



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 6 May 2025, commencing at 5:00 PM

Meeting to be held at

Wellington Centre – Wellington Room, Foster Street, Sale

via MS Teams

or stream online at <https://www.youtube.com/@wellingtonshire>

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
TABLE OF CONTENTS

0.1. TABLE OF CONTENTS2

1. APOLOGIES5

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST5

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING/S.....5

 3.1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING5

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS6

5. ACCEPTANCE OF LATE AND URGENT ITEMS6

6. NOTICE/S OF MOTION6

7. RECEIVING OF PETITION OR JOINT LETTERS.....6

 7.1. OUTSTANDING PETITIONS6

8. INVITED ADDRESSES, PRESENTATIONS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS6

9. QUESTION/S ON NOTICE6

 9.1. OUTSTANDING QUESTION/S ON NOTICE6

10. DELEGATES REPORT.....7

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.....8

 11.1. VICTORIAN ELECTION COMMISSION REPORT ON THE 2024 WELLINGTON SHIRE
 COUNCIL ELECTION8

12. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES64

 12.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS REPORT64

 12.2. RESOLVE TO ADVERTISE DRAFT BUDGET 2025/2026.....69

 12.3. INTENTION TO DISPLAY DRAFT REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2025-29146

13. GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT175

 13.1. RESPONSE TO PETITION - MANNS BEACH175

14. GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT178

14.1. AMENDMENT C113 (CORRECTIONS) - REMOVAL OF PUBLIC ACQUISITION OVERLAY IN ROSEDALE AND HEYFIELD	178
15. FURTHER GALLERY AND ONLINE COMMENTS	184
16. IN CLOSED SESSION	185
16.1 MOVE IN TO CLOSED SESSION	185
16.2. GLASS AND MIXED RECYCLING CONTRACT	186
16.3. WEST SALE AIRPORT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST	187
16.4 MOVE OUT OF CLOSED SESSION	188

COUNCIL MEETING INFORMATION

Members of the public gallery should note that the Council records and publishes Council meetings via YouTube to enhance the accessibility of Council meetings to the broader Wellington community. These recordings are also published and archived on Council's Website for viewing by the public. Recordings may be used for publicity or information purposes.

Members of the public in attendance at the Council meeting who wish to communicate with the Council regarding an agenda item or any other matter should advise the Mayor, ideally prior to the meeting starting, to ensure that their submission is called at the appropriate time during the meeting.

Would gallery visitors, Councillors and invited online attendees please ensure that mobile phones and other electronic devices are turned off or in silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

MISSION STATEMENT

Working together to make a difference. We listen and lead to provide quality services that improve life for all.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

"Wellington Shire Council acknowledges our offices are located on the traditional lands of the Gunaikurnai nation. We pay our deep respects to their Elders past, present and future and acknowledge their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to their land and waters."

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING/S

3.1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE

OBJECTIVE

To adopt the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of Tuesday 15 April 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of Tuesday 15 April 2025.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ITEM	FROM MEETING	COMMENTS	ACTION BY
NIL			

5. ACCEPTANCE OF LATE AND URGENT ITEMS

6. NOTICE/S OF MOTION

7. RECEIVING OF PETITION OR JOINT LETTERS

7.1. OUTSTANDING PETITIONS

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ITEM	FROM MEETING	COMMENTS	ACTION BY
Community Interest in Sealing the Road at Mann's Beach.	1 April 2025	Response at Item 13.1 of this Agenda.	General Manager Built and Natural Environment

8. INVITED ADDRESSES, PRESENTATIONS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

9. QUESTION/S ON NOTICE

9.1. OUTSTANDING QUESTION/S ON NOTICE

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ITEM	FROM MEETING	COMMENTS	ACTION BY
NIL			

10. DELEGATES REPORT

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

11.1. VICTORIAN ELECTION COMMISSION REPORT ON THE 2024 WELLINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL ELECTION

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PURPOSE

For Council to receive the report provided by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) on the Wellington Shire Council 2024 local government elections – refer Attachment 11.1.1 - Election Report Wellington Shire Council 2024 Local government elections.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report as per Attachment 11.1.1 - Election report Wellington Shire Council 2024 Local government elections, prepared by the Victorian Electoral Commission.

BACKGROUND

In 2024 the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) conducted the Wellington Shire Council local government elections in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Regulation 83 of the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020* requires the VEC to prepare a report on the conduct of the election for the Chief Executive Officer of Council. The Chief Executive Officer is to ensure that the report is submitted to the Council at the earliest practical meeting of Council held after the report is received.

The VEC provided the attached report on the 2024 Wellington Shire Council local government election on 14 April 2025. The report outlines the legislative requirements implemented under the *Local Government Act 2020*, the activities undertaken by the VEC, the statistics relating to voters and the results of the elections.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Election report - Wellington Shire Council 2024 Local government elections [11.1.1 - 53 pages]

OPTIONS

As the presentation of the VEC report is a requirement of the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020*, it is appropriate for Council to receive and note the report as per Attachment 11.1.1 - Election report Wellington Shire Council 2024 Local government elections.

PROPOSAL

That Council receive and note the report as per Attachment 11.1.1 - Election report Wellington Shire Council 2024 Local government elections, prepared by the Victorian Electoral Commission.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost of the election was allocated in Council's 2024/25 annual budget. No further costs are associated with the presentation of this report.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

The presentation of the VEC's report ensures that Council is compliant with the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020*.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

While this report does not meet a specific Council Plan strategic outcome, it aligns with good governance.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time as the presentation of the report is a statutory process.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

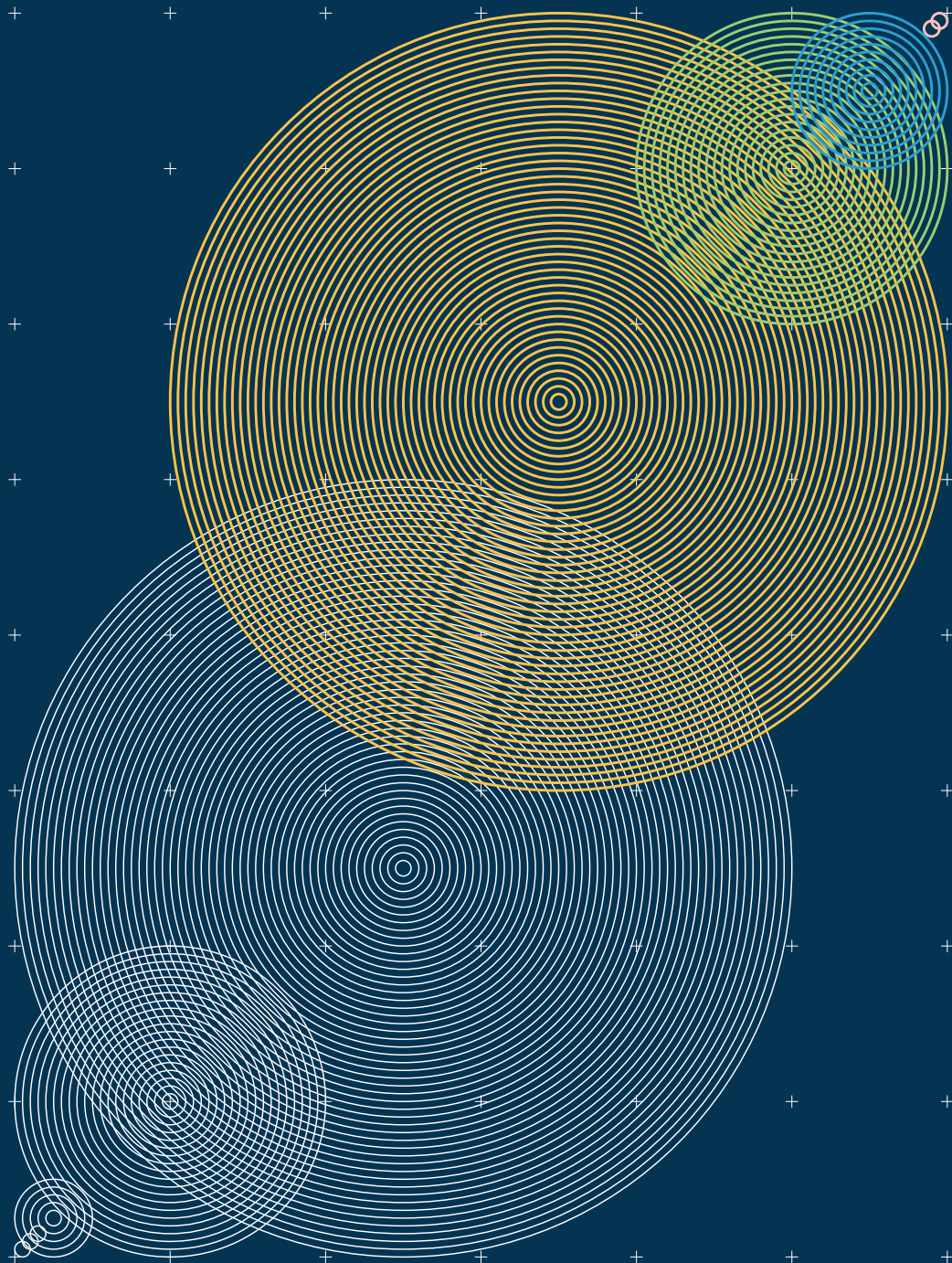
This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

Election report

Wellington Shire Council

2024 Local government elections

April 2025



Letter of Transmittal

14 April 2025

Mr David Morcom
Chief Executive Officer
Wellington Shire Council
PO Box 506
Sale VIC 3850

Dear Mr Morcom

Pursuant to Regulation 83 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020, I submit this report to the Chief Executive Officer of Wellington Shire Council on the general election held in October 2024.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bluemmel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sven Bluemmel
Electoral Commissioner

Acknowledgement of Country

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of this nation, as the traditional custodians of the lands on which the VEC works and where we conduct our business. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past, present, and emerging. The VEC is committed to honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.

Election report
Wellington Shire Council
2024 Local government elections

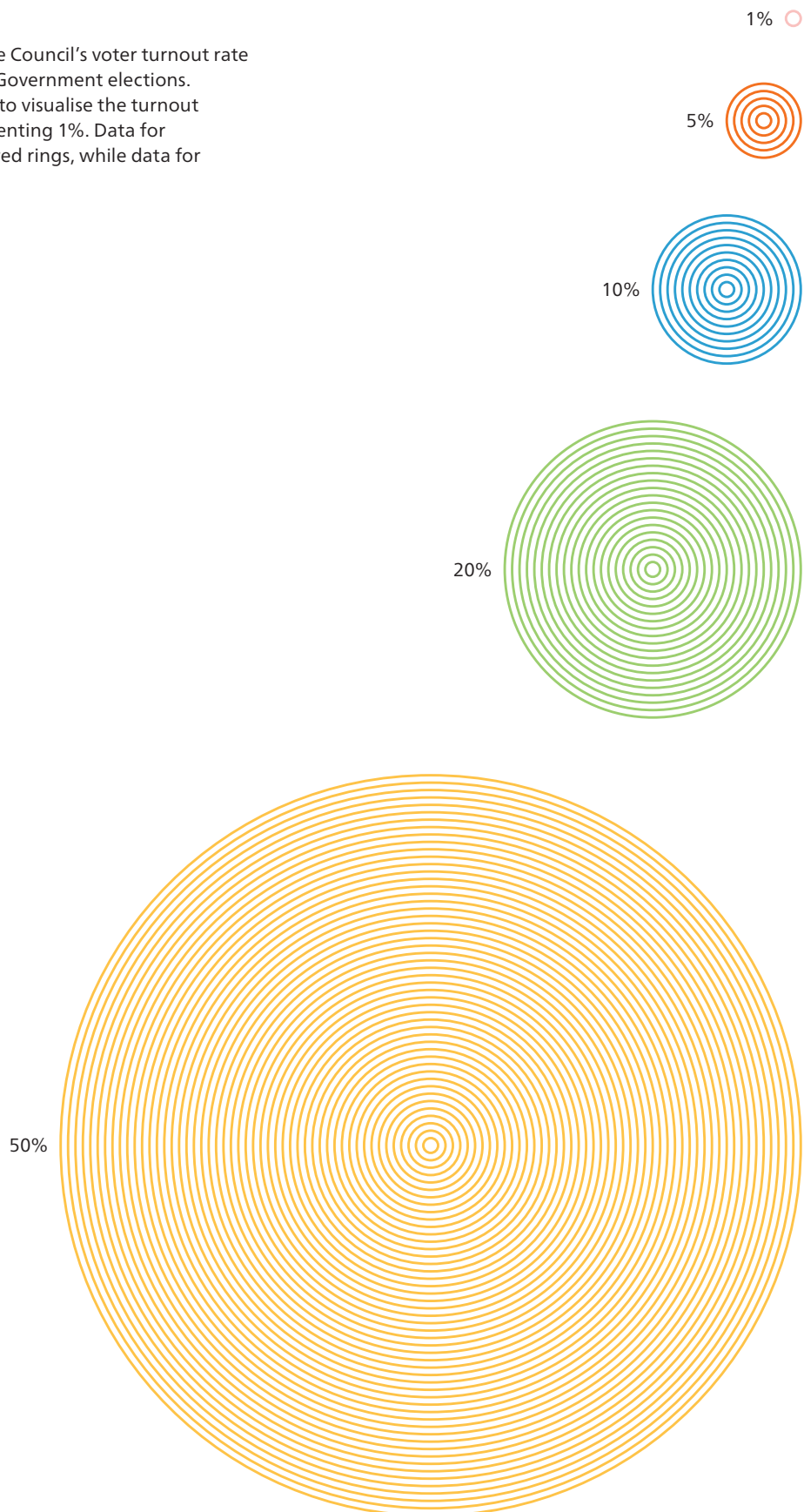
Voter turnout (front cover)

Graphic representation of the Council's voter turnout rate for the 2024 and 2020 Local Government elections. Rings are grouped into units to visualise the turnout percentage, each ring representing 1%. Data for 2024 is depicted using coloured rings, while data for 2020 is shown in white.

Wellington Shire Council

Turnout (2024): 81.63%

Turnout (2020): 78.36%



Contents

1. Introduction	5	Appendix 7: Daily breakdown of the general mail out.....	44
2. Key changes.....	6	Appendix 8: Result information.....	45
3. Election dates.....	7	Appendix 9: Election participation statistics.....	47
4. About Wellington Shire Council	8	Appendix 10: Complaints.....	50
5. Voters' roll.....	9		
6. Advertising and communication campaign	10		
7. Election manager	12		
8. Election office	13		
9. Candidates	14		
10. Voting.....	15		
11. Return of ballot paper envelopes	16		
12. Results	17		
13. Election statistics	18		
14. Complaints.....	19		
15. Post-election activities.....	20		
16. Non-voter follow up	21		
17. Evaluating VEC services.....	22		
Appendices.....	23		
Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes.....	23		
Schedule 2: Certification statement.....	26		
Appendix 1: Breakdown of the voters' roll.....	27		
Appendix 2: Public notices	28		
Appendix 3: Schedule of media releases and advisories.....	33		
Appendix 4: VoterAlert advisories	35		
Appendix 5: Voter engagement program and initiatives	38		
Appendix 6: Final list of candidates in ballot paper order	39		

1. Introduction

The Victorian local government general elections are held every 4 years as set out in the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) (**LG Act**). In 2024, general elections were held for 78 of the 79 Victorian councils with Saturday 26 October marking election day. In accordance with section 263(1) of the LG Act, the Victorian Electoral Commission (**VEC**) is the statutory election service provider for the conduct of local government elections in Victoria.

This report provides information on the 2024 Wellington Shire Council general election including details of the end-to-end service delivery of electoral activities throughout the election timeline. This report also provides details of post-election activities including compulsory voting enforcement.

About the Victorian Electoral Commission

The VEC is an independent statutory authority established under the *Electoral Act 2002* (Vic) (**Electoral Act**). The VEC's principal functions are to conduct State elections, local government elections, certain statutory elections and polls, commercial and community elections, and to support electoral representation processes for local councils and the Electoral Boundaries Commission for State electoral boundaries. The VEC is also responsible for maintaining the Victorian register of electors and administering political funding and donation disclosure laws. The VEC has a mandated role to conduct electoral research, provide communication and education services, and inform and engage Victorians in the democratic process.

Sven Bluemmel is the appointed Electoral Commissioner and Dana Fleming is the appointed Deputy Electoral Commissioner. The Electoral Commissioner and Deputy Electoral Commissioner report to the Victorian Parliament in relation to the VEC's operations and activities.

The Electoral Commissioner heads the VEC's Executive Management Group that comprises the Deputy Electoral Commissioner, the Executive Director, Corporate Services and 7 Directors, each leading the main functional areas of the VEC. Each Director acts as subject matter experts and oversees legislative responsibilities under the LG Act and the Electoral Act.

The VEC has a dedicated local government election program framework that incorporates a range of programs, projects and activities that are supported through strategic planning, project management, and process mapping. The program is overseen by the VEC's Delivery Group and has sponsorship from the Executive Management Group.

2. Key changes

Changes in legislation

The *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024* (Vic) received royal assent on 25 June 2024 and introduced a number of changes to local government electoral legislation.

The VEC implemented the necessary changes to the 2024 local government election program in response to the reforms as they applied to the elections.

Key changes from *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024*

Close of roll	<p>The date for the close of roll was extended from 57 days to 80 days before the election. For all elections after the October 2024 general elections, including by-elections, the date for the close of roll will be 73 days before election day.</p> <p>The previous timelines were no longer viable due to an increase in the scale and complexity of local government elections, including changes to enrolment entitlements, population growth, higher number of wards, likely increase in the number of candidates, and reduction in mail services offered by Australia Post.</p> <p>By moving this date earlier, other key dates including nomination day, the lodgement date for candidate statements and questionnaires, and the period for mailing out of ballot materials have been brought forward through the <i>Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020</i> (Vic) (LG Regulations) providing more time to ensure they are sustainable.</p>
Certification of the roll	<p>The timeframe for roll certification was increased to 23 business days (previously 13 business days) to ensure CEOs (or their delegates) and the VEC have adequate time to process enrolment applications and complete related roll certification processes.</p>
Candidate statement word limit	<p>In response to the pandemic, the LG Regulations permitted candidate statements to be increased from 200 to 300 words for the 2020 local government elections, acknowledging that candidates at the 2020 elections would face restrictions in campaigning.</p> <p>As candidates would no longer face pandemic-based barriers to campaigning activities, the word limit was reverted to 200 words. Equivalent amendments were also applied to the <i>City of Melbourne (Electoral) Regulations 2022</i> (Vic).</p> <p>Returning to the original word limit allowed the VEC to produce smaller candidate statement booklets, reducing associated printing costs and administrative burden.</p>
Rejection and amendment of candidate statements	<p>The time allowed for a candidate to amend their statement was reduced by one day to now be the day after the close of nominations (or 38 days before election day). This aligned the periods for rejections and amendments with the earlier deadline for lodging a candidate statement, allowing additional time to print ballot packs.</p>
Close of candidate statements, photos and questionnaires	<p>The deadline for submitting a candidate statement, photograph and questionnaire was amended to close the same day as the close of nominations at 12 noon, facilitating a more efficient process for candidates and allowing the VEC more time to print ballot packs.</p>
Mailout of ballot pack	<p>The timeline for conducting the mailout of ballot materials was extended from occurring over 3 business days to 4 business days, allowing the VEC to manage the risk of mail service level reductions and provide additional safeguards against election fraud.</p>

3. Election dates

Key timelines for the 2024 local government elections	
Deadline fixed by the VEC for council primary enrolment data	Monday 15 July 2024
Close of roll	4 pm Wednesday 7 August 2024
Opening of the election office to the public	Monday 9 September 2024
Certification of the voters' roll and opening of nominations	Monday 9 September 2024
Close of nominations	12 noon Tuesday 17 September 2024
*Deadline for lodging candidate statements, photographs and questionnaires	12 noon Tuesday 17 September 2024
*Ballot draw	From 10 am Wednesday 18 September 2024
*General mail out of ballot packs to voters	Monday 7 October to Thursday 10 October 2024
*Close of voting	6 pm Friday 25 October 2024
Day prescribed as Election Day	Saturday 26 October 2024
*Close of extended postal vote receipt period	12 noon Friday 1 November 2024
Declaration of election results	No later than Friday 15 November 2024

*Dates with asterisks relate to contested elections only.

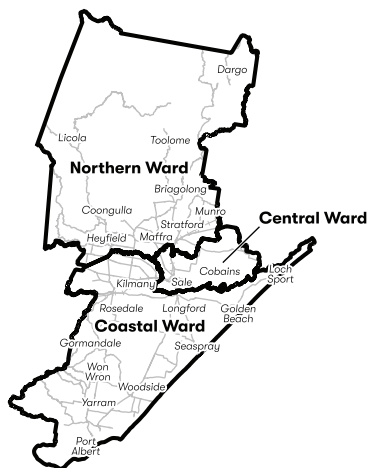
4. About Wellington Shire Council

Wellington Shire Council is comprised of 9 councillors elected from a subdivided structure.

The structure was last reviewed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* through an electoral representation review in 2015.

The internal ward boundaries of Wellington Shire Council were last reviewed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* through a subdivision review in May 2024.

Figure 1: The electoral structure of Wellington Shire Council at the general election held on 26 October 2024.



5. Voters' roll

The VEC prepared the voters' roll for the election under section 8(2)(c) of the Electoral Act and in accordance with section 249 of the LG Act. The close of roll for the election was 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024. Pursuant to section 249(4) of the LG Act, the VEC certified the voters' roll on Monday 9 September 2024.

At certification, the voters' roll for the 2024 Wellington Shire Council general election included 34,651 enrolled voters.

Composition of the voters' roll

Section 249 of the LG Act specifies that the voters' roll for a local government election is formed by combining 2 separate lists of voters:

1. The Electoral Commissioner's list (EC list) – list of State electors that are enrolled within that local government area.
2. The Chief Executive Officer's list (CEO list) – list of council-entitled voters.

Refer to **Appendix 1** for a breakdown of the Wellington Shire Council general election voters' roll.

Amendments to the voters' roll

In accordance with section 250 of the LG Act, the VEC is able to amend any error or omission in the preparation, printing or copying of the voters' roll, or correct any misnomer or inaccurate description of any person, place or thing on the voters' roll. Amendments to the voters' roll are to be certified by the VEC.

All voters added to the roll were issued with a ballot pack. Where a voter was removed from the roll after the mail-out of ballot material, the VEC had systems in place to ensure that returned ballot papers from the deleted voters could be identified and excluded from the extraction and count. Where roll amendments were required, the total number of voters on the roll was updated.

Following the close of roll, no amendments were required to the council's voters' roll.

6. Advertising and communication campaign

State-wide advertising

The VEC delivered a state-wide advertising campaign to maximise public awareness and participation amongst all eligible voters. Campaign activities and consistent messaging were delivered across 2 phases – enrolment and voting – and through multiple traditional and emerging mediums, including radio, digital and social media, and offline/outdoor advertising.

Public notices

The VEC published a series of public notices on the VEC website throughout the election as required by the LG Act. The notices included critical information relevant to each milestone of the election timeline.

For the 2024 general election, Wellington Shire Council nominated the following newspapers for the public notices:

- › Gippsland Times
- › Loch Sport Link
- › Stratford Town Crier
- › Heyfield News
- › The Bridge Yarram District
- › Dargo Bush Bulletin
- › The Bridge Boisdale
- › Letts Beach News

Refer to **Appendix 2** for further information in relation to the public notices.

VEC website

The VEC provided council specific information regarding the election on its website. The VEC website went live for the local government elections in early July 2024. Whilst some council-specific data remained static during the election, the website was regularly updated with content relevant to the election and at each key milestone such as close of roll, nominations, voting and results.

Media liaison

An online media briefing was held on Monday 29 July 2024. The briefing was made available to view on the VEC website for media representatives unable to join the live event. The media briefing provided an overview of the planning, timeline, legislative changes and other key information for the 2024 local council elections.

Media outlets were provided with a media handbook that outlined the election timeline and key information, and provided the VEC's head office media contacts. This was made available along with other resources from the VEC's media centre webpage. The VEC's communication team supported each election manager with managing media interest locally in their council area.

The VEC's media liaison program principally featured scheduled state-wide and tailored council-specific media releases aimed at highlighting key milestones during the election and capitalise on existing general news coverage.

More information on the VEC's media release schedule is available at **Appendix 3**.

The media program also involved a responsive media enquiry service, as well as the translation and distribution of 3 key media releases for multiple non-English news outlets in Victoria.

Social media campaign

As part of its state-wide advertising campaign, the VEC used paid promotions on social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and WeChat, targeting voters through audience segmentation.

This advertising was supported by a defined timeline of organic social media posts on the VEC's channels, designed to cover each of the key messages of the communication campaign to further extend the reach to the community and promote conversation about the democratic process.

VoterAlert advisories

State-enrolled voters can sign up to VoterAlert, our free SMS and email service, to receive reminder messages about elections that affect them. They can subscribe to messages via SMS, email, or both.

During the general election, we used VoterAlert to send direct messages on:

Wednesday 17 to Wednesday 31 July 2024 – 19,203 voters were contacted by VoterAlert messages sent by SMS and/or email reminding voters to enrol or update their details by the close of roll.

Monday 7 October to Monday 14 October 2024 – 19,196 voters were contacted by VoterAlert messages sent by SMS and/or email advising that we had commenced posting ballot packs.

Tuesday 22 October to Wednesday 23 October 2024 – 11,559 voters were contacted by VoterAlert messages sent by SMS and/or email reminding voters that it was the last week to post their ballot material back to us.

More information on VoterAlert is available at **Appendix 4**.

Voter engagement

The VEC delivered an extensive voter engagement program throughout Victoria, specific to local demographics.

Appendix 5 contains the full list of initiatives for the 2024 local government elections.

Democracy ambassadors

The VEC delivered education sessions conducted by our Democracy Ambassadors to a range of councils. The sessions focused on enrolment and voting for the election. These sessions were offered to councils in priority areas and delivered at no cost to council. Where resourcing allowed, requests for sessions that were not in the priority area were also fulfilled.

One session was delivered for the Wellington Shire Council election.

Blind and low-vision services

Braille and large print ballot material was available to blind and low-vision voters who registered for these products by 5 pm on Tuesday 17 September 2024.

The election manager did not receive any requests for braille or large print ballot material for the election.

Interpreting services

The VEC engaged the Victorian Interpreting and Language Services' Language Loop to provide a telephone interpreting service for telephone enquiries from voters who had a first language other than English. The VEC advertised direct lines for 20 languages other than English and a general line for all other languages.

Public enquiry service

A centralised contact centre was established to respond to telephone public enquiries. This ensured consistency in messaging, early identification of themes and trends along with the opportunity to enable election offices to focus on election administration. The call centre was also responsible for emails received during the local government elections. Any calls regarding CEO list

applications were referred to the relevant councils. Outside the call centre hours of operation, a recorded service was available that provided information on enrolment and voting.

Election offices fielded phone queries from local candidates on issues directly related to their candidacy (as separate to general queries about running as a candidate).

A total of 345 telephone calls were recorded for Wellington Shire Council during the 2024 local government elections. An overall total of 11,758 email queries were received for all councils.

7. Election manager

The VEC maintains a pool of trained senior election officials from across Victoria to fill election management roles for State and local government elections. Election-specific training is provided to senior election officials before they are appointed for each election.

The size of election management teams depends on the size of the council. Under the LG Act, an election manager is appointed to conduct each council's election and is supported by one or more assistant election managers.

In accordance with regulation 21(1) of the LG Regulations, the VEC appointed Frederick Coleman as the election manager for the 2024 Wellington Shire Council general election.

The appointed assistant election manager was Leanne McDonald.

8. Election office

The election manager was responsible for establishing and managing the election office at Former Fulham TAFE, 19 Lyon Crescent, Fulham. The premises were provided by the Council.

9. Candidates

Nominations opened at 9 am on Monday 9 September and closed at 12 noon on Tuesday 17 September 2024. Candidates were required to lodge their nomination forms in person at the election office. The nomination fee was \$250.

Candidate information

The VEC developed resources to support prospective candidates with the nomination process, including a candidate handbook. From mid-July, candidates could access information about nominating as a candidate for the election. The online Candidate Helper, accessible via the VEC website, went live on Tuesday 20 August 2024. Candidate Helper enabled candidates to complete most of their nomination forms and other forms online before lodging them in person with the election manager.

For the Wellington Shire Council 2024 elections, the VEC's candidate information sessions were delivered in person by the election manager. Additionally, a candidate information video was available on the VEC website from Tuesday 20 August 2024.

Nominations

At the close of nominations, 16 candidates had successfully nominated for the elections, which includes any candidates who retired after the close of nominations. Candidates who withdrew before the close of nominations are not included.

The following is a breakdown of candidate nominations per ward:

- › Central Ward - 4 nominations
- › Coastal Ward - 6 nominations
- › Northern Ward - 6 nominations

Ballot draws to determine the order of the names on the ballot paper were held at the election office following the close of nominations using the VEC's computerised ballot draw application.

See **Appendix 6** for the list of candidates in ballot draw order.

Candidate statements and photos

In accordance with regulation 39 of the LG Regulations, candidates were able to submit a 200-word statement and a recent photograph for inclusion in the ballot packs sent to voters. The deadline for these items was 12 noon on Tuesday 17 September 2024.

See **Appendix 6.1** for a breakdown of submitted statements and photos and **6.2** for sample ballot material.

Candidate questionnaires

In accordance with regulation 43 of the LG Regulations, candidates could also submit answers to a set of prescribed questions. The election manager accepted questionnaires from 15 of the 16 candidates at the election.

Voters could read the completed questionnaires on the VEC website or access them by contacting the election office.

Retirement of a candidate

In accordance with the LG Regulations, at any time after the close of nominations and before election day, a candidate may retire, or be retired by the VEC. A candidate can only retire if it will result in an uncontested election or if they are not qualified to be a Councillor. If the VEC believes a candidate was not entitled to nominate, it must formally query the candidate's qualification and invite written reasons why they are entitled. If the VEC remains satisfied that the candidate is not entitled, it must retire the candidate from the election.

When a candidate is retired from an election, the VEC is required to take all practicable steps to remove the retired candidate's name from ballot papers. If it is not practicable to do so, during the counting of votes the retired candidate's votes are passed on to other candidates according to voters' preferences.

There were no candidate retirements at the Wellington Shire Council elections.

10. Voting

Ballot pack preparation and redirection

Artwork for ballot papers and candidate statements is generated using the VEC's automation tool. This tool selects from a range of pre-defined artwork templates and populates them with the relevant candidate information directly from the VEC's election management system database.

Following an extensive quality assurance process, print-ready artwork files were securely transmitted directly to the VEC's contracted ballot material printer ready for production. The VEC's contracted mail house directly printed the voters' addresses (mailing and entitlement address) and barcodes on the ballot paper envelopes in preparation for assembly and delivery of ballot packs. The VEC utilised multiple third party providers to assemble the ballot packs prior to the mail house lodging with Australia Post. The mail house allocated a secure area within its operations that was used solely for the printing, insertion, and dispatch of ballot material. This ensured the highest standards of security were met.

Electors could apply to have their ballot material redirected to an address other than their entitlement address. Voters had until the certification day for the voters' roll (also the day that nominations open) to apply for their ballot material to be redirected. The VEC arranged for ballot material to be delivered to any voter applying for redirection to the address specified in their request. For the 2024 local government elections, voters had until Monday 9 September 2024 to submit redirection requests.

The election manager received 21 requests for redirection of ballot packs for the election.

Early votes

Voters could request an early postal ballot envelope (early vote) before the general mail out of ballot packs. The election manager processed requests and issued early votes where the request was assessed as reasonable. Requests for early votes could be processed from Wednesday 18 September 2024, the day after nominations closed, until the start of the general mail out of ballot packs on Monday 7 October 2024.

Due to the timing of early votes, some early voters may not have had access to the candidate statements, photographs or questionnaires.

The election manager issued a total of 51 early votes for the election.

Mail-out of ballot packs

The VEC mailed 34,648 ballot packs between Monday 7 and Thursday 10 October 2024.

See **Appendix 7** for a breakdown of the packs sent on each day of the general mail out. The VEC did not mail ballot packs to voters who passed away between the close of roll and generation of the mail-out file.

This included 21 ballot packs which were redirected to alternative addresses for voters who had applied to redirect their ballot pack by Monday 9 September 2024.

In accordance with regulation 49(3) of the LG Regulations, no more than 35% of ballot packs were mailed or delivered to voters on any one day during the mail-out period. All ballot packs were lodged with Australia Post under the priority paid delivery timetable.

The VEC liaised closely with Australia Post during the mail-out period to confirm that ballot packs had been delivered to voters. Australia Post confirmed all ballot packs had been delivered by Tuesday 15 October 2024.

During the voting period, 918 ballot packs were returned to the election office by Australia Post as return-to-sender mail. In most cases, this was likely due to the addressee no longer residing at the address.

Unenrolled votes

The election manager issued unenrolled votes to people whose names could not be found on the voters' roll but said they were entitled to vote at the election. The unenrolled ballot pack included a declaration for the voter to sign. The election manager assessed the declaration and decided to admit or disallow the vote.

The election manager issued one unenrolled vote and following relevant checks, none were admitted to the count.

Replacement ballot packs

Following the general mail out of ballot packs, a voter who claimed that their ballot pack had not been received, or had been lost, spoilt, or destroyed, could apply for a replacement vote by completing an online application form or contacting the public enquiry service.

A centralised team processed applications and mailed replacement ballot packs to the postal address provided. Voters also had the option to attend the election office in the council for which they hold entitlement, to have a replacement vote issued over the counter.

1,063 replacement ballot packs across all wards during the voting period were issued. Please refer to **Schedule 1** for further information on replacement ballot packs issued.

11. Return of ballot paper envelopes

VEC provided voters with a priority reply paid envelope to return their completed ballot paper and ballot paper envelope. The return mail was delivered to the election office from local postal facilities or mail distribution centres. Voters could also put their ballot papers and envelope in a ballot box at the election office.

As ballot paper envelopes were returned, they were progressively checked by the election manager to ensure they had been signed by the voter. Additionally, processes were in place to ensure that only one returned ballot paper from any one voter could proceed to the extraction and count.

The election manager received a total of 24,451 returned ballot paper envelopes across all wards by the close of voting at 6 pm on Friday 25 October 2024.

In accordance with regulation 57(3) of the LG Regulations, the election manager could accept returned ballot paper envelopes until 12 noon on the Friday following the close of voting, if they thought the voter had signed the envelope before voting closed.

The election manager accepted 4,476 ballot paper envelopes across all wards during the extended postal vote receipt period.

The total returned ballot paper envelopes for Wellington Shire Council was 28,927.

The election manager set aside 478 returned ballot paper envelopes that were not admitted to the extraction and counting process due to the voter not having signed the declaration envelope or, in the case of unenrolled declaration votes, an entitlement was not found for the person, or the declaration envelope was not returned with the vote.

Refer to **Schedule 1** for the total certified record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes across all wards for Wellington Shire Council.

12. Results

Extraction

The extraction process involved separating the declaration flaps containing voters' details from each admitted ballot paper envelope, and then extracting the ballot papers from the envelopes. This 2-stage process maintains anonymity and ensures the VEC can track the number of envelopes for ongoing reconciliation.

A total of 28,449 ballot paper envelopes were admitted to the extraction process.

Ballot papers were extracted at the election office from Tuesday 29 October 2024. The extraction of all admitted ballot paper envelopes was completed on Thursday 7 November 2024, following the close of the extended postal vote receipt period.

If the VEC found any returned ballot paper envelopes that did not contain a ballot paper, contained more than one ballot paper, or did not contain the correct ballot paper, these were required to be rejected and not counted. There were 164 returned ballot paper envelopes rejected during the extraction activity.

Following the extraction of ballot papers from the ballot paper envelopes, a total of 28,285 ballot papers proceeded to the count.

Computer count

A computer count information session explaining the process was recorded and available for online streaming from the VEC website from Friday 18 October 2024.

Following the extraction of ballot papers admitted to the count for all wards, preferences on ballot papers were data entered into the VEC's computer counting application at the election office. The application distributes preferences using the proportional representation method once data entry of ballot paper preferences is complete. Results were calculated at the election office on Thursday 7 November 2024.

The VEC published provisional results on its website as they became available. Results were updated as finalised once declarations had taken place.

For a breakdown of first preference results by ward, refer to **Appendix 8**.

Recounts

At any time before a candidate is declared elected, the election manager or a candidate may initiate a recount. Election managers initiate recounts if margins in

a preference distribution are close or critical. Candidates must ask for a recount in writing, with the reasons for their request. The election manager and head office staff assess candidate recount requests and either accept or deny them.

The election manager did not receive any requests for a recount following the count.

Scrutineers

Scrutineers help deliver fair and transparent elections by observing election activities. They contribute to electoral integrity and help build public trust. Scrutineers can observe all activities involved in ballot paper and envelope processing.

Candidates are not permitted in election venues during extraction and counting activities and instead appoint scrutineers. Each candidate could appoint one scrutineer per election official involved in an activity. To appoint scrutineers, candidates completed a hardcopy 'Appointment and declaration of scrutineer form', which the candidate signed and submitted to the election manager. All scrutineers then had to sign the form's formal declaration in front of an election official. The declaration meant the scrutineers committed to eligibility and legal requirements and the VEC's conditions of entry.

A *Scrutineer handbook* was made available to all candidates and scrutineers with information on the role and responsibility of scrutineers during election activities. It included overviews of the activities so that scrutineers could understand what to expect during election activities they may attend. When scrutineers attended election venues they were briefed on their responsibilities and the processes they would witness. Scrutineers were instructed when and how they could challenge activities when ballot paper formality was being decided and votes were being counted. Scrutineers were allowed to notify election managers if they disagreed with the decision made by an election official on ballot paper formality or whether votes were counted for the selected candidate. Election managers reviewed the challenge and made a final decision on the ballot paper.

Declaration of results

In the Service Plan, the VEC committed to complete all results declarations by Friday 15 November 2024.

The results of the 2024 Wellington Shire Council general election were declared at 3:30 pm on Friday 8 November 2024 at Wellington Room, Port of Sale, 70 Foster Street, Sale for all wards.

The VEC website was updated following the declaration to reflect the elected candidates.

13. Election statistics

Participation

Participation is measured by the number of voters marked off the roll as a percentage of the total enrolment and can vary from turnout. The overall participation rate in the Wellington Shire Council election was 83.15%, which is lower than the state average of 83.79% (excluding Melbourne City Council) and higher than the 80.76% rate at the 2020 Wellington Shire Council general election.

Analysis of voter participation for the different enrolment categories shows that participation is lower for voters who are enrolled on the EC's list (83.00%) compared to voters enrolled on the CEO's list (95.92%).

Refer to **Appendix 9** for further information on participation, including a breakdown by enrolment category.

Turnout

Voter turnout is measured by the number of formal and informal ballot papers counted in the election as a percentage of voters on the voters' roll for the election.

The overall voter turnout for the 2024 Wellington Shire Council general election was 81.63%. This is compared to the state average turnout of 81.46% (excluding Melbourne City Council). The voter turnout at the 2020 general election for the council was 78.36%.

Informality

The overall informal voting rate recorded at the 2024 Wellington Shire Council general election was 3.10%, compared with the State average of 3.47%. An informality rate of 2.89% was recorded at the Wellington Shire Council general election held in October 2020.

14. Complaints

Type of complaints

At local government elections, complaints generally fall into 2 broad categories:

1. Election Administration

Complaints about the conduct of the election and services to voters.

2. Election participation and conduct

Complaints about candidates and other participants in the election, at times alleging a breach of the LG Act or local laws.

Most complaints at the 2024 local government elections related to the second category, and often alleged inappropriate or illegal action by a person or group associated with the election.

Complaints process

The VEC have a streamlined complaints process during elections, developed with local councils and enforcement agencies. Complaints must be lodged in writing, then processed at head office. For the 2024 local government elections, customers could provide feedback and complaints online.

Complaints alleging a breach of the LG Act are forwarded to the Local Government Inspectorate. Complaints relating to local laws are referred to council. Complaints about the VEC's services, or the behaviour or actions of VEC staff and election officials, are the responsibility of the VEC.

The VEC is committed to responding to each complaint within 5 working days.

Complaints received

The VEC received 7 written complaints relating to the election for Wellington Shire Council.

Please see **Appendix 10** for a description of complaints received by the VEC.

