



Shire of Esperance

Annual Report

2023 / 2024



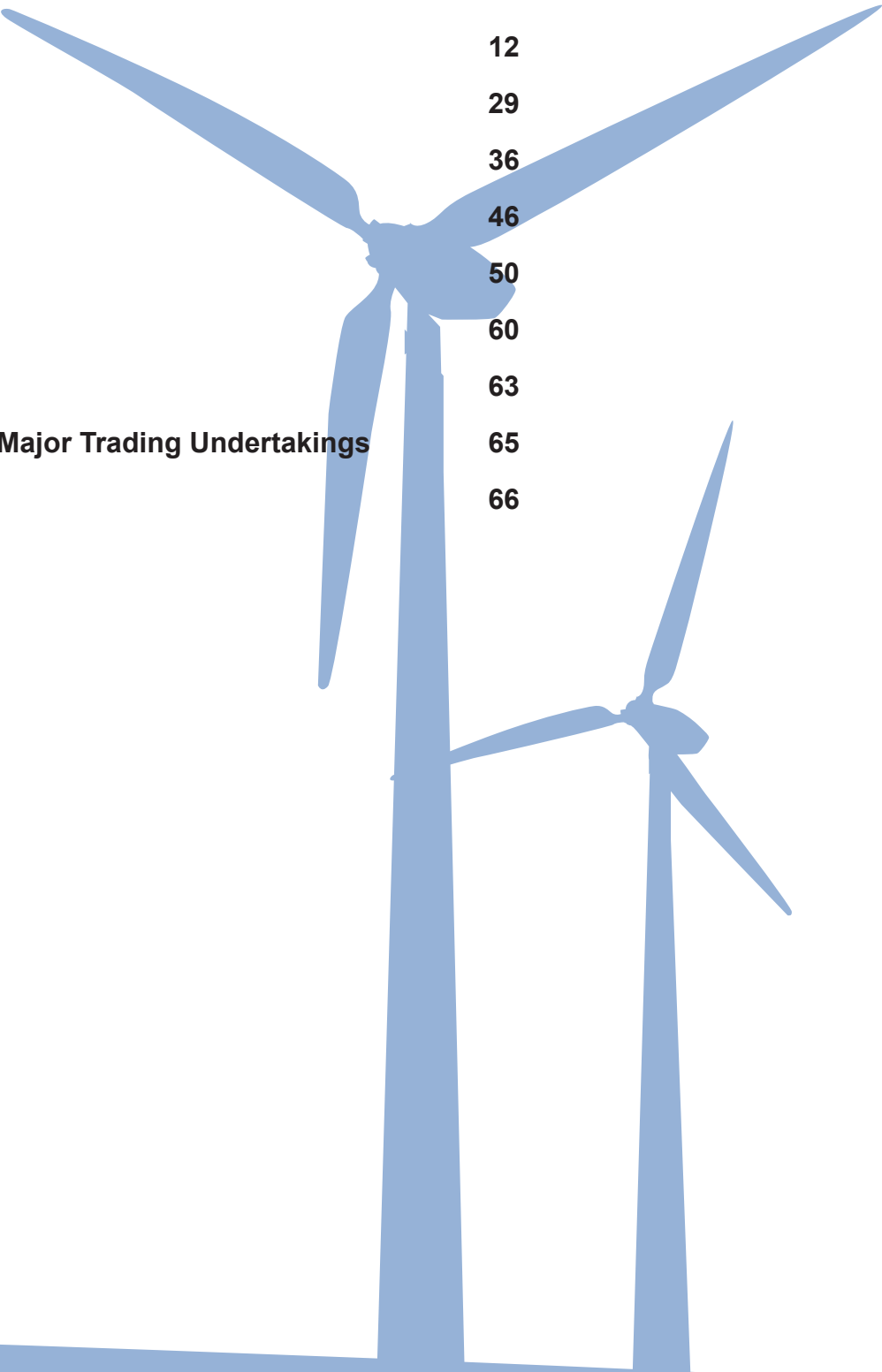
Acknowledgment of country

The Shire of Esperance acknowledges the Kapa Kurl Wudjari people of the Nyungar nation and Ngadju people who are the traditional custodians of this land, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and we extend that respect to other Aboriginal Australians today.



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Our Purpose

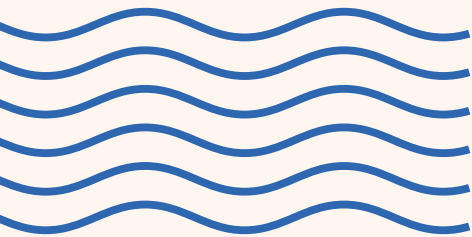
The Shire of Esperance exists to meet the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity.

Our Vision

Esperance, together we make it happen.



Image Credit: Rosie Henderson



Shire President Report 2023/2024

I am pleased to present my first message for the 2023/2024 Annual Report for the Shire of Esperance. This year has seen both challenges and achievements, but I revert back to our mission which is to meet the needs of current and future generations through environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity. We achieve this by:

Advocating – Lead and represent the community on key issues.

Partner – Collaborate with other organisations to deliver services and projects (ETNTAC, AGO)

Fund – Help to fund organisations to deliver essential community services.

Facilitate – Coordinate local groups and agencies to achieve positive community benefits.

Provide – Community infrastructure, essential services, and community engagement activities to meet local needs.

Regulate – We enforce both Shire and State Government statutory requirements.

The Council Election in October 2023 introduced direct election of the Shire President. I'm honoured to serve in this role and will work hard for the community. We welcomed new Councillors Gemma Johnston, Connor Davies, and Samantha Starceвич, and I look forward to continuing with Councillors Wes Graham, Leonie deHass, Steve McMullen, Shayne Flannagan, and Deputy President Jennifer Obourne.

A heartfelt thank you to Councillor Ian Mickel, who retired after 26 years in Local Government, including 19 years as Shire President. His dedication and leadership have significantly transformed our region.

Ian's ability to connect with people, listen and understand their concerns has earned him widespread respect and trust. His leadership has been defined by his ability to assist his team creating a shared vision for the future and empowering his colleagues. His legacy will

be one of progress, unity and dedication to the community he has served over two decades.

In 2023, we continued the tradition of holding the September OCM in a regional centre, visiting Gibson. We also hosted the Esperance Meat Exporters 50-year Time Capsule event, unveiling a valuable collection that highlighted our agricultural history.

A vital role of Council is to advocate to government's and industries for the betterment of our region. The Esperance Senior High School, housing, and telecommunications has been high on the list, as well as regional development and support. Council met with relevant State Departments, Ministers and Professionals about the Proposed South Coast Marine Park. From this Council has advocated towards a balanced outcome for the community, one that realises the huge potential this State government project could bring to the region. This State Government project has put our town in a difficult position, with all sides of the conversation having valid points both for and against the Park. However, we stand tall as the community we are today, achieving and surpassing expectations, all because we have upheld the core values of respect and tolerance.

As we face new challenges and changes to how things have always been done, it is the right time to remind ourselves of those values.

The Shire submitted its official feedback in May 2023 and now await the outcome of this consultation.

Our long, dry summer period saw a number of extreme emergency incidents happen. The Boxing Day and ESHS Fires showed us how brave and knowledgeable our volunteer firefighters are. With the support of DFES, these men and women do whatever they can to keep us and our properties safe. Our firefighters welfare and safety is vital, and as a community we can do our part by keeping firebreaks clean and follow the fire bans when they are in place.

Once again the Shires Community Development Team put on fantastic community events with Winter Wonderland, Edge of the Bay and the Seniors Christmas Dinner all going off with a bang!

January 2024 saw me host my first Citizen of the Year ceremony at the Australia Day in the Park event. What a wonderful way to recognise all the achievements of individuals and community groups in town.

To better understand our First Nations people and culture I was pleased to attend the Dabungool Bush Tucker Experience and take part in Cultural Training with Councillors and Shire Executive Management.

Over the year Councillors were provided 56 briefings, covered topics like Shire Budget, Proposed South Coast Marine Park, land sales, housing, environmental offsets, tourism and the partnership agreement with Tjaltraak.

Council supported local community groups with \$319,494 via the Community Grant Fund and approved additional \$247,130 for the Esperance Oval Lighting Project and the Esperance-Goldfields

Surf Life Saving Club's Emergency Response & SLS Storage Facility.

I extend my sincere thanks to all staff who work for the Shire of Esperance. Across all facilities, services and locations, every one of you are committed to providing the best service you can for your community. Well done.

Thank you to the Esperance Councillors for an adventurous year. It has been challenging but we have learnt to work together to do what is best for our diverse community.

To finish up I would like to thank the Executive Management Team, Felicity Baxter, Roy Grieves and Mathew Walker for the exceptional work they do to manage staff, projects and educating us on Council. And to Shane Burge, CEO, it has been a pleasure working with you to deliver services and infrastructure to our region.

Thank you



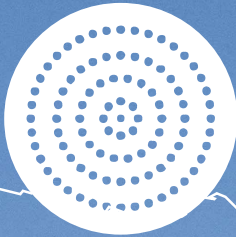
Ron Chambers
Shire President



Esperance in Numbers



13,883
Population



4.3%
Indigenous Australians



24.1%
Born Internationally



3,441
Families



6,808
Private Dwellings



2.4
Average People Per Household



\$1,521
Median Household Weekly Income



42
Average Age

44,366km²

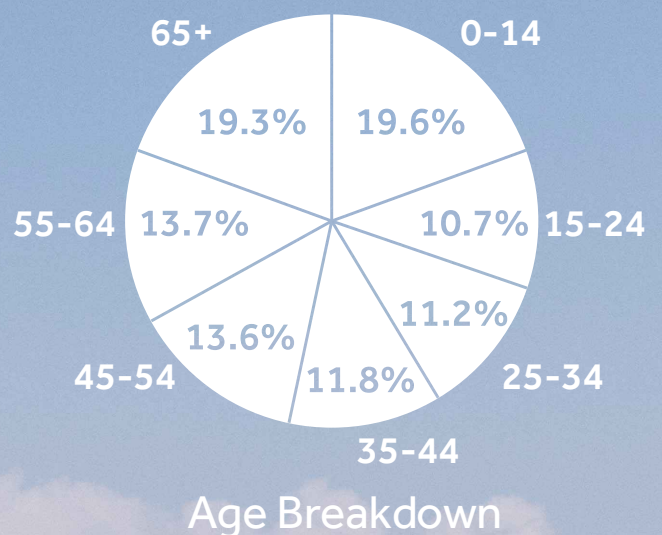
3690.75km of unsealed roads

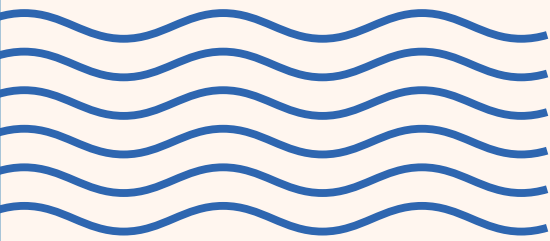
882.75km of sealed roads

140.6km of footpaths

13,045km² of agricultural land

10,930.02km² of reserves





CEO Report 2023/2024

I am proud to present the 2023/2024 Annual Report for the Shire of Esperance.

The Annual Report is a summary of our highlights, challenges, developments, and achievements throughout the year. Esperance is a wonderful community, and I am proud to live here and invest into this community.

The Shire Administration is directed by Council and our Council Plan. This plan identifies our vision, aspirations and priorities for the future, and how we should allocate resources, balancing aspirations against our capacity. We are proud to work closely with Council to continually reassess this, and continue to work toward our vision “Esperance, together we make it happen”.

Housing remains a critical issue in our region, with a severe rental shortage. In response, the Council partnered with the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission in 2023/2024 to commission Urbis for a comprehensive Housing, Land, and Accommodation Study. This provided valuable insights into housing needs, barriers, and development opportunities.

The study explored options like required dwellings, available land, and alternative solutions such as Tiny Homes and Farm Stays. We developed a business case for a Workers Accommodation Project and presented it to the State Government. Although unsuccessful, we remain undeterred.

While housing is not a direct responsibility of local government, we are committed to advocating, developing land, and exploring strategic acquisitions for future residential development. We will continue to push forward with determination to address the housing challenges facing our community.

The Shire is responsible for the maintenance and renewal works for 4,573.5km of road. Our road network represents a vast investment over many generations that supports modern living in our community. \$22.1 million was allocated in the 2023/2024 budget to manage and maintain the network and it is imperative that we employ the best management skills and practices to ensure

that related services are delivered economically and sustainably.

In August 2023 the Shire became a RoadWise Council, solidifying our commitment to providing safe roads for our community. Shire staff developed a Road Safety Strategy, and with Councils endorsement will now work towards implementing this.

In January 2023, the Shire launched a user-friendly, secure website with a WA web development company. The Esperance Public Library upgraded its management system, improving stock, membership, and customer usage. The Bay of Isles Leisure Centre also adopted a new system to streamline membership management and operations.

In April 2024, the Esperance Indoor Stadium was severely damaged by a burst pipe, making the wooden floorboards unsalvageable. Shire staff managed the situation, but insurers require a complete floor replacement. Ensuring public safety, additional mould testing and cleaning are underway. We appreciate the patience of the sporting clubs affected.

Meanwhile, the Council has awarded the demolition and reconstruction of MacKenzie Stadium to a local team. This long-planned project, chosen for long-term safety and community investment, will start once the Esperance Indoor Stadium is operational again.

Esperance Home Care has a beautiful new Day Centre, serving over 120 clients. Recognising the importance of social outings, the facility was upgraded to be more inviting and practical. The \$1.14 million investment was funded by the Rotary Clubs in Esperance, Lotterywest, the Australian Government, and ratepayers. Home Care also completed a significant review of their NDIS registration.

This is just a small portion of what our staff have achieved over the past 12 months. Grab a cuppa and read through this report to see the depth of work reached by staff and local contractors.

My thanks and gratitude go to my Executive Management Team for their unwavering dedication and hard work over the past year. I also commend all Shire staff for their exceptional service to the Esperance community. Your efforts are seen and commended.

Our direction is guided by you, our community, through the Community Scorecard, which has shaped the Council Plan. I strongly encourage you to read the Council Plan and actively participate when the next Scorecard is released in 2025.

I am confident and excited about the year ahead, as we continue to provide essential services and infrastructure to the Esperance community.



Shane Burge
Chief Executive Officer



Planning for the future

The Shire of Esperance is guided by the Council Plan 2022 – 2023, which provides instruction from the community on priority projects and goals. The Council Plan is an amalgamation of both the Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan into one succinct document.

Under the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, Corporate Business Plans are to be reviewed each year and Strategic Community Plans every four years, with minor reviews every two years.

To make sure the Council Plan stays relevant, the Shire committed to undertake annual desktop reviews, with major reviews every four years.

This year's review of the Council Plan focused on the Corporate Business Plan elements, including updates for the priority action statuses, financial information and workforce resources, along with Strategic Community Plan elements such as updating statistics, community survey references, and the recent achievements and current situation information on each theme summary page.

The Council Plan includes five themes being -

People

Planet

Place

Prosperity

Performance

Where to find the Council Plan

Hard copies can be obtained from the Shire Administration Building, or the Esperance Public Library.

A downloadable version is available online at www.esperance.wa.gov.au or scan the QR code.

We welcome your feedback on this report. Written feedback can be dropped off at any Shire building or emailed to us at:

shire@esperance.wa.gov.au



Welcome

Every year the Shire provides vital services to the community. Our Annual Report is where we highlight our achievements and the progress made towards realising the priority projects and goals identified in our Council Plan.

The Annual Report is one of our key reporting tools. It provides transparency to our community and details our operational performance, achievements and challenges experienced throughout the past financial year.

The Shire's vision of

"Together, we make it happen"

continues to promote Esperance as an inclusive community where things get done when we pull together with a common goal.



PEOPLE

1. A safe community

Ranger Services

Ranger Services finished rolling out the Esperance Pet Sterilisation Program as the \$20,000 grant was exhausted. Final access to the program concluded in early 2024 with 60 vouchers being provided through the program. This has proven beneficial to support animal welfare and compliance outcomes by contributing to reducing unwanted breeding and increasing microchipping and pet registrations.

Work has continued to increase animal registrations and compliance with local and state laws, including the firebreak inspection program to strengthen fire prevention and response. Rangers continued to provide response to shark activity as per Council's Shark Hazard Response Policy, with a total of 105 responses in the year, including sign mobilisation and one beach closure due to a shark interaction.

The Ranger Team continued with patrols of the foreshore and town routes, in addition to summer patrols, which included early morning and evening patrols of unauthorised camping and coastal areas. Multiple daily patrols of the foreshore, and patrols of remote popular beaches and campsites when resources allow, or as needed. Patrols also focused on parking animal compliance, and general public safety.

Rangers worked alongside SAFE Esperance to support the successful rehoming of cats and dogs, RSPCA and other animal and wildlife organisations to support animal welfare outcomes.

Customer Requests Received

782	Animal Related
150	Regulatory Compliance
64	Fire Hazard
60	Illegal Dumping

Animals to Rescue Organisations

29	Cats
23	Dogs

Animals Impounded

37	Cats
73	Dogs



Compassionate Community Charter

Council endorsed the Compassionate Community Charter initiative developed by the Compassionate Community Charter Esperance as a project within their Leading Australian Resilient Communities (LARC).

This endorsement is a crucial step in validating the Charter's content and encouraging broader community participation and support.

The Charter will include a set of guiding principles to help decision-makers identify and prioritise programs to improve community health, wellbeing, resilience and connection.



Police Advocacy

Speeding on local streets was an issue raised regularly with the Esperance Police this year, particularly managing speeding through road construction sites. Speed intervention activities undertaken include deployment of speed cameras during November.

Support Services

We met with Carers WA during February, who advocate and support carers for vulnerable people within our community, and spoke about actions that could support carers such as respite and recognition of their valuable contribution to our community.

2. A Healthy and active community

Improved Health Services

The Black Dog Institute’s Suicide Prevention Capacity Building Program is being delivered in our community with expressions of interest open for interested individuals to be part of the initiative.

We handed out ‘No One is an Island’ merchandise at the Condingup Community Fair, which was funded by the Suicide Prevention fund of the WA Primary Health Alliance discussing with each person about the importance of reaching out to friends or family.

Greater Sports Ground

The new outdoor netball courts have been completed and are now in use, New reversible netball and basketball rings received and installed, mean these are now in use. The power upgrade was also completed this year.

The Esperance Hockey Association is progressing their synthetic turf project in line with the Greater Sports Ground Master Plan.

The Graham MacKenzie Stadium replacement tender is in progress with design works underway, however this project will be delayed due to the flooding of the Esperance Indoor Stadium in May.

Future plans for extension of the Little Lords oval area were discussed with Rugby, with grant funding opportunities being investigated.

Bay of Isles Leisure Centre

A new point of sale system went live at the Leisure Centre on the 13 December. The new system is designed for aquatic and recreation facilities, improving overall customer engagement through online capabilities such as membership signups, swim school enrolments and facility booking options. The system has brought many efficiencies to staffing and customer satisfaction.

Work has commenced on the Leisure Centre’s Management Plan, with Otium Planning Consultancy being appointed to assist with development of a 10-year strategic overview.

The arrival of 14 new pieces of cardio equipment have been well received by health and fitness members with positive feedback being received.

The introduction of kids classes has been hugely successful with after school and Friday morning classes reaching numbers of 40 participants.

A new management structure was implemented to formally incorporate the oversight of the Stadiums and Greater Sports Ground operations creating a wider sports and recreation operational structure.

Bay of Isles Leisure Centre



58,706	Member Visits
92,589	Casual Visits Crèche
43,281	Health & Fitness Area Visits
91,367	Aquatic Area Visits
8,402	Crèche Visits
1,907	Swim School Enrolments



Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Team has had a full change in staff, with a new Coordinator, Officer and Cadet commencing this year.

The Team completed a comprehensive review of forms and procedures aimed at simplifying approvals and managing work tasks. These changes have improved the workflow and information used by officers to achieve standardisation and consistency in processing and decision making. A new event guide, risk matrix and application process has been developed and officers conducted education to community groups and clubs.

A compliance project was completed to assess and evaluate the current state of Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds throughout the Shire. The project applied a risk-based approach with a focus on patron safety and adherence to statutory

legislation. The outcome saw the licensing processing time shift to a quieter period in the year. This was, a collaborative approach to improve the standards of the parks and a consistent and transparent licensing process.

The Team was nominated for Environmental Health Australia Western Australia's Environmental Health Team Award for their work on implementing the Better Approvals Program and their high level of service in the field. The gold medal for academic excellence was awarded by Environmental Health Australia (WA) to Zoe Sheffield-van Mierlo for the highest level of academic achievement throughout her study in the Graduate Diploma of Environmental Health at Curtin university.

472 inspections conducted

Small Business Friendly's Approvals Program

The Shire successfully secured funding for the Small Business Friendly Approvals Program (SBFAP) from the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) and completed the program in August 2024.

Through this process, we were able to identify improvements in information we provide and opportunities to streamline internal processes to support the small business journey.

The program aimed to help small business customers complete and submit quality applications for efficient processing, which reduces approval times, and sought to transform the experience of small business customers across all approval processes.

This required examination of historical practices and current regulatory obligations affecting new and existing developments. To deliver the best outcome for the customer journey, officers needed to consider the process from the end-user perspective and balance due process and statutory decision making with consistent and transparent information.

The result was simplified forms, streamlined processes, enhanced collaboration, and greater cohesion. This structured approach supports staff, builds resilience, and prevents decision fatigue, thereby improving job satisfaction.



Home Care

We were excited this year to open our newly rebuilt Day Centre, with the official opening held on 11 June. The Centre is a beautifully inviting space with a high ceiling, lots of light and easy access to our rear gardens. It has the added bonus of a covered driveway enabling clients a safe and dry entry from the buses whatever the weather. The new build also includes a cinema room and a staff training area, all equipped with useful storage areas and cupboards. Both staff and service users have been delighted with the new space and the possible options for increased use that it offers.

The upgrade included –

A new layout

Designed to create a more open and welcoming environment, the previous cramped areas have been replaced with wide, airy spaces that make

moving around the Centre much easier and more enjoyable for everyone.

Higher roof

Raising the roof allows more natural light to flood the interior, creating a brighter, more uplifting environment that enhances the overall atmosphere of the centre.

Upgrade to toilets and bathrooms

Providing a higher level of safety and convenience with full disabled access now available throughout the facility. The separate shower unit has been particularly well-received, along with additional toilets reducing wait times.

Additional storage space

Previously, organising activities could be a challenge, but now, with ample storage at their disposal, staff can easily access supplies and set up engaging programs for the clients.

Overall, the recent upgrades at the Day Centre have not only enhanced the functionality of the space but also greatly improved the quality of life for our clients. With these thoughtful changes, the Day Centre has become a truly exceptional place for care and community.

Home Care staff were relocated to various sites for the duration of the upgrade project, including the Civic Centre and Noel White Centre, however all services continued to be provided to our clients despite the disruption to the team.

As with all workplaces we have continued to struggle at times with staffing in some of our areas. This has improved for some, however we still have waitlists in our gardening area as we recruit for this team. We continue to keep our staff trained, and with our new training area, plan to increase the in-house training we can provide.

Home Care has always been supported in its operations by our valued volunteers. With just over 100 volunteers on the books, they provided an amazing 6,366 hours of support to older citizens in our community this year. The roles volunteers fulfil within Esperance Home Care are varied and include Day Centre Support, Meals on Wheels Kitchen Assistants, Meals on Wheels delivery drivers, Transport Assistants and Home Visiting

for social support. In addition to these roles, and as part of our Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACVVS) contract, we have volunteers who offer visits to individual residents in their homes, in the Esperance Aged Care Facility (EACF) and groups within the EACF such as the Pooch Group and our Mums and Bubs group.

This year saw us have audits for both our NDIS and Aged Care operations and we were extremely proud to pass both. The Aged Care audit was conducted in April by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission and covers both our Commonwealth Home Support Program and Home Care Package programs, reviewing our compliance against the eight Aged Care Quality Standards with a total of 42 separate requirements assessed for each program. We met all 84 requirements.



70-90

Home Care Package Clients

50-70

NDIS participants

250-270

Commonwealth Home Support Programme participants

Hours*

19,706*

Delivering services for Home Care Package clients

17,360.5*

Delivering services under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme

450-500

Delicious meals per month

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

Our current Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) outlines the actions the Shire is progressing to ensure that people with disability have equity of access and inclusion to functions, facilities, services and information.

Accessibility and inclusion is always a consideration when discussing building development applications, and parking design projects continue to be assessed to determine ACROD requirements.

The beach wheelchair storage shed has been constructed at the Whale Tail and the beach wheelchair is now available for community use by booking through our Manager Recreation and Culture.

Following council elections, the DAIP Working Group was reestablished, with internal representatives appointed in April, and the nomination period for community representatives extended into June.

3. A welcoming, inclusive and connected community

Aged Care

Our staff met with the Esperance Aged Care Facility and Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission to consider applying for external grant funding to undertake an Ageing in Esperance Masterplan.

We met with regional or State representatives from Carers WA and Goldfields Legal Services to link in with the services they have relevant to our service users.

We had a meeting with representatives from the Aged Care Stewardship - WA, part of the Service delivery Division of the Department of Health and Aged Care to feed back any local issues we are noticing.

