

# ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024





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## Acknowledgement

Council respectfully acknowledges the traditional owners, the Barunggam, Iman (Yiman), Bigambul, Wakka Wakka, and the Jarowair people, as the custodians of this land. We pay respect to all Aboriginal community, Elders, past and present, who have resided in the area and have been integral part of the history of the region.



# Contact Details and Distribution

## Contact Council

To contact Western Downs Regional Council, you can:

1. Phone our Customer Contact Team on **1300 COUNCIL** (1300 268 624) or 07 4679 4000 (interstate)
2. Visit in person at your local Customer Service Centre
3. Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
4. Email Council at [info@wdrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@wdrc.qld.gov.au)
5. Write to us, addressing all correspondence to:

Chief Executive Officer  
Western Downs Regional Council  
PO Box 551  
DALBY QLD 4405

## Customer Service Centre Locations

80-86 Heeney Street Chinchilla  
30 Marble Street Dalby  
22 George Street Jandowae  
81 Murilla Street Miles  
19 Fry Street Tara  
6 Henderson Street Wandoan

## Distribution

Western Downs Regional Council's Annual Report is available in hard or electronic format.

Printed copies of the report may be obtained for a fee by writing to Western Downs Region Council PO Box 551 DALBY QLD 4405, or email [info@wdrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@wdrc.qld.gov.au) or phoning 1300 268 624 (or 07 4679 4000 from interstate) during normal business hours.

Alternatively, you can download a copy for free from Council's website [www.wdrc.qld.gov.au](http://www.wdrc.qld.gov.au).

# About This Report

As well as being a legislative requirement for Local Government, Council's *2023-24 Annual Report* serves to keep our stakeholders, including residents, ratepayers, businesses and industry, employees, community groups and partnering government agencies, informed of our performance over the previous financial year.

This Annual Report focuses on Council's financial and operational performance for the 2023-24 financial year against the *Corporate Plan 2021 - 2026*, which establishes the strategic direction of Council's programs and initiatives into prioritised and measurable actions.

This was achieved by structuring the Corporate Plan around the following four strategic priority areas which were workshoped with the local community representing our region, together with our management team to create a clear link between Council's planned delivery and the needs and expectations of our local communities:

Strong Diverse Economy | Active Vibrant Community | Quality Lifestyle  
| Sustainable Organisation

Alignment to these four strategic priorities flows into Council budgets and operational plans, to ensure Council delivers against a shared vision for the Western Downs.

## How to Read this Report

This Report is divided into five chapters designed to help you find the information you are looking for.

**Chapter 1: Setting the Scene** – includes a profile of the Western Downs region, Council's role within the community, and a Community Financial Report consisting of key points highlighting our financial performance.

**Chapter 2: Your Councillors** – includes a message from the Mayor, shows our Councillors and their portfolios, and responds to the statutory information required for Councillors' Governance.

**Chapter 3: Our Organisation** – shows our organisational structure, includes a message from the Chief Executive Officer, and responds to the statutory information required for Corporate Governance.

**Chapter 4: Reporting the Organisation's Performance** – outlines our strategic direction, summarises our achievements toward meeting the objectives of the Corporate Plan, and provides an assessment of Council's overall performance by our Executive Leadership Team.

**Chapter 5: Financial Reporting** – includes our audited and certified General Purpose Financial Statements that detail Council's financial position for the year ending 30 June 2024.





CHAPTER 1:

# SETTING THE SCENE



# The Region

The Western Downs is a diverse region at the forefront of the changing world, offering fantastic lifestyle opportunities, beautiful natural landscapes, a happy, inclusive community and abundant opportunities just two and half hours from Brisbane. For 35,000 people, it is a place to call home, with diverse townships including Chinchilla, Dalby, Jandowae, Miles, Tara and Wandoan.

Our region is built on the people that make it - with dynamic agricultural, manufacturing, and energy industries underpinning our diverse economy. The Western Downs offers an attractive location proposition for developers and investors and is a fast-growing regional economy with a Gross Regional Product of \$5.91 billion in 2023, and a total of \$7.5 billion in the investment pipeline across industries at various stages of development.

Located in the heart of the resource-rich Surat Basin, the region is proudly trademarked 'Energy Capital of Queensland' offering suitable topography and environmental conditions for energy projects with continued growth across five key pillars of energy production: Coal, Gas, Wind, Solar, Large Scale Batteries and mostly recently, Hydrogen. As the Western Downs continues to grow and prosper, we continue to solidify our reputation as an energy production powerhouse, particularly in renewable energy.

The Western Downs is known for its stellar destination events which celebrate our unique experiences and the people that make the region so special. The region also offers a range of amazing sights and attractions to fill you with awe; from the ancient treetops of the Bunya Mountains to Miles Historical Village Museum, one of the finest in Australia, and everything in between. A quality lifestyle with vibrant regional events combined with a diverse and flourishing economy makes the region a desirable place to live, work, study and play.

The region is truly connected to the rest of Australia, serviced by three major arterials. It is connected by major road and rail networks including the Leichhardt, Moonie and Warrego Highways and the West Moreton rail system. Aerodromes are in Chinchilla, Dalby, Miles, Tara, Meandarra and Moonie. A strong rail connection with the Westlander (by Queensland Rail Travel) connecting the region to Brisbane, Roma and beyond. The region is located strategically with easy connectivity to national and international export markets via The Port of Brisbane and Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport. Access to Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport provides producers a dedicated 747-8F International Freight Service to Hong Kong, Singapore and chartered cargo flights.



Regional Map

SCALE 0km 25km 50km 100km

The Western Downs also has a strong culture of volunteerism with 19.5% of residents doing voluntary work with a group at the time of the 2021 Census. When you ask locals and visitors what make the Western Downs region so special, the answer is usually the same: It's the people that make it.

## Liveability

The Western Downs promises an active, quality lifestyle with opportunities to immerse yourself in the community and make the most of great affordability, world-class events, and modern, inclusive infrastructure.

Many young families are drawn to the region's affordable cost of living, with housing prices that sit significantly lower than average. At December 2023, housing prices were an average of \$330,000 on the Western Downs, compared with \$600,000 for regional Queensland.





The affordability does not just stop for homeowners. For tenants, the median value of weekly rent was \$385, compared to \$550 for regional Queensland.

Families moving to the area are pleased to find high performing public and private schools, including Queensland's largest school farm as part of Dalby State High School.

Beyond the curriculum, our region promises children quality education in an environment that lets them truly be children - playing outside.

With no peak hour traffic, easy commutes to work and more time for play, our residents have time to enjoy public recreation facilities including aquatic centres, skate parks, playgrounds, and relaxing parks and public spaces on offer.

Award winning Chinchilla Botanical Parkland, mountain bike trails at the Bunya Mountains and new outdoor cinema and community square in Dalby's Central Business District and significant investment in several waterfront camping spaces, all add to the opportunities to explore the outdoors and enjoy the region's incredible climate are abundant.

It is not just dinners cooked at home, there are cafes, restaurants, and bars to keep you busy and food trucks which rove the region supplying everything from boutique cheeses to pizzas and curries.

You do not need to drive out of the region to find access to primary services. The Western Downs has five hospitals and one Outpatient Clinic, combined with growing suite of allied health services including physiotherapy, chiropractic, and optometry to name a few.

Finding fresh produce is simple when you live in a region that's primary industry is agriculture, whether you shop local or from supermarkets in town.

On the shopping front, the Western Downs is serviced by elegant boutiques stocking designer labels and speciality retailers supplying everything from soft furnishing to agricultural needs.



# The Role of Council

At Western Downs Regional Council, we take our role as the front-line level of government seriously. It is important to us that we remain the most accessible level of government in our local communities, and that the decisions made today, positively shape the region for the benefit of the next generation.

We believe in and adhere to the following principles of local government:

- Transparent and effective processes and decision-making in the public interest;
- Sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services;
- Democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement;
- Good governance of, and by, local government; and
- Ethical and legal behaviours of councillors and local government employees.

## Council's Vision

A diverse region at the forefront of the changing world

## Council's Culture Statement

Here at Western Downs Regional Council - *It's The People That Make It*. We act as one, committed to empowering productive teams with our people enjoying high levels of personal job satisfaction.

## Council's Values

As elected representatives and staff of Western Downs Regional Council, our behaviour reflects our values, Communication, Leadership, Respect, Balance, Teamwork and Accountability.

## Council's Risk Appetite Statement

Council has a high appetite for initiatives where there is a good understanding of the risk, and there is confidence that the outcomes will lead to significant business improvements or service delivery.

## Council's Strategic Priorities

The service, projects and initiatives that Council is committed to delivering are in response to the strategic priorities identified under the following four focus areas of delivery for the *Corporate Plan 2021 - 2026*:

## A DIVERSE REGION AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE CHANGING WORLD

### STRONG DIVERSE ECONOMY



#### PROGRESS

We aggressively attract business and investment opportunities

Our region is a recognised leader in agribusiness, energy and manufacturing

We deliver water security to enable future economic growth

We proactively advance our region as a tourism destination

Our businesses and industry actively live and buy local

### ACTIVE VIBRANT COMMUNITY



#### PEOPLE

We are a happy, inclusive community, proud of where we live

Our people of diverse backgrounds and ages are united by social, cultural and sporting activities

Our parks, open spaces, and community facilities are alive with activities and connect our communities

We are a strong sustainable community supported by volunteers

We empower communities to develop local initiatives and events

### QUALITY LIFESTYLE



#### PLACE

Our residents are provided with modern infrastructure and quality essential services across our region

Our recreational spaces and community facilities are attractive, safe and accessible

We invest in safe, well maintained road networks to connect our region and support economic activities

We attract families to live, work, prosper and play in our region

We take pride in our natural assets, environment and heritage

### SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION



#### PERFORMANCE

We are recognised as a financially intelligent and responsible Council

We focus on proactive, sustainable planning for the future

Our people are skilled and values-driven to make a real difference

Our agile and responsive business model enables us to align our capacity with service delivery

Our effective asset management ensures that we responsibly maintain our community assets

## MEANINGFUL COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### ADVOCACY - A REGIONAL VOICE



- To actively seek and foster strategic partnerships
- For a long term domestic and industrial water supply for our region
- For health and social services that ensure 'Whole of Life' care for our residents
- For a safe and well maintained state and federal road network
- For telecommunications and digital connectivity to support and advance our region

### RISK APPETITE STATEMENT:



Council has a high appetite for initiatives where there is a good understanding of the risk, and there is confidence that the outcomes will lead to significant business improvements or service delivery

**CORPORATE PLAN** 2021-2026





# Community Financial Report

## This report summarises Council's financial position at 30 June 2024.

Council is committed to ensuring it is financially sustainable in the long-term while ensuring our region is affordable for our families to live, work, prosper and play.

For 2023-24, Council has delivered on these commitments with its finances strengthened and ratepayers having to pay relatively low rates and utilities charges for the delivery of services.

## This Community Financial Report consists of the following five key statements or elements

1. Statement of Comprehensive Income (Profit and Loss Statement);
2. Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet);
3. Statement of Changes in Equity (how Council's equity or net worth has grown from one year to the next);
4. Statement of Cash Flows (how Council has used and grown its cash); and
5. Financial Sustainability Measures (how we sustain Council's business financially).

## Significant achievements for 2023-24 include:

1. Delivering an operating surplus of \$1,025,000 (Recurrent Revenue of \$170,865,000 less Recurrent Expenses of \$169,840,000); and
2. Completing capital works of \$89,265,583.

## 1. Statement of Comprehensive Income (Profit and Loss)

The Statement of Comprehensive Income details where Council received its money and how it spent this money delivering services to our region. The difference is Council's operating surplus which will be used at a point in time to deliver services.

## Financial Summary 2023-24

Revenue and Expenditure - Recent Operating Surpluses \$'million

Financial Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Recurrent Revenue	166.1	175.7	170.9
Recurrent Expenditure	161.9	155.3	169.9
Operating Surplus	4.2	20.4	1.0

Our operating surplus is the outcome which results from deducting our day-to-day expenditure, including depreciation of our property, plant and equipment, from our day-to-day revenue.

## Revenue - where does our money come from?

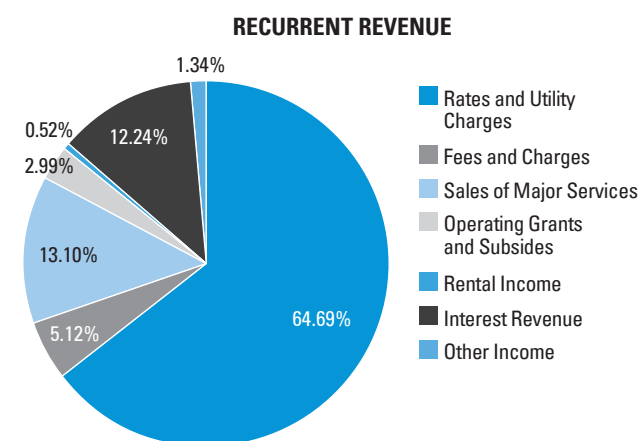
This year Council received \$221,755,000 in revenue which consisted of \$170,865,000 in recurrent revenue and \$50,890,000 in capital revenue.

Recurrent or day-to-day revenue of \$170,865,000 comprised:

- Rates and Utility Charges \$110,532,000;
- Operating Grants and Subsidies \$5,106,000;
- Sales of Major Services \$22,379,000, including sale of gravel from our quarry and gravel pits, revenue from the use of our saleyards and revenue from contracts to maintain and upgrade Federal and State Government owned road network;
- Fees and Charges \$8,754,000;
- Rental Income \$887,000;
- Interest Revenue \$16,029,000; and
- Other Income \$7,178,000.

In addition, we received Capital Revenue of \$50,890,000 to assist in delivering capital projects. This consisted mainly of grants provided by the State and Commonwealth Government and contributions from the resource sector.

The following graph shows the breakup of our recurrent revenue:



## Expenses - how was the money spent?

We incur both operating and capital expenditure in delivering services to our community.

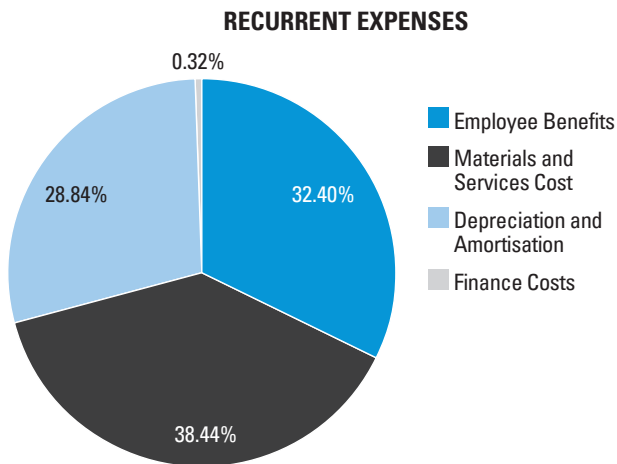
Recurrent or day-to-day expenditure of \$169,840,000 comprised:

- Employee Benefits \$55,027,000;
- Materials and Services Cost \$65,293,000;
- Depreciation and Amortisation \$48,976,000; and
- Finance Costs \$544,000.



In addition, capital expenses totalled \$16,297,000 which mainly related to the write-off of assets where assets needed to be replaced earlier than expected.

The following graph shows the breakup of our recurrent expenditure:



## 2. Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

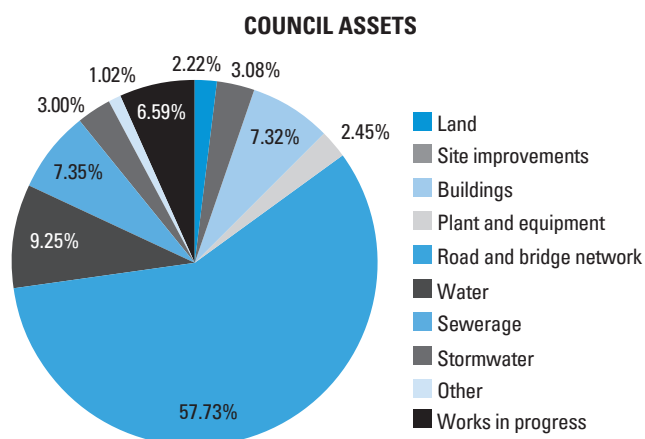
The Statement of Financial Position measures what we own (our assets) and what we owe (our liabilities), resulting in our net worth at the end of the financial year.

### Assets - what do we own?

At 30 June 2024, Council's assets were valued at \$2,080,131,000 and comprised:

- Property, plant and equipment including intangibles \$1,903,272,000;
- Cash and cash investments \$141,569,000;
- Trade and other receivables \$22,970,000; and
- Inventories and contract assets \$12,320,000.

The breakdown of Council's property, plant and equipment is graphically represented below:



Council's most significant asset is our road and bridge network which is valued at \$1,032,024,000. The region has over 7,500 kilometres of Council owned roads which is by far the largest in Queensland and the second largest local government road network in Australia.

Council uses this property, plant and equipment to provide services to the community. Therefore, it is necessary that we maintain these assets to an appropriate standard. Based on valuations provided by independent valuers, the remaining lives as a percentage of these assets' useful lives average 60.0%. This indicates our assets are in very good condition. The percentages for Council's major assets classes are provided in the following table.

Major Asset Class	% of Useful Life Remaining
Buildings	63.36%
Road and Bridge Network	68.42%
Water	54.33%
Sewerage	62.4%





### Liabilities- what do we owe?

At 30 June 2024, Council's liabilities total \$54,360,000. Our liabilities comprised:

- Trade and other payables \$21,991,000;
- Employee leave liabilities \$13,914,000;
- Provisions to restore Council's quarry, gravel pits, landfills and evaporation ponds \$6,225,000; and
- Contract and lease liabilities \$12,230,000.

### Our Net Worth

Our net worth is \$2,025,771,000 which comprised assets of \$2,080,131,000 less liabilities of \$54,360,000.

### 3. Statement of Changes in Equity

The Statement of Changes in Equity measure the changes in our net worth and shows the movement in our retained earnings and asset revaluation surplus.

The increase in our net worth (i.e. Equity) of \$129,685,000 was due to a positive net result of \$35,618,000 (i.e. revenue of \$221,755,000 less expenditure of \$186,137,000) and an increase in the value of our assets of \$94,067,000.

### 4. Statement of Cash Flows

The Statement of Cash Flows shows all the activities undertaken during the year that impact our cash balances.

Our cash balances decreased by \$137,114,000 over the course of the year due to \$108,000,000 being invested in Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC). This money is treated as another asset which sits under non-current assets. The balance in the QIC account as of 30 June 2024 was \$114,125,000. Council's main source of cash is invested in the State Government Capital Guaranteed Queensland Treasury Corporation Cash Fund. The balance in this account on 30 June 2024 was \$141,569,000.

At 30 June 2024, Council had adequate cash to meet 12.8 months of operating and capital expenditure without receiving any form of revenue and without having to borrow.

### 5. Financial Sustainability Measures - how strong is Council financially?

A local government is considered financially sustainable if it can maintain its financial capital (equity or net worth) and its infrastructure over the long-term. In forming a view of the local government's financial sustainability, several financial ratios are used.







Council performance as at 30 June 2024 against the five-year average ratios is listed.

Measure	Target	2024	5-Year Average	Narrative
<b>Operating Performance</b> (measure Council profitability)				
<b>Operating Surplus Ratio</b>	>0%	0.60%	5.52%	Results for the current and 5-year average have met the target.
<b>Operating Cash Ratio</b>	>0%	29.58%	33.09%	Results for the current and 5-year average have met the target.
<b>Liquidity</b> (measures the number of months Council can survive without having to raise any revenue or having to borrow)				
<b>Unrestricted Cash Expense Cover Ratio</b>	Greater than 12 months	12.8 months	N/A	Results exceed the target due to Council's strong cash position.
<b>Asset Management</b> (measures the extent we are sustaining our asset base)				
<b>Asset Sustainability Ratio</b>	>80%	155.94%	89.97%	Results for the current and 5-year average have met the target.
<b>Asset Consumption Ratio</b>	>60%	65.21%	67.39%	Results for the current and 5-year average have met the target.
<b>Financial Capacity</b> (measures the extent to which Council has control over its decision-making)				
<b>Council-Controlled Revenue*</b>	N/A	69.81%	66.17%	Results indicated consistent generation of operating revenue.
<b>Population Growth*</b>	N/A	0.31%	0.31%	Population growth is low but stable.

\*Council-Controlled Revenue and Population Growth measures are reported for contextual purposes only and are not audited by the QAO

The above table indicates that Council is operating on a financially sustainable basis and can adequately deliver the range of services it provides to the region.





CHAPTER 2:

# YOUR COUNCILLORS



# Mayor's Message

It is with great pride that I reflect upon the achievements of Western Downs Regional Council during 2023-24. As Mayor, I am exceptionally proud to lead a team with a strong vision for the future that will enable our region to continue going from strength to strength.

The past 12 months has seen Western Downs Regional Council welcome a brand-new board. With the local government elections held in March 2024 we said goodbye to some of our region's longest serving Councillors, and welcomed a new cohort, including two first-time and one previous Councillor.

It was an honour to serve as Deputy Mayor, and as Mayor I look forward to leading our new Council board, recognising the dedication and experience of our returning Councillors and embracing the passion and fresh insight of our new Councillors.

Together we have achieved positive outcomes. Over the past four years Council worked as a cohesive team - all with unique views and outlooks, but united by a collective passion and drive to see our region grow and prosper. As we enter a new term we now look ahead, and I am excited for what the future brings for Council and our region.

Our focus remains on ensuring great liveability and building a strong, diverse economy for the future of the Western Downs.

We continue to enjoy a strong, diverse economy, with a Gross Regional Product that has grown over 15% in the last five years to an incredible \$5.91 billion. With an enviably low unemployment rate of just 2.7% and continued high migration into the region, it is clear that people are recognising the quality lifestyle and abundant opportunity that we enjoy here in the Western Downs.

Our key economic pillars of Agriculture, Intensive Agriculture, Manufacturing and Energy continue to grow and innovate, driving the region's growth and supporting the prosperity of the many other businesses and industries that call the Western Downs home.

The Western Downs had the second-most productive agricultural sector in Queensland in 2023-24, with an impressive Gross Value of Production of \$951 million, while our reputation as the Energy Capital of Queensland continues to grow. The region's energy sector, with its diversified and progressive mix of traditional and renewable energy technologies, is a sterling example of innovation and collaborative coexistence with landholders.

Protein Jobs Fair and the Accelerate Manufacturing Conference returned to the region this year, in partnership with Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise (TSBE). The continued success of these initiatives not only demonstrate the strength of these industries, but also their ambition as our intensive ag and manufacturing enterprises look and work towards a strong, prosperous future in our region.

As a Council we position our region to take advantage of opportunities

and aggressively work to attract business and investment. Our economic development horizon remains robust, with \$7.5 billion of projects in the pipeline and \$3.9 billion of that already underway. Council's Housing and Land Incentive has increased to \$5 million as we proactively encourage housing developers to invest in the west, ensuring that current and future residents have access to affordable housing as our region continues to grow.

Council is committed to building a brighter, stronger future for our region and enhancing the great liveability and quality lifestyle already enjoyed by our active, vibrant communities.

Residents and visitors to the region can now enjoy new and upgraded facilities, with the opening of the new Tara Aquatic Centre and revitalised Chinchilla Cultural Centre this year. Thrill seekers can get their blood pumping on the Bunya Mountains Mountain Bike Trails, and Mary's Place, a multi-function community space honouring the late Western Downs identity Mary Barry, was unveiled in Dalby.

Other important legacy projects continue to progress, with a location selected for the new Chinchilla Aquatic Centre and extensive community engagement being conducted with the Dalby community to help shape the future Dalby Cultural Precinct and Thomas Jack Park. Masterplans have also been adopted for aquatic facilities, showgrounds, and for the Indigenous Area at the Chinchilla Botanic Parklands.

These much-loved community facilities support our efforts to attract tourism, bolster visitation to our amazing destination events, and encourage people to stop, play, stay and spend in our region, with total visitor spend in the region during 2023-24 exceeding \$260 million.

Our Chief Executive Officer, Jodie Taylor, was recognised for her transformative leadership, visionary innovation and passion for community at the 2023 Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) Annual Conference, taking home the Manager of the Year Award. This recognition is amply deserved, and I congratulate Jodie on this incredible achievement.

The future is incredibly bright for the Western Downs. I thank all of the Western Downs Regional Council staff for their passion and incredible work, and I look forward to what lies ahead of us as a diverse region at the forefront of a changing world.



**Mayor**  
**Portfolio - Economic Advocacy**  
**and Investment Attraction**

Phone: 4679 4004

Mobile: 0438 755 896

[andrew.smith@wdrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:andrew.smith@wdrc.qld.gov.au)



An aerial photograph of a large outdoor swimming pool. A vibrant, multi-colored inflatable slide with red, yellow, and green sections is positioned on the left side of the pool. Several people are seen swimming in the lanes, which are marked by blue and white lane lines. A red and white striped lane line runs vertically through the center of the pool. In the background, a large, modern building with a white roof and red walls is visible, along with a parking lot containing several cars. The overall scene is bright and active, suggesting a sunny day at a community pool.

"Council is committed to building a brighter, stronger future for our region and enhancing the great liveability and quality lifestyle already enjoyed by our active, vibrant communities."



# Your Councillors

The Western Downs Regional Council local government area is represented by eight elected Councillors, and an elected Mayor who are responsible for the strategic direction of Council. There are no wards or divisions within the Western Downs Regional Council.

Council elections are held every four years with the most recent election being held on 16 March 2024.

For detailed information in relation to Councillor entitlements, remuneration packages, committee representation and meeting attendance, please refer to the next section of this report containing Statutory Information.



## **Mayor Andrew Smith**

Portfolio - Economic Advocacy  
and Investment Attraction

Phone: 4679 4004

Mobile: 0438 755 896

Email: [andrew.smith@wdrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:andrew.smith@wdrc.qld.gov.au)



## **Deputy Mayor Kylie Bourne**

Portfolio - Planning and  
Environment

(Statutory Planning, Development  
and Compliance, Environment and  
Health, Waste and Rural Services)

Phone: 4679 4004

Mobile: 0467 171 225

Email: [kylie.bourne@wdrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:kylie.bourne@wdrc.qld.gov.au)



## **Councillor Sophie Bougoure**

Portfolio - Council Facilities

(Aerodromes, Sporting Facilities,  
Showgrounds, and Community Buildings)

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Mobile: 0429 838 332

Email: [sophie.bougoure@wdrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:sophie.bougoure@wdrc.qld.gov.au)



## **Councillor Sam Condon**

Portfolio - Utilities  
(Water, Wastewater, and Gas)

Phone: 4679 4004

Mobile: 0474 734 237

Email: [sam.condon@wdrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:sam.condon@wdrc.qld.gov.au)



## **Councillor Megan James**

Portfolio - Business Strategy  
and Economic Development

(Business Strategy and Planning  
(including Saleyards) and Economic  
Development)

Phone : 4679 4004

Mobile: 0419 946 575

Email: [megan.james@wdrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:megan.james@wdrc.qld.gov.au)



## **Councillor Kaye Maguire**

Portfolio - Tourism and  
Recreational Spaces

(Tourism Attraction, Major Events, Parks,  
Open Spaces, Gardens, and Cemeteries)

Phone: 4679 4004

Mobile: 0475 007 555

Email: [kaye.maguire@wdrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:kaye.maguire@wdrc.qld.gov.au)



## **Councillor George Moore**

Portfolio - Corporate Governance  
and Finance

(Finance, Governance, and  
Internal Audit)

Phone: 4679 4004

Mobile: 0437 536 990

Email: [george.moore@wdrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:george.moore@wdrc.qld.gov.au)



## **Councillor Greg Olm**

Portfolio - Works and Technical  
Services

(Civil Works, Fleets, Quarries,  
Asset Management, and Design)

Phone: 4679 4004

Mobile: 0477 606 049

Email: [greg.olm@wdrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:greg.olm@wdrc.qld.gov.au)



## **Councillor Peter Saxelby**

Portfolio - Community and  
Cultural Development

(Libraries, Community Development  
and Cultural Development)

Phone: 4679 4004

Mobile: 0475 007 554

Email: [peter.saxelby@wdrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:peter.saxelby@wdrc.qld.gov.au)

## **Statutory Information - Councillor Governance**

As the community's elected representatives, the Mayor and Councillors are responsible for the successful management of the Western Downs Regional Council local government area. To ensure Council's leadership is fair and equitable, and that decisions are made in the best interest for our region, Council is required to act in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*, *Local Government Regulation 2012*, and associated State and Federal legislation.



Council makes decisions at Ordinary Meetings of Council which are held each month. The ordinary meetings are held at regional locations on a rotational basis, and special meetings are convened when required.

All Ordinary and Special meetings of Council are open to the public. Individuals or groups may address Council on a particular matter of public interest by deputation. Deputations may be arranged through the Office of the Chief Executive Officer.

Council may at times resolve to temporarily close a meeting under section 254J of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to discuss a confidential matter, however all decisions about such matters are made in an open meeting.

Council meetings are carried out in accordance with relevant legislation and Council's meeting procedures.

The date, time and location of all ordinary and special meetings are published at least annually and are available on Council's website, as well as at all Customer Service Centres. Special Meetings of Council are called as required, with the only items of business conducted at these meetings being the business stated in the meeting notice.

The agenda and related reports (excluding confidential items) for each meeting are publicly available by 5pm the next business day after the notice meeting is given to each Councillor.

Minutes of all Council meetings are published on our website within the statutory ten days following the meeting.

A total of twelve (12) meetings and two special meetings were held from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

### Summary of Meeting Attendance by Councillors - 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Councillor	Ordinary Meetings Attended	Special Meetings Attended
Cr Sophie Bougoure^^	3	2
Cr Kylie Bourne	12	2
Cr Sam Condon^^	3	2
Cr Megan James	12	2
Cr Kaye Maguire	12	2
Cr Paul McVeigh^	8	
Cr George Moore	12	2
Cr Greg Olm^^	3	2
Cr Ian Rasmussen^	8	
Cr Peter Saxelby	12	2
Cr Andrew Smith	11	2
Cr Carolyn Tillman^	9	

^To 16 March 2024 election ^^From 16 March 2024 election

### Councillor Briefings and Workshops

In addition to regular Council meetings, Councillor briefing sessions and workshops are also held to inform Council of important issues. These sessions are not a decision-making forum and therefore allow detailed discussions to explore options and develop a better understanding of the issues.

Decisions of Council can only be made during actual Council meetings.

### Councillor Remuneration and Expenses Reimbursement Policy

Chapter 5 Part 3 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* requires the annual report to detail the total remuneration, including

superannuation contributions paid to each councillor for the financial year as well as expenses incurred in accordance with the *Councillor Expenses Reimbursement Policy*.

Councillor remuneration is determined by the Local Government Remuneration Commission on an annual basis.

The *Councillor Expenses Reimbursement Policy* ensures Councillors are provided a reasonable level of resources and equipment in order to carry out their official duties in an effective and efficient manner.



### Councillor's Remuneration, Superannuation, Expenses Incurred and Facilities provided 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Councillor	Remuneration	Superannuation	Expenses Incurred	Facilities Provided*
Cr Sophie Bougoure^^	\$17,321.76	\$1,905.42	\$4,279.00	\$5,088.00
Cr Kylie Bourne	\$77,787.12	\$8,556.66	\$19,370.00	\$20,352.00
Cr Sam Condon^^	\$17,321.76	\$2,078.64	\$3,853.00	\$5,088.00
Cr Megan James	\$75,021.30	\$8,252.45	\$11,035.00	\$20,352.00
Cr Kaye Maguire	\$75,021.30	\$9,002.67	\$12,879.00	\$20,352.00
Cr Paul McVeigh^	\$109,001.13	\$13,080.03	\$11,875.00	\$15,264.00
Cr George Moore	\$75,021.30	\$9,002.67	\$12,378.00	\$20,352.00
Cr Greg Olm^^	\$17,321.76	\$2,078.64	\$950.00	\$5,088.00
Cr Ian Rasmussen^	\$57,905.75	\$6,948.77	\$4,665.00	\$15,264.00
Cr Peter Saxelby	\$75,021.30	\$9,002.66	\$2,637.00	\$20,352.00
Cr Andrew Smith	\$100,488.83	\$12,058.53	\$24,076.00	\$20,352.00
Cr Carolyn Tillman^	\$57,905.75	\$6,948.77	\$3,984.00	\$15,264.00

^ To 16 March 2024 election

^^ From 16 March 2024 election

\* Motor Vehicle

### Particular Resolutions

No resolutions under section 250(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* relating to the amendment of the *Councillor Expenses Reimbursement Policy* were made during the 2023-24 financial year.

### Expenditure from Councillors Discretionary Funds

Western Downs Regional Council does not provide Councillors with discretionary funds.

### Overseas Travel

No Councillors travelled overseas for Council business during the 2023-24 financial year.

### Complaints about Councillor Conduct and Performance

The roles, responsibilities and obligations of Councillors are set in the *Local Government Act 2009* with provisions relating to complaints about their conduct and performance outlined in Chapter 5A. Further, the *Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland* sets out the standard of behaviour expected of Councillors when carrying out their roles, responsibilities and obligations as elected representatives of their communities.

The Office of Independent Assessor considers complaints against Councillors. There were no Councillor conduct complaints made during the 2023-24 financial year.





Complaints / Orders and/or RecommendationType	Local Government Act Section	Number
Orders made by Chairperson regarding unsuitable meeting conduct	150I(2)	0
Orders made by Councillor regarding chairperson unsuitable meeting conduct	150IA(2)(b)	0
Orders made by the local government regarding inappropriate conduct	150AH(1)	0
Decisions, Orders and Recommendations made by the Councillor Conduct Tribunal regarding misconduct	150AR(1)	0
Name of each Councillor to who a decision, order or recommendation was made	150I(2), 150IA(2)(b), 150AH(1) or 150AR(1)	0
A description of the unsuitable meeting conduct, inappropriate conduct or misconduct engage in by each Councillor	150I(2), 150IA(2)(b), 150AH(1) or 150AR(1)	0
A summary of a decision, order or recommendation made for each Councillor	150I(2), 150IA(2)(b), 150AH(1) or 150AR(1)	0
Complaints referred to the assessor by the Local Government, a Councillor of Local Government or Chief Executive Officer of Local Government	150P(2)(a)	0
Matters notified to the Crime and Corruption Commission	150P(3)	0
Notices given to Assessor about particular conduct	150R(2)	0
Notice given to Assessor about misconduct	150S(2)(a)	0
Occasions information given to assessor for preliminary assessment	150AF(3)(a)	0
Referral Notices given to local government from the assessor	150AC(1)	0
Suspected conduct breaches	150AEA	0
Suspected conduct breaches investigation not started or discontinued	150AEA	0
Decisions by the local government whether or not councillor engaged in a conduct breach	150AG(1)	0
Matters not decided by the local government whether or not councillor engaged in a conduct breach	150AG(1)	0
Average time local government took making a decision whether or not councillor engaged in a conduct breach	150AG(1)	0
Occasions Local Government asked another entity to investigate suspected inappropriate conduct of a Councillor	Chapter 5A Part 3 Division 5	0
Applications heard by Conduct Tribunal about whether a Councillor engaged in misconduct or inappropriate conduct	Chapter 5A part 3 Division 6	0

Council must keep and publish a *Councillor Conduct Register* that records orders made about unsuitable meeting conduct by a Councillor, a summary of decisions about suspected inappropriate conduct referred to Council and any action taken, a summary of decisions made by the Councillor Conduct Tribunal about where a Councillor engaged in misconduct and any action taken and complaints about Councillors dismissed by the Office of the Independent Assessor to take no further action after undertaking an investigation. The *Councillor Conduct Register* is located on Council's website.



## CHAPTER 3:

# OUR ORGANISATION





# CEO's Message

A new financial year and a new Mayor and Councillors means fresh perspectives and new opportunities for the Western Downs.

2023-24 was a year of transition, but throughout it all Council has continued to deliver quality essential services; supporting our active, vibrant communities, bolstering our strong, diverse economy, and solidifying our region's reputation as a fantastic place to live and work.

This report represents an assessment of our performance against our organisation's strategic objectives as defined by our Corporate Plan, and I am proud of the exceptional results Council has delivered for our community in the past 12 months.

"I am inspired by the positive, inclusive culture we have built within our organisation and the pride of our staff as they deliver incredible outcomes for the region."

Western Downs Regional Council remains one of the few debt-free Local Governments in Queensland with a cash balance of almost \$255 million as at 30 June 2024. Thanks to Council's ongoing commitment to responsible financial management we remain in a financially strong position, allowing our organisation to invest proactively in our active, vibrant communities and attract investment to support our strong diverse economy.

During this 12-month period Council received approval from Queensland Treasury to invest \$108 million in a long-term diversified fund with Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC). Western Downs Regional Council is one of a few councils awarded special dispensation to invest in this manner, based on the strength of our financial position and debt-free status. This type of investment assists in future proofing the organisation and allowing Council to better respond to obstacles and adversity, and grasp emerging opportunities for our region and communities as they arise.

The implementation of Council's once-in-a-generation digitalisation project to replace our corporate enterprise resource planning system commenced this year with the successful rollout of phase one, which saw changes to our finance, supply chain management, and budgeting systems, among others. The scale of the change is enormous, but the scope of the enhanced support capabilities for our growing region over the course of this 3.5 year program and beyond cannot be understated.

Council continues to invest in local jobs and skilling the next generation through our award-winning Early Career Development Programme, with Western Downs Regional Council being awarded the Large Employer of the Year at the Darling Downs South West Regional Finals of the Queensland Training Awards for the fourth consecutive year.

We believe that in the Western Downs that *it's the people that make it*, and that our success is directly linked to the skills and capabilities of our people. As a result, Council has employed 132 trainees and apprentices through our incredibly popular 'Kickstart your Career' program since 2018.

The Western Downs has faced its fair share of adversity over recent years, but our region has emerged from these difficult times stronger and more resilient than ever, with Council and our communities working side-by-side to build a more prosperous future for our region.

Council's exceptional disaster response and recovery efforts during bushfire and flood events over the past 12 months earned the organisation the Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) Teamwork Awards at the LGMA Awards for Excellence Gala in May. I am incredibly proud of the phenomenal display of selflessness and teamwork displayed by Council's Team during these difficult days, and throughout the recovery efforts afterward.

Council worked with the Queensland Government to help ensure that those in our community who lost homes in these disasters were provided with shelter and comfort close to their support networks, by establishing the Tara Accommodation Recovery Park at the former caravan park site in Tara.







Our massive \$160 million flood damage repair program continued this year as the region's roads are rebuilt after the impacts of consecutive flooding events as part of Council's commitment to a safe, modern road network across the region.

Eighteen months after adopting our first Communications and Community Engagement Strategy Council conducted a 'check-in' with residents to understand how the organisation's communication and engagement efforts were tracking and what improvements could be made to strengthen our relationship with our community and provide clear direction around what meaningful communication means to our residents.

Ensuring that the Western Downs achieves our vision of a strong, resilient and diverse economy with growing liveability requires strong collaboration and partnership with the large, private sector companies operating in our region. This year Council launched our Communities Partnering Framework to outline our expectations that these large corporations will partner with our communities to be great neighbours and deliver legacy outcomes we can all be proud of.

Council's commitment to providing attractive, modern facilities to support our growing active, vibrant communities has been recognised at a state

level, with Mary's Place being awarded the Landscape Architecture Award for Civic Landscape, and the Queensland Regional Achievement Award at the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Queensland Awards in June. The Miles CBD Streetscape also took home the Regional Achievement Award from the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Queensland, recognising projects that make a difference to improving healthy communities in rural areas.

Western Downs Regional Council continues to proactively advocate for support from the State and Federal Governments on behalf of our community to secure positive, lasting change for our region in our key advocacy priority areas of water security, roads and infrastructure, and digital and mobile connectivity.

As we look towards the future of our region and our Council I am inspired by the positive, inclusive culture we have built within our organisation and the pride of our staff as they deliver incredible outcomes for the region. I am confident that the Western Downs will continue to uphold its reputation as an incredible place to live, work, prosper and play.

**Jodie Taylor**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



# Our Organisational Structure

In consultation with our communities, the elected Council sets the strategic direction of the organisation under the authority of the State Government via the *Local Government Act 2009*. Council's Corporate Plan 2021 - 2026 is our long-term vision for the Western Downs.

The Chief Executive Officer and Executive Leadership Team are responsible for carrying out the decisions of Council as well as providing professional advice on how to best achieve identified priorities within allocated resources.

In consultation with Council, the Executive Leadership Team and their staff develop annual operational plans and budgets aligned to the Corporate Plan. An assessment of progress against these plans is provided to Council each quarter via the operational plan review, and annually to the community via this annual report. This annual report accounts for the strategic priorities which were addressed in Council's *2023-24 Operational Plan*.

To ensure our organisation is effectively undertaking its responsibilities, internal audits are carried out to evaluate systems and processes, and to encourage a culture of continuous improvement. Overseeing internal audit activities, the Audit Committee provides an independent and external review of the corporate governance framework.

Western Downs Regional Council is structured into the following four divisions:

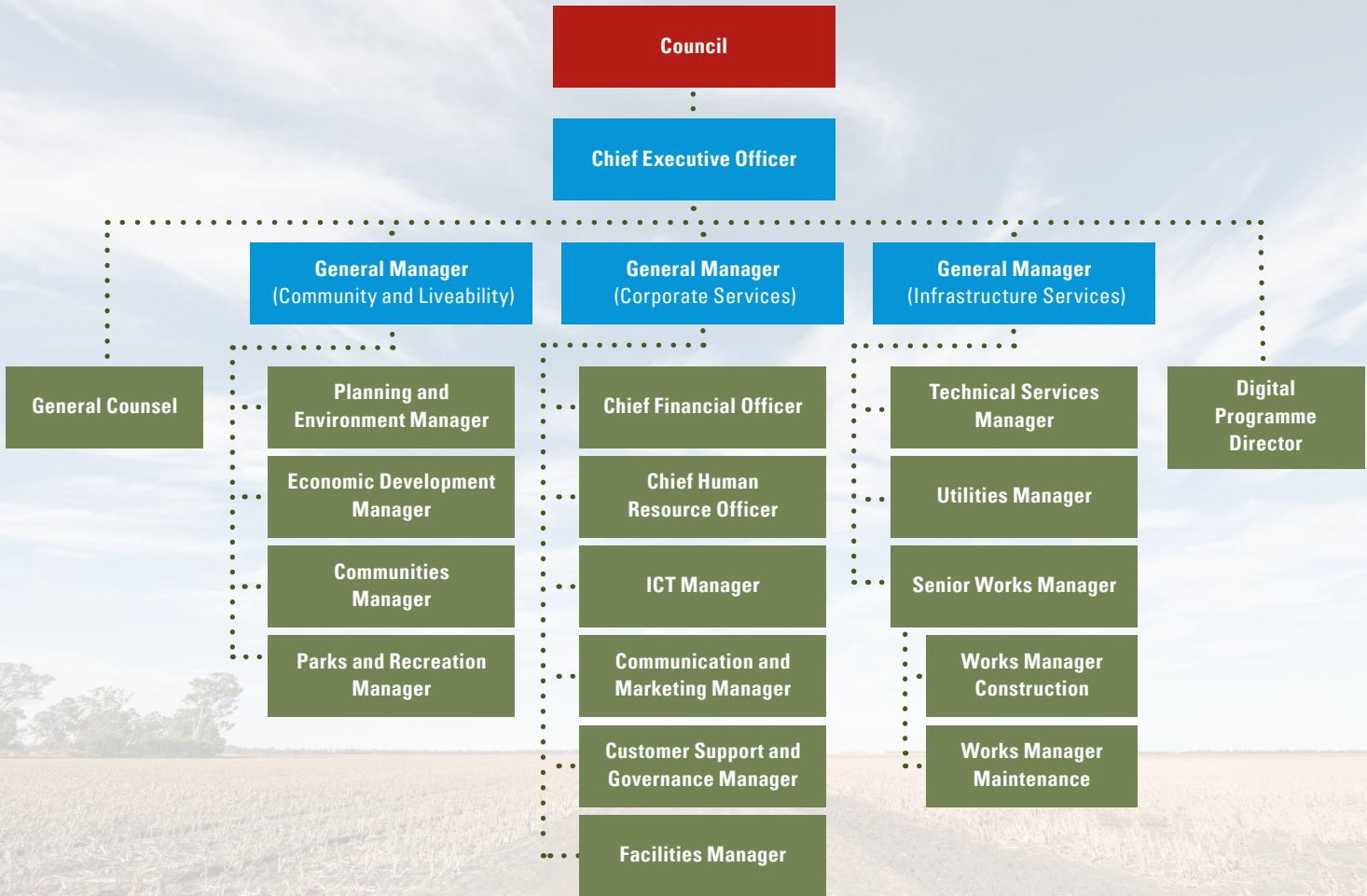
- Executive Services lead by the Chief Executive Officer
- Corporate Services lead by the General Manager (Corporate Services)
- Community and Liveability lead by the General Manager (Community and Liveability)
- Infrastructure Services lead by the General Manager (Infrastructure Services)

The executive leadership and senior leadership are responsible for the functions shown in the organisational chart. Their role is to assist Council in making timely and informed decisions, backed by trusted advice and supported by effective and inclusive governance.

As leaders of the organisation, the executive and senior leadership teams are responsible for ensuring their department service our region's local communities effectively and efficiently.

Each division is further segmented into functional departments, as shown below.

Western Downs Regional Council Organisational Structure as at 30 June 2024





# Statutory Information - Corporate Governance

## Significant Business Activity

Western Downs Regional Council conducted eight significant business activities during the 2023-24 financial year, as listed below.

• Commercial Works	• Water (type 2 significant business activity)
• Waste Management	• Sewerage (type 2 significant business activity)
• Gas Supply	• Dalby Regional Saleyards @ Western Downs
• Quarries	• Washdown Bays

The competitive neutrality principles have been applied to these significant business activities with relevant adjustments made as a result.

For a full list of business activities conducted by Council please refer to Chapter 5 of this report, see Note 27 'National Competition Policy' of the Financial Statements, on page 77 to 78.

## Executive Team Remuneration

The Executive Leadership Team comprises of the roles of Chief Executive Officer, General Manager (Corporate Services), General Manager (Community and Liveability) and General Manager (Infrastructure Services).

Incumbents in these roles were engaged under performance-based maximum term contract arrangements. Gross remuneration packages for the 2023-24 financial year totalled \$1,315,157, comprising three remuneration packages within the range \$200,000 - \$300,000, and one remuneration package within the range of \$300,000 - \$400,000.

## Identifying Beneficial Enterprises

During this reporting period Council did not conduct any beneficial enterprises. A beneficial enterprise is one that Council considers is directed to benefit, and can reasonably be expected to benefit, the whole or part of the local government.

## Overseas Travel

No employee travelled overseas in an official capacity during the 2023-24 financial year.

## Administration Action Complaints and Complaints Management Process

As part of Council's commitment to dealing fairly with administrative action complaints, all administrative action complaints are processed in accordance with Council's Complaints Management System which is supported by the Complaints Management - Council Policy and associated standard work practice. This ensures objective reviews of complaint matters, and assessment of complaints prior to the complaint outcome being provided to the customer. Council ensure that customers are aware of their rights to access the internal review process, and to external third-party review mechanisms, should they remain dissatisfied with the outcome of their complaint.

Council applies the principles of the *Human Rights Act 2019* when assessing and dealing with complaint matters to ensure that Council is acting compatibly with human rights and gives proper consideration of human rights before making a decision.

Council is committed to maintaining a collaborative working relationship with the Queensland Ombudsman's Office and other external review agencies.

The Complaints Management Team is responsible for capturing and identifying complaints received by Council, either by phone, email or in writing, and for ensuring they are responded to within agreed timeframes. The team also facilitates continuous improvement through the organisation by engaging with departments to resolve complaints.

The Complaints Management Policy and standard work practice were not reviewed during the 2023-24 financial year.

Complaints received by Council during 2023-24 are listed in the table below.

The number of administrative action complaints made to Council:	33*
The number of administrative action complaints resolved by Council under the complaint's management process:	33*
The number of administrative complaints not resolved by the local government under the complaint's management process:	0
The number of administrative action complaints not resolved that were made in a previous financial year:	0
The percentage of administrative action complaints resolved within agreed timeframes:	93%

\* Includes six internal reviews

## Human Rights

Council has an adopted Human Rights Policy and is committed to protecting and promoting human rights by ensuring that human rights are considered when making decisions, interpreting and applying the law, developing policy, and providing services to our community. Council also recognises that it has an important role to play in complying with Queensland's *Human Rights Act 2019* through its actions, decisions, proposals and recommendations.

Under the *Human Rights Act 2019* a person who believes that Council has breached their human rights obligations has the right to complain by raising a complaint directly with Council. Under section 65 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*, Council has forty-five (45) business days to respond, after which the individual can make a formal complaint to the Queensland



Human Rights Commission if the complaint has not been responded to or the person is not satisfied with Council's response. During 2023-24 Council did not receive any human rights complaints.

### Public Sector Ethics - Reporting

Council has a formal *Code of Conduct* and *Standards of Conduct* for staff which incorporates the ethics, principles and obligations under the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994*. Mandatory induction training for all new employees includes details on the requirements and obligations for all staff under the *Code of Conduct*. All new employees completed corporate induction training during 2023-24. Council continued to deliver education and awareness sessions to all employees on their ethical obligations as part of Council's commitment to the highest standards of public sector ethics.

### Internal Audit

The internal audit function is established under section 105 of the *Local Government Act 2009*. It is an integral component of Council's corporate governance framework designed to add value to our business operations through continuous improvement. Internal audit is an independent function within the Council reporting to the Chief Executive Officer and the Audit Committee. The purpose of the internal audit function is to independently examine and evaluate Council processes and activities and provide assurance to Council, management and the community. During the 2023-24 financial year Council concluded its contract with Crowe Australasia to perform the internal audit function and appointed O'Connor Marsden & Associates Pty Ltd to provide internal audit services for a period of three years.

The scope of internal audit work to be performed each financial year is set out in the *Three-Year Strategic Internal Audit Plan*, endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer and the Audit Committee, and approved by Council. Audit and other activities undertaken during the 2023-24 financial year included:

- Cash Control & Investments
- Asset Management
- Development Approval Compliance
- Grants Management

### The Audit Committee

The Audit Committee comprised of two councillors and one independent member and operates under a *Terms of Reference* adopted by Council.

Audit Committee members up to the March 2024 Quadrennial Local Government Election were as follows:

- Councillor Ian Rasmussen (Chair)
- Councillor Paul McVeigh (Member)
- Mr Robert Bain (Independent Member)

Following the election, the Audit Committee comprised:

- Councillor George Moore (Chair)
- Councillor Andrew Smith (Member)
- Ms Mary Goodwin (Independent Member)

The primary objective of the Audit Committee is to assist Council to fulfil its obligations in corporate governance and the oversight of financial management and reporting responsibilities imposed under sections 208 to 211 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*. The committee met three times during the financial year, examined draft financial statements, and reviewed reports presented by internal audit and external audit.

### Registers

The following registers were kept by Council during the reporting period:

- Local Laws Register (section 31 of *Local Government Act 2009*)
- Councillor Conduct Register (section 150DX-150DZ of *Local Government Act 2009*)
- Register of Cost Recovery Fees and Commercial Charges (section 98 of *Local Government Act 2009*)
- Asset Register (section 104 *Local Government Act 2009*)
- Delegations Registers (section 260 of *Local Government Act 2009*)
- Registers of Interests Councillors, Chief Executive Officer, Senior Executive Employees and related persons (section 201A, 201B and 201C of *Local Government Act 2009*; section 290 of *Local Government Regulation 2012*)
- Business Activity Register (section 56 of *Local Government Regulation 2012*)
- Register of Pre-Qualified Suppliers
- Register of Roads (section 74 of *Local Government Act 2009*)
- Environmentally Relevant Activities
- Registers under the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulations 2019*:
  - Permits and Inspection Certificates (section 112)
  - Testable backflow prevention devices (section 113)
  - Greywater use and onsite sewage facilities (section 114)
  - Show cause and enforcement notices (section 115)

### Financial Accountability

The Financial Statements of Western Downs Regional Council for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, as audited by the Auditor-General can be found in Chapter 5 of this report, from page 40.

For the Current Year Financial Sustainability Statement as well as the Unaudited Long-Term Financial Sustainability Statement for 2023-24, please refer to the General Purpose Financial Statements on pages 84 and 91 respectively.



The Audit-General's audited reports about Financial Statements and the Current Year Financial Sustainability Statement can be found in Chapter 5 of this report on pages 81 and 86 respectively.

### Community Financial Report

A simplified version of our financial performance for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 as reported in our audited Financial Statements is provided in the Community Financial Report presented in Chapter 1 of this report, pages 8 to 11.

### Grants to Community Groups

Donations and grants paid to community organisations for 2023-24 totalled \$249,861.

### Rates Rebates and Concessions

During 2023-24 special charges totalling \$567,546 were levied with respect to the maintenance of roads related to quarries.

In accordance with Council policy, pensioner concessions of \$489,156 and community organisation concessions of \$474,211 were granted during the year.

### Changes to Council Tenders

Seven invitations to change tenders under section 228(7) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, were made during the 2023-24 financial year.

### Cooperation Between Local Governments

In accordance with section 190(1)(d) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council must include details of any services, facility or activity supplied by another local government (under an agreement for conducting a joint government activity), where special rates or charges were levied.

There were no such services provided by another local government in the 2023-24 financial year.

Council fosters regional cooperation on issues affecting local government. In support of this commitment, the Mayor, Councillors, Senior Executive Officers and Council employees attend relevant conferences and events and meet with other local authorities and government agencies as part of their duties.

### National Competition Policy

The financial performance of Council activities subject to competition reforms, namely commercial works and waste management, for current and previous financial years is provided in Chapter 5 of the report within the Financial Statements, see Note 27, under 'National Competition Policy' on page 77 to 78.

At its Special Meeting held on 21 June 2023, Council resolved to:

1. adopt the *Code of Competitive Conduct - Council Policy*;
2. apply a Community Service Obligation Payment to the following business during 2023-24:
  - a. Water,
  - b. Waste Management.
  - c. Saleyards, and
  - d. Washdowns Bays;
3. adopt the *Dividend Payment - Council Policy*, and
4. receive dividend payments from the following businesses during 2023-24:
  - a. Commercial Works,
  - b. Gas,
  - c. Sewerage; and
  - d. Quarry.

### Particular Resolutions

Council made no resolution during the year under section 206(2) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, in relation to the value of Council non-current physical assets.

### Particulars of any direction given to commercial business units

Council's *Code of Conduct Policy* and *Dividend Policy* are available on Council's website.

### Overall Performance Assessment

In Chapter Four of this report, the Chief Executive Officer provides an informed assessment of Council's overall performance against the Corporate Plan and annual Operational Plan, following the summary of the organisation's performance outcomes, on pages 28 to 34.



A scenic landscape photograph of a river or lake. In the foreground, a large, weathered tree trunk lies diagonally across the left side. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding trees and the clear blue sky. The banks are lined with lush green trees and some dry grass. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

## CHAPTER 4:

# REPORTING PERFORMANCE



# Council's Strategic Direction

The Western Downs Regional Council's *Corporate Plan 2021 - 2026* sets out Council's vision through four strategic priorities. These priorities are underpinned by the key success drivers that Council has committed to achieve, and which guide our Operational Plan.

As Council is just one key stakeholder in the delivery of our communities' needs and expectations, the things Council is responsible for and contributes to, were identified and prioritised under each of the strategic priority areas; then programs and deliverables under each of the priority areas were identified to guide Council's operations for the term of the Corporate Plan.

Western Downs Regional Council is committed to delivering services, projects and initiatives in response to these strategic priorities.

Council aims to play a primary role in building confidence in our communities and securing opportunities for our region.

## Advocacy: A Regional Voice

- To actively seek and foster strategic partnerships
- For a long term domestic and industrial water supply for our region
- For health and social services that ensure 'Whole for Life' care for our residents
- For a safe and well maintained state and federal road network
- For telecommunications and digital connectivity to support and advance our region

## Measuring Our Success

Alignment to these four strategic priority areas and to our Vision, Values, Advocacy and Risk strategies flows into Council budgets and operational work priorities for each financial year which is measured quarterly.

This Annual Report provides our community and key stakeholders with a broad overview and assessment of our performance for the 2023-24 financial year against our *Corporate Plan 2021 - 2026* and the Chief Executive Officer's assessment of our progress. Highlights of important achievements under each strategic theme are detailed in the Performance Outcome Highlights.

## A Diverse Region at the Forefront of the Changing World:

### Strong Diverse Economy (Progress)

- We aggressively attract business and investment opportunities
- Our region is a recognised leader in agribusiness, energy and manufacturing
- We deliver water security to enable future economic growth
- We proactively advance our region as a tourism destination
- Our businesses and industry actively live and buy local

### Quality Lifestyle (Place)

- Our residents are provided with modern infrastructure and quality essential services across our region
- Our recreational spaces and community facilities are attractive, safe and accessible
- We invest in safe, well maintained road networks to connect our region and support economic activities
- We attract families to live, work, prosper and play in our region
- We take pride in our natural assets, environment and heritage

### Active Vibrant Community (People)

- We are a happy, inclusive community, proud of where we live
- Our people of diverse backgrounds and ages are united by social, cultural and sporting activities
- Our parks, open spaces, and community facilities are alive with activities and connect our communities
- We are a strong sustainable community supported by volunteers
- We empower communities to develop local initiatives and events

### Sustainable Organisation (Performance)

- We are recognised as a financially intelligent and responsible Council
- We focus on proactive, sustainable planning for our future
- Our people are skilled and values-driven to make a real difference
- Our agile and responsive business model enables us to align our capacity with service delivery
- Our effective asset management ensure that we responsibly maintain our community assets



# Performance Assessment

An informed assessment of how Council performed in the 2023-24 financial year against each of the strategic priorities expressed in the *Corporate Plan 2021 - 2026*, has been compiled by the Chief Executive Officer is shown and detailed on the following pages.

## Assessment Key

The following symbols indicate our progress at the end of the 2023-24 financial year:



ACHIEVED



SCHEDULED LATER IN  
CORPORATE PLAN CYCLE



NOT ACHIEVED

## STRONG DIVERSE ECONOMY (Progress)

### We aggressively attract business and investment opportunities

Identify opportunities that facilitate new investment to the region (including in tourism)

Enable aggressive investment attraction to the region

Develop a business action plan for high impact industry development



Work will progress on the amendment of the *Western Downs Planning Scheme*, and will be guided by an endorsed project plan



Our development assessment timeframes will continue to be amongst the best in the State



We will continue to have meaningful discussions with our customers and seek feedback to improve quality development outcomes



### Our region is a recognised leader in agribusiness, energy and manufacturing

Deliver, in partnership, targeted support to accelerate industry growth in agribusiness, energy and manufacturing



Identify and enable opportunities that facilitate industry leading trials or adoption of new innovation and technologies in the region



Deliver a Sister City program, including trade and export initiatives, targeting major industries



### We deliver water security to enable future economic growth

Review opportunities for water security to enable future economic growth across the region



Water supply improvement progressed for economic growth in Dalby



Support community drought resilience through continuing Council's *Rainwater Tank Incentive Program*





## We proactively advance our region as a tourism destination

We progress Western Downs' Sculpture Trail and public art to enhance the region's cultural tourism product



Enable the growth and development of the region's destination events through strategic stakeholder engagement and tourism marketing



Enable and support of our tourism product across our region



Enable the growth and development of tourism markets to increase local spend and visitor night stay in the region



Support tourism operators to increase customer experience



## Our businesses and industry actively live and buy local

Commit to local supplier spend where possible within the value for money philosophy



Enable business and industry to live local and buy local



Identify and enable opportunities that facilitate the development of local business, both new and existing



The Western Downs workforce is growing, optimised and fit for the future



# Performance Assessment

## ACTIVE VIBRANT COMMUNITY (People)

### We are a happy, inclusive community, proud of where we live

Embrace the rich Aboriginal heritage of our region through engagement with the traditional owners



Our community is informed by proactive and timely communications and given the opportunity to have its say on issues that matter to it



Decision-making is guided by meaningful communications and community engagement



Environmental Health programs focus on improving community health, safety and amenity outcomes; and focus on better education and engagement with our community



Council will continue to work with and educate the community to improve attitudes towards responsible pet ownership, seeking better outcomes through the improved behaviour of animal owners



### Our people of diverse backgrounds and ages are united by social, cultural and sporting activities

Support and deliver community and cultural events and programs that have cultural, social and economic impact to diverse audiences



Provide opportunities for people to connect through the delivery of events, festivals and programs



### Our parks, open spaces, and community facilities are alive with activities and connect our communities

Our shared places and spaces encourage and build connection and participation through the delivery of events and programs



Inclusive design and engagement are key features in the planning and development/redevelopment of community facilities



### We are a strong sustainable community supported by volunteers

Support and deliver activities that build the capacity and promote the value and contribution of volunteers



A part of the community recovery and resilience program, support community activity and collaboration to build resilience in preparedness for times of crisis, emergency and recovery.



### We empower communities to develop local initiatives and events

Ensure processes and procedures are user friendly and well communicated in order to facilitate community initiated public art projects



Our community grant programs support the enhancement of our region's liveability



Build stronger relationships with community groups to access Council land and recreational facilities to support local initiatives and events





## QUALITY LIFESTYLE (Place)

### Our residents are provided with modern infrastructure and quality essential services across our region

Improve and maintain the reliability of the regional water supply and sewerage networks and the gas network in Dalby



Undertake a comprehensive review of cemetery operations



A well connected and maintained footpath network, links our residents to key community facilities and central business districts



Regular improvements assist with maintaining a portfolio of waste facilities that meet community needs



### Our recreational spaces and community facilities are attractive, safe and accessible

Undertake a comprehensive review of camping operations

### We invest in safe, well maintained road networks to connect our region and support economic activities

Our design program is aligned to enable capital works programs to be delivered



Our quarry material production is to be well planned and aligned to works programs



An up to date *Ten Year Capital Works Program* is in place



Our transport assets are well maintained and our systems for maintenance are appropriate



Our roadwork projects are delivered to a high quality standard



### We attract families to live, work, prosper and play in our region

Identify opportunities that attract and retain skilled workers and their families to our region's towns



Enable housing development in the Western Downs region



Our towns and districts unique characteristics are celebrated by location specific placemaking



# Performance Assessment

## We take pride in our natural assets, environment and heritage

We are proactive in managing our cultural collections and assets to ensure preservation and enable access



Our local heritage is documented and preserved to enhance community connections



Promote environmental and social governance across the region



Our stock route management plans focus on the preservation of the primary stock routes and facilitate their use by drovers and graziers



Pest management programs will be reviewed to ensure the delivery of effective on-ground programs that focus on priority pests in key locations



Comprehensive management of the Dalby Saleyards to ensure compliance with State and Federal regulations





## SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION (Performance)

### We are recognised as a financially intelligent and responsible Council

Completion of 100% of Capital Works Program



The capita works budget is developed and presented to Council with a focus on 100% delivery of the program.



Adoption of 2024-25 annual budget



Progress Council's digital program initiatives in accordance with adopted digital roadmap 2022-2025



### We focus on proactive, sustainable planning for the future

Our community is informed via meaningful communications during disaster response and recovery



Enable environmental sustainability of Western Downs Regional Council



The organisation is appropriately prepared to respond in the event of a disaster



A strategic approach will be taken for development compliance programs



### Our people are skilled and values-driven to make a real difference

Performance partnering and professional development plans implemented across the organisation



Develop a modern workforce attraction and retention strategy



Our elected representatives enter the 2024 - 202 term of office with confidence and understanding of the ethical and legislative obligations of their role



Staff attraction and retention strategies implemented across the organisation



# Performance Assessment

## Our agile and responsive business model enables us to align our capacity with service delivery

*Customer Experience Satisfaction Program* - monitor customer satisfaction



Provide transparent and accountable corporate planning, decision-making, performance monitoring, and reporting in order to continuously improve



Undertake a review of Council gas operations



Build positive organisational culture around records and information management



## Our effective asset management ensures that we responsibly maintain our community assets

Our road assets damaged from 2021-22 floods are restored



Council's transport infrastructure maintenance practices enable sound financial management of maintenance budgets and operating funds



Council's asset management programme for all Facilities buildings and structure is aligned to Council's Strategic Direction, ensuring safe and functional facilities.



## ADVOCACY

**To actively seek and foster strategic partnerships | For a long term domestic and industrial water supply for our region | For health and social services that ensure 'Whole of Life' care for our residents | For a safe and well maintained state and federal road network | For telecommunications and digital connectivity to support and advance our region**

We actively advocate on issues that align to our long-term strategic objectives and vision for our region





# Performance Highlights

## Strong Diverse Economy

Council continued to work to build the region's future, through diversifying our economy, progressive planning, liveability endeavours, and future-proofing our infrastructure. Council focussed heavily on advocacy for the region, continuing its lobbying to the State and Federal Governments to support water security, economic stability and community sustainability through construction of Nathan Dam, 36km north-east of Taroona. Council also continued to advocate aggressively for improved regional digital connectivity for regional Australians, increased Federal funding for the Warrego Highway, and increased funding allocation for safer State-managed roads.

To stimulate new development and make the region more attractive for construction of new units, multicomplexes and land subdivisions, Council boosted its housing and land incentive to a massive \$5 million to keep pace with our growing region. To stimulate interest in the supply of commercial, residential and mixed-use projects, Council identified several sites for development opportunity through its Dalby CBD Development Investment Prospectus. These initiatives aim to better enable a diversified and prosperous economy.

Agriculture and Intensive Agriculture are founding pillars of the Western Downs economy, and Council hosted and supported several crucial events to assist our farmers and landowners offering free educational workshops in Bell and at the Bunya Mountains to increase awareness around the threat of feral pigs and Bunya dieback. The Western Downs also played host to the Pest & Weed Symposium (PAWS) 2023, bringing industry professionals to the region to share pest management solutions, advancements and innovations. Joining forces with Southern Queensland Country Tourism, Council delivered a free Agritourism Workshop offering local agribusinesses and farmers the chance to explore opportunities in this rapidly growing tourism sector.

Local business and employment focussed events showcased the diverse range of opportunities available in the region. These events included

the Procurement Roadshow, Young Entrepreneur Road Show, Western Downs Accelerate Manufacturing Conference, Protein 2024 Conference (in partnership with Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise), Ag Jobs Fair and the Health and Wellbeing for Biz Program.

Council also set the framework for introducing a refreshed grants and funding program at the start of the 2024-25 financial year, designed to be more accessible and practical for locals seeking financial support for community initiatives and events. Under the new program the first Competitive Grants Round (over \$5000) opened in July 2024 with Responsive Grants Rounds (under \$5000) being assessed monthly. To support and guide community groups and organisations through the grants process, Council continued to offer grants information sessions and grant writing workshops throughout the region in June 2024.

Council's Corporate Plan continues to drive our commitment to aggressively attracting business and investment opportunities. In 2023, Council proposed Amendment 2.0 to the Western Downs Planning Scheme to the State Government encompassing a diverse range of business and planning improvements to attract industry and development opportunities within the region and to reduce red tape on progressive development. Community consultation will be undertaken in August and September 2024 to keep our framework modern, contemporary and supportive of future development.

As part of Council's commitment to proactively advancing the region as a premiere tourism destination, several major events were hosted and supported drawing thousands of visitors to the region. Council secured Dalby as the location for the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia's annual rally, which attracted some 600 caravanning enthusiasts to the region in late 2023. Other key tourism events included the Miles Back to the Bush Festival, Jandowae Timbertown Festival, Opera at Jimbour and Big Skies Festival 2023, which included onsite camping, a camp kitchen, markets, bespoke dining events, and a two-day concert featuring iconic Australian artists at the historic Jimbour House.





## Active Vibrant Community

Throughout the past year, we've been proud to share our region's rich history, big skies, vast plains, unforgettable sunsets and active, vibrant communities. The Western Downs region is made up of families and individuals from all walks of life – a perfect blending of various backgrounds, age groups and ethnicities – brought together by our shared love of social, cultural and educational activities.



Council continued to host a diverse array of community-focused events to suit all tastes - regional drive-in movies, pool parties and a spring splash, regional seniors and youth month celebrations, Australia Day Awards, and our eighth instalment of our Not Just for Laughs comedy road show. The 2023 Regional Artists' Exhibition returned for a 10th instalment and is a testament to the breadth of talented artists across a plethora of traditional and modern mixed art mediums.

The best local and national storytelling talent captivated us at the fifth annual Words Out West Readers and Writers Festival offering 11 events and experiences for all ages and interests across the region. We escaped to the opera and immersed in performances by internationally acclaimed soloists and chamber musicians at the historic Jimbour House, which also formed the backdrop for another massive four-day Big Skies Festival featuring some of the best Australian music artists of all time.

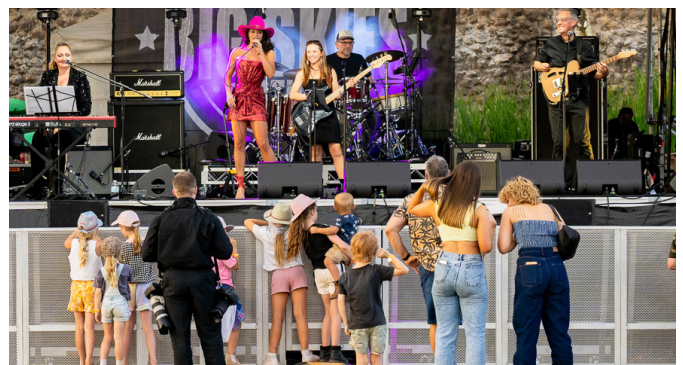
Destination experiences continued to be a major focus for Council, encouraging locals and visitors alike to explore the rich and diverse culture of our region through a series of uniquely Western Downs tourism campaigns including 'Wandoan, the Tiny Town with the Big Heart' and the 'Sunset Way'. As part of the 2023-24 budget, Council also committed to developing shovel-ready masterplans for several Western Downs parks, showgrounds, aquatic centres and recreational spaces to protect our diverse range of attractive, sustainable and functional locations for locals and visitors to enjoy for years to come.



Council has also strengthened important Traditional Owner relationships through the delivery of the Bunya Mountains Bike trails project. Western Downs Regional Council also partnered with First Nations families to create a masterplan for the Chinchilla Botanic Parkland, which will serve as a dedicated space for local families to meet and connect once constructed.

Culture – in the form of cinema, the arts and libraries – also received significant investment with the completion of an \$8.4 million revitalisation of the Chinchilla Cultural Centre in December 2023. A refreshed community advisory panel and a youth advisory panel were also established to guide and inform the concept design phase of a new library, cinema, art gallery and visitor information centre in Thomas Jack Park, Dalby. A local reference group was also established to support the pre-planning and concept design for a new Chinchilla Aquatic Centre.

Significant strides were made in terms of community engagement with more than a dozen projects in various stages of stakeholder consultation throughout the year using Council's Communication and Community Engagement Strategy. Council also undertook a strategy pulse check some 18 months after its implementation to track the progress of Council's community engagement satisfaction and communication satisfaction scores, reporting increases in both areas.







# Performance Highlights

## Quality Lifestyle

An impressive portfolio of unique legacy projects was delivered to greatly improve the vitality of the Western Downs and cement the region's reputation as a truly unique lifestyle destination in the year 2023-24. From adventure trails to cultural centres and urban gathering spaces, community engagement and collaboration was at the heart of our liveability development projects last year.

In July 2023, the Bunya Mountains Bike Trails project was completed offering biking enthusiasts of all skill levels a breathtaking 18 kilometres of new trails through the Bunyas, of varying lengths from 1.3km to 6.3km. Council engaged extensively with Traditional owners, the Bunya People's Aboriginal Corporation rangers, tourism operators, landholders and environmental experts to deliver this breathtaking eco-adventure tourism attraction with the utmost respect for the ecological and cultural significant natural environment.

Council partnered with the community to pay homage to the late Mary Barry and the former Commercial Hotel through delivery of an exciting new urban streetscape 'Mary's Place' at 120 Cunningham Street in Dalby. Mary's Place earned top honours at the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) Queensland Awards in two categories: the Landscape Architecture Award for Civic Landscape and the Queensland Regional Achievement Award, a testament to its status as a benchmark publicly accessible urban gathering place.

Western Downs residents love their regional pools, and Council adopted a new Aquatic Facilities Strategy for the forward planning and strategic direction to guide the replacement of aging aquatic facilities. Council completed an \$8.5 million revitalisation of the Tara Aquatic Centre which included complete replacement of the main pool, installation of a disability ramp and lane, pool heating to extend the swimming season, new kiosk and amenities, accessible adult change facility, new open communal

spaces, and state of the art infrastructure and equipment. The location for the new Chinchilla Aquatic Centre, to be constructed at 35-41 Villiers Street, was endorsed by Council. A stakeholder steering committee was established to help guide and inform project inclusions.

Consecutive flooding events continued to impact the condition of regional roads and Council progressed a \$180.8 million capital works program, which included progression of a record flood restoration program to fix and improve Western Downs roads. Council invested more than \$43.6 million into local road upgrades and maintenance projects which also features a regional road resilience program to strengthen our roads against future weather impacts, and more than \$880,000 into new or improved footpaths to keep our region connected, and our services strong.

The Western Downs weathering a new wave of catastrophic bushfires in October and November 2023 resulting in the displacement of some 350 residents and 58 homes destroyed. Council activated emergency evacuation centres in Dalby, Chinchilla and Tara and partnered with the State Government Department of Housing to transform the former Tara Showgrounds into a central emergency hub to facilitate the arrival 23 caravans for immediate temporary housing for residents rendered homeless by the fires.

With an urgent long-term housing solution required for permanently displaced residents, WDRC devised the Tara Accommodation Recovery Park (TARP) within weeks of the November 2023 bushfires for immediate construction of 22 permanent residential dwellings and two accommodation pods activated in partnership with the Queensland Department of Housing and Department of Public Works & Energy (via QBuild). TARP provides a safe, modern, medium/long term housing during the rebuild and recovery process and builds housing resilience and capacity for community evacuation emergencies during future natural disaster events.



## Sustainable Organisation

Sustainability is at the heart of Council operations and Western Downs cemented its reputation as one of the most financially intelligent and responsible regional Councils. In 2023-24, Council continued its status as one of the few debt-free Councils in Queensland. Council actively sought more than \$20.9 million in external funding by way of grants, subsidies, contributions and donations (\$5.04 million operational, \$15.86 million capital).

The Western Downs further strengthened its position as one of the leading Councils in Australia in achieving several notable accomplishments that were acknowledged through a series of awards and accolades. Council's exceptional disaster response and recovery efforts during the 2023-24 bushfires and floods have earned the organisation the Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) Teamwork Award at the LGMA Awards for Excellence Gala at Brisbane in May. From coordinating the on-the-ground disaster response to the tireless dedication of our field staff in the sweltering heat of the frontlines for the provision of water to those teams mobilising and manning evacuation centres and emergency communications - every single member of Council stepped up to support our community through the natural disaster events of 2023-24.

The organisation's unwavering commitment to training and growing its people was also recognised with Council receiving its third-consecutive Large Employer of the Year at the Queensland Training Awards. CEO Jodie Taylor was awarded the LGMA 2023 Manager of the Year for Leadership and Management Excellence and received an Honourable Mention in the 2024 Women in Local Government Category at the 2024 National Awards for Local Government. Council also earned third place in the Australasian Management Challenge, which pits teams of seven from ten leading Councils around Queensland in an exciting one-day regional challenge.

The Local Government Elections in early 2024 marked the commencement of a new term of Council lead by new Mayor Andrew Smith and supported by the wisdom, knowledge and expertise of eight new and returning Councillors – Deputy Mayor Kylie Bourne, Cr Sophie Bougoure, Cr Sam Condon, Cr Megan James, Cr Kaye Maguire, Cr George Moore, Cr Greg Olm and Cr Peter Saxelby. The Western Downs is fortunate to have nine intelligent and responsible Councillors, who bring different experience and skill sets, but are united by their collective passion and drive to see our region grow and prosper now and into the future.

Council's focus on sustainable service delivery was the driving factor behind Council initiating transfer of 52 Council-owned and maintained community housing dwellings to not-for-profit specialist community housing provider Community Housing (Qld) Ltd. Expected to take place in Q1 2024-25, the transfer ensures the community has affordable, quality community housing now and into the future, whilst also allowing Council to concentrate on the delivery of core services such as water, waste, roads and infrastructure.

Maintaining a safe, happy and healthy workplace remained a major priority for Council guided by our culture statement: "Here at WDRC – it's the people that make it! We act as one, committed to empowering productive teams, with our people enjoying high levels of job satisfaction." Wellbeing initiatives for the year have included the 10,000 Steps Challenge, Gratitude Challenge, MindMatters Roadshow, Better Mind Better Me and the 30-Day Declutter Challenge. Recruiting in line with Council's culture was also a key focus. The Council Kickstart Your Career program was delivered once again with tremendous success.

Significant progress was made in Council's digital landscape, launching Phase 2 of the Smart Digital Programme in line with the turn of the new financial year. Additionally, Council delivered a series of training roadshows to support and guide employees through this transition.





An aerial photograph of a paved road winding through a dense, lush green forest. A white car is visible on the road, moving away from the viewer. The trees are thick and vibrant green, creating a textured canopy. The road is a straight line cutting through the forest.

## CHAPTER 5:

# FINANCIAL REPORTING



# Western Downs Regional Council

## GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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# Western Downs Regional Council

## General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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# Western Downs Regional Council

## Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
<b>Recurrent revenue</b>			
Rates, levies and charges	3a	110,532	104,766
Fees and charges	3b	8,754	9,015
Sales revenue	3c	22,379	27,440
Grants, subsidies and contributions	3d(i)	5,106	22,720
Interest and distribution income received	4a	16,029	9,126
Other income	4b	7,178	1,836
Rental income		887	797
<b>Total recurrent revenue</b>		<b>170,865</b>	<b>175,700</b>
<b>Capital revenue</b>			
Grants, subsidies and contributions	3d(ii)	50,716	26,065
Capital income	5	174	186
<b>Total capital revenue</b>		<b>50,890</b>	<b>26,251</b>
<b>Total income</b>		<b>221,755</b>	<b>201,951</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Recurrent expenses</b>			
Employee benefits	6	55,027	48,233
Materials and services	7	65,293	61,008
Finance costs	8	544	967
Depreciation and amortisation:			
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	15	48,759	44,783
- Intangible assets		21	25
- Right of use assets		196	261
<b>Total recurrent expenses</b>		<b>169,840</b>	<b>155,277</b>
<b>Other expenses</b>			
Capital Expenses	9	16,297	3,114
<b>Total other expenses</b>		<b>16,297</b>	<b>3,114</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>186,137</b>	<b>158,391</b>
<b>Net Result</b>		<b>35,618</b>	<b>43,560</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
<b>Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to the operating result</b>			
Increase/(decrease) in asset revaluation surplus	19	89,442	121,457
<b>Total other comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>89,442</b>	<b>121,457</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>125,060</b>	<b>165,017</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and material accounting policies.

The above statement excludes transactions and balances of controlled entities.



# Western Downs Regional Council

## Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	Restated 2023 \$ '000
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	10	141,569	278,683
Receivables	11	22,970	13,740
Inventories	12	4,638	4,813
Contract assets	16	7,682	936
Assets classified as held for sale	14	—	206
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>176,859</b>	<b>298,378</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Right of use assets		194	381
Property, plant and equipment	15	1,787,759	1,677,322
Intangible assets		1,194	1,215
Other financial assets	13	114,125	—
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>1,903,272</b>	<b>1,678,918</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>2,080,131</b>	<b>1,977,296</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables	17	20,234	16,935
Contract liabilities	16	11,930	36,999
Lease liabilities		104	184
Provisions	18	13,495	12,122
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>45,763</b>	<b>66,240</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Payables	17	1,757	2,586
Lease liabilities		196	286
Provisions	18	6,644	7,473
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>8,597</b>	<b>10,345</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>54,360</b>	<b>76,585</b>
<b>Net community assets</b>		<b>2,025,771</b>	<b>1,900,711</b>
<b>Community equity</b>			
Asset revaluation surplus	15	945,077	855,635
Retained surplus		1,080,694	1,045,076
<b>Total community equity</b>		<b>2,025,771</b>	<b>1,900,711</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and Significant Accounting Policies.

# Western Downs Regional Council

## Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	Asset revaluation surplus \$ '000	Retained surplus \$ '000	Total equity \$ '000
Balance as at 1 July 2023		855,635	1,045,076	1,900,711
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2023</b>		<b>855,635</b>	<b>1,045,076</b>	<b>1,900,711</b>
<b>Net result</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>35,618</b>	<b>35,618</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income for the year</b>				
- Increase/(decrease) in asset revaluation surplus	15	89,442	–	89,442
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		<b>89,442</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>89,442</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>89,442</b>	<b>35,618</b>	<b>125,060</b>
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2024</b>		<b>945,077</b>	<b>1,080,694</b>	<b>2,025,771</b>

	Notes	Asset revaluation surplus \$ '000	Retained surplus Restated \$ '000	Total equity Restated \$ '000
Balance as at 1 July 2022		734,178	996,891	1,731,069
Correction of prior period errors	24	–	4,625	4,625
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2022</b>		<b>734,178</b>	<b>1,001,516</b>	<b>1,735,694</b>
<b>Net result</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>43,560</b>	<b>43,560</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income for the year</b>				
- Increase/(decrease) in asset revaluation surplus	15	121,457	–	121,457
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		<b>121,457</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>121,457</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>121,457</b>	<b>43,560</b>	<b>165,017</b>
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2023</b>		<b>855,635</b>	<b>1,045,076</b>	<b>1,900,711</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and material accounting policies.



# Western Downs Regional Council

## Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Receipts from customers		147,175	154,526
Payments to suppliers and employees		(130,565)	(120,030)
		16,610	34,496
<b>Receipts</b>			
Interest and investment revenue received		11,149	9,126
Rental income		923	836
Non capital grants and contributions		6,497	27,104
Other		4,880	—
<b>Payments</b>			
Borrowing costs		(389)	(496)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	23	39,670	71,066
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		2,157	1,344
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations		18,901	49,687
<b>Payments</b>			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(88,409)	(73,637)
Purchase of financial assets		(109,245)	—
Net cash outflow from investing activities		(176,596)	(22,606)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
<b>Payments</b>			
Repayments made on leases (principal only)		(188)	(240)
Net cash flow outflow from financing activities		(188)	(240)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents held		(137,114)	48,220
plus: cash and cash equivalents - beginning		278,683	230,463

# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 1. Information about these financial statements

#### (a) Basis of preparation

Western Downs Regional Council is constituted under the Queensland *Local Government Act 2009* and is domiciled in Australia.

These general purpose financial statements are for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. They are prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Council is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes and the financial statements comply with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as applicable to not-for-profit entities.

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the revaluation of certain classes of property, plant and equipment.

#### (b) New and revised Accounting Standards adopted during the year

Western Downs Regional Council adopted all standards which became mandatory for annual reporting periods effective from 1 July 2023. None of the standards had a material impact on reported position, performance and cash flows.

#### (c) Standards issued by the AASB not yet effective

The AASB has issued Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations which are not effective as at 30 June 2024. These standards have not been adopted by Council and will be included in the financial statements on their effective date. There are no standards that are not yet effective that are expected to have a material impact on the Council in future reporting periods.

#### (d) Estimates and Judgements

Council makes a number of judgements, estimates and assumptions in preparing these financial statements. These are based on the best information available to Council at the time. However, due to the passage of time, these assumptions may change and therefore the recorded balances may not reflect the final outcomes. The significant judgements, estimates and assumptions relate to the following items and specific information is provided in the relevant note:

- Valuation and depreciation of Property, Plant & Equipment - Note 15
- Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment - Note 9
- Provisions - Note 18
- Contingent Liabilities - Note 21
- Financial instruments and financial assets – Note 25
- Revenue recognition - Note 3

#### (e) Rounding and Comparatives

The financial statements are in Australian dollars and have been rounded to the nearest \$1,000 unless otherwise stated.

Comparative information is restated for reclassifications, errors and changes in accounting policies to be consistent with the current reporting period unless permitted otherwise by transition rules in a new Accounting Standard.

#### (f) Volunteer Services

Council utilises volunteer services in its Visitor Information Centres, Libraries, Art Galleries and Museum. Council pays for all incidental costs that relate to these volunteer services. These have not been included in the financial statements as these services would not have been purchased if they had not been donated.

#### (g) Taxation

Council is exempt from income tax, however Council is subject to Fringe Benefits Tax, Goods and Services Tax ('GST') and payroll tax on certain activities. The net amount of GST recoverable from the ATO or payable to the ATO is shown as an asset or liability respectively.



# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 2. Analysis of results by function

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#### (a) Components of Council functions

**Details relating to the Council's functions / activities as reported in Note 2(b) are as follows:**

**General operations**

Efficient and effective delivery of services that maintain and improve the liveability of the community.

**Commercial works**

Undertake works for customers on a commercial basis. Typically the works will relate to Non-Council owned roads, water and sewerage infrastructure.

**Waste management**

Provide and maintain an environmentally sensitive waste collection and disposal service.

**Water services**

Manage Council's water supply systems to achieve a reliable, safe and cost effective water service.

**Gas supply**

Manage the gas network to achieve a reliable, safe and cost effective gas supply service.

**Dalby Regional Saleyards**

Manage the operations of the Dalby Regional Saleyards to deliver a safe and cost effective livestock selling facility.

**Quarries**

Operate Council's quarry and gravel pits to meet Council's needs and to sell at commercial rates to other customers.

**Sewerage services**

Manage the sewerage system to achieve a reliable, safe and cost effective and environmentally sensitive sewage disposal service.

**Washdown bays**

Provide and maintain an environmentally sensitive and cost effective vehicle washdown service.

# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 2. Analysis of results by function (continued)

#### (b) Income, expenses and assets attributed to Council functions

Functions	Gross program income			Gross program expenses			Net result from recurring operations		Net result assets \$ '000		
	Recurring grants \$ '000	Recurring other \$ '000	Capital grants \$ '000	Capital other \$ '000	Total income \$ '000	Recurring \$ '000	Capital \$ '000	Total expenses \$ '000			
2024											
General operations	4,435	111,172	50,156	174	165,937	(117,718)	(16,339)	(134,057)	(2,111)	31,880	1,710,616
Commercial works	671	9,068	—	—	9,739	(7,745)	—	(7,745)	1,994	1,994	1,849
Waste management	—	8,350	271	—	8,621	(9,321)	(47)	(9,368)	(971)	(747)	14,878
Water services	—	13,922	195	—	14,117	(15,735)	(29)	(15,764)	(1,813)	(1,647)	185,761
Gas supply	—	3,460	—	—	3,460	(2,010)	—	(2,010)	1,450	1,450	11,109
Dalby Regional Saleyards	—	3,248	—	—	3,248	(2,423)	(49)	(2,472)	825	776	12,439
Quarries	—	6,533	—	—	6,533	(7,931)	222	(7,709)	(1,398)	(1,176)	3,784
Sewerage services	—	9,257	94	—	9,351	(6,404)	(55)	(6,459)	2,853	2,892	138,548
Washdown bays	—	749	—	—	749	(553)	—	(553)	196	196	1,147
Total	5,106	165,759	50,716	174	221,755	(169,840)	(16,297)	(186,137)	1,025	35,618	2,080,131

Functions	Gross program income			Gross program expenses			Net result				
	Recurring grants \$ '000	Recurring other \$ '000	Capital grants \$ '000	Capital other \$ '000	Total income \$ '000	Recurring \$ '000	Capital \$ '000	Total expenses \$ '000	Net result from recurring operations \$ '000	Net result \$ '000	Total assets Restated \$ '000
2023											
General operations	22,570	94,610	25,437	186	142,803	(99,876)	(2,674)	(102,550)	17,304	40,253	1,617,910
Commercial works	150	13,996	—	—	14,146	(11,934)	—	(11,934)	2,212	2,212	—
Waste management	—	7,991	—	—	7,991	(9,714)	349	(9,365)	(1,723)	(1,374)	12,445
Water services	—	12,715	590	—	13,305	(15,239)	(389)	(15,628)	(2,524)	(2,323)	181,650
Gas supply	—	3,394	—	—	3,394	(2,248)	—	(2,248)	1,146	1,146	11,753
Dalby Regional Saleyards	—	3,058	8	—	3,066	(2,317)	—	(2,317)	741	749	13,614
Quarries	—	6,957	—	—	6,957	(6,682)	(299)	(6,981)	275	(24)	3,704
Sewerage services	—	9,152	30	—	9,182	(6,582)	(101)	(6,683)	2,570	2,499	135,550
Washdown bays	—	1,107	—	—	1,107	(685)	—	(685)	422	422	670
Total	22,720	152,980	26,065	186	201,951	(155,277)	(3,114)	(158,391)	20,423	43,560	1,977,296

(\*) 2023 comparative figures have been restated. Refer to Note 24 for details.



# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 3. Revenue

	2024	2023
Notes	\$ '000	\$ '000
<b>(a) Rates, levies and charges</b>		
Rates, levies and utility charges are recognised as revenue at the beginning of the rating period to which they relate. Prepaid rates are recognised as a financial liability until the beginning of the rating period that they relate to.		
General and special rates	87,270	82,891
State and rural fire levy	282	115
Water	6,349	6,170
Water consumption, rental and sundries	6,583	5,636
Sewerage	9,641	9,525
Waste management	6,167	5,929
<b>Total rates and utility charge revenue</b>	<b>116,292</b>	<b>110,266</b>
Less: discounts	(5,271)	(5,041)
Less: pensioner remissions	(489)	(459)
<b>Total rates, levies and charges</b>	<b>110,532</b>	<b>104,766</b>

### (b) Fees and charges

Revenue arising from fees and charges is recognised at the point in time when or as the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided.

The performance obligation relates to the specific services which are provided to the customers by the Council. Generally the payment terms are within 30 days of the provision of the service or in some cases, the customer is required to pay on arrival, for example caravan parks. There is no material obligation for Council in relation to refunds or returns.

Licences granted by Council are all either short-term or low value and all revenue from licences is recognised at the time that the licence is granted rather than the term of the licence.

Revenue from infringements is recognised on issue of infringement notice after applying the expected credit loss model relating to impairment of receivables for initial recognition of statutory receivables.

Waste disposal fees	2,139	1,999
Aerodrome fees	1,088	1,165
Water sales	1,330	1,216
Washdown bay fees	749	1,107
Building and development fees	705	924
Cemetery fees	521	506
Rates searches	322	324
Animal registration fees	315	292
Other fees and charges	1,585	1,482
<b>Total fees and charges</b>	<b>8,754</b>	<b>9,015</b>

# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 3. Revenue (continued)

#### (c) Sales revenue

Sale of goods revenue is recognised at the point in time when the customer obtains control of the goods. Revenue from services is recognised when the service is rendered.

Revenue from contracts and recoverable works generally comprises a recoupment of material costs together with an hourly charge for use of equipment and employees. Contract and recoverable works revenue and the associated costs are recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract activity based on costs incurred at the reporting date. Where consideration is received for the service in advance it is included as an amount received in advance in trade and other payables and is recognised as revenue in the period when the service is performed.

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
<b>Rendering of services</b>			
Contract and recoverable works		9,159	14,065
Saleyard services		3,248	3,057
<b>Total sale of services</b>		12,407	17,122
<b>Sale of goods</b>			
Gas sales		3,439	3,362
Quarry sales		6,533	6,956
<b>Total sale of goods</b>		9,972	10,318
<b>Total sales revenue</b>		22,379	27,440

#### (d) Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations

##### Grant income under AASB 15

Where grant income arises from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations then the revenue is recognised when each performance obligation is satisfied.

Performance obligations vary in each agreement but mostly include the holding of events, construction or maintenance of assets or the completion of projects. Payment terms vary depending on the terms of the grant, cash is received upfront for some grants and on the achievement of certain milestones for others.

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

Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods being either costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

##### Grant income under AASB 1058

Where Council receives an asset for significantly below fair value, the asset is recognised at fair value, and the related liability (or equity items) is recorded and income then is recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received.

##### Capital grants

Where Council receives funding under an enforceable contract to acquire or construct a specified item of property, plant and equipment which will be under Council's control on completion, revenue is recognised as and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed. For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred.

##### Donations and contributions

Where assets are donated or purchased for significantly below fair value, the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Council. Donations and contributions are generally recognised on receipt of the asset since there are no enforceable performance obligations.



# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 3. Revenue (continued)

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
<b>(i) Operating</b>			
General purpose grants		731	18,678
State government subsidies and grants		2,725	2,969
Commonwealth government subsidies and grants		546	858
Contributions		1,104	215
<b>Total recurrent grants, subsidies, contributions and donations</b>		<b>5,106</b>	<b>22,720</b>

### (ii) Capital

Capital revenue includes grants and subsidies received which are tied to specific projects for the replacement or upgrade of existing non-current assets and/or investment in new assets. It also includes non-cash contributions which are usually infrastructure assets received from developers.

State government subsidies and grants	39,974	16,368
Commonwealth government subsidies and grants	7,148	6,968
Contributions	3,594	2,648
Developer assets contributed by developers at fair value	—	81
<b>Total capital grants, subsidies, contributions and donations</b>	<b>50,716</b>	<b>26,065</b>

### (iii) Timing of revenue recognition for grants, subsidies, contributions and donations

	2024		2023	
	Revenue recognised at a point in time \$ '000	Revenue recognised over time \$ '000	Revenue recognised at a point in time \$ '000	Revenue recognised over time \$ '000
Grants and subsidies	10,780	40,344	27,861	17,980
Contributions	4,698	—	2,944	—
	<b>15,478</b>	<b>40,344</b>	<b>30,805</b>	<b>17,980</b>

### Note 4. Interest and other income

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

#### (a) Interest and distribution income received

Interest received from bank and term deposits is accrued over the term of the investment.

Distributions from other financial assets	5,571	—
Interest received from financial institutions	10,003	8,680
Interest received from other sources	272	187
Interest from overdue rates and utility charges	183	259
<b>Total interest received</b>	<b>16,029</b>	<b>9,126</b>

continued on next page ...

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# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 4. Interest and other income (continued)

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
<b>(b) Other income</b>			
Fair value gain on other financial assets		4,880	—
Other income		366	425
Ticket Sales		772	586
Reimbursement of expenditure		1,160	825
<b>Total other income</b>		<b>7,178</b>	<b>1,836</b>

### Note 5. Capital income

#### (a) Gain on disposal of non-current assets

Proceeds from the disposal of property, plant and equipment		1,435	995
Less: carrying value of disposed property, plant and equipment	15	(1,313)	(785)
		122	210
Proceeds from disposal of land and improvements		652	68
Less: carrying value of disposed land	15	(625)	(61)
		27	7
<b>Gain on disposal of non-current assets</b>		<b>149</b>	<b>217</b>

#### (b) Non-current assets held for sale

Proceeds from the disposal		70	281
Less: carrying value of disposed assets		(45)	(312)
	14	25	(31)
<b>Total capital income</b>		<b>174</b>	<b>186</b>



## Western Downs Regional Council

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 6. Employee benefits

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Wages and salaries		43,631	37,983
Councillors' remuneration		745	729
Annual, sick and long service leave entitlements		9,933	9,002
Superannuation	22	5,209	4,978
		59,518	52,692
Other employee related expenses		1,321	1,078
		60,839	53,770
Less: capitalised employee expenses		(5,812)	(5,537)
<b>Total Employee benefits</b>		<b>55,027</b>	<b>48,233</b>

Councillor remuneration represents salary, and other allowances paid in respect of carrying out their duties.

#### Note 7. Materials and services

Advertising	145	215
Audit of annual financial statements by the Auditor-General of Queensland	215	211
Diesel and fuel	3,974	4,288
Donations and grants paid	1,037	913
Insurance	1,904	1,862
Legal fees	282	295
Precept payment	512	575
Purchase of gas	1,226	1,165
Repairs and maintenance	12,934	13,275
Contractors, consultants and services	37,206	32,606
Subscriptions and registrations	616	595
Telecommunications	462	361
Utilities	2,571	2,339
Other materials and services	2,209	2,308
<b>Total materials and services</b>	<b>65,293</b>	<b>61,008</b>

# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 8. Finance costs

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000
	Notes	
QIC Management Fee	283	—
Bank charges	382	493
Impairment of receivables and bad debts written off	(341)	253
Interest on leases	9	4
Provision for evaporation ponds - unwinding of discounts on provision	18	19
Provision for quarry - unwinding of discounts on provision	43	50
Provision for refuse sites - unwinding of discounts on provision	99	102
Provision for gravel pits - unwinding of discounts on provision	51	46
<b>Total finance costs</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>967</b>

### Note 9. Capital expenses

#### (a) Loss on impairment

<b>Non-current assets classified as held for sale</b>	5,848	—
<b>Total impairment losses</b>	<b>5,848</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Impairment losses recognised in the Income Statement</b>	<b>5,848</b>	<b>—</b>

#### Key judgements and estimates

In assessing impairment, management estimates the recoverable amount of each asset, based on expected future cash flows and uses an interest rate to discount them. Estimation uncertainty relates to assumptions about future operating results and the determination of a suitable discount rate.

#### (b) Provision for restoration of land

Discount rate adjustment to refuse rehabilitation provision	19	(319)
Discount rate adjustment to quarry rehabilitation liability	(609)	300
	<b>(590)</b>	<b>(19)</b>

18

The discount rate adjustment to the quarry rehabilitation liability was adjusted against expenses as there was an insufficient asset revaluation reserve in the relevant asset class.

#### (c) Other capital expenses

Loss on write-off of assets	11,039	3,133
	<b>11,039</b>	<b>3,133</b>
<b>Total capital expenses</b>	<b>16,297</b>	<b>3,114</b>



# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 10. Cash, cash equivalents and financial assets

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Cash at bank and on hand	2,373	3,631
Deposits at call	139,196	275,052
<b>Balance per Statement of Financial Position</b>	<b>141,569</b>	<b>278,683</b>
<b>Balance per Statement of Cashflows</b>	<b>141,569</b>	<b>278,683</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	141,569	278,683
Less: externally imposed restrictions on cash	(12,735)	(38,187)
<b>Unrestricted cash</b>	<b>128,834</b>	<b>240,496</b>

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

These include:

(i) Externally imposed expenditure restrictions at the reporting date relate to the following cash assets:

Unspent government grants and subsidies	11,990	37,437
Unspent special rates	745	750
<b>Total externally imposed restrictions on cash assets</b>	<b>12,735</b>	<b>38,187</b>
<b>Total unspent restricted cash</b>	<b>12,735</b>	<b>38,187</b>

# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 11. Receivables

Settlement of receivables is required within 30 days after the invoice is issued.

Receivables are measured at amortised cost which approximates their fair value at the reporting date

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
<b>Trade and other receivables</b>		
Rates and charges	6,559	7,067
Sale of services, fees and charges	6,653	2,852
Gas utility	76	85
Infringements	268	285
Grant funding	40	—
Main roads	1,849	—
Resource sector	4,198	816
Gas charges not yet levied	628	515
GST recoverable	695	1,055
Prepayments	2,181	1,653
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,147</b>	<b>14,328</b>
<b>less: Provision for impairment</b>		
<b>Total provision for impairment - receivables</b>	<b>(177)</b>	<b>(588)</b>
<b>Total current receivables</b>	<b>22,970</b>	<b>13,740</b>

#### Accounting policies

##### Grouping

When Council has no reasonable expectation of recovering an amount owed by a debtor, and has ceased enforcement activity, the debt is written-off by directly reducing the receivable against the loss allowance. If the amount of debt written off exceeds the loss allowance, the excess is recognised as an impairment loss.

Council has identified 8 distinctive groupings of its receivables: Rates and Charges, Rates and Charges - Other, Grants, Main Roads, Gas, Statutory Charges, Resource Sector and Other Receivables and relevant judgements in relation to expected credit loss has been made for each for each group.

*Rates and Charges and Rates and Charges - Other:* Council is empowered under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 to sell an owner's property to recover outstanding rates and charges debts. This results in immaterial Expected Credit Losses (ECL). As a general rule, Council does not impair rates and charges. Council will impair a specific category of rates and charges if arrears are deemed to be greater than the proceeds Council would likely receive from the sale of the respective property.

*Grants:* payable by State and Commonwealth governments and their agencies. A credit enhancement exists as these payments are effectively government guaranteed and both the State and Commonwealth governments have high credit ratings. Accordingly, Council determines the level of credit risk exposure to be immaterial. Council does not calculate an Expected Credit Loss for this group.

*Main Roads* are construction and maintenance works which Council undertakes on behalf of the State Government. These projects are considered to have a low expected credit loss probability due to the high credit worthiness of the third party. Accordingly, Council determines the level of credit risk exposure to be immaterial.

*Statutory Charges* include infringement notices for penalty offences including failure to contain animals, failure to keep a property in a reasonable condition, failure to comply with conditions etc. Infringements have a high risk of loss with the expected loss being based on historical information and current receivables.

*Gas Sales:* These are outstanding balances in relation to the provision and delivery of gas to residential, commercial and industrial customers. Council recognises impairment on these sales based on historical analysis.



## Western Downs Regional Council

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 11. Receivables (continued)

*Resource Sector* relates to funding agreed to be provided to improve or construct Council owned capital infrastructure (mostly roads) or works completed by Council for resource sector companies. Council has determined the level of credit risk to be immaterial based on the low risk associated with the other parties.

*Other Receivables:* Council identifies other receivables as receivables which do not fall into any of the other seven categories. Expected credit losses have been calculated using assessments on historical information and current market trends.

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
<b>Movement in accumulated impairment losses is as follows:</b>		
Opening balance at 1 July	(588)	(878)
Add		
Additional impairments recognised	(68)	(252)
Less		
Impairment debts written off during the year	68	539
Impairments reversed	411	3
<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>(177)</b>	<b>(588)</b>

*Expected credit loss assessment*

The Council uses an allowance matrix to measure the expected credit losses of trade receivables from individual customers, which comprise a very large number of small balances.

Loss rates are calculated using a 'roll rate' method based on the probability of a receivable progressing through successive stages of delinquency to write-off.

After reviewing macro economic conditions, Council concluded that forward looking conditions indicated no foreseeable expected deviations from historically calculated probabilities, thus no forward looking adjustments have been made.

**End of period expected credit losses on outstanding receivables**

All amounts that were written off during the reporting period are no longer subject to enforcement activity.

#### Note 12. Inventories

Costs are assigned on the basis of weighted average cost.

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
<b>Current Inventories</b>		
<b>(a) Inventories held for distribution</b>		
Quarry and road materials	2,341	2,381
Stores and materials	2,297	2,432
	4,638	4,813
<b>Total current inventories</b>	<b>4,638</b>	<b>4,813</b>

# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 13. Other financial assets

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
<b>Non-current</b>			
QIC Investments		114,125	–
<b>Total non-current other financial assets</b>		<u>114,125</u>	<u>–</u>

Council carries its investments with Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC) at fair value through profit and loss (FVTPL) under AASB 9 *Financial Instruments*.

In 2024, Council invested funds with QIC in both a short-term Income Fund and a Long-Term Diversified Fund. Council has elected to measure the investments at FVTPL based on the net asset value of the investment as provided by QIC Limited at the reporting date. The fair value hierarchy for these investments is level 2 due to the value being substantially based on inputs that are either directly or indirectly observable.

### Note 14. Non-current assets Held for Sale

#### (i) Non-current assets and disposal group assets

##### Current

##### Non-current assets held for sale

Land	–	206
<u>Total non-current assets held for sale</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>206</u>

#### (ii) Details of assets and disposal groups

#### (iii) Reconciliation of non-current assets held for sale and disposal groups

##### Assets held for sale

Opening balance		206	499
less: carrying value of assets/operations sold	5	(44)	(313)
less: assets no longer classified as held for sale		(162)	–
<b>plus new transfer in:</b>			
Assets held for sale from property, plant and equipment	15	5,848	20
<b>less impairment losses:</b>			
Assets held for sale - losses on reclassification		(5,848)	–
<b>Closing balance of held for sale non-current assets and operations</b>		<u>–</u>	<u>206</u>



## Western Downs Regional Council

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

#### Note 15. Property, plant and equipment

2024	Fair value category	Land \$ '000	Site improve- ments		Buildings \$ '000	Plant and equipment \$ '000	Furniture and fittings \$ '000	Road and bridge network \$ '000	Water \$ '000	Sewerage \$ '000	Stormwater \$ '000	Gas infras- tructure \$ '000	Heritage assets \$ '000	Works in progress \$ '000	Total \$ '000		
			Fair Value \$ '000	Fair Value \$ '000												Cost \$ '000	Fair Value \$ '000
Fair value category Measurement basis	Opening gross balance	35,664	53,162	202,076	81,240	483	1,467,074	291,481	202,796	75,627	18,382	14,545	94,087	2,536,617			
	Additions - new	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	88,334	88,334			
	Disposals	(625)	—	—	(5,026)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(5,651)			
	Write-offs	—	(2,256)	(4,178)	(51)	—	(13,309)	(36)	(956)	(102)	—	(77)	—	(20,965)			
	Revaluation decrements to equity (ARS)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(37)	—	(37)			
	Revaluation increments to equity (ARS)	4,812	27,882	2,806	—	—	32,073	10,237	7,485	2,459	512	—	—	88,266			
	Work in progress transfers	201	14,036	13,413	10,099	14	22,403	2,600	1,344	563	15	—	(64,688)	—			
	Transfers from/(to) held for sale category	(377)	—	(7,660)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(8,037)			
	Transfers from/(to) Intangible Assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	Adjustments and other transfers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	83	83		
	Total gross value of property, plant and equipment	39,675	92,824	206,457	86,261	497	1,508,241	304,282	210,669	78,547	18,909	14,431	117,816	2,678,609			
	Opening accumulated depreciation and impairment	—	25,496	86,879	41,276	309	462,956	128,734	74,436	23,416	7,078	8,715	—	859,295			
	Depreciation expense	—	2,076	4,647	4,995	48	27,515	5,578	2,818	765	317	—	—	48,759			
	Depreciation on disposals	—	—	—	(3,713)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(3,713)		
	Depreciation on write-offs	—	(406)	(1,196)	(14)	—	(7,307)	(18)	(905)	(35)	—	(46)	—	(9,927)			
Revaluation decrements to equity (ARS)	—	10,566	—	—	—	—	4,658	2,864	770	203	—	—	19,061				
Revaluation increments to equity (ARS)	—	—	(12,348)	—	—	(6,947)	—	—	—	—	(979)	—	(20,274)				
Transfers from/(to) held for sale category	—	—	(2,351)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(2,351)				
Transfers from/(to) intangible assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Adjustments and other transfers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Total accumulated depreciation and impairment of property, plant and equipment	—	37,732	75,631	42,544	357	476,217	138,952	79,213	24,916	7,598	7,690	—	890,850				
Total net book value of property, plant and equipment																	
39,675	55,092	130,826	43,717	140	1,032,024	165,330	131,456	53,631	11,311	6,741	117,816	1,787,759					
Other information																	
Not depreciated	5-150	10-120	3-60	5-10	10-200	10-150	10-180	60-150	10-100	10-100	Not depreciated						
*Asset additions comprise																	
Asset renewals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	76,035				
Other additions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,299				
Total asset additions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	88,334				

continued on next page ...

# Western Downs Regional Council

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

### Note 15. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Fair value category Measurement basis	Land	Site improve- ments		Buildings	Plant and equipment		Furniture and fittings	Road and bridge network Restated		Water	Sewerage		Stormwater		Gas infra- structure		Heritage assets	Works in progress	Total
		\$ '000	\$ '000	Fair Value	Fair Value	Cost	Cost	Fair Value	Cost	Fair Value	Fair Value	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	Fair Value	Fair Value	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
<b>2023</b>																			
Opening gross balance		33,679	48,600	186,557	79,854	622	1,348,711	258,228	180,793	66,963	16,406	13,536	51,083	73,722	2,285,032				
Additions - new		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disposals		(61)	—	—	(2,690)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Write-offs		—	(10)	(110)	(151)	(139)	(7,312)	(946)	(170)	(42)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(2,751)
Revaluation increments to equity (ARS)		2,018	3,150	13,946	—	—	105,054	32,182	21,849	8,252	1,976	1,009	—	—	—	—	—	—	(8,880)
Work in progress transfers		28	1,422	1,663	4,149	—	20,621	2,008	333	454	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	189,436
Transfers from/(to) held for sale category		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transfers from/(to) Intangible Assets		—	—	—	—	78	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(20)
Adjustments and other transfers		—	—	—	—	—	—	9	(9)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	78
<b>Total gross value of property, plant and equipment</b>		<b>35,664</b>	<b>53,162</b>	<b>202,076</b>	<b>81,240</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>1,467,074</b>	<b>291,481</b>	<b>202,796</b>	<b>75,627</b>	<b>18,382</b>	<b>14,545</b>	<b>94,087</b>	<b>2,536,617</b>					
<b>Opening accumulated depreciation and impairment</b>																			
Depreciation expense		—	22,288	76,706	38,764	396	408,499	110,290	64,085	18,856	6,207	8,110	—	—	—	—	—	—	754,181
Depreciation on disposals		—	1,765	4,386	4,467	52	25,600	4,948	2,571	696	298	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44,783
Depreciation on write-offs		—	—	—	(1,905)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1,905)
Revaluation decrements to equity (ARS)		—	(9)	(60)	(64)	(139)	(4,810)	(588)	(70)	(17)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(5,747)
Transfers from/(to) intangible assets		—	1,472	5,847	—	—	33,667	14,078	7,856	3,881	573	605	—	—	—	—	—	—	67,979
Adjustments and other transfers		—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
<b>Total accumulated depreciation and impairment of property, plant and equipment</b>			<b>25,496</b>	<b>86,879</b>	<b>41,276</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>462,956</b>	<b>128,734</b>	<b>74,436</b>	<b>23,416</b>	<b>7,078</b>	<b>8,715</b>							<b>859,295</b>
Total net book value of property, plant and equipment		35,664	27,666	115,197	39,964	174	1,004,118	162,747	128,360	52,211	11,304	5,830	94,087	1,677,322					
<b>Other information</b>																			
Range of estimated useful life (years)	Not depreciated	15-150	10-150	3-60	5-10	10-200	10-150	10-180	60-150	10-100	25-150	depreciated							
<b>*Asset additions comprise</b>																			
Asset renewals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	57,086
Other additions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16,636
<b>Total asset additions</b>																			<b>73,722</b>

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# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 15. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

#### (a) Recognition

The asset capitalisation thresholds for Council are:

	\$
Land	1
Site Improvements	5,000
Buildings	10,000
Plant and equipment	5,000
Furniture and fittings	5,000
Heritage assets	5,000
Road, footpath and bridge network	10,000
Water Infrastructure	10,000
Sewerage Infrastructure	10,000
Stormwater Infrastructure	10,000
Gas Infrastructure	10,000
Intangibles	10,000

#### Land under roads

Land under the roads and reserve land under the *Land Act 1994* or *Land Title Act 1994* is controlled by the Queensland State Government and not recognised in the Council financial statements.

#### (b) Measurement

Property, plant and equipment assets are initially recorded at cost. Subsequently, each class of property, plant and equipment is stated at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment loss.

#### (c) Depreciation

Land, works in progress, certain cultural and heritage assets and road formations are not depreciated.

Depreciation, where applicable, is calculated on a straight-line basis. Management believe that the straight-line basis appropriately reflects the pattern of consumption of all Council assets.

#### (d) Impairment

On 18 January 2024, Council resolved to transfer its community housing assets to Community Housing (Qld) Limited. This resulted in the assets being classified as non-current assets held for sale and consequently impaired under *AASB 5.15* to a value equal to the lower of its carrying amount or its fair value less costs to sell. These assets were impaired to nil and resulted in an impairment loss of \$5.848 million. At 30 June 2024 the assets had not yet been officially transferred and Council continues to earn rental income. Please refer to Note 25 for further details.

#### (e) Valuation

##### Valuation Processes

Council considers the carrying amount of its property, plant and equipment on an annual basis compared to fair value and makes the necessary adjustment where these are materially different. At least once every 3 years, Council performs a full comprehensive revaluation by engaging an external professionally qualified valuer.

In the intervening years, Council undertakes either:

- a management valuation using internal engineers and asset managers to assess the condition and cost assumptions associated with all infrastructure assets and an appropriate cost index for the region; or
- a 'desktop' valuation for land and improvements, buildings and major plant asset classes which involves management providing updated information to the valuer regarding additions, removals and changes in assumptions such as useful

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## Western Downs Regional Council

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 15. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

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life, residual value and condition rating. The valuer then determines suitable indices which are applied to each of these asset classes.

On revaluation, accumulated depreciation is restated proportionately with the change in the carrying amount of the asset and any change in the estimated remaining useful life.

In accordance with AASB 13 fair value measurements are classified into three levels as follows:

**Level 1** - fair value based on quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

**Level 2** - fair value based on inputs that are directly or indirectly observable, such as prices for similar assets, for the asset or liability.

**Level 3** - fair value based on unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

#### **(2) Transfers between level 1 and level 2 fair value hierarchies**

There were no transfers between levels of the hierarchy during the year.



# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 15. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

#### (3) Valuation techniques used to derive level 2 and level 3 fair values

Where Council is unable to derive fair values using quoted market prices of identical assets (i.e., level 1 inputs) Council instead utilises a reasonable spread of both observable inputs (level 2 inputs) and unobservable inputs (level 3 inputs).

The fair value when using level 2 inputs is derived using level 2 market-based evidence which includes observable historical sales data for assets of a similar nature within the Western Downs Regional Council and adjacent areas.

The cost approach is used to determine fair value when using level 3 inputs. This method is based on determining the asset's Replacement Cost of an equivalent asset and then adjusting for the level of remaining service potential.

Asset class and fair value hierarchy	Valuation approach	Last comprehensive valuation date	Valuer engaged	Index applied (change in index recognised this year)
Land (Level 2) 2024: \$10,327k 2023: \$8,213k	Market value	31/03/2024	Australis	N/A

#### Key assumptions and estimates (related data sources)

- Analysis of price movements in local property markets (reviewing recent market transactions),
- Reviewing registered sales from the State Titles Office, and
- Discussions with local agents as well as a review of current property listings.

Land (Level 3) 2024: \$29,347k 2023: \$27,451k	Current replacement cost	31/03/2024	Australis	N/A
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#### Key assumptions and estimates (related data sources)

- Analysis of price movements in local property markets (reviewing recent market transactions),
- Reviewing registered sales from the State Titles Office, and
- Discussions with local agents as well as a review of current property listings, and
- Adjustments based on zoning, land use, discussions with industry experts and professional opinion.

Site improvements (Level 3)	Current replacement cost	31/03/2024	Australis	N/A
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#### Key assumptions and estimates (related data sources)

- Published construction guides,
- Discussions with local suppliers and contractors,
- Recent Council and market construction data,
- A review of consumption patterns and maintenance record analysis, and
- Condition assessments, including the review of useful and remaining useful lives

Heritage Site Improvements (Level 3)	Current replacement cost	31/03/2024	Australis	N/A
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#### Key assumptions and estimates (related data sources)

- Published construction guides,
- Discussions with local suppliers and contractors,
- Recent Council and market construction data,

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# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 15. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Asset class and fair value hierarchy	Valuation approach	Last comprehensive valuation date	Valuer engaged	Index applied (change in index recognised this year)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A review of consumption patterns and maintenance record analysis, and</li> <li>• Condition assessments, including the review of useful and remaining useful lives</li> </ul>				
Heritage Buildings (Level 3)	Current Replacement Cost	31/03/2024	Australis	N/A
<b>Key assumptions and estimates (related data sources)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Published construction guides,</li> <li>• Discussions with local suppliers and contractors,</li> <li>• Recent Council and market construction data,</li> <li>• A review of consumption patterns and maintenance record analysis, and</li> <li>• Condition assessments, including the review of useful and remaining useful life.</li> </ul>				
Market value buildings (Level 2) 2024: \$1,258k 2023: \$4,208k	Market value	31/03/2024	Australis	N/A
<b>Key assumptions and estimates (related data sources)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered sale transactions,</li> <li>• Agent advised sale and lease transactions, and</li> <li>• Recent property listings.</li> </ul>				
Specialised buildings (Level 3) 2024: \$129,568k 2023: \$110,989k	Current replacement cost	31/03/2024	Australis	N/A
<b>Key assumptions and estimates (related data sources)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Published construction guides,</li> <li>• Discussions with local suppliers and contractors,</li> <li>• Recent Council and market construction data,</li> <li>• A review of consumption patterns and maintenance record analysis, and</li> <li>• Condition assessments, including the review of useful and remaining useful lives.</li> </ul>				
Roads, bridges and footpaths network (Level 3)	Current replacement cost	31/03/2024	Shepherd Services	N/A
<b>Key assumptions and estimates (related data sources)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit rates developed from historic construction costs, industry standards and costs from surrounding regional Councils, and</li> <li>• Condition assessments including a review of the assets' useful and remaining useful lives</li> </ul>				

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## Western Downs Regional Council

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 15. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Asset class and fair value hierarchy	Valuation approach	Last comprehensive valuation date	Valuer engaged	Index applied (change in index recognised this year)
Water and sewerage (Level 3)	Current replacement cost	31/03/2022	AssetVal	Between 3.1% and 9.6% based on the asset type.

##### Key assumptions and estimates (related data sources)

- A composite index developed for civil, electrical and mechanical assets by combining and weighting relevant Australian Bureau of statistics indices.

Stormwater and gas (Level 3)	Current replacement cost	31/03/2023	Australis	3.55% (Stormwater) 3.34% (Gas)
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##### Key assumptions and estimates (related data sources)

- Quotes and discussions with local external and internal contractors and suppliers,
- Producer Price Indexes, Wages Index, Engineering and Technical Services Index from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and
- Industry standard resources such as Rawlinson's Construction Handbook.

## Western Downs Regional Council

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 16. Contract balances

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
(a) Contract assets		
Contract assets	7,682	936
<b>Total current contract assets</b>	<b>7,682</b>	<b>936</b>

#### (b) Contract liabilities

Funds received upfront to construct Council controlled assets	11,930	36,999
<b>Total current contract liabilities</b>	<b>11,930</b>	<b>36,999</b>

Council's contract liabilities are a result of funding received to construct assets, such as roads and buildings, where at 30 June 2024 Council had not yet spent the funds. This includes funding programs such as the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and other similar funding initiatives.

#### Revenue recognised that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the year

Funds to construct Council controlled assets	28,927	4,634
<b>Total revenue included in the contract liability</b>	<b>28,927</b>	<b>4,634</b>

#### Satisfaction of contract liabilities

The contract liabilities in relation to capital grants relate to funding received prior to the work being performed since revenue is recognised as Council constructs the assets. Council expects to recognise the contract liability as income in the next year.

#### (c) Significant changes in contract balances

2021-22 saw a large number of natural disasters impact the Western Downs region and as a consequence Council received funding towards the end of the 2023 for reconstruction works. This resulted in a large contract liabilities balance at 30 June 2023 that Council has since earned as the work is completed throughout the 2024 financial year with the remaining income expected to be earned in 2025.

Contract assets have increased as Council has progressed its flood recovery works past the initial up front funding amount and is now eligible to submit progress claims as the works are completed to receive grant funding up to the approved submission amount.



# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 17. Payables

	2024	2023
Notes	\$ '000	\$ '000
Creditors	1,562	1,316
Other entitlements	310	223
Accrued expenses	11,413	10,123
Payments received in advance	4,953	3,573
Accrued wages and salaries	1,251	950
Other	745	750
Total current payables	20,234	16,935
<b>Non-current</b>		
Other	1,757	2,586
Total non-current payables	1,757	2,586

### Note 18. Provisions

#### Long service leave

The provision for long service leave represents the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. The liability is calculated using current pay rates and projected future increases in those rates and includes related employee on-costs. The estimates are adjusted for the probability of the employee remaining in the Council's employment or other associated employment which would result in the Council being required to meet the liability. Adjustments are then made to allow for the proportion of the benefit earned to date, and the result is discounted to present value. The provision is discounted using the Commonwealth Bond yield rates.

Where employees have met the prerequisite length of service and Council does not have an unconditional right to defer this liability beyond 12 months, long service leave is classified as a current liability. Otherwise it is classified as non-current.

#### Refuse dump rehabilitation, aerodrome evaporation ponds, quarry and gravel pit rehabilitation

A provision is made for the cost of rehabilitating refuse dumps, aerodrome evaporation ponds, quarries and gravel pits where it is probable the Council will have an obligation to rehabilitate the sites when the use of the facilities is complete.

The provision for refuse and evaporation pond rehabilitation is calculated as the present value of anticipated future costs associated with the closure of the sites, decontamination and monitoring of historical residues and leaching on these sites. The calculation of this provision requires assumptions such as application of environmental legislation, site closure dates, available technologies and engineering cost estimates. These uncertainties may result in future actual expenditure differing from amounts currently provided. Because of the long-term nature of the liability, the most significant uncertainty in estimating the provision is the costs that will be incurred. The provision recognised for dump sites is reviewed at least annually and updated based on the facts and circumstances available at the time.

The present value of the estimated cost of rehabilitating the refuse disposal site to a useable state at the end of its useful life is \$2,987,116 and is expected to occur over the years 2025 to 2041.

Similarly, the present value of the estimated cost of rehabilitating the evaporation ponds to a useable state at the end of its useful life is \$595,402 and is expected to occur over the years 2025 to 2028.

The provision for quarry and gravel pits rehabilitation represents the present value of the anticipated future costs associated with the closure of the quarries, refilling the basin, and reclamation and rehabilitation of these sites. The calculation of this provision requires assumptions such as application of environmental legislation, site closure dates, available technologies and engineering cost estimates. These uncertainties may result in future actual expenditure differing from amounts currently provided. Because of the long-term nature of the liability, the most significant uncertainty in estimating the provision is the costs that will be incurred. The provision recognised for quarry and gravel pits rehabilitation is reviewed at least annually and updated based on the facts and circumstances available at the time.

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# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 18. Provisions (continued)

The present value of the estimated cost of rehabilitating the quarry site to a useable state at the end of its useful life is \$1,280,816 and is expected to occur over the years 2032 to 2036.

Similarly, the present value of the estimated cost of rehabilitating the gravel pits to a useable state at the end of its useful life is \$1,360,976 and is expected to occur over the years 2025 to 2055.

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
<b>Current</b>			
Annual leave		4,682	4,217
Long service leave		7,612	7,319
Evaporation pond rehabilitation		—	21
Refuse rehabilitation		1,069	425
Gravel pit rehabilitation		132	140
<b>Total current provisions</b>		<b>13,495</b>	<b>12,122</b>
<b>Non-current</b>			
Long service leave		1,620	1,450
Evaporation pond rehabilitation		595	595
Quarry rehabilitation		1,281	1,462
Refuse rehabilitation		1,919	2,450
Gravel pit rehabilitation		1,229	1,516
<b>Total non-current provisions</b>		<b>6,644</b>	<b>7,473</b>

### Details of movements in provisions

#### Long service leave

Balance at beginning of financial year	8,769	8,722
Additional provision	1,457	1,265
Amounts used	(994)	(1,218)
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>	<b>9,232</b>	<b>8,769</b>

#### Quarry rehabilitation

Balance at beginning of financial year	1,462	1,320
Increase in provision due to unwinding of discount	43	50
Increase/(decrease) in provision due to change in discount rate	(201)	129
Increase/(decrease) in estimate of future cost	(23)	(37)
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>	<b>1,281</b>	<b>1,462</b>

## Western Downs Regional Council

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 18. Provisions (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
<b>Refuse rehabilitation</b>		
Balance at beginning of financial year	2,875	3,165
Increase in provision due to unwinding of discount	99	103
Increase/(decrease) in provision due to change in discount rate	(148)	(36)
Increase/(decrease) in provision due to change in restoration year	123	—
Increase/(decrease) in estimate of future cost	39	(357)
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>	<b>2,988</b>	<b>2,875</b>
<b>Gravel Pit rehabilitation</b>		
Balance at beginning of financial year	1,656	1,403
Increase in provision due to unwinding of discount	51	46
Increase/(decrease) in provision due to change in discount rate	(152)	27
Increase/(decrease) in estimate of future cost	(194)	180
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>1,656</b>
<b>Evaporation Pond rehabilitation</b>		
Balance at beginning of financial year	616	567
Increase in provision due to unwinding of discount	18	19
Increase/(decrease) in provision due to change in discount rate	(23)	10
Increase/(decrease) in estimate of future cost	(16)	20
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>616</b>

#### Note 19. Asset revaluation surplus

The asset revaluation surplus comprises revaluation movements on property, plant and equipment. Refer to Note 15.

#### Note 20. Commitments for expenditure

##### (a) Contractual commitments

**Contractual commitments at end of financial year but not recognised in the financial statements are as follows:**

Garbage collection & waste and recycling centers	30,328	14,416
Council enterprise resource planning system	9,174	6,694
Natural gas	4,545	3,003
Cleaning services (regionwide)	5,588	495
Saleyards	4,074	966
Other	29,675	24,563
	<b>83,384</b>	<b>50,137</b>

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## Western Downs Regional Council

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 20. Commitments for expenditure (continued)

	2024	2023
Notes	\$ '000	\$ '000
(b) Capital commitments (exclusive of GST)		
<b>Commitment for the construction of the following assets contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities:</b>		
<b>Property, plant and equipment</b>		
Road, stormwater and bridge network	30,252	11,236
Buildings and Site Improvements	1,704	5,276
Other	2,924	8,441
<b>Total commitments</b>	<b>34,880</b>	<b>24,953</b>
<b>These expenditures are payable as follows:</b>		
Within the next year	81,093	46,831
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	37,171	25,254
<b>Total payable</b>	<b>118,264</b>	<b>72,085</b>

#### Note 21. Contingent liabilities

Details and estimates of maximum amounts of contingent liabilities are as follows:

##### Local Government Mutual

The Council is a member of the local government mutual liability self-insurance pool, LGM Queensland. In the event of the pool being wound up or it is unable to meet its debts as they fall due, the trust deed and rules provide that any accumulated deficit will be met by the individual pool members in the same proportion as their contribution is to the total pool contributions in respect to any year that a deficit arises.

As at 30 June 2024 the financial statements reported an accumulated surplus and it is not anticipated any liability will arise.

##### Local Government Workcare

The Council is a member of the Queensland local government worker's compensation self-insurance scheme, Local Government Workcare. Under this scheme the Council has provided an indemnity towards a bank guarantee to cover bad debts which may remain should the self insurance licence be cancelled and there was insufficient funds available to cover outstanding liabilities. Only the Queensland Government's workers compensation authority may call on any part of the guarantee should the above circumstances arise. The Council's maximum exposure to the bank guarantee is \$1,011,473.30.

# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 22. Superannuation - regional defined benefit fund

Council contributes to the Brighter Super Regional Defined Benefits Fund (the scheme), at the rate of 12% for each permanent employee who is a defined benefit member. This rate is set in accordance with the Brighter Super trust deed and may be varied on the advice of an actuary. The Regional Defined Benefits Fund is a complying superannuation scheme for the purpose of the Commonwealth Superannuation Industry (Supervision) legislation and is also governed by the Local Government Act 2009. The scheme is managed by the Brighter Super trustee.

The scheme is a pooled defined benefit plan and it is not in accordance with the deed to allocate obligations, plan assets and costs at the council level.

Any amount by which the scheme is over or under funded may affect future contribution rate obligations, but has not been recognised as an asset or liability of the council.

Council may be liable to the scheme for a portion of another local governments' obligations should that local government be unable to meet them. However the risk of this occurring is extremely low and in accordance with the Brighter Super trust deed changes to council's obligations will only be made on the advice of an actuary.

The last completed actuarial assessment of the scheme was undertaken as at 1 July 2021. The actuary indicated that "At the valuation date of 1 July 2021, the net assets of the scheme exceeded the vested benefits and the scheme was in a satisfactory financial position as at the valuation date." The Council is not aware of anything that has happened since that time that indicates the assets of the scheme are not sufficient to meet the vested benefits, as at the reporting date.

No changes have been made to prescribed employer contributions which remain at 12% of employee assets and there are no known requirements to change the rate of contributions. The next triennial actuarial review is not due until 1 July 2024.

The most significant risks that may result in Brighter Super increasing the contribution rate, on the advice of the actuary, are:

- Investment risk - The risk that the scheme's investment returns will be lower than assumed and additional contributions are needed to fund the shortfall.
- Salary growth risk - The risk that wages or salaries will rise more rapidly than assumed, increasing vested benefits to be funded.

As Council has 15 employees by headcount that are members of the Scheme, any increase in contributions is likely to be minor.

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Superannuation contributions made to the Regional Defined Benefits Fund		176	246
Other superannuation contributions for employees		5,033	4,732
Balancing Item - requires re-classification of movements above!!		—	—
<b>Total superannuation contributions paid by Council for employees</b>	6	<b>5,209</b>	<b>4,978</b>

# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 23. Reconciliation of net result for the year to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	Notes	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
<b>Net operating result from income statement</b>		35,618	43,560
<b>Non-cash items</b>			
Depreciation and amortisation		48,976	45,069
Impairment of property, plant and equipment		5,848	—
		54,824	45,069
<b>Losses/(gains) recognised on fair value re-measurements through the income statement</b>			
Unwinding of discount rates on reinstatement provisions		(590)	(19)
		(590)	(19)
<b>Investing and development activities</b>			
Net (profit)/loss on disposal of assets		(174)	(186)
Loss on write-off of assets		11,039	3,133
Capital grants and contributions		(50,716)	(25,984)
Contributed Assets		—	(81)
		(39,851)	(23,118)
<b>Changes in operating assets and liabilities:</b>			
(Increase)/decrease in receivables		(8,819)	4,788
Increase/(decrease) in provision for doubtful debts		(411)	(290)
(Increase)/decrease in inventories		175	74
(Increase)/decrease in other assets		(4,880)	—
Increase/(decrease) in payables		246	(7,029)
Increase/(decrease) in employee leave entitlements		928	90
Increase/(decrease) in other provisions		206	173
Increase/(decrease) in other liabilities		2,224	7,768
		(10,331)	5,574
<b>Net cash inflow from operating activities</b>		39,670	71,066



# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 24. Correction of error

#### Nature of prior-period error

During 2023/24, Council identified a prior period error that related to contributed assets (roads) that had commission dates prior to 1 July 2022. As a result, Council had historically understated revenue and property, plant and equipment by \$5,437 million which is the estimated current replacement cost and \$812 thousand which is the estimated accumulated depreciation of the road assets at the time of contribution.

Consequently, to correctly reflect the impacts of the prior period error, Council has retrospectively restated the 2022 financial year. Detail of the adjustments impacting financial statement line items are provided below. Note that Council have deemed the impacts of unrecognised depreciation and prior period valuation uplifts on the affected assets to be immaterial, and have not restated for these. There is therefore no impact to the Statement of Comprehensive Income and the Statement of Cash Flows as a result of the correction of this error. Additionally, Council has not included a third Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2022 as the retrospective restatement is not considered to have a material impact on the financial information in this preceding period.

#### Changes to the opening Statement of Financial Position at 1 July 2022

	Notes	Original Balance 1 July, 2022 \$ '000	Impact Increase/ (decrease) \$ '000	Restated Balance 1 July, 2022 \$ '000
Property, plant and equipment	15	1,526,226	4,625	1,530,851
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>1,783,240</b>	<b>4,625</b>	<b>1,787,865</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>52,171</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>52,171</b>
Retained surplus		996,891	4,625	1,001,516
<b>Total community equity</b>		<b>1,731,069</b>	<b>4,625</b>	<b>1,735,694</b>

#### Adjustments to the comparative figures for the year ended 30 June 2023

##### Statement of Financial Position

	Original Balance 30 June, 2023 \$ '000	Impact Increase/ (decrease) \$ '000	Restated Balance 30 June, 2023 \$ '000
Property, Plant and equipment	1,672,697	4,625	1,677,322
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,972,671</b>	<b>4,625</b>	<b>1,977,296</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>76,585</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>76,585</b>
Retained Surplus	1,040,451	4,625	1,045,076
<b>Total community equity</b>	<b>1,896,086</b>	<b>4,625</b>	<b>1,900,711</b>

### Note 25. Events after the reporting period

As disclosed in Note 15(d), Council had resolved to transfer its community housing assets to Community Housing (QLD) Limited. The transfer of these community housing assets settled subsequent balance date, on 30 September 2024.

There has not been any other event that occurred after the end of the reporting period that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect, the current or future financial results of the Council.

# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 26. Financial instruments and financial risk management

#### (a) Financial assets and financial liabilities

Council has exposure to the following risks arising from financial instruments; (i) market risk, (ii) credit risk and (iii) liquidity risk.

#### Financial risk management

Council is responsible for the establishment and oversight of the risk management framework, together with developing and monitoring risk management policies.

Council's management approves policies for overall risk management, as well as specifically for managing credit, liquidity and market risk.

The Council's risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced, to set appropriate limits and controls and to monitor these risks and adherence against limits. The Council aims to manage volatility to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Council.

Council's audit committee oversees how management monitors compliance with the Council's risk management policies and procedures, and reviews the adequacy of the risk management framework in relation to the risks faced by Council. Council's audit committee is assisted in its oversight role by internal audit. Internal audit undertakes regular reviews of risk management controls and procedures, the results of which are reported to the audit committee.

Council does not enter into derivatives.

#### Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss if a counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations. These obligations arise principally from the Council's investments and receivables from customers.

Exposure to credit risk is managed through regular analysis of credit counterparty ability to meet payment obligations. The carrying amount of financial assets represents the maximum credit exposure.

Investments in financial instruments are required to be made with Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) or similar State/Commonwealth bodies or financial institutions in Australia, in line with the requirements of the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982. Council only invests in financial institutions that have an equivalent Standard and Poor's long term rating of A with a neutral outlook or better.

No collateral is held as security relating to the financial assets held by the Council. At times, Council may hold collateral depending on the assessment of risk associated with that counterparty.

The carrying amounts of financial assets at the end of the reporting period represent the maximum exposure to credit risk for the Council.

#### Cash and cash equivalents

The Council may be exposed to credit risk through its investments in the QTC Cash Fund.

The QTC Cash Fund is an asset management portfolio that invests with a wide range of high credit rated counterparties. Deposits with the QTC cash fund are capital guaranteed by the State of Queensland.

#### Other fund investments

Council has invested in the QIC Short and Long Term Diversified Fund. The fund is managed to a Strategic Asset Allocation portfolio which allocates investments in global equities, fixed interest financial instruments, a diverse range of asset classes and foreign currency. Council may be exposed to credit risk through this investment.

#### Receivables

In the case of rates and some utility receivables, the Council has the power to sell the property to recover any defaulted amounts and therefore generally for rates debtors the credit risk is low. However, in certain instances, Council will create a doubtful debt provision for properties with overdue rates and charges, if analysis indicates the amount recoverable by way of sale is likely to be less than the rates and charges (including interest and legal costs) outstanding.

# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 26. Financial instruments and financial risk management (continued)

In other cases, the Council assesses the credit risk before providing goods or services and applies normal business credit protection procedures to minimise the risk.

By the nature of the Council's operations, there is a geographical concentration of risk in the Council area. There is also a concentration of risk in the agricultural and resource sectors.

Council will, where it believes it to be appropriate, require collateral in respect of trade and other receivables.

The exposure to credit risk for trade receivables by type of counterparty was as follows:

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Rates and charges	6,559	6,368
Rates and charges - other*	—	699
Gas sales	76	85
Statutory charges	268	285
GST recoverable	695	1,055
Grant funding	40	—
Main roads	1,849	—
Resource sector	4,198	816
Sundry	6,653	2,852
Prepayments	2,181	1,653
Gas charges not yet levied	628	515
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,147</b>	<b>14,328</b>

Refer to Note 11 for further details.

\* Rates and Charges - Other relates to properties which Council considers that the proceeds through sale of land would not cover the outstanding rates and charges.

When Council has no reasonable expectation of recovering an amount owned by a debtor, and has ceased enforcement activity, the debt is written-off by directly reducing the receivable against the loss allowance. If the amount of debt written off exceeds the loss allowance, the excess is recognised as an impairment loss.

Accounting for impairment losses is dependent upon the individual group of receivables subject to impairment. The loss allowance for grouped receivables reflects lifetime expected credit losses (ECL) and incorporates reasonable and supportable forward-looking information. Economic changes impacting debtors, and relevant industry data form part of the impairment assessment.

### Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Council will encounter difficulty in meeting the obligations associated with its financial liabilities that are settled by delivering cash or another financial asset.

The Council's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure, as far as possible, that it will have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they are due, under both normal and stressed conditions, without incurring unacceptable losses or risking damage to the Council's reputation.

### Exposure to liquidity risk

Council is exposed to liquidity risk through its normal course of business.

The Council manages its exposure to liquidity risk by maintaining sufficient cash deposits to cater for unexpected volatility in cash flows.

Council does not have an overdraft facility (2023: nil)

continued on next page ...

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## Western Downs Regional Council

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 26. Financial instruments and financial risk management (continued)

	0 to 1 year \$ '000	1 to 5 years \$ '000	Over 5 years \$ '000	Total contractual cash flows* \$ '000	Carrying amount \$ '000
<b>2024</b>					
Trade and other payables	14,536	745	—	15,281	20,234
Lease liabilities	104	220	2	326	300
	<u>14,640</u>	<u>965</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>15,607</u>	<u>20,534</u>
<b>2023</b>					
Trade and other payables	12,389	750	—	13,139	16,712
Lease liabilities	183	288	34	505	470
	<u>12,572</u>	<u>1,038</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>13,644</u>	<u>17,182</u>

\* The contractual cashflows above vary from the carrying amount as they exclude amounts received in advance.

The outflows in the above table are not expected to occur significantly earlier and are not expected to be for significantly different amounts than indicated in the table.

#### Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market indices, such as interest rates, will affect the Council's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments.

##### *Interest rate risk*

The Council is exposed to interest rate risk through investments with Queensland Treasury.

The Council has access to a mix of variable and fixed rate funding options through QTC so that interest rate risk exposure can be minimised.

##### *Sensitivity*

Sensitivity to interest rate movements is shown for variable financial assets and liabilities based on the carrying amount at reporting date.

The Council does not account for any fixed-rate financial assets or financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss, therefore a change in interest rates at the reporting date would not affect profit or loss.

The following interest rate sensitivity analysis depicts what effect a reasonably possible change in interest rates (assumed to be 1%) would have on the profit and equity, based on the carrying values at the end of the reporting period. The calculation assumes that the change in interest rates would be held constant over the period.

	Net carrying amount \$ '000	Net result		Equity	
		1% increase \$ '000	1% decrease \$ '000	1% increase \$ '000	1% decrease \$ '000
<b>2024</b>					
QTC Cash Fund	139,196	1,392	(1,392)	1,392	(1,392)
<b>Net</b>	<u>139,196</u>	<u>1,392</u>	<u>(1,392)</u>	<u>1,392</u>	<u>(1,392)</u>
<b>2023</b>					
QTC Cash Fund	275,052	2,750	(2,750)	2,750	(2,750)
<b>Net</b>	<u>275,052</u>	<u>2,750</u>	<u>(2,750)</u>	<u>2,750</u>	<u>(2,750)</u>

# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 27. National competition policy

#### Business activities to which the code of competitive conduct is applied

Council applies the competitive code of conduct to the following activities:

- Commercial Works
- Waste Management
- Water Services
- Sewerage Services
- Gas Supply
- Quarries
- Washdown Bays
- Dalby Regional Saleyards

This requires the application of full cost pricing, identifying the cost of community service obligations (CSO) and eliminating the advantages and disadvantages of public ownership within that activity. The CSO value is determined by Council, and represents an activities cost(s) which would not be incurred if the primary objective of the activities was to make a profit. The Council provides funding from general revenue to the business activity to cover the cost of providing non-commercial community services or costs deemed to be CSO's by the Council.

#### The following activity statements are for activities subject to the competitive code of conduct:

	Commercial works \$'000	Waste management \$'000	Water services \$'000	Sewerage services \$'000
Revenue for services provided to the Council	-	247	1,225	373
Revenue for services provided to external clients	9,739	8350	13,921	9,257
Community service obligations	-	1,022	2,255	-
	9,739	9,619	17,401	9,630
Less: expenditure	8,834	9,619	17,401	7,350
Surplus	905	-	-	2,280

	Gas supply \$'000	Quarries \$'000	Washdown bays \$'000	Dalby regional saleyards \$'000
Revenue for services provided to the Council	88	7,825	-	-
Revenue for services provided to external clients	3,459	405	749	3,250
Community service obligations	-	-	-	-
	3,547	8,230	749	3,250
Less: expenditure	2,256	8,166	740	2,622
Surplus	1,291	64	9	628

continued on next page ...

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## Western Downs Regional Council

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Note 27. National competition policy (continued)

##### Activities

##### Description of CSO's provided to business activities:

Activities	CSO description	Actual \$'000
Water	To transfer general revenue for the shortfall in revenue.	2,255
Waste Management	To transfer general revenue for the shortfall in revenue.	1,022

#### Note 28. Transactions with related parties

Council has no interests in any subsidiaries.

##### (a) Associates

Council has no interests in any associates.

##### (b) Joint ventures

Council has no interests in any joint ventures.

##### (c) Key management personnel

##### Transactions with key management personnel

Council's key management personnel (KMP) includes the Mayor, Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and some executive management. Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity.

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
<b>The compensation paid to key management personnel comprises:</b>		
Short-term employee benefits	1,992	1,860
Post-employment benefits	216	195
Long-term benefits	89	116
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,297</b>	<b>2,171</b>



# Western Downs Regional Council

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Note 28. Transactions with related parties (continued)

#### (d) Other Related Parties

##### Transactions with other related parties

Other related parties include the close family members of KMP and any entities controlled or jointly controlled by KMP or their close family members.

Details of transactions between Council and other related parties are disclosed below:

	Amount of transactions during year \$ '000
<b>2024</b>	
Employee expenses for close family members of KMP	289
Purchase of materials and services from related parties of KMP	44
	<u>333</u>
<b>2023</b>	
Employee expenses for close family members of KMP	248
Purchase of materials and services from related parties of KMP	46
	<u>294</u>

All close family members of key management personnel were employed through an arm's length process. They are paid in accordance with the Award for the work they perform.

The Council employs 697 staff of which only 3 are close family members of key management personnel.

Council purchased the following material and services from related parties of key management personnel. All purchases were at arm's length and were in the normal course of Council operations.

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Australia Day Materials	1	1
Bus hire	3	4
Art/Artist Performance	1	2
Catering	10	8
Machinery parts	29	31
<b>Total</b>	<u>44</u>	<u>46</u>

#### (e) Transactions with related parties that have not been disclosed

Most of the entities and people that are related parties of Council live and operate within the Western Downs Region.

Therefore, on a regular basis ordinary citizen transactions occur between Council and its related parties.

Some examples include:

- Rates and utility charges
- Dog registrations
- Hire and use of Council facilities

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

# Western Downs Regional Council

## General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

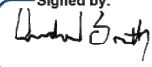
### Management Certificate

for the year ended 30 June 2024

These General Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared pursuant to sections 176 and 177 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the Regulations) and other prescribed requirements.

In accordance with Section 212(5) of the Regulation, we certify that:


- i. the prescribed requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulations 2012* for the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
- ii. the General Purpose Financial Statements, as set out on pages 2 to 47, present a true and fair view, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, of the Council's transactions for the financial year and financial position at the end of the year.

Signed by:  
  
E901FC32C1E64C9...

Cr Andrew Smith

**Mayor**

Date: 11-Oct-2024

DocuSigned by:  
  
E060C22DFA844D5...

Daniel Fletcher

**Acting Chief Executive Officer**

Date: 11-Oct-2024

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the councillors of Western Downs Regional Council

### Report on the audit of the financial report

#### Opinion

I have audited the financial report of Western Downs Regional Council.

The financial report comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the [statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements including material accounting policy information and the certificate given by the Mayor and the Acting Chief Executive Officer.

In my opinion, the financial report:

- a) gives a true and fair view of the council's financial position as at 30 June 2024, and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b) complies with the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Local Government Regulation 2012 and Australian Accounting Standards.

#### Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report** section of my report.

I am independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code and the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### Other information

The councillors are responsible for the other information.

The other information comprises the information included in the entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

At the date of this auditor's report, the available other information in Western Down Regional Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 was the current year financial sustainability statement, current year financial sustainability statement - contextual ratios (unaudited) and unaudited long-term financial sustainability statement.



My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. However, as required by the Local Government Regulation 2012, I have formed a separate opinion on the current year financial sustainability statement.

In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report and my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Responsibilities of the councillors for the financial report**

The councillors are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Local Government Regulation 2012 and Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as the councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The councillors are also responsible for assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is intended to abolish the council or to otherwise cease operations of the council.

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

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

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at:

[https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf)

This description forms part of my auditor's report.

### **Report on other legal and regulatory requirements**

In accordance with s. 40 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009*, for the year ended 30 June 2024:

- a) I received all the information and explanations I required
- b) I consider that, the prescribed requirements in relation to the establishment and keeping of accounts were complied with in all material respects.

### **Prescribed requirements scope**

The prescribed requirements for the establishment and keeping of accounts are contained in the *Local Government Act 2009*, and the Local Government Regulation 2012. The applicable requirements include those for keeping financial records that correctly record and explain the council's transactions and account balances to enable the preparation of a true and fair financial report.



David Adams  
as delegate of the Auditor-General

22 October 2024

Queensland Audit Office  
Brisbane

# Western Downs Regional Council

## General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Current Year Financial Sustainability Statement

	Target Tier 4	Actual 2024	5 Yr Av. 2020-24
--	------------------	----------------	---------------------

#### Audited ratios

Council's performance at 30 June 2024 against key financial ratios and targets.

#### Liquidity

##### 1. Unrestricted cash expense coverage ratio

Total cash and equivalents add current investments add available ongoing QTC working capital limit less externally restricted cash

x 12

>4 mths

**12.8  
months**

**N/A**

Total operating expenditure less depreciation and amortisation less finance costs

The unrestricted cash expense results have met the target.

#### Operating Performance

##### 2. Operating surplus ratio

Operating result

>0%

**0.60%**

**5.52%**

Total operating revenue

The operating surplus ratio results for the 5-year average have met the target.

##### 3. Operating cash ratio

Operating result add depreciation and amortisation add finance costs

>0%

**29.58%**

**33.09%**

Total operating revenue

The operating cash ratio results for the 5-year average have met the target.

#### Asset management

##### 4. Asset sustainability ratio

Capital expenditure on replacement of infrastructure assets (renewals)

>80%

**155.94%**

**89.97%**

Depreciation expenditure on infrastructure assets

The asset sustainability ratio results for the 5-year average have met the target.

##### 5. Asset consumption ratio

Written down replacement cost of depreciable infrastructure assets

>60%

**65.21%**

**67.39%**

Current replacement cost of depreciable infrastructure assets

The asset consumption ratio results for the 5-year average have met the target.

#### Note 1 - basis of preparation

The current year financial sustainability statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Regulation 2012 and the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024. The amounts used to calculate the 6 reported measures are prepared on an accrual basis and are drawn from the council's audited general purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.



## Western Downs Regional Council

### General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Certificate of Accuracy (audited ratios)

This current-year financial sustainability statement has been prepared pursuant to Section 178 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the Regulation).

In accordance with Section 212(5) of the Regulation we certify that this current year financial sustainability statement has been accurately calculated.

Signed by:  
  
F901FC92C1E04C9...  
Cr Andrew Smith  
**Mayor**  
Date: 11-Oct-2024

DocuSigned by:  
  
E000C22DFA844D5...  
Daniel Fletcher  
**Acting Chief Executive Officer**  
Date: 11-Oct-2024

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Councillors of Western Downs Regional Council

### Report on the Current-Year Financial Sustainability Statement

#### Opinion

I have audited the accompanying current year financial sustainability statement of Western Downs Regional Council for the year ended 30 June 2024, comprising the statement, explanatory notes, and the certificate of accuracy given by the Mayor and the Acting Chief Executive Officer.

In accordance with s.212 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, in my opinion, in all material respects, the current year financial sustainability statement of Western Downs Regional Council for the year ended 30 June 2024 has been accurately calculated.

#### Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the current year financial sustainability statement* section of my report.

I am independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the statement in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code and the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### Emphasis of matter – basis of accounting

I draw attention to Note 1 which describes the basis of accounting. The current year financial sustainability statement has been prepared in accordance with the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024 for the purpose of fulfilling the council's reporting responsibilities under the Local Government Regulation 2012. As a result, the statement may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

#### Other Information

The councillors are responsible for the other information.

The other information comprises the information included in the entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 but does not include the financial sustainability statement and our auditor's report thereon.

At the date of this auditor's report, the available other information in Western Down Regional Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 was the general-purpose financial statements, current-year financial sustainability statement - contextual ratios (unaudited), and the unaudited long-term financial sustainability statement.

My opinion on the current year financial sustainability statement does not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. However, as required by the Local Government Regulation 2012, I have formed a separate opinion on the general-purpose financial report.

In connection with my audit of the financial sustainability statement, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial sustainability statement and my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Responsibilities of the councillors for the current year financial sustainability statement**

The councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the current year financial sustainability statement in accordance with the Local Government Regulation 2012. The councillors responsibility also includes such internal control as the councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the statement that is accurately calculated and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the current year financial sustainability statement**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the current year financial sustainability 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 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 statement.

My responsibility does not extend to forming an opinion on the appropriateness or relevance of the reported ratios, nor on the council's future sustainability.

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the 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 appropriateness of material accounting policy information used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the council.



I communicate with the council 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.



David Adams  
as delegate of the Auditor-General

22 October 2024

Queensland Audit Office  
Brisbane

## Western Downs Regional Council

### General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Current Year Financial Sustainability Statement

	Target Tier 4	Actual 2024	5 Yr Av. 2020-24
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#### Contextual ratios (unaudited)

##### Financial Capacity

##### 1. Council controlled revenue

Net rates, levies and charges add fees and charges

Total operating revenue

N/A

69.81%

66.17%

Council controlled revenue results indicate consistent generation of operating revenue.

##### 2. Population growth

Prior year estimated population

Previous year estimated population

-1

N/A

0.31%

0.31%

Population growth results are low but stable.

The Population growth ratio has been calculated using prior year population data in accordance with the Guidance.

##### Note 1 - basis of preparation

The current year financial sustainability statement - Contextual Ratios is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Regulation 2012 and the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024. The amounts used to calculate the 3 reported measures are prepared on an accrual basis and are drawn from the council's audited general purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.

## Western Downs Regional Council

### General Purpose Financial Statements

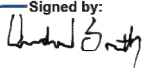
for the year ended 30 June 2024

#### Certificate of Accuracy (contextual ratios - unaudited)

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This current-year financial sustainability statement has been prepared pursuant to Section 178 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the Regulation).

In accordance with Section 212(5) of the Regulation we certify that this current year financial sustainability statement has been accurately calculated.

Signed by:  
  
F901FC32C1E04C9...  
Cr Andrew Smith  
**Mayor**  
Date: 11-Oct-2024

DocuSigned by:  
  
E000C22DFA844D5...  
Daniel Fletcher  
**Acting Chief Executive Officer**  
Date: 11-Oct-2024



# Western Downs Regional Council

## General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Unaudited Long Term Financial Sustainability Statement

	Target 2024	Actual 2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Forecast 2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
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#### Measures of financial sustainability

##### Liquidity

##### 1. Unrestricted cash expense coverage ratio

Total cash and equivalents add current investments add available ongoing QTC working capital limit less externally restricted cash

x 12

Total operating expenditure less depreciation and amortisation less finance costs

Additional Commentary

12.8 months

>4 Mths

3.3 months

2.5 months

3.7 months

4.5 months

5.0 months

5.6 months

7.1 months

7.9 months

The unrestricted cash expense cover ratio is an indicator of the unconstrained liquidity available to a council to meet ongoing and emergent financial demands, which is a key component to solvency. It represents the number of months a council can continue operating based on current monthly expenses.

##### Operating Performance

##### 2. Operating surplus ratio

Operating result

Total operating revenue

>0%

0.60%

1.48%

1.01%

0.60%

0.69%

1.61%

1.93%

3.68%

4.49%

5.28%

6.15%

The operating surplus ratio is an indicator of the extent to which operating revenues generated cover operational expenses. Any operating surplus would be available for capital funding or other purposes.

##### 3. Operating cash ratio

Operating result add depreciation and amortisation add finance costs

Total operating revenue

>0%

29.58%

29.82%

29.64%

29.74%

30.04%

30.84%

30.79%

32.16%

32.77%

33.39%

34.06%

The operating cash ratio is a measure of council's ability to cover its core operational expenses and generate a cash surplus excluding depreciation, amortisation, and finance costs.

continued on next page ...

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## Western Downs Regional Council

### General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Target 2024	Actual 2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Forecast 2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
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#### Asset Management

##### 4. Asset sustainability ratio

Capital expenditure on replacement of infrastructure assets (renewals)

Depreciation expenditure on infrastructure assets	>80%	<b>155.94%</b>	79.59%	95.87%	111.15%	100.77%	78.33%	76.55%	91.14%	89.13%	68.36%	93.05%
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The asset sustainability ratio approximates the extent to which the infrastructure assets managed by a council are being replaced as they reach the end of their useful lives.

##### 5. Asset consumption ratio

Written down replacement cost of depreciable infrastructure assets

Current replacement cost of depreciable infrastructure assets	>60%	<b>65.21%</b>	67.00%	66.60%	67.13%	68.91%	69.35%	69.11%	68.88%	68.92%	68.91%	68.72%
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The asset consumption ratio approximates the extent to which council's infrastructure assets have been consumed compared to what it would cost to build a new asset with the same benefit to the community.

#### Financial Capacity

##### 6. Council controlled revenue

Net rates, levies and charges add fees and charges

Total operating revenue	N/A	<b>69.81%</b>	69.46%	70.49%	71.27%	71.80%	71.92%	71.89%	71.89%	71.92%	71.93%	71.88%
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Council controlled revenue is an indicator of a council's financial flexibility, ability to influence its operating income, and capacity to respond to unexpected financial shocks.

##### 7. Population growth

Prior year estimated population

Previous year estimated population

	N/A	<b>0.31%</b>	0.31%	0.31%	0.31%	0.31%	0.31%	0.31%	0.31%	0.31%	0.31%	0.31%
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Population growth is a key driver of a council's operating income, service needs, and infrastructure requirements into the future.

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# Western Downs Regional Council

## General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Western Downs Regional Council Financial Management Strategy

Council measures revenue and expenditure trends over time as a guide to future requirements and to make decisions about the efficient allocation of resources to ensure the most effective provision of services. Council ensures that its financial management strategy is prudent and that its long-term financial forecast shows a sound financial position whilst also being able to meet the community's current and future needs.



## Western Downs Regional Council

### General Purpose Financial Statements


for the year ended 30 June 2024

### Certificate of Accuracy - Long Term Financial Sustainability Statement

This long-term financial sustainability statement has been prepared pursuant to Section 178 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the Regulation).

In accordance with Section 212(5) of the Regulation we certify that this long-term financial sustainability statement has been accurately calculated.

Signed by:  
  
F901FC3201E04C9...  
Cr Andrew Smith  
Mayor  
Date: 11-Oct-2024

DocuSigned by:  
  
E060C22DFA844D5...  
Daniel Fletcher  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Date: 11-Oct-2024