15. Post-election activities

Storage of election material

The VEC will keep all records from the election safely and secretly in accordance with regulation 79 of the LG Regulations.

Refund of nomination fees

Nomination fees were refunded to eligible candidates on Tuesday 17 December 2024. Eligible candidates include those elected or who received at least 4% of the first preference vote. Any forfeited nomination fees were remitted to the council on Tuesday 17 December 2024.

Courts and tribunals

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) is responsible for hearing disputes on the validity of an election under section 311 of the LG Act.

Applications for a review of the declaration of the results of an election must be lodged within 14 days of the declaration and can be made by a candidate in the election, 10 persons who were entitled to vote at the election, or the VEC.

There were no applications to VCAT disputing the result of the Wellington Shire Council general election.

16. Non-voter follow up

In accordance with section 267 of the LG Act, the VEC has commenced its compulsory voting enforcement program. Any person who was required to vote at the election and failed to vote will be issued with an 'Apparent failure to vote' notice in February/March. Apparent non-voters have 28 days to respond.

People who do not respond to the notice, or do not provide a satisfactory response, may be issued with an infringement notice in April/May that will incur a penalty. Further follow-up with a penalty reminder notice in July may also occur – this stage includes the original penalty and a penalty reminder notice fee. Penalties collected on behalf of council will be reimbursed at the end of the infringement and reminder notice stages.

Additionally, during the infringement and penalty reminder notice stages, non-voters may ask for their matter to proceed directly to the Magistrates' Court.

These requests will be actioned at the conclusion of the infringement and penalty reminder notice stages. The VEC will lodge the file of any remaining non-voters with Fines Victoria at the end of the penalty reminder notice stage.

17. Evaluating VEC services

The VEC is committed to providing high quality election services to its local government clients. Through a formal feedback and debriefing program, the VEC can gauge its performance and seek advice for future local government election projects.

Feedback from councils

The VEC invited feedback from councils on its services in December 2024 and acknowledges the receipt of feedback provided by Wellington Shire Council. Additional feedback can be provided to the LG2024 Program Manager by emailing LGProgram2024@vec.vic.gov.au

Internal debriefing program

After every electoral event, the VEC conducts an internal debriefing program that includes input from all areas of its workforce. Internal debriefing following the local government elections began in December 2024. The VEC will publish a consolidated report on its performance and key statistics from the elections. This will be tabled in Parliament and available on the VEC website.

Appendices

Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes

Central Ward election	
Ballot papers printed	
Victorian Electoral Commission	17,000
Election manager	45
Total	17,045
Ballot papers issued	
General mail out	12,401
Early and replacement votes	504
Unenrolled declaration votes	1
Spoilt	0
Sub total	12,906
Unused	4,139
Total	17,045
Declarations returned	
General mail out admitted to the extraction	9,592
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	360
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	0
Returned declarations unable to be admitted to the extraction	177
Declarations returned to sender	373
Sub total	10,502
Declarations not returned	2,404
Total	12,906

Coastal Ward election**Ballot papers printed**

Victorian Electoral Commission	11,500
Election manager	15
Total	11,515

Ballot papers issued

General mail out	10,796
Early and replacement votes	300
Unenrolled declaration votes	0
Spoilt	0
Sub total	11,096
Unused	419
Total	11,515

Declarations returned

General mail out admitted to the extraction	8,872
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	190
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	0
Returned declarations unable to be admitted to the extraction	124
Declarations returned to sender	225
Sub total	9,411
Declarations not returned	1,685
Total	11,096

Northern Ward election	
Ballot papers printed	
Victorian Electoral Commission	17,000
Election manager	15
Total	17,015
Ballot papers issued	
General mail out	11,451
Early and replacement votes	310
Unenrolled declaration votes	0
Spoilt	0
Sub total	11,761
Unused	5,254
Total	17,015
Declarations returned	
General mail out admitted to the extraction	9,231
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	204
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	0
Returned declarations unable to be admitted to the extraction	177
Declarations returned to sender	320
Sub total	9,932
Declarations not returned	1,829
Total	11,761

Schedule 2: Certification statement

In accordance with Regulation 77, I certify that Schedule 1 of this report on the conduct of the 2024 Wellington Shire Council local government election is a true and correct account of the number of ballot papers issued, returned and not used in this election and declarations not returned.



Sven Bluemmel
Electoral Commissioner

Appendix 1: Breakdown of the voters' roll

Wellington Shire Council election	Voters enrolled through an entitlement under section 241 of the LG Act	Voters enrolled through entitlements under sections 242–245 of the LG Act	Total voters enrolled
Wellington Shire Council	34,234	417	34,651
Central Ward	12,374	27	12,401
Coastal Ward	10,475	321	10,796
Northern Ward	11,385	69	11,454

Appendix 2: Public notices

Schedule of public notices

Close of roll notice

VEC website/public notices	24 July 2024
Gippsland Times	23 July 2024
Loch Sport Link	5 August 2024
Stratford Town Crier	30 July 2024
Heyfield News	23 July 2024
The Bridge Yarram District	24 July 2024
Dargo Bush Bulletin	26 July 2024
The Bridge Boisdale	1 August 2024

Notice of election

VEC website/public notices	12 August 2024
Gippsland Times	13 August 2024
Loch Sport Link	7 October 2024
Stratford Town Crier	27 August 2024
Heyfield News	13 August 2024
The Bridge Yarram District	21 August 2024
Dargo Bush Bulletin	23 August 2024
The Bridge Boisdale	1 September 2024
Letts Beach News	1 September 2024

Voting details notice

VEC website/public notices	20 September 2024
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Voting details notice

Gippsland Times	1 October 2024
Stratford Town Crier	1 October 2024
Heyfield News	1 October 2024
The Bridge Yarram District	2 October 2024
Dargo Bush Bulletin	27 September 2024
The Bridge Boisdale	1 October 2024

Reminder notice

Gippsland Times	15 October 2024
Heyfield News	15 October 2024
The Bridge Yarram District	16 October 2024
Dargo Bush Bulletin	25 October 2024

Notice of result

VEC website/public notices	8 November 2024
Gippsland Times	27 November 2024
Loch Sport Link	2 December 2024
Stratford Town Crier	26 November 2024
Heyfield News	26 November 2024
The Bridge Yarram District	27 November 2024
Dargo Bush Bulletin	22 November 2024
The Bridge Boisdale	1 December 2024
Letts Beach News	1 December 2024

Appendix 2.1: Sample public notices

Close of roll

Sample Council postal election
My council, my vote

You must be enrolled to vote

A general election for Sample Council will be held in October 2024. To be able to vote in the election, you must be enrolled by the close of roll at **4 pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024**. Two categories of voters can be enrolled to vote in the Sample Council election: State-enrolled voters and Council-enrolled voters.

State-enrolled voters

Am I enrolled to vote?

You are automatically enrolled for this election if:

- you will be 18 years of age or over on Saturday 26 October 2024 and
- you live in the Sample Council and you are on the State electoral roll for your current address.

You need to enrol if:

- you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on Saturday 26 October 2024 and
- you live in the Sample Council and you are not on the State electoral roll or
- you have lived at your current residential address within the Sample Council for at least a month and have not yet updated your enrolment details, including any changes to your postal address.

How do I enrol?

You can enrol online at vec.vic.gov.au

You can also download an enrolment form from the website.

All enrolment applications must be received by the Victorian Electoral Commission by the close of roll at **4 pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024**.

How can I check my State enrolment?

You can check your enrolment details online at vec.vic.gov.au at any time, or call 131 832.

Council-enrolled voters

Am I enrolled to vote?

To be a Council-enrolled voter, you must be:

- 18 years of age or over on Saturday 26 October 2024 and
- not a State-enrolled voter within the Sample Council.

New rules mean you are no longer automatically enrolled if you are a non-resident property owner (e.g. a landlord or a business owner that pays rates). If you are a non-resident property owner within the Sample Council, you need to apply to enrol if you wish to vote in the Sample Council election.

Who else can enrol & vote?

You may also apply to enrol if:

- you have purchased a rateable property within the Sample Council location since the last election but you are not a resident of the Sample Council, or
- you are not an Australian citizen and you live in, and pay rates for, a property within the Sample Council location, or
- you pay rates on a property you occupy within the Sample Council and have no other voting entitlement within the Sample Council, for example you are a shop tenant and pay rates to the Council for your tenancy, and you have no other voting entitlement within the Sample Council, or
- you are a director or company secretary of a corporation within the Sample Council that pays rates to Sample Council and you have no other voting entitlement within the Sample Council.

Sample Council logo

How do I apply to be a Council-enrolled voter?

If you meet any of the above criteria and wish to enrol, contact Sample Council on 0000 0000 for a council enrolment form. Council enrolment forms must be received by the Council by the close of roll at **4 pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024**.

How can I check if I am Council-enrolled?

You can check your enrolment details by contacting the Council on 0000 0000.

Thinking about standing for election?

To nominate as a candidate for Sample Council, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters' roll for Sample Council and
- be eligible to become a councillor and
- have completed the mandatory candidate training provided by Local Government Victoria before lodging your nomination with the Election Manager.

For further information, visit vec.vic.gov.au

Enrolment closes
4 pm Wednesday 7 August 2024

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

For enquiries in languages other than English:
 • العربية (Arabic) 9209 0100 • Azərbaycanca (Azerbaijani) 9209 0160 • বাংলা (Burmese) 9209 0161 • 普通话 (Mandarin) 9209 0106 • 廣東話 (Cantonese) 9209 0101
 • Hrvatski (Croatian) 9209 0102 • འགྲུ་ལྷན་ (Dzongkha) 9209 0119 • Ελληνικά (Greek) 9209 0103 • Հայերեն (Armenian) 9209 0162 • Italiano (Italian) 9209 0104
 • ಕನ್ನಡ (Kannada) 9209 0192 • 한국어 (Korean) 9209 0194 • македонски (Macedonian) 9209 0105 • नेपाली (Nepali) 9209 0163 • فارسی (Persian) 9209 0195 • ภาษาไทย (Thai) 9209 0164
 • Türkçe (Turkish) 9209 0110 • اردو (Urdu) 9209 0165 • Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) 9209 0111 • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by S. Blumel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Notice of election

Sample Council postal election
My council, my vote

Vote by post this October

Ballot packs will be mailed to voters enrolled in the Sample Council general election from Monday 7 October. Complete and return your ballot material ASAP. Ballot material must be in the mail or delivered to the election manager by **6 pm on Friday 25 October**.

If you will be away

If you will be away when ballot packs are mailed, or your address has changed since Wednesday 7 August, you can request for your ballot pack to be redirected by completing the online redirection form at vec.vic.gov.au/redirections, or call 131 832.

Requests for redirection must be received by 5 pm on Monday 9 September.

Large print and braille ballot papers

Large print or braille ballot papers are available for voters who are blind or have low vision—please register by 5 pm Tuesday 10 September. To register, call 03 8620 1314 during business hours.

Early votes

If you will be away during the voting period (7–25 October), you can go to your local election office to vote in person, from 10 am on Wednesday 18 September.

The Sample Council election office is at:
 Sample election office address

Sample Council logo

How to nominate as a candidate

To nominate as a candidate, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters roll for Sample Council AND
- be eligible to become a councillor should you be elected AND
- have completed the mandatory candidate training before lodging your nomination with the election manager.


To nominate, complete the nomination form and lodge it with the election manager together with the \$250 nomination fee. Nomination forms can be lodged by appointment during business hours from Monday 9 September until 12 noon on Tuesday 17 September at the election office.

Visit vec.vic.gov.au for more information and to pre-complete your nomination form using the online Candidate Helper. The online Candidate Helper will be available from Tuesday 20 August.

If you use the online Candidate Helper, print your pre-completed form and make an appointment to lodge it with the election manager along with the nomination fee.

Call the election manager from Monday 9 September on 131 832 to make a nomination appointment.

Nominations close 12 noon Tuesday 17 September.



Candidate information session

Sample time sample date at sample venue name, sample address

Candidate information kits containing nomination forms and other electoral information will be available online and from the election manager.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

For enquiries in languages other than English:
 • العربية (Arabic) 9209 0100 • Azərbaycanca (Azerbaijani) 9209 0160 • বাংলা (Burmese) 9209 0161 • 普通话 (Mandarin) 9209 0106 • 廣東話 (Cantonese) 9209 0101 • Hrvatski (Croatian) 9209 0102 • འགྲུ་ལྷན་ (Dzongkha) 9209 0119 • Ελληνικά (Greek) 9209 0103 • Հայերեն (Armenian) 9209 0162 • Italiano (Italian) 9209 0104 • ಕನ್ನಡ (Kannada) 9209 0192 • 한국어 (Korean) 9209 0194 • македонски (Macedonian) 9209 0105 • नेपाली (Nepali) 9209 0163 • فارسی (Persian) 9209 0195 • ภาษาไทย (Thai) 9209 0164 • Türkçe (Turkish) 9209 0110 • اردو (Urdu) 9209 0165 • Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) 9209 0111 • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

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30

Victorian Electoral Commission

Agenda Ordinary Council Meeting - 6 May 2025

41 of 188

Voting details notice

Sample Council postal election

Sample Council logo

My council, my vote

An election will be held for Sample Council.

Check the mail for your ballot pack
Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to enrolled voters from **Monday 7 October**.
This is a postal election only.
If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Tuesday 15 October** please visit vec.vic.gov.au to complete the online replacement form, or call **131 832** to arrange a replacement.

Candidates
Candidates who have nominated for election are listed in the ballot packs and at vec.vic.gov.au.
A photo and candidate statement will also be included if provided by candidates. Responses to a candidate questionnaire, if provided, are available at vec.vic.gov.au.




How to vote correctly
You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you want to see elected, then number all the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number **every box** and only use each number once.


How to return your ballot pack
Put your completed ballot paper in the ballot paper envelope, complete the declaration, then post it ASAP using the reply-paid envelope provided, or hand deliver it during election office hours to:
Sample election office address

Voting is compulsory
Voting is compulsory for all voters who were enrolled at 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August. This includes state-enrolled and council-enrolled voters.
If you don't vote and don't have a valid excuse, you may be fined.

Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand delivered by **6 pm Friday 25 October**.
State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | **131 832**
For enquiries in languages other than English:
* Arabic (Arabic) 9209 0100 * Azərbaycanca (Azerbaijani) 9209 0160 * বাংলা (Burmese) 9209 0161 * 普通话 (Mandarin) 9209 0106 * 廣東話 (Cantonese) 9209 0101
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* Kiswahili (Kiswahili) 9209 0102 * 한국어 (Korean) 9209 0184 * Македонски (Macedonian) 9209 0105 * नेपाली (Nepali) 9209 0103 * فارسی (Persian) 9209 0185 * မြန်မာစာ (Burmese) 9209 0101
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Authorised by S. Blumel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic   

 **Victorian Electoral Commission**

Reminder notice

Sample Council postal election

Sample Council logo

My council, my vote

An election is being held for Sample Council.

Check the mail for your ballot pack
Ballot packs containing voting material were mailed to enrolled voters from **Monday 7 October**.
This is a postal election only.
If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Tuesday 15 October** please visit vec.vic.gov.au to complete the online replacement form, or call **131 832** to arrange a replacement.

Candidates
Candidates who have nominated for election are listed in the ballot packs and at vec.vic.gov.au.




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Authorised by S. Blumel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic   

 **Victorian Electoral Commission**

Declaration of results

Sample Council election Declaration of results		Sample Council logo
The following candidates were elected to Sample Council at the general election held in October 2024:		
Sample Ward 1 Sample elected candidate 1	Sample elected candidate 4	Sample Ward 8 Sample elected candidate 8
Sample Ward 2 Sample elected candidate 2	Sample Ward 5 Sample elected candidate 5	Sample Ward 9 Sample elected candidate 9
Sample Ward 3 Sample elected candidate 3	Sample Ward 6 Sample elected candidate 6	
Sample Ward 4	Sample Ward 7 Sample elected candidate 7	
Further details about the results are available at vec.vic.gov.au		
Sample Election Manager name Election Manager		
Sample declaration date		
<small>vec.vic.gov.au 131 832 @electionsvic</small>		
<small>Authorised by S. Blummet, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.</small>		

Appendix 3: Schedule of media releases and advisories

Wellington Shire Council council-specific media releases and advisories

Enrol now for the Wellington Shire Council election	Monday 29 July 2024
Call for candidates for Wellington Shire Council election	Thursday 22 August 2024
Ballot packs mailed for Wellington Shire Council election	Monday 7 October 2024
Voting closes soon for Wellington Shire Council election	Tuesday 15 October 2024
New councillors for Wellington Shire Council	Friday 8 November 2024

Statewide media releases and advisories

Victorians urged to enrol for upcoming local council elections	Monday 22 July 2024
Media advisory: 2024 local council elections briefing	Monday 22 July 2024
Last chance to enrol for Victorian council elections	Friday 2 August 2024
News alert: Enrolment closes tomorrow for October's council local elections	Tuesday 6 August 2024
Nominations open soon for Victorian local council elections	Monday 26 August 2024
Media advisory: Accessing candidate information for the 2024 Victorian local council elections	Friday 6 September 2024
Nominations for the 2024 Victorian local council elections now open	Monday 9 September 2024
Over 4.6 million enrolled for local council elections	Tuesday 10 September 2024
Time is running out to nominate for this year's local council elections	Monday 16 September 2024
Electoral Commissioner calls for transparency in the use of AI in upcoming local council elections	Tuesday 17 September 2024
Media advisory: Media attendance at local council election ballot draw	Tuesday 17 September 2024
Nominations are in for October local council elections	Wednesday 18 September 2024
Democracy ambassadors help community voices 'Be Heard'	Thursday 19 September 2024
VEC retires 16 local council election candidates	Monday 30 September 2024
Voting starts next week for Victoria's local council elections	Friday 4 October 2024

Statewide media releases and advisories

Police investigate break-in at the Ballarat election office	Thursday 10 October 2024
Voters urged to request a replacement ballot pack following van theft	Friday 18 October 2024
Local council elections voting deadline looms	Monday 21 October 2024
Voters urged to request a replacement ballot pack following theft	Thursday 24 October 2024
Final day of voting	Friday 25 October 2024
Media advisory: Results timelines for Victorian local council elections	Friday 25 October 2024
Media advisory: Media attendance at results declarations	Wednesday 6 November 2024
Suspected postal vote tampering in 2 local council elections referred for inquiry	Wednesday 13 November 2024
Didn't vote in the 2024 local council elections?	Monday 17 February 2025
Non-voters asked to explain why they didn't vote in the 2024 local council elections	Friday 7 March 2025
Infringements sent to 2024 local council election non-voters	Scheduled for Monday 14 April 2025
Act on penalty reminder notice or risk enforcement action	Scheduled for Thursday 1 July 2025

Appendix 4: VoterAlert advisories

Appendix 4.1: SMS alerts

Close of roll – sent from Wednesday 17 July to Wednesday 31 July 2024

VoterAlert: Vic council elections will be held by post this Oct. Make sure your details are correct before 4pm Wed 7 Aug. More info <https://vec.vic.gov.au/LG24>. If you'd rather not open links in this message, look up the VEC website or call 131 832 to check. Unsubscribe <https://vec.vic.gov.au/voteralert>

Reminder close of voting – sent from Tuesday 22 October to Wednesday 23 October 2024

VoterAlert: return your council election ballot pack by 6pm Fri Oct 25. If your ballot pack hasn't arrived, find out how to get a replacement at <https://vec.vic.gov.au/LG24>. Ignore if you've already voted or asked for a replacement. If you'd rather not visit links in this message, look up the VEC website or call 131 832. Unsubscribe: <https://vec.vic.gov.au/voteralert>

Uncontested election – sent from Wednesday 25 September to Tuesday 1 October 2024

VoterAlert: the election in your area is uncontested, as only one person nominated per vacancy. You do not need to vote. More info: <https://vec.vic.gov.au/LG24>. If you'd rather not visit links in this message, look up the VEC website or call 131 832. Unsubscribe: <https://vec.vic.gov.au/voteralert>


Mail-out of ballot packs – sent from Monday 7 October to Monday 14 October 2024

VoterAlert: ballot packs for the local council elections are on their way, arriving by 15 Oct. Complete and return before 6pm on Fri 25 Oct. For more info visit <https://vec.vic.gov.au/LG24>, look up the VEC website or call 131 832. Unsubscribe: <https://vec.vic.gov.au/voteralert>

Appendix 4.2: Email alerts

Close of roll email

Do not reply to this email. Replies go to an unmonitored inbox. Contact us with any questions.

VoterAlert 

Hi

Victorian local council elections are being held by post this October. You must be correctly enrolled by **4 pm on Wednesday 7 August**.

What you need to do

Not sure if your enrolment details are up to date? You can check online at vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment

If you've changed your address or name since you last voted in an election, you should update your details. Please also check the postal address listed on your enrolment, as this is where we will send your ballot pack.

[CHECK MY DETAILS](#)

If your details **haven't changed** since the last time you voted, get ready to vote. All voting in this election is by post. We will start posting ballot packs out from Monday 7 October.

The full list of candidates will be available on our website from 12 noon on Tuesday 17 September.

[Find out more about your council election.](#)

Voting is compulsory – don't risk a fine.

If you own properties in more than one Victorian council

Some people are eligible to enrol in more than one council. If you own or pay rates on a property in a Victorian council other than where you normally live, you can apply to enrol with that council. This is known as council enrolment.

Contact the council directly for more information about council enrolment.

[Find out more about council enrolment.](#)

You **must** vote for all councils you are enrolled in.

Electoral structure changes

Over half of Victoria's local councils have new electoral structures or have changed internal ward boundaries. You may be voting in a new ward this October.

You can check your council's ward boundaries on our [interactive map](#).

Information in your language

You can find election information in 20 languages other than English on our website.

[Find in-language information.](#)

Security

If you would rather not click any links in this email, all this information and more is on our website at vec.vic.gov.au. You can also hover over links to confirm they go to a vic.gov.au website before you click them.

Be aware of scams: all emails we send you will have 'Victorian Electoral Commission <voteralert@info.vec.vic.gov.au>' as the sender. We will never ask you to enter credit card details or make payments through a website.

More information




Visit vec.vic.gov.au or call us on **131 832** between 8:30 am and 5 pm Monday to Friday.

Authorised by S. Bluemmel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Our mailing address is:
Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

This message was sent to you by the Victorian Electoral Commission because your contact details are listed on the Victorian electoral roll. Responses are not monitored.


[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

[VEC website](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

Uncontested election email

Do not reply to this email. Replies go to an unmonitored inbox. Contact us with any questions.

VoterAlert 

Hi

The , Ward election is uncontested as there were the same number of candidates as vacancies at the close of nominations.

You are not required to vote this October.

If you own properties in any other Victorian councils

You will still get a ballot pack for any other councils you are enrolled in. Please complete and return all ballot packs you receive before **6 pm on Friday 25 October**.

If you don't vote you may risk a fine.

Check your enrolment online or contact the council directly to check your enrolment details.

[Check my enrolment](#)

Security

If you would rather not click any links in this email, all this information and more is on our website at vec.vic.gov.au. You can hover your mouse over links to make sure they go to a vic.gov.au website before you click them.

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Ballot pack mail-out email

Do not reply to this email. Replies go to an unmonitored inbox. Contact us with any questions.

VoterAlert 

Hi

You are enrolled to vote in the 2024 local council elections.

Your vote matters. Local council elections are your chance to vote on who represents you on the local community issues that you care about.

How to vote

Voting in these elections is by **post**.

We have started posting ballot packs to all enrolled voters. They will arrive by **Tuesday 15 October**.

Please follow the instructions in your ballot pack to complete your vote and mail it back to us as soon as possible.

If you're unsure, you can learn [how to fill out a ballot paper](#) on our website.

Voting closes at **6 pm on Friday 25 October**, but your local mail collection times may be earlier than this. We recommend you return your completed vote as soon as possible.

You can also drop your vote off at your local election office.

If you don't get a ballot pack

Ballot packs are in the mail and will arrive by **Tuesday 15 October**.

If you don't get a ballot pack by then, you can ask us to send you a replacement by calling [131 832](tel:131832) between 8:30 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday.

Moved house or away from your address

If you are away from your mailing address you can request a replacement ballot pack. You can:

- call us on [131 832](tel:131832) between 8:30 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday
- visit the election office of your **old address** to get a replacement on the spot. If you will be away during the election, you can fill in your vote there and return it straight away.

[Find my election office](#)

Find candidates

Information about candidates, including statements and candidate questionnaire responses are on our website.

[Find candidates](#)

Information in your language

Our website has information in more than 20 languages. There are also videos explaining how to vote in 10 different languages.

[Find information in your language](#)

Security

If you would rather not click any links in this email, all this information and more is on our website: vec.vic.gov.au. You can hover your mouse over links to confirm they go to a vic.gov.au website before you click them.

Be aware of scams: all emails we send you will have 'Victorian Electoral Commission <voteralert@info.vec.vic.gov.au>' as the sender. We will never ask you to enter credit card details or make payments through a website.

More information




For more information visit vec.vic.gov.au or call us on [131 832](tel:131832) between 8:30 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday.

Authorised by S. Bluemmel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Our mailing address is:
Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

This message was sent to you by the Victorian Electoral Commission because your contact details are listed on the Victorian electoral roll. Responses are not monitored.


[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

[VEC website](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

Last week to vote email

Do not reply to this email. Replies go to an unmonitored inbox. Contact us with any questions.

VoterAlert 

Reminder: voting for the 2024 local council elections closes at 6 pm this Friday 25 October.

Please ignore this email if you've already voted or asked for a replacement ballot pack.

How to vote

Voting in these elections is by **post**.

Please follow the instructions in your ballot pack to complete your vote and mail it back to us as soon as possible. You can find instructions on [how to fill out a ballot paper](#) on our website.

Voting closes at **6 pm on Friday 25 October**, but your local mail collection times may be earlier than this. We recommend you return your completed vote as soon as possible.

You can also drop your vote off at your local election office.

[Find my election office](#)

If you don't get a ballot pack

If you haven't received your ballot pack in the mail yet, you can ask us to send you a replacement by:

- visiting your election office* to get a replacement on the spot. You can fill in your vote there and return it straight away.
- calling us on [131 832](tel:131832) between 8:30 am and 6 pm, Monday to Friday
- filling in our [online form](#)

*This must be the election office for your enrolled address. [Check your enrolment details](#) if you've recently moved.

[Find my election office](#)

Information in your language

Our website has information in more than 20 languages. There are also videos explaining how to vote in 10 different languages.

[Find information in your language](#)

Security

If you would rather not click any links in this email, all this information and more is on our website: vec.vic.gov.au. You can hover your mouse over links to confirm they go to a vic.gov.au website before you click them.

Be aware of scams: all emails we send you will have 'Victorian Electoral Commission <voteralert@info.vec.vic.gov.au>' as the sender. We will never ask you to enter credit card details or make payments through a website.

More information




For more information visit vec.vic.gov.au or call us on [131 832](tel:131832) between 8:30 am and 6 pm, Monday to Friday.

Authorised by S. Bluemmel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Our mailing address is:
Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

This message was sent to you by the Victorian Electoral Commission because your contact details are listed on the Victorian electoral roll. Responses are not monitored.

[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

[VEC website](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

Appendix 5: Voter engagement program and initiatives

Program	Program details
Be Heard Democracy Ambassador program	This program provides free peer-led electoral education and information sessions to those under-represented in the electoral process. This includes people with disability and their carers, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, people experiencing homelessness and young people. A total of 238 sessions were provided across the state reaching over 10,000 participants.
Specialist mobile enrolment	This program delivered peer-led enrolment sessions in prisons, homeless services, schools and tertiary education settings to reach young people and Aboriginal community settings across Melbourne and regional Victoria.
CALD in-language social media videos	This project produced a series of videos in 11 different languages including Auslan. Languages were chosen to reach language groups most in need of additional support. The videos provided electoral information on how to enrol, how to vote by post, and how to respond to an Apparent Failure to Vote Notice. These were widely distributed and shared through the VEC's social media platforms, community networks, and partner organisations.
Active Citizenship program	Electoral and civics education workshops were delivered to CALD community leaders in 3 locations across regional Victoria.
Aboriginal engagement	This program delivered information and engagement sessions across the greater Melbourne area and regional Victoria. These were designed to raise awareness that voting was compulsory and taking place via post. Culturally appropriate resources were produced to provide information on how to respond to an Apparent Failure to Vote Notice, including a video which was distributed and shared through the VEC's social media platforms and partner organisations.
Easy English guide	This was produced for people with low English proficiency and designed as a co-read product where a person supports the reader. These were distributed by Democracy Ambassadors as a key resource, and also available for download from the VEC's website.

Appendix 6: Final list of candidates in ballot paper order

The candidates, in ballot paper order, were as follows:

Central Ward election

ROSSETTI, Scott

VELDHUIZEN, Jacob

FOAT, Liz

WELLS, Geoff

Coastal Ward election

SIDEBOTHAM, Robin Albert

STEPHENS, Garry

BANNERMAN, Catherine

MADELEY, Cindy

McKENZIE, Marcus

MAYER, Paul

Northern Ward election

LOWE, Edward

ILIOPOULOS, Christos

RIPPER, Carmel

CHRISTENSEN, Kevin

TATTERSON, John



HOGAN, Cameron Jamie

**Appendix 6.1: Candidate statements
and photographs**





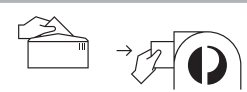

Wellington Shire Council election	Total number of candidates at close of nominations	Number of candidates that lodged a candidate statement	Number of candidates that lodged a candidate photograph
Central Ward	4	4	4
Coastal Ward	6	6	6
Northern Ward	6	6	6

Appendix 6.2: Sample ballot material







Outer envelope

Sample Council	If undeliverable, return to Locked Bag 0000 LOCALITY VIC 0000	POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA PRIORITY
STAT-ENV/M938 06/24		
Local council elections 2024 Postal ballot pack		
	Voting closes 6 pm Friday 25 October	
		

Reply-paid envelope

Sample Council Sample Ward	Delivery address: Locked Bag 0000 LOCALITY VIC 0000	 	No stamp required if posted in Australia
	STAT-ENV/M937 07/24		
 <p>Post your completed ballot pack before 6 pm on Friday 25 October</p> <p>Local post box collection times vary. Check the collection time on your post box to make sure your vote is in the mail on time.</p>		 <p>Election Manager Sample Election Office Sample Ward Reply Paid 00000 LOCALITY VIC 0000</p>	

Ballot paper envelope

<h2>Ballot paper envelope</h2>	<h3>How to vote</h3> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete your ballot paper/s. 2. Put your completed ballot paper/s inside this envelope and seal it. 3. Sign the declaration on the back of this envelope. We remove it before counting to keep your vote secret. 4. Put this ballot paper envelope into the reply-paid envelope and seal it. 5. Post it straight away. <p>Voters unable to sign: Blind or low vision voters, or voters with low literacy or limited English can ask someone to sign for them. The authorised person must sign and write their name on the back of this envelope.</p>
    	
STAT-ENV-LG-003 06/24	

Candidate leaflet

Voting closes
6 pm Friday
25 October 2024

All voting in this election is by post.
Post your vote before voting closes.
We cannot accept late votes.

Local post box collection times vary. Check the collection time on your post box to make sure your vote is in the mail on time.

You can also drop your vote off during business hours to:

Address line 1
Address line 2
Address line 3

For more information, visit vec.vic.gov.au or call 131 832 during business hours.

Voting is compulsory


You are enrolled to vote in this election.

Voting is your right. By voting, you get to have a say in who represents you on your local council.

Voting is also a responsibility. If you don't vote, you may get a fine.

If your enrolment details have changed, it is your responsibility to update them. Visit vec.vic.gov.au/update for more information.


Sample Council
Sample Ward



Candidate leaflet

Sample Council election 2024
Sample Ward

Sample Ward



Notice

The contents of candidate statements are provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about candidate statements should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the election manager. Candidate statements are also available at vec.vic.gov.au

Candidates may also provide answers to a questionnaire. Responses are available at vec.vic.gov.au

VEC Victorian Electoral Commission

How to vote multi-language leaflet
If applicable

How to vote leaflet

Interpreter

Language support

Visit vec.vic.gov.au/languages for more information in your language.

For interpreter assistance, call us. See the phone numbers on the next page.

STAT-LEAMUL01 07/24

VEC Victorian Electoral Commission

Ballot paper

Sample Council
Sample Ward

Election of 1 Councillor

Number the boxes 1 to 4 in the order of your choice.
Number every box to make your vote count.
You must not use any number more than once.

☐ CANDIDATE, Name

☐ CANDIDATE, Name

☐ CANDIDATE, Name

☐ CANDIDATE, Name

Appendix 6.3: Sample uncontested ward leaflet

Sample Council election 2024
Sample Ward

At the close of nominations for the Sample Council, Sample Ward election, one nomination was received for one vacancy. Therefore, Candidate Name will be elected unopposed.
You are not required to vote.

Election Manager Name
Election Manager
For more information call 131 832

 Victorian Electoral Commission

Appendix 7: Daily breakdown of the general mail out

Wellington Shire Council election	7 October 2024	8 October 2024	9 October 2024	10 October 2024	Total general mail out
Wellington Shire Council	11,780	11,780	5,545	5,543	34,648
Central Ward	4,216	4,216	1,985	1,984	12,401
Coastal Ward	3,671	3,671	1,727	1,727	10,796
Northern Ward	3,893	3,893	1,833	1,832	11,451

Appendix 8: Result information

Central Ward count summary

Enrolment	12,401
Formal votes	9,687
Informal votes	216 (2.18% of the total votes)
Voter turnout	9,903 (79.86% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
ROSSETTI, Scott	3,789	39.11%
VELDHUIZEN, Jacob	1,066	11.00%
FOAT, Liz	3,173	32.76%
WELLS, Geoff	1,659	17.13%

Successful candidates

ROSSETTI, Scott (1st elected)

FOAT, Liz (2nd elected)

WELLS, Geoff (3rd elected)

Coastal Ward count summary

Enrolment	10,796
Formal votes	8647
Informal votes	345 (3.84% of the total votes)
Voter turnout	8,992 (83.29% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
SIDEBOTHAM, Robin Albert	631	7.30%
STEPHENS, Garry	2,341	27.07%
BANNERMAN, Catherine	1,370	15.84%
MADELEY, Cindy	1,928	22.30%

Coastal Ward count summary

McKENZIE, Marcus	1,174	13.58%
MAYER, Paul	1,203	13.91%

Successful candidates

STEPHENS, Garry (1st elected)

MADELEY, Cindy (2nd elected)

BANNERMAN, Catherine (3rd elected)

Northern Ward count summary

Enrolment	11,454
Formal votes	9,075
Informal votes	315 (3.35% of the total votes)
Voter turnout	9,390 (81.98% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
LOWE, Edward	3,004	33.10%
ILIOPOULOS, Christos	602	6.63%
RIPPER, Carmel	1,574	17.34%
CHRISTENSEN, Kevin	1,363	15.02%
TATTERSON, John	1,424	15.69%
HOGAN, Cameron Jamie	1,108	12.21%

Successful candidates

LOWE, Edward (1st elected)

RIPPER, Carmel (2nd elected)

TATTERSON, John (3rd elected)

Appendix 9: Election participation statistics

Participation is measured by the number of marks on the roll as a percentage of total enrolment and can vary from turnout (total ballot papers counted as a percentage of total enrolment).

Wellington Shire Council election participation	2020	2024	Statewide LG 2024 – excluding Melbourne City Council
18–19	85.96%	82.59%	86.64%
20–24	76.97%	74.51%	80.02%
25–29	73.74%	69.56%	74.09%
30–34	72.37%	69.56%	73.31%
35–39	74.43%	73.93%	76.18%
40–44	77.78%	76.90%	78.99%
45–49	80.33%	80.54%	81.92%
50–54	84.03%	84.29%	84.69%
55–59	86.83%	87.09%	87.46%
60–64	89.52%	89.55%	89.16%
65–69	90.65%	90.87%	90.41%
70+	87.40%	91.26%	88.77%
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	85.74%	83.00%	86.27%
Voters enrolled through sections 243–245 of the LG Act	58.67%	95.92%	60.96%
Total voters enrolled	80.76%	83.15%	84.12%

Central Ward election participation	2024	Statewide LG 2024 – excluding Melbourne City Council
18–19	77.67%	86.64%
20–24	69.87%	80.02%
25–29	63.85%	74.09%
30–34	68.28%	73.31%
35–39	70.77%	76.18%
40–44	75.64%	78.99%
45–49	80.31%	81.92%
50–54	83.85%	84.69%
55–59	87.44%	87.46%
60–64	88.76%	89.16%
65–69	90.24%	90.41%
70+	91.24%	88.77%
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	81.19%	86.27%
Voters enrolled through sections 243–245 of the LG Act	92.59%	60.96%
Total voters enrolled	81.21%	84.12%

Coastal Ward election participation	2024	Statewide LG 2024 – excluding Melbourne City Council
18–19	85.98%	86.64%
20–24	78.24%	80.02%
25–29	74.85%	74.09%
30–34	69.33%	73.31%
35–39	75.63%	76.18%
40–44	77.17%	78.99%
45–49	79.56%	81.92%
50–54	84.13%	84.69%
55–59	86.58%	87.46%
60–64	89.71%	89.16%
65–69	91.29%	90.41%
70+	91.41%	88.77%
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	84.56%	86.27%
Voters enrolled through sections 243–245 of the LG Act	96.57%	60.96%
Total voters enrolled	84.92%	84.12%

Northern Ward election participation	2024	Statewide LG 2024 – excluding Melbourne City Council
18–19	84.13%	86.64%
20–24	75.41%	80.02%
25–29	69.99%	74.09%
30–34	71.07%	73.31%
35–39	75.39%	76.18%
40–44	77.90%	78.99%
45–49	81.75%	81.92%
50–54	84.90%	84.69%
55–59	87.25%	87.46%
60–64	90.19%	89.16%
65–69	91.07%	90.41%
70+	91.13%	88.77%
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	83.52%	86.27%
Voters enrolled through sections 243–245 of the LG Act	94.20%	60.96%
Total voters enrolled	83.59%	84.12%

Appendix 10: Complaints

Written complaints received by the VEC

Where an outcome is a follow-up response, the customer may have replied to the VEC's response and the VEC has therefore replied to that follow-up email.

Where an outcome has no action taken, this could be an anonymous submission that doesn't contain feedback and therefore can't be passed on to another team.

Date	Nature of complaint	Action taken by the VEC
Wednesday 4 September 2024	VEC Complaint - Quantity/frequency of advertising	Referred to LGI
Tuesday 8 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal voting process	Response provided
Thursday 10 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Source of personal or contact information	Feedback recorded
Thursday 10 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Location of signs	Response provided
Friday 11 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal voting process	Response provided
Thursday 17 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Overseas and interstate voting	Response provided
Saturday 26 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal vote not received by election	Response provided

© **State of Victoria**
(Victorian Electoral Commission)
April 2025

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Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
T 131 832
info@vec.vic.gov.au
vec.vic.gov.au

12. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

12.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS REPORT

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE

PURPOSE

To report on all assembly of Councillor records received for the period 7 April 2025 to 27 April 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 7 April 2025 to 27 April 2025.

BACKGROUND

Section 80A of the *Local Government Act 1989* required a written record be kept of all assemblies of Councillors, stating the names of all Councillors and Council staff attending, matters considered and any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor. These records were required to be reported at an ordinary meeting of the Council and recorded in the minutes. Under the new *Local Government Act 2020*, this requirement is no longer provided for however, in accordance with good governance, Council will continue to provide records of assemblies of Councillors to ensure that the community are kept informed of Councillors activity and participation.

Following is a summary of all Assembly of Councillor records received for the period 7 April 2025 to 27 April 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Assembly of Councillors - 15 April 2025 Council Day [12.1.1 - 3 pages]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options:

1. Note and receive the attached assembly of Councillors records; or
2. Not receive the attached assembly of Councillors records.

PROPOSAL

That Council note and receive the attached assembly of Councillors records during the period 7 April 2025 to 27 April 2025.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

The reporting of written records of assemblies of Councillors to the Council in the prescribed format complied with Section 80A of the *Local Government Act 1989* however, without prescription under the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council will continue to provide these records in accordance with good governance.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

While this report does not meet a specific Council Plan strategic outcome, it aligns with good governance.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE - COUNCIL DAY

COUNCIL WORKSHOPS – 15 APRIL 2025			
COUNCILLOR	ATTENDANCE	OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE	
Cr Scott Rossetti (Mayor)	YES (<i>items 1.5–1.8 only</i>)	Arthur Skipitaris (<i>Filling in for CEO</i>)	General Manager Corporate Services
Cr Cindy Madeley (Deputy Mayor)	YES	Chris Hastie	General Manager Built and Natural Environment
Cr Catherine Bannerman	YES	Barry Hearsey	Acting General Manager Development
Cr Liz Foat	YES (<i>except 1.8</i>)		
Cr Edward Lowe	YES		
Cr Garry Stephens	YES		
Cr Carmel Ripper	YES		
Cr John Tatterson	YES		
Cr Geoff Wells	YES (<i>items 1.3-1.8 only</i>)		
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST NOTED*			
CR FOAT – Item 1.8.			

* In accordance with Rule 18.5 of the Wellington Shire Council Governance Rules a Councillor who has a conflict of interest must not participate in discussion of matters that will come before Council for a decision, or if a decision will be made by a member of staff acting under delegation.

WORKSHOP DETAILS – 15 APRIL 2025		
ITEM NO.	WORKSHOP TITLE	PRESENTERS
1.1	REVIEW OF 2025 PROPERTY REVALUATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Corrigan, Senior Regional Valuer (Gippsland), Valuer-General Victoria Jonathan Barnett, Director - Gippsland Property Valuations Matt Dyce, Coordinator Rates and Revenue Conflicts of Interest: NIL
1.2	GIPPSLAND REGIONAL PLAN AND ONE GIPPSLAND (VERBAL UPDATE DID NOT PROCEED)	-

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE - COUNCIL DAY

WORKSHOP DETAILS – 15 APRIL 2025		
ITEM NO.	WORKSHOP TITLE	PRESENTERS
1.3	DEVELOPMENT DIVISION UPDATE: PLANNING, MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Gall, Coordinator Commercial Property • Samantha King, Acting Manager Regulatory Services • Barry Hearsey, Acting General Manager Development • Andrew Wolstenholme, Coordinator Statutory Planning <p>Conflict of Interest: NIL</p>
1.4	QUARTERLY BUILT ENVIRONMENT UPDATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sam Pye, Manager Built Environment • Zac Elliman, Coordinator Road Planning • Lucy Spooner, Coordinator Infrastructure Development <p>Conflict of Interest: NIL</p>
1.5	MARCH 2025 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peta Crawford, Coordinator, Accounting & Payroll <p>Conflict of Interest: NIL</p>
1.6	GENDER EQUALITY UPDATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emilie Davine, Manager People and Capability • Erin O'Neill, Coordinator Human Resources <p>Conflict of Interest: NIL</p>
1.7	WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emilie Davine, Manager People and Capability • Erin O'Neill, Coordinator Human Resources <p>Conflict of Interest: NIL</p>

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE - COUNCIL DAY

WORKSHOP DETAILS – 15 APRIL 2025		
ITEM NO.	WORKSHOP TITLE	PRESENTERS
1.8	AMENDMENT C122 (PAO) – PUBLIC ACQUISITION OVERLAY, COBAINS ROAD, SALE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Miriam Turner, Strategic Planner <p><u>Conflict of Interest:</u> Cr Foat – declared a general conflict of interest and left the Chamber during this discussion.</p>

12.2. RESOLVE TO ADVERTISE DRAFT BUDGET 2025/2026

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER CORPORATE FINANCE

PURPOSE

For Council to resolve to advertise its draft 2025/26 Budget and seek public submissions in accordance with section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. Council advertise its draft 2025/26 Budget (as attached) including:**
 - ***fees and charges; and***
 - ***multi-year capital projects******in accordance with Section 96 of the Local Government Act 2020; and***
- 2. Council consider submissions for the draft 2025/26 Budget at an unscheduled Council Meeting on Tuesday 27 May 2025 at 5pm; and**
- 3. Council meet on Tuesday 17 June 2025 at 5pm to consider the formal adoption of the 2025/26 Budget; and**
- 4. Council make the following declarations regarding rates and charges for the period commencing on 1 July 2025 and concluding on 30 June 2026:**
 - A) Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 158, 161 and 162 of the Local Government Act 1989 (currently, these remain saved provisions under the 1989 Act), the Wellington Shire Council hereby resolves to declare that the amount it intends to raise by rates and annual service charges is \$75.0M:**

Type of Rates or charge	\$'000
General Rate:	65,636
Garbage Charge:	6,274
Waste Infrastructure Charge:	2,170
State Government EPA Levy Charge:	564
Boisdale Common Effluent System Charge:	16

- B)**
 - (1) It be further declared that, subject to paragraph 4 of this Part, the general rate be raised through the application of differential rates.**
 - (2) A rate in the dollar of 0.003530 be specified as the general rate (subject to final valuation outcomes).**
 - (3) It be confirmed that the general rate for all rateable land within the municipal district be determined so that the amount payable be the Capital Improved Value multiplied by the rate in the dollar of 0.003530 (subject to final valuation outcomes)**

(4) a) It be recorded that Council considers that a differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of Council functions.

b) A differential rate be declared for that rateable land having the characteristics specified below, which characteristics will form the criteria for the differential rate so declared:

(i) Farm Land:

Means any land that:

Is "Farm Land" within the meaning of Section 2(1) of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 (paras a) and b)) and other criteria as defined by Council in c) hereunder

a) that is not less than 2 hectares in area; and

b) that is used primarily for grazing (including agistment), dairying, pig-farming, poultry-farming, fish-farming, tree-farming, bee-keeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit-growing or the growing of crops of any kind or for any combination of those activities; and

c) where the ratepayer is a Primary Producer with any evidence/ruling confirmed by the Australian Taxation Office, registered ABN and business plan.

C) Garbage Charge:

(1) An annual service charge of \$295.00 be declared for the collection and disposal of garbage in respect of Residential premises to which the service is available – whether, or not, the owner or occupier of any such premises avails themselves of the service.

D) Waste Infrastructure Charge:

(1) An annual service charge be declared for the development of Landfills, Recycling facilities, Transfer Stations and the rehabilitation of Landfill sites, and provision of facilities for ongoing monitoring of landfills, to ensure that Council can continue to provide a waste disposal service.

(2) The charge be \$70.00 for each property in respect of which a municipal charge may be levied. This charge will not apply to properties identified as being within the Ninety Mile Beach Restructure Plan Stages 7 – 22, with the exception of those properties with an existing dwelling, where the charge will still apply.

E) EPA Levy Charge:

(1) An annual service charge of \$26.50 be declared to cover the costs levied by the State Government Environment Protection Authority on the operation of landfills, not otherwise recouped.

(2) The charge be levied on each property to which a Garbage Charge is applied, at the rate of one EPA Levy Charge for each Garbage Charge.

F) Boisdale Common Effluent System Charge:

(1) An annual service charge of \$641.80 be declared for wastewater availability in respect of Residential and Commercial premises in the

township of Boisdale, to contribute towards the costs of operation and management of the Boisdale Common Effluent System (the System).

- (2) The charge be levied on each property which is connected to the System, at the rate of one charge per tenement connected.**

G) Cultural and Recreational Land:

- (1) The amount of \$83,500 (excluding service charges) be declared as payable in accordance with Section 4 of the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963, having regard to the services provided by the Council in relation to such lands and the benefit to the community derived from this recreational land.**

H) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 169 of the Local Government Act 1989 (currently, this remains as a saved provision under the 1989 Act), Council resolves to declare a Rates Rebate on land with a Deed of Covenant for conservation purposes.

- (1) Council considers that this rebate will ensure that the biodiversity values of the land will be protected for the benefit of the broader community.**
- (2) The rebate will apply only to the land that is affected by a covenant as described in the covenant document.**
- (3) The rebate will be applied at \$15 per hectare, with a minimum rebate of \$100 and a maximum equal to the annual general rate on the property for that portion of land.**
- (4) Conditions apply as per Council's Policy No. 4.1.11 – Rates Rebate on land with a Deed of Covenant for Conservation Purposes.**

BACKGROUND

Council has developed the draft 2025/26 Budget, for the financial year commencing 1 July 2025 and ending 30 June 2026. Council undertook several workshops in early 2025 as part of the budget development, which reviewed the implications of the 2025/26 Rate Cap, proposed capital projects, operational costs, service levels and fees and charges.

This draft document outlines the broad range of services provided by Council and details the funding that is required to deliver these services as well as continuing to maintain and improve community infrastructure.

The 2025/26 budget focuses on maintaining essential services, roads and community Council-owned assets, while managing financial pressures and delivering value for money.

As we move into the final year of our current Council Plan, this budget ensures we continue to meet community expectations while adapting to the broader economic challenges facing councils across Victoria. Rising costs, reduced grant funding and the 3% rate cap set by the Victorian Government mean we've had to take a careful and considered approach.

Following a review of current waste management costs, the Garbage Charge will increase from \$285.00 to \$295.00. The EPA Levy Charge will increase from \$24.00 to \$26.40 which covers the impact of the prescribed Municipal and Industrial waste levies as set by the

Environmental Protection Agency. The Waste Infrastructure Charge has increased from \$60.00 to \$70.00 for 2025/26 to cover the increasing costs and demands of waste infrastructure at our landfill and transfer station sites.

Fees and charges set by Council have also been reviewed and increases proposed where appropriate.

The next step in the process is for Council to formally advertise the 2025/26 Draft Budget and to receive and consider submissions on the 2025/26 Draft Budget, so that Council is able to consider the adoption of the proposed budget at the 17 June 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2025/2026 Draft Budget [**12.2.1** - 71 pages]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. To resolve to advertise the draft 2025/26 Budget, seeking submissions from the public; or
2. To seek further information and present the draft 2025/26 Budget to Council for consideration at a later Council meeting.

PROPOSAL

That Council:

1. Resolve to advertise the draft 2025/26 Budget (as attached) in accordance with Section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*; and
2. Consider submissions on the draft 2025/26 Budget at an unscheduled Council Meeting on Tuesday 27 May 2025 at 5pm; and
3. Meet on Tuesday 17 June 2025 at 5pm to consider the formal adoption of the 2025/26 Budget; and
4. Make declarations regarding rates and charges for the period commencing on 1 July 2025 and concluding on 30 June 2026.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated amount to be raised by general rates and the proposed rate in the dollar is reflected in the table below:

Type of Property	Proposed Rate in the dollar	Total Income \$'000
General Residential	0.003530	42,977
Commercial/Industrial	0.003530	8,018
Farm	0.002826	14,556
Cultural and Recreational Land	N/A	83
Total		65,636

The estimated amount to be raised through service charges and the proposed charge per property is as follows:

Type of Charge	Per rateable property	Total Income \$'000
Kerbside collection (Garbage)	295.0	6,274
Waste Infrastructure Charge	70.0	2,170
EPA Levy Charge	26.5	564
Boisdale Common Effluent System Charge	641.8	16
Total		9,024

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

All individuals or organisations making submissions in response to the draft 2025/26 Budget will have an opportunity to provide feedback to Council on Tuesday 27 May 2025 and will be advised in writing of the outcome once Council has considered their submission.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

As soon as practicable after a Council has prepared a proposed budget, the Council must give public notice that it is available for public consideration under Council's Community Engagement Policy and in accordance with Section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The Budget, including the financial statements, has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

The Council Plan 2021-25 Theme 4 “Services and Infrastructure” states the following strategic outcome:

Strategic Outcome 4.1: *"A financially sustainable, high performing organisation."*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic outcome.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

The outcomes of the budget process will have an impact on the level of resources available in the 2025/26 financial year and the staffing levels of Council.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The draft 2025/26 Budget reflects the financial impact of the services provided by Council to the community and, as such, will impact on the community through enhanced services especially in infrastructure construction, maintenance, recreation programs and facilities, and strengthening community participation.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Council considers that the declaration of a rate rebate on land with a Deed of Covenant for conservation purposes will ensure that the biodiversity values of the land will be protected for the benefit of the broader community.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

Section 96(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that Council develop the budget in line with its Community Engagement Policy. To ensure that Council provides ample and varied opportunity for community engagement, Council will place the draft 2025/26 Budget on Council's website and advertise that it has done so. Advertisements will be placed in local newspapers, on Facebook and Council's website seeking community submissions on the draft 2025/26 Budget and inviting the public to speak to and in support of submissions at an unscheduled Council meeting to consider any submissions received.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.



WELLINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL

Draft Budget 2025/26

6 May 2025

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Contents	Page
Mayor's Introduction	3
Financial Snapshot	4
Economic Assumptions	5
 Budget Reports	
1. Link to the Council Plan	6
2. Services and service performance indicators	9
3. Financial statements	22
4. Notes to the financial statements	31
5. Performance Indicators	58
6. Schedule of fees and charges	62

Disclaimer

The information contained in this document is for general guidance only. It is not professional advice and should not be used, relied upon or treated as a substitute for specific professional advice. Given the changing nature of laws, rules and regulations, and the inherent hazards of electronic communication, there may be delays, omissions or inaccuracies in information contained in this document.

The budget, including financial statements, has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this document has been accurate and complies with relevant Victorian legislation, each Council remains responsible to ensure that the budget they prepare is compliant with all statutory requirements.

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Mayor's Introduction

To be completed with final budget release

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Financial Snapshot

Key Statistics	2024/25 Forecast \$000's	2025/26 Budget \$000's
Total Income	126,428	131,143
Total Expenditure	112,119	115,873
Surplus for the year	14,309	15,270

Note: The surplus for the year reflects the anticipated annual performance of Council's day to day activities.

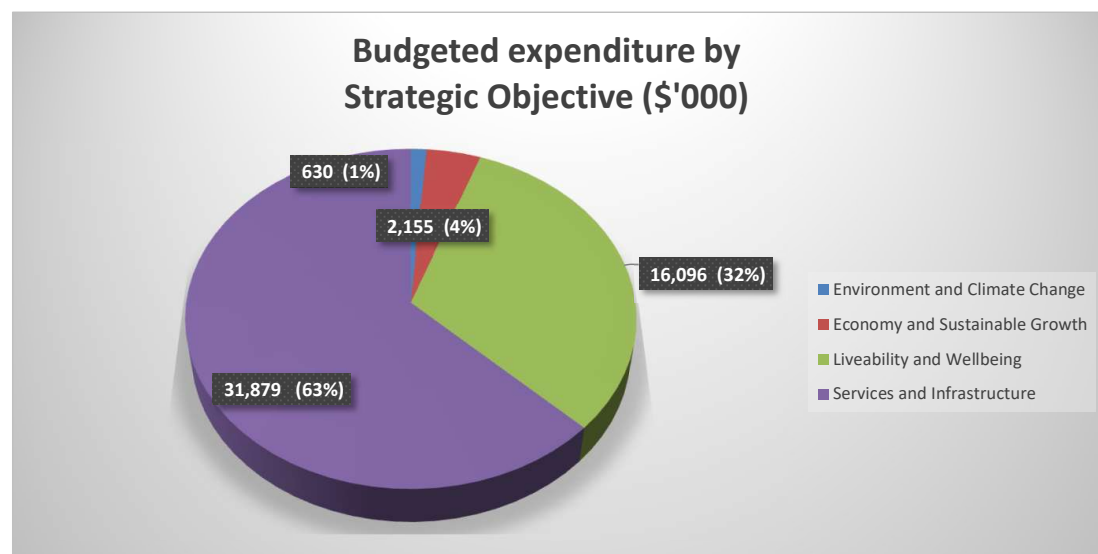
Underlying operating surplus / (deficit)	227	(282)
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Note: The Underlying operating result is an important measure of financial sustainability as it excludes all funds which are used for capital from being allocated to cover operating expenses. In 2025/26 capital funds are defined as recurrent capital grants (Road to Recovery funding) of \$7.3M, non-recurrent grant funding of \$6.5M, contributions, and donations (including ratepayer contributions to special street charge schemes) all have been excluded to determine the underlying result.

Net Cash result	(1,015)	(10,443)
------------------------	----------------	-----------------

This is the net funding result after operations, capital works and financing activities. Refer Statement of Cash Flow in Section 3.

Capital works program	50,465	58,891
Funding the capital works program		
Cash and Reserves	36,577	43,311
Borrowings	3,000	-
External grants and contributions (recurrent and non-recurrent)	10,888	15,580
	50,465	58,891



2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Economic Assumptions

Assumption	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Projections			Trend +/-
		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	
Rate Cap Increase	1	3.50%	2.75%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	+
Population Growth	2	1.20%	1.20%	1.20%	1.20%	1.20%	1.20%	+
Investment Interest Rate	3	4.50%	4.35%	3.95%	3.85%	3.85%	3.85%	-
Borrowing Interest Rate	4	4.00%	5.00%	5.10%	5.20%	5.30%	5.40%	+
Expense Growth	5	4.10%	2.40%	3.20%	2.70%	2.70%	2.70%	+
User Fees	6	2.75%	2.75%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	+
Grants - Recurrent	7	2.75%	2.75%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	+
Employee Costs	8	2.50%	2.50%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	+
Contractors, consultants and materials		3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	+
Utilities	9	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	+

Notes to Assumptions

1. Rate Cap

Base rate revenue will increase by 3.0% for the 2025/26 year, based on the state government rate cap, with estimated future annual increases in line with the Victoria Government Budgeted CPI increases. Rating increases are prepared in line with the Revenue and Rating Plan.

2. Population Growth

The Victorian Government's "Victoria in Future" forecasts suggest that between now and 2036, population will grow by an annual average rate of 1.2% in Wellington Shire.

3. Investment Interest Rate

The average rate of investment has been decreasing, it is assumed the rate will further drop in 2025/26 taking the cash rate to 3.35%-3.85%. This has a significant impact on the revenue raising ability of Council.

4. Borrowing Interest Rate

The current borrowing rate is expected to increase in the next few years.

5. Expense Growth

The Expense Growth has been projected to reflect Council's experiences.

6. User Fees

User Fees are determined to be based on a cost recovery status no higher than market rate as determined in the Revenue and Rating Plan. Budget fees in 2025/26, have been increased inline with the Rate Cap percentage.

7. Grants - Recurrent

Grants Recurrent are expected to continue for the next four years. These include Roads to Recovery and several smaller operating grants that enable Council to maintain its current service levels.

8. Employee Costs

Employee costs have increased with an estimated 3.0% rise in compliance with the current Enterprise Agreement (EA) schedule. Superannuation expenses are forecast to continue to increase in line with government requirements.

9. Utilities

Price increases are expected to consistently and steadily increase for the next four years at a rate of 3%, which takes into account any expected rise less efficiencies from LED lighting which are reducing our consumption and overall electricity costs.

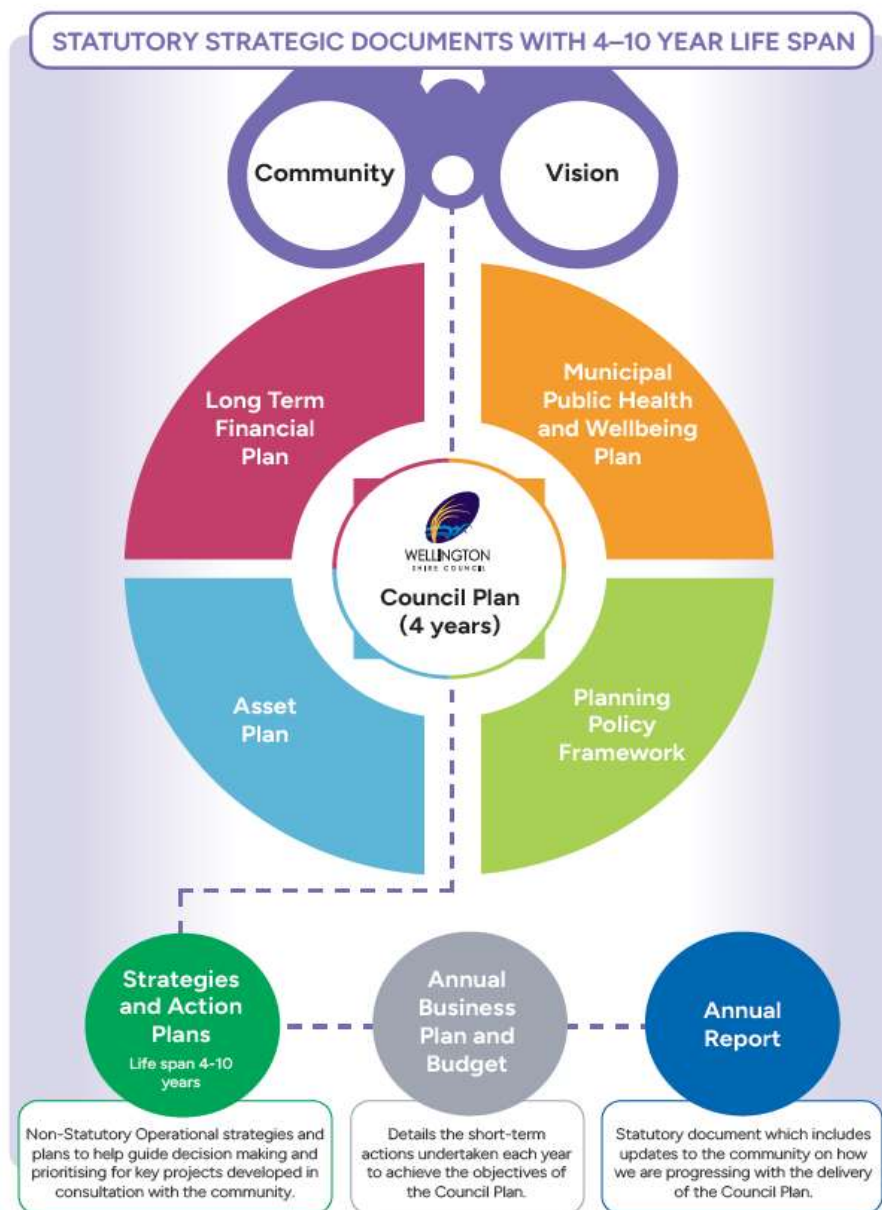
2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

1. Link to the Council Plan

This section describes how the Budget links to the achievement of the Community Vision and Council Plan within an overall integrated strategic planning and reporting framework. This framework guides the Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term (Community Vision and Financial Plan), medium term (Council Plan, Workforce Plan, and Revenue and Rating Plan) and short term (Budget) and then holding itself accountable (Annual Report).

1.1 Legislative Planning and Accountability Framework

The Budget is a rolling four-year plan that outlines the financial and non-financial resources that Council requires to achieve the strategic objectives described in the Council Plan. The diagram below depicts the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework that applies to local government in Victoria. At each stage of the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input. This is important to ensure transparency and accountability to both residents and ratepayers.



2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

1.1.2 Key Planning considerations

Service level planning

Although councils have a legal obligation to provide some services - such as animal management, local roads, food safety and statutory planning - most council services are not legally mandated, including some services closely associated with councils, such as libraries, building permits and sporting facilities. Further, over time, the needs and expectations of communities can change. Therefore councils need to have robust processes for service planning and review to ensure all services continue to provide value for money and are in line with community expectations. In doing so, councils should engage with communities to determine how to prioritise resources and balance service provision against other responsibilities such as asset maintenance and capital works.

Community consultation is in line with council's adopted Community Engagement Policy and Public Transparency Policy.

1.2 Our purpose

Our vision

Connected, inclusive communities, a thriving economy, a resilient environment, and a sustainable future.

Our mission

Working together to make a difference. We listen and lead to provide quality services that improve life for all.

Our values

- **Cooperation** : *Working together, teamwork, collaboration and being solution oriented.*
- **Integrity** : *Acting with respect, honesty, reliability, trust, tolerance and understanding.*
- **Balance** : *Demonstrating fairness, equity and flexibility. Considering work-life balance, and balancing community needs against resources.*
- **Professionalism** : *Personal development and meaningful work, being competent, innovative and courageous, focusing on excellence and continuous improvement.*
- **Sustainability** : *Going above and beyond to demonstrate commitment to leading sustainable practices and encouraging and supporting others to do the same.*

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

1.3 Strategic Objectives

Council delivers services and initiatives in over 145 service categories. Each contributes to the achievement of one of the strategic objectives under each of four themes as set out in the Council Plan for the years 2021-25, and listed in the following table. The four strategic directions define the actions Council will take to achieve these and other community priorities. These priorities and strategic directions will keep us focused on our regional advantages and community aspirations.

Strategic Objective	Description
1 Environment and Climate Change	<p>We are a climate resilient community with sustainable practices and places.</p> <p>1.1 A climate and disaster resilient community.</p> <p>1.2 Assist community to transition to a low carbon economy via adoption of sustainable practices and renewable energy.</p> <p>1.3 The natural environment is valued, protected and accessible.</p> <p>1.4 Council is an environmental steward with a reducing carbon footprint.</p>
2 Economy and Sustainable Growth	<p>We are a growing, sustainable and prosperous community.</p> <p>2.1 A diverse economy that creates jobs and opportunities.</p> <p>2.2 A community that has the capacity and skills to meet our economic needs.</p> <p>2.3 An increase in variety of housing choices to support equitable access to housing.</p> <p>2.4 Infrastructure investment is targeted to maximise jobs and housing growth.</p>
3 Liveability and Wellbeing	<p>We are a liveable, engaged, and supported community.</p> <p>3.1 An inclusive, diverse and resilient community.</p> <p>3.2 An actively engaged community.</p> <p>3.3 Opportunities for everyone to work, learn, create, play and share.</p>
4 Services and Infrastructure	<p>We are a connected community with access to the services and infrastructure we require.</p> <p>4.1 A financially sustainable, high performing organisation.</p> <p>4.2 Services deliver operating efficiencies and best value.</p> <p>4.3 Well planned and sustainable towns, facilities and infrastructure that service community need.</p> <p>4.4 Safe and well-used transport connections across all modes of travel.</p>

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

2. Services and service performance indicators

This section provides a description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the Budget for the 2025/26 year and how these will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives outlined in the Council Plan. It also describes several initiatives and service performance outcome indicators for key areas of Council's operations. Council is required by legislation to identify major initiatives, initiatives, and service performance outcome indicators in the Budget and report against them in their Annual Report to support transparency and accountability. The relationship between these accountability requirements in the Council Plan, the Budget and the Annual Report is shown below.



Source: Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

2.1 Strategic Objectives for 'Environment and Climate Change'

- A climate and disaster resilient community.
- Assist community to transition to a low carbon economy via adoption of sustainable practices and renewable energy.
- The natural environment is valued, protected and accessible.
- Council is an environmental steward with a reducing carbon footprint.

The activities and initiatives for each service category and key strategic activities are described below:

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Business area	Description of services provided		2023/24 Actual \$'000	2024/25 Forecast \$'000	2025/26 Budget \$'000
Land Use Planning	The Land Use Planning unit, through statutory planning and strategic land use planning services, aims to develop and improve forward looking land use planning policies and plans that guide and support future sustainable growth and facilitate appropriate land use and development outcomes. Many of these services are provided through and driven by statutory legislation. The unit aims to provide services that satisfy community needs by encouraging and supporting well-designed development that meets required standards.	Exp	632	458	744
		Rev	(84)	(118)	(230)
		NET COST	548	340	514

Major Initiatives

Council Plan In line with revised State Government policy documents, establish and implement a policy position around the impacts of sea level rise, flooding and bushfire on land use planning.
no 1.1.1

Councillors, Chief Executive and Executive Team	This area of governance includes the Mayor, Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Management Team and associated support which covers service provision across the entire organisation.	Exp	464	488	549
		Rev	-	-	-
		NET COST	464	488	549

Major Initiatives

Council Plan Deliver organisation-wide integrated implementation of the climate change aspects of the Council's Sustainability Strategy 2020-Major Initiative 24, Healthy Wellington 2021-25 and Planning Policy Framework including our zero net carbon emissions target by 2040.
no 1.1.2

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Natural Environment & Parks (Sustainability, Special Projects, Waste Management)	The Natural Environment & Parks (NEP) business unit covers a range of activities related to the operational management of public open space, which includes approximately 320 hectares of parkland and associated infrastructure, such as picnic shelters, BBQs, seating, boardwalks, fences and public toilets. The NEP business unit also proactively manages around 70,000 urban trees and is responsible for the management, design and development of parks and streetscapes in urban areas. Also being responsible for moving the Wellington community towards a more sustainable future by managing waste and resource recovery services including kerbside collection, recycling, transfer station/landfill operations, community education and the coordination of sustainability projects. Key priority areas include biodiversity, water consumption and quality, waste management and energy use.	<i>Exp</i>	11,326	11,187	12,464
		<i>Rev</i>	(11,991)	(12,898)	(14,125)
		NET COST	-665	(1,711)	(1,661)

Major Initiatives

Council Plan *Educate the community to increase understanding of the risks and impacts of climate change and the need for adaptation and sustainable living.*
Major Initiative no 1.1.3

Council Plan *Progress towards our 2040 net zero emissions target by reviewing our roadmap, strengthening our governance and exploring carbon offset opportunities.*
Major Initiative no 1.4.1

Other Initiatives

Council Plan *Increase the extent of our urban forests and trees (also considering urban agriculture) to help our townships cope better with future temperatures increases.*
Initiative no 1.1.6

Council Plan *Advocate for uptake of electric and hybrid vehicles across our broader community and support this through delivery of charging stations.*
Initiative no 1.2.2

Council Plan *Help build a diverse and resilient energy economy by supporting the uptake of community-owned renewable energy capture and storage through education, capacity building and targeted investment.*
Initiative no 1.2.4

Council Plan *Advocate for alternate waste technologies to increase diversion of valuable resources and contaminated waste from landfill. Encourage and facilitate investment into resource recovery by private industries or partnerships.*
Initiative no 1.4.3

Council Plan *Accelerate Council's delivery of renewable energy and energy saving projects through delivering Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) and investigating tools like an internal capital fund and process to rank and prioritise return on investment for projects.*
Initiative no 1.4.5

Communities, Facilities & Emergencies	The Communities, Facilities and Emergencies teams provide opportunities for communities to work in partnership with local government to achieve identified priorities. These teams work to ensure all members of the community have equal opportunity to participate in community activities. Special focus is given to those who have traditionally remained marginalised such as the young, elderly, disabled and transport disadvantaged.	<i>Exp</i>	1,402	1,110	749
		<i>Rev</i>	(703)	(632)	(167)
		NET COST	699	478	582

Major Initiatives

Council Plan *Build disaster resilience and improve adaptation and recovery in high-risk and vulnerable communities by facilitating community-led emergency management planning and preparedness.*
Major Initiative no 1.1.4

Economic Development	Council's Economic Development service aims to support business growth and employment, the sustainable management of Council's commercial properties, and the active promotion of both lifestyle opportunities and our vibrant tourism sector.
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Major Initiatives

Council Plan *Advocate for, educate, and facilitate the adoption of regenerative agriculture and investment to improve water security and assist farmers to increase resilience and profitability in a warmer, drier climate.*
Major Initiative no 1.2.1

Other Initiatives

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Municipal Services	The Municipal Services unit works with people to ensure the life, health and safety of the community is maintained through educating and enforcing Environmental Health (including food safety support programs), Building and Local Laws regulations and animal management services.	Exp	806	796	961
		Rev	(427)	(416)	(406)
		NET COST	379	379	555

Major Initiatives

Finance	The Finance unit provides financial, payroll, rating and property valuation services to the organisation, community and external stakeholders. These services underpin the drive to be a financially sustainable Council, comply with the necessary legislative requirements and meet community needs. The unit also aims to provide a safe, reliable and sustainable fleet of vehicles to support the organisation in achieving its goals. The significant procurement goal is that of gaining good value from our purchasing.	Exp	84	72	91
		Rev	-	-	-
		NET COST	84	72	91

Other Initiatives

Council Plan Initiative no 1.4.2 Commence the green fleet transition to corporate electric and hybrid vehicles.

TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE OBJECTIVE	1,509	47	630
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Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	Target 2026
Community satisfaction with Council performance in environmental sustainability	Community Satisfaction Survey	61/100 (2023)	Higher than large rural Councils (60/100 in 2020)
Percentage of tree canopy cover within town boundaries	iTree analysis	20% (2020)	1.5% improvement
Solar penetration rate – the percentage of electricity generation from solar facilities	Australian PV Institute	31.6% (2022/23)	+ 5%
Wellington Shire community greenhouse gas emissions intensity (emissions per person)	Co2 Emissions Community Snapshot	42.75 tonnes per person (2021/22)	Equal to or better than Gippsland average
Percentage of households located within 400m of quality open space	Geocortex	73% (2014)	85%
Corporate Greenhouse Gas emissions (aiming for net zero emissions by 2040)	WSC Carbon Accounts	4294.4 tonnes of carbon equivalent emissions (18.10% decrease from 2018)	23% reduction
Percentage waste diversion rate from kerbside collection	Local Government Performance Reporting Framework	32.17% (2022/23)	65%

* refer to table at end of section 2.5 for information on the calculation of Service Performance Outcome Indicators

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

2.2 Strategic Objectives for 'Economy and Sustainable Growth'

- A diverse economy that creates jobs and opportunities.
- A community that has the capacity and skills to meet our economic needs.
- An increase in variety of housing choices to support equitable access to housing.
- Infrastructure investment is targeted to maximise jobs and housing growth.

The activities and initiatives for each service category and key strategic activities are described below.

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Business area	Description of services provided		2023/24 Actual \$'000	2024/25 Forecast \$'000	2025/26 Budget \$'000
Economic Development	Council's Economic Development service aims to support business growth and employment, the sustainable management of Council's commercial properties, and the active promotion of both lifestyle opportunities and our vibrant tourism sector.	Exp	968	811	917
		Rev	(239)	(88)	(193)
		NET COST	730	723	724

Major Initiatives

Council Plan
Major Initiative no 2.1.1 *Encourage and facilitate investment in the local mainstay industries with the potential to generate significant economic growth: Defence, Health, Agriculture, Tourism, Education, Timber, Renewables and the Oil and Gas transition. This includes encouraging modernisation and identifying supporting industries, encouraging their establishment in Wellington Shire.*

Other Initiatives

Council Plan
Initiative no 2.1.2 *Attract diversified and large-scale agriculture and food manufacturing and processing, including poultry, to meet Food and Fibre Gippsland objectives: Gippsland the Food Bowl of Victoria. Leverage off the significance of the Macalister Irrigation District while ensuring development does not contradict the principles of the WSC Sustainability Strategy.*

Council Plan
Initiative no 2.2.1 *Support our training facilities to develop a range of vocational, tertiary and higher education courses suited to our changing economy and industry needs.*

Council Plan
Initiative no 2.4.3 *Adopt a 'buy local' approach for Council procurement processes aligned with best value (the most advantageous combination of cost, quality and sustainability to meet requirements).*

Council Plan
Initiative no 2.4.4 *Increase access to and usage of internet and digital technologies throughout Gippsland, continuing the shift to online delivery of services and advocating for reduction of identified 'black spots'. Use access to networks to shape population attraction strategies and target industry development.*

Land Use Planning	The Land Use Planning unit, through statutory planning and strategic land use planning services, aims to develop and improve forward looking land use planning policies and plans that guide and support future sustainable growth and facilitate appropriate land use and development outcomes. Many of these services are provided through and driven by statutory legislation. The unit aims to provide services that satisfy community needs by encouraging and supporting well-designed development that meets required standards.	Exp	1,447	1,573	2,017
		Rev	(786)	(796)	(948)
		NET COST	661	777	1,069

Major Initiatives

Council Plan
Major Initiative no 2.3.1 *Satisfy housing demand by facilitating the development of a range of living settings and lifestyle choices including response to an ageing demographic and facilitating affordable and social housing models.*

Council Plan
Major Initiative no 2.3.2 *Promote and facilitate appropriate land release/ incentives and subsequent housing development in growth areas, being guided by sustainable development principles.*

Council Plan
Major Initiative no 2.4.2 *Prioritise investment projects in the main growth areas, including exploring all options for upgrades to trunk stormwater drainage, sewer, water reticulation, internet, and gas that will stimulate growth and housing.*

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Arts & Culture	The Art Gallery and Libraries, as part of the Arts & Culture unit, seek to assist in the development of a vibrant, culturally active community that: promotes expression and participation through visual, literary and performing arts; informs and educates the community on various aspects of the arts; enhances the lifestyle of Wellington residents; and encourages visitors to explore the heritage and culture of the region.	Exp	524	360	398
		Rev	(168)	(35)	(36)
	NET COST	356	325	362	

Other Initiatives

Council Plan Initiative no 2.1.3	Attract and facilitate development and growth in creative industry (arts) organisations to assist with COVID-19 recovery of the sector and grow local arts businesses, and Wellington's reputation as a cultural centre for Gippsland.
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TOTAL ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH OBJECTIVE	1,747	1,825	2,155
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Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	Target 2026
Annual growth rate of real Gross Regional Product REMPLAN economy		Wellington - \$3.898B (.87% decrease) Gippsland \$20.039B (3.68% growth)	Equal to or better than Gippsland average
Unemployment rate by sex, age and education level	ID economic profile	Wellington - 3.6% (June 2023 quarter) Gippsland - 3.7% (April 2023 quarter)	Equal to or better than Gippsland average
Destinations of Wellington year 12 or equivalent completers six months after leaving school	Department of Education and Training 'On track' data	9.3% unemployed 44% further study 10.7% apprentices / trainees (2022/23)	5% unemployed 56% further study
Number of dwellings across the Shire	ID forecast	23,544 dwellings (2022/23)	24,790 dwellings (2026 projection)
Number of new housing units built in the municipality	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	679 houses/units (2022/23)	+26 beds
Wellington Shire total % population increase	ID profile	44,754 1.46% increase (2023 estimate)	Approximately 1% increase per annum

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

2.3 Strategic Objectives for 'Liveability and Wellbeing'

- An inclusive, diverse and resilient community.
- An actively engaged community.
- Opportunities for everyone to work, learn, create, play and share.
- Improved access to and participation in support services focussing on those who are vulnerable including: young children, youth, people living with a disability and seniors.

