



Date: Monday, 6 October 2025
Time: 3.00pm
Location: Loddon Shire Council Chambers, Wedderburn

MINUTES

Special Council Meeting

**MINUTES OF LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEDDERBURN
ON MONDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2025 AT 3.00PM**

PRESENT: Cr Dan Straub - Mayor (Virtual), Cr David Weaver, Cr Miki Wilson (Virtual) and Cr Nick Angelo

IN ATTENDANCE: Lincoln Fitzgerald (Chief Executive Officer), Wendy Gladman (Director Community Wellbeing) (Virtual), Michelle Stedman (Director Corporate), Steve Van Orsouw (Director Operations) and Lisa Clue (Manager Governance)

1 OPENING AFFIRMATION

The Mayor read the Opening Affirmation

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The CEO read the Acknowledgement of Country

3 APOLOGIES

RESOLUTION 2025/162

Moved: Cr Dan Straub (Mayor)

Seconded: Cr David Weaver

That the apology received from Cr Holt be accepted and leave of absence granted.

CARRIED

4 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

5 DECISION REPORTS

5.1 2024/25 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS - ADOPTION IN PRINCIPLE REPORT

File Number: FOL/23/1595

Author: Ange Marshall, Acting Manager Financial Services

Authoriser: Michelle Stedman, Director Corporate

Attachments: 1. 2024/25 Financial Statements
2. 2024/25 Performance Statement

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the Financial Statements and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024/25 as presented “in principle”;
2. Authorises the Principal Accounting Officer to make any amendments to the Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 that may be requested by RSD Audit or the Victorian Auditor-General; and
3. Authorises Mayor Cr Dan Straub, Cr Miki Wilson, the Chief Executive Officer, and the Principal Accounting Officer to certify the audited Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council was provided an overview of the Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 at Council Briefing on 23 September 2025.

BACKGROUND

Council’s external auditors, RSD Audit, acting on behalf of the Victorian Auditor-General, have worked remotely to finalise the audit of Council’s Financial Statements and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025.

As stated in Section 99 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), after passing a resolution giving its approval in principle to the performance statement and financial statements, Council must submit the statements to the Victorian Auditor-General for provision of its report on the audit.

Under Section 99 (3) of the Act Council must also ensure that the final form performance statement and financial statements, after any changes recommended or agreed by the auditor have been made, are certified in accordance with the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* (the Regulations) by two Councillors authorised by the Council.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The annual Financial Statements are presented in accordance with all relevant Australian Accounting Standards and as per the model statements provided by Local Government Victoria (LGV). They consist of five statement elements (described in Table 1) which are expanded upon within accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements.

The Performance Statement is also in line with the Regulations and LGV’s model reporting. It includes Sustainable Capacity Indicators (financial and non-financial), Service Performance Indicators (non-financial), and Financial Performance Indicators (financial).

Table 1 – Description of Financial Statement Elements

Statement Element	Description
Comprehensive Income Statement	The Income Statement provides a summary of the total income and total expenditure relating to Council's annual operations for the financial year. Capital grant income is included in this statement, but any related expenditure is not reflected here, as this is reported as increased assets on the Balance Sheet.
Balance Sheet	The Balance Sheet summarises the value of Assets (what Council owns) and our Liabilities (what Council owes). The difference between assets and liabilities (Net Assets or Equity) reflects Council's net worth at the end of the Financial Year.
Statement of Changes in Equity	The Statement of Changes in Equity reflect how the net worth of Council has changed over the financial year, showing movements in areas such as accumulated surplus, reserves, and revaluations.
Statement of Cash Flows	The Statement of Cash Flows reflects actual results for the financial year in line with statutory financial reporting.
Statement of Capital Works	The Capital Works Statement provides information on Council's investment in capital projects during the year and breaks this expenditure down into asset categories. It provides insight into Council's focus on maintaining and improving physical assets,

Key Results

As per the Income Statement, Loddon's **operating result** for the 2024/25 financial year was a **\$8.62M surplus**. This compares to a \$6.42M deficit in 2023/24. A principal cause of this variance is due to the timing of and required accounting treatment of Federal Financial Assistance Grants, in addition to other grant funds received in advance.

Council's Balance Sheet demonstrates a **current asset base of \$489M** (with strong liquidity in unrestricted financial assets) against **low liabilities of \$5.77M**. This remains a good foundation for Loddon to continue building careful financial management and strategic planning practices to ensure long-term sustainability. Cash and term deposits on hand totalled just under \$45M, and total rates and debtors outstanding was \$1.68M. During 2024/25, Council recorded an impairment to its Roads and Bridges asset classes of just over \$22M, which is related to previous years' flood events.

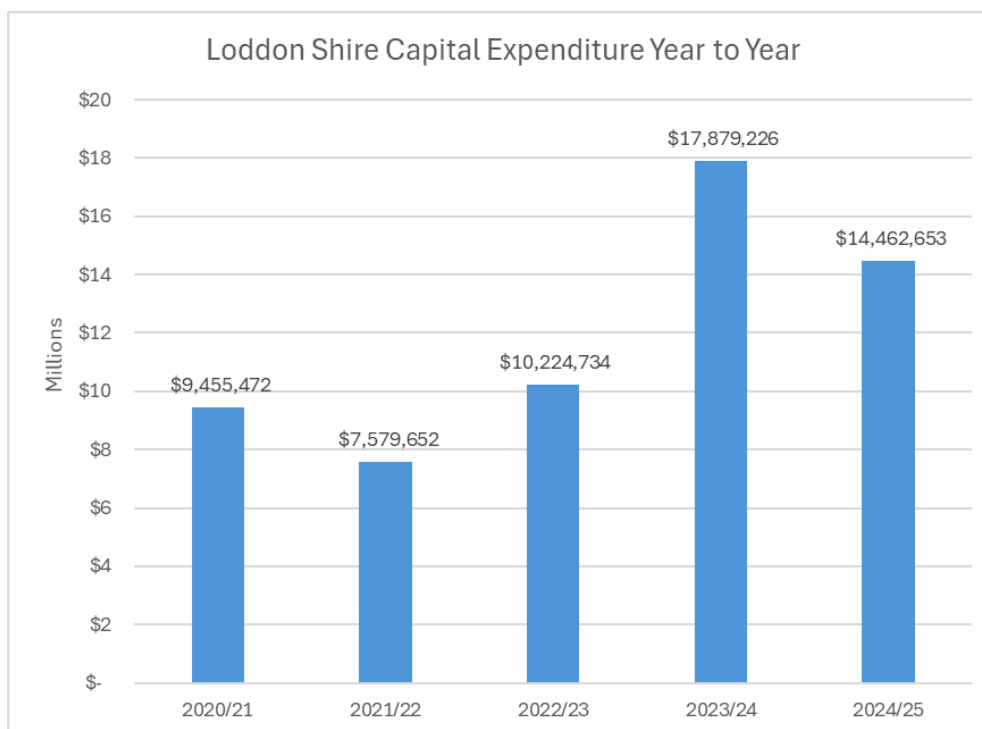
Within our Statement of Cash Flows, cash flows from **operating activities show a positive result of \$21.86M** but do underscore Loddon's dependency on external funding (operating and capital grants totalling \$30.85M) and how critical this funding is to Council's financial stability. This reliance is displayed by the swing in Loddon's operating result when external funding timing is misaligned with expenditure.

Cash outflow from investing activities as per the Statement of Cash Flows show ongoing key investment in long-term assets. This is linked with our Statement of Capital Works where Loddon's **capital works delivery totalled \$14.46M in 2024/25**, compared to \$17.87M in 2023/24 (see Graph 1 for prior year comparisons, over page). Movements to and from the unspent grants reserve saw general **reserve balances** increase by \$8.34M to a **total balance of \$26.63M** as at 30 June 2025.

RISK ANALYSIS

Preparation and auditing of Financial Statements and the Performance Statement are legislated functions of Council. Council must complete and publish these documents along with the Report of Operations by 31 October each year, or in the year of a general election, on a day not later than the day before Election Day. By having a structured project plan for delivery of the statements to the Victorian Auditor-General's representative, the risk of not meeting the legislative timeline is mitigated.

Graph 1 – Loddon Shire Capital Expenditure prior year comparisons



CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Audit and Risk Committee has been provided with an overview of the Financial Statements and Performance Statement at the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 29 September 2025. Feedback from the Audit and Risk Committee included minor disclosure changes which have been included in the attached statements, as well as addition of further commentary regarding material variations within the performance statement indicators which have also been amended ahead of consideration by Council.

RESOLUTION 2025/163

Moved: Cr Miki Wilson
 Seconded: Cr David Weaver

That Council:

1. Adopts the Financial Statements and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024/25 as presented "in principle";
2. Authorises the Principal Accounting Officer to make any amendments to the Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 that may be requested by RSD Audit or the Victorian Auditor-General; and
3. Authorises Mayor Cr Dan Straub, Cr Miki Wilson, the Chief Executive Officer, and the Principal Accounting Officer to certify the audited Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025.

CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 28 October 2025 at Wedderburn commencing at 3.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 3.10 pm.

Confirmed this.....day of..... 2025

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CHAIRPERSON