

ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN & BUDGET 2026-2027



District Council of
ROBE

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Acknowledgement of Country

The District Council of Robe acknowledges that we are on the traditional lands of the Boandik people and we respect their spiritual relationship with their Country. We also acknowledge the Boandik people's deep feelings of attachment and relationship with this land and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Boandik people today.



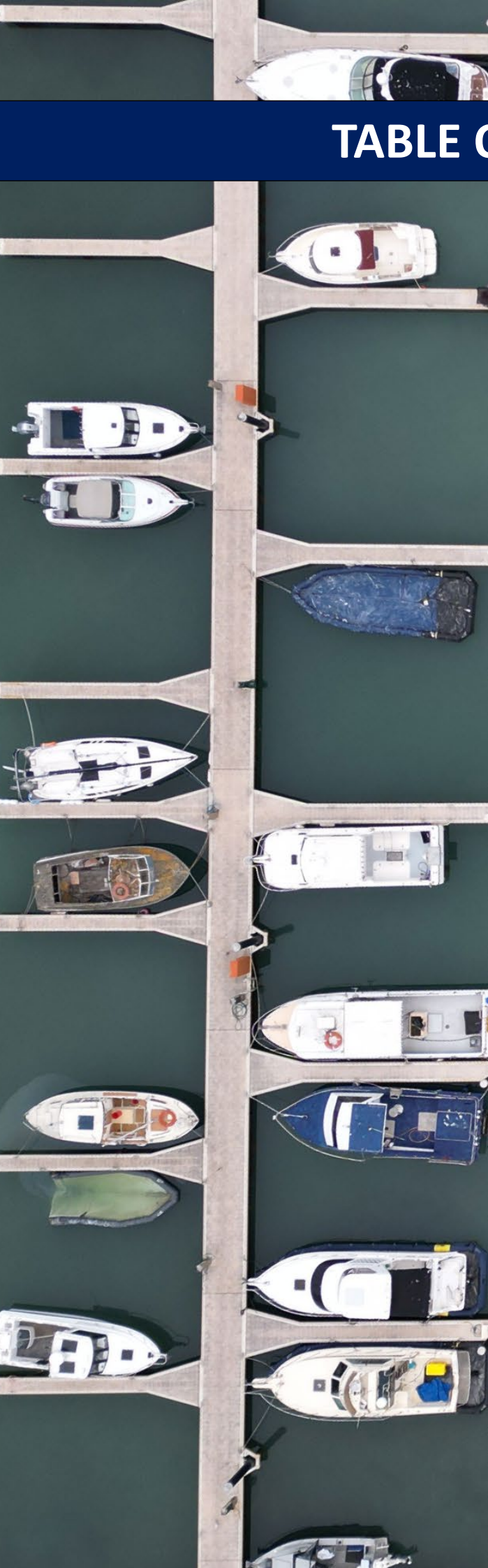


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ABOUT THIS PLAN

This Annual Business Plan shows how Council will allocate its budget and what services, programs and projects will be delivered in the coming year to achieve specific outcomes set by Council and the community.

Under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act), Council is required to have a budget for each financial year. The budget must be considered as part of the Council's Annual Business Plan and must be adopted before 31 August each financial year.

The Annual Business Plan must:

- include a summary of the Council's long-term objectives (as set out within its Strategic Management Plans);
- include an outline of;
 - the Council's objectives for the financial year;
 - the activities that the Council intends to undertake to achieve those objectives; and
 - the measures (financial and non-financial) which the Council intends to use to assess the performance of the Council against its objectives over the financial year;
- set out the rating structure and policies for the financial year;
- assess the financial requirements of the Council for the financial year and taking those requirements into account, set out a summary of its proposed operating expenditure, capital expenditure and sources of revenue;
- assess the impact of the rating structure and policies on the community, based on rate modelling that has been undertaken or obtained by the Council; and
- consider the Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and relevant issues relating to the management and development of infrastructure and major assets by the Council.



PUBLIC CONSULTATION & STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENTS

Before the Council adopted its Annual Business Plan, a public consultation campaign in accordance with Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1999 and the Council's Public Consultation Policy was undertaken. The details on the Public Consultation campaign are below.

CONSULTATION

The public consultation period for the Draft Annual Business Plan (the Plan) 2026-2027 was from 30 April 2026 until 29 May 2026.

As part of the consultation, the Plan was made available on Council's Website and promoted through Council's Community Newsletter, Facebook Page and The Border Watch. Printed copies of the Plan were also made available at the Council Office and the Robe Public Library and Visitor Information Centre throughout the consultation period.

PUBLIC MEETING

A Public Meeting was held on 25 May 2026 at 6:00pm in the Robe Institute, where verbal submissions were heard.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENTS

Section 123(6a) of the *Local Government Act 1999* requires Council to include a statement outlining the significant amendments made to the Annual Business Plan following public consultation and the reasons for those amendments.

In addition to the amendments outlined below, minor formatting, grammatical and administrative changes have been made throughout the document. Financial figures have also been updated throughout the document to reflect the amendments made to the adopted budget.

The following significant amendments were made following public consultation and Council's consideration of the submissions received, together with subsequent Council deliberations and updated financial information.

Rates	Higher than anticipated rates growth enabled Council to reduce the proposed additional budget repair increase from 2.5% to 1.3%, while maintaining the adopted total rates revenue increase of 7.4%.
Operating Income	- Operating income was increased by \$40,000 through amendments to Council's previously adopted Fees and Charges Schedule, including a 10% increase to most fees and charges and revised boat ramp fees. - Projected tourism sales revenue was increased by \$10,000. - Investment income was increased by \$68,000.
Operating Expenditure	- Employee costs were reduced by \$231,352 through the removal of budget funding for the Parks & Gardens Team Leader and Transport Team Leader positions, which became vacant during the public consultation period, together with reductions in administration hours and after-hours on-call arrangements. - Governance and strategic planning consultancy expenditure was reduced by \$85,000. - Human resources consultancy expenditure of \$10,000 was removed.

	• The Arts and Culture budget was increased by \$25,000 to include the previously endorsed <i>Out of the Frame</i> public art project. • The \$10,000 allocation for tree planting was deferred to future years of the LTFP. • The \$26,000 allocation for line marking was removed from 2026-2027 and reprogrammed as a biannual allocation in the LTFP.
Capital Works Program	• Capital works projects totalling \$1,190,961 were carried forward from 2025/2026 into 2026/2027 following Budget Review 3. These projects include sealed roads, footpaths, the airfield runway extension and a light vehicle replacement. • The \$200,000 Davenport Link construction project was removed. • The \$100,000 Council Office/Chambers bathroom upgrade project was removed. • The \$150,000 Robe Foreshore public toilet renewal project was deferred. • The \$115,000 Long Beach accessible boardwalk project was removed. • The \$50,000 Lake Butler Marina lighting and landscaping was removed. • Budget for the Administration Building/Medical Centre backup generator was reduced from \$80,000 to \$45,000.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The year ahead will see the District Council of Robe continue to focus on maintaining essential infrastructure, delivering core services and progressing the priorities that matter most to our community.

Alongside delivering core services and infrastructure, Council continues to advocate strongly for several strategic priorities that are critical to Robe's future. Foremost among these is the delivery of a sustainable early learning and childcare solution for our community.

Council will also continue to advocate for support for coastal adaptation initiatives, housing and community infrastructure, and improvements that strengthen Robe's town centre and visitor economy. During the year, Council will also prepare for South Australia's next periodic Local Government elections, which will now be held in April 2027. Supporting a smooth election process and preparing for the induction of the newly elected Council will remain an important organisational priority.

This Annual Business Plan has been developed during a period of significant financial challenge, including ongoing cost of living pressures affecting households and businesses, as well as uncertainty around fuel supply and fuel costs. It reflects Council's commitment to restoring long-term financial sustainability while continuing to deliver the services, infrastructure and facilities our community relies upon. Following extensive community consultation and careful consideration of the feedback received, Council has adopted a budget that balances affordability for ratepayers with the need to maintain essential services, renew ageing infrastructure and responsibly plan for the future.

Robe is a unique coastal community with a proud history, outstanding natural assets and a strong sense of identity. As a town that experiences significant seasonal population change, careful planning remains essential to ensure we can meet local needs while preserving the character and lifestyle that make Robe so special.

We thank everyone who participated in the public consultation process and provided feedback on the draft Annual Business Plan. Community input plays an important role in Council's decision-making and has assisted in shaping the priorities reflected in this adopted Plan.

Finally, we thank our Council Members, staff, volunteers, community organisations and residents for their ongoing commitment to Robe. Your contribution plays an important role in supporting a strong, resilient and connected community. We look forward to working together to deliver the initiatives outlined in this Annual Business Plan over the coming year.

Kind regards,

Chief Executive Officer, Nat Traeger



YOUR COUNCIL

The Mayor and Council Members are elected by the local community to represent the interests and needs of the community. They provide leadership & guidance and facilitate communication between the community and the Council.