The activities and initiatives for each service category and key strategic activities are described below:

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
			Actual	Forecast	Budget
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Communities, Facilities & Emergencies	The Communities, Facilities and Emergencies teams provide opportunities for communities to work in partnership with local government to achieve identified priorities. These teams work to ensure all members of the community have equal opportunity to participate in community activities. Special focus is given to those who have traditionally remained marginalised such as the young, elderly, disabled and transport disadvantaged.	Exp	1,843	1,942	2,069
		Rev	(2,110)	(499)	(421)
		NET	(267)	1,442	1,648
		COST/(REVENUE)			

Major Initiatives

- Council Plan Major Initiative no 3.4.1 *Investigate gaps in service provision for vulnerable community members, review options and determine Council's future role.*
- Council Plan Major Initiative no 3.4.2 *In response to the Federal Government reforms for Home and Community Care determine the most appropriate supports to be facilitated by Council for people to age positively in community.*
- Council Plan Major Initiative no 3.4.6 *Use Healthy Wellington 2021-25 to focus on the health and wellbeing needs of the senior population. Prevent and address barriers to accessing community, social, health and lifelong learning services.*
- Council Plan Major Initiative no 3.4.4 *Support employers with the attraction, recruitment and long term retention of health specialists and allied health workers into hospitals and schools and to service NDIS and My Aged Care packages.*

Other Initiatives

- Council Plan Initiative no 3.1.3 *Sensitively consider and support people to participate, contribute and be represented in our community without barriers due to disability, gender, age, sexuality or culture via the development and implementation of a Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan.*
- Council Plan Initiative no 3.3.1 *To assist in recovery from COVID-19, facilitate support for and capacity building of community volunteers in Committees of Management and other groups that deliver community outcomes.*
- Council Plan Initiative no 3.4.3 *Advocate for increased access to appropriate health services to meet the modern health challenges of the community including increased mental health and wellbeing services and education to reduce the stigma of accessing services in a post-COVID environment.*
- Council Plan Initiative no 3.4.7 *Achieve Rainbow Tick accreditation of Council services to reduce stigma and discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people.*

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Service area	Description of services provided		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
			Actual	Forecast	Budget
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Economic Development	Council's Economic Development service aims to support business growth and employment, the sustainable management of Council's commercial properties, and the active promotion of both lifestyle opportunities and our vibrant tourism sector.	Exp	1,297	927	910
		Rev	(496)	(32)	(1)
		NET COST	802	895	909
Other Initiatives					
Council Plan Initiative no 3.3.2	Support formal and informal education providers to offer transitions to different learning environments based on people's life circumstances. Aim to improve educational attainment and aspiration within Wellington Shire recognising that the delivery of secondary school VCE will commence a transition process in the coming years to ensure it remains appropriate and relevant.				
Councillors, Chief Executive and Executive Team	This area of governance includes the Mayor, Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Management Team and associated support which covers service provision across the entire organisation.				
Other Initiatives					
Council Plan Initiative no 3.4.7	Advocate for local and regional priorities and issues that matter to our community in partnership with key stakeholders.				
Natural Environment & Parks	The Natural Environment & Parks (NEP) business unit covers a range of activities related to the operational management of public open space, which includes approximately 320 hectares of parkland and associated infrastructure, such as picnic shelters, BBQs, seating, boardwalks, fences and public toilets. The NEP business unit also proactively manages around 70,000 urban trees and is responsible for the management, design and development of parks and streetscapes in urban areas. Also being responsible for moving the Wellington community towards a more sustainable future by managing waste and resource recovery services including kerbside collection, recycling, transfer station/landfill operations, community education and the coordination of sustainability projects. Key priority areas include biodiversity, water consumption and quality, waste management and energy use.	Exp	7,348	8,327	8,067
		Rev	(183)	(135)	(128)
		NET COST	7,166	8,193	7,940
Other Initiatives					
Council Plan Initiative no 4.3.3	Ensure green infrastructure (trees and vegetation) provision is a key component of the built environment and design of the public realm facilitates sustainability, liveability, and social connectivity.				
Leisure Services	The Leisure Services unit provides services and functions directed at fostering a healthier and more active community through the facilitation and provision of a range of recreation, fitness and community activities and programs at Council's recreation facilities. They ensure Council owned recreation facilities are managed sustainably, are fully utilised and accessible to people of all abilities.	Exp	3,418	3,609	3,734
		Rev	(2,016)	(2,010)	(2,239)
		NET COST	1,402	1,598	1,495
Municipal Services	The Municipal Services unit works with people to ensure the life, health and safety of the community is maintained through educating and enforcing Environmental Health (including food safety support programs), Building and Local Laws regulations and animal management services.	Exp	2,416	2,643	2,664
		Rev	(1,242)	(1,413)	(1,368)
		NET COST	1,174	1,229	1,296
Arts & Culture	The Art Gallery and Libraries, as part of the Arts & Culture unit, seek to assist in the development of a vibrant, culturally active community that: promotes expression and participation through visual, literary and performing arts; informs and educates the community on various aspects of the arts; enhances the lifestyle of Wellington residents; and encourages visitors to explore the heritage and culture of the region.	Exp	5,043	4,831	4,489
		Rev	(2,519)	(1,741)	(1,680)
		NET COST	2,525	3,090	2,809
Other Initiatives					
Council Plan Initiative no 3.1.2	Facilitate activities and events that celebrate and promote inclusion and engagement of our culturally and socially diverse communities. Deliver via defining and resourcing Council and the community's role in place activation and event delivery.				
Council Plan Initiative no 3.3.4	Work with the community to understand which arts and cultural services and opportunities are important to them and facilitate development in these areas.				
TOTAL LIVEABILITY & WELLBEING OBJECTIVE			12,801	16,447	16,096

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	2023/24 Actual	Target 2026
Community satisfaction with perception of diversity and accessibility in the community	Community Satisfaction Survey	Indicator review completed. Additional question included in the 2024 Community Satisfaction Survey.	Identify baseline. Continual improvement on WSC score
Community satisfaction with Council decisions	Community Satisfaction Survey	54/100 (2023 large rural was 48/100)	Continual improvement on WSC score
Community satisfaction with Council engagement	Community Satisfaction Survey	53/100 (2023 large rural was 49/100)	Continual improvement on WSC score
Community satisfaction with level of Council lobbying	Community Satisfaction Survey	55/100 (2023 large rural was 49/100)	Continual improvement on WSC score
Participation rates in kindergarten for 4-year-olds	Department of Education and Training	Participation rate 93% Enrolment rate 99.1% (2022/23)	Better than Gippsland average
Active library members in municipality	Know Your Council	10% (2022/23)	15%
Participation at Council-run performing arts events	Internal data	20,652 visits (2022/23)	Increase by 2%
Participation in Gippsland Art Gallery programs and events	Internal data	39,611 visits (2022/23)	Increase by 2%
Availability of NDIS services within Wellington Shire to meet service demand	NDIS Demand Map	70% of NDIS funding used by participants (Q4 2022/23)	80%
Proportion of children attending Maternal and Child Health 3.5 years ages and stages visit	Department of Education and Training	71.3% (2017)	90%

* refer to table at end of section 2.5 for information on the calculation of Service Performance Outcome Indicators

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

2.4 Strategic Objectives for theme 'Services and Infrastructure'

- A financially sustainable, high performing organisation.
- Services deliver operating efficiencies and best value.
- Well planned and sustainable towns, facilities and infrastructure that service community need.
- Safe and well-used transport connections across all modes of travel.

The activities and initiatives for each service category and key strategic activities are described below:

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2023/24 Actual \$'000	2024/25 Forecast \$'000	2025/26 Budget \$'000
Assets and Projects	The Assets and Projects unit manages a diverse range of services for Council including the implementation and management of capital projects across the organisation in the order of \$41M to \$50M per annum and providing asset management and information systems and support.	Exp	5,152	2,087	2,694
		Rev	(3,058)	(26)	(20)
		NET COST	2,094	2,060	2,674
Built Environment	The Built Environment unit manages the maintenance, renewal and improvement of Council's road and boating infrastructure, in addition to various civic facilities and buildings, including roadways, paths, drainage, boat ramps and jetties etc. This includes planning for new infrastructure development opportunities and managing Council's road maintenance teams and ensures that maintenance of Council's road and other infrastructure is performed in a coordinated way to maximise benefits to the community and other users.	Exp	17,259	15,673	15,080
		Rev	(1,599)	(8,630)	(7,222)
		NET COST	15,660	7,043	7,858

Service area	Description of services provided		2023/24 Actual \$'000	2024/25 Forecast \$'000	2025/26 Budget \$'000
Communities, Facilities & Emergencies (Community Facility Planning)	The Communities, Facilities & Emergencies team provides services and functions directed at fostering a healthy, well serviced community with a primary focus on community infrastructure planning, priorities and projects; project funding attraction; management and governance of community facilities and administration of Council's community assistance grants scheme. The team plans for and supports recreation facilities that encourage the community to participate in physical and general wellbeing activities and the development of community infrastructure that addresses community service needs.	Exp	4,687	2,698	2,682
		Rev	(269)	(206)	(88)
		NET COST	4,417	2,492	2,594

Major Initiatives

Council Plan Major Initiative no 4.4.2 *Advocate strongly to State Government and local stakeholders for improvements to the inter-town transport network connecting major towns to key regional centres in Gippsland.*

Other Initiatives

Council Plan Initiative no 4.3.5 *Support volunteer facility managers whose work contributes to improved community mental and physical health by activating, upgrading, and repurposing existing multi-use sporting, cultural and social facilities in preference to establishing new.*

Council Plan Initiative no 4.4.3 *Address community road safety and connection issues via active travel projects (education) and road and footpath improvements which will build a physically active, safe, and connected community.*

Finance	The Finance unit provides financial, payroll, rating and property valuation services to the organisation, community and external stakeholders. These services underpin the drive to be a financially sustainable Council, comply with the necessary legislative requirements and meet community needs. The unit also aims to provide a safe, reliable and sustainable fleet of vehicles to support the organisation in achieving its goals. The significant procurement goal is that of gaining good value from our purchasing.	Exp	2,670	3,203	3,356
		Rev	(515)	(75)	(65)
		NET COST	2,155	3,128	3,290

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Information Services	The Information Services unit provides a range of cost effective, centralised, and integrated services related to technology, data management, cybersecurity, ICT infrastructure and telecommunications, Information Management, Business Systems and Application Management and new and emerging technologies; to assist Council to meet its business and legislative requirements and to support Council staff to deliver services in a smart, productive, and efficient way.	Exp Rev NET COST	4,879 (1,221) 3,658	6,893 (2,118) 4,775	6,195 (973) 5,221
Organisational Performance and Governance	The Organisational Performance & Governance business unit is responsible for delivering legislated and strategic services and expert advice to the organisation in the areas of: Governance: Corporate Governance and compliance including Council Meetings, Conflicts of Interest, Delegations and Authorisations, Gifts Benefits and Hospitality declarations, Council elections, Councillor orientation induction and training, Council policy management and Business Continuity Planning. Integrated planning and reporting: Coordination and delivery of all levels of Council's planning, including the development, engagement and monitoring of the Council Plan, and the operationalisation of the Council Plan through business unit planning, service delivery indicators and the annual reporting of achievements. Insurance and risk management: Coordination and delivery of activities to mitigate risk, including the risk management framework, organisational insurance and claims management.	Exp Rev NET COST	2,802 (35) 2,767	3,393 (45) 3,347	3,227 (40) 3,187
Councillors, Chief Executive and Executive Team	This area of governance includes the Mayor, Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Management Team and associated support which covers service provision across the entire organisation.	Exp Rev NET COST	3,713 - 3,713	3,584 - 3,584	3,863 (13) 3,850
Major Initiatives					
Council Plan Major Initiative no 4.4.1 <i>Advocate strongly to State Government and local stakeholders for improvements to the passenger train service to key regional centres.</i>					
Other Initiatives					
Council Plan Initiative no 4.2.1 <i>Provide services that are easy to use, valued by the community and give best overall worth back to Council and the community.</i>					
Communications and Media	The Communications and Media Business Unit offers comprehensive support across communications, media, community engagement, and advocacy. With a focus on keeping the Wellington Shire community well-informed about Council projects, initiatives, and events, the team utilises a range of digital and traditional media channels. Additionally, the Communications and Media team plays a crucial role in supporting the organisation's brand and reputation, ensuring transparency, consistency, and clarity across all messaging and engagement opportunities.	Exp Rev NET COST	734 - 734	992 - 992	974 - 974
Municipal Services	The Municipal Services unit works with people to ensure the life, health and safety of the community is maintained through educating and enforcing Environmental Health (including food safety support programs), Building and Local Laws regulations and animal management services.	Exp Rev NET COST	551 (94) 457	486 - 486	564 - 564
Economic Development	Council's Economic Development service aims to support business growth and employment, the sustainable management of Council's commercial properties, and the active promotion of both lifestyle opportunities and our vibrant tourism sector.	Exp Rev NET COST (REVENUE)	1,635 (1,144) 491	1,773 (1,708) 65	1,574 (1,781) (207)
Other Initiatives					
People & Capability	The People & Capability unit provides expert and responsive advice and services in providing end-to-end Human Resources Management.	Exp Rev NET COST	1,351 1 1,352	1,424 - 1,424	1,872 - 1,872
TOTAL SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE OBJECTIVE			37,499	29,396	31,879

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	2023/24 Actual	Target 2026
Working capital (Current assets as a percentage of current liabilities)	Know Your Council	470.80% (2022/23)	Within LGV Acceptable Range
Loans and borrowings as a percentage of rates	Know Your Council	0.67% (2022/23)	Within LGV Acceptable Range
Community satisfaction rate with Council's overall performance	Community Satisfaction Survey	58/100 (2023 large rural was 52/100)	Continual improvement on WSC score
Reduction in the Wellington Shire retail vacancy rate	CBD vacancy audit	7.98% (2023)	10%
% of Community Managed Facilities accessibility audit recommendations delivered	Internal data	12% audit recommendations delivered (2022/23)	10% each year
Community satisfaction with condition of sealed local roads	Customer Satisfaction Survey	50/100 (2023 large rural council was 40/100)	>52/100
Increase in kilometres of active travel routes in Wellington Shire as identified under the urban paths plan	Internal data	269.5km (2022/23)	Increase by 2km of paths annually

* refer to table at end of section 2.5 for information on the calculation of Service Performance Outcome Indicators

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

2.5 Performance statement

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Governance	Consultation and engagement	Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement. (Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council)	Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement
Statutory Planning	Service standard	Planning applications decided within required timeframes (percentage of regular and VicSmart planning application decisions made within legislated timeframes)	[Number of planning application decisions made within 60 days for regular permits and 10 days for VicSmart permits / Number of planning application decisions made] x100
Roads	Condition	Sealed local roads below the intervention level (percentage of sealed local roads that are below the renewal intervention level set by Council and not requiring renewal)	[Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100
Libraries	Participation	Library membership (Percentage of the population that are registered library members)	[Number of registered library members/Population] x 100.
Waste management	Waste diversion	Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill. (Percentage of garbage, recyclable and green organics collected from kerbside bins that is diverted from landfill)	[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins/ Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x 100
Aquatic Facilities	Utilisation	Utilisation of aquatic facilities (Number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of population).	Number of visits to aquatic facilities/Population.
Animal Management	Health and safety	Animal management prosecutions. (Percentage of animal management prosecutions which are successful).	Number of successful animal management prosecutions/Total number of animal management prosecutions.
Food Safety	Health and safety	Critical and major non-compliance notifications. (Percentage of critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications that are followed up by Council).	[Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance outcome notifications about a food premises followed up/ Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance outcome notifications about food premises] x 100.
Maternal and Child Health	Participation	Participation in the MCH service. (Percentage of children enrolled who participate in the MCH service) Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children. (Percentage of Aboriginal children enrolled who participate in the MCH service)	[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the financial year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100 [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the financial year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

2.6 Reconciliation with budgeted comprehensive result

	Revenue \$'000	Expenditure \$'000	Net Cost \$'000
Environment and Climate Change	14,928	15,558	630
Economy and Sustainable Growth	1,177	3,332	2,155
Liveability and Wellbeing	5,836	21,933	16,097
Services and Infrastructure	10,201	42,081	31,880
Total	32,142	82,904	50,762
Expenses added in:			
Depreciation and amortisation			35,253
Finance costs			224
Net (gain)/loss on disposal of property, plant & equipment			28
Others			198
Deficit before funding sources			86,465
Funding sources added in:			
General Rates			(65,553)
Waste charge revenue			(2,170)
Victoria Grants Commission (general purpose)			(12,007)
Capital income			(15,990)
Others			(6,016)
Total funding sources			(101,736)
Combined (surplus) for the year			(15,270) (Surplus)

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

3. Financial Statements

This section presents information in regard to the Financial Statements and Statement of Human Resources. The budget information for the year 2025/26 has been supplemented with projections to 2028/29.

This section includes the following financial statements prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Comprehensive Income Statement

Balance Sheet

Statement of Changes in Equity

Statement of Cash Flows

Statement of Capital Works

Statement of Human Resources

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Comprehensive Income Statement

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	NOTES	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections		
		2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000
Income/Revenue						
Rates and Charges	4.1.1	72,798	75,011	77,820	80,774	83,827
Statutory fees & fines	4.1.2	1,018	1,017	1,048	1,084	1,122
User fees & charges	4.1.3	11,886	11,664	12,020	12,327	12,772
Grants - Operating	4.1.4	22,474	20,960	20,498	20,996	21,703
Grants - Capital	4.1.4	9,695	13,825	10,518	14,190	8,951
Contributions - monetary - Operating	4.1.5	378	563	580	600	621
Contributions - monetary - Capital	4.1.5	45	735	250	65	20
Contributions - non-monetary	4.1.5	1,255	-	-	-	-
Other income - Operating	4.1.6	5,909	6,348	6,259	6,230	6,057
Other income - Capital	4.1.6	970	1,020	20	20	20
Total income/Revenue		126,428	131,143	129,013	136,286	135,093
Expenses						
Employee costs	4.1.7	36,077	38,374	39,314	40,476	41,576
Materials and Services	4.1.8	43,075	41,118	42,170	43,147	44,566
Bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses	4.1.9	15	16	17	17	18
Depreciation	4.1.10	32,840	33,671	34,739	35,701	36,439
Amortisation - intangible assets	4.1.11	890	1,010	732	747	732
Depreciation - right of use assets	4.1.12	400	572	799	914	1,480
Borrowing Costs	4.1.13	172	224	294	313	328
Finance Cost - leases	4.1.14	5	73	86	82	126
Other expenses	4.1.14	762	787	811	839	868
Net loss / (gain) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	4.1.15	(2,117)	28	32	35	39
Total expenses		112,119	115,873	118,993	122,270	126,171
Surplus for the year		14,309	15,270	10,019	14,016	8,922
Other comprehensive income						
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit:						
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		20,851	22,970	9,784	69,142	7,905
Total other comprehensive income		20,851	22,970	9,784	69,142	7,905
Total comprehensive result		35,160	38,240	19,803	83,157	16,826

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Balance Sheet

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	NOTES	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections		
		2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000
Assets						
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents		31,330	20,887	12,698	12,821	18,431
Trade and other receivables		10,997	11,567	11,352	11,889	11,782
Other financial assets		85,583	83,016	80,525	78,109	75,766
Prepayments		1,081	1,103	1,125	1,147	1,170
Other assets		278	286	295	304	313
Total current assets	4.2.1	129,269	116,859	105,995	104,270	107,463
Non-current assets						
Trade and other receivables		3,514	3,741	4,005	4,229	4,493
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment		1,445,076	1,492,954	1,521,314	1,602,961	1,616,685
Right-of-use assets		42	2,870	3,436	3,209	5,125
Intangible assets		2,740	3,925	3,783	6,847	6,635
Total non-current assets	4.2.1	1,451,372	1,503,490	1,532,538	1,617,245	1,632,938
Total assets		1,580,641	1,620,349	1,638,533	1,721,515	1,740,401
Liabilities						
Current liabilities						
Trade and other payables		6,929	7,004	7,182	7,350	7,591
Trust funds and deposits		5,128	5,282	5,440	5,604	5,772
Contract and other liabilities		4,872	5,018	5,169	5,324	5,483
Provisions		10,195	10,195	11,035	7,625	9,735
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	4.2.3	1,008	1,096	1,206	1,320	1,439
Lease liabilities	4.2.4	150	593	826	954	1,523
Total current liabilities	4.2.2	28,282	29,188	30,858	28,176	31,543
Non-current liabilities						
Provisions		11,460	8,660	5,260	8,470	6,271
Interest Bearing loans and borrowings	4.2.3	8,408	9,392	9,180	8,854	8,408
Lease liabilities	4.2.4	200	2,577	2,900	2,524	3,859
Total non-current liabilities	4.2.2	20,068	20,629	17,340	19,848	18,538
Total liabilities		48,350	49,818	48,198	48,024	50,081
Net assets						
		1,532,291	1,570,531	1,590,334	1,673,492	1,690,319
Equity						
Accumulated surplus		486,987	504,476	521,958	535,276	542,706
Other Reserves	4.3.1	13,833	11,614	4,151	4,849	6,341
Asset Revaluation Reserve		1,031,471	1,054,441	1,064,225	1,133,367	1,141,272
Total equity		1,532,291	1,570,531	1,590,334	1,673,492	1,690,319

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	NOTES	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Other Reserves \$'000
2025 Forecast					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,497,130	475,500	1,010,620	11,010
Adjusted opening balance		1,497,130	475,500	1,010,620	11,010
Surplus for the year		14,309	14,309	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		20,851	-	20,851	-
Transfer to other reserves		-	(6,089)	-	6,089
Transfer from other reserves		-	3,267	-	(3,267)
Balance at end of the financial year		1,532,291	486,987	1,031,471	13,833
2026 Budget					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,532,291	486,987	1,031,471	13,833
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		15,270	15,270	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		22,970	-	22,970	-
Transfer to other reserves	4.3.1	-	(3,856)	-	3,856
Transfer from other reserves	4.3.1	-	6,075	-	(6,075)
Balance at end of the financial year	4.3.2	1,570,531	504,476	1,054,441	11,614
2027					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,570,531	504,476	1,054,441	11,614
Surplus for the year		10,019	10,019	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		9,784	-	9,784	-
Transfer to reserves		-	(3,936)	-	3,936
Transfer from reserves		-	11,399	-	(11,399)
Balance at end of the financial year		1,590,334	521,958	1,064,225	4,151
2028					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,590,334	521,958	1,064,225	4,151
Surplus for the year		14,016	14,016	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		69,142	-	69,142	-
Transfer to reserves		-	(4,139)	-	4,139
Transfer from reserves		-	3,441	-	(3,441)
Balance at end of the financial year		1,673,492	535,276	1,133,367	4,849
2029					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,673,492	535,276	1,133,367	4,849
Surplus for the year		8,922	8,922	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		7,905	-	7,905	-
Transfer to reserves		-	(4,332)	-	4,332
Transfer from reserves		-	2,840	-	(2,840)
Balance at end of the financial year		1,690,319	542,706	1,141,272	6,341

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Statement of Cash Flows

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	NOTES	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections		
		2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000
		Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities						
Rates and charges		73,393	74,335	77,163	80,136	83,110
Statutory fees and fines		1,134	1,114	1,149	1,189	1,229
User fees		13,246	12,773	13,177	13,526	13,994
Grants - Operating		22,767	20,866	20,516	20,947	21,621
Grants - Capital		9,822	13,763	10,779	13,883	9,369
Contributions- monetary		378	2,318	850	685	661
Interest received		350	351	362	374	387
Trust funds and deposits taken		149	154	158	163	168
Other receipts		7,759	7,172	7,103	6,936	6,738
Net GST refund/payment		7,963	7,807	7,563	7,209	6,741
Employee costs		(36,385)	(38,353)	(39,245)	(40,398)	(41,485)
Materials and services		(47,795)	(45,205)	(46,312)	(47,405)	(48,905)
Other payments		(5,145)	(5,165)	(3,550)	(4,421)	(1,042)
Net cash provided by operating activities	4.4.1	47,636	51,928	49,712	52,824	52,586
Cash flows from investing activities						
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(56,186)	(65,445)	(59,417)	(53,894)	(47,368)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		3,819	312	315	318	322
Payments for investments		(124,000)	(125,240)	(127,757)	(129,035)	(130,325)
Proceeds from investments		125,747	127,808	130,249	131,451	132,669
Net cash used in investing activities	4.4.2	(50,620)	(62,565)	(56,610)	(51,160)	(44,704)
Cash flows from financing activities						
Finance costs		(170)	(224)	(294)	(313)	(328)
Proceeds from borrowings		3,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Repayment of borrowings		(744)	(928)	(1,103)	(1,212)	(1,326)
Interest paid - lease liability		(5)	(73)	(86)	(82)	(126)
Repayment of lease liabilities		(112)	(581)	(809)	(935)	(1,493)
Net cash provided by financing activities	4.4.3	1,969	194	(1,292)	(1,542)	(2,274)
Net increase (decrease) in cash & cash equivalents		(1,015)	(10,443)	(8,189)	123	5,610
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of the financial year		32,345	31,330	20,887	12,698	12,821
Cash & cash equivalents at end of the financial year		31,330	20,887	12,698	12,821	18,431

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Statement of Capital Works

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	NOTES	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections		
		2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000
Property						
Land		204	295	700	-	-
Land Improvements		100	3,110	1,500	-	100
Total land		304	3,405	2,200	-	100
Buildings		18,658	6,286	10,745	7,432	2,500
Total property		18,962	9,691	12,945	7,432	2,600
Plant & Equipment						
Plant, machinery and equipment		3,848	3,776	3,977	5,393	4,369
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		84	-	-	40	50
Computers and telecommunications		501	1,080	720	611	350
Library books		271	243	238	233	228
Total plant & equipment		4,704	5,099	4,935	6,277	4,997
Infrastructure						
Roads		17,485	25,603	17,090	20,500	16,900
Bridges		700	700	1,550	2,250	3,050
Footpaths and cycleways		1,673	1,865	1,930	1,995	2,010
Drainage		2,066	7,377	5,000	3,300	2,190
Recreational, leisure and community facilities		1,689	2,760	3,099	1,547	4,423
Waste management		772	2,135	4,140	160	60
Parks, open spaces and streetscapes		535	1,330	1,580	3,045	4,390
Aerodromes		410	90	95	385	-
Off street car parks		-	-	300	250	750
Other infrastructure		736	1,345	890	890	1,140
Total Infrastructure		26,066	43,206	35,674	34,322	34,913
Intangibles		733	895	80	500	80
Total Intangibles		733	895	80	500	80
Total capital works expenditure	4.5.1	50,465	58,891	53,634	48,531	42,590
Represented by:						
New asset expenditure		-	-	-	-	-
Asset renewal expenditure		35,940	41,112	32,259	35,266	33,710
Asset upgrade expenditure		8,100	9,270	10,750	8,577	5,300
Asset expansion expenditure		6,425	8,509	10,625	4,688	3,580
Total capital works expenditure	4.5.1	50,465	58,891	53,634	48,531	42,590
Funding sources represented by:						
Grants		9,695	13,825	10,518	14,190	8,951
Contributions		1,193	1,755	270	85	40
Council cash		36,577	43,311	42,846	34,256	33,599
Borrowings		3,000	-	-	-	-
Total capital works expenditure	4.5.1	50,465	58,891	53,634	48,531	42,590

Projects within these categories can be completed over multiple years during this resource plan.

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Statement of Human Resources

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Projections		
			2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000
Staff expenditure					
Employee costs - operating	37,227	39,544	40,519	41,717	42,854
Employee costs - capital	(1,150)	(1,170)	(1,205)	(1,241)	(1,278)
Total staff expenditure	36,077	38,374	39,314	40,476	41,576
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Staff numbers					
Employees	356.8	347.4	341.6	336.6	335.6
Total Staff numbers	356.8	347.4	341.6	336.6	335.6

A summary of human resources expenditure categorised to the organisational structure of Council is included below:

Division	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Comprises			
		Permanent		Casual	Temporary
		Full Time \$'000	Part Time \$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Chief Executive Officer	1,267	1,151	116	-	83
Built & Natural Environment	13,670	13,405	265	64	281
Development	6,716	5,125	1,591	359	336
Corporate Services	6,609	5,878	731	-	378
Community and Culture	6,227	4,652	1,575	3,692	624
Total permanent staff expenditure	34,489	30,211	4,278		
Casuals, temporary and other expenditure	5,817			4,115	1,702
Capitalised Labour costs	(1,170)				
Total operating expenditure	39,136				

A summary of the number of full time equivalent (FTE) Council staff in relation to the above expenditure is included below:

Division	Budget 2025/26 FTE	Comprises			
		Permanent		Casual	Temporary
		Full Time	Part Time		
Chief Executive Officer	8.0	7.0	1.0	-	0.6
Built & Natural Environment	131.4	129.0	2.4	0.6	3.4
Development	55.8	41.0	14.8	3.5	2.0
Corporate Services	52.9	46.0	6.9	-	4.0
Community and Culture	50.7	35.0	15.7	25.2	9.2
Total permanent staff	298.8	258.0	40.8		
Total casuals and temporary staff	48.6			29.3	19.2
Total Staff	347.4				

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Summary of Planned Human Resources Expenditure
For the four years ended 30 June 2029

	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000
Chief Executive Officer				
Permanent - Full time	1,151	1,180	1,209	1,240
Women	658	674	691	709
Men	493	505	518	531
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	116	119	122	125
Women	116	119	122	125
Men	-	-	-	-
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total Chief Executive Officer	1,267	1,299	1,331	1,364
Built & Natural Environment				
Permanent - Full time	13,405	13,740	14,085	14,436
Women	2,429	2,490	2,552	2,616
Men	10,976	11,250	11,532	11,820
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	265	272	279	286
Women	170	174	179	183
Men	95	97	100	102
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total Built & Natural Environment	13,670	14,013	14,363	14,722
Development				
Permanent - Full time	5,125	5,254	5,384	5,519
Women	2,176	2,230	2,286	2,343
Men	2,949	3,023	3,098	3,176
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	1,591	1,631	1,672	1,714
Women	1,310	1,343	1,376	1,411
Men	281	288	295	303
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total Development	6,716	6,885	7,055	7,232
Corporate Services				
Permanent - Full time	5,878	6,025	6,176	6,330
Women	3,446	3,532	3,620	3,711
Men	2,432	2,493	2,555	2,619
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	731	749	768	787
Women	669	686	703	720
Men	62	64	65	67
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total Corporate Services	6,609	6,774	6,944	7,117
Community and Culture				
Permanent - Full time	4,652	4,768	4,888	5,011
Women	2,987	3,062	3,138	3,217
Men	1,665	1,707	1,749	1,793
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	1,575	1,613	1,655	1,696
Women	1,218	1,248	1,280	1,312
Men	357	366	375	384
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total Community and Culture	6,227	6,383	6,542	6,706
Casuals, temporary and other expenditure	5,055	5,165	5,482	5,712
Capitalised labour costs	(1,170)	(1,205)	(1,241)	(1,278)
Total staff expenditure	38,374	39,314	40,476	41,576

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Summary of Planned Human Resources FTE
For the four years ended 30 June 2029

	2025/26 FTE	2026/27 FTE	2027/28 FTE	2028/29 FTE
Chief Executive Officer				
Permanent - Full time	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Women	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Men	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Women	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Men	-	-	-	-
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total Chief Executive Officer	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Built & Natural Environment				
Permanent - Full time	129.0	129.0	129.0	129.0
Women	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0
Men	106.0	106.0	106.0	106.0
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Women	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Men	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total Built & Natural Environment	131.4	131.4	131.4	131.4
Development				
Permanent - Full time	41.0	41.0	41.0	41.0
Women	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0
Men	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8
Women	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.3
Men	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total Development	55.8	55.8	55.8	55.8
Corporate Services				
Permanent - Full time	46.0	46.0	46.0	46.0
Women	29.0	29.0	29.0	29.0
Men	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9
Women	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
Men	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total Corporate Services	52.9	52.9	52.9	52.9
Community and Culture				
Permanent - Full time	36.0	36.0	36.0	36.0
Women	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
Men	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Permanent - Part time	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Women	13.3	13.3	13.3	13.3
Men	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
Persons of self-described gender	-	-	-	-
Total Community and Culture	53.0	53.0	53.0	53.0
Casuals and temporary staff	46.3	40.5	35.5	34.5
Total staff numbers	347.4	341.6	336.6	335.6

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

4. Notes to financial statements

This section presents detailed information on material components of the financial statements. Council needs to assess which components are material, considering the dollar amounts and nature of these components.

4.1 Comprehensive Income Statement

4.1.1 Rates and Charges

Rates and charges are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's budget.

As per the Local Government Act 2020, Council is required to have a Revenue and Rating Plan which is a four year plan for how Council will generate income to deliver the Council Plan, programs and services and capital works commitments over a four-year period.

In developing the Budget, rates and charges were identified as an important source of revenue. Planning for future rate increases has therefore been an important component of the financial planning process. The Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) sets out the maximum amount councils may increase rates in a year. For 2025/26 the FGRS cap has been set at 3.00%. The cap applies to both general rates and municipal charges and is calculated on the basis of council's average rates and charges.

The level of required rates and charges has been considered in this context, with reference to Council's other sources of income and the planned expenditure on services and works to be undertaken for the community.

To achieve these objectives while maintaining service levels and a strong capital expenditure program, the average general rate and the municipal charge will increase by 3.00% in line with the rate cap.

This will raise total rates and charges for 2025/26 to \$75.0M.

4.1.1(a) The reconciliation of the total rates and charges to the Comprehensive Income Statement is as follows:

		Forecast Actual	Budget	Change	
		2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	\$'000	%
General rates*	1	63,950	65,636	1,686	2.6
Garbage Charge		6,085	6,274	189	3.1
Waste Infrastructure Charge		1,884	2,170	286	15.2
State Government EPA Levy		515	564	49	9.5
Boisdale Sewage Scheme		14	16	2	14.3
Interest on rates and charges		350	351	1	0.3
Total rates and charges		72,798	75,011	2,213	3.0

*This item is subject to the rate cap established under the FGRS.

Comments

(1) This item includes \$83,500 Cultural and Recreational Land rates income which is not included in the FGRS calculations (refer 4.1.1(j)).

(2) Special charge relates to owner contributions raised as a special charge for ratepayers' contribution towards street reconstructions.

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

4.1.1(b) The rate in the dollar to be levied as general rates under Section 158 of the Act for each type or class of land compared with the previous financial year.

Type or class of land	2024/25 cents/\$CIV	2025/26 cents/\$CIV	Change
General residential	0.003430	0.003530	3.0%
Commercial/Industrial	0.003430	0.003530	3.0%
Farm	0.002744	0.002826	3.0%
Cultural & Recreational Land Act (rate concession)	N/A	N/A	N/A

4.1.1(c) The estimated amount to be raised by general rates in relation to each type or class of land, and the estimated total amount to be raised by general rates compared with the previous financial year.

Type or class of land	2024/25 Forecast \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000	%
Residential	41,706	42,975	1,269	3.0
Commercial/Industrial	7,848	8,019	171	2.2
Farm	14,313	14,558	245	1.7
Cultural & Recreational Land	83	84	1	1.2
Total amount to be raised by general rates	63,950	65,636	1,686	2.6

- Additional supplementary property valuations and new assessments occurring after the 2024/25 budget will be struck in June 2025, are fully annualised and are included in the budget for 2025/26.

4.1.1(d) The number of assessments in relation to each type or class of land, and the total number of assessments, compared with the previous financial year.

Type or class of land	2024/25 Forecast No.	2025/26 No.	Change No.	%
General residential	27,836	27,908	72	0.3
Commercial/Industrial	1,666	1,681	15	0.9
Farm	3,101	3,050	(51)	(1.6)
Cultural & Recreational Land	36	36	-	-
Total number of assessments	32,639	32,675	36	0.1

4.1.1(e) The basis of valuation to be used is the Capital Improved Value (CIV).

4.1.1(f) The estimated total value of each type or class of land, and the estimated total value of land, compared with the previous financial year.

Type or class of land	2024/25 Forecast \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000	%
General residential	11,981,167	12,168,254	187,087	1.6
Commercial/Industrial	2,239,466	2,270,322	30,856	1.4
Farm	5,123,041	5,152,147	29,106	0.6
Recreational Land	47,055	48,975	1,920	4.1
Total value of land	19,390,729	19,639,698	248,969	1.3

Movements in individual valuations have been determined by the State Valuer General and represent significant adjustment to the valuation of properties across the shire. This valuation increase will be effective from 1 January 2025, rated from 1 July 2025.

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

4.1.1(g) The rate or unit amount to be levied for each type of service rate or charge under Section 162 of the Act compared with the previous financial year.

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property	Per Rateable Property	Change	
	2024/25 \$	2025/26 \$	\$	%
Residential Garbage collection	285.0	295.0	10.0	3.5
Waste Infrastructure Charge (Landfill operations)	60.0	70.0	10.0	16.7
EPA Levy Charge	24.0	26.5	2.5	10.4
Boisdale Common Effluent System and Pump out Charge	541.8	641.8	100.0	18.5

Service rates and charges are not covered by FGRS

4.1.1 (h) The estimated amount to be raised by each type of service rate or charge, and the estimated total amount to be raised by service rates and charges, compared with the previous financial year.

Type of Charge	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26	Change	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Kerbside collection (Garbage) *	6,085	6,274	189	3.0
Waste Infrastructure Charge	1,884	2,170	286	15.2
EPA Levy Charge	515	564	49	9.5
Boisdale Common Effluent System Charge	14	16	2	14.3
Total amount to be raised by service rates or charges	8,498	9,024	526	6.2

* Recycle processing charges and management of Council's landfills and transfer stations.

4.1.1(i) The estimated total amount to be raised by all rates and charges compared with the previous financial year:

	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26	Change
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Rates and charges	72,448	74,660	2,212
Total	72,448	74,660	2,212

4.1.1(j) Fair Go Rates System Compliance

Wellington Shire Council is compliant with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System.

	2024/25	2025/26
Total Rates	\$ 63,384,144	\$ 65,553,090
Number of rateable properties	32,603	32,639
Base Average Rates	\$ 1,944.12	\$ 2,008.43
Maximum Rate Increase (set by the State Government)	2.75%	3.00%
Capped Average Rate	\$ 1,997.58	\$ 2,068.68
Maximum General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue Allowable*	\$ 63,521,078	\$ 67,519,683
Budgeted General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue*	\$ 62,534,160	\$ 65,553,090
Budgeted Supplementary Rates	\$ -	\$ -
Budgeted Total Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue*	\$ 62,534,160	\$ 65,553,090

* Excludes Cultural and Recreational Land rates income

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

4.1.1 (k) Any significant changes, that affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges.

There are no known significant changes which may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges. However, the total amount to be raised by rates and charges may be affected by:

- The making of supplementary valuations (2025/26: estimated \$242,500 and 2024/25: \$260,000)
- The variation of returned levels of value (e.g. valuation appeals);
- Changes of use of land such that rateable land becomes non-rateable land and vice versa;
- Changes of use of land such that residential land becomes business land and vice versa; and
- Consolidation of farm properties and land subdivisions.

4.1.1(l) Differential rates

Rates to be levied

The rate in the dollar to be applied to the CIV in relation to land in each category of differential is:

- A general rate of 0.003530 for all rateable general properties; and

Each differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land (categorised by the characteristics described below) by the relevant percentages indicated above.

Council considers that each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of Council functions. Details of the types of classes of land, which are subject to each differential rate are set out below.

Farm Land**80% of general rate in the dollar**

Definition:

Any land which is "Farm Land" within the meaning of Section 2(1) of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 (paras a) and b)) and other criteria as defined by Council in c) hereunder:

- Farm Land means any rateable land that is 2 or more hectares in area;
- used primarily for primary producing purposes from its activities on the land; used primarily for grazing (including agistment), dairying, pig-farming, poultry farming, fish farming, tree farming, bee keeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit growing or the growing of crops of any kind or for any combination of those activities;
- where the ratepayer is a Primary Producer with any evidence/ruling confirmed by the Australian Taxation Office, registered ABN and business plan, and commercial intent as outlined below;

That is used by a business –

- That has a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character;
- That seeks to make a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis from its activities on the land; and
- That is making a profit from its activities on the land, or that has a reasonable prospect of making a profit from its activities on the land if it continues to operate in the way that it is operating.

Objectives:

To ensure that the differential rate in the dollar declared for defined Farm Rate land properties is fair and equitable. Having regard to the cost and the level of benefits derived from provision of Council services with considerations to maintain agriculture as a major industry in the municipal district. To facilitate the longevity of the farm sector and achieve a balance between providing for municipal growth and retaining the important agricultural economic base.

Recreational land

Recreational land is land, which is as defined in accordance with Section 4 of the *Cultural & Recreational Lands Act 1963*:

- controlled by a non-profit organisation which exists for the purpose of providing or promoting culture or sporting recreation facilities which is used for sporting, recreation or cultural purposes or which is used for agricultural showgrounds.

The amounts levied on recreational land have regard to the services provided by the Council in relation to such lands, and the benefit to the community derived from such recreational lands.

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

4.1.2 Statutory fees and fines

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000	%
Infringements and costs	103	108	5	4.9
Planning Fees	574	575	1	0.2
Permits	171	171	-	-
Land & Building Information Certificates	170	163	(7)	(4.1)
Total statutory fees and fines	1,018	1,017	(1)	(0.1)

Statutory fees relate mainly to fees and fines levied in accordance with legislation and includes *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* registrations, provision of property information and fines. Increases in statutory fees are made in accordance with legislative requirements.

Comments:

The 2025/26 budget for statutory fees and fines is expected to remain relatively consistent with 2024/25 budgets.

4.1.3 User fees

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000	%
Waste management services	4,360	4,980	620	14.2
Leisure centres	2,025	2,254	229	11.3
The Wedge	429	467	38	8.9
Saleyards	967	1,004	37	3.8
Other fees and charges	308	309	1	0.3
Emergency Works - Call Outs	50	50	-	-
Wellington Centre	479	474	(5)	(1.0)
Animal Services	77	46	(31)	(40.3)
Registration and other permits	1,066	1,010	(56)	(5.3)
Reimbursements	2,125	1,070	(1,055)	(49.6)
Total user fees	11,886	11,664	(222)	(1.9)

User fees relate mainly to the recovery of service delivery costs through the charging of fees to users of Council's services. These include use of leisure, entertainment and other community facilities. In setting the budget, the key principles for determining the level of user charges are CPI and market levels, with some consideration towards cost recovery.

Comments:

Budgeted user fees are expected to decrease by \$0.22M over 2025/26.

- (1) Expected increase in landfill waste for the financial year 2025/26, to result in increased gate fees.
- (2) Increased income anticipated following the re-opening of Aqua Energy in September 2025.
- (3) Increased internal programming income at The Wedge anticipated during the financial year 2025/26. Further, increased fees for services provided to hirers expected following benchmarking with other councils.
- (4) GRLE throughput and efficiencies improved throughout 2024/25 and the income budget for 2025/26 has increased by \$565k or 120% over the 2024/25 budget.
- (5) Anticipated drop in impounded cattle fees for the financial year 2025/26.
- (6) Anticipated drop in Caravan Park income and pool inspection income (which falls in every third year) during 2025/26.
- (7) Software expenditure reimbursed in 2024/25 as part of the partnership with East Gippsland Shire Council.

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

4.1.4 Grants

Grants are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's budget.

		Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000 %	
Grants were received in respect of the following:					
Summary of grants					
State funded grants		5,983	9,075	3,092	51.7
Commonwealth funded grants		27,337	25,710	(1,627)	(6.0)
Total grants received		33,320	34,785	1,465	4.4
(a) Operating Grants					
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government					
Victoria Grants Commission	1	17,922	18,460	538	3.0
Total Recurrent Commonwealth Grant		17,922	18,460	538	3.0
Recurrent - State Government					
School crossing supervisors		172	175	3	1.7
Environmental health		58	60	2	3.4
Libraries		363	363	-	-
Cultural Services		234	234	-	-
Parks & Environmental services		127	127	-	-
Community support programs	2	70	40	(30)	(42.9)
Municipal emergency	3	226	116	(110)	(48.7)
Total Recurrent State Grants		1,250	1,115	(135)	(10.8)
Non-Recurrent - State Government					
Planning	4	118	230	112	94.9
Parks & Environmental Services	5	13	94	81	623.1
Cultural services		50	50	-	-
Economic Development	6	32	-	(32)	(100.0)
Community Support programs	7	347	291	(56)	(16.1)
Community & Recreation Facilities upgrade	8	76	-	(76)	(100.0)
Municipal Emergency	9	172	-	(172)	(100.0)
Natural Disaster Funding	10	2,493	720	(1,773)	(71.1)
Total Non-Recurrent grants		3,301	1,385	(1,916)	(58.0)
Total Operating Grants		22,473	20,960	(1,513)	(7.2)

Comments:

Budgeted operating grants are expected to decrease by (\$1.5M) over 2025/26, primarily due to fewer expected Natural Disaster claims to be received during 2025/26.

- (1) A 3.0% increase has been assumed for the 2025/26 allocation of the Victoria Grants Commission annual allocation.
- (2) The 2024/25 forecast includes prior year Freeza funding, and all 2022-2024 Freeza program funding was utilised by December 2024. Council will receive \$40k annually under the 2025-2027 Freeza program.
- (3) The 2024/25 forecast for the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program includes all remaining prior year funding that has been put towards additional resourcing. The 2025/26 budget is set based on the normal annual allocation.
- (4) The Yarram Drainage Study (\$90k) is anticipated to be completed in 2024/25, and during 2025/26 a grant of \$230k will be received for Flood Mapping.
- (5) Food and Organic Waste bin transition to take place through 2025/26 with \$94k of support funding to be recognised.
- (6) The Local Development Strategy funding has concluded in 2024/25.
- (7) Forecast includes recognition of (\$95k) prior year funding for the Centralised Registration and Enrolment Scheme (CRES), and the Victorian Local Government Partnerships program concludes in 2025/26 with the majority to be spent during 2024/25 (\$23k). The 2025/26 budget includes additional funding towards the Free From Violence Program \$58k.
- (8) The Bushfire Recovery Victoria Community Facility Volunteer support funding concludes in 2024/25.
- (9) Programs for Preparing Australian Communities (\$126k), Community-Led Recovery Support (\$36k), and Preparing Remote Emergency Relief Centres (\$11k) conclude in 2024/25.
- (10) Natural Disaster Funding claims paid during 2024/25 include the 26 December Storm & Flood event (\$1.1M), the 28 November Flood Event (\$949k), and the 3 October 2023 East Victorian Floods (\$170k). Claim funding is expected to be received during 2025/26 for the 25 August 2024 storm event \$720k.

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

		Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000 %	
(b) Capital Grants					
<u>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</u>					
Roads to Recovery	1	1,775	7,250	5,475	308.5
Total Recurrent Commonwealth Government grants		1,775	7,250	5,475	308.5
<u>Non-Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</u>					
Buildings	2	1,283	-	(1,283)	(100.0)
Furniture and Fittings		13	-	(13)	(100.0)
Roads	3	6,344	-	(6,344)	(100.0)
Total Non-Recurrent - Commonwealth grants		7,640	-	(7,640)	(100.0)
Total - Commonwealth Government grants		9,415	7,250	(2,165)	(23.0)
<u>Non- Recurrent - State Government</u>					
Other Infrastructure	4	244	75	(169)	(69.3)
Computers and Telecommunications		-	263	263	-
Library Books		2	-	(2)	(100.0)
Parks, Open Space & Streetscapes		-	350	350	-
Roads	3	-	4,506	4,506	-
Drainage	5	877	124	(753)	(85.9)
Recreational Leisure & Community Facilities		-	545	545	-
Intangibles	4	-	-	(4)	(100.0)
Buildings	2	305	712	407	133.4
Total Non- Recurrent State Government grants		1,432	6,575	5,143	359.1
Total Capital Grants		10,847	13,825	2,978	27.5
Total Grants		33,320	34,785	1,465	4.4

Comments:

Capital grants include all monies received from State and Federal government for the purposes of funding specific capital works projects and are expected to increase by \$1.5M with an increase in the Roads to Recovery Funding.

(1) 2024/25 is the first year of the current Roads to Recovery program and includes the Sale Toongabbie Stage 1, Coongulla East and Coongulla Central Special Charge Schemes. The 2025/26 year has an increase in Roads to Recovery works and includes Seaton- Glenmaggie Road, Heyfield Road Rehabilitation - Skeels Street and River Road, Evelyn/Donald Street and Deans Road. The total five year allocation is \$27.7M.

(2) Works continued on the multi year Aqua Energy Redevelopment \$1.4M and Sale Early Years Cobains Road Design works \$103k in 2024/25.

(3) Lansdowne St and Macarthur St Roundabout works commenced in 2024/25 \$1.2M and funds were received for the Sale - Toongabbie Road Widening works completed in 2023/24 \$1.9M. The following Local Regional Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4 works are forecast to be completed in 2024/25 which includes Velore Road Reconstruction \$800k, Heyfield - Seaton Road Reconstruction \$600k, and Gravel Resheets works \$414k.

(4) Other infrastructure forecasted works to be completed for 2024/25 financial year includes designs for Robertson and Port Albert Seawall \$80k. The final works have been completed on the Seaspray Levee upgrade \$73k.

(5) Sale - North Drainage funding of \$877k works have been forecast for the 2024/25 financial year.

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

4.1.5 Contributions

		Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000 %	
Monetary	1	423	1,298	875	206.9
Non-monetary	2	1,555	-	(1,555)	(100.0)
Total contributions		1,978	1,298	(680)	(34.4)

Comments:

Cash contributions include all monies received from community sources or other non government bodies towards the delivery of Council's services to ratepayers (operating) and capital works program.

(1) Monetary contributions for 2024/25 included public open space and developer contributions (\$200k), and EGSC Datacentre works (\$170k). Monetary contributions for 2025/26 include property owner's contributions towards Seaspray and Longford street construction schemes \$600k, public open space and developer contributions \$350k, EGSC Datacentre works \$100k, and a contribution towards the Air Show \$100k, and the Maffra Landfill Capping Construction & Bundwall \$50k.

(2) Non monetary contributions are gifted and donated assets relating to infrastructure assets from new subdivisions, and land acquired under the Wellington Coastal Strategy Voluntary Assistance Scheme. Non-monetary developer contributions for Roads (\$500k), Drainage (\$500k), Land (\$170k), and Footpaths (\$100k), and (\$300k) in donated assets for Recreation & Leisure Facilities are expected in 2024/25.

4.1.6 Other income

		Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000 %	
Interest on Investments	3	4,700	5,200	500	10.6
Other rent	2	688	715	27	3.9
Miscellaneous income (Volunteer Income)		250	250	-	-
Interest on debtors		18	18	-	-
Sponsorship		22	19	(3)	(13.6)
Donations	1	1,200	1,166	(34)	(2.8)
Insurance recovery	4	45	-	(45)	(100.0)
Total other income		6,923	7,368	445	6.4

Comments:

Budgeted other income is expected to increase by \$0.4M over 2024/25.

(1) Improvements in the interest rate arena expected to result in higher interest earned on investments in 2025/26.

(2) New tenancies in commercial properties and increases to ongoing lease agreements.

(3) The forecast for 2024/25 includes \$950k in donations towards the Aqua Energy Redevelopment, and \$168k of donations towards the Art Gallery and the Turner exhibition. The 2025/26 budget includes donations of \$1.0M towards the Wedge Redevelopment, \$150k towards the Gibson's Road Hub, and the biennial John Leslie Art Prize donation of \$50k.

(4) Insurance recoveries are typically not budgeted for, and were received in 2024/25 for storm damage and vandalism.

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

4.1.7 Employee costs

		Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000 %	
Salaries & Wages	1	27,921	29,974	2,053	7.4
Other On-Costs	2	750	1,041	291	38.8
Superannuation	3	3,656	3,951	295	8.1
FBT	4	243	312	69	28.4
Workcover		625	645	20	3.2
Casual Staff	5	2,882	2,451	(431)	(15.0)
Total employee costs		36,077	38,374	2,297	6.4

Comments:

Budgeted employee costs are expected to increase by \$2.3M over 2025/26.

(1) The 2024/25 forecast is lower than the 2025/26 budget by \$2.8M, partly due to leave arrangements and vacancies, with casuals being heavily utilised instead. It is anticipated that permanent staffing levels will be at full capacity in 2025/26, with a total of (3.0 FTE) removed. In addition there are the annual Enterprise Agreement increases and movement within bands. As per Enterprise Agreement 11, a 3.0% salary increase has been included in the 2025/26 budget.

(2) Increase is primarily comprised of additional training, conferences, and study costs.

(3) The superannuation guarantee is budgeted to increase from 11.5% to 12.0% in 2025/26.

(4) Workcover is budgeted at 1.8% of total wages. The increase is due to a reduced rate provided in 2024/25, however no discount has been budgeted for in 2025/26.

(5) The Casual staff 2024/25 forecast is \$431k higher than the 2025/26 adopted budget to cover the shortfall in permanent staff. This overspend is expected to be alleviated with the increase in permanent staff.

4.1.8 Materials and services

		Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000 %	
Consultants	1	1,156	1,464	308	26.6
Authority fees	2	2,050	2,315	265	12.9
Infrastructure & Parks Maintenance	3	9,188	9,422	234	2.5
Insurances	4	2,499	2,660	161	6.4
Utility payments		2,777	2,873	96	3.5
Contributions		2,362	2,396	34	1.4
Waste Management Services		4,284	4,290	6	0.1
Building Maintenance		1,594	1,566	(28)	(1.8)
Materials	5	8,312	7,638	(674)	(8.1)
Contractors	6	8,853	6,494	(2,359)	(26.6)
Total Materials and services		43,075	41,118	(1,957)	(4.5)

Comments:

Budgeted materials and services are expected to decrease by (\$2.0M) over 2025/26.

(1) Consultant's expenses expected to rise due to a grant funded flood mapping project (\$230k), and a Transfer Station infrastructure condition audit (\$80k).

(2) Increase in Environment Protection Authority (EPA) landfill levy charges commencing from 1 July 2025.

(3) Increase expenses for parks and reserves, public amenities and tree maintenance pro active works.

(4) Insurance premiums have increased, particularly on assets (\$104k) and public liability (\$73k).

(5) Software expenditure reimbursed in 2024/25 as part of the partnership with East Gippsland Shire Council (\$1.08M). However, increase in software licensing costs expected to raise annual software maintenance costs for the financial year 2025/26 (\$300k).

(6) The net decrease for contractors is driven primarily by 2024/25 forecast expenditure of \$850k on Storm & Flood events, \$428k on Wetlands Trail, \$248k on Election Services, \$153k on Turner Exhibition advertising expenses, \$100k on Air Show, and contract staff who worked on the Content Manager project.

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

4.1.9 Bad and doubtful debts

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000 %
Rate debtors	15	16	1 6.7
Total bad and doubtful debts	15	16	1 6.7

4.1.10 Depreciation

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000 %
Infrastructure	21,517	21,990	473 2.2
Property	9,037	9,299	262 2.9
Plant and equipment	2,286	2,372	86 3.8
Total depreciation	32,840	33,661	821 2.5

Comments:

Budgeted depreciation is expected to increase by \$0.8M, due to the increase in the asset value of building and roads and as a result of the completion of the 2025/26 capital works program as well as the full year effect of depreciation on the 2024/25 capital works program.

4.1.11 Amortisation - Intangible assets

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000 %
Intangible assets	890	1,010	120 13.5
Total amortisation - intangible assets	890	1,010	120 13.5

Comments:

Budgeted amortisation is expected to increase by \$120k due to the new landfill airspace asset being created in 2025/26 offset by the available space in the landfills reducing as they are filled.

4.1.12 Depreciation - Right of Use assets

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000 %
Right of use assets	400	572	172 43.0
Total depreciation - right of use assets	400	572	172 43.0

Comments:

Budgeted depreciation is expected to increase by \$172k.

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

4.1.13 Borrowing costs

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change	
			\$'000	%
Interest - Borrowings	172	224	52	30.4
Total borrowing costs	172	224	52	30.4

Comments:

New borrowings in 2024/25 will increase interest payments to the future.

4.1.14 Other expenses

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change	
			\$'000	%
Councillors allowances 1	380	408	28	7.4
Auditor's remuneration - VAGO	65	67	2	3.1
Volunteer Cost of Service	250	272	22	8.8
Auditor's remuneration - Internal	42	40	(2)	(4.8)
Total other expenses	737	787	50	6.8

Comments:

Budgeted other expenses are expected to increase by \$50k in 2025/26.

(1) Councillor allowances were not incurred from 26 October to 17 November 2024 during the Council election period. Planned increases to allowances as determined by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal take effect from 1 July 2025.

4.1.15 Net Loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change	
			\$'000	%
WDV Assets Replaced	1,155	757	(398)	(34.5)
Proceeds from sale of assets	(3,472)	(929)	2,543	(73.2)
Written Down Value of assets sold	200	200	-	-
Total Net loss (gain) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(2,117)	28	2,145	(101.3)

Comments:

Proceeds from the disposal of Council Assets relates mainly to the planned cyclical replacement of part of the plant, equipment and vehicle fleets.

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

4.2 Balance Sheet

4.2.1 Assets

Budgeted "Total assets" are expected to increase by \$39.8M, with an increase of \$48.0M in non-current assets.

The decrease of (\$12.3M) in current assets is the result of reduced cash and cash equivalents as well as decrease in other financial assets.

The increase of \$52.2M in non-current assets is attributable to the net result of the capital works program; \$47.9M and depreciation and amortisation of assets (\$35.2M).

4.2.2 Liabilities

Budgeted "Total liabilities" are expected to increase by \$1.5M, being an increase of \$1.0M in current liabilities and a net increase of \$0.5M in non-current liabilities.

The increase of \$1.0M in current liabilities is primarily due to an increase in interest bearing borrowings, lease liabilities, trust and other deposits.

The net increase of \$1.5M in non-current liabilities relates to a increase in lease liabilities \$2.3M and interest bearing loans and borrowings \$1.0M; with a decrease in provisions (\$2.8M).

4.2.3 Borrowings

The table below shows information on borrowings specifically required by the Regulations.

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000
Amount borrowed as at 30 June of the prior year	7,160	9,416
Amount proposed to be borrowed	3,000	2,000
Amount projected to be redeemed	(744)	(928)
Amount of borrowings as at 30 June	9,416	10,488

Borrowings are utilised by Council to spread the impact across generations of the community utilising assets.

4.2.4 Leases by category

As a result of the introduction of AASB 16 Leases, right-of-use assets and lease liabilities have been recognised as outlined in the table below.

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000
Right-of-use assets		
Plant and equipment	36	2,854
Photocopiers	6	16
Total right-of-use assets	42	2,870
Lease liabilities		
Current lease Liabilities		
Plant and equipment	144	586
Photocopiers	6	7
Total current lease liabilities	150	593
Non-current lease liabilities		
Plant and equipment	191	2,568
Photocopiers	9	9
Total non-current lease liabilities	200	2,577
Total lease liabilities	350	3,170

Where the interest rate applicable to a lease is not expressed in the lease agreement, Council applies the average incremental borrowing rate in the calculation of lease liabilities. The current incremental borrowing rate is 4.00%.

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

4.3 Statement of changes in Equity

4.3.1 Reserves

			2025/26
			\$'000
Forecast at 30 June 2025			13,833
Proposed Transfer to Reserves 2025/26			
Discretionary Reserves			
-Asset Improvement	1	-	
-Plant Replacement	2	1,100	
-Waste Infrastructure	3	2,170	
Non- Discretionary Reserves			
-Recreational Land	4	350	
-Infrastructure Contributions	5	-	
-Art Gallery Acquisition/Contribution Reserves	5	49	
-Leased Property Improvements	6	187	
Total transfers to reserves			3,856
Proposed Transfer from Reserves 2025/26			
Discretionary Reserves			
-Asset Improvement	1	100	
-Plant Replacement	2	1,352	
-Waste Infrastructure	3	4,050	
Non-Discretionary Reserves			
-Recreational Land	4	133	
-Art Gallery Acquisition/Contribution Reserves	5	-	
-Leased Property Improvements	6	440	
Total transfers from reserves			6,075
Budget at 30 June 2026			11,614

Comments

Total other reserves are expected to decrease by \$2.2M over 2025/26.

(1) Asset Improvement Reserve is to fund specific future capital improvements and will increase compared to 2024/25 by \$1.9M, this has been financed by sale of assets and will be spent over the next three years.

(2) Plant Replacement Reserve is to fund future purchases of major plant and equipment.

(3) Waste Infrastructure Reserve is to fund the establishment of recycling and transfer stations, remediation of existing and closed landfills and an increase in landfill capacity in the future. This will increase by \$826,000 compared to 2024/25.

(4) Recreational Land Reserve is to fund future open space facilities as per Section 18 of Subdivision Act. During 2025/26 it is anticipated to transfer funds from this reserve to fund new playgrounds.

(5) Art Gallery Acquisition and Contribution Reserves are to fund future art acquisitions and major exhibitions including the John Leslie Art Prize.

(6) Leased Property Improvements Reserve is to fund future works on leased properties (caravan parks and Port of Sale Moorings) in accordance with Crown Land Act. Funds transferred to reserve in 2025/26 include lease related payments received from Caravan Park lessees and mooring fees.

4.3.2 Equity

Total Equity is anticipated to increase by \$38.4M, being for the expected 2025/26 surplus of \$15.4M and Asset Revaluations of \$23.0M.

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council**4.4 Statement of Cash Flows****4.4.1 Net cash flows provided by operating activities**

The increase of \$5.0M in cash inflows from operating activities is represented by a increase in capital grants \$4.0M, and contributions monetary \$1.9M, which is partially offset by decreased operating grants of (\$1.9M) and user fees of (\$0.5M). Operating cash outflows are projected to decrease by (\$0.6M) due to cash outflows from employee costs (\$1.9M) partially offset by decreased materials and services costs \$2.6M.

4.4.2 Net cash flows used in investing activities

Cash out flows from investing activities is budgeted to increase in 2025/26 by (\$9.2M). This is composed of an increase of (\$9.3M) in payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (PIPE) and a decrease in the proceeds from the sale of PIPE of (\$0.7M).

4.4.3 Net cash flows provided by financing activities

Net cash flow provided by financing activities has decreased by (\$1.8M), predominantly the result of a decrease of (\$1.0M) in borrowings, with minor movements in lease repayments, finance costs, and repayment of borrowings.

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

4.5. Capital Works Program

This section presents a listing of the capital works projects that will be undertaken for the 2025/26 year, classified by expenditure type and funding source. Works are also disclosed as current budget or carried forward from prior year. Note some multi year projects span up to three years on an ongoing basis, and include Aqua Energy Redevelopment, and Maffra Resource Recovery Facility (Transfer Station) construction.

4.5.1 Summary

		Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000	%
Property	1	18,962	9,691	(9,271)	(48.9%)
Plant and equipment	2	4,704	5,099	395	8.4%
Infrastructure	3	26,066	43,206	17,139	65.8%
Intangibles	4	733	895	162	22.1%
Total		50,465	58,891	8,426	16.7%

Intangibles are included as a reconciling item to match Statement of Capital Works (Section 3).

1 Multi year Aqua Energy Redevelopment completion in 2025/26, commencement of Wedge Renewal/Upgrade works.

2 Wedge Stage Line Upgrade and Network Infrastructure Renewal.

3 Investment in large infrastructure projects such as George Street Drainage Renewal Maffra, Urban Path plan, Emergency landslip and Culvert repair works (Yarram area) and Seaton - Glenmaggie Road Widening and Reconstruction.

4 Business System Upgrades.

	Project Cost \$'000	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property	9,691	-	4,192	1,341	4,158	712	1,050	7,929	-
Plant and equipment	5,099	-	4,339	720	41	263	20	4,816	-
Infrastructure	43,206	-	31,708	7,188	4,310	12,850	685	29,671	-
Intangibles	895	-	785	110	-	-	-	895	-
Total	58,891	-	41,022	9,360	8,509	13,825	1,755	43,311	-

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

4.5.2 Current Budget

Capital Works Area	Project	Asset Expenditure Type				Summary of Funding Sources			
	Cost \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
PROPERTY									
LANDFILL IMPROVEMENTS									
Kilmany Landfill Cell 4 Construction	1,650	-	-	-	1,650	-	-	1,650	-
TOTAL LANDFILL IMPROVEMENTS	1,650	-	-	-	1,650	-	-	1,650	-
BUILDINGS									
Art Gallery Lighting Replacement - Sale	65	-	65	-	-	-	-	65	-
Wellington Centre - Meeting Room Technology Upgrade - Sale	60	-	-	60	-	-	-	60	-
The WEDGE Renewal/Upgrade Works - Sale	1,000	-	400	300	300	-	1,000	-	-
Direct Managed Facilities - Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Renewal Program	200	-	200	-	-	-	-	200	-
Direct Managed Facilities - Annual Small Site Air Conditioning Program	50	-	50	-	-	-	-	50	-
Direct Managed Facilities - Annual Floor Renewal Program	115	-	115	-	-	-	-	115	-
Sale Clock Tower - Safe Access Works	100	-	100	-	-	-	-	100	-
Direct Managed Facilities - Minor Works Program	200	-	200	-	-	-	-	200	-
GRSC Emergency External Door Replacement (multiple doors)	60	-	60	-	-	-	-	60	-
Early Years Infrastructure Program - Market Street Hub Preplanning - Sale	150	-	150	-	-	-	-	150	-
Community Facility Renewal Program	920	-	830	90	-	-	-	920	-
Community Facility Roof Renewal Program	100	-	100	-	-	-	-	100	-
Cameron Sporting Complex - Football Changeroom Redevelopment - Maffra	765	-	612	153	-	712	50	3	-
Early Years Infrastructure Program - Queen Street Kinder Renewal Works - Maffra	100	-	100	-	-	-	-	100	-
Community Facilities Asbestos Removal Program	75	-	75	-	-	-	-	75	-
Community Facility Major Maintenance - Sale Museum Foundation Repairs	40	-	40	-	-	-	-	40	-
Community Facility Major Maintenance - Heyfield Memorial Hall Door Replacement Multiple Doors	30	-	30	-	-	-	-	30	-
Sale Oval Canteen Minor Improvements	40	-	40	-	-	-	-	40	-
Sustainability Building Improvement Program	100	-	-	-	100	-	-	100	-
Toilet Renewal Program	50	-	50	-	-	-	-	50	-
Reconfiguration of Pound and Animal Shelter - Design	15	-	15	-	-	-	-	15	-
GRLE Factory Development - Feasibility - Sale	50	-	-	-	50	-	-	50	-
Sale Oval Lease Property Improvements	25	-	25	-	-	-	-	25	-
Commercial Road, Yarram - Building Refurbishment	400	-	-	400	-	-	-	400	-
Port Albert Fish & Chip Co Building - Renewal Works	50	-	50	-	-	-	-	50	-
Aqua Energy Redevelopment	100	-	100	-	-	-	-	100	-
TOTAL BUILDINGS	4,860	-	3,407	1,003	450	712	1,050	3,098	-
TOTAL PROPERTY	6,510	-	3,407	1,003	2,100	712	1,050	4,748	-

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Capital Works Area	Project	Asset Expenditure Type				Summary of Funding Sources			
	Cost \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
PLANT & EQUIPMENT									
PLANT, MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT									
The Wedge - Stage Line Upgrade - Sale	280	-	140	140	-	-	-	280	-
The Wedge - Stage Line Re Certification - Sale	90	-	90	-	-	-	-	90	-
Plant Replacement Program	1,845	-	1,845	-	-	-	-	1,845	-
Fleet Replacement Program	1,521	-	1,521	-	-	-	-	1,521	-
TOTAL PLANT, MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT	3,736	-	3,596	140	-	-	-	3,736	-
COMPUTERS & TELECOMMUNICATIONS									
Library RFID Implementation Project	390	-	-	390	-	263	-	127	-
Built Environment Operations Modernisation Project	190	-	-	190	-	-	-	190	-
ICT Print, Digital Equipment, Monitor and Printer Refresh	100	-	100	-	-	-	-	100	-
Renewal/Refresh of Laptops, ICT Devices and Desktop Fleet Program	200	-	200	-	-	-	-	200	-
ICT Equipment Renewal & Corporate/Public WiFi Microwave Upgrades & Telecommunications Renewal	200	-	200	-	-	-	-	200	-
TOTAL COMPUTERS & TELECOMMUNICATIONS	1,080	-	500	580	-	263	-	817	-
LIBRARY BOOKS									
Library AV Acquisitions	30	-	30	-	-	-	-	30	-
Library Cataloguing & Processing	47	-	47	-	-	-	-	47	-
Library Book Acquisitions	166	-	166	-	-	-	-	166	-
TOTAL LIBRARY BOOKS	243	-	243	-	-	-	-	243	-
ART WORKS									
Art Gallery Acquisitions	40	-	-	-	40	-	20	20	-
TOTAL ART WORKS	40	-	-	-	40	-	20	20	-
TOTAL PLANT & EQUIPMENT	5,099	-	4,339	720	41	263	20	4,817	-

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Capital Works Area	Project	Asset Expenditure Type				Summary of Funding Sources			
	Cost	New	Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contributions	Cash	Borrowings
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
INFRASTRUCTURE									
ROADS									
Kerb and Channel Replacement Program	850	-	850	-	-	400	-	450	-
Reconstruct Unsealed Roads - Annual Program	1,900	-	1,900	-	-	-	-	1,900	-
Heyfield Road Rehabilitation - Skeels Street and River Road	1,200	-	960	240	-	1,200	-	-	-
Urban Street Resealing - Annual Program	230	-	230	-	-	-	-	230	-
Resealing Rural Roads - Annual Program	3,500	-	3,500	-	-	-	-	3,500	-
Final Seals - Annual Program	400	-	400	-	-	-	-	400	-
Urban Streets Asphalt Resheeting - Annual Program	600	-	600	-	-	-	-	600	-
Unsealed Road Intersection Upgrades - Annual Program	100	-	60	40	-	-	-	100	-
Wonnangatta Road Rehabilitation - Retaining Wall - Dargo	600	-	600	-	-	-	-	600	-
Rural Road Rehabilitation Program - Hyland Highway Service Lane	150	-	150	-	-	-	-	150	-
Crest Widening Program - Lindenow- Meerlieu Road	450	-	315	135	-	450	-	-	-
Project Development	400	-	175	155	70	-	-	400	-
Thomson Street, Maffra - Reconstruction (Johnson Street to Queen Street)	300	-	300	-	-	300	-	-	-
Duke Street - Reconstruction and Shoulder Sealing (Stage 2) - Yarram	800	-	640	160	-	-	-	800	-
Residential Road and Street Construction - Special Charge Schemes	2,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	1,400	600	-	-
Seaton - Glenmaggie Road / Seymours Lane Widening and Reconstruction - Stage 1 & 2	2,500	-	1,250	1,250	-	2,000	-	500	-
McLean Street- Rehabilitation and Shoulder Sealing - Yarram	400	-	320	80	-	-	-	400	-
Evelyn Street / Donald Street - Rehabilitation and Shoulder Sealing - Yarram	400	-	300	100	-	400	-	-	-
Gibsons and Cobains Road Roundabout Construction - Sale	100	-	-	100	-	-	-	100	-
Rural Road Drainage Program	150	-	150	-	-	-	-	150	-
Williamsons Road Reconstruction - Denison	850	-	850	-	-	-	-	850	-
Freestone Creek Road Slip Rectification - Briagolong	150	-	150	-	-	-	-	150	-
Marshalls Road Reconstruction - Denison	800	-	800	-	-	-	-	800	-
Bushs Road Reconstruction - Meerlieu	700	-	700	-	-	-	-	700	-
Deans Road Reconstruction - Tinamba	400	-	400	-	-	400	-	-	-
Ross Street - Landslip Rectification - Sale	600	-	600	-	-	600	-	-	-
Emergency Landslip and Culvert Repair Works - Yarram Area	3,500	-	3,500	-	-	3,500	-	-	-
Court Bowl Upgrade Program - Improved Turning Provision	100	-	100	-	-	-	-	100	-
Moroka Road Slip Rectification - Valencia Creek	400	-	400	-	-	100	-	300	-
Tinamba Road/Levee Improvement Project	226	-	-	-	226	160	-	66	-
Loch Sport and Golden Beach Climate Resilience Infrastructure Assessment	46	-	-	46	-	46	-	-	-
TOTAL ROADS	24,802	-	21,200	3,306	296	10,956	600	13,246	-

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Capital Works Area	Project	Asset Expenditure Type				Summary of Funding Sources			
	Cost \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
BRIDGES									
Bridge Works and Rehabilitation Program	250	-	250	-	-	-	-	250	-
Major Culvert Renewal - Annual Program	250	-	200	50	-	-	-	250	-
Bridge and Culvert Safety Barrier Renewal - Annual Program	200	-	120	80	-	-	-	200	-
TOTAL BRIDGES	700	-	570	130	-	-	-	700	-
FOOTPATHS									
Annual Footpaths Renewal Program	500	-	500	-	-	-	-	500	-
Urban Paths Plan Program	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
Gravel Path Renewal Program	285	-	285	-	-	-	-	285	-
Boardwalk Renewal Program	80	-	80	-	-	-	-	80	-
TOTAL FOOTPATHS	1,865	-	865	-	1,000	-	-	1,865	-
DRAINAGE									
Drainage Renewal Works Program	850	-	850	-	-	-	-	850	-
Seaspray Flood Mitigation System - Pump Replacement	70	-	70	-	-	-	-	70	-
Developer Contribution Works Program	400	-	-	-	400	-	-	400	-
Yarram Outfall Drain Assessment and Renewal	400	-	400	-	-	-	-	400	-
George Street Drainage Renewal - Maffra	2,025	-	725	1,300	-	-	-	2,025	-
Macalister Street Drainage Renewal - Sale	1,000	-	750	250	-	-	-	1,000	-
Davis Street Drainage Renewal - Heyfield	500	-	500	-	-	-	-	500	-
TOTAL DRAINAGE	5,245	-	3,295	1,550	400	-	-	5,245	-
RECREATIONAL LEISURE & COMMUNITY FACILITIES									
Outdoor Pool Shell Rehabilitation Program- Stratford, Yarram, Rosedale	75	-	75	-	-	-	-	75	-
LED Lighting Program	297	-	238	59	-	235	25	37	-
Community Facilities Vehicle & Pedestrian Safety Program	275	-	143	88	45	-	-	275	-
Community Facility Major Maintenance - Sugarbeet Museum Weighbridge	20	-	20	-	-	-	-	20	-
Lions Park Athletics Renewal - Sale	100	-	100	-	-	-	-	100	-
Sale Tennis LED Lighting Renewal	450	-	450	-	-	-	-	450	-
Maffra Lawn Tennis LED Lighting	388	-	310	78	-	310	20	58	-
Indoor and Outdoor Pools - Major Equipment Renewal Program	10	-	10	-	-	-	-	10	-
Yarram Pool Plant Upgrade	560	-	200	360	-	-	-	560	-
GRSC Storage Shed Extensions	65	-	-	-	65	-	-	65	-
TOTAL RECREATIONAL LEISURE & COMMUNITY FACILITIES	2,240	-	1,546	584	110	545	45	1,650	-

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Capital Works Area	Project	Asset Expenditure Type				Summary of Funding Sources			
	Cost \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
WASTE MANAGEMENT									
Maffra Resource Recovery Facility (Transfer Station) Construction	500	-	-	-	500	-	-	500	-
Transfer Stations - Asset Renewals	80	-	80	-	-	-	-	80	-
Kilmany Landfill Fixed Assets Upgrades	80	-	60	20	-	-	-	80	-
Kerbside Bins - Food Organics Garden Organics	1,300	-	-	-	1,300	-	-	1,300	-
TOTAL WASTE MANAGEMENT	1,960	-	140	20	1,800	-	-	1,960	-
PARKS, OPEN SPACE & STREETSCAPES									
Pump Track Reseal Program	120	-	120	-	-	-	-	120	-
Sale Depot Safety & Minor Renewal Works	70	-	70	-	-	-	-	70	-
Prince Street Reserve Open Space Planning - Rosedale	40	-	40	-	-	-	-	40	-
Lions Park - Inclusive Open Space Development - Sale	350	-	-	-	350	350	-	-	-
Playground Renewal Program	310	-	310	-	-	-	-	310	-
Accessibility & Inclusivity Audit Improvement Program	50	-	50	-	-	-	-	50	-
Project Development	50	-	50	-	-	-	-	50	-
Shelter & BBQ Replacement Program	110	-	110	-	-	-	-	110	-
Flooding Creek Linear Reserve Planning	50	-	-	-	50	-	-	50	-
Golden Beach Community Park - Renewal of Assets	50	-	50	-	-	-	-	50	-
Great Southern Rail Trail - Visitor Enhancement	50	-	-	-	50	-	-	50	-
Park Light Renewal Program	80	-	80	-	-	-	-	80	-
TOTAL PARKS, OPEN SPACE & STREETSCAPES	1,330	-	880	-	450	350	-	980	-
AERODROMES									
West Sale Airport - Terminal Building Repair Work	10	-	10	-	-	-	-	10	-
TOTAL AERODROMES	10	-	10	-	-	-	-	10	-
OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE									
Seagull Drive Boat Ramp Renewal - Loch Sport	280	-	280	-	-	-	-	280	-
Port of Sale - Public Lighting Refurbishment - Sale	150	-	150	-	-	-	-	150	-
McLoughlin's Beach Boat Ramp Jetty Redecking	55	-	55	-	-	-	-	55	-
Robertsons Beach Seawall Rehabilitation	150	-	150	-	-	75	-	75	-
Boisdale Effluent System Improvement Works	50	-	-	50	-	-	-	50	-
Caravan Park Capital Works (Loch Sport, Sale, Stratford, Woodside)	440	-	440	-	-	-	-	440	-
TOTAL OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE	1,125	-	1,075	50	-	75	-	1,050	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	39,277	-	29,581	5,641	4,056	11,926	645	26,706	-

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Capital Works Area	Project	Asset Expenditure Type				Summary of Funding Sources			
	Cost \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
INTANGIBLES									
Business System Upgrade - Asset Management System Replacement	90	-	60	30	-	-	-	90	-
GIS Imagery Renewal Program	70	-	70	-	-	-	-	70	-
Business System Upgrade - GIS Renewal	125	-	125	-	-	-	-	125	-
Business Systems Upgrades - Core Business Systems	410	-	410	-	-	-	-	410	-
TOTAL INTANGIBLES	695	-	665	30	-	-	-	695	-
TOTAL NEW CAPITAL WORKS 2025/26	51,581	-	37,991	7,394	6,196	12,901	1,715	36,964	-
Works carried forward from the 2024/25 year (Work funded in 2024/25 and carried forward)									
PROPERTY									
LAND									
Maffra Drainage Strategy Land Purchase	285	-	-	-	285	-	-	285	-
Education Department Land - Raymond St	10	-	-	-	10	-	-	10	-
TOTAL LAND	295	-	-	-	295	-	-	295	-
LANDFILL IMPROVEMENTS									
Kilmany Landfill Cell 4 Design and Construction	1,460	-	-	-	1,460	-	-	1,460	-
TOTAL LANDFILL IMPROVEMENTS	1,460	-	-	-	1,460	-	-	1,460	-
BUILDINGS									
Wellington Centre Improvement Construction	82	-	82	-	-	-	-	82	-
Aqua Energy, Sale - Redevelopment	1,000	-	600	200	200	-	-	1,000	-
The WEDGE Renewal/Upgrade Works - Sale	344	-	103	138	103	-	-	344	-
TOTAL BUILDINGS	1,426	-	785	338	303	-	-	1,426	-
TOTAL PROPERTY	3,181	-	785	338	2,058	-	-	3,181	-

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Capital Works Area	Project	Asset Expenditure Type				Summary of Funding Sources			
	Cost \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
INFRASTRUCTURE									
ROADS									
Emergency Slip Works Various Locations	800	-	800	-	-	800	-	-	-
TOTAL ROADS	800	-	800	-	-	800	-	-	-
DRAINAGE									
North-East Maffra Drainage Improvements	76	-	38	38	-	-	-	76	-
North Sale Development Works	1,000	-	500	500	-	124	-	876	-
Developer Contribution Works Program	180	-	-	180	-	-	-	180	-
George Street Drainage Renewal Maffra	878	-	439	439	-	-	-	878	-
TOTAL DRAINAGE	2,134	-	977	1,157	-	124	-	2,010	-
RECREATIONAL LEISURE & COMMUNITY FACILITIES									
Yarram Pool Plant Upgrade	520	-	130	390	-	-	-	520	-
TOTAL RECREATIONAL LEISURE & COMMUNITY FACILITIES	520	-	130	390	-	-	-	520	-
WASTE MANAGEMENT									
Street Sweeper Waste Storage Design and Construction	125	-	-	-	125	-	-	125	-
Kilmany L/fill Leachate Evaporation Pond	50	-	-	-	50	-	-	50	-
TOTAL WASTE MANAGEMENT	175	-	-	-	175	-	-	175	-
AERODROMES									
Western Apron Towlane (Taxiway F)	80	-	-	-	80	-	40	40	-
TOTAL AERODROMES	80	-	-	-	80	-	40	40	-
OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE									
Boisdale Common Effluent System	140	-	140	-	-	-	-	140	-
Seagull Drive Boat Ramp Renewal - Loch Sport	80	-	80	-	-	-	-	80	-
TOTAL OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE	220	-	220	-	-	-	-	220	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	3,930	-	2,127	1,547	255	924	40	2,966	-
INTANGIBLES									
Asset Management System Replacement	200	-	120	80	-	-	-	200	-
TOTAL INTANGIBLES	200	-	120	80	-	-	-	200	-
TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD CAPITAL WORKS 2024/25	7,311	-	3,032	1,965	2,313	924	40	6,347	-

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Capital Works Area	Project	Asset Expenditure Type				Summary of Funding Sources			
	Cost \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
MULTI - YEAR PROJECTS									
2024 - 25 Kilmany Landfill Cell 4 Design and Construction	1,460	-	-	-	1,460	-	-	1,460	-
2025 - 26 Kilmany Landfill Cell 4 Construction	1,650	-	-	-	1,650	-	-	1,650	-
2026 - 27 Kilmany Landfill Cell 4 Construction	1,500	-	-	-	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
2024-25 The WEDGE Renewal/Upgrade Works - Sale	344	-	103	138	103	-	-	344	-
2025-26 The WEDGE Renewal/Upgrade Works - Sale	1,000	-	300	400	300	-	-	1,000	-
2026-27 The WEDGE Renewal/Upgrade Works - Sale	1,500	-	450	600	450	-	-	1,500	-
2025 - 26 Cameron Sporting Complex - Football Changeroom Redevelopment	765	-	612	153		712	50	3	-
2026 - 27 Cameron Sporting Complex - Football Changeroom Redevelopment	350	-	280	70		178	-	172	-
							-		
2024-25 George Street Drainage	878	-	439	439	-	-	-	878	-
2025-26 George Street Drainage	3,150	-	1,150	2,000	-	-	-	3,150	-
2026-27 George Street Drainage	1,500	-	500	1,000	-	-	-	1,500	-
2025-26 Maffra Resource Recovery Facility (Transfer Station) construction	500	-	-	-	500	-	-	500	-
2027-28 Maffra Resource Recovery Facility (Transfer Station) construction	3,000	-	-	-	3,000	-	-	3,000	-

