 62 Councils asked group: 19
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size n<30



Overall performance

2024 overall performance (%)



Q1. ON BALANCE, for the last twelve months, how do you feel about the performance of Ararat Rural City Council, not just on one or two issues, BUT OVERALL across all responsibility areas? Has it been very good, good, average, poor or very poor?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 42 Councils asked group: 19
*Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Value for money in services and infrastructure

2024 value for money (index scores)

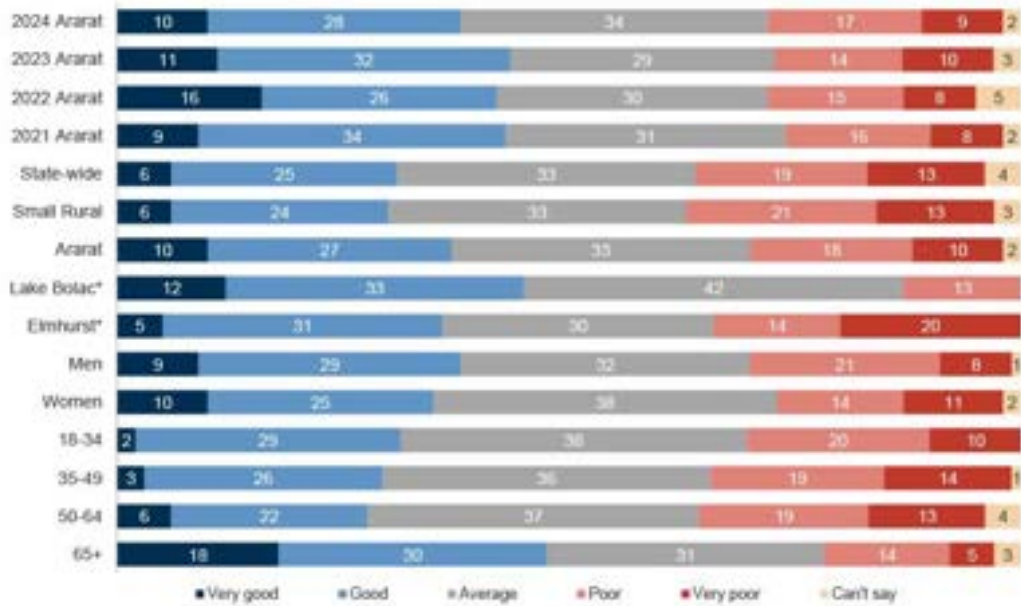


Q36. How would you rate Ararat Rural City Council at providing good value for money in infrastructure and services provided to your community?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 81 Councils asked group: 18
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Value for money in services and infrastructure

2024 value for money (%)



Q36. How would you rate Ararat Rural City Council at providing good value for money in infrastructure and services provided to your community?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 81 Councils asked group: 18
*Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Top performing service areas

Art centres and libraries (index score of 78) is the service area where Council performs best in 2024. The current rating returns perceptions of this service area to the peak rating last achieved in 2020.

- Council performs significantly higher than the State-wide and Small Rural group averages (each with an index score of 73) in this service area.
- The significant improvement in perceptions of this service area are underpinned by improvements in perceptions among women (index score of 81, up a significant five index points) and residents in the Ararat area (79, up a significant four index points).

Emergency and disaster management is Council's next highest rated service area (index score of 76, up a significant four index points). This service area has the highest importance index (85), so this peak performance rating is a positive result for Council.

Waste management (index score of 74, up a significant eight index points) is another area that has been rated at its highest level yet and is the most improved service area for Council this year.

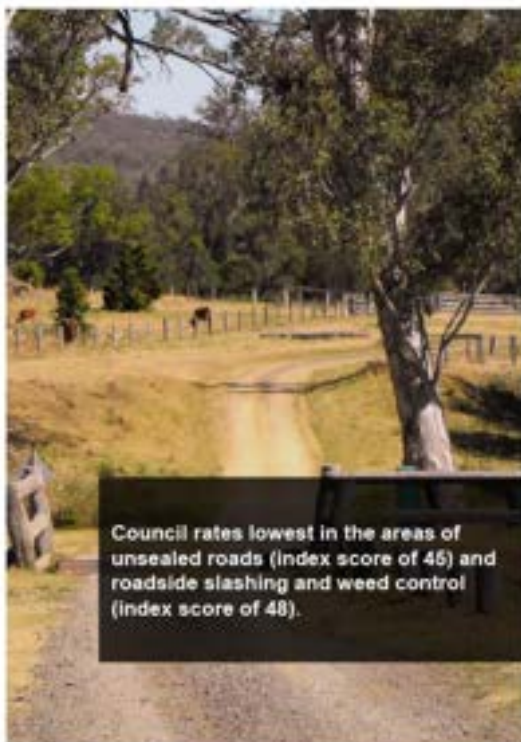
Recreational facilities (index score of 73) is Council's next highest rated service area. Recreational and/or sporting facilities is volunteered by 11% of residents as one of the best things about the area.



Art centres and libraries (index score of 78) is the area where Council performs best, improving by a significant three index points from 2023.



Low performing service areas



Council's performance in the maintenance of unsealed roads (index score of 45) stabilised following a significant decline in perceptions last year.

- Council is rated significantly higher than both the State-wide and Small Rural group averages (36 and 35 respectively) – a positive result – but has performed better in this area (in 2021 and 2022).
- The maintenance of unsealed roads should remain a focus as perceptions have a positive influence on overall opinion of Council's performance.

Roadside slashing and weed control is the only service area where Council experienced a significant decline in performance rating this year (index score of 48, down four points).

- Council's performance in roadside slashing and weed control is in line with the Small Rural group and significantly higher than the State-wide average (index scores of 46 and 45 respectively).

The next lowest rated service areas are planning and building permits, and sealed local roads (both scoring 54, both in line with last year's performance).

- These areas perform significantly higher than both the State-wide and Small Rural group averages.
- Sealed road maintenance is the top volunteered area for improvement by Council residents (18%).



Individual service area performance

2024 Individual service area performance (index scores)

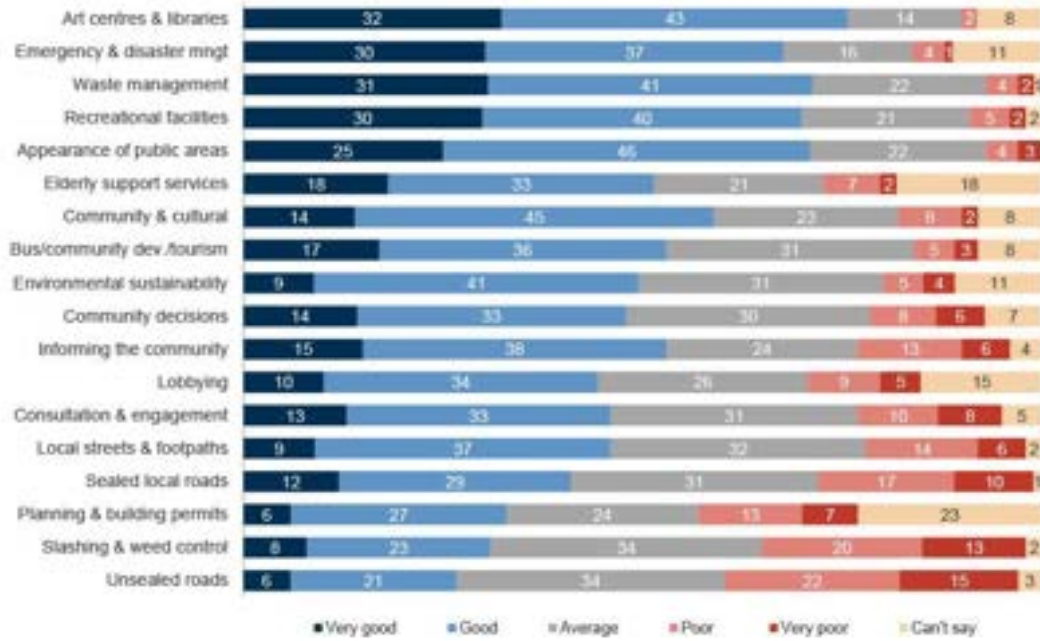
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
Art centres & libraries	78	75	75	74	78	76	70	70	69	70
Emergency & disaster mgmt	76	72	74	75	74	73	70	72	72	n/a
Waste management	74	66	67	61	60	60	64	64	66	66
Recreational facilities	73	71	75	74	71	68	64	65	65	64
Appearance of public areas	72	70	76	75	73	69	65	66	72	71
Elderly support services	68	66	71	72	68	65	64	67	68	67
Community & cultural	67	65	65	64	63	63	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bus/community dev./tourism	66	65	69	65	61	61	57	60	61	63
Environmental sustainability	63	63	62	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Community decisions	61	60	65	63	57	46	33	50	48	49
Informing the community	61	60	64	63	58	49	44	50	56	54
Lobbying	60	61	64	63	56	50	44	53	54	56
Consultation & engagement	59	60	62	61	56	49	41	49	51	52
Local streets & footpaths	57	55	63	62	62	55	53	55	59	58
Sealed local roads	54	51	58	59	56	50	43	51	54	52
Planning & building permits	54	54	58	59	51	52	46	50	51	55
Slashing & weed control	48	52	53	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Unsealed roads	45	42	47	50	44	39	33	38	40	39

Q1: How has Council performed on (RESPONSIBILITY AREA) over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked (State-wide: 62 Councils asked group: 18)
Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.



Individual service area performance

2024 individual service area performance (%)



Q2. How has Council performed in (RESPONSIBILITY AREA) over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 62 Councils asked group: 19



Individual service area importance

2024 individual service area importance (index scores)

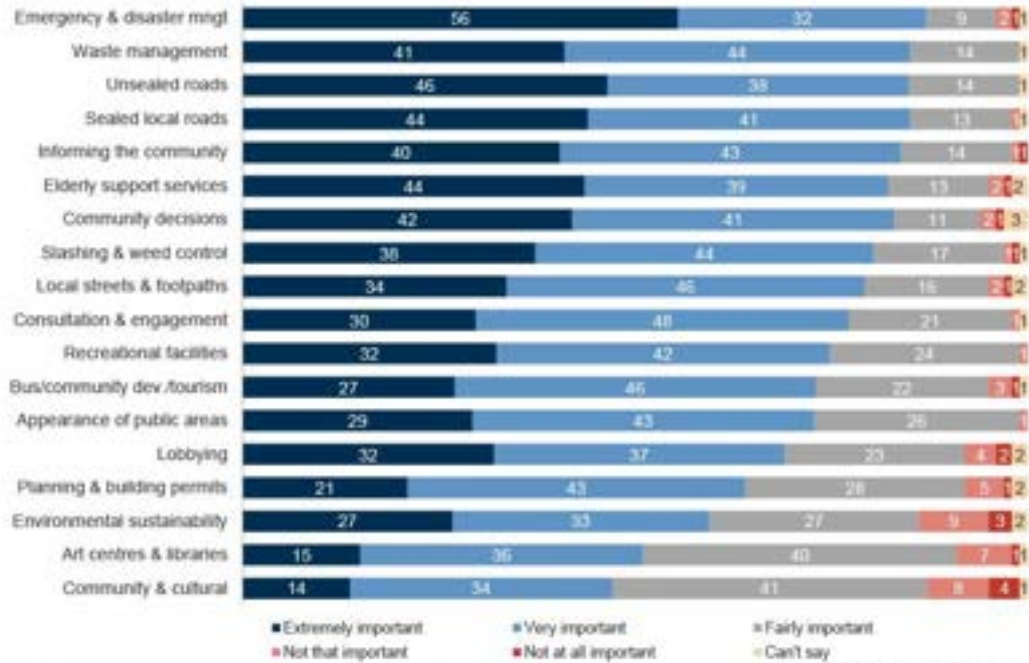
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
Emergency & disaster mngt	85	81	80	79	82	81	80	83	80	n/a
Unsealed roads	83	86	85	81	81	84	86	83	80	84
Sealed local roads	82	84	82	80	81	82	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Elderly support services	82	83	82	82	79	79	80	79	79	80
Waste management	82	80	81	80	80	79	79	76	76	76
Community decisions	81	83	80	78	83	82	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Informing the community	80	79	79	77	76	77	76	76	75	77
Slashing & weed control	79	80	80	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Local streets & footpaths	78	80	79	77	76	77	77	77	76	79
Consultation & engagement	77	79	76	75	74	78	74	74	75	76
Recreational facilities	76	75	77	74	73	71	75	73	74	76
Appearance of public areas	75	76	76	74	74	72	74	74	75	74
Bus/community dev./tourism	74	73	73	72	72	68	72	71	71	74
Lobbying	74	75	74	71	71	69	70	70	70	74
Planning & building permits	70	73	71	69	68	65	68	66	68	67
Environmental sustainability	68	69	72	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Art centres & libraries	64	62	63	61	59	59	60	60	61	64
Community & cultural	61	64	64	62	60	60	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Q1. Firstly, how important should (RESPONSIBILITY AREA) be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide. 27 Councils asked group 6
Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.



Individual service area importance

2024 individual service area importance (%)

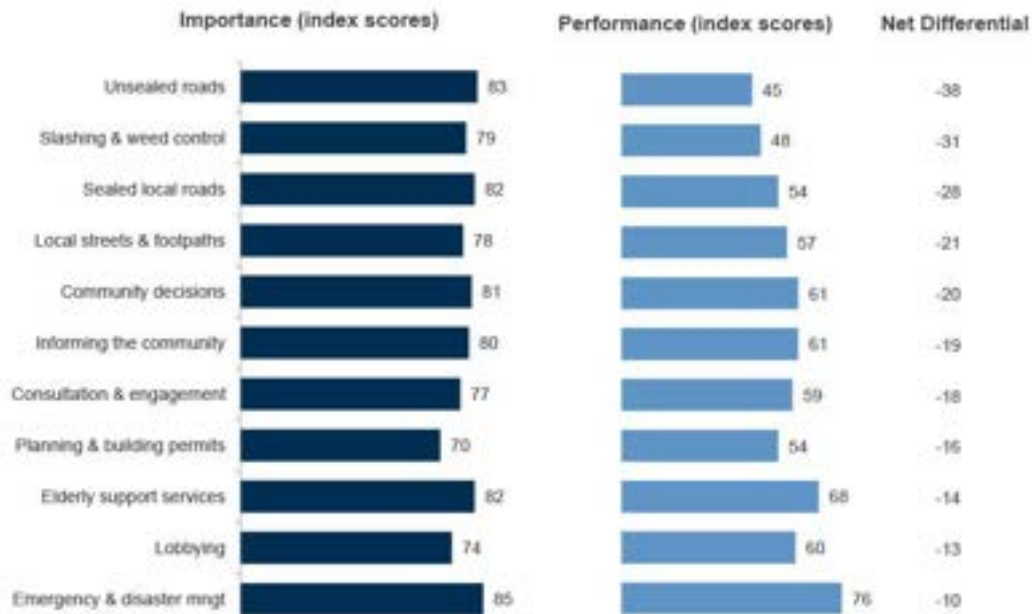


Q1. Firstly, how important should [RESPONSIBILITY AREA] be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 27 Councils asked group: 8



Individual service areas importance vs performance

Service areas where importance exceeds performance by 10 points or more, suggesting further investigation is necessary.



Note: Net differentials are calculated based on the un-rounded importance and performance scores, then rounded to the nearest whole number, which may result in differences of +/-1% in the importance and performance scores and the net differential scores.



Influences on perceptions of overall performance

The individual service areas that have the strongest influence on the overall performance rating (based on regression analysis) are:

- informing the community
- the condition of sealed local roads.

Ensuring residents are kept well informed about key local issues and Council activities and attending to the maintenance of sealed roads provide the greatest opportunities to drive up overall opinion of Council's performance.

Following on from that, other individual service areas with a more moderate influence on the overall performance rating are:

- decisions made in the interest of the community
- lobbying on behalf of the community
- elderly support services
- community consultation and engagement
- maintenance of unsealed roads.

Looking at these key service areas only, Council performs best on elderly support services (index score of 68), which is a moderate influence on the overall performance rating.

Maintaining this positive result should remain a focus but there is greater work to be done elsewhere.

Council also performs relatively well in the more influential areas of community decisions and lobbying (index scores of 61 and 60 respectively), and the related area of community consultation (index score of 59), and efforts should continue in these areas to maintain these ratings.

Transparency in Council decision-making, engaging residents on key local issues, and demonstrating efforts to advocate for community interests can help to shore up positive perceptions of Council.

However, most in need of attention is Council's poorly rated performance on unsealed roads (index score of 45), which is a moderate influence on the overall performance rating.

It will be important to attend to the maintenance of Council's unsealed roads to help improve overall ratings of performance.



Regression analysis explained

We use regression analysis to investigate which individual service areas, such as community consultation, condition of sealed local roads, etc. (the independent variables) are influencing respondent perceptions of overall council performance (the dependent variable).

In the charts that follow:

- The horizontal axis represents Council's performance index score for each individual service. Service areas appearing on the right side of the chart have a higher index score than those on the left.
- The vertical axis represents the Standardised Beta Coefficient from the multiple regression performed. This measures the contribution of each service area to the model. Service areas near the top of the chart have a greater positive effect on overall performance ratings than service areas located closer to the axis.

The regressions are shown on the following two charts.

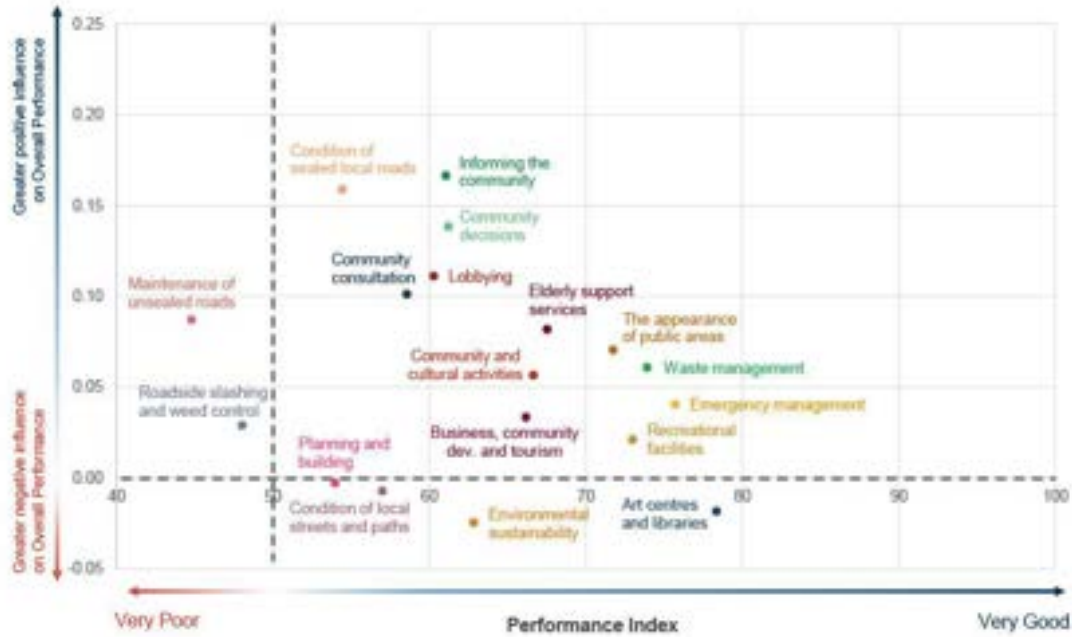
1. **The first chart** shows the results of a regression analysis of all individual service areas selected by Council.
2. **The second chart** shows the results of a regression performed on a smaller set of service areas, being those with a moderate-to-strong influence on overall performance. Service areas with a weak influence on overall performance (i.e. a low Standardised Beta Coefficient) have been excluded from the analysis.

Key insights from this analysis are derived from the second chart.



Influence on overall performance: all service areas

2024 regression analysis (all service areas)

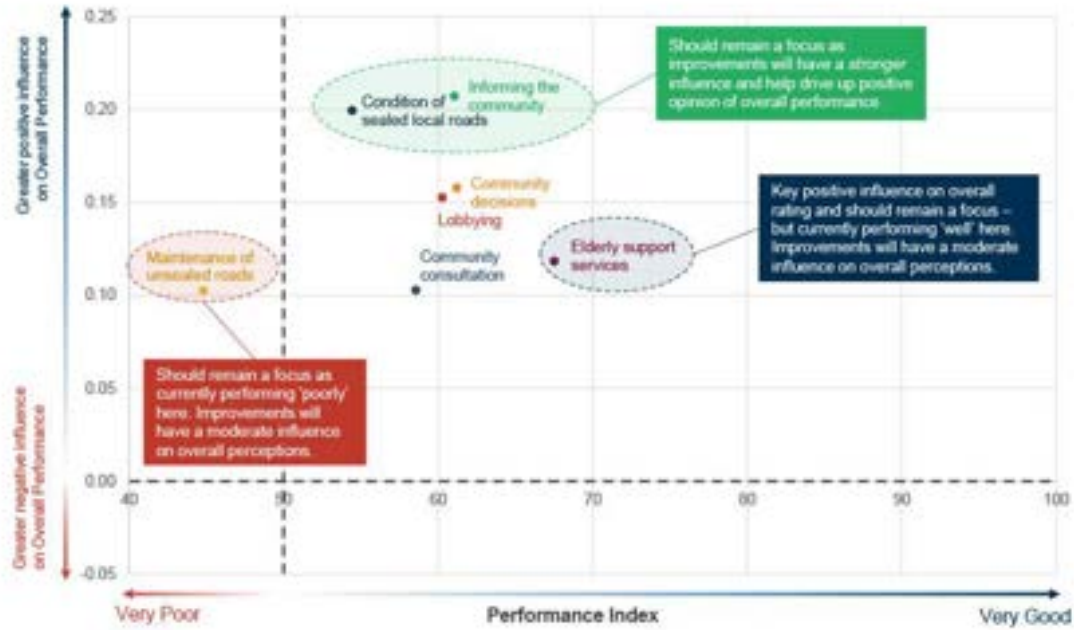


The multiple regression analysis model above (all service areas) has an R^2 value of 0.632 and adjusted R^2 value of 0.615, which means that 62% of the variance in community perceptions of overall performance can be predicted from these variables. The overall model effect was statistically significant at $p = 0.0001$, $F = 36.40$. This model should be interpreted with some caution as some data is not normally distributed and not all service areas have linear correlations.



Influence on overall performance: key service areas

2024 regression analysis (key service areas)

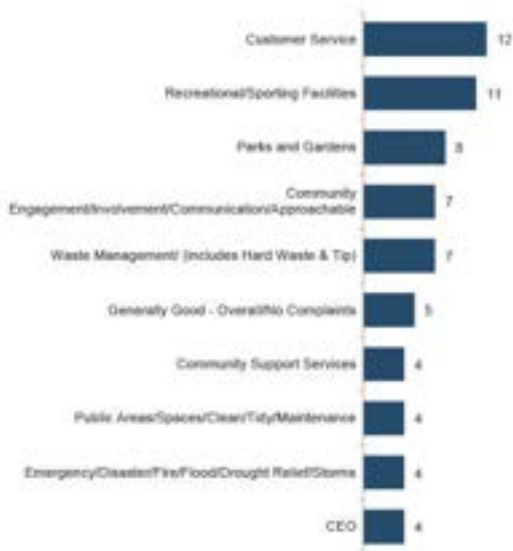


The multiple regression analysis model above (reduced set of service areas) has an R^2 value of 0.813 and adjusted R^2 value of 0.803, which means that 81% of the variance in community perceptions of overall performance can be predicted from these variables. The overall model effect was statistically significant at $p < 0.0001$, $F = 89.63$.

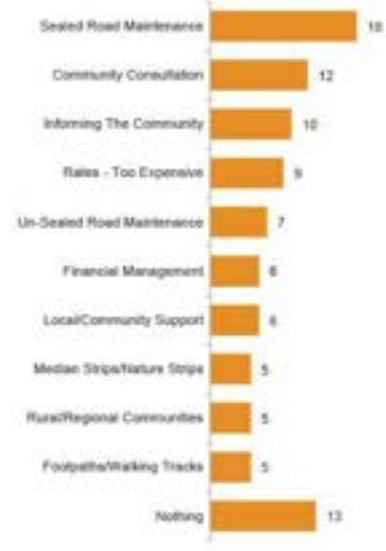


Best things about Council and areas for improvement

2024 best things about Council (%)
- Top mentions only -



2024 areas for improvement (%)
- Top mentions only -



Q16. Please tell me what is the ONE BEST thing about Ararat Rural City Council? It could be about any of the issues or services we have covered in this survey or it could be about something else altogether!
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 31 Councils asked group: 8
Q17. What does Ararat Rural City Council MOST need to do to improve its performance?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 49 Councils asked group: 14
A verbatim listing of responses to these questions can be found in the accompanying dashboard.



Customer service

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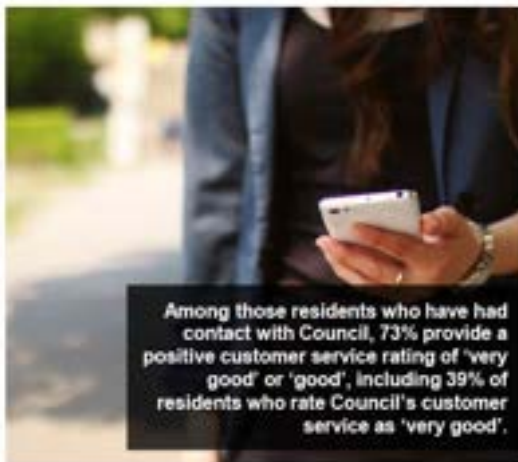


Contact with council and customer service

Contact with council

More than three in five Council residents (64%) have had contact with Council in the last 12 months.

- The rate of contact with Council has been largely stable over time, notwithstanding a significant increase in the rate of contact in 2023, which has subsided somewhat this year, returning to levels similar to previous years.



Customer service

Council's customer service index of 75 is in line with the 2023 rating of 72, representing three consecutive years of Council maintaining a steady performance in this area. This is a positive result, and Council should continue its efforts here – the current result is also close to the peak rating of 77 achieved in 2021.

Council's customer service is rated significantly higher than both the State-wide and Small Rural group averages (index scores of 67 and 66 respectively).

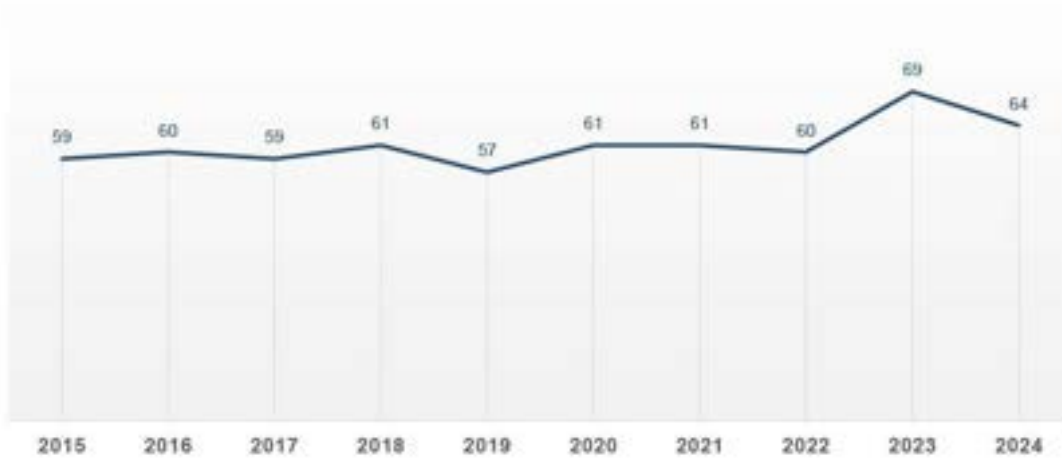
- Perceptions of customer service among all demographic and geographic cohorts are on par with the Council average.
- For the fourth year in a row, residents aged 50 to 64 years are the demographic group with the highest rate of contact, and this year is the first year that they provide a higher customer service rating (index score of 78) than any other demographic group.
- By contrast, residents aged 35 to 49 years have a similarly high rate of contact with Council, but the lowest customer service rating index (69).

Over seven in ten residents (73%) provide a positive customer service rating of 'very good' or 'good'.



Contact with council

2024 contact with council (%)
Have had contact



Q5. Over the last 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any contact with Ararat Rural City Council?
This may have been in person, in writing, by telephone conversation, by text message, by email or via their website or social media such as Facebook or Twitter?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 36 Councils asked group: 15



Contact with council

2024 contact with council (%)



Q5. Over the last 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any contact with Ararat Rural City Council?
(This may have been in person, in writing, by telephone conversation, by text message, by email or via their website or social media such as Facebook or Twitter?)
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 36 Councils asked group: 18
Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
*Caution: small sample size (n=30)



Customer service rating

2024 customer service rating (index scores)

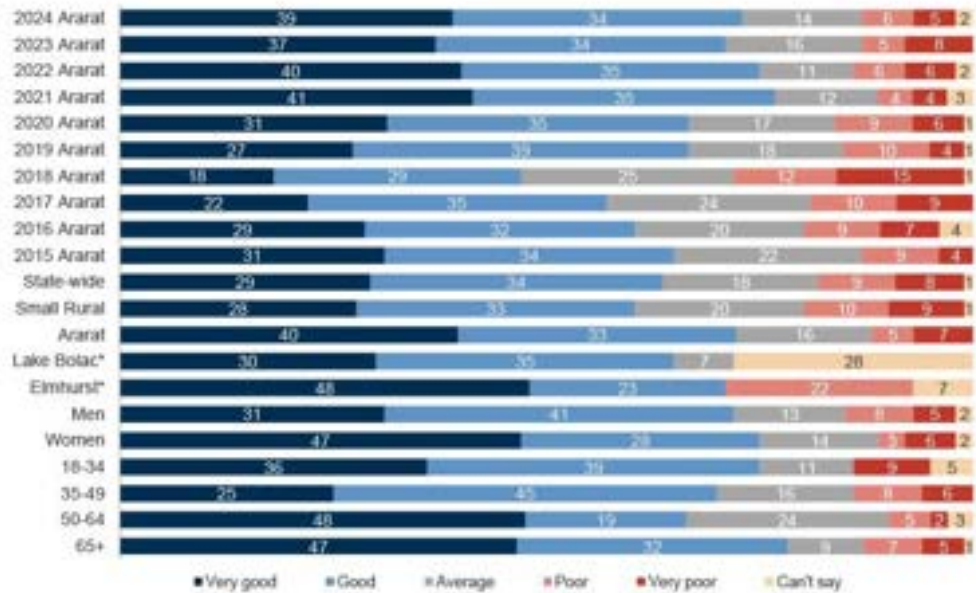
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
Lake Bolac	83*	72	75	78	32	56	38	61	64	n/a
50-64	78	73	69	73	67	69	63	67	69	74
Women	77	72	77	80	68	70	61	64	73	75
65+	77	73	76	85	73	74	56	64	67	71
Elmhurst	76*	73	73	88	55	77	12	100	75	n/a
18-34	75	70	76	69	78	71	63	68	62	66
Ararat	75	72	75	77	70	69	56	62	67	70
Ararat	73	71	75	76	71	70	59	63	68	n/a
Men	72	72	73	74	71	69	51	61	62	65
35-49	69	70	77	77	61	63	44	53	69	67
State-wide	67*	67	68	70	70	71	70	69	69	70
Small Rural	66*	65	67	69	70	70	69	69	69	70

Q5b: Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Ararat Rural City Council for customer service?
Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received.
Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months.
Councils asked State-wide: 62 Councils asked group: 19
Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
*Caution: small sample size (n<20)



Customer service rating

2024 customer service rating (%)



Q5c. Thinking of the most recent contact, how would you rate Ararat Rural City Council for customer service?
Please keep in mind we do not mean the actual outcome but rather the actual service that was received.
Base: All respondents who have had contact with Council in the last 12 months.
Councils asked State-wide: 62 Councils asked group: 19
*Caution: small sample size n=30



Communication

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Communication

The preferred form of communication from Council about news and information and upcoming events is – for the first time – a Council newsletter sent via email (24%).

In every previous year, a Council newsletter via mail was preferred. This year it has dropped four percentage points to 22%, making it the close-second preferred form of communication. Advertising in a local newspaper remains the third preferred channel (21%).

Preference for social media as a means of communication was in decline, but has recovered this year (17%, up from 13% in 2023) – driven by the under 50 years age group.

The preferred form of communication among residents under 50 years of age is social media (33%), up nine percentage points from 2023. A newsletter via email is the next preferred means of communication for residents aged under 50 years (28%).

- The uptick in preference for social media comes at the expense of a preference for a newsletter via mail (13%, down 13 percentage points).

The top three preferred forms of communication among residents aged 50 years or older are the same ones as last year: a newsletter sent via mail (29%), advertising in a local newspaper (28%) and a newsletter via email (22%).

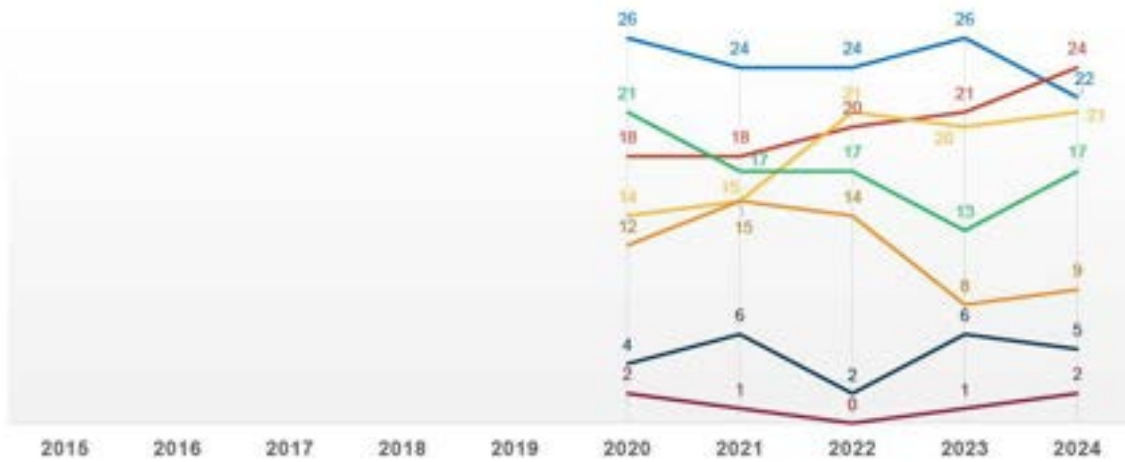
The Council website remains least preferred, indicating a preference for information to be pushed out to residents.





Best form of communication

2024 best form of communication (%)

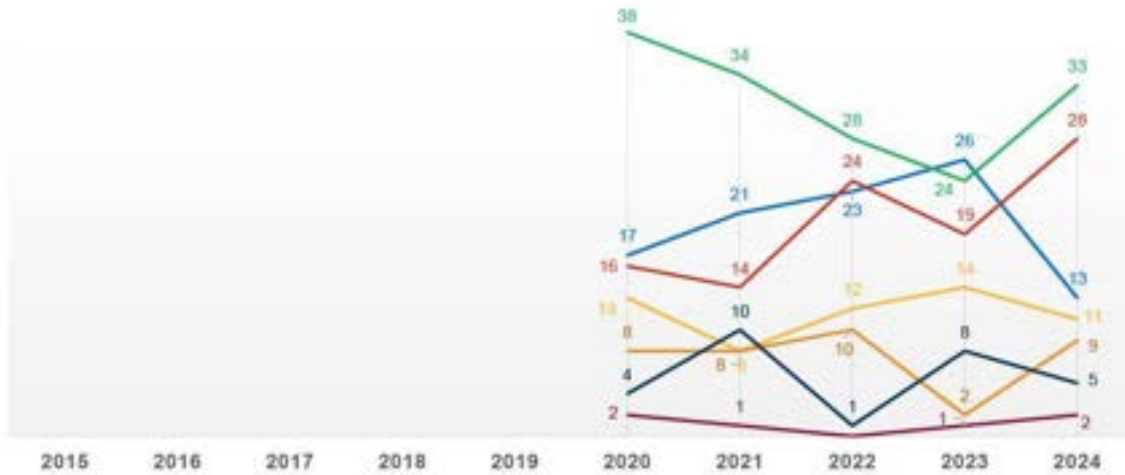


Q13. If Ararat Rural City Council was going to get in touch with you to inform you about Council news and information and upcoming events, which ONE of the following is the BEST way to communicate with you?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 38 Councils asked group: 11



Best form of communication: under 50s

2024 under 50s best form of communication (%)

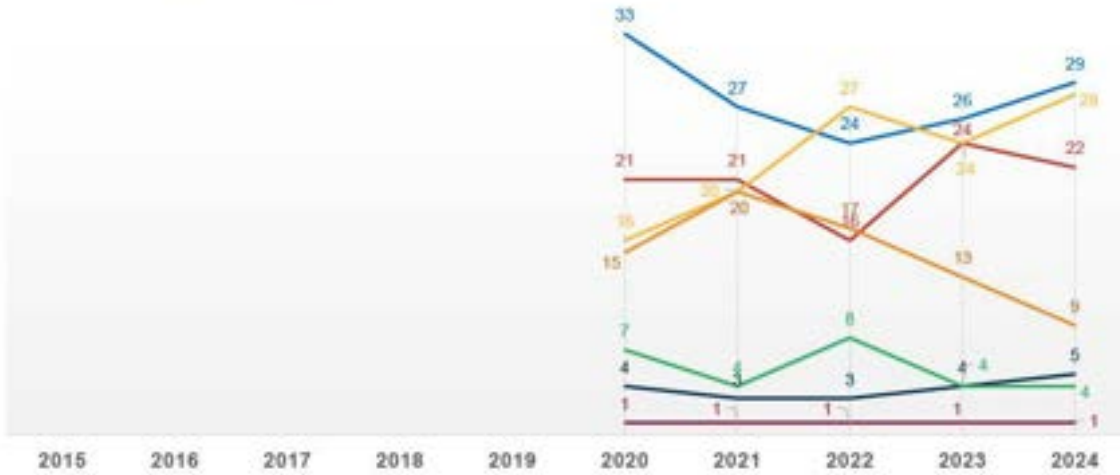


Q13. If Ararat Rural City Council was going to get in touch with you to inform you about Council news and information and upcoming events, which ONE of the following is the BEST way to communicate with you?
Base: All respondents aged under 50. Councils asked State-wide: 38 Councils asked group: 11



Best form of communication: 50+ years

2024 50+ years best form of communication (%)



Q13. If Ararat Rural City Council was going to get in touch with you to inform you about Council news and information and upcoming events, which ONE of the following is the BEST way to communicate with you?
Base: All respondents aged 50+ years. Councils asked State-wide: 38 Councils asked group: 11



Council direction

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Council direction

Residents' perceptions of Council's overall direction over the last 12 months have declined significantly (index score of 55, down five index points from 2023). This marks the second consecutive year of significant decline in perceptions, after a series high of 69 in 2022.

Nonetheless, perceptions of Council's overall direction are significantly higher compared to the State-wide and Small Rural group averages (45 and 44 respectively).

- Just over a quarter of residents (26%) believe Council's overall direction has improved (down eight percentage points on 2023) in the last 12 months.
- Fewer (16%) believe it has deteriorated (up one point on 2023).
- Most residents (56%) feel it has stayed the same.

Ratings among most demographic and geographic sub-groups are in line with the Council average. Residents of Lake Bolac rate Council's overall direction significantly higher than average (noting this result is based on a small sample size).

Almost half of Council residents (47%) believe there is 'a lot' of room for improvement in Council's overall performance in services, with a further 46% believing there is 'a little' room for improvement. Only 5% of residents say there is 'not much' room for improvement.





Overall council direction last 12 months

2024 overall council direction (index scores)

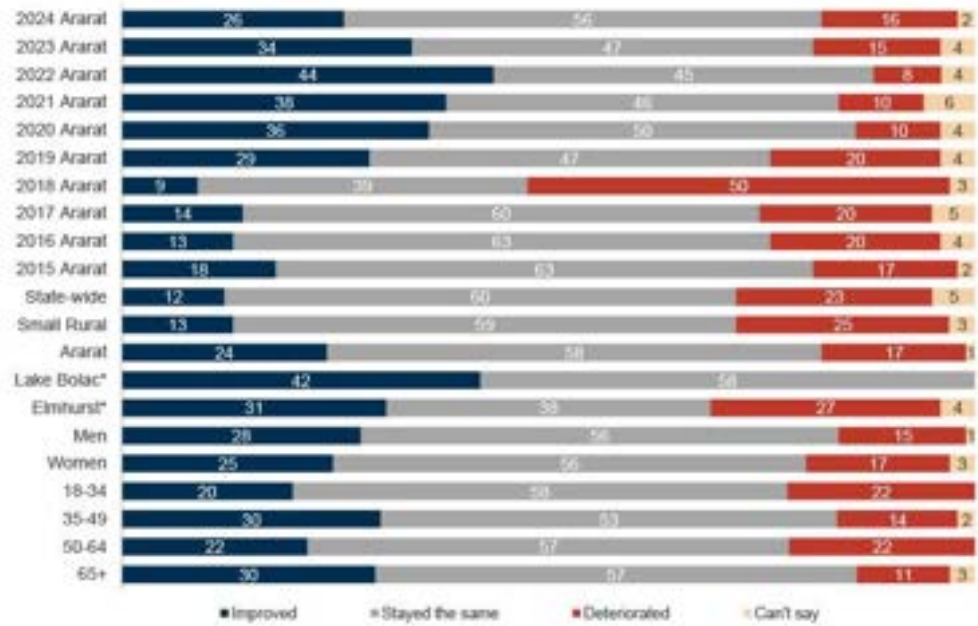
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
Lake Bolac	71 ^{*A}	70	69	61	82	47	26	57	48	n/a
65+	60	66	73	75	66	60	32	45	46	49
35-49	56	50	64	60	60	38	19	47	45	49
Men	56	61	68	65	63	55	24	44	44	48
Ararat	55	60	69	65	63	55	29	47	46	51
Women	54	58	70	65	64	55	34	49	48	53
Ararat	54	59	68	63	63	57	30	45	46	n/a
Elmhurst	52 [*]	55	71	91	60	41	32	50	50	n/a
50-64	50	58	64	61	65	55	29	45	44	48
18-34	49	58	70	58	61	65	36	50	52	57
State-wide	45 [†]	46	50	53	51	53	52	53	51	53
Small Rural	44 [†]	47	51	53	50	53	50	52	50	53

Q6. Over the last 12 months, what is your view of the direction of Ararat Rural City Council's overall performance?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 62 Councils asked group: 19
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size n<30



Overall council direction last 12 months

2024 overall council direction (%)

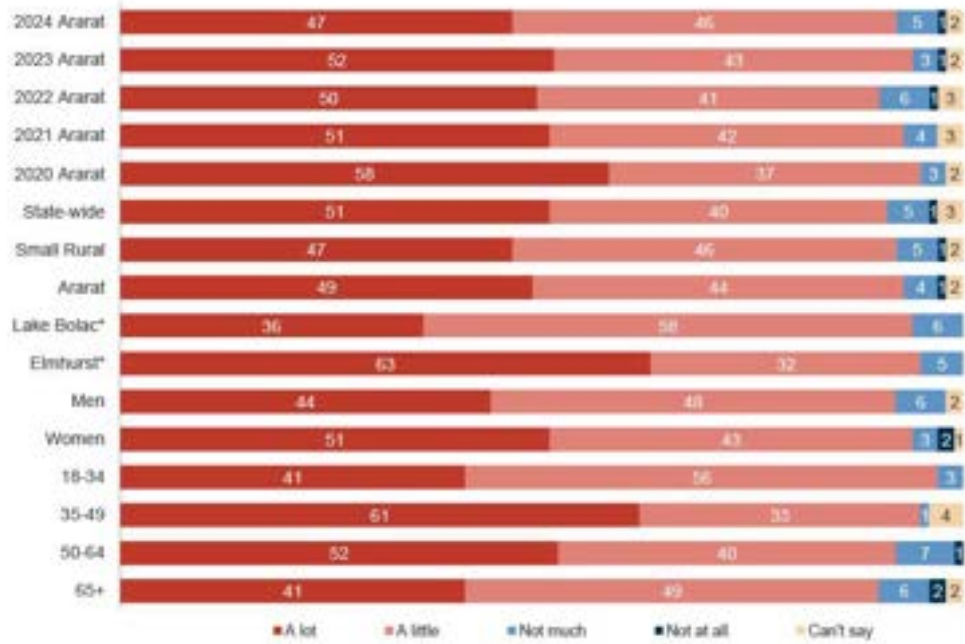


Q6. Over the last 12 months, what is your view of the direction of Ararat Rural City Council's overall performance?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 42 Councils asked group: 19
*Caution: small sample size n<30



Room for improvement in services

2024 room for improvement in services (%)

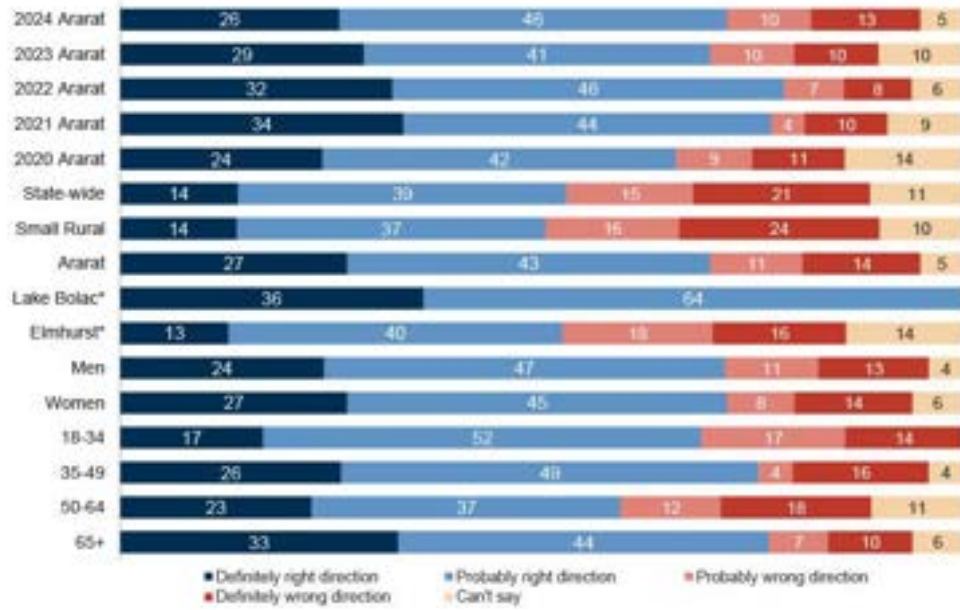


Q7. Thinking about the next 12 months, how much room for improvement do you think there is in Ararat Rural City Council's overall performance?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 2 Councils asked group: 1
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Right / wrong direction

2024 right / wrong direction (%)



Q6. Would you say your local Council is generally heading in the right direction or the wrong direction?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 8 Councils asked group: 3
*Caution: small sample size n<30



Individual service areas

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Community consultation and engagement importance



2024 consultation and engagement importance (index scores)

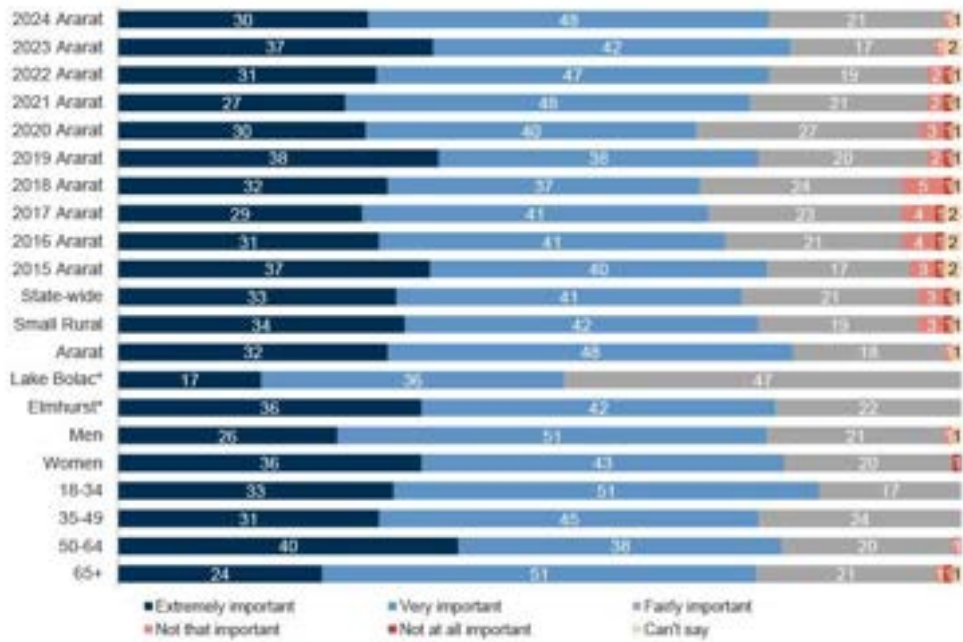
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
50-64	79	81	81	78	80	82	77	78	79
18-34	79	79	70	73	67	74	66	67	70
Elmhurst	79*	87	87	80	77	93	62	81	85
Women	78	82	78	79	77	79	77	78	77
Ararat	78	80	78	75	74	78	74	76	75
35-49	77	83	80	74	74	80	79	78	77
Ararat	77	79	76	75	74	78	74	74	75
Small Rural	77	77	78	77	76	76	74	75	77
State-wide	76	76	76	75	74	74	74	74	75
Men	76	77	75	71	71	78	71	71	72
65+	75	77	75	74	75	77	72	73	73
Lake Bolac	67*	76	71	70	84	66	78	66	73

Q1. Firstly, how important should 'Community consultation and engagement' be as a responsibility for Council?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 23 Councils asked group: 5
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)

Community consultation and engagement importance



2024 consultation and engagement importance (%)



Q1. Finally, how important should 'Community consultation and engagement' be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 29 Councils asked group: 8
*Caution: small sample size n<30

Community consultation and engagement performance



2024 consultation and engagement performance (index scores)

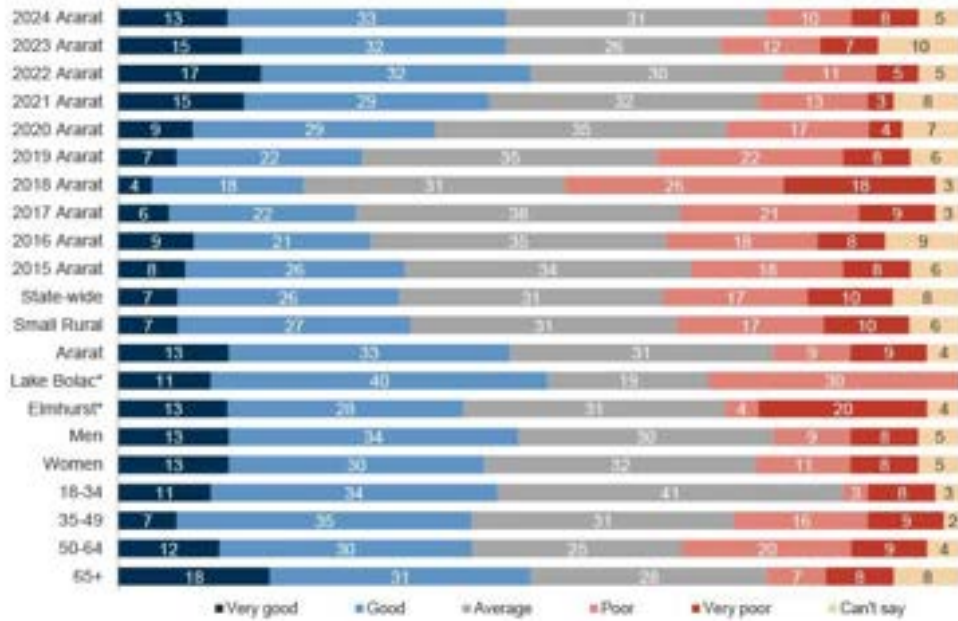
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
65+	62	66	66	67	56	55	45	49	55
18-34	60	59	67	52	58	49	42	52	49
Men	59	63	63	62	57	49	39	46	48
Ararat	59	60	62	61	56	49	41	49	51
Ararat	58	58	61	60	58	51	45	49	51
Lake Bolac	58*	75	67	77	16	47	22	51	49
Women	58	57	61	60	56	50	43	52	55
50-64	54	59	57	56	56	48	42	49	49
35-49	54	50	54	65	56	44	32	45	49
Elmhurst	52*	61	48	81	55	48	53	51	65
Small Rural	51*	53	54	56	54	56	54	55	55
State-wide	51*	52	54	56	55	56	55	55	54

Q1. How has Council performed on 'Community consultation and engagement' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 62 Councils asked group: 19
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)

Community consultation and engagement performance



2024 consultation and engagement performance (%)



Q2: How has Council performed on 'Community consultation and engagement' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 42 Councils asked group: 19
*Caution: small sample size < n=30



Lobbying on behalf of the community importance



2024 lobbying importance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
18-34	82*	75	71	68	70	71	69	67	80
Elmhurst	77*	71	76	68	77	76	56	70	n/a
Women	76	78	74	75	74	72	73	74	71
35-49	76	78	78	69	72	72	73	74	71
Ararat	74	75	75	71	72	70	71	72	n/a
Ararat	74	75	74	71	71	69	70	70	74
Small Rural	72	73	74	71	73	70	70	70	72
Men	72	72	74	66	69	67	68	67	72
50-64	72	78	78	74	77	73	71	71	74
65+	69*	73	71	71	69	65	68	69	71
State-wide	68*	68	71	69	68	67	68	69	69
Lake Bolac	64*	83	60	65	34	60	69	63	77

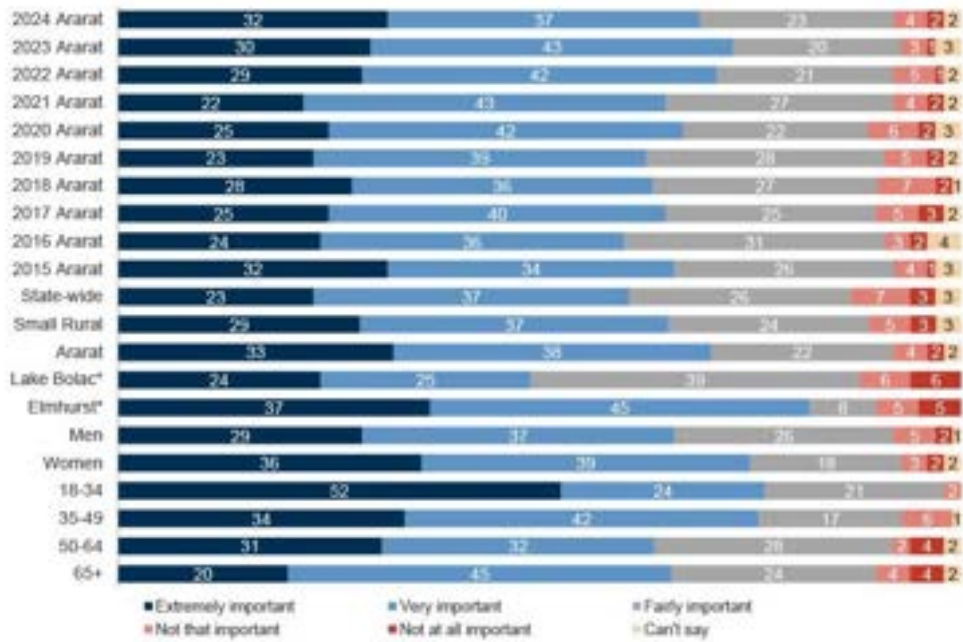
Q1: Firstly, how important should 'Lobbying on behalf of the community' be as a responsibility for Council?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 21 Councils asked group: 3
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Lobbying on behalf of the community importance



2024 lobbying importance (%)



Q1. Finally, how important should 'Lobbying on behalf of the community' be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 21 Councils asked group: 3
*Caution: small sample size < n=30



Lobbying on behalf of the community performance



2024 lobbying performance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Lake Botac	60	70	64	n/a	42	24	46	51	n/a
65+	67	66	70	57	51	52	54	56	60
18-34	62	68	54	56	53	46	54	55	52
Men	63	65	65	56	50	42	52	52	57
Ararat	61	64	63	56	50	44	53	54	56
Ararat	61	64	63	56	52	48	54	55	n/a
50-64	61	60	62	54	53	45	53	55	56
Women	58	63	61	56	51	47	53	56	54
35-49	45	58	61	54	44	34	49	50	54
Small Rural	52	54	55	62	55	53	55	54	56
State-wide	51	53	55	53	54	54	54	53	55
Elmhurst	56	56	75	58	48	40	51	69	n/a

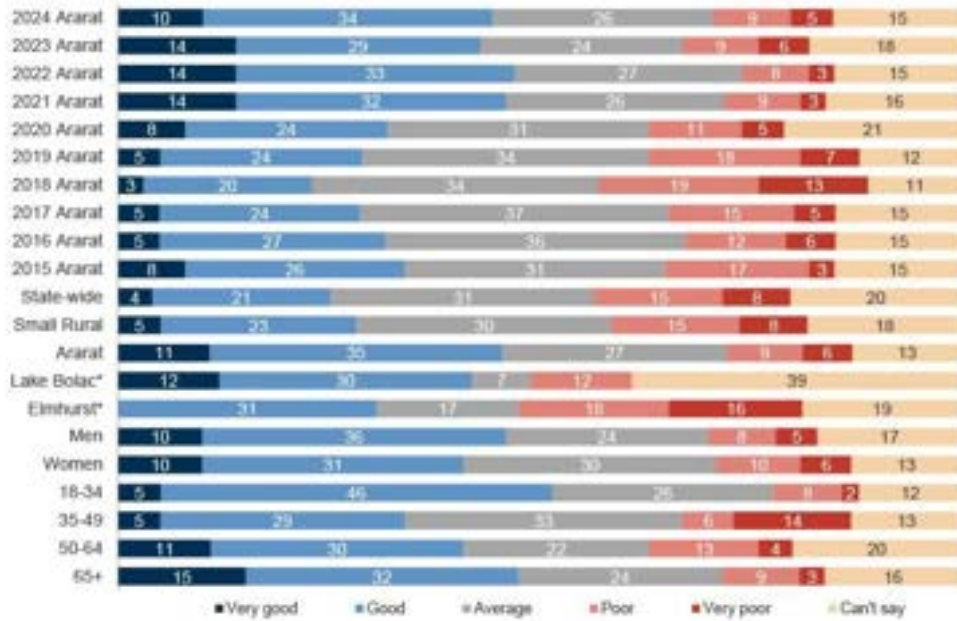
Q1. How has Council performed on 'Lobbying on behalf of the community' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents, Councils asked State-wide: 48 Councils asked group: 14
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size n<30



Lobbying on behalf of the community performance



2024 lobbying performance (%)



Q2: How has Council performed on 'Lobbying on behalf of the community' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 48 Councils asked group: 14
*Caution: small sample size < n=30

Decisions made in the interest of the community importance



2024 community decisions made importance (index scores)

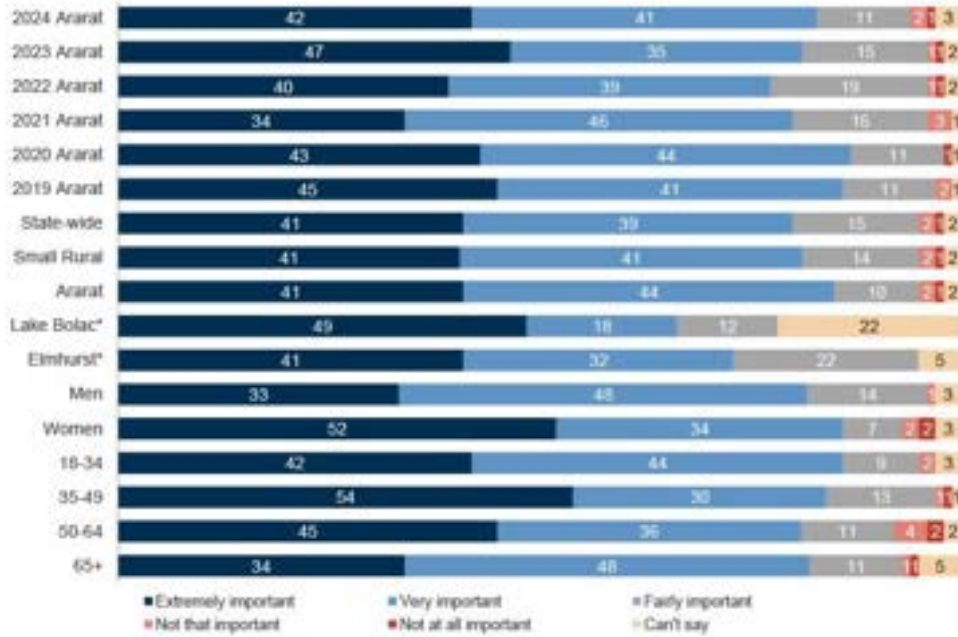
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Lake Bolac	87*	89	66	73	84	77	n/a	n/a	n/a
Women	84	84	80	81	84	84	n/a	n/a	n/a
35-49	84	88	85	80	84	80	n/a	n/a	n/a
18-34	82	84	76	73	84	85	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ararat	81	83	80	78	83	82	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ararat	81	82	80	78	82	83	n/a	n/a	n/a
Small Rural	80	82	82	80	82	81	77	78	82
Elmhurst	80*	92	75	84	85	88	n/a	n/a	n/a
50-64	80	82	86	82	84	86	n/a	n/a	n/a
65+	80	78	75	78	80	80	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-wide	80	80	81	81	80	80	80	79	80
Men	79	81	79	76	81	81	n/a	n/a	n/a

Q1: Firstly, how important should 'Decisions made in the interest of the community' be as a responsibility for Council?
 Base: All respondents, Councils asked State-wide: 19 Councils asked group: 2
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size n<30

Decisions made in the interest of the community importance



2024 community decisions made importance (%)



Q1. Firstly, how important should 'Decisions made in the interest of the community' be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 19 Councils asked group: 2
*Caution: small sample size < n=30

Decisions made in the interest of the community performance



2024 community decisions made performance (index scores)

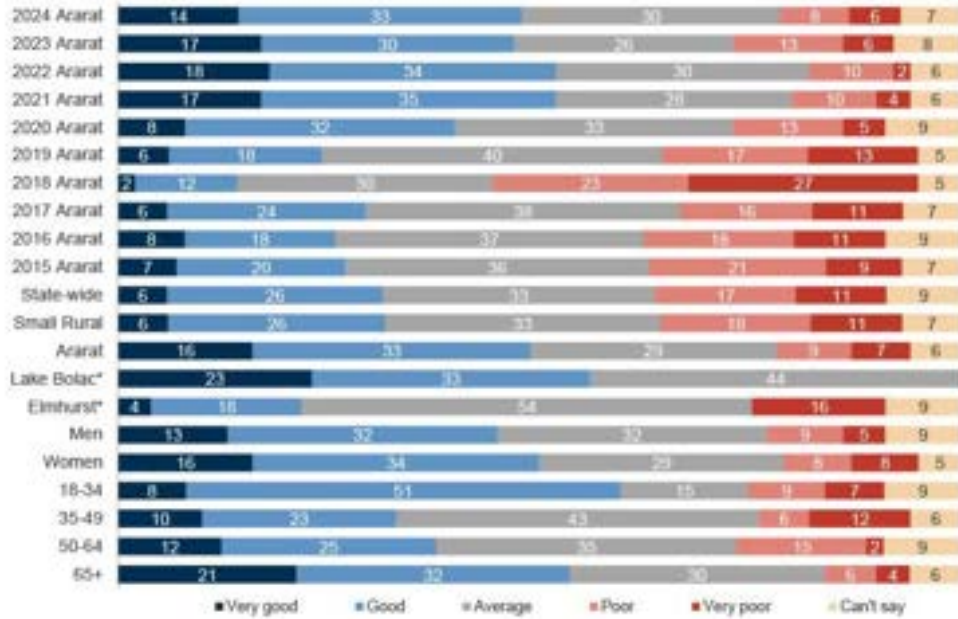
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
Lake Botac	70*	71	68	79	32	21	17	48	39	n/a
65+	66*	68	69	71	59	50	38	52	50	52
18-34	62	58	72	56	67	47	33	50	46	46
Women	61	60	65	63	58	48	39	51	53	49
Ararat	61	60	65	63	57	46	33	50	48	49
Men	61	61	66	64	56	45	28	48	44	48
Ararat	61	60	67	62	57	48	36	50	49	n/a
50-64	58	60	59	60	58	47	39	48	51	48
35-49	54*	48	57	62	52	41	22	48	45	47
State-wide	50*	51	54	56	63	55	54	54	54	55
Small Rural	50*	52	54	56	63	55	52	55	53	56
Elmhurst	49*	44	42	75	52	59	36	50	51	n/a

Q1. How has Council performed on 'Decisions made in the interest of the community' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide. 62 Councils asked group. 19
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)

Decisions made in the interest of the community performance



2024 community decisions made performance (%)



Q2: How has Council performed on 'Decisions made in the interest of the community' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 42 Councils asked group: 19
*Caution: small sample size < n=30

The condition of sealed local roads in your area importance



2024 sealed local roads importance (index scores)

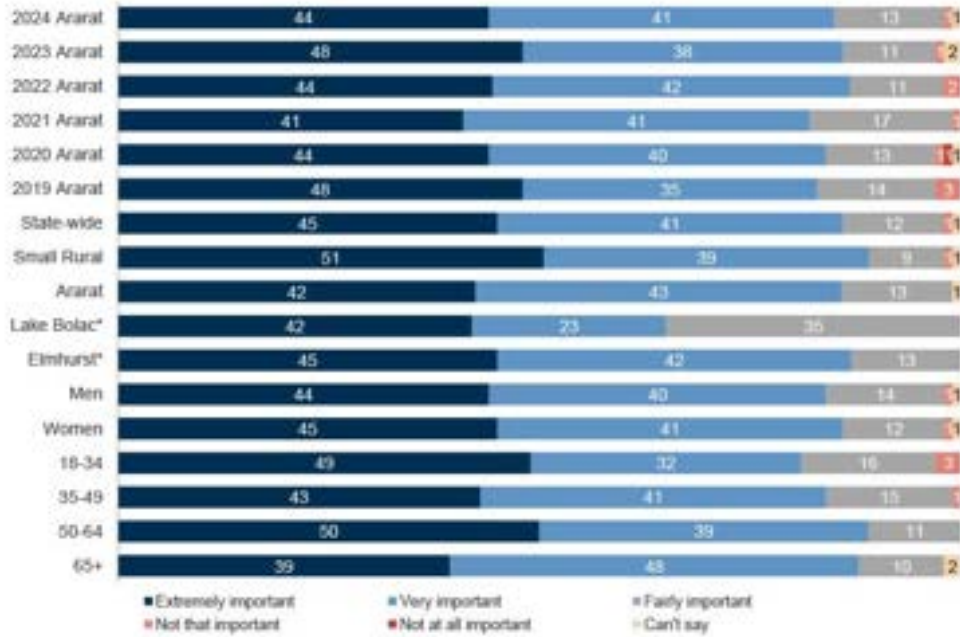
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
Small Rural	85*	84	82	81	83	82	84	81	n/a	78
50-64	85	82	84	78	87	86	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Elmhurst	83*	87	74	80	84	81	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Women	83	85	83	80	83	84	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-wide	83	82	81	79	79	79	80	78	78	76
Ararat	82	84	82	80	81	82	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
65+	82	81	81	82	79	82	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ararat	82	83	83	80	80	81	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Men	82	83	82	81	80	81	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
18-34	82	85	80	77	81	76	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
35-49	82	88	86	84	82	85	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lake Bolac	77*	88	78	80	75	94	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Q1: Firstly, how important should 'The condition of sealed local roads in your area' be as a responsibility for Council?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 20 Councils asked group: 4
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)

The condition of sealed local roads in your area importance



2024 sealed local roads importance (%)



Q1. Firstly, how important should 'The condition of sealed local roads in your area' be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 20 Councils asked group: 4
*Caution: small sample size < n=30

The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance



2024 sealed local roads performance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
65+	58	54	63	63	61	55	49	55	57	60
Women	56	48	59	60	57	51	46	51	54	49
Lake Botac	55*	39	54	59	32	29	20	27	40	n/a
Ararat	55	53	62	60	59	53	48	56	58	n/a
Ararat	54	51	58	59	56	50	43	51	54	52
50-64	53	52	60	60	54	51	44	47	52	54
Men	53	53	57	59	55	50	40	51	53	54
35-49	52	45	47	60	52	45	34	47	52	47
Elmhurst	52*	41	39	67	54	53	50	55	51	n/a
18-34	51	49	59	52	53	40	44	53	51	45
State-wide	45▼	48	53	57	54	56	53	53	54	55
Small Rural	41▼	44	50	53	51	53	49	50	52	52

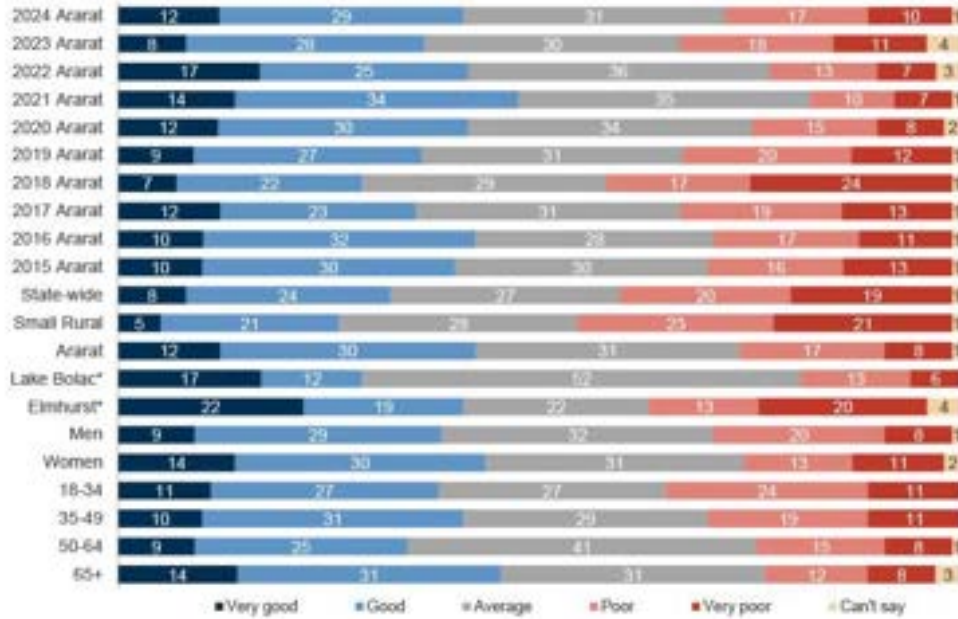
Q1. How has Council performed on 'The condition of sealed local roads in your area' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 62 Councils asked group: 19
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size n<30

2023/24 Community Satisfaction Survey 2024 – Ararat Rural City Council

The condition of sealed local roads in your area performance



2024 sealed local roads performance (%)



Q2: How has Council performed on 'The condition of sealed local roads in your area' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 42 Councils asked group: 18
*Caution: small sample size < n=30



Informing the community importance



2024 informing community importance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
Elmhurst	85*	88	85	82	70	83	60	81	79	n/a
18-34	85*	80	74	75	73	72	73	74	70	82
Women	83	82	82	80	80	79	82	80	79	82
Ararat	81	79	80	79	77	79	78	78	76	n/a
35-49	81	83	85	77	74	79	80	75	79	77
50-64	80	78	83	83	82	81	76	79	79	74
Ararat	80	79	79	77	76	77	76	76	75	77
Small Rural	78	77	79	77	77	76	75	76	78	76
Men	77	76	77	75	73	76	71	72	72	72
65+	77	76	77	76	76	77	74	74	73	74
State-wide	76*	76	77	77	75	75	75	74	76	75
Lake Bolac	72*	66	72	68	84	62	70	62	69	n/a

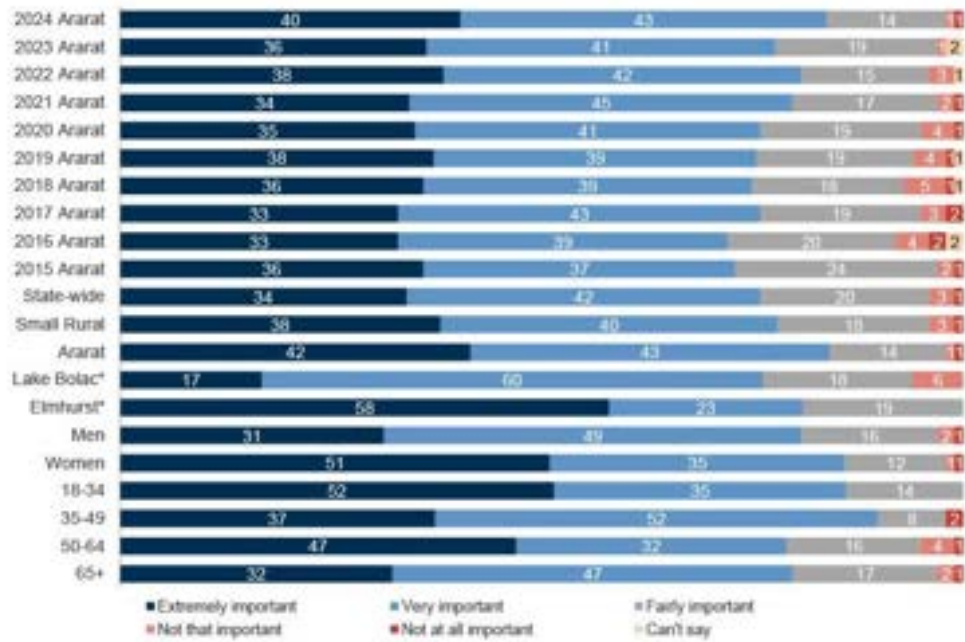
Q1: Firstly, how important should 'informing the community' be as a responsibility for Council?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 13 Councils asked group: 3
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size n<30



Informing the community importance



2024 informing community importance (%)



Q1. Finally, how important should 'informing the community' be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 18 Councils asked group: 3
*Caution: small sample size < n=30



Informing the community performance



2024 informing community performance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
65+	66 [▲]	67	68	69	60	49	48	51	59
Lake Bolac	66 [*]	75	69	75	16	38	40	56	63
Men	61	61	66	63	67	49	42	50	53
Ararat	61	60	54	63	58	49	44	50	54
Women	60	59	62	63	59	50	46	51	59
Ararat	60	59	64	63	58	50	45	49	54
18-34	59	59	69	62	61	52	48	49	60
35-49	57	49	57	62	52	45	37	50	54
State-wide	56 [▼]	57	59	60	59	60	59	59	61
50-64	56	61	58	56	59	52	42	50	56
Small Rural	56 [▼]	58	59	61	58	58	56	58	60
Elmhurst	55 [*]	50	45	61	49	57	53	56	71

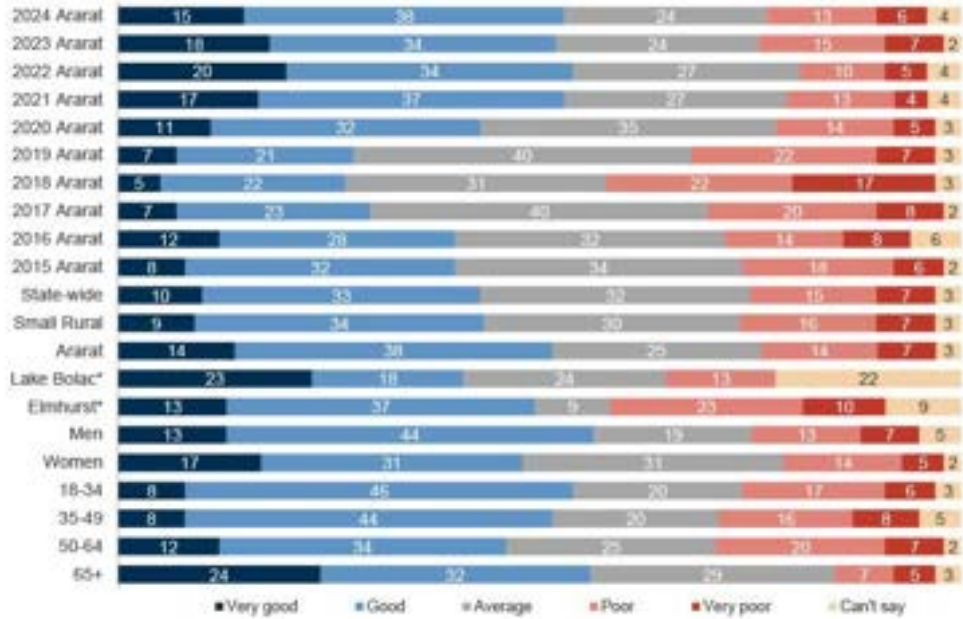
Q1: How has Council performed on 'Informing the community' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 39 Councils asked group: 19
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Informing the community performance



2024 informing community performance (%)



Q2: How has Council performed on 'Informing the community' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 24 Councils asked group: 19
*Caution: small sample size < n=30

The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area importance



2024 streets and footpaths importance (index scores)

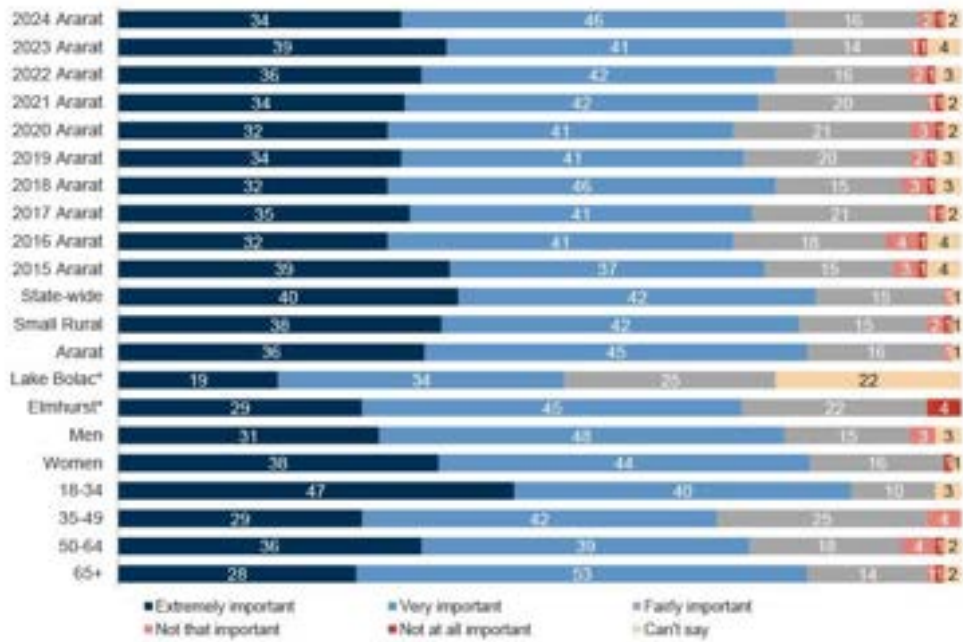
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
18-34	84*	82	74	79	68	74	74	76	70	81
State-wide	80	81	81	79	78	77	78	77	77	77
Women	80	84	82	81	79	76	80	80	79	81
Small Rural	80	80	80	77	77	77	76	76	75	76
Ararat	79	81	80	78	77	77	79	78	79	n/a
Ararat	78	80	79	77	76	77	77	77	76	79
65+	77	79	78	78	75	76	77	76	77	78
Men	77	77	76	75	73	75	75	75	73	76
50-64	77	78	81	77	82	78	79	80	77	76
35-49	74	80	83	77	78	79	78	77	78	80
Elmhurst	74*	75	73	73	70	79	83	84	85	n/a
Lake Bolac	73*	83	75	65	84	77	68	77	62	n/a

Q1: Firstly, how important should 'The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area' be as a responsibility for Council?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 20 Councils asked group: 4
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)

The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area importance



2024 streets and footpaths importance (%)



Q1. Finally, how important should 'The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area' be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 20 Councils asked group: 4
*Caution: small sample size < n=30

The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area performance



2024 streets and footpaths performance (index scores)

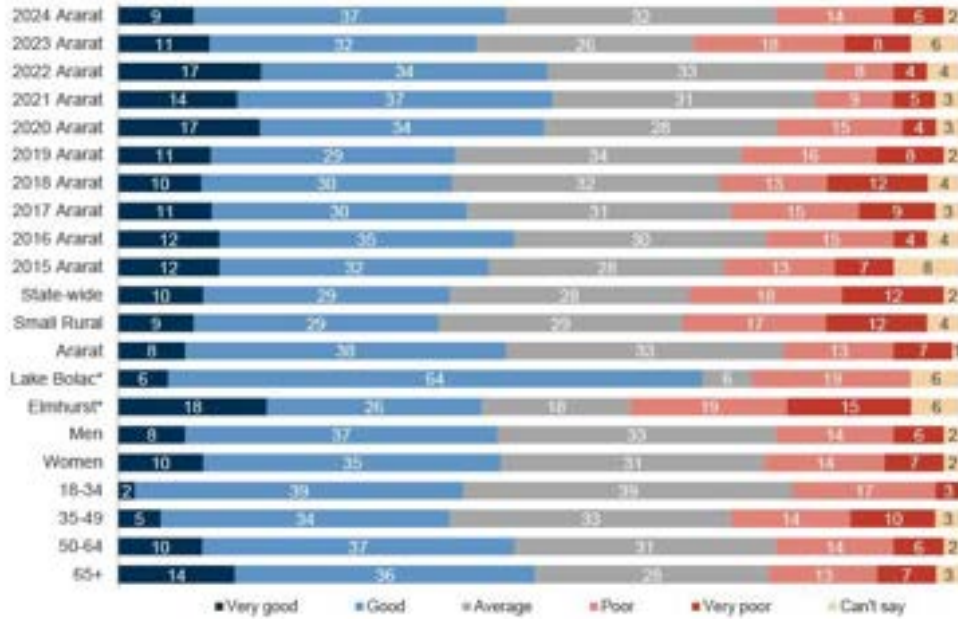
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
Lake Botac	65*	52	62	51	48	47	42	45	61	n/a
65+	60	59	65	64	61	56	57	58	61	60
50-64	58	57	63	62	62	54	57	55	60	60
Ararat	57	57	65	62	62	55	56	57	59	n/a
Men	57	59	65	66	62	55	51	55	60	60
Ararat	57	55	63	62	62	55	53	55	59	58
Women	57	51	62	57	61	54	56	55	59	56
18-34	55	57	69	60	64	57	49	53	55	56
Elmhurst	54*	41	50	63	50	56	34	36	46	n/a
35-49	53	44	55	60	60	50	50	53	61	55
State-wide	52	52	57	59	58	59	58	57	57	58
Small Rural	51	52	55	58	57	57	57	57	58	59

Q1. How has Council performed on 'The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents, Councils asked State-wide, 31 Councils asked group 8
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size n<30

The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area performance



2024 streets and footpaths performance (%)



Q2: How has Council performed on 'The condition of local streets and footpaths in your area' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 31 Councils asked group: 8
*Caution: small sample size < n=30



Elderly support services importance



2024 elderly support importance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
18-34	87 [▲]	85	82	82	76	76	78	74	80
Women	86 [▲]	86	84	87	85	83	84	85	86
Ararat	83	83	83	82	80	80	81	80	n/a
Small Rural	82	82	82	83	81	80	80	79	80
Ararat	82	83	82	82	79	79	80	79	80
50-64	81	81	83	84	82	87	82	85	81
65+	80	81	81	82	81	80	79	78	78
State-wide	80	80	82	82	80	80	79	78	79
35-49	80	85	82	80	78	74	80	79	81
Elmhurst	80*	85	86	90	80	78	52	85	n/a
Men	78 [▼]	80	79	78	75	76	74	76	74
Lake Bolac	70*	77	70	83	59	66	74	77	n/a

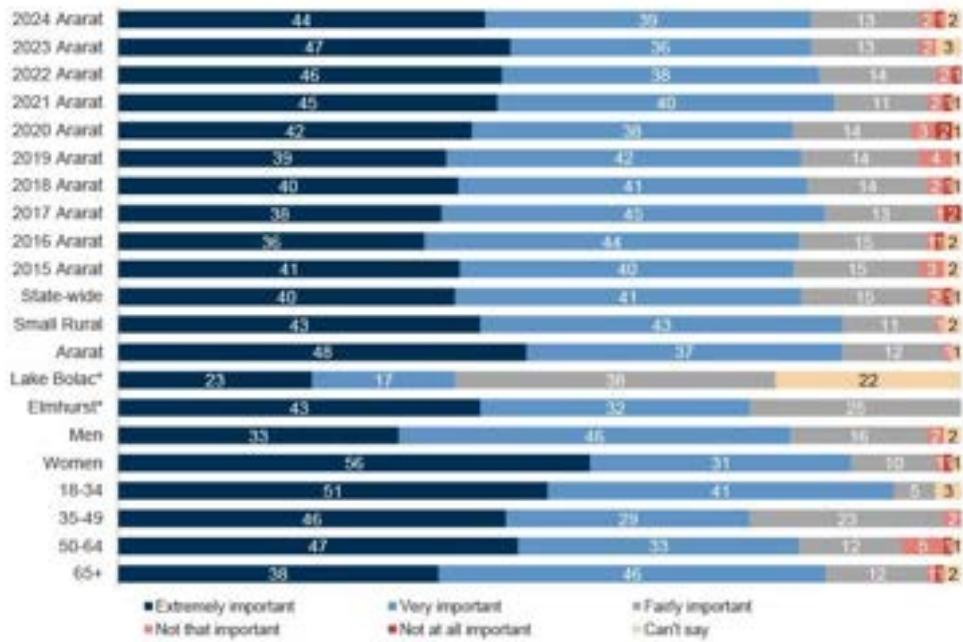
Q1: Firstly, how important should 'Elderly support services' be as a responsibility for Council?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide. If Councils asked group: 2
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Elderly support services importance



2024 elderly support importance (%)



Q1. Finally, how important should 'Elderly support services' be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 8 Councils asked group: 2
*Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Elderly support services performance



2024 elderly support performance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
65+	72	71	74	78	73	67	69	72	70	73
Men	69	70	72	72	71	65	62	66	67	67
Ararat	68	67	73	72	69	66	65	68	68	n/a
Ararat	68	66	71	72	68	65	64	67	68	67
Small Rural	65*	66	70	72	71	71	69	71	70	72
Women	65	62	71	72	65	66	67	68	70	67
18-34	65	69	77	66	62	64	62	64	65	64
35-49	64	54	65	68	63	61	61	62	68	64
50-64	64	65	66	70	70	67	65	66	68	67
Lake Bolac	63*	63	80	74	n/a	65	51	62	65	n/a
State-wide	63*	63	67	69	68	68	68	68	68	69
Elmhurst	62*	58	70	81	67	63	62	57	76	n/a

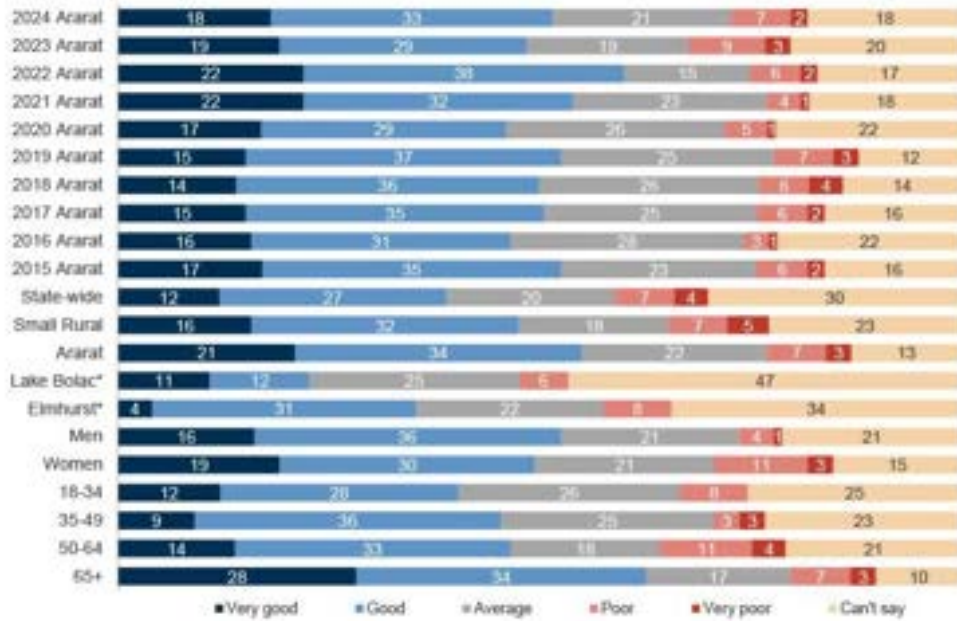
Q1. How has Council performed on 'Elderly support services' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents, Councils asked State-wide: 23 Councils asked group #
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Elderly support services performance



2024 elderly support performance (%)



Q2: How has Council performed on 'Elderly support services' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 23 Councils asked group: 6
*Caution: small sample size n<30



Recreational facilities importance



2024 recreational facilities importance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Lake Bolac	85*	68	65	78	68	68	73	77	n/a
18-34	81*	76	81	68	67	71	81	69	75
Women	79	76	77	76	74	72	77	75	80
35-49	77	77	78	81	74	72	76	77	78
50-64	77	77	76	74	78	73	76	75	73
Ararat	77	76	78	75	73	71	77	73	n/a
Ararat	76	75	77	74	73	71	75	73	74
Men	74	75	76	73	72	70	74	72	74
State-wide	73*	75	74	74	72	72	73	72	72
Small Rural	73*	73	74	73	73	72	72	71	73
65+	72*	71	73	73	72	69	70	72	73
Elmhurst	68*	63	69	72	64	61	68	70	68

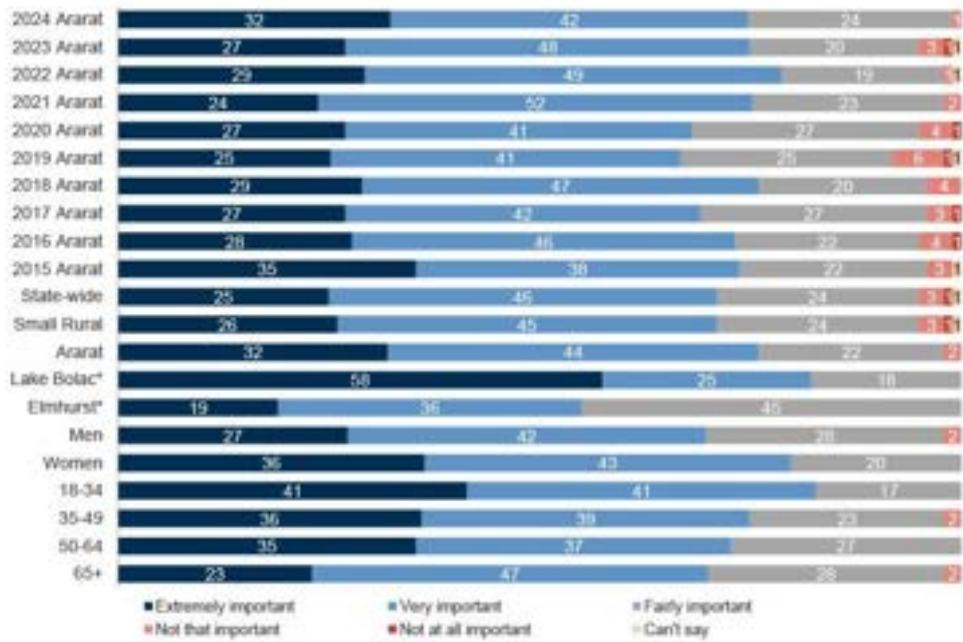
Q1: Firstly, how important should 'Recreational facilities' be as a responsibility for Council?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 23 Councils asked group: 8
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Recreational facilities importance



2024 recreational facilities importance (%)



Q1. Finally, how important should 'Recreational facilities' be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 29 Councils asked group: 6
*Caution: small sample size < n=30



Recreational facilities performance



2024 recreational facilities performance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
65+	79 [▲]	78	78	81	78	72	73	71	68	75
Ararat	74	71	75	74	72	69	65	65	64	n/a
Ararat	73	71	75	74	71	68	64	65	65	64
Men	73	72	75	74	72	69	63	65	64	64
Women	73	70	75	75	70	67	66	64	65	64
18-34	72	72	82	66	64	65	64	63	59	54
Lake Bolac	69*	86	80	70	41	58	61	62	64	n/a
50-64	69	65	74	74	71	72	64	65	65	66
State-wide	68 [▼]	68	69	71	70	70	69	70	69	70
Small Rural	67 [▼]	67	69	69	68	68	69	69	68	70
35-49	65 [▼]	63	65	73	67	63	55	56	63	59
Elmhurst	56*	62	59	69	46	66	53	61	85	n/a

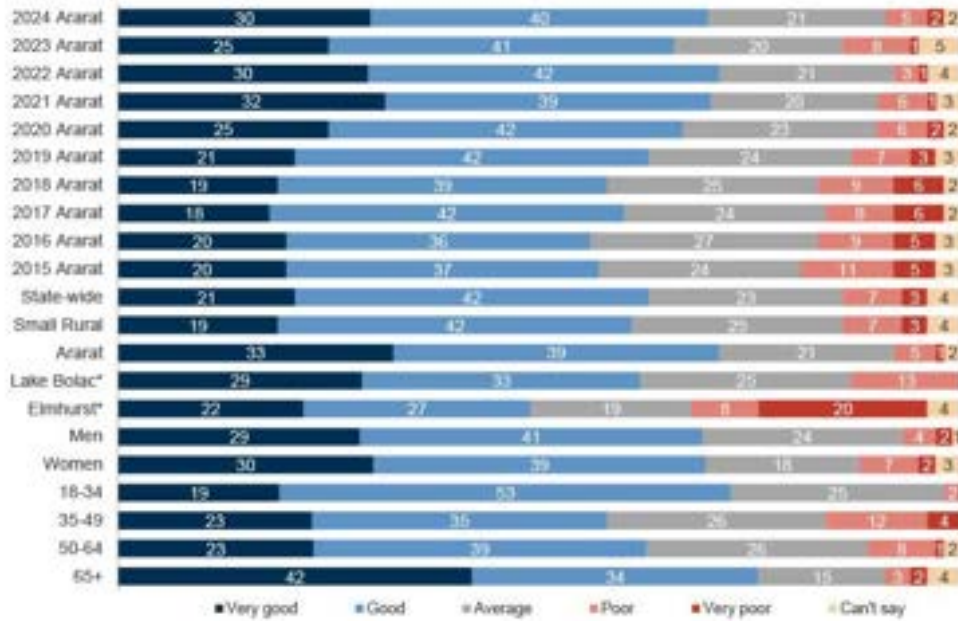
Q1. How has Council performed on 'Recreational facilities' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 40 Councils asked group: 12
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Recreational facilities performance



2024 recreational facilities performance (%)



Q2: How has Council performed on 'Recreational facilities' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 40 Councils asked group: 13
*Caution: small sample size n<30



The appearance of public areas importance



2024 public areas importance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Women	78	77	78	79	75	76	78	76	77
50-64	76	77	78	73	77	74	73	76	73
Ararat	76	77	75	75	74	75	77	77	n/a
18-34	75	79	73	70	72	71	74	68	69
Ararat	75	76	76	74	72	74	74	75	74
35-49	75	79	77	78	73	73	77	79	71
65+	74	73	77	75	74	71	74	74	73
State-wide	74	74	75	75	74	73	74	74	73
Small Rural	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	73
Men	73	76	75	70	73	69	70	72	73
Elmhurst	68*	75	64	75	63	59	49	81	n/a
Lake Bolac	65*	66	69	82	59	59	72	67	75

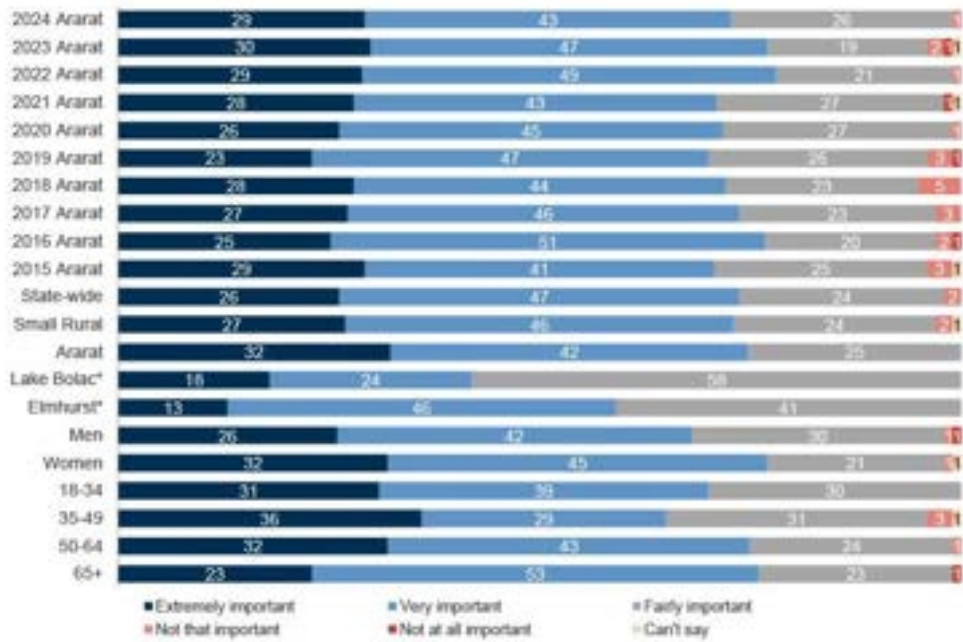
Q1. Firstly, how important should 'The appearance of public areas' be as a responsibility for Council?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 24 Councils asked group: 6
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



The appearance of public areas importance



2024 public areas importance (%)



Q1. Finally, how important should 'The appearance of public areas' be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 24 Councils asked group: 6
*Caution: small sample size < n=30



The appearance of public areas performance



2024 public areas performance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
65+	76	75	77	79	73	71	69	70	74	77
Ararat	72	69	76	75	73	69	66	65	73	n/a
50-64	72	67	74	75	73	69	64	64	70	72
Men	72	72	77	76	74	69	63	64	71	71
Ararat	72	70	76	75	73	69	65	66	72	71
Women	71	67	75	75	71	70	68	69	74	72
Small Rural	71	71	73	75	72	73	72	74	73	74
18-34	69	67	79	74	70	71	66	60	73	61
Lake Bolac	68*	85	77	82	48	68	61	71	69	n/a
State-wide	68*	67	71	73	72	72	71	71	71	72
35-49	67	64	72	73	73	66	60	69	71	72
Elmhurst	57*	54	71	74	75	79	59	65	81	n/a

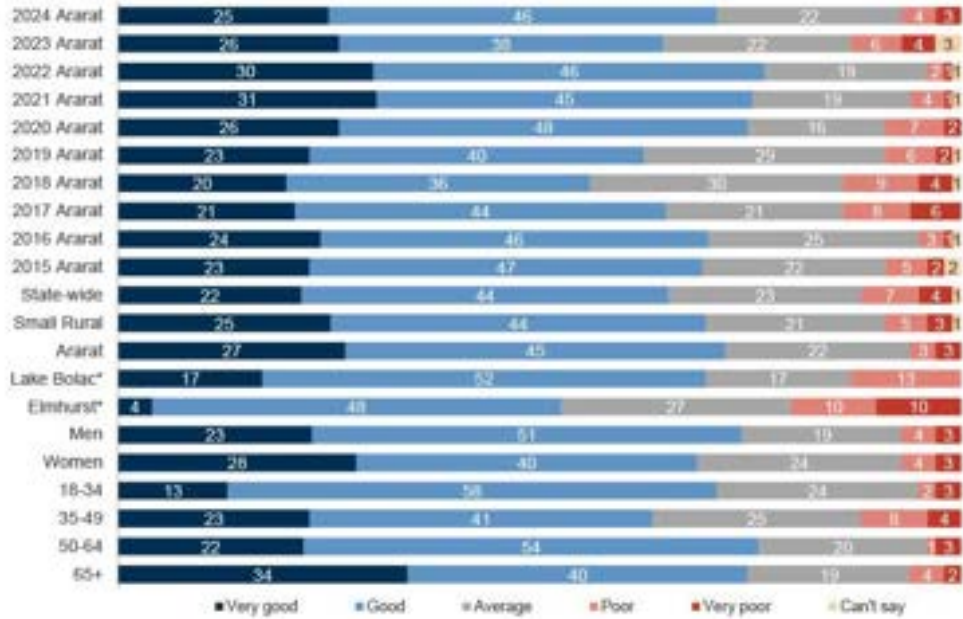
Q1. How has Council performed on 'The appearance of public areas' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 42 Councils asked group: 14
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size n<30



The appearance of public areas performance



2024 public areas performance (%)



Q2: How has Council performed on 'The appearance of public areas' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 42 Councils asked group: 14
*Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Art centres and libraries importance



2024 art centres and libraries importance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Women	67	70	65	64	65	67	67	69	70
Ararat	65	64	62	59	60	61	62	64	n/a
18-34	65	63	58	50	60	57	56	64	63
35-49	65	59	62	57	56	58	64	59	64
State-wide	64	65	67	65	65	65	64	65	65
Ararat	64	62	61	59	59	60	60	61	64
50-64	64	61	64	62	62	61	60	60	63
65+	63	63	66	63	58	62	60	62	65
Men	61	57	58	55	53	53	54	54	58
Small Rural	61*	60	63	60	63	61	61	65	62
Lake Botac	60*	47	53	60	39	53	53	62	n/a
Elmhurst	58*	47	72	70	65	50	55	71	n/a

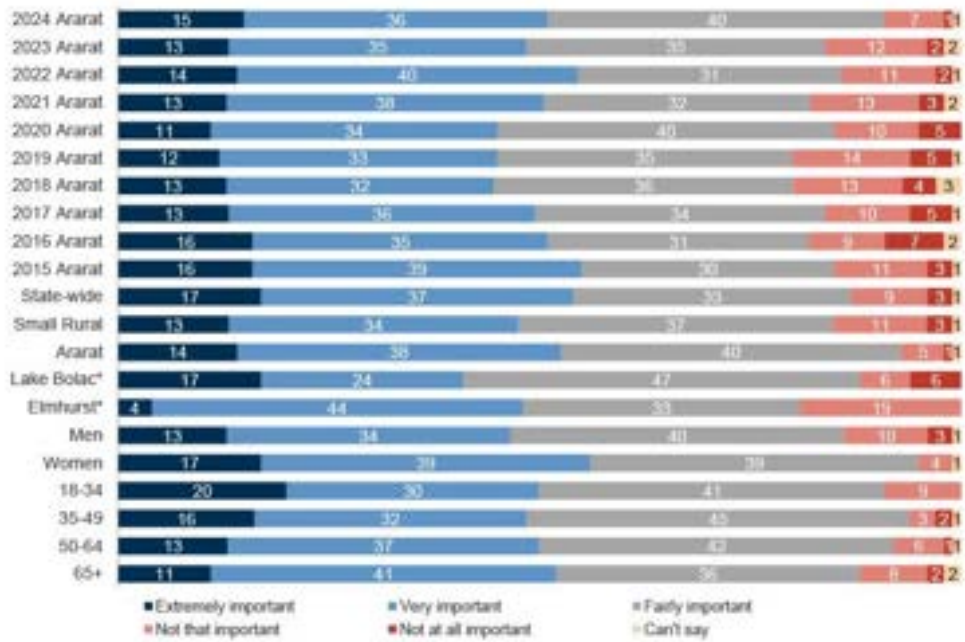
Q1: Firstly, how important should 'Art centres and libraries' be as a responsibility for Council?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 17 Councils asked group: 3
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size n<30



Art centres and libraries importance



2024 art centres and libraries importance (%)



Q1. Finally, how important should 'Art centres and libraries' be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 17 Councils asked group: 3
*Caution: small sample size < n=30



Art centres and libraries performance



2024 art centres and libraries performance (Index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Women	81	75	78	77	79	77	74	71	72
Lake Bolac	80*	75	76	83	41	70	63	68	71
65+	79	76	78	78	77	73	76	74	73
18-34	79	77	78	67	71	77	69	66	60
Ararat	79	75	76	73	78	76	70	70	n/a
Ararat	78	75	75	74	78	76	70	69	70
50-64	78	75	75	76	80	77	71	67	70
35-49	76	71	69	75	81	72	65	69	70
Men	76	73	73	73	76	74	66	69	67
State-wide	73	73	73	74	74	74	73	72	73
Small Rural	73	73	71	72	74	74	73	72	71
Elmhurst	66*	72	70	66	57	88	70	88	78

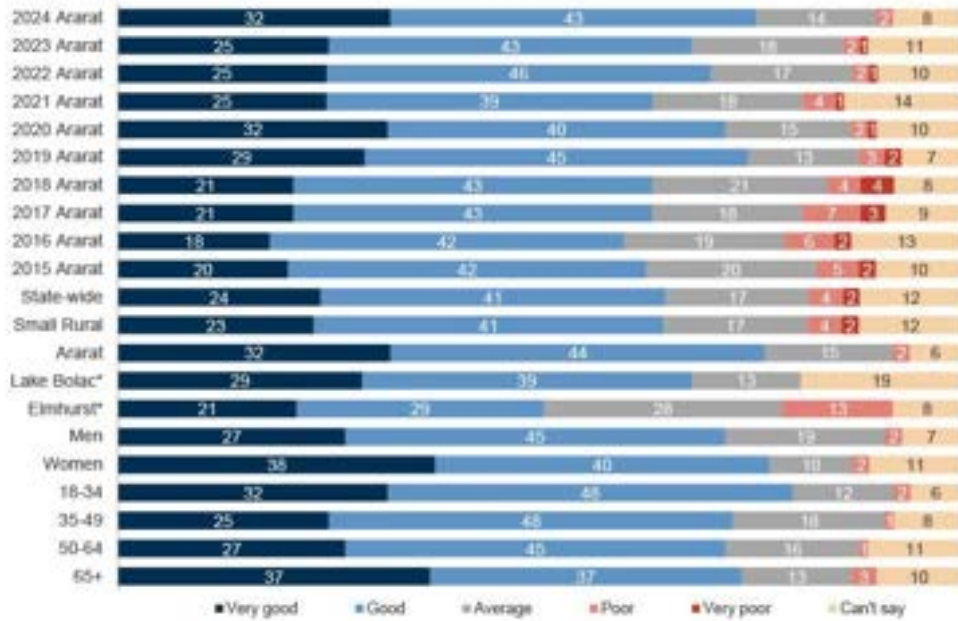
Q1. How has Council performed on 'Art centres and libraries' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 28 Councils asked group: 7
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Art centres and libraries performance



2024 art centres and libraries performance (%)



Q2: How has Council performed on 'Art centres and libraries' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 29 Councils asked group: 7
*Caution: small sample size < n=30

Community and cultural activities importance



2024 community and cultural activities importance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
18-34	58*	67	66	57	57	64	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ararat	63	65	65	63	61	61	n/a	n/a	n/a
Women	63	67	65	65	64	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Elmhurst	63*	62	65	65	54	57	n/a	n/a	n/a
35-49	62	65	64	63	60	55	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ararat	61	54	64	62	60	60	n/a	n/a	n/a
Small Rural	61	64	64	62	60	62	60	62	64
State-wide	60	62	64	64	62	61	61	61	62
Men	60	62	63	59	57	56	n/a	n/a	n/a
65+	59	63	62	63	60	57	n/a	n/a	n/a
50-64	58	63	65	63	67	64	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lake Bolac	45*▼	52	59	59	59	40	n/a	n/a	n/a

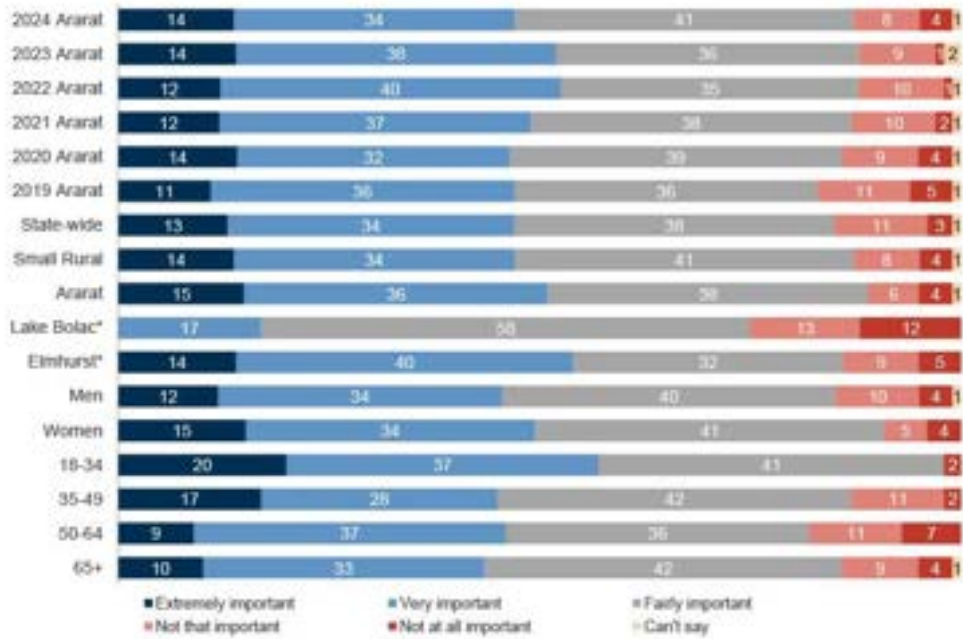
Q1: Firstly, how important should 'Community and cultural activities' be as a responsibility for Council?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 13 Councils asked group: 1
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Community and cultural activities importance



2024 community and cultural activities importance (%)



Q1. Finally, how important should 'Community and cultural activities' be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 19 Councils asked group: 1
*Caution: small sample size < n=30

Community and cultural activities performance



2024 community and cultural activities performance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
65+	71	70	68	68	67	66	n/a	n/a	n/a
Small Rural	69	70	68	67	68	66	69	69	65
18-34	68	63	66	55	58	60	n/a	n/a	n/a
Men	68	64	64	65	60	62	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ararat	68	65	65	63	63	63	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ararat	67	65	65	64	63	63	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-wide	66	65	65	65	68	69	69	69	69
Women	65	65	66	63	66	64	n/a	n/a	n/a
50-64	61	63	63	64	63	60	n/a	n/a	n/a
35-49	61*	57	60	67	61	59	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lake Bolac	60*	69	75	75	32	58	n/a	n/a	n/a
Elmhurst	52**	61	54	71	70	84	n/a	n/a	n/a

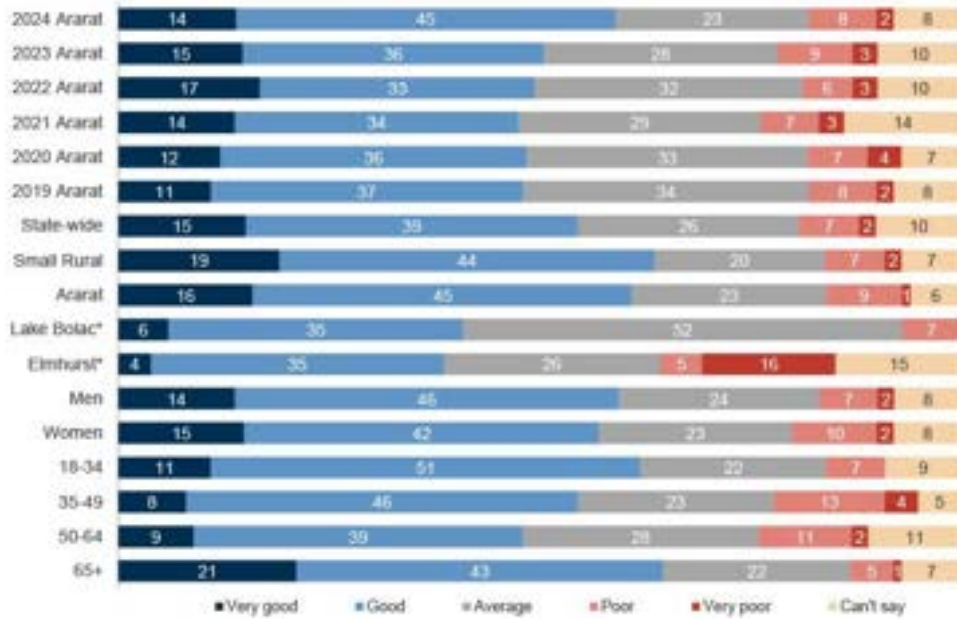
Q1. How has Council performed on 'Community and cultural activities' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 26 Councils asked group 2
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Community and cultural activities performance



2024 community and cultural activities performance (%)



Q2: How has Council performed on 'Community and cultural activities' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 26 Councils asked group: 2
*Caution: small sample size (n=30)



Waste management importance



2024 waste management importance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
18-34	80*	84	82	80	80	78	74	77	79
Women	82	81	84	85	80	85	78	77	82
Ararat	82	81	81	81	80	81	76	77	n/a
Ararat	82	80	81	80	79	79	76	76	78
Men	81	79	78	76	79	75	73	75	75
State-wide	81	81	82	82	81	81	79	80	79
Lake Bolac	81*	74	78	83	100	74	74	80	n/a
50-64	81	79	79	81	80	81	77	79	78
Elmhurst	80*	78	82	80	82	78	60	81	69
65+	80	77	79	80	79	79	75	75	78
Small Rural	79*	78	80	80	79	79	78	76	77
35-49	79	82	84	82	81	81	79	74	78

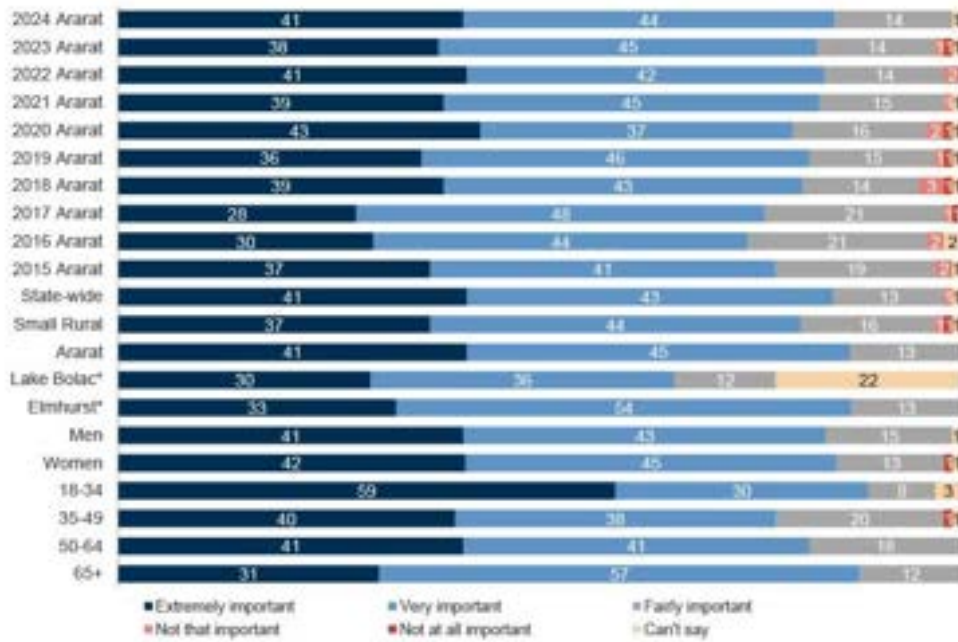
Q1. Firstly, how important should 'Waste management' be as a responsibility for Council?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 24 Councils asked group: 5
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Waste management importance



2024 waste management importance (%)



Q1. Firstly, how important should 'Waste management' be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 24 Councils asked group: 8
*Caution: small sample size n<30



Waste management performance



2024 waste management performance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
Lake Botac	78*	90	64	65	16	49	49	55	58	n/a
65+	78	73	70	71	65	63	69	69	72	69
50-64	75	64	63	57	59	58	61	61	66	63
Ararat	74	66	69	61	61	63	66	65	67	n/a
Men	74	69	67	62	60	61	66	63	65	68
Ararat	74	66	67	61	60	60	64	64	66	66
Women	74	63	68	61	60	59	61	64	68	64
35-49	73	60	58	56	56	55	59	60	63	65
Elmhurst	72*	67	62	68	35	62	64	39	76	n/a
18-34	67▼	61	75	55	57	65	65	62	62	69
Small Rural	67▼	66	68	68	64	66	69	70	69	71
State-wide	67▼	66	68	69	65	68	70	71	70	72

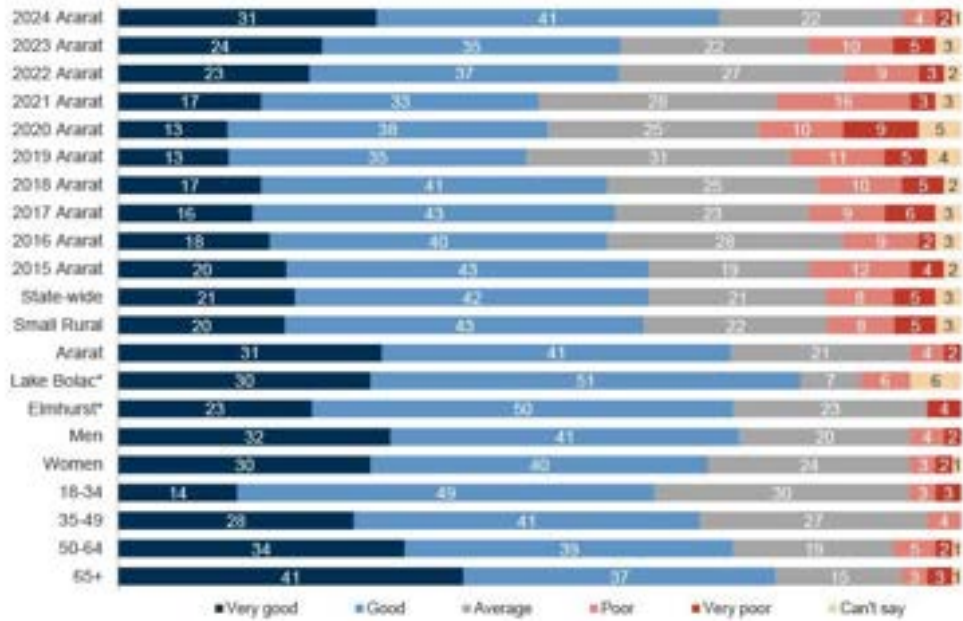
Q1. How has Council performed on 'Waste management' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 62 Councils asked group: 19
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Waste management performance