The District Council of Robe comprises the Mayor and six Council Members who play an important role, in identifying community needs and planning and setting strategic goals to meet those needs.



MAYOR LISA RUFFELL



DEPUTY MAYOR NICK BROWN



CR MARCIA DENING



CR DAVID LAURIE



CR KYLIE PEEL



CR NED WRIGHT



CR DUNCAN YOUNG

OUR COMMUNITY

The District Council of Robe encompasses 1,091.7km² and at the time of the 2021 Census of Population and Housing, was home to 1,542 people, approximately 75% of whom live in the township of Robe. Established in 1846, Robe is located within the traditional lands of the Boandik and Meintangk people, who have made it their home for tens of thousands of years.

In its early days of European settlement, Robe was the maritime and commercial hub for the Limestone Coast and its rural hinterland. Significant volumes of wool were exported from the port of Robe to Britain, and it also served as a port of entry for large numbers of Chinese immigrants journeying onto the goldfields of Victoria. After the establishment of rival ports and the decline of the pastoral industry, Robe fell into decline and reinvented itself over the 20th century as a coastal holiday destination, commercial fishing (particularly rock lobster) port and surfing town.

Today, Robe is a popular tourist town, with a population that increases significantly during the summer months and holidays. Whilst there was a total of 1,571 dwellings in the town of Robe at the time of the 2021 Census (mid-winter), only 39% were occupied, which is indicative of a high proportion of holiday homes. Robe also has numerous tourist accommodation options and supporting facilities.

The Robe rural hinterland remains significant for sheep and cattle grazing and crop growing with some viticulture, and forestry. These industries, coupled with commercial fishing are the highest employers of Robe residents at 18.5% at the time of the last census.



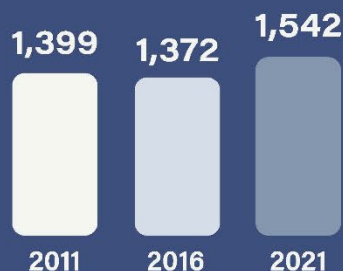


1,542

Population 2021

12.1%

Population Increase 2016-2021



Population Change



Heritage Places

30

STATE

50

LOCAL

District Council of
ROBE

1,091.7km²



1,571

Total Private Dwellings

923 (58.8%)

Unoccupied Private Dwellings

\$1,200

Median Monthly Mortgage
Repayment

\$1,220

Median Household Weekly
Income



767

Residents in the labour force

18.5%

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

16.9%

Accommodation and food services

11.6%

Construction

9.0%

Retail



13.9%

Aged Under 15 Years

33.3%

Residents Volunteer

52

Median Age

28.6%

Aged 65+ Years

58

People need help
due to a disability



363

Residential Dwellings
Approved in 2022-2023

\$30.1M

Value of agricultural
production

\$11.3M

Direct and Indirect
Output from Tourism

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025-2026

- Disposal of unused vacant land at Apex Lane with sale proceeds allocated to the acquisition of an investment property to house doctors and professional medical support employees.
- Transition of a new medical practice, Robe Family Practice, into the Council owned medical centre.
- Foreshore Playground Update.
- Hosted a successful 'Engaging in Ageing' Expo in October 2025 at the Robe Institute, as part of SA Health's Week of Ageing Well.
- Secured a new licence over a portion of Drain L adjacent to Woakwine Conservation Park and progressed an updated, combined Robe Lakes & Drain L Community Land Management Plan to support inclusion of a new trail within the Robe Trails Strategy 2026–2036.
- Developed and adopted a new Public Art Strategy 2025–2030, supported by a new Public Art Policy to guide the consistent planning, commissioning and management of public art across the district, and to better integrate public art into Council projects, public spaces and placemaking initiatives.
- Endorsement of a new 20-year lease (with a further 20-year renewal option) over the Council-owned golf course land for the Robe Golf Club.
- Finalised a completed and up-to-date suite of asset management plans with the endorsement of a Roads and Civil Asset Management Plan 2025-2035.
- Delivered a new aviation fuel facility at the Robe Aerodrome in partnership with Skyfuel, improving access for visiting aircraft, supporting emergency response capability and strengthening regional connectivity.
- Completed community consultation and endorsed the introduction of seasonal 2-hour timed parking across the Victoria Street precinct and surrounding streets, along with a 40km/h speed zone to improve safety and support a more pedestrian-friendly town centre.
- Progressed extensive investigations into the future of the Obelisk, including technical studies, concept design, siting and community consultation. Council endorsed further investigation of a replica at an alternative site and commenced discussions with State Government regarding land tenure and approvals.



LAKE BUTLER MARINA REVITALISATION

Lake Butler Marina delivered one of Council's most significant economic and strategic achievements for the year, with a strong berth sales campaign focused particularly on the Commercial and Karatta arms. This followed the introduction of a new 35-year underlease model, providing greater flexibility around vessel types and clearer, more contemporary lease arrangements for berth holders.

Council also transitioned away from general short-term mooring from 30 June 2025, retaining only the required 5% allocation for genuine cruising or touring vessels under a formal policy framework. This strengthened the exclusivity and integrity of berth ownership, supporting long-term investment confidence and improving the marina's commercial position.

This work was supported by broader policy and governance reform, including clarification of how administration fee revenue can be applied across marina operations, capital improvements and legacy assets. Together, these changes have strengthened the marina's financial position and reinforced Robe's role as a working port and regional marine service hub.

- **24 berths sold in 2025-2026**
- **\$1.82 million in premiums received**
- **30 remain for sale**

The marina reform program has improved financial performance, strengthened confidence in berth ownership and positioned Lake Butler Marina for long-term sustainability.



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND FRAMEWORK

Council's Strategic Plan 2024–2028 continues to guide decision-making, service delivery and long-term planning across the organisation. Rather than remaining static, the Plan is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure it reflects emerging priorities and community needs.

During 2025–2026, Council undertook a formal six-monthly review of the Strategic Plan and endorsed several key updates to strengthen its relevance and application.

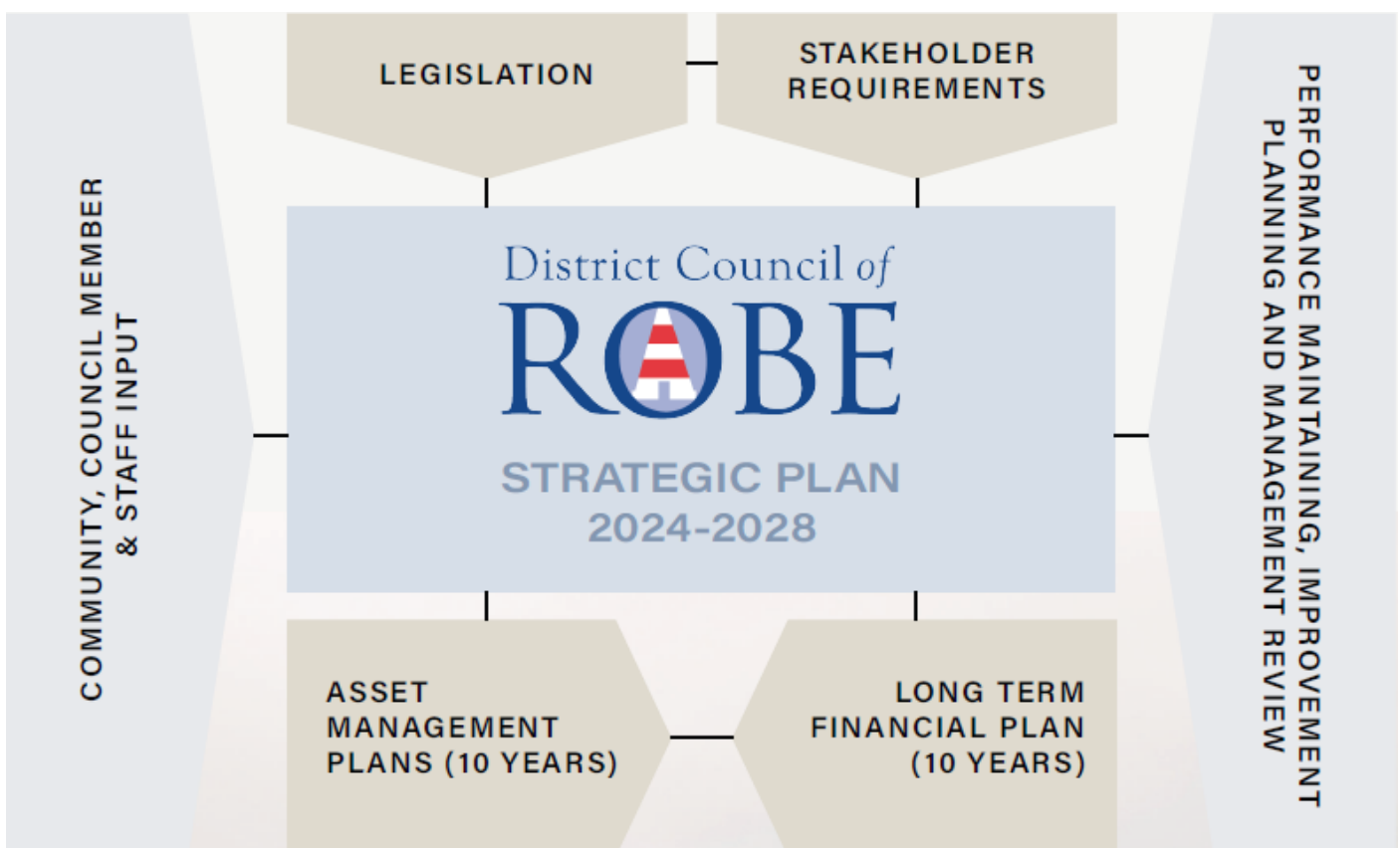
These included:

- Expanding Council's commitment to public art through the inclusion of a new Priority Action to incorporate and implement the Public Art Strategy 2025–2030, embedding public art into capital projects and community spaces
- Strengthening Council's approach to early childhood by broadening the focus from childcare to Early Childhood Education and Care Services, recognising the importance of a more integrated and long-term solution
- Enhancing Council's commitment to disability access and inclusion through amendments aligned with the development of Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

These updates reflect Council's commitment to continuous improvement and ensuring the Strategic Plan remains responsive, contemporary and aligned with both community expectations and Council's evolving role.

The Strategic Plan continues to provide a clear framework for Council's priorities, structured around six key directions:

- Strategic Direction 1 – Plan for Liveability
- Strategic Direction 2 – Grow Entrepreneurial Spirit and Economy
- Strategic Direction 3 – Promote History and Heritage
- Strategic Direction 4 – Protect our Natural Environment and Coastline
- Strategic Direction 5 – Enhance Appearance and Function
- Strategic Direction 6 – Council's Organisational Response



SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCES & PRIORITIES

Several significant factors have influenced the preparation of Council's 2026-2027 Annual Business Plan.

These include:

- Ongoing need for budget repair to ensure long-term financial sustainability, including addressing historical structural deficits and aligning revenue with the true cost of service delivery
- The Financial Assistance Grant formula continues to disadvantage Council, with Robe receiving the lowest per capita allocation in South Australia, placing additional pressure on rate revenue to fund core services
- The complexity and extent of Council's coastline, requiring ongoing investment in coastal protection, adaptation planning and asset management in response to coastal processes and climate impacts
- The ongoing impacts of the 2025 storm events, including damage to coastal infrastructure, increased maintenance requirements and the need for continued recovery and resilience planning
- Seasonal population fluctuations continue to place pressure on infrastructure, service delivery and staffing capacity, particularly during peak tourism periods
- Fuel supply disruptions and price volatility are increasing costs for Council operations, contractors and key local industries

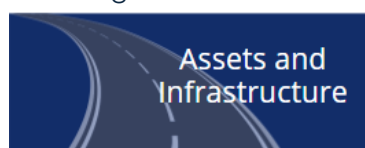


COUNCIL SERVICES

All Councils have mandatory responsibilities under the Local Government Act 1999, and other relevant legislation, including:

- Regulatory activities e.g. compliance, authorised officers, bylaws, dogs and fines
- Setting rates, preparing an Annual Budget and determining longer-term strategic management plans for the area
- Management of basic infrastructure including roads, footpaths, parks, public open space, street lighting and storm-water drainage
- Street cleaning and rubbish collection
- Development planning and control, including building safety assessment
- Various environmental health services

In response to community needs, Council also provides further services and programs including:



- Asset Management
- Roads, Kerbs and Footpaths
- Traffic Management
- Plant & Machinery
- Stormwater
- CWMS
- Open Space Assets
- Coastal Management
- Cemetery



- Parks, Reserves & Playgrounds
- Sport & Recreational Facilities
- Boat Ramp & Marina
- Airfield



- Community Events support
- Tourism promotion
- Public Library
- Visitor Information Centre
- Community Programs
- Community Assistance Fund
- Childcare Service



- Kerbside Waste Collection
- Public Waste Bins
- Waste Transfer Station



- Building Regulation
- Planning & Development
- Public Order & Safety
- Fire Prevention
- Dog & Cat Management
- Parking
- Environmental Health
- Heritage Advisor



- Governance & Legal Compliance
- Administration & Customer Service
- Financial Management
- Records Management
- Information

Council also provides the following facilities on a fee for service (but not necessarily at full cost recovery). These provide important community benefits while also generating revenue for services and projects of benefit to the District Council of Robe, including:

- Medical Centre
- Robe Institute
- Community Wastewater Management Scheme
- Recreational Boat Ramp
- Marine Straddle Carrier
- Waste Transfer Station

CAPITAL PROJECTS

CAPITAL PROJECTS 2026/27								
PROJECT TITLE	CARRIED FORWARD FROM 25/26 (approved in BR3)	RENEWALS AS PER ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS	BROUGHT FORWARD RENEWALS	NEW/ UPGRADED ASSETS	TOTAL	REMOVED/ DEFERRED	STRATEGIC PLAN LINK	PROJECT DETAILS
TOTALS	\$ 1,190,961	\$ 2,782,648	\$ 132,102	\$ 45,000	\$ 4,150,711	\$ 650,000		
INFRASTRUCTURE								
Unsealed Roads								
Brewer Road - 0.23 Kms		\$ 9,477			\$ 9,477		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Start To End - 0.23kms
Fayrefield Lane - 2.11 Kms		\$ 88,875			\$ 88,875		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Start To End - 2.11kms
Flints Road - 1.82 Kms		\$ 76,658			\$ 76,658		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Murraup Road To Council boundary - 1.82kms
Kangaroo Hill Road - 6.41 Kms		\$ 314,987			\$ 314,987		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Start To End - 6.41kms
Old Naracoorte Road - A - 6.6 Kms		\$ 324,324			\$ 324,324		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Boomaroo Park Road To The Springs Road - 6.6kms
Old Naracoorte Road - B - 20.1 Kms		\$ 987,714			\$ 987,714		6 – Council's Organisational Response	The Springs Road To Old Spots Road - 20.1kms
Powells Road - 5.6 Kms		\$ 275,184			\$ 275,184		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Nora Creina Road To Main South Eastern Road - 5.6kms
Sandy Lane - 1.64 Kms			\$ 92,102		\$ 92,102		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Start To End - Brought forward from 28/29 to 26/27 in AMP - 1.64kms
Sealed Roads								
Davenport Street - 238m		\$ 12,456			\$ 12,456		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Single Coat Reseal - Victoria Street To O'Halloran Street - 238m
Frome Street - 243m		\$ 18,973			\$ 18,973		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Single Coat Reseal - Hagen Street To Morphett Street - 243m
Davenport Street link construction - 152m						\$ 200,000	5 – Enhance Appearance & Function	Removed from 2026/27 budget as per Council resolution (18/2027).
Hateley Crescent - 113m	\$ 34,460				\$ 34,460		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Carried forward from 2025/26 as per Budget Review 3.
Dening Street - 292m	\$ 49,531				\$ 49,531		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Carried forward from 2025/26 as per Budget Review 3.
George Street - 90m	\$ 4,716				\$ 4,716		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Carried forward from 2025/26 as per Budget Review 3.
Footpaths & Kerbs					\$ -			
Robe Street Redevelopment	\$ 782,254				\$ 782,254		6 – Council's Organisational Response	On-hold awaiting outcome of RPPP Grant application. Carried forward from 2025/26 as per Budget Review 3.
Coastal Trail Realignment	\$ 250,000				\$ 250,000		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Currently awaiting further information regarding native title. Carried forward from 2025/26 as per Budget Review 3.
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	\$ 1,120,961	\$ 2,108,648	\$ 92,102	\$ -	\$ 3,321,711	\$ 200,000		
BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES								
Council Office/Chambers Bathroom Upgrade						\$ 100,000	1 – Plan for Liveability	DDA compliant bathroom upgrades - DAIP action. \$50k for upgrade in addition to AMP renewal budget. Removed from 2026/27 budget as per Council resolution (19/2027).
Robe Foreshore Toilets - Total Refurbishment						\$ 150,000	1 – Plan for Liveability	Council resolution (20/2027).
Robe Institute. De-rendering Smillie Street			\$ 30,000		\$ 30,000		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Brought forward from 2033-34 in AMP to 2026-27
Robe Airfield Runway Extension	\$ 15,000				\$ 15,000			Review 3.
TOTAL BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 45,000	\$ 250,000		
CWMS								
Lagoon Control System		\$ 50,000			\$ 50,000		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Level sensors and control systems
TOTAL CWMS	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ -		
OPEN SPACES								
Signage, Gate & Bench as per AMP		\$ 5,000			\$ 5,000		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Signs, gate, bench as per Open Space AMP
Long Beach Boardwalk						\$ 115,000	6 – Council's Organisational Response	Replace one boardwalk at 1st Ramp with Fibre Reinforced Polymer (FRP) ramp/boardwalk. Removed from 2026/27 budget as per Council resolution (21/2027).
TOTAL OPEN SPACES	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 115,000		