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Summary of Planned Capital Works Expenditure
For the years ending 30 June 2027, 2028 & 2029

2026/27	Asset Expenditure Types					Funding Sources				
	Total \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Total \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property										
Land	700	-	-	-	700	700	-	-	700	-
Land improvements	1,500	-	-	-	1,500	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
Total Land	2,200	-	-	-	2,200	2,200	-	-	2,200	-
Buildings	10,745	-	4,805	3,530	2,410	10,745	2,378	-	8,367	-
Total Buildings	10,745	-	4,805	3,530	2,410	10,745	2,378	-	8,367	-
Total Property	12,945	-	4,805	3,530	4,610	12,945	2,378	-	10,567	-
Plant and Equipment										
Plant, machinery and equipment	3,977	-	3,587	-	390	3,977	-	20	3,957	-
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computers and telecommunications	720	-	590	130	-	720	-	-	720	-
Library books	238	-	238	-	-	238	-	-	238	-
Total Plant and Equipment	4,935	-	4,415	130	390	4,935	-	20	4,915	-
Infrastructure										
Roads	17,090	-	13,310	3,710	70	17,090	5,501	165	11,424	-
Bridges	1,550	-	1,015	535	-	1,550	850	-	700	-
Footpaths and cycleways	1,930	-	930	-	1,000	1,930	-	-	1,930	-
Drainage	5,000	-	2,675	2,175	150	5,000	-	-	5,000	-
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	3,099	-	2,539	560	-	3,099	1,514	85	1,500	-
Waste management	4,140	-	140	-	4,000	4,140	-	-	4,140	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	1,580	-	1,145	110	325	1,580	-	-	1,580	-
Aerodromes	95	-	15	-	80	95	-	-	95	-
Off street car parks	300	-	300	-	-	300	-	-	300	-
Other infrastructure	890	-	890	-	-	890	275	-	615	-
Total Infrastructure	35,674	-	22,959	7,090	5,625	35,674	8,140	250	27,284	-
Intangibles	80	-	80	-	-	80	-	-	80	-
Total Intangibles	80	-	80	-	-	80	-	-	80	-
Total Capital Works Expenditure	53,634	-	32,259	10,750	10,625	53,634	10,518	270	42,846	-

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

2027/28	Asset Expenditure Types					Funding Sources				
	Total \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Total \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property										
Land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings	7,432	-	3,850	1,594	1,988	7,432	1,000	-	6,432	-
Total Buildings	7,432	-	3,850	1,594	1,988	7,432	1,000	-	6,432	-
Total Property	7,432	-	3,850	1,594	1,988	7,432	1,000	-	6,432	-
Plant and Equipment										
Plant, machinery and equipment	5,393	-	5,103	-	290	5,393	-	20	5,373	-
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	40	-	-	-	40	40	-	-	40	-
Computers and telecommunications	611	-	500	111	-	611	-	-	611	-
Library books	233	-	233	-	-	233	-	-	233	-
Total Plant and Equipment	6,277	-	5,836	111	330	6,277	-	20	6,257	-
Infrastructure										
Roads	20,500	-	16,295	4,135	70	20,500	9,950	-	10,550	-
Bridges	2,250	-	1,465	785	-	2,250	1,350	-	900	-
Footpaths and cycleways	1,995	-	995	-	1,000	1,995	-	-	1,995	-
Drainage	3,300	-	1,900	1,150	250	3,300	-	-	3,300	-
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	1,547	-	1,355	192	-	1,547	1,065	65	417	-
Waste management	160	-	160	-	-	160	-	-	160	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	3,045	-	1,385	610	1,050	3,045	625	-	2,420	-
Aerodromes	385	-	385	-	-	385	-	-	385	-
Off street car parks	250	-	250	-	-	250	-	-	250	-
Other infrastructure	890	-	890	-	-	890	200	-	690	-
Total Infrastructure	34,322	-	25,080	6,872	2,370	34,322	13,190	65	21,067	-
Intangibles	500	-	500	-	-	500	-	-	500	-
Total Intangibles	500	-	500	-	-	500	-	-	500	-
	48,531	-	35,266	8,577	4,688	48,531	14,190	85	34,256	-
Total Capital Works Expenditure	48,531	-	35,266	8,577	4,688	48,531	14,190	85	34,256	-

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

2028/29	Asset Expenditure Types					Funding Sources				
	Total \$'000	New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Total \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Council Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Property										
Land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements	100	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	-
Total Land	100	-	-	-	100	100	-	-	100	-
Buildings	2,500	-	2,000	250	250	2,500	113	-	2,388	-
Total Buildings	2,500	-	2,000	250	250	2,500	113	-	2,388	-
Total Property	2,600	-	2,000	250	350	2,600	113	-	2,488	-
Plant and Equipment										
Plant, machinery and equipment	4,369	-	4,229	100	40	4,369	-	20	4,349	-
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	50	-	50	-	-	50	-	-	50	-
Computers and telecommunications	350	-	350	-	-	350	-	-	350	-
Library books	228	-	228	-	-	228	-	-	228	-
Total Plant and Equipment	4,997	-	4,857	100	40	4,997	-	20	4,977	-
Infrastructure										
Roads	16,900	-	14,210	2,470	220	16,900	4,800	-	12,100	-
Bridges	3,050	-	2,315	735	-	3,050	2,250	-	800	-
Footpaths and cycleways	2,010	-	1,010	-	1,000	2,010	-	-	2,010	-
Drainage	2,190	-	2,050	140	-	2,190	-	-	2,190	-
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	4,423	-	3,758	665	-	4,423	388	20	4,015	-
Waste management	60	-	60	-	-	60	-	-	60	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	4,390	-	1,480	940	1,970	4,390	1,200	-	3,190	-
Aerodromes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Off street car parks	750	-	750	-	-	750	-	-	750	-
Other infrastructure	1,140	-	1,140	-	-	1,140	200	-	940	-
Total Infrastructure	34,913	-	26,773	4,950	3,190	34,913	8,838	20	26,055	-
Intangibles	80	-	80	-	-	80	-	-	80	-
Total Intangibles	80	-	80	-	-	80	-	-	80	-
Total Capital Works Expenditure	42,590	-	33,710	5,300	3,580	42,590	8,951	40	33,599	-

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

5. Performance Indicators

5a. Targeted performance indicators

The following tables highlight Council's current and projected performance across a selection of targeted service and financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's intentions and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.

The targeted performance indicators below are the prescribed performance indicators contained in Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. Results against these indicators and targets will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Targeted performance indicators - Service

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual 2023/24	Forecast 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Projections				Trend +/-
						2026/27	2027/28	2028/29		
Governance										
Consultation and engagement (Council decisions made and implemented with community input)	Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council	1	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	o
Roads										
Condition (sealed local roads are maintained at the adopted condition standard)	Sealed local roads below the intervention level Number of kms of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kms of sealed local roads	2	99.23%	99.40%	99.40%	99.50%	99.60%	99.60%	99.60%	+
Statutory planning										
Service standard (planning application processing and decisions are in accordance with legislative requirements)	Planning applications decided within the relevant required time Number of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time / Number of planning application decisions made	3	90.57%	93.00%	93.0%	93.47%	93.93%	94.40%	94.40%	+
Waste management										
Waste diversion (amount of waste diverted from landfill is maximised)	Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins	4	30.02%	28.00%	27.0%	54.00%	59.40%	65.34%	65.34%	+

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Targeted performance indicators - Financial

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual 2023/24	Forecast 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Projections 2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Trend +/-
Liquidity									
Working Capital (sufficient working capital is available to pay bills as and when they fall due)	Current assets compared to current liabilities Current assets / current liabilities	5	454%	457%	397.8%	339%	362%	331%	-
Obligations									
Asset renewal (assets are renewed as planned)	Asset renewal compared to depreciation Asset renewal and upgrade expense / Asset depreciation	6	108%	153.7%	149.6%	123.8%	122.8%	107.1%	-
Stability									
Rates concentration (revenue is generated from a range of sources)	Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue Rate revenue / adjusted underlying revenue	7	65.92%	60.68%	60.7%	62.66%	61.20%	63.58%	-
Efficiency									
Expenditure level (resources are used efficiently in the delivery of services)	Expenses per property assessment Total expenses / no. of property assessments	8	\$3,742	\$3,500	\$3,569	\$3,632	\$3,695	\$3,775	+

5b. Financial Performance Indicators

The following table highlights Council's current and projected performance across a range of key financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's financial position and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.

The financial performance indicators below are the prescribed financial performance indicators contained in Part 3 of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. Results against these indicators will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual 2023/24	Forecast 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Projections 2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Trend +/-
Operating position									
Adjusted underlying result (an adjusted underlying surplus is generated in the ordinary course of business)	Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue	9	-18.3%	0.2%	-0.2%	-0.6%	-0.2%	0.0%	+
Liquidity									
Unrestricted cash (sufficient cash that is free of restrictions is available to pay bills as and when they fall due)	Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities Unrestricted cash / current liabilities	10	454.2%	457.1%	397.8%	338.5%	361.7%	330.6%	-
Obligations									
Loans and borrowings (level of interest bearing loans and borrowings is appropriate to the size and nature of Council's activities)	Loans and borrowings compared to rates Interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue	11	10.2%	13.0%	14.1%	13.4%	12.7%	11.8%	+
Loans and borrowings (level of interest bearing loans and borrowings is appropriate to the size and nature of Council's activities)	Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue		0.4%	1.3%	1.5%	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%	+
Indebtedness (level of long term liabilities is appropriate to the size and nature of a Council's activities)	Non-current liabilities compared to own-source revenue Non-current liabilities / own source revenue		22.3%	21.1%	21.8%	17.7%	19.7%	17.8%	-

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Strategic Resource Plan						
			Actual 2023/24	Forecast 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Projections			Trend
					2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	+/-	
Stability									
Rates effort (rating level is set based on the community's capacity to pay)	Rates compared to property values Rate revenue / CIV of rateable properties in the municipal district	12	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	-
Efficiency									
Revenue level (resources are used efficiently in the delivery of services)	Average rate per property assessment General rates and municipal charges / no. of property assessments	13	1,792.55	1,959.31	2,008.75	2,064.90	2,122.90	2,182.21	+

Key to Forecast Trend:

- + Forecasts improvement in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator
- o Forecasts that Council's financial performance/financial position indicator will be steady
- Forecasts deterioration in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator

Notes to indicators

5a

1. Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement

The 2023-24 result for satisfaction with community consultation and engagement was a score of 53. The target set for 2024-25 and beyond is to maintain the score on this indicator.

2. Sealed local roads below the intervention level

Wellington Shire Council is continuing to invest in its road network through major reconstruction projects and maintenance. Council's target is to maintain our condition standard through 2025/26.

3. Planning applications decided within the relevant required time

A combination of both a fully staffed Statutory Planning Team and levels of development are contributing factors resulting in gradually increasing trends in the number of planning applications decided within required timeframes.

4. Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill

The target figure has been reduced on previous years as a result of the uptake of the new Container Deposit Scheme by residents, which has diverted recyclables to a higher recovery stream and improved recycling outcomes overall.

5. Working Capital

The proportion of current liabilities covered by current assets. Working capital is forecast to increase due to a higher cash balance.

6. Asset renewal

This percentage indicates the extent of Council's renewals and upgrades against its depreciation charge (an indication of the decline in value of its existing capital assets). A percentage greater than 100 indicates Council is maintaining its existing assets, while a percentage less than 100 means its assets are deteriorating faster than they are being renewed and future capital expenditure will be required to renew assets.

7. Rates concentration

Reflects extent of reliance on rate revenue to fund all of Council's on-going services. Trend indicates Council's reliance on rate revenue compared to all other revenue sources will marginally increase over the four year period.

8. Expenditure level

Expenses have increased due to impacts of Council's annual capital works program and rises in CPI and staff costs.

9. Adjusted underlying result

An indicator of the sustainable operating result required to enable Council to continue to provide core services and meet its objectives. The adjusted underlying result calculation includes recurrent capital funding (i.e. Roads to Recovery funding), loss from sale/disposal of property, plant and equipment and other capital income but excludes non-recurrent capital grant and contributions.

10. Unrestricted cash

Council's liquidity is in a strong financial position due to a high cash balance. As Council borrows funds in future years, the loan repayments which are included in current liabilities increases which results in reducing unrestricted cash.

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

11. Debt compared to rates

Trend indicates Council's reliance on debt against its annual rate revenue through management of long term debt. The 2024/25 forecast demonstrates a minimal current debt balance. Additional borrowings are required to fund development infrastructure projects and major capital works from 2025/26 onwards.

12. Rates effort

Assessment of whether Councils set rates at an appropriate level. Lower proportion of rate revenue suggests a reduced rate burden on the community.

13. Revenue level

Assessment of whether resources are being used efficiently to deliver services. A positive trend is projected over the next four year period.

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

6. Schedule of Proposed Fees and Charges at 1 July 2025 (GST inclusive)

This appendix presents the fees and charges which will be charged in respect to various goods and services during the financial year 2025/26.

Note that this schedule is not exhaustive. There may be other fees that are set by statute and charged by Council in addition to this listing. These are statutory fees, and are made in accordance with legislative requirements. These fees are updated as of 1 July 2025 and will be reflected on Council's website.

SERVICE	C/L	GST	2024/25 Fee (Incl GST \$)	2025/26 Fee (Incl GST \$)	Effective Date of Change
ART GALLERY					
Art Gallery Life Drawing Classes (Each)	C	Yes	30.00	31.00	1-Jan-26
Art Gallery Life Drawing Classes (6 week course)	C	Yes	175.00	180.00	1-Jan-26
Adult Art Workshop - Full Price	C	Yes	55.00	57.00	1-Jan-26
Adult Art Workshop - Friends Discount	C	Yes	32.50	34.00	1-Jan-26
Art Gallery Education – Subscriptions					
Primary Schools under 150	C	Yes	120.00	124.00	1-Jan-26
Primary Schools over 150	C	Yes	244.00	252.00	1-Jan-26
Secondary Schools	C	Yes	260.00	270.00	1-Jan-26
Specialist Schools	C	Yes	120.00	124.00	1-Jan-26
Kindergartens	C	Yes	120.00	124.00	1-Jan-26
Tertiary Institutions	C	Yes	405.00	417.00	1-Jan-26
Children's Workshops - First Child	C	Yes	16.50	17.00	1-Jan-26
Children's Workshops - Each Additional Child	C	Yes	11.50	12.00	1-Jan-26
Image Reproduction Fees	C	Yes	133.50	138.00	1-Jan-26
THE WEDGE					
Main Stage Hire Rates					
Commercial Rate per day (Max 14 hours)	C	Yes	1,695.00	1,746.00	1-Jul-25
Commercial Rate - Extra time per half hour	C	Yes	186.00	192.00	1-Jul-25
Commercial - Second performance on the same day	C	Yes	822.00	847.00	1-Jul-25
Commercial - Pre-Rig	C	Yes	873.00	900.00	1-Jul-25
Community Rate per day (Max 14 hours)	C	Yes	935.00	964.00	1-Jul-25
Community Rate - Half Day (max 6 hours)	C	Yes	760.00	783.00	1-Jul-25
Community Rate - Extra time per half hour	C	Yes	102.00	106.00	1-Jul-25
Community - second performance on the same day	C	Yes	344.00	355.00	1-Jul-25
Community - Pre-Rig	C	Yes	436.00	450.00	1-Jul-25
Commercial per Week	C	Yes	8,475.00	8,730.00	1-Jul-25
Community per Week	C	Yes	4,160.00	4,285.00	1-Jul-25
Commercial Rate - Short hire (max 3 hours)	C	Yes	1,075.00	1,108.00	1-Jul-25
Community Rate - Short hire (max 3 hours)	C	Yes	590.00	608.00	1-Jul-25
Studio per day (Max 8 hours)	C	Yes	334.00	345.00	1-Jul-25
Studio - Short hire (Max 4 hours)	C	Yes	174.00	180.00	1-Jul-25
Studio - Extra time per half hour	C	Yes	27.50	29.00	1-Jul-25
Café Closure Fee	C	Yes	1,795.00	1,849.00	1-Jul-25
Admin Fee - Recurring date change	C	Yes	318.00	328.00	1-Jul-25
Outdoor Stage					
Outdoor Stage Hirer Commercial PLUS Travel and Labour	C	Yes	2,055.00	2,117.00	1-Jul-25
Outdoor Stage Hirer Community PLUS Travel and Labour	C	Yes	822.00	847.00	1-Jul-25
Cancellation Fees					
Cancellation fee 30 days or less	C	Yes	50% of Fee + Full Marketing Cost		1-Jul-23
Cancellation 5 days or less	C	Yes	100% of Fee + Full Marketing cost		1-Jul-23
Ticket Fees					
Ticket fees per ticket - Commercial	C	Yes	4.80	4.95	1-Jul-25
Ticket fees average per ticket - Community	C	Yes	3.15	3.25	1-Jul-25
Complimentary Ticket Fee	C	Yes	1.05	1.10	1-Jul-25
Credit Card Surcharge on Tickets	C	Yes	A maximum of 1.08% for credit cards only.		1-Jul-23
Labour Production Crew - Commercial Rates					
Monday to Friday					
Tech Labour Commercial Charge Out per hour	C	Yes	72.00	80.00	1-Jul-25
Tech Labour Commercial Charge Out per hour After 8 hours	C	Yes	92.00	100.00	1-Jul-25
Weekends					
Tech Labour Commercial Charge Out per hour	C	Yes	72.00	100.00	1-Jul-25

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

SERVICE	C/L	GST	2024/25 Fee (Incl GST \$)	2025/26 Fee (Incl GST \$)	Effective Date of Change
THE WEDGE Cont'd					
Labour Production Crew - Community Rates					
Monday to Friday					
Tech Labour Community charge out per hour	C	Yes	57.00	60.00	1-Jul-25
Tech Labour Community charge out per hour after 8 hours	C	Yes	75.00	80.00	1-Jul-25
Tech Labour Community charge out per hour after 10 hours	C	Yes		100.00	1-Jul-25
Weekends					
Tech Labour Community charge out per hour	C	Yes	57.00	80.00	1-Jul-25
Labour Front of House - Commercial Rates					
FOH Labour Commercial charge out per hour	C	Yes	72.00	75.00	1-Jul-25
FOH Labour Commercial charge out per hour After 8 hours	C	Yes	92.00	95.00	1-Jul-25
Labour Front of House - Community Rates					
FOH Labour Community charge out per hour	C	Yes	57.00	60.00	1-Jul-25
FOH Labour Community charge out per hour After 8 hours	C	Yes	75.00	80.00	1-Jul-25
Marketing Fees					
Poster Distribution	C	Yes	308.00	318.00	1-Jul-25
Direct Marketing	C	Yes	205.00	212.00	1-Jul-25
Media Release	C	Yes	205.00	212.00	1-Jul-25
Social Media	C	Yes	154.00	159.00	1-Jul-25
Website Homepage Feature	C	Yes	154.00	159.00	1-Jul-25
Selected Show Flying	C	Yes	154.00	159.00	1-Jul-25
Foyer Monitors	C	Yes	102.00	106.00	1-Jul-25
Season Brochure	C	Yes	770.00	794.00	1-Jul-25
Outdoor Screen	C	Yes	308.00	318.00	1-Jul-25
Content Creation Fee	C	Yes	257.00	265.00	1-Jul-25
Equipment					
Use of Grand Piano - Commercial	C	Yes	295.00	304.00	1-Jul-25
Use of Grand Piano - Community	C	Yes	175.00	181.00	1-Jul-25
Piano Tune	C	Yes		Cost price + 15%	1-Jul-21
Consumables (charged at cost +15%)	C	Yes		Min \$50 per show	1-Jul-21
Hired in Equipment	C	Yes		Cost price + 15%	1-Jul-25
Rider	C	Yes		Cost price + 20%	1-Jul-25
Damage Charge	C	Yes		Cost price + 15%	1-Jul-25
Merchandise	C	Yes		Cost price + 15%	1-Jul-25
LIBRARY					
Printing/Photocopies B&W A4 per page	C	Yes	0.20	0.20	1-Jul-22
Printing/Photocopies B&W A3 per page	C	Yes	0.40	0.40	1-Jul-22
Printing/Photocopies Colour A4 per page	C	Yes	0.80	0.80	1-Jul-22
Printing/Photocopies Colour A3 per page	C	Yes	1.50	1.50	1-Jul-22
Microfilm Printing A4 per page	C	Yes	0.20	0.20	1-Jul-22
Interlibrary loans - Victorian municipal libraries fee	C	Yes	4.40	4.50	1-Jul-25
Interlibrary Loans - Books per transfer	C	Yes	30.00	31.00	1-Jul-25
Mini-earphones	C	Yes	5.50	5.50	1-Jul-24
Library Laminating A4 size	C	Yes	2.10	2.10	1-Jul-24
Library Laminating A3 size	C	Yes	3.60	3.60	1-Jul-24
Library Book Covering	C	Yes	11.50	11.50	1-Jul-24
Library Binding Repairs (thin book approx. 10 mins)	C	Yes	11.50	11.50	1-Jul-24
Library Binding Repairs (thick book approx. 15 mins)	C	Yes	16.50	16.50	1-Jul-24
Replacement membership cards	C	Yes	3.70	3.70	1-Jul-24
Replacement CD for Talking Book set	C	Yes	RRP	RRP	1-Jul-17
Lost Book, Magazine or Audio-Visual item	C	Yes	RRP	RRP	1-Jul-13
Maffra Exhibition Space					
Community rate			Free usage for community groups		1-Jul-25
Hourly rate	C	Yes		10.00	1-Jul-25
Half day rate	C	Yes		40.00	1-Jul-25
Full day rate	C	Yes	178.00	80.00	1-Jul-25

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

SERVICE	C/L	GST	2024/25 Fee (Incl GST \$)	2025/26 Fee (Incl GST \$)	Effective Date of Change
MEETING ROOMS					
Wellington Centre Meeting Rooms					
Wayput Room per half day Standard Rate	C	Yes	144.00	150.00	1-Jul-25
Wayput Room per day Standard Rate	C	Yes	227.50	240.00	1-Jul-25
Carang Carang Room per half day Standard Rate	C	Yes	177.50	182.00	1-Jul-25
Carang Carang Room per day Standard Rate	C	Yes	331.00	340.00	1-Jul-25
Wellington Room per half day Standard Rate	C	Yes	229.00	235.00	1-Jul-25
Wellington Room per day Standard Rate	C	Yes	455.00	460.00	1-Jul-25
Meeting Room (Wellington Centre), Community	C	Yes	Free usage for community groups/ individuals		
Function Gathering area per half day Standard Rate	C	Yes	177.50	182.00	1-Jul-25
Function Gathering area per day Standard Rate	C	Yes	331.00	340.00	1-Jul-25
Setup fee for room configuration (optional)	C	Yes	56.00	57.00	1-Jul-25
Yarram Hub Meeting Rooms					
Meeting Room 1 or 2 (max 25 people) per day, Community or Not For Profit	C	Yes	Free usage for community groups		1-Jul-19
Both Meeting Rooms 1 and 2 (max 50 people) per day, Community or Not For Profit	C	Yes	Free usage for community groups		1-Jul-19
Meeting Rooms 1 or 2 (max 25 people) per day	C	Yes	127.00	131.00	1-Jul-25
Meeting Rooms 1 or 2 (max 25 people) half day	C	Yes	63.50	65.50	1-Jul-25
Both Meeting Rooms 1 and 2 (max 50 people) per day	C	Yes	248.50	256.00	1-Jul-25
Both Meeting Rooms (max 50 people) half day	C	Yes	127.00	131.00	1-Jul-25
Consulting Room 1 or 2 per hour	C	Yes	12.00	12.50	1-Jul-25
Consulting Room 1 or 2 per day	C	Yes	47.50	49.00	1-Jul-25
GIPPSLAND REGIONAL SPORTS COMPLEX					
Indoor Courts					
Court Hire (peak) per hour	C	Yes	57.00	59.00	1-Jul-25
Court Hire (off peak) per hour	C	Yes	41.50	43.00	1-Jul-25
Training Casual Use (adult and concession - One Fee from now on)	C	Yes	5.00	5.20	1-Jul-25
Outdoor Courts					
Outdoor Court with Lights - per hour (Capped at 6 Courts)	C	Yes	13.00	13.50	1-Jul-25
Outdoor Court no Lights - per hour (Capped at 6 Courts)	C	Yes	6.50	6.80	1-Jul-25
Associations					
Association Court Hire Fee (Season based)(peak) per hour	C	Yes	50.00	51.75	1-Jul-25
Association Court Hire Fee (Season based) (off peak) per hour*	C	Yes	40.50	41.90	1-Jul-25
Synthetic Pitch Hire					
Full Field per hour	C	Yes	69.00	71.40	1-Jul-25
Full Field Lights per hour	C	Yes	45.00	46.60	1-Jul-25
Half Field per hour	C	Yes	41.50	43.00	1-Jul-25
Half Field Lights per hour	C	Yes	27.50	28.50	1-Jul-25
Off Peak (Weekday rate - Full field) per hour	C	Yes	55.50	57.50	1-Jul-25
Off Peak (Weekday rate - Half field) per hour	C	Yes	33.00	34.20	1-Jul-25
Facility Hire					
Office Annual Hire Fee	C	Yes	372.00	385.00	1-Jul-25
Meeting Room 1 or Meeting Room 2 per hour	C	Yes	21.00	21.70	1-Jul-25
Conference Room Commercial Hire or Single Use Hire. Two hour minimum booking, includes kitchen	C	Yes	41.50	43.00	1-Jul-25
Kiosk Annual Hire	C	Yes	2,195.00	2,271.00	1-Jul-25
Commercial Facility Hire (Minimum hourly charge for Non-GRSC User Groups)	C	Yes	41.50	43.00	1-Jul-25
Other					
Social Sports Participation (Term Fee, Individual)	C	Yes	\$40.00 to \$110.00	\$40.00 to \$110.00	1-Jul-25
Birthday Party Host half hour	C	Yes		25.00	1-Jul-25
Birthday Party Host per hour	C	Yes	41.50	48.00	1-Jul-25
Program Facilitator per hour	C	Yes	41.50	43.00	1-Jul-25
Inflatable Party Fee	C	Yes	200.00	225.00	1-Jul-25
Inflatable Hire Fee (Small)	C	Yes	120.00	124.00	1-Jul-25
Inflatable Hire Fee (Medium)	C	Yes	180.00	186.00	1-Jul-25
Inflatable Hire Fee (Large)	C	Yes	240.00	248.00	1-Jul-25
Inflatable Zone	C	Yes	15.00	15.00	1-Jul-24
Hockey Pavilion Hire	C	Yes	21.00	21.70	1-Jul-25
Hot Food Platter	C	Yes		35.00	1-Jul-25
Administrative Fees					
Booking Cancellation Fee	C	Yes	28.00	28.00	1-Jul-24

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

SERVICE	C/L	GST	2024/25 Fee (Incl GST \$)	2025/26 Fee (Incl GST \$)	Effective Date of Change
AQUA ENERGY					
Aquatics Casual Entry					
Aquatic Adult	C	Yes	7.60	7.90	1-Jul-25
Aquatic Concession	C	Yes	6.10	6.30	1-Jul-25
Aquatic Child (0-15)	C	Yes	5.10	5.30	1-Jul-25
Aquatic Family (Medicare card)	C	Yes	20.30	21.10	1-Jul-25
Aquatic School Group - per Student	C	Yes	4.10	4.20	1-Jan-26
Aquatic School Group - Cost of Instructor	C	Yes	50.90	52.70	1-Jan-26
Group Fitness & Gym Casual Entry					
Group Fitness Adult	C	Yes	16.87	17.50	1-Jul-25
Group Fitness Concession	C	Yes	13.40	14.00	1-Jul-25
Group Fitness Schools - per student	C	Yes	8.90	9.30	1-Jan-26
Gym Adult	C	Yes	18.60	19.30	1-Jul-25
Gym Concession	C	Yes	14.90	15.40	1-Jul-25
Gym Teen (classes or gym)	C	Yes	8.40	8.70	1-Jul-25
Gym School Group - per student	C	Yes	9.90	10.30	1-Jan-26
Gym User Group - per participant	C	Yes	9.90	10.30	1-Jul-25
Allied Health Gym User	C	Yes	10.30	10.70	1-Jul-25
Living Longer Living Stronger (gym/fitness classes)	C	Yes	7.50	7.80	1-Jul-25
Multi Visit Passes					
10 visit Swim - Adult	C	Yes	68.40	71.10	1-Jul-25
10 visit Swim - Child	C	Yes	45.90	47.70	1-Jul-25
10 visit Swim - Concession	C	Yes	54.90	56.70	1-Jul-25
10 visit Swim - Family	C	Yes	182.70	189.90	1-Jul-25
10 visit Gym - Adult	C	Yes	167.40	173.70	1-Jul-25
10 visit Gym - Concession	C	Yes	134.10	138.60	1-Jul-25
10 visit Group Fitness - Adult	C	Yes	150.30	157.50	1-Jul-25
10 visit Group Fitness - Concession	C	Yes	120.60	126.00	1-Jul-25
Living Longer Living Stronger 4 week	C	Yes	54.60	56.50	1-Jul-25
Living Longer Living Stronger 6 week	C	Yes	81.80	84.70	1-Jul-25
Living Longer Living Stronger 8 week	C	Yes	109.40	113.20	1-Jul-25
Living Longer Living Stronger 10 Session Pass	C	Yes	75.00	78.00	1-Jul-25
Other					
Fitness Room Hire - Full Day	C	Yes	62.80	65.00	1-Jul-25
Fitness Room Hire - Half Day	C	Yes	31.40	32.50	1-Jul-25
Meeting Room Hire - per hour	C	Yes	21.20	21.90	1-Jul-25
Pink Ribbon	C	Yes	5.80	6.00	1-Jul-25
Learn to Swim Lessons					
Swim lessons - 30mins	C	No	20.50	21.20	1-Jul-25
Swim lessons - 45mins	C	No	21.80	22.60	1-Jul-25
Swim lessons - 1hour	C	No	23.40	24.20	1-Jul-25
Private 1:1 - Half Hour	C	No	52.40	54.20	1-Jul-25
Private 1:1 Concession - Half Hour	C	No	41.90	43.40	1-Jul-25
Holiday Swim Program	C	No	72.30	74.80	1-Jul-25
Disability - Achiever Program 1:1	C	No	33.90	35.10	1-Jul-25
Swim lesson - 30mins - Direct Debit - fortnight	C	No	33.90	35.10	1-Jul-25
Swim lesson - 45mins - Direct Debit - fortnight	C	No	36.30	37.60	1-Jul-25
Swim lesson - 1hour - Direct Debit - fortnight	C	No	38.90	40.30	1-Jul-25
Group Adult Swimming Lessons	C	Yes	10.30	10.70	1-Jul-25
Pool Hire					
Swimming Pool Hire - whole pool per hour	C	Yes	172.50	178.50	1-Jul-25
Swimming Pool Hire - lane per hour	C	Yes	53.50	55.40	1-Jul-25
Pool Inflatable Hire - per hour	C	Yes	115.20	119.20	1-Jul-25
Additional Lifeguard - per hour	C	Yes	51.50	53.30	1-Jul-25
Admin					
Membership card replacement fee	C	Yes	10.30	10.70	1-Jul-25
Term Memberships					
Joining Fee (Component of all new memberships, not included in renewals)	C	Yes	82.00	85.00	1-Jul-25

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

SERVICE	C/L	GST	2024/25 Fee (Incl GST \$)	2025/26 Fee (Incl GST \$)	Effective Date of Change
AQUA ENERGY Cont'd					
Base Aquatic Adult Fee (12 Month Renewal Fee)	C	Yes	439.00	461.00	1-Jul-25
Aquatic 12mth - Adult	C	Yes	521.00	546.00	1-Jul-25
Aquatic 12mth - Concession Renew	C	Yes	352.00	369.00	1-Jul-25
Aquatic 12mth - Concession	C	Yes	434.00	454.00	1-Jul-25
Aquatic 12mth - Child Renew	C	Yes	293.00	308.00	1-Jul-25
Aquatic 12mth - Child	C	Yes	375.00	393.00	1-Jul-25
Aquatic 12mth - Family Renew	C	Yes	732.00	769.00	1-Jul-25
Aquatic 12mth - Family	C	Yes	814.00	854.00	1-Jul-25
Aquatic 6mth - Adult	C	Yes	302.00	316.00	1-Jul-25
Aquatic 6mth - Concession	C	Yes	258.00	270.00	1-Jul-25
Aquatic 6mth - Child	C	Yes	229.00	239.00	1-Jul-25
Aquatic 6mth - Family	C	Yes	489.00	512.00	1-Jul-25
Aquatic 3mth - Adult	C	Yes	192.00	201.00	1-Jul-25
Aquatic 3mth - Concession	C	Yes	170.00	178.00	1-Jul-25
Aquatic 3mth - Child	C	Yes	156.00	162.00	1-Jul-25
Aquatic 3mth - Family	C	Yes	265.00	278.00	1-Jul-25
Base Gold Adult Fee (12 Month Renewal Fee)	C	Yes	1,171.00	1,212.00	1-Jul-25
Gold 12mth - Adult	C	Yes	1,253.00	1,297.00	1-Jul-25
Gold 12mth - Concession Renew	C	Yes	937.00	970.00	1-Jul-25
Gold 12mth - Concession	C	Yes	1,019.00	1,055.00	1-Jul-25
Gold 12mth - Family Renew	C	Yes	1,952.00	2,020.00	1-Jul-25
Gold 12mth - Family	C	Yes	2,034.00	2,105.00	1-Jul-25
Gold 6mth - Adult	C	Yes	668.00	691.00	1-Jul-25
Gold 6mth - Concession	C	Yes	551.00	570.00	1-Jul-25
Gold 6mth - Family	C	Yes	1,058.00	1,095.00	1-Jul-25
Gold 3mth - Adult	C	Yes	375.00	388.00	1-Jul-25
Gold 3mth - Concession	C	Yes	317.00	328.00	1-Jul-25
Gold 3mth - Family	C	Yes	570.00	590.00	1-Jul-25
Direct Debit Memberships - Fortnightly					
Aquatic Direct Debit - Adult	C	Yes	16.90	17.80	1-Jul-25
Aquatic Direct Debit - Concession	C	Yes	13.60	14.20	1-Jul-25
Aquatic Direct Debit - Child	C	Yes	11.30	11.90	1-Jul-25
Aquatic Direct Debit - Family	C	Yes	28.20	29.60	1-Jul-25
Gold Direct Debit - Adult	C	Yes	45.10	46.70	1-Jul-25
Gold Direct Debit - Concession	C	Yes	36.10	37.40	1-Jul-25
Gold Direct Debit - Family	C	Yes	75.10	77.70	1-Jul-25
Base Gym/Group Fitness Fee	C	Yes		909.00	1-Jul-25
Gym/GF 12mth - Adult	C	Yes		909.00	1-Jul-25
Gym/GF 12mth - Concession	C	Yes		728.00	1-Jul-25
Gym/GF 12mth - Family	C	Yes		1,515.00	1-Jul-25
Gym/GF 3mth - Adult	C	Yes		228.00	1-Jul-25
Gym/GF 3mth - Concession	C	Yes		182.00	1-Jul-25
Gym/GF 3mth - Family	C	Yes		379.00	1-Jul-25
Gym/GF Direct Debit - Adult	C	Yes		35.00	1-Jul-25
Gym/GF Direct Debit - Concession	C	Yes		28.00	1-Jul-25
Gym/GF Direct Debit - Family	C	Yes		58.30	1-Jul-25
Wellness Fees					
Wellness 12mth - Adult	C	Yes		390.00	1-Jul-25
Wellness 3mth - Adult	C	Yes		97.50	1-Jul-25
Wellness Direct Debit - Adult	C	Yes		15.00	1-Jul-25
Wellness Casual - Adult	C	Yes		10.00	1-Jul-25
Living Longer Living Stronger Direct Debit	C	Yes	35.20	36.50	1-Jul-25
Corporate Adult 5+ Direct Debit	C	Yes	40.60	42.10	1-Jul-25
Corporate Family 5+ Direct Debit	C	Yes	67.60	70.00	1-Jul-25
Direct Debit - Teen Gym - Fortnightly	C	Yes	35.20	36.50	1-Jul-25
Direct Debit - Boot Camp - Fortnightly (6 sessions per f/night)	C	Yes	70.70	73.20	1-Jul-25

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

SERVICE	C/L	GST	2024/25 Fee (Incl GST \$)	2025/26 Fee (Incl GST \$)	Effective Date of Change
AQUA ENERGY Cont'd					
Personal Training					
Personal Training 1 Hour Session	C	Yes	57.50	59.50	1-Jul-25
Personal Training 1/2 Hour Session	C	Yes	28.80	29.80	1-Jul-25
Personal Training 1 Hour Session 1:2	C	Yes	69.00	71.40	1-Jul-25
Personal Training 1 Hour Session 1:3	C	Yes	103.50	107.10	1-Jul-25
Personal Training 1 Hour Session 1:4	C	Yes	138.00	142.80	1-Jul-25
Personal Training 3 Pack - 3 x 30 min	C	Yes	86.30	89.30	1-Jul-25
Personal Training 3 Pack - 3 x 60 min	C	Yes	172.50	178.50	1-Jul-25
Personal Training 5 Pack - 5 x 30 min	C	Yes	144.00	149.00	1-Jul-25
Personal Training 5 Pack - 5 x 60 min	C	Yes	287.70	297.80	1-Jul-25
Personal Training 10 Pack - 10 x 30 min	C	Yes	287.70	297.80	1-Jul-25
Personal Training 10 Pack - 10 x 60 min	C	Yes	575.40	595.50	1-Jul-25
Boot Camp (per session, casual rate)	C	Yes	17.70	18.30	1-Jul-25
Summer Season Passes - 15 Weeks					
Adult	C	Yes	126.60	133.00	1-Jul-25
Concession	C	Yes	101.50	106.40	1-Jul-25
Child (5-15)	C	Yes	84.50	88.80	1-Jul-25
Family	C	Yes	211.20	221.80	1-Jul-25
OUTDOOR POOLS					
Single Admission (Aqua Energy Pools)					
Adult	C	Yes	7.60	7.90	1-Jul-25
Concession	C	Yes	6.10	6.30	1-Jul-25
Child (4-15)	C	Yes	5.10	5.30	1-Jul-25
Family	C	Yes	19.50	21.10	1-Jul-25
Summer Season Passes - 15 Weeks					
Adult	C	Yes	122.30	133.00	1-Jul-25
Concession	C	Yes	98.10	106.40	1-Jul-25
Child (4-15)	C	Yes	81.60	88.80	1-Jul-25
Family	C	Yes	203.90	221.80	1-Jul-25
Single Admission (Rural Pools)					
Adult	C	Yes	7.30	6.70	1-Jul-25
Concession	C	Yes	5.80	5.40	1-Jul-25
Child (4-15)	C	Yes	4.90	4.50	1-Jul-25
Family	C	Yes	19.50	17.90	1-Jul-25
LOCAL LAWS					
Alfresco Dining Permit Annual Fee	C	No	205.00	211.00	1-Jul-25
Roadside Trading Permit (12 Weeks fee)	C	No	843.00	868.00	1-Jul-25
Roadside Trading Permit (26 Weeks fee)	C	No	1,470.00	1,515.00	1-Jul-25
Roadside Trading Permit (52 Weeks fee)	C	No	2,600.00	2,678.00	1-Jul-25
Local Laws permit - 1 year	C	No	78.50	81.00	1-Jul-25
Local Law permit - 3 years	C	No	185.00	190.00	1-Jul-25
Impounded Vehicle release fee	C	No	360.00	370.00	1-Jul-25
Local Law Fines	L	No	198.00	203.00	1-Jul-25
VicRoads - Emergency works callout up to 3hrs	C	Yes	688.00	710.00	1-Jul-25
General Local Laws Impound Release Fee	C	No	133.50	138.00	1-Jul-25
ANIMALS					
Standard Fee - Domestic Animals - Dog Registrations	C	No	169.50	174.00	1-Jan-26
Dangerous, Menacing or Restricted Breed	C	No	236.00	243.00	1-Jan-26
Guard Dog	C	No	169.50	174.00	1-Jan-26
Reduced Fee (Sterilised, over 10 years old, kept for breeding at a licensed premises, owner a member of approved association, kept for working stock, obedience trained with an approved organisation) not applicable to dangerous, menacing, guard dog or restricted breeds	C	No	53.00	54.50	1-Jan-26
Pension Concession on above of 50%	L	No			
Standard Fee - Domestic Animals - Cat Registrations	C	No	169.50	174.00	1-Jan-26
Reduced Fee (Sterilised, over 10 years old, kept for breeding at a licensed premises, owner a member of approved association)	C	No	53.00	54.50	1-Jan-26
Pension Concession on above of 50%	L	No			

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

SERVICE	C/L	GST	2024/25 Fee (Incl GST \$)	2025/26 Fee (Incl GST \$)	Effective Date of Change
ANIMALS Cont'd					
Animal Cage Deposits (Refundable)	C	No	78.50	80.00	1-Jan-26
Domestic Animal Business Registration	L	No	295.00	303.00	1-Jan-26
DAB Information Access Fee (Request for information specific to the business)	C	No	84.00	86.00	1-Jan-26
Domestic Animal Business Registration - Breeders 3-10 Fertile Dogs	C	No	\$2,970 + vet fee if applicable	3,060.00	1-Jan-26
Domestic Animal Business Registration - Breeders requiring Ministerial Approval	C	No	\$3,136 + vet fee if applicable	3,230.00	1-Jan-26
Impound Penalties					
Release Penalty Dogs & Cats Registered	C	No	160.00	160.00	1-Jul-21
Release Penalty Unregistered Dogs & Cats, or subsequent impound of Registered animal	C	No	190.00	190.00	1-Jul-21
Release Penalty Small Livestock - includes Sheep, Goats and Pigs	L	No	\$87.00 for 1st animal \$45.50 per subsequent animal + invoiced transport costs	\$90.00 for 1st animal \$47.00 per subsequent animal + invoiced transport costs	1-Jul-25
Release Penalty Large Livestock - includes Cattle and Horses	L	No	\$140.00 for 1st animal \$45.50 for subsequent animal + invoiced transport costs	\$144.00 for 1st animal \$47.00 for subsequent animal + invoiced transport costs	1-Jul-25
Sustenance fee, per day per animal - fee may be increased dependent on seasonal availability.					
Small Livestock - includes Sheep, Goats and Pigs	C	No	18.00	20.00	1-Jul-25
Large Livestock - includes Cattle and Horses	C	No	26.00	28.00	1-Jul-25
BUILDING					
Building Report and Consents	L	No	321.15	447.41	1-Jul-25
Building Report and Consents - Hoarding Permits	L	No	325.80	325.00	1-Jul-25
Building Search & Plan Copy	C	Yes	102.00	180.00	1-Jul-25
Building Information Certificates	L	No	52.20	53.40	1-Jul-25
Copy of Building Permit, Occupancy Permit or Certificate of Final Inspection	C	Yes	44.80	180.00	1-Jul-25
Heritage/Demolition Response	L	No	94.10	96.25	1-Jul-25
Lodgement Fees – Domestic & Commercial	L	No	134.80	137.76	1-Jul-25
Caravan Park - Application for a Rigid Annexe	C	No	310.80	900.00	1-Jul-25
Stormwater Discharge Point	L	No	159.90	230.88	1-Jul-25
Places of Public Entertainment (POPES)	C	Yes	386.40	495.00	1-Jul-25
Aquatic Facilities (Incl. Pools & Spas)					
Inspection Fee (incl. Certificate Lodgement Fee)	C/L	No	385.00	394.63	1-Jul-25
Pool Registration Fee	C/L	No	35.20	35.98	1-Jul-25
Search Fee (with no Final Cert or Occupancy Permit)	C/L	No	52.20	53.40	1-Jul-25
Certificate Lodgement Fee	L	No	22.50	23.06	1-Jul-25
Non-Compliance Fee	L	No	425.80	437.27	1-Jul-25
HEALTH					
Premises Inspection Fee	C	No	315.00	325.00	1-Jul-25
Registration - Food Act - Class 1*	C	No	545.00	565.00	1-Jul-25
Registrations - Food Act: Class 2. Less than 5 EFT (Full Time Employees). 50% discount applies for a once off event*	C	No	545.00	565.00	1-Jul-25
Registrations: Food Act - Class 2 (Low volume). 50% discount applies for a once off event	C	No	318.00	328.00	1-Jul-25
Registrations: Food Act - Class 2. 6-10 EFT	C	No		635.00	1-Jul-25
Registrations: Food Act - Class 2. 11-25 EFT	C	No	690.00	715.00	1-Jul-25
Registrations: Food Act - Class 2. 26-50 EFT	C	No	950.00	980.00	1-Jul-25
Registrations: Food Act - Class 2. Over 50 EFT	C	No	1,460.00	1,510.00	1-Jul-25
Registration - Food Act: Class 3. 50% discount applies for a once off event*	C	No	318.00	328.00	1-Jul-25
Registrations: Food Act - Class 3 (Low volume). 50% discount applies for a once off event*	C	No	133.00	135.00	1-Jul-25
Registrations - Hairdressers or Temporary Makeup Lifetime one off fee*	C	No	285.00	295.00	1-Jul-25
Registrations – Hair/Beauty/Skin Penetration*	C	No	160.00	165.00	1-Jul-25
Registrations - Prescribed Accommodation*	C	No	235.00	242.00	1-Jul-25
Aquatic Facilities - Category 1	C	No	195.00	200.00	1-Jul-25
Registrations – Caravan Parks per site	L	No	As per Residential Tenancies (Caravan Parks and Moveable Dwellings Registration and Standards Regulations 2020)	As per Residential Tenancies (Caravan Parks and Moveable Dwellings Registration and Standards Regulations 2024)	1-Jul-25
* A 50% discount applies to new registrations from 1 August					1-Jul-25
* A 50% discount applies to registration of each additional temporary or mobile component(s) against a premises					1-Jul-25

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

SERVICE	C/L	GST	2024/25 Fee (Incl GST \$)	2025/26 Fee (Incl GST \$)	Effective Date of Change
HEALTH Cont'd					
Transfer of Registration	L	No	50% of annual registration fee		1-Jan-25
Transfer of Registration Caravan Parks	L	No	As per Residential Tenancies (Caravan Parks and Moveable Dwellings Registration and Standards Regulations 2020	As per Residential Tenancies (Caravan Parks and Moveable Dwellings Registration and Standards Regulations 2024	1-Jul-25
Registration Late fee additional 50%	C	No	Additional 50%		1-Jul-25
Additional Inspection Fee - used when a premises does not comply with first or second inspection requirements - includes non compliant food samples	C	No	185.00	190.00	1-Jul-25
Penalties - refer to relevant legislation. Penalty amounts are determined as per the Monetary Unit Act	L	No			1-Jul-25
Vaccines	C	No	Cost + admin fee		1-Jul-25
Site Visit Fee for Corporate Vaccinations	C	Yes	400.00	400.00	1-Jul-23
ONSITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM					
Minor Alteration of an OWMS	L	No	608.30	Legislated, TBA	1-Jul-24
Construct, Install or Alter an OWMS	L	No	\$798.20 Additional \$99.95 per hour up to a maximum of \$2,211.60	Legislated, TBA	1-Jul-24
Additional inspections	L	No	Additional \$99.95 per hour up to a maximum of \$2,211.60	Legislated, TBA	1-Jul-24
Renew a permit	L	No	135.70	Legislated, TBA	1-Jul-24
Transfer a permit	L	No	162.15	Legislated, TBA	1-Jul-24
Amend a permit	L	No	169.50	Legislated, TBA	1-Jul-24
Reissue of Permit	C	Yes	74.40	180.00	1-Jul-25
Exemption	L	No	\$239.55 for assessments not exceeding 2.6 hours. Additional \$97.00 per hour up to a maximum of \$1,002.80	Legislated, TBA	1-Jul-24
Report and Consent Request - unsewered areas	L	No	320.25	Legislated, TBA	1-Jul-24
PLANNING					
Development Advice Request	C	Yes	100.00	150.00	1-Jul-25
Development Advice Requests - Professional/Consultant (Strategic Planning and Statutory Planning Advice)	C	Yes		250.00	1-Jul-25
Planning Permit & Endorsed Plans Search and Copy	C	Yes	160.00	160.00	1-Jul-22
Planning Permit - Extension of Time	C	Yes	300.00	300.00	1-Jul-20
Planning Permit - Extension of Time: 3rd or 4th	C	Yes		450.00	1-Jul-25
Planning Permit - Extension of Time: 5th	C	Yes		600.00	1-Jul-25
Preparation/Review Section 173 Agreement	C	Yes	680.40	680.40	1-Jul-23
Strategic Planning Written Advice	C	Yes	100.00	150.00	1-Jul-25
Valuation (Public Open Space Contribution)	C	Yes	As charged by Council Valuers		1-Jul-17
Fees for Applications for Permits under Section 47 (Regulation 9) of the Planning & Environment Act 1987	L	No	The full schedule of fees can be accessed from the DELWP Legislation and Regulation page.		1-Jul-18
Fees for Applications to Amend Permits Under Section 72 (Regulation 11) of the Planning & Environment Act 1987	L	No	The full schedule of fees can be accessed from the DELWP Legislation and Regulation page.		1-Jul-18
Council Variations					
Amend an endorsed plan where the cost of the change is \$10,000 or less or for a minor amendment to the conditions where there is no requirement for new referrals or for public notice.	C	No	206.40	206.40	1-Jul-23
Sub-division trees	C	Yes	700.00	700.00	1-Jul-24
Heritage	C	No	NO FEE	NO FEE	1-Jul-18
Liquor Licence Only	C	No	200.00	NO FEE	1-Jul-25
Native Vegetation Removal					
>0.5 Hectares	C	No		400.00	1-Jul-25

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

SERVICE	C/L	GST	2024/25 Fee (Incl GST \$)	2025/26 Fee (Incl GST \$)	Effective Date of Change
FACILITY HIRE					
Gwen Webb Arts Activity Centre - Hire Charges					
Gwen Webb Centre Hire - Full Day*	C	Yes	63.00	65.00	1-Jul-25
Regular Hire (6 hours or less)	C	Yes	39.00	40.00	1-Jul-25
LEVEL 2 FACILITY HIRE CHARGES: Stephenson Park - Main Oval, Sale Main Oval, Sale Velodrome, Sale Lions Park (Little Athletes)					
Part or full day hire - (community groups) #	C	Yes	133.00	137.00	1-Jul-25
Part or full day hire - (schools casual hire)	C	Yes	Free	Free	1-Jul-20
Regular School Use - per season/per ground	C	Yes	262.00	270.00	1-Jul-25
Commercial/Private- Full Day*	C	Yes	430.00	443.00	1-Jul-25
Stephenson Park - Baseball Pitch Hire Charges (Level 2) (Includes Baseball Oval)	C	Yes	134.00	138.00	1-Jul-25
LEVEL 3 FACILITY HIRE CHARGES: Wurruk Oval					
Part or full day hire - (community groups) #	C	Yes	100.00	103.00	1-Jul-25
Part or full day hire - (schools casual hire)	C	Yes	Free	Free	1-Jul-18
Regular School Use - per season/per ground	C	Yes	195.00	200.00	1-Jul-25
Commercial/Private- Full Day*	C	Yes	290.00	300.00	1-Jul-25
LEVEL 4 FACILITY HIRE CHARGES: Stephenson Park - Rotary Oval or Baseball Oval (excluding pitch), Stead Street Oval					
Part or full day hire - (community groups) #	C	Yes	69.00	71.00	1-Jul-25
Part or full day hire - (schools casual hire)	C	Yes	Free	Free	1-Jul-18
Regular School Use - per season/per ground	C	Yes	130.00	134.00	1-Jul-25
Commercial/Private- Full Day*	C	Yes	145.00	150.00	1-Jul-25
Stephenson Park Upstairs Function Room					
Seasonal user group subsidised rate - Full Day**	C	Yes	65.00	67.00	1-Jul-25
Non seasonal user Community Group - Full Day*	C	Yes	263.00	271.00	1-Jul-25
Commercial/Private- Full Day*	C	Yes	425.00	438.00	1-Jul-25
Light Usage Fee/Hr (includes plug-in portable lighting)	C	Yes	22.00	23.00	1-Jul-25
Light Usage Fee/Hr 150 lux at Stephenson Park	C	Yes	38.00	39.00	1-Jul-25
Toilet cleaning charges to be added to Casual hire if applicable	C	Yes	38.00	39.00	1-Jul-25
*Half day hire = 4 hours or less. Charge is 50% of scheduled full day fee.					
* Seasonal Hire includes use of toilets and rubbish disposal and is only available at a full day rate.					
^Usage by seasonal hirers during scheduled training and games is free, usage outside of the regular booking dates will attract this fee.					
# A 92% discount is applied to Seasonal Users of the part or full day community group hire. Seasonal use is defined as 1 or more use per week.					
LAKESIDE ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS FACILITY (LEAF)					
Weddings and Commercial Organisations	C	Yes	210.00	215.00	1-Jul-25
Not for profit/community organisations	C	Yes	-	-	1-Jul-20
Use of Concertina Doors	C	Yes	195.00	200.00	1-Jul-25
Use of Concertina Doors Community Groups	C	Yes	100.00	105.00	1-Jul-25
CIRCUS					
Recreation Reserve Fees (Circus) Daily Fees	C	Yes	1,000.00	280.00	1-Jul-25
MOORINGS					
Mooring Fees - Annual Licence - pre June 2025 licences	C	Yes	1,101.45	1,135.00	1-Jul-25
Mooring Fees - Annual Licence - Tier 1 (C1 to C4)	C	Yes		2,250.00	1-Jul-25
Mooring Fees - Annual Licence - Tier 2 (N12 to N16)	C	Yes		1,970.00	1-Jul-25
Mooring Fees - Annual Licence - Tier 3 (N1 to N11, S1 to S16)	C	Yes		1,135.00	1-Jul-25
Mooring Temporary, Weekly, Min 2 weeks, Max 12 weeks	C	Yes	67.14	70.00	1-Jul-25
Transfer of Mooring Fee	C	Yes	57.70	60.00	1-Jul-25
AERODROMES					
Establishment fee for setting up user agreements - for new user agreements on Council Owned or Controlled Land	C	Yes	133.00	137.00	1-Jul-25
West Sale Airport Service Charge – Terminal Access – Per day for charter/commercial flights	C	Yes	134.10	138.20	1-Jul-25
Rate capped to 100 days p.a.					
West Sale Airport Service Charge – Use of Airside Apron Areas – per m2/p.a. Aircraft parking or equipment storage.	C	Yes	41.35	42.60	1-Jul-25
User agreement to be established for periods in excess of 28 continuous days					
Minimum charge \$300.00 (based on 100m2 for 1 month).					
West Sale Airport - User Access Charges / Landing Fees Fee applied per aircraft movement.	C	Yes	\$10.25 /tonne, pro-rata	\$10.6 /tonne, pro-rata	1-Jul-25
Yarram Aerodrome - User Access Charges / Landing Fees Fee applied per aircraft movement.	C	Yes	\$5.10 /tonne, pro-rata	\$5.3 /tonne, pro-rata	1-Jul-25

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

SERVICE	C/L	GST	2024/25 Fee (Incl GST \$)	2025/26 Fee (Incl GST \$)	Effective Date of Change
SALEYARDS					
Prime Sales					
Weighted Cattle	C	Yes	26.00	26.80	1-Jul-25
Weighted Bulls	C	Yes	34.50	35.60	1-Jul-25
Unweighted Cattle	C	Yes	18.40	19.00	1-Jul-25
Unweighted Bulls	C	Yes	26.00	26.80	1-Jul-25
Calves	C	Yes	4.40	4.60	1-Jul-25
Goats	C	Yes	2.30	2.40	1-Jul-25
Pigs	C	Yes	3.60	3.80	1-Jul-25
Droving Fee	C	Yes	4.60	4.80	1-Jul-25
Store Sales					
Unweighted Cattle	C	Yes	18.40	19.00	1-Jul-25
Unweighted Bulls	C	Yes	26.00	26.80	1-Jul-25
Unit (Cow and Calf)	C	Yes	22.60	23.30	1-Jul-25
Calves	C	Yes	4.40	4.60	1-Jul-25
Buyer / NLIS Fee					
Store Sales, Wednesday Calf Sales	C	Yes	3.40	3.60	1-Jul-25
Clearing Sales	C	Yes	3.40	3.60	1-Jul-25
Sheep Sales					
Sheep Sales	C	Yes	2.40	2.50	1-Jul-25
Sheep Tag Fee	C	Yes		6.20	1-Jul-25
Other					
Weigh Only	C	Yes	13.80	14.30	1-Jul-25
Scan Only	C	Yes	7.50	7.80	1-Jul-25
On Delivery Fee - Cattle	C	Yes	7.50	7.80	1-Jul-25
Post Breeder Tags - No Tag, Saleyard tag applied by GRLE	C	Yes	44.90	46.30	1-Jul-25
Agent Fee - Special Sales	C	Yes	187.80	193.50	1-Jul-25
Auctioneers Fees	C	Yes	159.40	164.20	1-Jul-25
Buyers Reports	C	Yes	0.40	0.50	1-Jul-25
Truck Wash (20% reduction for WSC transporters)	C	Yes	2.30	2.60	1-Jul-25
Unprocessed Compost	C	Yes	25.80	26.60	1-Jul-25
Transit Stock Fee - Per Head (50% reduction for WSC transporters)	C	Yes	5.30	5.50	1-Jul-25
Stock Feed Fee	C	Yes	28.00	28.90	1-Jul-25
Sheep Scanning Fee	C	Yes	0.50	0.60	1-Jul-25
Call Outs (After Hours) - Feed Fee First Hour	C	Yes	250.60	n/a	1-Jul-25
Call Outs (After Hours) - Cost Recovery - per hour (or part thereof)	C	Yes	125.30	129.10	1-Jul-25
Shower Facilities	C	Yes	No cost	Incl in truckwash fee	1-Jul-22
MAP SALES					
Hardcopy - Standard Map (Dekho, Internet, VicRoads) A3 Colour	C	Yes	13.50	13.50	1-Jul-24
Hardcopy - Standard Map (Dekho, Internet, VicRoads) A2 Colour	C	Yes	19.50	19.50	1-Jul-24
Hardcopy - Standard Map (Dekho, Internet, VicRoads) A1 Colour	C	Yes	33.00	33.00	1-Jul-24
Hardcopy - Aerial Photo Plot A4	C	Yes	13.50	13.50	1-Jul-24
Hardcopy - Aerial Photo Plot A3	C	Yes	19.50	19.50	1-Jul-24
Hardcopy - Aerial Photo Plot A2	C	Yes	33.00	33.00	1-Jul-24
Hardcopy - Aerial Photo Plot A1	C	Yes	45.00	45.00	1-Jul-24
Softcopy - Aerial Photo - sent to email address	C	Yes	11.00	11.00	1-Jul-24
SUSTAINABILITY					
EV charger fees	C	Yes	\$0.40 / kwh	\$0.50 / kwh	1-Jul-22
Enviro Ed Centre (Nakunbalook) - Room hire (Full Day)	C	Yes	300.00	300.00	1-Jul-22
Enviro Ed Centre (Nakunbalook) - Room hire (Half Day)	C	Yes	160.00	160.00	1-Jul-22
ROADS					
Rechargeable works	C	Yes		By Quote	1-Jul-18
Consent for Works Within Road Reserve	L	No	\$95.40 - \$685.30		1-Jul-24
Swing Bridge Special Openings (minimum of 7 days notification)	C	Yes	473.00	490.00	1-Jul-25

2025/26 Budget - Wellington Shire Council

SERVICE	C/L	GST	2024/25 Fee (Incl GST \$)	2025/26 Fee (Incl GST \$)	Effective Date of Change
TIPPING FEES					
Commercial Tonne	C	Yes	295.00	336.00	1-Jul-25
Commercial m3	C	Yes	114.00	134.00	1-Jul-25
Domestic m3	C	Yes	50.00	58.00	1-Jul-25
Greenwaste m3	C	Yes	17.00	17.00	1-Jul-24
Clean Concrete Tonne	C	Yes	37.00	38.00	1-Jul-25
Clean Concrete m3	C	Yes	52.00	54.00	1-Jul-25
Separated Recyclables m3	C	Yes	-	-	1-Jul-19
Asbestos (domestic only - minimum charge)	C	Yes	100.00	100.00	1-Jul-16
Single Mattress	C	Yes	30.00	30.00	1-Jul-22
Double/queen Mattress	C	Yes	50.00	50.00	1-Jul-22
E-Waste Fees	C	Yes	-	-	1-Jul-20
Recyclable Plastic Drums (Non Drummuster) <5lt	C	Yes	2.00	2.00	1-Jul-24
Recyclable Plastic Drums (Non Drummuster) 20lts	C	Yes	4.00	4.00	1-Jul-24
Clean Fill m3	C	Yes	392.00	280.00	1-Jul-25
Clean Fill Tonne	C	Yes	280.00	200.00	1-Jul-25
Gas bottles <10kg	C	Yes	15.00	15.00	1-Jul-24
Gas Bottles 10kg - 45kg	C	Yes	15.00	15.00	1-Jul-24
Cat/dog (Kilmany Only)	C	Yes	18.00	18.00	1-Jul-24
Cow/horse (Kilmany Only)	C	Yes	77.00	79.00	1-Jul-25
Sheep/calf (Kilmany Only)	C	Yes	38.00	39.00	1-Jul-25
Passenger/Motorcycle Tyres	C	Yes	15.00	15.00	1-Jul-24
Passenger/Motorcycle Tyres on Rim	C	Yes	30.00	30.00	1-Jul-24
4WD/Light Truck Tyre (off Rim accepted only)	C	Yes	30.00	30.00	1-Jul-24
FIRE HAZARD RECOVERY					
Recovery cost for Fire Hazard Removal Contractor plus admin fee	C	Yes	\$115.00 + contractor cost	\$120.00 + contractor cost	1-Jul-25
Recovery cost for Contractor "call out" plus an administration fee	C	Yes	\$115.00 + contractor cost	\$120.00 + contractor cost	1-Jul-25
FINANCE					
Dishonoured Direct Debit Fees	C	No	30.00	30.00	1-Jul-16
Dishonoured Cheque Fees	C	No	30.00	30.00	1-Jul-22
Reissue Payment Fee	C	No	15.00	15.00	1-Jul-18
Land Information Certificates	L	No	28.80	28.80	1-Jul-23
Land Information Certificate – Urgent Fee	C	Yes	80.00	80.00	1-Jul-18
Duplicate Rate Notice	C	Yes	10.00	10.00	1-Jul-16
Rate Related Archive Search per hour	C	Yes	51.00	51.00	1-Jul-18
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION					
Freedom of Information Request	L	No	32.70	32.70	1-Jul-24
Freedom of Information Search Charges per hour or part of an hour (except if on a computer)	L	No	24.50	24.50	1-Jul-24
Freedom of Information Supervision Charges Per Quarter hour	L	No	6.13	6.13	1-Jul-24
Freedom of Information Photocopies-A4 (per page)	L	No	0.20	0.20	1-Jul-16
Freedom of Information Supervision Charges Per Quarter hour	L	No	6.13	6.13	1-Jul-24
Freedom of Information Photocopies-A4 (per page)	L	No	0.20	0.20	1-Jul-16

12.3. INTENTION TO DISPLAY DRAFT REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2025-29

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER CORPORATE FINANCE

PURPOSE

For Council to consider the public display and community engagement of the draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-29, as attached.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council undertake a community engagement process for the draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-29, as attached, for the period 7 May 2025 to 4 June 2025.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires each Council to prepare and adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan by 30 June following a general election for a period of at least the next 4 financial years.

The Revenue and Rating Plan establishes the revenue raising framework within which the Council proposes to work. The Plan details the most appropriate and affordable revenue and rating approaches which, in conjunction with other income sources, will help finance our Council Plan objectives and ensure long term financial sustainability.

The draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-29 reflects our previous plan however it has been drafted to conform with an updated template and Ministerial guidelines.

The community engagement process utilised for the draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-29 will be facilitated on Council's online community engagement and communication tool 'Your Wellington, Your Say', allowing interested individuals to provide their feedback on the draft.

After the period of community engagement, any community feedback will be provided to Council for consideration with a recommendation for formal adoption of the finalised Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-29.

The areas highlighted in yellow in this report reflect the changes/amendments from the last Revenue and Rating Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Wellington Shire Council Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 [12.3.1 - 26 pages]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. To undertake a community engagement process for the draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-29 for the period 7 May 2025 to 4 June 2025; or
2. To not undertake a community engagement process for the draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-29 and seek further information at a future meeting of Council.

PROPOSAL

That Council undertake a community engagement process for the draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-29, as attached, for the period 7 May 2025 to 4 June 2025.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 prescribes the methodologies chosen to collect rates and service fees. Major changes could have significant impacts on the distribution of rates and charges collected across the community.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

Section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires each Council to prepare and adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan by 30 June following a general election for a period of at least the next 4 financial years.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

The Council Plan 2021-25 Theme 4 “Services and Infrastructure” states the following strategic outcome:

Strategic Outcome 4.1: *“A financially sustainable, high performing organisation.”*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic outcome.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

Council is required to facilitate a community engagement process in respect of the draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-29. This will be facilitated on Council's online community engagement and communication tool 'Your Wellington, Your Say'.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

Wellington Shire Council

Revenue and Rating Plan

2025-2029



Contents

1. PURPOSE	3
2. INTRODUCTION	4
3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	5
4. RATES AND CHARGES.....	5
4.1 Rating Legislation.....	6
4.2 Rating Principles.....	7
4.3 Determining Which Valuation Base to Use.....	9
4.4 Rating Differentials.....	13
4.5 Inappropriate Subdivisions	17
4.6 Municipal Charge	17
4.7 Special Charge Schemes.....	18
4.8 Service Rates and Charges.....	19
4.9 Collection and Administration of Rates and Charges	20
5. OTHER REVENUE ITEMS.....	23
5.1 User Fees and Charges	23
5.2 Statutory Fees and Charges.....	24
5.3 Grants	25
5.4 Contributions.....	25
5.5 Interest on Investments	25
5.6 Borrowings	26

1. PURPOSE

The *Local Government Act 2020* Section 93 requires each newly elected council to prepare and adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan by 30 June following a general election for a period of 4 years. The Revenue and Rating Plan establishes the revenue raising framework within which the Council proposes to work.

The purpose of the Revenue and Rating Plan is to determine the most appropriate and affordable revenue and rating approach for Wellington Shire Council which in conjunction with other income sources will adequately finance the objectives in the Council Plan.

This plan is an important part of Council's integrated planning framework, all of which is created to help Council achieve its vision of "*..an engaged and responsible community..*"

Strategies outlined in this plan align with the objectives contained in the Council Plan and will feed into our budgeting and long-term financial planning documents, as well as other strategic planning documents under our Council's strategic planning framework.

This plan will explain how Council calculates the revenue needed to fund its activities, and how the funding burden will be apportioned between ratepayers and other users of Council facilities and services.

In particular, this plan will set out decisions that Council has made in relation to rating options available to it under the *Local Government Act 2020* to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners. It will also set out principles that are used in decision making for other revenue sources such as fees and charges.

It is also important to note that this plan does not set revenue targets for Council, it outlines the strategic framework and decisions that inform how Council will go about calculating and collecting its revenue.

2. INTRODUCTION

Council provides over 110 services and facilities to our local community, and in doing so, must collect revenue to cover the cost of providing these services and facilities.

Council's revenue sources include:

- Rates and Charges
- Waste and garbage charges
- Grants from other levels of Government
- Statutory Fees and Fines
- User Fees
- Cash and non-cash contributions from other parties (i.e. community groups, developers)
- Interest from investments
- Sale of Assets

Rates are the most significant revenue source for Council and make up approximately 58% of its annual income.

The introduction of rate capping under the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) has brought a renewed focus to Council's long-term financial sustainability. The FGRS continues to restrict Council's ability to raise revenue above the rate cap unless application is made to the Essential Services Commission for a variation. Maintaining service delivery levels and investing in community assets remain key priorities for Council. This strategy will address Council's reliance on rate income and provide some options to reduce that reliance.

Council provides a wide range of services to the community, often for a fee or charge. The nature of these fees and charges generally depends on whether they relate to statutory or discretionary services. Some of these, such as statutory planning fees are set by State Government statute and are commonly known as regulatory fees. In these cases, councils usually have no control over service pricing. However, in relation to other services, Council has the ability to set a fee or charge and will set that fee based on the principles outlined in this Revenue and Rating Plan.

Council revenue can also be adversely affected by changes to funding from other levels of government. Some grants are tied to the delivery of council services, whilst many are tied directly to the delivery of new community assets, such as roads or sports pavilions. It is important for Council to be clear about what grants it intends to apply for, and the obligations that grants create in the delivery of services or infrastructure.

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Revenue and Rating Plan outlines Council's decision-making process on how revenues are calculated and collected. The following public consultation process will be followed to ensure due consideration and feedback is received from relevant stakeholders.

Revenue and Rating Plan community engagement process:

- Draft Revenue and Rating Plan prepared by officers
- Draft Revenue and Rating Plan placed on public exhibition for comment/feedback for a period of 28 days
- Community engagement through local news outlets and social media
- Consideration of feedback; and
- Draft Revenue and Rating Plan (with any revisions) presented to 17 June 2025 Council meeting for adoption.

4. RATES AND CHARGES

Rates are property taxes that allow Council to raise revenue to fund essential public services to cater to their municipal population. Importantly, it is a taxation system that includes flexibility for councils to utilise different tools in its rating structure to accommodate issues of equity and to broadly share rates across all ratepayers.

Council has established a rating structure comprised of key elements. These are:

- **General Rates** – Based on property values (using the Capital Improved Valuation methodology - CIV), which are indicative of capacity to pay and form the central basis of rating under the *Local Government Act 1989*;
- **Service Charges** - A 'user pays' component for council services to reflect benefits provided by Council to ratepayers who benefit from a service.

Wellington Shire Council does not utilise a Municipal Charge as part of its rating strategy, unlike some other Councils.

Striking a proper balance between these elements will help to improve equity in the distribution of the rate burden across ratepayers.

Council makes a further distinction when applying general rates by applying rating differentials based on the purpose for which the property is used. This distinction is based on the concept that different property categories should pay a fair and equitable contribution, taking into account the benefits those properties derive from the local community.

The Wellington Shire Council rating structure comprises two differential rates (general and farm). These rates are structured in accordance with the requirements of Section 161 'Differential Rates' of the *Local Government Act 1989*, and the Ministerial Guidelines for Differential Rating 2013.

The differential rates are currently set as follows:

- General 100%
- Commercial 100%
- Farm land 80%

The formula for calculating Rates, excluding any additional charges, arrears or additional supplementary rates is:

- Valuation (Capital Improved Value) x Rate in the Dollar (Differential Rate Type)

The Rate in the Dollar for each rating differential category is included in Council's annual budget.

Rates and charges are an important source of revenue, accounting for over 50% of operating revenue received by Council. The collection of rates is an important factor in funding Council services.

Planning for future rate increases is therefore an essential component of the long-term financial planning process and plays a significant role in funding both additional service delivery and the increasing costs related to providing Council services.

Council is aware of the balance between rate revenue (as an important income source) and community sensitivity to rate increases. With the introduction of the State Government's Fair Go Rates System, all rate increases are capped to a rate declared by the Minister for Local Government, which is announced in December for the following financial year.

Council currently utilises service charges to fully recover the cost of Council's waste services and provide for future landfill rehabilitation costs, these charges are not capped under the Fair Go Rates System.

4.1 Rating Legislation

The legislative framework set out in the *Local Government Act 1989* (remains as a saved provision under the 1989 Act), determines Council's ability to develop a rating system. The framework provides flexibility for Council to tailor a system that suits its needs.

Section 155 of the *Local Government Act 1989* provides that a Council may declare the following rates and charges on rateable land:

- General rates under Section 158
- Municipal charges under Section 159
- Service rates and charges under Section 162
- Special rates and charges under Section 163

Wellington Shire Council's recommended strategy in relation to municipal charges, service rates and charges and special rates and charges are discussed later in this document.

In raising Council rates, Council is required to primarily use the valuation of the rateable property to levy rates. Section 157 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* (currently, this remains as a saved provision under the 1989 Act), provides Council with three choices in terms of which valuation base to utilise. They are Site Valuation, Capital Improved Valuation (CIV) and Net Annual Value (NAV).

The advantages and disadvantages of the respective valuation bases are discussed further in this document. Whilst this document outlines Council's strategy regarding rates revenue, rates data will be contained in the Council's Annual Budget as required by the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Section 94(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that Council must adopt a budget by 30 June each year (or at another time fixed by the Minister) to include:

- a) the total amount that the Council intends to raise by rates and charges;
- b) a statement as to whether the rates will be raised by the application of a uniform rate or a differential rate;
- c) a description of any fixed component of the rates, if applicable;
- d) if the Council proposes to declare a uniform rate, the matters specified in section 160 of the *Local Government Act 1989*;
- e) if the Council proposes to declare a differential rate for any land, the matters specified in section 161(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Section 94(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* also states that Council must ensure that, if applicable, the budget also contains a statement –

- a) that the Council intends to apply for a special order to increase the Council's average rate cap for the financial year or any other financial year; or
- b) that the Council has made an application to the ESC for a special order and is waiting for the outcome of the application; or
- c) that a special Order has been made in respect of the Council and specifying the average rate cap that applies for the financial year or any other financial year.

This plan outlines the principles and strategic framework that Council will utilise in calculating and distributing the rating burden to property owners, however the quantum of rate revenue and rating differential amounts will be determined in the annual Wellington Shire Council budget.

4.2 Rating Principles

When developing a rating strategy, in particular with reference to differential rates, a Council should give consideration to the following good practice taxation principles:

- Wealth Tax
- Equity
- Efficiency
- Simplicity
- Benefit
- Capacity to Pay
- Diversity.

Wealth Tax

The “wealth tax” principle implies that the rates paid are dependent upon the value of a ratepayer’s real property and have no correlation to the individual ratepayer’s consumption of services or the perceived benefits derived by individual ratepayers from the expenditures funded from rates.

Equity

Horizontal equity – ratepayers in similar situations should pay similar amounts of rates (ensured mainly by accurate property valuations, undertaken in a consistent manner, their classification into homogenous property classes and the right of appeal against valuation).

Vertical equity – those who are better off should pay more rates than those worse off (the rationale applies for the use of progressive and proportional income taxation. It implies a “relativity” dimension to the fairness of the tax burden).

Efficiency

Economic efficiency is measured by the extent to which production and consumption decisions by people are affected by rates.

Simplicity

How easily a rates system can be understood by ratepayers and the practicality and ease of administration.

Benefit

The extent to which there is a nexus between consumption/benefit and the rate burden.

Capacity to Pay

The capacity of ratepayers or groups of ratepayers to pay rates.

Diversity

The capacity of ratepayers within a group to pay rates. The rating challenge for Council therefore is to determine the appropriate balancing of competing considerations.

Rates and Charges Revenue Principles:

Property rates will:

- be reviewed annually by the Valuer General Victoria;
- not change dramatically from one year to next via the rate cap; and
- be sufficient to fund current expenditure commitments and deliverables outlined in the Council Plan, Financial Plan and Asset Plan.

Differential rating should be applied as equitably as is practical and will comply with the *Ministerial Guidelines for Differential Rating 2013*.

4.3 Determining Which Valuation Base to Use

Under the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council has three options as to the valuation base it elects to use. They are:

- **Capital Improved Value (CIV)** – Value of land and improvements upon the land.
- **Site Value (SV)** – Value of land only.
- **Net Annual Value (NAV)** – Rental valuation based on CIV.

For residential and farm properties, NAV is calculated at 5% of the Capital Improved Value. For commercial and industrial properties, NAV is calculated as the greater of the estimated annual rental value or 5% of the CIV.

Capital Improved Value (CIV)

Capital Improved Value is the most commonly used valuation base by local government with over 90% of Victorian councils applying this methodology. Based on the value of both land and all improvements on the land, it is generally easily understood by ratepayers as it equates to the market value of the property.

Section 161 of the *Local Government Act 1989* provides that a Council may raise any general rates by the application of a differential rate if –

- a) It uses the capital improved value system of valuing land; and
- b) It considers that a differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of its functions.

Where a council does not utilise CIV, it may only apply limited differential rates in relation to farmland, urban farm land or residential use land.

Advantages of using Capital Improved Value (CIV)

- CIV includes all property improvements, and hence is often supported on the basis that it more closely reflects “capacity to pay”. The CIV rating method takes into account the full development value of the property, and hence better meets the wealth and equity criteria than Site Value and NAV.
- With the increased frequency of valuations (previously two year intervals, now annual intervals) the market values are more predictable and has reduced the level of objections resulting from valuations.
- The concept of the market value of property is more easily understood with CIV rather than NAV or SV.
- Most councils in Victoria have now adopted CIV which makes it easier to compare relative movements in rates and valuations across the state.
- The use of CIV allows council to apply differential rates which greatly adds to council’s ability to equitably distribute the rating burden based on land use and ability to afford council rates.

Disadvantages of using CIV

- The main disadvantage with CIV is the fact that rates are based on the total property value which may not necessarily reflect the income level from time

to time of the property owner as with pensioners and low-income earners.

Site value (SV)

There are currently no Victorian councils that use this valuation base. With valuations based simply on the valuation of land and with only very limited ability to apply differential rates, the implementation of Site Value in a Wellington Shire Council context would cause a shift in rate burden from the industrial/commercial sectors onto the farming and residential sectors and would hinder Council's objective of a fair and equitable rating system.

Advantages of using Site Value

- There is a perception that under site value, a uniform rate would promote development of land, particularly commercial and industrial developments. There is, however, little evidence to prove that this is the case.

Disadvantages of using Site Value

- Under SV, there will be a significant shift from the industrial/commercial sector onto the farming and residential sectors of council.
- SV is a major burden on property owners that have large areas of land. Some of these owners may have much smaller/older dwellings compared to those who have smaller land areas but well developed dwellings - but will pay more in rates. A typical example is flats, units, or townhouses which will all pay low rates compared to traditional housing styles.
- The use of SV can place pressure on council to give concessions to categories of landowners on whom the rating burden is seen to fall disproportionately. Large landowners, such as farmers for example, are disadvantaged by the use of site value.
- SV will reduce Council's rating flexibility and options to deal with any rating inequities due to the removal of the ability to levy differential rates.
- The community may have greater difficulty in understanding the SV valuation on their rate notices, as indicated by many inquiries from ratepayers on this issue handled by council's customer service and property revenue staff each year.

Net annual value (NAV)

NAV, in concept, represents the annual rental value of a property. However, in practice, NAV is loosely linked to capital improved value for residential and farm properties.

Valuers derive the NAV directly as 5% of CIV.

In contrast to the treatment of residential and farm properties, NAV for commercial and industrial properties is assessed with regard to actual market rental. This differing treatment of commercial versus residential and farm properties has led to some suggestions that all properties should be valued on a rental basis.

Overall, the use of NAV is not largely supported. For residential and farm ratepayers, actual rental values pose some problems. The artificial rental estimate used may not represent actual market value, and means the base is the same as CIV but is harder to understand.

Recommended valuation base

In choosing a valuation base, councils must decide whether they wish to adopt a differential rating system (different rates in the dollar for different property categories) or a uniform rating system (same rate in the dollar). If a council was to choose the former, under the *Local Government Act 1989* (currently, this remains as a saved provision under the 1989 Act), it must adopt either of the CIV or NAV methods of rating.

Wellington Shire Council applies Capital Improved Value (CIV) to all properties within the municipality to take into account the fully developed value of the property. This basis of valuation considers the total market value of the land plus buildings and other improvements.

Differential rating allows (under the CIV method) Council to shift part of the rate burden from some groups of ratepayers to others, through different "rates in the dollar" for each class of property.

Section 161(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* outlines the requirements relating to differential rates, which include:

- a. A Council may raise any general rates by the application of a differential rate, if Council considers that the differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of its functions.
- b. If a Council declares a differential rate for any land, the Council must specify the objectives of the differential rate, which must be consistent with the equitable and efficient carrying out of the Council's functions and must include the following:
 - i. A definition of the types or classes of land which are subject to the rate and a statement of the reasons for the use and level of that rate.
 - ii. An identification of the type or classes of land which are subject to the rate in respect of the uses, geographic location (other than location on the basis of whether or not the land is within a specific ward in Council's district).
 - iii. Specify the characteristics of the land, which are the criteria for declaring the differential rate.

