Item No: 2.1

Title: Monthly Finance Report December 2024

Department: Corporate Services

25 February 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2020/03205 - D16589334

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Recommendation

That Council receives the Monthly Financial Report – December 2024

Report purpose

To present to Council the monthly financial report for December 2024.

Executive Summary

For 2024-25 FY Council has budgeted, on a consolidated basis, an adopted operating surplus before capital income of \$17.3M (Original Budget \$10.7M). As at 31 December 2024, Council has an operating surplus of \$19.4M, compared to a YTD budgeted operating surplus of \$3.7M.

The budgeted net operating position will fluctuate throughout the financial year, reflecting income and expenditure timing. The YTD variance of \$15.7M represents 2% of Council's gross annual operating expenditure budget of \$779M. It is noted that \$7M of the favourable variance relates to the Water and Sewer Fund, with the remaining \$8.7M relating to General Fund including Drainage and Domestic Waste.

As at the end of the reporting period, there are no concerns regarding Council's performance against the adopted budget. Based on financial performance as at the end of the reporting period, Council is tracking to achieve a better operating result than budgeted.

As part of Council's financial management framework, actual results for income and expenditure, against the amounts estimated for the reporting period, are monitored monthly. Reasons for significant variations, as well as any mitigation actions required are identified. Any required budget changes are submitted to Council as part of the legislated Quarterly Budget Review process.

Background

The monthly financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the 'Local Government (General) Regulation 2021', and the relevant accounting and reporting requirements of the Office of Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting and Australian Accounting Standards.

Report

Consolidated Operating Statement

As at 31 December 2024, Council has a consolidated net operating surplus of \$19.4M, before capital income, which is favourable to YTD budget by \$15.7M. The overall variance is predominantly driven by a YTD favourable variance in operating income, being an overall favourable YTD variance of \$11.5M (1.5% of full year budget) of operating income and a YTD favourable variance in operating expenses against budget of \$4.2M (0.5% of full year budget)

The net operating surplus including capital income is \$81.9M which is favourable to YTD budget by \$54.3M.

Variances are summarised and detailed below.

It is noted that, where relevant, budget adjustments to address these variances have been included in the Q2 Quarterly Budget Review (Q2 Review) that is included as a separate item in this business paper. Proposed changes include permanent full year forecast changes, realignment of budget timing with expected trends, and changes to reflect grants and contributions not previously included in the budget. Ongoing monitoring will continue and if required further adjustments will be proposed in the Quarter 3 review.

Table 1 - Consolidated (all Funds) Operating Statement December 2024



	PRIOR YEAR Actuals	Original Budget	FULL YEAR Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	Current Year Commitments	YTD Variance (excluding commitments)	YTD Variance (excluding commitments)
	\$'000	\$'000		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Operating Income								
Rates and Annual Charges	421,528	460,606	461,704	229,431	228,944	-	(487)	0%
User Charges and Fees	169,410	170,284	171,739	70,693	74,733	-	4,041	6%
Other Revenue	24,155	15,532	16,696	5,049	6,364	-	1,315	26%
Interest	38,249	26,022	26,790	11,603	14,343	-	2,740	
Grants and Contributions	52,810	44,668	51,656	14,001	14,878	-	877	6%
Gain on Disposal	3,084	-	265	265	590	-	325	122%
Other Income	10,306	10,462	10,585	5,318	5,783	-	465	9%
Internal Revenue	57,120	56,950	56,648	27,010	29,254	-	2,244	8%
Total Income attributable to Operations	776,662	784,524	796,083	363,369	374,890	-	11,520	3%
Operating Expenses								
Employee Costs	194,560	217,710	218,564	104,640	101,066	-	3,574	3%
Borrowing Costs	12,466	12,010	11,119	3,855	3,859	-	(4)	0%
Materials and Services	229,244	245,138	249,418	109,076	104,692	70,178	4,384	4%
Depreciation and Amortisation	197,293	202,942	204,068	102,685	103,293	-	(608)	1%
Other Expenses	43,096	47,217	46,743	16,288	16,996	20	(708)	4%
Loss on Disposal	11,911	-	-	-	1,176	-	(1,176)	100%
Internal Expenses	49,488	48,807	48,889	23,135	24,416	-	(1,281)	6%
Overheads	(0)	-	-	(0)	(0)	-	(0)	100%
Total Expenses attributable to Operations	738,060	773,823	778,800	359,680	355,499	70,198	4,181	1%
Operating Result	22.222	40.704	47.004	2 222	40.004		45.700	4000
after Overheads and before Capital Amounts	38,602	10,701	17,284	3,690	19,391	-	15,702	426%
Capital Grants	63,325	85.684	80.767	11,253	19.348	_	8.095	72%
Capital Contributions	43.842	23.908	24.684	12,587	43,111		30,525	243%
Grants and Contributions Capital Received	107,167	109,592	105,452	23,839	62,460		38,620	162%
Grants and Contributions Capital Neceived	107,107	103,332	103,432	23,039	02,400	-	30,020	10270
Net Operating Result	145,769	120,293	122,735	27,529	81,851	-	54,322	197%
	<u> </u>							