CAPITAL PROJECTS 2026/27								
PROJECT TITLE	CARRIED FORWARD FROM 25/26 (approved in BR3)	RENEWALS AS PER ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS	BROUGHT FORWARD RENEWALS	NEW/ UPGRADED ASSETS	TOTAL	REMOVED/ DEFERRED	STRATEGIC PLAN LINK	PROJECT DETAILS
LAKE BUTLER MARINA								
Carpark Lighting & Landscaping		\$ -				\$ 50,000	6 – Council's Organisational Response	\$443k Deferred to 27/28. \$50k to be used for lighting & landscaping.Removed from 2026/27 budget as per Council resolution (22/2027).
TOTAL LAKE BUTLER MARINA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000		
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS								
Council Member Laptops			\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Replacements not in AMP
Computer Replacements		\$ 20,000			\$ 20,000		6 - Council's Organisational Response	Annual computer replacements
TOTAL FURNITURE AND FITTINGS	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ -		
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT								
Replace P752 Hino Cab Chassis Truck		\$ 140,000			\$ 140,000		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Renewals as per Plant and Equipment Asset Management Plan
Replace P774 Hilux Workmate Highrider Single Cab Utility		\$ 53,000			\$ 53,000		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Renewals as per Plant and Equipment Asset Management Plan
Replace P775 Hilux 4x2 High Rider Turbo Diesel Single Cab Utility		\$ 51,000			\$ 51,000		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Renewals as per Plant and Equipment Asset Management Plan
Replace P790 Subaru Outback 2024 AWD Touring Wagon		\$ 55,000			\$ 55,000		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Renewals as per Plant and Equipment Asset Management Plan
Replace P737 Volvo Loader L50		\$ 300,000			\$ 300,000		6 – Council's Organisational Response	Renewals as per Plant and Equipment Asset Management Plan
Backup Generator for Administration Building/Medical Centre				\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 35,000	6 – Council's Organisational Response	Budget reduced from \$80k to \$45k as per Council Resolution (24/2027).
Replace P773 Subaru Outback Wagon (CCOWS)	\$ 55,000				\$ 55,000		6 - Council's Organisational Response	Anticipated trade in value \$22k. Carried forward from 2025/26 as per Budget Review 3.
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	\$ 55,000	\$ 599,000	\$ -	\$ 45,000	\$ 699,000	\$ 35,000		
TOTALS	\$ 1,190,961	\$ 2,782,648	\$ 132,102	\$ 45,000	\$ 4,150,711	\$ 650,000		

HOW COUNCIL WILL FUND THIS BUSINESS PLAN & HOW FUNDS WILL BE SPENT

The 2026-2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget has been prepared with the objective of sustaining a balanced provision of both statutory and discretionary services to the community. This aligns closely with the strategic objectives outlined in the Council's Strategic Plan 2024-2028.

Specifically, Strategic Direction 6, focusing on Priority Action 6.9 'Ensure the Council adopts and implements strategies that prioritise the generation of operating surpluses, with a focus on achieving costs, service level reviews, optimising financial performance, and exploring innovative funding models' which is intricately tied to the Community Aspiration of 'Well Planned Infrastructure.' This aspiration entails ensuring we have access to the services and facilities that our community needs to thrive, and we plan for infrastructure in a way that is financially sustainable, with long-term in mind. Notably, this approach has been crafted to effectively manage the guidance provided by ESCOSA.

Budget Repair Statement

During public consultation, Council proposed an additional budget repair increase of 2.5% above the combined impact of a CPI increase of 3.7% and rates growth of 1.2% in 2026–2027 to support budget repair and long-term financial sustainability.

Following the completion of the final rates modelling, higher than anticipated rates growth enabled Council to reduce the additional budget repair increase to 1.3%, while maintaining the adopted total rates revenue increase of 7.4%.

While Council remains committed to minimising the financial impact on ratepayers, the current financial environment continues to place significant pressure on Council's operating position. Cost increases in key areas such as materials, contracts, utilities and insurance are exceeding CPI, while revenue growth remains constrained.

This pressure is compounded by Council's comparatively low level of Financial Assistance Grant funding, which is significantly below that received by many councils of a similar size. This structural limitation reduces Council's capacity to absorb cost increases and places greater reliance on own-source revenue.

At the same time, Council must continue to meet its obligations to maintain infrastructure, deliver essential services, and respond to increasing regulatory and community expectations. In addition, Council is required under guidance from Essential Services Commission of South Australia to achieve and maintain a financially sustainable position, including a return to an operating surplus over time. This reinforces the need for Council to address its current operating position in a timely and structured manner.

Council's current financial position also limits its capacity to utilise borrowing as a funding tool. Sustainable borrowing is dependent on the ability to service debt from operating surpluses. Until an ongoing operating surplus is restored, the ability to responsibly take on additional debt to fund infrastructure and asset renewal remains constrained.

Without corrective action, these pressures would result in ongoing operating deficits, reduced capacity to renew and maintain assets, and an increasing risk to service levels over time.

The additional rate increase is therefore a necessary and measured step to strengthen Council's financial position and restore financial capacity.

HOW COUNCIL WILL FUND THIS BUSINESS PLAN & HOW FUNDS WILL BE SPENT

This increase will contribute to:

- restoring a sustainable operating surplus over the short term;
- ensuring adequate funding for asset renewal and maintenance in line with Council's Asset Management Plans; and
- re-establishing the capacity to responsibly utilise borrowing to support intergenerational infrastructure investment.

Council will continue to closely monitor its financial performance and actively review expenditure, service levels, and efficiency opportunities to ensure that any rate increases are justified, transparent and aligned with long-term financial planning.

In delivering the services and projects detailed in this 2026-2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget, Council plans to operate at a deficit of (\$195K) in 2026-2027 as a result of:

Operating Revenues \$11,144k

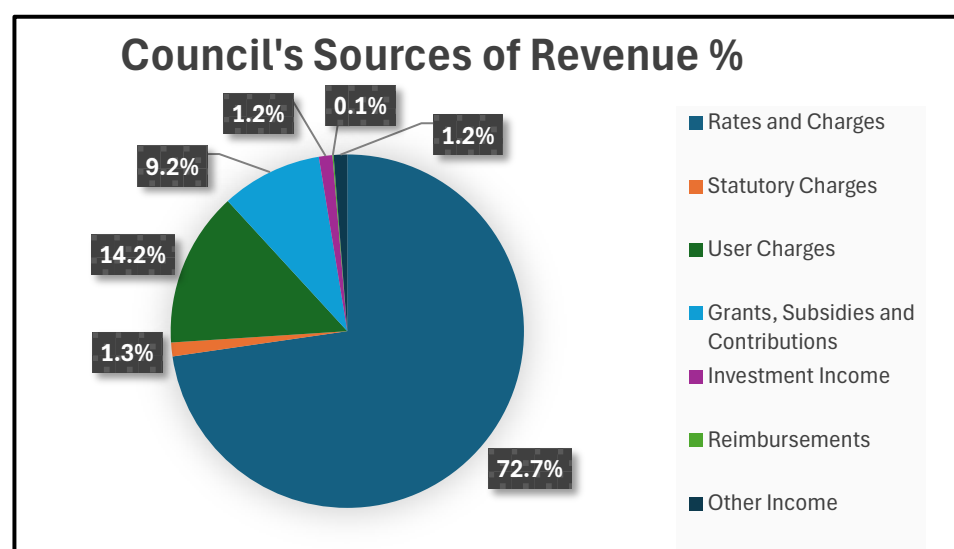
Less: Operating Expenditure \$11,339k

Operating Deficit (\$195k)

WHERE COUNCIL IS BUDGETING TO GENERATE REVENUE

Council's Sources of Revenue		
Category	\$,000s	%
Rates and Charges	8,103	72.7%
Statutory Charges	141	1.3%
User Charges	1,582	14.2%
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions	1,030	9.2%
Investment Income	138	1.2%
Reimbursements	12	0.1%
Other Income	138	1.2%
Total	11,144	

The following diagram depicts the proportion of revenue from each source that makes up the total budgeted revenue of Council's 2026-2027 Budget:



HOW COUNCIL WILL FUND THIS BUSINESS PLAN & HOW FUNDS WILL BE SPENT

Revenue Category Descriptions	
Rates & Charges	General rates on properties as well as service charges (e.g. Mobile Garbage Bin, Community Wastewater Management System) and the Regional Landscape levy. Council also administers a separate rate known as the Underground Power Line Separate Rate which is charged to the applicable properties.
Statutory Charges	Fees and charges set by State Government regulation and received by the Council for regulatory functions undertaken such as assessment of development and building applications and dog control management.
User Charges	Income generated through the hire of facilities or the provision of services (e.g. hall hire, foreshore hire, cemetery fees, childcare fees, marina berths and boat ramp fees). Various leasing and licensing arrangements between Council and third parties are also included in these charges.
Grants Subsidies & Contributions	Council seeks to attract as much grant funding from other tiers of government as possible, thereby reducing the reliance on other revenue streams.
Investment Income	Income from financial investments or loans to community groups. It includes interest received from the Local Government Finance Authority, banks and loans to community groups.
Reimbursements	Amounts received as payment from work done by or procured by the Council acting as an agent for other government bodies and property owners, organisations and individuals.
Other Income	Other income not classified elsewhere, such as income generated from rebates and distributions from Council's insurance schemes and other sundry income from Council activities such as, newsletter fees and augmentation fees.