We advocated for Home Care services to attend the Dying to know Expo and give talks or be available to service users. Home Care staff attended and gave a talk on entry into the My Aged Care System and were available between sessions to discuss individual needs.

We continue to work with the Palliative Care Team, Esperance Hospital and Esperance Aged Care Facility to assist in providing care which is appropriate to community members, including discussion on needs for both permanent and respite beds.

Community Grants

Our Community Grants Program allocates funds to develop and actively support community organisations and individuals who are contributing to the wellbeing and cultural life of our region.

During the 2023/2024 year, 36 small grants totalling \$60,000 and 10 annual grants totalling \$354,946 were approved.

Council approved a \$10,000 increase for the Small Grant budget to preempt community demand.

Additionally, Council pre-approved funding from the 2023/2024 budget towards the Esperance Football and Sporting Club's replacement lighting project to allow the club to apply for state funding.



Small Grants

Esperance Bay Yacht Club

66th Pelican State Titles 2024

Esperance Squash Club

Yellow Dot Ball

Esperance District Football Association

Hepburn Medal Awards Event

Representation

School Sports WA AFL Girls Team

Representation

Australian Junior Squash Championship

Museum Village Markets

Tourist Season Music Sessions

Esperance Mechanical Restoration Group

EMRG Collectors Fair

Esperance Wildflower Association

Esperance Wildflower Festival 2023 (*in-kind hire of Civic Centre*)

2x Representation

Women's Masters National Championships

Escare on behalf of Esperance Lifespan Suicide Prevention Network

Grand Opening Mental Health Week Pop-Up Café

Clontarf Foundation

Awards Night

Scaddan Primary School Parents & Citizens Association

Mallee School Swim Club

Recherche Aged Welfare

Replace Asbestos Fencing

Esperance Stars Foundation

Awards Night

Esperance Aboriginal Family and Community Development Group

Inaugural NAIDOC Youth Ball

Nulsen Primary School Parents & Citizens Inc

Nulsen in November

Esperance-Goldfields Surf Life Saving Club Inc

Coaching and Development

ESCare

40th Anniversary Morning Tea

Esperance Cricket Club

Temporary Relocation of Home Ground

Esperance Rover Unit (Esperance Scout Group)

Sandmoot 2024

The Lions Club of Esperance Inc

Carols by Candlelight 2023

Esperance Clay Target Club

62nd Annual Easter Carnival 2024

Esperance Volleyball Association

Ipad Program Upgrade

Condingup Primary School Parents and Citizens Association

40th Anniversary Condingup Fair

Representation

Basketball Southern Cross Challenge

Esperance Equestrian Club

EEC Annual Training and Development Camp

Farmers Across Borders- Auspice

Heatherbelle Gala Event - Bowel Cancer Australia

Newtown Netball Club

20th Anniversary of Newtown Netball Club

Esperance Golf Club

Esperance Golf Classic 2024

Rotary Club of Esperance Bay

Parkrun Esperance

Esperance Cannery Arts

Esperance Art Awards

Esperance Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

Goldfields/State Zone Fire Brigade Championship

Salmon Gums Development Group

Salmon Gums Caravan Park Redevelopment Masterplan

ESCare on behalf of LifeSPAN

Awareness of Suicide Prevention

Esperance Community Arts Inc

Taste of the World

Esperance Netball Association

Net Set Go

Esperance Senior Citizens- Auspice

Esperance Community Singers Shirts





Annual Grants

Esperance-Goldfields Surf Lifesaving Club Inc
Emergency Response and Surf Lifesaving Storage Facility

Esperance Rotary Club Inc
Australia Day at Adventureland Park 2024 and providing shade for the ceremonies

Ports Football Club Esperance Inc
Upgrade to the home team shower room

Recherche Aged Welfare Committee Inc
New reticulation & bore connections for gardens

The Esperance Bay Historical Society (Inc)
Contribution toward the 'Esperance Historical Homesteads' documentary series

Esperance Golf Club (Inc.)
Replacement of pumps for green maintenance

The Scouts Association of Australia, Western Australia Branch

Establish a Caretaker's residence for Toowacka Campsite

Esperance Music Festival Inc
In-kind hire of the Esperance Civic Centre

Esperance Care Services
Improved storage and skip bins for fabric recycling

Esperance Football and Sporting Club Inc
Replacement and upgrade of lighting

Council also approved recurrent operational funding for the Esperance Brass Band, Esperance Community Arts and The Cannery Arts Centre which has streamlined this process.



Esperance Historic Homesteads - trailer

Riggs Australia • 2.1K views • 1 year ago



Dempster Homestead - Ep 1

Riggs Australia • 6.3K views • 1 year ago



Lynburn Station - Ep 2

Riggs Australia • 3.7K views • 1 year ago



Balbinia/Brooks' Homestead - Ep 3

Riggs Australia • 4.1K views • 1 year ago

James Street Cultural Precinct

This project was highlighted at the Planning Institute Australia Awards for Planning Excellence. The Shire of Esperance with PLACE Lab won both Outstanding Regional Project for the planning and extensive community consultation work completed, and the overall Planning Institute Australia WA President's Award.

The James Street Cultural Precinct concept designs have been completed following consultation with the advisory group and stakeholders. To this end, we are actively applying for funding from various state and federal facilities.



Youth

Our Community Development Team continues to offer a variety of opportunities for our Youth.

Activities for this year included –

- Winter Wonderland (July)
- Rockin Rollin weekend (21st and 22nd September)
- One and all Community program (April, June and October)
- A bigger and better Youth Day (19th November)
- Edge of the Bay Festival (2nd December).

Youth Day was held in November with 2,000 attendees.

We have employed a Youth and Community Development Trainee who will drive all things youth related into the future, with the support from our Community Development Team.

We met with four workplace students from Esperance Senior High School and eight Shire staff to identify gaps or needs for youth aged between 10-25 within our community. They created a great list of ideas and eventually came up with a future Youth Day annual event – Neon Showdown. It is a combination of laser tag, mechanical bull rides, inflatables, giant zorb balls, obstacle course all with neon paint in the Indoor Stadium for two to three days in July 2025. Staff made a budget bid to get this new event happening and all is on track for the inaugural event.



Winter Wonderland

The first Winter Wonderland free community event was held on the last Saturday of the July school holidays. The plan was to create an iconic winter event that our community and visitors could enjoy.

‘Embrace the Cold’ was the theme as a snow pit and snow slide were created with eight tonnes of ice. An array of food, market stall, live music and movies all enhanced the event that was held in and around the Civic Centre.

This event also successfully trialed a waste/plastic free event with a focus on bringing your own cutlery, bottles and cups. Attendees were encouraged to recycle responsibly and keep the bins uncontaminated.

4,000 attendees ensured that planning for Winter Wonderland 2024 is already underway.



Community Development

Our Community Development Team continue to:

Host

- Sports Star of the Year Awards;
- Seniors Christmas Dinner;
- Christmas Pageant;
- Town Tunes;
- Meet the Grant Makers Workshop;
- French weekend celebrations;
- Social media workshops;
- TOAST workshops, including –
 - Game Plan
 - KidSport
 - Good Sports
 - Child Safeguarding
 - Working with Children
- Edge of the Bay Festival;
- Winter Wonderland; and
- Youth Day.

Coordinate

- Every Club program;
- Showcase in Pixels;
- KidSport;
- Twin Towns student exchange; and
- Community grants.

Support

- Giant Games for community events;
- Esperance NAIDOC Week activities;
- RSL ANCAC Day event;
- Mother's Day Classic event; and
- Civic Centre events.

Youth Precinct

Major maintenance was undertaken at the skate park to repair and seal the concrete for the enjoyment of the community for many years to come. A new toilet block was also constructed for visitors and youth precinct users.

The next stage of the Youth Precinct, in line with our 10-year implementation plan, will include lighting at the pump track, more shelters and expansion of the skate park. The timeframe for this stage of the project is dependent on receipt of grant funding, which is expected to be approximately \$500,000.

Volunteer Resource Centre

This year saw two new programs developed and rolled out through different grants we were successful in receiving. Through the increase these grants brought to our overall funding, we were able to hire a Project Officer to join our team and ensure both programs had a smooth roll out.

Our 'Out of the Box Volunteering' program seeks to train and mentor local Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) in ways to adapt their current volunteer programs to be more accessible to a wider range of potential volunteers, increasing engagement of community members with organisations.

Goodwill Globetrotters works with organisations to identify flexible one-off and short-term volunteer opportunities that are suitable for people travelling through town who want to better connect with the Esperance community, as well as time-poor locals that aren't available to commit to anything long-term but still want to get involved where they can.

Both programs seek to address barriers that exist for various demographics with an aim to result in a more diverse and accessible volunteer landscape in Esperance and surrounds.

For Thank a Volunteer Day in December we hosted a quiz night in partnership with Esperance

Care Services and South Coast Natural Resource Management, made possible with funding from the Department of Communities and support from several private businesses. It was a fun filled evening with many volunteer-themed questions to test the non-profit knowledge of the 60+ attendees.

May saw National Volunteer Week celebrated with a Night at the Museum event, attended by representatives from over 30 different local organisations, and made possible by partnering with the Esperance Museum. The 70+ volunteers who attended enjoyed warm food, tabletop games, a Museum-made seek-and-find puzzle, and sharing their volunteer experience and history across several whiteboards set up around the space.

- 134** people assisted
- 314** instances of individualised volunteer assistance
- 72** organisations assisted
- 588** instances of individualised organisation assistance



Museum

In 2023, the Museum focused on reviewing its archives to understand the collection, improve access and plan for future access. This included creating a better workspace for volunteers and researchers accessing Museum collections. With the local newspaper a considerable archive of the community history, sorting out the newspaper collection was the first focus area and will be ongoing for some time.

A review of the Museum Strategic Plan commenced to help improve the pathway towards the proposed James Street Cultural Precinct. During the winter closure period a major display change occurred in the old shop area. The new vibrant display protects the objects while providing a better access for visitors to the area.

An historic time capsule, the brainchild of Esperance Meat Exporters to launch its abattoir in the region, was disinterred after 50 years and opened at a community event at the Museum in November. The event was well received by the community and visiting dignitaries and featured live music and a sausage sizzle. The revealed contents were in excellent condition and captured a snapshot of Esperance in 1973.

The items will be permanently stored at the Museum. A Time Capsule Catalogue listing the contents has been produced as a record for community information and these contents will eventually all be digitised and preserved in the Museum's archive collection.

The Seeder Futures Mini Exhibition was hosted by the Museum in November, consisting of filmed conversations with local community members, created by Anna Tiquia, a visiting artist and futurist. It captures the ethos of giving and explores the concept of gift economies within a community and serves as a reflection and celebration of the essential role that 'giving' plays in building and strengthening a connected and vibrant community.

The Museum remains open throughout the year thanks to the dedication of our volunteers. The Museum opening hours were extended to seven days per week over the summer period with the assistance of paid staff Monday to Friday and volunteers covering the weekend shifts.

6,639 Museum Visits



Image Credit: Rosie Henderson

Public Library

This year saw the retirement of three long-term employees at the Library, including the Library and Culture Coordinator who had been at the Esperance Public Library for 35 years.

A new library management system, Spydus, was implemented in May. In preparation for this, Library staff ensured the integrity of the data that was moved to the new system and participated in staff training and a week of being 'offline' prior to the transition. The change over occurred relatively seamlessly and the benefits of the new system have been well received by our staff and patrons. Significant manual processing work, such as issuing reserve and overdue notices, is now completed automatically. New technologies have been introduced, including receipt printers, wireless barcode scanners and a patron accessible touchscreen for using the library catalogue.

Processing membership applications has also been streamlined with the introduction of pre-printed Library cards. Patrons are now empowered to reserve and renew their own items, the catalogue can be viewed and patrons can log-in to their account from any device

Library staff worked in partnership with other agencies to present numerous events for all age groups including –

- Youth resilience journalling workshop (with Esperance Community Arts)
- Mental Health resilience (with Escare)
- Nulsen in November literacy Storytime (Interagency)
- Speech pathology Storytime for the benefit of parents (with a local speech pathologist)
- Christmas Crackers (with Shire Recycling Education Officer)
- Waste Education recycling storytime with special visit from a Recycling Truck
- Children and Youth Summer Reading Quest

- Better Beginnings literacy pack visits to all local primary schools
- A make a snowman activity for the One-and-All program
- An evening hosting GIFSA
- Two visits from Esperance Home Care groups
- National Simultaneous Storytime at the Esperance Playgroup
- A visit to Men-In-Sheds to provide tech-help
- Hosted our first livestream of the Sydney Writers Festival over three days

LOTE4kids digital resources have been added to our offerings. We promoted this LOTE collection in June at the Taste of Esperance multicultural event

The Housebound Service has been updated, and we have volunteers assisting in delivery of materials, offering more social interaction and opportunities for housebound clients.

Following four successful Family History Month Workshops in August, we have received numerous requests for assistance with genealogy research, especially using online resources. These workshops have seen an increased interest in individual Tech Help sessions and the installation of a Family History research site on public computers.

The Mallee Swim Camp visit in September was successful with over 100 students enjoying stimulating workshops with visiting author Cristy Burne, who also presented an all-ages workshop in the evening.

In June we introduced a fortnightly volunteer-led Justice of the Peace Service which has been well utilised. Tech-Help services and education sessions continue to have strong demand.

124,481 People Accessed Library



Civic Centre

The Civic Centre is excited to welcome Justin Freind as the new Coordinator and Michael Gould-Brown as the Venue Technician, who keep the shows coming to our community.

We strive to keep our events accessible for patrons and families while maintaining a high-quality experience for all who attend. A highlight of the year was providing a free community concert featuring international artists Patrick Bebey and Ingrid Riollot. Reaching near full capacity this event was embraced by the community. They also provided, three school workshops as well as a performance at Esperance Aged Care Facility, showcasing the positive impact of arts and culture on mental health and well-being.

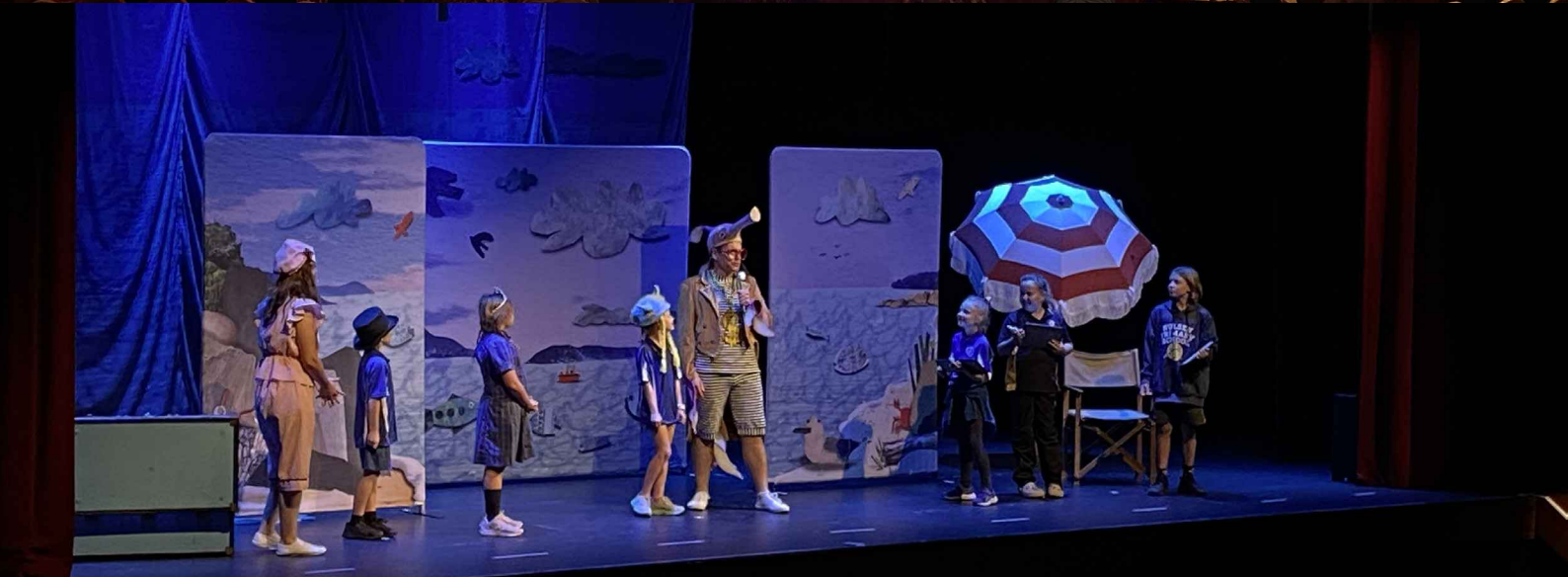
In 2023/2024, the Centre hosted 19 shows with 21 performances, attracting over 3,300 attendees to a diverse range of cultural experiences, including theatre, music, children's shows, circus acts, and classical concerts.

Thanks to the generous support of Lotterywest, 680 individuals and students were able to attend at no cost.

The Civic Centre partnered with the Senior Citizens Centre to move Morning Melody concerts to the Senior Citizens hall, boosting attendance from an average of 25 to over 60 regular attendees. Each month both residents and visitors are entertained by soothing melodies and treated to morning tea.

The Civic Centre continues to cater to a variety of external bookings, including conferences, school graduations, government meetings, and funerals, among others.

Looking ahead, we are developing an exciting program for 2025. With continued support from Lotterywest for 2025/2026, we look forward to welcoming even more residents and tourists through our doors for an exciting line up of events.



Reconciliation Action Plan

Several key Shire officers, Management, Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (ETNTAC) Elders and Councillors met for two days in September to develop a framework for partnering. This workshop was facilitated by Dixon Partnering Solutions, which identified three key focus areas –

- Caring for Country;
- Social Inclusion; and
- Prosperity and Investment.

The partnership agreement was adopted by Council in May and recognises a commitment from both the Shire and ETNTAC to work together to benefit the Esperance community.

We supported the NAIDOC official opening and celebration on 3 July, with the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group promoting the activities along with our Community Development Team.

The Community Development Team also helped coordinate and support the Primary School NAIDOC Day hosted by Nulsen Primary School in August. An awesome initiative that had 1,500 students and teachers from all schools attend at the Indoor Stadium for a day of cultural activities and education.

A working group including officers across the organisation is being developed to review the current Reconciliation Action Plan, initiate cultural development initiatives within the organisation and partner with ETNTAC to develop mutually beneficial opportunities.

Cultural Competency Training was undertaken by 23 Councillors and Management Staff in late February 2024.

Consultation is planned in the near future with ETNTAC to look at progressing the development of a heritage agreement.





PLANET

4. The natural environment is valued, protected and enjoyed

Waste Management

Correct battery disposal has been a key focus of the Waste Team this year, following some fires at the Waste Management Facility caused by batteries being disposed of in the general waste or recycling collection.

In particular, 'Never Bin a Battery' highlights the importance of not placing batteries or anything with a battery inside of it, in your recycling or waste bin. These items can be taken to designated drop off points for recycling instead. The Shire of Esperance has a partnership with B-cycle, a recycling program encouraging the responsible life cycle for every battery.

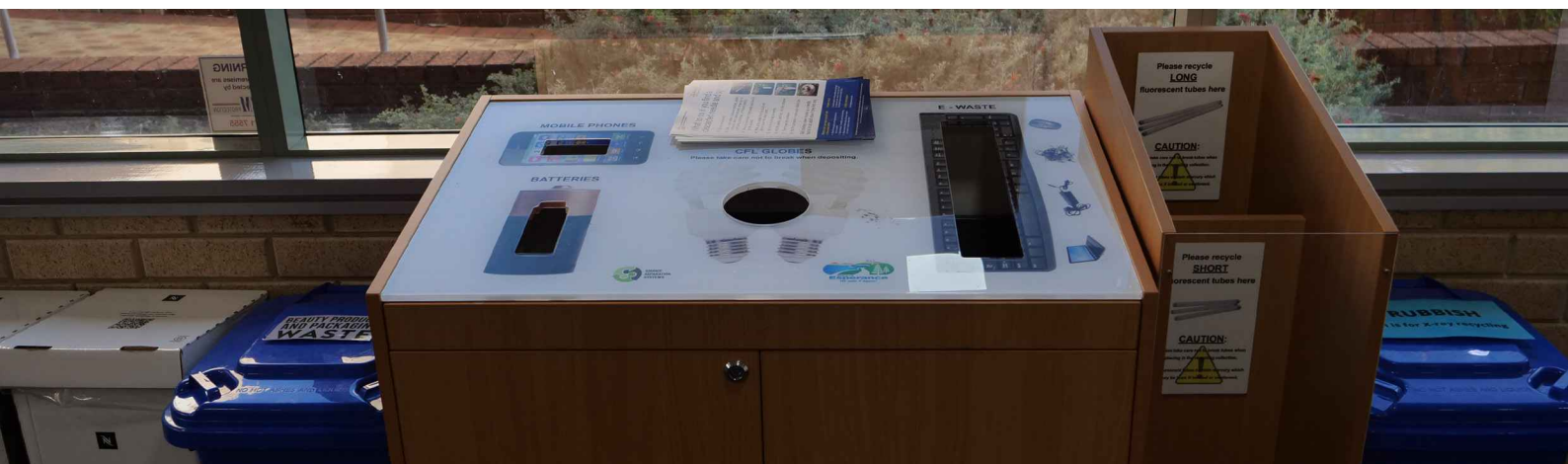
A bulk verge side waste collection was undertaken in the town of Esperance and the rural townsites of Gibson, Condingup, Salmon Gums, Grass Patch and Scaddan in May, with a focus on E-Waste separation.

A new Recycling Container was launched at Coomalbidgup and was opened during National Recycling Week, now bringing recycling to six satellite towns in the Esperance district.

The recycling stations at the Bunnings Carpark and the Visitor Centre were revamped with new signage as were the six recycling containers now located in the Esperance district.

The Wylie Bay Landfill Draft License extension review was received from Department of Water and Environmental Regulation in July, Waste Staff have reviewed the document and provided comment. An amended license will be sent through for signing in early October.

A draft Waste Local Law has also been developed and the team continue to create and review procedures to support this legislation.



Waste Revolution

Plastic Free July has been promoted by providing information around sustainable swaps and encouraging the community to be more mindful of their plastic consumption.

Winter Wonderland was held with an emphasis on being a sustainable event and the community was encouraged to bring their reusable crockery, cutlery and bags. A waste audit was conducted afterwards providing a valuable source of information for the Waste Team with encouraging results. Accordingly, 7.9kg of cans were recycled. This was replicated at Edge of the Bay with an equally positive response.

Representatives from Keep Australia Beautiful came to Esperance. The team worked with local schools as part of the Clean Schools program and held a community clean up event at the foreshore.

The Waste Team conducted a waste education session with the senior students as part of Mallee Swim Week. Participants learned about the importance of waste reduction, recycling, and responsible waste disposal. A number of other community-based recycling activities were held during sustainability themed weeks such as National Recycling week and Plastic Free July.

The team from Waste Sorted Schools visited Esperance to present their Organics and Food Waste workshop in October, with 15 teachers from across the Esperance District attending the workshop. Teachers were shown how to prevent food waste, effective composting and worm farming in schools and effective whole school planning to achieve Waste Sorted Schools accreditation. Feedback was favourable and many teachers felt that they were equipped with tools to promote sustainable education more effectively in their schools.

The Shire of Esperance continues to focus on reducing waste within the organisation. The Waste Team have implemented –

- Gifting or swapping used uniforms
- Encouraging the recycling of paper at desks
- Earth-Cycle food scraps
- Shifting from disposable to sustainable and reusable alternatives

Marine Park

Our CEO met with the CEO of RecFishWest to discuss advocacy on behalf of the recreational fishing community. There was also a meeting with Department Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions officers and Minister for Environment to discuss community engagement required for when the draft plan was released for comment.

A letter was sent to the Department of Primary Industries Regional Development Minister regarding timeframes for consultation on proposed sanctuary zones, which resulted in the

consultation occurring after the Christmas period to ensure our community members were provided the best opportunity to have their say.

Our Media Team were kept busy sending various media releases out to the community to keep them informed and highlight the lack of on ground consultation and concerns with the socio-economic impact report. Council endorsed the Shire submission in May and made this available to the public for reference.

Transfer Station

The Myrup Operational and Environmental Management Plan, (OEMP) has been drafted and reviewed by our Waste Team.

The transfer station project is expected to commence construction in the 2025/2026 financial year, with further planning and site preparation earthworks to be undertaken in the meantime.

Parks & Environment

Landscaping renewal works have continued along the foreshore and parks, with our public open spaces and sporting fields being maintained to a high standard by the Parks and Reserves Team.

Landscaping and installation of street furniture has continued in the CBD with the implementation of the CBD Concept Plan.

Works have continued in implementing the Greater Sports Ground Master Plan with irrigation upgrades underway.

The Public Open Space Implementation Strategy has continued with playground upgrades continuing with equipment installed at Adventureland Park, Salmon Gums and Gibson Community Park

Land tenure and use issues at the Lake Monjigup Reserve have been resolved for the flora park. Development of the Pet Cemetery is underway and works are ongoing in the Nature Park area.

The erosion areas along the Piggery Mountain Bike Track have been inspected. Trail design consultants visited the site in February and have provided a scope of works for the upgrade. The implementation schedule was finalised in consultation with the trail builders and Esperance Mountain Bike Association, with works commencing in May.