Variance analysis on the consolidated operating result is as follows:

Operating Revenue

Rates and Annual Charges

\$0.5M Unfavourable to YTD budget.

 This variance relates to a combination of timing of income recognition against budget and also a permanent favourable variance to budget in General Rates and Domestic Waste revenue. The relevant proposed budget adjustments are included in the Q2 Review.

User Fees and Charges

\$4.0M Favourable to YTD budget. Main variances include:

- \$2.3M favourable Water and Sewer charges due to dry weather driving higher water usage. The relevant proposed budget adjustments are included in the Q2 Review.
- \$0.5M favourable in Holiday Park fees aligned with favourable activity. The relevant proposed budget adjustments are included in the Q2 Review.

- \$0.3M favourable in Waste Management fees relating to higher tipping activities (partly offset by operating expenses). Income is subject to external factors and is being monitored at this stage.
- \$0.3M favourable in Development regulatory fees with slightly higher than forecast activity (partly recognised in Q2 review and being closely monitored).
- \$0.2M favourable in Leisure Facility fees driven by increased patronage. The relevant proposed budget adjustments are included in the Q2 Review.
- \$0.2M favourable predominantly relating to education and care fees driven by higher than forecast utilisation of Council services. The relevant proposed budget adjustments are included in the Q2 Review.
- Balance is made up of variances across various operations.

Other Revenue

\$1.3M Favourable to YTD budget.

- \$0.5M favourable in unrealised gain on investments, floating rate notes and bonds.
 This income item is subject to volatility as it is driven by external market forces.
 Accordingly, the budget is updated each quarter based on actual unrealised gains recorded at that point in time. This approach is applied to minimise the risk of significant adverse budget impacts in the event of a major market downturn. The relevant proposed budget adjustments are included in the Q2 Review.
- \$0.4M favourable as a result of the sale of biodiversity credits. The relevant proposed budget adjustments are included in the Q2 Review.
- Balance is made up of variances across various operations.

Interest

\$2.7M Favourable to YTD budget.

• Favourable variance from the favourable interest rate environment, hence receiving more interest on investments than budgeted. The relevant proposed budget adjustments are included in the Q2 Review.

Operating Grants and Contributions

\$0.9M Favourable to YTD budget.

- \$1.0M favourable driven by the Libraries Per Capita grant being received earlier than budgeted.
- Further grant income and associated expenditure across various operations has been recognised or re-aligned with delivery through the Q2 review.

Gain on Disposal

\$0.3M Favourable to YTD budget.

• \$0.3M favourable from disposals of plant and equipment through the programmed change overs.

Other Income

\$0.5M Favourable to YTD budget.

• \$0.5M favourable commercial lease income partly received in advance (timing difference).

Internal revenue

\$2.2M Favourable to YTD budget

- \$1.7M favourable due to internal tipping activities higher than budgeted for the first 6 months of the year predominantly in Roads Construction and Maintenance. Increased income is partly offset by increased internal operating expense and increased waste levies. The relevant proposed budget adjustments are included in the Q2 Review.
- \$0.8M favourable in relation to the internal sealing program running ahead of schedule.

Operating Expenses

Employee Costs

\$3.6M Favourable to YTD budget.

• \$3.1M of the favourable variance relates to staff vacancies trending higher than the budgeted vacancy rate. The remaining minor variance to other employee costs including superannuation and movement in leave provisions.

Materials and Services

\$4.4M Favourable to YTD budget. Variances are mainly timing in nature. A further review has been undertaken as part of Q2 to ensure that budgeted amounts remain aligned with service levels to be delivered. Main variances include:

• \$2.6M favourable in Governance Risk and Legal relating to timing of election expense payments against budget.

- \$1.9M favourable across the Water & Sewer fund. Partly related to timing of project delivery and partly to reduced main breaks. The relevant proposed budget adjustments are included in the Q2 Review.
- \$1.1M favourable in Community and Culture predominantly related to the timing of delivery and invoicing of events, projects, and contracts. The relevant proposed budget adjustments are included in the Q2 Review.
- \$0.9M favourable in Environmental Management project costs predominantly relating to timing of delivery. A review has been completed as part of Q2 with adjustments to budgets where necessary.
- \$0.8M favourable in Commercial Property and Business Enterprise relating to timing differences in delivery and invoicing.
- \$0.4M favourable in Waste Management (timing of contract payments)
- \$4.9M unfavourable in Information Technology (timing of contract payments)
- Balance is made up of variances to YTD Budget across various operations, of under \$0.4M individually.

Depreciation

\$0.6M Unfavourable to YTD budget.

• This variance relates to the timing of completion and subsequent capitalisation of projects and the recognition of donated assets. The relevant proposed budget adjustments are included in the Q2 Review, with ongoing monitoring to continue).

Other Expenses

\$0.7M Unfavourable to YTD budget.

• Increased EPA levy in line with increased tipping revenue as at the end of the reporting period. The full year forecast for tipping revenue and the associated EPA Levy is being reflected in the Q2 review.

Loss on Disposal

\$1.2M Unfavourable to YTD budget.

 Variance due to asset values having residual values at time of disposal due to earlier than anticipated infrastructure replacement.

Internal expenses

\$1.3M Unfavourable to YTD budget.

 Predominantly related to increased internal tipping and plant hire activity in relation to the delivery of externally funded roads maintenance programs. Internal expenses are offset by internal income. The relevant proposed budget adjustments are included in the Q2 Review.

Capital Income

Capital Grants

\$8.1M Favourable to YTD budget. Timing differences associated with the recognition of income with capital delivery and payment milestones.

Budget timing has been reviewed as part of Q2 review to refine in alignment with the revised capital works delivery program.

Capital Contributions

\$30.5M Favourable to YTD budget.

• Predominantly driven by the recognition of donated assets. Budget adjustments are included in future quarterly reviews as assets are recognised.

This variance is consistent with the nature of forecasting the exact timing of these external activities.

Financial Performance by Fund

The following Tables summarise the financial performance for the reporting period by Fund.

Table 2 – General (including Drainage and Waste) Fund Operating Statement - December 2024

Total General (+Drainage & Waste) Fund

Operating Statemen December 2024



PRIOR YEAR Actuals	Original Budget	FULL YEAR Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	Current Year Commitments	YTD Variance (excluding commitments)	YTD Variance (excluding commitments)
\$'000	\$'000		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
		I					
313,733	329,428	330,525	165,149	164,763	-	(387)	0%
76,366	75,789	76,393	37,557	39,297	-	1,740	5%
22,826	15,532	16,446	4,799	5,999	-	1,200	25%
28,347	22,440	22,331	9,329	10,627	-	1,298	14%
52,506	44,668	51,560	13,955	14,875	-	920	7%
2,482	-	265	265	590	-	325	122%
10,306	10,462	10,585	5,318	5,783	-	465	9%
52,827	54,085	52,683	25,563	27,549	-	1,986	8%
559,392	552,403	560,788	261,935	269,483	-	7,547	3%
159,433	177,004	177,604	84,200	81,551	-	2,649	3%
4,934	3,352	3,352	646	678	-	(33)	5%
183,599	191,871	196,080	87.012	84,568	60,606	2.444	3%
116,976	118,464	119,223	60,224	60,832	-	(608)	1%
42,817	47,217	46,743	16,288	16,932	20	(644)	4%
8,703	-	-	-	1,173	-	(1,173)	100%
36,876	34,518	34,557	16,596	18,100	-	(1,504)	9%
(24,514)	(23,585)	(23,585)	(11,793)	(11,793)	-	(0)	0%
528,824	548,841	553,974	253,173	252,041	60,625	1,131	0%
30,569	3,562	6,814	8,762	17,441	-	8,679	99%
52,066	65 482	62 238	4 400	13 483	_	9.083	206%
						-1	340%
88,075	83,390	80,146	13,210			39,045	296%
440.644	06.054	06.060	24.072	60 606		47.724	2470
118,644	86,951	86,960	21,973	09,090	-	41,124	217%
	\$'0000 313,733 76,366 22,826 28,347 52,506 2,482 10,306 52,827 559,392 159,433 4,934 183,599 116,976 42,817 8,703 36,876 (24,514) 528,824 30,569	\$'000 \$'000 313,733 329,428 76,366 75,789 22,826 15,532 28,347 22,440 52,506 44,668 2,482 10,306 10,462 52,827 54,085 559,392 552,403 159,433 177,004 4,934 3,352 183,599 191,871 116,976 118,464 42,817 47,217 8,703 36,876 34,518 (24,514) (23,585) 528,824 548,841 30,569 3,562 52,066 65,482 36,009 17,908 88,075 83,390	\$'000 \$'000 313,733 329,428 330,525 76,366 75,789 76,393 22,826 15,532 16,446 28,347 22,440 22,331 52,506 44,668 51,560 2,482 - 265 10,306 10,462 10,585 52,827 54,085 52,683 559,392 552,403 560,788 159,433 177,004 177,604 4,934 3,352 3,352 183,599 191,871 196,080 116,976 118,464 119,223 42,817 47,217 46,743 8,703 36,876 34,518 34,557 (24,514) (23,585) (23,585) 528,824 548,841 553,974 30,569 3,562 6,814 52,066 65,482 62,238 36,009 17,908 17,908 88,075 83,390 80,146	\$\text{\$000}\$ \$\text{\$000}\$ \$\text{\$000}\$ 313,733 329,428 330,525 165,149 76,366 75,789 76,393 37,557 22,826 15,532 16,446 4,799 28,347 22,440 22,331 9,329 52,506 44,668 51,560 13,955 2,482 - 265 265 10,306 10,462 10,585 5,318 52,827 54,085 52,683 25,563 559,392 552,403 560,788 261,935 159,433 177,004 177,604 84,200 4,934 3,352 3,352 646 183,599 191,871 196,080 87,012 116,976 118,464 119,223 60,224 42,817 47,217 46,743 16,288 8,703 - - - 36,876 34,518 34,557 16,596 (24,514) (23,585) (23,585) (11,793)	\$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 313,733 329,428 330,525 165,149 164,763 76,366 75,789 76,393 37,557 39,297 22,826 15,532 16,446 4,799 5,999 28,347 22,440 22,331 9,329 10,627 52,506 44,668 51,560 13,955 14,875 2,482 - 265 265 590 10,306 10,462 10,585 5,318 5,783 52,827 54,085 52,683 25,563 27,549 559,392 552,403 560,788 261,935 269,483 159,433 177,004 177,604 84,200 81,551 4,934 3,352 3,352 646 678 183,599 191,871 196,080 87,012 84,568 116,976 118,464 119,223 60,224 60,832 42,817 47,217 46,743 16,288 16,932 <td>\$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 313,733 329,428 330,525 165,149 164,763 - 76,366 75,789 76,393 37,557 39,297 - 22,826 15,532 16,446 4,799 5,999 - 28,347 22,440 22,331 9,329 10,627 - 52,506 44,668 51,560 13,955 14,875 - 2,482 - 265 265 590 - 10,306 10,462 10,585 5,318 5,783 - 559,392 552,403 560,788 261,935 269,483 - 159,433 177,004 177,604 84,200 81,551 - 4,934 3,352 3,352 646 678 - 183,599 191,871 196,080 87,012 84,568 60,606 116,976 118,464 119,223 60,224 60,832 - <t< td=""><td>Actuals Budget Budget Budget Actuals Commitments Variance (excluding commitments) \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 313,733 329,428 330,525 165,149 164,763 - (387) 76,366 75,789 76,393 37,557 39,297 - 1,740 22,826 15,532 16,446 4,799 5,999 - 1,200 28,347 22,440 22,331 9,329 10,627 - 1,298 52,506 44,668 51,560 13,955 14,875 - 920 2,482 - 265 265 590 - 325 10,306 10,462 10,585 5,318 5,783 - 465 52,827 54,085 52,683 25,563 27,549 - 1,986 559,392 552,403 560,788 261,935 269,483 - 7,547 159,433 177,004 177,604 84,200 81,551 - 2,649 4,934</td></t<></td>	\$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 313,733 329,428 330,525 165,149 164,763 - 76,366 75,789 76,393 37,557 39,297 - 22,826 15,532 16,446 4,799 5,999 - 28,347 22,440 22,331 9,329 10,627 - 52,506 44,668 51,560 13,955 14,875 - 2,482 - 265 265 590 - 10,306 10,462 10,585 5,318 5,783 - 559,392 552,403 560,788 261,935 269,483 - 159,433 177,004 177,604 84,200 81,551 - 4,934 3,352 3,352 646 678 - 183,599 191,871 196,080 87,012 84,568 60,606 116,976 118,464 119,223 60,224 60,832 - <t< td=""><td>Actuals Budget Budget Budget Actuals Commitments Variance (excluding commitments) \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 313,733 329,428 330,525 165,149 164,763 - (387) 76,366 75,789 76,393 37,557 39,297 - 1,740 22,826 15,532 16,446 4,799 5,999 - 1,200 28,347 22,440 22,331 9,329 10,627 - 1,298 52,506 44,668 51,560 13,955 14,875 - 920 2,482 - 265 265 590 - 325 10,306 10,462 10,585 5,318 5,783 - 465 52,827 54,085 52,683 25,563 27,549 - 1,986 559,392 552,403 560,788 261,935 269,483 - 7,547 159,433 177,004 177,604 84,200 81,551 - 2,649 4,934</td></t<>	Actuals Budget Budget Budget Actuals Commitments Variance (excluding commitments) \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 313,733 329,428 330,525 165,149 164,763 - (387) 76,366 75,789 76,393 37,557 39,297 - 1,740 22,826 15,532 16,446 4,799 5,999 - 1,200 28,347 22,440 22,331 9,329 10,627 - 1,298 52,506 44,668 51,560 13,955 14,875 - 920 2,482 - 265 265 590 - 325 10,306 10,462 10,585 5,318 5,783 - 465 52,827 54,085 52,683 25,563 27,549 - 1,986 559,392 552,403 560,788 261,935 269,483 - 7,547 159,433 177,004 177,604 84,200 81,551 - 2,649 4,934

Table 3 – Water and Sewer Fund Operating Statement - December 2024

Total Water & Sewer Fund

Operating Statement December 2024



PRIOR YEAR Actuals	Original Budget	FULL YEAR Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	Current Year Commitments	YTD Variance (excluding commitments)	YTD Variance (excluding commitments)
\$'000	\$'000		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
					-		
	94,495				-		
	-				-		
	3,582			3,717	-		
	-	96	46	3	-	(43)	
602	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%
					-		
217,269	232,122	235,295	101,434	105,407	-	3,973	4%
35,127	40,705	40,960	20,440	19,515	-	925	5%
7,533	8,658	7,767	3,209	3,180	-	29	1%
45,645	53,267	53,337	22,065	20,124	9,572	1,940	9%
80,317	84,478	84,845	42,461	42,461	-	(0)	0%
279	-	-	-	64	-	(64)	100%
3,208	-	-	-	3	-	(3)	100%
12,612	14,289	14,332	6,540	6,317	-	223	3%
24,514	23,585	23,585	11,793	11,793	-	-	0%
209,236	224,982	224,826	106,507	103,457	9,572	3,050	3%
8,033	7,139	10,470	(5,072)	1,950	-	7,023	138%
11,259	20,202	18,529	6,852	5,865	-	(987)	
7,833	6,000	6,777	3,777	4,340	-	563	
19,092	26,202	25,306	10,629	10,205	-	(425)	4%
27,125	33,341	35,775	5,557	12,155	-	6,598	119%
	\$'000 107,795 93,044 1,329 9,902 304 602 - 4,294 217,269 35,127 7,533 45,645 80,317 279 3,208 12,612 24,514 209,236 8,033 11,259 7,833 19,092	\$'000 \$'000 107,795 131,178 93,044 94,495 1,329 9,902 3,582 304 - 602 - 4,294 2,866 217,269 232,122 35,127 40,705 7,533 8,658 45,645 53,267 80,317 84,478 279 - 3,208 12,612 14,289 24,514 23,585 209,236 224,982 8,033 7,139 11,259 20,202 7,833 6,000 19,092 26,202	\$'000 \$'000 107,795 131,178 131,178 93,044 94,495 95,345 1,329 - 250 9,902 3,582 4,460 304 - 96 602	\$'000 \$'000 \$'000 107,795 131,178 131,178 64,281 93,044 94,495 95,345 33,136 1,329 - 250 250 9,902 3,582 4,460 2,274 304 - 96 46 602 4,294 2,866 3,966 1,446 217,269 232,122 235,295 101,434 35,127 40,705 40,960 20,440 7,533 8,658 7,767 3,209 45,645 53,267 53,337 22,065 80,317 84,478 84,845 42,461 279 3,208 3,208 3,208 3,208 12,612 14,289 14,332 6,540 24,514 23,585 23,585 11,793 209,236 224,982 224,826 106,507 8,033 7,139 10,470 (5,072) 11,259 20,202 18,529 6,852 7,833 6,000 6,777 3,777 19,092 26,202 25,306 10,629	\$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 107,795 131,178 131,178 64,281 64,181 93,044 94,495 95,345 33,136 35,436 1,329 - 250 250 365 9,902 3,582 4,460 2,274 3,717 304 - 96 46 3 602	\$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 107,795	\$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 107,795

Financial Performance Benchmarks

Below is a summary of Council's performance, on a consolidated basis against main industry financial performance benchmarks set by the Office of Local Government.

Table 4 - Financial Performance Benchmarks - December 2024

Financial Performance Ratio	Industry Benchmark	Full year Forecast	Ratio – YTD Actuals	
Operating Performance Ratio	> 0%	1.47%	5.6%	✓
Own Source operating Revenue Ratio	> 60%	81.57%	80.9%	✓
Unrestricted Current Ratio	>1.5x	2.57x	4.6x	✓
Cash Expense Cover Ratio	> 3 months	3.44 months	4.1 months	✓
Buildings and Infrastructure Renewals Ratio	100%	138%	124.9%	
Infrastructure Maintenance Ratio	100%	n/a	46%	

As at the end of the December 2024, on a consolidated basis, Council exceeded the mandated benchmark for the operating performance ratio, achieving 5.6%.

Council has also performed favourably against the unrestricted current ratio, achieving 4.6x against a benchmark of >1.5x. This ratio considers all current assets and liabilities, including cash.

Council maintained positive performance regarding the cash expense cover. Council is in a strong liquidity position.

The infrastructure ratios are monitored each month and are based on a point in time. The quoted performance is indicative of trend, with actual performance being formally measured on an annual basis. The Infrastructure Renewal Ratio is based on the actual renewal expenditure as at the end of the reporting period, compared to the depreciation over the same period. The Asset Maintenance Ratio is calculated based on actual maintenance as at the end of the reporting period compared to the required maintenance estimated over the same reporting period. Annual performance in regard to these ratios is included in the Special Schedules in the annual Financial Statements, noting that the infrastructure section within the Schedules does not form part of the NSW Audit Office audit.

Council is currently renewing its assets at a faster rate than the annual depreciation, therefore exceeding the 100% renewal benchmark. This reflects Council's focus on addressing the backlog of assets in less than satisfactory condition. Further, when assessing the most cost-effective intervention, a renewal approach maybe chosen over a maintenance approach. This results in increased renewal and reduces reactive maintenance, and consequently a temporary lower than benchmark asset maintenance ratio.

Noting the volatility in the timing of asset renewal and maintenance, performance as at the end of a reporting period, is an indication only of Council's likely performance against the benchmark for the year. To further enhance the reliability of these measures, a cross unit project is currently underway to ensure that all maintenance and renewal activities are appropriately captured and accounted for. The required maintenance will be subject to ongoing review within the context of the level of renewal being undertaken, and if required, will be adjusted on an annual basis.

Cash and Investments

Details on cash and investments as at 31 December 2024 are included in the Monthly Investment Report December 2024.

Loans

As at 31 December 2024 Council has borrowings totalling \$201.4M, across all Funds, and including the remaining Emergency Loan that is due to be fully paid in November 2025. The below Table summarises outstanding loan balances by Fund.

Table 5 – Outstanding loan borrowings by fund - December 2024

Fund	General	Drainage	General Fund	Water and
	Fund	Fund	Consolidated	Sewer Fund
			with Drainage	
			Fund	
	(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)
External loans – current	4,390	581	4,971	15,181
External loans - noncurrent	9,005	5,997	15,002	129,840
(excluding emergency loan)				
Emergency loan	36,389	0	36,389	0
Total external loans	49,784	6,578	56,362	145,021

Current loans refer to loans payable this financial year, while non-current loans are those payable in future financial years. The table relates to external loans only. It is noted there are several internal loans between Funds.

Water, Sewer, and Drainage Fund Debt

\$145M of the \$201.4M total debt relates to the Water and Sewer Fund and is associated with long life water and sewer infrastructure assets. Borrowing for infrastructure assets that benefit multiple generations is appropriate, and is good practice, to achieve intergenerational equity. The Water and Sewer fund loan balance includes \$30M drawn down recently on a borrowing facility to fund the Mardi Water Treatment Plant major upgrade. This is a major multi-year project costing \$82.5m. There is a further \$20m to be drawn down. Interest costs associated with these loans are funded through the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) pricing determination for Water and Sewer services.

\$6.6M of the total debt relates to the Drainage Fund. This will become General Fund debt from 2026/27.

General Fund Debt

In 2020 Council obtained Emergency Loans totalling \$150M. These loans were required to finance Council's working capital, cash reserves, maturing debt facilities and capital expenditure.

In December 2023, the \$100M Emergency Loan was settled and repaid in full, extinguishing the requirement to refinance any amount. This left the \$50M Emergency due to be refinanced or extinguished in November 2025, with the balance as at the reporting period being \$36.4M.

Council is setting aside \$1.4M each month in an internal restriction to be able to repay the Emergency Loan in November 2025 without the need to refinance any part of the loan, and without impacting on unrestricted cash at time of payment. The interest rates environment

will be monitored and the timing and amount of any repayment or extinguishment of the loan will be optimised accordingly.

Excluding the outstanding emergency loan of \$36.4M, General Fund, excluding Drainage, has debt of \$13.4M, which is a relatively low level of debt considering the size of this Council.

Repayment of Debt

The various loans were mostly obtained over the past 20 years and except for the Emergency Loan, were used to fund specific major capital works projects, or capital programs where borrowing provided a cost-effective method of funding.

Older loans have previously been reviewed and refinanced where it was financially prudent to do so. In the last 12 months another review has been undertaken to assess the cost effectiveness of repaying General Fund loans. The review concluded that while Council has sufficient cash to pay the loans down, it is not cost effective due to the significant break costs that would be incurred.

Loan borrowings are made in accordance with Council's Investments Management and Borrowing Policy that can be found at investments-management-and-borrowings-policy-adopted-23-july-2024.pdf

Capital Works

As at 31 December 2024 capital expenditure is \$124.9M against a YTD budget of \$132.1M for the same period, and a 2024-25 FY budget of \$316.5M. Commitments (approved purchase orders to external suppliers) of \$66.9M have been raised for delivery this year.

The current expenditure against budget indicates that delivery of works is trending slightly behind of anticipated timing, noting that delivery of works will accelerate in the second half of the financial year. Timing of the delivery of works is impacted by a number of factors including weather conditions, availability of suppliers, and any required approval processes.

A number of budget and timing adjustments relating to capital works are included in the Q2 review, and subject to Council adoption, will be reflected in the reported budgeted amounts in future monthly reports.

Table 6 - Capital Expenditure - December 2024

Department	Original Budget	FULL YEAR Budget	YTD Budgets	YTD Actuals	Commitments	YTD Variance	YTD Variance
	\$ 000s	\$ 000s	\$ 000s	\$ 000s	\$ 000s	\$ 000s	%
01. Office of the Chief Executive Officer	-	-	-	-	•	•	
02. Community and Recreation Services	51,420	49,747	17,257	15,302	6,125	1,955	11.3%
03. Infrastructure Services	106,650	115,084	52,344	48,095	16,542	4,249	8.1%
04. Water and Sewer	122,366	122,366	51,124	51,090	33,408	34	0.1%
05. Environment and Planning	9,911	10,787	3,067	3,197	3,067	(131)	-4.3%
06. Corporate Services	18,180	18,560	8,272	7,174	7,724	1,098	13.3%
Total	308,527	316,545	132,064	124,859	66,866	7,205	5.5%

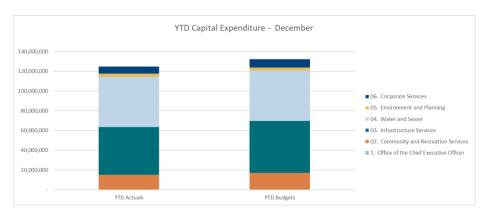
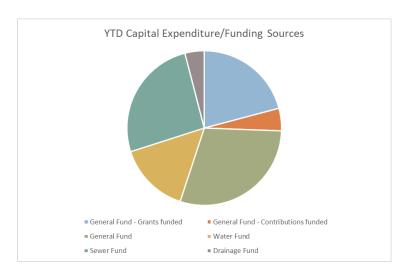


Figure 1 - Capital Expenditure by Directorate

Figure 2 - Capital Expenditure by Funding Source



Stakeholder Engagement

The preparation of the December 2024 monthly financial report included consultation with business units across Council to identify the reasons and mitigation strategies for significant variances to budget.

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications

The proposal has cost and revenue implications for the current FY only.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

The FY adopted budget includes funding for this proposal.

This report presents the financial position of Council as at 31 December 2024. Variations from budgeted amounts are detailed and an explanation provided. To date, there are no concerns regarding Council's financial performance for the remainder of the financial year.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

R-G3: Provide leadership that is transparent and accountable, makes decisions in the best interest of the community, ensures Council is financially sustainable and adheres to a strong audit process.

Risk Management

Council's financial management framework includes the monthly review and reporting of significant variances to budget. This ensures that any issues are identified and rectified in a timely manner, with any necessary adjustments being captured in the appropriate Quarterly Budget Review.

This process mitigates the risk of Council's financial performance deviating from the adopted budget and ultimately altering the trajectory of Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

Council receives monthly financial reports to ensure that Council is kept up to date with Council's financial performance.

Attachments

Nil