Rates & Charges

Of the total \$11,144k income Council proposes to raise, \$8,103k is from rates. Of this total, \$5,776k is expected to be raised through general rates, which is an increase of \$404k when compared to the 2025-2026 Original Budget figures.

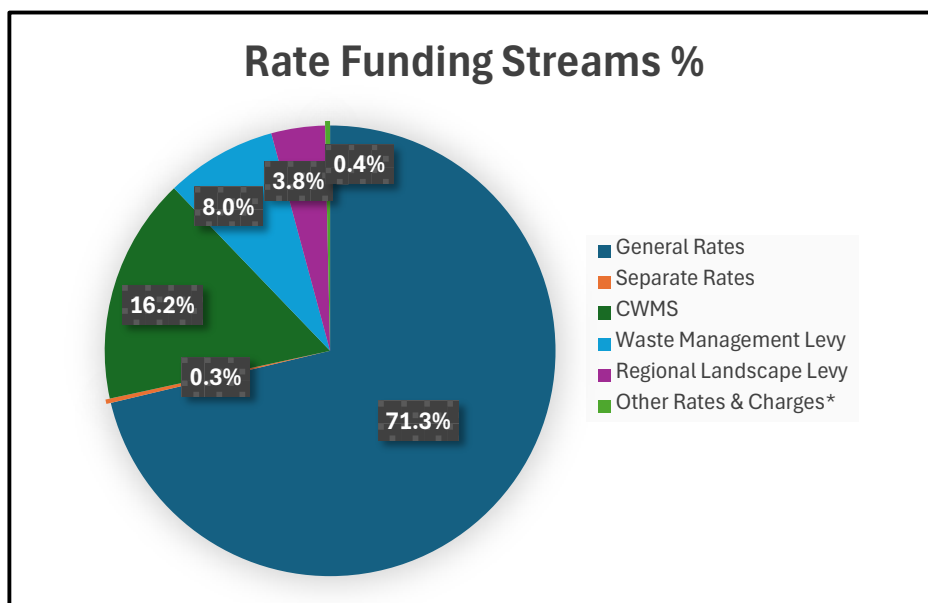
Council also administers a separate rate known as the Underground Power Line Separate Rate. This is applied to properties between 30 Esplanade and the first stobie pole on Newton Terrace to cover the costs incurred by Council to undertake the process of under-grounding the power lines.

The following graph details the revenues received from the different rate funding streams for 2026-2027:

Rate Funding Streams		
Category	\$,000s	%
General Rates	5,776	71.3%
Separate Rates	26	0.3%
CWMS	1,315	16.2%
Waste Management Levy	646	8.0%
Regional Landscape Levy	312	3.8%
Other Rates & Charges*	29	0.4%
Total	8,103	

* Includes Discretionary Rebates, Rates Remitted, Fines, and Legal Costs recovered

HOW COUNCIL WILL FUND THIS BUSINESS PLAN & HOW FUNDS WILL BE SPENT



Statutory Charges

Council is expecting to generate \$141k from this income stream in 2026-2027.

User Charges

For 2026-2027 Council has budgeted to raise a total of \$1,582k from User Charges. The following factors were considered when setting User Charges for 2026-2027:

- CPI Increase
- Competitor pricing
- Operating costs to maintain Council assets
- Balancing cost recovery versus community service
- Contractual arrangements
- Affordability and capacity to pay

Grants, Subsidies & Contributions

Council has budgeted to receive \$1,030k in grants, subsidies and contributions in 2026-2027. This is an increase of \$240k compared to the 2025-2026 Original Budget due to additional grant revenue budgeted for coastal protection projects.

Investment Income

Council's interest income from investment is expected to be \$138k.

WHERE COUNCIL IS BUDGETING TO SPEND FUNDS

The following diagram provides a breakdown of the expenditure planned for 2026-2027.

Council's Planned Expenditure		
Category	\$,000s	%
Employee Costs	3,531	31.1%
Materials, Contracts and Other Expenses	4,737	41.8%
Finance Costs	-	0.0%
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	3,071	27.1%
Total	11,339	

HOW COUNCIL WILL FUND THIS BUSINESS PLAN & HOW FUNDS WILL BE SPENT

Expenditure Category Definitions	
Employee Costs	Costs associated with Council employees, including Wages and Salaries, Superannuation, Leave Expenses, Public Holiday Overtime, Workers Compensation and Income Protection Cover.
Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses	Payments made for contractual services, such as waste management, auditors, IT and cleaning, event contributions, community grants and sponsorship, asset repairs and maintenance, operational overheads such as insurance, water, fuel and electricity, and administration costs such as printing, stationery, postage and software licensing.
Finance Costs	The costs associated with financing Council's activities and projects through borrowings or other types of financial arrangements and merchant charges.
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	The allocation of the cost of Council's fixed assets (e.g. buildings and structures, plant and equipment, transport and infrastructure) over their useful life.

Employee Costs

Employee costs for 2026-2027 are \$3,531k which represents a \$216k increase compared to the 2025-2026 Original Budget. Factors that affect employee costs include:

- Capitalisation rate for budgeted capital works;
- Wages and Salaries increased by 3% or CPI, whichever is the greater, in accordance with Enterprise Bargaining Agreements; and
- Annual Increments for staff as dictated by EBA and terms of employment.

Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses

Contributing approximately 42% of the operational expenditure, Materials, Contracts and Other Expenses is the largest portion of outgoings in the operational expenditure budget.

The 2026-2027 budgeted amount for Materials, Contracts and Other Expenses is \$4,737k, an increase of \$174k compared to the 2025-2026 Original Budget. This is mainly due to significant increases in the cost of fuel and materials.

Depreciation

This is a non-cash item. Council's budget for depreciation for 2026-2027 is \$3,071k. This is an increase of \$109k from the 2025-2026 Budget Review amount due to renewals and upgrades to existing assets and the construction of new assets.

Council continues to review all asset classes as a matter of priority. Council's data collection and revaluation methodology continue to improve, with advice from third party specialists. This information is now providing Council with more accurate data, which is informing both decision-making in respect to assets and asset management processes.

IMPACT ON COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL POSITION

KEY FINANCIAL INDICATORS

Local Government in South Australia has adopted a set of Key Financial Indicators which provide both an indication of the current Financial Sustainability of Council and can also demonstrate the improving (or declining) trend in Council's Financial Position over time. These indicators are required to be presented consistent with the industry recognised Model Financial Statements. Council has reviewed its Key Financial Targets after considering the Annual Business Plan & Budget. The following table displays the targets for each Financial Indicator:

	Financial Indicators			
	Target	Actual 2024/25	Current Budget 2025/26	Draft Budget 2026/27
Operating Surplus Ratio	0% - 5%	-6.7%	-4.3%	-1.7%
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio	< 100%	-1.9%	3.6%	12.9%
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio	90% - 110%	73%	73%	130%

Operating Surplus/(Deficit) Ratio

The Operating Surplus Ratio expresses the Operating Surplus (or Deficit) as a percentage of Total Operating Income to measure the extent to which income covers the operational expenses and if any funds are available to fund the capital works.

Calculation 2026-2027 Budget:		\$,000	
<u>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</u>	=	<u>(195)</u>	= -1.7%
Total Operating Income		11,144	

Council's position for the 2026-2027 financial year is forecast to be -1.7% which is below the target figure. Bringing the Operating Surplus Ratio back within the target range is being addressed through the Long Term Financial Plan.

Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

The Net Financial Liabilities are calculated as the difference between amounts owed and amounts held. The Net Financial Liabilities Ratio measures the net financial liability amount against total operating income. A ratio trend that is reducing indicates the improving capacity to meet financial obligations.

Calculation 2026-2027 Budget:		\$,000	
<u>Net Financial Liabilities</u>	=	<u>1,442</u>	= 12.9%
Total Operating Income		11,144	

For 2026-2027 the Net Financial Liabilities Ratio is forecast to be 12.9% which is within the target range of < 100%.

Asset Renewal Funding Ratio

The Asset Renewal Ratio measures the extent to which existing assets are being renewed or replaced compared to the planned capital works in the Asset Management Plans. If the capital expenditure budget for the renewal or replacement of existing assets matches that projected in the Asset Management Plans the ratio will be 100%. If the ratio is less than 100% for an extended period, this will lead to a deterioration of asset condition over time, leaving future generations of ratepayers to fund higher asset maintenance replacement costs to restore the asset service level.

Calculation 2026-2027 Budget:		\$,000	
<u>Net Asset Renewal/Replacement</u>	=	<u>4,106</u>	= 130.0%
Total Planned Asset Renewal/Replacement		3,164	

The capital works program for 2026-2027 has included projects to achieve a ratio of 130% which is within the target range for this indicator. The review of the Asset Management Strategy and the Asset Management Plans will continue to improve the forward planning and smooth the projected forecast in future years.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR RATES & RATEPAYERS

What are Rates?

Rates are levied as a tax on property in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999. Rates are not a fee for service or user charge. For example, not all ratepayers use all services such as libraries, playgrounds, public conveniences and they are unlikely to travel on every walking track, local or rural road. Ratepayers contribute to the costs of all local government services, even if they do not use those services.

Rates are a tax based on the value of property. Those with higher valued properties pay more than those with lower valued property.

Rate revenue is an integral part of the Council's financial resource base, the value of which is determined through Council's desire, on behalf of the community, to achieve the strategies articulated in Council's Strategic Plan, Annual Business Plan and Long Term Financial Plan.

In determining the rate revenue increases, consideration is given to the current economic climate, movements in inflation and interest rates, increased legislative responsibilities and the need to manage, maintain and improve the community's infrastructure assets.

General rates growth represents the increase in the number of rateable properties from the previous year in the District Council of Robe. The number of rateable properties increased by 19 from 2,605 in 2025-2026 to 2,667. Growth is defined and calculated as per the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011. Reg 6(2).

The Local Government Act provides for Council to raise revenue through differential general rates which apply to different classes of land use. Differential rates can vary according to the locality of the land, the use of land or both. Differential general rates are calculated using the valuation of the property (capital value) multiplied by the rate in the dollar applicable to the property's land use and/or locality. Council is using this approach to achieve an equitable distribution of the rate responsibility and to balance the community's capacity to pay.

A differential general rate is applied according to land use with the application of a minimum rate and a maximum increase of rates of 15% (rate cap) on rateable land that constitutes the principal place of residence of a principal ratepayer. The "rate cap" is on application only. Council considers this to be a fair and equitable method of rating for the District Council of Robe.

Council is proposing to rate all properties in 2026-2027 using the same rating differential percentage for all rate categories.

When determining the 'rate in the dollar' to be charged to ensure Council raises the correct amount of rates, consideration must be given to the capital valuation of properties across the rate base. Individual property rates will vary, with some decreases and increases depending on the movement of the property capital value. The tables below outline the percentage increase in valuations as per each differential land use and the average change for each differential land use.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR RATES & RATEPAYERS

Valuations 2025-26 and 2026-27

Differential Rate Land Use Category	Total Properties 2025/26	Capital Value 2025/26 \$	Total Properties 2026/27	Capital Value 2026/27 \$	% Change in Total Valuation	Differential Rating Factor	Cents in \$ 25/26	Cents in \$ 26/27	% Change in Cents in \$
NON-RATEABLE	277	63,723,375	263	65,657,266	3.03%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
RESIDENTIAL	1510	1,288,107,000	1548	1,361,669,000	5.71%	100%	0.19995	0.2074	3.73%
COMMERCIAL	66	93,076,200	67	97,572,300	4.83%	100%	0.19995	0.2074	3.73%
INDUSTRIAL	69	41,570,000	69	48,355,000	16.32%	100%	0.19995	0.2074	3.73%
PRIMARY PRODUCTION	446	985,484,000	444	986,482,000	0.10%	100%	0.19995	0.2074	3.73%
VACANT LAND	426	183,386,500	436	179,128,200	-2.32%	100%	0.19995	0.2074	3.73%
OTHER	23	9,493,200	24	9,811,400	3.35%	100%	0.19995	0.2074	3.73%
MARINA BERTH	65	2,913,405	79	3,657,554	25.54%	100%	0.19995	0.2074	3.73%
	2882	2,667,753,680	2930	2,752,332,720	3.17%				

Expected Rates Revenue 2025-26 and 2026-27

Differential Rate Land Use Category	Total Rateable Properties 2025/26	Total Expected Rates Revenue 2025/26 \$	Minimum Rate 2025/26 \$	No. Properties on Minimum 2025/26	Average Rates Per Property 2025/26 \$	Total Rateable Properties 2026/27	Total Expected Rates Revenue 2026/27 \$	Minimum Rate 2026/27 \$	No. Properties on Minimum 2026/27	Average Rates Per Property 2026/27 \$	Average Increase Per Property 2026/27 \$
RESIDENTIAL	1510	2,629,130	898	219	1741	1548	2,892,803.95	953	198	1869	128
COMMERCIAL	66	191,367	898	8	2899	67	206,915.25	953	7	3088	189
INDUSTRIAL	69	85,528	898	17	1240	69	101,441.40	953	7	1470	231
PRIMARY PRODUCTION	446	1,977,244	898	21	4433	444	2,050,583.25	953	14	4618	185
VACANT LAND	426	480,883	898	264	1129	436	508,345.85	953	289	1166	37
OTHER	23	26,824	898	11	1166	24	29,641.60	953	12	1235	69
MARINA BERTH	65	5,824	0	0	90	79	7,582.95	0	0	96	6
	2605	5,396,800		540	2072	2667	5,797,314		527	2174	102

In accordance with Section 167 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council must, at the time of adopting the budget, use the most recent valuations available. Changes in valuations received up until the time of adopting the budget may result in changes to the valuations for individual properties and changes to the rate in the dollar in order to achieve the required increase in total rate revenue.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR RATES & RATEPAYERS

Minimum Rates

A minimum rate is applied to the whole of an allotment in accordance with Section 158 of the Local Government Act. Should two or more pieces of adjoining land (whether separated by road or not) be owned and occupied by the same owner (known as 'contiguous land'), only one minimum rate will be charged.

The 2026-2027 minimum rate of \$953 is an increase of \$55 compared to the minimum rate of \$898 in 2025-2026.

The minimum rate will be applied to approximately 20% of all rateable properties. The Local Government Act allows for a maximum of 35% of properties to receive the minimum rate, meaning the District Council of Robe is within this range in accordance with the Act.

Maximum Increase on Rates (Rate Cap)

Council has applied a maximum increase on rates (Rate Cap) in accordance with Section 153 (3) of the Local Government Act 1999 on rateable land that constitutes the principal place of residence of a ratepayer. A maximum increase of 15% applies to those assessments of residents within the Council area on the general rates raised for the previous year, except in the following circumstances:

- Where the increase is due to a valuation increase that has occurred as a direct result of capital improvement (excluding capital improvements of \$30,000 or less) or development of the land; or
- Where the ownership of the property has changed since 1 July of the preceding financial year and the new owners have purchased the property at the current market value; or
- Where a boundary realignment, subdivision or amalgamation has occurred, therefore the property is a different property to the previous financial year for valuation purposes (with the exception of subdivisions to facilitate land acquired by any government entity e.g., for the purpose of drain construction or alteration and with the exception of rural properties where the boundary realignment, subdivision or amalgamation has not made a material difference).

The "Rate Capping" provision aims to provide relief to resident ratepayers who may be unfairly affected due to changes to the basis of rating (implementation of "land use" based rating) and to minimise significant rate increases where volatile valuation movements have occurred.

Rate Capping is on application only and forms are available from Council from our office or on Council's website. The applications will be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted accordingly, as determined by Council.

Separate Rates

A separate rate will be levied on specific ratepayers to provide funding for activities and services related to those ratepayers. 'The Underground Powerline Separate Rate' is the only separate levy charged in the District Council of Robe, and this will be the second instalment over the five-year duration.

The Underground Powerline Separate Rate is applied to properties between 30 Esplanade and the first stobie pole on Newton Terrace to cover the costs incurred by the Council to undertake the undergrounding of the powerlines on the Esplanade. Revenue from this separate rate is expected to raise \$26k in 2026-2027, which is unchanged from 2025-2026.

HOW COUNCIL WILL RAISE SERVICE CHARGES

Waste Collection

To meet the costs associated with the collection and disposal of domestic and other garbage, Council has a Waste Management Service Levy on all serviced properties. Where the service is provided to non-rateable properties, a service charge is to be levied against the land.

Charges for Waste Management for 2026-2027 will be:

- For residents of Robe: \$429 (\$414 in 2025-2026)
- For residents of Boatswain Point: \$230 (\$222 in 2025-2026)

Council charges separately for this service as it is specific to properties and it's unreasonable to expect the total rate base to provide for this service.

Community Wastewater Management System

Council provides a Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) to all land within the township of Robe.

As set out in Section 155(2) of the Local Government Act 1999, Council may impose an annual service charge on properties for the CWMS to meet the operational and capital costs of the schemes.

Charges for the Community Wastewater Management Scheme for 2026-2027 will be:

- Occupied: \$697 (\$672 in 2025-2026)
- Unoccupied: \$560 (\$540 in 2025-2026)

This fee includes the provision of all septic tanks being desludged by Council's contractors on a four year rolling cycle.

Regional Landscapes Levy

Council is required to pay a Regional Landscape Levy (a State Government Tax) each year to the Limestone Coast Landscape Board (LCLB). The purpose of the Landscape Board is to expend levy funds to manage and protect priority water, land, marine and biodiversity assets in the South East area of South Australia.

As a collection agency for the Board, the District Council of Robe applies the levy to all rateable properties and on a differential, based on the land use of the rating assessment. To undertake this, Council applies a separate charge against all rateable properties. The LCLB has declared that the Levy will increase by 2.4% in 2026-2027.

Purpose of Use Category	Indicative Regional Landscape Levy Rate Per Rateable Property \$	District Council of Robe number of rateable properties*	Indicative Regional Landscape Levy per Land Use Category \$
Residential, Vacant & Other	97.45	2010	195,875
Commercial	146.18	67	9,794
Industrial	233.88	69	16,138
Primary Production	428.78	210	90,044
Total		2356	311,850

* Adjusted for Single Farm Enterprises and Adjoining Properties

APPENDIX 1 - UNIFORM PRESENTATION OF EXPECTED RATE REVENUE

Statement on Expected Rate Revenue				
Please note: These figures represent a considered estimate of Expected Rate Revenue based on the most current information available at the time of publication. This information is updated regularly and therefore these figures may be subject to confirmation at the time of actual adoption of the ABP&B.				
Expected Rates Revenue				
	2025/26 (as adopted)	2026/27 (estimated)	Change	Comments
General Rates Revenue				
General Rates (existing properties)	\$5,355,904	\$5,723,200 (a)		For 26/27 general rates will increase by an estimated 7.4%. This includes an estimated 2.4% Grow th.
General Rates (new properties)	\$40,896	\$74,114 (b)		
General Rates (GROSS)	\$5,396,800	\$5,797,314 (c)		
Less: Mandatory Rebates	(\$19,725)	(\$21,084) (d)		
General Rates (NET)	\$5,377,075	\$5,776,230 (e)	7.4%	
(e)=(c)+(d)				
Other Rates (inc. service charges)				
Regional Landscape Levy	\$303,571	\$311,850 (f)		The Regional Landscape Levy is a State tax, it is not retained by council.
Mobile Garbage Bin	\$601,098	\$645,607 (g)		Service provided on cost recovery basis.
CWMS	\$1,225,344	\$1,314,868 (h)		\$697 Occupied, \$560 Unoccupied.
Separate and Special Rates	\$25,581	\$25,581 (i)		
	\$7,532,669	\$8,074,136		
Less: Discretionary Rebates	(\$1,971)	(\$2,117) (j)		
Expected Total Rates Revenue	\$7,227,127	\$7,760,169 (k)	7.4%	Excluding the Regional Landscape Levy and minus Mandatory & Discretionary Rebates.
(k)=(e)+(g)+(h)+(i)+(j)				
Estimated growth in number of rateable properties				
Number of rateable properties	2,605	2,667	2.4%	
	Actual	Estimate	(l)	
'Grow th' is defined in the regulations as w here new properties have been created w hich has added rateable properties to council's ratepayer base. Grow th can also increase the need and expenditure related to infrastructure, services and programs w hich support these properties and residents.				Growth is expected to account for approximately 2.4% per cent of the estimated increase in General Rates to be collected.
Estimated average General Rates per rateable property				
Average per rateable property	\$2,072	\$2,174	4.9%	
Councils use property valuations to calculate each rateable property's contribution to the required rate revenue total. Councils do not automatically receive more money because property values increase but this may alter how rates are apportioned (or divided) across each ratepayer (ie. some people may pay more or less rates, this is dependent on the change in value of their property relative to the overall valuation changes across the council area). The total General Rates paid by all rateable properties w ill equal the amount adopted in the budget.				The averages are based on the total of all rateable properties and are therefore not necessarily indicative of either the rate or change in rates that all ratepayers w ill experience.
Notes				
(d) Councils are required under the Local Government Act to provide a rebate to qualifying properties under a number of categories:				
Health Services - 100 per cent	Religious purposes - 100 per cent	Royal Zoological Society of SA - 100 per cent		
Community Services - 75 per cent	Public Cemeteries - 100 per cent	Educational purposes - 75 per cent		
The rates w hich are foregone via Mandatory Rebates are redistributed across the ratepayer base (ie. all other ratepayers are subsidising the rates contribution for those properties w ho receive the rebate).				
(e) Presented as required by the <i>Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011</i> reg 6(1)(ea)				
Please Note: The percentage figure in (e) relates to the change in the total amount of General Rates revenue to be collected from <u>all</u> rateable properties, not from individual rateable properties (ie. individual rates w ill not necessarily change by this figure).				
(f) Councils are required under the <i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019</i> to collect the levy on all rateable properties on behalf of the State Government. The levy helps to fund the operations of regional landscape boards w ho have responsibility for the management of the State's natural resources.				
(g) Waste Management Levy				
(h) Community Wastewater Management Systems				
(i) Underground pow erline separate rate applied to specific properties to cover the costs incurred by the Council to undertake the undergrounding of the pow erlines.				
(j) A council may grant a rebate of rates or service charges in a number of circumstances. The rates w hich are foregone via Discretionary Rebates are redistributed across the ratepayer base (ie. all other ratepayers are subsidising the rates contribution for those properties w ho receive the rebate).				
(k) Expected Total Rates Revenue excludes other charges such as penalties for late payment and legal and other costs recovered.				
(l) 'Grow th' as defined in the <i>Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011</i> reg 6(2)				

Statement on Expected Rate Revenue

Please note: These figures represent a considered estimate of Expected Rate Revenue based on the most current information available at the time of publication. This information is updated regularly and therefore these figures may be subject to confirmation at the time of actual adoption of the ABP&B.

Expected Rates Revenue

	Total expected revenue			No. of rateable properties		Average per rateable property			Cents in the \$
	2025/26	2026/27	Change	2025/26	2026/27	2025/26	2026/27	Change	2026/27
Land Use (General Rates - GROSS)									
Residential	\$2,629,130	\$2,892,804	10%	1510	1548	\$1,741	\$1,869	(n)	0.2074
Commercial - Shop, Office, Other	\$191,367	\$206,915	8%	66	67	\$2,899	\$3,088	(n)	0.2074
Industry - Light, Other	\$85,528	\$101,441	19%	69	69	\$1,240	\$1,470	(n)	0.2074
Primary Production	\$1,977,244	\$2,050,583	4%	446	444	\$4,433	\$4,618	(n)	0.2074
Vacant Land	\$480,883	\$508,346	6%	426	436	\$1,129	\$1,166	(n)	0.2074
Other	\$26,824	\$29,642	11%	23	24	\$1,166	\$1,166	(n)	0.2074
Marina Berth	\$5,824	\$7,583	30%	65	79	\$90	\$96	(n)	0.2074
Total Land Use	\$5,396,800	\$5,797,314	7.4%	2,605	2,667	\$2,072	\$2,174	(n)	\$102

Minimum Rate

	No. of properties to which rate will apply			Rate		
	2026/27	% of total rateable properties		2025/26	2026/27	Change
Minimum Rate	527	19.8%		\$898.00	\$953.00	(o) \$55

The Minimum Rate provides a mechanism where lower valued properties do not pay less than a minimum amount as determined by the Council. The Local Government Act stipulates that no more than 35% of rateable properties pay a minimum amount. Council proposes to set a minimum rate of \$953 which will be applied to all rateable properties except for Marina Berths. This will affect approximately 19.8 % of rateable properties

Adopted valuation method

Capital Value/Site Value/Annual Value

Council has the option of adopting one of three valuation methodologies to assess the properties in its area for rating purposes:

Capital Value – the value of the land and all improvements on the land;

Site Value – the value of the land and any improvements which predominantly affect the amenity of use of the land, such as drainage works, but excluding the value of buildings and other improvements (Note: Site Value will cease to be an option from 1 Sept 2023); or

Annual Value – a valuation of the rental potential of the property.

Council continues to use Capital Value as the basis for valuing land within the Council area. Council considers that this method of valuing land provides the fairest method of distributing the rate burden across all ratepayers on the following basis: - The equity principle of taxation requires that taxpayers of greater wealth pay more tax than those of lesser wealth. - Property value is a relatively good indicator of wealth and capital value, which closely approximates the market value of a property and provides the best indicator of overall property value.

Notes

(n) Average per rateable property calculated as General Rates for category, including any fixed charge or minimum rate (if applicable) but excluding any separate rates, divided by number of rateable properties within that category in the relevant financial year.

(o) Where two or more adjoining properties have the same owner and are occupied by the same occupier, only one minimum rate is payable by the ratepayer.

APPENDIX 2 - 2026-2027 ANNUAL BUDGET & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

\$000s	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27
	Audited	Original	Forecast	Adopted
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	Actual	Budget	(BR3)	Budget
INCOME				
Rates	7,223	7,531	7,546	8,103
Statutory charges	177	132	137	141
User charges	1,471	1,452	1,493	1,582
Grants, subsidies and contributions (capital)	186	0	106	0
Grants, subsidies and contributions (operating)	780	790	996	1,030
Investment income	155	18	156	138
Reimbursements	16	21	25	12
Other income	325	105	159	138
Total Income	10,333	10,049	10,618	11,144
EXPENSES				
Employee costs	3,472	3,315	3,315	3,531
Materials, contracts and other expenses	4,654	4,563	4,784	4,737
Finance costs	0	14	14	0
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	2,897	2,815	2,962	3,071
Total Direct Expenses	11,023	10,707	11,075	11,339
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	-690	-658	-457	-195
Asset disposal and fair value adjustments	299	0	500	124
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	0	0	0	0
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	-391	-658	43	-71
Changes in revaluation surplus - infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	27,131	0	0	0
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	26,740	-658	43	-71

\$000s	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	Audited Actual	Original Budget	Forecast (BR3)	Adopted Budget
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	3,684	257	4,828	3,871
Trade & other receivables	440	463	440	440
Inventories	220	19	220	220
Total Current Assets	4,344	739	5,488	4,531
Non-current Assets				
Other non-current assets	32	21	21	21
Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	128,709	105,549	128,840	129,834
Total Non-current Assets	128,741	105,570	128,861	129,855
TOTAL ASSETS	133,085	106,309	134,349	134,386
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Trade & other payables (current)	946	801	946	995
Short-term provisions	505	544	505	529
Short-term borrowings	0	0	0	0
Total Current Liabilities	1,451	1,345	1,451	1,524
Non-current Liabilities				
Trade & other payables	2,415	3,013	4,136	4,168
Long-term provisions	58	25	58	61
Long-term borrowings	0	500	0	0
Total Non-current Liabilities	2,473	3,538	4,194	4,229
TOTAL LIABILITIES	3,924	4,883	5,645	5,753
NET ASSETS	129,161	101,426	128,704	128,633
EQUITY				
Accumulated surplus	12,620	12,242	12,163	12,092
Asset revaluation reserve	113,085	85,952	113,083	113,083
Other reserves	3,456	3,232	3,458	3,458
TOTAL EQUITY	129,161	101,426	128,704	128,633

\$000s	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	Audited Actual	Original Budget	Forecast (BR3)	Adopted Budget
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Receipts				
Rates	7,245	7,531	7,544	8,103
Statutory Charges	184	132	137	141
User Charges	1,590	1,452	3,215	1,613
Grants, subsidies and contributions (operating)	808	790	996	1,030
Investment Receipts	143	18	156	138
Reimbursements	42	21	25	12
Other Receipts	881	105	159	138
Payments				
Payments to employees	-3,454	-3,315	-3,315	-3,503
Payments for materials, contracts and other expenses	-5,387	-3,891	-4,784	-4,688
Finance payments	0	-14	-14	0
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	2,052	2,829	4,119	2,984
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Receipts				
Grants utilised for capital purposes	186	0	106	0
Sale of replaced assets	373	0	0	209
Sale of surplus assets	0	0	500	0
Repayments of loans from community groups	3	0	0	0
Payments				
Capital expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets	-2,102	-3,235	-2,373	-4,106
Capital expenditure on new/upgraded assets	-733	-424	-1,207	-45
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities	-2,273	-3,659	-2,974	-3,942
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Receipts				
Proceeds from Deposits or Bonds	1	0	0	0
Proceeds from Borrowings	0	500	0	0
Payments				
Repayment of Deposits or Bonds	0	0	0	0
Repayment of Borrowings	0	0	0	0
Net Cash provided for (or used in) Financing Activities	1	500	0	0
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD	-220	-330	1,145	-958
CASH AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	3,904	587	3,684	4,828
CASH AT END OF PERIOD	3,684	257	4,828	3,871

\$000s	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	Audited	Original	Forecast	Adopted
	Actual	Budget	(BR3)	Budget
Replacement assets				
Building & Structures	528	104	260	45
Roads, Bridges & Footways	323	2,507	1,419	3,322
Marina	48	0	0	0
CWMS	0	0	110	50
Plant & Equipment	1,146	594	539	654
Furniture & Fittings	35	30	45	30
Other Community Assets	0	0	1	5
Total Replacement assets	2,080	3,235	2,374	4,106
New assets				
Building & Structures	22	102	1,011	0
Roads, Bridges & Footways	79	235	39	0
Marina	0	87	87	0
CWMS	590	0	0	0
Plant & Equipment	42	0	15	45
Furniture & Fittings	0	0	0	0
Other Community Assets	0	0	55	0
Total New assets	733	424	1,207	45
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	2,813	3,659	3,581	4,151

\$000s	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY	Audited	Original	Forecast	Adopted
	Actual	Budget	(BR3)	Budget
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS				
Opening balance at beginning of financial year	13,236	12,900	12,620	12,163
Net Surplus (Deficit) for the year	-391	-658	-457	-71
Transfer to/from reserves	-225	0	0	0
Closing balance at end of period	12,620	12,242	12,163	12,092
ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE				
Opening balance at beginning of financial year	85,954	85,954	113,085	113,083
Gain/(loss) on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	27,131	-2	-2	0
Closing balance at end of period	113,085	85,952	113,083	113,083
CWMS MAINTENANCE RESERVE				
Opening balance at beginning of financial year	2,973	2,973	3,172	3,174
Transfer from accumulated surplus	199	1	2	0
Closing balance at end of period	3,172	2,974	3,174	3,174
CHILDCARE RESERVE				
Opening balance at beginning of financial year	146	146	170	170
Transfer from/(to) accumulated surplus	24	0	0	0
Closing balance at end of period	170	146	170	170
OPEN SPACES RESERVE				
Opening balance at beginning of financial year	75	75	75	75
Transfer from accumulated surplus	0	0	0	0
Closing balance at end of period	75	75	75	75
INTEREST ON AMOUNTS HELD IN TRUST				
Opening balance at beginning of financial year	36	36	38	38
Transfer from accumulated surplus	2	0	0	0
Closing balance at end of period	38	36	38	38
RAA SAFETY GROUP RESERVE				
Opening balance at beginning of financial year	1	1	1	1
Transfer from accumulated surplus	0	0	0	0
Closing balance at end of period	1	1	1	1
TOTAL EQUITY AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD	129,161	101,426	128,704	128,633

\$000s	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27
UNIFORM PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	Audited Actual	Original Budget	Forecast (BR3)	Adopted Budget
INCOME				
Rates	7,223	7,531	7,546	8,103
Statutory charges	177	132	137	141
User charges	1,471	1,452	1,493	1,582
Grants, subsidies and contributions (capital)	186	0	106	0
Grants, subsidies and contributions (operating)	780	790	996	1,030
Investment income	155	18	156	138
Reimbursements	16	21	25	12
Other income	325	105	159	138
Total Income	10,333	10,049	10,618	11,144
EXPENSES				
Employee costs	-3,472	-3,315	-3,315	-3,531
Materials, contracts and other expenses	-4,654	-4,563	-4,784	-4,737
Finance costs	0	-14	-14	0
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-2,897	-2,815	-2,962	-3,071
Less Operating Expenses	-11,023	-10,707	-11,075	-11,339
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-690	-658	-457	-195
Timing adjustment for grant revenue	-101	0	0	0
Less Grants, subsidies and contributions (capital)	-186	0	-106	0
ADJUSTED OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-977	-658	-563	-195
NET OUTLAYS ON EXISTING ASSETS				
Capital expenditure on renewal and replacement of existing assets	-2,102	-3,235	-2,373	-4,106
Add back depreciation, amortisation and impairment	2,897	2,815	2,962	3,071
Add back proceeds from sale of replaced assets	373	0	0	209
	1,168	-420	589	-826
NET OUTLAYS ON NEW AND UPGRADED ASSETS				
Capital expenditure on new and upgraded assets	-733	-424	-1,207	-45
Add back amounts received specifically for new and upgraded assets	186	0	106	0
Add back proceeds from sale of surplus assets	0	0	500	0
	-547	-424	-601	-45
ANNUAL NET IMPACT TO FINANCING ACTIVITIES (SURPLUS/(DEFICIT))	-356	-1,502	-575	-1,066

\$000s	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27
KEY FINANCIAL INDICATORS	Audited Actual	Original Budget	Forecast (BR3)	Adopted Budget
Operating Surplus Ratio <i>being operating surplus (deficit) divided by operating revenue</i>	-6.7%	-6.5%	-4.3%	-1.7%
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio <i>being total liabilities less financial assets (excluding equity accounted investments in Council business), divided by total operating revenue</i>	-1.9%	41.4%	3.6%	12.9%
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio <i>Asset renewals expenditure is defined as capital expenditure on the renewal and replacement of existing assets relative to the optimal level identified in Council's Asset Management Plans (AMPs). It excludes expenditure on new or upgraded assets. An Asset Renewal Funding Ratio of 100% indicates that Council is funding asset renewal at the level identified in its Asset Management Plans as necessary to sustain existing assets and maintain the agreed levels of service over the long term.</i>	73%	99%	73%	130%