The Street Tree Strategy was presented back to Council and endorsed following the public comment period, and trees were planted over winter in line with the Strategy.



Image Credit: Condigup Primary School

Environmental Services and Coastal projects

Works have continued with Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (ETNTAC) to manage and rehabilitate areas in the Tjaltjraak Boodja Park, Wharton Beach, and also within the Twilight Beach fire scar with funding provided by Coastwest.

Works were undertaken on the WALGA Local Biodiversity and Native Vegetation Management Project, involving ecological assessments on 16 local government managed reserves. These assessments establish an inventory of natural area assets managed by the Shire of Esperance and inform the prioritisation of areas for conservation and management.

A potential funding opportunity has been identified for the rehabilitation of Pink Lake and the surrounding wetlands and an application has been submitted to the Australian Government Grants Program.

The Environmental Services Team have continued to provide a high level of environmental expertise and advice to inform shire operations and conserve and sustainably manage environmental assets for the Esperance community.

12,500 Seedlings planted in coastal & natural areas

5. Shared responsibility for climate action and sustainability

Regional Climate Alliance

Workshops were held with Council to develop carbon emission reduction actions following our carbon emission baseline being determined last year. At the February Ordinary Council Meeting council, Council determined that we will –

- Continue to track our annual carbon emissions to better refine our baseline;
- Continue to work with GVROC on climate change and emission reduction initiative at a regional scale;
- Focus on energy efficiency to reduce our corporate emissions in the short term; and
- Set aspirational targets in line with COP28 of –
 - 43% reduction by 2030 (compared to 2019 levels); and
 - Net zero by 2050



Corporate Carbon Emissions

Total corporate greenhouse gas emissions for the period 2023/2024 for the Shire of Esperance have been calculated as 3,908 tCO₂e. This excludes emissions from waste (waste disposal to landfill and wastewater treatment plants), and also takes into consideration that for many emissions sources activity data was not collected or could not be provided.

This figure is down from the baseline total corporate greenhouse gas emissions calculated as 4,335 tCO₂e for the period 2012/2022. Reductions in Shire of Esperance corporate greenhouse gas emissions are a result of energy and electricity efficiency actions across shire buildings and operations.

Major emissions sources include-

- **Transport fuels** (65.6%; 2,062 tCO₂e) including diesel, petrol usage across fleet vehicles and plant machinery
Scope 1 and 3
- **Electricity consumption** (30.4%; 1,188 tCO₂e) including shire operations, street lighting, open space lighting, field lighting
Scope 2 and 3
- **Water consumption** (2.7%; 105 tCO₂e)
Scope 3

SCOPE SUMMARY	BASELINE 2021/22	2023/24
Scope	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)
Scope 1	2,063	2,062
Scope 2	1,977	1,188
Scope 3	295	658
TOTAL	4,335	3,908

Building Efficiencies

All feasible buildings have solar systems installed, however these are not being monitored due to issues with the contractor. A new contractor, Save Energy, was engaged to look at improvements needed to ensure systems are running to their full potential, with a plan expected to be received in due course.

Horizon Power has released more solar capacity for the Esperance community and applications for photovoltaic cells for the Depot, Home Care and remote staff housing have been submitted to enable solar to be implemented at these premises. Grant funding opportunities continue to be considered for these upgrades.

Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO)

Council commissioned a Myrup Organics Stakeholder Engagement Report in early 2024. The aim of the report was to investigate a best practice and cost-effective Organics Processing Facility (ORF) for the Shire of Esperance.

The report also looked to gain insights from ORF Market suppliers on designs, project cost estimates as well as potential procurement and operational contracts for a FOGO facility with the capability to service the Esperance region.

6. Greater community readiness and resilience to cope with natural disasters and emergencies

Community Emergency Services

Our Emergency Services Team manage 16 bush fire brigades consisting of 33 bush fire appliances, and a total of 700 active and 40 auxiliary bush fire brigade volunteers who monitor and fight fires within our community. The Emergency Services Team also has a responsibility to administer funding to other volunteer emergency service organisations within the district.

There were 185 incidents responded to this year with two major fire incidents; Neds Corner Road Bushfire and Esperance Farm School Bushfire. Following the Neds Corner Road Bushfire, DFES and the Shire provided access to counselling for our volunteers and their families, and encouraged counselling and wellbeing support for the wider community. The Esperance Senior High School was evacuated in response to the Esperance Farm School Bushfire, with an evacuation centre swiftly established at the Esperance Indoor Stadium.

A total of 49 bushfire risk mitigation treatments were completed, including three prescribed burns totalling 145Ha and 201.8km of mechanical

works. Volunteers and appliances from Perth assisted local crews for completing the Borefields prescribed burns. Treatments that were not able to be completed this year have been included in next year's Mitigation Activity Fund Round One application.

Off-season training was provided with 14 volunteer fire fighting courses held and 78 volunteers upskilled. The Emergency Services Team worked alongside Ranger Services to complete firebreak inspections to support fire prevention and response.

Local Government Grant Scheme capital grant funding was received for new fire sheds for the Condingup and Grass Patch Bushfire Brigades, and for upgrades to the Condingup 4.4B central tyre inflation system.

A Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting was held in October to discuss pre-fire season preparations. The Local Emergency Management Arrangements are in the process of being reviewed, with the review in its final stages.



Image Credit:DFES

Emergency Service Personnel

Our Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator joined the Emergency Services Team in November to oversee the Mitigation Activity Fund projects. This is a joint funded position by the Shire and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services for a period of three years.

Paid paramedics as part of St John Ambulance commenced in December, bringing the total number of paramedics in Esperance from one to four.

Advocacy is ongoing for the State Government to invest in housing to enable additional police officers to commence at the Esperance station, as there continues to be no availability through the Government Regional Officer Housing program. Two additional police officer positions are unable to commence due to the lack of state government housing.

Drought Resistance and Resilience

Earthworks for the Grass Patch Community Water Supply were completed in March, and inspections of the tank liners will determine whether the tanks can be used, as these have been in storage for several years.

The Condingup water supply project has commenced, with tanks being ordered in May.



Coastal Safety

The Coastal Safety Working Group met before each quarterly Local Emergency Management Committee meeting to discuss coastal safety messaging, resourcing, and activities in Esperance. The group consists of representatives of the Shire, Surf Life Saving WA, St John Ambulance, WA Police, DPIRD, SES and Volunteer Marine Rescue.

The duplicate Beach Emergency Sign (BEN) project has been completed, providing BEN signage at beach level as well as at carparks at locations where there is a distance or stairs from the carpark to the beach.

A telecommunications black spot was identified at Salmon Beach and investigations have found that a small mobile repeater would address the issue. The Coastal Safety Working Group researched

the requirements of the repeater at this site and advocated to have this infrastructure installed, and will now assist to facilitate its successful installation.

Rip signage at West Beach has been updated and will be installed shortly, and the working group has mobilised coastal safety signage in key locations across the Shire.

Shire Rangers continue to provide shark response, mobilising signage in the event of tagged and sighted shark reports, as per Council's Shark Response Policy. Rangers go out to remote coastal locations as part of coastal safety patrols, including the installation of Shark Warning Signs at Table Island beach due to a whale carcass washing ashore, and out to Alexander Bay, Kennedy Beach and Quagi Beaches.



Image Credit: Rosie Henderson

PLACE

Image Credit: Rosie Henderson

7. Responsible Planning & Development

Utilities and Communications

President Chambers was nominated at Goldfields Volunteer Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC) to be part of the working party with the State Government on water issues in the Goldfields-Esperance area. Further information from the Water Corporation was requested around future planning work for sewerage treatments in Esperance with an update being received in December.

NBN have advised that they are looking to upgrade their offerings around Esperance, including fixed wireless.

A letter of support from the Shire, Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission and Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry was sent to Telstra requesting improvements to

mobile congestion issues in Esperance. Telstra advised that CBD improvements are planned to cater for increased congestion around peak use times.

Telstra have planned new towers within the district and are in the process of turning off their 3G service. Mobile phone tower upgrades planned for 2024 are as follows –

- Bandy Creek
- Myrup
- Munglinup Camp Area
- Pink Lake South
- Salmon Beach

Cemetery

The draft Cemetery Master Plan was finalised and put to the Cemetery Working Group meeting in December for consideration.

Two new niche walls are now available for use at the Esperance Cemetery and have received five

interments this year following their construction in January. This project was a recommendation from the Cemetery Working Group due to the existing wall being at capacity.

Shark Lake Industrial Park

The Stage 2 design and cost estimate has been completed to support the creation of a Major Land Transaction Business Plan for the development.



Planning Services

Our Cadet Planning Officer started in October and is settling in well, with their studies commencing early in 2024.

Through a service agreement, we continue to provide planning services to the Shire of Ravensthorpe. 35 development applications were received throughout the year.

Local Planning Scheme No. 24, Amendment 9 was Gazetted in February, which changed several land use permissibility's and resulted in some amendments to the Local Planning Scheme No. 24 Advertising Requirements policy which were adopted by Council in March.

272 development applications for properties in the Shire of Esperance were processed in the 2023/2024 financial year.

Sand Backpassing

The pipeline alignment from the end of Castletown Quays through to Bandy Creek has been cleared and levelled, with pipe-joining commencing in November and the first section of the pipeline installed in January. It is expected that this project will be completed early in the new financial year.

Asset Planning

The demolition of the Old Salmon Gums Hall has been completed, which removed the hall building, leaving the historical Roads Board building in place. Renovations to the Roads Board building are expected to be completed early in the new financial year.

The contractor has commenced construction on our Voile Lane units in Castletown with earthworks and slabs being completed, and brickworks in progress. It is expected that this project will be completed in the coming financial year.

The flooring to the Esperance Indoor Stadium was damaged during the year when a burst pipe caused significant water damage and mould concerns. The floor boards have been removed to allow the subfloor to be treated for mould and a schedule for repairs is being developed.

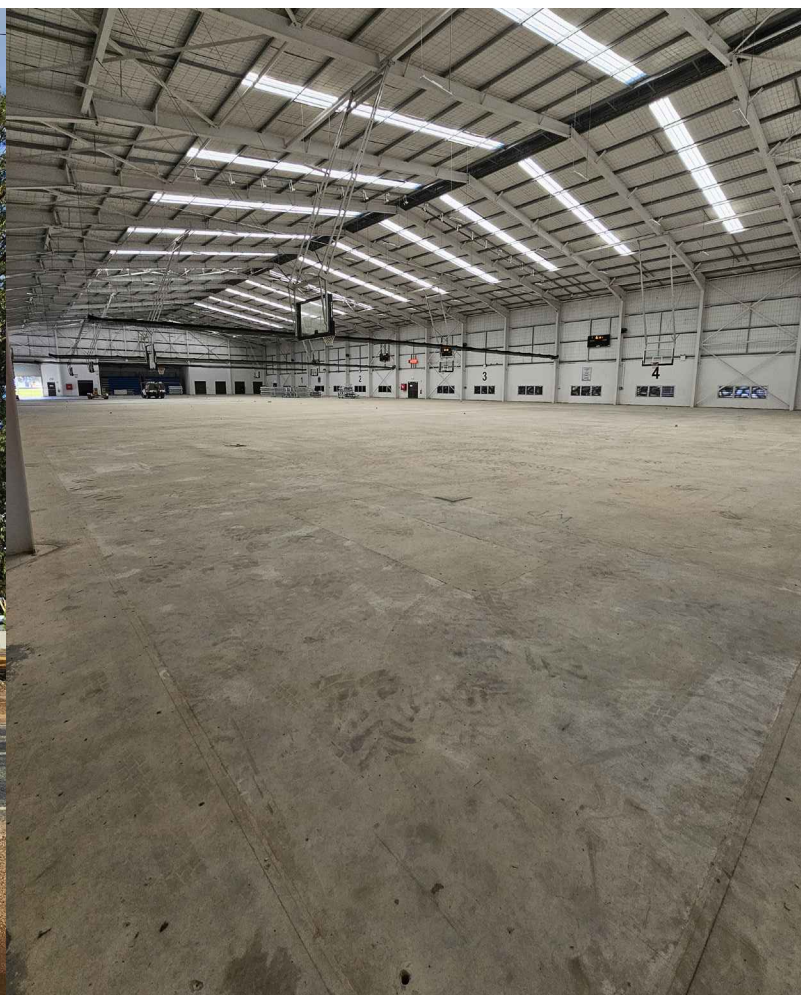
Asset Development

During this year we prepared and submitted 13 road construction funding applications spread across three different funding streams with a combined value of \$6.6 million.

The Asset Development Team have prepared designs for the Harbour Road shared path, Salmon Gums West Road, and Myrup Road along with an intersection design for the Myrup Road and Fisheries Road intersection.

The Harbour Road footpath design is currently with Main Roads for approval, and we are working on detailed designs for Forrest Street, the Goldfields Road and Fisheries Road intersection level design, Speddingup West Road, Oldfields Road floodway and the CBD node for the cinema area.

Blackspot application concept drawings are also being developed along with Cascade Road and Neds Corner Road designs.



Fleet

Mex computerised maintenance management system was further implemented to cover pre-starts for plant and vehicles in January, and enhancements have been made to improve the pre-start reporting procedures.

A restructure occurred at the Depot workshop Recruitment was undertaken for a Supervisor, Administration Officer and an Apprentice.

There is currently one electric vehicle within our fleet, and where possible, other vehicles are being replaced with hybrid options when due, as the hybrid options offer better use without the sacrifice of services for our remote location.

Building Services

Building Services ensures all statutory requirements are met for the issue of building approvals and maintains building records.

The Shire of Esperance currently has one residing Building Surveyor who provides certification services to the community for the lodgement of uncertified applications.

At times, enforcement of compliance with permits is required but this can only be fully effective with adequate and qualified staff to undertake inspections.

Our Cadet Building Surveyor commenced in September and is settling in well, with their studies commencing early in 2024.

CLASS	NUMBER	VALUE
1A	90	\$259,498,818
3	2	\$265,000
5	7	\$2,588,000
6	8	\$3,293,455
7	34	\$6,676,759
8	0	\$0
9	9	\$9,528,637
10	126	\$5,935,142

83

Inspections Conducted

267

Building ApprovalsIssued

8. Access to adequate, safe and affordable housing for everyone

Flinders Estate Subdivision

Construction of Stage 4 has been completed and the lots have been listed for sale with real estate agents.

The design for Stage 3 was finalised in January.

Housing

Development WA progressed engineering and costings for affordable housing for their Victoria Street lots. The Housing Development Unit considered the feasibility for the project and determined that this would be too expensive and therefore would not be pursuing this further.

The Housing and Land Study was endorsed by Council in September and is now being used to better inform our strategic planning to shape the sustainable growth of the Shire.

GVROC arranged a meeting with the Minister for Housing and relevant agencies to progress housing issues within the Goldfields-Esperance region and is investigating whether a group of Local Governments could become a Community Housing Provider.

An analysis of the Esperance market is being undertaken by a potential developer to identify whether a lifestyle village may be feasible within Flinders Estate.

The pre-tender estimate was very high, and we are investigating whether there is a source of fill material onsite to reduce this cost. The project is on hold until the investigation is completed, and the required permits are received.

The Worker Accommodation business case to build 20 units is being reviewed, with the Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission to resubmit the funding application for state budget consideration.

Our CEO has advocated for funding support for the key worker accommodation project in various forums, notably a meeting held with the Minister for Housing, John Carey MLA. The project has also been included with the Regional Capitals Alliance WA priority list for advocacy at state and federal government level.

Construction has commenced on four units on Voile Lane, to be used as Shire staff accommodation. These units are expected to be completed in the coming financial year.

There have been four commercial properties and two residential properties sold over the past 12 months.

Tiny Houses

Congratulations to our Manager Development Services, whose advocacy, mentoring and advice to industry, and services to community has been recognised with the Australian Tiny House Association (ATHA) naming him Tiny House Champion!

Our Tiny House on Wheels Planning Policy was the first such Policy in Australia, giving our community the ability to install tiny houses on wheels with the peace of mind that comes from knowing their structures are compliant.

Our policy has now begun to be utilised by the community with two 'on wheels' applications being received this year, and three developments being completed.



9. Attractive and welcoming places

Streetscaping

Landscaping is continuing in the CBD with a nautical themed fence in Andrew Street installed in September to restrict access through the garden beds and to minimise the trampling of plants by pedestrians. Additional native plants have been planted in the Andrew Street garden beds following installation of the fence.

Two bin surrounds were received and installed as a trial in the Post Office Square, if the surrounds are well received they will be rolled out across the CBD.

Additional seats are being manufactured and will be installed throughout the CBD as soon as possible.

Christmas Lights

Power has been connected for the Norfolk Pine Tree flood lights and we await the technician to commission them.

The replacement low voltage lights for the motifs have been received and rewiring will occur shortly,

along with an upgrade to the power supply and replacement of power points.

A higher platform is being designed for the Christmas tree to sit on to reduce the likelihood of it being climbed on.



Town Entrances

A private works arrangement was set up with Main Roads WA to maintain the vegetation along Harbour Road.

Installation of new town entry statements has been included for consideration in the coming financial year's budget.

Public Open Space Strategy

The Cascade Playground Upgrade was completed to a standard that the playground could be opened by September to link in with an event at the oval, and additional work will be completed in future to finalise the playground.

Consultation and planning was undertaken for the upgrade to the Gibson Community Park, with approximately 17 people attending a stakeholder meeting held in September.

The dirt jump bike track is nearing completion and site preparation has been completed for the basketball court. The play equipment will be upgraded following completion of the bike track and basketball court.

A shade shelter was installed at Treasure Road Playground to complete the playground upgrades at the site.

Additional timber play and climbing items have been installed in Adventureland Park.

James Street Swim Enclosure

Repairs and adjustments were made to the lap pool infrastructure this year and new temporary lane ropes were installed with permanent marine environment quality ropes being sourced and permanent solutions are being investigated.

Damaged pontoons have been removed and the Shire and our contractor are currently working on long term solutions.



10. Safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems

Airport

Regional Express were confirmed by the State Government as the provider of passenger services between Perth and Esperance for the next five years. Passenger numbers have returned to record levels following the reliability issues experienced in 2022 and 2023, to a point where car park space is not available during the busy pick-up and drop-off times.

Budget Rental Cars have recommenced operations from the airport after pausing operations following the onset of COVID-19.

A new JETA1 fuel truck was delivered to the airport and staff were trained in its use, which will significantly simplify operations within the airport as it no longer limits refuelling to two fixed sites.

The Department of Home Affairs carried out a security inspection at the Esperance Airport on 21 February with no major issues identified.

The annual full-scale emergency exercise was successfully conducted in November.

Capital improvements, including a carpark extension, CCTV upgrade and smaller additions including a kids play area and mobile Cel-Fi signal boosters inside the terminal have been included for consideration by Council as part of next year's budget.

Paxon Group has been engaged to develop the business case for the runway upgrade. The work is in line with the design and costings work being progressed by ACG and aligned with the State Budget process.

54,064 Passengers Recorded



Image Credit: Rosie Henderson



Asset Operations

Our Fisheries Road shoulder sealing and construction project commenced and progressed nearly to completion this year. This project was fully funded via the State Government.

The following Blackspot applications were submitted for state and federal funding to address findings from the road safety audit –

- Pedestrian safety improvement by introducing pedestrian refuges.
- Reconfigure, safety improvement and introduce shared paths for easy pedestrian access.
- Improve lighting throughout the Bandy Creek and Fisheries Road intersection to meet AS 1158 V requirements thereby providing a safer environment.

The Road Safety Management Plan has been endorsed and will assist the Shire to understand the road safety risk on the local road network throughout the district and sets out both reactive and proactive actions to address the risks. We will, with support from our partners, aim to implement the actions outlined in this plan and monitor the road safety outcomes of these actions over the next six years.

6 Roads Constructed

19 Roads Re-sheeted

Main Roads Corridor Upgrade Plan

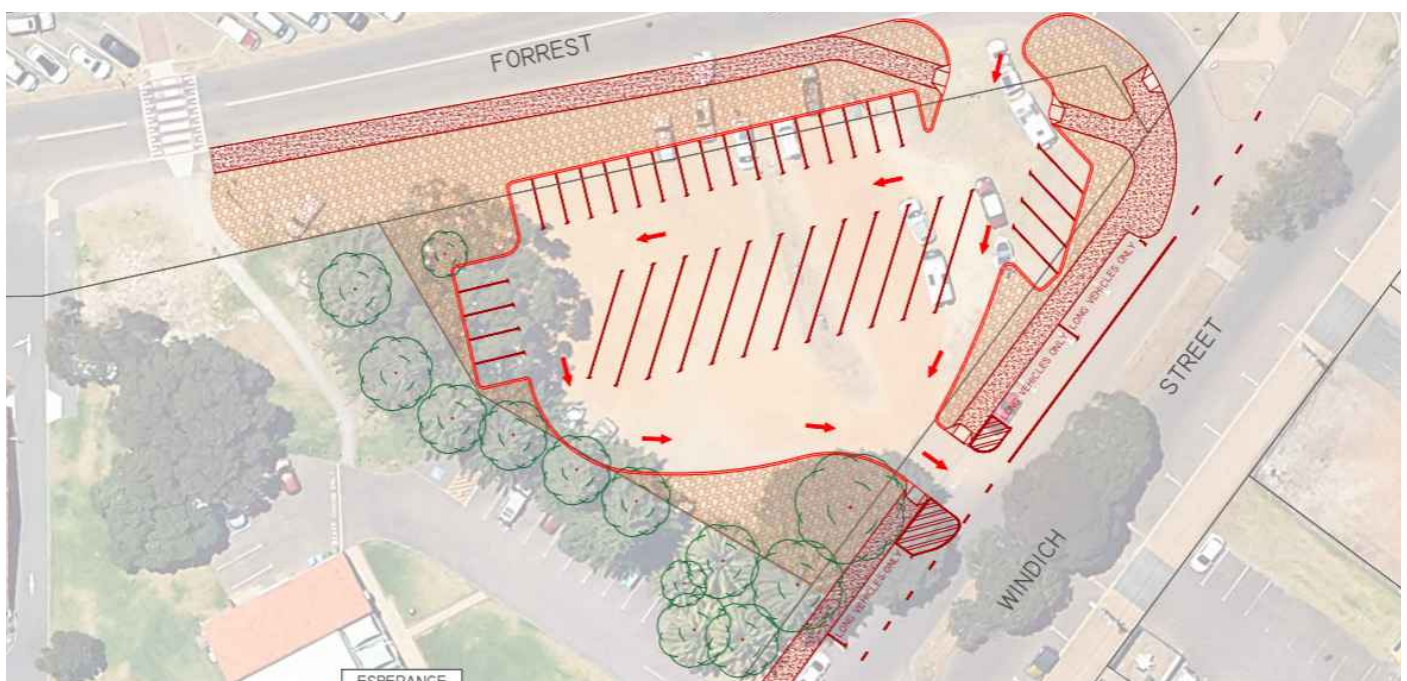
Main Roads WA are progressing the upgrade strategy for Harbour Road and have sent through some concept designs for the outer sections for review.

A briefing was held with Council to provide an update in December and a stakeholder meeting is scheduled to be held in the next financial year to progress this further.

Parking

Long vehicle parking is to be formalised at the Windich Street and Forrest Street intersection, with detailed design work for the carpark and storm water drainage nearing completion. Works have also commenced for a 'long vehicle parking' signage plan for town.

The concept design for parking within the verge area between The Esplanade and the Yacht Club has been finalised, however funding is required for this project to commence.



Trails Master Plan

The development of a new Trails Master Plan is continuing with updates being made to reflect trails which have already been completed and replacing with more current photos. The new plan has been drafted and is currently being reviewed.

Cycling Strategy

The Harbour Road shared path construction commenced this year, and the Bandy Creek Trail Bridge installation is underway. Development of the linking path between Castletown Quays and Bandy Creek Boat Harbour is also underway.





PROSPERITY

11. Access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities

Esperance Senior High School

Discussions regarding the need for upgrades to the Esperance Senior High School (ESHS) were held with Hon. Dr Tony Buti MLA, Hon. Peter Rundle MLA, Hon. Bill Johnston MLA and ESHS representatives.

Peter Rundle's office advised that a community petition was tabled in State Parliament in this regard and the State Government has allocated

money in its next budget. This funding is to complete project definition plans to determine a strategic program for the refurbishment and upgrade of the aged campus.

Minister Buti has outlined the process for the project definition plan and how the school can be engaged and involved in the process.

Education Opportunities

Esperance Regional Coordinating Committee meetings, chaired by South Regional TAFE, were held to progress the action plan to –

- increase workforce participation in Esperance;
- provide jobseekers with greater access to training and employment opportunities in Esperance; and
- provide young people with greater career support to transition to local employment.

Discussions were held with Regional Development Australia regarding the potential for a remote student services campus in Esperance, with information on the James Street Precinct being presented to them in November. We are also investigating whether Esperance might be included as part of the Federal Government's Regional University Study Hubs Program.

12. A prosperous and diverse economy

Designated Area Migration Agreement

The 2022 Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) review was approved by the Federal Minister, with 20 employment types added to the agreement.

Initial discussions to host an information session about DAMA in Esperance have commenced.

Economic Development

Our new Manager Economic Development has continued to work with and provide information to businesses and industries who wish to establish or expand projects in Esperance, following the resignation of our previous Manager after 12+ years.

Major projects being considered include the development of an aquaculture precinct, 4-star hotel, lifestyle village and bringing the proposed key worker accommodation project to fruition.

