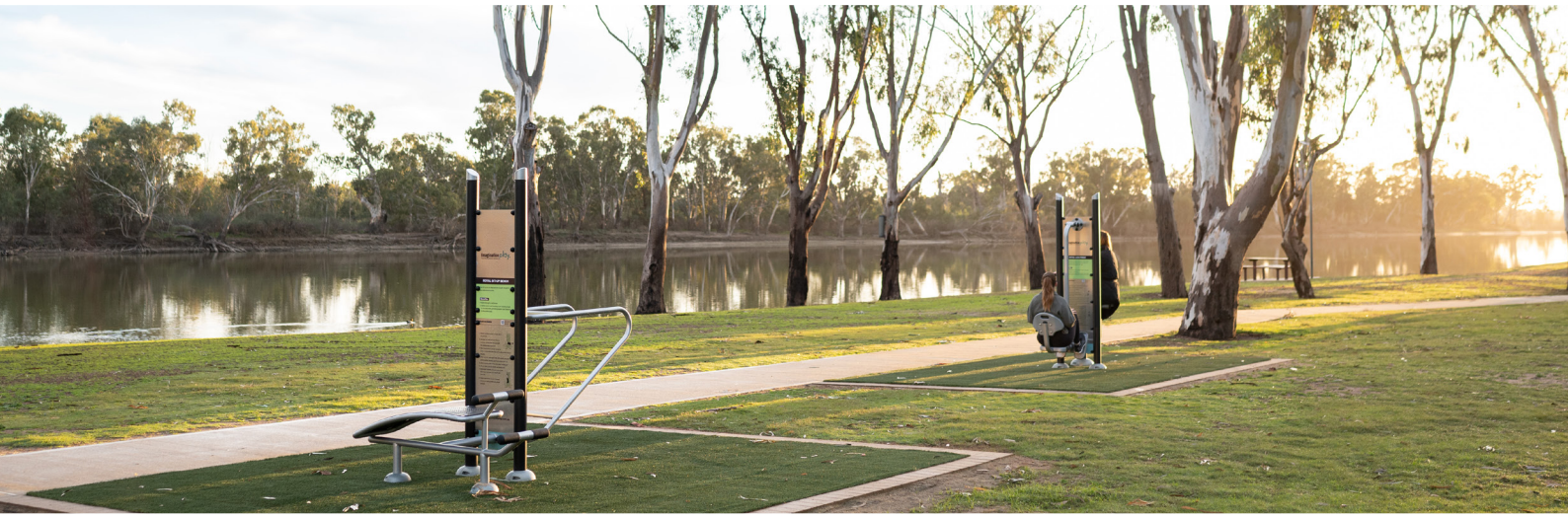
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LOXTON WAIKERIE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



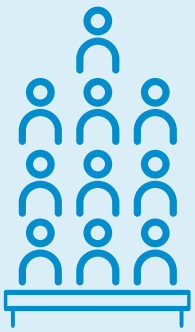




DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF LOXTON WAIKERIE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

COUNCIL INFORMATION SNAPSHOT



Ten Councillors

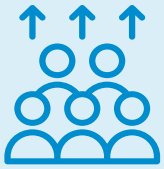


One Mayor
Elected at large

Area
7,763km²



Population
11,949
2024 Estimate



Traditional Owners
Erawirung, Ngawait and Ngaiawang peoples



8,230
rateable properties



551,829ha
agricultural land



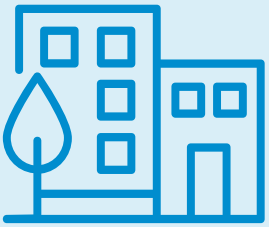
16,146ha
irrigated land



2,306km
of roads



Principal Office
35 Bookpurnong Terrace, Loxton



Waikerie Office
Strangman Road, Waikerie



Postal Address
PO Box 409
Loxton SA 5333



08 8584 8000



council@lwdc.sa.gov.au



lwdc.sa.gov.au



LoxtonWaikerieCouncil



@loxtonwaikeriecouncil



engagement.lwdc.sa.gov.au

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Draft Annual Report 2024-25

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INTRODUCTION



MAYOR'S REPORT

> *The continuation of drought conditions into a third season and ongoing unsustainable wine grape returns, is again testing the resilience of many in our agricultural sector.*

It is pleasing that other commodity producers are faring better and providing some ballast for the region's economy; the diversity of agricultural production in the district is one of our most positive characteristics.

I am continuing to meet and hear from those most affected across the district and can assure you all that the District Council of Loxton Waikerie is doing everything we can to help and support.

As your Mayor, I am also meeting with other levels of Government and their stakeholder departments to advocate on your behalf to make them aware of our circumstances and ways to provide the necessary support. Council CEO, David Beaton, and senior staff are also doing the same.

Council has also tightened its belt focusing on necessary services, building maintenance and upgrades to minimise our 2025-26 rate increase to 2.5% which is in line with current projected CPI increase to our costs.

Even this increase along with increases in cost-of-living can be too great for some families – so we have updated our Rate Hardship Policy to make postponement of rates available without detailed application processes. This is available to primary producers and any other business or people under stress from adverse local conditions. Please check our website for further information or phone the Council office or myself.

A long held conservative history of mainly meeting needs and having very minimal borrowings have placed Council in the best possible position to support our ratepayers.

The drought will end and irrigated primary production will transition but both recoveries will take time and as a community we need to look forward and ahead to better times.

These times are being planned for and are developing and opening as we deal with the challenges of today.

Last year I reported on the $9.2 million grant received by the Loxton Childcare Centre, Woodleigh - construction of this new facility is well underway.

We have also officially opened the refurbished Loxton Institute and the brand-new Waikerie Riverfront Hub, both buildings are community assets that will serve us for generations.

More change is occurring in real time in East Terrace, Loxton, as the long-awaited upgrade to what were very poor public conveniences is underway. The new building and open space will revitalise the main street, providing a town square for all to enjoy.

Council has also assisted the formation of a new group of locals to revitalise the main street in Waikerie and we will continue to upgrade to the Waikerie Institute.

Main streets are a primary location, along with our riverfronts, for locals and visitors and a major strength of our district – they project the character and history of each community.

Moving forward, Council will continue to remain focussed on growth, especially housing for all cohorts and on building partnerships to support the long-term future of the Loxton Waikerie district.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow councillors for their hard work and dedication over the past year. It has been a privilege to work alongside a committed group of individuals as we serve our community.

Additionally, thanks must also go to our Council staff, whose professionalism and commitment are essential in delivering for the community.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support, resilience, and involvement. Together, we have shown that the Loxton Waikerie district is a community that stands strong in the face of adversity while continuing to build for a brighter future.



Trevor Norton
Mayor

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

Elected Member Committee Representation



Left to Right: Cr Michael Vowles, Cr Craig Ferber, Cr Sonia Fowler, Cr Jody Flavel, Cr Kent Andrew, CEO David Beaton, Mayor Trevor Norton, Cr Ian Light, Cr Gary Pfeiler, Cr Michelle Hill, Cr Sonya Altschwager, Cr Clive Matthews

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

Elected Member Committee Representation



Pursuant to Section 41 (6) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Mayor is appointed as ex-officio to all committees established under Section 41 of the said Act.

MAYOR TREVOR NORTON

Council Committees and Working Groups

- Asset Management Committee
- Audit and Risk Committee (proxy)
- Australia Day Selection Panel
- Loxton North Recreation Grounds Committee
- Loxton Recreation Grounds Committee
- Waikerie Ramco Recreation Grounds Committee
- Community Award Assessment Panel
- Sporting and Recreation Facilities Committee

Representative/delegate on External Committees or Working Groups

- Local Government Association of South Australia
- Local Government Finance Authority – AGM Council Representative
- Loxton Health Advisory Council
- Murraylands & Riverland Local Government Association
- Riverland Local Government NRM Advisory Group of the SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board
- South Australian Fruit Fly Standing Committee



DEPUTY MAYOR CR JODY FLAVEL

Council Committees and Working Groups

- Asset Management Committee (chair)
- Audit and Risk Committee
- Loxton Retirement Village Committee (chair)
- Sporting and Recreation Facilities Committee

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

Elected Member Committee Representation



CR SONYA ALTSCHWAGER

Council Committees and Working Groups

- Asset Management Committee
- Loxton Recreation Grounds Committee

Representative/delegate on External Committees or Working Groups

- Loxton High School Council
- Loxton Community Centre
- Loxton Neighbourhood Watch Committee



CR KENT ANDREW

Council Committees and Working Groups

- Asset Management Committee
- Australia Day Selection Panel
- Waikerie Ramco Recreation Grounds Committee



CR CRAIG FERBER

Council Committees and Working Groups

- Audit and Risk Committee
- Asset Management Committee

Representative/delegate on External Committees or Working Groups

- Loxton Chamber of Commerce
- Loxton Health Advisory Council
- Murray Darling Association Region 5 Committee
- Loxton Christmas Lights Committee

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

Elected Member Committee Representation



CR SONIA FOWLER

Council Committees and Working Groups

- Asset Management Committee
- Waikerie Ramco Recreation Grounds Committee
- Community Award Assessment Panel

Representative/delegate on External Committees or Working Groups

- Waikerie Historical Society
- Waikerie Health Advisory Council



CR MICHELLE HILL

Council Committees and Working Groups

- Asset Management Committee
- Australia Day Selection Panel
- Loxton North Recreation Grounds Committee
- The Pines Management Committee
- Sporting and Recreation Facilities Committee

Representative/delegate on External Committees or Working Groups

- Riverland Biosecurity Alliance – Fruit Fly Working Committee
- Riverland Suicide Prevention Network



CR IAN LIGHT

Council Committees and Working Groups

- Asset Management Committee
- Australia Day Selection Panel
- Waikerie Ramco Recreation Grounds Committee

Representative/delegate on External Committees or Working Groups

- Riverland West Chamber of Commerce / Waikerie Business Alliance
- Waikerie Neighbourhood Watch

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

Elected Member Committee Representation



CR CLIVE MATTHEWS

Council Committees and Working Groups

- Asset Management Committee
- Community Award Assessment Panel
- Australia Day Selection Panel
- Waikerie Ramco Recreation Grounds Committee
- Sporting and Recreation Facilities Committee

Representative/delegate on External Committees or Working Groups

- Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association
- Loxton District Landcare
- Waikerie High School
- Waikerie Health Advisory Council



CR GARY PFEILER

Council Committees and Working Groups

- Asset Management Committee
- Loxton North Recreation Grounds Committee
- Sporting and Recreation Facilities Committee
- Riverland Regional Assessment Panel

Representative/delegate on External Committees or Working Groups

- Murray Darling Association Region 5 Committee



CR MICHAEL VOWLES

Council Committees and Working Groups

- Asset Management Committee
- Loxton Retirement Village Committee
- Sporting and Recreation Facilities Committee

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

> *This year has been defined by strong financial stewardship, collaborative leadership, and a clear focus on supporting our community through ongoing cost of living pressures.*

Council has continued to balance responsible asset management with new opportunities, delivering high-quality services and infrastructure while maintaining affordability for our residents. Our achievements reflect not only prudent planning and discipline but also the dedication of our elected members and staff, whose efforts ensure our district remains resilient, welcoming, and well-prepared for the future.

Supporting Our Community Through Cost of Living Pressures

Council has remained acutely aware of the financial challenges facing our residents. In response, we have continued to provide a high level of service while keeping rate increases among the lowest 5% in the state. This has been achieved through prudent financial management and a strong operating surplus, allowing us to absorb cost pressures without compromising service delivery or community outcomes.

Responsible Asset Management

This year, Council has focused on balancing the acquisition of new assets with the ongoing maintenance of existing infrastructure. Our approach has been guided by the principle of intergenerational equity—ensuring that we do not defer today's responsibilities to future generations. We have prioritised what can be afforded now and into the future, aligning our decisions with long-term financial planning and realistic budgeting.

Financial Sustainability

Despite broader economic challenges, Council has achieved an operating surplus and remains in a strong financial position. This has enabled us to maintain affordable rates and continue investing in essential services and infrastructure. Our financial strategy has been underpinned by transparency, accountability, and a commitment to meeting long-term liabilities.

Collaborative Leadership

The achievements of this year are a reflection of the collaborative efforts of our staff and elected members. Together, we have focused on the needs of the district, ensuring that our decisions reflect the priorities of our community. I extend my sincere thanks to the Mayor and elected members for their leadership, vision, and dedication. I also wish to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our staff, whose professionalism and commitment have been instrumental in advancing the wellbeing and prosperity of our community.

Maximising Community Benefit Through Grants

Council has been successful in securing a range of State and Federal government grants, which have allowed us to deliver new projects and services without increasing rates. These programs have enabled us to pivot strategically and maximise community benefit, adding to the social and physical fabric of our district.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the next financial year, Council remains committed to delivering value for our community. We will continue to invest in infrastructure, support local initiatives, and maintain financial discipline. Our focus will remain on building a resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking district that meets the needs of today while preparing for tomorrow.



David Beaton
Chief Executive Officer

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT



DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE

Local Government Act 1999 - Section 41

Council believes strongly in open and accountable local government and has established community-based committees to offer advice and make recommendations under Section 41 of the Local Government Act.

Council is actively working towards structures that facilitate positive community engagement, not just in the form of consultation, but also assisting in the formation of plans and decision making. To date, the assistance of reference and advisory groups has assisted with this process.

Reports and minutes containing recommendations from Section 41 Committees listed below are included in the Council monthly meeting Agenda for consideration and adoption by Elected Members. Agendas and minutes of the committee meetings are also available on the Council website: lwdc.sa.gov.au

Council Officers have delegated authority to make certain decisions under the direction of Council whilst other decisions will be referred to Council. Delegations under various acts of legislation and policies of Council are noted within Council's delegations register.

Council website: lwdc.sa.gov.au

District Council of Loxton Waikerie - Delegation Register

SECTION 41 COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE	PURPOSE OF COMMITTEES
Asset Management	Review Council's asset portfolio to identify opportunities and develop policies to reduce the financial impact on Council's operating position and strengthen its financial sustainability. Investigate consistency in treatment across community groups and sporting organisations and their respective lease and license arrangements. Development and review of Community Land Management Plans.
Audit and Risk	Pursuant to Section 126 (1) of the Local Government Act 1999: A council must have an audit and risk committee. The function of an audit and risk committee include, but are not limited to – the provision of independent assurance, advice, and oversight to Council on matters relating to accounting, financial management, internal controls, audit, legislative compliance, risk management, and good governance and reporting practices.
Loxton North Recreation Grounds	The Committee supports Council with the management and development of Loxton North Recreation Grounds, coordinates community projects, and acts as a liaison between the community and Council for ongoing administration and maintenance.

SECTION 41 COMMITTEES

Loxton Recreation Grounds	Assists Council with the management and development of recreation grounds and facilities within Loxton, offering recommendations for long-term strategy, coordinating community projects, and serving as a liaison between the community and Council for all recreational areas within the Loxton township and its 80 km speed zone.
Loxton Retirement Village	Management of the Loxton Retirement Village by providing services to meet the reasonable expectations of residents and their families; operate consistently with legislative requirements and promotion of the Village as a place of desirable community living.
Sporting and Recreation Facilities	Provides information, advice and recommendations to Council in relation to the breadth of sports, recreation and facility matters throughout the community.
Waikerie Ramco Recreation Grounds Committee	Serves as a link between the community and Council for the management and maintenance of the Waikerie Ramco Recreation Grounds and Cemeteries. It promotes community involvement and helps implement Council strategies and plans relevant to Waikerie and nearby areas.

Other Council Committees, Panels or Working Groups

COMMITTEE	PURPOSE OF COMMITTEES
Australia Day Selection Panel	To consider the nominations received and select the award winners for the Australia Day awards.
Riverland Building Fire Safety (Regional)	Responsible, under the Planning Development & Infrastructure Act 2016, for building fire safety matters.
Riverland Regional Assessment Panel	Pursuant to Section 84(1)(a) and Schedule 8, Clause 13(1)(a) of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016. Responsible for, in accordance with the authority delegated to it by the Act, the assessment of all development applications that are referred to it by an Authorised Council Officer.
Community Award Program Assessment	To advise Council staff regarding assessment of applications/nominations for Community Awards.

Agendas and minutes of committees of Council are available on Council's website: lwdc.sa.gov.au

ALLOWANCES PAID

To Elected Members and Council Committee Members

Elected Members receive an allowance as provided for under the Local Government Act 1999 for discharging their formal duties, which is set by the Remuneration Tribunal and adjusted annually by formula prescribed by the regulations.

ELECTED MEMBERS ALLOWANCES AND BENEFITS	
Mayoral allowance	$66,652.12 *Plus a fully maintained vehicle with limited private use within South Australia*
Deputy Mayoral allowance	$23,410.52
Elected Member allowance	$16,622.91

ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCES PAYABLE	
Chair of standing committees allowance	$205 per meeting $1,234 maximum per annum
For those members (excluding the principal member) whose usual place of residence is at least 30km but less than 50 kms from the principal office. One Member	$496 per annum
For those members (excluding the principal member) whose usual place of residence is located at least 50km but less than 75kms from that Council's principal office. Two Members	$847 per annum
For those members (excluding the principal member) whose usual place of residence is located at least 75km but less than 100kms from that Council's principal office. Three Members	$1,270 per annum
Independent Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee **Independent members (two) sitting fee**	$1,200.00 per meeting $500 per meeting
Riverland Regional Assessment Panel *Note: Shared across the three Councils* *1 January 2024 - 30 June 2024 - BBC Elected Member* **1 July 2024 - 31 December 2025 - DCLW Elected Member**	Independent presiding member sitting fee: $750.00 Independent member (three) sitting fee: $500 Council representative (one), appointed on a rotational basis across the Councils: $350.00

GIFTS TO ELECTED MEMBERS

There were no gifts provided to Elected Members exceeding $50 during the 2024-25 financial year.

TRAINING, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

Training and Development for Elected Members

NAME	DATE	DETAILS
Mayor Trevor Norton (Mayor)	2-5 Jul 2024	Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA2024) Canberra
	16 Aug 2024	Australian Local Government Association Housing Summit
	21 Nov 2024	Locaal Government Association Annual General Meeting and Mayor Forum
	22-23 May 2025	Local Government Association of South Australia Ordinary General Meeting
	24-26 June 2025	Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA2025) Canberra
Cr Jody Flavel (Deputy Mayor)	21 Feb 2025	Deputy Mayor Forum
	24-26 June 2025	Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA2025) Canberra

The following Elected Members did not attend training, seminars or conferences in the 2024-25 period:

- Cr Sonya Altschwager
- Cr Kent Andrew
- Cr Craig Ferber
- Cr Sonia Fowler
- Cr Michelle Hill
- Cr Ian Light
- Cr Clive Matthews
- Cr Gary Pfeiler
- Cr Michael Vowles

Interstate and International Travel - Elected Members

In addition to reporting on attendance at training and seminars and conferences, Council must also include an overview of interstate travel expenses for Elected Members during 2024-25, included below:

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY	DATE	ELECTED MEMBERS	TOTAL COSTS
National General Assembly - Canberra	2-5/07/2024	1	$2,717
National General Assembly - Canberra	24/06/2025	2	$6,103

MEETINGS

Attendance at Council Meetings

Council Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month commencing at 9:00am. Council meetings alternate between Loxton and Waikerie.

Meetings in Loxton are held at The Precinct and meetings in Waikerie were held in the Council Chambers and from January 2025, the Waikerie Riverfront Community Hub. The public are welcome to attend all Council meetings.

Council agendas are available from the Council offices, website and a copy is provided at the Council Meeting for public viewing.

Elected Members also sit on committees of Council and within the community, they are noted within the Annual Report - Elected Member Committee Representation.

COUNCIL MEETING ATTENDANCE SCHEDULE

Elected Members	Ordinary Council Meetings	Special Council Meetings
T Norton (Mayor)	12	1
Cr J Flavel (Deputy Mayor)	12	1
Cr S Altschwager	11	1
Cr K Andrew	12	1
Cr C Ferber	12	1
Cr S Fowler	10	0
Cr M Hill	10	1
Cr I Light	11	1
Cr C Matthews	12	1
Cr G Pfeiler	10	0
Cr M Vowles	11	1
Total Meetings Held	**12**	**1**

MEMBER BEHAVIOUR

During the 2024-25 financial year, there were no contraventions of section 75G (Health and Safety Duties) and 75F (Council Behavioural Support Policies) and therefore no costs were incurred by Council relating to these sections.

One complaint was received alleging failure to comply with sections 75E (Behavioural Standards) resulting in total legal costs of $1,365 for the purpose of dispute resolution. There were no referrals of such complaints to the Behavioural Standards Panel.

DELEGATION REGISTER

Local Government Act 1999

Councils have a range of powers and functions to perform which are conferred under a number of different Acts of Parliament.

Section 44 of the Local Government Act 1999 allows a Council to delegate many of its decision making powers and functions under these Acts.

The primary purpose of delegating powers and functions is to facilitate an efficient and effective organisation by allowing decisions to be made by the staff who carry out day to day operations. The delegations register is available to be viewed on the Council's website.

POLICIES

Policies, codes of practice and codes of conduct are fundamental components of Council's good governance framework.

Council uses them to:

- set direction
- guide decision making by the elected Council and administration; and
- inform the public about how Council will normally act.

Policies and codes are reviewed, as required either by legislation or the direction of Council, firstly by the Policy Review Committee of Council and then referred to Council for consideration. The Policy Review Committee was dissolved in November 2019 and Policies and Codes were referred directly to Council.

Giving effect to policy direction is then the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer and administration, this involves setting clear and detailed procedures to be followed by staff.

In addition to mandatory registers and codes, Council has a number of policies which can be viewed on Council's website.

All policies of Council are available for inspection at the Council offices in Loxton or Waikerie during business hours at no charge. Copies of the policies are also available from Council's website or postal copies may be obtained from the Council offices free of charge

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Local Government (Elections) Act 1999 provides for periodic Local Government elections to be held in November every four years.

The next local government elections will be held in November 2026.

CORPORATE STATEMENT



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM	
Roads (Resheeting) - Re-sheeting as per Council approved work program, including reinstatement of rubble pits.	80% Complete
Plant - Replacement of various plant and fleet items.	90% Complete
Billiatt Road Stage 3 - Final 16kms for Billiat Road. Project includes road shoulder reconstruction, widening and resealing to accommodate GML Road Train and oversized traffic (pending grant funding).	85% Complete
Roads (Reseals) - Resealing road network as per Council approved work program.	Completed
Loxton Retirement Village Unit Refurbishment - General refurbishment and changeover refurbishment of units within the Loxton Retirement Village.	85% Complete
Paisley Boat Ramp - Paisley Boat Ramp upgrade, including pontoon and carpark improvements (pending grant funding).	Carry Forward
Loxton Volunteer Group Sheds - Combined storage and sheds for Loxton service and community groups	10% Complete
Capital Items to Reduce Operating Expenditure - Implementing solar panels, batteries, and automated irrigation to cut electricity costs and enhance efficiency, alongside leveraging grant funding for flood mitigation to achieve multiple goals.	Carry Forward
Waikerie CWMS #6 Chamber Upgrade - Upgrade Waikerie Football Changeroom CWMS Chamber #6.	Completed
Waikerie Civic Centre Upgrades - Re-development costs for improvements to the Waikerie Civic Centre, Office and Library.	10% Complete
Waikerie Institute (Stage 1) - Enhancing functionality of the Waikerie Institute by improving effluent disposal, water supply, kitchen facilities, and upgrades to the staging area.	10% Complete
Loxton Viewing Structure Ground Works - Grounds works to allow for the erection of a viewing structure at the Loxton Oval by the Loxton Football and Sporting Club.	95% Complete
Waikerie Football Club & Riverfront Carpark - Reinstatement of the carpark for Waikerie Football Club and Riverfront.	90% Complete
Loxton North Multi-Purpose Storage & Workshop - Construction of a new shed at Loxton North, including the replacement of the toilet block behind clubrooms.	Carry Forward
Stanley Street Footpath Upgrade - Footpath upgrade on Stanley Street, inclusive of pram ramps with paving and hot mix.	90% Complete
McIntosh Street Footpath Upgrade - Footpath and kerbing upgrade on McIntosh Street surrounding Loxton Bowling Club.	95% Complete
Transfer Station Waste Bin Covers/Shelters - Upgrade transfer station shelters and bin covers at both Loxton and Waikerie sites per EPA requirements.	Carry Forward
Replacement Kerbs and Footpaths - Replacement program for 2024-25 will be based on outcomes from the Road/Footpath Condition Audit.	Completed
Court Replacement Wunkar & Brown's Well - Providing a safe facility for the Brownswell and Wunkar Netball Clubs by replacing deteriorating court surfaces.	Completed

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM	
Business Process Improvement - Improve efficiency for payroll process, plant usage tracking, and work & safety.	Carry Forward
IT Upgrades - Upgrade servers, hardware, improve cyber security and update IT assets.	Completed
Crush Terrace Upgrade (Waikerie) - Upgrade of medium strip along Crush Terrace, in line with White Street & Peake Terrace.	90% Complete
EV Chargers (Loxton) - Installation of EV fast chargers in the Loxton CBD area.	90% Complete
Heritage Park Upgrade - Irrigation, revegetation, beautification of the Loxton Community Conservation and Heritage Park.	90% Complete
CBD Banner Upgrades - Upgrades to Loxton and CBD banners, including new bracket system and updated Council branding.	Completed
Waikerie Cemetery Plinths & Irrigation - New plinths for lawn section 8 at the Waikerie Cemetery, and new and upgraded irrigation.	Completed
Loxton Lutheran School Crossing - Safe school crossing at Loxton Lutheran School.	Carry Forward
Authority Upgrades - Continued development of Council's corporate software.	30% Complete
Moorook Depot Storage Shed - Replacement of existing shed with new shed/ storage container for Moorook Depot.	Completed
Waikerie Institute Chrome Sled Chairs - 200 chrome sled base black chairs for the Waikerie Institute and trolleys.	Completed
Pram Ramps - Continued budget for pram ramp installation across the district.	Completed
Loxton Lions Park - Replacement of BBQ's, old concrete seating, stainless steel top and splashback at Loxton Lions Park.	Completed
White Street Carpark Seat Shading - Shade to be installed over seating at White street Carpark, with structure not disrupting wings mural.	Completed
Paisley BBQ Shelter - Installation of a 4.8 x 4.1 BBQ shelter and table and chairs in Paisley, as well as rehabilitation to the lawn area.	Completed
Paisley Large Riverfront Shelter - Replacement of large riverfront shelter in Paisley (4.5m x 8m).	Completed
Entry to District Signage - Design and replacement of deteriorating entry to district signage (Karoonda Highway, Brown's Well Highway & Sturt Highway, Stanitzki Road).	Completed
Defibrillator Rollout (Stage 1) - Provision of defibrillators at every community building, in accordance with new Government legislation.	Completed
Christmas Wonderland Tables & Chairs - Installation of tables and chairs at Loxton North Christmas Wonderland.	Completed

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

STRATEGIC PROJECTS	
Stormwater Management Plan - Develop a Stormwater Management Plan for Loxton and Waikerie to address flooding issues and future growth.	80% Complete
Arts and Cultural Facilitator and Programming - Continue partnership with Country Arts SA for an Arts and Cultural Facilitator and programming.	Completed
Connected and Active Communities Officer - Connected & Active Communities Project Officer and project support.	Completed
Default Area Speed Limits Investigation - Engage a consultant to undertake an investigation into rural speed limit zoning across the district.	70% Complete
Rally for Riverland - Budget reallocated towards economic development opportunities as this project did not receive equal funding from neighbouring councils.	Completed
Ageing Well Strategy - Engage a consultant to complete a districtwide Ageing Well Strategy for implementation.	Completed
2024 Masters and Junior Road National Championship - Hosting fee for the Masters and Junior Road National Championship to be held at Loxton in September 2024.	Completed
Waikerie Recreation Centre Redevelopment Assessment - Independent assessment for the redevelopment of the Waikerie Sports Centre	80% Complete
Roadside Revegetation (Loxton High School) - Roadside revegetation at the Loxton High School (Tanko Street to Stasinowsky Court).	Completed
Playground Audit - Conduct a playground Audit as per WHS legalisation.	Completed
Loxton North LED Upgrade - Upgrade Loxton North Sporting Complex lighting to LED.	Not Complete
Waikerie Christmas Decorations - Solar lighting, Christmas selfie frame, and multi colour solar fairy lights for Waikerie CBD Christmas displays.	Completed
Waste Education Officer - Support for a Waste Management Education Officer across MRLGA region.	Completed
White Street Carpark Shade Investigation - Undertake design and costings for White Street carpark shade, inclusive of solar panels.	Completed
Tree Planting at Loxton North Oval - Provision of new trees for planting around the perimeter of the Loxton North Sporting Precinct.	Completed

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Local Government Act 1999 requires Council to develop a suite of strategic management plans that enable the delivery of council services and projects, and provide long-term thinking and direction.

The Council's strategic planning process is a comprehensive framework designed to guide its actions and priorities over various time frames, ensuring a holistic and forward-thinking approach to community development.

Council's Strategic Management Plans comprise the Community Strategic Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Plan, Growth Strategy, and the Corporate Plan.

Community Strategic Plan (15 years)

A robust plan that provides 'big picture' direction for achieving the aspirations and goals of the community for the future of the district. This plan forms the basis for the remaining plans in the strategic management plan suite, and guides the preparation of the Annual Business Plan.

Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) (10 years)

Articulates, in financial terms, the initiatives and projects the Council plans to pursue over the forthcoming decade to realise its objectives. The plan guides the future planning of Council's financial operations regarding key components such as rate increases, service levels to our community, and infrastructure asset replacement and renewal.

Asset Management Plan (10 years)

The Asset Management Plan assesses Council's infrastructure assets (buildings, community wastewater management systems (CWMS), stormwater, roads, kerbs and footpaths) across the district, and provides a pathway for sustainable management of these assets over the next 10 years.

Growth Strategy (30 years)

The Growth Strategy describes our plan for how the region should grow to become more liveable, competitive and sustainable. The Strategy specifically informs future rezoning proposals, infrastructure investment decisions, Council's advocacy role in growth management issues, and decisions around the use of community land and assets.

Corporate Plan (3-5 years)

The Corporate Plan assesses the Council's priorities and actions within its current term to achieve the Community Plan's strategies and incorporates operational planning to determine the best course of action based on internal and external factors.

Timeline of implementation

21 AUGUST 2024
The Draft Long Term Financial Plan is endorsed by Council

18 SEPTEMBER 2024
The Draft Asset Management Plan is released for public consultation.

16 OCTOBER 2024
The Draft Asset Management Plan is endorsed after consideration is given to feedback received during public consultation.

ONGOING
Items and projects for action within Council's suite of strategic plans are monitored on an operational level to ensure progress is achieved towards the Council's strategic goals.

COUNCIL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

During the year, Council remained committed to financial prudence and responsibility, focusing on minimising the financial burden of rates while continuing to provide core services to our residents and executing our annual business plan projects.

Council's average rate increase was 3.5% compared with a Consumer Price Index of 4.3%.

Council reported an operating surplus of $1.535m. This result is $1.533m more than Council's adopted budget surplus of $2k.

Council routinely focusses on the underlying result which removes any abnormal income and/or expenditure from the achieved result. Three abnormal items have influenced Council's operating result.

The first impact on Council's performance is the receipt of the Federal Grant Assistance payment. In June 2025, Council received a prepayment for the 2025-26 Federal Assistance allocation.

The second item is a significant increase in depreciation, amounting to $1.380 million.

The third item is an increase in finance costs, resulting from the present value calculation for the new Waikerie Football Club loan.

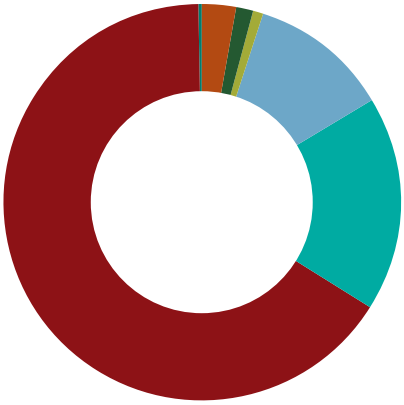
After removing these items from the audited surplus, an adjusted operating surplus of $325k is realised.

The following information highlights key aspects of the full Financial Statements contained in the Annual Report:

- attracted an additional $4.687m in grant funding for new and upgraded to Council infrastructure
- $29.477m in operating revenue.
- $27.942m operating expenditure
- Council's total assets increased by $6.644m with Council's Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment increasing by $11.518m.

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

INCOME	$'000	%
Economic Services	832	2.8
Recreation & Culture	415	1.4
Regulatory Services	254	0.9
Transport	3,359	11.4
Housing & Community Amenities	5,199	17.6
Council Administration	19,350	65.6
Health	68	0.2
Total Income	29,477	



EXPENSES	$'000	%
Economic Services	902	3.2
Recreation & Culture	6,295	22.5
Regulatory Services	1,409	5.0
Transport	7,254	26.0
Housing & Community Amenities	6,033	21.6
Council Administration	5,788	20.7
Health	261	0.9
Total Expenses	27,942	



COUNCIL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Council is required to report on defined Key Performance Indicators (KPI) which measures the impact of the Council's financial performance and position on its long-term sustainability. Council's Long-Term Financial Plan establishes the target for the particular year, combined with target ranges adopted by Council.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	YEAR	RESULT SURPLUS/ STATUS
OPERATING SURPLUS The operating result shows the financial performance of Council by looking at total income less expenses.	2024-25 Adopted Budget	$2,000
	2024-25 Long Term Financial Management Plan Target	$2,000
	2024-25 Financial Result	$1,535,000
	2024-25 Adjusted Result	$325,000
OPERATING SURPLUS RATIO The Operating Surplus Ratio is the operating surplus/(deficit) expressed as a percentage of general and other rates.	2024-25 Adopted Budget	0.01%
	2024-25 Long Term Financial Management Plan Target	0.01%
	2024-25 Financial Result	5.2%
	2024-25 Adjusted Result	1.10%
	Council's target is to achieve, on average over time, an operating surplus ratio of 0%.	
NET FINANCIAL LIABILITIES	2024-25 Adopted Budget	47%
	2024-25 Long Term Financial Management Plan Target	47%
	2024-25 Financial Result	37%
	The Council's and the LGA target is to be greater than zero and less than 100% of total operating revenue.	
ASSET SUSTAINABILITY RATIO (ASSET MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE) Net asset renewal expenditure is defined as net capital expenditures on the renewal and replacement of existing assets and excludes new capital expenditure on the acquisition of additional assets. This ratio indicates whether the Council is renewing or replacing existing assets at the rate of consumption.	2024-25 Adopted Budget	127%
	2024-25 Long Term Financial Management Plan Target	127%
	2024-25 Financial Result	91%
	A long-term average ratio of 100% would indicate that Council is investing adequately in maintaining its asset base. The annual target is between 90–110%.	

RATING AND VALUATION SUMMARY

	RATING COMPONENT	2023-24	2024-25
1	**FIXED CHARGE**	$367	$380
	Amount Total Collection	$2,579,276	$2,692,300
	% of Total Rates	22.3%	22.3%
2	**DIFFERENTIAL RATES**		
	1. In Town	$2,703,206	$2,817,215
	2. Out of Town	$6,101,055	$6,334,406
3	**VALUATION**		
	Rateable Land	$2,982,057,418	$3,328,637,757
	Non Rateable Land	$66,519,422	$72,369,043
	All Land	$3,048,576,840	$3,401,006,800
4	**SEPARATE RATE**		
	Catchment Board Contribution	n/a	n/a
	Catchment/NRM Levy	$547,738	$550,799

VALUATION COMPARISON		2023-24			2024-25		
		PROPERTIES	ASSESSED VALUE ($)	% INCREASE	PROPERTIES	ASSESSED VALUE ($)	% INCREASE
1	**Residential**	4,660	1,382,099,103	11.61	4,739	1,636,065,245	15.52
2	**Commercial**	373	108,040,068	4.76	374	124,523,438	13.24
3	**Industry**	96	40,929,607	12.12	97	45,259,593	9.57
4	**Primary Production**	2,165	1,366,236,449	7.76	2,160	1,428,102,773	4.33
5	**Vacant Land**	602	65,249,700	8.06	599	71,301,000	8.49
6	**Other**	246	19,502,491	10.21	243	23,385,708	16.61
	TOTALS	**8,167**	**2,982,057,418**	**9.52**	**8,212**	**3,328,637,757**	**10.41**

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The District Council of Loxton Waikerie is committed to a policy of equal opportunity in employment. The Council accepts that it has a responsibility to create an environment free from discrimination, and to ensure that the principle of merit operates unhindered by regard to irrelevant criteria.

Allowances Paid to Executive Staff

EXECUTIVE STAFF	SALARY RANGE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) (1 Male)	Band 7 $235,040 to $270,504
SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM (2 Female, 2 Male) • Director Infrastructure Services • Director Commercial & Community Services • Manager Environmental Services • Chief Finance Officer	Range $130,493 to $165,433
PROJECT MANAGER (1 Male)	$149,349

Each member of the Senior Management Team's salary package includes 11.5% superannuation and the provision for a motor vehicle for unrestricted private use.

Benefits available to the senior management team may include the reimbursement of telephone expenses and the payment of memberships to professional bodies. No additional bonuses are payable.

Interstate and International Travel - Employees

Council is committed to assisting staff to achieve their potential within the organisation by providing training opportunities to increase skills and knowledge relevant to their roles and consistent with the core values of Council.

Requests to attend courses and conferences must be submitted in accordance with Council policy.

Below are the interstate travel expenses for Council employees in 2024-25:

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY	DATE	EMPLOYEES	TOTAL COSTS
2024 National General Assembly - Canberra	01/07/2024	1	$3,146
National Local Roads & Transport Congress - Margaret River	03/12/2024	1	$2,608
2025 National General Assembly - Canberra	24/06/2025	1	$3,096

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Award and Enterprise Agreements

The Australian Workers Union Enterprise Bargaining Agreement No.13 is in place until 30 June 2025, negotiations commenced early 2025.

The Australian Services Union Enterprise Bargaining Agreement No.14 is in place until the 30 June 2026.

These agreements vary the wage and conditions of the Local Government Employees Award and the South Australian Municipal Salaried Officers Award to be organisation specific.

Employee Matters

On 30 June 2025 Council employed 93 staff equalling 81.15 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions, this includes the Connected & Active Communities Project Officer role which is a grant funded position shared across the 3 Riverland Councils, and 2 employees who commenced leave to retirement plans.

At the end of the financial year there were two vacancies.

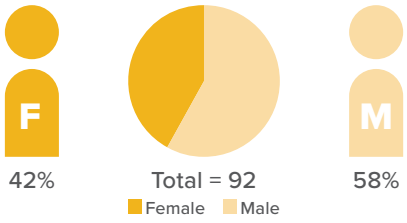
The total number of new employees engaged in 2024-25 was 6, which included vacancies carried over from 2023-24.

The total number of employees that left Council in 2024-25 was 6, which is below average in comparison to previous years.

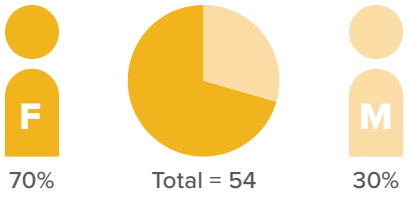
On behalf of the Council and the community, we wish them all the very best for the future.

EMPLOYEE DEMOGRAPHICS

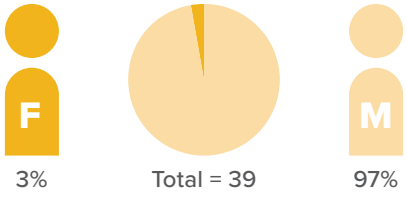
Total Workforce



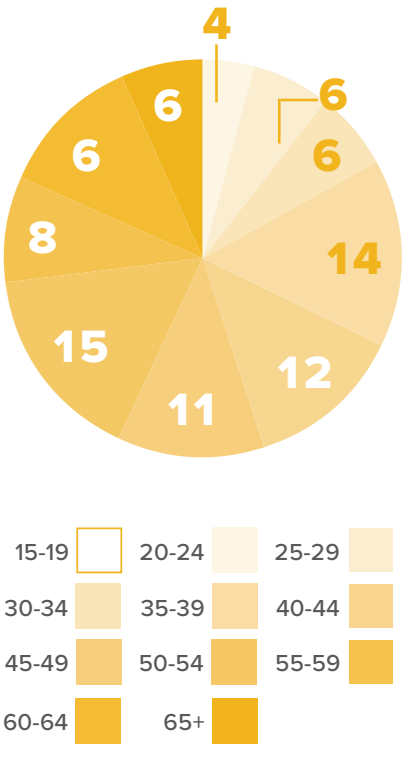
Indoor (SAMSOA)



Outdoor (LGE) Workforce



Age Profile



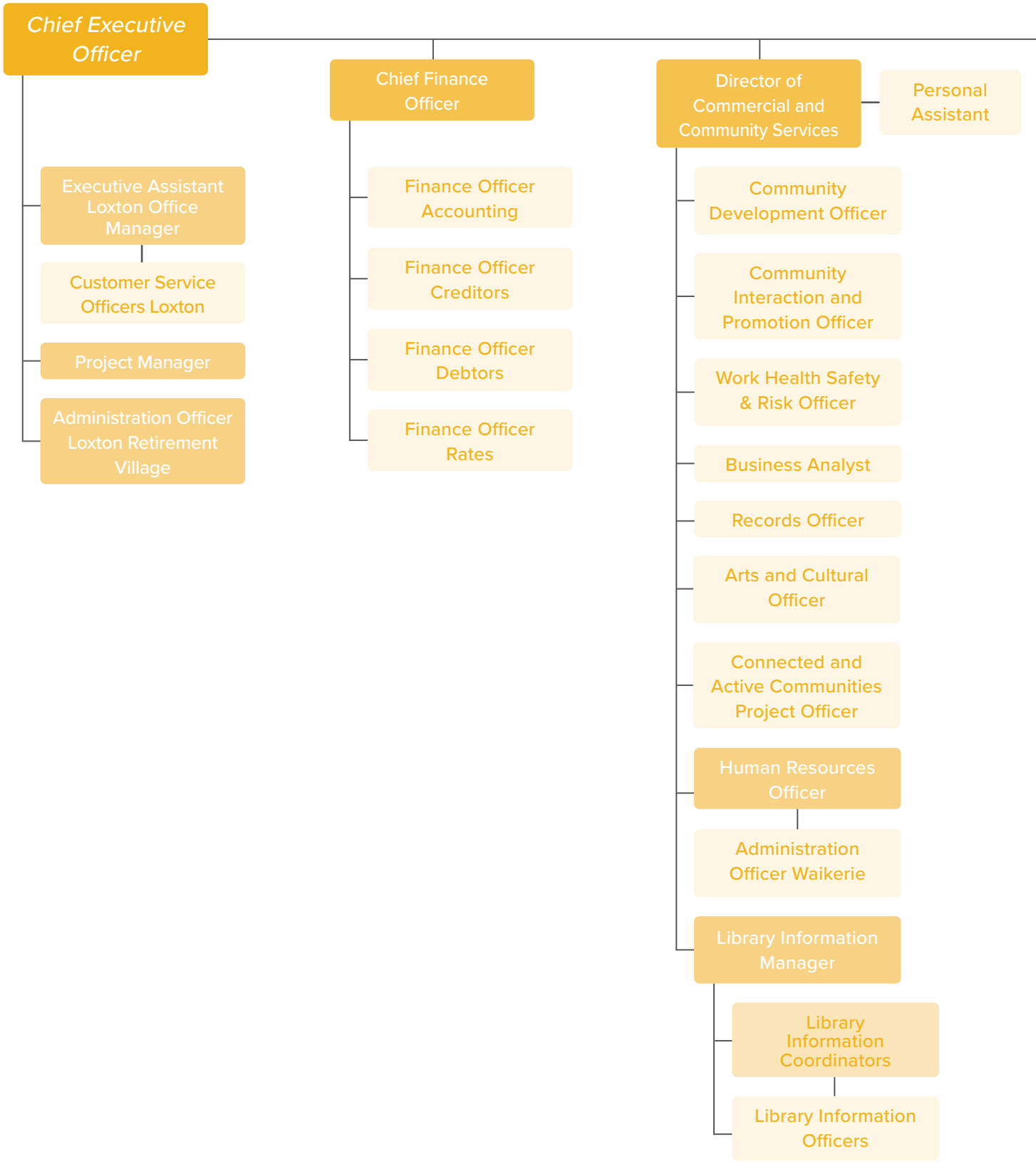
Gifts to Employees

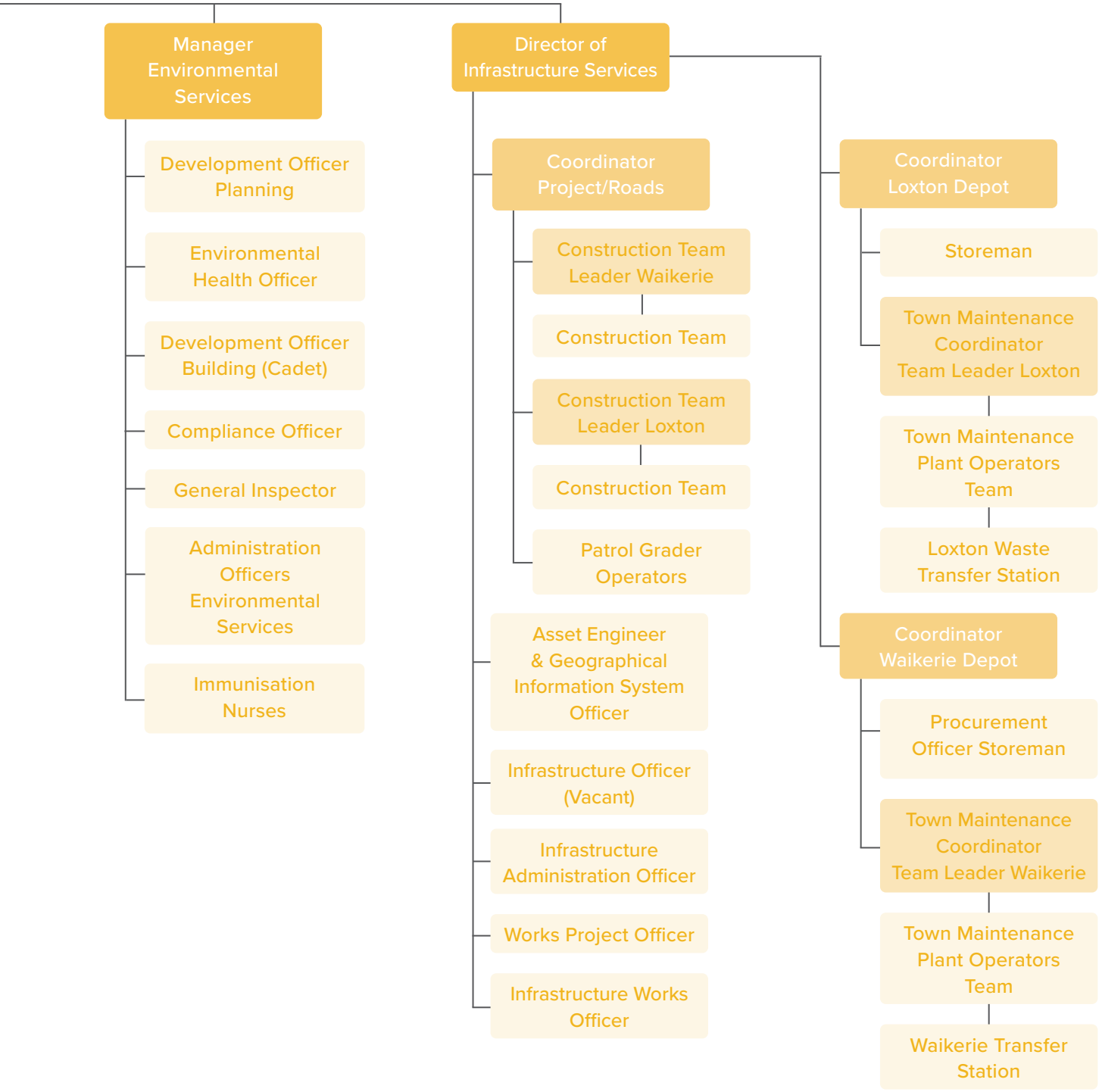
The following gifts to elected members (valued at over $50) were funded by the Council during the 2024-25 financial year:

GIFTS FUNDED BY COUNCIL	EMPLOYEES	TOTAL COST
Recognition of service upon resignation	2	$630

STAFF ORGANISATIONAL CHART

As at 30 June 2025




Manager Environmental Services
Development Officer Planning
Environmental Health Officer
Development Officer Building (Cadet)
Compliance Officer
General Inspector
Administration Officers Environmental Services
Immunisation Nurses
Director of Infrastructure Services
Coordinator Project/Roads
Construction Team Leader Waikerie
Construction Team
Construction Team Leader Loxton
Construction Team
Patrol Grader Operators
Asset Engineer & Geographical Information System Officer
Infrastructure Officer (Vacant)
Infrastructure Administration Officer
Works Project Officer
Infrastructure Works Officer
Coordinator Loxton Depot
Storeman
Town Maintenance Coordinator Team Leader Loxton
Town Maintenance Plant Operators Team
Loxton Waste Transfer Station
Coordinator Waikerie Depot
Procurement Officer Storeman
Town Maintenance Coordinator Team Leader Waikerie
Town Maintenance Plant Operators Team
Waikerie Transfer Station

RISK, WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and Safety in the Workplace

Council continues to remain committed to fostering a workplace culture that prioritises health, safety, and wellbeing. As a self-insured employer, our objectives align with the Return to Work Performance Standards for Self-Insurers (PSSI) and are integrated into our broader strategic and operational planning.

In 2024–2025, Council prioritised:

- Maintaining low workplace incident rates down 57% from 23/24.
- Enhancing WHS compliance through improved systems and procedures
- Ensuring a safe, healthy environment for staff, contractors, and volunteers
- Conducting regular safety inspections and audits
- Collaborating with the Local Government Regional Safety Advisor and neighbouring councils to strengthen WHS systems
- Participating in Local Government Workers Compensation Scheme (LGAWCS) - led programs and initiatives for continuous improvement
- Keeping documentation and safety registers current and accessible
- Reviewing and refining procurement processes to ensure WHS remains a key consideration
- Further development of our Operational and Strategic Risk Registers

Employee Wellbeing Initiatives

Through our involvement in the LGA Workers Compensation Scheme's Health and Wellbeing Program, delivered in partnership with the Corporate Health Group, staff continued to access a range of preventative health services, including:

- Annual health checks via the Healthy Lifestyle Program
- Mental health awareness sessions
- Skin cancer screenings

Council also provided seasonal flu vaccinations at both the Loxton and Waikerie offices, with strong uptake. Infrastructure staff were additionally offered Hepatitis A and B vaccinations.

Training, Awareness and Capability Building

Council's onboarding process includes a structured induction to ensure new staff understand their WHS responsibilities and Council's systems and policies. This includes:

- Corporate Induction
- WHS Induction

Ongoing training was also delivered to relevant staff to support compliance and safety awareness, covering areas such as:

- First Aid
- Workzone Traffic Management
- Emergency Warden
- Risk Management Training
- Health and Safety Representative (HSR) training
- White Card (Construction Induction)
- Asbestos Awareness
- ChemCert (chemical safety)
- Accident and incident investigation
- Return to Work and rehabilitation processes
- ICAC responsibilities for public officers
- Code of Conduct
- Child protection – Mandatory Reporting
- I-Responda (emergency response preparedness)
- Relevant plant and machinery tickets



RISK, WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

Work Health Safety and Risk Committee

The WHS and Risk Committee, comprising equal representation from management and staff, met quarterly throughout the year. The Committee plays a critical role in identifying issues, recommending improvements, and ensuring WHS policies and procedures remain practical, effective, and relevant.

Injury Management

Council's WHS and Injury Management Plan supports continuous improvement by identifying key risks and setting measurable targets. The Plan ensures we meet compliance requirements while improving the consistency and effectiveness of WHS practices across the organisation.

Business Continuity Management

In 2024, Council began a comprehensive review of its Business Continuity Plan to ensure it remains current, effective, and aligned with the organisation's critical service delivery needs. This review is focused on strengthening Council's preparedness for disruptions by updating roles, priorities, and recovery procedures in line with evolving risks and operational requirements.

Scheduled to be updated by October 2025, the Plan will provide clear guidance on maintaining essential services and supporting efficient recovery in the event of an emergency, enhancing Council's overall resilience and capacity to serve the community during challenging circumstances.



INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT



ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Council has a total road network of 2,306kms to maintain. This includes 1,873km of unsealed roads and 433km of sealed roads.

RE-SHEETING

Each financial year Council identifies roads from the Asset Management Plan for re-sheeting whereby the crushed rock which has been lost over the years of use due to vehicle traffic is replaced. In the 2024-25 financial year Council completed upgrades to Schubert Road, Crase Road, Bruce Road, Eustice Road, Notts Well Road and Denbow Road.

ROAD SEALING

Council resealed a number of roads throughout the district consistent with Council's 20 year construction and maintenance program from the Roads Infrastructure Asset Management Plan.

- Badcoe Road
- Balfour Ogilvy Road
- Burrows Road
- Century Boulevard
- Edward Road
- Holder Top Road
- Edward Road
- Grant Schubert Drive
- Hardy Road
- Kenna Road
- Perry Road
- West Road
- Strangman Road
- Fitzgerald Road
- DeVito Drive

PLAYFORD ROAD

Playford Road is a gazetted Higher Mass Limits (HML) 26m B-double route servicing a heavily developed horticultural region, predominantly focused on citrus and viticulture. Due to the frequent use by heavy vehicles and agricultural machinery, the existing sealed road width had proven inadequate, leading to progressive edge break and shoulder drop-off over time.

Current road design standards recommend that collector roads accommodating B-double HML traffic be sealed to a minimum width of 7.2 metres, including clearly marked edge lines. This standard is intended to enhance road safety for both heavy vehicles and general commuter traffic, while also reducing ongoing maintenance costs caused by shoulder wear and edge failures.

To address these issues council completed the following upgrades to Playford Road:

- Shoulder reconstruction
- Road widening
- Sealing of shoulders

These upgrades will significantly improve safety and long-term durability of Playford Road.





ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

BILLIATT ROAD

Council successfully secured $993,000 in funding to complete Stage 3 of the Billiatt Road reconstruction under the Special Local Roads Program (SLRP), provided by the Federal Government. Unique to South Australia, the program supports the delivery of high-priority infrastructure projects that would typically exceed the capacity of individual councils. This round saw a total of $17.9 million directed towards regional and rural roads, with an additional $3.8 million allocated to metropolitan projects.

Billiatt Road is a key route, serving as a major link from Lameroo and the Murraylands to the Riverland, as well as being an important tourism corridor. The upgrades aim to improve the road's capacity, especially to accommodate the increasing traffic, including road trains. These improvements include the widening and sealing of the road from 6.2 metres to 7.6 metres, ensuring it can handle the growing demands placed on it.

Stage 1 and 2 of the upgrades, which began in 2023, focused on the sealing and widening of a 10km stretch starting from Alawoona, followed by another 10km stretch. The current Stage 3 will address a further 10km, bringing the total completed to 30km. The remaining 6km will be the focus of future funding rounds under the SLRP. Stage 3 is nearing completion, with sealing and line marking scheduled for completion in early 2025/2026.

These upgrades are crucial in enhancing road safety, improving transportation efficiency, and supporting the region's economic growth by making the route safer and more accessible for both local traffic and tourism.



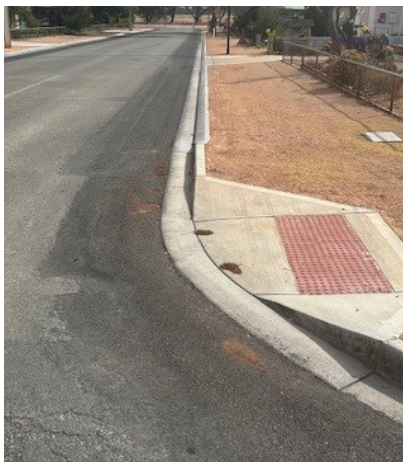


KERBING, FOOTPATHS & PRAM RAMPS

Each year Council allocates funds to upgrade kerbs, footpaths and pram ramps to improve safety and accessibility to town centers, health services and other infrastructure and assets.

With a large footpath network Council has a key focus on upgrades to footpaths and infrastructure that improves safety and accessibility connecting the town centre, health services, schools, lifestyle villages and other infrastructure/assets.

In 2024-25 Council completed upgrades to Drabsch Street kerbing, Nicol Street kerbing and completed the remaining upgrades to Strangman Road footpath. Pram ramps were also replaced in various locations in Loxton and Waikerie.



Nicol Street Kerbing

PROJECTS

WAIKERIE RIVERFRONT EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

Council allocated $30,000 in the 2024-25 Annual Business Plan to relocate existing equipment from the Waikerie Water and Nature Play Park and to purchase and install new exercise equipment along the Waikerie Riverfront.

A wide range of equipment was selected to cater for people of all ages and fitness levels. The exercise equipment was strategically placed at various locations along the Waikerie Riverfront walking trail to encourage physical activity, improve community health, and promote outdoor recreation among residents and visitors.



Waikerie Riverfront Exercise Equipment

LOXTON TOWN TO RIVER PROJECT

The Town to River - Loxton Access and Inclusion Project was instigated by the Loxton Recreation Grounds Committee in 2021, leveraging grant funding provided by the South Australian Government. The project aims to improve connectivity between East Terrace and the riverfront through the construction of a staircase and lookout area, landscaping and lighting, and installing additional pram ramps to surrounding paths.

This project has been partially funded to the amount of $258,125 by the Government of South Australia's Planning and Development Fund, under the Open Space Grant Program.

The project was successfully completed in April 2025 with the staircase and lookout area opened to the public.



Loxton Town to River Project

STANLEY STREET FOOTPATH UPGRADE (WAY 2 GO PROGRAM)

The Stanley Street footpath upgrade was a joint initiative between Council and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) through the Way 2 Go Program. This project included the installation of a new paved footpath, pram ramps, line marking, and designated school crossings for the Waikerie Primary School, aiming to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility for students, parents, and the wider community.



Stanley Street Footpath Upgrade

PROJECTS

LOXTON RIVERFRONT - SA CONSTRAINTS MEASURES PROJECT

Funded by the Australian Government as part of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, the SA Constraints Measures project aims to investigate ways to mitigate the effects of high flows on infrastructure and communities.

As part of the SA Constraints Measures Project the following upgrades along the Loxton Riverfront, were completed:

- New toilet block at Packards Bend
- New toilet block at Lions Park
- New toilet block at Aquatic Club
- Bank stabilisation at the Loxton Riverfront (Aquatic Club)
- Community Wastewater Management System Switchboard installation
- Upgrades to three sluice gates

The upgrades to the three sluice gates on the Loxton Riverfront were designed to improve water management during high flow events. The original gates had reached the end of their useful life and were difficult to operate during flooding, putting the area at risk. The new gates provide a more efficient system for controlling river flows in the future allowing water manipulation for environmental benefit.

Additionally, the new toilet blocks were built to withstand high River Murray flows of up to 80,000 ML/day, ensuring they remain functional even during future flooding events. This design not only increases the resilience of essential facilities but also improves the overall experience for the community during future flooding events.

Over time, erosion has caused significant deterioration to the riverfront bank, especially in areas impacted by past floods. The aim of the Loxton Riverfront bank stabilisation at the Loxton Aquatic Club was to create a design that would protect the bank from further damage while also improving the riverfront's usability for swimmers and boat users. The new design reinforces the bank to withstand fluctuating river levels, while also incorporating features like gentle slopes to allow access in and out of the river, and safer swimming and recreational areas. This approach enhances both environmental protection and recreational access, providing a more sustainable and enjoyable space for the community. These upgrades not only protect the riverfront from future flooding but also create a more accessible and functional space for everyone to enjoy.



Sluice Gate Replacement - Loxton Riverfront



Sluice Gate Replacement

PROJECTS

MCINTOSH STREET FOOTPATH UPGRADE

The footpath and kerbing upgrade on McIntosh Street, adjacent to the Loxton Bowling Club, involved replacing the existing crusher dust footpath with a new paved surface. The project also included the installation of new kerbing and pram ramps, improving accessibility and enhancing the overall pedestrian experience in a highly used area.



McIntosh Street Footpath Upgrade

MURRAY RIVER QUEEN MOORING

At its meeting held 13 December 2023, Council moved to endorse a 15-year sub-licence agreement with Queenie Enterprises Pty Ltd and approved works required for the operation of the Murray River Queen in Loxton.

The project included construction of a mooring structure, upgrade and supply of power, connection of potable water and connection and provision of wastewater disposal in conjunction with the Constraints Project.

The vessel has undergone extensive renovations under its' new owner Donna Neal and offers unique accommodation and onboard café to visitors and locals.



Murray River Queen Mooring

PROJECTS

LOXTON COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE PARK UPGRADES

Council recently completed upgrades to Heritage Park, which included the installation of new irrigation, tree planting, and overall beautification of the Loxton Community Conservation and Heritage Park. To engage the local community, Council organised a Community Planting Day, where volunteers joined in to help with the planting, contributing to the park's enhancement.

These upgrades not only enhance the aesthetic value of the Loxton Community Conservation and Heritage Park but also improving landscaping and ensuring the park is more inviting for both locals and visitors.







Loxton Community Tree Planting Day - Community Volunteers

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANS - LOXTON AND WAIKERIE

Council begun the process of developing a Stormwater Management Plan for the townships of Loxton and Waikerie. This project, jointly funded by the Stormwater Management Authority and Council, aims to establish a comprehensive and integrated approach to managing and improving stormwater in the district's two major townships.

The primary goal of the plan is to identify areas prone to flooding, particularly those affected by heavy rainfall or low-lying points where water accumulates, causing inundation.

The key objectives of the Stormwater Management Plan are to:

- Identify stormwater management issues, risks, and opportunities within the catchment,
- Define the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved, including local and state government agencies,
- Set clear objectives to protect and enhance the economic, environmental, social, and cultural values in a catchment, with a focus on stormwater quality, water security, and flood hazard,
- Identify and prioritise investments and initiatives that will address these objectives in a coordinated and effective way,
- Develop an implementation plan for the prioritised investments and initiatives, and
- Establish a framework for ongoing monitoring and review.

The Stormwater Management Plans for both Loxton and Waikerie are expected to be completed in the 2025/2026 financial year.

PROJECTS

LOXTON INSTITUTE CONSTRUCTION

Partially funded by the Australian Government through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, the Loxton Institute Project began in June 2023 and involved the design, construction, and commissioning of a new library, visitor information, and cultural centre at the site of the former Loxton Council Chambers at 29 East Terrace. This phase was completed with the facility commencing operations on Monday, 18 November 2024.

The redevelopment of the Loxton Institute has carefully blended modern amenities with heritage preservation. The new facility features:

- Local History Rooms
- Visitor Information Services and area dedicated to local products, treats and artwork
- Library Services
- Expansive book collection
- Flexible work zones, including 2 bookable meeting rooms
- Children's Activity Room including wet area
- Break- away space for presentations, including large projector
- Covered rear decking
- Modern restroom facilities

The successful completion of this project reflects the dedication and hard work of Michael Kregar Building, the head contractor, along with numerous local subcontractors and suppliers.



Existing Loxton Institute during partial demolition



Exterior of the original Institute building, retained as part of the new build



The Loxton Institute - reopened as a library, visitor information and history centre

PROJECTS

WAIKERIE RIVERFRONT COMMUNITY HUB

The Waikerie Community Hub provides modern facilities for sports, cultural events, workshops, and social gatherings. It also hosts meetings and speaker events. Beyond serving the local community, the Hub aims to attract visitors and become a regional centre for agribusiness, sport tourism, and large-scale functions.

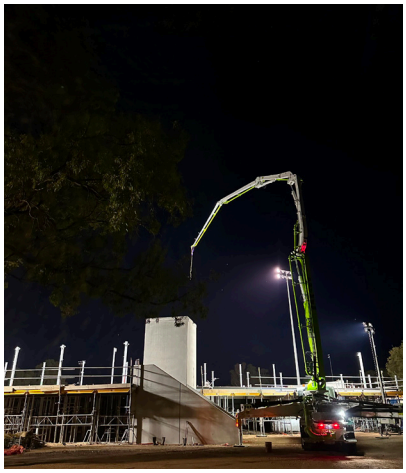
The Hub was jointly funded by the Building Better Regions Fund, Local Government Infrastructure Partnership Program, Waikerie Football Club and Council and features:

- Grandstand seating and deck overlooking the football oval
- Seating and deck overlooking the Murray River
- A large function space catering for events and presentations
- Commercial kitchen and bar facilities to service internal and external patrons
- Internal views of both oval and the riverfront
- Substantial wall and display space for football club and wider sporting community memorabilia
- Storage space for sporting equipment and function area
- Toilet facilities
- Oval fencing, carparking and landscaping

Importantly, this vision was made possible thanks to Moffa Wood Construction, local trades and the tremendous volunteer effort contributed by the Waikerie Football Club's redevelopment committee, the club and wider community whose dedication played a vital role in bringing the Hub to life.



Waikerie Riverfront Community Hub during build



Concrete pour



Completed project



Completed Waikerie Riverfront Community Hub

WASTE

HARD WASTE PROVISION

Council provided a hard waste amnesty to residents throughout the month of May 2025 by way of a hard waste dumping voucher to the value of a 6 x 4 trailer at water level. The aim of the voucher was to subsidise the cost to dispose of unwanted or unused household waste at the Loxton, Waikerie or Moorook Waste Transfer Stations (WTS).

A total of 203 members of the public used their hard waste vouchers at the Loxton, Waikerie or Moorook Waste Transfer Stations.

Waste Transfer Station Location	Vouchers Claimed
Loxton	105
Moorook	14
Waikerie	84
TOTAL	**203**

WASTE MANAGEMENT

The table below shows the total tonnage of waste transported to the Riverland Resource Recovery Facility in Monash from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Material Type	Lifts	Tonnes
Kerbside putrescible	286,145	2,247
Kerbside recyclables	143,509	752
Organics	67,049	648
Council transfer station	-	272
TOTALS	**496,703**	**3,919**



ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Environmental Health section of Council continued to provide a broad range of public and environmental health services in 2024-25 to address aspects of the natural and built environment that may affect the health and wellbeing of the community.

Key functions and responsibilities include education, monitoring and regulatory management of food safety and surveillance, notifiable disease investigation, mosquito and vector surveillance, wastewater system approvals, Legionella control, public swimming pool safety and other public health risk activities.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Food Safety

- A new Food Safety Standard 3.2.2A was implemented on 8 December 2023.
- Council has been following up on Category 1 and 2 businesses to ensure compliance with the new requirements.
- Food safety information sessions have been organised for community groups to help them comply with Food Safety Standard 3.2.2A
- Provided a food safety workshop at the Riverland Gamechanger event

Table 1 shows the number of permanent, mobile, and temporary food businesses in the Loxton Waikerie Council area in 2024-25 and number of premises inspected.

BUSINESS INSPECTIONS	
Number of businesses	224
Routine inspections	6
Follow up inspections	6
Inspections resulting from complaints	2

Swimming Pool Operation and Management

- There are 11 swimming pools and one hydrotherapy pool within the Council area that are monitored by staff for public health compliance. During the summer period public swimming pools water quality was tested to ensure the essential requirements to maintain balanced water chemistry were met to protect public safety.

Mosquito Surveillance and Control

- Larval surveillance and treatment were regularly conducted by contractors throughout the season. A total of 2,880 mosquitoes were trapped across the seven trap locations over the 2024-25 season. The average number of mosquitoes trapped across all trap locations was 78.
- Of species identified, the most abundant species trapped in the District Council of Loxton Waikerie was Culex annulirostris which accounted for just over 44.27% (n= 1275) of the total season catch. The second most abundant species was Anopheles annulipes which accounted for 15.9% (n=458) of the total season catch. This was followed by Culex molestus at 13.68% (n=394) of the season catch.
- The greatest monthly abundance was from the Moorook trap (LOX-003) in February 2025 (n=379). The February 2025 trap at Moorook also had the greatest single trap abundance of Culex annulirostris of 341.
- Ross River Virus was detected in two traps set in January 2025 within the Loxton Waikerie Council. These were the Kingston caravan park trap (LOX-004) and Waikerie caravan park trap (LOX 005). The risk rating was already at level two (medium) during these detections and fortnightly trapping continued for the remainder of the season. There were no further detections of arbovirus in subsequent traps.

Legionella Control in Cooling Towers and Warm Water Systems

- There are eight premises with cooling tower or warm water systems within the area that are regulated for the control of Legionella under the Public Health Act and Regulations.
- During the 2024-25 period, there was one legionella case reported, which was investigated by SA Health.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Onsite Wastewater Management

- Aerobic Waste Treatment Systems (AWTS) are serviced every three months by authorised service agents, and reports are forwarded to Council as part of the installation approval process. Approximately 485 service reports were received. 40% of reports with non-compliances were followed up; in some cases, onsite inspections were carried out due to public health issues
- A total of 68 wastewater works applications were received, covering CWMS, aerobic, and onsite soakage systems. The application process includes site inspections prior to approval to ensure the design complies with requirements
- Two Compliance Notices were served on onsite wastewater systems that were not compliant.

Septic Tank Maintenance

- Council continues to provide a septic tank pump-out service as part of the routine operation and maintenance of the Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) for properties within the townships of Loxton, Waikerie, Moorook and Kingston-on-Murray. Approximately 578 septic tanks were de-sludged by Council's contractors during the 2024-25 year. Desludging reports received from contractors are followed up with letters and/or site inspections to ensure compliance.
- Communication continued with property owners to highlight the importance of septic tank maintenance. Fact sheets are available to describe how to locate septic tank lids and bring risers to ground level, and the problems associated with flushing wipes.

Functions of the Environmental Health Section

Council's public and environmental health functions are coordinated and undertaken by the Environmental Health Officer (EHO). The EHO administers these functions in accordance with the *Food Act 2001; Public Health Act 2011* and associated Regulations, Codes and Guidelines. The type of functions administered under the legislation include:

- Food safety
- Infectious disease investigations
- School immunisation programs
- Legionella control
- Hoarding and squalor premises
- Mosquito surveillance and control
- Public swimming pool safety
- Hairdresser and beauty salon inspections
- Wastewater systems management
- Public health education, promotion and planning
- General public health risk activities

Operational statistics reflecting core environmental health activities undertaken during 2024-25 include:

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES	
Routine food business inspections	60
Routine food audits of premises that service vulnerable people	-
Food related complaints	6
Routine public swimming pool inspections	4
Public swimming pool investigations	-
Infectious disease investigations	-
Air pollution/odour/ air quality/dust/noise complaints	14
Wastewater system applications	75
Onsite plumbing inspections	10
Discharge of waste investigations	-
Mosquito related investigations	-
High risk manufactured water system registered & inspected	8
Legionella investigation	4
Hoarding and squalor complaint investigations	-
General health complaints	-
Hairdresser inspections	-
Skin Penetration (beauty) inspections	-

PLANNING

> *The Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, the Planning and Design Code and SA Planning Portal are now in force for development assessment across all areas of South Australia.*

All assessments are carried out online via the statewide SA Planning Portal.

Most applications processed by Council during the reporting period were performance assessed applications which do not involve public notification and are dealt with by Council staff using delegated authority provided to them by the Riverland Regional Assessment Panel and the Regional Assessment Manager.

Riverland Regional Assessment Panel

The Riverland Regional Assessment Panel (RAP) is charged with the responsibility of considering development applications where a proposal is subject to public notification. During the 2024-25 year, the RAP met on 4 occasions and considered 8 development applications on behalf of the Councils – 1 of these was on behalf of the Loxton Waikerie Council.

The current members of the RRAP are as follows:

- Independent members: Geoff Parsons (Presiding Member), Michael Doherty, Julie Lewis, and Stephen Smith.
- Deputy Independent Member: Grant Hewitt
- Elected Member representatives: Cr Andrew Kassebaum (July to December 2024), Cr Gary Pfeiler (appointed for the period January to December 2025).
- Deputy Elected Member: Cr Clive Matthews (appointed for the period January to December 2025).

Each of the independent members has significant experience in urban and regional planning, and an excellent level of expertise to support the knowledge of planning staff in the three Councils. The Council representative role is shared on a rotational basis between the three Councils.

The administration and responsibility of compiling agendum, minutes and hosting the meetings is shared between the three Riverland Councils. Panel meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of the month.

During the 2024-25 financial year period, the Regional Assessment Manager role was held by David Altmann, on behalf of the Berri Barmera Council from 1 July 2024 to 1 December 2024. For the remaining period of the financial year, Cheryle Pedler OAM was appointed, as a representative of the District Council of Loxton Waikerie.

Environment Resources and Development Court Appeal Proceedings

In certain circumstances, rights of appeal exist for applicants and representors in respect of Council decisions on Development Applications. Those appeals are lodged with the Environment, Resources and Development Court.

One appeal was lodged with the Environment Resources and Development Court, in respect of matters considered by the RRAP, in relation to a matter at the Renmark Paringa Council. The appeal was withdrawn.

Strategic Planning

The State Government has commenced work on the Murray Mallee Regional Plan and carried out a period of community consultation from March to June 2025. The Council's adopted Growth Strategy provides background information for the Murray Mallee Region Plan.

The Council will continue to work with Planning and Land Use Services to commence works on Code Amendments following adoption of the Regional Plan, expected late in 2025.

BUILDING DIVISION

Council's building surveyors perform the role of assessing development applications for compliance with the National Construction Code of Australia, the Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.

Assessments are interesting and can be challenging; the structural components assessed include footing design for the soil conditions, tie-down requirements for the design wind speed, structural steel work, timber and steel roof trusses, traditional timber framed roof, timber and steel wall framing, brickwork, and other similar type workload.

Once the design and specifications of the proposed development has been assessed for compliance with the code and relevant standards, the building surveyor issues Building Consent on Council's behalf. Alternatively, applicants may choose to engage the services of an appropriately qualified independent building surveyor.

Inspections are also undertaken of work in progress as required by the statewide Practice Direction, as established by the Minister for Planning. These inspections may relate to work on dwellings, dwelling additions, carports, verandahs, sheds, swimming pools and safety barriers, retaining walls, commercial and industrial buildings.



REGIONAL BUILDING FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE

Local Government plays an important role in protecting the ongoing safety of building occupiers and users via the provisions of the Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, which provides that Council must have a Building Fire Safety Committee.

The Building Fire Safety Committee ensures that all buildings meet the necessary fire safety standards. This committee is made up of council staff, a fire safety expert and representatives from the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service and SA Country Fire Service.

The committee regularly inspects buildings within the area and requests upgrades to fire safety measures if necessary. The level of upgrades required may vary based on several factors, such as the building's age, size and use, as well as changing legislation.

The buildings the committee generally inspect include:

- Hotels/ motels and other accommodation buildings
- Supportive residential and aged care facilities
- Buildings where large numbers of people may congregate
- Warehouses, factories, shops, offices and other commercial buildings

GENERAL INSPECTOR DIVISION

Animal Management

Council has a plan prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. Council adopted the Animal Management Plan in July 2019 and identifies strategies and actions to implement the mission, aims and objectives for the management of dogs, cats, and other animals within the district. It contains recommendations for a wide range of actions to be undertaken by the Council. A review of council's animal management plan commenced in 2024.

Council is responsible for the management of dogs within the district pursuant to the Act. The objectives of the legislation are to encourage responsible

DOG CONTROL STATISTICS 2024-25	
Expiations issued	11
Wandering at large	45
Impounded	17
Impounded and returned to owners	19
Returned to owner prior to impounding	36
Barking complaints	10
Attack - Person	1
Attack - Animal	6
Harass - Person	4
Harass - Animal	7

GENERAL INSPECTOR DIVISION

ownership, promote effective management and reduce the public and environmental impact from dogs and cats. Council is the responsible Authority under the Act to receive registrations for dogs.

During the reporting year, Council received 2,652 individual dog registrations and had 66 registered breeders.

As of 1 July 2018, dog registrations are managed through the new state-wide database, Dogs and Cats Online (DACO). This allows owners to register, renew and keep their details up to date at any time, online. Cat owners are also encouraged to register their cats at no cost, to allow Council to return identified cats to their owners.

Council adopts a schedule of fees for registrations of dogs and cats as part of the budget deliberations each year. Discounts on registration fees are available for people who are the recipients of a concession card. Council also offers a subsidy to concession card holders who desex their dog or cat.

Whilst Council has not determined to introduce cat management controls at this time, cat traps are available for hire by residents to assist in the removal of stray or feral cats, to lessen their impact on the environment and the community.

Fire Prevention

The Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 stipulates that each rural Council must appoint a Fire Prevention Officer for its area. The role of Council's Fire Prevention Officers includes the monitoring of residential areas to ensure landowners take reasonable steps to protect property from fire. Inspections of residential areas leading up to and during the fire danger season are carried out to assess compliance.

Section 105F notices are issued pursuant to the Act, requiring landowners to attend to maintenance of land to reduce the risk of fire. Council also has the responsibility to ensure that reserves which come under its care and control are maintained to good bushfire prevention standards.

FIRE PREVENTION STATISTICS 2024-25	
Section 105F notices issued	69
Council action required	0
Expiations issued	0

Council's Fire Prevention Officers are also responsible for the issuing of permits and monitoring compliance, pursuant to the Act, for the common agricultural purpose of burning off stubble to lessen weed and pest infestation.

FIRE PERMIT STATISTICS 2024-25	
Fire permits issued	16
Number of burn offs with fire permit	16
Expiation notices issued for non-compliance	0

Parking

Car parking is monitored by Council staff, who have observed that parking in parking regulated areas has been generally complied within the reporting period. Several car parking cautions were issued during this period, mainly for parking on the footpath and continuous yellow lines, and requirements explained to the offenders.

Abandoned Vehicles and Litter

Abandoned vehicles have generally been stolen and/or burnt. Most are recovered by insurance companies or the owner after Council officers make enquiries.

The commencement of the littering provisions of the Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016 provides guidance for Council in dealing with litter complaints and exercising enforcement functions.

COMMUNITY STATEMENT



COUNCIL SUPPORTED EVENTS, FESTIVALS AND PARTNERSHIPS

There are many great organisations working in our community. Council endeavours to work in partnership with many of these groups to identify and develop programs and activities that meet the social, cultural, creative and recreation needs of our community.

Council continues to support new and existing projects and events through the provision of financial assistance, event management (through Councils Community Development Officer) and the active promotion of Loxton Waikerie to event organisers. These events and activities are of a wide variety and where possible involve working with other groups to develop partnerships, increase the promotion and help to build the skills of our community

TIME	ORGANISATION	MONETARY	OUTCOMES
July	**Foodbank**	$5,000	Annual Regional support agreement from 2021/22 to 2025/26 for relief of food services within the Riverland.
	Loxton Community Men's Shed	$5,116	Memorandum of Understanding between Council and the Men's Shed supporting a range of projects to benefit Loxton – 23/24-26/27
	Waikerie Men's Shed	$5,116	Memorandum of Understanding between Council and the Men's Shed supporting a range of projects to benefit Waikerie – 23/24-26/27
	Riverland Youth Theatre	$5,000	Supported programs which engage youth throughout the Riverland region in the arts.
	Riverland Brass Band	$1,500	Support the group to mentor young people to play/practise instruments and included scheduled performances within our district.
	Waikerie Christmas Decoration Project	$15,000	Purchase town Christmas decorations for the Waikerie CBD – 9 Alberta Spruce Double sided Wreaths
	Volunteer Management	$6,000	Appreciation event for all Loxton and Waikerie residents who volunteer their time for community and council coordinated programs.
	School Community Donations	$1,000	Provided support to various high schools and primary school presentation awards; Apprentice of the Year event; Loxton Christmas display and the Riverland Primary School Music Festival.
	Rain Moth Gallery	$1,250	Art/Photography Competition
	Little Town Productions	$10,000	Kick off ya Boots 2024 event support

COUNCIL SUPPORTED EVENTS, FESTIVALS AND PARTNERSHIPS

TIME	ORGANISATION	MONETARY	OUTCOMES
	Waikerie Santa's Cave	$2,951	Shelving for storage shed and retail display shelves
Aug	**Loxton Community Men's Shed**	$3,000	Signage and retaining wall project
	Riverland Bridge Club	$1,000	12th Riverland Bridge Congress event support
	Waikerie Flower Show	$1954	Supported the Waikerie Flower Show event in the Waikerie Institute by waiving the facility hire fees.
	Waikerie Rowing Regatta	$7,700	Rowing Regatta event support
Sep	**Youth Sponsorships**	$3,000	One-off donations to assist young local individuals to attend State, National or International representative activities.
	Riverland Rose & Garden Festival	$3,000	Support to Riverland event
	Loxton Tennis Club	$10,000	Clubroom canteen and kitchen renovation
	Ramco Football & Netball Club	$10,000	Kitchen upgrade
Oct	**Loxton & District Health Advisory Council**	$1350	Second navigating Aged Care expo hire event support
	Loxton Agricultural & Horticultural Society	$12,778	Installation and removal of temporary fencing to support the horses in action events and works support to present the 105th Annual Loxton Show.
Nov	**Loxton Lights Up Festival**	$15,500	Supported the Loxton Chamber of Commerce to host the Loxton Light Up Day
	Riverland West Chamber of Commerce Christmas Pageant	$9,500	Support the Riverland West Chamber of Commerce to host the Waikerie Christmas Pageant
	Loxton Christmas Lights Committee	$16,810	Support of the committee's operational budget to decorate the town of Loxton
	Loxton Community Dance Club	$7,000	Precinct Storage and dance mirror support

COUNCIL SUPPORTED EVENTS, FESTIVALS AND PARTNERSHIPS

TIME	ORGANISATION	MONETARY	OUTCOMES
	Moorook Kingston Community Association	$1,000	Insurance part contribution support
	Moorook Community Hall Inc.	$1,400	Supported the Moorook riverfront carols at sunset event
	Christmas Wonderland Loxton	$3,000	Loxton Christmas Wonderland display support
Dec	**Waikerie Santa's Cave**	$12,602	Supported the annual Christmas event in the Waikerie Institute by waiving the facility hire fees.
	Riverland Christmas Appeal	$2,000	Donation support for less fortunate
	Waikerie Christmas Decoration Group	$5,860	Installation and removal of Christmas decorations and street banners
Jan	**Loxton Australia Day Celebrations**	$7,400	Supported Councils community event to acknowledge the citizen awards and celebrate Australia Day as a community
	Kingston On Murray Australia Day Celebrations	$1,000	Support for Australia Day community event
	Paruna/Nadda Australia Day Celebrations	$500	Support for Australia Day community event
	Waikerie Australia Day Celebrations	$6,500	Supported the Waikerie Australia Day community event and to acknowledge the citizen awards and celebrate Australia Day as a community
Feb	**Loxton's Nippy's Gift**	$4,500	Supported the 23rd annual Nippy's Loxton Gift by way of infrastructure services
	Loxton Mardi Gras	$7,500	Supported the Loxton Mardi Gras committee to celebrate the 67th Mardi Gras with money raised going towards community projects by way of infrastructure services
	Waikerie Little Athletics Club	$1,462	New signage and wind flags
May	**Loxton's History Sure Ain't Boring**	$1,000	Supported of the History month event in May

COUNCIL SUPPORTED EVENTS, FESTIVALS AND PARTNERSHIPS

TIME	ORGANISATION	MONETARY	OUTCOMES
	Loxton and Waikerie Neighbourhood Watch partnerships	In-kind	Support both committees with assistance in photocopying quarterly newsletters.
Jun	**Loxton Pistol Club**	$4,300	Development of a new range
	Loxton Netball, Football & Cricket Clubs	$4,646	Playground shelter project
	Loxton High School	$5,000	Supported Ignite week program
	Loxton Netball Club	$960	Support to assist with Junior Netball Carnival
	Loxton Rotary Club	$5,000	Bringing Communities Together – Mental Health Program
	Community & Infrastructure Minor Support Grants	$10,000	Supports not for profit, incorporated groups or organisations by donating the use of Council owned major plant, equipment and/ or materials.
	Event/General permit support	$3,800	Support to new community events with waste management, road closures/signage and park and gardens readiness
	Waikerie Bowling Club	$1,000	Support to the 1 day Senior Supa Series event
	Waikerie Bowling Club	$6,093	Storage Shed
	Moorook Community Hall	$600	Hall insurance portion
	Waikerie District Historical Society	$3,368	New air conditioner and installation
	Waikerie Branch of the National Trust SA	$4,020	Repairs and Maintenance to cottage

COUNCIL SUPPORTED EVENTS, FESTIVALS AND PARTNERSHIPS



Loxton Lights Up



Nippy's Gift 2025



Waikerie Australia Day Event



Waikerie Santa's Cave



Loxton Arts on Terrace



Loxton Mardi Gras

VOLUNTEERING

Council is committed to working collaboratively with volunteers, recognising their efforts, encouraging broader community involvement and supporting increased youth participation in local equality through volunteering.

National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering, offering a meaningful opportunity to acknowledge the role of volunteers and express our gratitude. In 2025, National Volunteer Week was held from 19–25 May, celebrating the power of volunteering to bring people together with the theme 'Connecting Communities'.

To celebrate this important occasion, Council hosted an afternoon tea in Loxton and a morning tea in Waikerie, thanking the 100 attending volunteers and recognising the positive impact they make within our community.

Council's volunteer programs play a role in bridging community service gaps. Our programs are designed to complement, not replace the work of employed staff, and are supported by dedicated volunteer managers who help ensure volunteer roles are purposeful, well-structured, and valued.

Council's volunteer programs included:

Loxton Christmas Lights

- Christmas Tree Festival
- Committee and Fundraising
- Garden Display/ Maintenance
- Street Decorating
- Tour Guide

Loxton and Waikerie Library Services

- Library Technology Tutor

Loxton Infrastructure Services

- Tree Waterers

2024-25 DCLW VOLUNTARY HOURS

Loxton Christmas Lights Program	793
Library	127
Loxton Tree Waterers	69
TOTAL	**988**



44
DCLW Volunteers

988
Volunteer Hours



$24,700
Contributing Hours



ARTS AND CULTURE

The 2024-25 year saw the return of another vibrant and creative annual program of arts and culture across The District Council of Loxton Waikerie. From festivals to professional development opportunities for creatives, here is the year in review:



FESTIVALS

South Australian Living Artist Festival (SALA) 2024

SALA in 2024 saw local visual artists come together across three exhibitions, events and workshops, promoting visual arts throughout the community. Inclusive of these events was the annual 'Arts on Terrace', provided by the Loxton Chamber of Commerce in support of local businesses engagement with arts and enterprise.

River Fringe 2025

Across nineteen festival registrations, the district came alive during River Fringe 2025. Of the nineteen events, seven were free of charge, providing accessible options for the community in alignment with councils community vision. Event highlights included;

- Tuesday Club Art Exhibition: A Celebration of Yount Talent with Lyn Anstey (visual arts)
- Waikerie Riverfront Fringe Market, featuring a Fit to Fly Circus Party (community event)
- River Boat Cruise and Cliff Painting Workshop by Susie Skujins (visual arts)
- Cool 4 Kids, Let's Party Show (music and interactive performance)
- Harmonize at The Bugle Hut (music, community event)
- Krazy Kat Gallery & Book Launch by Astrid Cooper (literature)

Spread across fourteen venues, the complete River Fringe program was yet again a success in developing arts audience and promoting the diversity of the arts to regional communities.

South Australian History Festival 2025

SA History Festival saw the provision of three opportunities for the community to engage with the districts past. Notably, the interpretive exhibition 'Everyday Decisions: Aspirational Living in the 1930's and 1940's' saw the creation of a new exhibition framework at the Waikerie Library and Visitor Centre as part of the collaboration with the Waikerie Branch of the National Trust SA, readily available for ongoing public use and engaging displays of both art and history.

RECONCILIATION

The prioritisation of reconciliation initiatives engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture arose to the forefront of cultural priorities this year, with the intention of supporting community driven projects to provide educational outcomes. In support of reconciliation, Arts and Culture at DCLW facilitated the presentation of 'Nunga Screen', a Country Arts SA initiative supporting First Nations filmmakers from across South Australia. The screening was held at both Loxton and Waikerie Libraries, with an approximate attendance of 600 students from the local schools.

In addition, DCLW have committed to the beginning of their Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) journey, registering for their initial 'Reflect' RAP in alignment with the prominent need to further learn from our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in support of truth-telling.

ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Personal artistic and cultural accomplishments were prominent in the community throughout 2024-25, displaying the continuous need for local artistic development opportunities. To name a few notable accomplishments;

ARTS AND CULTURE

- Professional development workshops; life drawing with Harry Slaghekke, and watercolor/pastels with Daina Bradhsaw
- Artist development; Country Arts SA ‘Intersection’ touring program
- Successful recipient of Country Arts SA ‘Catapult Mentorship’; Rebecca Flack
- Successful recipients of Country Arts SA ‘Nebula’ program; Karl Raams and Rebecca Flack
- Country Arts support for independent exhibition; Jill Bond at Red Gallery (Melbourne)
- New murals; Jarrod Loxton, mini silo art trail, Adelaide Festival of Footy and public mural collaboration with Scott Rathman
- New venue openings; Loxton Parish Hall Gallery and the Dorris Odgers Reserve Museum by Waikerie Branch of National Trust SA

In addition to the accomplishments of many of our regional artists, The District Council of Loxton Waikerie was able to support the ‘Hans Heysen Unpacked’ exhibition, supporting regional touring to the district. The exhibition featured interactive display frames, historical artifacts and new artistic interpretations, and welcomed the Waikerie community in an opening event in celebration of art and South Australia’s History.



Arts on Terrace 2024, Jarrod Loxton and Scott Rathman collaborative mural



A Welcome Break, SA History Festival 2025, DCLW & Waikerie Branch of National Trust SA



Harmonize at The Bugle Hut, River Fringe 2025

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

In 2024-25, Council published 12 separate items for public consultation, notifying the community of their occurrence online and within the circulating paper, as per Council's Public Consultation Policy and Section 50 of the Local Government Act 1999.

LEGISLATED PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- Draft Asset Management Plan - *Section 122(6)*
- Community Land Management Plan – Former Paruna Golf Club - *Section 198*
- Paruna Golf Club Lease Agreement - *Section 200(2)*
- Draft Long Term Financial Plan - *Section 122(6)*
- Council By-Laws - *Section 249(7)*
- Waikerie Football and Sporting Club Long Term Lease - *Section 202(2)*
- Loxton District Children's Centre "Woodleigh" – Community Facilities Lease Agreement - *Section 202(2)*
- Sublicence and Community Land Management Plan – Murray River Queen - *Sections 198 and 202(2)*
- Revocation of Land from Classification as Community Land - *Section 194*
- Long Term lease Agreement – Loxton District Children's Centre - *Section 202(2)*
- Loxton Waikerie Ageing Well Strategy - *Section 122(6)*
- Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 - *Section 122(6)*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Alongside periods of legislated public consultation for a range of activities and documents, Council continued to utilise its online community engagement platform, "Shaping Loxton Waikerie" to publish a range of interactive tools and resources that enhance community engagement and foster collaborative decision-making processes.

Council published 8 separate community engagement activities to Shaping Loxton Waikerie between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025. The outcome of each activity has been published on the website in an effort to close the loop of communication with community members and showcase how their feedback helped to shape the result.

- Swimming Pool Upgrades
  Two surveys (one for each swimming pool location in Loxton and Waikerie) to determine the priorities and vision of pool users for the future of the facilities.
- Stormwater Management Plan
  An interactive map was published, designed to gather location-specific feedback on flooding and drainage issues across the district.
- East Terrace Speaker Upgrades
  A short survey was published to gauge community interest in upgrading the speakers in East Terrace and its inclusion in the upcoming budget.
- Pocket Galleries
  A short survey gaining community feedback on a pilot launch of pocket galleries in Loxton.
- Proposed Heavy Mass Limit (HML) Gazettal of Key Road Section
  A feedback form was published to understand the community's level of support for the proposal.
- Waikerie Recreation Centre Upgrade – Needs/Feasibility Analysis
  An open feedback form was provided to gauge community sentiment towards the recommendations included in the Needs and Feasibility Analysis for potential upgrades to the Waikerie Recreation Centre.
- 2025-26 Annual Business Plan Community Engagement Activities (2)
  During budget preparation for the 2025-26 financial year, Council published two separate community engagement activities aimed at informing Council's activities for the next 12 months and gaining a better understanding of the priorities and preferences of the community: Community Survey and Pitch Your Project.

LOXTON RETIREMENT VILLAGE

The Loxton Retirement Village is a testament to Council's commitment to offering quality and affordable housing solutions to its ageing population. Comprising 108 over approximately 6.28ha, the Village offers comfortable living with opportunity for future expansion.

STRUCTURE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Loxton Retirement Village operates as a distinct business unit under the umbrella of Council, guided by principles of good governance, transparency, and community focused service. In accordance with Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1999, the Village is overseen by a dedicated Management Committee, with administrative leadership provided by an experienced Council officer.

The Village comprises four adjoining courts across three land parcels:

- Peter Jackson Court - 22 units
- Frank Petch Court - 20 units
- Leatrice Pfitzner Court - 48 units
- Jan Cass Court - 18 units

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The 2024-25 financial year was marked by a range of impactful projects, strategic improvements, and community focused initiatives that enhanced both infrastructure and resident wellbeing. Key achievements included:

Facilities and Infrastructure Upgrades

- Completion of 90 hot water service upgrades, improving energy efficiency and reliability.
- 25 streetlights replaced throughout the Village, enhancing safety and visibility.
- Concrete edging installed in lawns at Peter Jackson and Frank Petch Courts to improve aesthetics and ease of maintenance.
- Construction of a new concrete wash slab and roller door at the Caretaker's shed, enhancing operational capacity.

Maintenance and Compliance

- Ongoing contract with SA Home Mods & Maintenance for gardening and caretaking services, renewed for a further 3 years.
- Engagement of Murray Pest Control to deliver termite inspections and spider spraying under a 3 year term agreement.
- Smoke alarm replacement program commenced to align with updated safety standards.
- 8 units refurbished as part of a 10 year cyclical inspection program.
- 6 additional units refurbished upon resident turnover.

Community Engagement

- Quarterly newsletters distributed to keep residents informed and connected.
- Regular meetings held by the Section 41 Committee, Resident Committee, and Community Centre Management group supporting governance, collaboration, and community spirit.
- A highly successful 30th Anniversary Celebration hosted at the Community Centre, recognising three decades of dedicated service to local retirees.



The Loxton Retirement Village remains well positioned for future growth, both in capacity and capability. Council's long term vision includes continued infrastructure renewal, resident wellbeing, and development opportunities to ensure the Village evolves with the changing needs of our community.

LOXTON Retirement Village Community Living

ECONOMIC AND REGIONAL STATEMENT



LOXTON WAIKERIE LIBRARY AND VISITOR CENTRES

The libraries and visitor centres continue to serve as vital hubs for community engagement and access to information and learning opportunities.

The Library and Visitor Centres deliver integrated library and visitor services, with the Waikerie branch also providing Council services at a shared customer service desk.

Over the past year, the Centres offered a diverse and engaging program of activities for both adults and children, delivered in collaboration with more than 40 community partners. These included cultural and arts-based events, exhibitions showcasing local artists and creatives, and a variety of educational and early literacy programs. In total, 240 events were held, reflecting the Centre's strong commitment to community enrichment, lifelong learning, and cultural celebration.

LIBRARY USAGE STATISTICS

Library items loaned	74,653
Digital items loaned	14,600
Loans per capita	7.5
Active Library Borrowers	3,209
Children's program total attendees	7,910
Library and Visitor Centre Visits	74,879
Visits per capita	6.3

LOXTON INSTITUTE MOVE

In November 2024, the Loxton Library and Visitor Centre relocated to the newly redeveloped and heritage listed Loxton Institute, reopening to the public on Monday, 18 November, after a two-week closure. The move was a major logistical effort, involving the transfer and re-arranging of the entire library collection (15,000 items), resources, tourism merchandise, along with the setup of new furniture and technology in the new premises.

The architecturally designed building integrates the older building with the new addition, offering a welcoming and accessible environment for all users. The facility includes:

- Dedicated local history service and exhibition room
- Visitor information area with local products and Loxton-branded merchandise
- Bookable meeting rooms
- Children's room and breakaway space
- Outdoor area for programs and relaxation
- Extensive public library collection

The space has been visited and enjoyed by 24,500 people since it has opened with many people re-joining the library or becoming members for the first time.







LOXTON WAIKERIE LIBRARY AND VISITOR CENTRES

GENREFICATION AND SHELVING PROJECT

As part of the transition into the Loxton Institute, the adult collection was reorganized by genre and placed on newly designed shelving that allows for face-out book displays. This change has made it easier for customers to discover new titles and browse the collection more intuitively.

Since the move, overall loans have increased by 20%, with notable growth in key areas:

- Adult Non-Fiction: ↑ 78%
- Adult Large Print (Fiction & Non-Fiction): ↑ 70%
- Children's Non-Fiction: ↑ 39%

SERVICES

Self-Service Tablet Loaning Kiosk

A new Hublet docking station with six tablets has been installed at the Loxton Library. Each tablet is pre-configured with age-appropriate content (Children, Teens, Adults) and can be loaned with a library card. Once returned to the docking station, all user data and browsing history are automatically erased, and the device is recharged for the next user.

Business Services

A new print management system was implemented at both libraries, allowing customers to send print jobs remotely 24/7 and release them during their visit. This streamlined service reduces the need for staff assistance, enhances customer privacy, and includes functionality for booking public computers.

Internet access remains in high demand, supported by Libraries SA's free Wi-Fi service, which delivered 3,028 sessions to customers using their own devices. In addition, 2,509 sessions were recorded on public computers and loan tablets provided via the Hublet system.

Library staff also play a vital role in supporting digital literacy, having assisted 1,315 customers with technology-related queries over a total of 208 hours.

Justice of the Peace Service

A Justice of the Peace service is available at each library and provided by either a staff member or volunteers who are certified JPs for South Australia. This valued service provides consistent access to these services with 1,012 people assisted and 2,551 documents verified complemented with free printing service.

Assistive Technology

Envoy audio players are available to support readers who experience difficulty reading physical books due to vision impairment, physical limitations, or cognitive challenges. These user-friendly devices offer a simple and accessible way to enjoy books in audio format. Library staff provide personalised assistance by loading audio content tailored to each customer's interests, helping to ensure equitable access to library resources for all members of the community.

History Services

The opening of a new dedicated history space in the Loxton Institute has been a significant milestone for the District Council of Loxton Waikerie's Local History Services.

This has enabled improved on-site storage of archival materials and provided greater opportunities to curate and showcase items from council's heritage collections.

Regularly rotated displays ensure that previously unseen or rarely viewed treasures are brought to public attention.

A major highlight of the year was the donation of The Loxton News archive collection by Ben Taylor (Taylor Group of Newspapers), an invaluable resource for the community.

The collection comprises bound editions of the newspaper dating from 1960, original print plates, and a large number of photographs captured by the paper over decades. To celebrate this donation, the collection was featured during South Australia's History Festival in the exhibition 'Our Community in Print'. Alongside displays of newspapers, photographs, and memorabilia, visitors were able to browse editions of The Loxton News in the library throughout the month. A guest book captured overwhelmingly positive community feedback.

LOXTON WAIKERIE LIBRARY AND VISITOR CENTRES

During 2024–25, other exhibitions included:

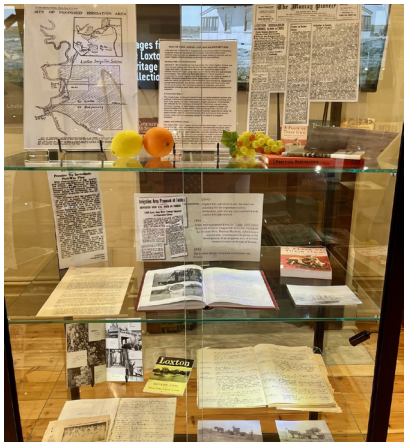
- Items from the Brown's Well Heritage Collection
- A Mini Loxton Mardi Gras Historical Display
- A feature on the Loxton Winery and Distillery Co-operative
- An exhibition on the Loxton North Soldier Settlement Scheme

Local History staff actively engaged with the community throughout the year. Highlights included a presentation at Loxton's History Sure Ain't Boring event, where staff shared insights into Council's archives and the processes behind collecting, storing, and exhibiting items.

Schools and community groups, such as the Elizabeth Church of Christ Social Group, also took part in arranged talks and tours of the Loxton Institute History Services. In addition, staff continued to assist and respond to a wide range of local history enquiries, ensuring the collection remains an accessible and valuable resource for the community.

Collection development also remained a focus, with continued donations from community members, reflecting the growing awareness and trust in the service since moving into its new home. Cataloguing work progressed significantly, expanding the number of local history books available for loan and ensuring reference-only copies are searchable in the system for the first time.





Accredited Visitor Information Services

The expanded space at the new premises of the Loxton Institute, now housing the Loxton Visitor Information Centre, has enabled the display of a broader selection of artisan and gourmet food products, as well as local artwork showcased throughout the Centre.

Additionally, souvenir offerings at both the Loxton and Waikerie locations have been upgraded to feature more personalized items that reflect the unique identity and heritage of each town and their surrounding regions.

The regional Visit Riverland website continues to be a valuable and user-friendly resource for visitors, showcasing a wide array of tourism attractions, accommodation options, and activities across both our Council area and the broader region.

Printed brochures and maps remain in high demand and are kept well-stocked. These materials are also included in information packs distributed to various groups visiting our towns, supporting a positive and informed visitor experience.

The popular Discover Loxton, Moorook & Kingston-on-Murray and Discover Waikerie brochures have been refreshed with updated content, offering visitors an expanded and up-to-date guide to the many attractions, experiences, and activities available throughout the region.

Each Centre actively participates in familiarisation (famil) tours across the Riverland, engaging with a variety of tourism businesses to stay informed about new offerings, updates, and changes within the region.





LOXTON WAIKERIE LIBRARY AND VISITOR CENTRES

EXHIBITIONS

The Waikerie Library hosted the ***Space to Dream Travelling Exhibition*** during July, showcasing an inspiring collection of 3D designs created by school-aged children from across South Australia.

The exhibition, part of the Commissioner for Children and Young People SA's Digital Challenge, featured top-rated entries from the 2023 Space to Dream competition. This initiative invited students to use design thinking to create a toy or gadget for someone relocating to Mars.



The Waikerie Library hosted a special display of memorabilia from the ***Ramco Centenary***, preserved in a time capsule and unveiled after 30 years. On show throughout February, the collection offered a nostalgic look back at the 1994 celebrations, reconnecting the community with Ramco's rich local history. The display attracted both those who remembered the original event and new visitors discovering it for the first time.

The exhibition engaged library visitors of all ages, highlighting the creativity and innovation of young South Australians. It was well received by the community and supported awareness of digital learning opportunities for children.



SA History Festival

The Waikerie Library and Visitor Centre invited the community to explore the lives of Riverland women in the 1930s and 1940s through a fascinating exhibition titled Everyday Decisions: Aspirational Living.

Presented in partnership with the Waikerie Branch of the National Trust, the exhibition showcased a curated selection of historical items that offered a glimpse into an era when household budgeting and resourcefulness were essential parts of daily life.

The Waikerie Library partnered with Joy Perry from the National Trust to host two creative workshops. Flutter into Creativity invited participants to make beautiful butterfly crafts, while Blooming Creations focused on crafting vibrant flowers.



The Loxton Library and Visitor Centre celebrated the South Australian History Festival with a nostalgic exhibition titled ***Loxton News***. Hosted at the Loxton Institute, the exhibition invited visitors to step back in time and browse through old editions of local newspapers. This interactive display offered a chance to reminisce and reconnect with memories of a bygone era, drawing strong community interest and engagement.



South Austraian Living Artists (SALA) Festival

Loxton High School Art Display

Artwork produced by year 8, 9 & 10 students decorated the Loxton Library during the month of August. The exhibition included ceramics, self-portraits, painted birds, linocut prints and animal paintings.

Hans Heysen

The Hans Heysen Unpacked touring exhibition visited Waikerie in August, drawing strong community interest.

The exhibition was officially opened at 1pm on Sunday 4

LOXTON WAIKERIE LIBRARY AND VISITOR CENTRES

August in the Waikerie Civic Centre foyer, with a special appearance by Alan Campbell, Curator at The Cedars, home of Sir Hans Heysen.

Hans Heysen Unpacked explored and celebrated the life and legacy of the renowned Australian artist Sir Hans Heysen, offering visitors an engaging and informative look into his personal story and artistic achievements.



ADULT PROGRAMS

Book Launch - Gilda Carter

The Waikerie Library was proud to host the launch of I See Me, a charming new children's picture book by local author Gilda Carter.

The celebration was filled with warmth, laughter, and pride as family and friends gathered to support Gilda. She shared heartfelt insights into her creative journey before personally signing copies for her delighted readers—young and old alike.





Better Home Garden - Andrew Walladge

Renowned garden designer Andrew Walladge visited the Loxton and Waikerie libraries in February, presenting engaging Better Home Garden sessions in partnership with Berri Barmera Landcare. Participants discovered how to design gardens that attract wildlife, provide shade, reduce energy use, grow fresh food, and enhance well-being—creating sustainable, nature-friendly spaces right at home.

Flower Picture Art – Sue Drabsch

The Loxton Library hosted a relaxing adult art workshop led by local artist Sue Drabsch, where participants designed and framed their own beautiful artworks using dried flowers. It was a calm, creative afternoon that left everyone with a unique piece to take home.

Coffee and a Catch Up

Coffee and a Catch Up are held monthly in the Waikerie Library providing an opportunity for locals to get together and chat over coffee and cake. There's always lots of fun and laughter, and the short quiz provided by library staff is a highlight of the morning.

Book Groups

Several Book Groups are facilitated by the libraries, providing access to free books for monthly discussion. Readers are introduced to new authors, genres and ideas fostering discussion, lifelong learning and social connection.

Waikerie Probus Club

As part of our ongoing community engagement efforts, the Waikerie Coordinator attended a Waikerie Probus Club meeting to showcase the wide range of services and resources offered by the library. The presentation was warmly received, with members expressing appreciation for the opportunity to learn about services they had not previously been aware of. This outreach activity helped strengthen community connections and raised awareness of the library's valuable role in supporting lifelong learning and wellbeing.

LOXTON WAIKERIE LIBRARY AND VISITOR CENTRES

RIVER FRINGE EVENTS

The Tuesday Club Exhibition

As part of the River Fringe celebrations, the Loxton Institute hosted an inspiring exhibition showcasing the work of five exceptionally talented young artists. Titled The Tuesday Club, the exhibition featured five original pieces from each artist, all of whom attend weekly art lessons with local artist Lyn Anstey, whose mentorship has nurtured their creativity over several years.

Adelaide Writer's Week - Community Live Stream

Thanks to support from Office for Ageing Well and Seniors Card, Writers' Week East Stage sessions were live streamed across four days for those unable to attend in person at the Garden. The Loxton Public Library proudly participated, offering local community members the opportunity to enjoy the event from a comfortable and accessible location in the large meeting room.

Enchanted Butterfly Shadow Boxes

Two creative workshops were held as part of the Fringe program, where participants crafted vintage-inspired butterfly shadow boxes under the guidance of artist Kari Cooper. The sessions offered a unique and engaging experience for craft enthusiasts and newcomers alike.

Polymer Clay Trinkets

Two free, hands-on after school sessions were held as part of the Fringe celebrations, facilitated by Karl Raams. Children had the opportunity to create their own polymer clay trinkets in these fun and creative workshops, encouraging artistic expression and enjoyed by all who attended.

PROMOTION AND COMMUNICATION

The Centres actively promote the wide range of services, programs, exhibitions, and events taking place throughout the year. Promotion is delivered through both in-house and online monthly Library Newsletters, which also highlight new additions to the library collection. Events and programs are further advertised within the Centres via posters and digital promotion screens to maximise visibility for visitors.

Regular weekly posts on the Loxton Waikerie Libraries Facebook page help extend reach and engagement through social media. Additional exposure is gained through the monthly Council newsletter, a monthly article in the Murray Pioneer, and fortnightly features in The River News, ensuring strong community awareness and connection.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Children's programs in our libraries promote early literacy, creativity, and social skills in a safe, inclusive environment. They encourage a love of learning through storytelling and activities, support language development, and provide free access to educational resources, helping to bridge gaps and strengthen communities. Attendance levels are at an all-time high with an increase of 17% from 2023-24.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

Children's Book Week	**698**
Children's Holiday Program	**1,594**
Weekly Story Time	**1,290**
Pre-school and Childcare Visits	**2,078**
Search & Find	**511**
Light Up Day (Loxton)	**125**
STEM Sessions	**247**

LOXTON WAIKERIE LIBRARY AND VISITOR CENTRES

Kids Nature Craft

During the January school holidays, creative facilitator Sue Drabsch led Kids Nature Craft sessions that encouraged children to explore natural materials through art. Participants decorated eucalyptus leaves to create unique laminated bookmarks and crafted stunning cards using pressed flowers—transforming simple elements of nature into beautiful keepsakes.



Children's Book Week

Children's Book Week was celebrated in August with library staff visiting local schools, pre-schools, and childcare centres, while some groups also visited the libraries. The 2024 theme, 'Reading is Magic', was brought to life through readings of award-winning books and engaging craft activities, encouraging a love of reading and creativity among almost 700 young participants.



NAIDOC Week

As part of NAIDOC Week celebrations, the libraries welcomed artist Scott Rathman from Rusted Tin – Contemporary Aboriginal Arts for a day of engaging and vibrant cultural experiences during the school holidays.

Three sessions were held throughout the day, each filled with fun, dancing, storytelling, cultural insights, and collaborative art-making. Scott shared his knowledge and creativity with participants of all ages, making it a memorable and meaningful event for the community.

Children's Holiday Program

School holiday sessions that combine storytelling and crafts exploring a range of themes continue to prove popular with young families seeking free, inclusive activities during the break with Waikerie Library experiencing a 100% increase in attendance from 2023-24. Library staff also developed regular Search and Find hunts in the children's library, which quickly became a favourite activity. Children delighted in searching for themed items and characters such as Easter eggs, Where's Wally, Grug, and Marvel superheroes. A small reward was given upon completion of each challenge, adding to the excitement and sense of achievement.









LOXTON WAIKERIE LIBRARY AND VISITOR CENTRES

Animals Anonymous

It was an exciting day at both the Loxton and Waikerie Libraries in April when Animals Anonymous visited as part of the school holiday program. Presenter Emily captivated young audiences with her fascinating range of scaly, furry, and feathered animals. Children had the opportunity to interact with the animals while learning about their habitats, behaviour, and care. The sessions were educational, engaging, and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.



Story Time

Weekly Story Time sessions at the Loxton Library are well attended and popular with local families. These sessions are aligned with the Words Grow Minds campaign, supported by the Government of South Australia, which promotes early literacy development through talking, reading, singing and playing.

Each Story Time includes:

- Interactive storytelling
- New songs and rhymes
- Sensory play activities
- Themed craft for children to take home

These sessions are not only fun but also play an important role in developing children's language, social confidence, and pre-literacy skills, supporting their transition into formal learning environments.

Pre-school and Childcare Visits

Pre-school, play centre, and childcare visits are a valuable outreach service provided by the libraries to foster a love of books and reinforce early literacy skills. These regular visits include storytime sessions, delivery of age-appropriate books for loan, and engaging craft activities, all designed to support early childhood development and strengthen community connections.

Summer Reading Club

The Summer Reading Club encourages children to continue reading during the school holidays to maintain and strengthen their literacy skills. Participants received a rewards card, which was stamped at each library visit. Once their card was completed after four visits, they received a sticker pack and were entered into the draw to win a $25 gift voucher.

Light Up Day

Loxton Light Up Day is one of the town's most anticipated annual events, celebrating the beginning of the Christmas season with market and food stalls, children's entertainment, and a spectacular evening of fireworks and festive light displays in the main street.

As part of the celebrations, the Loxton Library hosted two story and craft sessions for young children. The sessions featured a lively reading of the hilarious book Zoo Christmas, followed by a fun stained glass Christmas baubles activity.

Both sessions were well attended, providing a joyful and engaging experience for families and contributing to the festive community atmosphere.



LOXTON WAIKERIE LIBRARY AND VISITOR CENTRES

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Sessions

The libraries delivered a range of exciting and educational STEM programs for young learners throughout the year, sparking curiosity and hands-on learning.

One of the highlights at the Waikerie Library was a buzzing STEM Storytime session focused on honeybees. Children discovered fascinating facts—like bees having two stomachs—and learned how nectar becomes honey through teamwork and a little “bee magic.” The session included reading Bees Are Our Friends by Katrina Germein, interactive storytelling with a vibrant storyboard, pollination role-play, and creative craft activities such as bee finger puppets and honeycomb collages. The session was well attended and full of energy, with children enthusiastically engaging in all activities. Other topics explored during these sessions included:

- Blast Off! Exploring Space
- From Fuzz to Flight! Caterpillar to Moth Journey
- Tick Tock I Spy a Rock

Held fortnightly on weekdays at the Waikerie Library, the STEM Construction Corner program provided opportunities for children to explore building, creativity, and problem-solving using a variety of construction blocks and materials. The sessions supported the development of early engineering and spatial reasoning skills through free play and guided challenges.

Monthly Pop-Up Science Sessions at both libraries offered themed hands-on activities including Mesmerizing Magnetism and Building Bubbles. These sessions provided engaging, informal science learning experiences and encouraged experimentation, observation, and discovery.

Each of these programs contributed to fostering a love of STEM in early learners, providing fun and meaningful educational experiences for children and their caregivers.

Children’s University

The Waikerie Library became an official Children’s University Community Hub in 2025, offering a new pathway for local children to engage in self-directed learning outside the classroom.

An information session was held to introduce families to the program, highlighting how it supports children aged 5 to 14 to explore their interests through fun, curiosity-driven activities. Enrolled participants can gain recognition for learning undertaken outside school hours.

Libraries’ school holiday programs are accredited by Children’s University and listed on their official website, allowing children to earn hours toward their learning passports while participating in creative, educational experiences.

This initiative strengthens the role of libraries in lifelong learning and community engagement, offering meaningful opportunities that promote curiosity, independence, and a love of learning.





LOXTON WAIKERIE LIBRARY AND VISITOR CENTRES

GRANT FUNDING



Medicare 40 Year Anniversary Display

Each library was awarded $2,000 for assisting with promoting and housing a pop-up display celebrating the inception of the Medicare health system. The funds were put to good use with the purchase of children's program resources, signage holders for the history room and an indigenous artwork celebrating libraries at the Loxton Library and the part-purchase of a mobile fold up exhibition display for the Waikerie Library.

The LBW Trust and FOLA Country Library Grant

Loxton Library was successful in receiving $1,500 which assisted with the purchase of building blocks and a mobile work bench and storage unit for the Children's Room in the Loxton Library which has been very popular.

Citizen Science Corner

Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) have recently provided the Waikerie Library with $650 to develop a Citizen Science Corner in 2025/26 which will be aimed at increasing the science literacy of young children.



LIBRARY QUICK STATS

2,509 bookings
total of **1,703** hrs

'being digital' Technology Assistance
208 hrs
1,315 people

Justice of the Peace service utilised
1,012 people
2,551 verified documents

Business Services
Printing, copying, scanning, email and fax

Book Reviews
Monthly reviews in Murray Pioneer to promote library collections and services

Adult Book Groups
Facilitate and provide books for 5 book discussion groups

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT



CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

Meetings and Documents

In accordance with Section 90 (1) of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act) all Council and Committee meetings were conducted in a place open to the public.

Open and transparent decision making has been supported by the introduction of the Informal Gatherings Policy. The policy does allow for informal gatherings to be held for briefing, planning and educational sessions but does clarify that these gatherings will not be for the purpose of debating issues, building consensus positions or decision making.

Council held 12 ordinary meetings and 1 special meetings during 2024-25. Council met in confidence on 8 separate occasions during this time. Issues considered in confidence during 2024-25 are listed below:

MEETING DATE	SUBJECT	REASONS	RELEASED DATE*
17 July 2024	Woodleigh Child Care Centre	Section 90 (3) (d) (i) (ii)	10 June 2025*
21 Aug 2024	Chief Executive Officer Performance Review 2024	Section 90 (3) (a)	21 Aug 2024
21 Aug 2024	Luther Road Development	Section 90 (3) (d) (i) (ii)	21 Aug 2024
20 Nov 2024	Loxton and Waikerie Swimming Pool Concept Plan Project	Section 90 (3) (k)	20 Nov 2024
18 Dec 2024	Waikerie Riverside Community Hub Update	Section 90 (3) (b) (i) (ii)	18 Dec 2024
19 Feb 2025	Loxton Retirement Village Unit	Section 90 (3) (a)	Scheduled: 19 Feb 2026
17 Apr 2025	Proposed Pump Station Development - Waikerie	Section 90 (3) (d) (i) (ii)	Scheduled: 17 Apr 2026
21 May 2025	Telecommunication Connectivity Options	Section 90 (3) (k)	21 May 2025
19 Jun 2025	Outstanding Rate Debt - Section 184 Property	Section 90 (3) (a)	Scheduled: 19 June 2026

**Released under delegation to the Chief Executive Officer or by resolution of the Council*

Review of items held in confidence is undertaken on a regular basis, as determined by the resolution, and this process has seen all but one item in 2024-25 released from confidentially provisions over the course of the year.

SUBSIDIARY OF COUNCIL

Council is required to provide the annual report of any subsidiary. The Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association (MRLGA) is a regional subsidiary of member Councils. The association works to coordinate, advocate and represent the member Councils at a regional level.

Member councils:

- Berri Barmera Council
- Coorong District Council
- District Council of Karoonda East Murray
- District Council of Loxton Waikerie
- Mid Murray Council
- Renmark Paringa Council
- Rural City of Murray Bridge
- Southern Mallee District Council

ELECTOR REPRESENTATION

Periodical Review

> *The Local Government Act 1999 requires that Council must ensure that all aspects of the composition of the Council, and the issue of the division, or potential division of the area of the Council into wards are comprehensively reviewed under this section at least once in each relevant period as prescribed by regulation.*

Representation Quota

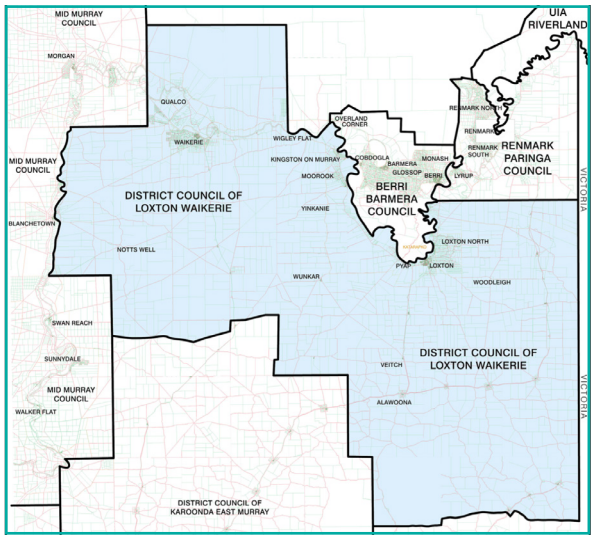
> *The total representation quota is the number of electors for each Elected Member: **8,580.** Electors are represented by **10** Elected Members (excluding the Mayor). The District Council of Loxton Waikerie's representation quota is **858** and compares with other similar sized Councils.*

Elector data, representation and areas compared with Councils of similar elector numbers):

COUNCIL	COUNCILLORS EXC. MAYOR	ELECTORS	REPRESENTATION QUOTA /RATIO
Loxton Waikerie (7,957km^2)	10	8,580	1:858
Berri Barmera (508km^2)	8	7,772	1:863
Clare and Gilbert Valleys (1,840km^2)	9	7,072	1:707
Light Regional (1,278km^2)	9	12,140	1:1214
Wattle Range (3,924km^2)	11	9,086	1:757
Yorke Peninsula (5,834km^2)	11	9,475	1:789

Source: Electoral Commission SA 2025

REGIONAL MAP



Area
7,763km²

2,306km
of roads

Population
11,674
ABS Statistics - 2021 Census

PROCUREMENT STATEMENT

Competitive Tendering Arrangements

Each financial year, Council procures a wide variety of goods and services to assist in meeting the outcomes of the Strategic Management Plans, to supplement and broaden the range of its service delivery to the community and to support all of the functions of the organisation.

Policies and procedures are in place to ensure that Council obtains quality goods and services, receives value for money, appropriately manages exposure to risk, ensures a high level of customer service and maintains transparency and fair dealings with the marketplace.

During the 2024-25 financial year, Council published 7 Request for Tenders and 19 Select Request for quotes.

Use of Local Goods and Services

Council is committed to maximising the positive impact of its activities to benefit the local community, the economy, and the environment.

Council may give preference to local contractors and suppliers with consideration to:

- the creation of local employment opportunities
- increased availability of local servicing support
- increased convenience with communications with the supplier for contract management
- actively promoting to local businesses opportunities to supply to the Council
- structuring the purchasing processes to be accessible to all businesses
- ensuring, where possible, that specifications and purchasing descriptions are not structured so as to potentially exclude local suppliers and contractors
- the short and long term impact of the procurement on local business

With regard to all matters set out in Council's Procurement Policy, and when deciding on the purchase of goods and services, priority will be given as follows:

1. District Council of Loxton Waikerie area
2. Riverland
3. South Australia

During 2024-25, $10.624m (or 39.67% of our purchases) were from local suppliers.

Purchase Cards Expenditure

Credit card purchasing for council business is to augment, not replace, existing procurement practices, and is only encouraged where it is more cost effective than traditional methods.

During the 2024-25 financial year, $434,532 was spent across 33 purchase cards allocated to staff.

EXTERNAL AUDITORS

Council is required under the Act to appoint a suitably qualified person as its external auditor. The external auditor reports to Council on the General Purpose and Special Purpose Financial Report prepared annually.

The external auditor is also required to report to Council on matters arising from the audit and must specifically identify in the report any irregularity in Council's accounting practices or the management of its financial affairs.

During 2020-21 the Riverland G3 Alliance identified that calling for tenders collectively will result in financial and logistical benefits for the Councils as well as for the successful auditing firm. As a result of this competitive tending process Council appointed Bentleys as its external auditor for a five-year term ending in 2025.

Pursuant to the Local Government Act 1999 s128, Council must disclose the remuneration paid to its external auditor.

In 2024-25, $23,820 (ex GST) was paid for annual audit of statutory financial records and related specific purpose statements to Bentleys.

COMMUNITY LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS

A comprehensive review of Council's Community Land Management Plan commenced in 2024-25, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act.

The process to adopt a CLMP involves the draft document being endorsed by Council before being presented to the community for public consultation, then back to Council for final approval.

During the reporting period, the following CLMPs were adopted:

- Murray River Queen (Portion of Grant Schubert Drive, Loxton)
- Paruna Golf Course
- Loxton Children's Centre (portion of land on cnr of Coral Street and Kokoda Tce, Loxton)

Council will continue to review the remaining CLMPs during the 2025/26 financial year.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Applications

Council provides information to residents/ ratepayers whenever possible, without referral to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1991.

Where information is requested under the Freedom of Information Act an application fee must be forwarded with the completed request forms provided for in the Act, unless an exemption is granted.

Applications are responded to as soon as possible within the statutory 30 days of receipt of a request and application fee or proof of exemption.

One (1) Freedom of Information Applications was received during the reporting period. Zero (0) applications were processed, one (1) application was withdrawn.

Pursuant to Section 38 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 1991 a person who is aggrieved by a determination made by the Council is entitled to an internal review of the determination.

All Freedom of Information applications and inquiries should be addressed to Council's FOI Officer, Helen Roberts.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

GOVERNANCE & STRATEGY
Governance
Administration
Finance & Rates
Records Management
Economic Development
Development Control & Regulatory Services
Projects
Customer Service

INFRASTRUCTURE
Parks & Gardens
Waste Management (CWMS & Transfer Stations)
Strategic Infrastructure Planning
Recreation, Opens Space and Reserves
Roads & Footpaths
Infrastructure Maintenance Programs
Capital Program delivery
Asset Engineering

COMMERCIAL & COMMUNITY
Human Resources
Work Health Safety & Risk
Risk Management
Tourism & Events
Community Development & Volunteer Management
Library & Information Centres
Leases & Licensing
Communications & Marketing
Business Analytics & Information Communication Technology
Cemeteries

ENVIRONMENTAL
Food Safety
Swimming Pool Inspection and Compliance
Planning and Building
Mosquito Surveillance and Control
Strategic Planning
Building Fire Safety
Fire Prevention
Animal Management
Nuisance and Litter
Parking

BY LAW REVIEW

Section 246 of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act) provides for Councils to make By-laws for the good rule and government of an area and for the convenience, comfort and safety of its community.

Accessible via lwdc.sa.gov.au, the District Council of Loxton

Waikerie has seven by-laws in force until 2032, these being:

- By-law No. 1 – Permits and Penalties
- By-law No. 2 – Local Government Land
- By-law No. 3 – Roads
- By-law No. 4 – Movable Signs
- By-law No. 5 – Dogs
- By-law No. 6 – Cats
- By-law No. 7 – Camping and Mooring

A review of the by-laws commenced in the 2024–25 financial year. As part of this process, a new By-Law (No. 7 – Camping and Mooring) was drafted, in addition to the review and amendment of existing by-laws. All by-laws were adopted at the September 2024 Council meeting.

The Legislative Review Committee required a review of 2 by-laws. The Council adopted the amendment by-law 8 at the April 2025 Council meeting.

INTERNAL REVIEW

Council Decisions

Under Section 270 of the Local Government Act 1999 Council is required to have policies, practices and procedures to manage any request for a review of a Council decision.

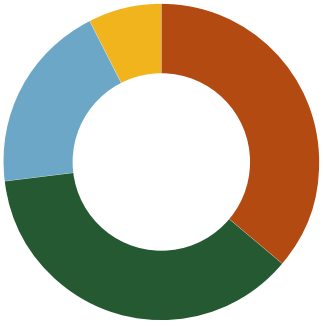
Council has an Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy and Procedure. The policy and procedure are explained and available on Council's website.

For the period of 2024-25, Council did not receive an application for an internal review under Section 270(8) of the Local Government Act 1999.

LEGAL COSTS

The Council incurred $159,687 in legal costs in 2024-25. Advice fell into the following categories:

LEGAL ADVICE CATEGORIES	$
General Legal	58,003
Rates	58,825
Environment/Planning	30,890
Lease Management	11,969
Total Expenses	159,687



REGISTERS AND CODES OF PRACTICE

Schedule 4 Compliance Information

Pursuant to schedule 4 of the Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government (Elected) Act 1999, Council is required to maintain a series of registers, and codes of practice.

LIST OF REGISTERS

- Register of Interests (Elected Members)
- Register of Gifts and Benefits (Elected Members)
- Register of Allowances and Benefits (Elected Members)
- Register of Training and Development (Elected Members)
- Register of Remuneration, Salaries and Benefits (Employees)
- Register of Interest (Employees)
- Register of Gifts and Benefits (Employees)
- Register of Community Land
- Register of Public Roads
- Register of By-Laws
- Register of Building Upgrade Agreements

CODES OF PRACTICE

- Code of Practice - Access to Council and Committee Meetings and Documents
- Code of Practice - Procedures at Meetings

NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY

The South Australian Government's Competitive Neutrality Policy ensures that significant government (and local government) businesses compete fairly in the market.

Pursuant to the Government Business Enterprises (Competition) Act 1996, and Local Government Act 1999, Council is required to provide a statement of competition neutrality principles within its Annual Report.

- The Loxton Riverfront Holiday Park, the Council's only significant business activity, operated without any competition within the township. While competitive neutrality measures are typically applied in situations with potential competition, they help ensure that the park functions efficiently and fairly even in this unchallenged environment.
- Council's leases and licenses are primarily not provided for business purposes, with one exception. This approach helps maintain transparency and accountability in our operations while supporting community interests.

Additionally, during 2024-25:

- There were no new significant business activities controlled by the council that were commenced or ceased.
- No complaints were received alleging a breach of competitive neutrality principles.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



District Council of Loxton Waikerie

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2025

District Council of Loxton Waikerie

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

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District Council of Loxton Waikerie

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Council certificate

Certification of Financial Statements

We have been authorised by the Council to certify the financial statements in their final form.

In our opinion:

- the accompanying financial statements comply with the *Local Government Act 1999, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* and Australian Accounting Standards,
- the financial statements present a true and fair view of the Council's financial position at 30 June 2025 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the financial year,
- internal controls implemented by the Council provide a reasonable assurance that the Council's financial records are complete, accurate and reliable and were effective throughout the financial year,
- the financial statements accurately reflect the Council's accounting and other records.

David Beaton
Chief Executive Officer

15 October 2025

Trevor Norton
Mayor

15 October 2025

District Council of Loxton Waikerie

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Income			
Rates	2a	15,802	15,047
Statutory charges	2b	279	286
User charges	2c	1,618	1,546
Grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	2g	10,157	2,875
Investment income	2d	276	427
Reimbursements	2e	298	417
Other income	2f	1,047	977
Total income		29,477	21,575
Expenses			
Employee costs	3a	6,851	6,593
Materials, contracts and other expenses	3b	10,808	11,165
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	3c	9,898	9,224
Finance costs	3d	385	216
Total expenses		27,942	27,198
Operating surplus / (deficit)		1,535	(5,623)
Asset disposal and fair value adjustments	4	(10,855)	(3,207)
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	2g	4,687	7,475
Net surplus / (deficit)		(4,633)	(1,355)
Other comprehensive income			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result			
Changes in revaluation surplus - I,PP&E	9a	10,752	32,815
Intangible Asset - Water Rights - Change in Value		500	(1,400)
Other movements		26	–
Total amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result		11,278	31,415
Total other comprehensive income		11,278	31,415
Total comprehensive income		6,645	30,060

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

District Council of Loxton Waikerie

Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2025

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalent assets	5a	4,783	3,075
Trade and other receivables	5b	1,943	3,825
Inventories	5c	508	103
Total current assets		7,234	7,003
Non-current assets			
Trade and other receivables	6a	839	321
Other non-current assets	6b	9,810	15,423
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	7	279,413	267,895
Investment property	7	18,653	18,663
Total non-current assets		308,715	302,302
TOTAL ASSETS		315,949	309,305
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	8a	16,154	16,133
Borrowings	8b	14	16
Provisions	8c	1,986	2,007
Total current liabilities		18,154	18,156
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	8b	194	208
Provisions	8c	118	103
Total non-current liabilities		312	311
TOTAL LIABILITIES		18,466	18,467
Net assets		297,483	290,838
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		89,583	95,627
Asset revaluation reserves	9a	206,191	194,913
Other reserves	9b	1,709	298
Total equity		297,483	290,838

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

District Council of Loxton Waikerie

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	Accumulated surplus	Asset revaluation reserve	Other reserves	Total equity
2025				
Balance as at 1 July	95,627	194,913	298	290,838
Net surplus / (deficit) for year	(4,633)	–	–	(4,633)
Other comprehensive income				
Gain (loss) on revaluation of IPP&E	–	10,752	–	10,752
Intangible Asset - Water Rights - Change in Value	–	500	–	500
Other movements	–	26	–	26
Other comprehensive income	–	11,278	–	11,278
Total comprehensive income	(4,633)	11,278	–	6,645
Transfers between reserves	(1,411)	–	1,411	–
Balance at the end of period	89,583	206,191	1,709	297,483
2024				
Balance as at 1 July	95,663	163,498	1,617	260,778
Net surplus / (deficit) for year	(1,355)	–	–	(1,355)
Other comprehensive income				
Gain (loss) on revaluation of IPP&E	–	32,815	–	32,815
Intangible Asset - Water Rights - Change in Value	–	(1,400)	–	(1,400)
Other comprehensive income	–	31,415	–	31,415
Total comprehensive income	(1,355)	31,415	–	30,060
Transfers between reserves	1,319	–	(1,319)	–
Balance at the end of period	95,627	194,913	298	290,838

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Rates receipts		15,709	14,738
Statutory charges		282	286
User charges		1,618	1,546
Grants, subsidies and contributions		10,188	1,416
Investment receipts		276	427
Reimbursements		344	417
Other receipts		1,975	1,987
Payments			
Payments for materials, contracts and other expenses		(12,765)	(13,851)
Finance payments		(6)	(8)
Payments to employees		(6,846)	(6,594)
Net cash provided by (or used in) operating activities	10b	10,775	364
Cash flows from investing activities			
Receipts			
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets		7,780	7,475
Sale of replaced assets		549	328
Repayments of loans by community groups		28	11
Sale of surplus assets		250	–
Payments			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets		(7,303)	(7,797)
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets		(10,229)	(13,311)
Purchase of investment property		(416)	(1,174)
Net cash provided (or used in) investing activities		(9,341)	(14,468)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Receipts			
Proceeds from bonds and deposits		–	67
Proceeds from aged care facility deposits		997	3,307
Payments			
Repayments of loans		(16)	(16)
Repayment of bonds and deposits		(18)	–
Repayment of aged care facility deposits		(689)	(1,361)
Net cash provided by (or used in) financing activities		274	1,997
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		1,708	(12,107)
plus: cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period		3,075	15,182
Cash and cash equivalents held at end of period	10a	4,783	3,075

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

District Council of Loxton Waikerie

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Contents of the Notes accompanying the General Purpose Financial Statements

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Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted by Council in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below.

These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

(1) Basis of preparation

1.1 Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards

This general purpose financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis using the historical cost convention in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Interpretations and relevant South Australian legislation.

The financial report was authorised for issue by certificate under regulation 14 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.

1.2 Historical cost convention

Except as stated below, these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

1.2 Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates and requires management to exercise its judgement in applying Council's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are specifically referred to in the relevant sections of these Notes.

1.3 Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars ($'000).

(2) The local government reporting entity

The District Council of Loxton Waikerie is incorporated under the SA Local Government Act 1999 and has its principal place of business at 35 Bookpurnong Terrace, Loxton. These financial statements include the Council's direct operations and all entities through which Council controls resources to carry on its functions. In the process of reporting on the Council as a single unit, all transactions and balances between activity areas and controlled entities have been eliminated.

(3) Income recognition

The Council recognises revenue under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 1058) or AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers (AASB 15) when appropriate.

In cases where there is an 'enforceable' contract with a customer with 'sufficiently specific' performance obligations, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 where income is recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or service to a customer). Revenue is measured based on the consideration to which the Council expects to be entitled in a contract with a customer.

In other cases, AASB 1058 applies when a not-for-profit (NFP) entity enters into transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than the fair value of the asset principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. The excess of the asset recognised (at fair value) over any 'related amounts' is recognised as income immediately, except in the case where a financial asset has been received to enable the council to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset that is to be controlled by the council. In this case, the council recognises the excess as a liability that is recognised over time in profit and loss when (or as) the entity satisfies its obligations under the transfer.

In recent years, the payment of untied grants (financial assistance grants/ local roads/ supplementary grants) has varied from the annual allocation as shown in the table below:

continued on next page ...

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (continued)

	Cash Payment Received	Annual Allocation	Difference
2016/17	$6,498,824	$4,290,475	+ $2,208,349
2017/18	$4,293,314	$4,246,796	+ $46,518
2018/19	$5,276,235	$4,592,560	+ $683,675
2019/20	$4,379,992	$4,635,026	- $255,034
2020/21	$4,242,751	$4,652,154	- $409,403
2021/22	$6,109,717	$4,732,121	+$1,377,596
2022/23	$6,846,686	$4,971,755	+$1,874,931
2023/24	$662,749	$5,648,790	-$4,986,041
2024/25	$8,707,360	$5,731,443	+$2,975,917

Because these grants are untied, the Australian Accounting Standards require that payments be recognised upon receipt. Accordingly, the operating results of these periods have been distorted compared to those that would have been reported had the grants been paid in the year to which they were allocated.

The Operating Surplus Ratio disclosed in Note 13 has also been calculated after adjusting for the distortions resulting from the differences between the actual grants received and the grants entitlements allocated.

(4) Cash, cash equivalents and other financial instruments

Cash assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Council's option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Other Financial Instruments

Receivables for rates and annual charges are secured over the subject land, and bear interest at rates determined in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999. Other receivables are generally unsecured and do not bear interest.

All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered doubtful.

All financial instruments are recognised at fair value at the date of recognition. A detailed statement of the accounting policies applied to financial instruments also form part of Note 11.

(5) Inventories

Inventories held in respect of stores have been valued by using the weighted average cost on a continual basis, after adjustment for loss of service potential. Inventories held in respect of business undertakings have been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

continued on next page ...

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (continued)

(6) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

6.1 Initial recognition

All assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition.

All non-current assets purchased or constructed are capitalised as the expenditure is incurred and depreciated as soon as the asset is held "ready for use". Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition, including architects' fees and engineering design fees and all other costs incurred. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the Council includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overhead.

Capital works still in progress at balance date are recognised as other non-current assets and transferred to infrastructure, property, plant and equipment when they are completed and ready for use

6.2 Materiality

Assets with an economic life in excess of one year are only capitalised where the cost of acquisition exceeds materiality thresholds established by Council for each type of asset. In determining (and in annually reviewing) such thresholds, regard is given to the nature of the asset and its estimated service life. Examples of capitalisation thresholds applied during the year are given in Note 7. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

6.3 Subsequent recognition

All material asset classes are revalued on a regular basis such that the carrying values are not materially different from fair value. Significant uncertainties exist in the estimation of fair value of a number of asset classes including land, buildings and associated structures and infrastructure. Further detail of these uncertainties, and of existing valuations, methods and valuers are provided in Note 7.

6.4 Depreciation of non-current assets

Other than land, all infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets recognised are systematically depreciated over their useful lives on a straight-line basis which, in the opinion of Council, best reflects the consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets.

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values of classes of assets are reviewed annually.

Major depreciation periods for each class of asset are shown in Note 7. Depreciation periods for infrastructure assets have been estimated based on the best information available to Council, but appropriate records covering the entire life cycle of these assets are not available, and extreme care should be used in interpreting financial information based on these estimates.

6.5 Impairment

Assets whose future economic benefits are not dependent on the ability to generate cash flows, and where the future economic benefits would be replaced if Council were deprived thereof, are not subject to impairment testing.

Other assets that are subject to depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount (which is the higher of the present value of future cash inflows or value in use).

Where an asset that has been revalued is subsequently impaired, the impairment is first offset against such amount as stands to the credit of that class of assets in Asset Revaluation Reserve, any excess being recognised as an expense.

6.6 Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs in relation to qualifying assets (net of offsetting investment revenue) have been capitalised in accordance with AASB 123 "Borrowing Costs". The amounts of borrowing costs recognised as an expense or as part of the carrying amount of qualifying assets are disclosed in Note 3, and the amount (if any) of interest revenue offset against borrowing costs in Note 2.

continued on next page ...

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (continued)

(7) Payables

7.1 Goods & Services

Creditors are amounts due to external parties for the supply of goods and services and are recognised as liabilities when the goods and services are received. Creditors are normally paid 30 days after the month of invoice. No interest is payable on these amounts.

7.2 Payments Received in Advance & Deposits

Amounts received from external parties in advance of service delivery, and security deposits held against possible damage to Council assets, are recognised as liabilities until the service is delivered or damage reinstated, or the amount is refunded as the case may be.

(8) Borrowings

Loans are carried at their principal amounts which represent the present value of future cash flows associated with servicing the debt. Interest is accrued over the period to which it relates and is recorded as part of "Payables". Interest free loans are carried at their nominal amounts; interest revenues foregone by the lender effectively being a reduction of interest expense in the period to which it relates.

(9) Employee benefits

9.1 Salaries, Wages & Compensated Absences

Liabilities for employees' entitlements to salaries, wages and compensated absences expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of reporting date are accrued at nominal amounts (including payroll based on costs) measured in accordance with AASB 119.

Liabilities for employee benefits not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows (including payroll based on costs) to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Present values are calculated using government guaranteed securities rates with similar maturity terms.

No accrual is made for sick leave as Council experience indicates that, on average, sick leave taken in each reporting period is less than the entitlement accruing in that period, and this experience is expected to recur in future reporting periods. Council does not make payment for untaken sick leave.

9.2 Superannuation

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Statewide Superannuation Scheme. The Scheme has two types of membership, each of which is funded differently. Details of the accounting policies applied and Council's involvement with the schemes are reported in Note 15.

(10) GST implications

In accordance with UIG Abstract 1031 "*Accounting for the Goods & Services Tax*"

- Receivables and creditors include GST receivable and payable.
- Except in relation to input taxed activities, revenues and operating expenditures exclude GST receivable and payable.
- Non-current assets and capital expenditures include GST net of any recoupment.
- Amounts included in the Statement of Cash Flows are disclosed on a gross basis.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2. Income

$ '000	2025	2024
(a) Rates		
General rates		
General rates	11,837	11,382
Less: mandatory rebates	(193)	(181)
Less: discretionary rebates, remissions and write-offs	(77)	(180)
Total general rates	11,567	11,021
Other rates (including service charges)		
Landscape levy	551	548
Waste collection	1,631	1,561
Community wastewater management systems	1,908	1,813
Total other rates (including service charges)	4,090	3,922
Other charges		
Penalties for late payment	138	104
Legal and other costs recovered	7	–
Total other charges	145	104
Total rates	15,802	15,047
(b) Statutory charges		
Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act fees	30	53
Town planning fees	107	105
Health and septic tank inspection fees	54	47
Animal registration fees and fines	88	80
Other licences, fees and fines	–	1
Total statutory charges	279	286
(c) User charges		
Cemetery Fees	154	127
Sundry	16	17
Marina Fees	84	54
Retirement Village	1,011	1,048
Private Works	–	1
Hire/Lease/Rent Fees	156	116
Tourism Income	103	88
Search Fees	28	24
Waste Management	64	70
Food Inspections	2	1
Total user charges	1,618	1,546

continued on next page ...

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2. Income (continued)

$ '000	2025	2024
(d) Investment income		
Interest on investments		
- Local Government Finance Authority	269	420
- Loans to community groups	7	7
Total investment income	276	427
(e) Reimbursements		
Fuel Rebate	120	143
Trainee Reimbursement	2	3
Waikerie Truck Stop	29	27
Insurance Claims	133	219
SA Health	14	20
Other	–	5
Total reimbursements	298	417
(f) Other income		
Sundry	27	41
Loxton Riverfront Holiday Park	780	760
Workers Compensation Scheme Bonus	137	123
Local Government Finance Authority Bonus	23	18
Temporary Water Licence Sales	47	3
Sponsorship Income	33	32
Total other income	1,047	977
(g) Grants, subsidies and contributions		
Capital grants, subsidies and contributions		
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	4,687	7,475
Total amounts received for new or upgraded assets	4,687	7,475
Operating grants, subsidies and contributions		
Untied - Financial Assistance Grant	8,707	663
Roads to Recovery	1,040	744
Library and communications	43	39
River Murray Flood Assistance	–	709
Sundry	367	720
Other grants, subsidies and contributions - operating		
Total other grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	10,157	2,875
Total grants, subsidies and contributions	14,844	10,350

continued on next page ...

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2. Income (continued)

$ '000	2025	2024
(i) Sources of grants		
Commonwealth Government	3,650	6,705
State Government	8,660	2,256
Other	2,534	1,389
Total	14,844	10,350

Note 3. Expenses

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
(a) Employee costs			
Salaries and wages		6,168	5,765
Employee leave expense		1,390	1,258
Superannuation - defined contribution plan contributions	15	748	602
Superannuation - defined benefit plan contributions	15	91	133
Workers' compensation insurance		347	317
Other employee related costs		53	34
Less: capitalised and distributed costs		(1,946)	(1,516)
Total operating employee costs		6,851	6,593
Total number of employees (full time equivalent at end of reporting period)		81	79
(b) Materials, contracts and other expenses			
(i) Prescribed expenses			
Auditor's remuneration			
- Auditing the financial reports		21	20
Bad and doubtful debts		271	(68)
Elected members' expenses		244	235
Subtotal - prescribed expenses		536	187

continued on next page ...

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 3. Expenses (continued)

$ '000	2025	2024
(ii) Other materials, contracts and expenses		
Contractors	4,859	5,305
Energy	566	551
Legal expenses	102	50
Levies paid to Government - Landscape levy	563	560
Parts, accessories and consumables	1,186	1,567
Professional services	346	194
Cleaning	492	339
Fuel	603	630
Insurance	564	484
Management Fee	793	737
Registration Fee	86	81
Revaluation decrement - Retirement Village	8	368
Subscriptions	517	459
Telecommunications	70	71
Water	304	229
Less: capitalised and distributed Costs	(787)	(647)
Subtotal - Other material, contracts and expenses	10,272	10,978
Total materials, contracts and other expenses	10,808	11,165

(c) Depreciation, amortisation and impairment

(i) Depreciation and amortisation		
Buildings and other structures	2,920	2,815
Infrastructure		
- Road Infrastructure	4,435	4,032
- Footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	439	402
- Stormwater drainage	262	207
- CWMS	556	507
- Other Infrastructure	3	2
- Irrigation	104	95
Plant, Machinery & Equipment	1,010	1,045
Office Equipment, Furniture & Fittings	169	119
Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment	9,898	9,224

(d) Finance costs

Interest on loans	6	8
Unwinding of present value discounts	379	208
Total finance costs	385	216

District Council of Loxton Waikerie

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 4. Asset disposal and fair value adjustments

$ '000	2025	2024
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		
(i) Assets renewed or directly replaced		
Proceeds from disposal	549	328
Less: carrying amount of assets sold	(2,960)	(203)
Gain (loss) on disposal	(2,411)	125
(ii) Assets surplus to requirements		
Proceeds from disposal	250	–
Less: carrying amount of assets sold	(3,169)	(2,187)
Less: other amounts relating to the sale of surplus assets	(5,099)	–
Gain (loss) on disposal	(8,018)	(2,187)
Fair value adjustments		
Investment property - fair value increase / (decrease)	(426)	(1,145)
Total fair value adjustments	(426)	(1,145)
Net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets	(10,855)	(3,207)

Note 5. Current assets

$ '000	2025	2024
(a) Cash and cash equivalent assets		
Cash on hand and at bank	98	573
Deposits at call	4,685	2,502
Total cash and cash equivalent assets	4,783	3,075
(b) Trade and other receivables		
Rates - general and other	993	900
Accrued revenues	425	97
Debtors - general	170	2,597
GST recoupment	292	79
Prepayments	297	151
Loans to community organisations	44	12
Subtotal	2,221	3,836
Less: provision for expected credit losses	(278)	(11)
Total trade and other receivables	1,943	3,825
(c) Inventories		
Stores and materials	508	103
Total inventories	508	103

District Council of Loxton Waikerie

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Non-current assets

$ '000	2025	2024
(a) Trade and other receivables		
Receivables		
Loans to community organisations	839	321
Total financial assets	839	321
(b) Other non-current assets		
Capital work in progress	2,610	8,723
Intangible Asset - Water Rights	7,200	6,700
Total other non-current assets	9,810	15,423

District Council of Loxton Waikerie

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

		as at 30/06/24				Asset movements during the reporting period						as at 30/06/25			
$ '000	Fair Value Level	At Fair Value	At Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying amount	Asset Additions New / Upgrade	Asset Additions Renewals	WDV of Asset Disposals	Depreciation Expense (Note 3c)	Revaluation Decrements to Equity (ARR) (Note 9)	Revaluation Increments to Equity (ARR) (Note 9)	At Fair Value	At Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying amount
Land - community	3	34,139	–	–	34,139	–	–	(490)	–	–	–	33,649	–	–	33,649
Buildings and other structures	3	119,028	–	(54,986)	64,042	7,290	2,337	(3,915)	(2,920)	–	2,951	116,216	7,290	(53,720)	69,786
- Road Infrastructure	3	149,026	8,781	(43,009)	114,798	122	3,995	(1,138)	(4,435)	–	5,166	167,592	122	(49,207)	118,507
- Footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	3	24,387	482	(7,955)	16,914	192	251	(52)	(439)	–	1,013	26,460	192	(8,771)	17,881
- Stormwater drainage	3	17,685	3,112	(7,387)	13,410	32	33	–	(262)	–	631	21,914	32	(8,103)	13,843
- CWMS	3	29,357	430	(16,291)	13,496	20	301	(17)	(556)	–	827	31,834	20	(17,783)	14,071
- Irrigation	3	4,958	77	(2,079)	2,956	26	215	(1)	(104)	–	176	5,540	26	(2,298)	3,268
- Other Infrastructure	3	255	39	(201)	93	–	–	–	(3)	–	3	298	–	(205)	93
Plant, Machinery & Equipment		–	12,571	(6,207)	6,364	–	1,904	(516)	(1,010)	–	–	–	13,038	(6,297)	6,741
Office Equipment, Furniture & Fittings		–	2,950	(1,830)	1,120	19	56	–	(169)	–	–	–	3,025	(1,999)	1,026
Book Stocks	3	563	–	–	563	–	–	–	–	(15)	–	548	–	–	548
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		379,398	28,442	(139,945)	267,895	7,701	9,092	(6,129)	(9,898)	(15)	10,767	404,051	23,745	(148,383)	279,413
Comparatives		329,960	19,474	(119,399)	230,035	7,374	9,284	(2,390)	(9,224)	–	32,815	379,398	28,442	(139,945)	267,895

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Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property (continued)

Investment property

		as at 30/06/24				Asset movements during the reporting period			as at 30/06/25			
$ '000	Fair Value Level	At Fair Value	At Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying amount	Asset Additions New / Upgrade	Asset Additions Renewals	Revaluation Increments/ Decrements to P&L - Investment Properties (Note 4)	At Fair Value	At Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying amount
Buildings and structures	2	18,663	–	–	18,663	–	416	(426)	18,653	–	–	18,653
Total investment property		18,663	–	–	18,663	–	416	(426)	18,653	–	–	18,653
Comparatives		16,670	–	–	16,670	2,647	491	(1,145)	18,663	–	–	18,663

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Note 7. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property (continued)

Valuation of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property

Valuation of assets

The fair value of assets and liabilities must be estimated in accordance with various Accounting Standards for either recognition and measurement requirements or for disclosure purposes.

AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a "level" in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

Refer to Note 7(a) for the disclosure of the Fair Value Levels of Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment Assets.

Information on valuations

Fair value hierarchy level 2 valuations - Certain land, and the buildings and structures thereon, are shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 2 valuation inputs. They are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, with directly or indirectly observable adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset.

Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of land - Valuations of Crown land, community land and land subject to other restrictions on use or disposal, shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 3 valuation inputs, are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, but include adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset that are not directly or indirectly observable in that market, or the number and / or amount of observable adjustments of which are so great that the valuation is more fairly described as being based on level 3 valuation inputs.

Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of buildings, infrastructure and other assets - There is no known market for buildings, infrastructure and other assets. These assets are valued at depreciated current replacement cost. This method involves:

- The determination of the cost to construct the asset (or its modern engineering equivalent) using current prices for materials and labour, the quantities of each being estimated based on recent experience of this or similar Councils, or on industry construction guides where these are more appropriate.
- The calculation of the depreciation that would have accumulated since original construction using current estimates of residual value and useful life under the prime cost depreciation method adopted by Council.

This method has significant inherent uncertainties, relying on estimates of quantities of materials and labour, residual values and useful lives, and the possibility of changes in prices for materials and labour, and the potential for development of more efficient construction techniques. Accordingly, formal sensitivity analysis does not provide useful information.
Transfers between fair value hierarchy levels

In the course of revaluing Land, Buildings and Structures the nature of the inputs applied was reviewed in detail for each asset and where necessary, the asset reassigned to the appropriate fair value hierarchy level. Such transfers take effect as at the date of the revaluation.

A review will be undertaken within the 2025-26 financial reporting year to reclassify and reassign to the appropriate fair value hierarchy level.

Other information

At 1 July 2004 upon the transition to AIFRS, Council elected pursuant to *AASB 1.D5* to retain a previously established deemed cost under GAAP as its deemed cost. With subsequent addition at cost, this remains as the basis of recognition of non-material asset classes.

Upon revaluation, the current new replacement cost and accumulated depreciation are re-stated such that the difference represents the fair value of the asset determined in accordance with *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement*: accumulated

continued on next page ...

Note 7. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property (continued)

depreciation is taken to be the difference between current new replacement cost and fair value. In the case of land, current replacement cost is taken to be the fair value.

Highest and best use

All of Council's non financial assets are considered as being utilised for their highest and best use.

Highest and best use - For land which Council has an unfettered right to sell, the "highest and best use" recognises the possibility of the demolition or substantial modification of some or all of the existing buildings and structures affixed to the land. Much of the land under Council's care and control is Crown land or has been declared as community land under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999. Other types of restrictions also exist.

For land subject to these restrictions, the highest and best use is taken to be the "highest and best use" available to Council, with a rebuttable presumption that the current use is the "highest and best use". The reason for the current use of a large proportion of Council's assets being other than the "highest and best use" relates to Council's principal role as the provider of services to the community, rather than the use of those assets for the generation of revenue.

For buildings and other structures on and in the land, including infrastructure, "highest and best use" is determined in accordance with the land on and in which they are situated.

Transition to AASB 13 - Fair Value Measurement

The requirements of AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement have been applied to all valuations undertaken since 1 July 2013 as shown by the valuation dates by individual asset classes below.

Capitalisation Thresholds

Capitalisation thresholds used by Council for a representative range of assets are shown below. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

	$
Office Furniture & Equipment	3,000
Other Plant & Equipment	3,000
Buildings - new construction/extensions	10,000
Park & Playground Furniture & Equipment	5,000
Road construction & reconstruction	10,000
Paving & Footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	5,000
Drains & Culverts	5,000

Estimated Useful Lives

Useful lives are estimated for each individual asset. In estimating useful lives, regard is had to technical and commercial obsolescence, as well as legal and other limitations on continued use. The range of useful lives for a representative range of assets is shown below, although individual assets may have an estimated total useful life of greater or lesser amount:

Plant, Furniture & Equipment	
Office Equipment	4 to 10 years
Office Furniture	10 to 20 years
Vehicles and Road-making Equipment	5 to 8 years
Other Plant & Equipment	5 to 15 years
Building & Other Structures	
Buildings - masonry	50 to 100 years
Buildings - other construction	20 to 40 years
Park Structures - masonry	50 to 100 years
Park Structures - other construction	20 to 40 years
Playground Equipment	5 to 15 years
Benches, Seats, etc	10 to 20 years

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Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property (continued)

Infrastructure	
Sealed Roads - Surface	15 to 25 years
Sealed Roads - Structure	20 to 50 years
Unsealed Roads	10 to 20 years
Bridges - Concrete	80 to 100 years
Paving & Footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	80 to 100 years
Drains	80 to 100 years
Culverts	50 to 75 years
Flood Control Structures	80 to 100 years
Dams and Reservoirs	80 to 100 years
Bores	20 to 40 years
Reticulation Pipes - PVC	70 to 80 years
Reticulation Pipes - Other	25 to 75 years
Pumps & Telemetry	15 to 25 years

Land & Land Improvements
Land and Land Improvements undertook a desktop independent revaluation as at 30 June 2025 provided by Preston Rowe Paterson Adelaide Pty Ltd (PRP).

Council being of the opinion that it is not possible to attribute a value sufficiently reliably to qualify for recognition, land under roads has not been recognised in these reports. Land acquired for road purposes during the year is initially recognised at cost, but transferred to fair value at reporting date, effectively writing off the expenditure.

Freehold land and land over which Council has control, but does not have title, is recognised on the cost basis. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

Estimated future costs of reinstatement of land, capitalised in accordance with AASB 116.16(c), are reviewed annually (see Note 1) and depreciated over the estimated remaining life of the relevant asset.

Buildings & Other Structures
The valuation was conducted by Preston Rowe Paterson Adelaide Pty Ltd (PRP) using a desktop revaluation approach at depreciated current replacement cost as at 30 June 2025. Full revaluations are undertaken every four years. All additions are initially recorded at cost.

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value / Current Replacement Cost
- Desktop valuation date: 30 June 2025, performed by Preston Rowe Paterson Adelaide Pty Ltd (PRP)
- Condition assessment: Last performed by Sprouts in 2021

Infrastructure - Roads, Footpaths, Kerbs and Gutters
Reviewed by Tonkin Consulting Services using a desktop revaluation approach at depreciated current replacement cost as at 1 July 2024, based on actual costs incurred during the reporting period ended 30 June 2024. All acquisitions during the 2024–25 financial year are recorded at cost.

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value / Current Replacement Cost
- Desktop valuation date: 1 July 2024, performed by Tonkin Consulting Services
- Condition assessment: Last performed by HDS in 2020

Infrastructure - Stormwater Drainage
Reviewed by Tonkin Consulting Services using a desktop revaluation approach at depreciated current replacement cost as at 1 July 2024, based on actual costs incurred during the reporting period ended 30 June 2024. All acquisitions during the 2024–25 financial year are recorded at cost.

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value / Current Replacement Cost
- Desktop valuation date: 1 July 2024, performed by Tonkin Consulting Services
- Condition assessment: To be reviewed in 2025-26.

Infrastructure - Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS)

continued on next page ...

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property (continued)

Reviewed by Tonkin Consulting Services using a desktop revaluation approach at depreciated current replacement cost as at 1 July 2024, based on actual costs incurred during the reporting period ended 30 June 2024. All acquisitions during the 2024–25 financial year are recorded at cost.

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value / Current Gross Replacement Cost
- Desktop valuation date: 1 July 2024, performed by Tonkin Consulting Services
- Condition assessment: Last performed by Plumbing and Pipeline Solutions in 2017

Infrastructure - Irrigation
Reviewed by Tonkin Consulting Services using a desktop revaluation approach at depreciated current replacement cost as at 1 July 2024, based on actual costs incurred during the reporting period ended 30 June 2024. All acquisitions during the 2024–25 financial year are recorded at cost.

- Basis of valuation: Fair Value / Current Replacement Cost
- Desktop valuation date: 1 July 2024, performed by Tonkin Consulting Services
- Condition assessment: Comprehensive assessments are impractical due to the underground nature of the infrastructure

Plant, Furniture & Equipment
These assets are recognised at cost and depreciated using the straight-line method.

Book Stocks
Book stocks and other lending materials were revalued at fair value as at 30 June 2025 by Council staff.

Investment Property
Investment properties are valued at fair value, representing the amount for which the properties could be exchanged between willing parties in an arm's length transaction, based on current prices in an active market for similar properties in the same location and under similar lease conditions.

The 2024–25 valuation was independently conducted by Preston Rowe Paterson Adelaide Pty Ltd (PRP).

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 8. Liabilities

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non Current	2024 Current	2024 Non Current
(a) Trade and other payables				
Goods and services	734	–	384	–
Payments received in advance	261	–	238	–
Accrued expenses - other	943	–	1,146	–
Retirement Village Facility Deposits	14,149	–	14,280	–
Deposits, retentions and bonds	67	–	85	–
Total trade and other payables	16,154	–	16,133	–
(b) Borrowings				
Loans	14	194	16	208
Total Borrowings	14	194	16	208
(c) Provisions				
Employee entitlements (including oncosts)	73	–	68	–
AL Employee Entitlements (including oncosts)	802	–	780	–
LSL Employee Entitlements (including oncosts)	1,111	118	1,159	103
Total provisions	1,986	118	2,007	103

All interest bearing liabilities are secured over the future revenues of the Council

District Council of Loxton Waikerie

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 9. Reserves

$ '000	as at 30/06/24 Opening Balance	Increments (Decrements)	Transfers	Impairments	as at 30/06/25 Closing Balance
(a) Asset revaluation reserve					
Land - community	23,165	–	–	–	23,165
Buildings and other structures	49,561	2,951	–	–	52,512
Infrastructure					
- Road Infrastructure	101,258	5,166	–	–	106,424
- Bridges, footpaths, kerb and gutter	1,547	1,013	–	–	2,560
- Stormwater drainage	3,046	631	–	–	3,677
- CWMS & Stormwater	8,919	827	–	–	9,746
Irrigation	427	176	–	–	603
Other Infrastructure	301	3	–	–	304
Library books	(11)	(15)	26	–	–
Water Rights	6,700	500	–	–	7,200
Total other assets	6,700	500	–	–	7,200
Total asset revaluation reserve	194,913	11,252	26	–	206,191
Comparatives	163,498	31,415	–	–	194,913

$ '000	as at 30/06/24 Opening Balance	Tfrs to Reserve	Tfrs from Reserve	Other Movements	as at 30/06/25 Closing Balance
(b) Other reserves					
CWMS	298	3,474	(2,063)	–	1,709
Total other reserves	298	3,474	(2,063)	–	1,709
Comparatives	1,617	466	(1,785)	–	298

Purposes of reserves

Asset revaluation reserves
The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements arising from changes in fair value of non current assets (less any subsequent impairment losses, where applicable).

CWMS - Community Wastewater Management Scheme
In compliance with the Local Government Act 1999 s155, Council has created a reserve for Community Wastewater Management Scheme.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 10. Reconciliation to Statement of Cash Flows

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
(a) Reconciliation of cash			
Cash assets comprise highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:			
Total cash and equivalent assets	5	4,783	3,075
Balances per Statement of Cash Flows		4,783	3,075
(b) Reconciliation of Operating Result			
Net surplus/(deficit)		(4,633)	(1,355)
Non-cash items in income statements			
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment		9,898	9,224
Fair value adjustments		426	1,145
Premiums and discounts recognised and unwound		–	154
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as investing activity		(4,687)	(7,475)
Net (gain)/loss on disposals		10,429	2,062
Non-cash expense		26	–
		11,459	3,755
Add (less): changes in net current assets			
Net (increase)/decrease in receivables		(710)	(2,064)
Change in allowances for under-recovery of receivables		267	(68)
Net (increase)/decrease in inventories		(405)	(15)
Net increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables		170	(2,186)
Net increase/(decrease) in unpaid employee benefits		5	(1)
Net increase/(decrease) in other provisions		(11)	76
Net increase/(decrease) in other liabilities		–	867
Net cash provided by (or used in) operations		10,775	364
(c) Financing arrangements			
Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit:			
Bank overdrafts		200	200
Corporate credit cards		150	150
LGFA cash advance debenture facility		5,000	–

The bank overdraft facilities may be drawn at any time and may be terminated by the bank without notice.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 11. Financial instruments

Recognised financial instruments

Bank, deposits at call, short term deposits

Accounting Policy:
Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost; interest is recognised when earned.

Terms & Conditions:
Deposits are returning fixed interest rate of 4.15% (2024: 4.55%). Short term deposits have an average maturity of 0 days and an average interest rate of 4.15% (2024: 0 days and 4.55%).

Carrying Amount:
Approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.

Receivables - rates and associated charges (including legals and penalties for late payment)

Accounting Policy:
Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms & Conditions:
Secured over the subject land. In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999*, an initial fine of 2% is imposed on any late rate payment, with a prescribed interest rate of 8.5% per annum (2024: 8.0%) applied on the expiration of each month that the amount remains unpaid. Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, with credit risk exposure concentrated within the Council's boundaries in the State.

Carrying Amount:
Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

Receivables - fees and other charges

Accounting policy:
Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms and conditions:
Unsecured, and do not bear interest. Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries.

Carrying amount:
Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

Receivables - other levels of government

Accounting policy:
Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms and conditions:
Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest. All amounts are due by Departments and Agencies of State and Federal Governments.

Carrying amount:
Approximates fair value.

continued on next page ...

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 11. Financial instruments (continued)

Receivables - retirement home contributions

Accounting policy:
Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms and conditions:
Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective legislation.

Carrying amount:
Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

Liabilities - creditors and accruals

Accounting policy:
Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Council.

Terms and conditions:
Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.

Carrying amount:
Approximates fair value.

Liabilities - retirement home contributions

Accounting policy:
To avoid inconvenience when complying with the separate audit requirements imposed by the relevant legislation, amounts are carried at nominal values.

Terms and conditions:
Pursuant to Commonwealth legislation certain intending residents are required to contribute amounts on an interest free basis. The amounts are subject to certain deductions as prescribed by the legislation, the balance being repaid on termination of tenancy.

Carrying amount:
Approximates fair value for short tenancies; may be non-materially overstated for longer tenancies.

Liabilities - interest bearing borrowings

Accounting Policy:
Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest rate.

Terms & Conditions:
Secured over future revenues, borrowings are repayable; interest is charged at fixed rates between 2.60% and 4.50% (2024: 2.60% and 4.50%).

Carrying Amount:
Approximates fair value.

continued on next page ...

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 11. Financial instruments (continued)

$ '000	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year and ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
Financial assets and liabilities					
2025					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	4,783	–	–	4,783	4,783
Receivables	1,501	206	1,255	2,962	2,485
Total financial assets	6,284	206	1,255	7,745	7,268
Financial liabilities					
Payables	15,211	–	–	15,211	15,211
Current borrowings	19	–	–	19	14
Non-current borrowings	–	64	169	233	194
Total financial liabilities	15,230	64	169	15,463	15,419
Total financial assets and liabilities	21,514	270	1,424	23,208	22,687
2024					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	3,075	–	–	3,075	3,075
Receivables	3,608	73	302	3,983	3,835
Total financial assets	6,683	73	302	7,058	6,910
Financial liabilities					
Payables	14,749	–	–	14,749	14,749
Current borrowings	22	–	–	22	16
Non-current borrowings	–	68	185	253	208
Total financial liabilities	14,771	68	185	15,024	14,973
Total financial assets and liabilities	21,454	141	487	22,082	21,883

The following interest rates were applicable to Council's borrowings at balance date:

	2025		2024	
$ '000	Weighted Avg Interest Rate	Carrying Value	Weighted Avg Interest Rate	Carrying Value
Fixed interest rates	2.69%	208	2.69%	224
		208		224

Net fair value

All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of the Council.

Risk exposures

Credit Risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties fail to perform as contracted. The maximum credit risk on financial assets of the Council is the carrying amount, net of any impairment. All Council investments are made with the SA Local Government Finance Authority and are guaranteed by the SA Government. Except as detailed in Notes 5 and

continued on next page ...

Note 11. Financial instruments (continued)

6 in relation to individual classes of receivables, exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries, and there is no material exposure to any individual debtor.

Market Risk is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices. All of Council's financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk nor **currency risk** apply.

Liquidity Risk is the risk that Council will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations with financial liabilities. In accordance with the model Treasury Management Policy (LGA Information Paper 15), liabilities have a range of maturity dates. Council also has available a range of bank overdraft and standby borrowing facilities that it can access.

Interest Rate Risk is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has a balance of both fixed and variable interest rate borrowings and investments. Cash flow fluctuations are managed holistically in seeking to minimise interest costs over the longer term in a risk averse manner.

Expected credit losses (ECL)

Council uses an allowance matrix to measure expected credit losses for receivables from individual customers, which comprise a large number of small balances. As rates and annual charges are secured over subject land no allowance for such receivables is made. The following table provides information about Council's ECLs from receivables (excluding secured rates and charges, GST and other amounts held in trust). Impairment analysis is performed each reporting date. ECLS are based on credit history adjusted for forward looking estimates and economic conditions.

Set out below is the movement in the allowance for expected credit losses:

Note 12. Capital expenditure and investment property commitments

$ '000	2025	2024
Capital commitments		
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
Buildings	1,182	5,434
Infrastructure Services	110	143
IT Services	69	1
Parks and Gardens	3	158
Plant Operations	1,028	–
Riverfront	218	782
Sports Grounds and Facilities	56	25
Road, Footpath, Kerb and Gutters	134	95
Stormwater	–	63
Retirement Village	90	59
	2,890	6,760
These expenditures are payable:		
Not later than one year	2,890	6,760
	2,890	6,760

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 13. Financial indicators

	Indicator 2025	Indicators 2024	2023
Financial Indicators overview *These Financial Indicators have been calculated in accordance with Information paper 9 - Local Government Financial Indicators prepared as part of the LGA Financial Sustainability Program for the Local Government Association of South Australia.*			
1. Operating Surplus Ratio Operating surplus / Total operating income	**5.2%**	(26.1)%	0.8%
This ratio expresses the operating surplus as a percentage of total operating revenue.			
2. Net Financial Liabilities Ratio Net financial liabilities / Total operating income	**37%**	52%	4%
Net Financial Liabilities are defined as total liabilities less financial assets (excluding equity accounted investments in Council businesses). These are expressed as a percentage of total operating revenue.			
Adjustments to Ratios *In recent years the Federal Government has made advance payments prior to 30th June from future year allocations of financial assistance grants, as explained in Note 1. These Adjusted Ratios correct for the resulting distortion in key ratios for each year and provide a more accurate basis for comparison.*			
Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio Operating surplus / Total operating income	**(5.3)%**	(1.5)%	(5.4)%
Adjusted Net Financial Liabilities Ratio Net financial liabilities / Total operating income	**41%**	42%	22%
3. Asset Renewal Funding Ratio Asset renewals / Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan required expenditure	**91%**	141%	90%
Asset renewals expenditure is defined as capital expenditure on the renewal and replacement of existing assets relative to the optimal level planned, and excludes new capital expenditure on the acquisition of additional assets.			

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 14. Uniform presentation of finances

$ '000	2025	2024
The following is a high level summary of both operating and capital investment activities of the Council prepared on a simplified Uniform Presentation Framework basis. All Councils in South Australia have agreed to summarise annual budgets and long-term financial plans on the same basis. The arrangements ensure that all Councils provide a common 'core' of financial information, which enables meaningful comparisons of each Council's finances.		
Income		
Rates	15,802	15,047
Statutory charges	279	286
User charges	1,618	1,546
Grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	10,157	2,875
Investment income	276	427
Reimbursements	298	417
Other income	1,047	977
Total Income	29,477	21,575
Expenses		
Employee costs	(6,851)	(6,593)
Materials, contracts and other expenses	(10,808)	(11,165)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(9,898)	(9,224)
Finance costs	(385)	(216)
Total Expenses	(27,942)	(27,198)
Operating surplus / (deficit)	1,535	(5,623)
Adjusted Operating surplus / (deficit)	1,535	(5,623)
Net outlays on existing assets		
Capital expenditure on renewal and replacement of existing assets	(7,303)	(7,797)
Add back depreciation, amortisation and impairment	9,898	9,224
Add back proceeds from sale of replaced assets	549	328
	3,144	1,755
Net outlays on new and upgraded assets		
Capital expenditure on new and upgraded assets (including investment property and real estate developments)	(10,645)	(14,485)
Add back amounts received specifically for new and upgraded assets	7,780	7,475
Add back proceeds from sale of surplus assets (including investment property, real estate developments and non-current assets held for resale)	250	–
	(2,615)	(7,010)
Annual net impact to financing activities (surplus/(deficit))	2,064	(10,878)

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 15. Superannuation

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to Hostplus (formerly Local Government Superannuation Scheme and Statewide Super). There are two types of membership, each of which is funded differently. Permanent and contract employees of the South Australian Local Government sector with Salarylink benefits prior to 24 November 2009 have the option to contribute to the Accumulation section and/or Salarylink. All other employees (including casuals) have all contributions allocated to the Accumulation section.

Accumulation only members

Accumulation only members receive both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of ordinary time earnings in accordance with superannuation guarantee legislation (11.50% in 2024/25; 11.00% in 2023/24). No further liability accrues to the Council as the superannuation benefits accruing to employees are represented by their share of the net assets of the Fund.

Salarylink (Defined Benefit Fund) members

Salarylink is a defined benefit scheme where the benefit payable is based on a formula determined by the member's contribution rate, number of years and level of contribution and final average salary. Council makes employer contributions to Salarylink as determined by the Fund's Trustee based on advice from the appointed Actuary. The rate is currently 6.3% (6.3% in 2023/24) of "superannuation" salary.

In addition, Council makes a separate contribution of 3% of ordinary time earnings for Salarylink members to their Accumulation account. Employees also make member contributions to the Salarylink section of the Fund. As such, assets accumulate in the Salarylink section of the Fund to meet the member's benefits, as defined in the Trust Deed, as they accrue.

The Salarylink section is a multi-employer sponsored plan. As the Salarylink section's assets and liabilities are pooled and are not allocated by each employer, and employees may transfer to another employer within the local government sector and retain membership of the Fund, the Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers. As provided by AASB 119.34(a), Council does not use defined benefit accounting for these contributions.

The most recent actuarial investigation was conducted by the Fund's actuary, Louise Campbell, FIAA, of Willis Towers Watson as at 30 June 2023. The Trustee has determined that the current funding arrangements are adequate for the expected Salarylink liabilities. However, future financial and economic circumstances may require changes to Council's contribution rates at some future time.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 16. Related party transactions

Key management personnel

Transactions with key management personnel

The Key Management Personnel of the Council include the Mayor, Councillors, CEO and certain prescribed officers under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1999. In all, 17 persons were paid the following total compensation.

$ '000	2025	2024
The compensation paid to key management personnel comprises:		
Short-term employee benefits	1,445	1,380
Post-employment benefits	124	–
Long-term benefits	230	–
Total	1,799	1,380

Receipts from key management personnel comprise:

Other than amounts paid as ratepayers or residents (e.g. rates, swimming pool entry fees, etc.), Council received the following amounts in total:

Planning and building application Fees	1	6
Other	1	22
Total	2	28

Some key management personnel or their close family members are affiliated with various service clubs, sporting clubs or benevolent organisations of the region. From time to time council will assist such organisations by way of community support, rate rebate in accordance council will assist such organisations by way of community support, rate rebate in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, or in kind assistance. These sporting clubs regular hire council facilities and pay council hire fees in accordance with Fees and Charges register adopted by Council.

Key management personnel or key management personal relatives lodged a total of one planning and building applications during the year. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, this persons declared conflicts of interest and took no part in the assessment or approval processes for these applications. Total Fees for these applications was $1,410.

Council received three minor reimbursements totaling $902.18 from three key management personnel for personal expenses originally paid by the Council.

Two close family members of key management personnel are employed by Council in accordance with the terms of the Award, and as recorded in the public Register of Salaries maintained in accordance with section 105 of the Local Government Act 1999.

Key Management Personnel or Key Management Personal relatives are members of the following committees and organisations:

Loxton Districts Health Advisory	Loxton Chamber of Commerce	Ramco Lutheran Church
Berri Lion's Club	Waikerie Australia Day Committee	Waikerie Hotel & Motel
Loxton Christmas Lights Committee	Waikerie & District News	Riverland Crows Supporters Committee
Nippy's Loxton Gift Carnival	Loxton Amauter Basketball Association	Waikerie Business Alliance
Loxton North Sports Club	Berri Rowing Club	Waikerie Hotel & Motel
The Collective Loxton Management Committee	Waikerie Community Hub Building Working Group	Riverland Suicide Prevention Committee
Riverland Lawn Tenns Association	Waikerie Christmas Committee	Waikerie Senior Citizen's Club
Waikerie Health Services	Christmas Wonderland	

In accordance with the Local government Act 1999, these persons declared a conflict of interest and leave the meeting environs when any matter affecting their organisation/club is discussed or voted upon. During 2024/25 Council made contributions totalling $77,177 to the above committees and organisations.

Bentleys
THINKING AHEAD

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LOXTON WAIKERIE

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of District Council of Loxton Waikerie, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the Certification of the Financial Statements.

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of District Council of Loxton Waikerie as of 30 June 2025, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are 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 our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, which gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*, and for such internal control as the committee and management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the entity'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 management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

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Advisors
Accountants
Auditors

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our 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 our 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 our 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. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BENTLEYS SA AUDIT PARTNERSHIP



DAVID PAPA
PARTNER

Dated at Adelaide this 16th day of October 2025

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INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROLS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LOXTON WAIKERIE

Opinion

We have audited the compliance of District Council of Loxton Waikerie (the Council) with the requirements of *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation to the Internal Controls established by the Council to ensure that financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 are in accordance with legislative provisions.

In our opinion, the Council has complied, in all material respects, with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation to Internal Controls, established by the Council in relation to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities so as to provide reasonable assurance that the financial transactions of the Council have been conducted properly and in accordance with legislative provisions for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Limitation on Use

This report has been prepared for the members of the Council in accordance with *Section 129 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation to Internal Controls specified above. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report to any persons or users other than the members of the Council, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Limitations of Controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and operating effectively, the control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error, or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected.

An assurance engagement on internal controls is not designed to detect all instances of controls operating ineffectively as it is not performed continuously throughout the period and the tests performed are on a sample basis. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with them may deteriorate.

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Advisors
Accountants
Auditors

Independence

In conducting our engagement, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

The Council's Responsibility for the Internal Controls

The Council is responsible for implementing and maintaining an adequate system of internal controls, in accordance with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation to Internal Controls, to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and incurring of liabilities are in accordance with legislative provisions.

Our Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Council's compliance with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation only to the Internal Controls established by the Council to ensure that financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities, based on our procedures. Our engagement has been conducted in accordance with applicable Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements *ASAE 3000 Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information and ASAE 3150 Assurance Engagement on Controls*, issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, in order to state whether, in all material respects, the *Council* has complied with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation only to the Internal Controls specified above for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. ASAE 3000 also requires us to comply with the relevant ethical requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Our procedures included obtaining an understanding of internal controls in relation to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities, evaluating management's assessment of these internal controls, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and implementation of controls on a sample basis on the assessed risks.

BENTLEYS SA AUDIT PARTNERSHIP



DAVID PAPA
PARTNER

Dated at Adelaide this 16th day of October 2025

District Council of Loxton Waikerie

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Certification of Auditor Independence

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we confirm that, for the purpose of the audit of District Council of Loxton Waikerie for the year ended 30 June 2025, the Council's Auditor, Bentleys has maintained its independence in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22(3) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011.*

David Beaton
Chief Executive Officer

Tim Muhlhausler
Presiding Member, Audit and Risk Committee

Date: 25 September 2025

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Certification of Auditor Independence

I confirm that, for the audit of the financial statements of District Council of Loxton Waikerie for the year ended 30 June 2025, I have maintained my independence in accordance with the requirements of APES 110 – Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards), Part 4A published by the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011 made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22 (5) Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011.

Bentleys SA Audit Partnership

David Papa
Partner

Dated at Adelaide this 19th day of September 2025

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Advisors
Accountants
Auditors

Audit & Risk Committee

2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT



District Council of
Loxton Waikerie

District Council of Loxton Waikerie

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

2024-25 Annual Report

Report from the Chairperson

In accordance with Section 126(8)(b) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Audit and Risk Committee must provide an annual report to the council on the work of the committee during the period to which the report relates. The following report meets these requirements.

The 2024-25 financial year has been challenging for the local government sector, with ongoing global economic and environmental challenges continuing to impact all of Australia. Over this period the local community has been hit with additional challenges, including drought and declines in wine grape pricing. The importance of the responsibility of providing a key oversight role on behalf of ratepayers is not lost on Committee members.

The Committee is continuing to focus on expanding the nature and scope of risks being considered in our work plan, with a particular emphasis on key areas of strategic risk. A number of significant reports, including the strategic risk register, ESCOSA Advice, draft Asset Management Plan and CEO's report on internal controls have been presented to the Committee during the year and have helped to inform areas of focus for the future. To help ensure the continued good management and success of the council, areas of interest to the Committee will include monitoring the management of risks related to financial sustainability, CWMS, asset management, cyber security and elected member conduct (of particular interest to independent member Felicity-Ann Lewis OAM who has recently been appointed as independent chair of South Australia's Behavioural Standards Panel).

The Committee acknowledges the valuable support and commitment of Council staff throughout the year. Combined with the dedication of Committee members, these efforts have enabled the Committee to effectively fulfil its oversight responsibilities on behalf of Council and the community.

The following report summarises the membership composition, meetings held, and items considered by the Committee.

Tim Muhlhausler
Chairperson, Audit & Risk Committee

Membership

From July 2024 to June 2025, the membership of the District Council of Loxton Waikerie (DCLW) Audit Committee was as follows:

- Tim Muhlhausler (Independent Chairperson)
- Felicity-Ann Lewis (Independent Member)
- Brian Clancey (Independent Member)
- Jody Flavel (Elected Member Representative)
- Craig Ferber (Elected Member Representative)
- Mayor Trevor Norton (Proxy for Elected Member Representative)

The following staff members have been present at meetings:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Director of Infrastructure as per required
- Director of Commercial and Community
- Chief Finance Officer
- Finance Officer – Accounting
- Work Health and Safety Officer as required
- Personal Assistant to Director of Commercial and Community

Meetings

The Audit and Risk Committee held 4 ordinary meetings. It is noted that Section 126(5) of the Local Government Act 1999 requires at least one meeting of a council's Audit and Risk Committee in each quarter. The table below indicates that the DCLW Audit and Risk Committee has satisfied this requirement.

QUARTER	MEETINGS HELD
2024 – Quarter 3	Wednesday 11 September 2025
2024 – Quarter 4	Tuesday 12 November 2025
2024 – Quarter 1	Tuesday 11 February 2025
2024 – Quarter 2	Monday 5 May 2025

During 2024–25, the Audit and Risk Committee held meetings both in person and virtually to accommodate all Members. Attendance is provided in the table below.

Committee Member	In Person	Virtually
Tim Muhlhausler	1	3
Felicity-Ann Lewis	1	3
Brian Clancey	2	2
Jody Flavel	4	
Craig Ferber	4	

Functions of the Committee

The following table provides an overview of the reports and activities of the Committee.

	JULY 24–JUNE 25
Meetings held	**4**
Recommendation Reports Considered	**33**
Financial	15
Internal Controls & Risk Management	11
External Audit	2
Reporting	5
Information Reports Received	**3**

The following table provides a more detailed overview of the activities of the Committee. Noting, Council endorsed 11 recommendations arising from the Committee's recommendation reports.

MEETING DATE	ITEMS CONSIDERED
11/09/24	**Recommendation Reports** - Risk Management – External Audit - Draft Asset Management Plan - Treasury Management performance review - Risk Management - Grant Projects Review - Risk Management Update – Credit Card Review - Audit & Risk Committee Work Program 2024
12/11/24	**Recommendation Reports** - Annual Financial Statements 2023-24 - Risk Management - External Audit - Final - Budget Review 2023-24 - Audit and Risk Committee Annual Performance Review - Chief Executive Officer - Annual Report on Internal Controls - September Quarter Budget Review - Annual Review of Council's Revaluation Review - Grant Projects Review - Risk Management Update – Credit Card Review - Accounting & Risk Policy Update & Review - Business Continuity Plan Update - Audit & Risk Committee Work Program 2024 **Information Reports** - Risk Management Update
11/02/25	**Recommendation Reports** - Audit & Risk Committee Work Program 2025 - Mid-Year Budget Review - 2025-26 Budget Preparation - Accounting & Risk Policy Update & Review - Grant Register - Internal Audit – Credit Card Review - Strategic Risk Register
05/05/25	**Recommendation Reports** - Local Government Advice - ESCOSA Report - Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 - March Budget Review - Accounting & Risk Policy Update & Review - Grant Projects Review - Risk Management Update - Credit Card Review - Audit & Risk Committee Work Program 2025 **Information Reports** - Rate Arrears Update - Work Health and Safety Injury Management Update

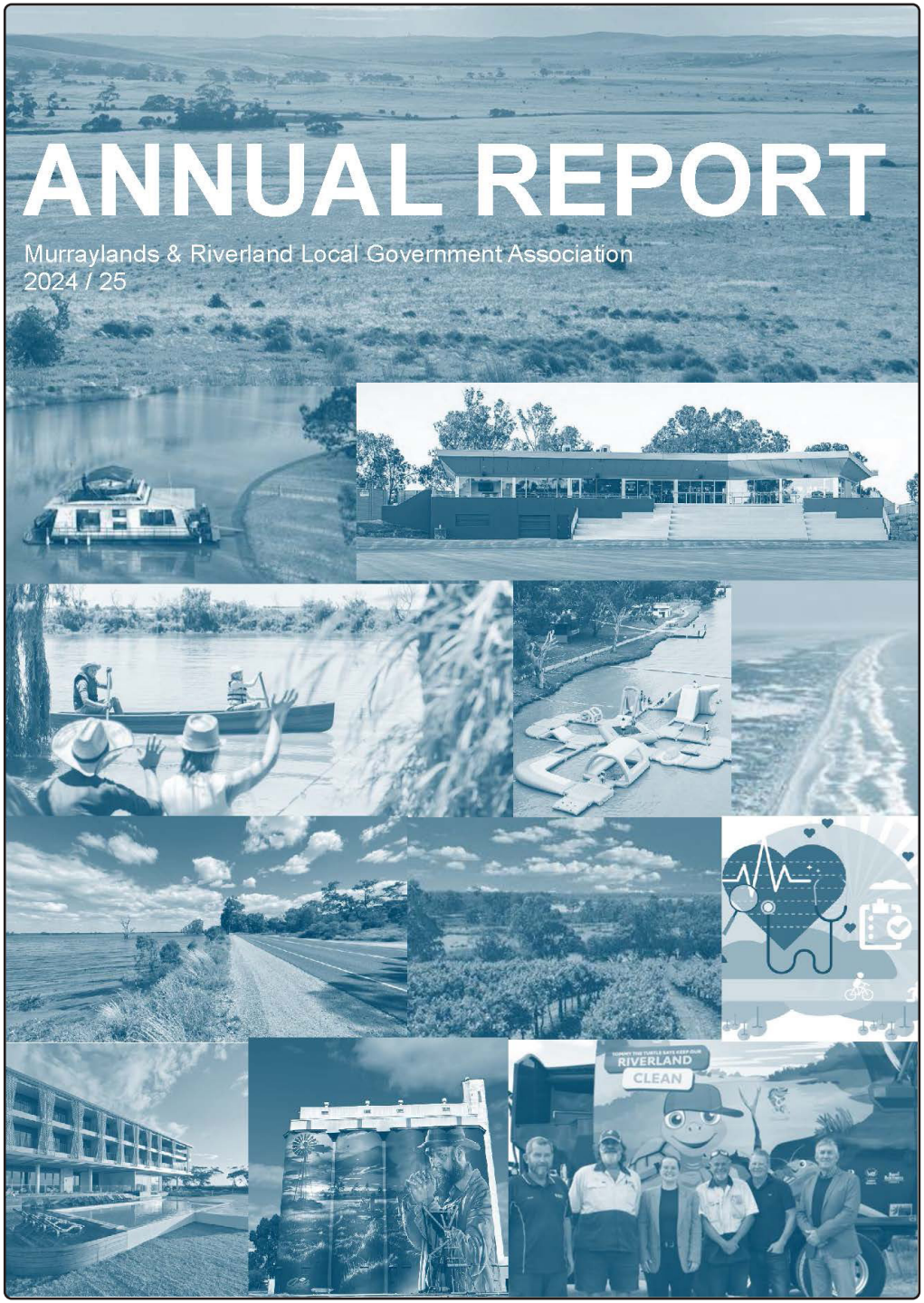
Murraylands & Riverland Local Government Association

2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL REPORT

Murraylands & Riverland Local Government Association
2024 / 25



Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

MRLGA

Constituent Councils

THE RURAL CITY OF MURRAY BRIDGE

Berri Barmera COUNCIL
Building a better community

District Council of Loxton Waikerie

COORONG DISTRICT COUNCIL

SOUTHERN MALLEE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF KAROONDA EAST MURRAY

Renmark Paringa Council

Mid Murray Council

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MRLGA OVERVIEW

Mission

Being a unified local government sector working in the best interest of the region and our communities.

Our Charter

- Speaking with one voice
- Building partnerships
- Working with the LGA
- Planning for and with the region
- Coordinating resources and representation
- Enhancing efficiencies

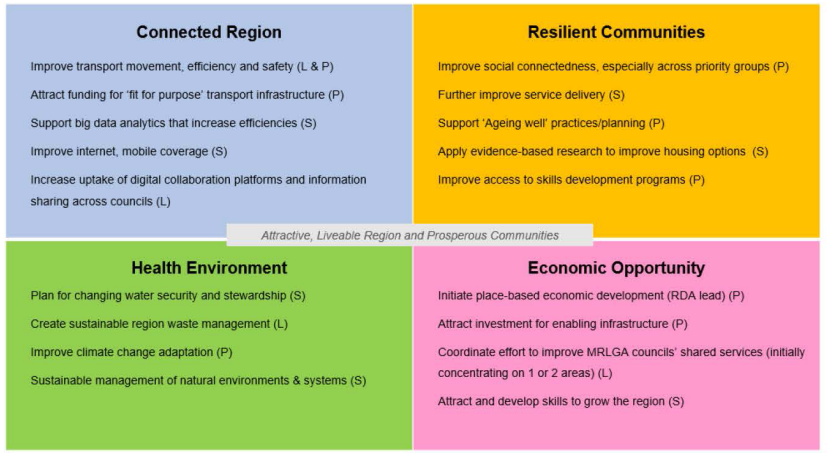
Values and Behaviours

Integrity, Leadership, Collaboration, Credibility, Unity

Role

Working to the MRLGA Charter, the Association motivates, advocates and represents its eight constituent Councils to advance cooperation, strategic partnerships and governance arrangements that oversee programs and projects in the region. Through its coordination of effort, the Association leads and assists its councils with evidence-based approaches to high level planning, communication and representation. The MRLGA works closely with Local Government Association SA, Commonwealth and State Governments, as well as regional partners including Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland (RDA MR) and Murraylands & Riverland Landscape Board.

Strategic Framework



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



MRLGA President
Mayor Caroline Phillips

The Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association, together with its eight constituent councils, continued in 2024/25 to pursue its goal of fostering a unified local government sector that works collaboratively in the best interests of the region and our communities.
As regional councils across the state deliver outstanding services to their local communities, our role as listeners, leaders, and advocates has been to engage with neighbouring councils on shared regional challenges and opportunities. These conversations have enabled us to exchange ideas, identify solutions, build networks, and strengthen cooperation—ultimately leading to greater efficiencies, mutual support, and collective progress.
On behalf of the Association, I extend my sincere thanks to all Board Members, CEOs, Committee Members, and staff for their continued commitment to collaboration. It is through this spirit of working together that we achieve unity, and in unity, we find our strength.

Reflecting on the achievements of the 2024/25 year, I am proud of the continuing strides the MRLGA has made toward our vision of creating attractive, livable, and prosperous communities. Our efforts remain firmly anchored in our mission to cultivate strong, enduring relationships, unify the local government sector, foster partnerships, and enhance regional efficiencies. With the support of our councils and partners, we have continued to advance strategic initiatives that strengthen regional infrastructure, enhance social resilience, and promote environmental sustainability.

Key achievements and highlights throughout the year have included:

Drought Response and Preparedness

Over the past year, we increased our role in drought advocacy, ensuring local voices were heard at both State and Federal levels from within the region. We gathered and shared critical intelligence on the impacts of drought to pass to Ministerial offices, advocated for regional round tables to be held more widely following the Limestone Coast session, and highlighted regional needs and financial relief measures at the Agribusiness Forum. Our active contribution to the SA Drought Advisory Working Group fed intelligence into the States working group that influences the recovery support packages. This time was further complimented through in-kind resources from the subsidiary to administer, design and deliver Regional Drought Resilience (RDR) under Future Drought Program. To optimise this funding, we designed and hosted a dedicated stakeholder workshop with over 30 participants collaborating on opportunities to increase drought preparedness for farming communities. We supported the Murraylands Drought Survey with targeted presentations to peak bodies. And facilitated regular online updates with Rural Business Support, ensuring Councils remained informed of case numbers and emerging challenges. A submission was also made to the Federal Productivity Commission on the RDRP. In a regional first, we curated the design and secured state support for a central coordination role at the RDR Consortium, hosted by the Landscape Board. The role will lead region-wide resilience initiatives under the FDF program. Its central positioning will enable it to see all resilience projects across the region (including the Climate Smart Agriculture program and other resilience programs) enabling greater cross-pollination of ideas and a stronger chance of reaching communities with practical outcomes. The pilot of the central role will begin in 25/26.
We acknowledge and thank Mayor Paul Simmons of Coorong District Council for representing local government at the SA Drought Advisory Group since October 2024. The unprecedented conditions of 2024 were the driest rainfall year on record and it placed immense pressure on farming businesses, families, and regional communities. In response, local government has remained a trusted advocate and strong voice, continuing to seek reforms in drought response and working to influence the design of investment initiatives that deliver meaningful support into those most affected.

Public Health and Wellbeing

The year marked good progress in advancing regional public health and wellbeing initiatives. We facilitated and co-ordinated the biannual Section 52 statutory reporting from eight councils to the Chief Public Health Officer on the Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (and Council's 126 initiatives). The process included several engagement opportunities across all eight Councils including online information sessions, capturing regional issues, and advocating to the Mental Health Commissioner's Office. A significant achievement following this was the brokering of a partnership with Preventive Health SA, securing a $400,000 regional investment in prevention efforts with only a $5,000 contribution required from participating councils. The partnership is giant leap towards greater State to Local joint efforts for healthy communities and alongside the funding component is a substantial non-monetary value through access to data and information, campaigns, specialist advice, intelligence, and strategic planning. This achievement strengthens cross-council collaboration and provides a foundation for greater cross agency initiatives towards public health and reducing siloed work. We also hosted a regional workshop in Mannum for the Regional Public Health & Wellbeing Committee and key staff, strengthening collaboration and knowledge-sharing. In addition, we observed many positive achievements, events and outcomes in year two of the three-year partnership we brokered with Riverland Council and Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR), which is successfully increasing community participation across the Riverland. Our efforts to widen the program to neighbouring Councils as well as continue the partnership with State is underway.
We continued to maintain growing relationships with agency's connected to this portfolio including MMRLHN and Country SAPHN, (3) Regional Education Directors, SA Health, Foundations SA, WoTL and SA Drought Hub. And attended the State Strategic Direction workshop for the State Public Health Plan (2030). We were part of a targeted group of invited stakeholders to inform future opportunities. And attended the Foundations SA opening and have since promoted their programs to Councils as an alternative avenue for community to empower action.

Waste Management & Resource Recovery

Waste management remains a critical focus for many councils, given its status as one of the largest and most enduring service contracts delivered. In 2024/25, significant efforts were made to align our strategic vision with our capacity for implementation. Working closely with our constituent councils, the MRLGA structured two new positions within the waste management portfolio: Circular Economy and Waste Lead, and Waste Educational Program Lead. These appointments have been pivotal in advancing our regional waste management initiatives.

Guided by our Regional Strategy, we have advanced a range of initiatives designed to strengthen waste management, sustainability, and community awareness. Key projects underway include:

- Kerbside Waste Service Review,
- Cross-council contract management for waste services,
- Procured and project managed a joint waste bin audit across five participating councils (that resulted in an overall savings of $70k from undertaking joint procurement).
- A Waste Education Program was developed across five participating councils and includes targeted themes and events, some include community information sessions, facility tours, a new Sustainability Calendar and enhanced 'which bin' material to amplify the campaign, all to build awareness and encourage community participation.
- We are also exploring future opportunities for Riverland Composting, comparing case studies like the Mildura regional composting model, and
- We have developed a logistics map to identify the regions waste assets and future freight efficiencies.

In addition to these initiatives, we actively represented the region in advocacy efforts, including a submission to the EPA on future reform and GISA's Draft State Waste Strategy. We continue to strengthen partnerships across the sector, maintaining strong connections with the LGA, GISA, AHRWMA, Greenhill Energy, WMRR, End Food Waste Australia (The Great Unwaste), KESAB, PIRSA Fruit Fly team and other key stakeholders.

Transport and Infrastructure

Our Regional Transport and Assets Committee made strong progress in strategic infrastructure planning. 2024/25 delivered continued collaboration and coordination across Council infrastructure teams to oversee the Regional Transport Plan and associated database of roads. The coordinated efforts resulted in a remarkable $4.3 million funding package through the Special Local Roads Program (SLRP) for priority road upgrades across councils. These projects are essential for maintaining and enhancing road infrastructure that supports economic growth, tourism routes and community transport. This is a significant regional roads package obtained through the program and we give credit to all Council Director's and their infrastructure teams for their forward integrated planning and shovel ready agility. Councils were supported through complex claim processes, and a priority list for 2025/26 SLRP applications was successfully coordinated.

We have also initiated liaison with Federal Government on Roads to Recovery and SA Grants commission on opportunities for efficiency and consolidation of asset databases to inform forward work plans. We represented the region at the 2024 LGA Roads and Works Conference, and have provided feedback and advice to the State Government for regional needs as it relates to the State Public Transport Strategy under review for (2030).

Murray Darling Basin Plan / Water Recovery

MRLGA has remained a support line to the Councils while they took the lead and attended meetings with PIRSA to influence and contribute to the development of business case plans for the Resilient Rivers Infrastructure Program and Sustainable Communities Program.
We provided representation at the Murray Darling Basin Authority Conference, held in Murray Bridge that included presentations from a range of experts. One of the emerging forecasts is 73 Councils in the Murray Darling Basin will grow over the next 10 years while 42 Councils will either remain unchanged or contract. Murray Bridge has been identified as a 'Rocket Town' listed as one of the top ten highest growth areas and these nuanced forecasts reaffirm the need for Councils to invest in region wide relationships to continue to be in a strong position for partnerships, sharing, coordination and regional development.

(Zone) Emergency Management

We continued to play a role in strengthening regional resilience and emergency management. Our participation included attendance at the Zone Meetings, SES Annual Symposium, the Bureau's Seasonal Outlook webinar, and Disaster Relief's Big Map session in Mannum, ensuring regional perspectives were represented in statewide conversations. We advocated strongly to SAFECOM and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) on the need for improve *betterment funding* following very limited funding post floods. And, together with the ZEMC Chair, engaged with DPC on alternative proposals to an emerging notion to shift regional recovery coordinators from state into zones. And to support continuous improvement, we submitted a lessons learned observations report to SES as part of the State review process.
We continue to strengthen partnerships under this portfolio maintaining strong connections with the LGA Functional Support Group, SafeCom, DPC Recovery, MFS, SES and SaPOL.

Financial Sustainability

We provided a comprehensive 14-page submission to the Federal Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability, presenting 18 key opportunities to reduce financial sustainability hazards. These spanned critical issues such as Financial Assistance Grants, the design of grant programs for regional and rural communities, the Local Government Advice Scheme, infrastructure and asset needs, gaps in aged care and early learning facilities, and workforce challenges and enablers. We also commend Mayor Bailey and Ceo Ben Scales (Mid Murray Council) and Mayor Ron Valentine and Ceo Lachlan Miller (Southern Mallee District Council) for their powerful presentations to the Committee during its visit to South Australia. Throughout the year, we maintained active dialogue with the LGA to ensure our constituent Councils' priorities were aligned with the sector's collective efforts to address financial sustainability risks and secure stronger outcomes for local government.

Climate Ready Regions

We have been a supportive stakeholder in the Climate Ready Regions Steering Committee, contributing to the development of a strong business case for Federal and State funding. Our involvement has included participating in engagement events, helping to facilitate a regional workshop, and acting as a connector between the metropolitan coordination project team and a wide range of stakeholders across the region. We also provided executive advice on future governance models and collaboration opportunities, particularly with the SA Drought Hub and other Federal programs for climate adaptation and resilience, ensuring the business case is positioned with the greatest chance of success.

SAROC Representatives

Mayor Caroline Phillips, Mayor Paul Simmons (July-Nov) and Mayor Simone Bailey (Dec-June) continued to serve as the region's nominated representatives on LGA's SAROC Committee, ensuring our regional voice was heard on sector-wide priorities. On behalf of the constituent Council's, I extend our thanks to Mayor Simone Bailey and Mayor Paul Simmons for generously dedicating their time to travel, attendance, and represent the region at these important forums, demonstrating our collective commitment to collaborating as a sector through to the peak body: LGA.

Looking Ahead

As we enter the 2025/26 period, we remain committed to addressing the evolving needs of our communities. The subsidiary will continue a triple approach to cross council collaboration including a) operational efficiencies and supporting sharing, collaboration and service efficiencies b) region wide strategic projects and c) region wide advocacy, particularly as the State election nears.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to express our appreciation for CEO Carron McLeod for her dedication and leadership throughout the year. Together, we will continue to work towards a vibrant and resilient region.

In Closing

I wish to thank all constituent councils and MRLGA Board Members for the opportunity to be the MRLGA President. The work and service undertaken by our CEO for the Association is valued and I can see our cumulative teamwork, cooperation and collaboration building with each year passing.

I also wish to thank Deputy President, Mayor Ella Winnall for joining me in leading the Association. Mayor Winnall excels in her leadership and responsibilities with her Council and community, as well as a key regional influence for strategic responses and initiatives.

To Mayor Paul Simmons and Mayor Simone Bailey, I congratulate you both as the region's representatives on SAROC. Mayor Simone Bailey has also been a keen attendee at SAROC meetings, forever pursuing advocacy opportunities on behalf on regional and rural communities including the pursuit for financial sustainability of the sector, equity and fairness for regions and healthy communities.

I hand over the Presidency baton to Mayor Winnall, voted in at the MRLGA AGM on 31 July 2025, and also extend my support for Mayor Bailey voted in as Vice President.

I will continue to support platforms like MRLGA for regional, rural and remote Councils. Being the closest level of government to community's, it is important the sector demonstrates to State and Federal Governments that we are a coordinated and cohesive sector as we approach place based strategy's and advocating for communities.

We also acknowledge the Mayors and Councilors who have served a third of a four-year term to its communities. There's a lot of work that goes unseen in the roles, plenty of expectation and a responsibility to carry out our duties in the interest of all, with impartiality. Congratulations on your achievements in the third year, and together we can continue growing the regional community of 74,000 onwards and upwards.

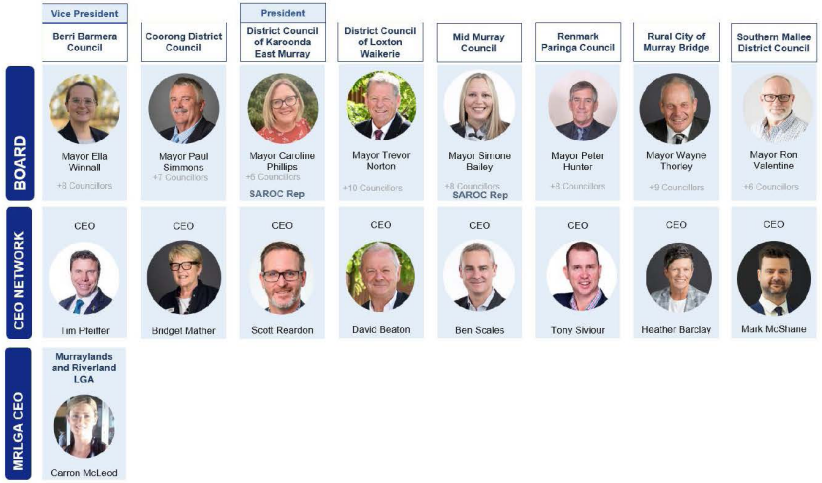
To our most valued Ceo's, we congratulate you individually and as a collective. You provide daily leadership to the teams that drive the outcomes and deliver services to community in a respectful, caring and purposeful manner. They are incredibly hard working, wearing multiple hats and showing up to all the conversations at all levels, and we thank you for your devotion to the important leadership roles.

To our Committee Members and supporting key staff we extend our appreciation and thanks to your subject matter expertise that drives our regional strategies, and skills to lead support teams who deliver and coordinate at an operational level. Individually and collectively, your leadership for healthy workplace cultures, innovation and identifying links between strategic objectives and how to deliver them, we thankyou for your contributions.

Lastly, as change naturally occurs in the region and we endeavor to keep up with the pressure, expectations and an emerging modern world, it highlights the importance of collaboration and cooperation. We exist beyond our own council boundaries and quite often we can gain more by working together at all levels of Council and all levels of Government. Thank you again for the work you do in all regional and rural communities and the MRLGA looks forward to consolidating on its current work, as together we collaborate, identify and advance the sector where we can for the benefit of the region and our community's.

Mayor Caroline Phillips
MRLGA President (24/25)

MRLGA Board



Board Members

Berri Barmera Council (BBC)	Mayor Ella Winnall (Deputy President)
Coorong District Council (CDC)	Mayor Paul Simmons
District Council of Karoonda East Murray (DCKEM)	Mayor Caroline Phillips (President)
District Council of Loxton Waikerie (DCLW)	Mayor Trevor Norton
Mid Murray Council (MMC)	Mayor Simone Bailey
Renmark Paringa Council (RPC)	Mayor Peter Hunter
Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB)	Mayor Wayne Thorley
Southern Mallee District Council (SMDC)	Mayor Ron Valentine

Deputy Delegates (Proxy Members)

Berri Barmera Council (BBC)	Cr Trevor Scott
Coorong District Council (CDC)	Cr Jeff Arthur
District Council of Loxton Waikerie (DCLW)	Cr Clive Matthews
District Council Karoonda East Murray (DCKEM)	Cr Russell Norman
Mid Murray Council (MMC)	Cr Jen Davis and Cr John Forrester
Renmark Paringa Council (RPC)	Cr Margaret Howie
Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB)	Cr Andrew Baltensperger
Southern Mallee District Council (SMDC)	Cr Chris Mead

South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) Representatives

1 July 2024 to 17 November 2024

Coorong District Council (CDC)	Mayor Paul Simmons
District Council of Karoonda East Murray	Mayor Caroline Phillips (MRLGA President)

18 November 2024 to 30 June 2025

Mid Murray Council	Mayor Simone Bailey
District Council of Karoonda East Murray	Mayor Caroline Phillips (MRLGA President)

CEO Network

Berri Barmera Council	**Tim Pfeiffer**
Coorong District Council	Bridget Mather
District Council of Loxton Waikerie	David Beaton
District Council of Karoonda East Murray	Scott Reardon
Mid Murray Council	Ben Scales
Renmark Paringa Council	Tony Siviour
Rural City of Murray Bridge	Heather Barclay
Southern Mallee District Council	Lachlan Miller (July 2024 to January 2025) Jason Beaton (April to June 2025)
Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association	Carron McLeod

MRLGA CEO Network and Committees

At the January 2023 MRLGA Board Meeting, Committees were rationalised to 1 representative per Council, creating a committee of 8 people, plus MRLGA CEO and President. Membership is as follows.

Regional Transport and Asset Committee

BBC	Travis Hay	Acting Manager Infrastructure Services
	Maddie Frew	General Manager, Infrastructure & Env Reg Ser.
CDC	Joshua Bowen	Director of Infrastructure Services
DCLW	Greg Perry	Director of Infrastructure Services
DCKEM	James McInnes	Director of Infrastructure Services
MMC	David Hassett	Director Infrastructure & Field Services
RPC	Tarik Wolf	Director Infrastructure & Environmental Services
RCMB	Thuyen Vi-Alternetti	General Manager Infrastructure & Environment
SMDC	Lachlan Miller	CEO
	Ben Wright	Director of Infrastructure
MRLGA	Carron McLeod	CEO
MRLGA	Mayor Caroline Philips	Ex officio, MRLGA President

Regional Waste & Resource Recovery Committee

BBC	Tracey Alexander (July '24 Jan '25)	Manager Env Reg Services
	Travis Hay (July '24 Jan '25)	Acting Manager of Infrastructure
	Maddie Frew (Feb-June '25)	General Manager, Infrastructure & Env Reg Ser
CDC	Joshua Bowen	Director Infrastructure & Assets
DCLW	Greg Perry	Director of Infrastructure Services
DCKEM	James McInnes	General Manager, Infrastructure
MMC	David Hassett	Director Infrastructure & Field Services
RPC	Tarik Wolf	Director Infrastructure & Environmental Services
RCMB	Thuyen Vi-Alternetti	General Manager Assets & Infrastructure
SMDC	Lachlan Miller	CEO
	Calvin Hoye(Oct '24-Nov'24)	Director Infrastructure
	Ben Wright (Jan '25 - June '25)	Director Infrastructure
MRLGA	Carron McLeod	CEO
MRLGA	Mayor Caroline Philips	Ex officio, MRLGA President

Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Committee

BBC	Andrew Haigh (July to Dec '24)	Manager Community Development
	Veronica Lambert (Jan to March '25	Acting Manager Community Services
	Conny Wilson (March to June '25)	General Manager Community Services
CDC	Myles Somers	Director Community and Corporate Services
DCKEM	Scott Reardon	Ceo
	Kate Waters	Project Officer
DCLW	Andrew Waters	Director Commercial and Community Services
MMC	Gary Mavrinac	Director - Development & Community Services
RPC	Alyson Modlinski	Director Community Services
RCMB	Kriston Manson (June-Dec '24)	General Manager Community Development
	David Waters (Feb-June '25)	General Manager Community Development
SMDC	Shilo Wyatt	Manager Property & Development Services
MRLGA	Mayor Caroline Philips	Ex officio, MRLGA President
MRLGA	Carron McLeod	Chief Executive Officer

Performance Management Working Group (associated with the joint Waste Services Contracts) for 5 Councils (as listed):

BBC	Travis Hay	Acting Manager Infrastructure Services
	Tracey Alexander	Manager Environment & Regulatory Services
	Maddie Frew	Director Infrastructure & Env Reg Services
CDC	Joshua Bowen	Director Infrastructure & Assets
	Skye Blythe	Admin Officer for Infrastructure Services
DCLW	Greg Perry	Director of Infrastructure Services
	Kelly Michella	Works Project Officer
RPC	Tarik Wolf	Director Infrastructure & Environmental Services
	Terri Hentschke	EA to Director
RCMB	Thuyen Vi-Alternetti	General Manager of Infrastructure Services
	Sue Reynolds	Manager City Assets
MRLGA	Carron McLeod	CEO

Zone Emergency Management (Chaired by RCMB)

MRLGA Representative:

MRLGA	Carron Mcleod	CEO (Attendee)

MRLGA Board:

The MRLGA Board met quarterly. Membership of the Board is filled by the Principal Members (Mayor) of each Constituent Council. Meetings of the Board were held on:

1. Friday 9 August 2024
2. Thursday 7 November 2024
3. Thursday 6 February 2025
4. Thursday 10 April 2025

The meetings of the Board also provided a forum for updates and/or presentations from:

- LGA SA Secretariat
- PIRSA
- Regional Development Australia, Murraylands and Riverland
- Landscape Board, Murraylands and Riverland Wellbeing SA (now Preventive Health)
- Office of Small and Family Business
- Murray and Mallee Public Transport
- SA Drought Hub
- One Basin CRC
- DPC, Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), State Digital Connectivity
- Zone Emergency Management Committee
- Murray Darling Association – Region 5 and Region 6
- Members of Parliament

SA Regional Organisation of Councils

The South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) is a Committee of the LGA that meets bimonthly to focus on key issues affecting country Councils.

MRLGA representatives at SAROC in 2024/25 was:

- President, Mayor Caroline Phillips (of District Council of Karoonda East Murray) and Mayor Paul Simmons (of Coorong District Council) during 1 July 2024 to 17 November 2024
- President, Mayor Caroline Phillips (of District Council of Karoonda East Murray) and Mayor Simone Bailey (of Mid Murray Council) during 18 November 2024 to 30 June 2025.

MRLGA supports SAROC by attending meetings, preparing regional reports and creating discussion at regional quarterly board meetings to inform content in/out of SAROC. The committee met on:

- 18 July 2024 Adelaide
- 3 October 2024 Mount Gambier
- 5 December 2024 Adelaide
- 23 January 2025 Adelaide
- 27 March 2025 Whyalla
- 24 July 2025 Adelaide

CEO Network

The MRLGA CEO Network is established as a strategic advisory group to the MRLGA Board as well as to assist and advise the MRLGA CEO in governance, project delivery and the development and implementation of the Annual Business Plan, or other plans. As the name suggests its membership is the CEOs of the eight constituent councils. The Charter outlines at Clause 7.11.8 that the Network will operate on an informal basis, and is therefore not subject to formal meeting procedures.

The Network provided a range of support including oversight, updates, feedback, guidance and discussion regarding :

• Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy	*Resolved the contracts model, future resourcing, regional infrastructure and future advocacy to GISA*
• Flood Recovery	*Collaboration and strategic positioning regarding the States $9m 'Council Community and Recreational Asset Restoration Program'.*

• Office of Recreation Sport and Racing	*Connected and Active Communities Program 3 Year Partnership with all three Riverland Councils and ORSR.*
• Preventive Health Partnership	*2 Year Partnership model with Preventive Health SA*
• Regional Drought Resilience Plan (MR Plan)	*Strategic direction, funding models and the central coordination role.*
• A.I.	*Attended the LGA AI Conference to consider joint initiatives and/or shared services*
• Regional Digital Connectivity Plan	*Strategic conversations with State Government on its digital plan as well as the NSW VIC Partnership pursing a joint application along the River Murray across 23 Councils.*
• Drought Response	*Reviewing council hardship policy approaches, drought response needs and collective responses.*

The MRLGA wishes to acknowledge the enormous dedication that regional CEO's play each and every day in our region to:

- Support healthy teams and cultures amongst staff and working environments at Council's
- Guiding successful services, governance, reporting and oversight to Council operations
- Providing leadership, strategic thinking and professionalism to the local government sector and more.

The role they play is instrumental in setting the tone of successful Council operations, and without them the MRLGA would not be as enhanced and capable as it is without them, both individually and collectively.

Zone Emergency Management Committee

Heather Barclay from Rural City of Murray Bridge continued as Chair for ZEMC meetings.

Meetings are convened by SES and were held on the following dates of which MRLGA had attendance and input towards:

- 19 March 2025 Murray Bridge
- 14 May 2025 Loxton

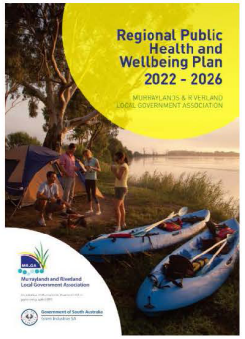
Placed Based Regional Strategies

When regional councils collaborate to develop a region-wide strategy, they can leverage collective strengths and address shared challenges. The benefits include:

- Resource Efficiency and Cost Sharing: Collaborating on a strategy allows councils to pool resources, reducing the cost burden on individual councils. Shared services, infrastructure, and expertise can result in significant savings and better resource allocation.
- Stronger Regional Advocacy: A unified regional strategy gives councils a stronger voice when advocating for state or federal funding. It allows them to present a cohesive, region-wide vision, which can attract larger-scale investment and government support.
- Holistic Planning: Working together enables councils to address broader issues that transcend local boundaries, such as economic development, transport networks, and environmental management. This leads to more balanced and sustainable regional growth.
- Shared Knowledge and Best Practices: Collaboration fosters the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and successful initiatives. Councils can learn from each other's experiences, adopting best practices in governance, planning, and service delivery.
- Improved Resilience and Crisis Management: Joint strategies are especially beneficial for managing regional crises, such as droughts, natural disasters, or economic downturns. Councils can coordinate their efforts, share resources, and develop more robust contingency plans to enhance regional resilience.

These benefits can lead to stronger, more sustainable communities through cooperation and shared vision.

The following is an update on the regional plans and strategies:

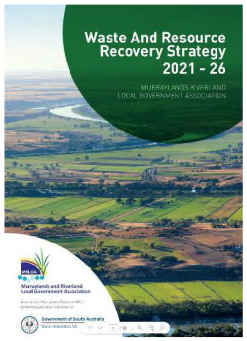


The Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is a statutory plan under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act.

It is overseen by the MRLGA Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Committee. The Committee includes one Director, from each of the 8 constituent Councils.

Key activities and advancements in 2024/25:

- **State Statutory Reporting**: Completed the Section 52 (Public Health Act 2011) report for the South Australian Chief Public Health Officer, a comprehensive update on council responsibilities under public health legislation, submitted bi-annually.
- **Partnership with Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR)**: MRLGA brokered this partnership, and has been observing sequential achievements and success coming out of its first year of the three-year partnership. District Council of Loxton Waikerie is hosting the central role, and we will liaise with ORSR and the three Riverland Councils to see where opportunities lie to expand and build the program regionally.
- **Emergency Management**: Participated at all Murray and Mallee Zone Emergency Management Committee meetings to support regionwide emergency management networking and planning. Provided a range of support for emergency management including representation at the SES Symposium, advocacy to SafeCOM and DPC on betterment, undertook support and analysis of the Community, Recreation and Asset Restoration Flood Recovery grant, Big Map Disaster Relief and more.
- **Preventive Health SA**: brokered a two year partnership with the State / Preventive Health SA that will see a $400k investment into the region to help promoting healthy communities.
- **LGA Alignment**: Continued ongoing collaboration with the LGA Public health liaison officer as part of uplift for the portfolio.
- **Foundations SA**: continued liaison with the foundation to promote these opportunities across region.
- **Mental Health Commissioner** – attended webinars from the Commissioner and built relationship with the office to elevate regional needs.



The Regional Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy (and associated Implementation Plan) is a statutory plan. In South Australia, waste management targets for councils are primarily determined by the Green Industries SA (GISA) agency, operating under the Green Industries SA Act 2004. GISA leads the state's waste management and resource recovery strategies, providing guidance, grants, and policy direction. The South Australian Waste Strategy 2020-2025, developed by Green Industries SA, outlines key waste management targets, including reducing landfill, increasing recycling, and improving resource recovery. It aligns with South Australia's overall environmental goals, and councils are required to work within this framework.
Additionally, the Environment Protection Act 1993, administered by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) South Australia, also plays a role in regulating waste management activities, particularly concerning environmental protection standards. Councils are expected to adhere to the targets and strategies set forth by these agencies and legislative acts when managing waste within their jurisdictions.

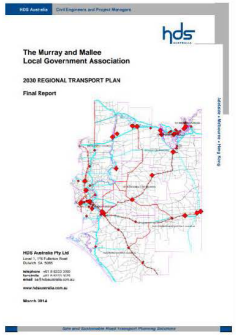
The regional strategy is overseen by the MRLGA Regional Waste & Resource Recovery Committee. The Committee includes one Director, from each of the 8 constituent Councils.

Key activities included:

- **Established Shared Services Models,** we established tow new roles at MRLGA as part of a trialling more shared service models

across Councils. The new roles were Circular Economy & Waste Lead and Waste Education. These roles have enabled the following work to be undertaken.

- **Established cross- Council Waste Service Contract Management via the Performance Management Working Group** (PMWG) with representation from all five regional councils involved in the joint waste services contract. The group meets quarterly and is formed under the governance structure outlined in the contracts. The working group offers Councils an opportunity to unite; and to collate challenges and opportunity's in a cohesive and efficient manner across the region, working towards solutions for improved performance via the waste service contract.
- **Kerbside Waste Service Review** – we commenced the kerbside waste service review, including case study reports and will deliver the draft report to Council before the end of 2025.
- **Waste Education Program** : with 6 key themes and 23 styled activities to grow waste educations across the five participating councils and its communities.



The Regional Transport Plan is the result of collaboration across Councils to have a cohesive road network, and it also conforms to the Local Government Transport Advisory Panel (LGTAP) needs.

The regional plan is overseen by the MRLGA Regional Transport Committee. The Committee includes the Directors of Infrastructure from each of the 8 constituent councils.

This year, MRLGA in consultation with its Regional Transport Committee secured a remarkable $4.3 million in funding through the Special Local Roads Program (SLRP) for priority road upgrades across councils. These projects are essential for maintaining and enhancing road infrastructure that supports economic growth and connects communities. Through targeted planning we have continued to grow the funding package in size in recent years for regional areas.



The paper was a collaborative piece of work to support Councils as they liaise with State and Federal government on Murray Darling Basin Plan (2.0) reviews and updates, as well as the water recovery discussions that have transpired from the Resilient Rivers Bill.
The document is accompanied by a Regional Profile that outlines the evidence and statistics that form the points within the advocacy paper.
MRLGA has remained a support line to Councils while they undertook more hands on consultation with PIRSA as part of business case development work for the Resilient Rivers Infrastructure Program and Sustainable Communities Program.
Our recent representation at the annual Murray Darling Basin Authority Conference at Murray Bridge proved critical in understanding the emerging economic data, climate, environment projections, water recovery intel happening across the states and network with MDBA and other MDB stakeholders.

In addition to incremental progress with the above strategy's, the Association also prepared and delivered a :

- Submission to the Federal Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability
- Submission to the State EPA Reform
- Submission to the State Draft Waste Strategy
- Submission to the Productivity Commission on the Future Drought Fund Regional Drought Resilience Planning program

Regional LGA's, Chief Executive Officers

The Regional LGA's Ceo Group is an informal meeting of Executive Officers of the Regional Local Government Associations. Opportunities of collaborating across regional LGA include:

- Provide input into SAROC Business Plan and the Agenda
- Develop a working relationship with the LGA Management team
- Advocate on behalf of the regions and regional initiatives
- Share information and provide collegiate support
- Coordinate collaborative project activity

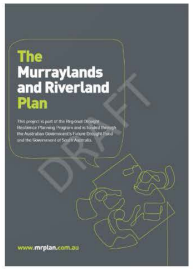
The Association also availed itself to other opportunities occurring in the region including:

Future Drought Fund – Regional Drought Resilience Program

In 20/21 two South Australian regions were selected to participate in a pilot year to develop Regional Drought Resilience Plans. The plans in SA were funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund Program: Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program to the approximate value of $1.18m.

The MRLGA were invited to participate in a joint partnership with Regional Development Australia, Murraylands and Riverland (RDAMR) and Landscape Board, Murraylands and Riverland to develop a regional drought resilience plan.

For more information on the background, process or a copy of the plan, please visit:



- MR (Drought Resilience) Plan landing page https://www.mrplan.com.au/theplan
- The Process https://rdamr.com.au/information/mrplan/#:~:text=The%20Murraylands%20and%20Riverland%20Plan%20(MR%20Plan)%20is%20about%20supporting,Riverland%20towards%20achieving%20this%20vision.
- Future Drought Fund, Regional Drought Resilience Program https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/future-drought-fund/regional-drought-resilience-planning#daff-page-main

In August 2024, PIRSA advised that seed funding for the program would be available and the partnership is working together on the initiative. The funding was then made available in April 2025 and MRLGA has been working with the consortium to partner on drought preparedness initiatives.

Operational (external) Service Agreements

The list below outlines the Service Agreements MRLGA held in 24/25 to support operations or initiatives:

- Payroll and BAS services provided by EKM Accounting
- Formula Accounting for accounting services to prepare the independent audited financial statements
- Rawtec Consulting (associated with the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy).
- HDS Traffic Engineering – Regional Road Assessments
- Dean Newberry Accountants for annual auditing services

2024 / 2025 Audit

The 24/25 external audit was undertaken by Accru Harris Orchard | AHO Audit Pty Ltd ABN 55 670 721 712

Financial Statements prepared by Formula Accounting ABN 50 410 043 228

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

General Purpose Financial Reports

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

General Purpose Financial Reports

for the year ended 30 June 2025

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Audit Report - Financial Statements
Association Certificate of Audit Independence
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Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Annual Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been authorised by the Association to certify the financial statements in their final form. In our opinion:

- the accompanying financial statements comply with the *Local Government Act 1999*, *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* and Australian Accounting Standards.
- the financial statements present a true and fair view of the Association's financial position at 30 June 2025 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the financial year.
- internal controls implemented by the Association provide a reasonable assurance that the Association's financial records are complete, accurate and reliable and were effective throughout the financial year.
- the financial statements accurately reflect the Association's accounting and other records.

.....
Carron McLeod
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

.....
Mayor Ella Winnall
CHAIRPERSON

Date:

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 $	2024 $
INCOME			
Council Subscriptions	2	**465,106**	209,750
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions	2	**80,000**	44,912
Investment income	2	**49,518**	52,298
Total Income		**594,624**	306,960
EXPENSES			
Employee costs	3	**390,434**	191,766
Materials, contracts & other expenses	3	**74,768**	80,215
Total Expenses		**465,202**	271,981
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		**129,422**	34,979
Other Comprehensive Income			
Total Other Comprehensive Income		**-**	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		**129,422**	34,979

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 $	2024 $
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	**1,194,574**	1,098,993
Trade & other receivables	4	**26,588**	7,063
		1,221,162	1,106,056
Total Current Assets		**1,221,162**	1,106,056
Total Assets		**1,221,162**	1,106,056
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade & other payables	5	**33,136**	64,025
Provisions	5	**37,753**	21,180
Total Current Liabilities		**70,889**	85,205
Non-current Liabilities			
Provisions	8	**1,724**	1,724
Total Non-current Liabilities		**1,724**	1,724
Total Liabilities		**72,613**	86,929
NET ASSETS		**1,148,549**	1,019,127
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		**1,148,549**	1,019,127
TOTAL EQUITY		**1,148,549**	1,019,127

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	Acc'd Surplus	TOTAL EQUITY
2025		**$**	**$**
Balance at end of previous reporting period		**1,019,127**	**1,019,127**
Restated opening balance		**1,019,127**	**1,019,127**
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		**129,422**	**129,422**
Balance at end of period		**1,148,549**	**1,148,549**
2024			
Balance at end of previous reporting period		984,148	984,148
Restated opening balance		984,148	984,148
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		34,979	34,979
Balance at end of period		1,019,127	1,019,127

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2025

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	Notes	2025 $	2024 $
Receipts:			
Council Subscriptions		**439,907**	212,116
Investment receipts		**55,192**	45,235
Grants utilised for operating purposes		**80,000**	44,912
Other revenues		**-**	-
Payments:			
Employee costs		**(363,992)**	(180,177)
Materials, contracts & other expenses		**(75,526)**	(80,208)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	6b	**95,581**	41,878
Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held		**95,581**	41,878
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period	6	**1,098,993**	1,057,115
Cash & cash equivalents at end of period	6	**1,194,574**	1,098,993

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial report are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

1 Basis of Preparation

1.1 Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards

This general purpose financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis using the historical cost convention in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Interpretations and relevant South Australian legislation.

The financial report was authorised for issue by certificate under regulation 14 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011.

1.2 Historical Cost Convention

Except as stated below, these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

1.3 Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates and requires management to exercise its judgement in applying assocation's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are specifically referred to in the relevant sections of these Notes.

1.4 Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

2 The Local Government Reporting Entity

The Association is a Regional Subsidiary under Section 43 and Schedule 2 of the SA Local Government Act 1999.

The Constituent Councils are:

Berri Barmera Council
Coorong District Council
District Council Loxton Waikerie
District Council Karoonda East Murra
Mid Murray Council
Renmark Paringa Council
Rural City of Murray Bridge
Southern Mallee District Council

All funds received and expended by the Group have been included in the Financial Statements forming part of this Financial Report.

3 Income recognition

3.1 Revenue

The Association recognises revenue under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 1058) or AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers (AASB 15) when appropriate.

In cases where there is an 'enforceable' contract with a customer with 'sufficiently specific' performance obligations, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 where income is recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or service to a customer). Revenue is measured based on the consideration to which the Association expects to be entitled in a contract with a customer.

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025
Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies

In other cases, AASB 1058 applies when Association enters into transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than the fair value of the asset principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. The excess of the asset recognised (at fair value) over any 'related amounts' is recognised as income immediately, except in the case where a financial asset has been received to enable the Association to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset that is to be controlled by the Association. In this case, the Association recognises the excess as a liability that is recognised over time in profit and loss when (or as) the entity satisfies its obligations under the transfer.

4 Cash, Cash Equivalents and Other Financial Instruments

4.1 Cash, Cash Equivalent Assets

Cash assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Association's option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

4.2 Other Financial Instruments

All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered doubtful.

All financial instruments are recognised at fair value at the date of recognition, except for trade receivables from a contract with a customer, which are measured at the transaction price.

5 Payables

5.1 Goods & Services

Creditors are amounts due to external parties for the supply of goods and services and are recognised as liabilities when the goods and services are received. Creditors are normally paid 30 days after the month of invoice. No interest is payable on these amounts.

5.2 Payments Received in Advance & Deposits

Amounts (other than grants) received from external parties in advance of service delivery, and security deposits held against possible damage to Association assets, are recognised as liabilities until the service is delivered or damage reinstated, or the amount is refunded as the case may be.

6 GST Implications

In accordance with UIG Abstract 1031 "Accounting for the Goods & Services Tax"

- Receivables and Creditors include GST receivable and payable.
- Except in relation to input taxed activities, revenues and operating expenditures exclude GST receivable and payable.
- Non-current assets and capital expenditures include GST net of any recoupment.
- Amounts included in the Statement of Cash Flows are disclosed on a gross basis.

7 New and amended standards and interpretations

The Association applied for the first-time certain standards and amendments, which are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023. New standards and amendments relevant to the Association are listed below. The Association has not early adopted any other standard, interpretation or amendment that has been issued but is not yet effective.

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies

8 Superannuation

The Association contributed the statutory 11.0% Superannuation Guarantee to the nominated superannuation fund of the Executive Officer.

9 Provisions

9.1 Employee Benefits

Liabilities for employee's entitlements to salaries, wages and compensated absences expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of reporting date are accrued at nominal amounts (including payroll based on-costs) measured in accordance with AASB 119.

Liabilities for employee benefits not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows (including payroll based on-costs) to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

No accrual is made for sick leave as Council experience indicates that, on average, sick leave taken in each reporting period is less than the entitlement accruing in that period, and this experience is expected to recur in future reporting periods. No payment is made for untaken sick leave.

10 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

At 30 June 2025, the Association is unaware of any liability, contingent or otherwise, which has not already been recorded elsewhere in this financial report.

11 Events after the end of the reporting period

There are no events subsequent to 30 June 2025 that need disclosure in the financial statements.

12 Economic Dependence

The Association is dependent on the Local Councils within its jurisdiction and other funding bodies for the majority of the revenue used to operate the business. At the date of this report, the Board believe that the Local Councils and other bodies will continue to fund the Association.

Note 2 - INCOME

	Notes	2025 $	2024 $
COUNCIL SUBSCRIPTIONS			
General Subscriptions		**239,971**	209,750
		239,971	209,750
Other Charges			
Waste Contract Management Levy		**64,580**	-
Waste Education Levy		**160,555**	-
		225,135	-
		465,106	209,750
INVESTMENT INCOME			
Interest on investments:			
Local Government Finance Authority		**49,518**	52,298
		49,518	52,298
GRANTS, SUBSIDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS			
Other grants, subsidies and contributions			
Regional Capacity Buildings		**40,000**	40,000
Community Wellbeing Alliance		**40,000**	-
Building Better Regions		**-**	4,912
		80,000	44,912
Sources of grants			
Commonwealth government		**40,000**	44,912
Other		**40,000**	-
		80,000	44,912

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 3 - EXPENSE

	Notes	2025 $	2024 $
EMPLOYEE COSTS			
Salaries and Wages		**333,761**	161,850
Employee leave expense		**16,573**	10,412
Superannuation	1.8	**38,383**	17,804
Workers' Compensation Insurance		**1,717**	1,700
Total Operating Employee Costs		**390,434**	191,766
Total Number of Employees		***1***	-
(Full time equivalent at end of reporting period)			
MATERIALS, CONTRACTS & OTHER EXPENSES			
Prescribed Expenses			
Auditor's Remuneration			
- Auditing the financial reports		**3,830**	3,050
Elected members' expenses		**3,550**	3,400
Subtotal - Prescribed Expenses		**7,380**	6,450
Other Materials, Contracts & Expenses			
Accounting Services		**3,599**	4,467
Computer & Software		**3,095**	2,713
Insurance		**8,594**	7,061
Meeting Expenses		**8,311**	10,481
Office Expenses		**6,520**	1,178
Project Expenditure		**33,552**	41,198
Website Maintenance		**-**	4,245
Sundry		**3,717**	2,422
Subtotal - Other Materials, Contracts & Expenses		**67,388**	73,765
		74,768	80,215

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 4 - CURRENT ASSETS

CASH & EQUIVALENT ASSETS	Notes	2025 $	2024 $
Cash on Hand and at Bank		**177,536**	125,347
Deposits at Call		**1,017,038**	973,646
		1,194,574	1,098,993
TRADE & OTHER RECEIVABLES			
Subscriptions - General & Other		**25,199**	-
Accrued Interest Revenue		**1,389**	7,063
		26,588	7,063

Note 5 - LIABILITIES

		2025 $		2024 $	
TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES	**Notes**	**Current**	**Non-current**	Current	Non-current
Goods & Services		**-**	**-**	-	-
Payments received in advance		**-**	**-**	40,000	-
Accrued expenses - other		**21,393**	**-**	11,524	-
GST Payable		**11,743**	**-**	12,501	-
		33,136	**-**	64,025	-
PROVISIONS					
LSL Employee entitlements (including oncosts)		**-**	**1,724**	-	1,724
AL Employee entitlements (including oncosts)		**37,753**	**-**	21,180	-
		37,753	**1,724**	21,180	1,724

Note 6 - RECONCILIATION TO CASH FLOW STATEMENT

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash Assets comprise highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

	Notes	2025 $	2024 $
Total cash & equivalent assets	4	**1,194,574**	1,098,993
Less: Short-term borrowings		**-**	-
Balances per Cash Flow Statement		**1,194,574**	1,098,993

(b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities

Net Surplus (Deficit)	**129,422**	34,979
Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets		
Net (increase) decrease in receivables	**(19,525)**	(4,697)
Net increase (decrease) in trade & other payables	**(30,889)**	1,184
Net increase (decrease) in other provisions	**16,573**	10,412
Net increase (decrease) in other liabilities	**-**	
Net Cash provided by (or used in) operations	**95,581**	41,878

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

All financial Instruments are categorised as *loans and receivables.*

Accounting Policies - Recognised Financial Instruments

Bank, Deposits at Call, Short Term Deposits	**Accounting Policy:** initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured atamortised cost, interest is recognised when earned
	Terms & conditions: Short term deposits are avaliable on 24 hour call with the LGFA and have an interest rate of 4.15% as at 30 June 2025 (2024: 4.55%)
	Carrying amount: approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.
Receivables - Trade and other debtors	**Accounting Policy:** Carried at nominal value
	Terms & conditions: Amounts due have been calcualted in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest.
	Carrying amount: approximates fair value.
Liabilities - Creditors and Accruals	**Accounting Policy:** Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Association.
	Terms & conditions: Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.
	Carrying amount: approximates fair value.

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (con't)

Liquidity Analysis

2025	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
Financial Assets	$	$	$	$	$
Cash & Equivalents	**1,194,574**			**1,194,574**	**1,194,574**
Receivables	**26,588**			**26,588**	**26,588**
Total	**1,221,162**	**-**	**-**	**1,221,162**	**1,221,162**
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	**33,136**			**33,136**	**33,136**
Total	**33,136**	**-**	**-**	**33,136**	**33,136**

2024	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year; ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
Financial Assets	$	$	$	$	$
Cash & Equivalents	1,098,993			1,098,993	1,098,993
Receivables	7,063			7,063	7,063
Total	1,106,056	-	-	1,106,056	1,106,056
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	24,025			24,025	24,025
Total	24,025	-	-	24,025	24,025

Note 7 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (con't)

Net Fair Value

All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of the Association.

Risk Exposures:

Credit Risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties fail to perform as contracted. The maximum credit risk on financial assets of the Association is the carrying amount, net of any impairment. All Association investments are made with the SA Local Government Finance Authority and are guaranteed by the SA Government. Except as detailed in Note 4 in relation to individual classes of receivables, exposure is concentrated within the Association's boundaries, and there is no material exposure to any individual debtor.

Market Risk is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices. All of Association's financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk nor currency risk apply.

Liquidity Risk is the risk that Association will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations with financial liabilities. In accordance with the model Treasury Management Policy (LGA Information Paper 15), liabilities have a range of maturity dates. The Association also has available a range of bank overdraft and standby borrowing facilities that it can access.

Interest Rate Risk is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Association has a balance of both fixed and variable interest rate borrowings and investments. Cash flow fluctuations are managed holistically in seeking to minimise interest costs over the longer term in a risk averse manner.

Note 8 - RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The Key Management Personnel of the Association include the Mayors/Chairpersons of the constituent Councils and the CEO. The following total compensation was paid:

	2025	2024
	$	$
CEO salary and superannuation	190,386	179,654
Member Allowance	3,550	3,400
TOTAL	**193,936**	183,054

PARTIES RELATED TO KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

During the reporting period, no Key management Personnel or parties related to them had any transactions on more favourable than those avaliable to the public.

OTHER RELATED PARTIES	2025	2024
Amounts received from Related Parties during the financial year and owed by Related Parties at the end of the financial year (inclusive of GST).	$	$
Berri Barmera Council	24,830	24,540
Coorong District Council	20,986	20,480
District Council Loxton Waikerie	28,186	27,815
District Council Karoonda East Murray	11,739	11,328
Mid Murray Council	36,049	26,828
Renmark Paringa Council	23,609	23,231
Rural City of Murray Bridge	44,400	43,526
Southern Mallee District Council	13,954	13,757
SLRP Surcharge	36,218	18,245
TOTAL	**239,971**	**209,750**

Description of Services provided to all Related Parties above:
The Association's primary purpose focuses on the wealth, wellbeing and social cohesion of these communities via a sustainable approach of productive landscapes and natural environment. Its focus is on the key roles of local government.

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Annual Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

CERTIFICATION OF AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we confirm that, for the purpose of the audit of Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association for the year ended 30 June 2025, the Association's Auditor, Dean Newbery, has maintained its independence in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22(3) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.

Maddie Frew (Sep 30, 2025 14:35:32 GMT+9.5)

Maddy Frew
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Berri Barmera Council

BMather

Bridget Mather
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Coorong District Council

David Beaton (Oct 2, 2025 09:49:18 GMT+9.5)

David Beaton
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
District Council Loxton Waikerie

James McInnes (Oct 2, 2025 08:30:17 GMT+9.5)

James McInnes
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
District Council Karoonda East Murray

Ben Scales (Oct 2, 2025 13:54:32 GMT+9.5)

Ben Scales
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Mid Murray Council

Tony Siviour
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Renmark Paringa Council

Heather Barclay (Oct 2, 2025 17:40:42 GMT+9.5)

Heather Barclay
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Rural City of Murray Bridge

Jason Beaton
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Southern Mallee District Council

Carron McLeod
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Murraylands and Riverland LGA

Mayor Ella Winnall
CHAIRPERSON
Murraylands and Riverland LGA

Date: 7 October 2025

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LOXTON WAIKERIE

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