



Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday 15 October 2024 at 6:00 PM
Council Chambers (and by video conferencing)
East Gippsland Shire Council Corporate Centre
273 Main Street, Bairnsdale 3875



Acknowledgement of Country

East Gippsland Shire Council acknowledges the Gunaikurnai, Monero and the Bidjil people as the Traditional Custodians of this land that encompasses East Gippsland Shire, and their enduring relationship with country. The Traditional Custodians have cared and nurtured East Gippsland for tens of thousands of years.

Council value their living culture and practices and their right to self-determination. Council pays respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in East Gippsland, their Elders, past, present, and future.

Council information

East Gippsland Shire Council live streams, records and publishes its meetings via webcasting (youtube.com/c/EastGippsTV) to enhance the accessibility of its meetings to the broader East Gippsland community.

These recordings are also archived and available for viewing by the public or used for publicity or information purposes. At the appropriate times during the meeting, any members of the gallery who are addressing the council will have their image, comments or submissions recorded.

No other person has the right to record Council meetings unless approval has been granted by the Chair.

In line with the *Local Government Act 2020*, Councillors are able to attend Council meetings electronically or in person and the meetings will be open to the public via livestreaming.

Members of the public are invited to view the Council Meeting livestreamed by following the link on Council's website or Facebook page.

Councillors

Cr Tom Crook (Mayor)
Cr Jane Greacen OAM (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Arthur Allen
Cr Sonia Buckley
Cr Mark Reeves
Cr Trevor Stow
Cr Mendy Urie
Cr Kirsten Van Diggele
Cr John White

Executive Leadership Team

Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer
Stuart McConnell General Manager Assets and Environment
Sarah Johnston General Manager Business Excellence
Chris Stephenson General Manager Place and Community

Purpose of Council meetings

- (1) Council holds scheduled meetings and, when required, unscheduled meetings to conduct the business of Council.
- (2) Council is committed to transparency in decision making and, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council and Delegated Committee meetings are open to the public and the community are able to attend.
- (3) Meetings will only be closed to members of the public, in accordance with section 66 of the Act, if:
 - (a) there are clear reasons for particular matters to remain confidential; or
 - (b) a meeting is required to be closed for security reasons; or
 - (c) it is necessary to enable the meeting to proceed in an ordinary manner.
- (4) A meeting closed to the public for the reasons outlined in sub-rule 3(b) or 3(c) will continue to be livestreamed. In the event a livestream is not available:
 - (a) the meeting may be adjourned; or
 - (b) a recording of the proceedings may be available on the Council website.

Governance Rules

A copy of East Gippsland Shire Council's governance rules can be found at
<https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/council/council-policies>

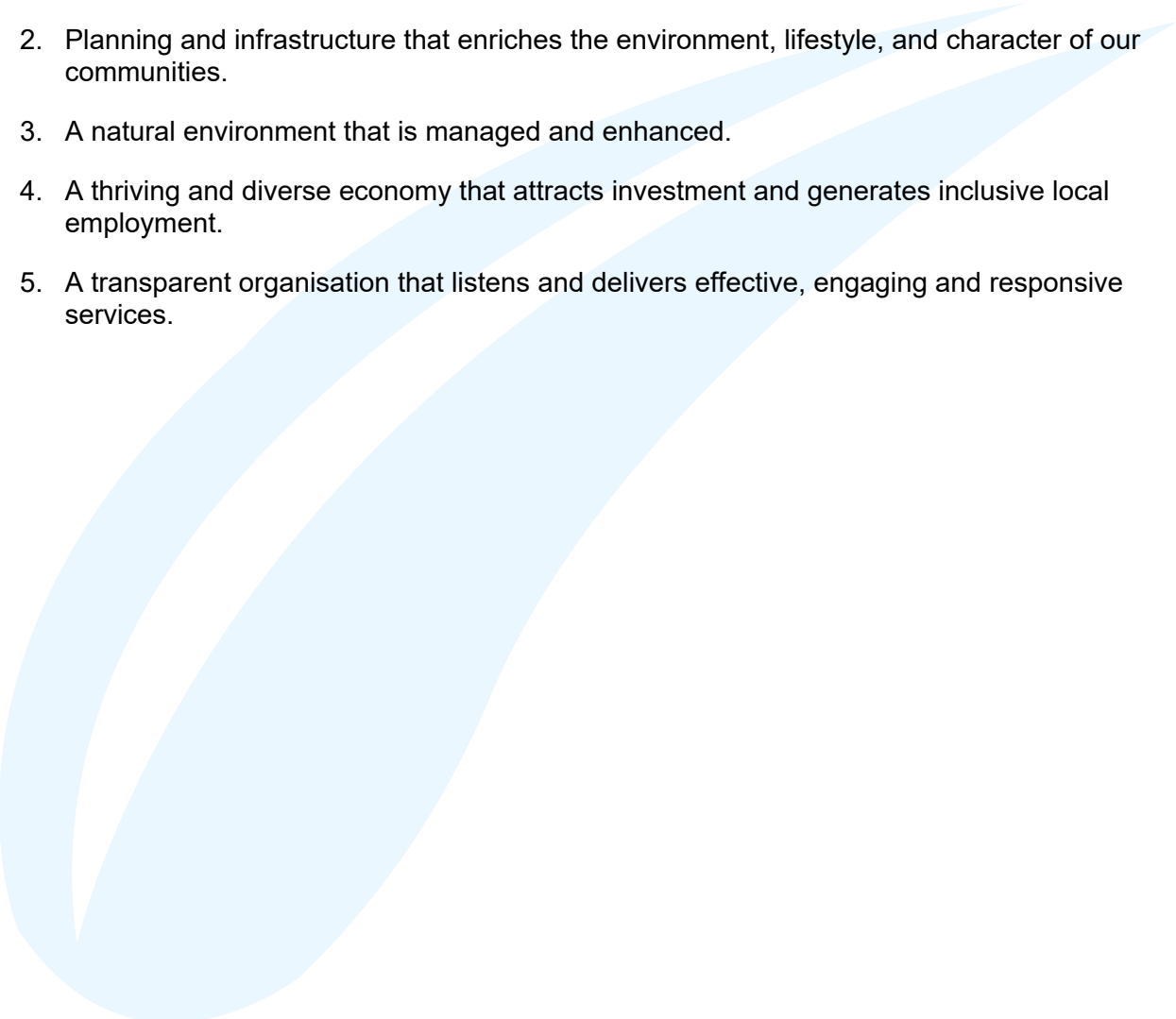
Councillors pledge

As Councillors of East Gippsland Shire Council, we solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that we will consider each item on this agenda in the best interests of the whole municipal community.

Vision

East Gippsland is an inclusive and innovative community that values our natural environment, puts community at the centre of Council decision-making, and creates the conditions in which communities can thrive.

Our Strategic Objectives

1. An inclusive and caring community that respects and celebrates diversity.
 2. Planning and infrastructure that enriches the environment, lifestyle, and character of our communities.
 3. A natural environment that is managed and enhanced.
 4. A thriving and diverse economy that attracts investment and generates inclusive local employment.
 5. A transparent organisation that listens and delivers effective, engaging and responsive services.
- 

Index

1 Procedural	6
1.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians	6
1.2 Apologies	6
1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest	6
1.4 Confirmation of Minutes	6
1.5 Next Meeting	6
1.6 Requests for Leave of Absence	6
1.7 Items for Noting	6
2 Deferred Business	20
3 Officer Reports	20
3.1 Business Excellence	20
3.1.1 Council Meeting Resolution Register	20
3.1.2 Draft Annual Report 2023-24	36
4 Urgent Business	234
5 Confidential Business	234
6 Close of Meeting	234

1 Procedural

1.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

East Gippsland Shire Council acknowledges the Gunaikurnai, Monero and the Bidawal people as the Traditional Custodians of this land that encompasses East Gippsland Shire, and their enduring relationship with country. The Traditional Custodians have cared and nurtured East Gippsland for tens of thousands of years.

Council value their living culture and practices and their right to self-determination. Council pays respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in East Gippsland, their Elders, past, present, and future.

1.2 Apologies

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held Tuesday 10 September 2024, and the Unscheduled Council Meeting held Tuesday 24 September 2024 be confirmed.

1.5 Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 3 December 2024 at the Corporate Centre, 273 Main Street Bairnsdale commencing at 6.00 pm.

1.6 Requests for Leave of Absence

1.7 Items for Noting

Items tabled in this section of the Agenda do not require Council to make a decision. Accordingly, they are not Prohibited Decisions as defined in section 69(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, or Major Decisions as defined by Council's Election Period Policy.

In accordance with section 54(5)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, a copy of the Audit and Risk Committee Annual Performance Report 2023/24 is to be tabled and subsequently recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Attachments

1. Audit and Risk Committee Annual Performance Report 2023/24 [1.7.2.1 - 13 pages]



Audit and Risk Committee

Annual Performance Report

2023/24



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the results of the Audit and Risk Committee's (the Committee) annual performance review for 2023/24. The Audit and Risk Committee Charter (the Charter) requires the Committee to review its performance against the requirements of the Charter each year and to provide the analysis to the Council.

The annual performance review is discussed with Council at a joint briefing session and a Council report is tabled by the Chief Executive Officer providing an overview for consideration at the next Council meeting.

The Committee met in July to discuss the results of the performance review which was conducted using a survey to elicit feedback on the key elements of the Charter and operation of the Committee. Generally, responses indicated the Committee is meeting the expectations of those involved in its operation.

The Committee thought that it is generally working well and the Committee's observations are summarised below:

- In this year's review the discussions were broadly based and focussed on how the Committee could best provide value by working with Councillors and Council Staff. The Committee is operating effectively within the Charter which provides clarity of its role and to be more strategic.
- The Committee felt that the in-camera pre-meetings are an invaluable tool in helping to focus on issues of importance during the formal meeting.
- An opportunity for the Committee skill development and understanding may be to leverage off other Gippsland Councils Committees to increase Councillor and Independent Member financial literacy and increase the skill set.
- The Committee has full support from Officers during discussions and feel comfortable raising questions. It was also noted, the culture of the Committee has grown over the last two years and an element of trust has been formed which demonstrates the current effectiveness of the Committee.

Background

The Charter requires the Committee to conduct annually, an evaluation of the performance of the Audit and Risk Committee against the Charter and provide a report for the Chief Executive Officer to table at the next Council meeting.

The process undertaken for the review is summarised as follows:

1. A questionnaire on the performance of the Committee was completed by individual Committee members, Councillors who do not sit on the Committee and Senior Officers.
2. Discussion on the collated responses by the Committee at a special members-only session was held on 22 July 2024. The meeting was facilitated by the Committee Chair.
3. This Report outlining the findings of the performance review, is prepared by the Chair and circulated electronically to Committee members for review and endorsement in August 2024.
4. This Report is to be discussed informally at a joint meeting between Councillors and Audit and Risk Committee members at a meeting to be held 24 September 2024.
5. A Council Report providing a summary of the performance review (incorporating this Report and feedback from the discussion with Councillors) is to be tabled by the Chief Executive Officer for consideration by Council at the next available Council meeting.



The evaluation questionnaire completed by survey respondents covered the following areas of the Committee's operations:

- strengths and weaknesses of the Committee over the past 12 months and key focus areas for the next 12 months;
- the Committee's understanding and conduct of its required duties;
- the appropriateness of the Committee charter;
- the mix of skills within the Committee; and
- the conduct of meetings and administrative matters.

The evaluation questionnaire (refer **Attachment 1**) was provided to the four groups: Independent Committee Members; Councillor Committee Members; Senior Officers and Councillors who do not sit on the Committee. The feedback received was used to evaluate the Committee's performance.

In analysing the feedback from the review, it should be emphasised that the scope for meaningful statistical analysis is very limited. This is because the sample size is small and not necessarily representative. Eighteen people were eligible to complete the survey and nine people chose to respond (50%).

Category	Number Surveyed	Responses Received
Independent Committee members	4	2
Councillor Committee members	3	3
Councillors (non-Committee members)	6	2
Senior Officers	5	2
Total	18	9

By necessity, the primary focus of the evaluation is on considering and interpreting comments, especially the issues and suggestions they highlight.

Discussion

Beyond the broad themes identified in the Executive Summary, the review provided an overview of the functioning of the Committee during the 2023/24 period. Taking these areas of performance in turn, the responses are summarised below.

Findings from the review

What does the committee do well? (Q2)

The Committee continues to be perceived by those responding to the survey, as engaged and respectful while thoroughly reviewing the prepared papers. The in-camera pre-meetings of the Committee are seen to be valuable for all members being able to gain an insight into other members attitudes and in prioritising agenda items so sufficient time is allocated to those areas of most critical importance and requiring extensive discussion by the Committee.

Survey respondents noted the Committee challenges Management in a probing, yet respectful manner with all members of the Committee contributing equally to meetings.

A response also indicated that the agenda is more in-depth and forward-looking with strategic focus areas and emerging issues.

Positive comments relating to what the Committee are doing well were made by all respondents.



Are there any specific tasks or functions the Committee could undertake in a better way? (Q3)

For the second year in a row, it has been noted that whilst a wrap up post meeting for Councillor feedback is conducted without Officers present, the feedback in the survey indicated reporting from the Committee to Council, wasn't meeting one Councillor's expectations. It is understood a verbal update is provided to Councillors post meeting. An opportunity has been identified that a template could be developed and populated by Officers during or post the meeting to encapsulate the information to be provided to other Councillors not present at the Committee meeting.

A respondent noted it would be beneficial if Committee members have questions related to the reports, that the questions are provided ahead of the meeting to ensure a response can be provided prior to or at the meeting. This is to ensure the agenda items and the discussion fits within the Committee Charter. The papers would need to be presented earlier than is currently being provided to allow members the time to provide the questions noting Officers can take questions on notice in the meeting. Responses can be circulated out of session if necessary.

As the timeframes are not conducive to allow Councillors (who have both Audit and Risk Papers and Councillor Briefing papers) to review prior to a Committee meeting, and the Independent members may not have the time to read the papers until the weekend preceding the meeting providing questions ahead of time, is not feasible. All Officers are provided the option to take a question on notice, if required and the responses can be circulated out of session or at the next scheduled Committee meeting.

It is noted there has been a change in the Chief Executive Officer and key Executives during the 12 months leading to the survey and the relationships and collaboration during this time has not diminished as all are working towards the best outcome for Council.

An additional action for Officers is to explore whether there is an opportunity for those Councillors who have not presided or attended an Audit and Risk Committee meeting to observe the meeting. This will provide the Councillors with a greater understanding of what is within the remit of the Audit and Risk Committee.

Thinking about what the organisation does to assist the Committee to meet its responsibilities, is there anything Council or Council Officers should stop doing; start doing; do more or do less? (Q4)

Communication and administration of the Committee has developed positively with the appointment of the current Independent Members and Councillors. The Committee members noted the Committee is working effectively and has continued to grow and develop communication within the last 12 months.

There is an ongoing concern with the number of outstanding audit actions and the length of time for completion of actions. It is pleasing these are being discussed with the Chief Executive Officer (through the Chair).

Continued liaison with the Chair ensures the agenda includes items which are required to be presented and any other matters are discussed to determine if they are relevant. This is particularly relevant to include learnings/insights from VAGO and other bodies such as IBAC. It is imperative Audit and Risk Committee members are kept up to date with any emerging risks and issues affecting Council in order to discharge accountabilities and responsibilities of their roles within the scope of the Charter.

The Committee noted there has been a new Chief Executive Officer, members of the executive and governance staff within the last twelve months and notes there has been a continued level of collaboration. The collaboration is noted to be working towards what is the best outcome for East Gippsland Shire.



An opportunity for improvement would be the development of a template to be used for the post meeting wrap up for other Councillors to ensure there is a consistent approach for information being presented post any Committee meeting. It would be beneficial for this template to be developed with the Governance team. Further, there may be an opportunity for those Councillors who have not been involved in a Committee meeting to be an observer of the meeting. This will increase the Councillor observation of the Committee and allow them to obtain a greater understanding of what is within the scope of a meeting.

The Committee members take on board the development of the papers can be time consuming however there needs to be a balance between what Officers assume the Committee want and what is required. Standing items are required as part of the Committee's annual work program and are required for Committee oversight, however there is an opportunity to review reports being presented and whether the required level of detail is essential.

Thinking about the way the Committee operates, is there anything the Committee or Committee members should stop doing; start doing; do more or do less? (Q5)

Overall, responses relating to how the Committee operates was favourable with minor suggestions relating to:

- more succinct verbal reports;
- further discussion relating to financial matters; and
- feedback to be provided by Independent Members to the Councillor cohort relating to
 - What is working well within East Gippsland Shire; and
 - Would a face to face visit be beneficial to East Gippsland Shire annually for fostering relationships?

What should be the key areas of focus for the Committee during the next 12 months? (Q6)

Respondents recommended key areas of focus for the next 12 months include:

- Financial stability and ethical investments;
- Strategic Risk Internal Audit and the related internal control environment (Risk Management System);
- The Committee to be included in the induction of the new Councillors (once elected). This would not be appropriate and Councillors should be provided the Charter as part of their induction;
- Legislative changes and their impact and accountability of compliance;
- Legal, financial, health, environmental risks of Climate Change which will be tackled as an emerging risk; and
- Ensure the Committee is meeting its objectives and is across any emerging risks and have a good understanding of the mitigation strategies proposed by Management.

Do you believe that Strategic Focus Area presentations are beneficial in supporting the Committee, individually and collectively? (Q7)

Respondents noted:

- The presentation from Maddocks on Climate Change was well received and informative.
- The agenda is full and must deal with what is within the Charter and whilst the presentations are informative, they are taking away from discussions on key agenda items.
- Strategic focus areas enable the Committee to focus on high level and broader issues impacting Council beyond financial.



An opportunity for improvement would be an annual calendar of what strategic presentations are scheduled and Committee members could identify and flag anything they wish to be included due to industry reports etc...

Is there anything about the Committee's Charter and/or membership arrangements that you believe needs to be changed? (Q8)

It was noted by respondents that there is a good balance at present however;

- Is there optimisation between the number of Independent Members and Councillors currently on the Committee. Would there be any benefit in reviewing the number of Councillors in the future?
- Would the Charter benefit from an annual review post adoption or completed every two years as a standard similar to what other Council's do?
- Whilst full reference checking of prospective members is conducted, is there an opportunity to seek an understanding as to whether commitment may be of an issue for members?

The Committee's responsibilities are in the areas of: Risk Management; Internal Control; Financial Reporting; and Performance Reporting. The Committee liaises with Council, the external auditor and the internal auditor where required. (Q9)

The respondents generally agreed that the Committee adequately understands, and reviews matters within its responsibility. In addition, there was general, but not universal, agreement that the Committee adequately understands and reviews:

- Council's financial and performance reporting requirements;
- Council's compliance with relevant laws and regulations; and
- Management's systems and arrangements for maintaining effective internal controls.

Understanding Council's legislative and compliance may not be fully visible to the Committee with the absence of a central system or whether the Committee can truly have visibility across them all. All Committee members are presented with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework results as well as the Governance and Management Checklist and Financial Statements audit.

The Members understand that it can be disappointing for Officers when they put the time and effort into producing and presenting their reports when no or few questions and feedback/or advice to Council is provided. The absence of questions does not reflect poorly on the information being presented, but positively, given the members have felt the report is providing the necessary detail to gain comfort.

Audit and Risk Committee Skills and Understanding (Q10)

The respondents indicated that the Audit and Risk Committee members generally understand the Shire's business sufficiently to fulfil their responsibilities under the Charter and possess the necessary skills to perform their responsibilities, including financial literacy.

There are opportunities for improvement in this area and perhaps probing into specific topics may be an area for improvement.

A further opportunity for Committee skill development and understanding may be to leverage off other Gippsland Councils Committees to increase Councillor and Independent Member financial literacy and increase the skill set. An assumed level is a potential barrier to participation in the Committee meetings by other Councillors.



Meeting Administration (Q11)

It was generally agreed that meeting administration enables well run and productive meetings, and agendas reflect the key responsibilities of the Committee, whilst allowing sufficient time for discussion.

It is noted the pre-meeting and post meeting is critical prior to the Committee meetings.

Further feedback from the Chair and Independent Members is noted as an area for improvement.

An opportunity for improvement would be the development of a template to be used for the post meeting wrap up for other Councillors to ensure there is a consistent approach for information being presented post any Committee meeting. It would be beneficial for this template to be developed with the Governance team. Further, there may be an opportunity for those Councillors who have not been involved within the Committee to be an observer of the meeting. This will increase the Councillor observation of the Committee and allow them to obtain a greater understanding of what is within the scope of a meeting.

Although the members appreciate a lot of time is taken in preparing the papers, is there an opportunity for papers to be provided to members sooner? Given the detail involved in the reports and to allow for a thorough read through, it would be beneficial to have the papers at least a week ahead of the schedule.

Committee Observations

The Committee discussed these and provided the following observations:

- In this year's review the discussions were broadly based and focussed on how the Committee could best provide value by working with Councillors and Council Staff to East Gippsland Shire. The Committee is operating effectively within the new Charter which has improved its clarity of role and be more strategic.
- The Committee felt that the in-camera pre-meetings are an invaluable tool in helping to focus on issues of importance during the formal meeting. The Councillor Cohort noted however they would like to be presented with greater information post meeting.
- Further, the Committee believes that its efforts on continual improvement should make it more responsive to Council needs within the time constraints imposed by infrequent meeting.
- When completing the survey, it would be beneficial for survey participants to provide comments to the question they are providing a response to rather than using "as above". Using "as above" reduces the visibility as to which question the comment would be applicable to.
- It is acknowledged the sample size of the survey and the number of respondents doesn't always give a clear indication of the output and delivery of the Committee. It is inherent with a smaller cohort of those involved.
- It was felt the Committee has full support from Officers during discussions and feel comfortable raising questions. It was also noted, the culture of the Committee has grown over the last two years and an element of trust has been formed which demonstrates the current effectiveness of the Committee.

Attachments

1. Audit and Risk Committee Annual Performance Questionnaire 2023/24

Questionnaire Information

This questionnaire has been prepared to assist in assessing the Audit and Risk Committee's performance. Responses must be submitted by 5pm Monday 24 June 2024.

The questionnaire is intended to be completed online by the seven Committee Members, Senior Officers who are regular participants at the meetings and all Councillors (Non-Committee Members).

Questions 1-8 are designed to obtain general views about the Committee and where it should focus over the next 12 months.

Questions 9-11 contain more specific questions. In response to every statement, respondents are asked to indicate whether they Agree, Disagree or Don't Know. These sections also provide an opportunity to include comments and/or suggestions for improvement.

If respondents Don't Know, or don't feel qualified to answer specific questions, these fields can be left blank. However, where the Disagree response is chosen, respondents are asked to provide the reasons why they disagree in the comments section provided.

* 1. What is your role on the Audit and Risk Committee?

- ☐ Independent Committee Member
- ☐ Councillor Committee Member
- ☐ Councillor (Non-Committee Member)
- ☐ Senior Officer

2. What does the Committee do well?

3. Are there any specific tasks or functions the Committee could undertake in a better way? (If YES, please specify what they are)

4. Thinking about what the organisation does to assist the Committee to meet its responsibilities, is there anything Council or Council Officers should: stop doing; start doing; do more or do less?

5. Thinking about the way the Committee operates, is there anything the Committee or Committee Members should: stop doing; start doing; do more or do less?

6. What should be the key areas of focus for the Committee in the next 12 months?

7. Do you believe that Strategic Focus Area Presentations are beneficial in supporting the Committee, individually and collectively?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please provide any comments you may have in relation to Strategic Focus Area presentations.

8. Is there anything about the Committee's Charter and/or membership arrangements that you believe needs to be changed?

9. The Committee's responsibilities are in the areas of: Risk Management, Internal Control, Financial Reporting and Performance Reporting. The Committee liaises with Council, the external auditor and the internal auditor where required.

	Agree	Disagree (Please describe why in the section below)	Don't Know
The Committee adequately understands and reviews Council's financial and performance reporting requirements.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Committee adequately reviews the effectiveness of the system for monitoring Council's compliance with relevant legislation and regulations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Committee understands and reviews management systems and arrangements for maintaining effective internal controls, including in respect of audit plans, audit reports and identified issues.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Committee adequately understands and reviews the Council's risk management framework.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Committee understands and reviews whether an effective approach is being followed in managing the Council's strategic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

risks.			
--------	--	--	--

The Committee
meets its
obligations under
the Charter.

☐☐☐

If you selected DISAGREE with any of the above statements, please describe why in this section.

10. Audit and Risk Committee Skills and Understanding

	Agree	Disagree (Please describe why in the section below)	Don't Know
The Committee sufficiently understands the Shire's business to enable the Committee to fulfil its responsibilities under the Charter.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The mix of skills on the Committee allows it to effectively perform its responsibilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Committee's overall financial literacy is adequate in light of the Committee's responsibilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Committee has responded appropriately (eg framed a recommendation for consideration by Council or the CEO) where significant risks and/or control breakdowns have been identified.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Committee has been sufficiently probing and challenging in its deliberations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you selected DISAGREE with any of the above statements, please describe why in this section.

11. Meeting Administration

	Agree	Disagree (Please describe why in the section below)	Don't Know
Committee meetings are well run and productive.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Meeting agendas are structured to ensure that over the course of the year, all key responsibilities in the Charter are addressed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Meeting agendas allow sufficient time to discuss the most complex and critical issues.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Committee agendas and supporting papers are of sufficient clarity and quality to make informed recommendations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Committee minutes are appropriately maintained, of good quality and distributed in a timely manner.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Committee communications to Council about the Committee's activities are of an appropriate quality and Council is kept well informed on a timely basis of the Committee's deliberations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you selected DISAGREE with any of the above statements, please describe why in this section.

2 Deferred Business

3 Officer Reports

3.1 Business Excellence

3.1.1 Council Meeting Resolution Register

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Confidential Notice

Under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a meeting considering confidential information may be closed to the public. Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the information contained in **Confidential Attachment 2** and **4** to this report are confidential because it contains confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a).

Election Period Statement

The recommended decision is not a Prohibited Decision as defined in section 69(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, or a Major Decision as defined by Council's Election Period Policy.

Conflict of Interest

Officers preparing this report have no conflict of interest to declare.

Executive Summary

Council's Chief Executive Officer is responsible for ensuring that the decisions of the Council are implemented without undue delay.

This report provides the status for outstanding Council resolutions up to 30 June 2024, from the previous report tabled on 6 August 2024 refer **Attachment 1** and **Confidential Attachment 2** and resolutions from 1 July 2024 – 30 September 2024 (not including resolutions that are for noting only) refer **Attachment 3** and **Confidential Attachment 4**.

Officer Recommendation

That Council receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report.

Background

The primary role of the Council is to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community. Council must perform its role in accordance with the Overarching Governance Principles as set out in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, in which one of the principles states:

'...the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured'.

The reporting of Council resolutions is a vital measure of Council's performance and provides the information it needs to demonstrate transparency and Council's accountability to the community.

For the period of 1 July 2024 – 30 September 2024, there were 29 open Council resolutions (not including resolutions for noting only) in the reporting period, of which 22 have been completed and seven are in progress. There were five closed Council resolutions (not including resolutions for noting only), of which all are complete.

Legislation

As of 1 July 2021, all provisions of the *Local Government Act* 2020 commenced. Some provisions of the *Local Government Act* 1989, that have not been repealed, will remain applicable until such time as they are revoked.

This report has been prepared in accordance with *Local Government Act* 2020 section 9(i) and section 58.

The implications of this report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon the human rights detailed in the Victorian Government's Charter of *Human Rights and Responsibilities Act* 2006.

In preparing this report the Victorian *Gender Equality Act* 2020 has been considered. The implications of the report have been assessed and are compliant with the obligations and principles of the *Gender Equality Act* 2020.

Council Plan

This report has been prepared and aligned with the following strategic objectives set out in the Council Plan 2021-2025:

Strategic Objective 5: 5.4 Continuous improvement systems are strengthened, and organisational efficiency enhanced.

Council Policy

This report is consistent with the Governance Rules and the Community Engagement Policy.

Resourcing

Risk

The risks of this proposal have been considered and once the Resolution Register is published, there may be questions or negative responses from the community. This will be managed in accordance with Council's Complaints Management Policy.

Environmental

There are no environmental implications stemming from this Report.


Climate change

This Report is assessed as having no direct impact on climate change.

Engagement

Internal engagement has been undertaken to garner the updates on the progress of resolutions. The register will be made available on Council's website, consistent with the Community Engagement Policy.

Attachments

1. Update on Open Council Meeting Resolutions up to 30 June 2024 [**3.1.1.1** - 2 pages]
 2. CONFIDENTIAL - Update on Closed Council Resolutions up to 30 June 2024 [**3.1.1.2** - 1 page]
 3. Open Council Meeting Resolutions from 1 July 20 September 2024 [**3.1.1.3** - 11 pages]
 4. CONFIDENTIAL - Closed Council Meeting Resolutions from 1 July 20 September 2024 [**3.1.1.4** - 2 pages]
- 

Update on Open Council Meeting Resolutions up to 30 June 2024

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Directorate	Status
19 March 2024	5 2.5	CON2024 1535 Sealed Roads - Major Rehabilitation Capital Works	<p><i>That Council:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report;</i> <i>2. accepts the schedule of rates submitted by;</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) Cranes Asphaltting & Bitumen Sealing Pty Ltd;</i> <i>b) Fowlers Asphaltting Pty. Limited;</i> <i>c) Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd;</i> <i>d) Hiway Stabilizers Australia Pty. Ltd;</i> <i>e) Orbost Civil & Civic Pty Ltd; and</i> <i>f) R & M Contracting (Gippsland) Pty Ltd,</i> <p><i>for Contract CON2024 1535 Sealed Roads Major Rehabilitation Capital Works for a three (3) year term as provided in Confidential Attachment 1;</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>3. authorises the Acting Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to sign the contract in the form proposed;</i> <i>4. delegates the power to the Chief Executive Officer to exercise up to two (2) additional extension options of up to twenty-four (24) months; and</i> <i>5. resolves that Confidential Attachment 1 to this report and all discussions relating to this attachment remain confidential.</i> 	Assets and Environment	Completed

Meeting Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Directorate	Status
28 February 2023	5.1.2	CON2023 1478 Heritage Listed Hinnomunjie Timber Truss Bridge - Structural Stabilisation	<i>That the report be deferred to a future Council meeting to allow Councillors time to further consider the recommendations proposed given the significant financial impost that this tender would present Council.</i>	Assets and Environment	Completed

Open Council Meeting Resolutions 1 July – 30 September 2024

Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Directorate	Status
16 July 2024	2.1	Rates and Financial Hardship	<p>That Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. notes the Financial Hardship Policy is currently under review; 2. requests that Officers prepare a report to Council prior to preparation of the draft 2025/26 budget and its release for advertising and community feedback, outlining the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) ways in which Council's Financial Hardship Policy can be amended to further minimise the impact on ratepayers who may be experiencing financial hardship; b) evidence and options used to set rating differentials across the existing three property classes; and c) consultation options available for Council in relation to the setting of rates, and in particular differential rates. 	Business Excellence	In progress
16 July 2024	5 1.1	Planning Permit Application 5.2023.454.1 - Two-lot subdivision and buildings and works for a second dwelling - 34-36 Eighth Ave Raymond Island	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; 2. being the Responsible Authority and having considered all the relevant planning matters, determines that Planning Permit Application 5.2023.454.1 is inconsistent with the requirements and objectives of the East Gippsland Planning Scheme and therefore resolves issue a notice of decision to refuse to grant a planning permit for a Two lot subdivision and development of a second dwelling at 34-36 Eighth Avenue, Raymond Island for the following reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the proposal is generally inconsistent with the Planning Policy Framework (PPF) with respect to planning for places and environmental risks and amenity; b) the proposal is generally inconsistent with the objectives of Clause 44.04 Land Subject to inundation overlay; and c) the proposal is inconsistent with the decision guidelines in the Victorian Planning Provision (VPP) Planning Practice Note PPN11: Applying for a Planning Permit Under the Flood Provisions, in that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. it is not consistent with the Planning Policy Framework (PPF). II. it relies on low-level access to and from the site. III. it is likely to increase the burden on emergency services and the risk to emergency personnel. IV. it is likely to increase the amount of flood damage to public or private assets. <p style="text-align: right;">LOST</p>	Place and Community	Completed

Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Directorate	Status
16 July 2024	5 1.2	Planning Permit Application 5.2023.356.1 - Two lot subdivision and removal of native vegetation - 34 First Parade Raymond Island	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; being the Responsible Authority and having considered all the relevant planning matters, determines that Planning Permit Application 5.2023.356.1 is inconsistent with the requirements and objectives of the East Gippsland Planning Scheme and therefore resolves issue a notice of decision to refuse to grant a planning permit for a Two Lot Subdivision and Removal of Native Vegetation at 34 First Parade, Raymond Island for the following reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the proposal is generally inconsistent with the Planning Policy Framework (PPF) with respect to planning for places and environmental risks and amenity; the proposal is generally inconsistent with the objectives of Clause 44.04 Land Subject to inundation overlay; the proposal does not suitably demonstrate the avoidance of removal of native vegetation in accordance with Clause 52.17, the Guidelines for the Removal, Destruction and Lopping of Native Vegetation (DELWP, 2017), the PPF, and the decision guidelines at Clause 65; and the proposal is considered to have a significant negative impact on biodiversity and environmental values of the land and neighbourhood based on impacts to threatened species habitat; and the proposal is not consistent with the decision guidelines in the Victorian Planning Provision (VPP) Planning Practice Note PPN11: Applying for a Planning Permit Under the Flood Provisions, in that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> it is not consistent with the Planning Policy Framework (PPF). it is likely to result in danger to the life, health and safety of the occupants due to flooding of the site. it relies on low-level access to and from the site. <p>it is likely to increase the burden on emergency services and the risk to emergency personnel.</p>	Place and Community	Completed
16 July 2024	5 1.3	5.2023.464.1 - Use of land for sale and consumption of liquor (increase red line area and patron numbers) and reduction of car parking requirements	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; and being the Responsible Authority and having considered all the relevant planning matters, determines that Planning Permit Application 5.2023.464.1 is consistent with the requirements and objectives of the East Gippsland Planning Scheme and therefore resolves to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit for the use of the land for the sale and consumption of liquor (increase red line area and patron numbers) and the reduction to the car parking requirements, subject to permit conditions in Attachment 1. 	Place and Community	Completed
16 July 2024	5 1.4	Seeking Authorisation and Public Notice of Planning Scheme Amendment (C169egip) - Update Municipal Planning Strategy/Planning Policy Framework and implementation of Housing and Settlement Strategy	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; seeks authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare Planning Scheme Amendment C169egip to the East Gippsland Planning Scheme generally in accordance with the draft planning scheme documentation shown at Attachment 1, Attachment 2 and Attachment 3; commences the public exhibition of Planning Scheme Amendment C169egip in accordance with Ministerial authorisation; and <p>notes that the Planning Scheme Amendment C169egip will be subject to further Council review and assessment by an independent Planning Panel, if required, following the completion of the public exhibition.</p>	Place and Community	In progress

Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Directorate	Status
16 July 2024	5 1.5	Seeking Authorisation and Public Notice of Planning Scheme Amendment (C170egip) - Implementation of Rural Land Use Strategy	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; 2. seeks authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare a Planning Scheme Amendment C170egip to the East Gippsland Planning Scheme generally in accordance with the draft planning scheme documentation shown at Attachment 1, Attachment 2, Attachment 3 and Attachment 4; 3. commences the public exhibition of Planning Scheme Amendment C170egip in accordance with Ministerial authorisation; and 4. notes that the Planning Scheme Amendment C170egip will be subject to further Council review and assessment by an independent Planning Panel, if required, following the completion of the public exhibition. 	Place and Community	In progress
16 July 2024	5 1.6	Seeking Authorisation and Public Notice of Planning Scheme Amendment (C171egip) - Implementation of Eagle Point Structure Plan	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; 2. seeks authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare a Planning Scheme Amendment C171egip to the East Gippsland Planning Scheme generally in accordance with the draft planning scheme documentation shown at Attachment 1, Attachment 2, Attachment 3 and Attachment 4; 3. commences the public exhibition of Planning Scheme Amendment C171egip in accordance with Ministerial authorisation; and 4. notes that the Planning Scheme Amendment C171egip will be subject to further Council review and assessment by an independent Planning Panel, if required, following the completion of the public exhibition. 	Place and Community	In progress
16 July 2024	5 1.7	Seeking Authorisation and Public Notice of Planning Scheme Amendment (C172egip) - Implementation of Paynesville Growth Area Structure Plan	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; 2. seeks authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare a Planning Scheme Amendment C172egip to the East Gippsland Planning Scheme generally in accordance with the draft planning scheme documentation shown at Attachment 1, Attachment 2, Attachment 3 and Attachment 4; 3. commences the public exhibition of Planning Scheme Amendment C172egip in accordance with Ministerial authorisation; and 4. notes that the Planning Scheme Amendment C172egip will be subject to further Council review and assessment by an independent Planning Panel, if required, following the completion of the public exhibition. 	Place and Community	In progress
16 July 2024	5 3.1	S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation - Planning and Environment Act 1987	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; 2. in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 147(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, resolves that Robert Buckmaster be appointed as an Authorised Officer, as set out in the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation provided at Attachment 1, for the purposes of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the regulations made under that Act; 3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Instrument provided at Attachment 1; and 4. notes that the Instrument will come into force immediately following resolution of Council and will remain in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it, or until the Officer ceases to be employed by East Gippsland Shire Council. 	Business Excellence	Completed

Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Directorate	Status
6 August 2024	5 1.1	Planning Permit Application 5.2023.454.1 - Two-lot subdivision and buildings and works for a second dwelling - 34-36 Eighth Ave Raymond Island	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; 2. being the Responsible Authority and having considered all the relevant planning matters, determines that Planning Permit Application 5.2023.454.1 is inconsistent with the requirements and objectives of the East Gippsland Planning Scheme and therefore resolves issue a notice of decision to refuse to grant a planning permit for a Two lot subdivision and development of a second dwelling at 34-36 Eighth Avenue, Raymond Island for the following reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the proposal is generally inconsistent with the Planning Policy Framework (PPF) with respect to planning for places and environmental risks and amenity; b. the proposal is generally inconsistent with the objectives of Clause 44.04 Land Subject to inundation overlay; and c. the proposal is inconsistent with the decision guidelines in the Victorian Planning Provision (VPP) Planning Practice Note PPN11: Applying for a Planning Permit Under the Flood Provisions, in that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. it is not consistent with the Planning Policy Framework (PPF). ii. it relies on low-level access to and from the site. iii. it is likely to increase the burden on emergency services and the risk to emergency personnel. iv. it is likely to increase the amount of flood damage to public or private assets. 	Place and Community	Completed
6 August 2024	5 1.2	Fair Access Policy	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. adopts the draft Fair Access Policy as provided at Attachment 1; and 2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to amend the adopted Fair Access Policy without formal Council consideration if the amendments required are of a minor administrative nature. 	Place and Community	Completed
6 August 2024	5 2.1	CON2024 1611 Bastion Point Groyne Wall Remediation Works - Construction	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. receives and notes this report and all Attachments pertaining to this report; 2. accepts the tender submitted by Paul Volk Contracting Pty. Ltd. for CON2024 1611 Bastion Point Groyne Wall Remediation Works – Construction, for the contract amount of \$1,012,175.00 exclusive of GST; 3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to sign the contract in the form proposed; and 4. resolves that Confidential Attachment 1 and 2 to this report and all discussions relating to these attachments remain confidential. 	Assets and Environment	Completed

Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Directorate	Status
6 August 2024	5 2.2	CON2024 1652 Provision of Waste and Recycling Trailer Services	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; accepts the tender submitted by Tambo Waste Proprietary Limited for CON2024 1652 Provision of Waste and Recycling Trailer Services for a period of two (2) years with one extension option of up to Two (2) years for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area 1 – lump sum price of \$93,600.00 (ex GST) and schedule of rates (ex GST); Area 2 – lump sum price of \$100,000.00 (ex GST) and schedule of rates (ex GST); Area 3 – lump sum price of \$60,840.00 and schedule of rates for Area 3 (ex GST); Area 4 – schedule of rates prices submitted for Monday-Friday per collection/ disposal (ex GST) <p>as provided at Confidential Attachment 1, be accepted.</p> authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to exercise the one two year extension option on the basis that contractual terms have been met; authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to sign and seal the contract in the form proposed; and resolves that Confidential Attachment 1 to this report and all discussions remain confidential. 	Assets and Environment	Completed
6 August 2024	5 3.1	Information Communications Technology Equipment Tender Panel of Suppliers - Joint tender with Shire of Wellington	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; approves Wellington Shire Council to award Contract No 2024-000077 for the Information Communications Technology Equipment Panel of Suppliers on behalf of East Gippsland Shire Council for a three-year period to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) BAMITS Pty Ltd b) Communications Design Management Pty Ltd c) Dell Australia d) Learning with Technologies e) Office Choice Bairnsdale Pty Ltd f) Perfekt Pty Ltd g) Solution One h) Wave1 Pty Ltd approves and authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to execute such documents as are necessary to give effect to the arrangements of the Information Communications Technology Equipment Panel of Suppliers Contract 2024-000077; and resolves that Confidential Attachment 1 to this report and all discussions relating to that attachment remain confidential. 	Business Excellence	Completed

Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Directorate	Status
6 August 2024	5 3.2	ICT Printer/Copier Tender Panel of Suppliers Joint Tender with Wellington Shire Council	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> approves Wellington Shire Council to award Contract No 2024-000023 for the Print and Copier Services Panel of Providers on behalf of East Gippsland Shire Council for a three-year period to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GB Machines Pty Ltd KISS Print Solutions Pty Ltd Lightstorm Imaging Pty Ltd Thinkex Holdings Pty Ltd Viatek South East Victoria Pty Ltd approves and authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to execute such documents as are necessary to give effect to the arrangements of the Print and Copier Services Panel of Providers Contract 2024-000023; delegates the power to the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the one extension option of two years on the basis that all contractual requirements have been met by the suppliers; and resolves that Confidential Attachment 1 and 2 to this report and all discussions relating to these attachments remain confidential. 	Business Excellence	Completed
6 August 2024	5 3.4	S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation - Planning and Environment Act 1987	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 147(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, resolves that Petra Wood be appointed as an Authorised Officer, as set out in the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation provided at Attachment 1, for the purposes of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the regulations made under that Act; authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Instrument provided at Attachment 1; and notes that the Instrument will come into force immediately following resolution of Council and will remain in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it, or until the Officer ceases to be employed by East Gippsland Shire Council. 	Business Excellence	Completed

Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Directorate	Status
27 August 2024	2.1	Open and Transparent Briefings	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. note the Public Transparency Policy will be reviewed when a new Council is established; 2. request that a report is provided to a future meeting of the new Council providing: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. options to revise the Public Transparency Policy and governance arrangements about how to engage with community at Councillor Briefings, that continue to be in accordance with the public transparency principles, public interest and confidentiality definitions of the Local Government Act 2020; and b. information relating to how the Mornington Peninsula Council is implementing their motion and what steps and impediments are currently being revealed in working to open their briefings to the public and how that benefits community; and 3. request that during the induction workshop advice regarding confidentiality in briefings is provided, and then a report is presented to the incoming Councillors on the importance of risk management, confidentiality, public interest, transparency, and accountability, being key tenets of good governance and decision making. 	Business Excellence	In progress
27 August 2024	5 1.1	Planning Permit Application 5.2023.350.1 - Timber harvesting and regeneration on private land, 959 Murrungowar Road Cabbage Tree Creek	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; 2. being the Responsible Authority, and having considered all the relevant planning matters, notes that the proposal is of a nature that is contentious in relation to the interpretation of policy within the East Gippsland Planning Scheme that appears to be in conflict with other areas of State Policy, external to the Planning and Environment Act 1987. In accordance with section 97C, a decision is not made, and the responsible authority requests that Minister for Planning determine the application; 3. if the Minister agrees to the request, in accordance with section 97C, directs that Officers provide to the Minister all relevant information with respect to the application; and 4. if the Minister does not agree to the request, directs that Officers provide a further report to Council for consideration and determination of the application. 	Place and Community	Completed

Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Directorate	Status
27 August 2024	5 1.2	Amended Development Plan - 19 Lomandra Boulevard Lucknow	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; defers consideration of the proposed amendment of the development plan for 19 Lomandra Boulevard, Lucknow (as amended 19/04/2024) as provided in Attachment 1 to a later Council meeting; notes that the purpose of the deferral is to obtain further information to satisfy the concerns outlined in the Officer's report regarding housing quality and environmental performance; and authorises Council officers to request further information from the applicant regarding: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Plans and elevations of proposed dwellings; Compliance with building standards for class 1 dwellings, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Energy efficiency; Separation between dwellings and site layout of dwellings; Building materials; and Structural engineering requirements for footings, foundations, and connections to services. Mechanisms to bind the applicant to obtaining building permits for each dwelling; and Specific details of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Residential Tenancies Act registration and compliance; Ongoing site management and obligations with future tenants; and Draft community rules and site agreements. 	Place and Community	Completed
27 August 2024	5 1.3	Submission to Plan for Victoria	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; and endorses the draft submission set out at Attachment 1 and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to lodge the submission with the Department of Transport and Planning. 	Place and Community	Completed
27 August 2024	5 2.1	CON2025 1694 Buchan Recreation Reserve Pavilion	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; accepts the tender submitted by Cadbuild Construction Pty Ltd for CON2025 1694 Construction of Buchan Recreation Reserve Pavilion for the contract amount of \$4,469,597.44 exclusive of GST; authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to sign the contract in the form proposed; and resolves that Confidential Attachment 1 to this report and all discussions relating to that attachment remain confidential. 	Assets and Environment	Completed

Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Directorate	Status
27 August 2024	5 2.2	CON2025 1659 Construction of Air Ambulance Victoria Transfer Facility - Bairnsdale Airport	<p>That Council:</p> <p>4. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report;</p> <p>1. accepts the tender submitted by Middleton Lee Pty Ltd trading as CAL Civil for CON2025 1659 Construction of Air Ambulance Victoria Patient Transfer Facility, Bairnsdale Airport for the contract amount of \$1,754,132.85 exclusive of GST;</p> <p>2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to sign the contract in the form proposed; and</p> <p>3. resolves that Confidential Attachment 1 to this report and all discussions relating to that attachment remain Confidential.</p>	Assets and Environment	Completed
27 August 2024	5 2.3	Contract Extension and Variations - CON 1148/1314 Kerbside Waste, Recycling, Organics collections and Street Litter and Public Place Recycling Services	<p>That Council:</p> <p>4. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report;</p> <p>1. accepts the terms and conditions detailed in the Deed of Variation at Confidential Attachment 1 to contract CON 1148/1314 Kerbside Waste Recycling, Organics Collection and Street Litter and Public Place Recycling Services;</p> <p>2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to execute the Deed of Variation to contract CON 1148/1314 Kerbside Waste Recycling, Organics Collection and Street Litter and Public Place Recycling Services (Confidential Attachment 1); and</p> <p>3. resolves that Confidential Attachments 1 and 2 to this report and all discussions relating to these attachments remain confidential.</p>	Assets and Environment	Completed
27 August 2024	5 3.1	Hardship Policy	<p>That Council:</p> <p>1. adopts the Hardship Policy as provided at Attachment 1;</p> <p>2. rescinds the existing Financial Hardship Policy at Attachment 2; and</p> <p>3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to amend the adopted Hardship Policy without formal Council consideration, if the amendments required are due to changes to Officer titles or administrative changes that occur from time to time.</p>	Business Excellence	Completed

Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Directorate	Status
10 September 2024	2.1	Diversity of Housing Options	<p><i>That Council:</i></p> <p><i>a. acknowledges the significant levels of housing stress being felt by our community, the homelessness crisis, and the need for a diversity of housing options to be available for residents to meet their individual housing needs;</i></p> <p><i>b. requests Officers to produce a report, for consideration at a future council meeting, on the benefits, impediments, and any potential further considerations of a change to the East Gippsland Planning Scheme and General Local Law in relation to the regulation of 'Tiny Homes', with a view to better understanding how such measures have been approached and used by other councils in Australia to reduce the housing stress;</i></p> <p><i>1. requests for the report to include information so to inform future decisions of Council in relation to tiny homes including an assessment of existing uptake in other areas and potential future tiny home demand in East Gippsland, with a view to:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>2. removing regulatory impediments to their adoption and enable greater uptake of Tiny Home; and</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>3. as a mechanism to provide greater levels of housing diversity, a cheaper option for resident's experiencing housing stress and to provide greater housing security for the East Gippsland community.</i></p>	Place and Community	In progress
10 September 2024	5 1.1	CON2025 1701R Swifts Creek Recreation Reserve Upgrade	<p><i>That Council:</i></p> <p><i>1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report;</i></p> <p><i>2. accepts the tender submitted by Design Co Builders Pty Ltd for CON2025 1701R, Swifts Creek Recreation Reserve Upgrade for the contract amount of \$1,905,429.56 exclusive of GST;</i></p> <p><i>3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to sign the contract in the form proposed; and</i></p> <p><i>4. resolves that Attachment 1 to this report and all discussions relating to that attachment remain confidential.</i></p>	Assets and Environment	Completed

Date	Item No.	Item	Resolution	Directorate	Status
10 September 2024	5 1.2	CON2025 1678 Fire Slashing Services	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; accepts the tender submitted by Batt Brothers Pty. Ltd atf Batt Family Trust trading as Batt Brothers Vegetation Management for CON2025 1678 Fire Slashing Services for the contract amounts below for each area for year 1 (subject to annual CPI adjustment for the remaining 1.5 years of the contract); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area 1 – lump sum price of \$83,750.00 (ex GST) and schedule of rates (ex GST); Area 2 – lump sum price of \$62,950.00 (ex GST) and schedule of rates (ex GST); Area 3 – lump sum price of \$110,850.00 (ex GST) and schedule of rates (ex GST); Area 4 – lump sum price of \$91,850.00 (ex GST) and schedule of rates (ex GST); Area 5 – lump sum price of \$83,700.00 (ex GST) and schedule of rates (ex GST); Area 6 – lump sum price of \$40,900.00 (ex GST) and schedule of rates (ex GST); delegates to the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to sign the contract in the form proposed; notes that the contract contains clauses about the reasonable rate of progress for completing the works, and that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> if the contract manager is not satisfied, there is capacity to withdraw packages of work and appoint a replacement contractor; the Chief Executive Officer or delegate will exercise this clause as deemed necessary; notes that Officers will undertake a review of performance against the contract after the initial 20 working days and will take action as appropriate in accordance with the contract; delegates the power to the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to exercise the two 12 Month extension options in contract CON2025 1678 Fire Slashing Services in accordance with, and on the terms of CON2025 1678 Fire Slashing Services; and resolves that Confidential Attachment 1 to this report and all discussions relating to that attachment remain confidential. 	Assets and Environment	Completed
10 September 2024	5 2.1	Investment Policy	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; adopts the revised Investment Policy, as provided at Attachment 1; and authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to amend the adopted Investment Policy without formal Council consideration if the amendments required are of a minor administrative nature. 	Business Excellence	Completed
24 September 2024	2.1.1	Annual Financial Statements 2023/24 and Performance Statement 2023/24	<p>That Council, having considered a recommendation from the East Gippsland Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> provides ‘in principle’ approval to the Financial Statements 2023/24 as provided at Attachment 1, subject to the Victorian Auditor - General’s review; provides ‘in principle’ approval to the Performance Statement 2023/24 as provided at Attachment 2, subject to the Victorian Auditor - General’s review; and appoints Councillors Tom Crook and Mark Reeves to certify the Financial Statements 2023/24 and the Performance Statement 2023/24 in their final form. 	Business Excellence	Completed

3.1.2 Draft Annual Report 2023-24

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Election Period Statement

The recommended decision is not a Prohibited Decision as defined in section 69(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, or a Major Decision as defined by Council's Election Period Policy.

Conflict of Interest

Officers preparing this report have no conflict of interest to declare.

Executive Summary

The Annual Report highlights the significant achievements of Council throughout the 2023-24 financial year. The Annual Report also highlights Council's efforts in advocacy, capital works projects delivered, community programs and organisational performance.

Highlights of the 2023/24 year include:

- We successfully delivered \$56.6 million in projects. This represents the largest capital works program ever undertaken by Council. While some projects will extend into the next financial year, many are part of ongoing, multi-year initiatives that will continue to benefit our community for years to come.
- We completed 129 infrastructure projects, addressing diverse community needs with road upgrades, new sports facilities, and improvements council open and public spaces. Alongside building new assets, we've prioritised maintaining existing facilities and services to ensure they continue to support our communities wants and needs.
- Adoption of a Rural Land Use Strategy and the Housing and Settlement Strategy to guide how we manage housing growth over the next 15 years while protecting agricultural land.
- Our Community Engagement Program was reviewed to enhance our connection with the community. Following this review, Council planned an extensive, shirewide engagement program for the four-year review of the Community Vision.
- Securing a \$1.2 million grant from the Australian Government's Disaster Ready Fund (DRF). This grant will support our project, 'Increasing Understanding of Risk and Extending Resilience and Adaptability Building Across East Gippsland'.
- Completing the design of the Bairnsdale Regional Compost Facility to turn food and green waste into beneficial products, supporting our kerbside waste collection services and waste transfer stations. The facility is also essential for meeting State Government requirements to provide food organics and garden organics (FOGO) kerbside bin services by 2027.
- Developing a new ICT Strategic Plan for 2024-27 which will support our goal of improving business services and delivering better outcomes for our community.

To accompany the Annual Report a video of highlights is also produced, this will be available for community on 28 October 2024.

Key financial sustainability indicators

The financial performance highlights our achievements and the progress we have made for 2023/24. Our Long-term Financial Plan has been central to this, guiding us towards greater financial stability as we are committed to managing our resources wisely and creating a sustainable future for our community.

Some important financial sustainability indicators are listed below including the Working Capital Ratio, sometimes referred to as the Liquidity ratio, which demonstrates the level of current assets to current liabilities. This is well above the target of 150% set in the budget and considered low risk. A further key indicator is the asset renewal gap, which is also over the 100% target set in the budget.

Indicator	2023/24 Result	2022/23 Result	Risk indicator
Net result (%)	14.60%	24.20%	LOW
Adjusted underlying result (%)	(23.30%)	13.92%	MEDIUM
Liquidity (%)	282.70%	307.46%	LOW
Indebtedness (%)	18.17%	7.96%	LOW
Asset renewal gap (%)	126.50%	97.34%	LOW

Although the net result indicator is positive and reflects a solid performance, a crucial measure of financial sustainability is the adjusted underlying result which has a medium risk rating. This indicator adjusts for non-cash contributions and non-recurring grant income to provide a clearer view of our true operating position. The reason for the medium risk rating is because the 2023/24 result was impacted by the early payment of the \$19.6m Grants Commission payment which was received in the 2022/23 year.

Finally, an infrastructure revaluation was completed during the 2023/24 financial year. This has resulted in a net decrease of 8% in the value of infrastructure assets that is reflected in both the non-current asset written down values and the asset revaluation reserve (part of total equity). This brings the written down value of infrastructure assets to \$1.362b.

Performance Statement

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) requires Councils to report against prescribed indicators and measures, as part of their annual report.

Data and information have been collected and finalised to meet the requirements of the LGPRF. This information is used in both the Report of Operations and the Performance Statement in the Annual Report. Only the data in the Performance Statement must be audited. There is a larger set of indicators which will be reported through the LGPRF framework and published on the [VAGO](#) and [Victorian Government](#) websites.

The Annual Report meets the regulatory obligations required by the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and the Local Government Better Practice Guide Model report.

The Annual Report 2023-24 is provided at **Attachment 1**.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; and***
- 2. adopts the Annual Report 2023-24 provided at Attachment 1.***

Background

There is a legislated requirement that the Annual Report must contain certain information. This is detailed in the Act, Section 98(2), which states:

An annual report must contain the following:

- a) a report of operations of the Council;*
- b) an audited performance statement;*
- c) audited financial statements;*
- d) a copy of the auditor's report on the performance statement;*
- e) a copy of the auditor's report on the financial statements under Part 3 of the Audit Act 1994;*
- f) any other matter prescribed by the regulations*

Legislation

As of 1 July 2021, all provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020* commenced. Some provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989*, that have not been repealed, will remain applicable until such time as they are revoked.

This report has been prepared in accordance with *Local Government Act 2020*, 98(2) section from the Act.

The implications of this report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon the human rights detailed in the Victorian Government's Charter of *Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

The implications of the report have been assessed and are compliant with the obligations and principles of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*. The need for a Gender Impact Assessment has also been assessed.

Collaborative procurement

Pursuant of Section 109(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, this report has not been prepared in collaboration with another Council or organisation.

Council Plan

This report has been prepared and aligned with the following strategic objectives set out in the Council Plan 2021-2025:

Strategic Objective 1: 1.1 Council strives to provide equitable access to their services, support and facilities.

Resourcing

Financial

There are no financial resourcing impacts relating to this report. However, the Annual Report publishes information that directly links to the Annual Budget 2023/24.

Plant and equipment

Not applicable

Human Resources

There are no human resources impacts relating to this report, however the Annual Report publishes information relating to staffing and human resource programs.

Risk

The risks of this proposal have been considered minimal and managed appropriate.

Economic

This report itself has no direct economic impacts. However, the Annual Report identifies the outcomes and achievements of key economic actions and projects that have a positive influence on the local economy.

Social

This report itself has no direct social impacts. However, the Annual Report identifies the outcomes and achievements of key social actions and projects that have a positive influence on the community.

Gender Impact Statement

The Annual Report 2023-24 has considered the *Gender Equality Act* 2020 in its preparation and has been assessed as not requiring a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA).

Environmental

This report itself has no direct environmental impacts. However, the Annual Report identifies the outcomes and achievements of key actions and projects that have a positive influence on the natural environment.

Climate change

This report has been prepared and aligned with the following Climate Change function/category:

This report is assessed as having no direct impact on climate change. Consideration is given to climate change in corporate, strategic or council plan(s) and the annual report highlights the activities undertaken by council in this area.

Engagement

After adoption, the Annual Report will be promoted to the community through a media release. As the Annual Report covers Council's highlights and achievements for the past year, it is a great opportunity to promote a good news story to the community. This report will be made available on Council's website and promoted through social media channels.

Attachments

1. Draft Annual Report 2023-24 [3.1.2.1 - 192 pages]





Annual Report

2023-24





A smoking ceremony was held as part of the Welcome to Country for NAIDOC Week at Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative.

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL



Acknowledgement of Country

East Gippsland Shire Council acknowledges the Gunaikurnai, Nindi-Ngujarn Ngarigo Monero, Bidawel, Duduroa Dhargal, Jaithmathang people as the Traditional Custodians of this land that encompasses East Gippsland Shire, and their enduring relationship with country. The Traditional Custodians have cared for and nurtured East Gippsland for tens of thousands of years.

Council values their living culture and practices and their right to self-determination. Council pays respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in East Gippsland, their Elders, past, present, and future.

This annual report is prepared in accordance with the *Local Government 2020 and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Cover image: Holiday visitors swarmed to the Eagle Point Foreshore Hub over the summer holidays.

Images from this report may not be reproduced without written permission from East Gippsland Shire Council.

Contents

Acknowledgement of Country	3	Major Capital Works	44
Section One: Introduction.....	7	Awards.....	52
Community Vision 2040	8	Civic Events	54
Council Vision	8	Events.....	56
Our Values.....	8	Section Three: Our Council.....	58
Fast Facts – 2023-24	10	Regional Profile	58
Highlights and Major Achievements of the Year	13	Our Local Economy	58
Challenges	30	Your Councillors.....	59
Section Two: The Year in Review.....	32	Section Four: Our Organisation	61
Message from the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer	33	Major Changes.....	62
Summary of Financial Performance	34	Staff Profile	64
Council's Operating Results	34	People and Culture	66
Income	35	Section Five: Our Performance	69
Rates and Charges	35	Strategic Planning Principles.....	70
Other revenue sources.....	35	Council Plan	71
Operating Expenditure.....	36	Section Six: Governance, Management and Other Information.....	98
Capital Expenditure	36	Governance and Management Checklist ..	104
Balance Sheet	37	Statutory Information	108
Cash and Cash Equivalents and Other Financial Assets	37	Section Seven: Financials	111
Financial Sustainability.....	37		
Advocacy	39		
Description of Operations.....	43		



The Mollacoota Skate Park opening was a big hit with the community, with a great skate event at the opening.

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL



1

Introduction

We’re proud to share our Annual Report for 2023-24 with you. This report is a reflection of our commitment to transparency and accountability. It showcases everything we’ve accomplished this year, the challenges we’ve faced, and how we’ve managed our finances to align with our strategic objectives.

In this report, you’ll find out how we’ve stayed true to our Council Plan 2021-25 and the goals set in our 2023-24 Annual Budget. Our aim is to ensure that every resource is used wisely to deliver real value to you, our community.

We’ve included details about your elected Council, our organisation, and essential statutory information. For a clear picture of our financial health, you can check the Audited Financial Statements covering July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

Community Vision 2040

Our people, place, environment, and economy will be connected, in balance and resilient. Our unique and diverse communities will be accessible, inclusive, well connected, and safe. We will value and care for each other and our natural environment. Our economy will support existing and emerging industries by being agile, innovative, and sustainable.

Council Vision

East Gippsland is an inclusive and innovative community that values our natural environment, puts community at the centre of Council decision-making, and creates the conditions in which communities can thrive.

Our Values

Our values are Respect, Collaboration, Integrity and Accountability. Our values are embedded into all that we do, creating a great place to work that delivers quality services to our customers and community.



Respect: We treat all with courtesy and dignity.



Accountability: We are responsible for our actions and outcomes.



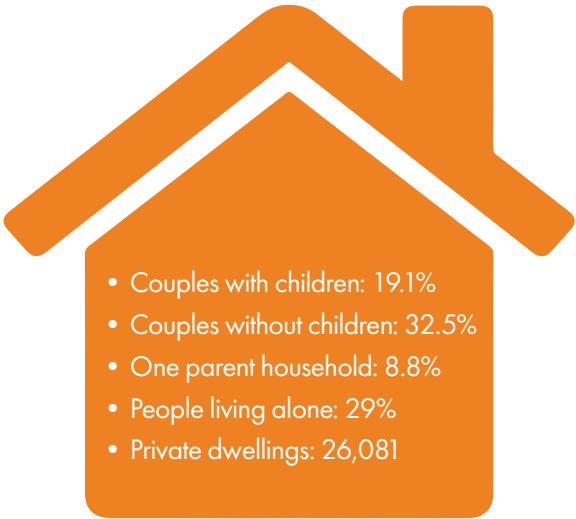
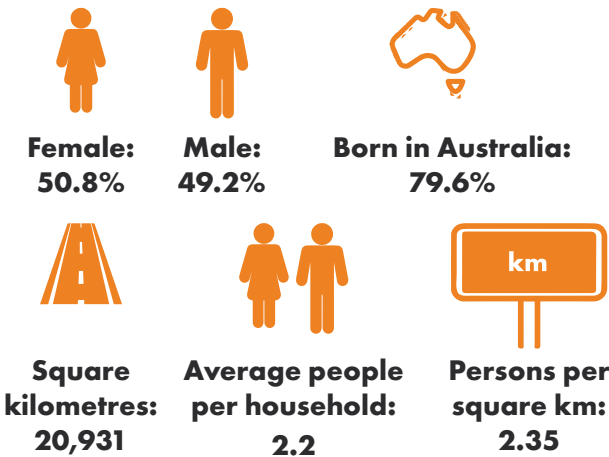
Collaboration: We build and maintain productive relationships.



Integrity: We focus on taking the correct course of action.

Profile East Gippsland Shire

Population: 49,179¹



Employment



- Health care and social assistances contribute 3,315 jobs (17.8%) to total employment.
- Retail trade contributes 1,936 jobs (10.4%) to total employment.
- Education and training contributes 1,801 jobs (9.7%) to total employment.
- Construction contributes 1,784 jobs (9.6%) to total employment.
- Agriculture contributes 1,690 jobs (9.1%) to total employment.

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Australia (3218.0)

Our services

FAST FACTS

Aerodromes

- Managed three aerodromes at Bairnsdale, Mallacoota and Orbost.

Animal management

- 195 animals rehomed.
- 132 animals reclaimed.

Aquatic and recreation centres

- 1,180 Bairnsdale Aquatic and Recreation Centre active memberships, 601 Lakes Aquadome active memberships.
- 488,119 visits to all aquatic facilities (BARC, Aquadome, Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool and Orbost Outdoor Pool).
- 78 playing fields, including tennis, basketball, volleyball and netball courts, futsal and playing greens for bowls and hockey.
- 15 cricket pitches.

Arts and culture

- 13,905 people attended shows and activities held at the Forge Theatre.
- 75 shows presented.

Asset management

Council maintains:

- o 3,010km of roads
- o 191 timber and concrete bridges
- o 27 pedestrian bridges
- o 267.5 hectares of parks and gardens
- o 284.78km of footpaths and 73.09km trails
- o Council delivered a Capital Works Program of over \$56.6 million on 217 projects. Of these projects, 82 are now complete.

Marinas

- 3 commercial marinas – Metung (145 berths including 24 dry berths) and Chinaman's Creek Metung (69 berths) and Slip Bight Paynesville (220 berths).
- 50 public jetties, 22 fishing platforms and 33 boat ramps.

Caravan parks and campgrounds

- 4 Council managed caravan parks and campgrounds.
- 14,012 bookings at Mallacoota Foreshore Holiday Park.
- 2,402 bookings at Eagle Point Caravan Park.

Civic events

- Four citizenship ceremonies.
- Four volunteer recognition events including Australia Day Awards.

Customer service

- 56,341 phone calls received.
- Average wait time of 36 seconds.
- 76% of calls answered within 45 seconds.
- 777 calls were received after hours.
- 124,510 customers attended service centres during the year (excluding the Bairnsdale Library).
- Collectively, service centres and mobile centres were open 249 hours per week.

Environmental and public health

- 453 food premises inspections carried out.
- 6,032 immunisations provided to infants, children and adults.
- 60 Community vaccination sessions were held monthly in Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Orbost and Paynesville.
- Visited 10 secondary schools for vaccinations.
- Held 20 corporate flu vaccination sessions at local businesses/workplaces.

Events

- 376 individual events.
- Issued 225 event permits, with a significant increase from 120 event permits in 2022-23.

Libraries

- 245,201 library visits.
- 4,560 visits to the mobile library services.
- 1,061 library programs.
- 12,741 attended library programs.
- 8,346 of library bookable devices.
- 6,071 registered library members.
- 257,046 library collection items loaned.
- Mobile library service travelled over 60,000km.
- 7,705 new items added to the library collection.
- 70,472 library collection items available for loan.

Livestock exchange

- 54,061 cattle and 35,520 sheep processed.

Media and communications

- Council's Facebook page has 10,400 followers.
- Council's website had 364,208 visits.
- 121 media releases.
- Environment Connect – distributed quarterly to over 447 subscribers, which were opened in total 691 times.
- 25,300 people visited YourSay East Gippsland with 215 participating in surveys, quick polls or provided feedback.
- 34 newsletters were sent to 2,638 residents through YourSay East Gippsland.

Playgrounds and parks

- Over 70 playgrounds were mulched with an estimated 470m³ of mulch spread.

Planning and building approvals

- 506 planning permits issued, representing a total estimated development value of \$234 million.
- Over 150 new dwellings and 360 new lots permitted (including revisions to permits).

Trees and vegetation

- 9,661,612 square metres of slashing took place. This is a combination of roadsides, reserves, and Council-owned properties.
- 131 street trees were planted.

Waste and recycling services

- 22,250 kerbside garbage bins.
- 21,952 kerbside recycling bins.
- 1,293,490 kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts.
- 49.18% of kerbside waste collected was diverted from landfill.

Environmental sustainability

- 19 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions avoided by using Council's four public electric vehicle charging stations. Cars visited from 461 different postcodes, of which 198 were visiting from interstate.
- 99.16% of Council's electricity use from renewable sources.
- 200 seedlings planted on National Tree Day in partnership with Bairnsdale Secondary College and East Gippsland Specialist School.

FAST FACTS





Highlights and Major Achievements of the Year

Council is dedicated to support East Gippsland communities by delivering essential services, rolling out new infrastructure, and driving recovery projects. We've been involved in hosting community celebrations and events and providing funding opportunities to help our region thrive. All these initiatives are in line with our strategic goals to improve quality of life and strengthen community connections.

13

An inclusive and caring community that respects and celebrates diversity



We've added a translation tool to Council's website to bridge language gaps in our community. The new feature supports the top 10 most spoken languages in our region, making it easier for people who don't speak English or speak it as a second language to access our information. We're committed to ensuring everyone has what they need to stay informed and engaged.



We recognised the contribution of volunteers to celebrate the importance of their work at events in Bairnsdale, Buchan and Bruthen during National Volunteer Week in May. We also added 37 volunteers to the East Gippsland Volunteer Honour Roll. Volunteers support many local organisations and clubs, including community organisations, health providers, culture and creativity groups, service clubs, emergency services and sporting clubs.



Our Libraries After Dark program has flourished, strengthening its ties in the community. People find companionship and support at our weekly gatherings, which offer a valuable opportunity to connect with others and build meaningful relationships, including for those living alone or facing health challenges.



We supported a range of National Reconciliation Week events, including partnering with the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria for the Koorie Youth Forum at the Forge Theatre and hosting an Elders Reconciliation Lunch. We are grateful for the support and collaboration of our Aboriginal partners, including Lake Tyers Aboriginal Health Service, Lakes Tyers Aboriginal Trust, Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association, Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative, Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, MOOGJI Aboriginal Health Service, Yoowinna Wurnalung Aboriginal Healing Service, and Girls at the Centre. We are committed to celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and advancing reconciliation in our community.



The Seed Library has seen wonderful growth with collections now available at every library across the shire. The program inspires our community to cultivate plants and food, share seeds, and expand their gardening knowledge. It's not just about growing plants—it's about fostering a strong, connected community. We are nurturing both our gardens and our relationships.



We've upgraded our mobile library to a full-service vehicle and added a second mobile library to better reach remote areas. Our mobile library visits about 50 locations across the shire every two weeks, bringing library services closer to our communities. We've also teamed up with the Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative (GEGAC) to create a dedicated mobile library visit to serve their site. It's one of the ways we are improving accessibility to support our community's needs.



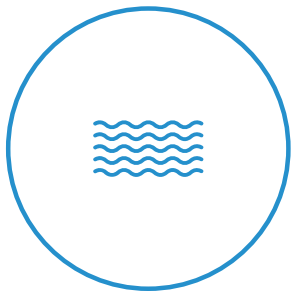
There was record attendance at our recreation centres this year with 488,119 visits across the shire. There were more than 100,000 visits to Bairnsdale Aquatic Recreation Centre during April, May and June.



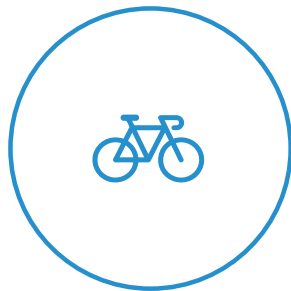
We honoured East Gippsland's vibrant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community at a flag-raising ceremony as part of National Reconciliation Week celebrations. Our rich cultural and community diversity plays a vital role in our region.



Communities affected by natural disasters came together to share their experiences at the Rising Strong Forum. Community representatives presented their initiatives, projects, and programs, showcasing the positive outcomes and influences of social capital and social infrastructure in the region. The presentations highlighted the way social networks and infrastructure can strengthen resilience and improve the way we respond to emergencies.



A new initiative at Bairnsdale Aquatic Recreation Centre and Lakes Entrance Aquadome, delivered in partnership with allied health services, supports people who are living with health conditions to become members of our facilities. By working together, we can ensure people have access to the resources they need for their health and wellness journey. We're committed to enhancing our community's wellbeing and making our centres a welcoming space for everyone.



A range of community groups have joined the East Gippsland Road Safety Group, amplifying the voices of communities across the shire. The expansion helps us work together to improve road safety and better understand and address community needs.

In June, we hosted the Festival of Big Ideas. Council brought together 13 creative community groups to showcase their talents and trained six people to deliver Pecha Kucha-style presentations. The festival provided a valuable opportunity for our community to share and celebrate innovative ideas while fostering collaboration and creativity.





We worked with the Department of Health, the Department of Education (federal and state), Emergency Recovery Victoria, Lake Tyers Aboriginal Health, and the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust to reestablish childcare services after destructive February storms. We also secured the funding to establish a medium-term facility on Country. Our youth engagement officer and a young Koorie community member attended the National Koorie Youth Summit in Melbourne in June. Themed "Ancestors' Footsteps, Young Voices Empowering Futures", the summit allowed them to connect with other young leaders, share experiences, and contribute to shaping a brighter future for our community.



During the fourth year of recovery from the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires, our community's spirit and resilience have been truly strengthened by the incredible efforts of volunteers, leaders, and various agencies. We allocated \$347,099 through the Community Recovery Committees - Local Government Area Fund program to empower our Community Recovery Committees. This funding has been pivotal in advancing 63 local recovery projects and hosting 19 enriching workshops. Our partnership with the Gippsland Community Foundation also flourished, bringing 54 vibrant events to life through the Community Events Program.

Planning and infrastructure that enriches the environment, lifestyle, and character of our communities



Council has successfully delivered \$56.6 million in capital works – the largest capital works program we’ve ever undertaken. We’ve also set up a Capital Works Steering Committee to oversee and support delivery of our ambitious program. While some projects will continue into the next year, many are part of long-term initiatives.



Council has adopted the Rural Land Use Strategy and the Housing and Settlement Strategy to guide how we manage housing growth over the next 15 years while protecting agricultural land. We developed the strategy following extensive community engagement. It reflects our commitment to thoughtful planning and meeting community needs in a sustainable, responsible way.



We’re committed to standing by East Gippsland communities during extreme weather events. When the Boxing Day flood hit, we were there for the Buchan community, opening a relief centre to assist evacuated campers. Following the February 2024 storm, we jumped into action with a comprehensive response: organising clean-ups, repairing damaged infrastructure, and setting up essential services like charging stations and showers to support those affected. Our goal is to provide practical, timely help and ensure that our communities recover and thrive.



An Emergency Recovery Victoria Recovery and Resilience Grant allowed us to engage ResilientCo to deliver community-led emergency relief centre training in Mallacoota, Cann River, Orbost, Omeo, Buchan, and Lakes Entrance. The training empowers our volunteers and builds communications links with the Council’s Municipal Emergency Operations Centre. It helps us to strengthen community resilience and improve how we respond in an emergency.



We’ve funded and installed 10 generators through the Emergency Power Facilities Program to improve energy reliability in some of our most isolated community facilities. The generators are up and running in Bendoc, Tubbut, Bonan, Club Terrace, Combienbar, Cann River, Cabbage Tree Creek, Wulgulmerang, Omeo, and Clifton Creek. We’ve also secured funding for 10 more generators from the Disaster Recovery Fund, which will be installed soon. It’s one way we’re delivering our commitment to supporting remote communities and keeping essential services operating during emergencies.



We've started creating a long-term strategy for Bairnsdale's growth and development through the Bairnsdale 2050 project. The work acknowledges Bairnsdale's role as our regional centre and considers how its development will impact our region. Robust engagement will ensure our planning considers our community's diverse aspirations and concerns. We are committed to shaping a thriving and inclusive future for Bairnsdale and East Gippsland, as a whole.



We have thoroughly assessed the condition of roads across the shire this year, using advanced survey vehicles with high-definition video and laser-profiling technology to identify defects and evaluate our roads against local road standards. The assessment will help us keep our road network safe and well-maintained, reflecting our commitment to high-quality infrastructure and service.



The Lakes Entrance Slipway redevelopment has become a vibrant community hub since its completion in summer, which included 4.1 kilometres of new timber decking. Local businesses have formed the Slipway Collective to offer outdoor dining and live music and the historic winch sheds showcase local artists in gallery spaces. This investment reflects our commitment to enhancing community spaces and supporting local culture and businesses.



Construction of the Club Terrace community facility has brought a much-needed, purpose-built hall and meeting space to the area, which was badly affected by bushfire. The facility provides the community with a welcoming space to gather, connect, and support one another. This project aligns with our commitment to rebuilding and strengthening communities in the wake of adversity.



We invested \$631,015 to upgrade the Omeo netball and tennis courts to support the community’s physical and mental wellbeing. The upgrade will help people stay active while fostering community connections through team sports. The project included reconstructing the netball court pavements, installing new player and scorer shelters, adding a secure equipment storage area, and improving spectator facilities and lighting to meet Netball Australia training standards. This development helps to promote healthier, more connected communities.



We’ve trialled an innovative type of asphalt called reconophalt, which includes recycled materials, on Day Street in Bairnsdale. The surface performed well during six months of use and we’re now identifying other places we can use it. This reflects our commitment to sustainable and effective infrastructure solutions.

We successfully upgraded the green at Metung Bowls Club and club members are thrilled. The new, durable playing surface now meets the competition standards set by Bowls Australia, allowing the club to host more events and attract new members. The transformation has revitalised the club, which is a vibrant hub for community engagement and activity.





We completed major upgrades at Bullock Island in Lakes Entrance, enhancing a picturesque spot near the entrance to Bass Strait. Visitors can enjoy stunning scenery and improved facilities, making their experience even more memorable.



The architecturally designed Eagle Point Foreshore Hub opened this year and includes two modern community meeting rooms equipped with audio-visual technology, public toilets, a café, and a spacious deck offering breathtaking views of Lake King. The hub provides a welcoming space for community gatherings.



Three projects have improved facilities at Bairnsdale City Oval, including the addition of female-friendly changerooms, an expansion of Peppercorn Park, and the installation of new lights. The new changerooms offer inclusive facilities so everyone feels valued and respected. Upgrades to Peppercorn Park allow the ground to host multiple games at once to support the growth of female AFL and accommodate junior AFL and cricket carnivals. It also doubles the training capacity, which helps manage wear and tear on the main oval, leading to better ground conditions on match days.



We've introduced a new Waste Wise Management Plan to assist event organisers to plan and host sustainable events. The plan aims to reduce waste and support our goals of sustainability and a circular economy. By supporting event organisers to effectively manage waste, we can make our community events greener and more eco-friendly.

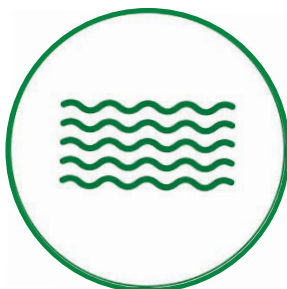
A natural environment that is managed and enhanced



We have taken significant steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by advancing the Bairnsdale geothermal project with a public information session, installing electric vehicle chargers in Buchan, Lakes Entrance, and Mallacoota, and developing a comprehensive emissions reduction plan for Council. These initiatives reflect our commitment to sustainability and our goal of creating a greener, healthier community.



A new recycling awareness campaign will improve waste management in our community. The project helps households to distinguish between recyclable and non-recyclable items, making it easier for everyone to contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable environment.



We're working with the East Gippsland Integrated Water Management Practitioners' Forum on water management projects, including at the East Gippsland Livestock Exchange and the Crooke Street wetlands in Lucknow. By working together, we improve the way we manage water resources and support sustainable development in our region.



Our successful Detox Your Home event in December attracted 118 people, who safely disposed of 3,582 kilograms of household chemicals. The annual event helps keep our environment clean and shows our community's commitment to responsible waste management and sustainability.



We've made significant progress on the Bairnsdale Regional Compost Facility. Once the design phase is complete, we will submit a development licence application to the Environment Protection Authority. We are also preparing a planning permit application and will engage with the community, including nearby residents, to ensure they are informed and involved. We value community feedback and aim to ensure that everyone can have their say.

A thriving and diverse economy that attracts investment and generates inclusive local employment



In May, we teamed up with the Gippsland East Local Learning and Employment Network (GELLEN), TAFE Gippsland, and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations to host the Emerging Industries Careers Expo. The event was designed to inspire and educate young people about exciting career opportunities in fields such as marine engineering for offshore wind farms and drone seeding in agri-tech. More than 400 Gippsland students explored the 26 stalls, learning about training pathways and career possibilities in the region. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect students with the careers and industries of tomorrow.



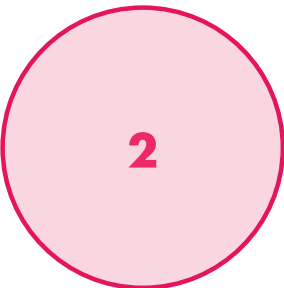
We organised a series of industry roundtables to connect directly with local business leaders and discuss East Gippsland’s economy. Conversations focused on issues affecting business productivity, competitiveness, and growth. The industry insights will help strengthen our advocacy with state and federal governments so we can effectively support our business community.



Four full-time staff have been appointed to manage the new Omeo Mountain Bike Trails, boosting tourism and employment in Omeo. Nestled at the base of Mount Sam State Forest, the trail network is still under construction and features about 25 kilometres of completed trails and a bike wash. Once completed, it will span approximately 100 kilometres, offering a range of trails for beginners to advanced riders, including cross-country routes, challenging climbs, and jump runs. The project aligns with our goals to enhance local tourism and support economic growth in the region.



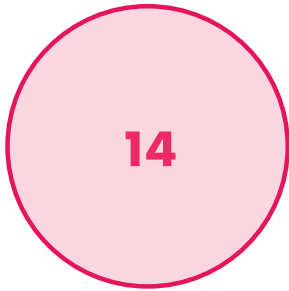
We have rolled out initiatives from the Culture and Creativity Strategy, completing a feasibility study for an arts and culture precinct in Bairnsdale and restructuring Council’s Arts and Culture business unit. These steps are designed to enhance our community’s cultural offerings and support creative growth, aligning with our commitment to fostering a vibrant and engaged local arts scene.



Two members of our Visitor Information team took part in the Ken Hore tourism mentoring program, a collaborative effort between Destination Gippsland and Destination Phillip Island. The program supports career development for young professionals in tourism and offered valuable opportunities for growth and learning in the industry.



More than 50 local businesses took part in our digital confidence workshops, which boost digital skills for business owners, farmers, start-ups, freelancers, and more. Workshops run through the East Gippsland Digital Confidence Program covered topics such as cybersecurity, digital marketing, e-commerce, process streamlining, disaster recovery for digital assets, and internet connectivity. We also provided free one-on-one mentoring to help businesses tackle specific challenges. This initiative empowers local businesses and supports their growth in a digital world.



Fourteen local businesses took part in the Australian Small Business and Industry Group Business Growth Program, which is designed to support their growth. We encouraged senior decision-makers to cultivate a culture of continuous improvement and focus on practical steps that deliver immediate results. The program provides the tools and insights our local businesses need to thrive and grow.

We worked with the Buchan Business and Tourism Association to develop the Buchan Visitor Event Strategy in response to economic challenges posed by the Boxing Day flood and storm. The strategy identifies event opportunities that capitalise on Buchan’s strengths, boost tourism, and enhance the visitor economy. We also provided support and mentoring to help organise an event aligned with the East Gippsland Winter Festival. This helps to ensure Buchan can recover and thrive with increased visitation and community engagement.





More than 220 people attended seven Business of Farming Events supported by recovery and resilience funding. Run in partnership with Southern Farming Systems, the events explored topics such as farm valuations, boosting cash flow and expansion, market trends in commercial farming, tax considerations, production costs, bank policies, and succession planning. Our goal is to provide insights and practical strategies to support and strengthen our local farming community.



We’ve developed and launched the Business Check-In tool to help local businesses to self-assess and more easily access available support. The tool not only assists businesses to evaluate their own health, but also helps us benchmark and monitor the wellbeing of our business community. By identifying areas for improvement, we can better tailor our services to meet local business needs and support their growth and success.

With support from the East Gippsland Community Foundation, we hosted the second Agriculture Leadership Program. Eleven people from across the region participated in the program, which focused on building economic resilience, leading change, and developing leadership skills. Participants also toured local businesses. The program provided a supportive platform for emerging leaders to grow and connect.



A transparent organisation that listens and delivers effective, engaging, and responsive services



We successfully rolled out a new Property, Rating, Licensing, and Customer Request Management System. This upgrade will boost efficiency in handling customer service requests, enhance mobility for our field officers, and strengthen data and cyber-security for our property and rating platform. It improves the way we serve our community and protect our information.



We thoroughly reviewed our Community Grants program and launched the new, refreshed program. The update will better support and empower our community by making the grant process more accessible and effective.



We launched a new website for the Mallacoota Foreshore Holiday Park so it's easier for visitors to find and book accommodation and access park information. The user-friendly website highlights Mallacoota's beauty and makes it easier to plan your stay.



We teamed up with Wellington Shire Council to jointly procure a new Electronic Document and Records Management System. The collaboration brings efficiencies to our procurement process and streamlines our systems and processes. It's one of the ways we are working to improve service delivery and more effectively manage our documents and records.



We have added a new Council Reports Hub to our website, providing easy access to Council meeting reports and decisions to improve transparency and accessibility. This tool will improve community engagement and help people stay informed about Council activities.



We've transformed the MyCouncil MyCommunity newsletter into an interactive and agile format. The upgrade helps us deliver information more effectively and makes it easier for our community to stay informed and engaged.



We have developed a new corporate messaging book centred on the theme of "Community Matters". We are using the refreshed messaging across our communications so we can more effectively report on and share our activities with the community.



We have reviewed and refined our advocacy priorities to focus on crucial areas such as asset management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and enhancing digital connectivity. We're also addressing housing availability for workers, advocating for reform in National Disaster Recovery Funding, supporting the transition of the native timber industry, and the integration of state-wide flood mapping. These efforts are central to our commitment to improving community resilience and addressing pressing challenges.



In May, we launched "Happy or Not", a customer feedback tool to gather insights from those using our services in person. This tool helps us pinpoint areas that need improvement by rotating feedback kiosks across seven Council sites throughout the year. In May and June, we received more than 2,400 responses. This valuable insight allows us to continuously enhance our services and better meet customer needs.



We have developed a detailed question-and-answer sheet to assist our customer service team to quickly resolve many common customer-service queries. More than 90 per cent of queries are now resolved during the first request. This initiative means we're better equipped to address concerns promptly and effectively, ensuring the community receive the support they need with greater ease.



We have drafted a new information and technology strategy to improve the use of technology and digital services. The ICT Strategy 2024-27 aims to improve the experience for staff and our communities by integrating the most effective tools and services. It will benefit everyone by enhancing customer experience and refining traditional service delivery.



We actively engaged with the state and federal governments by submitting two detailed submissions addressing the financial sustainability of local government. These submissions highlight our challenges and advocate for support to ensure long-term financial stability and effective service delivery for our community.

Our Community Engagement Program was closely examined to pinpoint the key areas where we can better support Council in achieving its community engagement goals. Our focus is on refining our approach to ensure its effectively integrated throughout the organisation, helping us connect more meaningfully with our community. Following this review, we've planned an extensive, shirewide engagement program for the four-year review of the Community Vision.





Our teams cleaning up debris following the February storms and (opposite) one of the many road closures following tree falls.

Challenges

In the last financial year, we have celebrated many significant achievements, but we have also faced a range of challenges together.

Our region has experienced unprecedented weather events, including severe floods and storms, which have tested our resilience. On the economic front, inflation, rising interest rates, and the impacts of environmental changes have compounded difficulties, alongside ongoing housing shortages and the transition away from the native timber industry.

We recognise the pressures from the current economic climate and cost-of-living increases. Maintaining financial sustainability has been crucial, especially with no increase in Financial Assistance Grants for Council services. We're committed to enhancing service delivery and operational efficiency, which has guided the development of our 2024/25 budget. This budget carefully balances community needs with operational efficiencies.

We are actively seeking new investments and equitable government funding to benefit our community. To this end, we've made two submissions to the Victorian and Commonwealth governments advocating for fairer and more sustainable funding models for Local Government. Our work is significant; for every dollar of revenue we generate, we manage \$10 worth of physical assets, like parks and gardens.

The rising costs of doing business has also impacted our Capital Works Program, which includes over \$56.6 million in funding and 217 projects. Despite these challenges, we successfully completed 82 projects this year, with the remainder set to be finished in the coming years.





We attended the Bairnsdale, Omeo and Orbost (pictured) shows during the year, sharing information about Council services, projects, sustainability and had some fun with the community.

The Year in Review

Looking back on the past year, we have the chance to reflect on the significant achievements we've made, alongside the challenges faced by both the Council and the community.

Message from the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer



Our Council is committed to keeping the community at the centre of everything we do, and this year's annual report highlights our commitment to this undertaking. We're not just here to provide services; we strive to be increasingly integrated into the fabric of our communities, fully aware of the challenges faced and working together to find and implement collective solutions.

Reflecting on the past year, we are proud of the progress we've made together. Despite dealing with floods, storms, and economic challenges, including rising cost of living pressures, we've achieved significant milestones. Our focus has been on enhancing resilience of our infrastructure and delivering crucial services, in an increasingly cost constrained environment.

We successfully completed 129 infrastructure projects, addressing diverse community needs with road upgrades, new sports facilities, and improvements council open and public spaces. Alongside building new assets, we've prioritised maintaining existing facilities and services to ensure they continue to support our communities wants and needs.

Making sure efficiency and innovation guide our service delivery is not a commitment we take lightly. We are constantly seeking new ways to solve old problems, streamline operations, ensure financial sustainability and incorporate local knowledge, while providing the highest-quality services which represent the best possible overall value to the region.

Our dedication to bushfire and disaster recovery remains strong, with recent funding extending our support through June 2025. We are committed to being there for our communities throughout the recovery process. Building back better, learning from the past and making sure we are all as prepared and equipped as possible when emergencies and natural disasters strike.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our community and partners for your invaluable support. Your involvement is central to making East Gippsland a welcoming and inclusive place for all.

A special thank you goes to our dedicated teams of council staff and communities. Your hard work and commitment have been crucial to our achievements this year. Your efforts truly make a difference in our community.

Thank you for being a vital part of our journey. Together, we are building a brighter future for East Gippsland.

Councillor Tom Crook – Mayor
Fiona Weigall – Chief Executive Officer

Summary of Financial Performance

The summary of our financial performance for 2023-24 report highlights our achievements and the progress we've made in strengthening our financial position. Our Long-term Financial Plan has been central to this effort, guiding us towards greater financial stability and ensuring that we're set up for long-term success. We're committed to managing our resources wisely and creating a sustainable future for our community.

Financial Snapshot

- We generated \$154 million in revenue, which was slightly below our budgeted target of \$168.9 million.
- Rates and charges made up \$69.9 million, accounting for 45% of our total operating revenue.
- Our total expenditure was \$131.4 million, surpassing our budget of \$125.2 million.
- We ended the year with an operating surplus of \$22.5 million, compared to our budgeted surplus of \$43.5 million.
- We delivered \$56.6 million in Capital Works, though this was less than our budgeted \$119.2 million.
- Our cash holdings and financial assets saw a decrease of \$23.1 million, dropping from \$140.3 million in 2022-23 to \$117.2 million in 2023-24.
- Net debt rose to \$9.859 million, up from \$2.912 million the previous year.
- To ensure we are on the right track towards long-term sustainability, we focus on three key areas of financial performance:
- Our operating and underlying results.
- The renewal and replacement of our existing assets.
- Our cash holdings.

Asset renewal

One of our crucial measures for capital works is whether our spending on asset renewal keeps pace with the rate at which our assets are deteriorating. Our strategy aims to renew our assets at a rate that exceeds their depreciation. We set a key strategic target of renewing at least 100% of our assets.

For 2023-24, our asset renewal result stands at 126.5%. This reflects our commitment to maintaining and enhancing our asset base, ensuring we're not just keeping up with depreciation but improving our infrastructure for the future.

Cash holdings

Cash holdings are a key indicator of our ability to fund Council's activities and meet our obligations. They reflect our financial flexibility, but it's important to remember that these holdings are often balanced by restricted items, such as trust deposits, reserves, or funds earmarked for specific purposes. This balance ensures that while we maintain the liquidity needed for daily operations, we also allocate funds responsibly for their intended uses.

Debt levels

During the year, we took on new borrowings amounting to \$7.043 million for the Eagle Point Community Hub and WORLD Sporting Precinct projects, through the Community Infrastructure Low Interest Loan Scheme. We also repaid \$96,000 of existing debt. Total borrowings stand at \$9.859 million an increase of \$6.947 million from the previous financial year. This borrowing strategy is part of our broader approach to managing financial resources and supporting our long-term strategic goals.

Our current borrowings of \$1.650 million are related to the Tambo Bluff Infrastructure Project, with reimbursement planned from Tambo Bluff landowners through a Special Charge Scheme.

Operating results

This year, Council achieved an operating surplus of \$22.552 million, down from the \$37.812 million surplus recorded in 2022-23 — a decrease of \$15.26 million. It's worth noting that last year's surplus included a \$19.6 million advance payment for the 2023-24 Federal Assistance Grant.

While we saw a decrease in capital grants of \$32.1 million compared to the budget, this was offset by an increase in contributed assets of \$25.6 million and higher-than-expected income from interest on invested funds, which rose by \$3.8 million due to increased interest rates. Additionally, we received \$2 million in extra reimbursements for natural disaster events and \$1.5 million more in fees and charges than budgeted.

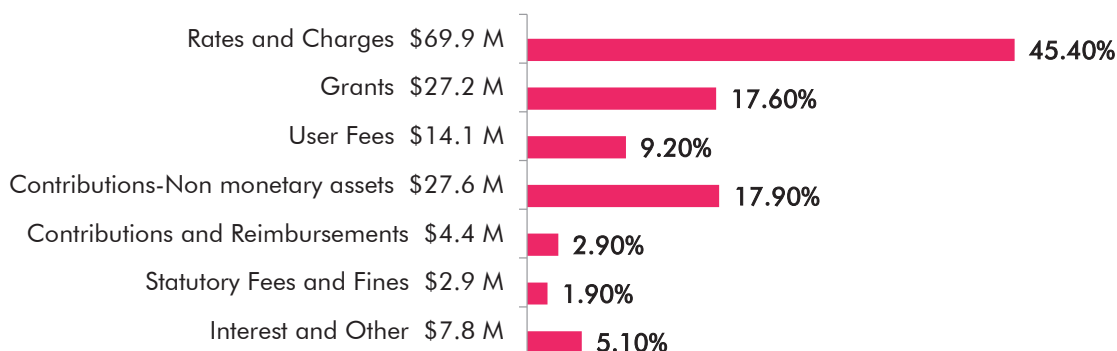
The additional income from fees and charges was a result of additional planning and subdivision fees, increased memberships taken up at our Recreation Centres and more sales of livestock meant increased income for the livestock exchange.

Although our operating surplus reflects a solid performance, a crucial measure of financial sustainability is the underlying result. This figure adjusts for non-recurrent capital income to provide a clearer view of our true operating position. An underlying surplus indicates that our operational expenditures, including depreciation and amortisation, have been fully covered.

This year, we recorded an underlying deficit of \$24.8 million, compared to an underlying surplus of \$19.11 million last year. This shift was influenced by the advance funding of \$19.6 million for the 2023/24 Federal Assistance Grant, which was received in the previous financial year. Additionally, increased expenditure on projects funded in prior years, but completed in the current year, contributed to the deficit.

Income

This year, our operating income totalled \$153.995 million, down from \$156.018 million in 2022/23, reflecting a decrease of \$2.023 million.



The graph below illustrates the distribution of Council's income for 2023/24, providing a clear view of the various revenue sources and their contributions.

Rates and charges

Rates and charges income was \$65.5 million this year. This represents 45.4% of our total income, compared to 42% in the previous year.

Other revenue sources

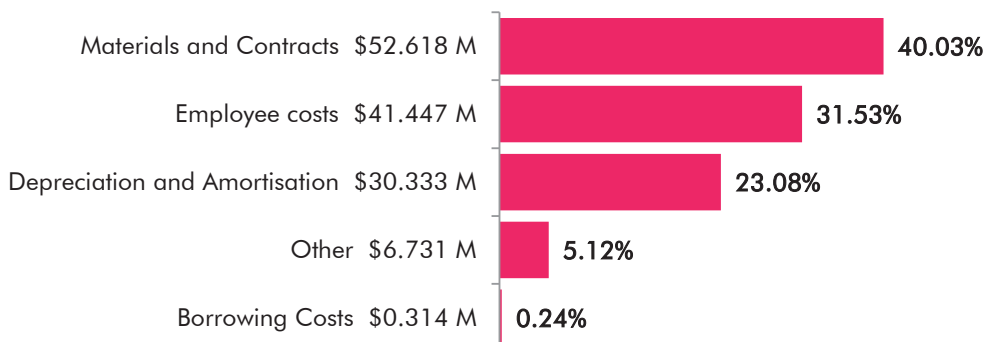
This financial year, grant funding totalled \$27.2 million, making up 17.6% of our total income compared to 39.2% last year. The decrease in the percentage of income from grants is primarily due to a reduction of \$22.3 million in the Federal Assistance Grant because of the early payment of this grant. Additionally, we received significant funding for 2019 Bushfire recovery and support programs amounting to \$12.1 million in the previous year. However, this year saw an increase in capital grants of \$3.3 million due to the timing of projects and related grant income.

User fees contributed 9.2% of our total income this year, up from 8.4% last year. This increase is largely attributed to a rise in waste fees, which added \$0.544 million to our revenue.

Contributions of non-monetary assets represented 17.9% of our total income for the year, a notable increase from 1.5% in 2022-23. This rise is due to additional non-monetary assets valued at \$25.3 million being transferred to Council, primarily as a catch up from previous subdivision works.

Operating expenditure

The graph below illustrates the breakdown of Council's operating expenditure for 2023-24:



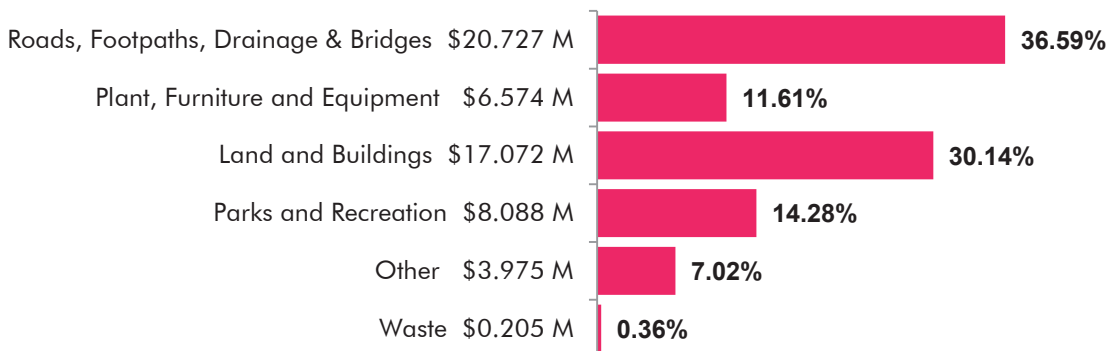
This year, our total operating expenditure reached \$131.443 million, which is \$6.173 million above the adopted budget. This is because:

- \$5.1 million in infrastructure asset write-offs due to replacing assets.
- Materials and services exceeding the budget by \$0.361 million, largely due to restoration works from natural disaster events, which will be offset by reimbursement income.
- Depreciation and amortisation costs were \$0.377 million over budget due to changes from the revaluation of infrastructure assets.

Capital expenditure

In addition to our operating expenditure, Council invests in capital projects that provide long-term benefits to the community. This year, our capital expenditure totalled \$56.641 million, which was \$62.6 million below budget. This shortfall is primarily due to the timing of certain projects that are now expected to be completed in the 2024-25 year.

The graph below details the major categories of capital expenditure for 2023-24, highlighting where these investments are being directed to enhance community infrastructure and services.



Here's a breakdown of our capital expenditure for 2023-24:

- Roads and Bridges: We invested \$20.727 million this year, which is \$7.891 million more than last year, representing 36.59% of our total capital expenditure compared to 30.68% last year.
- Plant, Furniture, and Equipment: Our spending in this area was \$6.574 million, an increase of \$2.043 million from the previous year, accounting for 11.61% of total capital expenditure, up from 10.83% last year.
- Land and Buildings: We allocated \$17.072 million this year, \$2.298 million more than last year, making up 30.14% of our total capital expenditure compared to 35.32% in the previous year.
- Parks and Recreation: Capital expenditure totalled \$8.088 million, \$4.527 million higher than last year, and represented 14.28% of our total capital expenditure, up from 8.51% last year.
- Other Infrastructure: This category saw \$3.975 million in expenditure, which is \$1.027 million less than last year, accounting for 7.02% of total capital expenditure compared to 11.96% last year.
- Waste: We spent \$0.205 million this year, \$1.531 million less than last year, which constituted 0.36% of total capital expenditure, down from 2.7% last year.

Balance Sheet

Council has maintained a robust balance sheet this year. As of June 30, 2024, our Net Assets stood at \$1,446 million, down from \$1,548 million last year, marking a decrease of \$102.428 million.

This decline is primarily due to a reduction in the fair value of infrastructure following a revaluation, totalling \$124.980 million. Offsetting the decrease was the operating surplus of \$22.552 million.

Cash and Cash Equivalents and Other Financial Assets

As of June 30, 2024, cash and cash equivalents, along with other financial assets, totalled \$117.192 million, which is \$23.115 million less than last year.

This reduction is largely attributed to the advance payment of \$19.6 million for the 2023-24 Federal Assistance Grant, which was received in the 2022-23 year but had been budgeted to be received in the 2023/24 year. A decrease in advance funding for capital and operating grants of \$3.382 million also impacted the cash balance at year-end.

Financial sustainability

Ensuring long-term financial sustainability is Council's primary goal. This focus is vital so we can continue to deliver over 100 services to our community and invest in community assets for everyone's benefit.

As a council for every dollar of revenue we collect, we manage \$10 of physical assets like parks and roads. For the Victorian Government this is \$4 and for Federal Government it is \$0.40.

In 2023/24 our Budget was based on a 3.5 per cent rate cap in line with the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System. Like previous years, we did not seek a variation to the rate cap and continue to absorb increasing costs, including inflation of 3.8%. This becomes more of a challenge each year, and the drive to find efficiencies within operations is ongoing to ensure there are no significant impacts on service delivery.

Our 10-year Financial Plan ensures that we take a long-term view to investing in our communities, because just like a household budget, we can't fund everything we'd like to, so we phase our expenditure over a 10-year horizon.

We rely on support from the Victorian and Federal governments to deliver key infrastructure projects and provide support for other important programs in the region. A significant level of advocacy is involved in many grants. Overall, we received \$27.2M in grant funding from State and Federal governments during the 2023/24 financial year.

We will continue to review and optimise our operations to deliver services to the community in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible.

Key financial sustainability indicators

Indicator	2022/23 Result	2023/24 Result	Risk Indicator
Operating Surplus (\$)	\$37.812m	\$22.552m	LOW
Adjusted Underlying Result %	13.92%	(23.3%)	MEDIUM
Working Capital %	307.46%	282.7%	LOW
Unrestricted cash %	89.62%	137.45%	LOW
Indebtedness %	7.96%	18.17%	LOW
Asset renewal	97.34%	126.5%	LOW

The only indicator with a medium risk rating is the adjusted underlying result. This figure adjusts for non-recurrent capital income to provide a clearer view of our true operating position.

This year, we recorded an underlying deficit of \$24.8 million, compared to an underlying surplus of \$19.11 million last year. This shift was influenced by the advance funding of \$19.6 million for the 2023/24 Federal Assistance Grant, which was paid to us early and therefore was recorded in 2022/23. The result highlights the challenges of the timing of grant receipts; however, we are committed to maintaining a positive underlying surplus over the long-term financial plan.

For more detailed information on our financial performance, please refer to Section 7 – Financial Performance.



Celebrating the grand opening of the Gippsland Agricultural Centre, advocated for by Council, were members and supporters of the Gippsland Agricultural Group. The newly opened centre is will benefit future generations of farmers, creating a blueprint for success and sustainability.

Advocacy

Councillors and officers play a vital role in advocating for our communities on a wide range of issues. Our Councillors actively engage with Members of Parliament from both the Australian and Victorian governments to voice our community's concerns and needs. Council officers foster strong, positive relationships with various organisations and statutory authorities, ensuring effective collaboration and support for our community's interests.

Councillors and officers play a vital role in advocating for our communities on a wide range of issues. Our Councillors actively engage with Members of Parliament from both the Australian and Victorian governments to voice our community's concerns and needs. Council officers foster strong, positive relationships with various organisations and statutory authorities, ensuring effective collaboration and support for our community's interests. Our advocacy priorities identified as critical are:

- Asset management
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Digital connectivity
- Housing availability for workers
- National Disaster Recovery Funding reform
- Native timber industry transition
- State-wide flood mapping integration

This year, Council has been actively engaged in various forums and meetings to advance our strategic objectives and support our community. Key activities included:

- Participating in the monthly Joint State/Local Government CEO Forums, where we discussed Local Government Act reforms to stay ahead of regulatory changes.
- Joining One Gippsland workshops, including a full-day session, to refresh our approach and align with regional goals.
- Attending regional forums on New Energy, contributing to efforts to position Gippsland as a Centre of Excellence for offshore wind and innovative energy solutions.
- Hosting an informal lunch with Shadow Minister for Tourism, Sport, and Events Sam Groth and the Hon. Tim Bull MP to showcase the region's strengths and explore future opportunities.
- Engaging with the Regional Partnerships Group to advocate for regional resilience and align our goals with One Gippsland and other key regional partners.

Council also actively supported various motions from the Australian Local Government Association and the Municipal Association of Victoria. This reflects our commitment to collaborating with these organisations to advocate for policies and initiatives that benefit our community and align with our strategic goals.

Our Councillors participated in external advisory committees and boards to ensure East Gippsland's voice is heard at regional, state, and national levels. Through our involvement with organisations such as the National Timber Councils Association, One Gippsland, the Australian Coastal Councils Association, Timber Towns Victoria, and the Australian Local Government Association, we strive to represent and advocate for our community's interests and needs across a wide spectrum.

Telecommunication connectivity is essential for driving local progress and enhancing community well-being. This year we have engaged extensively with Telstra to advocate for enhancements to the East Gippsland telecommunications network. By boosting internet access, we empower local businesses to thrive, expand their reach, and compete on a global scale, and it ensures our community stays connected and informed. Reliable communication also strengthens emergency responses and fosters local tourism and commerce. Our commitment to improving connectivity aligns with our strategic goals to create a more inclusive and vibrant future for all.

Council's position paper on Extractive Industries in East Gippsland supports industries that offer significant benefits while managing their environmental and community impacts. We aim to ensure these industries positively contribute to our region, protect our environment, and preserve future land use. Recognising diverse views and potential challenges, we are committed to clarifying the benefits, such as providing essential materials and creating sustainable local jobs.

Local Development Strategy (Timber Transition)

We are the host agency for the Victorian Forestry Transition Program's Local Development Strategy (LDS) funding for Swifts Creek and District. We also support the advancement of LDS projects in Orbost and Nowa Nowa.

After 12 months of community and expert consultation, the Swifts Creek Future Regional Context Analysis (RCA) was launched in December. This report detailed the processes, data, and community consultation undertaken to identify the strengths and opportunities within the Swifts Creek District community. Six opportunities were identified, and five of these progressed to further consultative workshops involving industry, community, government, and academia.

To promote the project and encourage community participation, the Swifts Creek Future team conducted a community roadshow in Tambo Crossing, Ensay, and Swifts Creek and attended community events.

These activities resulted in the development of three working groups; value-added primary industry, nature-based recreation and tourism, and education and skills. These working groups commenced in June, developing priorities and project plans to foster community economic and social growth and sustainability.



Outgoing Victorian Ombudsman Deborah Glass presented to both Councillors and staff about the role of the Victorian Ombudsman on visit to Bairnsdale.





Description of Operations

Council is dedicated to enhancing the wellbeing and prosperity of our community through a diverse array of services, programs, projects, and infrastructure. We strive to meet our strategic objectives by delivering essential services and facilities, offering support, and advocating for our community’s needs. To ensure we are meeting these goals effectively, we use a range of performance indicators and measures.

Our responsibilities under Victorian and Australian legislation encompass maintaining community infrastructure, managing land use planning and building control, overseeing domestic animal control, protecting the environment, and supporting local businesses. Each of these areas is crucial to our commitment to fostering a thriving and resilient community.

Major capital works

During the 2023-24-year, Council successfully delivered \$56.6 million in projects. This represents the largest capital works program ever undertaken by Council. While some projects will extend into the next financial year, many are part of ongoing, multi-year initiatives that will continue to benefit our community for years to come.

Capital works projects completed

Eagle Point Foreshore Hub

Since its completion in December, the Eagle Point Foreshore Hub has quickly become a popular meeting place for both the East Gippsland community and visitors. The revitalised foreshore precinct now features formal parking, well-designed pathways, beautiful landscaping, and a playground that inspires imaginative play for children of all ages and abilities. The new architectural space not only enhances recreational opportunities but also serves as a vibrant centre for social activities and events, strengthening community connections and fostering a welcoming atmosphere for everyone. This project was funded by the Australian Government and Council via a low-interest loan from the Victorian Government.



The WORLD Sporting Precinct is designed to support a wide variety of sports, fostering unity and inclusion through active recreation. Completed in June, the WORLD Pavilion offers upgraded facilities including female-friendly changerooms, umpire rooms, a first aid area, a versatile function space, and a commercial kitchen. The precinct itself features an eight-court area, a synthetic playing surface, a turf field, as well as well-planned access roads, pathways, ample parking, and beautiful landscaping. This comprehensive upgrade ensures that the precinct not only meets the needs of diverse sporting activities but also enhances the overall community experience. This project was funded by the Australian and Victorian governments, and Council. Additional work on the WORLD Sporting Precinct project is planned and included in our budget for 2024-25.





Major infrastructure upgrades at Bullock Island have revitalised it into a standout destination for both tourists and locals. By enhancing the island with public art, solar lighting, modern amenities, seating, picnic areas, and new footpaths and boardwalks, we've created a welcoming space that celebrates the unique charm of Bullock Island and Lakes Entrance. These improvements invite visitors to explore, and fully experience the beauty and vibrancy of the area. This project was funded by the Australian and Victorian governments, and Council.

Reseal and Gravel Road Program 2023-24

Through the 2023-24 Road Reseal Program, we successfully resealed 66 roads, covering approximately 38 kilometres.

This annual initiative, guided by our Asset Management Plan, prioritises roads based on their condition and needs. By focusing on these key areas, we ensure that our roadways remain safe and well-maintained for the benefit of our community.

The 2023-24 Road Reseal Program is predominately funded by Council, with some roads included in the Australian Government Roads to Recovery Program.



Shaving Point Boat Ramp, Metung

The recent upgrade to Metung's Shaving Point Boat Ramp has significantly enhanced the experience for both locals and visiting boaters at the beautiful Gippsland Lakes.

The improved design prioritises safety and accessibility, reduces environmental impacts, and alleviates congestion during busy boating times.

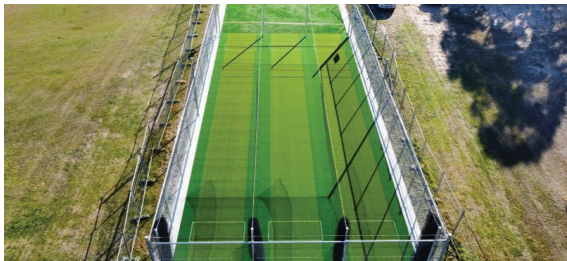
We're proud to see how these upgrades will make your time on the water more enjoyable and hassle-free.



The redevelopment of the Cann River Skate Park replaced the old facility with a new, dynamic skate park, thoughtfully designed with input from local youth. As the sole formal recreational and sporting facility within a 100km radius, this new park plays a crucial role in supporting the wellbeing and active lifestyle of the district's young people. This project was funded by the Australian Government Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program, and Council.

Jemmy’s Point Lookout

Upgrades to Rotary Park have transformed Jemmy’s Point into a vibrant recreational hub, now bustling with social activities and community gatherings. The enhancements include new recreational facilities and a spacious viewing platform that offers breathtaking panoramic views of the Gippsland Lakes, the Entrance, Bass Strait, and Ninety Mile Beach. A key part of the project was the completion of the loop walking trails, which link the lookout on Hotel Road, Kalimna Jetty, Jemmy’s Point, and Rotary Park at Jemmy’s Point Reserve, providing a scenic and accessible way to explore Kalimna’s highlights. This project was funded the Australian and Victorian governments, and Council.



AJ Freeman Cricket Nets

AJ Freeman Reserve in Paynesville now boasts a new three-wicket cricket net facility. This upgrade enhances safety and flexibility, offering players of all skill levels a better space to practice and enjoy the game. It’s a great addition that supports our community’s sporting needs and encourages active participation. This project was funded by Sport and Recreation Victoria and Council.

The upgraded LED light towers at Lindenow Recreation Reserve have significantly transformed the venue. Enhanced visibility not only improves safety for users but also extends playing hours, providing more opportunities for local sporting clubs to thrive. This upgrade supports increased participation in sports, helping our community stay active and engaged.





The new footpath along Lindenow-Glenaladale Road, Lindenow South, enhances safety and connectivity for the community, linking the town's primary school with the recreation reserve. Spanning around 650 metres, the project includes a concrete footpath and an elevated boardwalk, alongside the replacement and repositioning of bus shelters to create a bus holding lane. These improvements not only promote community engagement but also encourage the community to stay active and connect with local amenities. This project was jointly funded by the Australian Government and Council.

Moroney Street Upgrades, Stage 2

The completion of the Stage 2 upgrade represents a significant enhancement to the road and drainage systems at Moroney Street, Bairnsdale. Covering the stretch from McKean Street to Birchwood Court, this phase introduced new footpaths, dedicated parking bays, and the planting of trees along the street. These improvements have boosted road safety by updating intersections and creating designated parking areas. We are now moving forward with Stage 3 of this important project. This project was funded by the Australian Government and Council.



Nungurner Road safety improvements

To enhance safety on the winding stretch of Nungurner Road west of the Nungurner Jetty Road intersection, we've introduced several new measures. We've added 1.6 kilometres of fresh line markings, along with dragon teeth corner indicators, warning and delineation signs, and guideposts. These updates help drivers navigate the sharp bends and improve visibility through the dense forest, making the road safer for everyone. This project was funded by the Australian Government's Black Spot Program. and Council.

Eastwood Playspace, Bairnsdale

The Eastwood Playspace now offers valuable amenities for families in Eastwood. Situated next to the Eastwood Shopping Centre and Lucknow Primary School, this new space includes sheltered barbecue facilities, picnic tables, and a modern toilet block. These upgrades create a welcoming area where community members and visitors can relax, enjoy meals, and socialise in a comfortable environment. This project was funded by the Australian Government and Council.



Timber bridge replacement program

We've successfully replaced nine timber bridges with durable steel and concrete structures through this program. These new bridges are built to endure for about 100 years, support loads of up to 68 tonnes, and withstand the challenges of fires and floods. This upgrade significantly enhances the resilience and safety of our rural communities, ensuring reliable and long-lasting infrastructure for years to come.



The new competition-grade synthetic surface at Metung Bowls Club has been warmly received by the local and visiting bowls community. The upgraded surface, which has resolved previous issues of unevenness, is attracting bowlers from other towns eager to experience the new facility. This enhancement is not only improving play but also boosting participation and engagement at the club. This project was funded by Sport and Recreation Victoria, Metung Bowls Club, and Council.

Lakes Entrance gangway

We've upgraded the wooden jetty and pontoon at Apex Park boat ramp to a fully accessible gangway and pontoon, making waterfront activities more enjoyable for everyone. This improvement not only enhances accessibility but also supports local tourism. This project was made possible by a grant from Better Boating Victoria, funded through boating licence and registration fees.



The new Club Terrace community facility has become a valuable asset for our local area, offering a well-designed space for gatherings and meetings. This facility is more than just a building; it fosters social connections, encourages physical activity, and supports a diverse range of community events and activities. The project was funded by the Australian Government through the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program, and Council. The facility was officially opened on 30 June 2024.



Capital projects in progress

Forest Park, Orbost

We're pleased to be developing a new playground and modern amenities at Forest Park, one of Orbost's key recreational areas and visitor rest stops. This project will offer a welcoming space for families and visitors to come together and enjoy their time. The upgrades will include accessible toilets with baby change facilities, new pathways, an adventure playground, barbecues with picnic areas, covered shelters, and expanded parking. We're committed to enhancing the park to better serve our community and make it a more enjoyable destination for everyone. This project is funded by the Australian Government, and Council.



The construction of the Omeo Mountain Bike Trails is progressing, with about 22km of trails now completed and open for public use. We're proud to see these trails come to life and will continue to open new sections as they are finished. This project is designed to provide exciting and accessible outdoor experiences for mountain biking enthusiasts of all levels. This project is funded by the Australian and Victorian governments, and Council. Photographer Sam Purdie (Instagram: sgpurdie) captured a canvas of trails from above.

Swifts Creek Recreation Reserve

We're pleased to announce the successful upgrade of the Swifts Creek Recreation Reserve netball and tennis courts, which now feature a new acrylic surface and an additional turf court for children's play. The installation of lighting to Netball and Tennis Australia standards enhances the courts, allowing for extended playtime and supporting the physical and mental well-being of our rural communities. To minimise disruption during the netball and football season, we have postponed the construction of the new pavilion. We anticipate beginning this exciting addition later in 2024, further enhancing our community facilities.



The Lakes Entrance Foreshore Park is set to become a cherished spot for our community, offering a welcoming and accessible space where everyone can come together and enjoy. Positioned on The Esplanade, between the rotunda and the footbridge, this new destination playground is designed to engage visitors of all ages and abilities. With its inclusive features, the park will inspire creativity, promote physical activity, and support learning through play. This project is funded by the Australian and Victorian governments, and Council.



This community-driven initiative is set to enhance Mallacoota’s residential, commercial, and tourist experiences. By focusing on the safety and efficiency of Maurice Avenue, we’re not only upgrading the road infrastructure but also adding new pathways, street furniture, and landscaping. These improvements aim to elevate the area’s appearance and appeal while preserving the unique qualities and values that make Mallacoota special. Our goal is to create a more vibrant and functional space that reflects the spirit of our community. Funding is provided by the Australian Government through the Community Development Grants Program, in conjunction with Council.



Sarsfield Recreation Reserve

We are proud to announce an upgrade to the Recreation Reserve in Sarsfield, and we are working closely with the local community to shape the design of this project. The nearly sixty-year-old hall will be replaced with a modern multipurpose community centre, alongside upgraded public toilet facilities. The project will also introduce a new children’s play area, adult exercise equipment, and improvements to the existing sports facilities. This revitalisation aims to enhance the space for everyone and support the diverse needs of our community. This project is funded by the Australian Government and Council.

Marine Parade, Lakes Entrance - Stage 1

We’ve begun significant upgrades to Marine Parade in Lakes Entrance to enhance safety and accessibility. This project covers approximately 1km from the Princes Highway entry eastward and aims to improve both functionality and aesthetics. The upgrades include new road infrastructure, formalised parking bays, and raised pedestrian crossings designed to slow traffic and enhance safety. Wider footpaths on the residential side will improve accessibility and contribute to the overall appeal and liveability of the area. To manage the scale of the project and minimise disruption, work will start eastward from Laura Street and be completed in stages, ensuring continued access to properties throughout the process.



Buchan Recreation Reserve. The Buchan community has embraced our plans to upgrade and revitalise the reserve with new and improved sporting and community facilities. Construction is anticipated to begin later this year. We deeply appreciate the dedication of the local Buchan community and the Project Reference Group, whose efforts have been instrumental in reaching this important milestone. The masterplan reflects the community’s preferences, offering a modern, revitalised hub that will serve both sporting needs and community activities, enhancing the overall experience for everyone involved. This project is jointly funded by the Australian and Victorian governments under the Commonwealth State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, and Council.



The first stage of the Krauatungalung Walk has officially begun, featuring the installation of a culturally rich indigenous garden that honours the five Gunaikurnai clans. A unique seat, inspired by Gunaikurnai creators Borun the pelican and Tuk the Musk duck, adds a special touch to the cultural experience for visitors. This initial phase, which extends approximately 300 metres from the toilets and past the Aqua Park, includes a new boardwalk that will provide all-ability access to a viewing platform. This platform will offer a scenic view back toward the township, enhancing the connection between our community and its natural surroundings. Our collaboration with the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) ensures that the project remains deeply rooted in and respectful of cultural heritage. This project is funded by the Australian Government and Council.



The Mallacoota Mudbrick Pavilion, a cherished volunteer-built heritage site originally constructed for soccer, is set for a significant upgrade to better serve our growing community.

- The refurbishment will include:
 - A complete kitchen upgrade to meet commercial standards, including new hygiene stations for hand washing and cleaning.
 - The installation of an all-abilities toilet within the pavilion for greater inclusivity.
 - Refurbishment of the existing external toilets.
 - Expansion and enhancement of storage facilities.
 - A rebuild of the stage to provide additional depth and improved safety and accessibility.
 - The addition of a separate studio/workshop with dedicated wash-up facilities.

We're making great progress, with the project expected to be completed in the first half of 2025. This upgrade will enhance the pavilion's functionality, ensuring it continues to be a valuable community asset for many years to come.

Mallacoota Hall Upgrade

The Mallacoota Hall is undergoing a major upgrade with funding provided by Bushfire Recovery Victoria. The hall was a relief and recovery facility during the 2019/20 Black Summer bushfires. The upgrades will improve the functionality of the hall by:

- Relocating the main entry
- Addressing existing accessibility barriers
- Improving the toilets and change rooms to be more accessibility and functional
- Futureproofing the building to prevent bushfire smoke entering the facility
- Adding new internal storage space
- Expanding the existing kitchen
- Creating additional community and office spaces

This project is due to be completed by mid-2025.



Awards



LGPro Award, Innovative Management – Data Centre and ICT Footprint Consolidation
We are proud to have received this award for our collaborative initiative with Wellington Shire. By consolidating our data centres and ICT infrastructure, both councils have significantly strengthened cyber security, enhanced data protection, and ensured uninterrupted service delivery. This project not only highlights our dedication to continuous improvement but also underscores our commitment to operational sustainability and resilience.

LGPro Award, Community Assets & Infrastructure - Genoa Pedestrian Bridge

The reconstruction of the Genoa truss bridge, a key symbol of community resilience following the Black Summer Bushfires, highlights our collective strength and dedication. Understanding its crucial role in Genoa’s recovery—socially, emotionally, and economically—Council made it a priority and fully funded the \$1.6 million project to support the community’s rebuilding efforts.



LGPro Award (highly commended), Community Partnerships Initiative - Tambo Crossing Community Facility

In response to the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires, we collaborated closely with the Tambo Crossing community to create a new, purpose-built facility. This versatile and accessible space is designed to serve as a central hub for community gatherings, emergency services, industry groups, and service clubs. The facility will foster stronger connections and provide essential support for all who come together to support and enhance our community.



*Australian Airport Association's National Airport Industry Awards, Small Regional (non- RPT) Aerodrome of the Year
We're thrilled to share that Orbost Airport has once again been recognised as the National Small Regional (non-RPT) Aerodrome of the Year at the Australian Airports Association (AAA) National Industry Awards 2023 in Melbourne. This achievement, marking our third consecutive year of receiving a prestigious national award for our Council-managed aerodromes, reflects our ongoing commitment to excellence in aviation and community service.*



Jay's Mission Melanoma Walk passed through Lakes Entrance in November to raise awareness of melanoma. During their stop, community members were able to have a free skin check in the Australian Skin Cancer Foundation's new Skin Check Truck.

Civic Events

In our role as civic leaders dedicated to fostering community connections, we understand the value of active engagement and celebrating local achievements through a range of civic events.

This year, we proudly hosted numerous events, including citizenship ceremonies, project openings, and welcoming dignitaries, all aimed at strengthening our community bonds and celebrating our shared successes.

During National Volunteer Week in May, we held three special recognition events, adding 37 new names and several groups to the East Gippsland Volunteer Honour Roll. This honour roll, now in its third year, highlights the invaluable contributions of our local volunteers. The honour roll is a permanent listing featured on our website. The recognition events and the honour roll itself are promoted extensively to honour and acknowledge the dedication of these remarkable individuals.

Additionally, we celebrated the completion of various community projects from our capital works program with a strong focus on involving local people and groups. These events were actively promoted through our communication channels, local media, and community networks, ensuring that the achievements and contributions of our community were widely recognised and celebrated.

Dates	Civic event
20 July 2023	Citizenship ceremony
9 September 2023	East Gippsland Gymnastics Centre (Lucknow) opening
17 September 2023	Citizenship ceremony
18 November 2023	Omeo Show
23 November 2023	The Walk Jay's Mission, Lakes Entrance
7 December 2023	Lindenow Recreation Reserve Lighting Upgrade opening
7 December 2023	AJ Freeman Reserve (Paynesville) Cricket Nets Upgrade and various cricket pitch upgrades
20 January 2024	Australia Day Awards, Eagle Point
26 January 2024	Citizenship ceremony
6 February 2024	Victorian Ombudsman Visit, Bairnsdale
7 March 2024	Lindenow South Footpath Connections opening
10 March 2024	Orbost Show and Sustainability Expo
5–6 April 2024	East Gippsland Field Days
14 April 2024	Metung Bowling Green Upgrade opening
20 May 2024	Bruthen Volunteer Recognition Event
21 May 2024	Bairnsdale Volunteer Recognition Event
24 May 2024	Buchan Volunteer Recognition Event
12 June 2024	Citizenship ceremony
30 June 2024	Cann River Skatepark opening
30 June 2024	Club Terrace Community Facility opening

Australia Day Awards

On Saturday 20 January, over 100 people gathered at the newly opened Eagle Point Hub to honour the remarkable contributions of 19 individuals and community events during the annual East Gippsland Australia Day Awards. This year's ceremony, held in Eagle Point for the first time, featured a heartfelt Welcome to Country by well-respected Gunaikurnai community member Aunty Glenys Watts. The event included flag-raising by the Bairnsdale and Paynesville Scout Group, lively entertainment from the East Gippsland Brass Band, and an inspiring Australia Day address by Adam Bloem from the East Gippsland Winter Festival. The celebration was a testament to the vibrant spirit of our community and the dedication of those who make a difference every day.



Nominees for Young Citizen of the Year were Jasmine Westaway, Lily Legget, Banjo Jackson, Danika Woods and (not pictured) Juliette Heart.

Young Citizen of the Year – Danika Woods and Jasmine Westaway (joint winners)

Danika Woods embodies resilience and determination. Despite facing significant challenges in her learning environment due to a disability, she has risen above these obstacles to become a remarkable role model. Danika proudly achieved the milestone of being the first in her family to graduate from high school. Her selflessness shines through in her active involvement in "Project Ready," where she not only completed the program but also committed her time each week to support and inspire disengaged students.

Jasmine Westaway is a dynamic all-rounder with a remarkable drive for excellence across various fields. In sports, her dedication to athletics is exceptional—whether it's assisting with program setup or encouraging young participants during warm-up activities, Jasmine's passion and support are evident.

Her contributions extend into the arts and culture realm as well. Jasmine has played a vital role in the Orbst Secondary College Senior and Swing Bands, delivering outstanding performances at events such as the emergency services presentation night, Orbst Show Day, school functions, and band tours. Her enthusiasm and commitment enrich our community in numerous ways.



Citizen of the Year David Murphy (far right) was recognised for his work supporting East Gippsland's veterans. He is pictured with nominees (from left) Sue Carroll, Angela Dunkley and Geoff Enever. (Not pictured: Phil Schneider and Cheryl Jakobi).

Citizen of the Year – David Murphy

After a distinguished career as a safety officer on Victorian oil and gas rigs, David retired in 2012 and soon embarked on a new path as an RSL Compensation Advocate. Since then, he has devoted himself to supporting veterans and their families in East Gippsland with unwavering dedication.

David is a beacon of hope for those navigating the often complex and daunting bureaucratic systems. He provides much-needed encouragement and guidance, ensuring that veterans and their families receive the assistance they deserve. In moments of isolation and difficulty, David stands as a steadfast ally, working tirelessly to secure positive outcomes and offer meaningful support to those in need.



Representatives of Community Event of the Year nominees: Lakes Entrance Park Run, Metung Fun Run, and East Gippsland Winter Festival. (Not pictured Carols by Candlelight Bairnsdale, and Orbst Pony Club.)

Community Event of the Year – Metung Fun Run

The Metung Fun Run is a cherished community event that supports both Metung Primary School and the Metung Lions Club. Held every November for over a decade, this growing event brings people together to celebrate and support local causes. In November 2023, more than 355 participants joined in, raising \$15,000 through registrations, sponsorships, and merchandise.

The Fun Run attracts runners from across East Gippsland, fostering community spirit while showcasing the natural beauty of Metung. With the generous support of volunteers and local businesses, the event not only raises crucial funds, but also encourages both children and adults to embrace an active lifestyle.



Surf lifesaving clubs celebrating the Summer of Surf – Lakes Entrance Classic Lifesaving Carnival.

Events

This year, efforts to enhance events in our region through sponsorship and support have resulted in:

- Securing an additional eight events for our region during off-peak times, bringing vibrant activities to our community.
- Supporting the Bairnsdale Anzac Day commemoration service, honouring our local heroes with a meaningful ceremony.
- Presenting the Lakes Entrance Foreshore Summer Carnival, a highlight for both locals and visitors enjoying our beautiful waterfront.
- Hosting two event masterclasses where we introduced three new and updated waste-wise event management guides. These sessions, held in Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance, were attended by 120 participants eager to learn and apply sustainable practices.

Through these initiatives, we're not only supporting a range of events but also fostering community engagement and promoting environmentally friendly practices.

An investment of \$141,500 in sponsoring 16 regional events yielded an impressive return-on-investment ratio of \$41.77:1, translating to an economic benefit of \$5.9 million for our community.

Four local events—East Gippsland Winter Festival, Twin Rivers Bream Classic, Paynesville Classic Boat Rally, and Wild Harvest Seafood Festival—participated in the Pathways to Growth Event Mentoring Program. This program supports and promotes visitation to our region, helping these homegrown events thrive.

Unfortunately, heavy rains in late spring and summer led to disruptions and cancellations for various events across the region. The inclement weather impacted many scheduled activities, affecting our community's plans and gatherings. These included:

- The Victoria Downhill Series (VDHS) was cancelled in December 2023 and rescheduled to April 2024 due to heavy rain washing out the course at Mt Taylor.
- The Great Vic Bike Ride, held in late November was also impacted by rain. Despite the weather, 2000 plus riders completed their four-day experience in East Gippsland before being bused out to Sale on the fifth day as conditions worsened.
- The Summer of Surf - Lakes Entrance Classic Lifesaving Carnival, scheduled for 17-18 February, was in jeopardy as event organisers struggled to get final approval to run the event due to risks associated with the lack of power and communication. Fortunately, all issues were resolved two days before the event.

Dates	Event	Supported by Council
9 June - 9 July 2023	East Gippsland Winter Festival	Sponsorship **
15 - 16 July 2023	The Twin Rivers Bream Classic	Pathways to Growth
18 - 20 August 2023	2023 Tennis Seniors Victoria National Ranking Tournament in East Gippsland	Sponsorship
19 - 20 August 2023	2023 Vic Bream Classic Series	Sponsorship
19 - 20 August 2023	2023 Squash VIC Country Victoria Individual Championships in East Gippsland	Sponsorship
17 - 20 September 2023	Tennis Victoria Bairnsdale Junior and Open Events	Sponsorship
13 - 15 October 2023	Coprice State Yard Dog Championship	Sponsorship
25 - 26 November 2023	Vic Bream Classic Grand Final	Sponsorship
25 November - 3 December 2023	Great Vic Bike Ride	Sponsorship **
9 - 10 December 2023	2023 Bairnsdale ProAm and Junior ProAm Golf	Sponsorship **
26 December 2023 - 21 January 2024	Lakes Entrance Summer Carnival	Not applicable
17 - 18 February 2024	Summer of Surf - Lakes Entrance Classic lifesaving carnival	Sponsorship **
16 - 18 February 2024	2024 Victoria Masters Open Squash Tournament - Bairnsdale	Sponsorship
1 - 3 March 2024	Paynesville Classic Boat Rally	Pathways to Growth
23 - 24 March 2024	2024 Vic Bream Classic Series	Sponsorship
13 - 14 April 2024	2023 Victoria Downhill Series (VDHS)	Sponsorship
26 - 28 April 2024	Wild Harvest Seafood Festival	Pathways to Growth
15 - 16 June 2024	Super Flow Rocky Trail	Sponsorship
21 June - 21 July 2024	East Gippsland Winter Festival	Pathways to Growth



Anglers putting their skills to the test during the Vic Bream Classic Series, which celebrates recreational fishing.

** Indicates an event supported by Council with matched sponsorship from Events Gippsland – Destination Gippsland.

3 Our Council

East Gippsland's unique qualities are both its strength and challenges. The region is distinguished by its natural setting, with its southern edge defined by the Gippsland Lakes and rugged coastline and the rising backdrop of the High Country. Historical rural landscapes and natural bushland areas characterise the region and surround its communities. These attributes are key drivers for the region's healthy and growing tourism industry.

Regional Profile

East Gippsland communities have also developed and diversified, with an abundance of local producers. Fruit and vegetables, beef, lamb, seafood, milk, eggs, fibre and nuts are all produced in this diverse growing region. With its fertile soils, good rainfall and temperate climate, East Gippsland is a food bowl for Australia, producing fresh fruit and vegetables all year round.

Our Local Economy

The East Gippsland Shire estimated resident population for 2023 was 49,179² and is forecast to grow to 60,271³ by 2041. The region currently supports 4,578 businesses and a stable workforce with an estimated 18,800 jobs. The current unemployment rate is 4.3% in line with the regional Victorian average of 4.2%.

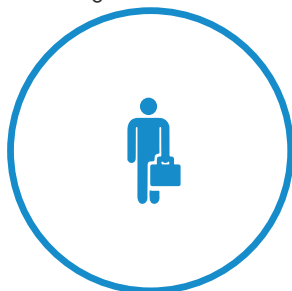
Throughout the year, the Australian economy has been impacted by interest rate rises, however the local economy continues to reflect positive indicators of recovery with an annual economic output of \$3.2 billion, representing a 2.5% increase on last year.

Domestic overnight visitation was up 7% on the previous year, while day visitation increased 54%, with figures now exceeding pre-pandemic levels. These visitors have contributed an estimated \$634m to the East Gippsland economy.

We have extended our economic development focus beyond the Black Summer Bushfire and COVID-19 recovery response to reconnect with key industry sectors and business leaders. The Economic Development Advisory Committee and Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee met quarterly to inform Council of the emerging issues and critical needs related to industry sectors across the region.

The year has been characterised with more significant industry change in East Gippsland, following the State Governments decision to bring forward the end of native timber harvesting by six years. The industry was fully closed on 31 December 2023. This decision has affected three of our communities, Orbost, Nowa Nowa and Swifts Creek, and supply chain businesses across the shire.

We are working in partnership with the affected communities to identify and grow alternate economic opportunities in these areas. We are also delivering business support programs to strengthen capacity to access funding and add value to existing business.



The region currently supports 4,578 businesses and a stable workforce with an estimated 18,800 jobs.



Tourism Research Australia's figures for the 2023 calendar year show that East Gippsland's visitor numbers increased by 26% on the previous year with an estimated total of 1.71 million people making the trip to enjoy our region. This is the highest figure ever recorded.

² Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Regional Population Growth, Australia* (3218.0)

³ Population and household forecasts, 2021 to 2041, prepared by .id (informed decisions), February 2023

Your Councillors

The East Gippsland Shire Council is an unsubdivided municipality consisting of nine Councillors, who represent the whole shire and its diversity. The Council was elected and sworn in on 17 November 2020. The elected Council is responsible for providing leadership for the good governance of the shire by setting the strategic direction for the shire.



Cr Tom Crook
Mayor
P: 0429 554 064
E: cr.crook@egipps.vic.gov.au

First elected
October 2020



Cr Jane Greacen OAM
Deputy Mayor
P: 0428 478 219
E: cr.greacen@egipps.vic.gov.au

First elected
October 2020



Cr Arthur Allen
P: 0429 630 474
E: cr.allen@egipps.vic.gov.au

First elected
October 2020



Cr Sonia Buckley
P: 0429 567 229
E: cr.sbuckley@egipps.vic.gov.au

First elected
October 2020



Cr Mark Reeves
P: 0419 016 581
E: cr.reeves@egipps.vic.gov.au

Previous elected terms
2012-2016; 2016-2020
Served as Mayor
2013-2014; 2021-2022; 2022-2023



Cr Trevor Stow
P: 0439 285 111
E: cr.stow@egipps.vic.gov.au

First elected
October 2020



Cr Mendy Urie
P: 0436 324 179
E: cr.urie@egipps.vic.gov.au
Previous elected terms
2005-2008; 2008-2012
Served as Mayor
2006-2009; 2020-21



Cr Kirsten Van Diggele
P: 0429 629 950
E: cr.vandiggele@egipps.vic.gov.au

First elected
October 2020



Cr John White
P: 0498 001 531
E: cr.white@egipps.vic.gov.au
Previous elected terms
2016-2020
Served as Mayor
2019-2020



Maz Kelly, Nakita Dyer, Rachel Wade, MaryJane Warfield and Ashley Ball at the Forge Theatre.



4

Our Organisation

To bring our Council Plan strategies to life, we rely on a dynamic, diverse, and skilled team working together to achieve meaningful outcomes for our community. By fostering a strong, supportive culture and maintaining robust structures and adaptable systems, we empower our employees to thrive and make a real impact.

Major Changes

This year brought significant changes to our leadership team. In January 2024, we bid farewell to Chief Executive Officer Anthony Basford. We welcomed Fiona Weigall as our new CEO in April 2024.

In November 2023, Sarah Johnston joined us as the General Manager of Business Excellence. Following that, in May 2024, Stuart McConnell was appointed as the General Manager of Assets and Environment.

Internal organisational structure changes included:

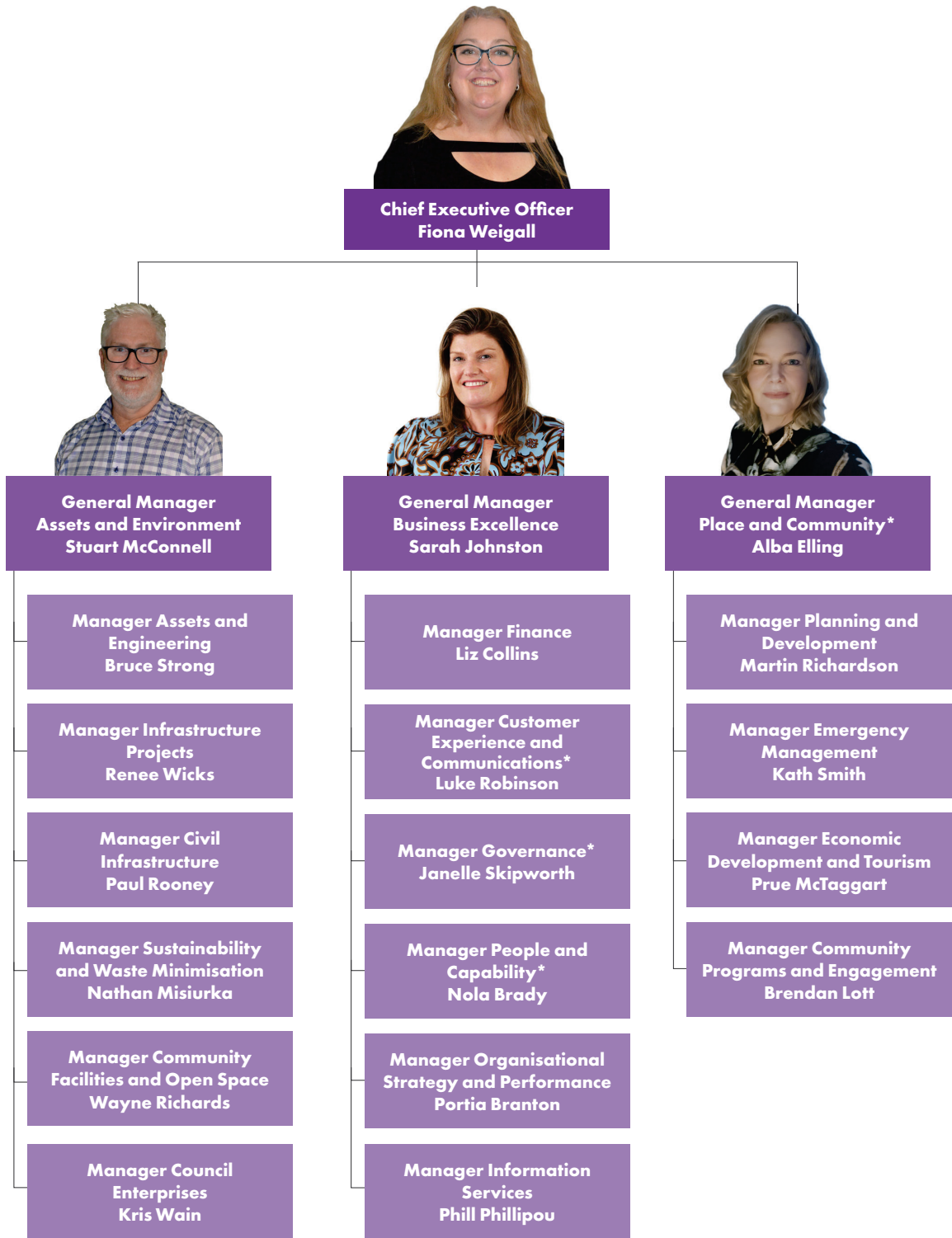
- Establishment of the Organisational Strategy and Performance business unit.
- Realignment of the Culture and Creativity team.
- Realignment of the Health, Safety and Wellbeing team into the People and Capability business unit.
- Realignment of the Municipal Building Surveying team into the Planning business unit.

To mark his final days as CEO Anthony Basford (centre) was presented with a linoprint from local Indigenous artist Alfie Hudson 'The Gathering and Celebration of the Bogong Moths'. He is pictured with, from left, General Manager Assets and Environment Stuart McConnell, former General Manager and now CEO Fiona Weigall, and General Manager Business Excellence Sarah Johnston.



Executive Leadership Team

The Chief Executive Officer is employed by and reports to the elected Council. The Chief Executive Officer manages the staff and resources of Council, as legislated by the *Victorian Local Government Act 2020*.
Organisation chart as at 30 June 2024.



*Acting as at 30 June 2024



Information Officer Malissa Leonard, at the Lakes Entrance Visitor Information Centre proudly displaying the local produce available for purchase.

Staff Profile

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires the establishment of a ‘Code of Conduct’ for Council staff. Under the code, staff are required to:

- Act impartially.
- Act with integrity and avoid conflicts of interest.
- Accept accountability for results.
- Provide responsive service.

The Staff Code of Conduct provides a set of guidelines that connect staff decision-making, behaviour and actions to the vision, objectives, and standards of the organisation. It is designed to guide staff on the standards expected of them as they carry out their work. Those standards include honesty and integrity, and commitment to treating all people with courtesy and respect.

Total staff numbers

The figures below represent the organisation’s total staff numbers, including casuals and limited-tenure staff, but excluding staff on parental leave. The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions as at 30 June 2024 was 427, including casuals.

Year	Total Staff	FTE
2023-24	644*	427
2022-23	602*	383.4**
2021-22	561*	359.63
2020-21	560*	403.00#
2019-20	536	289.75
2018-19	516	305.11
2017-18	497	316.23
2016-17	458	317.16
2015-16	472	301.08

* Including casuals and limited-tenure staff. Excluding the Chief Executive Officer and staff on parental leave.

Staff FTE numbers include limited-tenure Bushfire Recovery and ‘Working for Victoria’ staff, other limited-tenure roles and a calculated component for casuals and capitalised roles.

** Staff EFT numbers above include limited-tenure Bushfire Recovery, other limited-tenure roles, and calculated component for casual and capitalised roles.

Total staff numbers by salary band and gender

Employment Classification	Total Staff	Women	Men	Person of Self Described Gender
Band 1	29	19	10	-
Band 2	36	20	15	-
Band 3	222	102	120	-
Band 4	107	77	30	-
Band 5	83	54	29	-
Band 6	77	42	35	-
Band 7	54	27	25	-
Band 8	14	7	7	-
Senior Executive Officer / Senior Officer	16	8	8	-
Immunisation Nurses	6	6	-	-
Total	644	362	279	3

To protect anonymity, self-described gender has not been declared at band level, due to low figures.
Excluding Chief Executive Officer and staff on parental leave

Job level by gender *

Job Level	Total Staff	Women	Men	Persons of Self Described Gender
Chief Executive Officer	1	1	-	-
General Manager	2	1	1	-
Manager	13	6	7	-
Coordinator	64	39	25	-
All other staff	557	316	246	-
Total	645	363	279	3

To protect anonymity, self-described gender has not been declared at job level, due to low figures
Excluding staff on parental leave

*Officers in an Acting Role have been counted at their substantive position.

Staff numbers by directorate

Staff numbers for each directorate as at 30 June 2024 are:

Work type/ gender	Chief Executive Officer team	Assets and Environment	Business Excellence	Place and Community	Total
Full time – Women	2	36	54	31	122
Full time – Men	-	117	24	14	155
Part time – Women	1	30	46	18	95
Part time – Men	-	31	11	2	44
Casual – Women	1	109	25	10	145
Casual – Men	-	72	5	3	80
Undisclosed or Persons of Self-Described Gender	-	-	-	-	3
Total	4	397	165	79	645

To protect anonymity, self-described gender has not been declared at directorate level, due to low figures
Excluding staff on parental leave



Library Customer Service Officer Emily McAlpine at one of the many community events we attended with the library vehicle.

People and Culture

Number of Training courses across Council

Number of training programs	218
Number of corporate training programs	22
Number of conferences attended	31

Key training programs

- Sexual harassment training – face-to-face workshops delivered to all staff and managers.
- Leaders Who Ask – face-to-face workshops delivered to all coordinators, team leaders/supervisors and managers. The aim of this training is to provide support to leaders, improve consistency and encourage open and effective conversations with staff.
- New contact officer program including full training provided to contact officers.

Women in Leadership Summit

In May 2024, seven of our officers participated in the Women in Leadership Summit. This inspiring two-day event brought together Australian women professionals to learn from and connect with exceptional, creative, and influential women leaders.

Structured Workplace Learning Program

Blake Nairn, a Year 10 student from Lakes Entrance Secondary College, spent a valuable week from June 24-28 at the Lakes Entrance Library as part of the Structured Workplace Learning Program. This hands-on experience allowed Blake to blend practical work experience with his secondary studies.

Trainees

Investing in trainees helps us meet our current and future skill needs by nurturing and developing motivated, loyal staff. This approach not only supports our immediate workforce requirements but also builds talent from within, ensuring a dedicated and skilled team for the future.

Traineeships commenced:

- One trainee in our Projects team, studying a Certificate III in Business Administration
- One trainee in our Parks and Gardens team studying a Certificate IV in Horticulture.
- Traineeship programs completed:
- Dylan Grayham, who commenced a traineeship in June 2022 in the Assets and Environment directorate and successfully completed a Certificate IV in Business Administration during his placement. Dylan has since been appointed as Fire Prevention Officer within the Emergency Management team. He commenced this position immediately upon the successful completion of his traineeship.
- Chloe Peters completed her Certificate IV in Community Services. Chloe has taken up the opportunity to be involved with our Youth Ambassador program, which has a focus on personal and leadership development.

Work Experience / Work Placements

Two local school students attended Council work sites this year to complete work experience. One student was placed in our Parks and Garden area, and the other at the Bairnsdale Library.

This year we received the highest number of work experience applications since the COVID-19 pandemic who will participate in formal programs in the 2024-25 financial year.

Enterprise Agreement Negotiations

This year, we began negotiating a new Enterprise Agreement, a process that involves balancing our employees' expectations for wage growth with the current cost-of-living pressures. At the same time, we are mindful of the financial constraints faced by our community, striving to find a fair and sustainable solution for all.

East Gippsland Jobs Expo

In August 2023 Council showcased a variety of available positions and offered valuable career advice to job seekers who attended the East Gippsland Jobs Expo.

The expo brought together a diverse array of businesses and jobseekers, facilitating meaningful conversations about available job openings, apprenticeships, and career opportunities throughout East Gippsland and beyond.

The expo was organised by Council in collaboration with East Gippsland Marketing Inc.

Some of our Mallacoota team members, who work across our community, holiday park, assets and customer service teams.



Some of the staff recognised at the All Staff Event in October for modelling the organisation values of respect, collaboration, integrity and accountability.





Our Performance

This Section of the Annual Report offers a snapshot of our progress in achieving the five strategic objectives outlined in the Council Plan 2021-25:

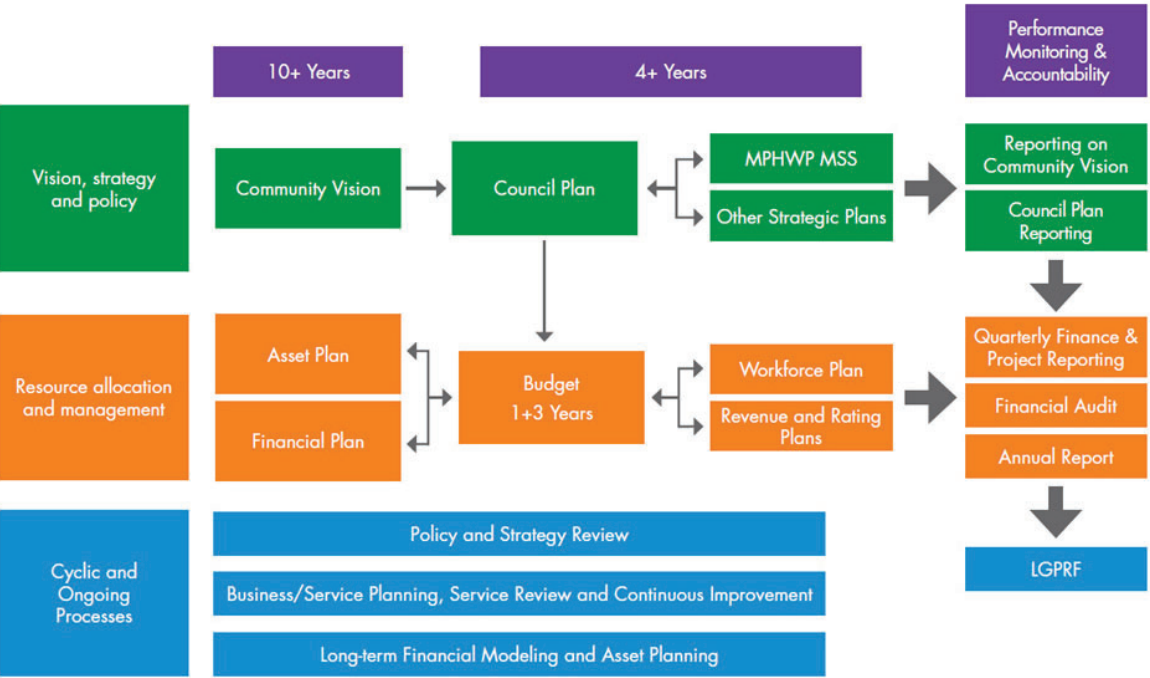
- an inclusive and caring community that respects and celebrates diversity.
- planning and infrastructure that enriches the environment, lifestyle, and character of our communities.
- a natural environment that is managed and enhanced.
- a thriving and diverse economy that attracts investment and generates inclusive local employment; and
- a transparent organisation that listens and delivers effective, engaging, and responsive services.

Strategic Planning Principles

The Strategic Planning Principles are found in Part 4 (clause 89) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). The Act requires that Council adopt an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting.

Under the Act, Council’s strategic planning must:

- Address the Community Vision.
- Consider the resources needed for effective implementation.
- Identify and address the risks to effective implementation; and provide for ongoing monitoring of progress and regular reviews to identify and address changing circumstances.



Council Plan

The Council Plan 2021-25 outlines our strategic objectives and strategies for the four-year period, along with key indicators to track our progress. The financial resources needed to implement these strategies are detailed in the Annual Budget.

The following are the strategic objectives and strategies of the Council Plan.

An inclusive and caring community that respects and celebrates diversity	
1.1 -	Council strives to provide equitable access to their services, support, and facilities
1.2 -	Collaboration with key stakeholders fosters the cultural, arts and creative communities for all activities Council has facilitated or financially contributed to
1.3 -	Community groups and volunteers are acknowledged, promoted, and supported
1.4 -	Through targeted services, partnerships and advocacy, communities enjoy strong mental and physical health, well-being, and resilience
1.5 -	Strong working relationships are further developed with Aboriginal people and organisations
1.6 -	Council is culturally and linguistically inclusive and celebrates diversity
Planning and infrastructure that enriches the environment, lifestyle, and character of our communities	
2.1 -	Statutory and strategic planning for land use delivers sustainable outcomes that balance the need for growth with the enhancement of our lifestyle, character, the built and natural environment
2.2 -	Infrastructure provision and maintenance support a diverse range of current and future user needs and activities and is both environmentally and financially sustainable
2.3 -	Planning with local communities for natural disasters and emergencies strengthens capacity, infrastructure, resilience, preparedness, and recovery
A natural environment that is managed and enhanced	
3.1 -	Council works to reduce its own and the communities carbon emissions while supporting the community to mitigate the impact of a changing climate on the environment, safety, health, and lifestyles
3.2 -	Sustainable land use practices are used to manage Council land to protect biodiversity and to provide education and incentives to support the management of private land
3.3 -	Natural values on key Council managed land are managed and enhanced
3.4 -	Environmentally and financially sustainable practices reduce waste going to landfill
A thriving and diverse economy that attracts investment and generates inclusive local employment	
4.1 -	Leadership enables economic prosperity, investment, recovery, resilience, and growth
4.2 -	Collaboration amongst key partners is facilitated to improve pathways for education and skills training
4.3 -	Council's work with stakeholders fosters entrepreneurship and new business opportunities, particularly with communities facing change
4.4 -	Targeted information and streamlined approvals and processes make it easier for business to invest
4.5 -	Tourism sector investment is sought in business capability, product development and experience to meet the changing needs of domestic and international markets
4.6 -	East Gippsland's natural strengths in agriculture and natural resource-based industries are enhanced to increase value, employment, sustainability, and resilience

A transparent organisation that listens and delivers effective, engaging, and responsive services	
5.1 -	A better everyday customer experience is created for our residents and visitors
5.2 -	Strong relationships with government, partners and stakeholders are maintained and strengthened to advocate for the community
5.3 -	Communities are engaged in decision-making and support is provided to develop local solutions to local issues
5.4 -	Continuous improvement systems are strengthened, and organisational efficiency enhanced
5.5 -	Resources are managed to meet current and future needs and priorities
5.6 -	Council attracts, develops, and retains an inclusive workforce to deliver services and priorities

Performance

The following pages outline Council's performance against each of the five strategic objectives of the Council Plan.

Performance is measured against:

- Major initiatives set out in the Annual Action Plan and Annual Budget.
- Council Plan strategic indicators.
- Local Government Performance Reporting Framework indicators.
- Cost of services.

An inclusive and caring community that respects and celebrates diversity

PROGRESS AGAINST MAJOR INITIATIVES

Major Initiative	Progress
Major Initiative 1 Develop and commence implementation of organisation-wide strategies that embed Aboriginal engagement in the organisation through increased mutual understanding and effective partnerships	<p>This year, we've deepened our commitment to Aboriginal engagement in our projects and services. We've collaborated with the Aboriginal community to integrate Aboriginal-designed elements into major initiatives like the Krauatungalung Walk in Lakes Entrance. Our mobile library service has been expanded to regularly visit the Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative in Bairnsdale. Additionally, we actively participate in and support events such as the National Koorie Youth Summit and National Reconciliation Week.</p> <p>We also played a crucial role in forming a recovery and strategic alliance group with the Department of Health, the Department of Education (both Federal and State), Emergency Recovery Victoria, Lake Tyers Aboriginal Health, and the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust. This group was focused on restoring childcare services in response to the storm event of February 13, 2024.</p>

STRATEGIC INDICATORS

Performance against the Council Plan's strategic indicators.

Strategic Indicator	2022-23	2023-24	Target	Comments
Number of community facilities and infrastructure upgraded to improve accessibility	9	11	≥ 10 Upgrades	These projects included upgrades to the WORLD Sporting Precinct, Eagle Point Hub, and multiple toilet blocks across the shire.
Number of cultural and creativity focused organisations / individuals funded through Council's grants programs	10 Arts and Heritage	-	≥ Nine Arts and Heritage	The Community Grants Policy and guidelines was under review throughout the year. As a result, no grants were issued. The review was completed just prior to the end of the financial year, allowing for applications to be open for the new financial year.
Number of professional development opportunities extended to the Cultural and Creativity Sector	N/A	1	≥ 5	<p>The Festival of BIG Ideas was provided as a professional development opportunity.</p> <p>We continue to work to identify and support professional development opportunities for the cultural and creativity sector.</p>
Number of events held that recognise and support volunteers	Six	Six	≥ Five events per annum	<p>National Volunteer Week saw three events held across the shire to thank volunteers, in addition to the annual Australia Day Awards.</p> <p>Separately, we attended the Community Recovery Committees, where they were thanked for their essential work in the recovery from the 2019 Black Summer Bushfires.</p>

Strategic Indicator	2022-23	2023-24	Target	Comments
People attending Council's recreation centres through an allied health service program delivery	Data not available	35	> 800 attendances per annum	Progress has been made with people attending recreation centres though allied health services. However, system improvements are required to ensure that this data is captured correctly, as such the reported result is lower than expected.
Percentage of Council directorate representation on Reconciliation Action Plan working group	100%	33%	100%	Development of Council's Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group is at a planning stage.
Number of projects and service review that have included formal engagement with traditional owners	37	67	≥ 10 projects and service reviews	A cultural heritage assessment is required for each project Council undertakes. Outcomes of these assessment contribute to the level of engagement with Traditional Owners.
The number of initiatives that celebrate diversity and inclusion supported by Council	12	5	≥ 10 events per annum	Initiatives supported included Council's Youth Ambassadors hosting the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) afternoon tea event at the Bairnsdale Library. Councillors and Officers attended flag raising event supporting students at the Bairnsdale Secondary College. Council supported the East Gippsland Asylum Network with signage and displays project during Refugee Week. Town entry signage was placed from Bairnsdale to Cann River to raise awareness that East Gippsland is a proud 'Refugees Welcome Zone'.
Number of Council facilities for which an accessibility audit has been completed	N/A	6	=5	Accessibility audits were undertaken on the Eagle Point Play Space, Buchan Mechanics Hall, Community Hall Clifton Creek (ramp access), Swifts Creek Community Hall and the Bairnsdale Hub. Internally a review was undertaken on our Pyke Street office, ensuring that the all-abilities toilet is accessible.
Number of inclusion programs offered in Council's recreation centres and pools	N/A	2	≥ 5 programs	Quiet Time and Virtual Group Fitness programs are currently available. We continue to investigate new initiatives to develop additional inclusion programs.

Strategic Indicator	2022-23	2023-24	Target	Comments
Number of Council projects / services that include volunteer workers	N/A	7	Set baseline in 2023-24	Programs that involve volunteer workers include, Committees of Management, Friends of Libraries, FReeZA, Youth Ambassadors, Project Reference Groups, Visitor Information Centres and Bairnsdale 2050 Community Group.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The Victorian Government's compulsory service measures relevant to this goal are shown below:

Indicator Measure	Results				Comments
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
Animal Management					
Timeliness Time taken to action animal requests ¹	2.60	1.49	2.24	3.51	The increase in animal management request response time is due to the inclusion of two additional types of animal management requests (registration and general enquiries) in the calculation for 2023-24, where previously these had been excluded. We respond to animal requests based on urgency, with animal attacks and requests for animal collection being prioritised over administration queries.
Service standard Animals reclaimed ²	23.24%	27.19%	23.08%	27.85%	We maintain a proactive program to reunite registered animals with their owners.
Service standard Animals rehomed ³	38.67%	36.64%	21.85%	57.02% ⁴	The definition of this service standard was updated this year by Local Government Victoria, resulting in a higher percentage of animals rehomed when compared to previous years.
Service cost Cost of animal management service ⁵	\$12.64	\$14.99	\$15.20	\$14.82	
Health and safety Animal management prosecutions ⁶	0	100%	100%	100%	There was one successful prosecution of an animal management case.
Aquatic Facilities					
Service standard Health inspections of aquatic facilities ⁷	0	0	0	0.5	Two inspections were carried out by an authorised officer. Aquatics staff also assess water quality five times daily, with records of results maintained at all locations. Microbiological water quality testing was also carried out by an independent laboratory, with satisfactory results received.

¹ [Number of days between receipt and first response action for all animal management requests / Number of animal management requests]

² [Number of animals reclaimed / Number of animals collected]

³ [Number of animals rehomed / Number of animals collected]

⁴ [Number of animals rehomed / Number of unclaimed collected animals]

⁵ [Direct cost of the animal management service / Number of registered animals]

⁶ [Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Total number of animal management prosecutions]

⁷ [Number of authorised officer inspections of Council aquatic facilities / Number of Council aquatic facilities]

Indicator Measure	Results				Comments
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
Utilisation <i>Utilisation of aquatic facilities⁸</i>	4.06	6.07	9.23	9.93	We continued to see growth in recreation centre utilisation. Utilisation data includes the Bairnsdale Aquatic Recreation Centre, Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool, Lakes Entrance Aquadome and Orbost Outdoor Pool.
Service cost <i>Cost of aquatic facilities⁹</i>	\$11.69	\$7.99	\$4.06	\$5.25	
Food Safety					
Timeliness <i>Time is taken to action food complaints¹⁰</i>	1.77	1.73	2.25	2.18	There were 28 complaints received during the year. All complaints were actioned within the acceptable range of between 1 and 10 days.
Service standard <i>Food safety assessments¹¹</i>	104.76%	99.46%	124.64%	115.86%	453 inspections were conducted on the required 391 registered premises during the 2023 calendar year.
Service cost <i>Cost of food safety service¹²</i>	\$604.85	\$712.70	\$771.83	\$809.40	
Health and safety <i>Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications¹³</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	15 critical or major non-compliances were received and followed up.
<i>Food safety samples¹⁴</i>	New indicator for the 23-24FY	New indicator for the 23-24FY	New indicator for the 23-24FY	107%	In accordance with Section 32A of the Food Act 1994, 101 food safety samples were required to be obtained and analysed during the 2023 calendar year. We collected 108 samples.
Libraries					
Utilisation <i>Library loans per population¹⁵</i>	New indicator for the 23-24FY	New indicator for the 23-24FY	New indicator for the 23-24FY	5.23	Library loans per head of population continue to increase year on year (both the physical and digital collection).
Resource standard <i>Recently purchased library collection¹⁶</i>	52.08%	53.62%	51.24%	51.27%	We continued to expand our library collection. This ensures that the collection meets the needs of the community.

8 [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]

9 [Direct cost of aquatic facilities less income received / Number of visits to aquatic facilities]

10 [Number of days between receipt and first response action for all food complaints / Number of food complaints]

11

12 [Direct cost of the food safety service / Number of food premises registered or notified in accordance with the Food Act 1984]

13 [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about food premises] x100

14 [Number of foods samples obtained / Required number of food samples]

15 [Number of collection item loans (including digital materials eg. audio books, e-books) / population]

16 [Number of library collection items purchased in the last 5 years / Number of library collection items] x100

Indicator Measure	Results				Comments
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
Service cost	\$22.23	\$23.92	\$21.99	\$24.24	Cost of library services increased during the year, due to the a service review trial and the introduction of an additional mobile bus service.
Cost of library service per population ¹⁷					
Participation	New indicator for the 23-24FY	New indicator for the 23-24FY	New indicator for the 23-24FY	12.34%	There are 6,071 active registered library members in East Gippsland.
Library membership ¹⁸					
Library visits per population ¹⁹	New indicator for the 23-24FY	New indicator for the 23-24FY	New indicator for the 23-24FY	4.99	There was a 23% increase in visitation compared to the previous year being a total of 245,201 library visits.

COST OF OUR SERVICES

The following statement provides information about the services funded in the Annual Budget 2023/24:

Business area	Description of services provided	Net Cost
		Actual Budget Variance Surplus/ (deficit) \$'000
Arts and Culture	Provides a varied, ongoing program of arts and cultural events that bring our communities together to celebrate our identity and generate ideas. It also provides funding and strategic advice to support the development of arts and culture in East Gippsland.	402 <u>374</u> (28)
Community Laws	Maintains and improves the health and safety of people and the environment. This includes staff at school crossings throughout the municipality to ensure that school children can cross the road safely. Animal management services are delivered in accordance with the <i>Domestic Animals Act 1994</i> and include a lost and found notification service, a contracted pound service, registration and administration service, an after-hours service, and an emergency service. It also provides education, regulation and enforcement of the General Local Law and relevant Victorian Government legislation.	879 <u>1,057</u> 178
Community Planning	Supports, encourages, and works with residents and community groups to identify their needs and aspirations and how to achieve them with responsive, high-quality services and facilities.	105 <u>395</u> 290
Community Programs	Provides support, assistance, and information to the community at all stages of life. They also provide community facilities that enhance social and health outcomes and improve local neighbourhood amenity.	592 <u>954</u> 362
Community Support	We have service agreements with suitable accredited organisations across the shire that provide a range of home and community care services for the aged and people with a disability. Services include home-delivered meals, personal care, transport, dementia care, home maintenance, housing support and senior citizen clubs. The Victorian Government directly funds these organisations for the provision of the specified services and Council makes a financial contribution to the operations of each of the providers.	203 <u>1,040</u> 837

¹⁷ [Direct cost of the library service / population]

¹⁸ [The sum of the number of registered library members in the last three financial years / The population] x 100

¹⁹ [Number of library visits / The population]

Business area	Description of services provided	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance Surplus/ (deficit) \$'000
Family and Youth Services	Supports preschools, playgroups, and early years programs. Support is also provided to suitably accredited organisations that provide Maternal and Child Health services (MaCH). The providers of the MaCH service are directly funded by the Victorian Government for the provision of the specified services and Council provides a financial contribution to the operations of each of the providers.	344 <u>345</u> 1
Library Services	Library and outreach services at six locations within the municipality including mobile library services to its more remote areas. Library services and programs are customer focused and aim to meet the learning and information needs of local communities. Libraries also provide a focal point for the community where they can meet, relax, and enjoy the facilities and services offered and increase their participation in community life.	789 <u>785</u> (4)
Performing Arts	Provides performing arts facilities, including the Forge Theatre and Arts Hub in Bairnsdale. A key focus is to deliver accessible programs and events that celebrate our cultural diversity and enrich the lives of our community and visitors.	623 <u>510</u> (113)
Public Health	Maintains and improves the health and safety of people and the environment in accordance with the <i>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008</i> . It maintains safety, amenity, and harmony in the community by coordinating food safety support programs, registered premises inspections, <i>Tobacco Act 1987</i> activities and wastewater management. The service also works to rectify any public health concerns relating to unreasonable noise emissions, housing standards and pest controls and provides an immunisation service.	388 <u>401</u> 13
Recreation Centres	Combines a wide range of programs and services that contribute to the general wellbeing of the community. This includes opportunities for individuals of all ages, genders, and abilities to participate in a variety of health, education, and leisure activities by providing recreational facilities that include indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities, a fully equipped gymnasium, aqua aerobics and group fitness classes, a stadium, and childcare facilities.	2,176 <u>1,683</u> (493)

Planning and infrastructure that enriches the environment, lifestyle, and character of our communities

PROGRESS AGAINST MAJOR INITIATIVES

Major Initiative	Progress
Major initiative 2 Present the Housing and Settlement Strategy to Council and if adopted commence implementation of recommendations	Council has adopted the Strategy, and we've already commenced implementing it through Planning Scheme Amendments and other channels. We've also taken additional steps to incorporate the Environmental Sustainable Development Policy, ensuring that our initiatives align with our commitment to sustainable practices.
Major Initiative 3 Prepare the 'Bairnsdale 2050' Project	The project has made solid progress, including the completion of background reports, the formation and meetings of the Community Panel, a co-design workshop, and the community engagement report. While there were initial delays in establishing the Community Panel and some project re-scoping, these were manageable and not critical, especially considering the election period and the need for the new Council to review the draft strategy.
Major Initiative 4 Prepare a climate risk assessment to identify and respond to the likely impact of extreme weather and climate events on Shire infrastructure and services	<p>In late 2023, Council successfully secured a \$1.2 million grant from the Australian Government's Disaster Ready Fund (DRF). This grant will support our project, 'Increasing Understanding of Risk and Extending Resilience and Adaptability Building Across East Gippsland'.</p> <p>The successful funding application has enabled Council to test the market for suitable tenderers to undertake climate risk assessment on infrastructure across East Gippsland. We saw significant interest during the expression of interest phase in March, and four potential suppliers were invited to tender in May.</p>

STRATEGIC INDICATORS

The following statistics review the performance of Council against the Council Plan's strategic indicators.

Strategic Indicator	2022-23	2023-24	Target	Comment
Completion of milestones of key strategic plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing and Settlement Strategy Rural Land Use Strategy Marine and Coastal Management Plan East Gippsland Sporting Facilities Plan Lakes Entrance Northern Growth Area Paynesville Growth Area Strategy 	67%	100%	> 90 per cent of milestones	All milestones for the listed key strategic plans have been met. Rural Land Use Strategy and the Housing and Settlement Strategy and Planning Scheme Amendments have been prepared and sent for Ministerial authorisation. The Marine and Coastal Management plan has been drafted. The East Gippsland Sporting Facilities Plan has been completed. Lakes Entrance Northern Growth Area Planning Scheme Amendment is under preparation. Paynesville Growth Area - Planning Scheme Amendment is being prepared.
Asset renewal and upgrade expenses as a percentage of depreciation	97.34%	126.50%	> 100 per cent	There was an increase in actual asset renewal and upgrade capital expenditure due to an increased capital works program.

Strategic Indicator	2022-23	2023-24	Target	Comment
Percentage of adopted capital projects completed at the conclusion of the financial year (based on the most recent amended budget)	66.4%	47%	> 80 per cent	2023-24 represented the biggest ever capital works program delivered, however there were significant carry forwards. Overall 126 of 269 capital projects were completed, with 112 projects being completed across multiple years. 29 projects were delayed to future years and 2 projects were withdrawn.
Community satisfaction with emergency and disaster management	60	60	≥ 65	Satisfaction with emergency and disaster management has remained steady this year. However, is below the Large Rural Council average.
Percentage of communities that need a Local Incident Management Plan have one in place	100%	100%	100%	44 Local Incident Management Plans (LIMPs) covering 90 localities have been completed. We continue to support requests for maintenance of social infrastructure identified in LIMPs as assembly areas. We have also attended events and made LIMPs accessible to communities.
Climate risk assessment completed	0%	10%	100%	This is a multi-year action. Grant funding has now been received and the tender process is currently underway to complete the work.
Percentage of Capital Road renewal program undertaken	N/A	100%	≥ 80%	This program has been expended for the financial year.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The Victorian Government's compulsory service measures for all Councils that are relevant to this goal are shown below:

Indicator Measure	Results				Comments
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
Roads					
Satisfaction of use Sealed local road requests ¹⁹	33.04	57.37	92.51	34.15	There has been a 63% decrease in sealed local road requests compared to the previous year which can be attributed to our proactive approach to road repairs following severe weather events.
Condition Sealed local roads below the intervention level ²⁰	96.81%	94.04%	97.36%	96.03%	We continue to maintain sealed local roads to very high standard below the renewal intervention level, resulting in only 4% of local roads identified as requiring renewal. A comprehensive condition assessment is conducted every four years, with the latest undertaken in late 2023.
Service cost Cost of sealed local road reconstruction ²¹	\$87.88	\$50.89	\$68.54	\$192.13	Road reconstruction can vary widely, considerations such as material used, how much drainage and or kerb and channel is required per project. Council has also been trialling environmentally friendly products and that has increased costs. The choice of roads to be reconstructed is dependant on what is approved in the annual budgets each year.
Service cost Cost of sealed local road resealing ²²	\$5.76	\$6.29	\$8.43	\$10.75	Reseal costs have increased, due to different products being used and the remoteness of jobs undertaken.

19 [Number of sealed local road requests / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100

20 [Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the intervention renewal level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100

21 [Direct cost of sealed local road reconstruction / Square metres of sealed local roads reconstructed]

22 [Direct cost of sealed local road resealing / Square metres of sealed local roads resealed]

Indicator Measure	Results				Comments
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
Satisfaction Satisfaction with sealed local roads ²³	53	41	43	41	Community satisfaction with sealed local roads has decreased during the year. We have continued work during the year to improve the condition of almost 3000km of local roads. Many of the satisfaction comments received applied to State Managed roads. We will continue to advocate to the Department of Transport and Planning for improvements to specific roads based on community feedback received in surveys.
Statutory Planning					
Timeliness Time taken to decide planning applications ²⁴	77	89	96	94	Time taken to decide planning applications has decreased slightly over the year. We continue to review internal processes to improve this result.
Service standard Planning applications decided within 60 days ²⁵	32.38%	38.91%	37.12%	36.41%	Timeframe for decisions has increased slightly and is still well below target. We continue to review internal processes to improve this result.
Service cost Cost of statutory planning service ²⁶	\$2,266.19	\$1,573.60	\$1,823.28	\$3,339.14	There were fewer applications received during the year and Council required additional resources to assist in the processing of backlog of applications received in prior years, this has resulted in an increased cost of statutory planning service.
Decision making Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT ²⁷	50.00%	75.00%	70.00%	40%	Five of Council's planning decisions were appealed to VCAT with three being set aside.
Satisfaction Community satisfaction with planning and building	42	40	41	39	We continue to work through internal processes to improve the user experience of the planning service. Satisfaction of planning and building also incorporates the communities' thoughts on new developments in the area, the associated travel and road impacts.

23 [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]

24 [The median number of days between receipt of a planning application and a decision on the application]

25 [Number of planning application decisions made within 60 days / Number of planning application decisions made] x100

26 [Direct cost of statutory planning service / Number of planning applications received]

27 [Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside Council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100

COST OF OUR SERVICES

The following statement provides information about the services funded in the Annual Budget 2023/24:

Business area	Description of services provided	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance Surplus/ (Deficit) \$'000
Asset Maintenance	Provides management and ongoing maintenance of the Council's assets, including 3,010km of roads, 191 timber and concrete bridges and 27 pedestrian bridges; over 300km of drains, 186km of footpath, and 540km of kerb and channel; numerous playgrounds, parks, gardens, and recreation reserves; three aerodromes; over 4,500 streetlights; 50 public jetties, 22 fishing platforms and 33 boat ramps; and the Raymond Island Ferry.	16,788 <u>15,958</u> (803)
Asset Management	This service conducts planning for Council's main civil infrastructure assets in an integrated and prioritised manner to optimise their strategic value and service potential. These assets include roads, laneways, car parks, foot/bike paths, drains, and bridges.	1,306 <u>647</u> (659)
Building Control	Enforces statutory building regulations under the Victorian Building Code. These include providing advice on building permits and legislation, fire safety inspections, audits of swimming pool barriers and investigations of complaints and illegal works.	7 <u>157</u> 150
Emergency Management	We work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders to help communities prepare for emergency events and natural disasters and, in times of emergency, respond to their needs and help them recover.	211 <u>935</u> 724
Emergency Response	We work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders to help communities prepare for emergency events and natural disasters and, in times of emergency, respond to their needs and help them recover.	4,691 <u>4,960</u> 269
Parks and Gardens	Manages and implements open-space strategies and maintenance including mowing, garden maintenance, annual plant displays, weed control and walking track maintenance. It also provides tree maintenance including inspection, pruning and removals.	4,959 <u>5,034</u> 75
Project Management	Undertakes project planning, design, and delivery of various works within Council's Capital Works Program.	837 <u>644</u> (173)
Recreation and Sporting Reserve Management	Responsible for the maintenance and operation of sporting grounds and pavilions and community centres with meeting, function, and activity space. Often this work is undertaken in conjunction with community operated committees of management. The service assists in the delivery of strategic sporting outcomes across the municipality through the upgrade and improvement of facilities and the attraction of funding to undertake this work.	1,420 <u>1,123</u> (297)
Statutory Planning and Development Services	Statutory planning services assess planning applications in accordance with the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> , the Planning Scheme and Council policies to ensure that our towns and settlements develop in an orderly and sustainable way. It provides advice and makes decisions about development and land-use proposals, as well as representing Council at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal where necessary.	10 <u>1,368</u> 1,358

Business area	Description of services provided	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance Surplus/ (Deficit) \$'000
Strategic Planning	Aims to deliver vibrant, connected, and productive places and infrastructure to meet current and future community needs. Strategic Planning advocates for and implements land use policies, plans and standards that guide land use development and promote sustainable design, development, and heritage conservation. This is supported through continual reviews and improvements to the East Gippsland Planning Scheme.	909 <u>1,145</u> 236
Works	Manages and maintains Council's building infrastructure and assets. It includes Council's vehicles, machinery and equipment and place-based works crews.	(226) <u>(368)</u> (142)

A natural environment that is managed and enhanced

PROGRESS AGAINST MAJOR INITIATIVES

Major Initiative	Progress
Major initiative 5 Deliver actions to reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions from energy use as identified in the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan including: development of a net zero emissions plan; explore the feasibility of using geothermal energy at key sites; and work with Councils' contractors to reduce their emissions	We're making steady progress on our greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan, with the draft nearing completion and the final version expected later this year. Our efforts were supported by emissions monitoring software and independent economic analysis. Key actions for 2023-24 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing the West Bairnsdale geothermal feasibility study for potential heating and cooling at the Bairnsdale Aquatic and Recreation Centre. • Acquiring Council's first fully electric vehicle. • Expanding the use of electric equipment in parks and gardens, including chainsaws, hedgers, and blowers, with exploration of larger electric mowers. • Gathering fuel use emissions data from a major contractor and developing methods to collect emissions data from other suppliers.
Major initiative 6 Complete design and progress development of organic waste processing facility at Bairnsdale Landfill	<p>The development of the Bairnsdale Regional Compost Facility is crucial for turning food and green waste into valuable products, supporting our kerbside waste collection services and waste transfer stations. This facility is also essential for meeting State Government requirements to provide food organics and garden organics (FOGO) kerbside bin services by 2027.</p> <p>We are on track to complete the final designs and background reports by July 2024. Next steps include progressing with the development license application to the EPA and preparing the planning permit application. As part of the planning permit process, we will engage with the community and notify adjoining properties, ensuring their input and feedback are considered.</p>

STRATEGIC INDICATORS

The following statistics review the performance of Council against the Council Plan's strategic indicators.

Strategic Indicator	2022-23	2023-24	Target	Comments
Percentage of Council's electricity use from renewable sources	99.85%	99.16%	> 95%	The majority of Council's electricity accounts are on the VECO agreement and using 100% renewable energy. The result decreased slightly from the previous year as more accounts have been included in the reporting through the new emissions management system Trellis. These additional accounts are not included in VECO agreement.
Reduce carbon emissions from Council operations	2,234	2,194	<3,639	Council continues to create efficiencies in operations to reduce carbon emissions. The Draft Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan will focus on actions to further reduce emissions.
Proportion of Council passenger vehicle fleet is electric, hybrid or uses alternate fuel sources	13.28%	50%	> 10%	For the vehicles where there is a viable option (that is, private usage and pool vehicles), of those 42 vehicles, 21 are alternate fuel; 19 hybrid and 2 electric.

Strategic Indicator	2022-23	2023-24	Target	Comments
New public electric vehicle charging stations	4 Council owned stations	4	5 Council owned stations	There are 4 Council owned stations that are operational in Bairnsdale, Omeo, Cann River and Orbost. With three additional stations being planned for Buchan, Lakes Entrance and Mallacoota.
Kilometres of regionally controlled and prohibited weeds treated on roadsides	398 km	397km	> 200 km per annum	Council completed the treatment of 66km of Regionally Prohibited Weeds on roadsides using existing staff and contractors, enabling ongoing site-specific monitoring. Seasonal conditions led to a high presence of some species, which, once treated, will help reduce the soil seedbank. Additionally, 303km of Regionally Controlled Weeds, including blackberry and African Love Grass, were treated. In areas affected by the Black Summer fires, dense regrowth required careful observation and herbicide application to manage emerging weeds, including Boxthorn, Mullein, Horehound, and various thistle species.
Community satisfaction with slashing and weed control	43	41	≥ 43	Community satisfaction with slashing and weed control has decreased slightly during the year. We continue to be proactive with its slashing and weed program, however weather conditions made it more difficult to maintain to the usual level.
A baseline for the quality and quantity of land being managed for 'at risk' habitat, biodiversity purposes and community safety on Council and private land	Not achieved	Not achieved	Baseline to be developed Year 2	Action has been rescoped for the 2024-25 financial year to develop and implement environmental management plans for areas with important biodiversity and develop recommendations for programs on Council and private land.
Total investment in Council managed land to support natural areas	\$2,159,679	\$1,996,898	≥ \$1,710,000	During the year Council has made significant investment to support natural areas. Activities included general maintenance and roadside fire slashing.
Community Satisfaction with waste management	68	66	≥ 65	Community satisfaction with waste management has remained high and is above the large rural shire average for the state. This shows that our waste facilities and services are providing a valued and positive service.

Strategic Indicator	2022-23	2023-24	Target	Comments
Proportion of recycled content in construction projects on Council assets	22%	35%	> 10%	41 capital projects included recycled materials at various stages of design or construction. Some of the biggest projects that use recycled material were WORLD Sporting Precinct, Krauatungalung Walk, Lakes Entrance, (40% of the boardwalk's decking consists of recycled plastic and timber); and Bullock Island Masterplan Implementation (recycled materials in the park benches and repurposed buoys as art pieces).
Number of community waste education programs delivered	10	10	> Five programs per annum	Multiple waste education programs were delivered throughout the year, including pop-up engagements, school visits, and the East Gippsland Field Days.
Number of new waste types collected as recycling	1	2	≥ Two new waste streams	Textile and rubber materials recycling option has commenced at Bairnsdale Waste Transfer Station. This is to be extended to other locations over time.
Number of management plans developed	N/A	1	≥ 5	The Toonalook management plan has been completed. Good progress has been made on the Raymond Island management plan, and three other plans have commenced. The focus has been on the broader East Gippsland Sporting Facilities Plan (complete) Coastal and Marine Management Plan (draft complete). While the target for the smaller management plans has not been met Council has made strong progress on strategy development for our key open space areas.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The Victorian Government's compulsory service measures for all Councils that are relevant to this goal are shown below:

Indicator measure	Results			Comments
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
Waste Collection				
Service standard	0.43	1.75	2.4	There was a slight increase in bins missed for collection this year. Council We continue to work with the contractor to improve these results. It is noted that in the 21-22 financial year, the contractor did not record all missed bin services.
Kerbside collection bins missed ²⁸				

28 [Number of kerbside garbage and recycling collection bins missed / Number of scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts] x10,000

Indicator measure	Results			Comments
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
Service cost	\$65.92	\$70.55	\$78.11	There was a CPI increase for the cost for contracts together with a growth in the number of bins for new dwellings during the year.
Cost of kerbside garbage collection service ²⁹				
Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service ³⁰	\$73.01	\$75.59	\$78.90	
Waste Diversion	53.32%	53.07%	49.18%	This year saw a decrease in waste diverted from landfill and has not met the expected target. The introduction of the Container Deposit Scheme has contributed to this decrease. The weight of recycling received from kerbside collection has decreased by around 1,000 tonnes during the year, which has affected the result.
Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill ³¹				

COST OF OUR SERVICES

The following statement provides information about the services funded in the Annual Budget 2023/24:

Business Area	Description of Services Provided	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance Surplus/ (Deficit) \$'000
Environmental Management	Identifies and manages broad-based environmental issues on Council-owned or managed land including the Mosquito Management Program, pest plants and animals, and urban waterways.	601 <u>528</u> (73)
Environmental Sustainability	Develops environmental policy and strategies, coordinates and implements environmental projects, and works with other services to improve Council's environmental performance. Reducing greenhouse emissions and utility use within Council operations are a key priority. This includes community awareness and behavioural-change programs to encourage and support reduced use of energy and resources.	436 <u>558</u> 122
Waste Services	Provides kerbside waste collection of household rubbish, recycling, and green waste from households; and manages landfill and transfer station facilities. The service operates and rehabilitates Council's current and legacy landfills and manages the East Gippsland Waste and Recycling Centre in ways that promote positive waste behaviour in the community and minimise environmental impacts.	8,270 <u>8,614</u> 344

29 [Direct cost of the kerbside garbage bin collection service / Number of kerbside garbage collection bins]

30 [Direct cost of the kerbside recyclables bin collection service / Number of kerbside recyclables collection bins]

31 [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100

A thriving and diverse economy that attracts investment and generates inclusive local employment

STRATEGIC INDICATORS

The following statistics review the performance of Council against the Council Plan's strategic indicators.

Strategic Indicator	2022-23	2023-24	Target	Comments
Percentage of actions implemented from the Economic Development Strategy Action Plan 2022-26	72%	80%	≥ 80% of year 2 actions	<p>An audit of progress to date on the Economic Development Strategy Action Plan has been conducted, with progress against most ongoing actions and those with due dates.</p> <p>This process has been used to inform priorities for the last two years of the Action Plans and identify deliverables for 2024-25.</p>
Average processing time for goods on footpath permits	12	8.32 days	≤ 8 days	Permit processing times are within the target set. There were 22 new permits issued during the year.
Average processing time trading permits	12	7.97	≤ 6 days	Processing times are slightly outside the target range. This is due to some timeline processing issues around the Christmas period. There were 11 new permits issued during the year.
Average processing time for domestic animal business registrations	-	-	≤ 6 days	No new Domestic Animal Businesses were issued.
Number of tourism events held during the low and shoulder season periods	>50	70	> 50 events per annum	18 quality tourism events were secured to East Gippsland noting that the East Gippsland Winter Festival programmed over 100 individual events in June and July also noting is the Great Victorian Bike Ride which attracted 2,000 riders and visitors to the region for four days.
Report prepared on barriers to training and employment	N/A	50%	Report prepared	<p>Foundational relationships with key stakeholders have been established.</p> <p>Initial engagement to inform a review of the 2022 Vision for Education in East Gippsland has indicated the vision and pillars still have relevance.</p> <p>Further work required to determine available data and resources to inform report.</p>
Number of businesses that participate in Council run programs delivered to support business growth	981	837	≥ 300 businesses per annum	A successful collective engagement for the year of 837 businesses, across 16 different Council-run programs delivered to support business growth.

Strategic Indicator	2022-23	2023-24	Target	Comments
Number of signature events participating in Pathways to Growth	N/A	4	≥ 4	The four events participating in the Pathways to Growth are the East Gippsland Winter Festival, Wild Harvest Seafood Festival, Twin Rivers Bream Classic and Paynesville Classic Boat Rally, all four are tracking well in key performance indicators.
Number of members of the farming community engaged in Council supported programs	N/A	1053	100 farm businesses engaged in programs	Recovery and Resilience funded events included 12 social wellbeing and seven financial capability programs coordinated by Southern Farming Systems, in collaboration with many other agencies. Sessions were held throughout many rural towns from Genoa and Gelantipy through to Benambra, and these events and others created an opportunity for high engagement with the agriculture sector over the year.

COST OF OUR SERVICES

The following statement provides information about the services funded in the Annual Budget 2023/24:

Business area	Description of services provided	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance Surplus/ (Deficit) \$'000
Business Growth	The development of business and industry in East Gippsland is supported by this service, which provides business information services, referrals to other organisations for support, facilitation of industry networking and knowledge sharing events, and facilitation of funding opportunities at all levels of government. It also works with government departments to link businesses to Victorian and Australian government services to support growth and diversification.	129 150 21
Economic Development	Assists the organisation to facilitate an environment that is conducive to a sustainable and growing local business sector and provides opportunities for residents to improve their skill levels and access employment.	1,396 791 (605)
Events	Works with partners to develop East Gippsland's reputation as a recognised events destination through attraction and facilitation of new events and support of existing events. It provides support, resources, and training information, and assists with the development of major events that stimulate economic benefits and cultural diversity and enhance the wellbeing of residents.	307 364 57
Tourism and Visitor Services	Supports the tourism industry and helps promote East Gippsland as a highly sought after visitor destination. Quality visitor information services are provided with the aim of meeting the expectations and needs of visitors.	917 850 (67)

A transparent organisation that listens and delivers effective, engaging, and responsive services

PROGRESS AGAINST MAJOR INITIATIVES

Major Initiative	Progress
Major initiative 7 Develop a new Information Communication and Technology strategy.	The new ICT Strategic Plan for 2024-27 is set to be presented to Council for adoption in July 2024. This forward-thinking plan will enhance our planning, management, and strategic direction, ensuring we have the right people, processes, and technology in place. By doing so, it will support our goal of improving business services and delivering better outcomes for our community.
Major Initiative 8 Adopt and implement the organisation's Occupational Health and Safety Management System.	<p>The Safety Management System (SMS) is a system of safe work processes / procedures that helps to make our workplaces safer.</p> <p>Significant progress was made this year on this extensive project.</p> <p>The SMS consists of 15 Framework procedures and 25 operational procedures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eleven Framework procedures have been endorsed, with work ongoing for the remaining four. • Out of the 25 operational procedures, ten have been approved, and the rest are on track for endorsement by the Executive Leadership Team. <p>The implementation of our new reporting system, Donesafe, is progressing well. This system will centralise the recording of incidents, hazards, and risk management, enhancing our safety protocols. Donesafe will be rolled out in three stages, with Stage 1 scheduled for release in August 2024.</p>

STRATEGIC INDICATORS

The following statistics review the performance of Council against the Council Plan's strategic indicators.

Strategic Indicator	2022-23	2023-24	Target	Comments
Community satisfaction with customer service	59	62	≥ 65	Satisfaction with customer service improved this year. This is a great improvement, and we are seeing this feedback mirrored in our Happy or Not system, which shows that our friendly service centre and library staff are very approachable, friendly and valued.
Community satisfaction with advocacy (lobbying on behalf of the community)	49	44	≥ 49	Community satisfaction has decreased 5 points this year and is below the Large Rural Shire average. Council continues its advocacy work for the community, this result perhaps signifies that Council needs to be more proactive with the community to let them know their advocacy efforts and the results of them.
Community satisfaction with community consultation and engagement	45	41	≥ 50	Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement has decreased during the year and has not met the target. Council continues to look at and make improvements to its consultation and engagement policies, with the expected outcome of the changes to results in an increase of community engagement with Council.
Community satisfaction with making community decisions	47	44	≥ 48	Improvements in community consultation in decisions could improve the result in future.
Community satisfaction with informing the community	47	48	≥ 54	Although this year's result has improved slightly, the variance from the target indicates there are further improvement opportunities for connecting and informing the community.

Strategic Indicator	2022-23	2023-24	Target	Comments
Number of service reviews and continuous improvement initiatives undertaken	Two	Two	≥ Two reviews per annum	Service reviews are undertaken as part of our annual service review program. Service reviews completed in during the year include Culture and Creativity, Visitor Information Centres and Customer Service Centre and Library Services.
Permanent workforce has access to mobile technology	90%	91.76%	> 70%	Remaining positions do not require access to mobile technology. These include some staff who work outdoors and other areas of Council do not require mobile technology.
Assess financial sustainability using Victoria Auditor-General's Office ratings	No data available	Achieved	Achieve low risk rating	East Gippsland Shire for the 2022-23 year were above the required results for low risk.
The percentage of actions implemented from the Workforce Plan 2021-25	29%	93%	≥ 80% of year 3 actions	Of the 16 actions, 15 were completed as scheduled and 1 action behind schedule.
Unplanned staff turnover rate	14.2%	13.4%	< 12 per cent annual rate	Staff turnover has decreased slightly this year.
Number of visitors to key websites, social media and YourSay pages	N/A	555,383	Measurable growth in interaction in all mediums	<p>New website development this year has spread visitor tourism website hits to the new Mallacoota Foreshore Holiday Park site, while the February storm event produced a higher-than-normal increase in engagement and visitors to social media and website pages.</p> <p>Your Say visitation was consistent across the year and increased with planned communications to cross-promote.</p> <p>Social media content was more identifiable in our followers' news feeds, with a focus placed on branded content.</p>
Information Communication and Technology Strategy adopted by Council	N/A	90%	30 June 2024	The new ICT Strategic Plan for 2024-27 is set to be presented to Council for adoption in July 2024. This forward-thinking plan will enhance our planning, management, and strategic direction, ensuring we have the right people, processes, and technology in place. By doing so, it will support our goal of improving business services and delivering better outcomes for our community.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The Victorian Government's compulsory service measures for all Councils that are relevant to this goal are shown below:

Indicator measure	Results				Comments
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
Governance					Confidential resolutions consisted of matters pertaining to contracts, member appointments, CEO personal matters, funding agreements, Council insurance and property matters.
Transparency Council resolutions at meetings closed to the public ³²	8.09%	12.50%	17.27%	14.29%	
Consultation and engagement Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement ³³	51	48	45	41	Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement has decreased. We are reviewing consultation and engagement practices to improve the community satisfaction rating in future years.
Attendance Councillor attendance at Council meetings ³⁴	95.06%	97.66%	91.89%	91.98%	Councillors can attend online even when on leave.
Service cost Cost of governance ³⁵	\$50,641.89	\$47,214.33	\$54,313.56	\$54,009.11	

32 [Number of council resolutions made at ordinary or special meetings of council, or at meetings of a special committee consisting only of councillors, closed to the public / Number of council resolutions made at ordinary or special meetings of council or at meetings of a special committee consisting only of councillors] x100

33 [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on community consultation and engagement]

34 [The sum of the number of councillors who attended each ordinary and special council meeting / (Number of ordinary and special council meetings) x (Number of councillors elected at the last council general election)] x100

35 [Direct cost of the governance service / Number of councillors elected at the last council general election]

Indicator measure	Results				Comments
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
Satisfaction	51	50	47	44	Satisfaction with Council decisions has decreased during the year. Council has dealt with a number of complex and at times contentious issues that may have impacted this result.
Satisfaction with Council decisions ³⁶					

COST OF OUR SERVICES

The following statement provides information about the services funded in the Annual Budget 2023/24

Business area	Description of services provided	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance Surplus /(Deficit) \$'000
Community Leadership and Advocacy	Council provides leadership on issues of importance to East Gippsland and advocates on behalf of the community and its vision for the future. It does this through strong, transparent, accountable leadership and the development of strong relationships with key stakeholders and other levels of government.	1,341 <u>1,659</u> 318
Council Enterprises	Supports the local economy and provides an alternative revenue stream for Council through the effective operation of a range of Council-managed commercial enterprises such as caravan parks, marinas, and the East Gippsland Livestock Exchange.	(1,320) <u>(416)</u> 904
Customer Experience	Acts as the main customer interface with the community. It provides accessible, high-quality customer service at the Corporate Centre and service centres, which connect people to Council services and general information.	2,311 <u>2,259</u> (52)
Finance and Treasury	Predominantly provides financial services to both internal and external customers including the management of Council's finances, payment of salaries and wages, and raising and collection of rates and charges.	(3,726) <u>103</u> 3,829
Governance	Provides a range of governance, statutory and corporate support services to Council, including coordination of business papers for meetings of the Council and its committees; coordination of arrangements for Council and committee meetings; and the maintenance of statutory registers and the conduct of municipal elections. An Audit and Risk Committee supports this service. This service also provides the framework, oversight, and advice to support Council in complying with statutory procurement and contracting provisions	3,341 <u>3,617</u> 276
Human Resources	Provides human resource and industrial relations services dedicated to ensuring Council's workforce operates efficiently and effectively within a framework that encourages innovation and continuous improvement. Human resources also provides payroll services for all employees.	2,094 <u>2,293</u> 199

³⁶ [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]

Business area	Description of services provided	Net Cost Actual Budget Variance Surplus /(Deficit) \$'000
Information Services	Provides, supports, and maintains reliable and cost-effective communications and computing systems, facilities and infrastructure to staff enabling them to deliver services in a smart, productive, and efficient way. It is also responsible for the provision of document and information management support services and compliance with statutory obligations under Freedom of Information and Information Privacy legislation.	4,753 <u>5,730</u> 977
Media, Communications and Civic Events	Oversees provision of advice on communications, in consultation with relevant stakeholders. It also provides in-house graphic design services. This service also conducts civic events to recognise, commemorate and celebrate prominent residents and the successful delivery of significant Council programs, infrastructure, and projects.	781 <u>855</u> 74
Organisational Development	Provides strategic and operational organisation development support. Also assists managers to determine and progress toward future structures, capability, and cultures in their service units.	430 <u>941</u> 511
Property Management	Manages Council's property portfolio, including purchases, sales, leases, and licenses to ensure land under Council's ownership or management, the best interests of current and future generations. It also supports local groups that have a focus on land and facility stewardship.	122 <u>313</u> 191
Risk Management and Compliance	Manages a compliance framework that promotes prudent and responsible management approaches to Council's decision making and service delivery. It ensures the highest standards of legislative compliance are achieved across Council and that its risk exposure is minimised through proactive and comprehensive systems and processes.	2,003 <u>2,321</u> 318



We conducted four citizenship ceremonies, welcoming new Australian citizens, some of whom have lived in East Gippsland for many years and others as relative new arrivals to Australia and our region.

Governance, Management and Other Information

East Gippsland Shire Council is a public statutory body, which operates under the legislative requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

The Act sets out the role of Council, as an elected body, to provide leadership for the good governance of the East Gippsland Shire. Council's elected members and employees work within systems and processes to ensure they comply with all Acts administered by the Council.

Council is committed to effective and sustainable forms of democratic and corporate governance as the key to ensuring that council and its administration meet the community's priorities. The community has many opportunities to provide input into council's decision-making processes including community consultation, public forums such as community meetings and the ability to make submissions to Special Committees of Council.

Council's Roles and Responsibilities

We are committed to working in partnership with the wider community and other levels of government, to create and achieve the best opportunities possible for all people in East Gippsland.

Council's Roles and Responsibilities:

- Guaranteeing good governance in the performance of its roles and responsibilities.
- Prioritising the best outcomes for the East Gippsland community.
- Making decisions that consider economic, social, and environmental sustainability of the East Gippsland Shire, including, where possible mitigating and planning for climate change.
- Addressing the diverse needs of the local community in decision making.
- Advocating for the needs and desires of the community across East Gippsland.
- Providing leadership through strategic objectives, monitoring progress, and adapting to changes to support the community.
- Fostering community cohesion and encourage active participation in the East Gippsland Shire Council activities.
- Ensuring transparency of decision making and accessibility to publicly available information.

Meetings of Council

Council is committed to transparent governance in decision-making. Council meetings are open to the public and are also livestreamed via our YouTube channel.

Meetings usually occur on Tuesdays from 6.00 pm. All meeting dates are publicly available on our website. Council meetings provide an opportunity for community members to submit a question to the Council and speak on matters of interest to the community.

The business to be considered by Council is set out in an agenda, which is available on our website from 1.00 pm on the Friday before the meeting.

Minutes capturing all resolutions of a meeting are also on Council's website.

In 2023-24, there were 18 Council meetings, comprising 16 scheduled, one unscheduled, and one separate meeting for the purpose of electing a Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Council Meeting Attendance

The following table provides a summary of Councillor attendance at Council meetings in 2023-24.

Councillor	Council Meetings
Cr Tom Crook (Mayor)	18
Cr Jane Greacen OAM (Deputy Mayor)	16
Cr Arthur Allen	17
Cr Sonia Buckley	16
Cr Mark Reeves	15
Cr Trevor Stow	17
Cr Mendy Urie	18
Cr Kirsten Van Diggele	14
Cr John White	17

Councillor Allowances

Under Section 39 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance while performing their duty. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are also entitled to receive a higher allowance. The Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) is responsible for setting allowances for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Councillors.

The Tribunal has classified each Council into one of four Council allowance categories, and East Gippsland has been classified as a Category 2 Council.

The annual allowances that applied from 1 July 2023 to 17 December 2023 were Mayor \$102,650, Deputy Mayor \$51,325 and Councillors \$31,980. Effective from the 18 December 2023, the annual allowances were Mayor \$105,424, Deputy Mayor \$52,713 and Councillors \$32,877.

Councillor	Allowance \$
Cr Tom Crook (Mayor)	81,510
Cr Jane Greacen OAM (Deputy Mayor)	45,753
Cr Arthur Allen	38,337
Cr Sonia Buckley	32,291
Cr Mark Reeves	54,375
Cr Trevor Stow	32,291
Cr Mendy Urie	32,291
Cr Kirsten Van Diggele	32,291
Cr John White	32,291
Total	381,430

Councillor Expenses

Under Section 40 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is required to reimburse a Councillor for expenses incurred whilst performing their duties as a Councillor. Council is also required to adopt and maintain a policy in relation to the reimbursement of expenses for Councillors in accordance with Section 41 of the *Local Government Act*.

The policy provides guidance for the payment of reimbursements of expenses and the provision of resources, facilities and other support to the Mayor and Councillors to enable them to discharge their duties.

The following table details the total expenses for all Councillors during the 2023-24 financial year.

Councillor	Remote Travel \$	Conferences/ Training \$	Office and other expenses \$	Delegate and other Council representation costs \$	Vehicle and travel reimbursement \$	Total \$
Cr Tom Crook (Mayor)	0	5,066	1,051	1,138	6,809	14,064
Cr Jane Greacen OAM (Deputy Mayor)	0	1,833	261	507	7,053	9,654
Cr Arthur Allen	0	1,351	294	299	7,050	8,994
Cr Sonia Buckley	275	2,304	2,156	769	7,050	12,554
Cr Mark Reeves	1,244	3,428	516	1,094	7,209	13,491
Cr Trevor Stow	0	1,351	1,030	544	7,050	9,975
Cr Mendy Urie	0	1,927	776	0	3,519	6,222
Cr Kirsten Van Diggele	0	1,351	474	0	6,409	8,234
Cr John White	0	1,351	838	0	6,800	8,989
Total	1,519	19,962	7,396	4,351	58,949	92,177

Office Expenses include telephone and stationery. Conferences and Training, Delegate and Other Council representation costs include related accommodation and travel expenses

Councillor Code of Conduct

The Councillor Code of Conduct sets out the standards of conduct that guide the Councillors collectively and individually in undertaking their roles, duties, and obligations.

Standards of Conduct

Treatment of others	A Councillor must, in performing the role of a Councillor, treat other Councillors, members of Council staff, the municipal community and members of the public with dignity, fairness, objectivity, courtesy and respect.
Performing the role of Councillor	A Councillor must, in performing the role of a Councillor, do everything reasonably necessary to ensure that the Councillor performs the role of a Councillor effectively and responsibly.
Compliance with good governance measures	A Councillor, in performing the role of a Councillor, to ensure the good governance of the Council, must diligently and properly comply with relevant policies, procedures, protocols and legislation.
Councillors not discrediting or misleading council or the public	In performing the role of a Councillor, a Councillor must ensure that their behaviour does not bring discredit upon the Council and must not deliberately mislead the Council or the public about any matter related to the performance of their public duties.
Standards not limiting robust discussion	Nothing in these standards is intended to limit, restrict, or detract from robust public debate in a democracy.

The Councillor Code of Conduct, which is publicly available on Council's website, was adopted in December 2021 in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest arises when a personal or private interest of a Councillor or officer in a matter may compromise their ability to act impartially and in the best interests of the community.

The *Local Government Act 2020* outlines the scope for determining conflicts of interest by an individual. Only an individual can decide if they have a conflict of interest in a matter. Council's Governance Rules address how a Councillor or staff member deals with a conflict of interest. The Governance Rules are available on the Council's website. A Conflicts of Interest Register captures the conflict disclosures by Councillors and is publicly available on Council's website.

Committees

The *Local Government Act 2020* allows councils to establish the following types of committees:

- Delegated Committees;
- Joint Delegated Committees;
- Community Asset Committees; and
- Audit and Risk Committee.

Councils may also establish advisory committees for the purpose of providing advice to the Council.

Delegated Committees

Delegated Committees can exercise any powers, duties or functions of a council, under the *Local Government Act 2020* or any other Act, delegated to it through an Instrument of Delegation, and must consist of at least two Councillors, and any other persons appointed by the Council.

Council has not established any Delegated Committees.

Joint Delegated Committees

Under Section 63 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, two or more Councils may resolve to establish a Joint Delegated Committee. A Joint Delegated Committee must include at least one Councillor from each of the participating Councils.

Council has not established any Joint Delegated Committees.

Community Asset Committees

Council may also establish a Community Asset Committee under Section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020* for the purpose of managing a community asset in the municipality and may consist of as many members as necessary to achieve its purpose.

These types of committees act under the power of delegation by the Chief Executive Officer, subject to any specified conditions and limitations specified in the Instrument.

Council has not established any Community Asset Committees.

Advisory Committees

Advisory committees have no decision-making powers and may only make recommendations to the Council.

The following table contains a list of all advisory committees established by the Council that are in operation and the purpose for which each committee was established:

Committee	Councillors	Officers	Other	Purpose
Chief Executive Employment and Remuneration Committee	4	0	1	Considers, and makes recommendations to Council on the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • selection and appointment of an Independent Member • performance monitoring of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), including with respect to achievement of the Key Performance Indicators • annual review of the CEO's performance, including against the KPIs • CEO's remuneration • recruitment and appointment (or reappointment) of a CEO, if required.
Disability Advisory Committee	2	2	11	Provides advice on things that matter to people with a disability in the region. It seeks to maximise the contribution being made by Council and its partners by working with a common agenda to create a more inclusive and accessible East Gippsland.
East Gippsland Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee	2	4	14	Provides advice, guidance and recommendations to Council on matters that affect the agriculture sector in East Gippsland and its communities.
East Gippsland Livestock Exchange Consultative Committee	2	4	7	Is a platform for consultation with key stakeholders on the operations of the livestock exchange. The group also discusses industry matters that may impact the livestock exchange business.
East Gippsland Economic Development Advisory Committee	3	4	12	Provides advice, guidance and recommendations to Council on matters that affect economic growth across the municipality.
Marina Consultative Committee	2	0	6	Provides advice, guidance and recommendations to Council on the need for existing and emerging services, and overall sustainable management of Council's marina business.

Audit and Risk Committee

Under Section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must establish an Audit and Risk Committee.

The Audit and Risk Committee's role is to monitor and provide advice to Council on financial reporting, internal control, compliance, and risk management. It does this through the provision of independent advice on matters relevant to its Charter, to assist Council decision-making.

The Audit and Risk Committee performs an advisory function. It has no executive powers or authority to implement actions in areas over which management has responsibility and no delegated financial responsibility. Nor does it have any management functions, so is independent of management.

The Audit and Risk Committee comprises of seven members: four independent external members, one of whom is the Chair, along with the Mayor of the day and two other Councillors appointed by Council. The Chair is appointed each February. In 2023/24 the Audit and Risk Committee members were:

Councillors

- Cr John White: July 2023 – December 2023
- Cr Mendy Urie: July 2023
- Cr Mark Reeves: July 2023 – October 2023
- Cr Tom Crook, Mayor: October 2023

Independent Committee Members

- Claudia Goldsmith: July 2023
- Celeste Gregory: July 2023 (Chair 2024)
- Jason Hellyer: July 2023
- Susan Lloyd: November 2023

Internal Audit

The internal audit process assists Council and the Chief Executive Officer to assess, monitor and improve the effectiveness of risk management and governance processes and controls. The Internal Auditor reports on activities to the Audit and Risk Committee regularly throughout the year.

The function is undertaken by an independent external provider. A risk-based three-year Internal Audit Plan (IAP) is revised annually to ensure the audit resources remain focused on the appropriate areas. The review process considers Council's risk framework, the Council Plan, the impact of any change on operations, systems, or the business environment, prior audit coverage, outcomes and management input. The IAP is reviewed and endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee annually.

External Audit

We are externally audited by the Victorian Auditor-General's representatives to provide an assurance that financial statements reflect the financial position at the end of the financial year.

For 2023-24, the annual external audit of Council's Financial and Performance Statements was conducted by the Victorian Auditor-General's representative, RSD Audit.

Risk Management

We take a proactive approach to risk management and has in place, systems, policies, frameworks, and procedures to ensure the adverse effects of risks are prevented or minimised across Council operations.

The Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Framework are reviewed periodically, ensuring Council has the capability to address current and emerging risks. We recognise the need for robust systems and processes across the whole of business operations, to enable and ensure legislative compliance. Council's Risk Management Policy is publicly available on our website.

Governance and Management Checklist

As outlined in Section 98(3)(d) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and regulation 9(2)(c) of the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* (the Regulations), the results of Council's assessment against the Governance and Management Checklist are set out below in the form prescribed by the Regulations.



Governance and Management Items	Assessment	
1 Community Engagement Policy (Policy under Section 55 of the Act outlining Council's commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest)	Policy adopted in accordance with Section 55 of the Act Date of adoption: 16 March 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2 Community Engagement Guidelines (Guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community)	Guidelines Date of commencement of current guidelines: 16 March 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3 Financial Plan (Plan under Section 91 of the Act outlining the financial and non-financial resources required for at least the next 10 financial years)	Plan adopted in accordance with Section 91 of the Act Date of adoption: 25 June 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4 Asset Plan (Plan under Section 92 of the Act setting out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for at least the next 10 years)	Plan adopted in accordance with Section 92 of the Act Date of adoption: 28 June 2022	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5 Revenue and Rating Plan (Plan under Section 93 of the Act setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges)	Plan adopted in accordance with Section 93 of the Act Date of adoption: 25 June 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6 Annual Budget (Plan under Section 94 of the Act setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken during the budget year and the funding and other resources required)	Adopted in accordance with Section 94 of the Act Date of adoption: 25 June 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7 Risk Policy (Policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to Council's operations)	Policy Date of commencement of current policy: 29 November 2022	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8 Fraud Policy (Policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to Council's operations.)	Policy Date of commencement of current policy: 5 May 2020	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Governance and Management Items	Assessment	
9 Municipal Emergency Management Planning (Participation in meetings of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee)	Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) meetings attended by one or more representatives of Council (other than the chairperson of the MEMPC) during the financial year. Dates of MEMPC meetings attended: 7 September 2023 7 December 2023 7 March 2024 6 June 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10 Procurement Policy (Policy under Section 108 of the Act outlining the principles, processes and procedures that will apply to the purchase of goods and services by the Council)	Policy adopted in accordance with Section 108 of the Act Date of adoption: 14 September 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11 Business Continuity Plan (Plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to ensure that key services continue to operate in the event of a disaster)	Plan Date of commencement of current plan: 27 March 2019	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12 Disaster Recovery Plan (Plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to recover and restore business capability in the event of a disaster)	Plan Date of commencement of current plan: 22 December 2023	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12A Complaint Policy (Policy under Section 107 of the Act outlining Council's commitment and approach to managing complaints)	Policy developed in accordance with Section 107 of the Act Date of commencement of current policy: 16 December 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12B Workforce Plan (Plan under Section 46 of the Act outlining Council's commitment and approach to planning for current and future workforce requirements)	Plan developed in accordance with Section 46 of the Act Date of commencement of current plan: 30 August 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12C Payment of Rates and Charges Hardship Policy (Policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to assisting ratepayers who are experiencing financial hardship or difficulty paying their rates)	Policy Date of commencement of current policy: 4 February 2020	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13 Risk Management Framework (Framework outlining Council's approach to managing risks to the Council's operations)	Framework Date of commencement of current framework: 19 September 2022	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Governance and Management Items	Assessment	
14 Audit and Risk Committee (Advisory committee of Council under Section 53 and Section 54 of the Act whose role is to monitor the compliance of Council policies and procedures, monitor Council's financial reporting, monitor and provide oversight on internal and external audit functions)	Established in accordance with Section 53 of the Act Date of establishment: 25 August 2020	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15 Internal Audit (Independent accounting professionals engaged by Council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving Council's governance, risk and management controls)	Engaged Date of engagement of current provider: 1 July 2023	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16 Performance Reporting Framework (A set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in Section 98 of the Act)	Framework Date of adoption of current framework: 29 June 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
17 Council Plan Report (Report reviewing the performance of the Council against the Council Plan, including the results in relation to the strategic indicators, for the first six months of the financial year)	Report Date of report: 27 February 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18 Quarterly Budget Reports (Quarterly reports to the Council under Section 97 of the Act comparing actual and budgeted results and an explanation of any material variations)	Reports presented to Council in accordance with Section 97(1) of the Act Dates reports presented: 26 September 2023 14 November 2023 27 February 2024 30 April 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
19 Risk Reports (6-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies)	Reports Dates of reports: 21 August 2023 20 November 2023 19 February 2024 27 May 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20 Performance Reports (6-monthly reports of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the Act)	Reports Dates of reports: 17 October 2023 27 May 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
21 Annual Report (annual report under sections 98 and 99 of the Act of containing a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements)	Presented at a meeting of the Council in accordance with section 100 of the Act Date of presentation: 17 October 2023	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Governance and Management Items	Assessment	
22 Councillor Code of Conduct (Code under section 139 of the Act setting out the standards of conduct to be followed by Councillors and other matters)	Reviewed and adopted in accordance with section 139 of the Act Date reviewed and adopted: 16 December 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
23 Delegations (Documents setting out the powers, duties and functions of Council and the Chief Executive Officer that have been delegated to members of staff, in accordance with sections 11 and 47 of the Act)	Reviewed in accordance with section 11(7) of the Act and a register kept in accordance with sections 11(8) and 47(7) of the Act Date of review under section 11(7): 29 November 2022	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
24 Meeting Procedures (Governance Rules under section 60 of the Act governing the conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees)	Governance Rules adopted in accordance with section 60 of the Act Date Governance Rules adopted: 30 August 2022	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

 <hr/> Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer Dated: 02/10/2024	 <hr/> Cr Tom Crook Mayor Dated: 02/10/2024
--	--

Statutory Information

Information Available for Public Inspection

Council has a Public Transparency Policy that commits to making Council information publicly available except where the information is confidential by virtue of legislation or not in the public interest. Publicly available information can be accessed on our website, where possible. Information not able to be placed on the website may be accessed on request for viewing in person.

Our Public Transparency Policy, available on our website, outlines the information that is publicly accessible.

Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Act 1982 (the FOI Act) provides individuals with the right to request access to Council documents. There is an application procedure, and rights of access are limited by exemptions detailed in the FOI Act. Applications must be accompanied by an application fee and specific details of the documents requested.

Council received 36 applications during the reporting year 2023-24. Three requests were transferred as the subject matter of the documents was more closely connected with the functions of another agency. Additionally, three requests were carried forward from the 2022-23 financial year.

	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18
New Applications /Requests	36	39	26	22	18	26	15
Access granted in full	6	1	15	7	6	12	4
Access granted in part	3	12	6	12	6	10	8
No documents existed in the requested form / Act does not comply	1	5	2	4	1	1	0
Access denied	0	4	2	1	1	0	1
Withdrawn	2	2	1	0	2	0	3
Requests outstanding at end of financial year	3	3	0	0	2	3	1
Review by Office of Victorian Information Commissioner	2	1	0	1	2	0	1
Appeals lodged with VCAT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fees collected (\$)	445.20	642.60	752.50	621.20	473.60	722.50	369.20
Fees waived (\$)	7	428.40	408.00	0	59.20	22.90	28.40
Charges collected (\$)	386.00	424.30	0	0	88.00	75.00	265.30

Public Interest Disclosures

Council has a policy for handling disclosures made under the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*, as required by that Act. The purpose of that Act and Public Interest Disclosure Policy is to encourage and facilitate the disclosure of any improper conduct by Councillors or Council officers.

Information about making a public interest disclosure is available on website.

Council made no public interest disclosure notifications to the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Privacy and Data Protection Act

The *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*, along with the *Health Records Act 2001*, are designed to protect personal information.

Council's Privacy Policy was adopted on 30 April 2024 which guides how Council collects, uses and discloses personal information where it is necessary to perform Council functions or when required by law. Formal complaints can be made if people believe their privacy has been breached.

Further details about Council's approach to privacy is located on Council's website.

Contracts

Section 108(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to adopt a Procurement Policy which specifies the principles, processes and procedures that apply in respect to the purchase of works, goods and services.

Council's Procurement Policy was adopted 14 September 2021.

During 2023/24, a total of 64 formal procurement processes (including Requests for Tender, Requests for Quotation and Expression of Interest requests) were undertaken. These complied with the expenditure thresholds and market engagement requirements as detailed in the Procurement Policy

The details of all contracts awarded through a public tender process are available on Council's website.

Year	Contracts awarded by Chief Executive Officer (\$)		Total Contracts awarded by the Chief Executive Officer	Contracts awarded by Council (\$)	Total Contracts awarded
	< \$250,000 (inc. GST)	< \$500,000 (inc. GST)			
2023-24	17	19	36	28	64

Disability and Social Inclusion Plan

In accordance with Section 38 of the *Disability Act 2006*, Council has prepared a Disability and Social Inclusion Plan. Actions implemented this year include:

- Community Programs and Customer Service officers have completed Carer Friendly Places training facilitated by Carers Victoria and achieved Carer Friendly Place accreditation for Council. Council can now provide information about supports and services for carers and connect carers with other people in their local community.
- Council has undertaken six access audits on Council-owned and community spaces to ensure compliance with the *Disability Act 2006*. This ensures the built environment is accessible and safe for all users.
- Commenced an assistive communication technology project with Gippsland Lakes Complete Health, the Bairnsdale Library and Council to increase access to technology that supports people with complex communication needs.
- The Disability Advisory Committee endorsed the Changing Places Facility plan for East Gippsland and the Accessible Events Guide.

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-25

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* requires Council to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years. The Domestic Animal Management Plan is designed to address the needs of pets and their owners while balancing the interests of the broader community. It enables us to deliver domestic animal management services with professionalism, consistency, and a proactive approach. Key aspects include promoting responsible pet ownership and providing educational resources to support it. This year we:

- Promoted opportunities available to members of the public to seek financial assistance in relation to desexing and registration support.
- Attended the East Gippsland Field Days and provided education on responsible pet ownership.

Year	Animal Impoundments	Reclaimed	Adopted	Euthanised	Transferred to Animal Aid Coldstream ¹
2023-24	474	134	219	67	8
2022-23	572	132	145	97	4
2021-22	423	115	155	56	8
2020-21	525	122	203	92	0
2019-20	612	172	295	68	55
2018-19	871	227	422	186	48

¹ – Coldstream is the headquarters of Animal Aid, Councils pound services contractor

Food Act Ministerial Directions

Under Section 7E of the *Food Act 1984*, Council is required to publish a summary of any ministerial directions received during the financial year in its annual report.

No such ministerial directions were received by Council during the financial year.

Road Management Act Ministerial Directions

Under Section 22 of the *Road Management Act 2004*, Council must publish a copy or summary of any ministerial directions in its annual report.

No such ministerial directions were received by Council during the financial year.

Infrastructure and Development Contributions

Under Section 46GM and 46QD of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, a Council that is a collecting or development agency must prepare and give a report to the Minister for Planning on infrastructure and development contributions including levies and works in kind and publish this report in its Annual Report.

For the 2023-24 year there were no infrastructure and development contributions made. Council did not collect any Community Infrastructure Levies or payments during the financial year.

East Gippsland Shire Council

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

East Gippsland Shire Council Financial Report Table of Contents

FINANCIAL REPORT		Page
Certification of the Financial Statements		1
Victorian Auditor-General's Office Report		2
 Financial Statements		
Comprehensive Income Statement		4
Balance Sheet		5
Statement of Changes in Equity		6
Statement of Cash Flows		7
Statement of Capital Works		8
 Notes to the Financial Statements		
Note 1	Overview	9
Note 2	Analysis of our results	10
	2.1. Performance against budget	10
	2.2. Analysis of council results by program	20
Note 3	Funding for the delivery of our services	22
	3.1. Rates and charges	22
	3.2. Statutory fees and fines	22
	3.3. User fees	22
	3.4. Funding from other levels of government	23
	3.5. Contributions	25
	3.6. Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	26
	3.7. Other income	26
Note 4	The cost of delivering services	27
	4.1. Employee costs	27
	4.2. Materials and services	27
	4.3. Depreciation	28
	4.4. Amortisation - Intangible assets	28
	4.5. Depreciation - Right of use assets	28
	4.6. Allowance for impairment losses	28
	4.7. Borrowing costs	29
	4.8. Finance Costs - Leases	29
	4.9. Other expenses	29

East Gippsland Shire Council Financial Report Table of Contents

FINANCIAL REPORT		Page
Note 5	Investing in and financing our operations	30
	5.1. Financial assets	30
	5.2. Non-financial assets	32
	5.3. Payables, trust funds and deposits and contract and other liabilities	33
	5.4. Interest-bearing liabilities	34
	5.5. Provisions	34
	5.6. Financing arrangements	36
	5.7. Commitments	37
	5.8. Leases	38
Note 6	Assets we manage	40
	6.1. Property, infrastructure plant and equipment	40
	6.2. Investment property	47
Note 7	People and relationships	48
	7.1. Council and key management remuneration	48
	7.2. Related party disclosure	50
Note 8	Managing uncertainties	51
	8.1. Contingent assets and liabilities	51
	8.2. Change in accounting standards	51
	8.3. Financial instruments	52
	8.4. Fair value measurement	53
	8.5. Events occurring after balance date	53
Note 9	Other matters	54
	9.1. Reserves	54
	9.2. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)	56
	9.3. Superannuation	56
Note 10	Change in accounting policy	59

Certification of the Financial Statements

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



Elizabeth Collins CPA

Principal Accounting Officer

Dated : 24/09/2024

Bairnsdale

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

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

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



Councillor Tom Crook

Councillor

Dated : 24/09/2024

Bairnsdale



Councillor Mark Reeves

Councillor

Dated : 24/09/2024

Bairnsdale



Fiona Weigall

Chief Executive

Officer

Dated : 24/09/2024

Bairnsdale



Independent Auditor’s Report

To the Councillors of East Gippsland Shire Council

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report	<p>As required by the <i>Audit Act 1994</i>, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.</p> <p>As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. • obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control • evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Councillors • conclude on the appropriateness of the Councillors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the council to cease to continue as a going concern. • evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. <p>I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.</p>
--	---

MELBOURNE
26 September 2024



Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Comprehensive Income Statement For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Income / Revenue			
Rates and charges	3.1	69,885	65,592
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	2,924	2,581
User fees	3.3	14,113	13,074
Grants - operating	3.4	5,080	42,317
Grants - capital	3.4	22,105	18,802
Contributions - monetary	3.5	1,033	853
Contributions - non monetary	3.5	27,645	2,346
Net gain on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.6	8	437
Fair value adjustments for investment property	6.2	244	-
Other income	3.7	10,958	10,016
Total income / revenue		153,995	156,018
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	41,447	36,782
Materials and services	4.2	52,618	47,955
Depreciation	4.3	29,294	24,506
Amortisation - intangible assets	4.4	950	553
Depreciation - right of use assets	4.5	89	89
Allowance for impairment losses	4.6	94	112
Borrowing costs	4.7	314	150
Landfill rehabilitation provision movement	5.5	(311)	1,621
Finance costs - leases	4.8	16	17
Fair value adjustments for investment property	6.2	-	677
Other expenses	4.9	6,932	5,744
Total expenses		131,443	118,206
Surplus for the year		22,552	37,812
Other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods			
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	6.1	(124,980)	144,673
Total other comprehensive income		(124,980)	144,673
Total comprehensive result		(102,428)	182,485

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

Balance Sheet As at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	117,192	95,045
Trade and other receivables	5.1	10,189	8,768
Other financial assets	5.1	-	45,262
Prepayments	5.2	1,356	1,043
Other assets	5.2	4,547	4,528
Total current assets		133,284	154,646
Non-current assets			
Trade and other receivables	5.1	154	243
Other financial assets	5.1	10	10
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.1	1,362,142	1,442,201
Right-of-use assets	5.8	593	682
Investment property	6.2	10,787	7,455
Intangible assets	5.2	3,663	446
Total non-current assets		1,377,349	1,451,037
Total assets		1,510,633	1,605,683
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3	12,873	12,958
Trust funds and deposits	5.3	4,137	3,755
Contract and other liabilities	5.3	15,815	19,197
Provisions	5.5	13,579	13,054
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.4	663	1,262
Lease liabilities	5.8	79	75
Total current liabilities		47,146	50,301
Non-current liabilities			
Contract and other liabilities	5.3	340	419
Provisions	5.5	7,694	4,550
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.4	9,196	1,650
Lease liabilities	5.8	600	678
Total non-current liabilities		17,830	7,297
Total liabilities		64,976	57,598
Net assets		1,445,657	1,548,085
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		508,156	486,359
Reserves	9.1	937,501	1,061,726
Total Equity		1,445,657	1,548,085

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

Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Other Reserves \$'000
2024					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,548,085	486,359	1,059,891	1,835
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		22,552	22,552	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	6.1	(124,980)	-	(124,980)	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	-	(755)	-	755
		<u>1,445,657</u>	<u>508,156</u>	<u>934,911</u>	<u>2,590</u>
Balance at end of the financial year		1,445,657	508,156	934,911	2,590

		Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Other Reserves \$'000
2023					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,365,600	448,856	915,218	1,526
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		37,812	37,812	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	6.1	144,673	-	144,673	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	-	(307)	-	307
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	-	(2)	-	2
		<u>1,548,085</u>	<u>486,359</u>	<u>1,059,891</u>	<u>1,835</u>
Balance at end of the financial year		1,548,085	486,359	1,059,891	1,835

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

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	Inflows/ (Outflows)	Inflows/ (Outflows)
Note	\$'000	\$'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Rates and charges	67,827	64,886
Statutory fees and fines	2,946	2,493
User fees	16,588	15,378
Grants - operating	3,454	42,238
Grants - capital	20,595	15,008
Contributions - monetary	1,042	871
Reimbursements	3,779	5,735
Interest received	7,074	3,291
Trust funds and deposits taken	12,598	11,911
Other receipts	(7)	1,185
Net GST refund/payment	3,019	3,273
Employee costs	(40,585)	(36,330)
Materials and services	(54,085)	(55,141)
Trust funds and deposits repaid	(12,216)	(11,189)
Other payments	(2,015)	(1,821)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	30,014	61,788
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(61,028)	(39,893)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	1,341	873
Payments for investments	-	(45,262)
Proceeds from sale of investments	45,262	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	(14,425)	(84,282)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Finance costs	(299)	(136)
Proceeds from borrowings	7,043	1,262
Repayment of borrowings	(96)	-
Interest paid - lease liability	(16)	(17)
Repayment of lease liabilities	(74)	(107)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	6,558	1,002
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	22,147	(21,492)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	95,045	116,537
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	117,192	95,045
Financing arrangements	5.6	8,790

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

Statement of Capital Works For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Property		
Land	174	937
Total land	174	937
Buildings	16,888	13,722
Heritage buildings	10	115
Total buildings	16,898	13,837
Total property	17,072	14,774
Plant and equipment		
Plant, machinery and equipment	5,182	2,453
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	280	393
Computers and telecommunications	905	1,480
Library books	207	205
Total plant and equipment	6,574	4,531
Infrastructure		
Roads	11,289	8,730
Bridges	3,716	2,813
Footpaths and cycleways	3,160	478
Drainage	1,191	190
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	4,106	1,825
Waste management	205	1,130
Parks, open space and streetscapes	3,982	1,736
Aerodromes	9	-
Off street car parks	1,371	625
Other infrastructure	3,966	5,002
Total infrastructure	32,995	22,529
Total capital works expenditure	56,641	41,834
Represented by:		
New asset expenditure	19,584	17,980
Asset renewal expenditure	32,423	21,797
Asset upgrade expenditure	4,634	2,057
Total capital works expenditure	56,641	41,834

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 1 OVERVIEW

Introduction

The East Gippsland Shire Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 2 December 1994 and is a body corporate.

The Council's main office is located at 273 Main Street Bairnsdale Victoria 3875.

Statement of compliance

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

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

Accounting policy information

1.1 Basis of accounting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS

2.1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold of the lower of 10 percent or \$500,000 where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

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

2.1.1 Income / Revenue and expenditure

	Budget 2024 \$'000	Actual 2024 \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %	Ref
Income / Revenue					
Rates and charges	69,205	69,885	680	1%	1
Statutory fees and fines	2,238	2,924	686	31%	2
User fees	13,241	14,113	872	7%	3
Grants - operating	23,917	5,080	(18,837)	(79%)	4
Grants - capital	54,209	22,105	(32,104)	(59%)	5
Contributions - monetary	116	1,033	917	791%	6
Contributions - non monetary	2,000	27,645	25,645	1282%	7
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	-	8	8	100%	
Fair value adjustments for investment property	-	244	244	100%	8
Other income	3,903	10,958	7,055	181%	9
Total income / revenue	168,829	153,995	(14,834)	(9%)	
Expenses					
Employee costs	40,767	41,447	680	2%	10
Materials and services	52,257	52,618	361	1%	
Depreciation	28,630	29,294	664	2%	11
Amortisation - intangible assets	1,255	950	(305)	(24%)	12
Depreciation - right of use assets	71	89	18	25%	13
Allowance for impairment losses	28	94	66	236%	14
Borrowing costs	308	314	6	2%	
Landfill Provision Movement	-	(311)	(311)	100%	15
Finance costs - leases	1	16	15	1500%	
Other expenses	1,953	6,932	4,979	255%	16
Total expenses	125,270	131,443	6,173	5%	
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	43,559	22,552	(21,007)	(48%)	

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2.1.1 Performance against budget (cont'd)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance		Explanation
Ref	Item	
1	Rates and Charges - \$680k greater than budget	Supplementary rates and charges were greater than budget by \$567k as a result of growth during the year. Penalty interest was also \$149k greater than budget and the Rating Agreement was under budget by \$36k.
2	Statutory fees and fines - \$686k greater than budget	Statutory Planning and subdivision fees exceeded budget by \$547k as a result of an increase in planning applications and subdivisions. Building fees were greater than budget by \$163k also as a result of the increased building activity during the year. Parking fines were less than budget by \$55k.
3	User fees - \$872k greater than budget	Indoor Recreation Centres and pool membership and user fees were greater than budget by \$401k as a result of an increase in usage of the facilities. The Livestock Exchange fees were greater than budget by \$306k as a result of the increase in sales during the year. The Eagle Point Caravan Park and the Mallacoota Foreshore Holiday Park also had booking fees greater than budget of \$220k as a result on increased patronage. Raymond Island Ferry fees also exceeded budget by \$100k due to an increase in use of the ferry and additional ferry passes. The Eagle Point Foreshore Hub commenced operations during the year and there was unbudgeted fee of \$128k received. Offsetting these increases was a reduction in waste fees over the budget of \$132k as a result of less waste than expected going to landfill. Forge Theatre fees were also underbudget by \$147k as a result of less people attending shows during the year than expected.
4	Grants - operating - \$18.837m less than budget	<p>There was a reduction in grant income for the Victoria Grants Commission of \$18.722m as a result of the advance payment of \$19.599m received in June 2023. Following the final allocation being determined \$878k was received during the 2023/24 year. There were a number of new grants received during the year with the most significant ones as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Buchan Streetscape works \$256k - Disaster Ready Fund - \$600k - Flood Support - \$500k - Community Resilience and Development Program - \$131k <p>There were also a number of grants less than budget as a result of the timing of the works associated with the grants. The most significant of these is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Buchan Recreation Reserve upgrade - \$616k - Swifts Creek Recreation Reserve upgrade - \$968k

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2.1.1 Performance against budget (cont'd)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance		Explanation
Ref	Item	
5	Grants - capital - \$32.104m less than budget	<p>Capital Grants were \$32.104m less than the adopted budget. The timing of works for a number of large capital projects will see those projects completed in the 2024/25 year. As a result grant income associated with those projects will not be received until the 2024/25 year. Some of the most significant projects and capital grants projects are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Omeo Mountain Bike Trails - Stage 2 - \$2.045m - Jones Bay Southern Catchment WSUD (Crooke St Wetlands) \$430k - Mallacoota Mudbrick Pavilion (Black Summer) - \$255k - Bemm River Footpath Connections - \$311k - Mallacoota Hall Upgrades - \$730k - Raymond Island Koala Experience - \$293k - Community Resilience and Development Program - \$198k - Omeo Council Precinct Redevelopment - \$100k - Krautungalung Walk Stage 1 - \$1.023m - Mallacoota Streetscape - \$1.139m - Lakes Entrance Foreshore Park - \$1.562m - Livingstone Park Community Facilities - \$874k - Slip Road Maritime Precinct -Paynesville - \$4.56m - Bairnsdale Runway 04/22 Extension & Lighting - \$4.893 - Orbost Forest Park Upgrade - \$655k - WORLD Sporting Precinct Stage 1 - \$321k - Parking Design - Marine Parade, Lakes Entrance - \$1.695m <p>There were also a number of projects where grant funding applications were unsuccessful and as a result were cancelled. The most significant are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lakes Entrance Marine Parade Upgrade - \$2.5m - Upgrade Bairnsdale Landfill Compliance Works - \$450k - Tambo Upper Road, outside Primary School - \$500k - Krautungalung Walk Stage 2 - \$3.6m - Plant for composting facility - \$195k <p>There were also a number of projects that were completed for less than budget and this also reduced the grant funds.</p>
6	Contributions - monetary - \$917k greater than budget	<p>Additional capital contributions of \$209k were received towards a number of capital projects. Subdivision developer contributions exceeded budget by \$705k as a result of an increase in subdivision activity.</p>
7	Contributions - non monetary - \$25.645m greater than budget	<p>Contributed assets of \$27.645m were received during the year against a budget of \$2m. Developer contributed assets vary from year to year depending on subdivision activity and for the 2023/24 year the number of assets handed over to Council was greater than normal as a result of the timing for completion of a number of subdivisions.</p>

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2.1.1 Performance against budget (cont'd)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance		Explanation
Ref	Item	
8	Fair value adjustment for investment property - \$244k greater than budget	There was an increase in the fair value of investment properties as at the end of the year. No budget had been provided for this increase.
9	Other income - \$7.055m greater than budget	The timing for reimbursements for replacement and rehabilitation works for a number of natural disaster events accounts for \$1.576m of the additional income. Additional income from the investment of surplus cash of \$4.294m resulted from the increase in the interest rates during the year together with additional surplus cash available during the year for investment. The additional cash was a result of the advance payment of the 2023/24 Victoria Grants Commission grant as well as from other grants that were received in advance of the project works being undertaken. There was also cash at the end of the 2022/23 year that related to a number of incomplete capital projects at the end of last financial year. Workcover reimbursements were \$392k greater than budget. There was also a capital reimbursement of \$104k towards a capital project that had not been budgeted for. There were also unbudgeted reimbursements for IT costs being shared with Wellington Shire Council of \$359k. The Fuel tax offset was also greater than budget by \$71k.
10	Employee costs - \$680k greater than budget	Permanent salaries were less than budget by \$643k mainly as a result of a number of vacancies during the year. Offsetting this were additional salaries for grant funded 2019 Bushfire support and other programs where the funding was received in previous years but the program of works carried over into the 23/24 year. There were also unbudgeted salaries for natural disaster events that will be reimbursed in the next financial year. The movement in long service leave and annual leave provisions was over budget by \$854k and this also impacted on total salaries costs for the year. Workcover premium costs were \$843k less than the adopted budget as the MAV Scheme cost was less than expected. Casual wages was over budget by \$1.950m as a result of additional casual staff being used whilst recruitment for vacant positions was undertaken as well as covering periods of unplanned leave in a number of areas. The most significant additional use of casual staff was in the Indoor Recreation Centres and the permanent salary budget was underspent as a result of backfilling vacant positions with casuals.
11	Depreciation - \$664k greater than budget	Depreciation expenses was \$664k greater than budget mainly as a result of the reduction in remaining useful life for some infrastructure assets following the condition rating changes implemented in the revaluation in the 2023/24 year. There were also contributed assets greater than budget of \$15m which are mainly reserves, footpaths and roads from completed subdivisions and this has added to the depreciation cost. There were also additional new assets purchased during the year for IT equipment and vehicles that were not known at the time of developing the 23/24 budget. The depreciation for the waste landfill was less than budget as a result of the new cell having a longer life than what was included in the budget calculation.
12	Amortisation - intangible assets - \$305k less than budget	The new Airspace asset was not operational for the full year and the expected life of the new cell is greater than previous cells and so the air space asset is being amortised over a longer period as well giving a savings in amortisation cost.
13	Amortisation - right of use assets - \$18k greater than budget	Minor variance based on actual for the year.
14	Bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses - \$66k greater than budget	The assessment at year end of the required provision for doubtful debts was greater than budget by \$66k.

Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2.1.1 Performance against budget (cont'd)
(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance		Explanation
Ref	Item	
15	Landfill rehabilitation provision movement - \$311k less than budget	There was an adjustment to the present value calculation of a decrease of \$311k that required a decrease to the Landfill Provision for future rehabilitation works.
16	Other expenses - \$4.979m greater than budget	Legal fees were less than budget by \$96k mainly as a result of less legal fees being used for planning matters. There were also \$5.1m of buildings, roads, bridges and other infrastructure assets that were written off primarily as a result of assets being replaced.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2.1.2 Capital works

	Budget 2024 \$'000	Actual 2024 \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %	Ref
Property					
Land	1,431	174	(1,257)	(88%)	1
Total land	1,431	174	(1,257)	(88%)	
Buildings	12,526	16,888	4,362	35%	2
Heritage buildings	1,056	10	(1,046)	(99%)	3
Total buildings	13,582	16,898	3,316	24%	
Total property	15,013	17,072	2,059	14%	
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	6,440	5,182	(1,258)	(20%)	4
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	30	280	250	833%	5
Computers and telecommunications	6,686	905	(5,781)	(86%)	6
Library books	209	207	(2)	(1%)	
Total plant and equipment	13,365	6,574	(6,791)	(51%)	
Infrastructure					
Roads	18,385	11,289	(7,096)	(39%)	7
Bridges	3,438	3,716	278	8%	
Footpaths and cycleways	2,741	3,160	419	15%	8
Drainage	3,829	1,191	(2,638)	(69%)	9
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	14,036	4,106	(9,930)	(71%)	10
Waste management	4,016	205	(3,811)	(95%)	11
Parks, open space and streetscapes	34,282	3,982	(30,300)	(88%)	12
Aerodromes	7,499	9	(7,490)	(100%)	13
Off street car parks	1,860	1,371	(489)	(26%)	14
Other infrastructure	799	3,966	3,167	396%	15
Total infrastructure	90,885	32,995	(57,890)	(64%)	
Total capital works expenditure	119,263	56,641	(62,622)	(53%)	
Represented by:					
New asset expenditure	35,314	19,584	(15,730)	(45%)	16
Asset renewal expenditure	70,495	32,423	(38,072)	(54%)	17
Asset upgrade expenditure	13,454	4,634	(8,820)	(66%)	18
Total capital works expenditure	119,263	56,641	(62,622)	(53%)	

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2.1.2 Performance against budget (cont'd)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Land - \$1.257m less than budget	Land Acquisitions was under budget by \$1.19m as a result of the timing for these projects and will be completed in the 2024/25 year.
2	Buildings - \$4.362m greater than budget	There were a number of projects that will not be completed until the 2024/25 year. The most significant of these are the AJ Freeman Female Friendly Changerooms \$513k, Mallacoota Mudbrick Pavilion \$294k, Mallacoota Foreshore Park Fire Safety works \$429k, Council owned Caravan parks fire safety works \$296k, Mallacoota Hall and Recreation Reserve upgrade \$714k, Bairnsdale City Oval Changerooms upgrade \$206k, Lakes Entrance Changing Place Facilities \$193K, Gilsenan Reserve Toilet Replacement \$196k. These were offset by the Eagle Point Foreshore Hub that was over budget by \$334k. The WORLD Sporting Precinct Project was classified as Recreation in the budget but the actual has been classified as Buildings at year end with actual expenditure of \$4.761m. Bullock Island Masterplan Implementation was classified as Parks in the budget but the actual has been classified as Buildings at year end with actual expenditure being \$2.698m.
3	Heritage buildings - \$1.046m less than budget	The Hinnomunjie Bridge Restoration - Stage 1 project has been delayed and will be completed in the 2024/25 year and as a result was underbudget by \$970k. The Omeo Justice Precinct project has also been delayed and will be completed in 2024/25 with an underspend of \$76k.
4	Plant, machinery and equipment - \$1.258m less than budget	The Plant replacement program will be completed in the 2024/25 as a result in delays in the purchase of some large items of plant and this resulted in the underspend being \$1.486m. The Vehicle replacement program was over budget \$520k as a result of additional purchases during the year. The Plant for the Composting Facility project has been cancelled and therefore there is an underspend of \$250k for this project. The Portable Change Rooms project was classified as Plant in the budget but at year end the actual has been classified as Buildings which accounts for \$300k of the variance. The Replacement of the Air Handling Unit - Lakes Aquatic Centre was budgeted in Buildings but the actual at year end was classified as Plant with expenditure for this project being \$1.038m. The Emergency Power project was classified as Plant in the budget but at year end the actual was classified as Buildings which accounts for a further \$480k underspend against budget. The Replacement of the Ferry Landings at Raymond Island was classified as Plant in the budget but actual at year end was classified as Other Infrastructure which accounts for a further \$365k of the variance.
5	Fixtures, fittings and furniture - \$250k greater than budget	There were two projects that were classified as Computers but the actual expenditure at year end has been classified as Furniture and Fixtures and this accounts for \$177k of the variance. Litter Bins was classified as Waste in the budget but the actual expenditure has been classified as a fixture accounting for a further \$24K variance. The Office furniture Replacement program was overspent by \$28.7k as a result of additional office furniture purchases.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2.1.2 Performance against budget (cont'd)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance		Explanation
Ref	Item	
6	Computers and telecommunications - \$5.781m less than budget	There are a number of IT projects that will be delivered over the coming years and have been carried forward into the 2024/25 year. This is a result of the timing for these upgrades to corporate systems and accounts for the budget variance.
7	Roads - \$7.096m less than budget	Some major roads projects will not be completed until the 2024/25 year. The most significant of these projects that are under budget for the year include Tambo Upper Road \$529k underbudget, Power Station Road \$286k underbudget, Myer Street (Church to Coates) & Service Road Lakes Entrance underbudget by \$727k. There were also a number of projects that were completed less than budget and the most significant are the Upgrade of Moroney Street Bairnsdale Stage 2 under budget by \$292k and Bosworth Road West underbudget by \$325k. The Marine Parade Lakes Entrance Stage 2 project was cancelled as it was reliant on grant funding that did not eventuate and resulted in a budget underspend of \$2.698m. Marine Parade Lakes Entrance Stage 1 was classified as Roads in the budget but the actual at year end was classified as Carpark resulted in an underspend against this budget of \$2.225m.
8	Footpaths and cycleways - \$419k greater than budget	There were a number of projects that were incomplete at year end and will be completed in the 2024/25 year. The most significant projects were Eagle Point School Connections underbudget by \$529k and Bemm River Footpath Connections \$392k underbudget. Offsetting the under budget projects were a number of projects that exceeded budget being McKean Street Pedestrian Crossing \$314k and Lindenow Footpath Connections \$263k. The krauatunglung Walk projects were classified as Parks in the budget but at year end were classified as Footpaths and this expenditure accounted for \$888k of the overspend against budget.
9	Drainage - \$2.638m less than budget	There were a number of projects that were incomplete at year end and will be completed in the 2024/25 year. The most significant projects were Jones Bay Southern Catchment WSUD (Crooke St Wetlands) underbudget by \$1.378m, Marlo Township drainage underbudget by \$488k, Marine Parade Lakes Entrance Drainage Renewal underbudget by \$283k, 35 Marlo Road Drainage works underbudget by \$90k and Integrated Water Management Bairnsdale underbudget by \$355k.
10	Recreational, leisure and community facilities - \$9.930m less than budget	The WORLD Sporting Precinct Stage 1 project was classified as Recreation in the budget but the actual at year end was classified as Buildings at year end. The accounts for \$11.013m over the budget variance. There were a number of projects that were classified as Parks in the budget but the actual expenditure at year end has been classified as Recreation. The most significant of these are the Cann River - Mick Baum Park Skatepark \$508k and Slip Road Maritime Precinct with expenditure of \$1.688m. There was also a project transferred to operating as the facility is not owned by Council - Lindenow Sth Recreation reserve Lighting that had a budget of \$364k. The Shaving Point Boat Ramp upgrade was completed less than budget by \$167k.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2.1.2 Performance against budget (cont'd)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance Ref	Item	Explanation
11	Waste management - \$3.811m less than budget	The upgrade of the Bairnsdale Resource Recovery Centre project was cancelled and the budget for this project was \$800k. There were also several projects that were classified as Waste projects in the budget but the actual expenditure at year end has been classified as Buildings. The projects are the Bairnsdale recycling Centre with a budget of \$580k, the Bairnsdale Composting Facility with a budget of \$530k and the Cann River Transfer Station with a budget of \$1.472m. The relocation of Lakes Entrance Weighbridge to Bairnsdale project was incomplete at year end and will be completed in the 2024/25 year and this accounted for \$263k of the underspend. One project totalling \$108k was transferred to another waste project during the year.
12	Parks, open space and streetscapes - \$30.300m less than budget	<p>There were a number of projects that were classified as Parks in the budget but at year end they have been classified into other categories. The most significant of these are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cann River Mick Baum Park Skatepark - Budget \$582k to Recreation - Raymond Island Koala Experience - Budget \$430k to Footpaths - Bullock Island Masterplan Implementation - Budget \$2.071m to Buildings - Various Streetscapes - Budget \$3.496m to Roads and Other - Krauatungalung Walk St 1 and St 2 - Budget \$5.62m to Footpaths - Slip Road Maritime Precinct - Budget \$6.08m to Recreation - Omeo Mountain Bike St 1 - Budget \$2.159m to Other - Foreshore Management Implementation Plan - \$550k to Recreation - Jemmy's Point St 2 - Budget \$1.76m to Other <p>There were also a number of projects incomplete at year end that will be completed in the 2024/25 year. The most significant of these is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Orbost Forest Park - \$892k underbudget - Omeo Mountain Bike Trail - St 2 - \$2.508m underbudget - Lakes Entrance Slipway upgrade - \$606k underbudget - Livingston Park Omeo - \$1.474 underbudget - Lakes Entrance Foreshore Park - \$987k underbudget - Omeo Streetscape - \$335k underbudget.
13	Aerodromes - \$7.490m less than budget	The Bairnsdale Runway project was classified as Aerodromes in the budget but the actual at year end has been classified as Other giving a budget variance of \$5.26m. The Bairnsdale Aerodrome rehabilitation of taxiways was classified as Aerodromes in the budget but the year end actuals have been classified as Roads giving a budget variance of \$2.239m.
14	Off street car parks - \$489k less than budget	The Newmerella Rest Area project was completed \$499k underbudget. There was also expenditure for Marine Parade Lakes Entrance upgrade Stage 1 of \$139k that was budgeted for in Roads but classified as Carparks at year end. The Seventh Parade Carparking, Raymond Island project was cancelled and it had a budget of \$161k.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2.1.2 Performance against budget (cont'd)

(i) Explanation of material variations

Variance		Explanation
Ref	Item	
15	Other infrastructure - \$3.167m greater than budget	The budget for Electric Vehicles of \$352k was in Other Infrastructure but the actual expenditure at year end has been classified as Plant. Jemmy's Point - Stage 2 project was budgeted in Parks but the actual expenditure of \$1.844m has been classified as Other Infrastructure at year end. The Omeo Mountain Bike Trails - Stage 1 was budgeted in Recreation but the actual expenditure of \$1.489m was classified as Other Infrastructure at year end. The Bruthen Streetscape project was classified as Parks in the budget but the actual expenditure of \$127k was classified as Other Infrastructure at year end.
16	New asset expenditure - \$15.730m less than budget	There were a number of projects that will now be completed in the 2024/25 year where the new asset expenditure was less than the budget. The most significant of these are Land purchases underbudget by \$1.256m, Omeo Mountain Bike Trails St 1 and St 2 underbudget by \$3.178m, Krauatungalung Walk Stages 1 & 2 underbudget by \$4.731m, Lakes Entrance Foreshore Park underbudget by \$987k and the WORLD Sporting Precinct Stage 1 underbudget by \$6.252m. There were a small number of projects that were greater than the budget but none that were significant.
17	Asset renewal expenditure - 38.072m less than budget	There were a number of projects that will now be completed in the 2024/25 year where the renewal expenditure was less than the budget. The most significant of these are Hinnomunjie Bridge Restoration underbudget by \$970k, Plant Replacement underbudget by \$1.487m, IT projects underbudget by \$4.243m, Marine Parade Lakes Entrance underbudget by \$3.575m, Jones Bay Drainage project underbudget by \$1.016m, Cann River Transfer Station underbudget by \$1.015m, Slip Road Maritime Precinct underbudget by \$4.411m, Bullock Island and associated works underbudget by \$1.209m, Livingston Park Omeo underbudget by \$1.474m, Mallacoota Streetscape underbudget by \$1.581m, Nowa Nowa Streetscape underbudget by \$436k, Bairnsdale Aerodrome projects underbudget by \$4.9m, Foreshore Management Implementation Plan underbudget by \$500k, Lakes Entrance Slipway upgrade underbudget by \$606k, Myer Street Lakes Entrance underbudget by \$726k, Council owned Caravan Parks Fire Safety works underbudget by \$296k, Building renewal program underbudget by \$290k, Council operated facilities underbudget by \$500k, Eagle Point Caravan Park Amenities Block underbudget by \$359k, Mallacoota Foreshore Holiday Park Fire Safety works underbudget by \$429k, Mallacoota Hall and Recreation Reserve underbudget by \$714k and Bairnsdale City Oval Changerooms underbudget by \$206k.
18	Asset upgrade expenditure - \$8.820m less than budget	There are a number of projects where the upgrade expenditure is less than budget. The most significant projects are Digital Services underbudget by \$1.486m, Marine Parade Lakes Entrance underbudget by \$1.2m, Jones Bay drainage project underbudget by \$392k, Marlo Township Drainage Upgrade underbudget by \$289k, Orbst Forest Park underbudget by \$892k, Bairnsdale Aerodrome Runway Extension underbudget by \$2.587m, AJ Freeman Reserve underbudget by \$513k, Bemm River Footpath Connections underbudget by \$250k, Upgrade of Maroney Street - Stage 2 underbudget by \$292k, Power Station Road underbudget by \$285k and Mallacoota Mudbrick Pavilion underbudget by \$294k.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2.2 Analysis of Council results by program

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following programs.

2.2.1

Office of the CEO

Activities associated with municipal governance including the Chief Executive Officer.

Business Excellence

Activities associated with financial management, rate collection, risk management, valuations, information services and human resources, procurement, the cost of Councillors, corporate planning, customer service, libraries, communications, regulatory services, governance administration and property services.

Place and Community

Activities associated with strategic and statutory planning, economic development and tourism, emergency management, family and childrens services, aged services, community planning and development and bushfire recovery activities.

Assets and Environment

Activities associated with roads, bridges, drainage, signs, footpaths and street sweeping, parks and reserves, tree management, playgrounds, public toilets, waste and environmental management, asset management, capital works program, commercial business operations, recreation facilities and Forge Theatre and fleet and plant management.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

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

	Income / Revenue	Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Grants included in income / revenue	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2024					
Office of the CEO	668	668	-	-	-
Business Excellence	47,110	24,558	22,552	1,152	360,194
Place and Community	14,410	14,410	-	1,683	1,229
Assets and Environment	91,807	91,807	-	24,350	1,149,210
	153,995	131,443	22,552	27,185	1,510,633

	Income / Revenue	Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Grants included in income / revenue	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2023					
Office of the CEO	671	671	-	-	-
Business Excellence	56,572	20,907	35,665	17,533	11,966
Place and Community	13,915	11,768	2,147	12,258	627
Assets and Environment	84,860	84,860	-	31,328	1,593,090
	156,018	118,206	37,812	61,119	1,605,683

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES**3.1 Rates and charges**

2024

2023

\$'000

\$'000

Council uses capital improved value (CIV) as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipal district. The CIV of a property is the value of the land and all of its improvements.

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2023/24 was \$14,803 million (2022/23 \$12,355 million). Commercial/Industrial rates for 2023/24 was \$1,544 million (2022/23 \$1,303 million) and Farm rates was for 2023/24 \$2,848 million (2022/23 \$2,526 million). The 2023/24 rate in the CIV dollar for General rates was 0.00256872 (2022/23 0.00290802), Commercial/Industrial rates was 0.00359621 (2022/23 0.00407123) and Farm rates was 0.00205498 (2022/23 0.00232641).

General rates	49,429	47,112
Municipal charge	7,830	7,502
Waste management charge	11,197	9,882
Supplementary rates and rate adjustments	903	656
Interest on rates and charges	429	300
Revenue in lieu of rates	97	140
Total rates and charges	69,885	65,592

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

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

3.2 Statutory fees and fines

Infringements and costs	219	269
Application Registration Fees	370	328
Animal Registrations	431	490
Town planning fees	1,247	1,059
Land information certificates	112	95
Permits	60	70
Other	485	270
Total statutory fees and fines	2,924	2,581

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

3.3 User fees

Aged and health services	25	11
Leisure centre and recreation	3,030	2,760
Raymond Island Ferry	325	293
Arts and Culture	201	236
Caravan Parks	3,109	3,078
Saleyards	1,114	879
Marinas	1,223	1,204
Child care/children's programs	53	186
Tourism	63	65
Building services	39	110
Waste management services	4,642	4,098
Other fees and charges	289	154
Total user fees	14,113	13,074

User fees by timing of revenue recognition

User fees recognised over time	2,751	2,585
User fees recognised at a point in time	11,362	10,489
Total user fees	14,113	13,074

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
3.4 Funding from other levels of government		
Grants were received in respect of the following:		
Summary of grants		
Commonwealth funded grants	18,105	34,926
State funded grants	8,917	25,743
Other funded grants	163	450
Total grants received	27,185	61,119
(a) Operating Grants		
<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Financial Assistance Grants	878	24,187
<i>Recurrent - State Government</i>		
Arts and Culture	60	60
Asset Maintenance	248	86
Community Development	45	(41)
Community Laws	122	118
Emergency Management	122	167
Environmental Management	94	97
Libraries	379	379
Parks and Gardens	2	1
Public Health	43	52
Total Recurrent - State Government	1,115	919
Total recurrent operating grants	1,993	25,106
<i>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Community Development	285	105
Economic Development	395	196
Environmental Management	(64)	151
Emergency Management	600	-
Buildings	-	176
Roads	-	346
Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities	456	39
Total Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government	1,672	1,013
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
Community Development	110	183
Community Laws	-	79
Arts and Culture	-	6
Economic Development	105	350
Bushfire Recovery	-	13,518
Emergency Management	575	576
Libraries	-	27
Public Health	-	20
Waste Management	43	-
Roads	(127)	23
Strategic planning	20	(76)
Human resource	10	68
Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities	648	1,009
Total Non-recurrent - State Government	1,384	15,783
<i>Non-recurrent - Other</i>		
Environmental Management	26	103
Community Development	2	-
Economic Development	-	81
Events	-	20
Strategic planning	-	200
Libraries	3	11
Total Non-recurrent - Other	31	415
Total non-recurrent operating grants	3,087	17,211
Total operating grants	5,080	42,317

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
(b) Capital Grants		
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Roads to recovery	2,622	2,843
Recurrent - State Government		
Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities	9	9
Total recurrent capital grants	2,631	2,852
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Buildings	912	784
Bridges	1,506	2,256
Aerodrome	-	(77)
Footpath and Cycleways	1,467	232
Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes	-	(89)
Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities	3,410	2,352
Roads	3,942	1,131
Emergency Management	-	270
Other Infrastructure	1,696	-
Environmental sustainability	-	24
Total Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government	12,933	6,883
Non-recurrent - State Government		
Buildings	84	64
Arts and Culture	-	90
Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes	-	48
Plant and Equipment	45	-
Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities	3,979	6,642
Waste Management	239	313
Environmental sustainability	45	182
Emergency Management	(113)	46
Roads	2,130	1,647
Total Non-recurrent - State Government	6,409	9,032
Non-recurrent - Other		
Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities	-	21
Library	-	14
Plant and Equipment	27	-
Environmental sustainability	105	-
Total Non-recurrent - Other	132	35
Total non-recurrent capital grants	19,474	15,950
Total capital grants	22,105	18,802

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

(c) Recognition of grant income

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

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

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

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

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Income recognised under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities		
General purpose	1,654	25,101
Specific purpose grants to acquire non-financial assets	22,926	33,151
Other specific purpose grants	1,200	1,266
Revenue recognised under AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers		
Specific purpose grants	1,405	1,601
	27,185	61,119

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

Balance at start of year	3,019	10,489
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	74	1,250
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(1,700)	(8,720)
Balance at year end	1,393	3,019

Capital

Balance at start of year	15,775	22,482
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	4,007	9,113
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(5,768)	(15,820)
Balance at year end	14,014	15,775

Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.

3.5 Contributions

Monetary	1,033	853
Non-monetary	27,645	2,346
Total contributions	28,678	3,199

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

Land	6,002	1,262
Investment Property - Buildings	283	-
Roads	10,487	776
Drainage	7,090	259
Other infrastructure	128	-
Footpath	3,655	49
Total non-monetary contributions	27,645	2,346

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

East Gippsland Shire Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
3.6 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		
Proceeds of sale	1,341	873
Written down value of assets disposed	(1,333)	(436)
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	8	437

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

3.7 Other income

Interest	6,334	3,549
Investment property rental	1,014	1,103
Reimbursements - Other	1,826	2,297
Reimbursements - Natural Disasters	1,577	2,949
Other	207	118
Total other income	10,958	10,016

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 4 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES		
4.1 (a) Employee costs		
Wages and salaries	35,988	32,209
WorkCover	1,364	969
Superannuation	3,977	3,472
Fringe benefits tax	118	132
Total employee costs	41,447	36,782
(b) Superannuation		
Council made contributions to the following funds:		
Defined benefit fund		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	37	20
	37	20
Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	-	2
Accumulation funds		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	1,448	1,436
Employer contributions - Australian Super	418	325
Employer contributions - Hostplus	296	232
Employer contributions - Vic Super	180	184
Employer contributions - other funds	1,598	1,275
	3,940	3,452
Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	63	70
Refer to note 9.3 for further information relating to Council's superannuation obligations.		
4.2 Materials and services		
Contractors		
- Road maintenance	9,730	12,050
- Vegetation management	946	1,767
- Ferry maintenance	10	26
- Aerodrome Operations and maintenance	98	85
- Building maintenance	135	262
- Electrical Services	445	367
- Buchan recreation reserve	170	-
- Environmental Management	32	100
- Waste collection	5,048	4,567
- Waste Management	1,004	1,355
- Animal pound services	254	265
- Courier services	9	87
- Cleaning	1,096	1,101
- Swifts Creek Recreation Reserve	125	481
- Street Lighting	-	95
- Club Terrace Community	37	-
- Sarsfield recreation reserve	67	-
- Parks and gardens	1,029	-
- Consulting	571	177
- Other	176	25
Total Contractors	20,982	22,810

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

4.2 Materials and services (Cont'd)	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Other materials and services		
Building maintenance	396	466
General maintenance	15,973	12,488
Utilities	2,189	2,067
Office administration	1,517	1,892
Information technology	3,070	2,585
Insurance	1,482	1,366
Consultants	3,490	2,040
Contributions	3,519	2,241
Total Other materials and services	31,636	25,145
Total materials and services	52,618	47,955

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

4.3 Depreciation

Property	4,227	3,835
Plant and equipment	3,656	3,185
Infrastructure	21,411	17,486
Total depreciation	29,294	24,506

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

4.4 Amortisation - Intangible assets

Software	155	99
Landfill Airspace	795	454
Total Amortisation - Intangible assets	950	553

4.5 Depreciation - Right of use assets

Property	74	74
Plant and Equipment	15	15
Total Depreciation - Right of use assets	89	89

4.6 Allowance for impairment losses

Parking fine debtors	10	17
Animal fine debtors	29	52
Rates debtors	30	14
Other debtors	25	29
Total allowance for impairment losses	94	112

Movement in allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors

Balance at the beginning of the year	1,187	1,077
New allowances recognised during the year	94	110
Amounts already allowed for and written off as uncollectible	(32)	-
Balance at end of year	1,249	1,187

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
4.7 Borrowing costs		
Interest - Borrowings	314	150
Total borrowing costs	314	150

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

4.8 Finance Costs - Leases

Interest - Lease Liabilities	16	17
Total finance costs	16	17

4.9 Other expenses

Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	64	61
Auditors' remuneration - Internal Audit	44	39
Councillors' allowances	406	412
Operating lease rentals	87	178
Memberships/Subscriptions	420	360
Bank fees and charges	285	227
Legal fees	512	364
Assets written-off -Buildings	113	796
Assets written-off -Bridges	1,415	370
Assets written-off -Roads	265	1,719
Assets written-off -Open Space	322	503
Assets written-off / impaired	1,447	701
Assets written-off -Drainage	180	-
Assets written-off -Other infrastructure	977	-
Assets written-off - Inv property	117	-
Assets written-off others	52	-
Assets written-off - Car Park	212	-
Others	14	14
Total other expenses	6,932	5,744

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS

	2024	2023
5.1 Financial assets	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand	12	11
Cash at bank	28,893	48,033
Term deposits	88,287	47,001
Total cash and cash equivalents	117,192	95,045
(b) Other financial assets		
Current		
Term deposits	-	45,262
Total current other financial assets	-	45,262
Non-current		
Shares in Community Banks	10	10
Total other financial assets	10	45,272
Total cash and cash equivalents and other financial assets	117,202	140,317

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

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

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

(c) Trade and other receivables**Current****Statutory receivables**

Rates debtors	6,370	4,312
Special rate assessment	659	630
Infringement debtors	1,037	960
Provision for doubtful debts - infringements, rates and schemes	(1,165)	(1,118)
Net GST receivable	1,552	1,322

Non statutory receivables

Other debtors	1,820	2,731
Provision for doubtful debts - other debtors	(84)	(69)

Total current trade and other receivables

10,189	8,768
---------------	--------------

Non-current**Statutory receivables**

Special rate scheme	154	243
---------------------	-----	-----

Total non-current trade and other receivables

154	243
------------	------------

Total trade and other receivables

10,343	9,011
---------------	--------------

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
(d) Ageing of Receivables		
The ageing of the Council's trade and other receivables (excluding statutory receivables) that are not impaired was:		
Current (not yet due)	1,164	1,952
Past due by up to 30 days	290	108
Past due between 31 and 180 days	183	500
Past due between 181 and 365 days	87	58
Past due by more than 1 year	12	44
Total trade and other receivables	1,736	2,662

(e) Ageing of individually impaired Receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$84,000 (2023: \$69,000) were impaired. The amount of the provision raised against these debtors was \$ 84,000 (2023: \$69,000). They individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

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

Past due by more than 1 year	84	69
Total trade and other receivables	84	69

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

5.2 Non-financial assets

2024 2023
\$'000 \$'000

(a) Other assets

Accrued income	891	598
Grant income receivable	3,652	3,903
Prepayments	1,356	1,043
Other	4	27
Total other assets	5,903	5,571

(b) Intangible assets

Software	840	446
Landfill air space	2,823	-
Total intangible assets	3,663	446

Gross carrying amount

Balance at 1 July 2023	2,142	4,854	6,996
Additions from internal developments	549	3,618	4,167
Balance at 30 June 2024	2,691	8,472	11,163

Accumulated amortisation and impairment

Balance at 1 July 2023	1,696	4,854	6,550
Amortisation expense	155	795	950
Balance at 30 June 2024	1,851	5,649	7,500

Net book value at 30 June 2023	446	-	446
Net book value at 30 June 2024	840	2,823	3,663

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and contract and other liabilities		
(a) Trade and other payables		
Current		
Non-statutory payables		
Trade payables	10,644	11,279
Accrued expenses	2,229	1,679
Total current trade and other payables	12,873	12,958
(b) Trust funds and deposits		
Current		
Refundable deposits	3,157	3,123
Fire services levy	211	215
Retention amounts	769	417
Total current trust funds and deposits	4,137	3,755
(c) Contract and other liabilities		
Contract liabilities		
Current		
Grants received in advance - operating	1,393	3,019
Caravan Park and other	268	250
Prepaid Marina Income	140	153
Total current contract liabilities	1,801	3,422
Other liabilities		
Current		
Deferred capital grants	14,014	15,775
Total other liabilities	14,014	15,775
Contract liabilities		
Non Current		
Prepaid Marina Income	340	419
Total non current contract liabilities	340	419
Total contract and other liabilities	16,155	19,616

Trust funds and deposits

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

Contract liabilities

Contract liabilities reflect consideration received in advance from Marina and Caravan Park customers in respect of leases and licences paid in advance as well as grant funding for various operational projects that Council has yet to gain the right to the funds in accordance with funding agreements. Contract liabilities are derecognised and recorded as revenue when promised goods and services are transferred to the customer. Refer to Note 3.

Other liabilities

Grant consideration was received from government funding bodies to support the construction of a number of capital projects. Grant consideration is recognised as income following specific guidance under AASB 1058 as the asset is constructed. Income is recognised to the extent of costs incurred-to-date because the costs of construction most closely reflect the stage of completion of the related capital projects. As such, Council has deferred recognition of a portion of the grant consideration received as a liability for outstanding obligations.

Purpose and nature of items

Fire Service Levy - Council is the collection agent for fire services levy on behalf of the State Government. Council remits amounts received on a quarterly basis. Amounts disclosed here will be remitted to the state government in line with that process.

Retention Amounts - Council has a contractual right to retain certain amounts until a contractor has met certain requirements or a related warrant or defect period has elapsed. Subject to the satisfactory completion of the contractual obligations, or the elapsing of time, these amounts will be paid to the relevant contractor in line with Council's contractual obligations.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

5.4 Interest-bearing liabilities	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Treasury Corporation of Victoria borrowings - secured	663	1,262
Total current interest-bearing liabilities	663	1,262
Non-current		
Treasury Corporation of Victoria borrowings - secured	7,546	-
Other borrowings - secured	1,650	1,650
Total non-current interest-bearing liabilities	9,196	1,650
Total	9,859	2,912

Borrowings are secured by mortgages over the general rates of Council.

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

Not later than one year	663	1,262
Later than one year and not later than five years	4,139	1,150
Later than five years	5,057	500
	9,859	2,912

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

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

5.5 Provisions

	Employee	Landfill restoration	Other	Total
	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
2024				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	6,955	10,444	205	17,604
Additional provisions	1,903	137	9	2,049
Addition - New Landfill Cell	-	3,618	-	-
Amounts used	(997)	(516)	(28)	(1,541)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	(8)	(449)	-	(457)
Balance at the end of the financial year	7,853	13,234	186	17,655
<i>Provisions - current</i>	7,099	6,480	-	13,579
<i>Provisions - non-current</i>	754	6,754	186	7,694
Total provisions	7,853	13,234	186	21,273
2023				
Balance at beginning of the financial year	6,650	9,959	187	16,796
Additional provisions	1,044	599	18	1,661
Amounts used	(618)	(1,136)	-	(1,754)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	(121)	1,022	-	901
Balance at the end of the financial year	6,955	10,444	205	17,604
Summary of provisions				
Provisions - current	6,269	6,785	-	13,054
Provisions - non-current	686	3,659	205	4,550
Total provisions	6,955	10,444	205	17,604

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Employee provisions		
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual leave	2,678	2,505
Other Leave	174	167
Long service leave	385	316
	3,237	2,988
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual leave	394	432
Long service leave	3,469	2,849
	3,863	3,281
Total current employee provisions	7,100	6,269
Non-current		
Long service leave	753	686
Total non-current employee provisions	753	686
Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:		
Current	7,100	6,269
Non-current	753	686
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions	7,853	6,955

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

Annual leave

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

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

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

Long service leave

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

Key assumptions:

- discount rate	4.348%	4.06%
- index rate	2.00%	2.00%

East Gippsland Shire Council

2023/2024 Financial Report

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
(b) Landfill restoration		
Current	6,480	6,785
Non-current	6,754	3,659
	13,234	10,444

Council is obligated to restore landfill sites to a particular standard. The forecast life of the site is based on current estimates of remaining capacity and the forecast rate of infill. The provision for landfill restoration has been calculated based on the present value of the expected cost of works to be undertaken. The expected cost of works has been estimated based on current understanding of work required to reinstate the site to a suitable standard. Accordingly, the estimation of the provision required is dependent on the accuracy of the forecast timing of the work, work required and related costs.

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

Key assumptions:

- discount rate	4.348%	4.06%
- index rate	4.00%	4.00%

(c) Native Vegetation Offset provision

Non-current	186	205
	186	205

5.6 Financing arrangements

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

Bank overdraft	1,500	1,500
Credit card facilities	300	300
Treasury Corporation of Victoria facilities	8,209	7,043
Other facilities	1,650	2,912
Total facilities	11,659	11,755
Used facilities	9,917	2,965
Unused facilities	1,742	8,790

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

5.7 Commitments

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

(a) Commitments for expenditure

	Not later than 1 year	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years	Later than 5 years	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2024					
Operating					
Cleaning	1,229	1,041	1,407	-	3,677
Ferry Operations/Maintenance	11	11	27	-	49
Road Infrastructure Maintenance	682	57	-	-	739
Waste Management	3,364	355	23	-	3,742
Other Service Contracts	197	-	-	-	197
Total	5,483	1,464	1,457	-	8,404
Capital					
Buildings	125	-	-	-	125
Roads	3,859	-	-	-	3,859
Recreation	6,166	-	-	-	6,166
Waste	1,920	-	-	-	1,920
Other	15,317	-	-	-	15,317
Total	27,387	-	-	-	27,387
	Not later than 1 year	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years	Later than 5 years	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2023					
Operating					
Cleaning	1,081	1,078	2,099	49	4,307
Ferry Operations/Maintenance	5	-	-	-	5
Road Infrastructure Maintenance	591	591	52	-	1,234
Waste Management	4,216	2,754	68	-	7,038
Other Service Contracts	347	172	-	-	519
Total	6,240	4,595	2,219	49	13,103
Capital					
Buildings	19	-	-	-	19
Roads	2,905	-	-	-	2,905
Recreation	15,368	-	-	-	15,368
Waste	635	-	-	-	635
Other	10,034	-	-	-	10,034
Total	28,961	-	-	-	28,961

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

(b) Operating lease receivables

Operating lease receivables

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

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

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Not later than one year	1,083	935
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,802	2,198
Later than five years	2,416	2,186
	6,301	5,319

5.8 Leases

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Council has 22 peppercorn/low value leases on land and buildings. Use of these properties is restricted to community service and welfare activities.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Right-of-Use Assets

	Property	Equipment	Other, etc.	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at 1 July 2023	632	50	-	682
Depreciation charge	(74)	(15)	-	(89)
Balance at 30 June 2024	558	35	-	593

Lease Liabilities

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Less than one year	76	91
One to five years	181	226
More than five years	553	572
Total undiscounted lease liabilities as at 30 June	810	889

Lease liabilities included in the Balance Sheet at 30 June

Current	79	75
Non-current	600	678
Total lease liabilities	679	753

Short-term and low value leases

Council has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of machinery that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (individual assets worth less than existing capitalisation thresholds for a like asset up to a maximum of AUD\$10,000), including IT equipment. Council recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Expenses relating to:		
Short-term leases	54	160
Leases of low value assets	32	38
Total	86	198

Variable lease payments (not included in measurement of lease liabilities)

Variable lease payments	84	133
Total	84	133

Variable lease payments are those that depend on an index or a rate, for example payments linked to the consumer price index, a benchmark interest rate or changes in market rental rates.

Non-cancellable lease commitments - Short-term and low-value leases

Commitments for minimum lease payments for short-term and low-value leases are payable as follows:

Payable:

Within one year	66	25
Later than one year but not later than five years	155	62
Later than five years	142	31
Total lease commitments	363	118

East Gippsland Shire Council
2023/2024 Financial Report

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

6.1 PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

	Carrying amount 30 June 2023 \$'000	Additions \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Revaluation \$'000	Depreciation \$'000	Disposal \$'000	Write-off \$'000	Transfers \$'000	Carrying amount 30 June 2024 \$'000
Property	311,434	-	6,002	-	(4,227)	(805)	(113)	1,841	314,132
Plant and equipment	15,918	-	-	-	(3,656)	(528)	(32)	4,605	16,307
Infrastructure	1,065,903	-	21,360	(124,980)	(21,411)	-	(3,391)	21,745	959,226
Work in progress	48,947	56,641	-	-	-	-	(1,447)	(31,664)	72,477
	1,442,202	56,641	27,362	(124,980)	(29,294)	(1,333)	(4,983)	(3,473)	1,362,142

Summary of Work in Progress

	Opening WIP \$'000	Additions \$'000	Write-off \$'000	Transfers \$'000	Closing WIP \$'000
Property	22,120	17,072	(201)	(4,789)	34,202
Plant and equipment	1,449	6,574	(18)	(5,678)	2,327
Infrastructure	25,378	32,995	(1,228)	(21,197)	35,948
Total	48,947	56,641	(1,447)	(31,664)	72,477

East Gippsland Shire Council
2023/2024 Financial Report

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

(a) Property

	Land - specialised	Land - non specialised	Total Land & Land Improvements	Heritage buildings	Buildings - specialised	Total Buildings	Work In Progress	Total Property
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2023	188,485	4,922	193,407	20,060	205,323	225,383	22,120	440,910
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	-	-	-	(10,806)	(96,550)	(107,356)	-	(107,356)
	188,485	4,922	193,407	9,254	108,773	118,027	22,120	333,554
Movements in fair value								
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,072	17,072
Contributions	6,002	-	6,002	-	-	-	-	6,002
Disposal	(653)	(152)	(805)	-	-	-	-	(805)
Write-off	-	-	-	-	(170)	(170)	(201)	(371)
Transfers	(1,403)	-	(1,403)	221	2,269	2,490	(4,789)	(3,702)
	3,946	(152)	3,794	221	2,099	2,320	12,082	18,196
Movements in accumulated depreciation								
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-	-	(285)	(3,942)	(4,227)	-	(4,227)
Accumulated depreciation of writeoff	-	-	-	-	57	57	-	57
Transfers	-	-	-	-	754	754	-	754
	-	-	-	(285)	(3,131)	(3,416)	-	(3,416)
At fair value 30 June 2024	192,431	4,770	197,201	20,281	207,422	227,703	34,202	459,106
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	-	-	-	(11,091)	(99,681)	(110,772)	-	(110,772)
Carrying amount	192,431	4,770	197,201	9,190	107,741	116,931	34,202	348,334

East Gippsland Shire Council
2023/2024 Financial Report

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

(b) Plant and Equipment

	Plant machinery and equipment	Fixtures fittings and furniture	Computers and telecomms	Library books	Work In Progress	Total plant and equipment
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2023	24,568	11,727	7,024	5,522	1,449	50,290
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	(15,086)	(8,572)	(4,818)	(4,447)	-	(32,923)
	9,482	3,155	2,206	1,075	1,449	17,367
Movements in fair value						
Additions	-	-	-	-	6,574	6,574
Disposal	(2,213)	-	-	-	-	(2,213)
Write-off	(375)	(261)	(3,887)	-	(18)	(4,541)
Transfers	3,463	25	337	208	(5,678)	(1,645)
	875	(236)	(3,550)	208	878	(1,825)
Movements in accumulated depreciation						
Depreciation and amortisation	(2,127)	(795)	(572)	(162)	-	(3,656)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	1,685	-	-	-	-	1,685
Accumulated depreciation of write off	350	255	3,886	-	-	4,491
Transfers	432	140	-	-	-	572
	340	(400)	3,314	(162)	-	3,092
At fair value 30 June 2024	25,443	11,491	3,474	5,730	2,327	48,465
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	(14,746)	(8,972)	(1,504)	(4,609)	-	(29,831)
Carrying amount	10,697	2,519	1,970	1,121	2,327	18,634

East Gippsland Shire Council
2023/2024 Financial Report

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

(c) Infrastructure

	Roads	Bridges	Footpaths and cycleways	Drainage	Recreational, leisure and community facilities	Waste Management	Parks open space and streetscapes	Aerodromes	Off street car parks	Other Infrastructure	Work In Progress	Total Infrastructure
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2023	859,465	130,933	42,368	104,528	40,773	11,956	40,754	9,864	14,253	31,675	25,378	1,311,947
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	(132,506)	(12,366)	(7,934)	(25,649)	(16,611)	(6,028)	(6,646)	(679)	(2,520)	(9,727)	-	(220,666)
	726,959	118,567	34,434	78,879	24,162	5,928	34,108	9,185	11,733	21,948	25,378	1,091,281
Movements in fair value												
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,995	32,995
Contributions	11,098	-	3,848	7,457	-	-	-	-	-	172	-	22,575
Revaluation	(15,138)	(6,411)	23,687	(2,272)	(2,355)	1,718	5,896	2,905	(540)	5,866	-	13,356
Write-off	(562)	(1,789)	-	(281)	(75)	(5,180)	(425)	-	(244)	(2,216)	(1,228)	(12,000)
Transfers	7,620	2,710	263	2,236	499	5,481	775	-	185	2,551	(21,197)	1,123
	3,018	(5,490)	27,798	7,140	(1,931)	2,019	6,246	2,905	(599)	6,373	10,570	58,049
Movements in accumulated depreciation												
Depreciation and amortisation	(13,681)	(1,492)	(1,000)	(1,033)	(873)	(1,059)	(705)	(183)	(274)	(1,111)	-	(21,411)
Contributions	(611)	-	(193)	(367)	-	-	-	-	-	(44)	-	(1,215)
Revaluation	(70,053)	(12,381)	(13,183)	(16,885)	1,759	(4,212)	(14,721)	(1,596)	(515)	(6,549)	-	(138,336)
Accumulated depreciation of write off	296	374	-	100	56	5,180	103	-	33	1,239	-	7,381
Transfers	864	11	(4)	(920)	(15)	-	22	-	2	(535)	-	(675)
	(83,185)	(13,488)	(14,380)	(19,105)	927	(91)	(15,301)	(1,779)	(754)	(7,000)	-	(154,156)
At fair value 30 June 2024	862,483	125,443	70,166	111,668	38,842	13,975	47,000	12,769	13,654	38,048	35,948	1,369,996
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	(215,691)	(25,854)	(22,314)	(44,754)	(15,684)	(6,119)	(21,947)	(2,458)	(3,274)	(16,727)	-	(374,822)
Carrying amount	646,792	99,589	47,852	66,914	23,158	7,856	25,053	10,311	10,380	21,321	35,948	995,174

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont'd)

Acquisition

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

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

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

	Depreciation Period	Threshold Limit
Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods		\$'000
Land & land improvements		
land	-	-
Buildings		
buildings	15-80 years	5
building and leasehold improvements	15-80 years	5
Plant and Equipment		
ferry equipment	40 years	1
plant, machinery and equipment	4-15 years	1
fixtures, fittings and furniture	5-20 years	1
computers and telecommunications	5 years	1
library books	10 years	1
Infrastructure		
road pavements and seals	18-80 years	5
road wearing course	15 years	5
road formation and earthworks	-	5
road kerb, channel and minor culverts	70 - 80 years	5
bridges	40-100 years	5
footpaths and cycleways	18-65 years	5
drainage	100 years	5
recreational, leisure and community facilities	28-60 years	5
aerodromes	15-80 years	5
waste management landfill cells	4 years	5
waste management infrastructure	50 years	5
parks, open space and streetscapes	40-75 years	5
car parks	15-80 years	5
Intangible assets	3-10 years	1

Land under roads

Council recognises land under roads it controls at fair value.

Depreciation and amortisation

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

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

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

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

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

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Repairs and maintenance

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

Leasehold improvements

Leasehold improvements are recognised at cost and are amortised over the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the improvement, whichever is the shorter. At balance date there were no leasehold improvements.

Valuation of land and buildings

Valuation of land and buildings were undertaken by a qualified independent valuer Todd Svanberg, Certified Practising Valuer CPV API Member: 63110, Senior Director, Commercial Compliance and Quality of JLL Public Sector Valuations Pty Ltd and Mark Pastor, Certified Practising Valuer CPV API Member: 63501, Senior Valuer JLL Public Sector Valuations Pty Ltd as at 30 June 2023. The valuation of land and buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

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

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

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

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

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of Valuation	Type of Valuation
Specialised land	-	-	192,431	30/06/2023	Independent
Non - Specialised land	-	4,770	-	30/06/2023	Independent
Heritage Buildings	-	-	9,190	30/06/2023	Independent
Buildings	-	-	107,741	30/06/2023	Independent
Total	-	4,770	309,362		

Valuation of infrastructure

Valuation of infrastructure assets has been determined in accordance with an independent valuer Josef Wang B.Eng, Quantity Surveyor, Infrastructure valuer and Regina Sun Quantity Surveyor. APV Valuers and Asset Management as at 31 December 2023.

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

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

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

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of Valuation	Type of Valuation
Roads	-	-	646,792	31/12/2023	Independent
Bridges	-	-	99,589	31/12/2023	Independent
Footpaths and cycleways	-	-	47,852	31/12/2023	Independent
Drainage	-	-	66,914	31/12/2023	Independent
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	-	-	23,158	31/12/2023	Independent
Waste management	-	-	7,856	31/12/2023	Independent
Parks, open space and streetscapes	-	-	25,053	31/12/2023	Independent
Aerodromes	-	-	10,311	31/12/2023	Independent
Other infrastructure	-	-	31,701	31/12/2023	Independent
Total	-	-	959,226		

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations

Specialised land and land under roads is valued using a market based direct comparison technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the extent and impact of restriction of use and the market cost of land per square metre. The extent and impact of restrictions on use varies and results in a reduction to surrounding land values between 0% and 90%. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions. Currently land values range between \$1.20 and \$450.00 per square metre.

Specialised buildings are valued using a current replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement costs are calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from \$84 to \$6,730 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 15 years to 80 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

Infrastructure assets are valued based on the current replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 15 years to 100 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Reconciliation of specialised land		
Land under roads	1,988	1,426
Parks and reserves	69,230	68,145
Recreation and Leisure	57,330	57,116
Residential Land	706	1,022
Commercial Land	362	362
Aerodrome Land	15,802	15,802
Community Services Land	10,101	10,604
Business Centre/Library Land	4,669	4,669
Caravan Park Land	2,979	4,818
Carpark Land	4,642	4,746
Depot Land	832	832
Quarry Reserve Land	356	356
Drainage Reserve Land	14,658	10,248
Saleyard and Pound Facility Land	1,941	1,941
Waste Management Land	6,368	5,931
Road Reserves	467	467
Total specialised land	192,431	188,485

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
6.2 Investment property		
Balance at beginning of financial year	7,455	8,263
Contributions	283	-
Additions	322	29
Transfer	2,600	(148)
Disposals	(117)	(12)
Fair value adjustments	244	(677)
Balance at end of financial year	10,787	7,455

Investment property is held to generate long-term rental yields. Investment property is measured initially at cost, including transaction costs. Costs incurred subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefit in excess of the originally assessed performance of the asset will flow to the Council. Subsequent to initial recognition at cost, investment property is carried at fair value, determined annually by independent valuers. Changes to fair value are recorded in the comprehensive income statement in the period that they arise.

Valuation of investment property

Valuation of investment property has been determined in accordance with an independent valuation by Todd Svanberg, Certified Practising Valuer CPV API Member 63110, Senior Director, Commercial Compliance and Quality of JLL Public Sector Valuations Pty Ltd and Mark Pastor, Certified Practising Valuer CPV API Member 63501, Senior Valuer JLL Public Sector Valuations Pty Ltd as at 30 June 2023. The valuation is at fair value, based on the current market value for the property. An index based valuation was conducted in the current year. This valuation was based on Indices provided by the Victoria Valuer-General. A full valuation of these assets will be conducted in 2026/27.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 7 PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS

7.1 Council and key management remuneration

(a) Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel (KMP) are those people with the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of East Gippsland Shire Council. The Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and General Managers are deemed KMP.

Details of KMP at any time during the year are:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Councillors		
Councillor Mark Reeves (Mayor 1/7/23 to 25/10/23)		
Councillor Arthur Allen (Deputy Mayor 1/7/23 to 25/10/23)		
Councillor Mendy Urie		
Councillor Jane Greacen (Deputy Mayor 26/10/23 to 30/6/24)		
Councillor Tom Crook (Mayor 26/10/23 to 30/6/24)		
Councillor Trevor Stow		
Councillor Kirsten Van Diggele		
Councillor Sonia Buckley		
Councillor John White		
Anthony Basford, Chief Executive Officer (1/7/23 to 16/1/24)		
Fiona Weigall, Acting Chief Executive Officer (17/1/24 to 7/4/24)		
Fiona Weigall, Chief Executive Officer (8/4/24 to 30/6/24)		
Alba Elling, Acting General Manager Business Excellence (1/7/23 to 1/11/23)		
Sarah Johnston, General Manager Business Excellence (2/11/23 to 30/6/24)		
Stuart McConnell, General Manager Place and Community (1/7/23 to 5/5/24)		
Martin Richardson, Acting General Manager Place and Community (6/5/24 to 10/5/24)		
Kath Smith, Acting General Manager Place and Community (15/5/24 to 10/6/24)		
Alba Elling, Acting General Manager Place and Community (11/6/24 to 30/6/24)		
Fiona Weigall, General Manager Assets and Environment (1/7/23 to 16/1/24)		
Wayne Richards, Acting General Manager Assets and Environment (17/1/24 to 5/5/24)		
Stuart McConnell, General Manager Assets and Environment (6/5/24 to 30/6/24)		
Total Number of Councillors	9	9
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	8	5
Total Number of Key Management Personnel	17	14

(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Remuneration comprises employee benefits including all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by Council, or on behalf of the Council, in exchange for services rendered. Remuneration of Key Management Personnel and Other senior staff is disclosed in the following categories.

Short-term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Other long-term employee benefits include long service leave, other long service benefits or deferred compensation.

Post-employment benefits include pensions, and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

Termination benefits include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term employee benefits	1,336	1,230
Other long-term employee benefits	18	21
Post-employment benefits	97	91
Total	1,451	1,342

The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, fall within the following bands:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
\$0 - \$9,999	1	-
\$10,000 - \$19,999	1	1
\$20,000 - \$29,999	-	-
\$30,000 - \$39,999	6	7
\$40,000 - \$49,999	1	1
\$50,000 - \$59,999	1	-
\$70,000 - \$79,999	2	-
\$90,000 - \$99,999	1	1
\$150,000 - \$159,999	1	-
\$190,000 - \$199,999	1	-
\$220,000 - \$229,999	-	2
\$230,000 - \$239,999	-	1
\$250,000 - \$259,999	1	-
\$280,000 - \$289,999	1	1
	17	14

(d) Remuneration of other senior staff

Other senior staff are officers of Council, other than Key Management Personnel, whose total remuneration exceeds \$170,000 and who report directly to a member of the KMP.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Total remuneration of other senior staff was as follows:		
Short-term employee benefits	166	176
Other long-term employee benefits	4	4
Post-employment benefits	19	18
Total	189	198

The number of other senior staff are shown below in their relevant income bands:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Income Range:		
\$180,000 - \$189,999	1	-
\$190,000 - \$199,999	-	1
	1	1

	\$	\$
Total remuneration for the reporting year for other senior staff included above, amounted to:	188,649	197,694

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

7.2 Related party disclosure

(a) Transactions with related parties

During the period Council entered into the following transactions with related parties.

- 1 For the year ended 30 June 2024, Council paid \$161,787 to staff related to Key Management Personnel and has accrued benefits payable to these staff of \$28,467 as at 30 June 2024, under standard employment terms and conditions.
- 2 For the year ended 30 June 2024, Council paid \$186,139 to suppliers and contractors related to Key Management Personnel on normal commercial terms and conditions. Details of these related party transactions for Key Management Personnel are as follows:

Cr White	Melwood Investments Pty Ltd - \$75,395 for contracted slashing
Cr Allen	Leftrade Pty Ltd - \$8,326 for goods and service
	Paper Cranes Sushi Pty Ltd - \$13,405 for catering services
Cr Greacen	Cunninghame Arm Medical Centre - \$252 for employee related medical services
Alba Elling	East Gippsland Marketing Inc \$88,761 for marketing services agreement and other services provided.

(b) Outstanding balances with related parties

The following balances totalling \$63,179 are outstanding at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties on normal commercial terms and conditions.

Cr White	Melwood Investments Pty Ltd - \$2,420 for contracted slashing
Cr Allen	Leftrade Pty Ltd - \$388 for goods and service
	Paper Cranes Sushi Pty Ltd - \$1,685
Cr Greacen	Cunninghame Arm Medical Centre - \$140 for employee related medical services
Alba Elling	East Gippsland Marketing Inc \$58,546 for marketing services agreement and other services

(c) Loans to/from related parties

The aggregate amount of loans in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a related party are as follows:

Nil

(d) Commitments to/from related parties

The aggregate amount of commitments in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a related party are as follows:

Nil

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES

8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed and if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable, respectively.

(a) Contingent assets

(i) Council is currently undergoing a process over a three year period to identify old drainage assets that are not currently recorded. At this stage Council is currently unable to value any of these found assets and will bring them to account in the future when valuations have been calculated.

(b) Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

- possible obligations that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council; or
- present obligations that arise from past events but are not recognised because:
 - it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; or
 - the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Superannuation

Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme, matters relating to this potential obligation are outlined below. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists.

Landfill

Council operates a number of landfills. Council will have to carry out site rehabilitation works in the future. Council has provided the Environment Protection Authority with a bank guarantee in their favour of \$1.3 million to meet the remedial action financial assurance requirements for licenced landfill sites.

Liability Mutual Insurance

Council is a participant of the MAV Liability Mutual Insurance (LMI) Scheme. The LMI scheme provides public liability and professional indemnity insurance cover. The LMI scheme states that each participant will remain liable to make further contributions to the scheme in respect of any insurance year in which it was a participant to the extent of its participant's share of any shortfall in the provision set aside in respect of that insurance year, and such liability will continue whether or not the participant remains a participant in future insurance years.

MAV Workcare

Council was a participant of the MAV WorkCare Scheme. The MAV WorkCare Scheme provided workers compensation insurance. MAV WorkCare commenced business on 1 November 2017 and the last day the Scheme operated as a self-insurer was 30 June 2021. In accordance with the Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013, there is a six year liability period following the cessation of the Scheme (to 30 June 2027). During the liability period, adjustment payments may be required (or received). The determination of any adjustment payments is dependent upon revised actuarial assessments of the Scheme's tail claims liabilities as undertaken by Work Safe Victoria. If required, adjustments will occur at the 3-year and 6-year points during the liability period, and will affect participating members.

8.2 Change in accounting standards

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2024 reporting period. Council assesses the impact of these new standards.

In December 2022 the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) issued *AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities* to modify AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*. AASB 2022-10 amends AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement for fair value measurements of non-financial assets of not-for-profit public sector entities* not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash inflows. The AASB 13 modifications:

- are applicable only to not-for-profit public sector entities;
 - are limited to fair value measurements of non-financial assets not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash inflows;
 - are to be applied prospectively for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024;
 - would not necessarily change practice for some not-for-profit public sector entities; and
 - do not indicate that entities changing practice in how they measure relevant assets made an error in applying the existing requirements of AASB 13.
- Council will assess any impact of the modifications to AASB 13 ahead of the 2024-25 reporting period.

In December 2022 the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) issued *AASB 2022-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Non-current Liabilities with Covenants*. AASB 2022-6 amends AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements* to improve the information an entity provides in its financial statements about long-term liabilities with covenants where the entity's right to defer settlement of those liabilities for at least twelve months after the reporting period is subject to the entity complying with conditions specified in the loan arrangement. The amendments in AASB 2022-6 are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024. Council will assess any impact of the modifications to AASB 101 ahead of the 2024-25 reporting period.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

8.3 Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables) and bank and TCV borrowings. Details of the material accounting policy information and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in the notes of the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

(b) Market risk

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

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Council's interest rate liability risk arises primarily from long term loans and borrowings at fixed rates which exposes council to fair value interest rate risk / Council does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rates.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 2020*. Council manages interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- diversification of investment product;
- monitoring of return on investment; and
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

There has been no significant change in the Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing interest rate risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

Interest rate movements have not been sufficiently significant during the year to have an impact on the Council's year end result.

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause Council to make a financial loss. Council have exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in the balance sheet. Particularly significant areas of credit risk exist in relation to outstanding fees and fines as well as loans and receivables from sporting clubs and associations. To help manage this risk:

- council have a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities council deal with;
- council may require collateral where appropriate; and
- council only invest surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in council's investment policy.

Receivables consist of a large number of customers, spread across the ratepayer, business and government sectors. Credit risk associated with the council's financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is secured by a charge over the rateable property.

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when council provide a guarantee for another party. Details of our contingent liabilities are disclosed in Note 8.1(b).

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any allowance for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. Council does not hold any collateral.

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of council's operational liquidity requirements it will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required or will be forced to sell a financial asset at below value or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset.

To help reduce these risks Council:

- have a liquidity policy which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained;
- have readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place;
- have a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments;
- monitor budget to actual performance on a regular basis; and
- set limits on borrowings relating to the percentage of loans to rate revenue and percentage of loan principal repayments to rate revenue.

The Council's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed on the face of the balance sheet and the amounts related to financial guarantees disclosed in Note 8.1(b), and is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

With the exception of borrowings, all financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade. Details of the maturity profile for borrowings are disclosed at Note 5.4.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amounts of financial instruments reflect their fair value.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, Council believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

- A parallel shift of + 1.0% and - 1.0% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 4.35%.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of Council's financial assets and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of Council's operations.

8.4 Fair value measurement

Fair value hierarchy

Council's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy, Council's financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

Council measures certain assets and liabilities at fair value where required or permitted by Australian Accounting Standards. AASB 13 Fair value measurement, aims to improve consistency and reduce complexity by providing a definition of fair value and a single source of fair value measurement and disclosure requirements for use across Australian Accounting Standards.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within a fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and

Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Council has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, Council determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

Revaluation

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, are measured at their fair value, being the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. (For plant and equipment carrying amount is considered to approximate fair value given short useful lives). At balance date, the Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date, the class of asset was revalued.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use of an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 1 to 4 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts. The following table sets out the frequency of revaluations by asset class.

Asset class	Revaluation frequency
Land	1 to 4 years
Buildings	1 to 4 years
Roads	1 to 4 years
Bridges	1 to 4 years
Footpaths and cycleways	1 to 4 years
Drainage	1 to 4 years
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	1 to 4 years
Waste management	1 to 4 years
Parks, open space and streetscapes	1 to 4 years
Aerodromes	1 to 4 years
Other infrastructure	1 to 4 years

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

Impairment of assets

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

8.5 Events occurring after balance date

No matters have occurred after balance date that require disclosure in the financial report.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Note 9 OTHER MATTERS

9.1 Reserves

(a) Asset revaluation reserves

2024

Property

Land and land improvements

Buildings

Infrastructure

Roads

Bridges

Footpaths and cycleways

Drainage

Recreational, leisure and community facilities

Waste management

Parks, open space and streetscapes

Aerodromes

Offstreet car parks

Other infrastructure

Total asset revaluation reserves

2023

Property

Land and land improvements

Buildings

Infrastructure

Roads

Bridges

Footpaths and cycleways

Drainage

Recreational, leisure and community facilities

Waste management

Parks, open space and streetscapes

Aerodromes

Offstreet car parks

Other infrastructure

Total asset revaluation reserves

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Increase (decrease) \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
2024			
Property			
Land and land improvements	153,259	-	153,259
Buildings	90,944	-	90,944
	<u>244,203</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>244,203</u>
Infrastructure			
Roads	592,958	(85,196)	507,762
Bridges	87,796	(18,792)	69,004
Footpaths and cycleways	21,090	10,504	31,594
Drainage	53,244	(19,157)	34,087
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	16,621	(596)	16,025
Waste management	3,823	(2,494)	1,329
Parks, open space and streetscapes	14,792	(8,825)	5,967
Aerodromes	2,080	1,309	3,389
Offstreet car parks	3,287	(1,049)	2,238
Other infrastructure	19,997	(684)	19,313
	<u>815,688</u>	<u>(124,980)</u>	<u>690,708</u>
Total asset revaluation reserves	1,059,891	(124,980)	934,911
2023			
Property			
Land and land improvements	111,638	41,621	153,259
Buildings	94,763	(3,819)	90,944
	<u>206,401</u>	<u>37,802</u>	<u>244,203</u>
Infrastructure			
Roads	519,476	73,482	592,958
Bridges	76,191	11,605	87,796
Footpaths and cycleways	17,730	3,360	21,090
Drainage	45,297	7,947	53,244
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	14,242	2,379	16,621
Waste management	3,217	606	3,823
Parks, open space and streetscapes	11,610	3,182	14,792
Aerodromes	1,149	931	2,080
Offstreet car parks	2,114	1,173	3,287
Other infrastructure	17,791	2,206	19,997
	<u>708,817</u>	<u>106,871</u>	<u>815,688</u>
Total asset revaluation reserves	915,218	144,673	1,059,891

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record the increased (net) value of Council's assets over time.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Transfer from accumulated surplus \$'000	Transfer to accumulated surplus \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
(b) Other reserves				
2024				
Car Parking	193	-	-	193
Development Contribution Plans	129	-	67	196
Lakes Entrance Northern Growth Area	1	-	-	1
Recreational Land	1,453	-	621	2,074
Road Upgrading	59	-	67	126
Total Other reserves	1,835	-	755	2,590
2023				
Car Parking	193	-	-	193
Development Contribution Plans	129	-	-	129
Lakes Entrance Northern Growth Area	1	-	-	1
Recreational Land	1,144	307	2	1,453
Road Upgrading	59	-	-	59
Total Other reserves	1,526	307	2	1,835

The Recreation Land Reserve receives developer contributions for future development of public open space.

Development Contribution Plans receive contribution from developers upon the sale of land in a prescribed planning area.

The Car Parking Reserve receives developer funds for future development of public car parks.

The Road Upgrading Reserve receives contributions from developers for the future upgrade of specific roads as required by development plans.

Lakes Entrance Northern Growth Area receive contributions in accordance with the development plan.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	22,552	37,812
Non-cash adjustments:		
Depreciation/Amortisation	30,333	25,148
Profit/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(8)	(437)
Write off property, plant and equipment	5,100	4,089
Fair value adjustments for investment property	(244)	677
Contributions - Non-monetary assets	(27,645)	(2,346)
Financing cost in financing activities	315	153
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(1,332)	285
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(313)	(88)
(Increase)/decrease in other assets	(19)	2,516
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	692	(621)
(Decrease)/increase in contract and other liabilities	(3,461)	(6,763)
(Decrease)/increase in provisions	3,662	641
(Decrease)/increase in trust funds and deposits	382	722
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	30,014	61,788

9.3 Superannuation

Council makes the majority of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. Obligations for contributions to the Fund are recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Income Statement when they are made or due.

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation category, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2024, this was 11.0% as required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) legislation (2023: 10.5%)).

Defined Benefit

Council does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of [Employer name] in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Fund Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119.

Funding arrangements

Council makes employer contributions to the Defined Benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund Actuary. A triennial actuarial investigation for the Defined Benefit category as at 30 June 2023 was conducted and completed by 31 December 2023. The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category as at 30 June 2023 was 104.1%. Council was notified of the 30 June 2023 VBI during August 2023. The financial assumptions used to calculate the 30 June 2023 VBI were:

Net investment returns 5.7% pa
Salary information 3.5% pa
Price inflation (CPI) 2.8% pa

The VBI is used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 30 June 2023 actuarial investigation determined the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Employer contributions

(a) Regular contributions

On the basis of the results of the 2023 triennial actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, Council makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2024, this rate was 11.0% of members' salaries (10.5% in 2022/23). This rate is expected to increase in line with any increases in the SG contribution rate and was reviewed as part of the 30 June 2023 triennial valuation.

In addition, Council reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

(b) Funding calls

If the Defined Benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at an actuarial investigation or the Defined Benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the Defined Benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 98% from July 2024 (previously 97%).

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including Council) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall.

Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's Defined Benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up.

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers.

In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

The 2023 triennial actuarial investigation surplus amounts

An actuarial investigation is conducted annually for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer. Generally, a full actuarial investigation is conducted every three years and interim actuarial investigations are conducted for each intervening year. A full investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2023.

The Fund's actuarial investigation identified the following for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer:

	2023 (Triennial)	2022 (Interim)
	\$m	\$m
- A VBI Surplus	84.7	44.6
- A total service liability surplus	123.6	105.8
- A discounted accrued benefits surplus	141.9	111.9

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2023.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2023.

The discounted accrued benefit surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category exceeds the value of benefits payable in the future but accrued in respect of service to 30 June 2023.

The 2024 interim actuarial investigation

An interim actuarial investigation is being conducted for the Fund's position as at 30 June 2024 as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. It is anticipated that this actuarial investigation will be completed by October 2024.

The VBI of the Defined Benefit category was 105.4% as at 30 June 2024. The financial assumptions used to calculate the 30 June 2024 VBI were:

Net investment returns 5.6% pa
Salary information 3.5% pa
Price inflation (CPI) 2.7% pa

Council was notified of the 30 June 2024 VBI during August 2024.

Because the VBI was above 100%, the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position at 30 June 2024 and it is expected that the actuarial investigation will recommend that no change will be necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Notes to the Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

The 2020 triennial investigation

The last triennial actuarial investigation conducted prior to 30 June 2023 was at 30 June 2020. This actuarial investigation was completed by 31 December 2020. The financial assumptions for the purposes of that investigation was:

	2020 Triennial investigation	2023 Triennial investigation
Net investment return	5.6% pa	5.7% pa
Salary inflation	2.5% pa for two years and 2.75% pa thereafter	3.50% pa
Price inflation	2.0% pa	2.8% pa

Superannuation contributions

Contributions by Council (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 are detailed below:

Scheme	Type of Scheme	Rate	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Vision super	Defined benefits	11.0% (2023:10.5%)	37	20
Vision super	Accumulation	11.0% (2023:10.5%)	1,448	1,436
Various other funds	Accumulation	11.0% (2023:10.5%)	2,492	2,016

There were contributions outstanding of \$63,486 and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2024.

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2025 is \$21,222.

**Notes to the Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

Note 10 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

There have been no changes to accounting policies in the 2023/24 year.

East Gippsland Shire Council

Performance Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Table of Contents

Certification of performance statement..... 3

Victorian Auditor-General's Office audit report 4

Description of municipality 5

Service Performance Indicators 6

Financial Performance Indicators 9

Sustainable Capacity Indicators14

Notes to the accounts16

 5.1 Basis of preparation.....16

 5.2 Definitions.....17

 5.3 Other Matters.....18

Certification of performance statement

In my opinion, the accompanying performance statement has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

E. Collins

Elizabeth Collins, CPA
Principal Accounting Officer
Dated: 24 September 2024

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the East Gippsland Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2024 presents fairly the results of council's performance in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

The performance statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the performance statement to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to certify this performance statement in its final form.

Mr Crook

Councillor Tom Crook
Dated: 24 September 2024

Mark Reeves

Councillor Mark Reeves
Dated: 24 September 2024

F. Weigall

Fiona Weigall
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 24 September 2024



Independent Auditor’s Report

To the Councillors of East Gippsland Shire Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the accompanying performance statement of East Gippsland Shire Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• description of municipality for the year ended 30 June 2024• service performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2024• financial performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2024• sustainable capacity indicators for the year ended 30 June 2024• notes to the accounts• certification of the performance statement. <p>In my opinion, the performance statement of East Gippsland Shire Council in respect of the year ended 30 June 2024 presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of Part 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the performance statement</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board’s <i>APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the performance statement in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Councillors’ responsibilities for the performance statement	<p>The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 and for such internal control as the Councillors determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a performance statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p>

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the performance statement	<p>As required by the <i>Audit Act 1994</i>, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the performance statement based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of this performance statement. As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.• obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control• evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the performance statement, including the disclosures, and whether performance statement represents the underlying events and results in a manner that achieves fair presentation. <p>I communicate with the Councillors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.</p>
--	--

MELBOURNE
26 September 2024


Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Section 1. Description of East Gippsland Shire Council

East Gippsland Shire Council is a large and vibrant region in a beautiful natural setting, home to proud and involved communities that embrace and encourage self-reliance, responsibility and new ideas. The past 30 years have seen East Gippsland evolve from its rural origins to a flourishing economic and tourism region in Eastern Victoria, drawing more than one million visitors each year.

The region has kept its identity and sense of place as it has grown. The shire stretches from west of Bairnsdale to the New South Wales border, covering approximately 21,000 square kilometres or 10 per cent of the State. East Gippsland has an Estimated Residential Population of approximately 49,179 residents (as at 30 June 2023).

East Gippsland's unique qualities are both its strength and challenges. The region is distinguished by its natural setting, with its southern edge defined by the Gippsland Lakes and rugged coastline and the rising backdrop of the High Country. Historical rural landscapes and natural bushland areas characterise the region and surround its communities.

We are responsible for maintaining 3,010 km of roads, 191 timber and concrete bridges, 27 pedestrian bridges, over 3,500 km of table drains, 540 km of kerb and channel, 350 hectares of Parks and Gardens and over 4,500 streetlights.

Section 2. Service Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Results					Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024		
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	
Aquatic facilities <i>Utilisation</i> <i>Utilisation of aquatic facilities</i> [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	4.06	6.07	9.23	N/A	9.93	Council continued to see growth in recreation centre utilisation over the reporting period. Utilisation data includes the Bairnsdale Aquatic Recreation centre, Bairnsdale outdoor pool, Lakes Entrance Aquadome and Orbost outdoor pool.
Animal management <i>Health and safety</i> <i>Animal management prosecutions</i> [Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100	0%	100%	100%	N/A	100%	There was one successful prosecution of an animal management case during the reporting period.
Food safety <i>Health and safety</i> <i>Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications</i> [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	N/A	100.00%	A total of 15 critical or major non-compliances were followed up in 2023 calendar year.

	Results					Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024		
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	
Governance <i>Satisfaction</i> <i>Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement</i> (community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council)	51	48	45	50	41	Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement has decreased over the reporting period. Council is currently reviewing its consultation and engagement practices to improve the community satisfaction rating in future years.
Libraries <i>Participation</i> <i>Library membership</i> [percentage of the population that are registered library members] x100	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.34%	There are 6,081 active registered library members in East Gippsland. This is a new indicator and hence no previous year results are available.
Roads Condition Sealed local roads below the intervention level (percentage of sealed local roads that are below the renewal intervention level set by Council and not requiring renewal)	96.81%	94.04%	97.37%	97.00%	96.03%	Council continues to maintain sealed local roads to very high standard below the renewal intervention level, resulting in only 4% of local roads identified as requiring renewal. A comprehensive condition assessment is conducted every four years, with the latest undertaken in late 2023.
Statutory Planning <i>Service standard</i> <i>Planning applications decided within the relevant required time</i> (percentage of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time)	32.38%	38.91%	37.12%	60.00%	36.41%	The percentage of planning applications decided within the required timeframe has decreased during this reporting period. Council will continue to review and refine internal processes to improve this result.

	Results					Comments
	2021	2022	2023	2024		
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	
Waste Collection Waste diversion Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100	53.48%	53.32%	53.06%	55.00%	49.18%	The introduction of the Container Deposit Scheme has contributed to a decrease in the weight of kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill.

Section 3. Financial Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Dimension / indicator / measure	2021	2022	2023	2024		2025	2026	2027	2028	Material Variations and Comments
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per Budget	Actual	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	
Efficiency <i>Expenditure level</i> <i>Expenses per property assessment</i> [Total expenses / Number of property assessments]	\$3,549.43	\$3,414.94	\$3,617.96	\$3,803.55	\$3,990.98	\$3,960.50	\$3,738.97	\$3,649.78	\$3,705.18	There was an increase in expenditure over budget which related to the write off of a number of buildings and infrastructure assets. This was \$5.1 million.
<i>Revenue level</i> <i>Average rate per property assessment</i> [General rates and Municipal charges / Number of property assessments]	\$1,623.26	\$1,653.46	\$1,691.66	\$1,738.58	\$1,764.72	\$1,798.21	\$1,840.76	\$1,889.26	\$1,938.89	Within the expected range and no material change from 2023.
Liquidity <i>Working capital</i> <i>Current assets compared to current liabilities</i> [Current assets / Current liabilities] x100	248.59%	256.80%	307.46%	186.90%	282.70%	226.31%	214.46%	201.84%	220.50%	The advance payment in the 2022/23 year of \$19.6 million of the 2023/24 Federal Assistance grant increased current assets in the previous year and impacted on the movement in this indicator.

Dimension / indicator / measure	2021	2022	2023	2024		2025	2026	2027	2028	Material Variations and Comments
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per Budget	Actual	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	
<i>Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities</i> [Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities] x100	123.66%	61.38%	89.62%	112.70%	137.45%	133.21%	120.40%	110.75%	123.37%	Unrestricted cash has increased mainly because of \$45 million of investments classified in Other Financial Assets at the end of the previous year with no investments classified as Other financial assets at the end of 2023/24 year. The 2022/23 financial year included the advance payment of the 2023/24 Federal Assistance Grant of \$19.6 million.
<i>Obligations Loans and borrowings compared to rates</i> [Interest and principle repayments on Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	5.53%	2.64%	4.44%	13.30%	14.11%	13.47%	15.33%	15.42%	11.99%	Council drew down \$7.043 million of the approved Community Infrastructure Low Interest Loans during the year which increased borrowings at year end.

Dimension / indicator / measure	2021	2022	2023	2024		2025	2026	2027	2028	Material Variations and Comments
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per Budget	Actual	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	
Loans and borrowings Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates [Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100	0.48%	3.23%	0.27%	1.50%	0.57%	1.54%	1.58%	1.94%	3.43%	In the 2022/23 year there were no repayments of borrowings but in the 2023/24 year there were repayments of \$96k.
Indebtedness Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue [Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100	13.42%	9.79%	7.96%	18.30%	18.17%	18.45%	19.21%	16.71%	17.42%	Own source revenue increased mainly because of rate income increasing by \$4.293 million and user fees increasing by \$1.04 million whilst non-current liabilities increased by \$10.5 million because of an increase in provisions and interest-bearing liabilities as a result of the new borrowings during the year.
Asset renewal and upgrade Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation [Asset renewal and upgrade expense / Asset depreciation] x100	147.69%	112.75%	97.34%	293.20%	126.50%	248.43%	149.16%	118.32%	119.34%	There was an increase in asset renewal and upgrade capital projects in 2023/24 because of the increased capital works program.

Dimension / indicator / measure	2021	2022	2023	2024		2025	2026	2027	2028	Material Variations and Comments
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per Budget	Actual	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	
Operating position <i>Adjusted underlying result</i> <i>Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)</i> [Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit)/ Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	4.49%	10.33%	13.92%	-8.84%	-23.30%	-4.42%	0.63%	2.65%	2.75%	The 100% advance payment of the 2023/24 Victoria Grants Commission allocation of \$19.6 million in the 2022/23 year decreased total revenue for the year and was the main contributing factor to the underlying deficit.
Stability <i>Rates concentration</i> <i>Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue</i> [Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	50.77%	50.72%	47.77%	60.13%	65.56%	56.90%	58.72%	60.47%	61.07%	There was a decrease in operating grants in the 2023/24 year because of the advance payment of the Victoria Grants Commission allocation of \$19.6 million in the 2022/23 year. This impacted on both the 2023/24 underlying revenue and the 2022/23 underlying revenue and accounts for the increase in this indicator.

Dimension / indicator / measure	2021	2022	2023	2024		2025	2026	2027	2028	Material Variations and Comments
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per Budget	Actual	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	
<i>Rates effort</i> <i>Rates compared to property values</i> [Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100	0.55%	0.51%	0.41%	0.36%	0.36%	0.37%	0.35%	0.33%	0.31%	The increase in property CIV of approximately 18.6% compared to the increase in rate revenue of 4.8% overall has resulted in a decrease in rates compared to property values.

Section 4. Sustainable Capacity Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Indicator / measure [formula]	Results				Comment
	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	
<i>Population</i> <i>Expenses per head of municipal population</i> [Total expenses / Municipal population]	\$2,386.32	\$2,285.97	\$2,417.94	\$2,672.75	There was an increase in expenditure because of a number of projects that were funded from 2019 Bushfire grants, received in prior years, that were incomplete at the end of the previous year and the project expenditure continued into the current year. There was also an increase in depreciation over the previous financial year.
<i>Infrastructure per head of municipal population</i> [Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]	\$22,789.57	\$23,419.57	\$25,544.50	\$23,687.77	There was a reduction in the net value of infrastructure assets following the revaluation undertaken in 2023/24 year.
<i>Population density per length of road</i> [Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]	15.99	15.95	16.46	16.34	Within the expected range and no material change from 2023.
<i>Own-source revenue</i> <i>Own-source revenue per head of municipal population</i> [Own-source revenue / Municipal population]	\$1,906.34	\$1,791.01	\$1,875.75	\$1,995.40	Within the expected range and no material change from 2023.
<i>Recurrent grants</i> <i>Recurrent grants per head of municipal population</i> [Recurrent grants / Municipal population]	\$439.73	\$564.45	\$571.89	\$94.02	There was a decrease in recurrent operating grants in the 2023/24 year because of the advance payment of the Victoria Grants Commission allocation of \$19.6 million in the 2022/23 year and this has impacted this indicator.

Indicator / measure [formula]	Results				Comment
	2021	2022	2023	2024	
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	
Disadvantage Relative socio-economic disadvantage [Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage by decile]	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	No change to prior year.
Workforce turnover Percentage of staff turnover [Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x100	12.8%	20.5%	14.2%	13.1%	This demonstrates a positive trend in staff turnover.

Section 5. Notes to the accounts

5.1 Basis of preparation

Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its annual report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district, an explanation of material variations in the results and notes to the accounts. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Where applicable the results in the performance statement have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those reported in the Financial Statements. The other results are based on information drawn from council information systems or from third parties (e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics or the Council's satisfaction survey provider).

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and the previous three years, along with the current year's target, if mandated by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. Additionally, for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the performance statement includes the target budget for the current year and the results forecast for the period 2024-25 to 2027-28 by the council's financial plan.

The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

5.2 Definitions

Key term	Definition
adjusted underlying revenue	means total income other than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and • non-monetary asset contributions; and • contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to above
adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure
annual report	means an annual report prepared by a council under section 98 of the Act
asset renewal expenditure	means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability
asset upgrade expenditure	means expenditure that— (a) enhances an existing asset to provide a higher level of service; or (b) extends the life of the asset beyond its original life
critical non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the <i>Food Act 1984</i> , or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health
current assets	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
current liabilities	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
food premises	has the same meaning as in the <i>Food Act 1984</i>
intervention level	means the level set for the condition of a road beyond which a council will not allow the road to deteriorate and will need to intervene
local road	means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the <i>Road Management Act 2004</i>
major non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the <i>Food Act 1984</i> , or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken
non-current liabilities	means all liabilities other than current liabilities
own-source revenue	means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)
population	means the resident population estimated by council

Key term	Definition
rate revenue	means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges
relative socio-economic disadvantage	in relation to a municipal district, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipal district is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage of SEIFA
restricted cash	means cash, cash equivalents and financial assets, within the meaning of the Australian Accounting Standards, not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year
SEIFA	means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet site
unrestricted cash	means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash

5.3 Other Matters

No other matters to be reported.

East Gippsland Shire Council

273 Main Street

PO Box 1618 Bairnsdale VIC 3875



5153 9500



eastgippsland.vic.gov.au



EastGippyShire



PO Box 1618, Bairnsdale 3875



4 Urgent Business

5 Confidential Business

6 Close of Meeting