Information has been collated for the new Economic Development Plan, with the draft close to being finalised.

We continue to advocate for a Marine Research Facility in Esperance with the introduction of the Proposed South Coast Marine Park. In addition, the Shire is advocating for associated infrastructure and services to accommodate

the expected increase in visitors and to overall maximise the introduction of the new marine park.

The lease has been finalised between the Shire and RAC Parks and Resorts for the Blue Waters Lodge site, with works expected to be completed December 2024. The multimillion-dollar development has been a great success with occupancy rates considerably high throughout the year. Council is now considering further caravan park requirements.

Community consultation was undertaken to gain feedback on extending retail trading hours to determine whether a permanent change should be made, following individual extension requests being made annually since 2020. This will be reviewed and put to Council for further consideration in the coming financial year.



13. A vibrant tourism destination

Tourism

The tourism sector in Esperance continues to grow with visitor numbers strong and the season extending, demonstrated by our overflow camping area being open until the April school holidays. With strong demand in the caravan and camping area Council is looking at ways to manage and further develop this popular accommodation type for Esperance. 4 to 5 star accommodation is also being considered with site identification and market sounding work being carried out over the year.

Our partnership with Australia's Golden Outback (AGO) remained strong and we welcomed a new Tourism Development Manager into the role in January. The Manager has proven a great addition to the team and has quickly established strong links with industry and key stakeholders. Their focus on sustainable tourism comes at an important time with the sector starting to grow significantly. Key initiatives include the development of the new Esperance Tourism Brand and the inaugural Grounded Hiking Festival. The new brand seeks to promote Esperance as a sustainable tourism town, balancing out seasonal tourism and broadening the perception of Esperance beyond the region's renowned beaches.

The Shire continued to support its joint marketing and destination development program with AGO including updating the Esperance Visitor Guide, promoting Esperance in the Tourism WA Road Trip campaign, promotional booths at the Australian Tourism Exchange and the Perth Caravan and Camping show. Work also focused on developing events in the off-peak tourism season and ideas and ways to strengthen visitation during this quiet part of the year.

Officers from the Tourism Council were in Esperance in September delivering training on social media use and providing an update on the new Tourism WA branding exercise. A tourism 'long lunch' was hosted by Yirri Grove and organised by AGO as an opportunity for tourism operators to share ideas and look at future opportunities to grow the industry. Tourism Awards that Esperance received this year include -

- Best Pet Friendly Destination and
- 2023 Best Beach in the World.

Overall, a busy and productive year for tourism as the Shire and its partners continue to create a vibrant and welcoming tourism destination.

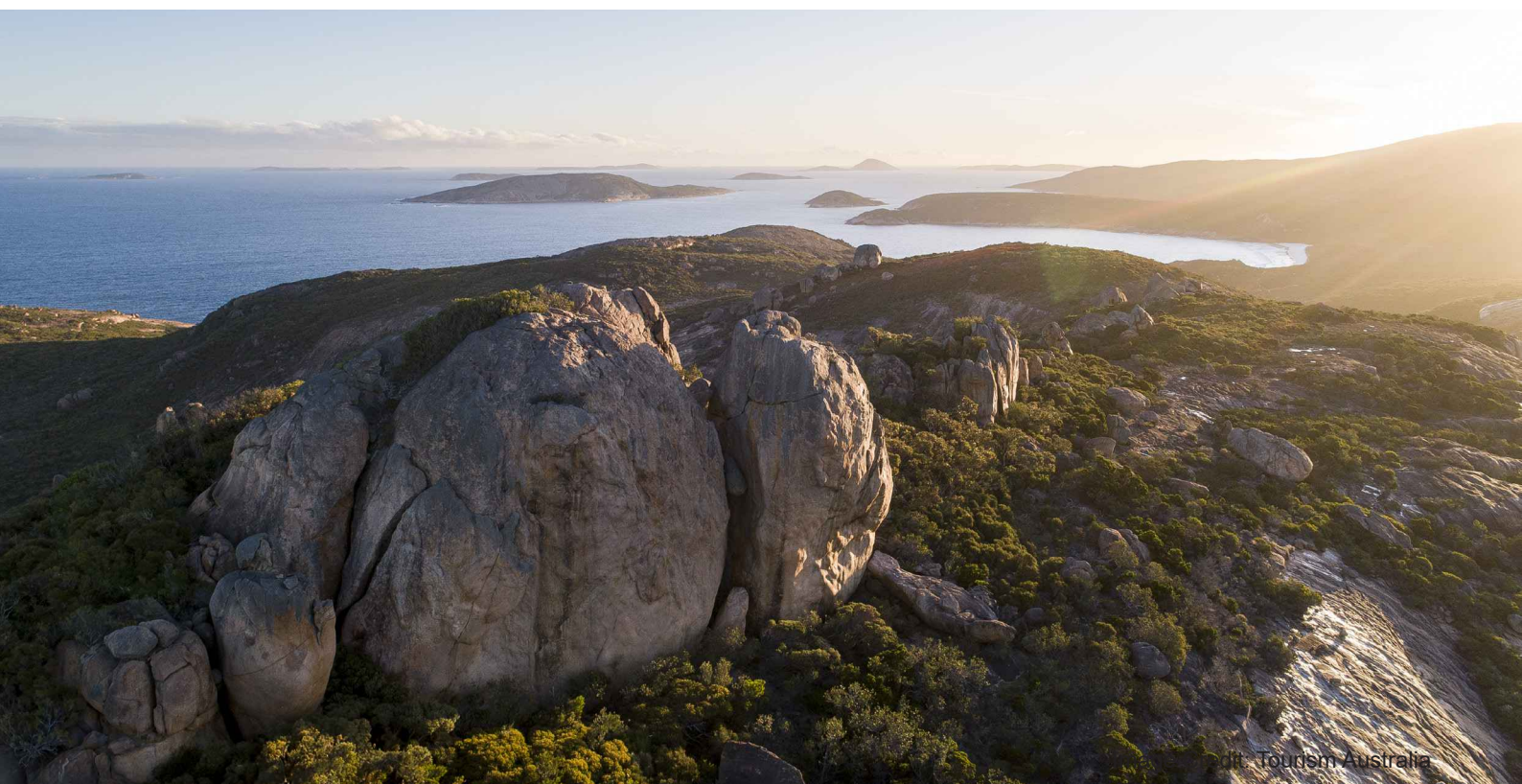




Image Credit: Tourism Australia

Visitor Centre

Visitor numbers through the Centre were very strong for the first three months of this financial year, which resulted in the highest sales of souvenirs, National Parks passes, and accommodation and tour sales in history for this period.

Bookings via the Centre were significantly lower in November and December for no obvious reason, however souvenir sales continue to grow against past years, with local consignment products showing the strongest growth.

A high number of accommodation and camping enquiries were received due to people continually arriving in town without an accommodation booking. Centre staff liaised with caravan parks to establish vacancy rates and referred patrons accordingly, however lack of available sites has led to hostility and annoyance toward staff.

The Centre had its annual accreditation review in September, with a positive outcome achieved.

Online reviews of the service provided at the Centre were overwhelmingly positive with one comment stating that they were *'the best visitor centre visited in the South-West'*.

Esperance Visitor Centre Advertising brochure was finalised and launched at the Visitor Centre Sundowner in November. The online expression of interest form will be available once the new website is live.

We partnered with the Federal Government's local Employment Facilitator to undertake a tour of local attractions for local customer service and front of house staff to improve their knowledge of things to do in Esperance. This tour was fully subscribed and well received by both the touring staff and the businesses they visited.

The Centre held its annual Sundowner in the lead-up to the summer season to enable local tourism operators to network and make connections with each other.

102,556 Visitors

Overflow Campground

The IT team has completed development of the Overflow Camping App to collect camper information when they are booking in.

The Esperance Overflow Campground opened at the Greater Sports Ground in mid-December and continued demand saw it remain open, in a reduced capacity, until the middle of April.

During this time over 11,000 sites were occupied. For the period between Christmas Eve and New Years Day, the Overflow Campground accommodated 2,449 sites, the busiest night for the season involved 335 sites.

This year we employed a designated Camp Coordinator who oversaw the day-to-day operations of the campsite with the assistance of Camp Hosts who welcomed travellers and kept the campground running.

The Overflow Campground provides basic facilities for travellers who arrive in Esperance without pre-arranged accommodation, in a bid to provide a camping option and limit illegal camping in town and along the beaches. It also provides an alternative for our Rangers to refer campers to when carrying out camping patrols over the summer period.



14. Community confidence and trust in Council

Elected member information

The Shire of Esperance has Committees and Working Groups in place to provide guidance to Council on a wide variety of areas within the community. Further information on Committees and Working Groups is available on our website.

Committees

- Audit Committee
- Behaviour Complaints Committee
- Bush Fire Advisory Committee

Working Groups

- Esperance Twin Towns Working Group
- Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group
- Museum Working Group
- Esperance Tourism Stakeholder Working Group
- Cemetery Working Group
- Disability Access and Inclusion Working Group
- Sustainability Working Group

Demographics

Currently none of our Elected Members identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and all have a linguistic background of English.

Number of Elected Members aged between;	
18 - 24 years	0
25 - 34 years	1
35 - 44 years	1
45 - 54 years	3
55 - 64 years	5
Over the age of 65 years	2

Meeting Attendance

Council meets weekly on a Tuesday for information sessions and workshops on a variety of topics. On the third Tuesday of each month, Council attend an Agenda Briefing which is an informal opportunity to ask questions, request further information and discuss the items listed in the Ordinary Council Meeting (OCM) Agenda. On the fourth Tuesday of each month, Council attend the OCM where decisions are made on all report items in the best interest of the community.

All Council Meetings are open to the public, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Once a year, an OCM is held in one of our satellite towns and at the conclusion, there is a community meeting which provides an opportunity for discussion on local matters with members of the community and Councillors. In September 2023, this was held in Gibson at the Gibson Football Club with 19 members of the public attending.

Councillor attendance at meetings

Member	OCM (Entitled)	OCM Attended	SCM (Entitled)	SCM Attended	Gender	Country of Birth	Member of Committees (#)	Committee Meetings (Entitled)	Committee Meetings Attended
Cr Ian Mickel	3	3	1	1	Male	Australia	5	2	2
Cr Ron Chambers	12	11	2	2	Male	Australia	4	3	3
Cr Wes Graham	12	11	2	1	Male	Australia	2	3	3
Cr Steve McMullen	12	9	2	2	Male	Australia	3	4	4
Cr Jennifer Obourne	12	12	2	2	Female	Rhodesia	4	2	2
Cr Jo-Anne O'Donnell	3	3	1	0	Female	Australia	5	3	3
Cr Leonie De Haas	12	12	2	2	Female	Australia	6	2	2
Cr Shayne Flanagan	12	12	2	1	Male	Australia	3	4	2
Cr Rob Horan	3	3	1	0	Male	Australia	1	2	2
Cr Connor Davies	9	9	1	1	Male	Australia	2	1	1
Cr Gemma Johnson	9	9	1	1	Female	Australia	2	3	3
Cr Sam Starceвич	9	8	1	1	Female	Australia	3	4	3

SCM = *Special Council Meeting*

Annual Electors Meeting

The Annual Electors meeting was held in February at the Civic Centre with six community members, eight Councillors and seven Shire staff in attendance. The community members in attendance voted to confirm the minutes of the previous meeting, and receive the 2022/2023 Annual Report.

At this year's meeting, questions were raised regarding free camping, particularly at Twilight Beach, the proposed abalone farm at Wylie Bay, procedures for monitoring CCTV footage, a speed limit assessment for Goldfields Road, cat local law, FOGO bins and ongoing accommodation issues.

Detailed answers to these were provided by our Shire President, Chief Executive Officer, Director External Services and Director Asset Management.

WA is the only state requiring Annual Electors Meetings as an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of Local Government Members and to approve Annual Reports. We look forward to this meeting and encourage our residents to attend.

132 Council Resolutions

137 Completed

Citizenship Ceremonies

The Shire of Esperance works with the Department of Home Affairs to assist people residing in our region to become an Australian Citizen. A list of approved applicants is provided to the Shire, helping us to administer a Citizenship Ceremony and provide people with their Citizenship Certificate.

During 2023/2024, there were six citizenship ceremonies held, with 26 people becoming an Australian Citizen.



Council Policies

The Shire has developed policies that guide Administration and Council in the efficient management of resources and effective procedures for daily operations.

Our policies are reviewed biennially to ensure their currency and relevance to the needs and expectations of the community. This year, all council policies were reviewed following the Council Elections in October, with the following policies being rescinded –

- Accommodation in a Caravan;
- Outdoor Personal Training in Public Places;
- Street Entertainers and Busking;
- Retaining Walls;
- Geotechnical Testing Requirements for Structures;
- Method for Determining Climate Zone for Properties Located Outside Esperance Townsite; and
- Wind Load Rating

Delegated Authority

The Delegated Authority Register is presented to Council each year for endorsement. The Register provides authority to the CEO and Authorised Officers to use some of the Local Government's powers and discharge its duties under the *Local Government Act 1995*.

The following delegations were updated in August and November to amend position titles resulting from restructures in External Services –

- 5.3 Offences and Infringements (s.59 & s.59A *Bush Fires Act 1954*)
- 6.2 Prohibition Orders (s.65, s.66 & s.67 *Food Act 2008*)
- 6.3 Registration of Food Business (s.110 & s.112 *Food Act 2008*)
- 12.1 Appointment of Deputies (s.26 *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911*)

Local Government Reforms

The Department of Local Government, Sporting and Cultural Industries continued to progress their *Local Government Act 1995* reform package which has introduced the following changes –

- Livestreaming and recording of council meetings
- Payments to independent committee members
- Recording votes in minutes of council meetings
- Restrictions on meeting participation due to gifts
- Special electors' meetings
- Compliance exemptions
- Credit Card Reporting
- Model financial statements
- Owners and occupiers rolls
- Optional preferential voting
- Backfilling extraordinary vacancies
- Election of Mayors and Presidents

- Classes of local government
- Council sizes
- Changes to wards
- Council member training and development
- Parental leave for council members

We continue to monitor the progress of these reforms and implement required changes to practice. A large portion of the above reforms were related to local government elections, most of which were required to be implemented for the 2023 elections.

Further information regarding these and future reforms are available from the Department's website.

Council Elections

The 2023 Local Government Elections, held on 21 October 2023, had six vacancies, two in the Rural Ward, three in the Town Ward and the Shire President position.

Following recent reforms to the *Local Government Act 1995*, 2023 was the first year where the Shire President position was elected by the community, rather than from within Council, and we welcomed Ron Chambers into this position.

We also welcomed Councillors Jennifer Obourne, Gemma Johnston and Connor Davies representing the Town Ward, and Wes Graham and Sam Starceвич representing the Rural Ward.

Ward	Available Positions	Number of Candidates	Voter Turnout
Shire President	1	2	37.01%
Rural Ward	2	2	Elected unopposed.
Town Ward	3	5	31.27%

There was no Rural Ward election required this year, as both candidates were elected unopposed, with Cr Graham to be in office for a four-year term and Cr Starceвич to be in office for a two-year term to meet legislative requirements.

Councillors Ian Mickel and Jo-Anne O'Donnell did not nominate for re-election, and Councillor Rob Horan resigned from his position as Councillor at the 2023 election.



Local Laws

Reviews of various local laws were undertaken this year in line with our statutory requirement for eight yearly reviews, with the following local law reviews being finalised –

- Dog Local Law 2024
- Cemeteries Local Law 2024
- Extractive Industries Local Law 2024

A new *Cat Local Law 2024* was Gazetted in April and aims to extend the control over cats which exist under the *Cat Act 2011*. Advocacy has continued with the State Government to review the Act to provide provisions for uncontrolled cats due to the environmental impact they have on native fauna.



15. Operational excellence and financial sustainability

Our Workforce

The Shire of Esperance employs 329 workers with 184 being permanent full-time, 71 permanent part-time and 74 casual. 42 percent of the workforce is male and 58 percent female. Turnover for the year was 19 percent.

The Human Resources Team continue to work through various recruitment assignments. A shortage of housing within the Shire has impacted the ability to attract staff. To offset this the Shire has moved to employ cadets and trainees who are generally based locally. There was also a heavy emphasis placed on training with a 141 percent increase in course attendance.

The first three months of 2024 were impacted by two fatalities. Several initiatives were discussed with LGIS and Marsh around providing training to lower our safety risk, including incident reporting and investigation, and contractor management.

An early intervention injury management program has been implemented with excellent results.

The Work Health and Safety Strategy, Management Plan and related procedures were reviewed and updated with a heavy focus on risk management. A Child Safe Awareness Management Practice was also adopted.

A move from the Federal to State Industrial Relation system has added a layer of complexity to Employee Relations and empowered the roles of unions in the bargaining process. Enterprise bargaining will commence in late 2024.

184 Full time

71 Part time

74 Casual

Family Fun Day

On 20 August 2023 the Shire hosted a successful Family Fun Day for its staff and their families at the Graham Mackenzie Stadium. The event drew around 100 attendees, creating a vibrant atmosphere filled with excitement and laughter.

One of the main highlights of the day was the colourful and energetic Colour Run, which saw participants of all ages racing through clouds of vibrant hues. Small kids and even the big kids were thrilled with the face painting station, while the inflatables and indoor games kept them entertained for hours.

Families were treated to a variety of delicious options from local vendors. KJ's Street Eats offered up a tasty array of Indian food, while the Lions Club kept everyone happy with a classic sausage sizzle. Those with a sweet tooth enjoyed Costal Cones' refreshing ice creams, and the adults enjoyed keeping their energy up with fresh coffee brews.

Overall the day was a huge success, bringing together the Shire's staff and their families for a fun filled day of activities, food and community spirit.





Information Services

With the addition of a Senior IT Officer, our IT Team has been working through the backlog of tickets, setting up things in the backend to improve the functionality of our systems, working on improving our alignment with the Essential Eight Cyber Security controls, and preparing for the rollout of Windows 11.

The introduction of draft legislation for 'Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing' (PRIS) by the State Government has added a bit of workload for the Records Team but thankfully there has been quite a bit of useful information from the State to prepare us for what will be required when it commences.

Our IT and Records teams worked on various projects in collaboration with the following areas throughout this year –

- Bay of Isles Leisure Centre to implement their Envibe point of sale software;
- Overflow Camp Ground staff to implement a data gathering app for camper information;

- Asset Management to progress the ESRI GIS project;
- Marketing & Communications to implement our new website;
- Marketing & Communications to link content manager to the new website;
- Marketing & Communications to implement a new verge side bulk waste booking system on the website;
- Civica and External Services to map business processes within the Civica Authority system;
- Library staff to implement the new Library Management Software

2,928 IT calls received

61,081 records captured

25,081 received correspondence



Financial Services

We have been recognised as one of the best practice entities for timeliness and quality of financial reporting and controls by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG). The OAG who have acknowledged our performance across a number of criteria as follows –

- a clear opinion;
- the timely preparation for audit;
- high quality financial report and working papers; and
- maintenance of good financial management controls.

Our best practice status was included in the Local Government 2022-23 – Financial Audit Results tabled in Parliament.

There have been multiple changes to staff in our Finance Team this year with new officers in rates, accounts receivable, accounts payable, customer service and licensing, and our new Manager Financial Services following the resignation of our previous Manager after 17 years.

Since coming onboard in December, our new Manager has familiarised herself with the role and worked with the team to refine processes and create efficiencies.

We ended the year with licensing commissions at around \$15,000 (5.7%) more than budgeted.



16. A well informed & engaged community

Marketing and Communications

Our Marketing and Communications Team worked closely with all areas of the Shire and Council, offering advice on a range of topics while also managing our website, developing marketing strategies, meeting graphic design needs, and publishing stories, social media and media releases to give our community the opportunity to hear about Shire achievements.

We gave our branding a fresh new look! The updated style guide gives all our publications and documents a crisp, clean look, and the logo now features two wind turbines, a golden field for agriculture, a clearer font, and our new tagline, 'Together, we make it happen'. This came from community feedback during the 2022 Council Plan review, and reflects expectations around working in collaboration with other organisations as well as the community, to achieve efficiencies and ensure diverse ideas and needs are considered.

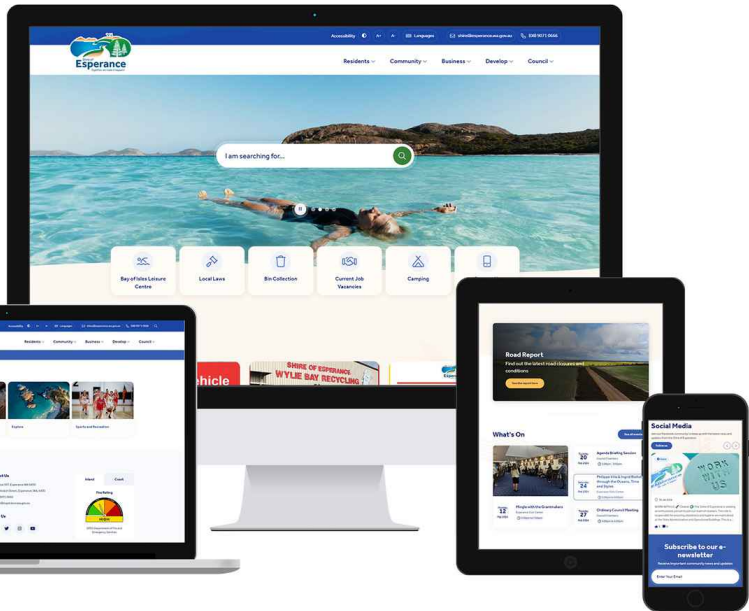
Following the October 2023 Council Elections, we established public social media profiles for Councillors Obourne and Johnston, and Shire President Chambers. These profiles are integrated into the Shire's social media record keeping platform to meet legislative requirements, with the Marketing and Communications Team providing comprehensive training on requirements and advisable online behaviour.

January marked the launch of our new website, significantly improving user experience. Much work went into designing a site that is easier to navigate, find information, and more accessible. A standout feature is the 'Road Report', a geo-mapping tool helping users check what road works are happening across the Shire, plan their travel route, and then when properly prepared, go.

The Community Scorecard in the first half of 2023 clearly showed the community want to know more about advocacy carried out by Council and the Shire. The new Latest News page on our website has been utilised to share important information with the community, from Council advocacy around the Proposed South Coast Marine Park to public notices. Fire and emergency notifications and updates on roads and other Shire projects are also shared here.

In January each year we start to share details of our Citizen of the Year nominees, celebrating all the remarkable contributions making our community unique. This campaign fosters stronger community ties and sparks conversations across all demographics.

Our work with print, online, radio and internet media remains strong, with the vast majority of enquiries responded to within 48 hours.



The 2023/2024 financial year saw several high profile stories, including major fires in December and February, and the Proposed South Coast Marine Park. It's been a great year working with our engaged media outlets.

An internal social media strategy is being developed to forge a much-needed connection with our younger audience. Focusing on Instagram Stories, this initiative is in the early stages and will evolve over the coming months.

We are reassessing the use of Adobe InDesign as the Shire's primary design tool, as opportunities for efficiencies are discovered and the cost of Adobe products continues to rise. Leadership from a new team member with specialty design and website skills means that staff who do not require the InDesign software are being transitioned to the cheaper but very comprehensive and user friendly Canva platform. Training is being provided to ensure a smooth transition, and internal brand templates created by the Media Team are available in Canva to all internal users.

These initiatives highlight our commitment to an informed community, efficient resource management, clear and easy to understand communications, community engagement and creative solutions.

- 11 Media Releases
- 196 Media Enquiries
- 99 Latest News

	Followers	Posts
Facebook	11,028	652
Instagram	2,534	426
Twitter	8072	68



Statutory Requirements

CEO Remuneration

The Total Reward Package provided to the CEO of the Shire of Esperance for the 2023/2024 financial year was \$306,711.

This is within the relevant Local Government Band Classification (Band 2 \$219,071 - \$340,778).

The position of CEO at the Shire of Esperance is eligible for a \$32,200 Regional/Location Allowance, awarded at the Shire's discretion, however the Shire chooses not to pay this allowance.

Employee Salary Bands

Pursuant to Regulation 19B of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, Table 1 sets out, in bands of \$10,000, the number of Shire employees entitled to an annual salary of \$130,000 or more.

Table 1: Employee Remuneration

	2023/2024	2022/2023
\$130,000 - \$139,999	4	3
\$140,000 - \$149,999	4	1
\$150,000 - \$159,999		
\$160,000 - \$169,999	1	2
\$170,000 - \$179,999	1	1
\$180,000 - \$189,999	1	
\$190,000 - \$199,999		
\$200,000 - \$209,999		

*CEO not included



Complaints and Payments

Section 5.53(2)(hb) of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires the Annual Report to contain details of entries made under section 5.121 during the financial year in the Register of Complaints. There were no complaints made under this section in the 2023/2024 financial year.

No remuneration or allowances were paid by the Shire under Schedule 5.1 clause 9, and no amount was ordered under section 5.110(6)(b)(iv)

to be paid by a person against whom a complaint was made under section 5.107(1), 5.109(1) or 5.114(1). These clauses deal with remuneration, allowances and amounts ordered to be paid as a result of complaints against Council Members.

As there were no complaints, there have also been no remuneration, allowances or amounts ordered to be paid.

Freedom of Information Requests

In Western Australia, the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (FOI Act), gives the public a right to access government documents, subject to some limitations.

The following table outlines the FOI requests received and average processing days taken for the past three financial years.

	2023/2024	2022/2023	2021/2022
FOI Requests Received	8	5	3
Average Processing Time (Days)	29	10	34
Access in Full	1	1	-
Access with Restrictions (Edited)	5	-	3
Access Refused	1	-	-
Withdrawn	1	3	-
Transferred	-	1	-

In accordance with Section 96 and 97 of the FOI Act, the Shire published an Information Statement which details the process of applying for information under the Act as well as information that the Shire provides outside the Act.

This Information Statement is available on the Shire of Esperance website.

State Records Act

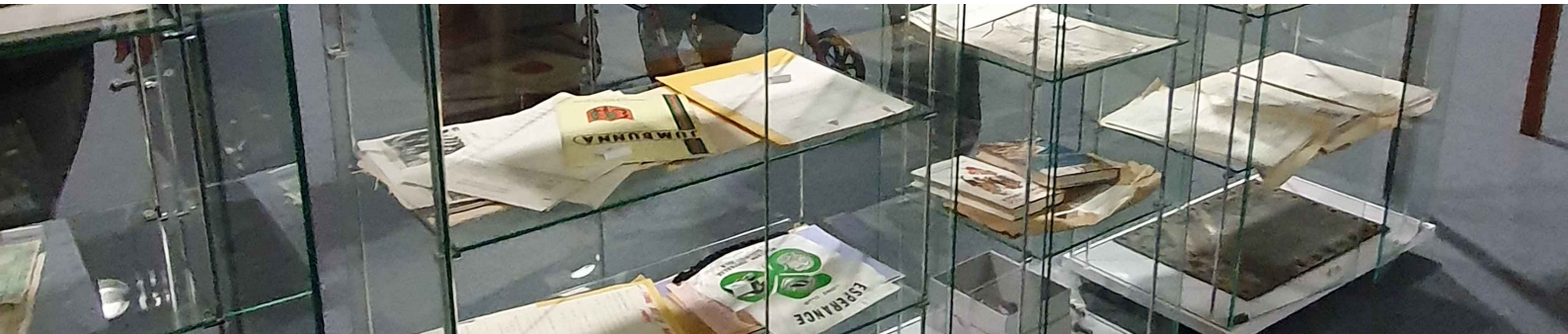
The *State Records Act 2000* requires the Shire to have an approved Recordkeeping Plan to detail the way the Shire keeps its records. The Record Keeping plan is currently being comprehensively reviewed before its submission to the State Records Office (SRO) in March 2025.

The Shire’s recordkeeping systems are continuously reviewed and developed to improve efficiency, reliability and meet new requirements. A total of 61,081 records were captured into the Shire’s corporate recordkeeping system during this period.

It is a requirement for all new employees to undertake a compulsory records management induction within two weeks of commencement. 27 inductions were presented in 2023/2024.

Where staff are provided access, they receive training on the usage of the Shire’s recordkeeping system, Content Manager. Additional training sessions for the Shire’s recordkeeping system are provided as requested. A total of 42 individual training sessions were provided during 2023/2024.

Elected Members receive training in their recordkeeping obligations and the associated process at the commencement of their term of office. Regular updates are provided to Elected Members through their normal communication channels.





MAJOR LAND TRANSACTIONS

Flinders Residential Subdivision

(a) Details

The Council owned, freehold, East Location 18, Lot 3 which is bounded by Ormonde Street and Goldfields Road Esperance. During 2003/2004 the Council created 33 blocks from part of Lot 3. These blocks were sold at auction and profit transferred into a cash reserve established for Land Development. The Council developed a further 90 lots as Stage 2 during 2009/2010. 89 lots have been sold, whilst the final lot has been subdivided into cottage size blocks.

(b) Current year transactions

	2023/24 Actual	2023/24 Budget	2022/23 Actual
	\$	\$	\$
Other revenue			
- Sale proceeds	-	800,000	658,575
Other expenditure			
- Cost of goods sold	(339,276)	(5,175,538)	(2,203,285)
	(339,276)	(4,375,538)	(1,544,710)

The above operating revenue for the proceeds of land held for resale is reflected in other revenue and operating expenditure for the cost of the disposed land held for resale is reflected in other expenditure.

(c) Expected future cash flows

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash outflows					
- Printing, stationery & marketing	(7,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)	(2,000)	(17,000)
- Selling costs	(64,400)	(53,200)	(48,300)	(43,400)	(209,300)
- Land Development reserve	(1,768,600)	(1,562,800)	(1,327,700)	(1,194,600)	(5,853,700)
	(1,840,000)	(1,620,000)	(1,380,000)	(1,240,000)	(6,080,000)
Cash inflows					
- Sale proceeds	1,840,000	1,620,000	1,380,000	1,240,000	6,080,000
- Land Development reserve	-	-	-	-	-
	1,840,000	1,620,000	1,380,000	1,240,000	6,080,000
Net cash flows	-	-	-	-	-

(d) Assets and liabilities

Land held for resale	2023/24	2022/23
	\$	\$
Current Inventory		
Land held for resale	800,000	800,000
Non Current Inventory		
Land held for resale	2,908,071	2,568,796

29. MAJOR LAND TRANSACTIONS (Continued)

Shark Lake Industrial Park (SLIP) - Shire Subdivision

(a) Details

During the 2010/2011 financial year the Council continued to undertake a major land transactions as defined under the *Local Government Act 1995*. With the Superlot Stage of the Shark Lake Industrial Park subdivision complete, Council has further subdivided the acquired superlot in approximately 28 general industries lots of varying sizes. Stage 1 consisting of the 28 lots has been completely developed at a total capital cost of \$1,037,953 excluding the costs associated with acquiring the superlot. The 4 remaining lots were sold during 2023/24.

(b) Current year transactions

	2023/24 Actual	2023/24 Budget	2022/23 Actual
	\$	\$	\$
Other revenue			
- Sale proceeds	311,918	350,000	3,156,217
Other expenditure			
- Loan repayments	(54,813)	(54,813)	(52,417)
	257,105	295,187	3,103,800

The above operating revenue for the proceeds of land held for resale is reflected in other revenue and operating expenditure for the loan repayments is reflected in other expenditure.

(c) Expected future cash flows

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash outflows					
- Development costs	-	-	-	-	-
- Interest expense	(27,428)	(24,808)	(22,068)	(19,203)	(93,507)
- Loan repayments	(57,319)	(59,939)	(62,679)	(65,544)	(245,481)
- Selling costs	-	-	-	-	-
- Land Development reserve	84,747	84,747	84,747	84,747	338,988
	-	-	-	-	-
Net cash flows	-	-	-	-	-

(d) Assets and liabilities

Land held for resale included within Note 6

	2023/24	2022/23
	\$	\$
Current Inventory		
Land held for resale	-	185,354
Non Current Inventory		
Land held for resale	-	-

TRADING UNDERTAKINGS AND MAJOR TRADING UNDERTAKINGS

Esperance Aerodrome

(a) Details

Council's objective is to maintain a safe landing airstrip and functional airport amenities conducive to the promotion of the district as a tourist and business destination.

Operating costs are met by landing fees charges. Annual surpluses are transferred to a cash reserve to finance future improvements to the facility.

(b) Current year transactions

Other revenue

	2023/24 Actual \$	2023/24 Budget \$	2022/23 Actual \$
- Landing fees	1,256,611	1,200,000	1,185,293
- Property rental	31,742	37,400	29,836
- Air BP Refuelling	201,049	145,000	160,462
- Reimbursements	5,582	8,000	21,705
- Sundry income	26,009	20,000	18,585
- Grants and subsidies	-	8,756	-
- Profit on Asset Disposals	-	33,500	-
- Reserve transfer	165,000	165,000	165,000

Other expenditure

- Employee expenses	(455,732)	(453,086)	(379,319)
- Insurance	(10,381)	(10,381)	(27,796)
- Building expenses	(97,734)	(310,069)	(88,404)
- Grounds & strip maintenance	(58,477)	(80,256)	(55,159)
- Other sundry expenses	(512,903)	(219,712)	(232,987)
- Special projects	-	(75,000)	(99,993)
- Overhead allocation	(129,406)	(136,582)	(125,116)
- Depreciation	(521,224)	(393,007)	(326,832)
	(99,864)	(60,437)	245,275

Capital income

- Proceeds on Sale of Assets	18,182	16,500	-
- Reserve transfer	109,362	562,000	102,215

Capital expenditure

- Purchases	(63,991)	(53,500)	(102,215)
- Airside projects	(38,487)	(400,000)	-
- Landside projects	(20,713)	(125,000)	-
	4,353	-	-

Net result

(95,511)	(60,437)	245,275
----------	----------	---------

Member Allowances 2023/2024

Elected Member Remuneration

Note	2023/24 Actual \$	2023/24 Budget \$	2022/23 Actual \$
Councillor Ian Mickel			
President's annual allowance	11,018	11,018	35,880
President's meeting attendance fees	7,026	7,026	22,880
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	479	479	1,560
	18,522	18,522	60,320
Councillor Ron Chambers			
President's annual allowance	24,863	24,863	-
President's meeting attendance fees	15,854	15,854	-
Deputy President's annual allowance	2,754	2,754	8,970
Meeting attendance fees	5,748	5,748	18,720
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	1,560	1,560	1,560
	50,779	50,779	29,250
Councillor Steven McMullen			
Meeting attendance fees	18,720	18,720	18,720
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	1,560	1,560	1,560
	20,280	20,280	20,280
Councillor Jennifer Obourne			
Deputy President's annual allowance	6,216	6,216	-
Meeting attendance fees	18,720	18,720	18,720
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	1,560	1,560	1,560
	26,496	26,496	20,280
Councillor Jo-Anne O'Donnell			
Meeting attendance fees	5,748	5,748	18,720
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	479	479	1,560
	6,227	6,227	20,280
Councillor Wes Graham			
Meeting attendance fees	18,720	18,720	18,720
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	1,560	1,560	1,560
	20,280	20,280	20,280
Councillor Rob Horan			
Meeting attendance fees	5,748	5,748	18,720
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	479	479	1,560
	6,227	6,227	20,280
Councillor Shayne Flanagan			
Meeting attendance fees	18,720	18,720	18,720
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	1,560	1,560	1,560
	20,280	20,280	20,280
Councillor Leonie De Haas			
Meeting attendance fees	18,720	18,720	18,720
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	1,560	1,560	1,560
	20,280	20,280	20,280
Councillor Connor Davies			
Meeting attendance fees	12,972	12,972	-
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	1,081	1,081	-
	14,053	14,053	-
Councillor Gemma Johnston			
Meeting attendance fees	12,972	12,972	-
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	1,081	1,081	-
	14,053	14,053	-
Councillor Samantha Starcevich			
Meeting attendance fees	12,972	12,972	-
Annual allowance for ICT expenses	1,081	1,081	-
	14,053	14,053	-
Total Elected Member Remuneration	231,530	231,530	231,530
President's allowance	35,880	35,880	35,880
Deputy President's allowance	8,970	8,970	8,970
Meeting attendance fees	172,640	172,640	172,640
ICT expenses	14,040	14,040	14,040
	231,530	231,530	231,530



Thank you

Any questions or queries?

Contact us at (08) 9071 0666 or
shire@esperance.wa.gov.au

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**SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

*Local Government Act 1995
Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*

STATEMENT BY CEO

The accompanying financial report of the Shire of Esperance has been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995* from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the reporting period ended 30 June 2024 and the financial position as at 30 June 2024.

At the date of signing this statement the particulars included in the financial report are not misleading or inaccurate.

Signed on the 30th day of October 2024



Chief Executive Officer
Shane Burge

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	NOTE	2024 Actual \$	2024 Budget \$	2023 Actual \$
Revenue				
Rates	2(a),24	25,432,406	25,336,630	23,635,371
Grants, subsidies and contributions	2(a)	13,304,012	7,829,652	16,162,013
Fees and charges	2(a)	11,203,001	10,129,753	10,952,081
Interest revenue	2(a)	2,583,229	1,355,000	1,526,936
Other revenue	2(a)	982,800	757,894	1,003,835
		53,505,448	45,408,929	53,280,236
Expenses				
Employee costs	2(b)	(21,378,606)	(21,411,309)	(21,083,657)
Materials and contracts		(12,980,360)	(16,068,990)	(12,556,334)
Utility charges		(1,368,941)	(1,293,221)	(1,323,897)
Depreciation		(22,658,326)	(25,435,663)	(21,492,577)
Finance costs		(84,036)	(87,700)	(98,521)
Insurance		(887,856)	(949,260)	(885,765)
Other expenditure	2(b)	(1,326,971)	(1,028,890)	(597,449)
		(60,685,096)	(66,275,033)	(58,038,200)
		(7,179,648)	(20,866,104)	(4,757,964)
Capital grants, subsidies and contributions	2(a)	15,394,282	24,857,455	8,245,196
Profit on asset disposals		503,134	672,538	1,572,415
Loss on asset disposals		(24,539)	(130,124)	(56,443)
		15,872,877	25,399,869	9,761,168
Net result for the period	23(b)	8,693,229	4,533,765	5,003,204
Other comprehensive income for the period				
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</i>				
Changes in asset revaluation surplus	17	-	-	168,416,513
Total other comprehensive income for the period	17	-	-	168,416,513
Total comprehensive income for the period		8,693,229	4,533,765	173,419,717

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	NOTE	2024 \$	2023 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	48,988,393	43,247,389
Trade and other receivables	5	1,410,449	1,597,931
Other financial assets	4(a)	404,455	4,190,736
Inventories	6	1,346,117	1,609,486
Other assets	7	1,146,601	1,418,138
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		53,296,015	52,063,680
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Trade and other receivables	5	110,073	101,408
Other financial assets	4(b)	1,136,293	1,537,806
Inventories	6	3,305,969	2,830,744
Property, plant and equipment	8	103,613,524	103,709,727
Infrastructure	9	595,401,067	587,939,655
Right-of-use assets	11(a)	88,110	8,663
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		703,655,036	696,128,003
TOTAL ASSETS		756,951,051	748,191,683
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	12	3,154,396	2,470,313
Other liabilities	13	2,612,488	3,378,442
Lease liabilities	11(b)	10,186	8,784
Borrowings	14	461,774	245,549
Employee related provisions	15	3,784,029	3,733,245
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		10,022,873	9,836,333
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease liabilities	11(b)	78,934	-
Borrowings	14	1,554,401	2,016,175
Employee related provisions	15	411,208	388,124
Other provisions	16	6,223,226	5,983,871
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		8,267,769	8,388,170
TOTAL LIABILITIES		18,290,642	18,224,503
NET ASSETS		738,660,409	729,967,180
EQUITY			
Retained surplus		321,739,928	314,079,314
Reserve accounts	27	40,139,885	39,107,270
Revaluation surplus	17	376,780,596	376,780,596
TOTAL EQUITY		738,660,409	729,967,180

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

	NOTE	2024 Actual \$	2023 Actual \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Rates		25,126,236	23,681,265
Grants, subsidies and contributions		12,483,178	16,880,065
Fees and charges		11,528,401	10,952,081
Interest revenue		2,583,229	1,526,936
Goods and services tax received		3,683,641	3,253,580
Other revenue		1,222,155	1,294,333
		56,626,840	57,588,260
Payments			
Employee costs		(21,276,132)	(20,174,309)
Materials and contracts		(11,910,443)	(13,931,688)
Utility charges		(1,368,941)	(1,323,897)
Finance costs		(84,036)	(98,521)
Insurance paid		(887,856)	(885,765)
Goods and services tax paid		(3,932,226)	(3,121,801)
Other expenditure		(998,806)	(597,449)
		(40,458,440)	(40,133,430)
Net cash provided by operating activities	18(b)	16,168,400	17,454,830
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for land held for sale		(475,225)	(2,347,249)
Payments for purchase of property, plant & equipment	8(a)	(4,351,193)	(5,131,617)
Payments for construction of infrastructure	9(a)	(26,254,987)	(17,580,979)
Capital grants, subsidies and contributions		15,394,282	8,245,196
Proceeds for financial assets at amortised cost		4,000,000	(4,000,000)
Proceeds from financial assets at amortised cost - self supporting loans		190,736	198,228
Proceeds for land held for sale		341,479	-
Proceeds from financial assets at fair values through profit and loss		(2,942)	(6,451)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment		994,974	4,831,582
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(10,162,876)	(15,791,290)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment of borrowings	26(a)	(245,549)	(250,645)
Payments for principal portion of lease liabilities	26(b)	(18,971)	(23,105)
Net cash (used in) financing activities		(264,520)	(273,750)
Net increase in cash held		5,741,004	1,389,790
Cash at beginning of year		43,247,389	41,857,599
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	18(a)	48,988,393	43,247,389

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	NOTE	RETAINED SURPLUS \$	RESERVE ACCOUNTS \$	REVALUATION SURPLUS \$	TOTAL EQUITY \$
Balance as at 1 July 2022		314,224,048	33,959,332	208,364,083	556,547,463
Comprehensive income for the period					
Net result for the period		5,003,204	-	-	5,003,204
Other comprehensive income for the period	17	-	-	168,416,513	168,416,513
Total comprehensive income for the period		5,003,204	-	168,416,513	173,419,717
Transfers from reserve accounts	27	11,246,503	(11,246,503)	-	-
Transfers to reserve accounts	27	(16,394,441)	16,394,441	-	-
Balance as at 30 June 2023		314,079,314	39,107,270	376,780,596	729,967,180
Comprehensive income for the period					
Net result for the period		8,693,229	-	-	8,693,229
Total comprehensive income for the period		8,693,229	-	-	8,693,229
Transfers from reserve accounts	27	12,145,169	(12,145,169)	-	-
Transfers to reserve accounts	27	(13,177,784)	13,177,784	-	-
Balance as at 30 June 2024		321,739,928	40,139,885	376,780,596	738,660,409

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	NOTE	2024 Actual \$	2024 Budget \$	2023 Actual \$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Revenue from operating activities				
General rates	24	24,891,959	25,236,630	23,104,274
Rates excluding general rates	24	540,447	-	531,097
Grants, subsidies and contributions		13,304,012	7,829,652	16,162,013
Fees and charges		11,203,001	10,129,753	10,952,081
Interest revenue		2,583,229	1,355,000	1,526,936
Other revenue		982,800	757,894	1,003,835
Profit on asset disposals		503,134	672,538	1,572,415
		54,008,582	45,981,467	54,852,651
Expenditure from operating activities				
Employee costs		(21,378,606)	(21,411,309)	(21,083,657)
Materials and contracts		(12,980,360)	(16,068,990)	(12,556,334)
Utility charges		(1,368,941)	(1,293,221)	(1,323,897)
Depreciation		(22,658,326)	(25,435,663)	(21,492,577)
Finance costs		(84,036)	(87,700)	(98,521)
Insurance		(887,856)	(949,260)	(885,765)
Other expenditure		(1,326,971)	(1,028,890)	(597,449)
Loss on asset disposals		(24,539)	(130,124)	(56,443)
		(60,709,635)	(66,405,157)	(58,094,643)
Non cash amounts excluded from operating activities	25(a)	22,378,654	23,714,733	20,611,031
Amount attributable to operating activities		15,677,601	3,291,043	17,369,039
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Inflows from investing activities				
Capital grants, subsidies and contributions		15,394,282	24,857,455	8,245,196
Proceeds from disposal of assets		1,336,453	1,923,262	4,831,582
Proceeds from financial assets at amortised cost - self supporting loans	26(a)	190,736	190,736	198,228
Proceeds from financial assets at fair value through profit and loss - Local Government House Trust		(2,942)	-	(6,451)
Proceeds on other loans		-	2,500,000	-
		16,918,529	29,471,453	13,268,555
Outflows from investing activities				
Right of use assets received - non cash	11(a)	(99,307)	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	8(a)	(4,351,193)	(19,860,476)	(5,131,617)
Purchase and construction of infrastructure	9(a)	(26,254,987)	(27,284,249)	(17,580,979)
Payments for land held for sale		(548,167)	(5,993,079)	(2,347,249)
		(31,253,654)	(53,137,804)	(25,059,845)
Non-cash amounts excluded from investing activities	25(b)	99,307	1,500,000	-
Amount attributable to investing activities		(14,235,818)	(22,166,351)	(11,791,290)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Inflows from financing activities				
Proceeds from new leases - non cash	26(b)	99,307	-	-
Transfers from reserve accounts	27	12,145,169	18,398,119	11,246,503
		12,244,476	18,398,119	11,246,503
Outflows from financing activities				
Repayment of borrowings	26(a)	(245,549)	(245,549)	(250,645)
Payments for principal portion of lease liabilities	26(b)	(18,971)	(8,784)	(23,105)
Transfers to reserve accounts	27	(13,177,784)	(3,365,739)	(16,394,441)
		(13,442,304)	(3,620,072)	(16,668,191)
Non-cash amounts excluded from financing activities	25(c)	(99,307)	-	-
Amount attributable to financing activities		(1,297,135)	14,778,047	(5,421,688)
MOVEMENT IN SURPLUS OR DEFICIT				
Surplus or deficit at the start of the financial year	25(d)	4,075,261	4,075,261	3,919,200
Amount attributable to operating activities		15,677,601	3,291,043	17,369,039
Amount attributable to investing activities		(14,235,818)	(22,166,351)	(11,791,290)
Amount attributable to financing activities		(1,297,135)	14,778,047	(5,421,688)
Surplus or deficit after imposition of general rates	25(d)	4,219,909	(22,000)	4,075,261

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024
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SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial report of the Shire of Esperance which is a Class 2 local government comprises general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and accompanying regulations.

Local Government Act 1995 requirements

Section 6.4(2) of the *Local Government Act 1995* read with the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* prescribe that the financial report be prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and, to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the Act, the Australian Accounting Standards. The Australian Accounting Standards (as they apply to local governments and not-for-profit entities) and Interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standards Board were applied where no inconsistencies exist.

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* specify that vested land is a right-of-use asset to be measured at cost, and is considered a zero cost concessionary lease. All right-of-use assets under zero cost concessionary leases are measured at zero cost rather than at fair value, except for vested improvements on concessionary land leases such as roads, buildings or other infrastructure which continue to be reported at fair value, as opposed to the vested land which is measured at zero cost. The measurement of vested improvements at fair value is a departure from AASB 16 which would have required the Shire to measure any vested improvements at zero cost.

Accounting policies which have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise. Except for cash flow and rate setting information, the financial report has been prepared on the accrual basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and liabilities.

The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 provide that:

- land and buildings classified as property, plant and equipment; or
- infrastructure; or
- vested improvements that the local government controls; and measured at reportable value, are only required to be revalued every five years. Revaluing these non-financial assets every five years is a departure from AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment, which would have required the Shire to assess at each reporting date whether the carrying amount of the above mentioned non-financial assets materially differs from their fair value and, if so, revalue the class of non-financial assets.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of a financial report in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that effect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses.

The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances; the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

As with all estimates, the use of different assumptions could lead to material changes in the amounts reported in the financial report.

The following are estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year and further information on their nature and impact can be found in the relevant note:

- Fair value measurement of assets carried at reportable value including:
 - Property, plant and equipment - note 8
 - Infrastructure - note 9
- Expected credit losses on financial assets - note 5
- Impairment losses of non-financial assets - note 8
- Measurement of employee benefits - note 15
- Measurement of provisions - note 16

Fair value hierarchy information can be found in note 22

The local government reporting entity

All funds through which the Shire controls resources to carry on its functions have been included in the financial statements forming part of this financial report.

All monies held in the Trust Fund are excluded from the financial statements. A separate statement of those monies appears at Note 28 of the financial report.

Initial application of accounting standards

During the current year, the following new or revised Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations were applied for the first time.

- AASB 2021-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards
 - Disclosure of Accounting Policies or Definition of Accounting Estimates

This standard resulted in terminology changes relating to material accounting policies (formerly referred to as significant accounting policies).

New accounting standards for application in future years

The following new accounting standards will have application to local government in future years:

- AASB 2014-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards
 - Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture
- AASB 2020-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards
 - Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current
- AASB 2021-7c Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards
 - Effective Date of Amendments to AASB 10 and AASB 128 and Editorial Corrections [deferred AASB 10 and AASB 128 amendments in AASB 2014-10 apply]
- AASB 2022-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards
 - Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback
- AASB 2022-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards
 - Non-current Liabilities with Covenants

These amendments are not expected to have any material impact on the financial report on initial application.

- AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards
 - Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities

These amendment may result in changes to the fair value of non-financial assets. The impact is yet to be quantified.

- AASB 2023-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards
 - Supplier Finance Arrangements

These amendments may result in additional disclosures in the case of applicable finance arrangements.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

2. REVENUE AND EXPENSES

(a) Revenue

Contracts with customers

Recognition of revenue is dependant on the source of revenue and the associated terms and conditions associated with each source of revenue and recognised as follows:

Revenue Category	Nature of goods and services	When obligations typically satisfied	Payment terms	Returns/Refunds/Warranties	Timing of revenue recognition
Grants, subsidies and contributions	Community events, minor facilities, research, design, planning evaluation and services	Over time	Fixed terms transfer of funds based on agreed milestones and reporting	Contract obligation if project not complete	Output method based on project milestones and/or completion date matched to performance obligations
Fees and charges - licences, registrations, approvals	Building, planning, development and animal management.	Single point in time	Full payment prior to issue	None	On payment of the licence, registration or approval
Fees and charges - waste management entry fees	Waste treatment, recycling and disposal service at disposal sites	Single point in time	Payment in advance at gate or on normal trading terms if credit provided	None	On entry to facility
Fees and charges - airport landing charges	Permission to use facilities and runway	Single point in time	Monthly in arrears	None	On landing/departure event
Fees and charges - sale of stock	Aviation fuel, kiosk and visitor centre stock	Single point in time	In full in advance, on 15 day credit	Refund for faulty goods	At point of sale
Other revenue - private works	Contracted private works	Single point in time	Monthly in arrears	None	At point of service

Consideration from contracts with customers is included in the transaction price.

Revenue Recognition

Revenue recognised during the year under each basis of recognition by nature of goods or services is provided in the table below:

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Nature	Contracts with customers	Capital grant/contributions	Statutory Requirements	Other	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Rates	-	-	25,432,406	-	25,432,406
Grants, subsidies and contributions	13,304,012	-	-	-	13,304,012
Fees and charges	10,687,686	-	515,315	-	11,203,001
Interest revenue	58,467	-	93,707	2,431,055	2,583,229
Other revenue	982,800	-	-	-	982,800
Capital grants, subsidies and contributions	-	15,394,282	-	-	15,394,282
Total	25,032,965	15,394,282	26,041,428	2,431,055	68,899,730

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Nature	Contracts with customers	Capital grant/contributions	Statutory Requirements	Other	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Rates	-	-	23,635,371	-	23,635,371
Grants, subsidies and contributions	16,162,013	-	-	-	16,162,013
Fees and charges	10,447,576	-	504,505	-	10,952,081
Interest revenue	60,978	-	46,828	1,419,130	1,526,936
Other revenue	1,003,835	-	-	-	1,003,835
Capital grants, subsidies and contributions	-	8,245,196	-	-	8,245,196
Total	27,674,402	8,245,196	24,186,704	1,419,130	61,525,432

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

2. REVENUE AND EXPENSES (Continued)

(a) Revenue (Continued)

The Shire utilises volunteer services at the fire station, museum, Homecare and library. Volunteer services are not recognised as revenue as the fair value of the services cannot be reliably estimated.

Interest revenue

Financial assets at amortised cost - self supporting loans	55,658	60,978
Interest on reserve account	1,428,847	829,654
Trade and other receivables overdue interest	103,442	50,877
Other interest revenue	995,282	585,427
	2,583,229	1,526,936

Fees and charges relating to rates receivable

Charges on instalment plan	65,972	33,633
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The 2024 original budget estimate in relation to:
Charges on instalment plan was \$60,000.

(b) Expenses

Auditors remuneration

- Audit of the Annual Financial Report	62,110	59,000
- Other services – grant acquittals	4,160	830
	66,270	59,830

Employee Costs

Employee benefit costs	17,627,468	17,969,697
Other employee costs	3,751,138	3,113,960
	21,378,606	21,083,657

Finance costs

Interest and financial charges paid/payable for lease liabilities and financial liabilities not at fair value through profit or loss	86,508	98,226
Lease liabilities	(2,472)	295
	84,036	98,521

Other expenditure

Impairment losses on trade receivables	325,400	
Sundry expenses	1,001,571	597,449
	1,326,971	597,449

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

3. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Note	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and on hand	37,988,393	32,247,389
Term deposits	11,000,000	11,000,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	48,988,393	43,247,389
Held as		
- Unrestricted cash and cash equivalents	6,236,020	4,761,677
- Restricted cash and cash equivalents	42,752,373	38,485,712
	48,988,393	43,247,389

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, cash at bank, deposits available on demand with banks and other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Bank overdrafts are reported as short term borrowings in current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

Term deposits are presented as cash equivalents if they have a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition and are repayable with 24 hours notice with no loss of interest.

Restricted financial assets

Restricted financial asset balances are not available for general use by the local government due to internally and externally imposed restrictions.

Restrictions are specified in an agreement, contract or legislation.

This applies to reserve accounts, unspent grants, subsidies and contributions and unspent loans that have not been fully expended in the manner specified by the contributor, legislation or loan agreement and for which no liability has been recognised.

4. OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS

(a) Current assets

Financial assets at amortised cost

Other financial assets at amortised cost

Self supporting loans receivable

Term deposits

Held as

- Unrestricted other financial assets at amortised cost

- Restricted other financial assets at amortised cost

(b) Non-current assets

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets at amortised cost

Self supporting loans receivable

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Units in Local Government House Trust - opening balance

Movement attributable to fair value increment

Units in Local Government House Trust - closing balance

Note	2024	2023
	\$	\$
	404,455	4,190,736
	404,455	4,190,736
25(d)	404,455	190,736
	-	4,000,000
	404,455	4,190,736
18(a)	404,455	190,736
	-	4,000,000
	404,455	4,190,736
	990,744	1,395,199
	145,549	142,607
	1,136,293	1,537,806
	990,744	1,395,199
	990,744	1,395,199
	142,607	136,156
	2,942	6,451
	145,549	142,607

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Other financial assets at amortised cost

The Shire classifies financial assets at amortised cost if both of the following criteria are met:

- the asset is held within a business model whose objective is to collect the contractual cashflows, and
- the contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest.

Fair values of financial assets at amortised cost are not materially different to their carrying amounts, since the interest receivable on those assets is either close to current market rates or the assets are of a short term nature. Non-current financial assets at amortised cost fair values are based on discounted cash flows using a current market rates. They are classified as level 2 fair values in the fair value hierarchy (see Note 22 (i)) due to the observable market rates).

Interest received is presented under cashflows from operating activities in the Statement of Cash Flows where it is earned from financial assets that are held for cash management purposes.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

The Shire has elected to classify the following financial assets at fair value through profit or loss:

- debt investments which do not qualify for measurement at either amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income.
- equity investments which the Shire has elected to recognise as fair value gains and losses through profit or loss.

Impairment and risk

Information regarding impairment and exposure to risk can be found at Note 20.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

5. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current			
Rates and statutory receivables		228,165	68,312
Trade receivables		1,157,562	1,428,082
GST receivable		350,122	101,537
Allowance for credit losses of trade receivables	20(b)	(325,400)	-
		1,410,449	1,597,931
Non-current			
Rates and statutory receivables		110,073	101,408
		110,073	101,408

Disclosure of opening and closing balances related to contracts with customers

Information about receivables from contracts with customers along with financial assets and associated liabilities arising from transfers to enable the acquisition or construction of recognisable non financial assets is:

	Note	30 June 2024 Actual \$	30 June 2023 Actual \$	1 July 2022 Actual \$
Contract assets	7	998,683	1,226,375	796,278
Allowance for credit losses of trade receivables	5	(325,400)	-	-
Total trade and other receivables from contracts with customers		673,283	1,226,375	796,278

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Rates and statutory receivables

Rates and statutory receivables are non-contractual receivables arising from statutory requirements and include amounts due from ratepayers for unpaid rates and service charges and other statutory charges or fines.

Rates and statutory receivables are recognised when the taxable event has occurred and can be measured reliably.

Trade receivables

Trade receivables are amounts receivable from contractual arrangements with customers for goods sold, services performed or grants or contributions with sufficiently specific performance obligations or for the construction of recognisable non financial assets as part of the ordinary course of business.

Other receivables

Other receivables are amounts receivable from contractual arrangements with third parties other than contracts with customers and amounts received as grants for the construction of recognisable non financial assets.

Measurement

Trade and other receivables are recognised initially at the amount of the transaction price, unless they contain a significant financing component, and are to be recognised at fair value.

Classification and subsequent measurement

Receivables which are generally due for settlement within 30 days except rates receivables which are expected to be collected within 12 months are classified as current assets. All other receivables such as, deferred pensioner rates receivable after the end of the reporting period are classified as non-current assets.

Trade and other receivables are held with the objective to collect the contractual cashflows and therefore the Shire measures them subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Due to the short term nature of current receivables, their carrying amount is considered to be the same as their fair value. Non-current receivables are indexed to inflation, any difference between the face value and fair value is considered immaterial.

Impairment and risk exposure

Information about the impairment of trade receivables and their exposure to credit risk and interest rate risk can be found in Note 20.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

6. INVENTORIES

Note	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current		
Fuel and materials	38,527	82,955
Road making materials	399,263	440,964
Visitor Centre Stock	108,327	100,213
Land held for resale		
Cost of acquisition	800,000	985,354
	1,346,117	1,609,486
Non-current		
Land held for resale		
Cost of acquisition	3,305,969	2,830,744
	3,305,969	2,830,744
The following movements in inventories occurred during the year:		
Balance at beginning of year	4,440,230	4,303,538
Inventories expensed during the year	(2,073,426)	(2,355,269)
Additions to inventory	2,285,282	2,491,961
Balance at end of year	4,652,086	4,440,230

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

Land held for resale

Land held for development and resale is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost includes the cost of acquisition, development, borrowing costs and holding costs until completion of development.

Land held for resale (Continued)

Borrowing costs and holding charges incurred after development is completed are expensed.

Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss at the time of signing an unconditional contract of sale if significant risks and rewards, and effective control over the land, are passed onto the buyer at this point.

Land held for resale is classified as current except where it is held as non-current based on the Shire's intentions to release for sale.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

7. OTHER ASSETS

Other assets - current

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Accrued income	25,500	57,606
Contract assets	998,683	1,226,375
Interest Receivable	108,152	120,141
Infringements	14,266	14,016
	1,146,601	1,418,138

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Contract assets

Contract assets primarily relate to the Shire's right to . consideration for work completed but not billed at the end of the period.

Impairment of assets associated with contracts with customers are detailed at Note 2(b).

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

8. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

(a) Movements in Balances

Movement in the balances of each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	Assets not subject to operating lease		Total Property			Plant and equipment				Total property, plant and equipment
	Land	Buildings - non-specialised	Land	Buildings - non-specialised	Total Property	Furniture and equipment	Plant and equipment	Motor Vehicles	Roadmaking Plant	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2022	27,292,072	56,666,294	27,292,072	56,666,294	83,958,366	625,014	6,558,704	2,635,208	9,205,879	102,983,171
Additions	13,255	1,727,372	13,255	1,727,372	1,740,627	161,259	60,444	1,000,256	2,169,031	5,131,617
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	(5,068)	-	(387,455)	(441,297)	(833,820)
Depreciation	-	(2,262,912)	-	(2,262,912)	(2,262,912)	(105,807)	(671,322)	(302,701)	(1,293,818)	(4,636,560)
Transfers	-	1,065,319	-	1,065,319	1,065,319	-	83,680	-	(83,680)	1,065,319
Balance at 30 June 2023	27,305,327	57,196,073	27,305,327	57,196,073	84,501,400	675,398	6,031,506	2,945,308	9,556,115	103,709,727
Comprises:										
Gross balance amount at 30 June 2023	27,305,327	115,898,501	27,305,327	115,898,501	143,203,828	1,596,612	11,761,094	5,192,787	14,837,489	176,591,810
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023	-	(58,702,428)	-	(58,702,428)	(58,702,428)	(921,214)	(5,729,588)	(2,247,479)	(5,281,374)	(72,882,083)
Balance at 30 June 2023	27,305,327	57,196,073	27,305,327	57,196,073	84,501,400	675,398	6,031,506	2,945,308	9,556,115	103,709,727
Additions	3,979	1,153,809	3,979	1,153,809	1,157,788	112,750	12,073	787,847	2,280,735	4,351,193
Disposals	(57,000)	-	(57,000)	-	(57,000)	-	-	(187,229)	(355,510)	(599,739)
Impairment (losses) / reversals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,765)	(2,765)
Depreciation	-	(2,350,540)	-	(2,350,540)	(2,350,540)	(122,047)	(597,333)	(411,672)	(1,406,332)	(4,887,924)
Transfers	-	898,292	-	898,292	898,292	-	144,740	-	-	1,043,032
Balance at 30 June 2024	27,252,306	56,897,634	27,252,306	56,897,634	84,149,940	666,101	5,590,986	3,134,254	10,072,243	103,613,524
Comprises:										
Gross balance amount at 30 June 2024	27,252,306	117,950,602	27,252,306	117,950,602	145,202,908	1,709,363	11,917,907	5,628,631	16,070,224	180,529,033
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	-	(61,052,968)	-	(61,052,968)	(61,052,968)	(1,043,262)	(6,326,921)	(2,494,377)	(5,997,981)	(76,915,509)
Balance at 30 June 2024	27,252,306	56,897,634	27,252,306	56,897,634	84,149,940	666,101	5,590,986	3,134,254	10,072,243	103,613,524

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

8. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (Continued)

(b) Carrying Amount Measurements

Asset Class	Fair Value Hierarchy	Valuation Technique	Basis of Valuation	Date of Last Valuation	Inputs Used
(i) Fair Value - as determined at the last valuation date					
Land and buildings					
Land	2	Market approach using recent observable market data for similar properties/income approach using discounted cashflow methodology	Independent registered valuer	June 2020	Price per hectare / market borrowing rate
Buildings - non-specialised	3	Cost approach using depreciated replacement cost	Independent registered valuer	June 2020	Construction costs and current condition (level 2), residual values and remaining useful life assessments (level 3) inputs

Level 3 inputs are based on assumptions with regards to future values and patterns of consumption utilising current information. If the basis of these assumptions were varied, they have the potential to result in a significantly higher or lower fair value measurement.

During the period there were no changes in the valuation techniques used by the local government to determine the fair value of property, plant and equipment using either level 2 or level 3 inputs. The valuation techniques applied to property subject to lease was the same as that applied to property not subject to lease.

(ii) Cost

Furniture and equipment	Cost	Cost	Purchase cost
Plant and equipment	Cost	Cost	Purchase cost
Roadmaking Plant	Cost	Cost	Purchase cost
Motor vehicles - specialised	Cost	Cost	Purchase cost

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

9. INFRASTRUCTURE

(a) Movements in Balances

Movement in the balances of each class of infrastructure between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	Infrastructure - roads	Infrastructure - footpaths	Infrastructure - drainage	Infrastructure - parks and ovals	Infrastructure - other	Infrastructure - work in progress	Other infrastructure - Pipes & Culverts	Other infrastructure - Airport	Total Infrastructure
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2022	343,564,833	13,048,480	18,485,350	9,087,364	21,685,541	1,865,142	8,063,794	4,040,244	419,840,748
Additions	14,378,553	300,758	4,654	839,728	497,826	1,559,460	-	-	17,580,979
Revaluation increments / (decrements) transferred to revaluation surplus	130,094,648	6,402,205	9,551,257	6,242,416	6,977,951	-	4,505,928	4,642,108	168,416,513
Depreciation	(13,529,647)	(660,348)	(211,859)	(1,184,076)	(924,949)	-	(118,744)	(203,643)	(16,833,266)
Transfers	-	-	-	542,383	861	(1,608,563)	-	-	(1,065,319)
Balance at 30 June 2023	474,508,387	19,091,095	27,829,402	15,527,815	28,237,230	1,816,039	12,450,978	8,478,709	587,939,655
Comprises:									
Gross balance at 30 June 2023	573,725,860	27,227,679	32,035,537	26,663,309	33,607,373	1,816,039	18,738,982	11,365,411	725,180,190
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023	(99,217,473)	(8,136,584)	(4,206,135)	(11,135,494)	(5,370,143)	-	(6,288,004)	(2,886,702)	(137,240,535)
Balance at 30 June 2023	474,508,387	19,091,095	27,829,402	15,527,815	28,237,230	1,816,039	12,450,978	8,478,709	587,939,655
Additions	21,998,177	207,565	62,407	128,656	261,958	3,596,224	-	-	26,254,987
Depreciation	(13,600,879)	(846,237)	(304,507)	(1,537,008)	(894,656)	-	(184,815)	(382,441)	(17,750,543)
Transfers	-	-	-	49,059	16,397	(1,108,488)	-	-	(1,043,032)
Balance at 30 June 2024	482,905,685	18,452,423	27,587,302	14,168,522	27,620,929	4,303,775	12,266,163	8,096,268	595,401,067
Comprises:									
Gross balance at 30 June 2024	595,724,037	27,435,244	32,097,944	26,841,024	33,885,727	4,303,775	18,738,982	11,365,411	750,392,144
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	(112,818,352)	(8,982,821)	(4,510,642)	(12,672,502)	(6,264,798)	-	(6,472,819)	(3,269,143)	(154,991,077)
Balance at 30 June 2024	482,905,685	18,452,423	27,587,302	14,168,522	27,620,929	4,303,775	12,266,163	8,096,268	595,401,067

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

9. INFRASTRUCTURE (Continued)

(b) Carrying Amount Measurements

Asset Class	Fair Value Hierarchy	Valuation Technique	Basis of Valuation	Date of Last Valuation	Inputs Used
(i) Fair Value - as determined at the last valuation date					
Infrastructure - roads	3	Cost approach using depreciated replacement cost	Management valuation	June 2023	Construction costs and current condition, residual values and remaining useful life assessments inputs
Infrastructure - footpaths	3	Cost approach using depreciated replacement cost	Management valuation	June 2023	Construction costs and current condition, residual values and remaining useful life assessments inputs
Infrastructure - drainage	3	Cost approach using depreciated replacement cost	Management valuation	June 2023	Construction costs and current condition, residual values and remaining useful life assessments inputs
Infrastructure - parks and ovals	3	Cost approach using depreciated replacement cost	Management valuation	June 2023	Construction costs and current condition, residual values and remaining useful life assessments inputs
Infrastructure - other	3	Cost approach using depreciated replacement cost	Management valuation	June 2023	Construction costs and current condition, residual values and remaining useful life assessments inputs
Infrastructure - work in progress	3	Cost approach using depreciated replacement cost	Management valuation	June 2023	Construction costs and current condition, residual values and remaining useful life assessments inputs
Other infrastructure - Pipes & Culverts	3	Cost approach using depreciated replacement cost	Management valuation	June 2023	Construction costs and current condition, residual values and remaining useful life assessments inputs
Other infrastructure - Airport	3	Cost approach using depreciated replacement cost	Management valuation	June 2023	Construction costs and current condition, residual values and remaining useful life assessments inputs

Level 3 inputs are based on assumptions with regards to future values and patterns of consumption utilising current information. If the basis of these assumptions were varied, they have the potential to result in a significantly higher or lower fair value measurement.

During the period there were no changes in the valuation techniques used to determine the fair value of infrastructure using level 3 inputs.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

10. FIXED ASSETS

(a) Depreciation

Depreciation rates

Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for the current and prior years are included in the table below:

Asset Class	Useful life
Buildings	30 to 75 years
Furniture and equipment	5 to 20 years
Plant and equipment	3 to 15 years
Motor vehicles	5 to 20 years
Road making plant	5 to 12 years
Infrastructure - roads	15 to 60 years
Other infrastructure - drainage	30 to 100 years
Other infrastructure - parks and ovals	10 to 30 years
Other infrastructure - other infrastructure	10 to 70 years
Other infrastructure - culverts and pipes	30 to 100 years
Other infrastructure - Esperance airport	10 to 50 years
Right of use - plant and equipment	Based on the remaining lease

(b) Fully Depreciated Assets in Use

The gross carrying amount of assets held by the Shire which are currently in use yet fully depreciated are shown in the table below.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Buildings	83,000	-
Furniture and equipment	212,836	-
Plant and equipment	159,134	8,000
Motor vehicles	928,172	419,000
Road making plant	713,500	66,000
	2,096,642	493,000

10. FIXED ASSETS (Continued)

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Initial recognition

An item of property, plant and equipment or infrastructure that qualifies for recognition as an asset is measured at its cost.

Upon initial recognition, cost is determined as the amount paid (or other consideration given) to acquire the assets, plus costs incidental to the acquisition. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the Shire includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overheads. For assets acquired at zero cost or otherwise significantly less than fair value, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition.

Assets for which the fair value as at the date of acquisition is under \$5,000 are not recognised as an asset in accordance with *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 17A(5)*. These assets are expensed immediately.

Where multiple individual low value assets are purchased together as part of a larger asset or collectively forming a larger asset exceeding the threshold, the individual assets are recognised as one asset and capitalised.

Individual assets that are land, buildings and infrastructure acquired between scheduled revaluation dates of the asset class in accordance with the Shire's revaluation policy, are recognised at cost and disclosed as being at reportable value.

Measurement after recognition

Plant and equipment including furniture and equipment and right-of-use assets (other than vested improvements) are measured using the cost model as required under *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 17A(2)*. Assets held under the cost model are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses being their reportable value.

Reportable Value

In accordance with *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 17A(2)*, the carrying amount of non-financial assets that are *land and buildings classified as property, plant and equipment*, investment properties, infrastructure or vested improvements that the local government controls.

Reportable value is for the purpose of *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 17A(4)* is the fair value of the asset at its last valuation date minus (to the extent applicable) the accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses in respect of the non-financial asset subsequent to its last valuation date.

Revaluation

Land and buildings classified as property, plant and equipment, *infrastructure or vested improvements that the local government controls* and measured at reportable value, are only required to be revalued every five years in accordance with the regulatory framework. This includes buildings and infrastructure items which were pre-existing improvements (i.e. vested improvements) on land vested in the Shire.

Whilst the regulatory framework only requires a revaluation to occur every five years, it also provides for the Shire to revalue earlier if it chooses to do so.

For land, buildings and infrastructure, increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of asset classes are credited to a revaluation surplus in equity.

Decreases that offset previous increases of the same class of asset are recognised against revaluation surplus directly in equity. All other decreases are recognised in profit or loss.

Subsequent increases are then recognised in profit or loss to the extent they reverse a net revaluation decrease previously recognised in profit or loss for the same class of asset.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment and infrastructure, are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the individual asset's useful life from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the improvements.

The assets residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

Depreciation on revaluation

When an item of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure is revalued, any accumulated depreciation at the date of the revaluation is treated in one of the following ways:

- (i) The gross carrying amount is adjusted in a manner that is consistent with the revaluation of the carrying amount of the asset.
- (ii) Eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

Impairment

In accordance with *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 17A(4C)*, the Shire is not required to comply with *AASB 136 Impairment of Assets* to determine the recoverable amount of its non-financial assets that are land or buildings classified as property, plant and equipment, infrastructure or vested improvements that the local government controls in circumstances where there has been an impairment indication of a general decrease in asset values.

In other circumstances where it has been assessed that one or more of these non-financial assets are impaired, the asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains or losses on disposal

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the statement of comprehensive income in the period in which they arise.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

11. LEASES

(a) Right-of-Use Assets

Movement in the balance of each class of right-of-use asset between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	Note	Right-of-use assets - plant and equipment	Right-of-use assets Total
		\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2022		31,416	31,416
Depreciation		(22,753)	(22,753)
Balance at 30 June 2023		8,663	8,663
Gross balance amount at 30 June 2023		86,306	86,306
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023		(77,643)	(77,643)
Balance at 30 June 2023		8,663	8,663
Additions		99,307	99,307
Depreciation		(19,860)	(19,860)
Balance at 30 June 2024		88,110	88,110
Gross balance amount at 30 June 2024		99,307	99,307
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024		(11,197)	(11,197)
Balance at 30 June 2024		88,110	88,110

The following amounts were recognised in the statement of comprehensive income during the period in respect of leases where the Shire is the lessee:

		2024 Actual	2023 Actual
		\$	\$
Depreciation on right-of-use assets		(19,860)	(22,753)
Finance charge on lease liabilities	26(b)	(2,472)	(295)
Total amount recognised in the statement of comprehensive income		(22,332)	(23,048)
Total cash outflow from leases		(21,443)	(23,400)
(b) Lease Liabilities			
Current		10,186	8,784
Non-current		78,934	-
	26(b)	89,120	8,784

Secured liabilities and assets pledged as security

Lease liabilities are effectively secured, as the rights to the leased assets recognised in the financial statements revert to the lessor in the event of default.

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Leases

At inception of a contract, the Shire assesses if the contract contains or is a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

At the commencement date, a right-of-use asset is recognised at cost and lease liability at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at that date. The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, if that rate can be readily determined. If that rate cannot be readily determined, the Shire uses its incremental borrowing rate.

All contracts that are classified as short-term leases (i.e. a lease with a term of 12 months or less) and leases of low value assets are recognised as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Details of individual lease liabilities required by regulations are provided at Note 26(b).

Right-of-use assets - measurement

Right-of-use assets are measured at cost. All right-of-use assets (other than vested improvements) under zero cost concessionary leases are measured at zero cost (i.e. not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position). The exception is vested improvements on concessionary land leases such as roads, buildings or other infrastructure which are reported at fair value.

Refer to Note 10 under revaluation for details on the material accountir

Right-of-use assets - depreciation

Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the lease term or useful life of the underlying asset, whichever is the shorter. Where a lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset, or the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the Shire anticipates to exercise a purchase option, the specific asset is depreciated over the useful life of the underlying asset.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

11. LEASES (Continued)

(c) Lessor - Property, Plant and Equipment Subject to Lease

The table below represents a maturity analysis of the undiscounted lease payments to be received after the reporting date.

Less than 1 year
 1 to 2 years
 2 to 3 years
 3 to 4 years
 4 to 5 years
 > 5 years

2024	2023
Actual	Actual
\$	\$
150,000	150,000
300,000	300,000
300,000	300,000
300,000	300,000
300,000	300,000
2,762,500	2,912,500
4,112,500	4,262,500

The Shire has leased the caravan park to RAC for a term of 35 years commencing in 2019-20.
 The Shire leased Blue Waters Lodge to RAC for a term of 21 years commencing in 2023-24.

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Shire as Lessor

Upon entering into each contract as a lessor, the Shire assesses if the lease is a finance or operating lease.

The contract is classified as a finance lease when the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the lessee. All other leases not within this definition are classified as operating leases. Rental income received from operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the specific lease.

Initial direct costs incurred in entering into an operating lease (eg legal cost, cost to setup) are included in the carrying amount of the leased asset and recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

When a contract is determined to include lease and non-lease components, the Shire applies AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* to allocate the consideration under the contract to each component.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

12. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

Current

Sundry creditors	
Prepaid rates	
Accrued payroll liabilities	
Bonds and deposits held	
Accrued interest on long term borrowings	

2024	2023
\$	\$
2,025,697	1,165,128
4,859	142,511
756,251	727,642
356,906	425,484
10,683	9,548
3,154,396	2,470,313

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are initially recognised at fair value when the Shire becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Non-derivative financial liabilities (excluding financial guarantees) are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial liabilities are derecognised where the related obligations are discharged, cancelled or expired. The difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability extinguished or transferred to another party and any consideration paid, including the transfer of non-cash assets or liabilities assumed, is recognised in profit or loss.

Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Shire prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid and arise when the Shire becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of these goods and services. The amounts are unsecured, are recognised as a current liability and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition. The carrying amounts of trade and other payables are considered to be the same as their fair values, due to their short-term nature.

Prepaid rates

Prepaid rates are, until the taxable event has occurred (start of the next financial year), refundable at the request of the ratepayer. Rates received in advance are initially recognised as a financial liability. When the taxable event occurs, the financial liability is extinguished and the Shire recognises income for the prepaid rates that have not been refunded.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

13. OTHER LIABILITIES

Current

Contract liabilities

Reconciliation of changes in contract liabilities

Opening balance

Additions

Revenue from contracts with customers included as a contract liability at the start of the period

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
	2,612,488	3,378,442
	2,612,488	3,378,442
	3,378,442	2,211,302
	2,612,488	3,378,442
	(3,378,442)	(2,211,302)
	2,612,488	3,378,442

The aggregate amount of the performance obligations unsatisfied (or partially unsatisfied) in relation to these contract liabilities was \$2,612,488 (2023: \$3,378,442)

The Shire expects to satisfy the performance obligations, from contracts with customers unsatisfied at the end of the reporting period, within the next 12 months.

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Contract liabilities

Contract liabilities represent the Shire's obligation to transfer goods or services to a customer for which the Shire has received consideration from the customer.

Contract liabilities represent obligations which are not yet satisfied. Contract liabilities are recognised as revenue when the performance obligations in the contract are satisfied.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

14. BORROWINGS

	Note	2024			2023		
		Current	Non-current	Total	Current	Non-current	Total
Unsecured		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Other loans		461,774	1,554,401	2,016,175	245,549	2,016,175	2,261,724
Total unsecured borrowings	26(a)	461,774	1,554,401	2,016,175	245,549	2,016,175	2,261,724

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Borrowing costs

The Shire has elected to recognise borrowing costs as an expense when incurred regardless of how the borrowings are applied.

Fair values of borrowings are not materially different to their carrying amounts, since the interest payable on those borrowings is either close to current market rates or the borrowings are of a short term nature.

Borrowings fair values are based on discounted cash flows using a current borrowing rate. They are classified as level 3 fair values in the fair value hierachy (see Note 22(i)) due to the unobservable inputs, including own credit risk.

Risk

Information regarding exposure to risk can be found at Note 20.

Details of individual borrowings required by regulations are provided at Note 26(a).

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

15. EMPLOYEE RELATED PROVISIONS

Employee Related Provisions

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current provisions		
Employee benefit provisions		
Annual leave	2,267,170	2,166,344
Long service leave	1,516,859	1,566,901
	3,784,029	3,733,245
Total current employee related provisions	3,784,029	3,733,245
Non-current provisions		
Employee benefit provisions		
Long service leave	411,208	388,124
	411,208	388,124
Total non-current employee related provisions	411,208	388,124
Total employee related provisions	4,195,237	4,121,369

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave and associated on costs for services rendered up to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

Annual leave liabilities are classified as current, as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities is expected to occur as follows:

	Note	2024	2023
		\$	\$
Amounts are expected to be settled on the following basis:			
Less than 12 months after the reporting date		1,399,430	1,149,009
More than 12 months from reporting date		2,795,807	2,972,360
		4,195,237	4,121,369

Expected reimbursements of employee related provisions from other WA local governments included within other receivables

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MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Employee benefits

The Shire's obligations for employees' annual leave, long service leave and other employee leave entitlements are recognised as employee related provisions in the Statement of Financial Position.

Short-term employee benefits

Provision is made for the Shire's obligations for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

The Shire's obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages, salaries and sick leave are recognised as a part of current trade and other payables in the statement of financial position.

Other long-term employee benefits

Long-term employee benefits provisions are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on government bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Any remeasurements for changes in assumptions of obligations for other long-term employee benefits are recognised in profit or loss in the periods in which the changes occur.

The Shire's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the Shire does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period, in which case the obligations are presented as current provisions.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

16. OTHER PROVISIONS

	Make good provisions	Total
	\$	\$
Opening balance at 1 July 2023		
Non-current provisions	5,983,871	5,983,871
	<u>5,983,871</u>	<u>5,983,871</u>
Additional provision	239,355	239,355
Balance at 30 June 2024	<u>6,223,226</u>	<u>6,223,226</u>
Comprises		
Non-current	6,223,226	6,223,226
	<u>6,223,226</u>	<u>6,223,226</u>

Other provisions

Amounts which are expected to be paid out within 12 months of the reporting date are classified as current. Exact timing of payment of non-current obligations is unable to be reliably estimated as it is dependent on factors beyond the control of the local government.

Make good provisions

Under licence for the operation of Wylie Bay Waste Facility landfill site, the Shire has a legal obligation to restore the site.

The estimated future obligations include the costs of restoring the affected areas and continued monitoring of the site.

The provision for future remediation costs is the best estimate of present value of the expenditure required to settle the remediation obligation at the reporting date.

Future remediation costs are reviewed annually and any changes in the estimate are reflected in the present value of the remediation provision at each reporting date.

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Shire has a present legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

Provisions are measured using the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

17. REVALUATION SURPLUS

	2024 Opening Balance	Total Movement on Revaluation	2024 Closing Balance	2023 Opening Balance	Total Movement on Revaluation	2023 Closing Balance
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revaluation surplus - Land and buildings	37,565,324	-	37,565,324	37,565,324	-	37,565,324
Revaluation surplus - Furniture and equipment	120,357	-	120,357	120,357	-	120,357
Revaluation surplus - Plant and equipment	1,281,689	-	1,281,689	1,281,689	-	1,281,689
Revaluation surplus - Motor Vehicles	786,448	-	786,448	786,448	-	786,448
Revaluation surplus - Roadmaking Plant	668,986	-	668,986	668,986	-	668,986
Revaluation surplus - Infrastructure - roads	264,678,825	-	264,678,825	134,584,177	130,094,648	264,678,825
Revaluation surplus - Infrastructure - footpaths	12,602,185	-	12,602,185	6,199,980	6,402,205	12,602,185
Revaluation surplus - Infrastructure - drainage	22,057,698	-	22,057,698	12,506,440	9,551,258	22,057,698
Revaluation surplus - Infrastructure - parks and ovals	9,660,606	-	9,660,606	3,418,190	6,242,416	9,660,606
Revaluation surplus - Infrastructure - other	8,343,371	-	8,343,371	1,365,420	6,977,951	8,343,371
Revaluation surplus - Other infrastructure - Pipes & Culverts	13,119,034	-	13,119,034	8,613,107	4,505,927	13,119,034
Revaluation surplus - Other infrastructure - Airport	5,896,073	-	5,896,073	1,253,965	4,642,108	5,896,073
	376,780,596	-	376,780,596	208,364,083	168,416,513	376,780,596

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

18. NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash and cash equivalents, net of outstanding bank overdrafts. Cash at the end of the reporting period is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

	Note	2024 Actual \$	2023 Actual \$
Cash and cash equivalents	3	48,988,393	43,247,389
Restrictions			
The following classes of financial assets have restrictions imposed by regulations or other externally imposed requirements which limit or direct the purpose for which the resources may be used:			
- Cash and cash equivalents	3	42,752,373	38,485,712
- Financial assets at amortised cost	4	-	4,000,000
		<u>42,752,373</u>	<u>42,485,712</u>
The restricted financial assets are a result of the following specific purposes to which the assets may be used:			
Restricted reserve accounts	27	40,139,885	39,107,270
Contract liabilities	13	2,612,488	3,378,442
Total restricted financial assets		<u>42,752,373</u>	<u>42,485,712</u>

**(b) Reconciliation of Net Result to Net Cash Provided
By Operating Activities**

Net result		8,693,229	5,003,204
Non-cash items:			
Depreciation/amortisation		22,658,326	21,492,577
(Profit)/loss on sale of asset		(478,595)	(1,515,972)
Impairment of plant and equipment		2,765	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:			
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables		178,817	(104,106)
(Increase)/decrease in other assets		43,845	(502,967)
(Increase)/decrease in inventories		5,253	(136,690)
(Increase)/decrease in contract assets		227,693	(131,525)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables		684,083	(634,773)
Increase/(decrease) in employee related provisions		73,865	772,640
Increase/(decrease) in other provisions		239,355	290,498
Increase/(decrease) in other liabilities		(765,954)	1,167,140
Capital grants, subsidies and contributions		(15,394,282)	(8,245,196)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		<u>16,168,400</u>	<u>17,454,830</u>

(c) Undrawn Borrowing Facilities

Credit Standby Arrangements

Bank overdraft limit	200,000	200,000
Bank overdraft at balance date	-	-
Credit card limit	80,000	80,000
Credit card balance at balance date	(7,071)	(3,610)
Total amount of credit unused	<u>272,929</u>	<u>276,390</u>

Loan facilities

Loan facilities - current	461,774	245,549
Loan facilities - non-current	1,554,401	2,016,175
Total facilities in use at balance date	<u>2,016,175</u>	<u>2,261,724</u>

Unused loan facilities at balance date

NIL NIL

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

(a) Elected Member Remuneration

Fees, expenses and allowances to be paid or reimbursed to elected council members.

Note	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2023 Actual
	\$	\$	\$
President's annual allowance	35,880	35,880	35,880
President's meeting attendance fees	22,880	22,880	22,880
President's annual allowance for ICT expenses	1,560	1,560	1,560
	<u>60,320</u>	<u>60,320</u>	<u>60,320</u>
Deputy President's annual allowance	8,970	8,970	8,970
Deputy President's meeting attendance fees	18,720	18,720	18,720
Deputy President's annual allowance for ICT expenses	1,560	1,560	1,560
	<u>29,250</u>	<u>29,250</u>	<u>29,250</u>
All other council member's meeting attendance fees	131,040	131,040	131,040
All other council member's annual allowance for ICT expenses	10,920	10,920	10,920
	<u>141,960</u>	<u>141,960</u>	<u>141,960</u>
19(b)	<u>231,530</u>	<u>231,530</u>	<u>231,530</u>

(b) Key Management Personnel (KMP) Compensation

The total of compensation paid to KMP of the Shire during the year are as follows:

Short-term employee benefits	891,207	654,929
Post-employment benefits	104,804	77,394
Employee - other long-term benefits	7,635	88,703
Council member costs	<u>231,530</u>	<u>231,530</u>
19(a)	<u>1,235,176</u>	<u>1,052,556</u>

Short-term employee benefits

These amounts include all salary and fringe benefits awarded to KMP except for details in respect to fees and benefits paid to council members which may be separately found in the table above.

Post-employment benefits

These amounts are the current-year's cost of the Shire's superannuation contributions made during the year.

Other long-term benefits

These amounts represent annual leave and long service leave entitlements accruing during the year.

Council member costs

These amounts represent payments of member fees, expenses, allowances and reimbursements during the year.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Transactions with related parties

Transactions between related parties and the Shire are on normal commercial terms and conditions, no more favourable than those available to other parties, unless otherwise stated.

In addition to KMP compensation above the following transactions occurred with related parties:

	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
	\$	\$
Purchase of goods and services	268,352	70,807
Short term employee benefits - other related parties	160,008	123,311
Payment of council member costs (Refer to Note 23(a))	231,530	231,530
Amounts outstanding from related parties:		
Trade and other receivables	815	-

Related Parties

The Shire's main related parties are as follows:

i. Key management personnel

Any person(s) having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Shire, directly or indirectly, including any council member, are considered key management personnel and are detailed in Notes 19(a) and 19(b).

ii. Other Related Parties

Short-term employee benefits related to an associate person of the CEO who was employed by the Shire under normal employment terms and conditions.

Outside of normal citizen type transactions with the Shire, there were no other related party transactions involving key management personnel and/or their close family members and/or their controlled (or jointly controlled) entities.

iii. Entities subject to significant influence by the Shire

There were no such entities requiring disclosure during the current or previous year.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

20. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

This note explains the Shire's exposure to financial risks and how these risks could affect the Shire's future financial performance.

Risk	Exposure arising from	Measurement	Management
Market risk - interest rates	Long term borrowings at variable rates	Sensitivity analysis	Utilise fixed interest rate borrowings
Credit risk	Cash and cash equivalents, trade receivables, financial assets and debt investments	Aging analysis Credit analysis	Diversification of bank deposits, credit limits. Investment policy
Liquidity risk	Borrowings and other liabilities	Rolling cash flow forecasts	Availability of committed credit lines and borrowing facilities

The Shire does not engage in transactions expressed in foreign currencies and is therefore not subject to foreign currency risk.

Financial risk management is carried out by the finance department under policies approved by the council. The finance department identifies, evaluates and manages financial risks in close co-operation with the operating divisions. Council have approved the overall risk management policy and provide policies on specific areas such as investment policy.

(a) Interest rate risk

Cash and cash equivalents

The Shire's main interest rate risk arises from cash and cash equivalents with variable interest rates, which exposes the Shire to cash flow interest rate risk. Short term overdraft facilities also have variable interest rates however these are repaid within 12 months, reducing the risk level to minimal.

Excess cash and cash equivalents are invested in fixed interest rate term deposits which do not expose the Shire to cash flow interest rate risk. Cash and cash equivalents required for working capital are held in variable interest rate accounts and non-interest bearing accounts. Carrying amounts of cash and cash equivalents at the 30 June and the weighted average interest rate across all cash and cash equivalents, term deposits, and Treasury bonds held disclosed as financial assets at amortised cost are reflected in the table below.

	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Carrying Amounts	Fixed Interest Rate	Variable Interest Rate	Non Interest Bearing
	%	\$	\$	\$	\$
2024					
Cash and cash equivalents	4.22%	48,988,393	11,000,000	37,988,393	-
Financial assets at amortised cost - term deposits	0.00%	-	-	-	-
Financial assets at amortised cost - Treasury bonds					
2023					
Cash and cash equivalents	2.51%	43,247,389	11,000,000	27,526,948	4,720,441
Financial assets at amortised cost - term deposits	4.45%	3,999,998	3,999,998	-	-
Financial assets at amortised cost - Treasury bonds					

Sensitivity

Profit or loss is sensitive to higher/lower interest income from cash and cash equivalents as a result of changes in interest rates.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Impact of a 1% movement in interest rates on profit or loss and equity*	379,884	275,269

* Holding all other variables constant

Borrowings

Borrowings are subject to interest rate risk - the risk that movements in interest rates could adversely affect funding costs. The Shire manages this risk by borrowing long term and fixing the interest rate to the situation considered the most advantageous at the time of negotiation. The Shire does not consider there to be any interest rate risk in relation to borrowings. Details of interest rates applicable to each borrowing may be found at Note 26(a).

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

20. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

(b) Credit risk

Trade and Other Receivables

The Shire's major trade and other receivables comprise contractual non-statutory user fees and charges, grants, contributions and reimbursements. The major risk associated with these receivables is credit risk – the risk that the debts may not be repaid. The Shire manages this risk by monitoring outstanding debt and employing debt recovery policies.

The level of outstanding receivables is reported to council monthly and benchmarks are set and monitored for acceptable collection performance.

The Shire applies the AASB 9 Financial Instruments simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses using a lifetime expected loss allowance for all trade and other receivables. To measure the expected credit losses, receivables from grants, contributions and reimbursements are separated from other trade receivables due to the difference in payment terms and security.

The expected loss rates are based on the payment profiles of trade and other receivables over a period of 36 months before 1 July 2023 or 1 July 2024 respectively and the corresponding historical losses experienced within this period. Historical credit loss rates are adjusted to reflect current and forward-looking information on macroeconomic factors such as the ability of users to settle the receivables.

The loss allowance as at 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2023 was determined as follows for trade and other receivables.

	Current	More than 30 days past due	More than 60 days past due	More than 90 days past due	Total
30 June 2024					
Trade receivables					
Expected credit loss	23.61%	48.84%	0.00%	0.00%	
Gross carrying amount	918,805	222,094	1,544	15,120	1,157,563
Loss allowance	216,933	108,467	-	-	325,400
	Current	More than 1 year past due	More than 2 years past due	More than 3 years past due	Total
Rates receivables					
Expected credit loss	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Gross carrying amount	213,303	10,387	1,433	3,042	228,165
Loss allowance	-	-	-	-	-
	Current	More than 30 days past due	More than 60 days past due	More than 90 days past due	Total
30 June 2023					
Trade receivables					
Expected credit loss	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Gross carrying amount	1,319,306	62,488	2,733	43,555	1,428,082
Loss allowance	-	-	-	-	-
	Current	More than 1 year past due	More than 2 years past due	More than 3 years past due	Total
Rates receivables					
Expected credit loss	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Gross carrying amount	36,074	13,110	14,182	4,946	68,312
Loss allowance	-	-	-	-	-

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

20. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

(b) Credit risk

The loss allowances for trade, other receivables and contract assets as at 30 June reconcile to the opening loss allowances as follows:

	Trade receivables		Other receivables		Contract Assets	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening loss allowance as at 1 July	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase in loss allowance recognised in profit or loss during the year	325,400	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables written off during the year as uncollectible	-	79	175	-	-	-
Unused amount reversed	-	(79)	(175)	-	-	-
Closing loss allowance at 30 June	325,400	-	-	-	-	-

Trade, other receivables and contract assets are written off where there is no reasonable expectation of recovery. Indicators that there is no reasonable expectation of recovery include, amongst others, the failure of a debtor to engage in a repayment plan with the Shire, and a failure to make contractual payments for a period of greater than 120 days past due.

Impairment losses on rates and statutory receivables, trade, other receivables and contract assets are presented as net impairment losses within other expenditure. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against the same line item.

Contract Assets

The Shire's contract assets represent work completed, which have not been invoiced at year end. This is due to the Shire not having met all the performance obligations in the contract which give an unconditional right to receive consideration. The Shire applies the simplified approach to measure expected credit losses which uses a lifetime expected loss allowance for all contract assets. To measure the expected credit losses, contract assets have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due. Contract assets have substantially the same risk characteristics as the trade receivables for the same types of contracts. The Shire has therefore concluded that the expected loss rates for trade receivables are a reasonable approximation of the loss rates for the contract assets.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

20. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

(c) Liquidity risk

Payables and borrowings

Payables and borrowings are both subject to liquidity risk – that is the risk that insufficient funds may be on hand to meet payment obligations as and when they fall due. The Shire manages this risk by monitoring its cash flow requirements and liquidity levels and maintaining an adequate cash buffer. Payment terms can be extended and overdraft facilities drawn upon if required and disclosed in Note 18(c).

The contractual undiscounted cash flows of the Shire's payables and borrowings are set out in the liquidity table below. Balances due within 12 months equal their carrying amounts, as the impact of discounting is not significant.

	Due within 1 year	Due between 1 & 5 years	Due after 5 years	Total contractual cash flows	Carrying amount
<u>2024</u>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Trade and other payables	3,154,396	-	-	3,154,396	3,154,396
Borrowings	461,774	832,545	721,856	2,016,175	2,016,175
Lease liabilities	22,292	76,535	-	98,827	89,120
	<u>3,638,462</u>	<u>909,080</u>	<u>721,856</u>	<u>5,269,398</u>	<u>5,259,691</u>
<u>2023</u>					
Trade and other payables	2,470,313	-	-	2,470,313	2,470,313
Borrowings	320,584	1,171,720	1,243,608	2,735,912	2,261,724
Lease liabilities	8,784	-	-	8,784	8,784
	<u>2,799,681</u>	<u>1,171,720</u>	<u>1,243,608</u>	<u>5,215,009</u>	<u>4,740,821</u>

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
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21. EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

Following the end of the financial year Regional Express Pty Ltd ("REX") was placed into voluntary administration.

As at 30 June 2024, REX made up \$434,336 of the Shire's trade receivables. In July 2024, the Shire received payments to the value of \$108,936 reducing the outstanding trade receivable figure to \$325,400.

As at 30 June 2024, the Shire had no indication that the amounts owed by REX would not be collected.

Subsequent to REX entering administration on 30 July 2024, the Shire has taken a conservative approach in its assessment, in that no material return to unsecured creditors is likely, and an allowance for credit losses related to the amounts owed by REX has been recognised in the Shire's financial statements.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

22. OTHER MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows.

b) Current and non-current classification

The asset or liability is classified as current if it is expected to be settled within the next 12 months, being the Shire's operational cycle. In the case of liabilities where the Shire does not have the unconditional right to defer settlement beyond 12 months, such as vested long service leave, the liability is classified as current even if not expected to be settled within the next 12 months. Inventories held for trading are classified as current or non-current based on the Shire's intentions to release for sale.

c) Rounding off figures

All figures shown in this annual financial report, other than a rate in the dollar, are rounded to the nearest dollar. Amounts are presented in Australian Dollars.

d) Comparative figures

Where required, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

When the Shire applies an accounting policy retrospectively, makes a retrospective restatement or reclassifies items in its financial statements that has a material effect on the statement of financial position, an additional (third) Statement of Financial Position as at the beginning of the preceding period in addition to the minimum comparative financial report is presented.

e) Budget comparative figures

Unless otherwise stated, the budget comparative figures shown in this annual financial report relate to the original budget estimate for the relevant item of disclosure.

f) Superannuation

The Shire contributes to a number of Superannuation Funds on behalf of employees. All funds to which the Shire contributes are defined contribution plans.

g) Fair value of assets and liabilities

Fair value is the price that the Shire would receive to sell the asset or would have to pay to transfer a liability, in an orderly (i.e. unforced) transaction between independent, knowledgeable and willing market participants at the measurement date.

As fair value is a market-based measure, the closest equivalent observable market pricing information is used to determine fair value. Adjustments to market values may be made having regard to the characteristics of the specific asset or liability. The fair values of assets that are not traded in an active market are determined using one or more valuation techniques. These valuation techniques maximise, to the extent possible, the use of observable market data.

To the extent possible, market information is extracted from either the principal market for the asset or liability (i.e. the market with the greatest volume and level of activity for the asset or liability) or, in the absence of such a market, the most advantageous market available to the entity at the end of the reporting period (i.e. the market that maximises the receipts from the sale of the asset after taking into account transaction costs and transport costs).

For non-financial assets, the fair value measurement also takes into account a market participant's ability to use the asset in its highest and best use or to sell it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

h) Interest revenue

Interest revenue is calculated by applying the effective interest rate to the gross carrying amount of a financial asset measured at amortised cost except for financial assets that subsequently become credit-impaired. For credit-impaired financial assets the effective interest rate is applied to the net carrying amount of the financial asset (after deduction of the loss allowance).

i) Fair value hierarchy

AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* requires the disclosure of fair value information by level of the fair value hierarchy, which categorises fair value measurement into one of three possible levels based on the lowest level that an input that is significant to the measurement can be categorised into as follows:

Level 1

Measurements based on quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

Level 2

Measurements based on inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3

Measurements based on unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

The fair values of assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market are determined using one or more valuation techniques. These valuation techniques maximise, to the extent possible, the use of observable market data. If all significant inputs required to measure fair value are observable, the asset or liability is included in Level 2. If one or more significant inputs are not based on observable market data, the asset or liability is included in Level 3.

Valuation techniques

The Shire selects a valuation technique that is appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available to measure fair value. The availability of sufficient and relevant data primarily depends on the specific characteristics of the asset or liability being measured. The valuation techniques selected by the Shire are consistent with one or more of the following valuation approaches:

Market approach

Valuation techniques that use prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions for identical or similar assets or liabilities.

Income approach

Valuation techniques that convert estimated future cash flows or income and expenses into a single discounted present value.

Cost approach

Valuation techniques that reflect the current replacement cost of the service capacity of an asset.

Each valuation technique requires inputs that reflect the assumptions that buyers and sellers would use when pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risks. When selecting a valuation technique, the Shire gives priority to those techniques that maximise the use of observable inputs and minimise the use of unobservable inputs. Inputs that are developed using market data (such as publicly available information on actual transactions) and reflect the assumptions that buyers and sellers would generally use when pricing the asset or liability are considered observable, whereas inputs for which market data is not available and therefore are developed using the best information available about such assumptions are considered unobservable.

j) Impairment of assets

In accordance with Australian Accounting Standards the Shire's assets, other than inventories, are assessed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication they may be impaired.

Where such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount except for non-financial assets that are:

- land and buildings classified as property, plant and equipment;
- infrastructure; or
- vested improvements that the local government controls, in circumstances where there has been an impairment indication of a general decrease in asset values.

These non-financial assets are assessed in accordance with the regulatory framework detailed in Note 10.

Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount in accordance with another Standard (e.g. AASB 116 *Property, Plant and Equipment*) whereby any impairment loss of a revalued asset is treated as a revaluation decrease in accordance with that other Standard.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
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23. FUNCTION AND ACTIVITY

(a) Service objectives and descriptions

Shire operations as disclosed in this financial report encompass the following service orientated functions and activities.

Objective	Description
Governance To provide a decision making process for the efficient allocation of scarce resources.	Includes the activities of members of Council (Councillors) and the administration support services available to the Council for the provision of governance of the district. Other costs relate to the tasks of assisting elected members and ratepayers on matters which do not concern specific services.
General purpose funding To collect revenue to allow for the provision of services.	Rates, general purpose government grants and interest revenue.
Law, order, public safety To provide services to help ensure a safer and environmentally conscious community.	Supervision and enforcement of various local laws relating to fire prevention, animal control and protection of the environment and other aspects of public safety including beaches and emergency services.
Health To provide an operational framework for good community health.	Inspection of food outlets and their control as well as provision of meat inspection services, noise control and waste disposal compliance.
Education and welfare To provide services to disadvantaged persons, the elderly, children and youth.	Maintenance of child minding centre, playgroup centre, senior citizens centre and aged care centre. Provision and maintenance of home and community care programs and youth support services.
Community amenities To provide services required by the community.	Rubbish collection services, operation of rubbish disposal sites, litter control, construction and maintenance of urban storm water drains, protection of the environment and administration of town planning schemes, cemetery and public conveniences.
Recreation and culture To establish and effectively manage infrastructure and resources which will help the social well being of the community.	Maintenance of public halls, civic centre, aquatic centre, beaches, recreation centre and various sporting facilities. Provision and maintenance of parks, gardens and playgrounds. Operations of library, museum and other cultural facilities.
Transport To provide safe, effective and efficient transport services to the community.	Construction and maintenance of roads, street, footpaths, depots, cycleways, parking facilities and traffic control. Cleaning of streets and maintenance of street trees, street lighting etc. Provision and operation of airport. Provision of licensing facilities.
Economic services To help promote the Shire and its economic well being.	Tourism and area promotion including the maintenance and operation of a caravan park. Provision of rural services including weed control, vermin control and standpipes. Building control.
Other property and services To monitor and control Council's overheads and operating accounts.	Private works, plant repair and operation costs and engineering operation costs.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

23. FUNCTION AND ACTIVITY (Continued)

(b) Income and expenses

	2024 Actual \$	2023 Actual \$
Income excluding grants, subsidies and contributions and capital grants, subsidies and contributions		
Governance	471,690	220,406
General purpose funding	27,970,274	25,113,759
Law, order, public safety	100,255	75,461
Health	71,595	74,227
Education and welfare	681,990	755,068
Community amenities	5,632,763	5,891,360
Recreation and culture	2,546,159	2,255,299
Transport	1,958,332	1,884,209
Economic services	648,846	697,650
Other property and services	622,666	1,723,201
	40,704,570	38,690,640
Grants, subsidies and contributions and capital grants, subsidies and contributions		
Governance	81,219	501,173
General purpose funding	7,202,385	9,192,259
Law, order, public safety	847,705	827,822
Health	1,724	61,497
Education and welfare	4,720,341	5,104,891
Community amenities	321,904	319,084
Recreation and culture	1,604,774	520,920
Transport	13,586,474	7,573,643
Economic services	72,768	123,353
Other property and services	259,000	182,567
	28,698,294	24,407,209
Total Income	69,402,864	63,097,849
Expenses		
Governance	(2,468,711)	(2,397,275)
General purpose funding	(610,204)	(394,593)
Law, order, public safety	(2,716,926)	(2,487,397)
Health	(475,493)	(480,990)
Education and welfare	(5,452,415)	(5,465,347)
Community amenities	(6,213,447)	(6,826,477)
Recreation and culture	(15,481,998)	(13,536,787)
Transport	(23,624,788)	(23,005,417)
Economic services	(2,144,727)	(2,112,644)
Other property and services	(1,520,926)	(1,387,718)
Total expenses	(60,709,635)	(58,094,645)
Net result for the period	8,693,229	5,003,204
(c) Total Assets		
Governance	7,191,487	32,445,118
General purpose funding	31,892,370	7,782,096
Law, order, public safety	7,887,566	8,555,734
Health	0	12,961
Education and welfare	8,283,424	7,962,934
Community amenities	18,466,758	16,460,685
Recreation and culture	79,941,186	84,700,075
Transport	573,863,198	567,744,040
Economic services	235,415	625,997
Other property and services	8,494,608	7,980,226
Unallocated	20,695,039	13,921,817
	756,951,051	748,191,683

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

24. RATING INFORMATION

(a) General Rates

RATE TYPE		Rate in	Number of	2023/24 Actual Rateable Value*	2023/24 Actual Rate Revenue	2023/24 Actual Interim Rates	2023/24 Actual Total Revenue	2023/24 Budget Rate Revenue	2023/24 Budget Interim Rate	2023/24 Budget Total Revenue	2022/23 Actual Total Revenue
Rate Description	Basis of valuation	\$	Properties	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
GRV Residential	Gross rental valuation	0.114809	3,943	66,444,954	7,651,890	89,606	7,741,496	7,656,654	35,011	7,691,665	7,174,305
GRV - Commercial/Industrial	Gross rental valuation	0.114809	415	27,441,709	3,150,558	98,576	3,249,134	3,145,794	-	3,145,794	2,953,821
GRV - Vacant	Gross rental valuation	0.114809	79	1,543,435	177,200	(1,783)	175,417	177,200	-	177,200	166,043
UV - Rural	Unimproved valuation	0.004392	986	2,430,106,000	10,673,730	(59,181)	10,614,549	10,673,730	-	10,673,730	9,947,640
Total general rates			5,423	2,525,536,098	21,653,378	127,218	21,780,596	21,653,378	35,011	21,688,389	20,241,809
Minimum payment											
				\$							
GRV Residential	Gross rental valuation	1,356	1,373	13,214,693	1,861,788	(7,447)	1,854,341	1,860,432	-	1,860,432	1,739,924
GRV - Commercial/Industrial	Gross rental valuation	1,356	61	425,015	82,716	6,424	89,140	84,072	-	84,072	79,564
GRV - Vacant	Gross rental valuation	1,356	526	2,613,400	713,256	(46,058)	667,198	707,832	-	707,832	657,919
UV - Rural	Unimproved valuation	1,375	204	35,877,300	280,501	1,935	282,436	279,125	-	279,125	199,959
UV Commercial/Industrial	Unimproved valuation	1,375	3	400,491	4,125	-	4,125	5,501	-	5,501	197,205
UV-Mining	Unimproved valuation	1,375	165	3,536,764	226,875	3,530	230,405	229,625	-	229,625	5,093
Total minimum payments			2,332	56,067,663	3,169,261	(41,616)	3,127,645	3,166,587	-	3,166,587	2,879,664
Total general rates and minimum payments			7,755	2,581,603,761	24,822,639	85,602	24,908,241	24,819,965	35,011	24,854,976	23,121,473
Ex-gratia Rates and prepaid rates											
CBH Storage Facilities		N/A	-	-	397,936	-	397,936	397,936	-	397,936	352,802
Prepaid Rates		N/A	-	-	142,511	-	142,511	100,000	-	100,000	178,295
Total amount raised from rates (excluding general rates)			-	-	540,447	-	540,447	497,936	-	497,936	531,097
Discounts							(16,282)			(16,282)	(17,199)
Total Rates							25,432,406			25,336,630	23,635,371
Rate instalment interest							65,972			60,000	33,633
Rate overdue interest							2,809			19,000	13,195

The rate revenue was recognised from the rate record as soon as practicable after the Shire resolved to impose rates in the financial year as well as when the rate record was amended to ensure the information in the record was current and correct.

*Rateable Value at time of raising of rate.

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25. DETERMINATION OF SURPLUS OR DEFICIT

		2023/24 Budget (30 June 2024 Carried Forward)	2023/24 (1 July 2023 Brought Forward)	2022/23 (30 June 2023 Carried Forward)
Note		\$	\$	\$
(a) Non-cash amounts excluded from operating activities				
The following non-cash revenue or expenditure has been excluded from amounts attributable to operating activities within the Statement of Financial Activity in accordance with <i>Financial Management Regulation 32</i> .				
Adjustments to operating activities				
		(503,134)	(672,538)	(1,572,415)
		(56,394)	216,484	(755,926)
		24,539	130,124	56,443
	8(a)	2,765	-	-
	10(a)	22,658,326	25,435,663	21,492,577
Non-cash movements in non-current assets and liabilities:				
		(8,665)	5,000	(3,949)
		32,049	100,000	165,732
		239,355		290,498
		(10,187)	14,321	(5,767)
		-	(1,514,321)	943,838
		22,378,654	23,714,733	20,611,031
Non-cash amounts excluded from operating activities				
(b) Non-cash amounts excluded from investing activities				
The following non-cash revenue or expenditure has been excluded from amounts attributable to investing activities within the Statement of Financial Activity in accordance with <i>Financial Management Regulation 32</i> .				
Adjustments to investing activities				
	11(a)	99,307	-	-
		-	1,500,000	-
		99,307	1,500,000	-
Non-cash amounts excluded from investing activities				
(c) Non-cash amounts excluded from financing activities				
The following non-cash revenue or expenditure has been excluded from amounts attributable to financing activities within the Statement of Financial Activity in accordance with <i>Financial Management Regulation 32</i> .				
Adjustments to financing activities				
	26(b)	(99,307)	-	-
		(99,307)	-	-
Non-cash amounts excluded from financing activities				
(d) Surplus or deficit after imposition of general rates				
The following current assets and liabilities have been excluded from the net current assets used in the Statement of Financial Activity in accordance with <i>Financial Management Regulation 32</i> to agree to the surplus/(deficit) after imposition of general rates.				
Adjustments to net current assets				
	27	(40,139,885)	(24,074,890)	(39,107,270)
	4(a)	(404,455)	(494,457)	(190,736)
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	6	(800,000)	(500,000)	(985,354)
Add: Current liabilities not expected to be cleared at end of year				
		461,774	1,301,776	245,549
	14	10,186	213	8,784
	11(b)	-	1,500,000	-
		1,819,147	2,250,652	1,876,941
		(39,053,233)	(20,016,706)	(38,152,086)
Total adjustments to net current assets				
Net current assets used in the Statement of Financial Activity				
		53,296,015	31,966,422	52,063,680
		(10,022,873)	(11,971,716)	(9,836,333)
		(39,053,233)	(20,016,706)	(38,152,086)
		4,219,909	(22,000)	4,075,261
Surplus or deficit after imposition of general rates				

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26. BORROWING AND LEASE LIABILITIES

(a) Borrowings

Purpose	Note	Actual							Budget			
		Principal			Principal at 30 June 2023	Principal			Principal at 1 July 2023	Principal		
		Principal at 1 July 2022	New Loans During 2022-23	Repayments During 2022-23		New Loans During 2023-24	Repayments During 2023-24	Principal at 30 June 2024		New Loans During 2023-24	Repayments During 2023-24	Principal at 30 June 2024
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Shark Lake Industrial Park		728,206	-	(52,417)	675,789	-	(54,813)	620,976	675,789	-	(54,813)	620,976
Total		728,206	-	(52,417)	675,789	-	(54,813)	620,976	675,789	-	(54,813)	620,976
Self Supporting Loans												
Pink Lake Country Club		6,183	-	(6,183)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recherche Aged Welfare		202,663	-	(18,599)	184,064	-	(19,810)	164,254	184,065	-	(19,811)	164,254
Esperance Bay Yacht Club		276,263	-	(18,281)	257,982	-	(19,209)	238,773	257,982	-	(19,208)	238,774
Newtown Condingup Football Club		38,153	-	(5,888)	32,265	-	(6,069)	26,196	32,265	-	(6,069)	26,196
Esperance Bay Yacht Club		18,833	-	(12,473)	6,360	-	(6,360)	-	6,360	-	(6,360)	-
Gibson Football Club		82,940	-	(40,964)	41,976	-	(41,975)	1	41,976	-	(41,975)	1
Condingup District Recreation Association		404,548	-	(48,376)	356,172	-	(48,813)	307,359	356,170	-	(48,813)	307,357
Esperance Tennis Club		15,046	-	(4,985)	10,061	-	(5,015)	5,046	10,061	-	(5,015)	5,046
Esperance Bay Yacht Club		739,534	-	(42,479)	697,055	-	(43,485)	653,570	697,054	-	(43,485)	653,569
Total Self Supporting Loans		1,784,163	-	(198,228)	1,585,935	-	(190,736)	1,395,199	1,585,933	-	(190,736)	1,395,197
Total Borrowings	14	2,512,369	-	(250,645)	2,261,724	-	(245,549)	2,016,175	2,261,722	-	(245,549)	2,016,173

Self supporting loans are financed by payments from third parties. These are shown in Note 4 as other financial assets at amortised cost.

All other loan repayments were financed by general purpose revenue.

Borrowing Finance Cost Payments

Purpose	Loan Number	Institution	Interest Rate	Date final payment is due	Actual for year ending 30 June 2024	Budget for year ending 30 June 2024	Actual for year ending 30 June 2023
Shark Lake Industrial Park	296	WATC	4.52%	28/06/2033	(34,545)	(34,550)	(37,248)
Total					(34,545)	(34,550)	(37,248)
Self Supporting Loans Finance Cost Payments							
Pink Lake Country Club	261	WATC	6.65%	12/07/2022	-	-	(101)
Recherche Aged Welfare	291	WATC	6.36%	30/12/2030	(11,833)	(12,484)	(13,775)
Esperance Squash Club	292	WATC	6.05%	15/12/2020	-	-	89
Esperance Bay Yacht Club	295	WATC	5.01%	26/08/2033	(13,245)	(14,059)	(15,129)
Newtown Condingup Football Club	299	WATC	3.05%	27/06/2028	(1,050)	(1,043)	(1,374)
Esperance Bay Yacht Club	300	WATC	2.63%	04/12/2023	(64)	(43)	(442)
Gibson Football Club	301	WATC	2.47%	23/01/2024	(733)	(754)	(2,063)
Condingup District Recreation Association	302	WATC	0.90%	05/06/2025	(4,316)	(5,481)	(6,234)
Esperance Tennis Club	303	WATC	0.61%	30/04/2025	(92)	(116)	(187)
Esperance Bay Yacht Club	304	WATC	2.35%	13/01/2037	(18,158)	(19,144)	(21,762)
Total Self Supporting Loans Finance Cost Payments					(49,491)	(53,124)	(60,978)
Total Finance Cost Payments					(84,036)	(87,674)	(98,226)

* WA Treasury Corporation

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

26. BORROWING AND LEASE LIABILITIES (Continued)

(b) Lease Liabilities

Actual									Budget			
Purpose	Note	Principal at 1 July 2022	New Leases During 2022-23	Principal Repayments During 2022-23	Principal at 30 June 2023	New Leases During 2023-24	Principal Repayments During 2023-24	Principal at 30 June 2024	Principal at 1 July 2023	New Leases During 2023-24	Principal Repayments During 2023-24	Principal at 30 June 2024
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Gym equipment		22,900	-	(17,133)	5,767		(5,767)	-	5,767	-	(5,767)	-
Motor vehicle		8,989	-	(5,972)	3,017		(3,017)	-	3,230	-	(3,017)	213
Gym Equipment		-	-	-	-	99,307	(10,187)	89,120	-	-	-	-
Total Lease Liabilities	11(b)	31,889	-	(23,105)	8,784	99,307	(18,971)	89,120	8,997	-	(8,784)	213
Lease Finance Cost Payments												
Purpose	Lease Number	Institution	Interest Rate	Date final payment is due	Actual for year ending 30 June 2024	Budget for year ending 30 June 2024	Actual for year ending 30 June 2023	Lease Term				
					\$	\$	\$					
Gym equipment		Maia Financial	1.40%	31/10/2023	(14)	(14)	(210)	60 months				
Motor vehicle		Toyota Fleet	1.40%	31/12/2023	(12)	(12)	(85)	27 months				
Gym Equipment		Maia Financial	4.58%	31/12/2028	(2,446)	-	-	60 months				
Total Finance Cost Payments					(2,472)	(26)	(295)					

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

27. RESERVE ACCOUNTS

	2024 Actual Opening Balance	2024 Actual Transfer to	2024 Actual Transfer (from)	2024 Actual Closing Balance	2024 Budget Opening Balance	2024 Budget Transfer to	2024 Budget Transfer (from)	2024 Budget Closing Balance	2023 Actual Opening Balance	2023 Actual Transfer to	2023 Actual Transfer (from)	2023 Actual Closing Balance
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Restricted by council												
(a) Employee Entitlements Long Service Leave	1,308,314	61,160	-	1,369,474	1,308,314	31,714	-	1,340,028	1,204,562	103,752	-	1,308,314
(b) Land Purchase and Development	4,753,852	819,955	(1,532,811)	4,040,996	4,753,852	1,265,232	(4,458,079)	1,561,005	4,159,764	3,931,831	(3,337,743)	4,753,852
(c) Eastern Suburbs Water Pipeline	39,180	1,832	-	41,012	39,180	950	-	40,130	38,138	1,042	-	39,180
(d) Jetty	317,976	154,864	-	472,840	317,976	147,708	-	465,684	173,244	144,732	-	317,976
(e) Aerodrome	6,850,889	582,790	(284,362)	7,149,317	6,850,889	278,967	(737,000)	6,392,856	6,541,811	586,293	(277,215)	6,850,889
(f) Off Street Parking	557,726	26,072	-	583,798	557,726	13,519	-	571,245	543,406	14,320	-	557,726
(g) Sanitation (Rubbish Removal)	11,259,138	2,191,456	(1,177,778)	12,272,816	11,259,138	1,050,586	(3,592,007)	8,717,717	9,976,260	1,657,522	(374,644)	11,259,138
(h) EHC Asset Replacement	994,990	46,513	(449,901)	591,602	994,990	24,119	(484,342)	534,767	1,198,613	292,786	(496,409)	994,990
(i) Esperance Home Care Fundraising	743,736	272,998	-	1,016,734	743,736	18,028	-	761,764	357,890	385,846	-	743,736
(j) Unspent Grants and Contributions	8,168,376	7,178,017	(8,168,374)	7,178,019	8,168,376	-	(8,168,376)	-	6,220,287	8,168,376	(6,220,287)	8,168,376
(k) Plant Replacement	768,104	35,907	(170,800)	633,211	768,104	18,619	(170,800)	615,923	484,355	283,749	-	768,104
(l) Building Maintenance	2,086,654	1,108,779	(204,117)	2,991,316	2,086,654	305,795	(509,785)	1,882,664	1,644,550	589,368	(147,264)	2,086,654
(m) Governance and Workers Compensation	43,752	182,045	(7,364)	218,433	43,752	81,061	(62,364)	62,449	77,632	82,120	(116,000)	43,752
(n) IT System and Process Development	44,025	52,058	(19,500)	76,583	44,025	51,067	(19,500)	75,592	61,544	1,681	(19,200)	44,025
(o) Esperance Home Care Annual Leave	318,826	14,904	-	333,730	318,826	7,728	-	326,554	296,438	22,388	-	318,826
(p) Esperance Home Care Long Service Leave	311,601	23,731	-	335,332	311,601	7,553	-	319,154	252,848	58,753	-	311,601
(q) Priority Projects	540,131	424,703	(130,162)	834,672	540,131	63,093	(195,866)	407,358	727,990	69,882	(257,741)	540,131
	39,107,270	13,177,784	(12,145,169)	40,139,885	39,107,270	3,365,739	(18,398,119)	24,074,890	33,959,332	16,394,441	(11,246,503)	39,107,270

In accordance with council resolutions or adopted budget in relation to each reserve account, the purpose for which the reserves are set aside and their anticipated date of use are as follows:

Name of reserve account	Purpose of the reserve account
Restricted by council	
(a) Employee Entitlements Long Service Leave	Established to fund a portion of future commitments for employee entitlements incurred as a result of employing staff and workers in relation to Long Service Leave. Home Care Long Service Leave Reserve specific to Esperance Home Care.
(b) Land Purchase and Development	Established to fund land improvement and sub-division development.
(c) Eastern Suburbs Water Pipeline	Established to provide funds to recycle waste water to recreation grounds. Funded by the proceeds from the sale of water to users.

(d) Jetty	Established to provide funds for maintenance and capital works of the main jetty at the Foreshore Headland. Funded from general purpose income and donations.
(e) Aerodrome	Established to fund future development and upgrades of airport facility. Funded by the annual surplus derived from operations of the airport.
(f) Off Street Parking	Established to provide funds for the future development of central business car parking in order to make provisions for future business expansion of the CBD. Funded by general purpose income and contributions.
(g) Sanitation (Rubbish Removal)	Established to fund the purchase of major sanitation equipment and for the future development of waste disposal facilities. Funded from the annual surplus derived from property rubbish disposal collection fees after expenses.
(h) EHC Asset Replacement	Established for the purpose of Esperance Home Care to hold annual depreciation reserved and surplus cash for the replacement of HACC and other externally funded assets in accordance with HACC guidelines.
(i) Esperance Home Care Fundraising	Established for the purpose of holding the net proceeds of volunteer fundraising activities relating to the operation of Esperance Home Care.
(j) Unspent Grants and Contributions	Established for the purpose of containing funds that are derived from unspent or prepaid grants and contributions from external parties.
(k) Plant Replacement	Established to minimise and if possible eliminate any need to rely upon loan finance or unreasonable rate increases to finance the acquisition of major plant items as per Council Policy. Funding is from general purpose income. Amounts allocated will be re-assessed annually in response to revision of the five year plant replacement program and the associated forward cost estimates.
(l) Building Maintenance	Established to hold unexpended funds from the Building Maintenance Program for the use of building maintenance and refurbishment of Council buildings.
(m) Governance and Workers Compensation	Established for the purpose of future workers compensation insurance costs under the performance based contribution scheme; or cyclical gross rental valuation cost for rating purposes; or unforeseen legal costs.
(n) IT System and Process Development	Established to finance the acquisition and enhancement of information technology across the Shire. Ongoing appropriations from the Municipal Fund are provided as and when needed.
(o) Esperance Home Care Annual Leave	Established to fund future commitments for annual leave entitlements as a result of employing staff. Funded from external grant funding.
(p) Esperance Home Care Long Service Leave	Established to fund future commitments for long service leave entitlements as a result of employing staff. Funded from external grant funding.
(q) Priority Projects	Established to fund sufficient capacity to assist with the design, construction and operation of priority projects as determined by Council.

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

28. TRUST FUNDS

Funds held at balance date which are required to be held in trust and which are not included in the financial statements are as follows:

	1 July 2023	Amounts Received	Amounts Paid	30 June 2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Contributions to Public Open Space	203,130	8,880	-	212,010
Other Deposits	1,679	-	-	1,679
General Bonds - Interest Bearing	63,487	464,483	(43,000)	484,970
	268,296	473,363	(43,000)	698,659



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

2024

Shire of Esperance

To the Council of the Shire of Esperance

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of the Shire of Esperance (Shire) which comprises:

- the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2024, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows and Statement of Financial Activity for the year then ended
- Notes comprising a summary of material accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, the financial report is:

- based on proper accounts and records
- presents fairly, in all material respects, the results of the operations of the Shire for the year ended 30 June 2024 and its financial position at the end of that period
- in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) and, to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the Act, Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for opinion

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

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

Other information

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for the preparation and the Council for overseeing the other information. The other information is the information in the entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024, but not the financial report and my auditor's report.

My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I did not receive the other information prior to the date of this auditor's report. When I do receive it, I will read it and if I conclude that there is a material misstatement in this information, I am required to communicate the matter to the CEO and Council and request them to correct the misstated information. If the misstated information is not corrected, I may need to retract this auditor's report and re-issue an amended report.

Responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer and Council for the financial report

The CEO of the Shire is responsible for:

- keeping proper accounts and records
- preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the requirements of the Act, the Regulations and Australian Accounting Standards
- managing internal control as required by the CEO to ensure the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the CEO is responsible for:

- assessing the Shire's ability to continue as a going concern
- disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern
- using the going concern basis of accounting unless the State Government has made decisions affecting the continued existence of the Shire.

The Council is responsible for overseeing the Shire's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report. The objectives of my audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located on the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website. This description forms part of my auditor's report and can be found at https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf.

My independence and quality management relating to the report on the financial report

I have complied with the independence requirements of the *Auditor General Act 2006* and the relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements. In accordance with ASQM 1 *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements*, the Office of the Auditor General maintains a comprehensive system of quality management including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Matters relating to the electronic publication of the audited financial report

This auditor's report relates to the financial report of the Shire of Esperance for the year ended 30 June 2024 included in the annual report on the Shire's website. The Shire's management is responsible for the integrity of the Shire's website. This audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the Shire's website. The auditor's report refers only to the financial report. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the annual report. If users of the financial report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from publication on a website, they are advised to contact the Shire to confirm the information contained in the website version.

Carly Meagher
Acting Senior Director Financial Audit
Delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia
31 October 2024