2024 waste management performance (%)



Q2: How has Council performed on 'Waste management' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 42 Councils asked group: 19
*Caution: small sample size < n=30

Business and community development and tourism importance



2024 business/development/tourism importance (index scores)

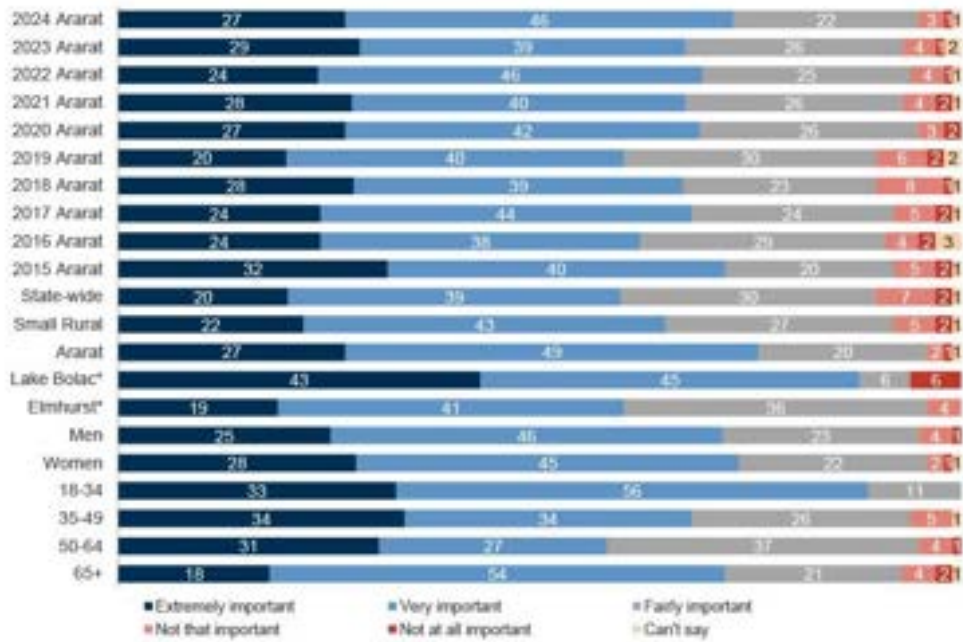
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
18-34	80*	75	72	73	67	65	71	70	74	81
Lake Bolac	80*	71	59	68	66	45	61	57	64	n/a
Women	75	73	73	75	74	70	77	75	74	76
Ararat	75	75	75	73	74	70	74	74	73	n/a
35-49	74	78	74	72	75	69	71	74	69	73
Ararat	74	73	73	72	72	68	72	71	71	74
Men	73	73	72	70	72	66	67	68	68	72
50-64	71	69	74	74	78	73	76	72	75	72
65+	71	70	72	71	71	65	69	69	67	72
Small Rural	70*	71	72	74	74	71	71	72	71	70
Elmhurst	69*	70	64	70	56	79	61	85	75	n/a
State-wide	67*	67	69	70	67	65	66	67	67	67

Q1: Firstly, how important should 'Business and community development and tourism' be as a responsibility for Council?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 19 Councils asked group: 5
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size n<30

Business and community development and tourism importance



2024 business/development/tourism importance (%)



Q1. Finally, how important should 'Business and community development and tourism' be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 19 Councils asked group: 5
*Caution: small sample size < n=30

Business and community development and tourism performance



2024 business/development/tourism performance (index scores)

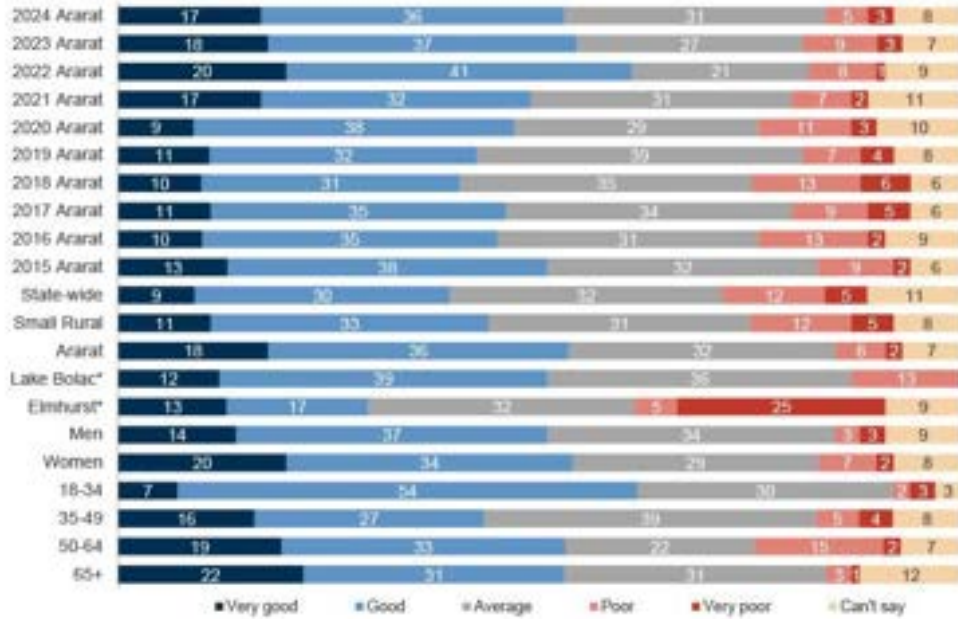
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
65+	70	70	72	71	64	63	59	64	61	62
Women	67	66	70	65	59	62	61	62	64	64
Ararat	67	66	70	65	61	62	58	61	62	n/a
Ararat	66	65	69	65	61	61	57	60	61	63
18-34	65	63	71	60	62	63	61	58	59	63
Men	65	65	69	66	62	60	53	58	58	63
50-64	64	63	65	64	62	60	56	59	64	63
35-49	63	61	67	63	55	56	51	57	59	65
Lake Bolac	62*	65	70	63	32	44	49	60	56	n/a
Small Rural	59▼	61	63	62	58	59	59	64	61	63
State-wide	57▼	59	60	61	59	61	60	61	60	61
Elmhurst	47▼	53	65	71	43	60	61	65	92	n/a

Q1. How has Council performed on 'Business and community development and tourism' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents, Councils asked State-wide, 27 Councils asked group 8
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size n<30

Business and community development and tourism performance



2024 business/development/tourism performance (%)



Q2: How has Council performed on 'Business and community development and tourism' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 27 Councils asked group: 8
*Caution: small sample size (n=30)



Planning and building permits importance



2024 planning and building permits importance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
50-64	73	68	76	74	74	69	72	66	66
65+	73	72	73	69	68	67	72	68	69
State-wide	72	72	73	73	71	71	71	72	71
Ararat	72	75	73	70	69	68	69	68	n/a
Lake Bolac	71*	48	65	66	66	52	71	59	n/a
Small Rural	70	71	73	71	68	70	68	68	71
Ararat	70	73	71	69	68	65	68	66	68
Men	70	72	68	66	68	62	64	63	66
Women	70	73	75	72	67	70	73	70	70
18-34	68	75	64	63	61	61	64	61	67
Elmhurst	67*	68	74	81	57	56	62	64	n/a
35-49	64▼	74	71	71	67	64	64	70	65

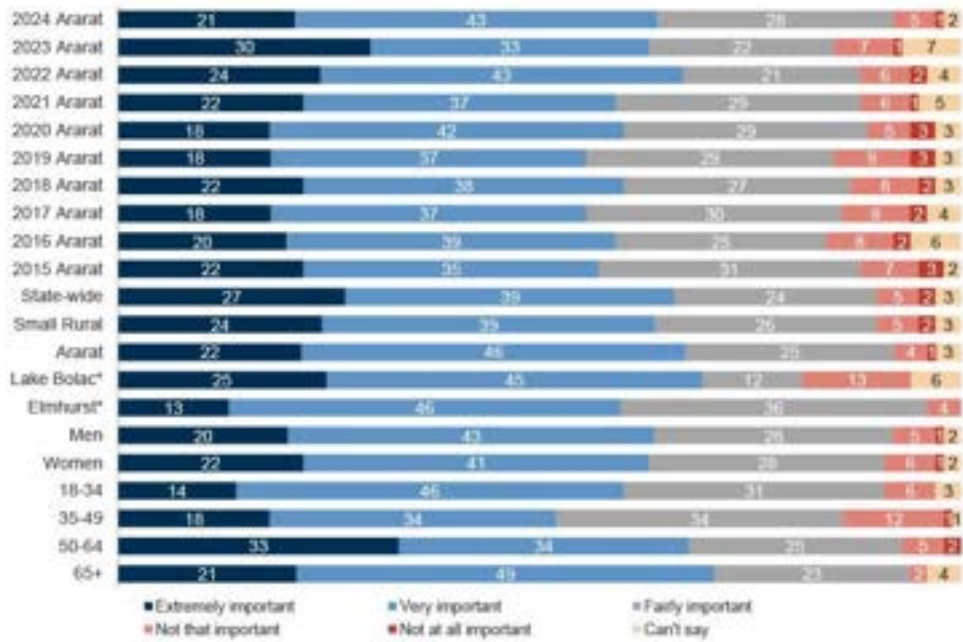
Q1: Firstly, how important should 'Planning and building permits' be as a responsibility for Council?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 18 Councils asked group: 5
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size n<30



Planning and building permits importance



2024 planning and building permits importance (%)



Q1. Finally, how important should 'Planning and building permits' be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 18 Councils asked group: 8
*Caution: small sample size < n=30



Planning and building permits performance



2024 planning and building permits performance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
65+	58	62	63	54	54	47	51	49	60
Women	56	54	59	58	53	50	55	58	57
Ararat	54	53	59	52	53	46	51	52	n/a
Ararat	54	54	58	51	52	46	50	51	55
18-34	53	53	64	57	56	54	47	54	53
Elmhurst	52*	46	60	57	63	67	48	77	n/a
Men	52	54	58	59	50	51	43	46	45
35-49	50	45	49	57	42	48	41	48	49
50-64	49	48	52	56	52	48	43	54	54
Lake Bolac	49*	65	65	56	n/a	29	43	44	38
State-wide	45*	47	50	51	51	52	52	51	50
Small Rural	43*	45	48	49	46	48	51	51	50

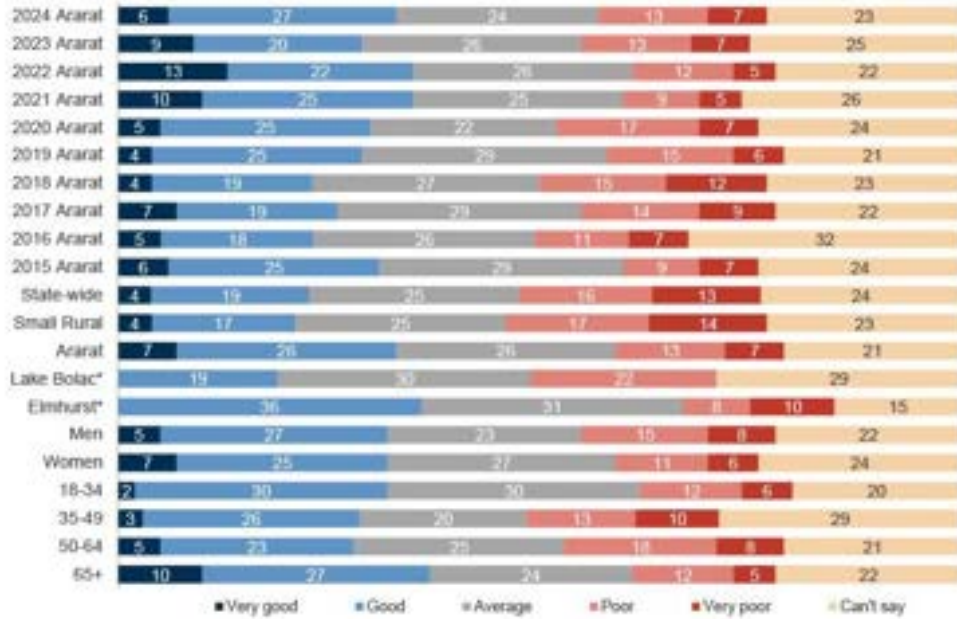
Q1. How has Council performed on 'Planning and building permits' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents, Councils asked State-wide, 29 Councils asked group 3
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Planning and building permits performance



2024 planning and building permits performance (%)



Q2: How has Council performed on 'Planning and building permits' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 29 Councils asked group: 8
*Caution: small sample size < n=30



Environmental sustainability importance



2024 environmental sustainability importance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
18-34	80*	69	77	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Women	72	73	75	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ararat	69	69	73	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ararat	68	69	72	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
50-64	68	69	73	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-wide	68	70	73	74	74	74	73	72	73
Small Rural	66	67	70	71	70	72	70	70	74
Men	65	65	69	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
65+	64	67	72	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
35-49	64	71	66	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Elmhurst	62*	68	75	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lake Bolac	59*	63	57	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

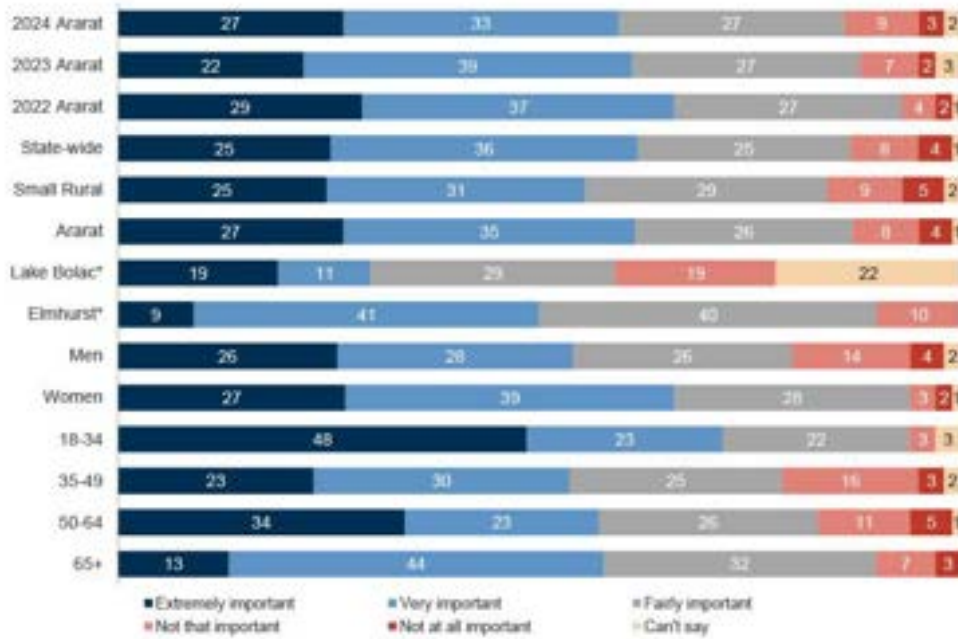
Q1: Firstly, how important should 'Environmental sustainability' be as a responsibility for Council?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 22 Councils asked group: 3
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Environmental sustainability importance



2024 environmental sustainability importance (%)



Q1. Finally, how important should 'Environmental sustainability' be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 22 Councils asked group: 3
*Caution: small sample size < n=30



Environmental sustainability performance



2024 environmental sustainability performance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Lake Botac	69*	65	57	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
65+	67	66	64	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Women	65	61	62	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ararat	63	62	63	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ararat	63	63	62	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
18-34	63	65	64	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
50-64	62	63	58	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Men	61	64	62	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-wide	60▼	60	61	62	60	62	63	64	63
Small Rural	59▼	59	59	61	57	59	62	63	61
35-49	56▼	53	58	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Elmhurst	54*	65	52	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

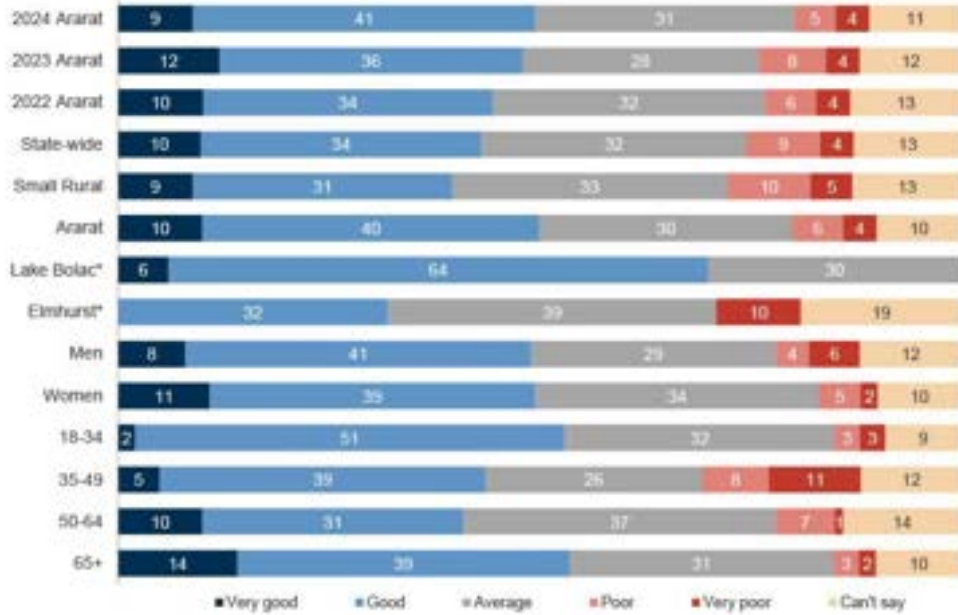
Q1. How has Council performed on 'Environmental sustainability' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents, Councils asked State-wide: 34 Councils asked group: 7
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Environmental sustainability performance



2024 environmental sustainability performance (%)



Q2: How has Council performed on 'Environmental sustainability' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 34 Councils asked group: 7
*Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Emergency and disaster management importance



2024 emergency and disaster management importance (index scores)

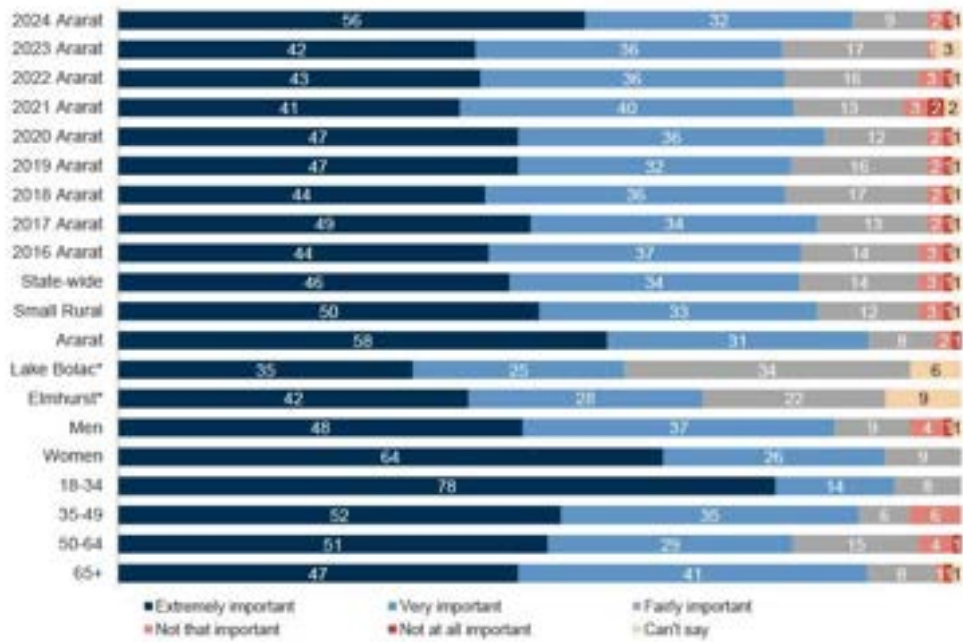
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
18-34	80 [▲]	81	79	75	81	82	78	85	82	n/a
Women	85 [▲]	85	83	85	86	85	84	87	84	n/a
Ararat	86	80	79	79	82	82	81	83	81	n/a
Ararat	85	81	80	79	82	81	80	83	80	n/a
65+	84	80	81	81	82	79	80	81	79	n/a
35-49	83	80	75	76	80	77	80	85	78	n/a
Small Rural	82 [▼]	80	81	82	82	81	80	81	82	80
Men	82	77	76	74	78	78	77	79	76	n/a
50-64	81	84	83	82	84	86	82	83	82	n/a
Elmhurst	81 [*]	96	92	92	82	84	86	94	81	n/a
State-wide	80 [▼]	80	81	81	80	81	81	80	80	80
Lake Bolac	75 [*]	78	79	83	84	75	79	84	77	n/a

Q1: Firstly, how important should 'Emergency and disaster management' be as a responsibility for Council?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked: State-wide: 13 Councils asked group: 2
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)

Emergency and disaster management importance



2024 emergency and disaster management importance (%)



Q1. Finally, how important should 'Emergency and disaster management' be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 19 Councils asked group: 2
*Caution: small sample size < n=30



Emergency and disaster management performance



2024 emergency and disaster management performance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
18-34	79	72	77	72	76	72	70	72	67	n/a
Women	76	71	74	75	75	74	70	74	76	n/a
Ararat	77	74	75	75	73	72	74	73	n/a	
65+	77	76	79	79	76	73	72	76	76	n/a
Ararat	76	72	74	75	74	73	70	72	72	n/a
50-64	75	74	70	76	75	78	74	71	69	n/a
Men	73	74	74	75	73	72	70	70	68	n/a
35-49	71	65	67	72	69	69	63	68	73	n/a
Lake Bolac	67*	74	72	73	48	66	64	64	75	n/a
Small Rural	66▼	66	68	72	70	72	72	72	71	70
State-wide	65▼	65	66	71	68	72	71	70	69	70
Elmhurst	57▼	58	70	69	68	75	63	82	88	n/a

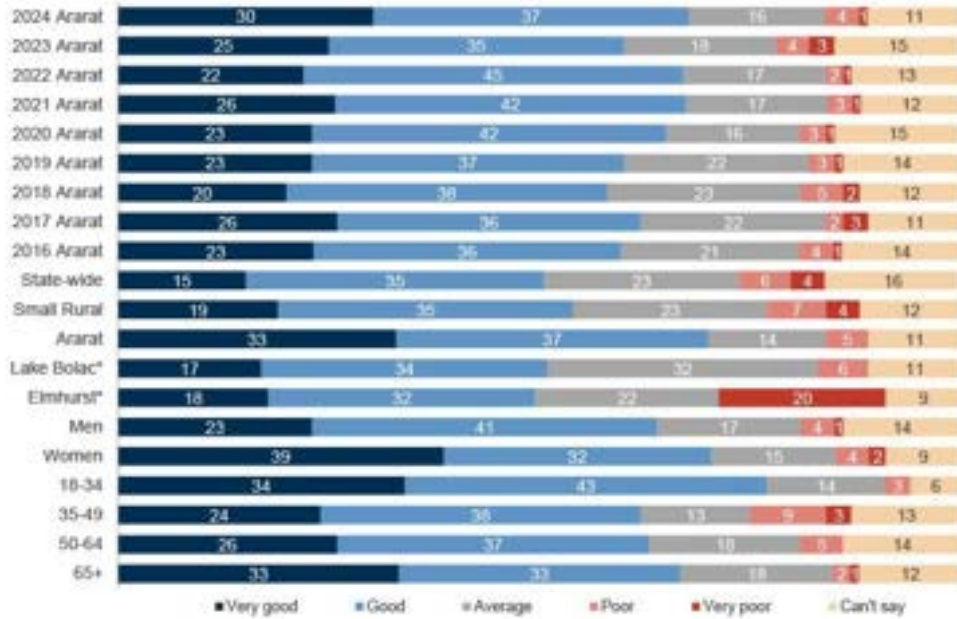
Q1: How has Council performed on 'Emergency and disaster management' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents, Councils asked State-wide: 25 Councils asked group 8
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Emergency and disaster management performance



2024 emergency and disaster management performance (%)



Q2: How has Council performed on 'Emergency and disaster management' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 29 Councils asked group: 6
*Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Roadside slashing and weed control importance



2024 roadside slashing and weed control importance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Elmhurst	87*	94	93	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
18-34	81	83	76	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
50-64	81	82	80	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Small Rural	80	81	81	82	80	76	76	n/a	77
Women	80	82	82	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
35-49	80	80	85	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-wide	80	79	79	79	78	74	73	74	73
Ararat	79	80	80	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Men	79	78	79	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ararat	78	79	78	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
55+	78	77	79	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lake Bolac	66*	92	89	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

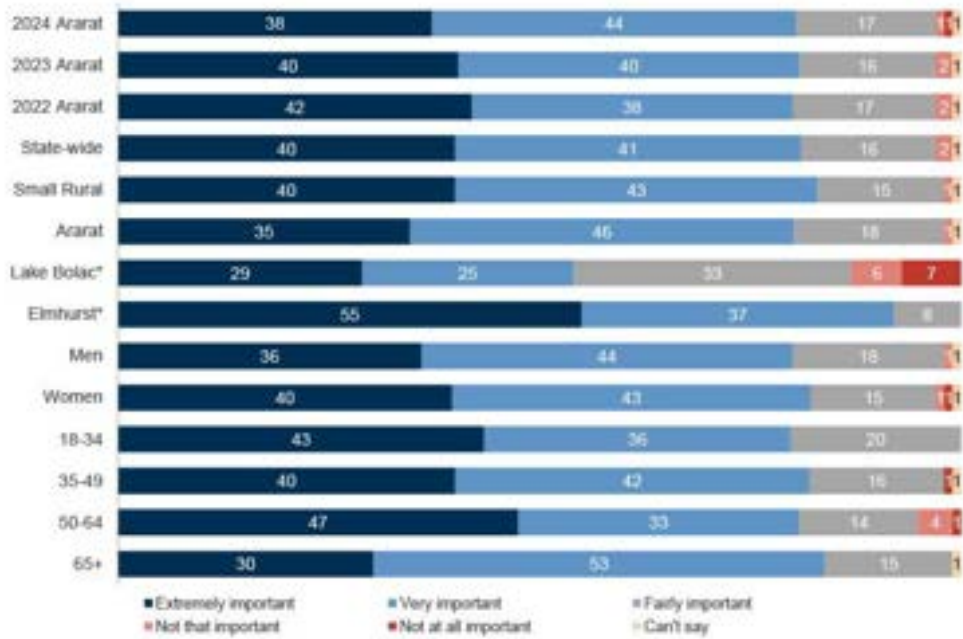
Q1: Firstly, how important should 'Roadside slashing and weed control' be as a responsibility for Council?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 7 Councils asked group: 2
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Roadside slashing and weed control importance



2024 roadside slashing and weed control importance (%)



Q1. Firstly, how important should 'Roadside slashing and weed control' be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 7 Councils asked group: 7
*Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Roadside slashing and weed control performance



2024 roadside slashing and weed control performance (index scores)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
65+	53	51	55	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Men	49	54	53	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ararat	48	54	55	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ararat	43	52	53	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Women	47	51	53	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Small Rural	46	47	50	49	48	55	54	51	52
35-49	46	50	44	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
50-64	46	53	51	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-wide	45*	46	49	51	49	56	55	53	56
18-34	43	56	59	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lake Bolac	43*	39	58	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Elmhurst	42*	49	30	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

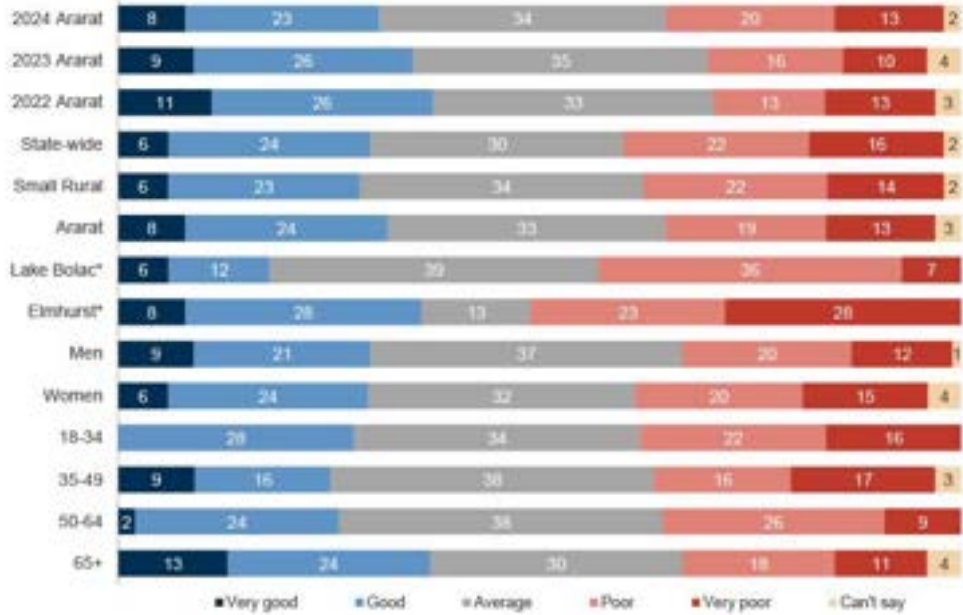
Q1. How has Council performed on 'Roadside slashing and weed control' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 13 Councils asked group: 5
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)



Roadside slashing and weed control performance



2024 roadside slashing and weed control performance (%)



Q2: How has Council performed on 'Roadside slashing and weed control' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 13 Councils asked group: 8
*Caution: small sample size (n<30)

Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance



2024 unsealed roads importance (Index scores)

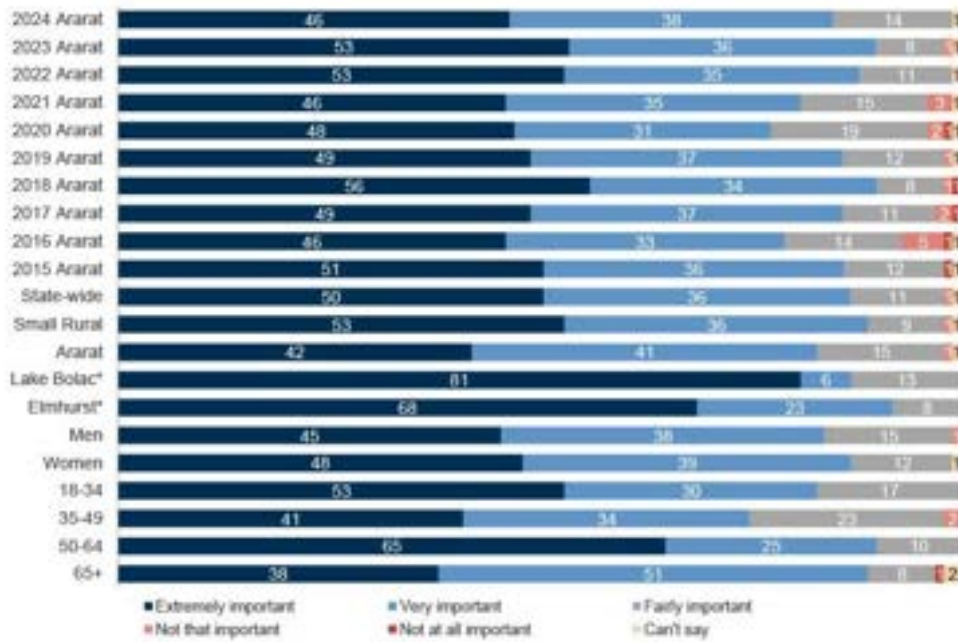
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
Lake Bolac	92*	93	87	98	100	88	94	92	87	n/a
Elmhurst	90*	89	95	89	87	89	89	90	85	n/a
50-64	89*	87	85	81	86	87	86	83	83	81
Small Rural	85	85	85	84	83	82	84	81	81	82
18-34	84	90	82	78	76	80	90	79	74	88
State-wide	84	83	83	81	80	80	79	79	78	
Women	84	88	87	80	81	85	88	85	81	86
Ararat	83	86	85	81	81	84	86	83	80	84
Men	82	83	84	83	81	83	85	81	79	83
65+	82	83	84	81	79	83	84	82	81	84
Ararat	81	84	85	80	80	82	85	80	77	n/a
35-49	78*	85	91	86	86	86	86	87	80	84

Q1: Firstly, how important should 'Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area' be as a responsibility for Council?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 13 Councils asked group: 5
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)

Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area importance



2024 unsealed roads importance (%)



Q1. Finally, how important should 'Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area' be as a responsibility for Council?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 13 Councils asked group: 5
*Caution: small sample size < n=30

Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance



2024 unsealed roads performance (index scores)

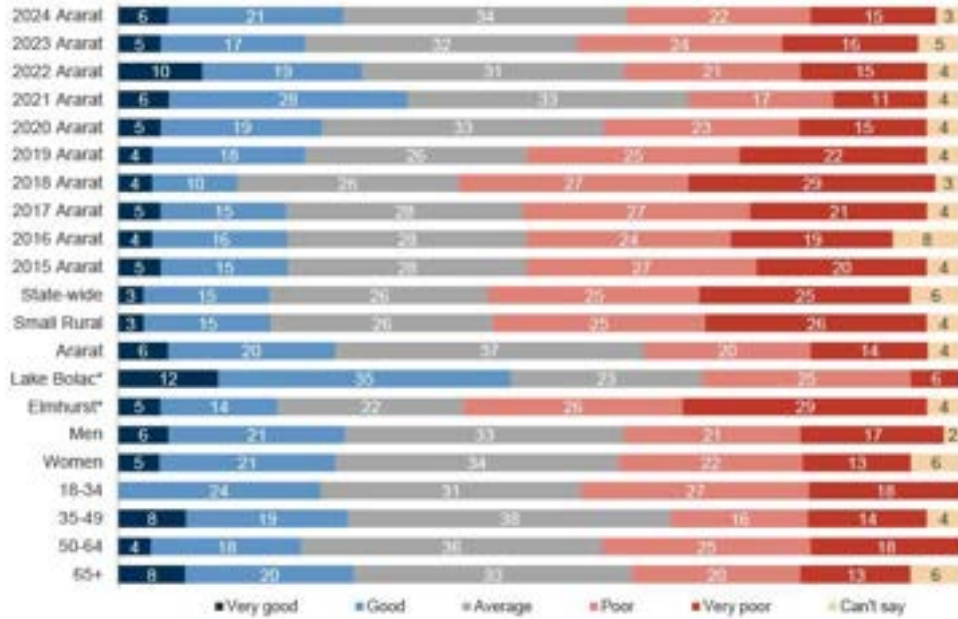
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Lake Bolac	56*	34	52	46	16	14	19	24	n/a
35-49	48	34	32	50	37	34	25	36	35
65+	47	48	52	54	46	41	37	39	42
Ararat	45	45	50	50	45	42	36	42	45
Women	45	41	50	49	41	36	37	40	42
Ararat	45	42	47	50	44	39	33	38	40
Men	44	44	45	51	46	41	29	36	37
50-64	41	43	48	48	45	39	36	36	42
18-34	40	39	54	46	46	40	32	43	39
State-wide	36*	37	41	45	44	44	43	44	43
Small Rural	35*	38	42	44	43	43	40	43	44
Elmhurst	34*	24	26	51	34	39	21	25	40

Q1: How has Council performed on 'Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area' over the last 12 months?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 27 Councils asked group: 10
 Note: Please see Appendix A for explanation of significant differences.
 *Caution: small sample size (n<30)

Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area performance



2024 unsealed roads performance (%)



Q2: How has Council performed on 'Maintenance of unsealed roads in your area' over the last 12 months?
Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 27 Councils asked group: 18
*Caution: small sample size n<30

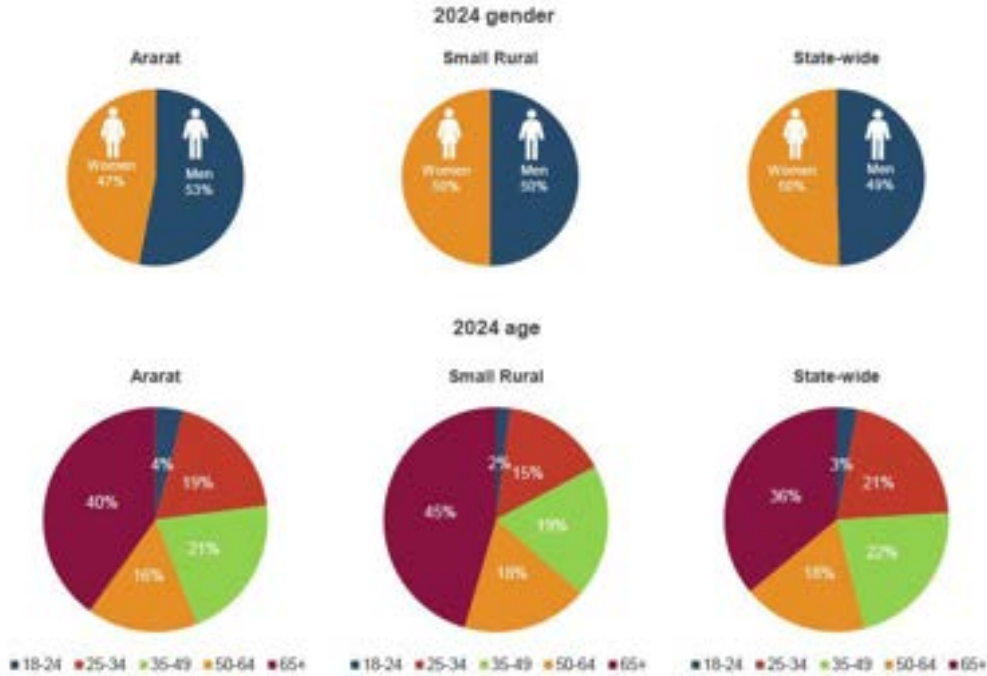


Detailed demographics

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Gender and age profile



53. How would you describe your gender? / 54. To which of the following age groups do you belong?
 Base: All respondents. Councils asked State-wide: 62 Councils asked group: 19
 -17% of respondents in each of Ararat Rural City Council, Small Rural and State-wide did not describe their gender as male or female.
 Please note that for the reason of simplifying reporting, interlocking age and gender reporting has not been included in this report. Interlocking age and gender analysis is still available in the dashboard and data tables provided alongside this report.



**Appendix A:
Index scores,
margins of error
and significant
differences**

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Appendix A: Index Scores



Index Scores

Many questions ask respondents to rate council performance on a five-point scale, for example, from 'very good' to 'very poor', with 'can't say' also a possible response category. To facilitate ease of reporting and comparison of results over time, starting from the 2012 survey and measured against the state-wide result and the council group, an 'Index Score' has been calculated for such measures.

The Index Score is calculated and represented as a score out of 100 (on a 0 to 100 scale), with 'can't say' responses excluded from the analysis. The '% RESULT' for each scale category is multiplied by the 'INDEX FACTOR'. This produces an 'INDEX VALUE' for each category, which are then summed to produce the 'INDEX SCORE', equating to '60' in the following example.

Similarly, an Index Score has been calculated for the Core question 'Performance direction in the last 12 months', based on the following scale for each performance measure category, with 'Can't say' responses excluded from the calculation.

SCALE CATEGORIES	% RESULT	INDEX FACTOR	INDEX VALUE
Very good	9%	100	9
Good	40%	75	30
Average	37%	50	19
Poor	9%	25	2
Very poor	4%	0	0
Can't say	1%	--	INDEX SCORE 60

SCALE CATEGORIES	% RESULT	INDEX FACTOR	INDEX VALUE
Improved	38%	100	36
Stayed the same	40%	50	20
Deteriorated	23%	0	0
Can't say	1%	--	INDEX SCORE 56

Please note that the horizontal (x) axis of the index score bar charts in this report is displayed on a scale from 20 to 100.

Appendix A: Margins of error



The sample size for the 2024 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey for Ararat Rural City Council was n=400. Unless otherwise noted, this is the total sample base for all reported charts and tables.

The maximum margin of error on a sample of approximately n=400 interviews is +/-4.8% at the 95% confidence level for results around 50%. Margins of error will be larger for any sub-samples. As an example, a result of 50% can be read confidently as falling midway in the range 45.2% - 54.8%.

Maximum margins of error are listed in the table below, based on a population of 9,600 people aged 18 years or over for Ararat Rural City Council, according to ABS estimates.

Demographic	Actual survey sample size	Weighted base	Maximum margin of error at 95% confidence interval
Ararat Rural City Council	400	400	+/-4.8
Men	192	210	+/-7.0
Women	207	187	+/-6.8
Ararat	311	311	+/-5.5
Lake Bolac	13	13	+/-28.3
Elmhurst	18	17	+/-23.7
18-34 years	36	91	+/-16.5
35-49 years	66	84	+/-12.1
50-64 years	84	63	+/-10.7
65+ years	214	161	+/-6.6

Appendix A: Index score significant difference calculation



The test applied to the Indexes was an Independent Mean Test, as follows:

$$Z \text{ Score} = (\$1 - \$2) / \text{Sqrt} ((\$5^2 / \$3) + (\$6^2 / \$4))$$

Where:

- \$1 = Index Score 1
- \$2 = Index Score 2
- \$3 = unweighted sample count 1
- \$4 = unweighted sample count 2
- \$5 = standard deviation 1
- \$6 = standard deviation 2

All figures can be sourced from the detailed cross tabulations.

The test was applied at the 95% confidence interval, so if the Z Score was greater than +/- 1.954 the scores are significantly different.



**Appendix B:
Further project
information**

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Appendix B: Further information



Further information about the report and explanations about the State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey can be found in this section including:

- Background and objectives
- Analysis and reporting
- Glossary of terms

Detailed survey tabulations

Detailed survey tabulations are available in supplied Excel file.

Contacts

For further queries about the conduct and reporting of the 2024 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, please contact JWS Research on

(03) 8685 8555 or via email:

admin@jwsresearch.com

Appendix B: Survey methodology and sampling



The 2024 results are compared with previous years, as detailed below:

- 2023, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 27th January – 19th March.
- 2022, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 27th January – 24th March.
- 2021, n=401 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 28th January – 18th March.
- 2020, n=401 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 30th January – 22nd March.
- 2019, n=406 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2018, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2017, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2016, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.
- 2015, n=400 completed interviews, conducted in the period of 1st February – 30th March.

Minimum quotas of gender within age groups were applied during the fieldwork phase. Post-survey weighting was then conducted to ensure accurate representation of the age and gender profile of the Ararat Rural City Council area.

Any variation of +/-1% between individual results and net scores in this report or the detailed survey tabulations is due to rounding. In reporting, “—” denotes not mentioned and ‘0%’ denotes mentioned by less than 1% of respondents. ‘Net’ scores refer to two or more response categories being combined into one category for simplicity of reporting.

This survey was conducted by Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) as a representative random probability survey of residents aged 18+ years in Ararat Rural City Council.

Survey sample matched to the demographic profile of Ararat Rural City Council as determined by the most recent ABS population estimates was purchased from an accredited supplier of publicly available phone records, including up to 60% mobile phone numbers to cater to the diversity of residents within Ararat Rural City Council, particularly younger people.

A total of n=400 completed interviews were achieved in Ararat Rural City Council. Survey fieldwork was conducted in the period of 29th January – 18th March, 2024.

Appendix B: Analysis and reporting



All participating councils are listed in the State-wide report published on the DGS website. In 2024, 62 of the 79 Councils throughout Victoria participated in this survey. For consistency of analysis and reporting across all projects, Local Government Victoria has aligned its presentation of data to use standard council groupings. Accordingly, the council reports for the community satisfaction survey provide analysis using these standard council groupings. Please note that councils participating across 2012-2024 vary slightly.

Council Groups

Ararat Rural City Council is classified as a Small Rural council according to the following classification list:

- Metropolitan, Interface, Regional Centres, Large Rural & Small Rural.

Councils participating in the Small Rural group are:

- Alpine, Ararat, Benalla, Buloke, Central Goldfields, Gannawarra, Hepburn, Hindmarsh, Indigo, Loddon, Mansfield, Murrindindi, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Queenscliffe, Strathbogie, West Wimmera and Yamamback.

Wherever appropriate, results for Ararat Rural City Council for this 2024 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey have been compared against other participating councils in the Small Rural group and on a state-wide basis. Please note that council groupings changed for 2015, and as such comparisons to council group results before that time cannot be made within the reported charts.

Appendix B: Core, optional and tailored questions



Core, optional and tailored questions

Over and above necessary geographic and demographic questions required to ensure sample representativeness, a base set of questions for the 2024 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey was designated as 'Core' and therefore compulsory inclusions for all participating Councils.

These core questions comprised:

- Overall performance last 12 months (Overall performance)
- Value for money in services and infrastructure (Value for money)
- Contact in last 12 months (Contact)
- Rating of contact (Customer service)
- Overall council direction last 12 months (Council direction)
- Community consultation and engagement (Consultation)
- Decisions made in the interest of the community (Making community decisions)
- Condition of sealed local roads (Sealed local roads)
- Waste management

Reporting of results for these core questions can always be compared against other participating councils in the council group and against all participating councils state-wide. Alternatively, some questions in the 2024 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey were optional. Councils also had the ability to ask tailored questions specific only to their council.

Appendix B: Analysis and reporting



Reporting

Every council that participated in the 2024 State-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey receives a customised report. In addition, the State government is supplied with this State-wide summary report of the aggregate results of 'Core' and 'Optional' questions asked across all council areas surveyed, which is available at:

<https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/our-programs/council-community-satisfaction-survey>

Tailored questions commissioned by individual councils are reported only to the commissioning council and not otherwise shared unless by express written approval of the commissioning council.

Appendix B: Glossary of terms



Core questions: Compulsory inclusion questions for all councils participating in the CSS.

CSS: 2024 Victorian Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

Council group: One of five classified groups, comprising: metropolitan, interface, regional centres, large rural and small rural.

Council group average: The average result for all participating councils in the council group.

Highest / lowest: The result described is the highest or lowest result across a particular demographic sub-group e.g. men, for the specific question being reported. Reference to the result for a demographic sub-group being the highest or lowest does not imply that it is significantly higher or lower, unless this is specifically mentioned.

Index score: A score calculated and represented as a score out of 100 (on a 0 to 100 scale). This score is sometimes reported as a figure in brackets next to the category being described, e.g. men 50+ (60).

Optional questions: Questions which councils had an option to include or not.

Percentages: Also referred to as 'detailed results', meaning the proportion of responses, expressed as a percentage.

Sample: The number of completed interviews, e.g. for a council or within a demographic sub-group.

Significantly higher / lower: The result described is significantly higher or lower than the comparison result based on a statistical significance test at the 95% confidence limit. If the result referenced is statistically higher or lower then this will be specifically mentioned, however not all significantly higher or lower results are referenced in summary reporting.

State-wide average: The average result for all participating councils in the State.


Tailored questions: Individual questions tailored by and only reported to the commissioning council.

Weighting: Weighting factors are applied to the sample for each council based on available age and gender proportions from ABS census information to ensure reported results are proportionate to the actual population of the council, rather than the achieved survey sample.

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4.2 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES' HALF YEAR REPORT

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 15826

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Community Asset Committee (CAC) is a committee with powers of the Council, established and with members appointed by Council. Powers are delegated by the Chief Executive Officer, subject to the terms and conditions specified by the Chief Executive Officer, for the purpose of managing a community asset in the municipal district

Section 47(6) of the Local Government Act 2020 states that a Chief Executive Officer must submit an annual report to the Council in relation to the activities and performance of a Community Asset Committee in respect of which the members have been given a delegation under this section.

This report outlines the activities of the CACs in the last four months.

DISCUSSION

Chief Executive Officer Update

I have attended a variety of different meetings of Council's CACs over the past four months since the last report to Council. These include but are not limited to:

- Ordinary Committee and Annual General Meetings;
- Meetings to discuss the future of the Community Asset Committees and the way forward; and
- Discussion relating to the redevelopment or develop of current facilities.

The February bushfires in and around our towns of Pomonal, Buangor, Warrak, Mt Cole and Elmhurst highlighted the importance of community assets and good community relationships within our smaller communities.

In March the Pomonal and Elmhurst Halls were used for community meetings following the fires. The Buangor Community Sports Centre is currently being used as the "Buangor Basecamp" for Blazeaid.

The Pomonal Hall continues to be used as the Pomonal Community Relief Hub with Council and community groups working together to support residents through the recovery process.

I will continue to work with Committees to ensure that the standard of facilities are maintained for future generations. Council has a project management budget to upgrade these facilities as required.

Our CAC members perform a brilliant service to our communities. Their contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities is huge and without their passion, hard work and energy our community life would be greatly diminished. I enjoy working with our CACs and wish to express my admiration for their work.

I provide the following report in relation to the activities of CACs.

1 Community Asset Committee - Meetings Minutes

The following table outlines the recent meetings held by the Community Asset Committees.

Minutes provided show that the Committee members have been very busy over the past four months, with general maintenance requirements, event preparation and future planning for their facilities.

Community Asset Committee	Meetings held during the report period	Meetings scheduled advised
Alexandra Hall	15 February 2024, 23 May 2024 (minutes not supplied)	25 July 2024 (AGM & Ordinary).
Buangor Community Sports Centre	7 February 2024, 6 March 2024, 10 April 2024, 15 May 2024, 12 June 2024 (minutes not supplied)	Monthly meetings scheduled
Elmhurst Public Hall	No meetings held	14 August 2024, 13 November 2024 (AGM)
Lake Bolac Memorial Hall	No meetings held.	No meetings scheduled.
Maroona Recreation Reserve	No meetings held.	No meetings scheduled.
Mininera Recreation Reserve	7 March 2024 (ordinary & AGM)	No meetings scheduled.
Moyston Public Hall	20 February 2024, 14 May 2024	13 August 2024, 12 November 2024 (AGM)
Pomonal Hall and Recreation Reserve	1 May 2024, 4 June 2024 (minutes not supplied)	Monthly meetings scheduled.
Streatham Memorial Hall	No meetings held.	No meetings scheduled.
Tatyoorn Hall and Recreation Reserve	26 February 2024.	June 2024.
Warrak Public Hall	19 February 2024, 29 April 2024	24 June, August, November 2024
Wickliffe Recreation Reserve	11 April 2024 (AGM)(minutes not supplied)	No meetings scheduled.
Willaura Memorial Hall	29 February 2024, 4 April 2024, 6 June 2024 (minutes not supplied)	Bi-monthly meetings scheduled.
Willaura Recreation Reserve	26 March 2024, 17 April 2024, 21 May 2024	Monthly meetings scheduled.
Yalla-Y-Poora Community Centre	No meetings held.	No meetings scheduled.

A copy of minutes received of Community Asset Committees are included as an attachment to this report.

Governance

A review of the Community Asset Committee Governance Manual was conducted mid-way through 2022. This was completed and forwarded to all Community Asset Committees in August 2022 and includes all the information and forms to assist Committee members. Council officers will continue to work with Committee members to support them in their committee roles.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The report supports the strategic objectives of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

4 Developing and Maintaining Key Enabling Infrastructure

4.2 Work directly with asset users to manage and develop new and existing assets.

5 Enhancing Community Life

We will work with the communities of Ararat Rural City to maintain social cohesion, support community activity and cultural life, and enhance safety.

5.2 Develop models of volunteering that recognise, support and properly utilise the skills that community volunteers bring to community life.

Budget Implications

All Community Asset Committee projects or maintenance funding are allocated in the current Council budget.

Community Asset Committees report on their finances at their meetings.

Policy/Relevant Law

The Local Government Act, section 47(6) states that a Chief Executive Officer must submit an annual report to the Council in relation to the activities and performance of a Community Asset Committee in respect of which the members have been given a delegation under this section.

Sustainability Implications

All economic, social and environmental implications were considered when writing this report.

Risk Assessment

Not reporting the Community Asset Committees activities and performance to Council would breach the legislative requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 in particular section 47(6).

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Council has been proactive in ensuring the Community Asset Committee halls and recreation reserves are identified for infrastructure improvements. This has included significant building and reserve surface works being carried out through tender processes.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The Chief Executive Officer has attended the majority of Community Asset Committees since the last report in January 2023.

The Community Asset Committees consist of Committee members who volunteer their time to manage the facilities on Council's behalf.

RECOMMENDATION

That

the Community Asset Committee Half Year Report be received

MOVED CR ALLGOOD

SECONDED CR R ARMSTONG

That

the Community Asset Committee Half Year Report be received

CARRIED 5007/24

ATTACHMENTS

Community Asset Committee Meeting Minutes provided as Attachment 4.2

ALEXANDRA HALL
COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE GUIDE HALL
THURSDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2024 7:00PM

WELCOME:

Chairman Wayne Gason extended a welcome to everyone present.

PRESENT:

J. Gunstone, H.Lockland, H.Gunstone, K.Leggett, C.Healy,
W.Gason.

APOLOGIES:

M.Egan & R.Cocu
H.Gunstone
K.Leggett

That apologies be accepted.
CARRIED

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 23.11.2023

H.Lockland
C.Healy

That Minutes of Meeting
held 23/11/23 be taken as
true and correct.
CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

Cleaning of interior windows and window sills.

Have not had any success in obtaining any Co., to carry out cleaning of interior windows etc. Members discussed further possibilities and will continue to follow up on some suggestions, with Chairman to also follow up a possibility.

INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE:

Nil

OUTWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

1. To Ararat Rural City Enclosing copy of Minutes of meeting held 23/11/23

H.Gunstone
K.Leggett

That Outwards Correspondence be
approved.

CARRIED

....Page 2.

Page 2....

TREASURER'S REPORT
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE /06/02/2024

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Hall Hire:		Power Main	\$178.59
Badminton Ass'n	\$520.00	" Guide	\$114.94
Dog Rescue C'tee	\$65.00	Cleaning Requirements	\$102.50
Incorrect A/C	\$127.50	Reversal -Incorrect A/C	\$127.50
Bank Interest	<u>.24</u>		
	<u>\$712.74</u>		<u>\$523.53</u>

BANK RECONCILIATION

Balance C/F	\$13,780.18	Bank Statement Balance	\$14,045.29
Plus Income	<u>\$712.74</u>	Less O/S Chq. No.126	
	\$14,492.92		
Less Expenditure			
TOTAL	\$ 13,969.39		\$13,969.39

BANK STATEMENT BALANCE \$13 969.39

TERM DEPOSIT

Balance Carried Forward	\$44,190.39)	
Interest Received	<u>\$1,480.26)</u>	\$45,670.57

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE \$59,639.96

Chairman to report on additional .05% interest rate on our investment which was renewed for the usual term of 1 year .

H.Lockland
C.Healy

That the Treasurer's Report be
received. CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

Very quiet time and both Main and Guide Hall running very well.

Double Doors at Eastern End of main hall need to be checked as the internal framing of same seem to be rotting away at the floor level, both sides. Secretary to check with the head of maintenance at Council to remedy the problem.

Hire Agreement for Halls. Some of the rules for hire of both halls need clarification as a casual hirer of around 2-3 hours (locals) make it almost impossible for small group to meet the requirements. Secretary to follow up with Council representative.

Next meeting will be held MAY 23RD 2024.

There being no further General Business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7:45pm

.....
Chairman... W.Gason.

BCSC General Meeting- 07-02-2024 Open –
6.40pm
Attending – Josiah, John McG,Loz, Jodie, sparks, Tim, Dave, Poach, Sally, Mary
Apologies – LIV

Welcome to Country – Djab Wurrung

I wish to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be here today.

Correspondence –

ARRC Networking Business RSVP 5TH March - anyone interested?Join us for the first Business Breakfast of 2024 at the Ararat RSL,Wednesday 13 March commencing 7.15 am sharp!

2024 Telstra Connected Communities Grant Program

Treasures Report – (Moved-john Second -tim)

Previous Minutes – (Moved- tim Second-john)

* C&C kitchen/bar - Dishwasher & Eftpos- **Dave** to organise a sign for how to use it **Dave Liv LozJodie**
ONGOING

* Upcoming Grants - TINY TOWNS **Rebecca** Says this has just been released in the last few days grants up to \$50,000 looking at eligibility closes Feb 25 announcements in may **Dave/Rebecca**Dave has sat with council to see if they would contribute but can't .

*The Emergency Relief grant is another to apply for, Council Community Grant also looking good to apply for.

*Sports infrastructure fund starts at the end of March. There are 2 rounds. Council won't apply on our behalf because we aren't big enough in the sporting community! tiny towns one looks like the one to apply for.

*Sporting Grant - Ararat City Council will apply on our behalfJosiah **David/John/Rebecca** added to this we have Spoken about tennis courts being refurbished could be something to look at...Vic state gov looking at all inclusive community centres in future which we are.

*Ararat Hills Grants- these will open in March for them ones **Rebecca***** Working progress

*C&C Autumn Wine event (Sips in the Stable retake) - Regional Wine Association is happy to advertise any event we hold.**Liv** is still working on it. Kirsty Baker Seppelt - She is the wine club contact to organise events with, she asked **Liv** to summarise what we want it'll be the week before easter Sat or Sun 12-4 or 1-5 we sell pizza or bbq or both we as a club won't sell wine no charge for stalls tim to organise music Expressions of public interest to warrant getting a bus from Beaufort, possibly looking at Spring time. Been to Mountainside Winery in Warrak told they will support it for Oct coinciding with grampians wine event, they will also help promote. Jane is a good point of contact for this. Pyrenees

wine fest go have a look and see how it's ran. Humanatix can do tickets with no costs or have add-ons (check booking fee of this mob). Form Sub Committee Taking names of who wants to be on it now!

* C&C Alcohol & Fridges - Paul is ready to start and place them under the stairs. Requested a provisional budget of \$2000 – approved. Paul has been paid, just waiting on him as he is busy, Tim will keep in contact with Paul. **Tim** ONGOING **Sparks** is going to touch base with **Paul** Got all the gear ready to go

* Liquor Rep - **Dave** to find out additional information to determine the repercussions for an incorporated association. Any transfer of licence rep will require 3 months approx. for handover. **Dave** is finding it very challenging to speak to anyone at VCGLR and may need to speak to a commissioner to get some liability questions answered. John to stay on until 2024/2025 licence is due (thank you!) and we have 15mths to ensure everything is sorted. Having no luck thus far, Rebecca from the council will look into it for us. **Rebecca** Rob from council, Dave is looking into it further...Sparks and David going to see a lawyer Peter Glare. No need for a club to nominate a specific member however if you don't nominate 1 person the whole committee can be fined, dave is going to see if its individually fined or as a whole **Dave**

* Steptripping hazard at the C&C – Photos emailed to Dr Tim to follow up grinding the concrete back with Ian Cooper. **Tim** Council have put a bit of hot mix on there for a temporary fix. Nobody tripped on this at the Trivia night so this was a good quick fix. Need to chase up a more permanent fix ... **Rebecca** and **Tim** ONGOING

* Defib - Serial number reports that the unit is 20 years old. Would need a software update and a substantial amount spent on it. Ambulance Aux may have spare ones. **Tim** Rebecca will chat to Chandra about where to get a new one. **Rebecca** spoke to Chandra and it is our responsibility we need to look into this further, **Dave** has contacts and will try and figure it out.. Dave Spoke to Aux thinking they may just need a re jig and new battery he has to take photos to send to them to see if it can be serviced, David ONGOING

* Mower - Its working good at the moment, council to do some of the peripheral ground work to save our mower, There is a council regime that we will be fitting into Community Grant with council 5k maybe look at next year 2-3 rounds **Rebecca** will let us know when that one will be up again....Possibility of buying the Racecourse mower...We have purchased a new lawn mower, just waiting for payment to clear from council. **Fenny** **Dave** Pitch

* C&C Heaters - We might need to think about upgrading the system at some stage as one is completely dead & with gas getting phased out maybe look at electric bar heaters as it could be cheaper in the long run ... leaning towards Elec system..ONGOING Waiting on confirmation from Rebecca, all members believe that split systems would be best for the cobb n co as they can be heat and cooling especially with the fans .. **Tim** Has spoken to Brad Regarding fans for the pavilion and we will get it sorted.

Picnic Tables- look at shade sails, gazebos. Gazebo in Buangor colours would be something to consider that way cricket and the school can possibly use it also. Possibly look at a shade sail in future as a more permanent structure. We think going with a shade sail... under \$1,000 roughly possibly just need a new cover, get quotes of all the above x2 **Tim**

*Need to put signs up nobody besides RSA holders behind the bar and only when asked by bar staff, sign to say the bar cannot open until half an hour after kids training & games, Chain across bar to stop people going behind without permission. **Tim** **LOZ** **LIV** looking at maybe saloon doors for the bar...FENNY

*Water- Looking at a water cooler as our water is not drinkable, get a filter for taps, possibly talk to GWMWater for a bubbler for outside as they gave one to another club. ONGOING Pitch, Rebecca
ONGOING

*Chamo is going to the association to charge them per game here \$50-100, Rebecca said others charge over \$120 .. ABN is in the cricket club, then we pay them ... Using councils ABN as council ground, council will then invoice us then we can donate the savings to kids cricket.. Dave will look further into this.. Cricket club to receive a donation instead of using their ABNPossibility of purchasing equipment also checking with the council if they can subsidise some of our fuel.. DAVE

*Redgum Bollards x4, chain and rock needed for around the wooden cart Working bee get this done Jodie Finny & Dave

* Matt Harris will be out to do a quote on refurbishing the windows at he C&C. Dave/Rebecca is working on it...Should hear from Matt shortly

BOC- Dave to sort out who to go through etc ONGOING..... Dave

* Jodie Barn dance/ BBQ family night ONGOING

* Keg service for the cobb n co, Jodie will get the guy who services the pub to come have a look Jodie

* Cans and bottles for the school to fundraise, look at getting a permanent trailer for the club split into 2 sections so parents can share the run to ballarat. School can start as soon as we have a setup completed.
SCHOOL COUNCIL

*Stairs grip gecko grip clear.. Dave

*Fish n Chip Night Dave will talk to SP about fundraiser not going to RCH-Sally would like to keep it as a donation to RCH she will put it to the school committee ticket price goes to the school and donation cups on tables and raffles- 29th March Dave & ROACH will have a look at sourcing a good fish supplier.

COMMUNITY DATES TO BE MINDFUL OF

*March 9th Cricket possibly (Chammo to discuss breakup location)

*March 29th Good Friday Fundraiser at Cobb n=& Co

*Oct 5th Brad and Elles Wedding

BCSC General Meeting- 06-03-2024

Open – 6.36pm Closed- 7:07pm

Attending – Josiah, John McG,Loz, Jodie, Sparks, Tim, Dave, Poach, , Mary,Uk, Sally, Dr Tim

Apologies –

Welcome to Country – Djab Wurrung

I wish to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be here today.

Correspondence –

ARRC Networking Business RSVP 5TH March - anyone interested?Join us for the first Business Breakfast of 2024 at the Ararat RSL,Wednesday 13 March commencing 7.15 am sharp!

2024 Telstra Connected Communities Grant Program

Treasures Report – (Moved-John Second -tim)

Previous Minutes – (Moved- tim Second-Poach)

* C&C kitchen/bar - Dishwasher & Elpos- **Tim** to organise a sign for how to use it **Tim** **Uk** **Rebecca**
ONGOING

*The Emergency Relief grant, Council Community Grant,Ararat Hills Grants..Sports infrastructure fund starts at the end of March.. Council won't apply on our behalf because we aren't big enough in the sporting community. Tiny Towns Grant (\$50,000 closes 25th Feb Announced May)*Council have applied for tiny towns grant for us as there was an extension and martha gave us a letter of support. Added to this we have Spoken about tennis courts being refurbished could be something to look at if there is a grant to suit. VIC state gov looking at all inclusive community centres in future which we are. Josiah **Rebecca**
Tim**Rebecca**

*Mower has been paid for and delivery for Friday

*C&C Autumn Wine event (Sps in the Stable retake) - Regional Wine Association is happy to advertise any event we hold.**Tim** is still working on it. Kirsty Baker Seppelt - She is the wine club contact to organise events with, she asked **Tim** to summarise what we want it'll be the week before easter Sat or Sun 12-4 or 1-5 we sell pizza or bbq or both we as a club won't sell wine no charge for stalls tim to organise music Expressions of public interest to warrant getting a bus from Beaufort, possibly looking at Spring time. Been to Mountainside Winery in Warrak told they will support it for Oct coinciding with grampians wine event, they will also help promote. Jane is a good point of contact for this. Pyrenees wine fest go have a look and see how it's ran.Humanatix can do tickets with no costs or have add-ons (check booking fee of this mob).Form Sub Committee Taking names of who wants to be on it now!

* C&C Alcohol & Fridges - Paul is ready to start and place them under the stairs. Requested a provisional budget of \$2000 – approved. Paul has been paid, just waiting on him as he is busy. Tim will keep in contact with Paul. **Tim**ONGOING **Sparks** is going to touch base with ***Paul Got all the gear ready to go ..2 Weeks time this will be started

* Liquor Rep - [Redacted] to find out additional information to determine the repercussions for an incorporated association. Any transfer of licence rep will require 3 months approx. for handover. [Redacted] is finding it very challenging to speak to anyone at VCGLR and may need to speak to a commissioner to get some liability questions answered. John to stay on until 2024/2025 licence is due (thank you!) and we have 15mths to ensure everything is sorted. Having no luck thus far, Rebecca from the council will look into it for us.

[Redacted] Rob from council, Dave is looking into it further...Sparks and David going to see a lawyer Peter Glare. No need for a club to nominate a specific member however if you don't nominate 1 person the whole committee can be fined, dave is going to see if its individually fined or as a whole [Redacted]

* Steptripping hazard at the C&C – Need to chase up a more permanent fix ... [Redacted] and [Redacted]
ONGOING

* Defib - Serial number reports that the unit is 20 years old. Would need a software update and a substantial amount spent on it. Ambulance Aux may have spare ones. [Redacted] Rebecca will chat to Chandra about where to get a new one. [Redacted] spoke to Chandra and it is our responsibility we need to look into this further, [Redacted] has contacts and will try and figure it out.. Dave Spoke to Aux thinking they may just need a reig and new battery he has to take photos to send to them to see if it can be serviced. David ONGOING

* C&C Heaters - Upgrading the system at some stage as one is completely dead & with gas getting phased out.Options are electric bar heaters or split systems ..

*Have spoken to Brad Regarding fans for the pavilion and we will get it sorted. [Redacted]

*Picnic Tables- look at shade sails/gazebos. Gazebo in Buangor colours would be something to consider that way cricket and the school can possibly use it also. Look at a shade sail in future as a more permanent structure. We are thinking of going with a shade sail. get quotes of all the above x2 [Redacted]

*Need to put signs upRE:bar staff only and not during junior games, Also looking at saloon doors for the bar...FENNY [Redacted] Fenny

*Water- Looking at a water cooler as our water is not drinkable, get a filter for taps, possibly talk to GWMWater for a bubbler for outside as they gave one to another club. ONGOING PITCH, [Redacted]
ONGOING

*Chamo is going to the association to charge them per game here \$50-100, Rebecca said others charge over \$120 .. ABN is in the cricket club, then we pay them ... Using councils ABN as council ground, council will then invoice us then we can donate the savings to kids cricket.. [Redacted] will look further into this.. Cricket club to receive a donation instead of using their ABNPossibility of purchasing equipment also checking with the council if they can subsidise some of our fuel.. [Redacted]

*Redgum Bollards x4, chain and rock needed for around the wooden cart Working bee get this done [Redacted] Fenny & [Redacted]

* Matt Harris will be out to do a quote on refurbishing the windows at he C&C [Redacted]Rebecca is working on it. Matt should be in contact soon.

BOC- Dave to sort out who to go through etc ONGOING..... [Redacted]

* [REDACTED] Barn dance/ BBQ family night ONGOING

* Keg service for the cobb n co, Jodie will get the guy who services the pub to come have a look [REDACTED]

* Cans and bottles for the school to fundraise, look at getting a permanent trailer for the club split into 2 sections so parents can share the run to ballarat. School can start as soon as we have a setup completed. SCHOOL COUNCIL monday

* Fish n Chip Night Dave will talk to SP about fundraiser not going to RCH-Sally would like to keep it as a donation to RCH she will put it to the school committee ticket price goes to the school and donation cups on tables and raffles- 29th March [REDACTED] & POACH will have a look at sourcing a good fish supplier maybe half fresh half frozen under \$40 kg**

COMMUNITY DATES TO BE MINDFUL OF

* March 29th Good Friday Fundraiser at Cobb n=& Co

* Oct 5th Brad and Elles Wedding Cobb & Co

* Next meeting 10th April @630PM

BCSC General Meeting- 10-04-2024

Open – 6.38pm Closed- 7.29PM

Attending – Josiah, John McG,Loz, Tim, Dave, Poach, , Mary.

Apologies – LIV, JODIE, SPARKS,DR.TIM, SALLY

Welcome to Country – Djab Wurrung

I wish to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be here today.

Correspondence –

Treasures Report – (Moved-Tim- Second -Mary)

Previous Minutes – (Moved-Dave Second- Tim)

* C&C kitchen/bar - Dishwasher & Eftpos- [redacted] to organise a sign for how to use it [redacted] Liv [redacted]
Completed dishwasher, EFT Machine ONGOING

*The Emergency Relief grant, Council Community Grant,Ararat Hills Grants. Sports infrastructure fund starts at the end of March.. Council won't apply on our behalf because we aren't big enough in the sporting community. Tiny Towns Grant (\$50,000 closes 25th Feb Announced May)*Council have applied for tiny towns grant for us as there was an extension and martha gave us a letter of support. Added to this we have Spoken about tennis courts being refurbished could be something to look at if there is a grant to suit. VIC state gov looking at all inclusive community centres in future which we are. Josiah [redacted] [redacted]Rebecca[redacted]Have been applied for by council.

*Mower has been paid for and delivery for Friday. Completed, At JMcG shed for now until we have a secure shed available.

*C&C Autumn Wine event (Sips in the Stable retake) - Regional Wine Association is happy to advertise any event we hold. [redacted] is still working on it. Kirsty Baker Seppelt - She is the wine club contact to organise events with, she asked [redacted] to summarise what we want it'll be the week before easter Sat or Sun 12-4 or 1-5 we sell pizza or bbq or both we as a club won't sell wine no charge for stalls tim to organise music Expressions of public interest to warrant getting a bus from Beaufort. possibly looking at Spring time. Been to Mountainside Winery in Warrak told they will support it for Oct coinciding with gramplains wine event, they will also help promote, Jane is a good point of contact for this. Pyrenees wine fest go have a look and see how it's ran.Humenatix can do tickets with no costs or have add-ons (check booking fee of this mob) Form Sub Committee Taking names of who wants to be on it now! ONGOING

* C&C Alcohol & Fridges - Paul is ready to start and place them under the stairs. Requested a provisional budget of \$2000 – approved. Paul has been paid, just waiting on him as he is busy, Tim will keep in contact with Paul. [redacted]ONGOING [redacted] is going to touch base with ***Paul Got all the gear ready to go ..2 Weeks time this will be started..Dave will talk to Paul about starting this job, possible extension by nutrient to finish the job.

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* Step/tripping hazard at the C&C – Need to chase up a more permanent fix ... [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
ONGOING

* Defib - Serial number reports that the unit is 20 years old. Would need a software update and a substantial amount spent on it. Ambulance Aux may have spare ones. [REDACTED] Rebecca will chat to Chandra about where to get a new one. [REDACTED] spoke to Chandra and it is our responsibility we need to look into this further, [REDACTED] has contacts and will try and figure it out.. Dave Spoke to Aux thinking they may just need a reig and new battery he has to take photos to send to them to see if it can be serviced. David ONGOING

* C&C Heaters - Upgrading the system at some stage as one is completely dead & with gas getting phased out.Options are electric bar heaters or split systems ...

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*Need to put signs up RE:bar staff only and not during junior games, Also looking at saloon doors for the bar...FENNY [REDACTED] Fenny

*Water- Looking at a water cooler as our water is not drinkable, get a filter for taps, possibly talk to GWMWater for a bubbler for outside as they gave one to another club. ONGOING Pritch, [REDACTED] ONGOING - Water purification for both buildings GWM Water will pay for it.

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*Redgum Bollards x4, chain and rock needed for around the wooden cart Working bee get this done [REDACTED] Fenny & [REDACTED]

* Matt Harris will be out to do a quote on refurbishing the windows at he C&C. [REDACTED] Rebecca is working on it, Matt should be in contact soon.

BGC- Dave to sort out who to go through etc ONGOING [REDACTED]

* [REDACTED] Barn dance/ BBQ family night ONGOING

* Keg service for the cobb n co, Jodie will get the guy who services the pub to come have a look, contact allendale directly maybe look at only using 1 line.....

* Cans and bottles for the school to fundraise, look at getting a permanent trailer for the club split into 2 sections so parents can share the run to ballarat. School can start as soon as we have a setup completed. SCHOOL COUNCIL monday.. Fenny has a 7x4 trailer he's happy to build a cage if the school wants to go ahead with it.

* Fish n Chip Night Dave will talk to SP about fundraiser not going to RCH-Sally would like to keep it as a donation to RCH she will put it to the school committee ticket price goes to the school and donation cups on tables and raffles- 29th March & PDACH will have a look at sourcing a good fish supplier maybe half fresh half frozen under \$40 kg** COMPLETED

COMMUNITY DATES TO BE MINDFUL OF

* March 29th Good Friday Fundraiser at Cobb & Co

* Oct 5th Brad and Elles Wedding Cobb & Co

* Next meeting 10th April @630PM - May 8th 630pm next meeting

General Business

Fish n Chip night HUGE success Quality of fish was great - School to do a thank you letter for the Company the fish was purchased from. Can use them for future events. 2.5k tickets sales - Costings 1k raffles roughly etc was great. Thanks to JMcG for mcng the night.

Mid Oct for trivia night

Comedy End june start of july

Show n Shine

Carboot Sale Garage sale trail.....

Single/Dble Drawer Filing Cabinet

Furniture trolley

Cobb n Co is rewired thanks to blaze aid being here

Hot Water service is not working at the moment council will pay for it to be fixed.

Food Handlers Certificate look into. Loz

BCSC General Meeting- 15-05-2024

Open –6.42PM Closed- 8.06PM

Attending – Josiah, John McG, Lor, Tim, Dave, Poach, , Mary, Jodie, Sparks

Apologies – Sally, Liv, DrTim

Special Guest Michaela, Ben, Mark.

Welcome to Country – Djab Wurrung

I wish to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be here today.

Correspondence – *We have Michaela to speak with us regarding Funding for Music in Halls for fire affected areas, Welcome Michaela**

Raising funds for local halls due to Fire affected areas, beaufort connect - little halls tour hoping for sponsorship through bendigo bank. Branching out to Bazz Music in Ararat to join forces. 6 Small Halls 1 Friday each month Trying to get funding to cover most aspects. Door Charge repayment goes to food either Beaufort Connect do catering and take the door charge or we cater and take the door charge. Trying to bring communities back together via music. Beaufort Connect to promote the event. 2 hour session.

1st Friday of July 1st event

2nd of August or possibly December 6th 630pm

Treasures Report – (Moved-john Second - Mary)

Previous Minutes – (Moved-John Second- Dave)

* C&C kitchen/bar – Glasswasher, EFT Machine Instructions ONGOING [redacted] – Signs for the bar ONGOING [redacted]

*Raising funds for local halls due to Fire affected areas, beaufort connect - little halls tour hoping for sponsorship through bendigo bank. Branching out to Bazz Music in Ararat to join forces. 6 Small Halls 1 Friday each month Trying to get funding to cover most aspects. Door Charge repayment goes to food either Beaufort Connect do catering and take the door charge or we cater and take the door charge. Trying to bring communities back together via music. Beaufort Connect to promote the event. 2 hour session.

*The Emergency Relief grant, Council Community Grant, Ararat Hills Grants. Sports infrastructure fund starts at the end of March. Council won't apply on our behalf because we aren't big enough in the sporting community. Tiny Towns Grant (\$50,000 closes 25th Feb Announced May)*Council have applied for tiny towns grant for us as there was an extension and martha gave us a letter of support. Added to this we have Spoken about tennis courts being refurbished could be something to look at if there is a grant to suit. VIC state gov looking at all inclusive community centres in future which we are. Josiah [redacted] Rebecca [redacted] Have been applied for by council. results in July.

*C&C Autumn Wine event (Sips in the Stable retake) - Regional Wine Association is happy to advertise any event we hold [redacted] is still working on it. Need a Sub Committee. Coincide with Beaufort Connect to get a starting point then we can grow it from here. We Can sell Pizzas and platters etc.

* C&C Alcohol & Fridges -. Paul is ready to start and place them under the stairs. Requested a provisional budget of \$2000 – approved. Paul has been paid, just waiting on him as he is busy, Tim will keep in contact with Paul. [redacted] ONGOING [redacted] is going to touch base with Paul Got all the gear ready to go ..2 Weeks time this will be started...Dave will talk to Paul about starting this job, possible extension by nutrient to finish the job.** Making a start on Monday.

* Liquor Rep - [redacted] to find out additional information to determine the repercussions for an incorporated association. Any transfer of licence rep will require 3 months approx. for handover. [redacted] is finding it very challenging to speak to anyone at VCGLR and may need to speak to a commissioner to get some liability questions answered. John to stay on until 2024/2025 licence is due (thank you!) and we have 15mths to ensure everything is sorted. Having no luck thus far , Rebecca from the council will look into it for us. [redacted] Rob from council, Dave is looking into it further...Sparks and David going to see a lawyer Peter Glare. No need for a club to nominate a specific member

however if you don't nominate 1 person the whole committee can be fined, dave is going to see if its individually fined or as a whole [redacted] Loz txt Nats and ask if they know who is the liquor licence holder for the Alexandra precinct

* Step/tripping hazard at the C&C – Need to chase up a more permanent fix once Blaze Aid are gone. [redacted] and [redacted] ONGOING

* Defib - Serial number reports that the unit is 20 years old. Would need a software update and a substantial amount spent on it. Ambulance Aux may have spare ones. [redacted] Rebecca will chat to Chandra about where to get a new one. [redacted] spoke to Chandra and it is our responsibility we need to look into this further, [redacted] has contacts and will try and figure it out. Dave Spoke to Aux thinking they may just need a rejig and new battery he has to take photos to send to them to see if it can be serviced. David ONGOING

* C&C Heaters - Upgrading the system at some stage as one is completely dead & with gas getting phased out. Options are electric bar heaters or split systems ... X2 Decent Split Systems

* Fans for Pavilion, Just need to purchase them Brad will install. [redacted]

* Picnic Tables Kim is looking at doing this. \$4,000 but ties in with the pavilion building.. [redacted]

* Water- Looking at a water cooler as our water is not drinkable, get a filter for taps, possibly talk to GWM Water for a bubbler for outside as they gave one to another club. ONGOING Pitch, [redacted] ONGOING - Water purification for both buildings GWM Water will pay for it. Inspection has been done in the last fortnight but just needs to get moving Dave will get in contact with him. They are paying for it.

* Chamo is going to the association to charge them per game here \$50-100, Rebecca said others charge over \$120 .. ABN is in the cricket club, then we pay them ... Using councils ABN as council ground, council will then invoice us then we can donate the savings to kids cricket.. [redacted] will look further into this.. Cricket club to receive a donation instead of using their ABN ... Possibility of purchasing equipment also checking with the council if they can subsidise some of our fuel. [redacted] ONGOING

* Redgum Boilards x4, chain and rock needed for around the wooden cart, Holes are dug by Sparks waiting on rock. Fenny & Loz

* Matt Harris will be out to do a quote on refurbishing the windows at the C&C [redacted] [redacted] is working on it. Matt should be in contact soon. Ongoing

* [redacted] Barn dance/ BBQ family night ONGOING ***** Going ahead for this September

* Keg service for the cobb n oo, Jodie will get the guy who services the pub to come have a look, contact allendale directly maybe look at only using 1 line.... [redacted] and Dyer

* Cans and bottles for the school to fundraise, look at getting a permanent trailer for the club split into 2 sections so parents can share the run to ballarat. School can start as soon as we have a setup completed. SCHOOL COUNCIL monday.. Fenny has a 7x4 trailer he's happy to build a cage if the school wants to go ahead with it. *** ONGOING School is open to the idea.

* Comedy Night 13th July [redacted]

* Tyro 3G network - Dave looking at seeing if we can network both buildings maybe the CFA can Fund this.

* Cameras - Look into who holds access to footage etc.

* look into having us set up as a RV drop in place and caravan dump point etc.

* Trivia Night 9th of November School.

* Mark Dyer is Here to talk about the ***SHED and we want to call it something catchy (run a comp to name it) council will help fund it, looking at talking with the schools about getting kids involved with an excursion to start with then look at branching out to an after school program or weekend program. Name /purpose /members.

Agenda Items

Title	Discussion	Who is following up

: Meeting closed: 8:06 pm

Next meeting – June 12 6:30 pm

Community Dates to be mindful of:

- 14th June Steak Sanga Night
- 13th July Comedy Night
- September Barn Dance Night
- November AGM
- November Trivia Night / School Fundraiser
- December Christmas Party
- 22nd Dec Pavillion Suprise 50th Party
- Feb 28th 2025 - March 2nd 2025 O'Loughlan Family Reunion

Working Bee Jobs

Maintenance List

Future points to discuss...

- * Community meetings ("community conversations") – open to everyone to attend and discuss ideas/issues etc.
- * Pavilion Extension
- * Club potentially owning a bus.
- * Outside Maintenance.
- Mower Maintenance – Fenny
- * Cameras at outdoor area
- * Electricity Bill - Quite excessive. David to look into swapping to another provider.
- * Maintenance / Men's Shed group



AGM

MEETING MINUTES

ARARAT RURAL CITY
RECEIVED
10 APR 2024
REFERRED TO _____
FILE NO _____
DOC ID NO _____

Committee of Management: Minnora Rec
Date of Annual General Meeting: 7.3.24
Time of Meeting: 7pm
Venue: Minnora Rec Reserve

Present:	
Chairperson:	<u>Garry Meek</u>
Minute taker:	<u>Sharon Meek</u>
Committee Members:	<u>Linda Coats, John Richardson, John Box, Corina Wilson, Phil Meek, Iwan Meek, Jusine Lisan</u>
Council Officers:	<u>Dr Tim Morrison</u>
Others:	
Apologies:	<u>Judy + Paul Robinson, John Box, Sir Les Meek</u>
Quorum Failure Time:	<u>Yes</u> <u>ENo</u> if no, Failure Time: <i>A quorum shall be a majority of members of the committee. No business shall be conducted by the committee unless a quorum exists.</i>

Conflict of interest Declarations:	CAC Members: Council Officers:
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Welcome by Chairperson: Name Garry Meek

Confirmation of minutes of the previous AGM	That the minutes of the previous AGM of the <u> </u> Committee held on <u> </u> be confirmed Moved: <u>Phil Meek</u> Seconded: <u>John Box</u> Outcome: <u> </u>
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Item: Annual Management Report	
Chairperson's Report <u>Garry Meek</u>	<u>Everyone very happy with state of oval.</u>
User Groups	<u>Thanks to Dr Tim + council for their efforts and also</u>
Injuries and Accidents Report	
Maintenance Undertaken for Financial Year	<u>Tony Lisan, John Box etc. Fertiliser needs to be spread - oval</u>
Evaluation of Operations	<u>assessed. Quote from Chops</u>

That the Chairpersons Report be received and adopted.
Corina Wilson Linda Coats.

Other (specify)		
Total Expenditure (B)		\$
Surplus (A-B)		\$
What was your current Asset balance at _____ (insert end of year date): Please complete the following table		
Assets		\$ Amount
Cash in hand or in the bank		
Value of the Stock on Hand		
Amounts owed to debtors		
Property, equipment, furnishings		
Investments (eg. Term deposits)		
Investment for Asset Replacement		
Other (specify)		
Total Assets (C)		\$
Liabilities		
Amounts owing to others (Creditors)		
Loans (outstanding balance)		
Provision for Asset Replacement		
Other (specify)		
Total Liabilities (D)		\$
Equity (C-D)		\$

That the Treasurers Report be received and adopted.

CARRIED Dr. Tim oversaw the AGM election unanimously agreed that all positions remain

Next Meeting: In same as: President Garry Meek
 Date: _____ Secretary Shane Meek
 Time: _____ Treasurer Justine Linn
 Venue: _____

Forward meeting dates: List for next 12 months

-
-
-

moved - kind cards
 seconded Jan Box

Meeting closed at: _____ 7:25 pm

Minutes to be forwarded to Council's Coordinator Works Administration within 14 days of meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF MEETING MINUTES
 To be completed by the Chairperson every the Meeting Minutes have been Confirmed and Adopted at the next meeting of the Committee.

Meeting Date Minutes are confirmed: _____ Chairperson Signature & Date: _____



ARARAT RURAL CITY
RECEIVED
10 APR 2024
REFERRED TO
Finance Committee
DOC ID NO

MEETING MINUTES

Committee of Management: Mininera Rec
Date of Annual General Meeting: 7.3.24
Time of Meeting: 7.30pm
Venue: Mininera Rec

Present:	
Chairperson:	<u>Garry Meek</u>
Minute taker:	<u>Sharon Meek</u>
Committee Members:	<u>Jono Zan, Linda Cords, Phil Meek, Irene Meek, Ashi Quintilian, Justine Hiron, Corina Wilson</u>
Council Officers:	<u>Dr. Tim Harrison</u>
Others:	
Apologies:	<u>Stacy - Daisy Patterson, John Borsari, Les Meek</u>
Quorum Failure Time:	<u>EYES</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If no, Failure Time: <small>A quorum shall be a majority of members of the committee. No business shall be conducted by the committee unless a quorum exists.</small>

Conflict of Interest Declarations:	CAC Members: Council Officers:
------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Welcome by Chairperson: Name Garry Meek

Confirmation of minutes of the previous AGM	That the minutes of the previous AGM of the <input type="checkbox"/> Committee held on <input type="checkbox"/> be confirmed Moved: <u>Ash Quintilian</u> Seconded: <u>Justine Hiron</u> Outcome: <input type="checkbox"/>
---	---

Item: Annual Management Report	
Chairperson's Report	<u>Garry reported that everyone was extremely happy with the way...</u>
<u>Sport Groups</u>	<u>Rosiers hosted the grand final</u>
Injuries and Accidents Report	<u>+ congratulated everyone involved. A very successful outcome</u>
Maintenance Undertaken for Financial Year with the exception of the internet failing - leading to missed opportunities	
Evaluation of Operations	<u>-> make money - couldn't accept Effpos</u>
<u>Dr. Tim will look into a booster</u>	
That the Chairperson's Report be received and adopted. <u>for busy days.</u>	

CARRIED

Item: Secretary's Report

AR.C statement of maintenance grants
Correspondence - Outwards \$4000

Item: General Business

Discussion	Action Items	Responsible	Due
Down pipes blocked			
Showers leaking - need resealing around base			
Mice in parking			
Trucks need trimming			
Dam fenced to make kid proof			

Electric scoreboard installed
That the General Business Report be adopted.

CARRIED 3fr x 8fr a go frd through AFL grant
Joe will look into another that frs. grant

Financial Information:

What is your typical annual turnover: i.e. Total income and total expenses for a year. Please complete the following table

hoping for a bar compressor
Financial Statement
For end of financial year and

Income	\$ Amount
Trading Receipts (sales, merchandise, etc)	3 splir systems
Memberships/fees/subscriptions for members	
Fundraising receipts	
Grants (Government/Corporate)	
Donations	
Sponsorships	
Bank Interest Received	
Gate Takings	
Other income (specify)	
Total Income (A)	\$
Expenditure	
Trading costs (eg. Bar stock, merchandise, etc)	
Rent/hire (hall, meeting room, equipment, etc)	
Water, rates, gas, electricity, insurance, etc	
Salaries and Wages	
Superannuation	
Workcare	
Office expenses (stationery, postage, phone, etc)	
Fundraising costs	
Bank fees and charges	
Provision for Capital/Asset replacement (eg. Buildings, facilities, courts, etc)	

Other (specify)	
Total Expenditure (B)	\$
Surplus (A-B)	\$
What was your current Asset balance at _____ (insert end of year date). Please complete the following table	
Assets	\$ Amount
Cash in hand or in the bank	
Value of the Stock on Hand	
Amounts owed to debtors	
Property, equipment, furnishings	
Investments (eg. Term deposits)	
Investment for Asset Replacement	
Other (specify)	
Total Assets (C)	\$
Liabilities	
Amounts owing to others (Creditors)	
Loans (outstanding balance)	
Provision for Asset Replacement	
Other (specify)	
Total Liabilities (D)	\$
Equity (C-D)	\$

That the Treasurers Report be received and adopted.
CARRIED

Next Meeting:

Date: _____
Time: _____
Venue: _____

Forward meeting dates: List for next 12 months

-
-
-

Meeting closed at: _____ 8pm

Minutes to be forwarded to Council's Coordinator Works Administration within 14 days of meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF MEETING MINUTES

To be completed by the Chairperson once the Meeting Minutes have been Confirmed and Adopted at the next meeting of the Committee.

Meeting Date Minutes are Confirmed: _____
Chairperson Signature & Date: _____

Moyston Hall Committee Meeting May 14 at 7pm.

Present: Jim Hall, Peter Horvath, Sue Kennedy, Jan Crowe, Rebecca Rodger(from ARCC), Robert O'Connell, Ron Dean

Minutes passed for Feb 20: Moved Jan Crowe, seconded Peter Horvath.

DJ Noske attended briefly to tender her resignation from the Moyston Hall Committee. Also Sharsh Darker has officially resigned from the Committee.

Business arising:

Supper roof has been repaired

Hall lights repaired

Web site upgrade : If using the name Moyston Hall Weebly.com the site will be free. Motion moved Sue, 2nd Peter and all in favour. Sue will organize.

Splashback behind stove completed thanks to Ron

Hall as a hot day refuge put on hold till next summer

Ikea screen purchase not done as yet. Sue will follow up.

Hall insurance: Jim stated that the hall and land are insured by council as well as the contents insured for \$50000, Jim thinks this is adequate to cover our contents at present.

Martin O'Callaghan attended the meeting and the Committee would like to employ Martin on a weekly or fortnightly basis to maintain the gardens around the hall, replacing plants that have died etc. Martin was asked to provide general gardening advice too. Martin agreed to check out the gardens this Thursday after the walking group and give advice as to what needs to be done. Martin stated that he will probably need at least a couple of hours a fortnight to maintain the gardens.

Chelsea has shown interest in joining the committee, however not in attendance tonight.

TV aerial has not been organized as yet. Peter will chase this up. Motion moved by Robert and 2nd Sue

Financial Report: Jim explained his report. Anne Marshall declined to accept the Dinner Set for free and paid \$400. Our operating balance increased by \$671.19 over the past quarter to \$33215.83. Significantly the Pomonal Progress Association received \$1163 from the Hall Committee to assist after the recent bushfire. Treasurer's report acceptance moved by Jim and 2nd Peter.

Invitation from Rosie Nater representing the Progress Association to meet on Thursday May 23 at 7pm in the Moyston school to discuss falling attendances at Community Dinners: Sue will attend

.Our next Moyston hall Community Dinner is due to go ahead on 1st Friday in July(5th) . The Committee Decided unanimously to go ahead at this stage.

Next High Tea: May 26. Set up Thursday morning (23rd). Some volunteers will be needed to make sandwiches and in the afternoon volunteers to help with serving and cleaning up in the kitchen. 11 bookings so far.

Jim: Eftpos machine has now been acquired. Square Reader not needed so up for sale. Sell if for half price about \$30. ARCC have kindly removed our food registration fee which was \$200 annually.

Sue: Cup day broadcast and possibly grand final TV viewing in the hall for a gold coin donation. Also hall hire is booked by groups in June and July. (Medium and a party). Jim to check on what to charge.

Ron: Mentioned about a mural on back wall of hall. Could possible apply for a grant to do this.

Rebecca: Community grants are available for landscaping and other improvements. Rebecca will let us know when these are available.

Rebecca is now our contact person at the ARCC for grants.

Date for next meeting is 2nd Tuesday in August (13th), at 7pm. 12th November meeting will be our AGM.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Moyston Hall Committee meeting Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Present: Sue Kennedy, Brian Kennedy, Ron Dean, Garry Tierney, Jim Crowe, Jan Crowe, Robert O'Connell, Di Noske

Apologies: Jim Hall

Last meeting Passed: moved Di Noske, Jan Hall

Business Arising from last meeting December 24

1. Square reader not going ahead (per Jim) alternative called the Tyro reader which Council will fund and set up. All accounts will go through council. 1.4% charge on all transactions.
2. Splashback behind stove has not been completed as yet.
3. Working bee on Jan 25: New sound system and microphone set up as per Ron Simmonds.
4. Agreed to give crockery as a donation to Annie Marshall at the high tea on Sunday, moved Di, 2nd Peter, all in favour.
5. No Tidy Towns submission for 2024 by Progress association.

New Business:

1. Moved Jim, seconded Peter that non profit groups can book meetings free of charge. Other events to be charged at full rate of \$400, but reduced rate for local non profit groups
Moved Di, 2nd Jan
2. Trivia night meeting: Progress association to be charged \$100 for the recent event, Moved Di, 2nd Peter
3. Supper roof ceiling repair in progress
4. Hall light repair: Need to contact Narelle Cleary at council (Middle light in main hall), also humming light in supper room. Garry to email Narelle with urgent request.
5. Web site Currently \$39.95 US (61.06 AU) per year. Sue suggests upgrading to include our event details at \$180 AU per year. Decision left till more details on costs are available.
6. Moved Jan, 2nd Peter that gold coin donations be charged for movie nights, Cup day events, etc
7. Small hall festival Wed March 6 at Willaura at 7pm. Some of us will support this event. We may car pool. Book tickets on line under small halls.
8. Microphone has already been purchased. Used for the trivia night and worked well.
9. Clean up Australia day: Run by Progress Association starting at 8am at the Moyston shop.
10. Helen Wallace wants to run an old time Dance on the Saturday night of Easter to raise money for the Pomonal fire victims. Agreed to give permission to use the hall for the event at no charge for the hall usage. Agreed not to charge for hall hire, unless hall is not cleaned afterward, in which case a cleaning fee will be charged. Moved Di 2nd Peter and Ron
11. Website advertising for hot day refuge (over 38 degrees) More discussion to ensue before a decision is made regarding this.

12. High Tea day this Sunday: Volunteers needed to help on the day please contact Sue Kennedy if you can help. Set up Thursday 4.30pm. Committee will send a Thank-you to Fiona Lucas for donating flowers to be raffled at the high tea. Suggestion made by Peter to donate profits from the high tea to Pomonal bushfire. Moved Peter, 2nd Ron.
13. Anne Morley has some photos of Hall people : suggested by Sue to buy some prints to hang in the hall, Moved Sue, 2nd Di.
14. Ikea screen to hide the lift will cost \$279, Moved to purchase Sue, 2nd Ron, Di to purchase.
15. Financial statement from Jim Hall: details provided to members. Opening balance \$32,973.00, Closing balance \$32544. (Receipts \$59.05 and Payments \$487.41 with a net deficit of \$43836). Accepted: Moved Jim 2nd Peter
16. Insurance for hall and contents waiting for information from Jim Hall.
17. From Peter: Martin O'Callaghan is a professional garden designer charging \$50 per hour so may be able to be employed to do some gardening work around the hall. Invite him to the next meeting. (Tuesday 14th May) High tea May 26. Moved Peter, 2nd Ron.
18. From Bryan: Chelsea to be invited to be on the committee to have a younger person. Bryan to follow up. Moved Bryan, 2nd Peter.
19. Next meeting Tuesday 14th May @7.30pm

Meeting closed 8.35pm

Pomonal Community Assets Committee Meeting - MINUTES

1st May 2024 at 7 pm.



Time and date	May 1st 2024 at 7 pm	
Chairperson	President: Barb Venn	
Location	Pomonal Hall	
Attendees	Rachel Whitaker, Simon Freeman, Keith Ward, Michelle Stewart, Andrea Shelley	Rebecca Rodger ARCC, - present by phone for some items.
Apologies	Dr. Tim Harrison	
Acknowledgement of Country	"I begin today by acknowledging the Djab Wurrung and Jardwardjali people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present and acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded"	
Purpose	Manage the facilities and activities at the Pomonal Hall and Recreational Reserve. Barb Venn thanked the committee for doing a good job under present circumstances of managing the hall and present activities.	
Minutes	<p><i>Motion: " That the minutes for the previous Hall and reserve Committee meeting dated 7th February 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings"</i></p> <p>Minutes from previous meeting: Moved: Barb Venn Second:Rachel Whittaker</p>	

Item	Description	Action	M o v e d
1.	Correspondence summary presented and is attached from 7th February to 1st May	Discussion was had in relevant General business items.	
2.	<p>Finance Report</p> <p>Motion : That the financial statements from 7 th February to 1st May 2024 be accepted as a true account.</p>	<p>Moved : Barb Venn</p> <p>Seconded: Rachel Whitaker</p> <p>Motions presented and approved</p>	

	<p>Action : Barb will speak to the organiser of the Neurodivergent group re outstanding account from 2023.</p> <p>Action : Pomonal Hall data collected from Red Energy power invoices from December 2022 to February 2024 be sent to ARCC with the minutes of this meeting for their review.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That no fees be charged for Pomonal Hall regular activities being Yoga,TaiChi and Pomonal movement classes from February 13 th until a future date is confirmed. Moved : Keith Ward Seconded: Simon Freeman. All agreed 2. Non locals who wish to make a booking for Hall use be charged the local users fee until a future date is confirmed. Moved: Keith Ward Seconded: Simon Freeman
3.	<p>General Business:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use of the Hall and sheds at present 2. Pomonal Hall - Maintenance and cleaning issues This will be ongoing while the Hall is being used as a recovery hub and issues will be discussed with appropriate ARCC staff. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of the Hall will be used as the Pomonal relief centre for as long as this activity is required. • The storage sheds will be used as space permits for the relief centre to store items and for the Mens shed to store items. The old tables have been offered to and accepted by a local person for their use. • Mens shed have been asked to inspect the wooden pews stored and restore if practical to do so. • Rebecca Rodger was asked via phone call for an update on the modular walls discussed at the April informal meeting. She replied, this is being discussed at ARCC and funding considered. 2. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARCC will provide staff to clean the Hall and kitchen on a weekly basis, refer to email 8/4/2024 other maintenance issues to be addressed as required.
4.	<p>Community reports / business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APS Grampians Group (GG) request for financial assistance for new mulch on the Hall gardens 2. Pomonal Tennis club updates needed 3. Future Hall use and booking criteria 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Committee discussed the use of mulch for the gardens. Andrea will email GG and advise that the committee would like further discussion on this as to type and amount of mulch, cost of and where this can be purchased from. Discussion can then be had with ARCC re-subsidizing costs from any recovery funds available. 2. Michelle gave the committee an update from her recent meeting with Dr. Tim Harrison. At this time there are no recovery funds known to be available for updating the tennis court surface or club rooms as has been discussed as needed at previous committee meetings. This will be an ongoing item on the Hall agenda. 3. Andrea will email the committees of those groups who hold annual large events at the Hall re the Hall space available this year and will offer suggestions for a plan B for them to consider.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Actions for Committee members to do 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel will write to Chandra ARCC for a plan to assist the committee with our ongoing financial needs to manage the hall. • Keith, Barb and Andrea to arrange a meeting with some on the Pomonal resilience team re needs they have to continue their presence in the Hall

1.

- Simon has been asked to research table tennis tables for use in the Hall as a community activity.
- Michelle will review the condition of the present tennis club room as to whether it can be renovated and look for options for funding to resurface the tennis courts.
- Barb and Andrea to follow up with Rebecca re Modular walls for the Hall.

Meeting closed at 2030 hrs

Next meeting to be held - date to be confirmed and will be sent to committee members when decided.

MINUTES

Meeting of the Warrak Hall Committee of Management

Date: 19 February 2024

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Warrak Hall

Chair:	Rachel Thomas
Minute taker:	Jane Goninon
Present:	Daniel Buckingham, Gary Buckingham, Melissa McArdie, Sheryl Dunne, Kaitlyn Dunne, Chris Hare, Sharon Diglio, Kevin Wilde, Rosie Wilde, Paul Harrington,
Apologies:	Sally Buckingham, Ruth Kaliszewski
It was moved that the apologies be accepted. Moved: Jane Goninon Seconded: Kaitlyn Dunne	

The Chair welcomed all. The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November, 2023 were read and adopted.

Moved: Jane Goninon Seconded: Kaitlyn Dunne

CARRIED

Treasurer's Report

Bank balance as at 30/6/23		\$14,886.60
Income		
Hall Hire 6/3/23	\$ 50.00	
Fashion parade 10/5/23	\$1,544.00	
Hall Hire 117/6/23	\$ 50.00	
Total income	\$1,644.00	

Bank Balance as at 15/8 \$16,530.60

Expenditure		
Cash 6/12/22	\$400.00	
Cash DEJs Christmas decorations 21/12/22	\$100.00	
Tango Energy 22/12/22	\$188.98	
Tango Energy 28/2/23	\$195.50	
Ararat Garden Club for help with fashion pde	\$100.00	
Fashion parade 2/5/23	\$350.00	
Tango Energy 26/5/23	\$237.92	
Total Expenditure	\$1,572.40	

Bank balance as at 7/11/22 \$14,958.20

Donation of \$100 from L Watkins (Xmas)

Cash on hand \$50.00

Moved: John Warren Seconded: Jane Goninon

CARRIED

Correspondence

Letter to Reece from the Warrak community thanking them for their donation of plumbing products to fix the men's toilet at the recreation reserve.

Business Arising

Gravel - Alex noted that the rainfall had prevented him arranging gravel being put down between the Hall and the water tank. John Warren will follow up to make an appointment for Keith from ARCC Works Department to visit the Hall and look at the site. **On-going**

<https://araratrural.sharepoint.com/sites/Governance-GovernanceConfidential/Shared Documents/Governance Confidntial/Committees of Management/Community Asset Committees/Minutes/2024/Warrak/Minutes of Meeting of Warrak Hall Committee 19 Feb 24.doc>

School Bus - John noted that it appeared that the school bus was no longer parking on the grass outside the Hall although he will follow up to make sure. Melissa McCadie suggested that John speak to the school who may be able to speak to the driver and identify the pick up / drop off spot. **On-going**

Lighting in the Main Hall

It was agreed that the Secretary would contact the council to express concerns regarding the safety of the power connection and the lighting in the main hall. **Jane noted that she had contacted Council but is yet to receive a response and she will follow up with Council. On-going**

A supporting suggestion was to have fuse box moved outside and Jane is to follow up with Council.

Noticeboard glass

John Warren will take the broken glass to Ballarat for repair and coating with UV protection. **On-going**

General Business

Car wash - Daniel is planning to host a car wash with Repco Ararat donating the wash products. He is currently identifying locations to hold the event. Money raised from the car wash will go to either the Warrak CFA, Warrak Hall, Crowlands/Warrak Landcare or the Recreation Reserve and can be nominated by the person paying for their car wash. **On-going**

CFA Session

The community asked for the CFA to host an information session at the Hall on a Saturday or Sunday to do some familiarity training on the CFA and fighting fires. It was suggested that a person be arranged to entertain the kids so that families could attend. It was also requested that sign up forms, posters and flyers about the CFA be available at the Christmas party. **On-going**

Suggestion Box

It was suggested to have a box in the Hall that people with suggestions could anonymously provide comments, feedback or suggestions for the Hall to the Committee. **On-going**

Fundraising

Melissa mentioned that the Bendigo Bank Community Fund have a program where they donate money to local community organizations. Melissa will investigate and report to the next meeting. **On-going**

Fashion Parade

The Committee discussed hosting the fashion parade on the 14th May and it was unanimously agreed to go ahead. It was suggested that a sub-committee be created to arrange the event.

Action: Executive to establish sub-committee

Statement of Facts

Daniel talked about a document referred to as the "Statement of Facts" that gave an historical picture of the Warrak area. It is owned by a member of the local community who is investigating getting it copied for putting into a book form for lodging at the Hall. He will talk to the owner of the document and report back at the next meeting.

Monument

The Committee and members of the community attending the meeting thanked Daniel for his work cleaning the monument.

Warrak Hall

Melissa suggested a "Warrak Hall" sign be made and attached to the Warrak Road side of the Hall to identify the Hall to people driving through. She will look at designs, options and costs.

<https://araratrural.sharepoint.com/sites/Governance-GovernanceConfidential/Shared Documents/Governance Confidential/Committees of Management/Community Asset Committees/Minutes/2024/Warrak/Minutes of Meeting of Warrak Hall Committee 19 Feb 24.doc>

Chris suggested erecting a picket fence around the Hall space.

Speed Limit / School Bus

Melissa suggested writing to Council to ask for a reduction of the speed limit through Warrak and to get signs about children during school times. Melissa will also talk to the School Bus Director at her school to find out how the bus systems are managed to see if we can identify who to talk to about the school bus picking up and dropping children off at the Warrak Hall.

Defibrillator

Paul suggested the Hall Committee install a defibrillator at the Hall and that Sally Buckingham was prepared to help write a grant application for funds to pay for the defibrillator and its installation.

Casserole Night

The community agreed to host a casserole night on Friday, 5th July, 2024.

Facebook Page

The community agreed to create a facebook page dedicated to the Warrak Hall which would facilitate meetings, events, bookings, and Hall business.

Community Meeting

Daniel suggested hosting a meeting for all community groups in the Warrak area: CFA, Recreation Reserve, Landcare and the Church. It was decided to invite the groups to the casserole night and Kaitlyn will draw up a flyer/invitation.

Noticeboard

Rachel will update the contact information for the Hall on the noticeboard outside the Hall.

Passing of Gwen Pilgrim

Melissa arranged to the delivery of flowers to Andrew and Lisa Pilgrim on the passing of Gwen, a long time community member and contributor to the Hall.

Pots

Cheryl delivered some pots suitable for the induction cooker which were donated and she has thanked the person who made the donation.

Volunteer List

Jane explained that Council requires a list of the names of volunteers involved in the Hall and to develop the list meeting attendees will be reminded to sign up at every meeting.

Committee Members

The ARCC requires Hall Committees to have between 7-12 committee members including the Executive roles of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer who were confirmed at the AGM in November. Nominations for the remaining members were called and the following community members voted onto the Committee:

Alex Beveridge (who nominated to the Secretary over the phone today)

Daniel Buckingham

Gary Buckingham

Rosie Wilde

Kaitlyn Dunne

Melissa reminded all at the meeting about the process involved in operating the Committee that manages the Hall and reminded those attending that any ideas to improve or support the Hall should be raised at meetings to ensure all attending are included in their development.

<https://araratrural.sharepoint.com/sites/Governance-GovernanceConfidential/Shared Documents/Governance Confidential/Committees of Management/Community Asset Committees/Minutes/2024/Warrak/Minutes of Meeting of Warrak Hall Committee 19 Feb 24.doc>

Meeting closed at 8.07pm
Next meeting: 22nd April at 7.00pm

<https://araratrural.sharepoint.com/sites/Governance-GovernanceConfidential/Shared Documents/Governance Confidential/Committees of Management/Community Asset Committees/Minutes/2024/Warrak/Minutes of Meeting of Warrak Hall Committee 19 Feb 24.doc>

Willaura Hall General Meeting
4/4/2024 at 8.00p

PRESENT

R Jenkinson , A Byron,A Evans,G McInnes,V Albert,J Filliponi

APOLOGIES

R Patterson, R Laidlaw, Dr T Harrison
Moved J Filliponi, V Albert

MINUTES APPROVED. Moved A Evans R Jenkinson

BUSINESS ARISING. Nil

TREASURERS REPORT

Statement a/c \$6575.58
ARC a/c. \$3557.05

Payments. GWM \$91.44
Origin energy. \$326.96
Cleaning product \$87.50

Treasurer to open a new account to facilitate card access.
Moved R Jenkinson J Filliponi

CORRESPONDENCE. Nil

GENERAL BUSINESS

*HDMI socket at front of the hall appears faulty ,needs
checking R Jenkinson & A Evans to follow up.

*Kitchen update—New fridge is now in place after cupboards
have been altered . Stainless steel benches for the stove have been completed.

* Anzac Day. A working bee to be held onWednesday 24th at
5.00pm to prepare the hall.

*A new hot water service has been installed . This unit needs
to be turned on before and off after use . The switch is at the hot water service
outside the kitchen as before.

* The Ararat blue ribbon foundation have asked the hall
committee to assist with running the bar at their next fundraiser . Hall to provide
float for the till.

* Old kitchen fridge to be sent for scrap, no offers to purchase
have been received.

MEETING CLOSED. 8.30pm

NEXT MEETING. 6th June 2024 at 8.00pm

General Meeting Willaura Recreation Reserve

Meeting at Willaura Hall

21/5/24 at 7.30 pm

WELCOME

R Jenkinson welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that everyone be courteous and considerate during this meeting and adhere to our code of conduct.(Section 6.7 of our Governance Guide)

PRESENT

D Shaiders, R Jenkinson, K Gleeson, P Platen, R Townsend, S Kurnick
Dr T Harrison, J Filliponi, E Velenski S & N Maconachie, J Coish.

APOLOGIES

Nil

CONFORMATION OF MINUTES

Moved J Platen, J Filliponi

CORRESPONDENCE

IN Letters of Resignation from E Velenski, S & N
Maconachie effective immediately.

OUT. Service request to clean spouting and down pipes at
the Rec

TREASURERS REPORT

27/3/24 to 21/5/24

Income.	\$9114.80
Expense	7419.98

Moved S Kurnick, S Maconachie

GENERAL BUSINESS

*M Peel has repaired /replaced oval lights at the time keepers
box. Caravan power poles for sites 7&8 and 2& 3 have also been repaired.

* 2/5/24 A meeting with the MWFNC (J Pitcher & R Jackson)
to discuss seasonal agreement, current status of the liquor licence, any additional
lighting for the oval. No other issues were raised. R Jenkinson, K Gleeson & J
Filliponi attended.

*4/5/24 B McLean —Oval has been sprayed and fertilisers
spread. S Kurnick to monitor and report on any end of season maintenance
required. "Gorst Rural" have supplied fertilisers at no cost. Many thanks.

* 8/5/24 Tom North sprayed inside and outside of the
clubrooms for pest control.

*19/5/24 A working bee for the big shed clean & tidy was carried out , many thanks to everyone that helped on the day especially those from other organisations who use the shed.

*J Coish gave a short presentation on proposed ideas to promote the Rec Res in conjunction with a digital presence. A photo competition, logo, vision /plan are all for consideration . Please give J Coish your ideas to help formulate a plan .An update will be given next meeting.

Governance , R Jenkinson gave a short address to remind everyone the purpose and expectations of how we are to operate as a subcommittee for the ARCC.A robust discussion was had , Dr T Harrison reiterated what we are here for and how we are to operate for our community . As this matter has been discussed for several meetings , if anyone is still unclear how we are to operate I am happy to meet and discuss this further . This is one of my responsibilities as secretary.

MEETING CLOSED 8.25pm

NEXT MEETING. TBA

Willaura Recreation Reserve
General Meeting
17/4/24 at 6.00pm

PRESENT

D Shalders ,R Jenkinson , K Gleeson, P Platen ,
Dr T Harrison , J Filliponi , E Velenski , S&N Maconachie,J Coish.

APOLOGIES

J Platen, R Townsend.

CONFORMATION OF MINUTES

Approved

BUSINESS ARISING

* Air conditioner for the Bar area . Possibly next week.? D Shalders to follow up.
* Kitchen and Campers bathroom . Grampians Cleaning have completed their undertaking as per quote . Good job done.
* Campers bathroom extra cleaning. Wendy Flagg has declined the offer, E Velenski will do the clean twice a week.
*Pest control, K Gleeson will advise when job is to be done.
*J Coish Web page and social media presence for the Rec is still a work in progress.

CORRESPONDENCE

IN. GWM Water Letter requiring information for re use water etc and a new irrigation user agreement.R Jenkinson to follow up.

TREASURERS REPORT

General account \$ 32699.00
K Gleeson reported we are in a great position and have approximately \$150K in total on hand .
Moved K Gleeson , J Filliponi

GENERAL BUSINESS

*A working bee to clean out the big shed is on Sunday 19th May at 9.30am . R Jenkinson to contact CFA, Football club and Cricket club for help on the day to insure all items to be retained are identified.
*Site No3 power pole for campers has been damaged .R Jenkinson to follow up with Matt Peel Electrical to repair.
*ARCC have advised they will be doing some preliminary work to reseal the bitumen roads . They will be brought up to 10kph shared zone standard with appropriate signage . The rumble strips will be removed for this work to take place, rec committee to monitor the need for them to be replaced.
* Liquor licence— ARCC are still working on this and will give an update next meeting.

*The Rec will not have community meals on Friday nights prior to MWFNC home games,ie April 26, May10,May24,and June14. Depending on MWFNC hosting finals negotiations will take place with the club and the league as to the Recs involvement and remuneration .Dr T Harrison to follow up.

* R Jenkinson to organise a meeting with the MWFNC executive and Rec executive as soon as practical to ensure we all understand our responsibilities and requirements for the upcoming season. A casual user agreement is required .

*Change of meeting dates again . Meetings will be held on every 3rd Monday of every even month.Next meeting will be Monday June 17th at 6.00pm.

* Private bookings . E Velenski to book in the normal way with R Townsend for her upcoming events , normal charges will apply—12/5/24 Hi Tea, 8/7/24 Western Ag,Xmas in July 13th or 20th TBA,Good Friday 18/4/25

MEETING CLOSED. 7.15pm

NEXT MEETING. June17 @ 6.00pm. August 19th ,October 21st (AGM),
December16th
Please update your records.

MINUTES

Meeting of the Warrak Hall Committee of Management

Date: 29 April 2024

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Warrak Hall

Chair:	Chris Hare
Minute taker:	Jane Goninon
Present:	Melissa McAdie, Sheryl Dunne, Chris Hare, Sharon D'glio, Sally Buckingham, Bruce Hester
Apologies:	
Committee Members:	Rachel Thomas, Chair Chris Hare, Vice Chair Jane Goninon, Secretary Melissa McAdie, Treasurer Alex Beveridge Daniel Buckingham, Member Gary Buckingham, Member Rosie Wilde, Member Kaitlyn Dunne, Member
It was moved that the apologies be accepted. Moved: Jane Goninon Seconded: Melissa McAdie	

The Chair welcomed all. The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th February, 2024 were read and adopted.

Moved: Jane Goninon Seconded: Chris Hare

CARRIED

Treasurer's Report

Bank balance as at 30/6/23 \$14,958.20

Income

Total Income \$0.00

Expenditure

Total Expenditure \$0.00

Bank balance as at 29/4/24 \$14,958.20

Moved: Melissa McAdie Seconded: Jane Goninon

CARRIED

Correspondence

Letters of thank you were forwarded to Baker's Delight Ararat, Landsborough Larder, Woolworths Ararat, Elizabeth & John Moss, Andrea & Peter Bassett-Gray, Little Cupcake Ballarat.

A letter has been sent to ARCC regarding reduction the speed limit in and around Warrak.

Business Arising

Gravel - On-going

School Bus – Melissa to follow up with Buangor Primary. On-going

Noticeboard glass

Follow up with John Warren. On-going

General Business

Car wash - Daniel is planning to host a car wash with Repco Ararat donating the wash products. He is currently identifying locations to hold the event. Money raised from the car wash will go to either the <https://araratrural.sharepoint.com/sites/Governance-GovernanceConfidential/Shared Documents/Governance Confidential/Committees of Management/Community Asset Committees/Minutes/2024/Warrak/Minutes of Meeting of Warrak Hall Committee 29 April 2024.doc>

Warrak CFA, Warrak Hall, Crowlands/Warrak Landcare or the Recreation Reserve and can be nominated by the person paying for their car wash. **On-going**

Fundraising

Melissa mentioned that the Bendigo Bank Community Fund have a program where they donate money to local community organizations. Melissa will investigate and report to the next meeting. **On-going**

Statement of Facts

Daniel talked about a document referred to as the "Statement of Facts" that gave an historical picture of the Warrak area. It is owned by a member of the local community who is investigating getting it copied for putting into a book form for lodging at the Hall. He will talk to the owner of the document and report back at the next meeting.

Warrak Hall Sign

Melissa suggested a "Warrak Hall" sign be made and attached to the Warrak Road side of the Hall to identify the Hall to people driving through. She will look at designs, options and costs. This requires permission from ARCC. **On-going**

Defibrillator

Paul suggested the Hall Committee install a defibrillator at the Hall and that Sally Buckingham was prepared to help write a grant application for funds to pay for the defibrillator and its installation. – **Waiting on a grant**

Noticeboard

Rachel will update the contact information for the Hall on the noticeboard outside the Hall. **On-going**

Fashion Parade – Coming up on Tuesday, 14/5 and the community is asked to come and help set up on Monday, 13th May at 5.00pm and clean up at 5.00pm Wednesday, 15/5.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm

Next meeting: 24th June at 7.00pm

<https://araratrural.sharepoint.com/sites/Governance-GovernanceConfidential/Shared Documents/Governance Confidential/Committees of Management/Community Asset Committees/Minutes/2024/Warrak/Minutes of Meeting of Warrak Hall Committee 29 April 2024.doc>

Willaura Memorial Hall
General Meeting
29/2/24 at 8.00pm

PRESENT

R Jenkinson , A Evans, A Millear , R Laidlaw , Dr T Harrison

APOLOGIES

R Patterson, G Filliponi, V Albert, D McRae, A Byron
Moved R Laidlaw , A Millear

MINUTES APPROVED.

Moved A Millear R Laidlaw

BUSINESS ARISING.

Nil

TREASURERS REPORT

Statement a/c. \$6653.18
ARC a/c. \$3556.99

A/c paid ARC \$2405 balance of kitchen M.Peel electrical
\$4400 .00 Kitchen , GWM Water \$91.44 Origin Energy
\$326 96

Moved R Jenkinson, A Millear

CORRESPONDENCE.

Nil

GENERAL BUSINESS

*Kitchen installation nearly complete , Fridge yet to be fitted,
Stainless Steel benches to be made and installed, walls to be repaired, trimmed
and painted. A Evans to follow up.

* Old fridge still for sale.

*Water leak into store room and foyer has been rectified .

* An enquiry from Jackie Condon and Jarred Blacklock re
holding a monthly market at the hall. A follow up meeting with them and our
committee is required if they wish to proceed to provide more details?

* A working bee to be held on Monday 4/3/24 at 5.00pm to
give the hall a spruce up for upcoming events.

MEETING CLOSED. 8.35pm

NEXT MEETING. 4/4/24 at 8.00pm

Willaura Recreation Reserve
General Meeting
26/3/24 @6.00pm at the Willaura Hall

PRESENT

D Shalders, R Jenkinson ,K Gleeson, P Platen,J Filliponi ,J Coish.

APOLOGIES

S & N Maconachie , S Kumnick ,R Townsend ,E Velenski , Dr T Harrison

CONFORMATION OF MINUTES K Gleeson, J Coish.

BUSINESS ARISING. Nil

CORRESPONDENCE. IN

Farm to Pub(Dev Group) Request for donation.
East Grampians Health Service . Letter of thanks for
Market assistance.

OUT

Farm to pub to clarify situation .

TREASURERS REPORT

Income. \$12577.00 (since last meeting)
Expense. \$6570.00

Trading account balance \$29000.60
Moved K Gleeson ,P Platen

GENERAL BUSINESS

*Swap Meet , A new approach to hold a swap meet has been made to the Rec Committee to host the event. It was decided our committee did not have capacity to organise and run such a large event.

*A service request to repair the lights for the oval and netball courts has been lodged. Cockatoos appear to have damaged the electrical wires again.

*Bar Area air conditioner, D Shalders to arrange for a reverse cycle unit to be fitted.

*Oval lights for the east side . D Shalders to get quotes to supply and fit.

Meeting Dates, it was decided a regular meeting schedule be established. The 3rd Wednesday of every even month was suggested ,ie, Next scheduled meeting will be April 17th. We can hold meetings in between these dates if circumstances require a short meeting. If you are unable to attend these meetings-in person J Coish can arrange for you to attend (face time)on line if you can.

*Grampians Cleaning have submitted an estimate of\$440.00 for cleaning campers bathroom and kitchen rangehood etc as circulated. Work has been completed.We will make this annual maintenance.

*Because of the high usage of the campers bathroom it was decided to increase the cleaning an extra clean mid week. D Shalders to ask Wendy Flagg and at what cost?

*The camping charge for no power to increase to \$5.00 per person/night to cover the cost of the campers bathroom, shower etc & barbecue at the rotunda.

*Saturday 16th March Ararat FNC played a practice football match . AraratRCC to cover costs for this event of \$450.00

*R Jenkinson to organise a meeting with Moyston WFNC to make arrangements for this football season.

* Big Shed clean out. An offer of help from the CFA and football club etc. with labour and equipment . D Shalders to co ordinate with these groups to find a suitable time.

*Pest control . K Gleeson to contact Tom North Pest control to treat the clubrooms.

*Web page /Facebook , J Coish is still working on this.

*Liquor licence, We are still waiting on Dr T Harrison for an update on the council's position and where to from here.

MEETING CLOSED. 7.15pm

NEXT MEETINGS. April 17th, June 19th, August 21st, October 16th (AGM)
December 18th



GENERAL Meeting Minutes FORM 5

To be submitted to Council's Municipal Recreation Officer within 14 days of meeting

Committee of Management: Tatyoon Recreation Reserve

Date of Meeting: 26.2.24 FEBRUARY

Time of Meeting: 7:30pm

Present: J.King, C.Drum, B.Robertson, R.Bibby, I.Armstrong, P.Hartwich, A.Brady, K.Armstrong, A. Laidlaw, R.McKay

Apologies: D.Carter, A.Tucker, Tim Harrison,

Moved by R.McKay and seconded by R.Bibby

Confirmation of quorum:

A quorum at any committee meeting shall be a majority of members of the committee. No business shall be conducted by the committee unless a quorum exists.

Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

General Meeting Past Minutes from 4.09.24 circulated on 25.2.24. Moved by B.Robertson and seconded A. Brady .

Item: Business Arising Out of the Previous Meeting			
Discussion – Business	Action Items	Responsible	Due
GMW WATER	Applied - waiting	C.Drum	HELD
Old Netball Shed Cubicles in home footy Showers	Shed and shower petitions refurbishment due to Grant Opportunity 'Tiny Towns' (Moved to Agenda Item)	B.Robertson K.Armstrong	Grant Submitted 25.2.24
Lights L.E.D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tristan Ritchie installed new LED Lights to oval and netball courts. \$55,000 Invoice received 25.2.24 - Great Initiative and both oval and courts look great at night time. Tristan Ritchie thought it would approximately cost \$20per hour to have lights running. Treasurer to analyse electricity bills going forward - Quote was \$65,000 from Tristan Ritchie. \$10000.00 from powerpole grant reimbursed from ARCC to go towards this project. 	TFNC/REC	-COMPLETED - Treasurer will pay invoice on behalf of Taty Recreation Reserve.
Scoreboards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Netball and Football Electronic 5m tall and needing to stick to specks Soil tests for the footings completed. 	A.Brady	In Progress
Oval Drainage and Sprinklers	(General Business)		
Collapsed Tank	Summer job: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New tank needed Buy new tank and leave old ones. Order new tank. Action R.Bibby	R.Bibby A.Tucker	Working on over this summer. In Progress
New Building	Continue to liaise with Tim Harrison re PHASE 1. (Move to General Business)	J.King C.Drum	In Progress
Facebook page and newsletter	Facebook page – Action plan presented on facebook page and TFNC page. Newsletter - Our wins to be communicated to community.	J.KING	Newsletter to be completed over Summer.

Moved by B.Robertson and seconded A.Brady.

CONFIRMATION OF MEETING MINUTES: To be completed by the Chairperson once the Meeting Minutes have been Confirmed and Adopted

Meeting Date Minutes are confirmed:

Chairperson Signature & Date:

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Disclosure of any pecuniary interest or conflict of interest of any member

Correspondence

Item: Correspondence – Inwards/Outwards

Discussion – List Correspondence	Action Items	Responsible	Due
Out:25.2.24 Tiny Towns Grant Application submitted	Grant application for old netball rooms and footy shower petitions	TFNC	Find out in May 2024.
In:25.2.24 email	Electrician work (INVOICE) for LED lights oval and netball courts	Rec- Treasurer	February 2024
Out: January 2024 insurance claim. WFI In: February 2024 WFI insurance cash quote	Emailed photos and wfi to get police report. Quote to insure cash at rec premises. Given to R.Bibby to table at TFNC meeting.	JKING	FEBRUARY 2024

Moved by A.Brady and seconded by K.Armstrong.

2024 Hall Bookings:

29.8.23 DAGRO \$200

2.2.24 - Carter Funeral

Future Bookings:

Treasurer's Report

Financial report B.Robertson

Savings Account - \$125355.31 donations account.

Statement Account - \$8835.46

See Balance sheet (Appendix 1.)

New LED lights – Tristian Ritchie Electrician thought it would cost approx \$20 per hour to run new lights.

B.Robertson to analyse electricity usage going forward.

John Deere mower had some repairs due to wires had been eaten by rats.

Coolroom – 2 invoices. \$350 bill increased. Ongoing issue for reserve. Coolroom in footy bar door left open in burglary and this made unit blow up. Committee only realised after claim had been made through WFI. J.King to ring WFI and state that this had happened as well as air compressor taken.

Discussions over purchasing a new coolroom – \$10-12k for coolroom. New unit. This would stop costly repairs. Depends on new build. C.Drum stated that we would still be in front paying for repairs even in 10 years. Committee agreed to just continue getting repaired at this stage. Reassess in next year.

Cleaning and professional cleaning includes table cloths \$749.02

B.Robertson moved the Treasurers report and seconded by K.Armstrong.

Adjourned Business

Sub-committee/Working Group reports

POWERPOLE – A.Brady, C.Drum and R.Bibby and I.Armstrong -

C.Drum stated that this project is now completed. Successful project and now reserve has the electricity that is needed to run the reserve.

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B.Robertson spoke to powercor and was informed that the powerpole had been hit by lightning this month. Powercor repairing it tomorrow. 27.2.24.

New Community Hub - A. Brady, D.Carter, J.King and C.Drum. No Update

Oval Drainage and Irrigation – A.Tucker, R.Bibby, and R.McKay, J.Armstrong (General Business)

R. McKay will lead and action above small group. New drainage and irrigation for oval. R.McKay was thrilled with this grant as it was going to save so much time for him as facility/grounds director. We currently have an outdated irrigation system that needed updating badly. Waiting to hear from Tim Harrison formally but J.King had been told by ARCC that reserve had been successful in the \$250,000 SRV grant and ARCC contribution of \$80000.00. T. Harrison an apology at meeting so no confirmation given. Huge win for our reserve and the future of our sporting clubs. J.King will action formalities with T.Harrison.

Agenda Items

Item: Agenda Items

1. Action Plan – Celebrate our goals achieved.

C.Drum stated that it was important to celebrate our wins on our Action Plan. So much had been achieved and thanked the hard working committee. Special thankyou to K.Armstrong for submitting last grant for Tiny Towns. Electronic scoreboards getting installed currently – this is an excellent project for our reserve. Successful in oval drainage and irrigation grant – huge win for our reserve and exciting plan for the future of the reserve.

2. Maintenance Undertaken

-Lights L.E.D completed on oval and netball courts
-New safe to be ordered for footy rooms whilst we are waiting for claim to go through. J.King to action TFNC to order safe. WFI claim currently processing through the Rec Insurance policy.
-hall side door needs fixing as well as door on bathroom at footy rooms. J.King to action with ARCC
- down light needs fixing outside netball change rooms and video security signs need installing. J.King to action with ARCC.

3. Facility Good Governance implementation (standing Agenda item)

4. Heaters

R.Bibby to action heaters and find out power usage and which heater to select for outside.

Grants – Tiny Towns grant application completed and submitted on 25.2.24. B. Robertson sorted a new quote from Andrew McDougall. Old netball shed repairs and shower petitions in one grant. Privacy of our players a focus in this application.

1. Old Netball shed -Medical room at rear and scorers and umpires' room at front with a big window.
2. Shower petitions – 3 showers \$6510 for 3 panels. More showers needed committee thought. R.Bibby to action and table with TFNC. Committee members worried it would not be enough showers.

Cheaper material to be researched. Discussion of maybe a survey needed to see reaction of what would be needed.

Quote in and grant submitted 25.2.24

ARRC Community Grant – sand \$5k

R. McKay has got a quote from Chops – top dressing, sand and brushing in
Verti drain

Seed

Seeding - once not twice - single pass

Fert spreading

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Usual maintenance on oval needed – apply for ARCC grant. K.Armstrong to action. C.Drum to send invoice to Karen. Rec to come up with difference
R.McKay to action sand. Loader needed. 1st practise game after sanding should be right.

General Business

- **Oval /irrigation and drainage**

C.Drum and J.King actioned with ARCC to use SRV grant for oval rather than for New Community Hub. Another grant needed for Community Hub development committee thought. Committee did not approve SRV community hub plans and criteria but thought that the SRV grant would be a better fit for the oval upgrade needed which was another priority on 5 year Action Plan. ARCC accepted idea and Phuong Au from ARCC was assigned to manage grant application. Survey completed on need of facility oval upgrade and advertised on facebook page. Over 80 responses received.

Successful in receiving SRV Grant - \$250000.00 and \$80000 ARCC contribution . Waiting for confirmation from ARCC, T.Harrison, and formalities and process for receiving grant.

Discussion over including a new ground fence when oval work is being completed.

C.Drum to action with Keith ARCC to get increased water to oval. Plumber has suggested it would be easily done. Pump will increase flow dramatically and new powerpole allows for this to now happen.

- **Generator** - To be sold. TFNC to sell generator. All agree it needs to be sold whilst in working order. R.Bibby to action and C.Drum will list it when price is known. Research needed.

- **Court resurfacing**

B.Robertson has sent emails to get quotes. To be in action plan as blue paint is coming off

Trench line behind changeroom has sunk from works completed installing powerpole. C.Drum will action ARCC to bring some gravel.

Geoscience Aust: Monitoring earthquakes – will complete some drilling out north side of Reserve. Email was sent to R.McKay informing us.

Tennis hosting Mininera Tennis Grandfinal at Reserve this weekend. 2.2.24

WFI – Do we need insurance for cash? TFNC to table this. R.Bibby to action. J.King gave quotes received to R.Bibby.

B.Robertson to send current WFI docs to J.King. J.King to research with WFI are current policy.

Closed: 8.57pm

Next Meeting: Date General Meeting APPROX June 2024

CONFIRMATION OF MEETING MINUTES: To be completed by the Chairperson once the Meeting Minutes have been Confirmed and Adopted

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Chairperson Signature & Date:

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4.3 TRIALLING NEW ROAD SEALING ALTERNATIVES

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 15827

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ararat Rural City Council is dedicated to exploring innovative solutions to enhance our road network's longevity by trialling new sealing applications designed to extend the life of our roads. This initiative aligns with our broader commitment to optimising resources, ensuring the long-term sustainability of our infrastructure, and delivering the highest quality services to our community. By investing in these innovative techniques, we aim to reduce maintenance costs, improve road safety, and provide a more reliable and durable transportation network. Our ongoing efforts reflect our dedication to sustainable development and responsible resource management, ensuring that our infrastructure can meet current needs and future demands.

This report will provide an update on our use of OTTA seals and Terra pave applications within the municipality.

DISCUSSION

Over the past two months Council's has been trialling OTTA seals and Terra pave on a number of roads within the urban and rural areas of the municipality. OTTA seals are a cost-efficient road treatment best suited to rural and urban roads where traffic volumes are less than 200 vehicles per day, on a straight section of road with minimal turning or screwing on the surface.

The principle behind the design of the graded seals is different to that of a single sized aggregate spray seal and more like that of an asphalt or slurry mix. The intent of the seal is to provide a surfacing layer which achieves its strength through the interlock of the different stone sizes in the graded aggregate, and only requires the road to be graded and shaped before application.

The contractor is using a precoated aggregate mix on the nominated roads following a test of both the coated and non-coated mix being trialled on Elizabeth Street East, Ararat. The non-coated mix appeared to cause more dust in the area, and the overall look of the precoated mix is preferred. Approximately two months after the application on Elizabeth Street East, you can see that the road his continuing to compact and look more like a asphalt surface. The rural works have been completed in the last week of May and first week of June and will continue to be monitored. The application will reduce the ongoing maintenance grading and resheeting works on these.

LGPRF data shows that reseal cost per square meter is approximately \$6, this cost can be following the cost of a full road reconstruction, or the cyclic resealing program undertaken by Council. The approximate cost for the urban OTTA seal (under 10,000m²) is \$10.66/m² and the rural OTTA seal (over 10,000m²) is \$8.51/m², these prices include the preparation work to have the road ready to seal.

To date more than 90,000m² of OTTA seals have been completed on:

- Elizabeth Street East, Ararat
- Young Street, Ararat
- Thomas Street, Ararat

- Andrews Lane, Maroona/Willaura North
- Tatyoon Extension Road, Tatyoon
- Rockies Hill Road, Tatyoon
- Mt William Road, Tatyoon

The cost per square meter for OTTA seals are comparable if not better than traditional resheeting, with roads that have been completed and invoiced as below.

	Expenditure	Depot Wages	Total	m2	\$/m2
OTTA SEALS					
Andrews Lane (Moyston Dunkeld to Muirhead) OTTA	\$ 238,188.80	\$ 12,074.23	\$ 250,263.03	27764	\$ 8.98
Mt William Road (Tatyoon North to Tatyoon) OTTA	\$ 197,054.13	\$ 2,092.03	\$ 199,146.16	26593	\$ 7.49
Tatyoon Extension Road (Tatyoon to Helendoite) OTTA	\$ 68,849.21	\$ 5,876.73	\$ 74,725.94	7270	\$ 10.28
Rockies Hill Road (off Helendoite) OTTA	\$ 30,140.41	\$ 24.80	\$ 30,165.21	2850	\$ 10.58
RESHEETING					
Back Bushie Creek Road	\$ 117,736.79	\$ 15,768.25	\$ 133,505.04	11000	\$ 12.14
Gordons Bridge Road	\$ 90,114.18	\$ 6,992.00	\$ 97,106.18	11500	\$ 8.44
Williamsons Road	\$ 70,803.65	\$ 13,572.32	\$ 84,375.97	8250	\$ 10.23
Langi Logan Road	\$ 140,285.91	\$ 12,329.77	\$ 152,615.68	17000	\$ 8.98

Elizabeth Street East, Ararat



Andrews Lane





Tatyoan Extension Road



Mt William Road



In an Australian first, the Ararat Rural City has trialled the ultimate circular road solution for their gravel road network – with recycled tyre rubber being used as both a bitumen binder modifier and an aggregate substitute. The yet to be named new treatment has the potential to increase the amount of waste tyres being used on our rural road network by 10 times.

In conjunction with Inroads, using rubber as a substitute for both raw virgin materials have been applied to a 500m section of Garden Gully Road from the end of seal at the Western Highway end to Council’s boundary with Northern Grampians Shire.

Whilst the use of crumbed rubber derived from waste tyres has been used for many years on our rural road network, as a bitumen enhancer for improved aggregate retention and pavement waterproofing, the recent surfacing works undertaken by Ararat is unique in that waste tyre chips have been blended with traditional quarry aggregates as the roads wearing surface. The new treatment replaces 10% of the bitumen used with crumbed rubber and replaces 25% of the aggregate used with 14mm rubber chips. The 500m of new treatment applied has used 12 tonne of rubber crumb and chips, diverting 2000 old tyres from landfill.

The waste tyre chips were sourced by a Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA) Accredited tyre recycler in Victoria and provided to Inroads for the development of the new treatment. Laboratory work was first conducted to see how the tyre chip would adhere to hot bitumen and to test the wear rate of the rubber. Initial testing confirmed that the rubber chip has great bitumen holding characteristics and when blended with virgin aggregate, from Western Quarries in Ararat, the resultant blend had no signs of reduced wear when subjected to wheel track testing.

Prior to undertaking the works the rubber chips was delivered to Western Quarries and mixed with precoated aggregate at the nominated ratio. The onsite quarry laboratory tested the combined product to ensure consistency. Once confirmed the rock/rubber blend was delivered to the jobsite.

Inroads, on behalf of the Ararat Rural City Council, has applied for a funding grant from Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA) for the sealing of a further two kilometres of gravel roads in 2024 so that ongoing monitoring and testing of the innovative treatment can be undertaken.



Terra Pave

The application of Terra pave on a one kilometre section of Warrayatkin Road was undertaken from 28-30 May 2024. The existing site conditions before the trial consisted of a severely corrugated and potholed unsealed road, which had been regraded only six weeks earlier. The rapid deterioration and damage to this section are attributed to its use as a shortcut from the Western Highway to the Ararat Prison. Current traffic data indicates an average of 174 vehicles per day with 11.9% being heavy vehicles. The combination of high speeds and significant heavy vehicle traffic contributes to the accelerated deterioration of the pavement.

The Terra pave application is used on different roads to those suitable for OTTA seals. Terra pave is a road stabilising process as well as a sealing process for existing gravel roads which digs 150-200mm below the road surface, not just providing a top layer seal. The product is an alternative to the traditional stabilisation concrete lime and asphalt pavements which produce greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide. Terra Pave is non-petroleum-based and eco-friendly. The application requires minimal equipment for the entire process, using a grader/scarifier, water truck and a rubber and steel roller. Due to the product and the speed of application, over two days the carbon emissions emitted are greatly reduced in comparison to other methods.

The methodology supplied by the Terra pave representative was followed and the results are still being investigated. The product so far does not look as the product was prescribed however the surface seems to be hardening up in some places, and continued.

The cost of the full Terra pave process is three times as expensive as the traditional resheeting and OTTA seal works but as described the stabilising work is more complex and therefore more expensive. As an alternative for sealing only, Terra pave is approximate a quarter of the square meter cost shown below being \$8.41/m2. Terra pave also potentially provides a more robust surface, capable of carrying higher traffic volumes, heavier vehicles and cope better with turning and screwing. It is recommended that Council continue to work with Terra pave to explore suitable uses.

	Expenditure	Depot Wages	Total	m2	\$/m2
TERRA PAVE					
Warrayatkin Road	\$ 200,987.00	\$ 730.14	\$ 201,717.14	6000	\$ 33.62

Warrayatkin Road (Warrak Road end for 1km)






An additional Project – Moyston Township

Following early positive outcomes from the use of OTTA Seal an additional trial is being undertaken in Moyston Township to treat three key, currently unsealed, elements of the unsealed urban road network. The road sections are shown below:

 Priority 1 – BUS ROUTE
Presbyterian Church Rd
from Ararat Halls Gap Rd
to Moyston Dunkeld Rd.

 Priority 2 –
Presbyterian Church Rd
from Moyston Dunkeld Rd.
To Moyston Creek Rd then
up to Fire Station

 Priority 3 –
Moyston Creek Rd from
Ararat Halls Gap Rd to
Presbyterian Church Rd,
And School Road from
Ararat Halls Gap Rd to
Moyston Rocky Point Rd.



The road sections were identified through consultation with the Moyston Community through the Moyston Progress Association. It is expected that the works will be completed as an element of the 2023/2024 urban gravel to seal program and delivered in full prior to the end of this financial year. Works have commenced on road preparation with OTTA sealing to be undertaken in the week commencing 24 June 2024.

The estimated costs are provided in the table below:

Road Section	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (m2)	Cost (\$) @ \$9.90 m2
Priority One	271	5.5	1490.50	14,756
Priority Two	385	5.5	2117.50	20,963
Priority Three	913	5.5	5021.50	49,713
Total	1569	5.5	8629.50	85,432

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

- 4 Developing and Maintaining Key Enabling Infrastructure
- 4.3 Deliver infrastructure outcomes that support economic growth, promote community wellbeing and safety and align with Council's financial sustainability.

Budget Implications

These projects make up part of Council's 2023/2024 Capital Works Budget.

Policy/Relevant Law

- ARCC Procurement Policy – Resealing Contract

Sustainability Implications

The new trial of the road sealing solution for our gravel road network, with recycled tyre rubber being used as both a bitumen binder modifier and an aggregate substitute has the potential to increase the amount of waste tyres being used on our rural road network by 10 times. This is a significant step towards circular economy road solutions.

Risk Assessment

Nil.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Trialling of new processes and products enable Council to make informed decisions about the best outcomes for ongoing maintenance of its road network. Use of these innovative processes brings Council to the forefront of sustainable practices and continuous improvement.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

Collaboration has been undertaken within the operations and engineering departments of the organisation to understand the desired outcomes of these trials.

RECOMMENDATION

That

Council receive this information report.

MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG SECONDED CR BURRIDGE

That

Council receive this information report.

CARRIED 5008/24

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments in relation to this item

4.4 2023/2024 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM – JUNE 2024

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 15828

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council adopted its 2023/2024 Capital Works Program as a key element of the 2023/2024 Budget. The 2023/24 budget has a strong focus on infrastructure with a \$9.5 million investment in capital works.

Major works including the following:

- Stage one of Mount William Road construction,
- Urban gravel to seal road upgrades, and
- Maintaining and repairing rural and urban roads and drainage.

DISCUSSION

Council's 2023/2024 Capital Works Program continues to be substantially different to previous years, the program does not have a number of major road and bridge construction projects and will continue to undertake a "small targeted" capital works program.

The emphasis for 2023/2024 is on renewal and updating Council assets, undertaking a larger number of smaller projects of lower value to avoid the impacts of price volatility in the market. Using this approach will also provide opportunities to leverage in-house capability, support local employment and engagement of local contractors.

The capital works program has had an emphasis on the following areas:

- An enhanced road reseal program.
- Improvement to urban drainage.
- Upgrades to the footpath network.
- A major urban road gravel to seal program.
- Commencement of Mt William Road Reconstruction works.

Capital Works Budget Status:

As of 19 June, 2024, the capital works budget is 87% spent, with end of month invoices still to be processed. This has slowed on other earlier months due to the two bushfires in the municipality in February which has put significant pressure on our workforce, causing priorities to shift towards areas of urgent need. This amount does not include employment oncosts for the last quarter of the 23/24 financial year and allocation of plant hire rates.

Ongoing Projects

- The Urban gravel to seal project is ongoing, Moyston Township works are being undertaken this month along with commencement of kerb and channel works on a number of projects.
- Mt William Road reconstruction has commenced, with tree trimming completed and ground works currently being undertaken, stabilisation works will commence in the week commencing 24 June 2024. The majority of works are expected to be complete by the end of financial year allowing us to meet funding obligations.

- Road resheeting has seen substantial progress with 113% of the budget expended, this includes a number of rural OTTA seals completed on Andrews Lane, Tatyoon Extension Road, Rockies Hill Road and Mt William Road.
- Small property capital projects has been fully expended with 121% of the budget expended.

	Budget	Committed/ Contracted	Expended	%	Notes
<u>PROPERTY -CAPITAL</u>					
Property Capital	\$400,000	\$63,337	\$421,213	121%	These works are made up of a series of smaller projects across the municipality. This amount does not include payments for the funded playground project completed in 2023. This budget has been fully expended.
Alexandra Oval Resurfacing			\$237,720		This was an unbudgeted project. Works on the Alexandra Oval are completed.
Ararat Fitness Centre Stage 1	\$950,000		\$29,222	3%	This project has been halted due to age and compliance issues. Further information was provided at the April Council meeting.
TOTAL PROPERTY		\$63,337	\$688,155		
<u>PLANT & EQUIPMENT</u>					
Plant and Vehicles			\$346,146		These unbudgeted items include four new passenger vehicles and a new mower that was purchased at the start of the financial year.
Book stock - Library Book Replacement	\$40,000		\$31,217	78%	Quarter 4 payment is due in June 2024. This will be fully expended by the end of financial year.
TOTAL PLANT & EQUIPMENT			\$377,363		
<u>ROADS</u>					
Gravel Road Sheeting & Gravel Road Widening	\$2,800,000	\$187,281	\$2,967,037	113%	The 23/24 Resheeting and Road Widening program is fully expended. The committed component of the budget is for OTTA Sealing of a number of rural roads that have consistent resheeting work undertaken on them. These works are expected to be completed in June 2024.
Reseal Program	\$1,000,000	\$28,600	\$898,299	90%	Design works are complete for Rhydney Rd.

					<p>Geotechnical Investigation and design works are nearing completion for the Buangor Ben Nevis Rd. This work is being completed with funding from LRCI and Council. These works will be completed as a part of the 24/25 capital works program.</p> <p>Road reseal program commenced in September 2023 and was completed in December 2023.</p> <p>Line Marking works were completed in April 2024.</p> <p>This budget is expected to be underspent by the end of financial year with Rhymney Road works on hold due to cost estimates. This allocation will be redirected to other projects including Helendoite Road Bridge and McLellan Street reconstruction.</p>
Mt William Road	\$1,000,000	\$190,409	\$107,644	30%	<p>Work have commenced.</p> <p>The works have been set out, tree works completed and stabilising contractors will commence in the week of 24 June 24, and stone ordered as part of the project.</p> <p>The majority of works will be complete by the end of financial year in line with the requirements of Roads to Recovery funding.</p>
Urban Road Gravel to Seal	\$2,200,000	\$765,388	\$635,287	64%	<p>Designs are now ready to commence including Currajong Avenue/McLellan Street, Bailey Lane, Mulcahy Road & King Street.</p> <p>The OTTA seal has been completed on Elizabeth Street East, Thomas and Young Streets, Ararat. Terra Pave</p> <p>Planning works for the 24/25 program is currently being undertaken, with design quotation awarded and will provide design for roads to be completed in coming financial years.</p> <p>This budget is expected to be underspent with the works being completed costing significantly less than estimated.</p>

Contribution to Moyne Shire			254,531		This is a 10% contribution to the construction works on the Chatsworth Bolac Boundary Road.
Major Patching			\$98,010		This line item is unbudgeted. Major patching works for this financial year have been completed.
Footpath Renewal Program	\$400,000	\$6,900	\$515,480	130%	Several footpath works have been completed this year within Ararat and rural townships. Works have been completed this year at the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albert Street, Ararat • Main Street Willaura • Warranooke Street, Willaura • McGibbony Street, Ararat • Ford Street, Ararat • Wileman and Walkerville Street, Willaura The committed works are for funded works on Tunnel Track in Pomonal.
Urban Drainage Works	\$750,000	\$219,322	\$342,371	75%	Works have been completed in Golf Links Road and are nearing completion in Thompson and Kneale Streets, Ararat. A number of small works are expected to be complete by the end of financial year including works in Alfred Street and near the Ararat Cemetery. One significant project is also to be undertaken with connection of drainage from Queen Street to Cemetery Creek, with the tender awarded to Butler Excavations.
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE		\$1,397,900	\$5,818,659		
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS		\$1,461,237	\$6,584,177		

There are also recreation facilities projects that were funded in the 2021/2022 budget that have extended beyond the single financial year. The committed expenditure includes contracts entered for construction of various elements of the projects. The table below provides a summary of these projects:

Capital Work Element	Committed expenditure	% complete	Notes
Gordon St Recreation Reserve	\$4,704,609	100%	<p>The pavilion has reached practical completion with an Occupancy Permit being provided in mid March 2024.</p> <p>Fencing and seeding works have been completed in the third week of June and are the final works to be completed and invoiced. Tidying and landscaping of the site will be undertaken in house and will see the completion of the works in this financial year.</p> <p>The Ministerial opening for the redevelopment is to be held on Friday 31 August 2024.</p>
Buangor Recreation Reserve Kitchen Extension	\$53,849	20%	<p>The project has been out to the market and came in with a significant price difference between the cost plan and the pricing received from the tenderers.</p> <p>Funding opportunities are being looked at to progress this project further.</p>
Lake Bolac Golf Club Kitchen	\$200,496	92%	<p>Works were undertaken by Build Forth, from Ballarat, this project is complete.</p>

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The key financial drivers align strongly with the thrust of the Council Plan 2021-2025, particularly the following:

- 4.1 Ensure that asset development and renewal during the planning period matches that identified in Council's Asset Plan 2021-2031.
- 4.2 Work directly with asset users to manage and develop new and existing assets.
- 4.3 Deliver infrastructure outcomes that support economic growth, promote community wellbeing and safety and align with Council's financial sustainability.
- 6.1 Deliver responsible budget outcomes, linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation, and rating fairness.

Budget Implications

The 2023/2024 Capital Works Program represents a significant element of Council's 2023/2024 Budget. In the current civil construction market, it is essential that Council manages capital works expenditure carefully to ensure budget outcomes are met.

Policy/Relevant Law

The 2023/2024 Capital Works Program complies with the program funded in the 2023/2024 Budget.

Sustainability Implications

There are no environmental sustainability implications. Council is mindful of considering new innovative approaches to improve its sustainability and environmental footprint as a part of the Capital Works program.

Risk Assessment

The 2023/2024 Capital Works Program was developed as a mitigation of the financial risks associated with market volatility currently being experienced in the civil and building construction sectors.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Development of the 2023/2024 Capital Works Program represented an agile response to market conditions. A capacity to rework strategy based on a changing environment is a critical element in developing an innovative organisation.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The 2023/2024 Capital Works Program has been developed as an element of the 2023/2024 Budget. There was extensive community engagement undertaken prior to adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

That

Council receive this information report.

**MOVED CR BURRIDGE
SECONDED CR WATERSTON**

That

Council receive this information report.

CARRIED 5009/24

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments in relation to this item

5.1 AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETING

AUTHOR'S TITLE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 15829

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 4 June 2024

DISCUSSION

Minutes of Audit and Risk Committee meetings are provided to Council at the first available opportunity after clearance by the Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson. The report contains the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 4 June 2024.

Council Committees	Councillor representative	Current meeting (as presented)	Next scheduled meeting/s
Audit and Risk Committee	Cr Jo Armstrong	04 June 2024	03 September 2024
Audit and Risk Committee	Cr Bob Sanders	04 June 2024	03 September 2024

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The report supports the strategic objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:
6 Strong and Effective Governance

Budget Implications

No budget impact for the receiving of minutes.

Policy/Legal/Statutory

Section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that Council must establish an Audit and Risk Committee.

Section 6.1 of the *Audit and Risk Committee Charter* states that minutes of Committee meetings will be provided to Council at the first available opportunity after clearance by the Committee Chairperson following each Committee meeting.

Risk Assessment

Council needs to be aware of issues raised in the minutes.

Stakeholder Consultation and Communication

Audit and Risk Committee members.
Councillor representation on Council Committees.
Chief Executive Officer and relevant Council officers.

RECOMMENDATION

That

- 1. the Audit and Risk Committee Meetings minutes of 04 June 2024 be received*

**MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR WATERSTON**

That

- 1. the Audit and Risk Committee Meetings minutes of 04 June 2024 be received**

CARRIED 5010/24

ATTACHMENTS

The Audit and Risk Committee minutes as listed above are provided as Attachment 5.1



MINUTES

Audit and Risk Committee

Tuesday 04 June 2024

Location: CEO's Office,
59 Vincent St, Ararat

Commencing at 1:00 pm

Audit and Risk Committee:

- Cr Bob Sanders (Mayor)
- Cr Jo Armstrong
- Ms Jessica Adler
- Mr Robert Tommasini
- Mr Greg Jakob
- Mr Ryan Schischka

In attendance:

- Dr Tim Harrison
- Mr Bradley Ead
- Ms Karissa Hogan
- Mrs Chandra Willmott

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SECTION 1 – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies

1.2 DECLARATION OF DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Disclosure of Interests are to be made immediately prior to any relevant item being discussed.
There were no disclosures of interest

1.3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**MOVED GREG JAKOB
SECONDED ROBERT TOMMASINI**

That the Minutes of the Internal Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 02 April 2024 be received.

CARRIED

SECTION 2- CEO UPDATE

2.1 CEO UPDATE – **CONFIDENTIAL**

RECOMMENDATION

That the CEO's report be received.

OUTCOME

That the CEO's report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments in relation to this item.

Actions: Copy of draft budget and Capital works information to be sent to the committee

SECTION 3- FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING

3.1 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

Aligns with Audit and Risk Committee Charter 5.6: Review the appropriateness of the format and content of periodic management financial reports and performance statements

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The financial statements and performance indicators have been prepared for the period ended 31 March 2024

Based on the information provided by responsible officers and managers Council's overall financial performance is in line with budget.

DISCUSSION

Council must establish and maintain a budgeting and reporting framework that is consistent with the principles of sound financial management.

Key Financial Information:

Income Statement (Attachment 1)

The Income Statement measures how well Council has performed from an operating nature. It reports revenues and expenditure from the activities and functions undertaken, with the net effect being a surplus or deficit. Capital expenditure is excluded from this statement, as it is reflected in the Balance Sheet.

Attachment 1 shows that Council generated \$23.051 million in revenue and \$23.356 million in expenses to 31 March 2024. This has resulted in an operating deficit of \$0.305 million for the nine months ended 31 March 2024.

Income

Rates and charges account for 63% of the total budgeted income for 2023/24. Rates and charges are recognised when the rates have been raised, not when the income has been received. An amount of \$17.697 million has been recognised as income for the nine months ended 31 March 2024.

User fees account for 5% of the total budgeted income for 2023/24 and \$1.166 million has been received to 31 March 2024. The majority of this relates to transfer station fees, fitness centre income and commercial waste management charges.

Recurrent Operating Grants total \$0.880 million to 31 March 2024, including \$0.150 million from the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission for general purpose grants and \$0.096 million for the local roads grants.

Non-recurrent Operating Grants total \$1.972 million to 31 March 2024. Council has been successful in obtaining several grants that had not been budgeted for, as detailed in the table below. The amounts shown as unearned

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Income will be treated as income in future accounting periods once the performance obligations of the grant have been met.

	Budget 2023/24 \$'000	Income 2023/24 \$'000	Unearned Income \$'000
Non-Recurrent Operating Grants			
New Arrivals Settlement Program	-	44	-
Pilot Coordination Grampians Workforce	-	50	-
Ararat Housing Transition	-	-	300
Digital Twin Victoria	-	402	552
Free Public WiFi Services	-	-	1,196
Rural Roads Support Program	-	-	56
Supported Playgroups	63	49	-
Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP) Support Grant	-	30	-
Council COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test Program	-	60	-
Power our Future!! Tatyoon Recreation Reserve	-	20	-
Tatyoon Oval Upgrade	-	-	225
Natural Disaster Relief – Flood Event October 2022	-	1,080	-
Planning & Data Development	-	93	-
Wage Subsidy Grants	-	59	-
Other Minor Grants (under \$20,000)	6	85	-
	69	1,972	2,329

Non-recurrent Capital Grants total \$0.437 million to 31 March 2024, as detailed in the table below. The amounts shown as unearned income will be treated as income in future accounting periods once the performance obligations of the grant have been met.

	Budget 2023/24 \$'000	Income 2023/24 \$'000	Unearned Income \$'000
Non-Recurrent Capital Grants			
Ararat East Development Zone Trunk Infrastructure Project	-	419	-
Ararat Regional Playgrounds All Abilities Redevelopment	-	18	-
Local Roads & Community Infrastructure-Roads Grant	-	-	922
	0	437	922

Note

It is important to note the following:

- The Grants Operating (recurrent) figure in the Original Budget was \$7.677 million and in the Current Budget is recorded as \$0.191 million, as \$7.426 million was paid to Council in 2022/23 by the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission (VLGGC) for the 2023/24 financial year. Council has still received the expected VLGGC income, to be spent in 2023/24, however it will be reported over two financial years. Council also received \$0.060 million funding in advance for the Municipal Emergency Response Plan which has also been adjusted in the current budget.

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2. Unearned revenue received in prior years has been adjusted between the Original Budget and Current Budget with an additional \$2.593 million for Grants Operating (non-recurrent), \$0.056 million for Grants Capital (recurrent) and \$0.419 million for Grants Capital (non-recurrent) included in the Current Budget on the assumption that each of the grant projects will be completed during the 2023/24 financial year.

3. These changes in the budget, plus the note reported under expenses, create a change in the reported surplus position from a projected surplus of \$1.296 million to a deficit of \$6.812 million for 2023/24. The year-end variance is a surplus of \$0.177 million when the actual year to date expenses are compared to the year to date budget.

Expenses

Employee Costs account for approximately 41% of the total budgeted expenditure for 2023/24. For the nine months ended 31 March 2024 Council has incurred \$8.497 million in employee costs.

Materials and Services account for approximately 29% of the total budgeted expenditure for 2023/24. For the nine months ended 31 March 2024, Council has incurred \$7.430 million in materials and services costs. There are a number of projects, including those carried forward from 2022/23 that are expected to be completed before the end of the financial year.

Note

It is important to note the following:

There has been an increase in expenditure on materials and services from \$8.035 million in the Original Budget to \$11.555 million in the Current Budget for 2023/24. This has resulted from a carry forward amount of \$3.520 million from the 2022/23 financial year surplus and unspent grant funds which will be used for additional activity in 2023/24. Additionally, there has been an increase of \$0.170 million in employee costs from \$11.134 million in the Original Budget to \$11.304 million in the Current Budget with some grant-funded projects requiring additional staffing to meet the requirements of the grant.

Balance Sheet (Attachment 2)

The Balance Sheet is one of the main financial statements and reports Council's assets, liabilities and equity at a given date, in this case 31 March 2024. Comparative figures have been provided as at 30 June 2023.

Council's current assets have decreased by \$5.337 million from \$24.057 million as at 30 June 2023 to \$18.720 million as at 31 March 2024. Cash and cash equivalents have decreased by \$2.067 million from \$11.457 million to \$9.390 million, with another \$3.000 million held in a term deposit now classified as a financial asset. Trade and other receivables have increased by \$1.695 million from \$4.509 million as at 30 June 2023 to \$6.204 million as at 31 March 2024.

Total liabilities have decreased from \$8.596 million in 2022/23 to \$8.502 million in 2023/24. Trade and other payables have decreased by \$1.002 million and trust funds and deposits have increased by \$0.200 million. Unearned income/revenue increased by \$0.240 million, and includes grants received by Council, where in accordance with accounting standards they are held as a liability until grant-related performance obligations have been met.

Statement of Cash Flows (Attachment 3)

The Statement of Cash Flows shows how changes in the Statement of Financial Position and Income Statement affect Cash and Cash Equivalents, and breaks down the analysis to operating activities, investing activities and financing activities.

The Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the financial year of \$11.457 million have decreased by \$2.065 million to \$9.392 million as at 31 March 2024. Council has a term deposit of \$3.000 million with a term greater than three months, which is currently classified as a financial asset, and is no longer included in cash and cash equivalents.

Net cash of \$4.415 million was provided by operating activities, \$5.460 million was used in investing activities, and \$1.020 million was used in financing activities.

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Investing activities includes payments for property, plant and equipment, and infrastructure.

Financial Performance Indicators (Attachment 4)

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework requires Councils to report various performance indicators at the end of each financial year.

A full list of financial performance indicators is included in Attachment 4.

Indicator	30/6/2023	30/9/2023	30/12/2023	31/3/2024
Working capital Measure - Current assets compared to current liabilities. Expected values in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework 100% to 400% Indicator of the broad objective that sufficient working capital is available to pay bills as and when they fall due. High or increasing level of working capital suggests an improvement in liquidity	322%	411%	334%	280%
Loans and borrowings Measure - Loans and borrowings compared to rates. Expected values in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework – 0% to 70% Indicator of the broad objective that the level of interest-bearing loans and borrowings should be appropriate to the size and nature of a council's activities. Low or decreasing level of loans and borrowings suggests an improvement in the capacity to meet long term obligations	7.07%	6.85%	6.41%	1.92%
Indebtedness Measure - Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue Expected values in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework – 2% to 70% Indicator of the broad objective that the level of long-term liabilities should be appropriate to the size and nature of a Council's activities. Low or decreasing level of long-term liabilities suggests an improvement in the capacity to meet long term obligations	5.47%	6.19%	9.58%	9.21%
Rates concentration Measure - Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue Expected values in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework – 30% to 80% Indicator of the broad objective that revenue should be generated from a range of sources. High or increasing range of revenue sources suggests an improvement in stability	51.46%	92.70%	85.22%	78.27%
Expenditure level Measure - Expenses per property assessment Expected values in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework \$2,000 to \$10,000 Indicator of the broad objective that resources should be used efficiently in the delivery of services. Low or decreasing level of	\$4,616	\$1,191	\$2,348	\$3,157

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expenditure suggests an improvement in organisational efficiency				
Indicator - Revenue level	\$2,006	\$2,005	\$2,003	\$1,995
Measure - Average residential rate per residential property assessment				
Expected values in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework - \$700 to \$2,000 Indicator of the broad objective that resources should be used efficiently in the delivery of services. Low or decreasing level of rates suggests an improvement in organisational efficiency				
Indicator - Percentage of total rates collected	90.2%	14.9%	31.5%	77.4%
The internal audit conducted in 2019 on Rates Revenue and Rate Debtor Management found no routine or regular reporting of large and long outstanding rates debtors. The outstanding Rates Debtors is reported in the Annual Financial report. As at 31 March 2024 the outstanding Rates Debtors totalled \$4.917 million compared to \$1.955 million as at 30 June 2023, a decrease of \$6.539 million. In percentage terms 77.4% of the rates raised have been collected at 31 March 2024 compared to 78.5% up to 31 March 2023. Outstanding rates are currently charged 10% interest. Council issues approximately 7,900 rate notices. In 2023/24 there are 2,640 assessments paying by instalments compared with 2,843 assessments in 2022/23.				
Indicator - Asset Renewal & Upgrade	90.93%	103.49%	130.69%	125.79%
Measure - Asset renewal & Upgrade compared to depreciation				
Expected range in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework - 40% to 130% Assessment of whether council assets are being renewed or upgraded as planned. It compares the rate of spending on existing assets through renewing, restoring, replacing or upgrading existing assets with depreciation. Ratios higher than 1.0 indicate there is a lesser risk of insufficient spending on Council's asset base.				

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework provides "Expected ranges" for each indicator. The framework has been developed to consider results at the end of the financial year so some results during the year are outside the expected range due to the timing of receipts and payments.

Explanations are provided in Attachment 4 for those indicators that are outside the "expected ranges".

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

- 6 Strong and Effective Governance**
We will work hard to build models of governance that place delivering public value at the centre through effective financial management; well measured risk management; and implementation of effective community engagement practices
- 6.1** Deliver responsible budget outcomes, linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation, and rating fairness

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Budget Implications

Council's financial performance is in line with expectations. Council's cash position was expected to reduce in the first half of the year to pay for the outstanding accounts at year end and the capital works program, with the cash position increasing in the third quarter with many ratepayers electing to pay their rates in full due 15 February 2024 and the third instalment due 28 February 2024.

Policy/Relevant Law

Section 97 – Quarterly Budget Report of the Local Government Act 2020 states:

- 1 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.
- 2 A quarterly budget report must include—
 - (a) a comparison of the actual and budgeted results to date; and
 - (b) an explanation of any material variations; and
 - (c) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.
- 3 In addition, the second quarterly report of a financial year must include a statement by the Chief Executive Officer as to whether a revised budget is, or may be, required.

Sustainability Implications

This report does not raise any sustainability implications.

Risk Assessment

Council is required to establish and maintain a budgeting and reporting framework that is consistent with the principles of sound management and this report assists Council in meeting that requirement.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The content of the Quarterly report is continually reviewed to ensure meaningful data is provided.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

Council's financial performance reports are published quarterly.

RECOMMENDATION

That the: Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and Financial Performance Indicators for the period ended 31 March 2024 be noted

OUTCOME

That the: Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and Financial Performance Indicators for the period ended 31 March 2024 were noted

ATTACHMENTS

Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and Financial Performance Indicators are provided as Attachment 3.1

Action: To have the balance sheet from the previous year for the same time frame submitted as a comparison and to investigate providing further breakdown of the percentage of rates collected based on payment plan (ie. Pay in full or by instalment).

3.2 REVIEW OF SHELL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SHELL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

Aligns with Audit and Risk Committee Charter 5.3 Review the annual financial report and annual performance statement.

BACKGROUND

Council prepares shell financial statements and a shell performance statement for the external auditor prior to 30 June 2024. Council uses the model templates provided by Local Government Victoria (LGV) in February, to prepare shell documents updated to reflect the individual requirements relevant to Council, with the 2022-2023 figures included.

This allows the auditor to review the draft documents and provide early feedback of items requiring further consideration, such as:

- variances in the previous year comparative figures for the financial year ended 30 June 2023
- the format and presentation of the statements
- the draft wording, particularly for the notes to the financial statements
- any new disclosures or additional notes that may be required
- additional documentation or evidence that may be required during the audit

DISCUSSION

The Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 1 April 2024 requested that a copy of the shell reports be provided for the committee to review.

Council is finalising the review of the shell Financial Statements and shell Performance Statement and the documents will be distributed to Audit & Risk Committee members prior to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the shell Financial Statements and Performance Statement for the financial year ending 30 June 2024 be noted.

OUTCOME

That the shell Financial Statements and Performance Statement for the financial year ending 30 June 2024 be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment will be forward prior to the meeting

Action: Feedback to be provided so committee has time to read.

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SECTION 4 – INTERNAL CONTROLS

4.1 COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW UPDATE

Aligns with Audit and Risk Committee Charter 5.7 : Review the adequacy and effectiveness of key policies, systems and controls for providing a sound internal control environment.

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

BACKGROUND

Council policies are reviewed on an ongoing and procedure review process.

This report outlines the several Administrative and Council policies which are currently being reviewed.

DISCUSSION

Council has committed to reviewing policies through a review process to ensure that all Council policies meet legislative requirements and established internal processes.

All Council policies are accessible to Councillors, Audit and Risk Committee and staff through Microsoft Teams, hard copies in tearooms at Depot and Municipal Offices and on Council website.

The table below provides a list of the recently reviewed policies with track changes, noting the main changes made to the documents. Copies of the policies are provided as an attachment to this report.

Administrative / Council	Policy Title	Last Reviewed and Adopted	Current Review Date ready for Adoption	Next Review
Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International and Interstate Travel Policy 	17 March 2020	25 June 2024	March 2028
Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Transparency Policy 	21 July 2020	25 June 2024	July 2028
Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Expenses and support 	21 July 2020	25 June 2024	July 2026

The changes were predominantly administrative with only some additions to the council Expenses and support policy which includes some principles such as proper conduct, accountability and transparency.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council Policy Review Update be noted.

OUTCOME

That the Council Policy Review Update were noted.

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ATTACHMENTS

Draft International and Interstate Travel, public Transparency Policy and Council Expense and support provided as Attachment 4.1

Action: To table a complete list of policies that ARC have outlined in previous meetings to each meeting going forward.

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SECTION 5- RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER REVIEW AND RISK REGISTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Aligns with Audit and Risk Committee Charter 5.14: Review Council’s risk profile and the changes occurring in the profile from meeting to meeting

BACKGROUND

Council’s Strategic Risk Register is reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer on a regular basis and is presented to the Audit and Risk Committee.

DISCUSSION

The Chief Executive Officer ensures that strategic risks are identified and assessed, treatment options are prioritized and implemented, actions are assigned, and performance is monitored and reviewed.

A review plan of the Strategic Risk Register was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee on the 2 April 2024. The suggested program has been revised as suggested at the previous ARC to focus on the higher risk areas first. Since then, the following strategic risks have been reviewed and updated: Business Continuity, IT Infrastructure and Financial Sustainability.

The below table outlines the review periods for each of the strategic risks:

February 2024	Fraud and Corruption; Cyber Attack	July 2024	Legislative Compliance
March 2024	Asset Management	August 2024	Business Continuity
April 2024	Business Continuity	September 2024	Procurement; and Emergency Management
May 2024	Financial Sustainability	October 2024	Waste Management; and Occupational Health and Safety
June 2024	IT Infrastructure	November 2024	Strategic Leadership and Advocacy
July 2024	Governance	December 2024	Climate Change; and Records Management

The Risk Program is now operational. The Governance and Risk Lead will work with Service owners to review the operational risks and set ongoing review dates. The below table outlines the timeframe for each of these reviews to take place over the next 6 months and training for key service providers in using the system.

Month	Service Area
June	Local Laws, Municipal Building Services, Planning, Environmental Health, Environmental Management and Sustainability
July	Risk Management, Governance, Emergency Management, Insurance Management
August	Design and Project Management, Information Technology, Asset Management, Records Management, Graphic Information Systems,
September	Maternal & Child Health, Occupational Health and Safety, Library Service, Events, Human Resource, Customer Services

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October	Art Gallery / TAMA, Sport and recreation, Tourism, Town Hall, Media and Communications, Economic Development
November	Depot, Waste management, Contracts and Procurement, Finance, Property Rates and Valuation,

RECOMMENDATION

That the Strategic Risk Review and Update Report be noted.

OUTCOME

That the Strategic Risk Review and Update Report were noted.

ATTACHMENTS

The Strategic Risk Register is provided as Attachment 5.1

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5.2 REVIEW ANNUALLY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COUNCIL'S RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Aligns with Audit and Risk Committee Charter 5.12: Review annually the effectiveness of Council's risk management framework

BACKGROUND

This report is presented as part of the Audit and Risk Committee's Annual Work Plan – June 2024. The purpose of this report is to provide the Audit and Risk Committee with an update on Council's Risk Management Framework.

DISCUSSION

The Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Framework were adopted at the 30 April 2024 Council meeting after they were presented to the April Audit and Risk Committee meeting. Both documents are scheduled to be revised in December 2025.

Below is an update on what officers have been working on in relation to risk.

- 2 staff members attended the MAV Best Practice forum and Regional workshop including risk management 13th March 2024
- Risk Management System completed including the Power BI reporting system completed and plan to implement conduct reviews on all risks across the organization by end of November 2024 and will incorporate and biannual review of risks associated in the organization as in line with the RMF.

Forward plans to be implement:

- Tiered training of the Councils Risk Management Framework, pitched at different levels: Employees, Team Leaders and Leads. This will involve training videos, compliance training and face to face training. This will need to be incorporated into a yearly program
- Scheduling timely reviews Key Performance Indicators that are outlined in the RMF.
- Continue to engage in external forums in relation to Risk Management and encourage Leaders to attend.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Strategic Risk Review and Update Report be noted.

OUTCOME

That the Strategic Risk Review and Update Report were noted.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments to this report.



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SECTION 6- FRAUD PREVENTION

NIL

SECTION 7- INTERNAL AUDIT

7.1 INTERNAL AUDIT- AUDIT REVIEW OUTCOMES UPDATE

Aligns with Audit and Risk Committee Charter 5.27 Monitor actions by management or internal audit findings and recommendations

BACKGROUND

Council appointed AFS & Associates from Bendigo as Council's Internal Auditors. Council has reviewed the recommendations made by the Internal Auditor in relation to the internal audit reviews and these are presented as an attachment to this report.

DISCUSSION

An Audit Review Outcomes Action Plan was developed to capture the recommendations highlighted in the various internal audits conducted by AFS.

The Audit Review Outcome Action Plan lists the recommendations and subsequent outcomes and projected completion dates.

There is four items that are 100% completed. Furthermore, now that the RMS is completed and is being used, over the next few months, further items will be able to be completed. Additionally, a new schedule is being put in place to monitor the ongoing completion of the internal audit outcomes in a timely manner.

RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Review Outcomes Update report be noted.

OUTCOME

The Audit Review Outcomes Update report was noted.

ATTACHMENTS

The Audit Review Outcomes Update report is included as Attachment 7.1 (a) and 71(b)

Action: ARC have requested that the name of the spreadsheet be altered to reflect spreadsheet more closely.

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7.2 REVIEW AND APPROVED THE STRATEGIC INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN, THE ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

Aligns with Audit and Risk Committee Charter 5.23 Review progress on delivery of annual internal audit plan and 5.24 Review and approve proposed scopes for each review in the annual internal audit plan

BACKGROUND

AFS & Associates (AFS) are Council's Internal Auditors. This report outlines the audit program that AFS has undertaken over the past three years.

DISCUSSION

AFS & Associates have provided the Internal Audit Program Review document which outlines the forward rolling four-year program for Council.

The purpose of this review is to :

- Confirm the priority areas for 2024 – 2025
- Review the proposed scopes for
 - Depot costing review
 - Fraud and Corruption Framework

RECOMMENDATION

The Strategic Internal Audit Program Status Update report be noted.

OUTCOME

The Strategic Internal Audit Program Status Update report was noted.

ATTACHMENTS

The strategic Internal Audit Program Update report is provided as Attachment 7.2 The audit scopes for Depot Costing Review (7.2a) and Fraud and Corruption Framework (7.2b) are attached

7.3 INTERNAL AUDIT – SERVICES PERFORMANCE – MEASURING, REPORTING AND MONITORING

Aligns with Audit and Risk Committee Charter 5.25 Review reports of internal audit reviews, including recommendations for improvement arising from those reviews.

BACKGROUND

AFS & Associates are Council's Internal Auditors and have recently conducted an audit on Ararat Rural City Council Services Performance.

DISCUSSION

The objectives of the review for the Accounts Payable audit were to

- Ensure key internal exist and are applied over account payable
- Identify efficiency opportunities in procurement in the low-value procurement segments.

The audit concluded there were 4 areas of strength and 2 areas of moderate finding and 6 areas rated as minor risks. The audit also identified 4 opportunities to explore.

All recommendations suggested to management have been agreed to or partially agreed to. An update on the progress of the agreed to action items will be provided at the June 2024 Audit & Risk Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Accounts Payable Audit report be noted.

OUTCOME

That the Accounts Payable Audit report was noted.

ATTACHMENTS

The AFS & Associate Audit of the Accounts Payable report is provided as Attachment 7.3

SECTION 8- EXTERNAL AUDIT

8.1 EXTERNAL AUDIT – DRAFT INTERIM MANAGEMENT LETTER FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2024

Aligns with Audit and Risk Committee Charter 5.33 Quarterly review to ensure that managements responses to any external audit findings are acted upon in a timely manner.

BACKGROUND

The Victoria Auditor General appoints a service provider to undertake the annual financial audit. Mr Ryan Schischka of Johnsons MME has been appointed by the Victoria Auditor-General's office to undertake the annual financial audit for the year ending 30 June 2023.

DISCUSSION

Johnsons MME conducted the interim audit in April within the remote working environment. A draft interim management letter has been received. There are four open issues from the current period and prior period, with two issues being resolved during the period.

VAGO has also included in the letter four recommendations that are specific to all council, based on the findings in their report to parliament, *Results of 2022-23 audits – Local Government*.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Draft Interim Management Letter Report for the financial year ending 30 June 2024 be noted.

OUTCOME

That the Draft Interim Management Letter Report for the financial year ending 30 June 2024 was noted.

ATTACHMENTS

The Draft Interim Management Letter is provided as Attachment 8.1.

Action: To work the 4 items from VAGO so they can be removed is a priority including the Business Continuity Plan.

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8.2 RECOMMENDATION 1 IN THE RESULTS OF AUDIT 2022-23: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aligns with Audit and Risk Committee Charter 5.34 Quarterly review Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) reports to assess the impacts on Council.

BACKGROUND

The Victoria Auditor General's Office (VAGO) presented a report to parliament, *Results of 2022-23 audits - Local Government* on 7 March 2024. The report discusses the observations and findings across all 79 councils as a result of their audit of the sector. The report includes a total of six recommendations, however only four of the recommendations are specific to all councils.

Recommendation 1 recommends that all councils:

- Arrange for training or briefing sessions to be held with key internal stakeholders before the 30 June 2024 to enhance their understanding of the financial reporting process and their legislative obligations
- Assess the adequacy of their financial reporting plan given their legislative obligations, namely:
 - Task allocation and timelines
 - The nature and timing of liaison with other business units
 - Quality assurance processes
- Critically assess whether they have the resources and expertise to fulfil their financial reporting obligations throughout the year and, if not, that they consider engaging an external party.

DISCUSSION

Council has used Microsoft Project to build a detailed plan of tasks and timelines required for end of year reporting. The following table provides an overview of the key components of the reporting process with details of key staff assisting the finance team to complete the component. The table also includes an estimate of the total time required and the date that all tasks within each component need to be completed by.

End of Year Reporting Process - Key Components	Key Staff Support	Estimated Time Allocation (Hours)	Required By
Asset Valuations	Asset Manager	7	2-Aug-24
Property, Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment - Depreciation, Additions & Disposals	Asset Manager	10.5	25-Jul-24
Review Payroll & Superannuation	Payroll Officer	12	20-Jul-24
Governance, Risk & Policies	Governance & Risk Lead	3	15-Jul-24
Review Expenses - including Commitments and Contract Register	Contracts & Procurement Lead	20	25-Jul-24
Review Income - Grant Revenue, Property Rating System & Revenue & Other	Rate & Valuations Officer	13.5	25-Jul-24
Other Assets		8	25-Jul-24
Other Liabilities		6	25-Jul-24
Loan & Lease Liabilities		2	10-Jul-24
Equity - consider transfers to & from reserves		4	25-Jul-24
Reporting	Organisational Transformation	29	5-Aug-24
Joint Venture	Contracts & Procurement Lead	3	25-Jul-24
TOTAL ESTIMATED HOURS		118	

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A training session has been scheduled for 17 June 2024 with the key staff involved with the end of year financial reporting process. The session will outline how the process will be managed using Microsoft Projects with individual tasks assigned to the relevant staff and a due date for completion. The session will also include details of the legislative obligations related to the reporting process.

Council has identified that audit is scheduled to commence on Monday 5 August, however the ABS Producer Price Indexes required for the indexation of infrastructure assets will not be released until Friday 2 August. Council will endeavour to process the indexation entries as a priority to ensure that a final trial balance is available prior to 5 August. However, this means that updated draft reports such as the financial statements and performance statement may not be available prior to the commencement of the audit, but it is expected that the reports would be available by 7 August 2024.

Apart from the minor delay in finalising draft reports, caused by the late release of indexes, a review of the reporting timeline indicates that adequate resources and expertise are available to meet the financial reporting obligations.

RECOMMENDATION

That Recommendation 1 of the Audit 2022-23: Local Government be noted.

OUTCOME

That Recommendation 1 of the Audit 2022-23: Local Government was noted.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments to this report.

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8.3 RECOMMENDATION 4 IN THE RESULTS OF AUDIT 2022-23: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aligns with Audit and Risk Committee Charter 5.34 Quarterly review Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) reports to assess the impacts on Council.

BACKGROUND

The Victoria Auditor General's Office (VAGO) presented a report to parliament, *Results of 2022-23 audits - Local Government* on 7 March 2024. The report discusses the observations and findings across all 79 councils as a result of their audit of the sector. The report includes a total of six recommendations, however only four of the recommendations are specific to all councils.

Recommendation 4 recommends that finance teams:

- Prepare and present a paper to their audit and risk committee prior to 30 June each year that outlines the:
 - Requirements of the council's accounting policy with respect to property, infrastructure assets, plant and equipment
 - Approach to assessing the fair value of each class of property, infrastructure assets, plant and equipment, including the engagement of an expert valuer and key milestones.
 - Likely outcomes for the respective reporting cycle (expected movements in fair value and resultant impact on the financial report)

DISCUSSION

The most recent standard full revaluation was completed in 2021/2022 for the following classes - land, buildings, roads, bridges, footpaths and drainage, and the most recent full revaluation for artworks was completed in 2022/2023.

Land and buildings owned or controlled by Council will be revalued in 2023/2024 by an independent real estate valuer, PW Newman Pty Ltd, with final valuation figures scheduled to be returned to Council in the first week of July 2024.

For Council's infrastructure assets (roads, bridges, footpaths and drainage), indexation will be applied based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Producer Price Index.

It would be expected under current economic conditions we will see upward movements in the fair value of Council's assets that align with market and economy trends.

The table included as an attachment outlines Council's accounting policy, approach to valuations for 30 June 2024 and the likely outcomes for each asset class.

RECOMMENDATION

That Recommendation 4 of the Audit 2022-23: Local Government be noted.

OUTCOME

That Recommendation 4 of the Audit 2022-23: Local Government was noted.

ATTACHMENTS

The accounting policy and fair value assessments table is provided as Attachment 8.3.

Action: ARC have requested additional detail be provided to comply with VAGO's recommendation

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8.4 RECOMMENDATION 5 IN THE RESULTS OF AUDIT 2022-23: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aligns with Audit and Risk Committee Charter 5.34 Quarterly review Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) reports to assess the impacts on Council.

BACKGROUND

The Victoria Auditor General's Office (VAGO) presented a report to parliament, *Results of 2022-23 audits - Local Government* on 7 March 2024. The report discusses the observations and findings across all 79 councils as a result of their audit of the sector. The report includes a total of six recommendations, however only four of the recommendations are specific to all councils.

Recommendation 5 recommends that the audit and risk committees:

- prior to balance date, review the financial team's accounting paper
- after balance date and at the time of reviewing the draft financial report
 - determine whether there have been any changes to circumstances that would indicate that key assumptions behind the financial team's initial advice and key judgements no longer hold true
 - assess the reasonableness of the valuation and fair value assessment outcomes
- update their annual work plan to include the above tasks.

DISCUSSION

Council's accounting policy and fair value assessment plans are included in item 8.3, and shell financial statements and the shell performance statement are included in item 3.2, for review by the committee prior to 30 June 2024.

Prior to the September Audit & Risk Committee meeting, the draft financial report will be provided for review by the committee to assess the key assumptions, judgements and valuation outcomes.

The annual work plan of the Audit & Risk Committee requires an update to review the documents in June and September each year.

RECOMMENDATION

That the annual work plan of the Audit & Risk Committee be updated:

- *for the June meeting to include - Review the finance team's accounting paper*
- *for the September meeting to include - Review the draft financial report to determine whether there have been any changes to circumstances that would indicate that key assumptions behind the finance team's initial advice and key judgements no longer hold true, and to assess the reasonableness of the valuation and fair value assessment outcomes.*

OUTCOME

That the annual work plan of the Audit & Risk Committee be updated:

- *for the June meeting to include - Review the finance team's accounting paper*
- *for the September meeting to include - Review the draft financial report to determine whether there have been any changes to circumstances that would indicate that key assumptions behind the finance team's initial advice and key judgements no longer hold true, and to assess the reasonableness of the valuation and fair value assessment outcomes.*

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments to this report.

8.5 RECOMMENDATION 6 IN THE RESULTS OF AUDIT 2022-23: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aligns with Audit and Risk Committee Charter 5.34 Quarterly review Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) reports to assess the impacts on Council.

BACKGROUND

The Victoria Auditor General's Office (VAGO) presented a report to parliament, *Results of 2022-23 audits - Local Government* on 7 March 2024. The report discusses the observations and findings across all 79 councils as a result of their audit of the sector. The report includes a total of six recommendations, however only four of the recommendations are specific to councils.

Recommendation 6 recommends that councils:

- prioritise and promptly address the internal control and financial reporting issues we raise with them and that their audit and risk committee monitor this
- review the actions and timelines established to resolve internal control weaknesses, with a focus on older and higher risk findings.
- For longer-term action plans, ensure adequate compensating safeguards are in place.

DISCUSSION

Council continues to prioritise addressing issues raised in management letters. It is anticipated that all open recommendations will be resolved by 30 September 2024.

Management comments for the 4 open audit findings and the 4 VAGO recommendations are included in the draft interim management letter presented in item 8.1.

RECOMMENDATION

That Recommendation 6 of the Audit 2022-23: Local Government be noted.

OUTCOME

That Recommendation 6 of the Audit 2022-23: Local Government was noted.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments to this report.

8.6 EXTERNAL AUDIT - AUDIT STRATEGY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2024

Aligns with Audit and Risk Committee Charter 5.31 Annually review and approve the external audit scope and plan proposed by the external auditor.

BACKGROUND

The Victoria Auditor General appoints a service provider to undertake the annual financial audit. Mr Ryan Schischka of Johnsons MME has been appointed by the Victoria Auditor-General's office to undertake the annual financial audit for the year ending 30 June 2024.

DISCUSSION

A draft audit strategy was provided to the April Audit & Risk Committee meeting, and it was noted that the completed audit strategy document be distributed to the committee members. It is our understanding that VAGO are currently still finalising the strategy as they are awaiting clarification about the audit requirements for Council's joint venture, Ararat Housing Pty Ltd.

Council will distribute the completed audit strategy when received.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit Strategy for the Financial Year Ending 30 June 2024 update be noted.

OUTCOME

That the Audit Strategy for the Financial Year Ending 30 June 2024 update was noted.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments to this report.

SECTION 9- COMPLIANCE

9.1 JLT Public Sector – Top Cyber-Security Controls Review 2023: Ararat Rural City Council

Aligns with Audit and Risk Committee Charter 5.40 Receive reports from management on the findings of any examination by regulatory or integrity agencies.

BACKGROUND

Cyber risk is a highly dynamic environment and has been regularly identified by Local Government CEO's in the annual JLT Public Sector Risk Survey report as a top two risk. JLT Public Sector has created a laser-focused analysis of 12 Key Controls to assist in setting priorities within the Council.

DISCUSSION

There are 12 key controls assessed in which four of them scored great than 80% meaning the adequate controls are in place across all or most categories of the specified area. While some controls may require attention or development, implementation has been largely achieve to an acceptable level.

Three of the key controls scored between 50-80% referring that, adequate controls are in place across some categories of the specified area. Numerous controls required further attention and priority to achieve an acceptable level of implementation.

The other five key controls rated below 50% suggest that there are inadequate controls are in place across all or most categories of the specified area. Significant attention and development are required to achieve acceptable levels of implementation.

Of the 12 key components, 5 were an improvement on last year and by addressing the internal review outcomes, this will improve the overall control scores and cyber safety within Council.

	Key Controls	Self Assessment Questions	2023-2024	2022-2023
5	Email filtering and web security	Protection capabilities	79%	86%
6	Patch management and vulnerability	Protection capabilities	29%	38%
9	Hardening techniques, including Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) mitigation	Secure Configuration	60%	100%
10	Logging and monitoring / network protections	Governance Log Monitoring	40%	70%

Discussions have been held in relation to the above 4 items to understand the decrease in rating. The main points from these discussions in relation to changes are:

- At times there are several items listed in a question and limited choice as to "Yes" or "No" and doesn't give an opportunity for partial or comments.
- How the question is interrupted each year
- Variation of people completing each year.
- In reviewing the questions, some that were answered "No" in hindsight should have been answers "Yes"

To prevent this from occurring in future, the plan is to record the answers in an excel sheet with commentary regarding how the question was interpreted so that there is consistency in the review each year.

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RECOMMENDATION

ILT Public Sector – Top Cyber-Security Controls Review 2023: Ararat Rural City Council and actions for future reporting be noted

OUTCOME

ILT Public Sector – Top Cyber-Security Controls Review 2023: Ararat Rural City Council and actions for future reporting was noted

ATTACHMENTS

The ILT Top Cyber-Security Controls Review 2023 is provided as Attachment 9.1



SECTION 10- GENERAL BUSINESS

10.1 INDUSTRY UPDATE- RECENT REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

BACKGROUND

AFS & Associates (AFS) are Council's Internal Auditors. AFS have provided an Industry Update report to be included in the agenda. The Industry Update report lists recent reports and publications that may be of interest to Ararat Rural City Council.

DISCUSSION

The Industry Update report lists 31 recent articles and reports, covering a range of different topics from sources such as: IBAC, IIA, and VAGO etc.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Industry Update report be noted.

OUTCOME

That the Industry Update report was noted.

ATTACHMENTS

The Industry Update report is provided as Attachment 10.1.

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SECTION 11 – FUTURE MEETINGS

11.1 FUTURE MEETING DATES

Future meetings of the Audit and Risk Committee are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday 3 September 2024 1pm
- Tuesday 3 December 2024 1pm
- Tuesday 4 March 2024 1pm

Action: Robert Tommasini term runs out at the end of the next ARC meeting.

SECTION 12- NEXT MEETING/CHARTER ITEMS

June 2024		
Ref. from Charter		Ref. in Agenda
5.12	Review annually the effectiveness of Council's risk management framework	Item 5.2
5.13	Review Council's risk appetite statement	Presented at April 2024
5.14	Review Council's risk profile and the changes occurring in the profile	Item 5.1
5.15	Review Council's treatment plans for significant risks	Item 5.1
5.16	Review the insurance program annually prior to renewal	September 2024
5.23	Quarterly report to review progress on delivery of annual internal audit plan	Item 7.2
5.24	Quarterly review and approve proposed scopes in the annual internal audit plan	Item 7.2
5.25	Review reports on internal audit reviews, including recommendations for improvement arising from those reviews	Item 7.3
5.26	Meet with the leader of the internal audit function at least annually in the absence of management	
5.27	Monitor action by management on internal audit findings and recommendations	Item 7.1
5.28	Annually review the effectiveness of the internal audit function	
5.33	Quarterly review to ensure that managements responses to any external audit findings are acted upon in a timely manner	Item 8.1
5.34	Quarterly review Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) reports to assess the impacts on Council	Item 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5

September 2024	
Ref. from Charter	
5.6	Review the appropriateness of the format and content of periodic management financial reports and performance statements
5.7	Review the adequacy and effectiveness of key policies, systems and controls for providing a sound internal control environment*
5.8	Determine whether systems and controls are reviewed regularly and updated where required*
5.9	Annual review of significant changes to key systems and consider impact of changes on Council's risk profile
5.14	Review Council's risk profile and the changes occurring in the profile
5.23	Quarterly report to review progress on delivery of annual internal audit plan
5.24	Quarterly review and approve proposed scopes in the annual internal audit plan
5.25	Review reports on internal audit reviews, including recommendations for improvement arising from those reviews
5.27	Monitor action by management on internal audit findings and recommendations
5.33	Quarterly review to ensure that managements responses to any external audit findings are acted upon in a timely manner
5.34	Quarterly review Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) reports to assess the impacts on Council
5.35	Consider the findings and recommendations of any relevant performance audits undertaken by VAGO and monitor Council's responses to them
7	Annual performance evaluation

SECTION 6 – INFORMAL MEETINGS

6.1 COUNCIL BRIEFINGS

AUTHOR'S TITLE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 13039074

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Governance Rules state that if there is a meeting of Councillors that:

1. is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of *Council* or briefing Councillors;
2. is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
3. is not a *Council meeting*, *Delegated Committee* meeting or *Community Asset Committee* meeting, the *Chief Executive Officer* must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting are:
 - a. tabled at the next convenient *Council meeting*; and
 - b. recorded in the minutes of that *Council meeting*.

DISCUSSION

As a requirement of the Governance Rules, a summary of matters discussed at the Council Briefings held since the last Council Meeting are presented to Council and will be recorded in the minutes.

INFORMAL MEETINGS
Council Briefing held on 18 June 2024

Issues discussed at the briefing:

- International and Interstate Travel Policy
- Public Transparency Policy
- Council Expense and Support Policy
- Landfill remediation update
- Terrapave and OTTA seal trials
- Industrial Park advocacy
- Innovation and Economic Development Strategy
- Environment Strategy 2024-2034
- Norfolk Pine feedback – Engage Ararat
- Budget feedback – Engage Ararat
- Community Engagement Strategy Review
- Road funding
- Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Bill 2024
- State and Federal government reviews of local government sustainability
- Council Budget 2024/2025 adoption
- Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey 2024 Results

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The report supports the strategic objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

- 6.3 Continuously improve Council's community engagement process and practices in line with deliberative engagement practices, while acknowledging the need for a range of different techniques to ensure effective engagement.

Financial

There are no financial impacts for the receiving of Informal Meetings of Councillors.

Policy/Relevant Law

Reporting of Informal Meetings is in line with the requirements of the Governance Rules.

Risk Assessment

Following the requirements of the Governance Rules will ensure that Council meets its legislative requirements.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

A summary of matters discussed at the Council Briefings are presented for community information.

RECOMMENDATION

That

1. *the Informal Meetings of Councillors Report be received.*

MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG

SECONDED CR BURRIDGE

That

1. **the Informal Meetings of Councillors Report be received.**

CARRIED 5011/24

ATTACHMENTS

The Summary of Council Briefings are provided as Attachment 6.1.

Councillor Briefing



Date: Tuesday 18 June 2024
Commencement: 5.00 pm
Location: Council Chamber, Shire Offices

Present Councillors:

- Cr Jo Armstrong
- Cr Rob Armstrong
- Cr Gwenda Allgood
- Cr Peter Beales
- Cr Henry Burrige
- Cr Bob Sanders
- Cr Bill Waterston

Officers: CEO, Dr Tim Harrison

Disclosure of Conflict of Interests

Disclosure of Interests are to be made immediately prior to any relevant item being discussed (*Local Government Act 2020 - Section 131 and Chapter 5, Section 6 of the Governance Rules*).

Matters Considered:

1	Mayor's roundup
2	International and Interstate Travel Policy
3	Public Transparency Policy
4	Council Expense and Support Policy
5	Landfill remediation update
6	Terrapave and OTTA seal trials
7	Industrial park advocacy
8	Innovation and Economic Development Strategy
9	Environment Strategy 2024-2034
10	Norfolk Pine feedback – Engage Ararat
11	Budget feedback – Engage Ararat
12	Community Engagement Strategy review
13	Road funding
14	Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Bill 2024
15	State and Federal government reviews of local government sustainability
16	Council Budget 2024/2025 adoption
17	Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey 2024 results

Dr Tim Harrison

SECTION 7 – NOTICES OF MOTION

A notice of motion must be in writing signed by a Councillor and be lodged with or sent to the *Chief Executive Officer* no later than 12.00pm (noon) and at least six (6) days prior to the Council Meeting to allow sufficient time for the *Chief Executive Officer* to include the *notice of motion* in agenda papers for a *Council meeting*.

There were no Notice of Motion items received.

SECTION 8 – URGENT BUSINESS

Items cannot be admitted as urgent business other than by resolution of *Council* and only then if it:

- 1 relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the *agenda*; and
- 2 cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next *Council meeting*.

There were no Urgent Business items received.

SECTION 9 – CLOSE SESSION (CONFIDENTIAL)

In accordance with section 66(2)(a), 3(1) *Confidential Information* (a) of the Local Government Act 2020, the following agenda items are listed for consideration in the confidential section:

- Item 9.1 – Ararat Renewable Energy Park

6:45PM CLOSURE OF COUNCIL MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

The Open Council Meeting will now be closed, but members of the public are welcome to rejoin the Council Meeting following the recommencement of the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to members of the public pursuant to section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider confidential reports.

**MOVED CR R ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR BURRIDGE**

That the meeting be closed to members of the public pursuant to section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider confidential reports.

CARRIED 5012/24

6:56PM OPEN COUNCIL MEETING RECOMMENCEMENT

RECOMMENDATION

That the Open Council Meeting recommence.

**MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR BURRIDGE**

That the Open Council Meeting recommence.

CARRIED 5014/24

Gallery invited to return to Council Chamber.

LIFTING OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTIONS

RECOMMENDATION

That the:

1. *Decision in relation to Confidential Agenda Item 9.1 be lifted on adoption of the motion; and*
2. *The report of Confidential Agenda Item 9.1 not be lifted on adoption of the motion*

**MOVED CR WATERSTON
SECONDED CR J ARMSTRONG**

That the:

1. Decision in relation to Confidential Agenda Item 9.1 be lifted on adoption of the motion; and
2. The report of Confidential Agenda Item 9.1 not be lifted on adoption of the motion

CARRIED 5015/24

9.1 ARARAT RENEWABLE ENERGY PARK

MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG

SECONDED CR HENRY BURRIDEG

That:

- 1 The Ararat Renewable Energy Park – The Missing Piece report be received; and
- 2 Ararat Rural City Council proceed to lobby for the development of the Renewable Energy Park as identified in the Ararat Renewable Energy Park – The Missing Piece report
- 3 The confidentiality of this decision will be lifted on adoption of the motion; and
- 4 The confidentiality of the report will not be lifted on adoption of the motion

CARRIED 5013/24

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT PAGES 8787 - 9177 INCLUDING PAGES 682 - 710 OF THE CLOSED SESSION ARE CONFIRMED AND ARE TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

MAYOR – CR BOB SANDERS

Meeting closed at 6:56pm