Once the Council has declared a differential rate for any land, the Council must:

- a. Specify the objectives of the differential rates;
- b. Specify the characteristics of the land which are the criteria for declaring the differential rate.

The purpose is to ensure that Council has a sound basis on which to develop the various charging features when determining its revenue strategies and ensure that these are consistent with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

The general objectives of each of the differential rates are to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council. There is no limit on the number or types of differential rates that can be levied, but the highest differential rate can be no more than four times the lowest differential rate.

Property Valuations

The *Valuation of Land Act 1960* is the principal legislation in determining property valuations. Under the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*, the Victorian Valuer-General conducts property valuations on an annual basis. Wellington Shire Council applies a Capital Improved Value (CIV) to all properties within the municipality to take into account the full development value of the property. This basis of valuation takes into account the total market value of the land including buildings and other improvements.

The value of land is always derived by the principle of valuing land for its highest and best use at the relevant time of valuation.

Council needs to be mindful of the impacts of revaluations on the various property types in implementing the differential rating strategy outlined in the previous section to ensure that rises and falls in council rates remain affordable and that rating 'shocks' are mitigated to some degree.

Supplementary Valuations

Supplementary valuations are carried out for a variety of reasons including rezoning, subdivisions, amalgamations, renovations, new constructions, extensions, occupancy changes and corrections. The Victorian Valuer-General is tasked with undertaking supplementary valuations and advises council on a monthly basis of valuation and Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC) changes.

Supplementary valuations bring the value of the affected property into line with the general valuation of other properties within the municipality. Objections to supplementary valuations can be lodged in accordance with Part 3 of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*. Any objections must be lodged with the Valuer General within two months of the issue of the supplementary rate notice.

Objections to property valuations

Part 3 of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* provides that a property owner may lodge an objection against the valuation of a property or the Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC) within two months of the issue of the original or

amended (supplementary) Rates and Valuation Charges Notice.

A property owner must lodge their objection to the valuation or the AVPCC via the Rating Valuation Objections Portal. Property owners also have the ability to object to the site valuations on receipt of their Land Tax Assessment. Property owners can appeal their land valuation within two months of receipt of their Council Valuation Notice (via the online Objection Portal) or within two months of receipt of their Land Tax Assessment (via the State Revenue Office).

4.4 Rating Differentials

Council believes each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of council functions. Details of the objectives of each differential rate, the classes of land which are subject to each differential rate and the uses of each differential rate are set out below.

General Rate

Definition:

General land is any rateable land which does not have the characteristics of Farm Rate land, and includes residential and commercial/industrial properties, both vacant and improved.

Objectives:

To ensure that Council has adequate funding to undertake its strategic, statutory, service provision and community services obligations and to ensure that the differential rate in the dollar declared for defined general rate land properties is fair and equitable, having regard to Council's activities in the municipality.

Characteristics:

The characteristics of the planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of vacant land which will be subject to the rate of residential or commercial/ industrial land. The vacant land affected by this rate is that which is zoned residential or commercial/industrial under the Wellington Shire Council Planning Scheme. The classification of the land will be determined by the occupation of that land for its best use and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described below:

- a. used primarily for residential or commercial/ industrial purposes; or
- b. any land that is not defined as Farm Land.

Use of Rate:

The differential rate will be used to fund items of expenditure described in the Budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Level of Rate:

100% of General Rate.

Use of Land:

Any use permitted under the Wellington Shire Council Planning Scheme.

Geographic Location:

Wherever located within the municipal district.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Wellington Shire Council Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings:

All buildings which are already constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the end of the financial year.

Farm Rate**Definition:**

In order for a property to be classified under the Differential Farm rate land must fulfil the following Definition and Criteria and be rated as such.

Any land which is "Farm Land" within the meaning of Section 2(1) of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* and the additional criteria as defined below:

- a. Farm Land means any rateable land that is 2 or more hectares in area;
- b. used primarily for primary producing purposes from its activities on the land; used primarily for grazing (including agistment), dairying, pig-farming, poultry farming, fish farming, tree farming, bee keeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit growing or the growing of crops of any kind or for any combination of those activities;
- c. that is used by a business:
 - That has a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character;
 - That seeks to make a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis from its activities on the land; and
 - That is making a profit from its activities on the land, or that has a reasonable prospect of making a profit from its activities on the land if it continues to operate in the way that it is operating.

Council criteria:

The ratepayer is a Primary Producer with the Australian Taxation Office and has registered ABN and, a commercial intent as outlined by a business in part c above. That the land is within a Farm Zone in accordance with Council's planning scheme, or have a permit from Council to operate a farming business on that land or meets the criteria for pre-existing use as a farm.

The Farm Rate is assigned to land upon review of an application or extended to new properties acquired by businesses previously granted the Farm Rate.

Objectives:

To ensure that Council has adequate funding to undertake its strategic, statutory, service provision and community services obligations and to ensure that the differential rate in the dollar declared for defined farmland properties is fair and equitable, having regard to Council's activities in the municipality.

The farm rate endeavours to:

- maintain agriculture as a major industry in the municipal district
- facilitate the longevity of the farm sector
- recognise that large land areas are generally required to maintain a viable farming business
- achieve a balance between providing for municipal growth and retaining the important agricultural economic base.

Characteristics:

The characteristics of the planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of farmland which will be subject to the differential farm rate. The classification of the land will be determined by the occupation of that land for its best use and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

Types and Classes:

Farmland having the relevant characteristics described below:

- a. used primarily for primary production purposes; or
- b. any land that is not defined as General Land.

Use of Rate:

The differential rate will be used to fund items of expenditure described in the Budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Level of Rate:

80% of the General Rate.

Use of Land:

Any use permitted under the Wellington Shire Council Planning Scheme.

Geographic Location:

Wherever located within the municipal district.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Wellington Shire Council Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings:

All buildings which are already constructed on the land or which are constructed prior

to the end of the financial year.

Cultural and Recreational Land

Currently Council levies a general rate on land which has the following characteristics:

- Land which is controlled by a non-profit organisation which exists for the purpose of providing or promoting culture or sporting and recreation facilities which is used for sporting, recreation or cultural purposes or which is used for agricultural showgrounds.

The provision of rate relief to recreational land can also be provided by the *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963*. This Act provides for properties used for outdoor activities to be differently rated unless it involves land that is being leased from a private landowner. The discretion of whether to provide a cultural and recreational land rate rests with Council.

A rebate system applies to these properties and is reassessed regularly. The level of rebate granted is determined by the number of members, annual profit/loss and hours of operation for each applicant. Rebates of 100%, 75%, 50% or 25% of the general rate are granted on this basis.

Advantages of a differential rating system

The advantages of utilising a differential rating system summarised below are:

- There is greater flexibility to distribute the rate burden between all classes of property.
- Allows Council to reflect the unique circumstances of some rating categories where the application of a uniform rate may create an inequitable outcome (e.g. Farming enterprises).
- Allows Council discretion in the imposition of rates to facilitate and encourage appropriate development of its municipal district in the best interest of the community.

Disadvantages of a differential rating system

The disadvantages in applying differential rating are summarised below:

- The justification of the differential rate can at times be difficult for the various groups to accept giving rise to queries and complaints where the differentials may seem to be excessive.
- Differential rates can be confusing to ratepayers, as they may have difficulty understanding the system. Some rating categories may feel they are unfavourably treated because they are paying a different level of rates than other ratepayer groups.
- Differential rating involves a degree of administrative complexity as properties continually shift from one type to another (e.g. residential to farming) requiring Council to update its records. Ensuring the accuracy/integrity of Council's data base is critical to ensure that properties are correctly classified into their right category.

4.5 Inappropriate Subdivisions

The Ninety Mile Beach subdivision is a 25-kilometre strip of land located between Bass Strait and Lake Reeve, which extends north of the Honeysuckles to Paradise Beach.

The land was subdivided into about 11,800 small lots from 1955 to 1969 prior to the introduction of planning controls. Much of the area is now inappropriate for development (e.g. due to flooding, lack of services etc). Areas unsuitable for development are contained in the Rural Conservation Zone. In contrast, land contained in the Low Density Residential Zone in the Honeysuckles and Golden Beach/Paradise Beach settlements can be developed with planning permit approval.

Due to the complex history of the Ninety Mile Beach subdivisions (and associated landowner concerns), the Victorian Ombudsman prepared a report which was tabled in the Victorian Parliament. A copy of the Ombudsman report can be accessed via the Victorian Ombudsman website.

Council welcomed the independent review of the complex issues associated with the Ninety Mile Beach subdivisions and supported each of the three (3) recommendations made for Council at its meeting of 3 December 2019.

Whilst it is lawful, Council has ceased levying rates and the waste infrastructure charge on undevelopable Ninety Mile Beach subdivided lots from 1 July 2019, no further rate notices will be issued for undevelopable blocks. These blocks are now part of a compulsory acquisition process managed by the Department Energy Climate Change Action.

4.6 Municipal Charge

Another principal rating option available to Councils is the application of a municipal charge. Under Section 159 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, (currently, this remains as a saved provision under the 1989 Act), Council may declare a municipal charge to cover some of the administrative costs of the Council. The legislation is not definitive on what comprises administrative costs and does not require Council to specify what is covered by the charge.

The application of a municipal charge represents a choice to raise a portion of the rates by a flat fee for all properties, rather than sole use of the CIV valuation method.

Under the *Local Government Act 1989*, a council's total revenue from a municipal charge in a financial year must not exceed 20 per cent of the combined sum total of the Council's total revenue from the municipal charge and the revenue from general rates (total rates).

The municipal charge applies equally to all properties and is based upon the recovery of a fixed cost of providing administrative services irrespective of valuation. The same contribution amount per assessment to cover a portion of Council's administrative costs can be seen as an equitable method of recovering these costs.

Wellington Shire Council does not apply a Municipal Charge.

Advantages of Applying the Municipal Charge

A municipal charge applies equally to all properties and is based upon the recovery of a fixed cost of providing administrative services irrespective of property valuation. The same contribution amount per property can be seen by some as an equitable method of recovering these costs.

Disadvantages of Applying the Municipal Charge

The argument against a municipal charge is that this charge is regressive in nature and would result in lower valued properties paying higher overall rates and charges than they do at present. The equity objective in levying rates against property values is lost in a municipal charge as it is levied uniformly across all properties.

Wellington Shire Council does not utilise a Municipal Charge as part of its rating strategy.

Rebates and Concessions

Section 169(1) of the Act allows Council to grant a rebate or concession –

- a. to assist the proper development of the municipal district; or
- b. to preserve buildings or places in the municipal district which are of historical or environmental interest; or
- c. to restore or maintain buildings or places of historical, environmental, architectural or scientific importance in the municipal district; or
- d. to assist the proper development of part of the municipal district.

A Council resolution granting a rebate or concession must specify the benefit to the community as a whole resulting from the rebate or concession.

Rates Rebate for Land with a Deed of Covenant for Conservation Purposes

Council currently offers a rates rebate for land with a signed Deed of Covenant for Conservation purposes (Trust for Nature). Property owners must apply for the rebate and provide a copy of their Deed. A rate per hectare is determined by Council annually and is applied to reduce the general rates charged to those properties.

4.7 Special Charge Schemes

The *Local Government Act 1989* recognises that councils need help to provide improved infrastructure for their local communities. Legislation allows councils to pass on the cost of capital infrastructure to the owner of a property that generally receives a unique benefit from the construction works. The technical explanation of a Special Charge comes from legislation (under the *Local Government Act 1989*) that allows councils to recover the cost of works from property owners who will gain special benefit from that work.

The purposes for which special rates and special charges may be used include road

construction, kerb and channelling, footpath provision, drainage, and other capital improvement projects.

The special rate or special charges may be declared on the basis of any criteria specified by the council in the rate (Section 163 (2)). In accordance with Section 163 (3), council must specify:

- a) the wards, groups, uses or areas for which the special rate or charge is declared; and
- b) the land in relation to which the special rate or special charge is declared;
- c) the manner in which the special rate or special charge will be assessed and levied; and
- d) details of the period for which the special rate or special charge remains in force.

The special rates and charges provisions are flexible and can be used to achieve a wide range of community objectives. The fundamental principle of special rates and charges is proof "special benefit" applies to those being levied. For example, they could be used to fund co-operative fire prevention schemes. This would ensure that there were no 'free-riders' reaping the benefits but not contributing to fire prevention.

Landscaping and environmental improvement programs that benefit small or localized areas could also be funded using special rates or charges.

4.8 Service Rates and Charges

Section 162 of the *Local Government Act 1989* provides council with the opportunity to raise service rates and charges for any of the following services:

- a) The provision of a water supply;
- b) The collection and disposal of refuse;
- c) The provision of sewage services;
- d) Any other prescribed service.

Kerbside Collection (Garbage) Charge

Wellington Shire Council provides a kerbside collection (garbage) service to around half of its ratepayers within designated areas, based on full cost recovery of the waste function. Applying the equity principle, those who do not receive this service should not have to pay for it through general rates.

Council calculates the cost of this service and applies a 'user pays' charge to those who receive the service, or to whom the service is available - a resident may not opt out of this service where they are in a collection zone. Commercial ratepayers, where they can provide evidence of an alternative, commercially provided waste collection service may opt out.

Waste Infrastructure Charge

Council applies a Waste Infrastructure Charge to all properties within the Shire (only excluding those within the inappropriate subdivision), to fund the provision of future waste management infrastructure e.g. tip cells, transfer station infrastructure, sorting and handling capacity. All funds collected through this charge are placed in the waste infrastructure reserve and are only applied to this purpose.

EPA Levy Charge

Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requirements under the *Environment Protection Act 1970* require Council to provide financial assurances for rehabilitation, remedial works and aftercare for all licensed landfills. In addition, there are strict guidelines for future landfill siting, design and management.

Changes for Council's levies to the EPA are adjusted annually or as necessary. This separate cost is shown on Rates Notices in the interests of greater transparency. The cost of the levy is influenced by two drivers – one is the volume of waste going into our landfill, and the second is the price per tonne levied by the EPA. While we can do little regarding the price, we can certainly, as a community, make greater efforts to recycle more and reduce the volume of waste to landfill.

4.9 Collection and Administration of Rates and Charges

The purpose of this section is to outline the rate payment options, processes, and the support provided to ratepayers facing financial hardship.

Payment options

In accordance with section 167(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* ratepayers have the option of paying rates and charges by way of four instalments. Payments are due on the prescribed dates below:

- 1st Instalment: 30 September
- 2nd Instalment: 30 November
- 3rd Instalment: 28 February
- 4th Instalment: 31 May

Council offers a range of payment options including:

- in person at Council offices (cheques, money orders, EFTPOS, credit/debit cards and cash),
- Payble – online customer managed payment plans and one off payments
- BPAY,
- Australia Post (over the counter, over the phone via credit card and on the internet),
- by mail (cheques and money orders only).

Interest on arrears and overdue rates

Statutory interest is charged on overdue rates in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* (as amended) that do not have an approved payment plan.

Pensioner rebates

Holders of a valid Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession card or a Veteran Affairs Gold card which stipulates TPI or War Widow may claim a rebate on a principal place of residence. Upon initial application, ongoing eligibility is maintained, unless rejected by Centrelink or the Department of Veteran Affairs during the annual verification procedure. Upon confirmation of an eligible pensioner concession status, the pensioner rebate is deducted from the rate account each financial year.

Eligible pensioners may gain a municipal rates concession up to a maximum cap as stipulated by the State Government, and updated annually.

With regards to new applicants, after being granted an eligible Concession Card, pensioners can then apply for the rebate at any time throughout the rating year. Retrospective claims up to a maximum of one previous financial year can be approved by Council on verification of eligibility criteria, for periods prior to this, claims may be approved by the relevant government department.

Financial Hardship

Council recognises that there are cases of genuine financial hardship requiring respect and compassion. All applications will be treated in a consistent, equitable and confidential manner.

Section 171(A) of the Act allows Council to consider applications by a ratepayer who –

- a) is suffering financial hardship; or
- b) would suffer financial hardship if they paid their rates and charges in full; to have all or part of the rates and charges or late payment interest waived.

Rates and charges will not be waived as this places an unfair burden on all other ratepayers. The financial circumstances of each ratepayer in hardship will determine the course of action with their property.

Penalty interest waivers can be applied for under the following categories:-

1. Administrative Waiver – where an administrative error or omission which is proven to have caused or significantly contributed to the failure to pay rates, a waiver of interest, in full or in part, may be applied.
2. Compassionate Grounds – Ratepayers may have interest waived on their principal place of residence where they have demonstrated compassionate grounds. Acceptable compassionate grounds would generally relate to family illness or death. The ratepayer will need to agree to an acceptable payment arrangement to pay the outstanding amount. Waivers shall be applied on a one-off basis and ratepayers will need to apply on each occasion such a waiver is sought.
3. Financial Hardship or Hardship - Applications must demonstrate that the ratepayer is experiencing financial hardship; and the ratepayer must enter into an acceptable payment arrangement and perform against such an arrangement. Under a financial hardship arrangement, whilst rates and interest will still accrue, no further legal action shall be taken. Periodic confirmation will be sought from either the ratepayer or nominated representative that financial hardship conditions still exist. Financial hardship arrangements will be withdrawn automatically upon sale of the property. Financial hardship waivers will not be granted for investment properties or holiday homes.

Deferred Payments

Under Section 170 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council may defer the payment of any rate or charge, allowing ratepayers an extended period to make

payments or alternatively to forestall payments on an indefinite basis until the ratepayer ceases to own or occupy the land in respect of which rates and charges are to be levied.

Deferral of rates and charges are available to all ratepayers who have been granted Hardship or can prove extenuating circumstances on their primary place of residence. Where Council approves the deferral of rates or charges, interest will continue to be levied on the outstanding balance of rates and charges.

Debt recovery

Council makes every effort to contact ratepayers at their correct address, but it is the ratepayers' responsibility to properly advise Council of their contact details. The *Local Government Act 2020* Section 122 requires a person who acquires property, or their agents (e.g. solicitors and or conveyancers), to notify Council by way of notice of acquisition of an interest in land.

In the event that an account becomes overdue, Council will issue an overdue reminder notice which will include accrued penalty interest. In the event that the account remains unpaid, Council may take legal action without further notice to recover the overdue amount. All fees and court costs incurred will be recoverable from the ratepayer.

If an amount payable by way of rates in respect to land has been in arrears for three years or more, Council may take action to sell the property in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* Section 181.

Council has a formal Policy (Rates, Hardship and Debt Collection Policy) which discusses all the debt collection actions that may be taken. This Policy can be found on Council's website in the Council Policy Manual.

Fire Services Property Levy

In 2016 the Victorian State Government passed legislation requiring the Fire Services Property Levy to be collected from ratepayers. Previously this was collected through building and property insurance premiums. The Fire Services Property Levy helps fund the services provided by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) and Country Fire Authority (CFA), and all levies collected by Council are passed through to the State Government.

The Fire Services Property Levy is based on two components, a fixed charge, and a variable charge which is linked to the Capital Improved Value of the property. This levy is not included in the rate cap and increases in the levy are at the discretion of the State Government.

The State Government is reviewing the Fire Service Levy, the name may change to Essential Services Volunteer Fund from 1 July 2025.

5. OTHER REVENUE ITEMS

5.1 User Fees and Charges

User fees and charges are those that Council will charge for the delivery of services and use of community infrastructure.

Examples of user fees and charges include:

- Waste Management fees
- Leisure Centre, Gym, and Pool visitation and membership fees
- Entertainment Centre Ticket Sales, Performance and Venue Hire fees
- Yard Dues, Droving fees, and related Saleyards charges
- Leases and facility hire fees

The provision of infrastructure and services form a key part of Council's role in supporting the local community. In providing these, Council must consider a range of 'Best Value' principles including service cost and quality standards, value-for-money, and community expectations and values. Council must also balance the affordability and accessibility of infrastructure and services with its financial capacity and in the interests of long-term financial sustainability.

In providing services to the community, Council must determine the extent of cost recovery for particular services consistent with the level of both individual and collective benefit that the services provide and in line with the community's expectations.

Services are provided on the basis of one of the following pricing methods:

- A. Market Price
- B. Full Cost Recovery Price
- C. Subsidised Price

Market pricing (A) is where Council sets prices based on the benchmarked competitive prices of alternate suppliers. In general, market price represents full cost recovery plus an allowance for a contribution profit margin. Market prices will be used when other providers exist in the given market, and Council needs to meet its obligations under the government's Competitive Neutrality Policy.

It should be noted that if a market price is lower than Council's full cost price, then the market price would represent Council subsidising that service. If this situation exists, and there are other suppliers existing in the market at the same price, this may mean that Council is not the most efficient supplier in the marketplace. In this situation, Council will consider whether there is a community service obligation and whether Council should be providing this service at all.

Full cost recovery price (B) aims to recover all direct and indirect costs incurred by Council. This pricing should be used in particular where a service provided by Council benefits individual customers specifically, rather than the community as a whole. In principle, fees and charges should be set at a level that recovers the full cost of providing the services unless there is an overriding policy or imperative in favour of subsidisation.

Subsidised pricing (C) is where Council subsidises a service by not passing the full cost of that service onto the customer. Subsidies may range from full subsidies (i.e. Council provides the service free of charge) to partial subsidies, where Council provides the service to the user with a discount. The subsidy can be funded from Council's rate revenue or other sources such as Commonwealth and state funding programs. Full Council subsidy pricing and partial cost pricing should always be based on knowledge of the full cost of providing a service.

As per the Victorian Auditor General's Office report "Fees and charges – cost recovery by local government" recommendations, Council's user fee pricing policy guides the fair and equitable setting of prices. The process for setting fee prices includes such principles as:

- Both direct and indirect costs to be taken into account;
- Accessibility, affordability and efficient delivery of services; and
- Competitive neutrality with commercial providers.

Council compiles a table of fees and charges as part of its annual budget each year. Proposed pricing will be included in this table and will be communicated to stakeholders before the budget is adopted, giving them the chance to review and provide valuable feedback before the fees are locked in.

5.2 Statutory Fees and Charges

Statutory fees and fines are those which Council collects under the direction of legislation or other government directives. The rates used for statutory fees and fines are generally advised by the state government department responsible for the corresponding services or legislation. Council has little discretion to set these fees.

Examples of statutory fees and fines include:

- Planning and subdivision fees
- Animal registration fees
- Caravan park registration fees
- Building and Inspection fees
- Infringements and fines
- Land Information Certificate fees

Penalty and fee units are used in Victoria's Acts and Regulations to describe the amount of a fine or a fee.

Penalty units

Penalty units are used to define the amount payable for fines for many offences. For example, the fine for selling a tobacco product to a person aged under 18 is four penalty units.

Penalty and fee units are used in Victoria's Acts and Regulations to describe the amount of a fine or a fee.

5.3 Grants

Grant revenue represents income usually received from other levels of government. Some grants are singular and attached to the delivery of specific projects, whilst others can be of a recurrent nature and may or may not be linked to the delivery of projects.

Council will pro-actively advocate to other levels of government for grant funding support to deliver important infrastructure and service outcomes for the community. Council may use its own funds to leverage higher grant funding and maximise external funding opportunities.

When preparing its financial plan, Council considers its project proposal pipeline, advocacy priorities, upcoming grant program opportunities, and co-funding options to determine what grants to apply for. Council will only apply for and accept external funding if it is consistent with the Community Vision and does not lead to the distortion of Council Plan priorities.

Grant assumptions are then clearly detailed in Council's budget document. No project that is reliant on grant funding will proceed until a signed funding agreement is in place.

5.4 Contributions

Contributions represent funds received by Council, usually from non-government sources, and are usually linked to projects.

Contributions can be made to Council in the form of either cash payments or asset handovers.

Examples of contributions include:

- Contributions from user groups towards upgrade of facilities
- Contributions from other Councils to complete mutually beneficial projects
- Contributions from individuals or estates towards purchase of artwork
- Assets handed over to Council from developers at the completion of a subdivision, such as roads, drainage, and streetlights.
- Monies collected from developers under planning and development agreements
- Monies collected under developer contribution plans and infrastructure contribution plans.

Contributions should always be linked to a planning or funding agreement. Council will not undertake any work on a contribution-funded project until a signed agreement outlining the contribution details is in place.

Contributions linked to developments can be received well before any Council expenditure occurs. In this situation, the funds will be identified and held separately for the specific works identified in the agreements.

5.5 Interest on Investments

Council receives interest on funds managed as part of its investment portfolio, where funds are held in advance of expenditure, or for special purposes. The investment portfolio is managed per Council's investment policy, which seeks to earn the best return on funds, whilst minimising risk.

5.6 Borrowings

Whilst not a source of income, borrowings can be an important cash management tool in appropriate circumstances. Loans can only be approved by council resolution. The following financial sustainability principles must be adhered to with new borrowings:

- Borrowings must only be applied for where it can be proven that repayments can be met in the Long Term Financial Plan
- Borrowings must not be used to fund ongoing operations
- Borrowings are appropriate for funding large capital works where the benefits are provided to future generations.
- Council will maintain its debt at levels which are sustainable, with:
 - indebtedness <60% of rate and charges revenue, and
 - debt servicing cost <5% of total revenue (excluding capital revenue).

13. GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

13.1. RESPONSE TO PETITION - MANNS BEACH

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER BUILT ENVIRONMENT

PURPOSE

For Council to consider the response to a petition received at the Ordinary Council meeting of 1 April 2025 requesting sealing of Fisher Street, Wight Street, David Street and Fry Street, Manns Beach.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to write to the head petitioner advising that Council will commence engagement with property owners on Fisher Street, Wight Street, David Street and Fry Street Manns Beach to progress a street upgrade project through a special charge scheme in line with Council's Residential Road and Street Construction Plan.

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting held on 1 April 2025 Council received a petition requesting Fisher Street, Wight Street, David Street and Fry Street, Manns Beach be upgraded and sealed.

In 2019, Council officers conducted information sessions and surveyed the residents of Fisher Street, Wight Street, David Street and Fry Street, Manns Beach. There were 63 residents in total who were sent surveys for which 53 replies were received with 28 (44%) of property owners in support and 25 not in support. Letters were sent to residents on 5 February 2020 advising the scheme would not progress due to insufficient support.

In line with the Residential Road and Street Construction Plan a street upgrade on Fisher Street, Wight Street, David Street and Fry Street, Manns Beach would be delivered via a special charge scheme where both Council and property owners contribute towards the works. Each resident would be charged a fixed fee of \$3,600 towards the street upgrade which, subject to further investigation, could include;

- A sealed road surface
- Constructed driveways
- Reshaped Table Drains.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

OPTIONS

Council has the following options:

1. To authorise the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to write to the head petitioner advising that Council will commence engagement with property owners on Fisher Street, Wight Street, David Street and Fry Street, Manns Beach to progress a street upgrade project through a special charge scheme in line with Council's Residential Road and Street Construction Plan; or
2. To not progress a street upgrade project through a special charge scheme in line with its Residential Road and Street Construction Plan and continue to maintain Fisher Street, Wight Street, David Street and Fry Street, Manns Beach in its current condition in line with its Road Management Plan.

PROPOSAL

That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to write to the head petitioner advising that Council will commence engagement with property owners on Fisher Street, Wight Street, David Street and Fry Street, Manns Beach to progress a street upgrade project through a special charge scheme in line with Council's Residential Road and Street Construction Plan.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a Conflict of Interest.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Maintenance in line with Council's Road Management Plan is allowed for within existing road maintenance budgets.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

The nominated Council officer will respond to the head petition in line with the adopted resolution of Council.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

Wellington Shire Council is the responsible road authority for Fisher Street, Wight Street, David Street and Fry Street, Manns Beach, within the meaning of the *Road Management Act 2004*.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

The Council Plan 2021-25 Theme 4 “Services and Infrastructure” states the following strategic outcome:

Strategic Outcome 4.4: *"Safe and well-used transport connections across all modes of travel."*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic outcome.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

If further engagement is required, will be undertaken in line with Council’s standard practices relating to customer engagement and special charge schemes.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

14. GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT

14.1. AMENDMENT C113 (CORRECTIONS) - REMOVAL OF PUBLIC ACQUISITION OVERLAY IN ROSEDALE AND HEYFIELD

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER LAND USE PLANNING

PURPOSE

To seek Council support for the removal of a redundant Public Acquisition Overlay - Schedule 2 (PAO2) from the Wellington Planning Scheme. The PAO2 applies, in part, to properties adjacent to the commercial area on Prince Street, Rosedale (refer Attachment 14.1.1 - Rosedale Maps) and properties between Macfarlane Street, Temple Street, and Pearson Street, Heyfield (refer Attachment 14.1.2 Heyfield Maps).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council support the removal of the Public Acquisition Overlay – Schedule 2 (PAO2) applied to land (in part) at properties adjacent to the commercial area on Prince Street, Rosedale and properties between Macfarlane Street, Temple Street and Pearson Street, Heyfield from the Wellington Planning Scheme on the basis that they are redundant and therefore no longer required for their originally intended purpose - refer to Attachments 14.1.1 - Rosedale Maps and 14.1.2 – Heyfield Maps.

BACKGROUND

The provisions of the Wellington Planning Scheme allow land to be 'reserved' for future public purposes. Land identified for (compulsory) acquisition for a public use is given effect through the Planning Scheme maps and more particularly through the application of a Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO). The objectives of the PAO include:

'...to reserve land for a public purpose and to ensure that changes to the use and development of land do not prejudice the purpose for which the land is to be acquired.'

The Public Acquisition Overlay – Schedule 2 (PAO2) currently applies to land (in-part) in both Rosedale and Heyfield for the purpose of a 'Road'.

The original intent of the PAO2 in Rosedale was to facilitate rear truck / car access to the commercial area fronting Prince Street. In 2012, the *Rosedale Structure Plan* acknowledged the status of the subject land, noting that most of the impacted properties could not accommodate laneways, and Council should investigate the removal of this overlay. Over time, it has been determined that the laneways are no longer required, with the width of land reserved not being sufficient to accommodate trucks, and the additional provision of loading bays on Prince Street consequently alleviating the need for rear access.

Like Rosedale, the original intent of the PAO2 in Heyfield was to provide rear access to the commercial properties facing Temple Street, in a similar manner to that on the western side of Temple Street, and the eastern side of Pearson Street. The access was to provide for loading and unloading of trucks, however the acquisition of land never eventuated, nor is it planned to occur, and therefore the PAO2 is considered redundant.

On this basis, Council can now facilitate the removal of the PAO2 from the above land through a formal Amendment to the Wellington Planning Scheme.

Council's Built Environment Division has been consulted on the proposal and has provided its endorsement for the removal of the PAO2 from both the land/locations proposed.

Planning Scheme Amendment Process to Remove the PAO2

Over time, minor 'policy-neutral' inconsistencies and anomalies are identified within the Wellington Planning Scheme, which require correction. These can include minor zoning anomalies, grammatical errors and redundant overlays and are referred to as 'Technical Amendments'.

A list of inconsistencies and anomalies are collated over time until there is a sufficient number to warrant the preparation of a 'Technical' Planning Scheme Amendment, which is the process used to formally rectify errors within the Planning Scheme.

The provisions of Section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) allow for the correction of 'policy-neutral' anomalies through a fast-tracked Amendment process.

As a requirement of the legislative process, and to facilitate its inclusion as a component of the 'Technical' Amendment, the removal of the PAO2 must be accompanied by a formal Council resolution that supports the proposal.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Rosedale Maps [14.1.1 - 1 page]
2. Heyfield Maps [14.1.2 - 1 page]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. Determine that the Public Acquisition Overlay – Schedule 2 (PAO2) applied to land (in part) to properties adjacent to the commercial area on Prince Street, Rosedale (refer to Attachment 14.1.1), and properties between Macfarlane Street, Temple Street, and Pearson Street, Heyfield (refer Attachment 14.1.2) is no longer required and can be removed; or
2. Determine that the Public Acquisition Overlay – Schedule 2 (PAO2) applied to land (in part) to properties adjacent to the commercial area on Prince Street, Rosedale (refer Attachment 14.1.1), and properties between Macfarlane Street, Temple Street, and Pearson Street, Heyfield (refer Attachment 14.1.2) is required, and therefore will remain on the land; or
3. Seek further information for consideration at a future Council Meeting.

PROPOSAL

That Council support the removal of the redundant Public Acquisition Overlay – Schedule 2 (PAO2) from parts of properties adjacent to the commercial area on Prince Street, Rosedale (refer Attachment 14.1.1), and properties between Macfarlane Street, Temple Street, and Pearson Street, Heyfield (refer Attachment 14.1.2).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial matters relating to acquisition and compensation are set out in the *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986 (Vic)* (LACA). As a result of the recommended action, it is not expected that there will be any future financial impact for Council.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

The removal of the redundant PAO2 will be undertaken as part of a formal Planning Scheme Amendment process.

An Amendment to correct anomalies and redundancies in the Wellington Planning Scheme (including removal of the PAO2) implements the objectives of planning in Victoria pursuant to Section 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, by providing for the fair and orderly use and development of land.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

Removal of the PAO2 does not alter the strategic intent of any state or local planning provision within the Wellington Planning Scheme.

COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT

The Council Plan 2021-25 Theme 1 “Environment and Climate Change” states the following strategic outcome:

Strategic Outcome 1.3: *"The natural environment is valued, protected and accessible."*

The Council Plan 2021-25 Theme 4 “Services and Infrastructure” states the following strategic outcome:

Strategic Outcome 4.3: *"Well planned and sustainable towns, facilities, and infrastructure that service community need."*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic outcomes.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

The preparation of a technical Planning Scheme Amendment of this kind is included as a component of the current Strategic Planning Work Program.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

On 11 February 2025, the landowners of the 37 properties in Heyfield and Rosedale currently affected by PAO2 were notified via letter of the Council's plan to remove the redundant PAO2 designation from their land. The engagement with landowners during this initial notification period was positive. Council Officers will continue to provide relevant updates to landowners throughout the PAO2 removal process.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

No environmental impacts are expected as a result of the removal of the PAO2.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

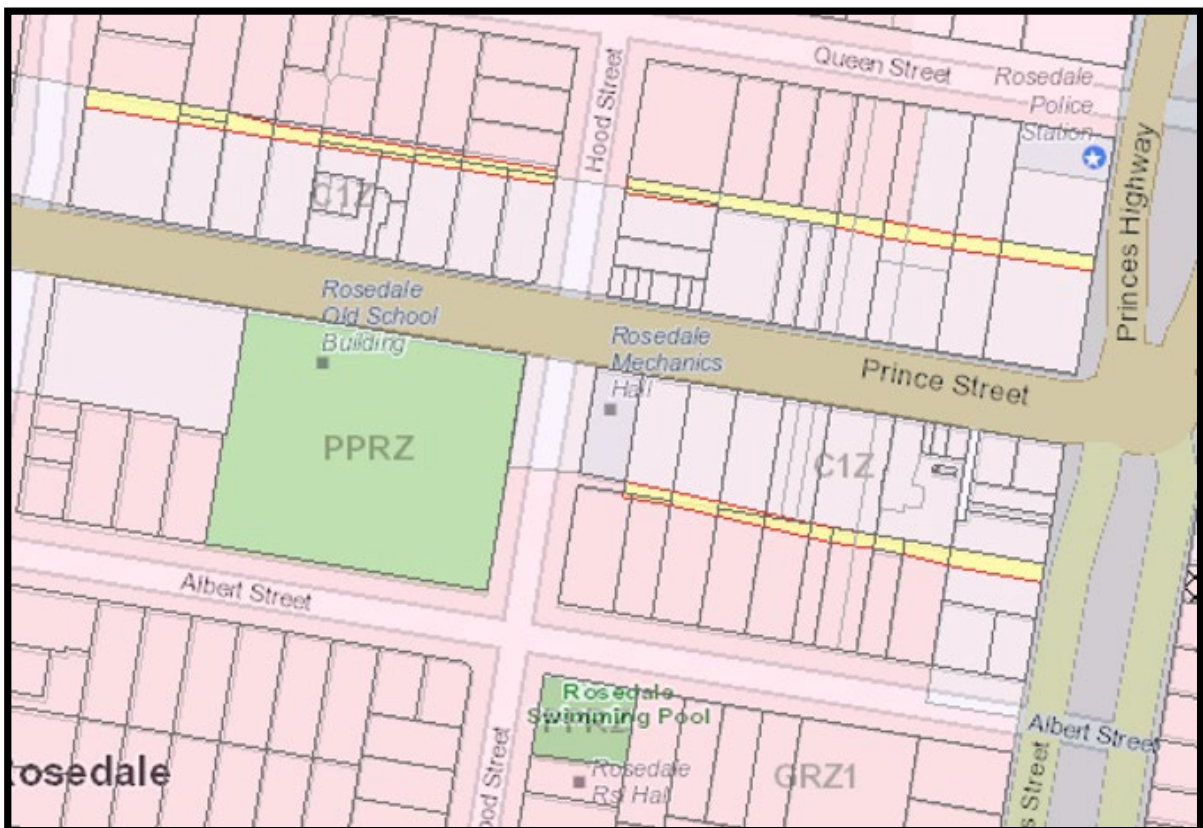
The community impact is likely to continue to be positive as the proposal removes a redundant planning provision, which can be onerous on impacted landowners. Landowners have been consulted directly by mail and no objections to the proposed removal of the PAO2 have been received within the requested timelines.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.



Above: Aerial map of PAO2 (purple area) in Rosedale, proposed for removal.



Above: Zoning map of PAO2 (yellow area) in Rosedale, proposed for removal.



Above: Map of PAO2 (yellow area) in Heyfield, proposed for removal.

15. FURTHER GALLERY AND ONLINE COMMENTS

Gallery comments are an opportunity for members of the public to raise any particular matter they wish. This allows those in the gallery to speak directly to Councillors but is not a forum designed for open discussion or debate. We will listen respectfully to what you have to say and make the commitment that if your query requires a written response, we will advise you that a response will be forthcoming, and a copy of that response will be circulated to all Councillors.

This is not a forum for members of the public to lodge complaints against individuals, including Councillors and staff, particularly as that individual gets no public right of reply to any matter raised. We take complaints seriously, and in line with the guidance from the Victorian Ombudsman and the local Government Inspectorate, we request that any specific complaint against an individual be put in writing. This way, your concern can be properly dealt with while ensuring fairness to all parties concerned.

If you wish to speak, we remind you that this part of the meeting is being recorded and broadcast on our website. Council's official Minutes will record that you have spoken to Council and the subject you spoke to Council about but will not record specific comments. We ask you to state your name in full, where you are from, and you have three minutes.

ONLINE COMMENTS –

FURTHER GALLERY COMMENTS –

Meeting declared closed at:

The live streaming of this Council meeting will now come to a close.

16. IN CLOSED SESSION

16.1 MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

COUNCILLOR

- 1. That the meeting be closed to the public to consider confidential information pursuant to section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 and defined in section 3(1) as involving private commercial information which if released, would unreasonably expose current business, commercial or financial undertakings to disadvantage.*
- 2. The grounds for designation under section 3(1)(g)(ii) have been made as the information is deemed confidential to protect the commercial negotiations.*

IN CLOSED SESSION

16.2 GLASS AND MIXED RECYCLING PROCESSING CONTRACT



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 6 MAY 2025

Under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a meeting considering confidential information may be closed to the public.

I declare that the information contained in this report **GLASS AND MIXED RECYCLING PROCESSING CONTRACT** is confidential because it contains confidential information as defined in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*;

(g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that - relates to trade secrets; or - if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage

I further declare that the circumstances of this report necessitate consideration in a meeting closed to the public pursuant to sections 66(2)(a) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Further explanation:

The confidential ground applies due to the report information including information being commercial in confidence.

.....
CHRIS HASTIE
GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
17/04/2025

16.3. WEST SALE AIRPORT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 6 MAY 2025

Under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a meeting considering confidential information may be closed to the public.

I declare that the information contained in this report **WEST SALE AIRPORT - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** is confidential because it contains confidential information as defined in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*;

(g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that - relates to trade secrets; or - if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage

I further declare that the circumstances of this report necessitate consideration in a meeting closed to the public pursuant to sections 66(2)(a) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Further explanation:

The confidential ground applies due to the report information including information being commercial in confidence.

.....
BARRY HEARSEY
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT
14/04/2025

16.4 MOVE OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

COUNCILLOR

That Council move into open session and ratify the decision made in closed session.

Meeting declared closed at: