

GENERAL MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

TO BE HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CIVIC CENTRE 101 GOONDOON STREET, GLADSTONE

On Tuesday 15 April 2025

Commencing at 9.00am

Leisa Dowling CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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G/1. MAYORAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ISSUES

G/2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES G/2.1. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 1 APRIL 2025

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Prepared By: Executive Secretary

Council Meeting Date: 15 April 2025

File Ref: CM7.2

Purpose:

Confirmation of the minutes of the General Meeting held on 1 April 2025.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on 1 April 2025 be confirmed.

Attachments:

1. Minutes of the General Meeting of Council held 1 April 2025.

G/3. DEPUTATIONS

G/4. OFFICERS' REPORTS G/4.1. NAMING COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET - YAYA ROAD, AGNES WATER

Responsible Officer: General Manager Customer Experience

Prepared By: Manager Customer Solutions

Council Meeting Date: 15 April 2025

File Ref: CR13.1

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to allow Council to consider a request to utilise the name Yaya Road on an unnamed road in approved Reconfiguration of Lot (ROL) Application DA/22/2023. The location of the new road is to be off Tavern Road, Agnes Water QLD 4677.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council approves the use of the name Yaya for an unnamed road in approved Reconfiguration of Lot Application DA/22/2023.

Summary:

An application was received to utilise the name 'Yaya' from the Approved Place Names register to name a new road turning right from Tavern Road Agnes Water. The proposal is to name the road 'Yaya Road' which is associated with DA/22/2023.

Link to Corporate Plan:

Connecting Communities - We work with you and for you, supporting the success of our communities.

Background:

Council received an application from Brades Property Agnes Water Pty Ltd, to utilise the name 'Yaya' from the Approved Place Names Register within the proposed Reconfiguring a Lot to facilitate the creation of new road reserve located off Tavern Road, Agnes Water QLD 4677. The applicant would like to name the new area of road reserve 'Yaya Road' associated with DA/22/2023.

The word Yaya is from the First Nations tribe Byellee and it means Mother, and was added to the Approved Place Names Register prior to amalgamation.

Risk Management Summary:

This application has been assessed in accordance with the application process as outlined in the Naming of Infrastructure Assets Policy (P-2020-17) and Corporate Standard (CS-2020-20), thus is compliant as detailed in Table 1 below. Based on the assessment criteria, this application meets Council's low Risk appetite, outlined in the Risk Management Framework.

Options and Opportunity Analysis:

Option 1 – Approve

The application has been assessed against the requirements of Council's Naming of Infrastructure Assets Policy (P-2020-17) and Corporate Standard (CS-2020-20).

	Comply	Comment
Purpose or need to name the Asset	Compliant	Roads are unnamed within the new
		development
Status of Name	Compliant	Currently available within the Approved Place
		Names Register
Name is appropriate to the area	Compliant	See Map below

Figure 1: Aerial view of 23 Tavern Road, Agnes Water



Option 2 – Refuse

This option is not in accordance with the Council's Naming of Infrastructure Assets Policy (P-2020-17) and Corporate Standard (CS-2020-20).

Stakeholder Engagement:

Relevant Business Units have been consulted with no objections to the proposal.

The Geographic Information System (GIS) team advised that the area on the current registered plan is a pathway therefore there should be no problem with it being named Yaya Road once it is a registered road reserve.

Legal and Regulatory Implications:

The application has been assessed against the requirements of Council's Naming of Infrastructure Assets Policy (P-2020-17) and Corporate Standard (CS-2020-20) as outlined in the table above.

Financial and Resource Implications:

Cost to install and maintain signage, as well as administrative requirements.

Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:

The Resolution will be completed in accordance with DA/22/2023.

Attachments:

1. CONFIDENTIAL – Application – Naming of Council Asset Infrastructure – Brades Property Agnes Water Pty Ltd

G/4.2. COMPLIMENTARY GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL PERIODS

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Manager Revenue Services and Manager Waste Program Delivery

Council Meeting Date: 15 April 2025

File Ref: FM6.1 and FM7.1

Purpose:

To seek Council's endorsement to provide a complimentary two-week period from 3 May 2025 to 18 May 2025, during which domestic users can dispose of their green waste free of charge at our Benaraby, Gladstone, and Agnes Water Transfer Stations.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council adopt the following adjustments to its 2024/2025 Fees and Charges: a complimentary twoweek period, commencing on 3 May 2025 to 18 May 2025 at the Benaraby, Gladstone, and Agnes Water Transfer Stations. During this period, the fee for "Green Waste – Uncontaminated – Less than 500kg" will be reduced from \$5.00 per load to "No Charge."

Summary:

The complimentary two-week period will assist with the cleanup approach of the disaster season and align with the public holidays in April and May. This timing is popular for home improvements, including gardening, and will facilitate the disposal of green waste during this period.

Link to Corporate Plan:

Delivering Value - We work efficiently to deliver value for your rates.

Background:

In preparation for disaster seasons, Council can accept the free green waste at Benaraby, Gladstone and Agnes Water transfer stations. This waste is placed directly on the ground at the transfer stations to be later mulched and for a 2-week campaign there is minimal impact provided the waste is taken directly to these sites.

It is preferred not to accept free green waste at the other transfer stations. The primary reason is that Council do not have sufficient space to stockpile the waste, as it is loaded directly into a hook bin that must be transported to Benaraby before it overflows. For instance, the hook bin at Calliope can fill up within 20 minutes (approximately 5 trailer loads), which often leads to staff having to turn people away due to the bin being full, even on a normal day.

Additionally, arranging for increased trucking to manage the anticipated surge in green waste during an open free period at our outer transfer stations will incur additional costs if it can be facilitated.

For future years it is proposed that the complimentary periods be imbedded in the fees and charges to be adopted during annual budget. August/September for bushfires and March/April could be a post storm/cyclone season clean up. This will benefit the reduction of the potential impact to properties, it will also assist in reducing the cost of clean-up for Council after disaster events, with less waste to transfer stations.

Risk Management Summary:

Council has a minimal appetite for health safety and wellbeing risks, a minimal appetite for environmental risks and moderate appetite for service delivery risks and a minimal appetite for reputational risks. The Officer's Recommendation is consistent with Council's Risk Appetite.

Options and Opportunity Analysis:

Option 1 (Officer's Recommendation)

Adopt a complimentary period from 3 May 2025 to 18 May 2025 at the Benaraby, Gladstone, and Agnes Water Transfer Stations by reducing the fee for "Green Waste – Uncontaminated – Less than 500kg" from \$5.00 per load to "No Charge."

Option 2

Make no change to the 2024/2025 Fees and Charges and not to implement a complimentary two-week period for domestic green waste.

Stakeholder Engagement:

Internally the Operations, Revenue Services and Waste Strategic Lead teams have been consulted.

Legal and Regulatory Implications:

The fees and charges were adopted by Council at the annual budget meeting. To change the applicable fees, Council resolution is required.

Financial and Resource Implications:

There will be a small financial impact on the budget, as this will be a loss of domestic green waste income for a 2-week period with a possible loss of income due to the campaign may be in the range of \$12,300 (based on an average of 1972 green waste transaction over these 3 sites per fortnight escalated with 25%).

Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:

18 May 2025

Attachments:

Nil

G/4.3. TENDER RPQS 73-25 TRAINING SERVICES

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Manager Contracts and Procurement

Council Meeting Date: 15 April 2025

File Ref: FM21.1

Purpose:

This report seeks resolution from Council to enter into agreements for the provision of Training Services under a Register of Pre-Qualified Suppliers.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the Tender Evaluation Panel's recommendation to appoint the following 64 service providers on RPQS 73-25 Training Services:
 - 4 T Consultants Pty Ltd (local business)
 - Ab Quality Homes Pty Ltd
 - Academy Green Learning
 - Academy Global Pty Limited
 - ALL STATES TRAINING
 - Articulous Pty Ltd
 - ASPL Australia Pty Ltd. Trading as ASPL Group
 - Auditor Training Online Pty Ltd
 - Australian Red Cross Society (local branch business)
 - BE YOU Pty Ltd As Trustee for The JG & BA Unit Family Trust
 - Blanchard International Pty Ltd
 - Blue Visions Management T/A Institute of Management
 - Career Coaching and Training
 - Coherics Pty Ltd
 - Computer Smart Training Pty Ltd
 - ConnectedLE Pty Ltd
 - CountryCo Ag Services Pty Ltd
 - Current Training (QLD) Pty Ltd
 - Online Compliance Training Australia Pty Ltd (Equal Opportunity Training)
 - EEO Specialist (Equal Opportunity Training)
 - Elemental Projects (Australia) Pty Ltd
 - Endless Sunsets T/A The CPEM Consulting Group
 - Excel Consulting Solutions Pty Limited (Nexacu)
 - Get Skilled Access Pty Ltd
 - Governance Risk & Compliance Solutions Pty Ltd trading as GRC Solutions
 - Griffith University, a body corporate established pursuant to the Griffith University Act 1998
 - Harness Energy (local business)
 - Helix Legal Pty Ltd
 - Honeylight Enterprises Pty Ltd
 - Australian Institute of Resources Training Pty Ltd trading as Host Safety and Training

- HRS Connect Pty Ltd
- Ian Crothers & Associates
- Inspyr Pty Ltd
- Intele Training Pty Ltd
- Smart First Aid Pty Ltd (Intuitive Training)
- Investigation Compliance and Enforcement Training Systems Pty Ltd
- LG Services Group Pty Ltd
- Link Resources Training Pty Ltd
- Liquid Learning Group Pty Ltd
- Lumian Consulting Pty Ltd
- Melbourne Business School
- Guinea Enterprises P/L T/A Narbil Training Services (local business)
- Playground Safety Inspectors Australia Pty Ltd T/A Playground Safety Inspectors Australia
- (PSIA)
- Project Management Partners Pty Ltd Trading as PM-Partners group
- OVA Educational Systems Pty Limited t/a Resolution Education
- Strategic Health Services Pty Ltd T/A SDS Training
- B M REID & I R RANKIINE ATF 4T TRUST TRADING AS SMALL COMPANY BIG BUSINESS
- St John Ambulance Australia Queensland Limited
- SUTHERLAND COMPUTER TRAINING PTY LTD
- The AusHealth Hospital Research Fund Ltd AusHealth Work
- The Gallup Organisation Pty Ltd
- The Hinwood Institute Pty Ltd
- The Trustee for Corporate Edge Coaching Trust
- College for Adult Learning Pty. Ltd. as the Trustee for Golding/Sabell Trust
- The Trustee for the Monsigneur Family Trust
- The Trustee for WK Chan and Associates Trust t/a Paradigm Infinitum and Australian
- Leadership Skills Centre
- The University of Sydney
- Total Training Group Pty Ltd
- Trainers Direct Pty Ltd
- Trility Services Pty Ltd (local branch business)
- Upskilled Pty Ltd
- Abrahamson Holdings as Trustee of the Abrahamson Family Trust t/a Upskills QLD
- Vertical Hoizonz Australia Pty Ltd
- Evolve HR Solutions (local branch business)
- Health & Wellness Hub P/L
- 2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter into panel arrangements for a fixed term of 5 years, with the above service providers.

Summary:

An open market tender was conducted in accordance with s232 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, and the Officer's recommendation is to appoint 64 service providers to the Register of Pre-Qualified Suppliers ('RPQS') 73-25 Training Services for period of up to five years.

Link to Corporate Plan:

Delivering Value - We work efficiently to deliver value for your rates.

Background:

Council seeks to establish a Register of Pre-Qualified Suppliers (RPQS) for a diverse range of training services for Council employees. The training panel aims to enhance employee competency, foster continuous professional development, and align individual performance with the organisation's strategic goals, ultimately improving overall productivity and job satisfaction.

An RPQS is a list of companies that have been assessed and deemed capable of providing specific goods or services, allowing them to be considered for future procurement opportunities. Appointment to an RPQS is based on a schedule of rates, it does not commit financial resources. Engagements with service providers under this arrangement will be exempt from tender or quote requirements in accordance with s232 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, however will be subject to the Sound Contracting Principles and Register of Delegations - Exercise of Statutory Powers and Financial Delegation Register.

From time to time the Service Provider may be required to provided tailored, high-quality programs. aligning with Council's goals, whilst ensuring industry standards are met.

A general overview of the type of training that may be required is listed below:

- Software programs (e.g. Microsoft Suits, Adobe, Outlook, Power BI, Computer Skills);
- Leadership and Personal Development;
- Engineering and Technical;
- Local Laws;
- Environmental and Biosecurity;
- Apprentice and Traineeships;
- Governance and Internal Auditing;
- Managing Challenging Interactions;
- Due Diligence;
- Accounting;
- Mental Health;
- Procurement & Contracting;
- Project Management;
- Health and Safety Training;
- Plant and Equipment Training; and
- Customer Solutions.

Risk Management Summary:

Council takes a balanced approach to Service Delivery and Financial risk. The intent of the RPQS is to allow access to service providers within the market, reducing Council exposure caused by delaying access to services not held by Council and is consistent with Council's risk appetite.

Options and Opportunity Analysis:

An Invitation to Tender (ITT) was released to the open market 14 September 2024 with targeted emails to current companies on RPQS 76-22 Training Services (current RPQS) and additional companies.

The ITT was originally to close 15 October 2024, however, was extended until 18 October 2024 and received 78 offers. Various companies were initially deemed non-conforming for missing various mandatory tender returnable documents. A decision was made to allow all non-conforming offers to be provided a 24- hour extension to provide the missing documents (which can be evidenced as not edited after the closing date).

The offers were evaluated by a panel of subject matter experts, and was evaluated based on the criteria disclosed in the ITT which included:

Objective Evaluation Criteria	Weighting
Offer demonstrates understanding of the scope and GRC's requirements and	50%
includes a Resourcing Plan which addresses all aspects of the scope and GRC's	
requirements.	
Nominated past projects performed meet GRC's experience and requirements	30%
Proposed Key Personnel have the qualifications, experience and allocation to the	20%
scope as required by GRC	

All other conforming offers which exceeded a technical score of 50/100 were agreed by the evaluation panel to be awarded to the panel as they met the technical requirements to provide various training services to assist Council to equip our employees with the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools in accordance with the evaluation criteria listed in the ITT.

Six companies either have a head or branch office within the Gladstone Region. As a Request for Proposal (RFP) process will be used for each for each engagement, costs were not assessed as part of this evaluation. Value for money will be assessed on an as per engagement basis with confirmation against the schedules of rates proposed in the submissions or as per the offer (when sending out for a Request for Proposal).

Council may also refresh the Contract at any time during the contract term by issuing a new Invitation to Tender based on the same evaluation criteria as this ITT, seeking offers from Service Providers wishing to be added to the RPQS. Service Providers already on the RPQS will not be required to resubmit.

If Council were not supportive of establishing an RPQS for Training Services, procurement would be required to be undertaken in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and Corporate Standard. Procurement activities may be less efficient, and Council will not have the benefit of agreed schedule of rates.

Stakeholder Engagement:

The following stakeholders have been engaged in the preparation of this report:

• Learning and Development

Legal and Regulatory Implications:

Council sought offers via VendorPanel in accordance with the Local Government Regulation 2012, Local Government Act 2009 and Council's Procurement Policy P-2021-01.

Council's endorsement of this tender award is in accordance with the Register of Delegations - Exercise of Statutory Powers and Financial Delegation Register.

The Officer's recommendation is based on the evaluation methodology and criteria in the ITT. There are risks associated with Council awarding a contract contrary to the officer's recommendation. If Council is not satisfied with the evaluation methodology and criteria or the application thereof, Council may refer the matter back to officers for re-evaluation.

In the interests of probity, an amendment to the evaluation methodology and/or criteria may require referral back to tenderers so that they can each have the opportunity to make any changes to their offers having regard to the amended criteria prior to re-evaluation.

Financial and Resource Implications:

The establishment of an RPQS does not commit financial resources. Engagements with service providers under this arrangement will be exempt from tender or quote requirements in accordance with s232 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 allowing for expedited procurement processes where appropriate.

Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:

The contracts will be awarded in April 2025.

Attachments:

Nil

G/4.4. REPEAL OF THE ETHICS INTEGRITY AND AUDIT POLICY

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Governance Business Partner and Principal Internal Auditor

Council Meeting Date: 15 April 2025

File Ref: CM28.2

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the repeal of the Ethics Integrity and Audit Policy.

Officer's Recommendation:

It is recommended that Council repeal P-2020-20 Ethics Integrity and Audit Policy.

Summary:

The Ethics Integrity and Audit Policy "establishes the authority and responsibility conferred by Council to the Ethics, Integrity and Audit function in the fulfilment of internal audit requirements under the Local Government Act 2009 and other legislation".

The repeal of the Ethics Integrity and Audit Policy is recommended and provides an opportunity to reduce the number of Council policies, without the risk of reducing Council's strategic oversight and guidance on Council's risk management and audit obligations.

Link to Corporate Plan:

Accountable Council - We are providing good stewardship built on a foundation of trust. Delivering Value - We work efficiently to deliver value for your rates.

Background:

Officers are undertaking a comprehensive review of Council's policies and corporate standards and aim to reduce policies by 15%.

As part of the review, the Ethics Integrity and Audit Policy ('the policy') has been identified for repeal. Council's internal audit function has continued to mature over time, which has resulted in the development of a comprehensive suite of guidance documents and mature processes at the strategic level, that allows Council to consider and respond to strategic risk and audit issues in a planned way and to respond to emerging issues as they arise.

Document	Purpose	Approver
Local Government Act 2009, Local Government Regulation 2012	Sets the requirement to have an internal audit function and sets minimum deliverables.	Minister
Terms of Reference for Audit Risk and Improvement Committee	Guides the scope of activities to be overseen by the Committee and the supporting administrative arrangements that the Committee operates under.	Council
Internal Audit Strategy	Aligns with the Global Internal Audit Standards and is designed to support Council's goals, outcomes and objectives by providing assurance, advice, and insight.	Chief Executive Officer
Ethics Integrity and Audit Charter	Establishes framework for the performance of internal audit activities at Council.	Chief Executive Officer
Internal Audit Manual	 Outlines the approach to Ethics Integrity and Audit activities at Council. The Manual helps ensure conformity with: a. Section 105 of the Local Government Act 2009 and Part 11 Division 1 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 b. The 'International Professional Practices Framework' (IPPF) issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) including the 'Global Internal Audit Standards' c. Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Terms of Reference and Charter d. Ethics Integrity and Audit Charter. 	Chief Executive Officer

The documents governing the internal audit function are set out in the table below:

Whilst the Ethics Integrity and Audit Policy played an important role in providing guidance in the early stages of Council's internal audit journey, it is operational in nature and the policy content is already established under legislation and in the other documents referred to in this report.

Council monitors the performance of the internal audit function through the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) which includes two councillor members. The Committee has a planning day scheduled in June 2025 where the documents in the above table will be reviewed. The documents are ultimately endorsed by ARIC and approved by the Chief Executive Officer.

Risk Management Summary:

Council takes a balanced approach to regulatory and legal risks. All options presented in this report are consistent with Council's risk appetite.

Options and Opportunity Analysis:

Option 1 – Officer's Recommendation – Adopt the Recommendation

There is no legal or legislative requirement for Council to have a policy and the operational detail contained in the Policy is included in other guidance documents currently applied operationally. This option will assist Council to achieve its objective of reducing the number of policies.

Option 2 – Retain an Ethics Integrity and Audit Policy

This option will maintain Council's current position and the Policy will continue to guide the Ethics Integrity and Audit functions of Council. This option would not assist in achieving Council's objective of reducing the number of policies by 15%. The policy was last reviewed in 2020 and if it is retained, it would be appropriate to review it to ensure that it reflects Council's current position. Once the policy is reviewed a further report would be presented to Council for consideration.

Stakeholder Engagement:

This report was prepared by Governance and Risk in collaboration with Ethics Integrity and Audit. The guidance documents applied operationally have been distributed to ARIC and the Executive Leadership Team and will be reviewed annually or when a significant change occurs, with any changes endorsed by ARIC and approved by the Chief Executive Officer.

Legal and Regulatory Implications:

There is no legislative requirement for Council to adopt an Ethics Integrity and Audit Policy. There is however a requirement under Section 105 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Subdivision 2 of Chapter 5 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012,* for Council to have an in internal audit function and an Audit Committee. Council at its General Meeting on the 21 January 2025 adopted a Terms of Reference for the Committee replacing the ARIC policy, which together with the legislation, provides the strategic direction required to meet Council's audit obligations with the supporting documents providing additional detailed guidance.

Human Rights Act 2019

The decision to make, amend or remove a policy requires consideration of human rights in accordance with the *Human Rights Act 2019*. In this instance, it has been assessed that the amendments proposed to the policy do not impact on the human rights of individuals.

Financial and Resource Implications:

There are no financial implications in repealing the policy other than resources already committed in developing this report to Council and reviewing/developing the operational documents which guides the work of internal audit.

Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:

The policy repeal will be completed by 30 April 2025. ARIC will be reviewing the other guidance documents as outlined in this report as part of the ARIC planning day in June 2025.

Attachments:

1. Existing P-2020-20 Ethics Integrity and Audit Policy.

G/4.5. REVIEW OF REVENUE POLICY

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Governance Business Partner

Council Meeting Date: 15 April 2025

File Ref: CM28.2

Purpose:

To consider the annual review of the Revenue Policy prior to the adoption of the 2025/2026 budget.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council adopt the Revenue Policy provided as Attachment 1 to the Officer's Report and apply it to the 2025/2026 financial year.

Summary:

This report considers the principles that will inform the 2025/2026 annual budget in relation to the levying, concession, recovery, and cost-recovery methods for rates and charges.

Link to Corporate Plan:

Accountable Council - We are providing good stewardship built on a foundation of trust. Delivering Value - We work efficiently to deliver value for your rates.

Background:

Pursuant to section 104 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and section 193 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council is required to review its Revenue Policy annually. The Revenue Policy must state the principles that will apply in a financial year for the:

- levying of rates and charges;
- granting of concessions for rates and charges (including the purpose of the concession);
- recovery of overdue rates and charges;
- cost-recovery methods; and
- funding of physical and social infrastructure costs for a new development.

Council's Revenue Statement and budget documents are prepared using the principles set out in the Revenue Policy.

Risk Management Summary:

Council takes a moderate approach towards taking risk when it has potential regulatory and legal, financial, and/or services delivery consequences. Both options will seek to control the risk by meeting Council's legislative obligations whilst ensuring the development of the budget is consistent with and guided by the principles set out within the Policy.

Options and Opportunity Analysis:

Option 1 – Officer's Recommendation

Officers propose that the Revenue Policy maintain the status quo with revenue to be raised on a similar basis as the current financial year with the following minor amendments proposed:

- update to template including a new section for the evaluation of the policy; •
- rewording of the Purpose and Scope sections to improve readability and clarify intent; •
- updates to financial year references;
- amendment to the Document Control section to align with this policy being a 'budget' policy • applying to a specific financial year; and
- additions to both the Related Legislation and Related Documents sections. •

Option 2 – Further Amendments to Policy

Alternatively, Elected Members may seek further amendments to the policy. An alternative recommendation could be:

That Council adopt the Revenue Policy provided as Attachment 1 to the Officer's Report and apply it to the 2025/2026 financial year, subject to the following amendments: 1.

Stakeholder Engagement:

Elected Members were invited to provide feedback during the review of the Revenue Policy. The General Manager Finance Governance and Risk and subject matter experts from the Revenue Services Team have contributed to the development of the proposed policy.

Legal and Regulatory Implications:

Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2009 requires Council to adopt a Revenue Policy as part of its financial management system.

Further, section 193 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 requires Council to adopt this policy annually and in advance of the adoption of the budget for the next financial year to allow the budget to be consistent with the policy.

Financial and Resource Implications:

The Revenue Policy sets the principles for Council's rates and charges activities.

Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:

Within two weeks of resolution.

Attachments:

- 1. Proposed Revenue Policy;
- 2. Proposed Revenue Policy (Tracked Changes version);
- 3. Existing P-2024-01 Revenue Policy.

G/4.6. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2025

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Management Accounting Specialist

Council Meeting Date: 15 April 2025

File Ref: FM15.1

Purpose:

This report seeks Council adoption of the Monthly Financial Statements for the year 2024-25 to date, for the period ended 31 March 2025.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Statements attached to the officer's report for the 2024-25 year to date, for the period ended 31 March 2025 as required under Section 204 Local Government Regulation 2012.

Summary:

N/A

Link to Corporate Plan:

Accountable Council - We are providing good stewardship built on a foundation of trust.

Background:

The 2024-25 budget was adopted on 16 July 2024, with a projected operating surplus of \$3.0m.

In October 2024, Council officers completed its Q1 forecast, incorporating actual results for the first three months of the financial year (July to September 2024). The Q1 forecast projected an operating surplus of \$1.1m.

Council officers have undertaken a further Q2 forecasting process, resulting in a forecasted operating surplus of \$2.0m.

To allow for greater transparency and scrutiny of Councils operating position throughout the year, annual rating revenue and service charges have been applied across the year rather than in the period of the rates generation.

The percentage of year passed (pro-rata rate) as at 31 March 2025 is 75.07%

Major movements and variances from budget are as follows:

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income

Recurrent Revenue

Total recurrent revenue	2024-25	Actual as %
Actual	\$179.4m	
Budget	\$246.1m	72.91%
Forecast	\$249.5m	71.92%

Of note:

Net rates and utility charges	2024-25	Actual as %
Actual	\$134.2m	
Budget	\$194.5m	69.01%
Forecast	\$193.8m	69.27%

Council's primary source of recurrent revenue is the generation of annual rates, along with access charges for water, sewerage and waste. This generation was completed in July, with notices issued to ratepayers in August. These charges have been split across the course of the year, to align with the delivery of these services.

To date, discounts of \$16.0m have been granted in 2024-25 for payments received by the due date. Rate discounts are applied in the period received and not split across the year.

Water consumption revenue is raised upon completion of the bi-annual water meter reading cycles during the year (July-December 2024 and January-June 2025). The most recent readings (July-December) were completed in January 2025.

Total interest revenue	2024-25	Actual as %
Actual	\$7.7m	
Budget	\$6.8m	112.94%
Forecast	\$7.9m	98.18%

Interest revenue at a rate of 4.74% has been received from Queensland Treasury Corporation for the month of February and current term deposit rates are yielding up to a 4.48% return to Council. The cash rate dropped in February 2025 and interest rates were expected to continue on a downward trend, resulting in more modest results forecast for the final quarter of the year. This will be revisited in the next forecast.

Sales revenue	2024-25	Actual as %
Actual	\$3.4m	
Budget	\$3.8m	90.00%
Forecast	\$4.1m	83.21%

To date, \$2.4m has been claimed for Road Maintenance Performance Contract (RMPC) recoverable works compared to the forecasted amount of \$2.9m. Additional revenue for fencing at Lions Park is included. RMPC revenue will be offset by the associated operating expenditure relating to recoverable work activities.

Dividends	2024-25	Actual as %
Actual	\$0.4m	
Budget	\$0.5m	89.43%
Forecast	\$0.4m	100%

The Gladstone Airport Corporation (GAC) dividend for FY2024 has been received, with the return being slightly lower than forecasted. This has been adjusted in the quarter 2 forecast.

Income tax equivalents	2024-25	Actual as %
Actual	\$0.1m	
Budget	\$4.6m	2.51%
Forecast	\$4.5m	2.57%

The income tax equivalents forecast for 2024-25 includes \$4.0m from the Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB), this income is generally confirmed and paid in the final quarter of the year.

The remaining forecast relates to income tax equivalents from the Gladstone Airport Corporation (GAC).

Other operating income	2024-25	Actual as %
Actual	\$4.4m	
Budget	\$4.9m	89.38%
Forecast	\$5.5m	79.71%

The new lease agreement for the 1770 Campground has been executed, and the forecast updated. Further additional rental income has been received with increased rental for land and commercial leases.

Additionally, 100% of the fire levy commission was received in October 2024 and insurance recoveries that we had outstanding from previous years have come in.

General purpose grant	2024-25	Actual as %
Actual	\$9.5m	
Budget	\$10.3m	91.95%
Forecast	\$9.8m	96.16%

Council received a payment of \$8.3 million from the Department of State Development on 2 July 2024 for the 2024-25 Financial Assistance Grant. This amount represents circa 85% of the 2024-25 allocation with the remaining being paid throughout the year.

The budget for 2024-25 was based on the assumption that the above prepayment for the 2024-25 allocation would be received in June 24. With the balance expected in the 24-25 FY, along with a prepayment of 25-26 financial assistance grant allocation. Adjustments have been reflected in the forecast.

Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	2024-25	Actual as %
Actual	\$2.0m	
Budget	\$2.1m	99.01%
Forecast	\$2.3m	84.34%

Operational grant revenue recognised for emergency events \$141K, enhanced resilience officer \$110K, and Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (REPA) operational activities \$446K were not originally budgeted. This has been revised in the quarter 2 forecast.

Capital Revenue

Capital revenue	2024-25	Actual as %
Actual	\$27.3m	
Budget	\$50.1m	54.45%
Forecast	\$39.2m	69.62%

Capital revenue includes state and federal grant funding as well as developer contributions.

Capital grant revenue is recognised as project milestones are met. Therefore, the revenue recognised on the Statement of Income and Expenditure does not necessarily reflect the funding received during the year. Where milestones are still to be achieved, revenue is recognised as a contract liability on the Statement of Financial Position.

Capital grant revenue budgeted, forecasted, and recognised for significant projects is detailed below, along with the corresponding expenses for these funded projects.

Project	Revenue YTD Actual	Expense YTD Actual
State Government Grants & Subsidies		
TBG - Bonsai House Utility Services	\$1.52m	\$1.60m
Captain Cook Drive, Agnes Water - Relocate sewer main	\$0.68m	\$1.21m
Stage 2 - GWWTP Inlet Distribution Structure Replacement	\$1.67m	\$1.69m
REPA Projects (see REPA breakdown) Joint Federal/ State funded	\$12.31m	\$17.22m
Round Hill 2 Reservoir	\$0.02m	\$0.05m
Other State Government Funding	\$1.12m	\$2.23m
TOTAL State Government Funding	\$17.33m	\$24.00m

Project	Revenue YTD Actual	Expense YTD Actual
Federal Government Grants & Subsidies		
Glenlyon/Tank - traffic calming scheme	\$0.02m	\$0.02m
Lowmead Road Safety and Sealing Upgrade	\$7.55m	\$11.33m
Agnes Water Skate Park	\$0.02m	\$0.06m
Turtleway - Pedestrian bridge replacements	\$0.17m	\$0.15m
Other Federal Government Funding	\$0.89m	\$0.55m
TOTAL Federal Government Funding	\$8.63m	\$12.10m
TOTAL State and Federal Funding	\$25.96m	\$36.11m

Expenditure

Recurrent expenditure

Total recurrent expenditure	2024-25	Actual as %
Actual	\$181.1m	
Budget	\$243.1m	74.51%
Forecast	\$247.5m	73.18%

Of note:

Employee benefits	2024-25	Actual as %
Actual	\$57.5m	
Budget	\$75.0m	76.69%
Forecast	\$76.4m	75.33%

Employee benefits are the largest component of Councils recurrent expenditure. A vacancy rate of 7.5% has been factored into the 2024-25 budget. The average vacancy rate YTD for the 24-25 FY is 7.2%.

Overtime	2024-25	Actual as %
Actual	\$1.6m	
Budget	\$1.4m	110.87%
Forecast	\$1.9m	80.19%

Activities with significant overtime forecasts not relating to capital projects include:

- Water and sewerage services Forecast \$528k, spend \$516k
- Road services Forecast \$320k, spend \$255k
- Waste services Forecast \$245k, spend \$184k
- Workshops Forecast \$149k, spend \$135k
- Events and entertainment Forecast \$73k, spend \$22k
- Libraries Forecast \$63k, spend \$51k
- Park Services Forecast \$61k, spend \$54k
- RMPC Forecast \$55k, spend \$44k. This will be offset by recoverable income.
- Local Laws Forecast 50K, spend \$30k
- Health services Forecast \$29k, spend \$30k

Consultants	2024-25	Actual as %
Actual	\$2.5m	
Budget	\$6.2m	40.14%
Forecast	\$6.3m	39.82%

Significant consultant forecast and spend include:

- Transformation Forecast \$1.9m, spend \$0.7m. Delays in billing from consultants, forecast still expected to be realised in the final quarter of the year.
- Asset management Forecast \$1.4m, spend \$0.5m. Lag in spend to date due to receiving funding and reprioritisation of workload.
- Strategic Information and Technology Forecast \$0.6m, spend \$0.1m
- Environment Forecast \$0.4m, spend \$0.1m
- Finance Forecast \$0.4m, spend \$0.2m. Asset valuation costs to be incurred in the final quarter.
- Governance and Risk Forecast \$0.2m, spend \$0.1m
- Water and Sewerage Forecast \$0.2m, spend \$0.1m
- Waste Forecast \$0.1m, spend \$0.2m predominantly assistant for the kerbside collection tender. This will be revised in the quarter 3 forecast.

Contractors	2024-25	Actual as %
Actual	\$20.0m	
Budget	\$26.6m	75.16%
Forecast	\$27.6m	72.42%

Activities with significant contractor forecasts include:

- Water & Sewerage Forecast \$8.4m, spend \$6.2m
- Waste Forecast \$6.8m, spend \$4.3m
- Parks & Cemeteries Forecast \$3.0m, spend \$2.7m
- Roads, Bridges, Stormwater Forecast \$2.2m, spend \$1.6m
- Entertainment and Events Forecast \$1.6m, spend \$0.7m
- Recoverable Works Forecast \$1.3m, spend \$1.2m.
- Corporate and Community Buildings maintenance Forecast \$0.9m, spend \$1.1m.
- Aquatic Centres Forecast \$0.6m, spend \$0.4m
- REPA (operational activities) Forecast \$0.2m, spend \$0.5m. To be revised in quarter 3. Expenses are offset by funding revenue

Waste disposal and tipping fees	2024-25	Actual as %
Actual	\$8.5m	
Budget	\$8.5m	100.81%
Forecast	\$9.7m	87.98%

Waste disposal charges are trending high due to trucking Yarwun wastewater to Gladstone for treatment. This cost is offset by internal tipping fee revenue.

Statement of Financial Position

	Current Value	Budget	Variance (Actual to Budget)	Forecast	Variance (Actual to Forecast)
Year-to-date Assets	\$3.0b	\$2.9b	1.42%	\$3.0b	-2.75%
Year-to-date Liabilities	\$227.6m	\$179.7m	26.70%	\$193.8m	17.45%
Year-to-date Liabilities (excl. unearned rates revenue)	\$180.6m	\$179.7m	0.51%	\$193.8m	-6.83%

Liabilities have been presented both including and excluding unearned rates revenue. The two will converge and be the same by June 2025, as all rates revenue is recognised on the profit and loss.

The budget for assets and liabilities reflects the expected positions at 30 June 2025.

Significant balance sheet movement is still expected to occur throughout the year:

- Cash to decrease as expenses are incurred and loan repayments are made.
- Receivables to increase as water rates are generated and decrease as rates are paid.
- Property, plant and equipment balances to move based on in year capital additions and disposals.
- Unearned rates revenue to decrease as recognised on the profit and loss each month.
- Borrowings to decrease as loan repayments are made.

Capital Expenditure

Regular forecasting is undertaken by the Capital Program team. The estimate for capital expenditure for the 2024-25 year is \$111.5m

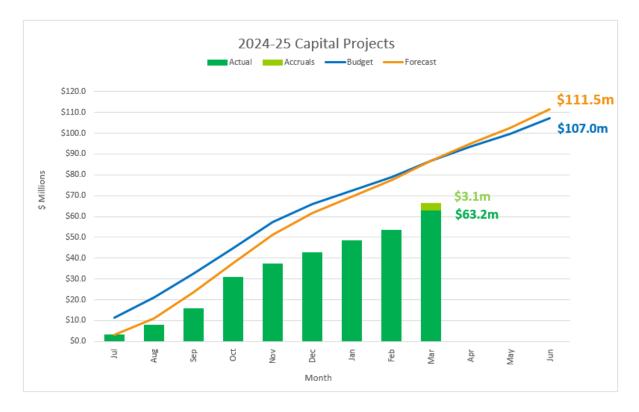
Capital YTD expenditure, budget and forecast is provided throughout the tables and graphs below.

	Actual	Budget	Actual as % of Budget	Forecast	Actual as % of Forecast
Year to date capital expenditure	\$66.3m	\$107.0m	61.96%	\$111.5m	59.48%

Capital expenditure against groups with significant capital expenditure budgets are shown in the table below:

Group	YTD Actual	Budget	Actual as % of Budget	Forecast	Actual as % of Forecast
Roads	\$39.0m	\$51.7m	75.42%	\$60.2m	64.66%
Sewerage	\$8.6m	\$25.9m	33.08%	\$15.1m	56.76%
Delivery Support and Performance	\$3.6m	\$6.1m	58.85%	\$7.8m	45.92%
Property Assets	\$1.6m	\$1.3m	123.90%	\$1.7m	95.42%
Asset Governance	\$0.0m	\$3.3m	0.00%	\$4.2m	-
Waste	\$2.5m	\$3.8m	65.88%	\$6.5m	38.30%
Parks	\$0.6m	\$3.3m	18.95%	\$0.8m	76.33%
Community & Lifestyle	\$0.4m	\$0.8m	43.76%	\$0.4m	96.17%
Water	\$2.5m	\$7.5m	33.81%	\$5.0m	50.21%
Strategic Projects	\$0.9m	\$2.1m	44.10%	\$2.2m	41.70%
Other	\$6.7m	\$1.3m	519.88%	\$7.5m	88.60%
Total	\$66.3m	\$107.0m	61.96%	\$111.5m	59.48%

Accrual estimates of \$3.1m have been included in the actuals, to account for major claims relating to March work.



Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (REPA)

REPA projects in progress are detailed below (capital and operating):

Submission	Life of Project Funding	24-25 Funding Carryover	24-25 Expense Forecast	24-25 YTD Exp	24-25 YTD Claims Received	Claims remaining	Per cent complete
South	\$14.3m	\$2.9m	\$4.1m	\$4.7m	\$1.9m	\$1.1m	100.00%
Central	\$1.5m	\$0.2m	\$0.1m	\$0.1m	\$0.1m	\$0.0m	90.00%
Western	\$12.1m	\$6.2m	\$8.6m	\$8.1m	\$6.5m	\$0.4m	94.90%
Sealed Roads	\$1.6m	\$1.0m	\$1.1m	\$1.4m	\$1.0m	\$0.0m	100.00%
Granite Creek (Lowmead Rd)	\$6.7m	\$6.4m	\$4.9m	\$3.5m	\$3.2m	\$1.7m	70.37%
TOTAL	\$36.3m	\$16.7m	\$18.8m	\$17.7m	\$12.7m	\$3.2m	94.33%

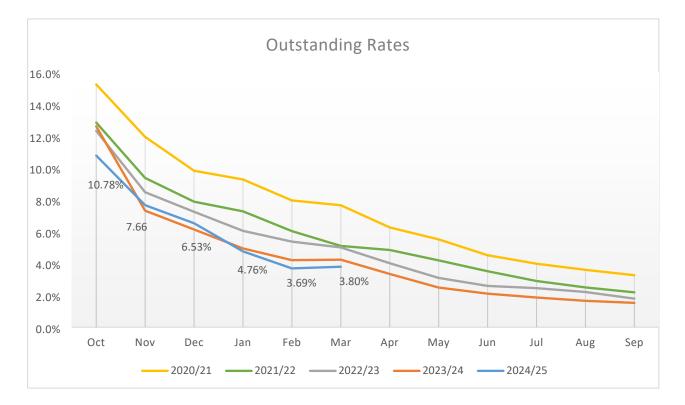
Outstanding Rates

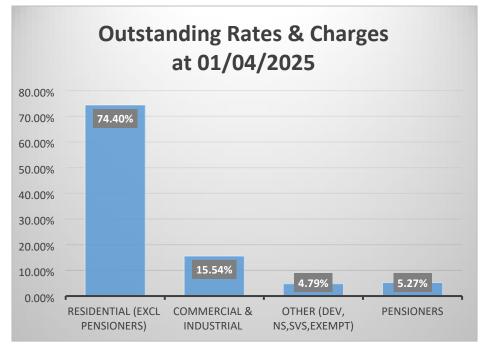
Outstanding rates, as a percentage of gross rates levied 2024-25, and collectible, is at 3.80% at the end of March 2025, compared to 4.24% for the same period last year 2023-24.

Of the \$8.45m of outstanding rates, 15.54% relates to commercial/ industrial assessments and 84.46% represents residential assessments. Compared to 2023/2024, prior year same period, outstanding rates were \$8.93m of which 20.34% represented commercial/industrial and 79.66% residential assessments.

These figures include \$3.04m of rates that are currently being repaid under an authorised payment plan, of which there were 34 commercial/industrial assessments and 1690 residential assessments. A total of 1724 assessments, which is a decrease from 74 assessments compared to February 2025, and a decrease of 270 for the same period last year. This movement is a result of removal of arrangements on sold property, default arrangements and paid up arrangements.

5813 ratepayers had paid their rates in advance, totalling \$9.3m.





Sustainability Ratios

Financial ratios provide a useful snapshot of Council's financial status and emerging trends. Individual ratios do not provide enough information to form a comprehensive opinion of Council's financial position and performance, but when the right mix of ratios are considered together, they become a valuable tool in analysing Council's overall financial performance.

In recognition of the diversity of local governments throughout Queensland, a new Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024 has been released.

Eight of the nine ratio measures will be reported in 2024-25, with the ninth measure to be introduced in the 2025-26 annual statutory financial reporting period.

Ratio Explanation	Target	2024 -25	2023-24	Current		5 Year		Commentary
Financial Capacity	Turget	Budget	Forecast	YTD		Average		connicitaly
Council Controlled Revenue Ratio: Council controlled revenue is an indicator of councils financial flexibility, ability to influence its operating income, and capacity to respond to unexpected financial shocks. A higher council-controlled ratio indicates a stronger ability to generate revenue without relying on external sources. Councils with a high ratio generally have a healthy rate base and are better able to respond to unexpected financial obligations such as natural disaster recovery. A lower council-controlled revenue ratio indicates that a council has limited capacity to influence its operating revenue and that it is more reliant on external (and usually less reliable) sources of income such as grant funding, sales and recoverable works contracts and rental income. This ratio is contextual only therefore has no target measure		86.62%	86.15%	84.67%		83.37%		Although there is no target for this ratio, the high 5 year average and current YTD indicates Council's strong position to generate revenue without heavy reliance on other external sources.
Population Growth Ratio: Population growth is an annual measure and is a key driver of councils operating income, service needs and infrastructure requirements into the future. A growing council indicates a greater capacity to source its own revenue through rates and statutory charges. Population growth also puts additional pressure on councils to invest in new community infrastructure to support service needs This ratio is contextual only therefore has no target measure Ratio is measured annually		2.35%		2.35%		1.17%		The population growth ratio for Gladstone will significantly impact Council's financial sustainability, especially as the region faces periods of both rapid growth and stagnation. During growth phases, increased demand for infrastructure and services will provide opportunities for revenue growth and possibly also strain Council's financial resources, requiring careful management to avoid overextension. Conversely, in periods of slower growth or population decline, maintaining existing infrastructure and service levels can become a financial burden without corresponding increases in revenue. Emphasis on the population growth ratio is on a rolling 5- year average thus will help Council smooth out the financial impacts of any fluctuations, providing a clearer picture of long-term sustainability. Overall, for Gladstone, maintaining financial sustainability amidst its unique population growth patterns will require a balanced approach, integrating both proactive infrastructure investment and cautious financial management.
Operating Performance								
Operating Surplus Ratio: The operating surplus ratio is an indicator of the extent to which operating revenues generated cover operational expenses. Any operating surplus would be available for capital funding or other purposes. An operating surplus ratio below 0% is an indication that a councils operating expenses exceed its revenue. An operation deficit in any one year is not a cause for concern if, over the long term, a council achieves a balanced operating result or small surplus.	> 0%	1.23%	0.80%	-0.95%	•	-4.47%	•	The negative 5-year average is primarily due to the QTC loan restructure and recognition of a deferred liability for bulk water purchases in 2020-21. These were both one-off events. The YTD ratio result will oscillate throughout the year due to timing of revenue streams such as dividends, funding and water consumption. A positive operating surplus indicating Councils operating revenue generated covers operational expenses is forecast
Target measured over a five-year average								for 2024-25.
Operating Cash Ratio: The operating cash ratio is a measure of a councils ability to cover its core operational expenses and generate a cash surplus excluding depreciation, amortisation and finance costs. A positive operating surplus indicates that a council is generating surplus cash from its core operations, which suggests that council has the ability to self-fund expenditure requirements. A negative operating cash ratio is a significant indicator of financial sustainability challenges and potential future liquidity issues as , all other things being equal, a negative result means that a councils cash position is declining and revenue are not offsetting the cost of core operational requirements Target measured over a five-year average	> 0%	25.15%	24.40%	22.85%	•	20.76%	•	Both the YTD and 5 year average result of this ratio reflects the continuing strong cash position of Council proportional to operating costs.

Liquidity								
 Unrestricted Cash Expense Cover Ratio: The unrestricted cash expense cover ratio is an indicator of the unconstrained liquidity available to a council to meet ongoing and emergent financial demands, which is a key component to solvency. It represents the number of months a council can continue operating based on current monthly expenses A higher unrestricted cash expense cover ratio indicates that a council has sufficient free cash available to contribute to the cost of future planned and unplanned expenditure such as infrastructure investment or disaster recovery. An excessively high ratio may be indicative of hoarding, poor cash management or large upcoming capital investment requirements. A low ratio suggests limited unconstrained liquidity available to council to use for capital investment practices or strong borrowing capacity this is not a concern. Where council also has a negative operating cash ratio a very low or negative unrestricted cash expense cover ratio is an indicator of potential solvency concerns. Target measured over a single-year 	> 3 mths	5.31	5.18	12.03	•	NA	NA	The high budget and YTD result of this ratio shows Council is in a strong cash position to cover planned and unplanned expenditure into the future. The payment of the Financial Assistant Grant in July 2024 has resulted in the higher YTD ratio. The results are expected to trend closer to the budget as the year progresses, and expenses are realised.
Asset Management								
Asset Sustainability Ratio: The asset sustainability ratio approximates the extent to which the infrastructure assets managed by council are being replaced as the reach the end of their useful lives An asset sustainability ratio close to 100% suggests that a council is spending enough on the renewal of its assets to compensate for the deterioration in its asset base as loosely proxied by its reported depreciation, with outcomes too far below this level being potentially indicative of underspending against capital replacement requirements Target measured over a five-year average	> 80%	108.42%	108.42%	78.58%		86.52%		Infrastructure renewals have accounted fo 48.29% of capital expenditure YTD with the balance on new and upgrade projects. It is typical for capital spending to be lower in the first quarter of the year. As capital spending progresses the ratio is expected to trend closer to budget. Councils capital program has increased in 2024-25, as indicated by the budgeted ratio result.
Asset Consumption Ratio: The asset consumption ratio approximates the extent to which councils infrastructure assets have been consumed compared to what it would cost to build a new asset with the same benefit to the community. The minimum target of 60% indicates that a councils assets are being broadly consumed in line with their estimated useful lives. Councils with lower than target ratio will need to invest more in those assets (in terms of replacement or maintenance) to ensure they are maintained at a standard that will meet the needs of the community. On the other hand if the ratio is much higher than the target ratio, councils may need to revisit their asset management plans to assess their current service levels or whether their estimates of the assets' useful lives are appropriate Target measured over a five-year average Dath Corniging Conscience	> 60%	69.41%	NA	68.69%	•	70.82%	•	Both the YTD and budgeted ratio results indicate that Councils assets are being broadly consumed in line with their estimated useful lives.
Debt Servicing Capacity								
Leverage Ratio: The leverage ratio is an indicator of a councils ability to repay its existing debt. It measures the relative size of the councils debt to its operating performance. A higher leverage ratio indicates an increasingly limited capacity to support additional borrowings due to already high debt levels and/or decreasing operational performance, while a lower ratio indicates the opposite. Target measured over a five-year average	0-3 times	0.78	0.90	1.58		0.17		Both the YTD and 5 year average result of this ratio reflect Councils ongoing ability to manage its debt. This position is reinforced with each year that no new borrowings are undertaken.







Asset Sustainability Ratio											
	78.58%, YTD							108.42%,	Forecast/Budge	et	
20.00%	30.00%	40.00%	50.00%	60.00%	70.00% Target	80.00% > 80%	90.00%	100.00%	110.00%	120.00%	130.00%

			Asset Co	nsumption Ratio				
				68.69%, YTD	69.41%, Foreca	st/Budget		
20.00%	30.00%	40.00%	50.00%	60.00% Target > 80%	70.00%	80.00%	90.00%	100.00%



Stakeholder Engagement:

This report seeks specialist input from relevant internal sources.

Legal and Regulatory Implications:

Council is required to receive an update at least monthly relative to its financial position, Section 204 Local Government Regulation 2012.

Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:

N/A

Attachments:

- 1. Monthly Financial Statements for the period ending 31 March 2025
- 2. Operating Statements for the month end 31 March 2025

G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORT

G/6. URGENT BUSINESS

G/7. NOTICE OF MOTION

G/8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS