



District Council of
Mount Remarkable



Annual Business Plan & Budget Financial Year Ending 30 June 2021

Adopted by Council at its Special Meeting on 7 July 2020

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1. Introduction

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 123 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (“the Act”) each Local Government Authority is required to develop an Annual Business Plan and a Budget for each financial year.

This Annual Business Plan sets out Council’s program for the 2020/2021 financial year and aims to deliver the goals and objectives of Council’s Strategic Management Plan ‘*Our 2020 Vision*’.

The Annual Business Plan is supported by an annual operating budget for service delivery and asset maintenance, and a capital works budget for the replacement, acquisition or enhancement of assets. The Annual Business Plan and Annual Budget are aimed at satisfying current service requirements and expanding service delivery where possible and affordable, whilst recognising the need to put Council in the best financial position to provide services to the members of our community, both today and into the future.

The Annual Business Plan focuses on ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of the Council to ensure that Council will be able to provide services for current and future generations.



The Annual Business Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act, part of which is to provide the community with an opportunity to comment on the Draft Annual Business Plan using a submission template that is available on Councils website or via email postmaster@mtr.sa.gov.au .

2. Key Strategic Objectives - Strategic Plan

Council’s strategic and other long term plans outline the longer-term objectives and priorities for the Community. These Plans, together with the Annual Business Plan and Budget, determine the infrastructure needs and services Council will provide, including the costs required to deliver those services.

Council’s objectives for the District are detailed within Council’s Strategic Management Plan, in the form of the Vision, its Mission, its Values and its Objectives. These are as follows:

Our Organisation

A financially sustainable, proactive and responsive customer focused organisation which meets and exceeds the diverse needs and expectations of our stakeholders in an efficient and effective manner.

Through team work, co-operation and continuous improvement, and by fostering creativity and developing our valued employees, we will grasp the challenges and capture the opportunities for the benefit of all, to ensure our respected position at the leading edge of our industry is maintained.

Our Council

A dynamic, skilled and representative elected body respected and recognised at the local, regional, state and national levels for its advocacy and positive leadership of all sectors of its Communities, with a strategic focus on policy and effective decision making.

Our Communities

With enviable facilities and services, growing populations and thriving and sustainable economies, our vibrant and diverse Communities are safe, secure, friendly and welcoming to all. Community spirit, co-operation and a sense of belonging are fostered by our determined, hardworking people with positive vision and initiative to make our Communities exceptional places to live, visit, work and do business.

Our Mission

Council will accept the challenges of, and excel in the provision of, Local Government services to our district, enhancing and preserving the unique character of our communities, maintaining a safe and secure environment for our residents, whilst retaining and promoting the quality lifestyle and amenity of country living. Council will continually promote open communication, accountability, and efficient and effective leadership, governance and service delivery by:

- acting as a representative, informed and responsible decision maker;
- providing and coordinating services, facilities and programs that are adequate, appropriate and equitably accessed;
- developing the Community, its resources and its infrastructure in a socially just and sustainable manner;
- ensuring that Council resources are used fairly, effectively and efficiently;
- encouraging and developing initiatives within the Community for improving the quality of life and amenity of the Community;
- managing, developing and protecting the environment in an ecologically sustainable manner;
- planning at the local and regional level for the development and future requirements of the Community;
- promoting the area and providing an attractive climate and location for the development of business, commerce, industry and tourism;
- ensuring a proper balance between economic, social, environmental and cultural considerations within the Community;
- developing its capacity and professionalism to undertake a growing range of leadership, advocacy and service delivery challenges; and
- exercising, performing and discharging the power, functions and duties of the Act and other relevant legislation.

Our Values

As a results oriented organisation, Council is committed to its core values of:

- pro-active and effective communication
- honesty and transparency
- accepting and pursuing challenges
- creative, positive and energetic workforce and leadership

Governance

Respected, Responsive, Open and Effective Leadership

With visionary, respected and strong leadership, Council will be in a position to successfully develop constructive partnerships with other levels of government and our communities, to ensure our aspirations are met and our futures are secured.

Administration and Finance

Accountable, Secure and Sustainable Organisation

It is Council's responsibility to represent the interests of its ratepayers and residents and to efficiently and effectively provide a range of services and facilities. An adequately financed organisation with skilled and qualified employees is required to undertake these duties, over a variety of time periods. It is equally important that Council delivers "best value" to ratepayers and to other levels of government. It is in the interests of our communities that Council not only be well resourced and financially sustainable in the long term, but that it is continually accountable to all stakeholders.

Economic and Tourism Development

Growing Prosperity

Our residents and ratepayers enjoy and expect ongoing access to a high level of facilities and services in their communities and high standards of living. For this to continue we require growth in the local and regional economies, jobs and populations.

Lifestyle and Innovation

Building Communities and Fostering Creativity

To survive, compete and grow in the modern world we require creative and entrepreneurial people, businesses and communities. With new people, new jobs, new ideas and new enthusiasm our communities will be well placed to "get through the tough times" and stake claims as desirable residential, work and holiday locations.

Built and Natural Environment

Attaining Sustainability

There is strong evidence, now accepted by the broader community, that mankind's population growth, industrial expansion and resources use is contributing to climate change and will ultimately make the planet an unfriendly environment for us. We have a duty as custodians for future generations to ensure our environments are healthy and our ways of life are sustainable. We must alter our activities to stop further damage to the environment, and adjust our behaviours and lifestyles accordingly.

Infrastructure and Assets

Developing the Foundation for Our Future

A range of reliable infrastructure is required to cater for the current and future transportation, communication, water, electricity and quality of life needs of our residents, businesses and communities. We acknowledge that Council has a leadership role in encouraging the adoption of alternative technologies and sharing of facilities and resources, to deliver infrastructure and services in a sustainable and environmentally sensitive manner.

Public Health, Order and Safety

Improving Wellbeing

Members of our District highly value the fact that their communities have low crime rates; they have a good range of essential and emergency services; lifestyles are healthy with high participation rates in sport and ready access to attractive natural environments; they have numerous opportunities for socialising; and they can rely on neighbours and friends in times of need. It is important that these lifestyle advantages are maintained by continuing to provide a safe and healthy local environment.

3. Financial Sustainability/Financial Performance Measures

Amendments to the Local Government Act 1999 (the 'Act') in 2005 combined with an independent review initiated by the Local Government Association into the long term financial sustainability of South Australian councils clearly indicated that there was a need for councils to take a longer view into their financial planning and sustainability in working towards their goals. In 2020/2021 Council intends to review and update its Long-Term Financial Plan and Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans, and review its Strategic Plan.

Council is committed to ensuring its long term financial sustainability. Council's financial sustainability is dependent on ensuring that, on average over time, its expenses are at least matched by its revenue. In addition, capital expenditure on existing infrastructure and other assets should be optimised (in accordance with the Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans so as to minimise the whole-of-life-cycle costs of assets).

Regulation 7 (Budgets) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* directs at 7(d) that pursuant to section 123(10)(b) of the Act, each budget of a council under the Act must include estimates with respect to the council's operating surplus ratio, net financial liabilities ratio and asset sustainability ratio presented in a manner consistent with the note in the Model Financial Statements entitled Financial Indicators.

3.1 Operating Surplus Ratio

The Operating Surplus Ratio expresses the operating surplus (deficit) as a percentage of total operating income. Council for the year ending 30 June 2021 will have a surplus of -2.4%.

3.2 Net Financial Liabilities & Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

Net Financial Liabilities is a comprehensive measure of the indebtedness of the Council as it includes items such as employee long-service leave entitlements and other amounts payable as well as taking account of the level of Council's available cash and investments. Specifically, Net Financial Liabilities equals total liabilities less financial assets, where financial assets for this purpose are current cash and cash equivalents, current trade and other receivables, current other financial assets and non-current financial assets, but excludes equity held in Council businesses.

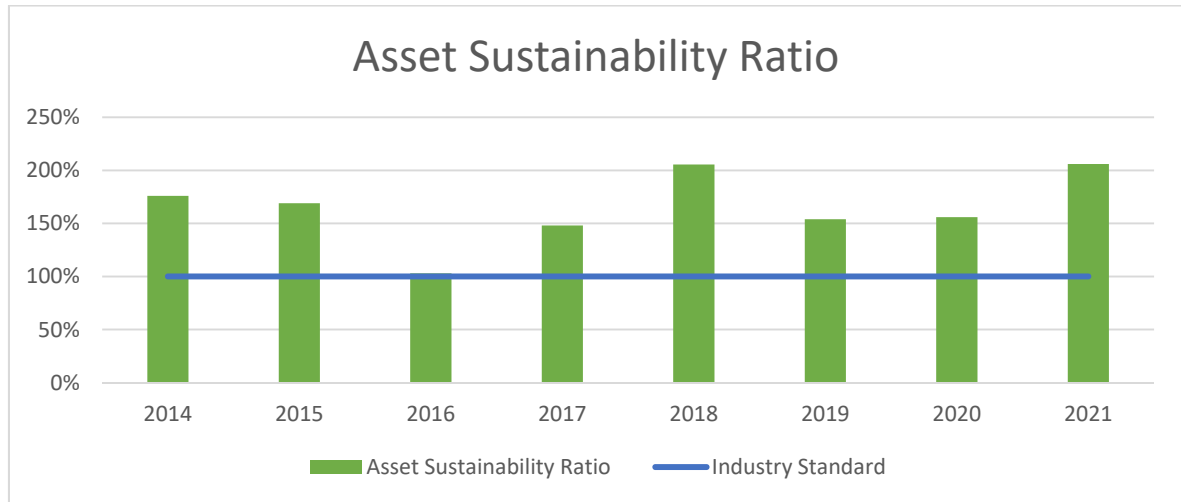
The Net Liabilities Ratio is calculated by expressing the net liabilities at the end of the year as a percentage of operating revenue for the year. The following table sets out revised estimates as at 30 June 2021.

	\$000
Total Liabilities	\$1,828
Less Total Financial Assets	\$2,333
Net Financial Liabilities	-\$505
Total Operating Income	\$8,045
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio	-6%

The local government sector wide results for this financial indicator usually fall between 0% and 100%. The negative result (-6%) indicates that Council is in a net financial assets position. Net Financial Liabilities of (\$505K) indicates that Council has sufficient capacity to continue its operational and capital expenditure programs and allows for contingencies.

3.3 Asset Sustainability Ratio

The Asset Sustainability Ratio indicates whether the Council is renewing or replacing existing non-financial assets at the same rate as its overall stock of assets is wearing out. The ratio is calculated by measuring capital expenditure on renewal and replacement of assets relative to its Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans (IAMP). Council is aiming to attain a result of 206% for the year ending 30 June 2021. As outlined in the graph below Council has continued to ensure that asset renewals expenditure is above the Industry Standard.



3.4 Overall Assessment of Councils Financial Sustainability (based on ratios above)

The above ratios indicate that the proposed Annual Business Plan and the associated Budget that underpins it, is financially sustainable over the following 12 months.



4. Significant Influences and Priorities

A number of significant factors have influenced the preparation of the Council's 2020/2021 Annual Business Plan. These include:

- Consumer Price Index increases on existing goods and services;
- Enterprise Bargaining Agreement which provides for wage increases above CPI;
- Long Term Financial Plan aimed at ensuring Council's sustainability;
- Asset Management Plans for all Council assets, aimed to maintain and improve infrastructure assets to acceptable standards, including roads, footpaths, storm water drainage and community wastewater management systems;
- commitments to continuing projects and partnership initiatives over more than one year, including, Port Germein Jetty, Flinders Mobile Library, Northern Passenger Transport Network, Regional Development Association and StarClub;
- increase in Solid Waste Levy and Recycling costs;
- increased demand of service delivery needs of the community, including the increase in operating heavy vehicles for transport;
- provision of sufficiently qualified experienced and trained staff to meet service delivery demands;
- Increase in Council's administrative pressures including but not limited to risk management, Work Health and Safety, increased Legislative compliance requirements, government reporting and Essential Services Commission of SA [ESCOSA] reporting requirements;
- Covid-19 pandemic;
- State Government cost shifting to local government in many areas.



5. Continuing Services

All councils have basic responsibilities under the Act and other relevant legislation. These include:

- numerous regulatory activities (increasing each year)
- supporting the elected Council;
- setting rates, preparing an annual business plan and budget, and determining longer-term strategic management plans for the area;
- management of basic infrastructure including roads, footpaths, public open spaces;
- street lighting and storm-water drainage;
- street cleaning, rubbish collection, recycling and waste management.

Council also provides, performs or contributes to a range of additional services and programs in response to community needs, including (but not restricted to):

Mobile Library Service	Asset Management
Cemeteries	Animal and Plant Control
Booleroo Centre Airstrip	Walking and Riding Trails and Rail Trails
Melrose Licensed Post Office	Parking
Community Wastewater Mgt Schemes x 4	Playgrounds
Community Bus	Property Searches
Community Development	Public Toilets
Community Grants	Medical Facility
Community Engagement and Information	Recreation and Sporting Facilities
Community Passenger Transport	Road Construction and Maintenance
Community Halls and public venues	Leases
Abandoned Vehicles	StarClub Program
Council Newsletters	Rural Road Signs
Customer Service	Urban Street Signs
Caravan Parks	Street Trees and Gardens
Dog and Cat Management	Swimming Pool (Public)
Economic Development	Tourist and historical sites
Fire Prevention	Traffic Control
Food Act Administration	Waste Management Transfer Stations
Health Act Administration	Willowie Landfill Management
Safe Drinking Water Act Administration	Jetty Management
Safe Food Handling Training	Waste Collection
DrumMuster	Recycling Collection
Desludging Programs	Council Website
Environmental Health	Council Facebook Page
Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act	Kerbing Watertable Footpaths Floodways
Building Approvals	Tourism information and promotion
Planning Approvals	Weeroona Island Water Supply
Boat Launching Facility	Regional Development
Tidy Towns	Coastal Protection
Immunisation	Citizenship Ceremonies

6. Capital Expenditure - Project Priorities for the 2020/2021

CAPITAL EXPENSES - EXISTING ASSETS

Office Equipment

Photocopier – Administration	Replace Photocopier	\$8,000
Folding Machine – Administration	Replace Folding Machine	\$3,000
Firewall / Router	Replace Existing Setup	\$5,200
Total Office Equipment		\$16,200

Buildings

Booleroo Centre Lions Den	Re-roofing	\$19,154
Booleroo Centre Lions Den	Re-carpeting	\$8,000
Total Buildings		\$27,154

Plant & Equipment

4 x Administration Vehicles	Replacement	\$190,000
3 x NPTN Vehicles	Replacement	\$85,000
2 x Works Tray Top Utilities	Replacement	\$60,000
Total Plant and Equipment		\$335,000

Roads – Resheeting

Category One

Reservoir Road	7.15 km	\$214,500
		\$214,500

Category Two

Hammond Road	Bluebush Road to Brindinna Road (5.4 km)	\$162,000
Schmidt Road	from Haunted House to Greig Road (1.0 km)	\$30,000
Greig Road	Schmidt Road to Windy Plains Road (2.7 km)	\$81,300
Buffham Road	Voigt Road to boundary (2.1 km)	\$63,000
Waters Road	3.0 kms	\$90,000
Arwakurra Road	Sweet Road to Keller Road (1.6 km)	\$48,000
Rooke Road	Piggott Road to Boundary (2.0 km)	\$30,000
Dust Bowl Road	from Horrocks Highway for 4.0 km + floodway	\$150,000
Snake Gully Road	from Nukunu Yarta Way to Yandiah Road for 2.5 km	\$75,000
		\$729,300

Category Three, Four & Patching

Willochra Road – Cat 4	from Joppich Road to Pitchers Road for 1.0 km	\$30,000
Greyhound Track Road – Cat 3	Appila Road to Pine Creek Road (2.5 km)	\$75,000
Davis Road – no category	Upgrade Road (1.5 km)	\$45,000
Bridle Track – Cat 4	repair first 1.5 km	\$45,000
Buggy Road – Cat 4	600m from Mudge Road intersection for 800m	\$18,000
Willow Dam Road – Cat 3	Seaman Road to Port Germein Gorge Road (2.2 km)	\$66,000
Well Road – Cat 4	300m North of Brindinna Road	\$9,000

Patching Works		300,000
		\$588,000

Reseals, Kerbing, Watertable, Footpaths, Floodways

Appila-Laura Road	5.0 km reseal	\$300,000
Total Reseals, Kerbing, Watertable, Footpaths, Floodways		\$300,000

Infrastructure

Willowie Floodway, Booleroo Road		\$300,000
Heavy Vehicle Regulatory Signage on Rural Roads	Floodway, Give Way, Corner etc	\$50,000
Weerooa Island Water Supply	Upgrade Storage Tanks – 4 x 22,000 L	\$10,500
Wirrabara Cemetery	Niche Garden	\$30,000
Total Infrastructure		\$390,500

Drought Communities Project**Extension**

Wilmington Rodeo Club	Fencing Repairs, Purchase & Install of LED Lighting, Install of Solar	\$20,832
Booleroo Centre Community Gym	Removal of Walls	\$6,175
Melrose Memorial Bowling Club	Lighting Upgrade to Bowling Green	\$45,130
Wilmington Oval Management Committee	Concreting under Veranda Extension	\$23,835
Wilmington Tennis Club	Perimeter Fencing & Clubroom Facilities Upgrade	\$32,165
Wirrabara Sporting Reserve	Solar & Air Conditioning	\$41,707
Wilmington Progress Society	Centenary Park Upgrade	\$27,382
Bike Melrose	Trail Head	\$58,000
Melrose Tennis Club	Court Fencing	\$11,190
Melrose Tennis Club	Playground Shade	\$29,280
Wirrabara Golf Club	Upgrade Sewerage System	\$8,500
Wirrabara Golf Club	Solar System	\$8,400
Melrose Community Development Association	Paradise Square Fencing	\$19,813
Melrose Community Development Association	RSL Community Building Re-roofing	\$11,667
Booleroo Centre Community Development & Tourism Association	Booleroo Centre Main Street	\$54,860
Appila Improvement Association	Appila Town Upgrades	\$19,065
Rocky River Pistol Club	Range Upgrade	\$3,940
Wirrabara Progress Association	Rotunda Upgrade	\$6,200
Wirrabara Progress Association	Verandas along Main Street	\$33,200
Wilmington Town Hall	Repairs	\$22,093

**Total Drought Communities Project
Extension****\$483,434****TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENSES - EXISTING ASSETS****\$3,084,088****CAPITAL EXPENSES - NEW ASSETS****Roads****Total Roads****\$0****Buildings**Toilet Block – Booleroo Centre
playground

\$10,000

Total Buildings**\$10,000****Plant & Equipment****Total Plant & Equipment****\$0****Sealing, Kerbing, Watertable, Footpaths, Floodways**

Casuarina Street, Wirrabara

Concrete Drain / Swale

\$6,000

Port Germein Foreshore

Dig Out & Bitumen in front of parklands

\$6,500

Total Sealing, Kerbing, Watertable, Footpaths, Floodways**\$12,500****Infrastructure**

Booleroo Centre Cemetery

Information Board

\$5,000

Melrose Cemetery

Information Board

\$7,000

Rail Trail – Melrose to Booleroo West

\$200,000

Willowie Water Scheme

\$39,000

Weeroona Island Water Supply

Low Level Monitoring Alarm System

\$2,900

Total Infrastructure**\$253,900****TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENSES - NEW ASSETS****\$276,400****TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE****\$3,360,488**

7. Non-Financial Performance Measures

7.1 Targets and Outcomes - 2019/2020 Measures

The following table shows the 2019/2020 non-financial performance measure targets and outcomes for the financial year ending 30 June 2020:

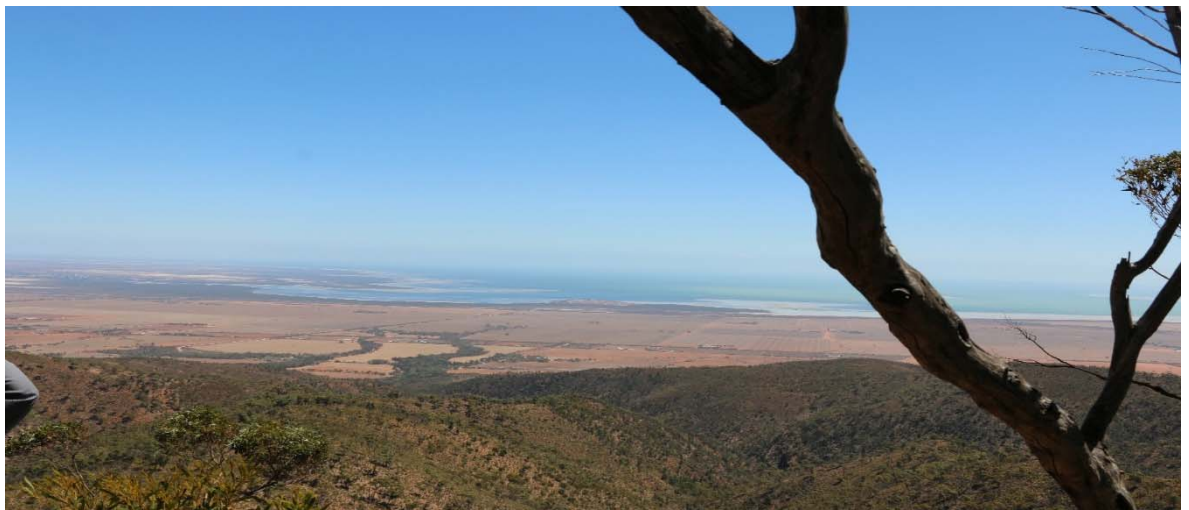
TARGET MEASURE	OUTCOME
Review Council's Strategic Management Plan	Continued – Councillors resolved staff obtaining 3 quotes from an external consultant to facilitate this at its Ordinary Meeting in May 2020
Continue the ongoing review of Council policies and procedures	Continued – Councillors resolved staff obtaining 3 quotes from an external consultant to review all its policies and procedures at its Ordinary Meeting in May 2020
Continue the Rebranding of the Council and the promotion of " <i>Remarkable Experience</i> "	Continued
Continue Council's Monthly Newsletter, Facebook posts and Website updates for public communication	Continued
Resheet 12 kms of category 1 unsealed roads	Resheeted 12 kms of category 1 unsealed roads
Resheet 13 kms of category 2 unsealed roads	Resheeted 15.41 kms of category 2 unsealed roads
Resheet 0.9 kms of category 3 unsealed roads	Resheeted 1.15 kms of category 3 unsealed roads
Patching of various roads	Patching has continued per maintenance program
Construct new sheeted road to Wirrabara new Ablution Block	Completed
Install floodways at Nectar Brook Road	Completed
Construct and Seal roads and kerbing in Wilmington, Weeroona Island and Melrose	Completed
Reseal roads verges in Melrose, Wirrabara and Booleroo Centre	Completed
Undertake refurbishment works at Appila and Wilmington Halls and Weeroona Island and Melrose public toilets	Refurbishment works at Appila and Wilmington Halls to be completed as part of Drought Communities Program Extension in 2020/21 financial year
Undertake drainage and civil works in Wirrabara Cemetery	Completed
Install footpaths in the Port Germein Cemetery	Completed
Develop a new carpark at the Booleroo Centre Cemetery	Completed
Carry out footpath refurbishment in Murray Town	Completed
Install 3 bridges Wilmington to Melrose Rail Trail	Completed
Commence resurfacing Wirrabara to Stone Hut Rail Trail	Completed
Continue to investigate suitable Rubble Pits throughout the District for resheeting of roads	Ongoing

Continue the Community Assistance Grants	Continued
Continue membership with the Regional Development Board	Continued
Provide and subsidise Rural Doctors consulting rooms in Wilmington and Wirrabara	Continued
Provide Annual School Awards	Continued
Continue membership to the Flinders Mobile Library	Continued
Work with agencies for the continuance of the Northern Passenger Transport Network	Continued
Facilitate the annual Australia Day Awards	Continued
Continue to be an active member in the Legatus Group	Continued
Continue support for the StarClub Program	Continued
Continue the Leases of Community and Sporting Facilities	Continued
Continue to encourage growth or new businesses within the region	Continued
Continue works to develop the Bluff Lookout	Continued – Council is receiving updated costings for the project with work anticipated to be completed in the 2020/21 financial year
Continue working with DEW and other parties to progress ‘Around the Mount’ bike trail concept	Continued
Continue to work on access and development of cycling trails in the Wirrabara Forest	Continued
Continue working with agencies to complete the seawall works at Port Germein	Continued – Council has received approval from relevant State Government agencies and the project will be completed in 2020/21 financial year
Commence installation of Heavy Vehicle Regulatory Signage	In Progress – to be continued and finalised over next two financial years
Upgrade Melrose CWMS to facilitate watering of Melrose Oval	Completed

7.2 Proposed 2020/2021 Measures

The following proposed non-financial performance measures for the 2020/2021 financial year are linked to *Our 2020 Vision*, District Council of Mount Remarkable Strategic Management Plan 2008 - 2020, namely:

- Review Council's Strategic Management Plans
- Continue the ongoing review of Council policies and procedures
- Continue the Rebranding of the Council and the promotion of "*Remarkable Experience*"
- Continue Council's Monthly Newsletter, Facebook posts and Website updates for public communication
- Resheet 7.15 kms of category 1 unsealed roads
- Resheet 24.30 kms category 2 unsealed roads
- Resheet 9.80 kms category 3 & 4 unsealed roads
- Patching of various roads
- Continue to investigate suitable Rubble Pits throughout the District for resheeting of roads
- Continue the Community Assistance Grants
- Continue Membership with the Regional Development Board
- Provide and subsidise Rural Doctors consulting rooms in Wilmington and Wirrabara
- Provide Annual School Awards
- Continue membership to the Flinders Mobile Library
- Work with agencies for the continuance of the Northern Passenger Transport Network
- Facilitate Annual Australia Day Awards
- Continue to be an active member in the Legatus Group
- Continue support for StarClub Program
- Facilitate support for the Leases of Community and Sporting Facilities
- Continue to support existing businesses
- Continue to encourage growth and/or new businesses within the region
- Develop a stronger influence and support for Community Events including community based programs
- Continue works to develop the Bluff Lookout
- Continue working with Department for Environment & Water and other parties to progress 'Around the Mount' bike trail concept
- Continue to work on access and development of cycling trails in the Wirrabara Forest
- Continue installation of Heavy Vehicle Regulatory Signage
- Develop a Staff Training & Development Policy



8. Grant Funding

Local Government receives four types of Financial Assistance Grants funding, namely:

General Purpose & Local Roads Grants (Federal)

Council has complete discretion as to expenditure of funds received.

Roads to Recovery & Supplementary Road (Federal)

Whilst funds received are to be spent on road projects, Council has complete discretion on whether such spending is on maintaining, renewing or upgrading roads.

The Federal Government Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) (both general purpose and local roads components), are normally received in four quarterly payments in the year it applies. For the past four years 50% of the funding has been paid in the previous year, in which Councils are unable to report as a prepayment and transfer to the year the works will be completed.

Specific Purpose Grants

Local Government can also receive, by application, funding for specific purposes. These are to be spent on specific projects or programs. In Council's case this includes approximately \$200k from relevant funding bodies for the Northern Passenger Transport Network (or Northern CPN).

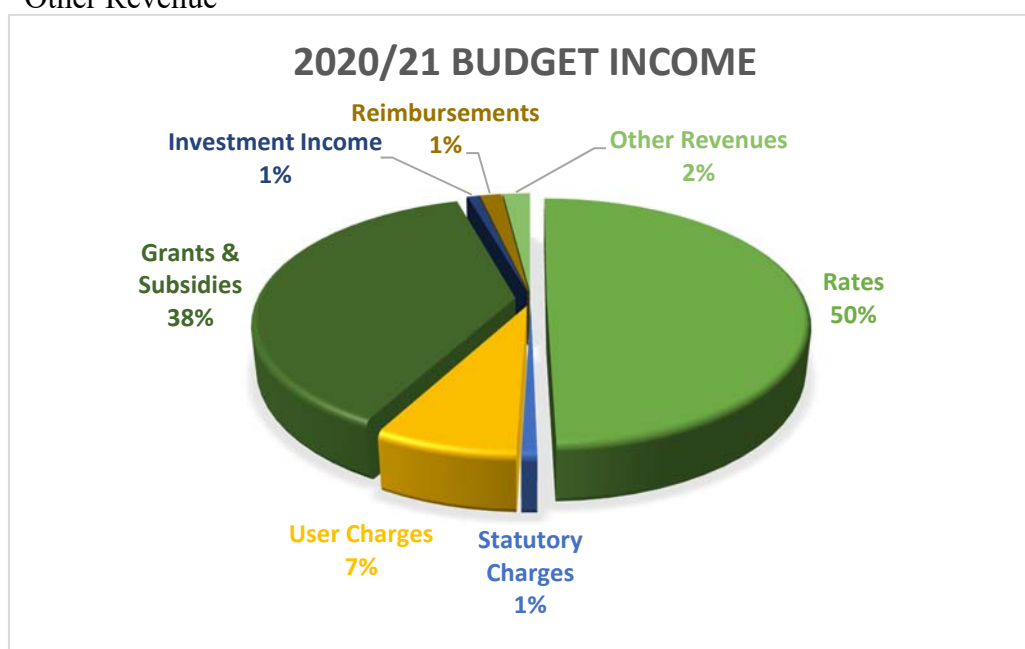


9. Funding the Business Plan

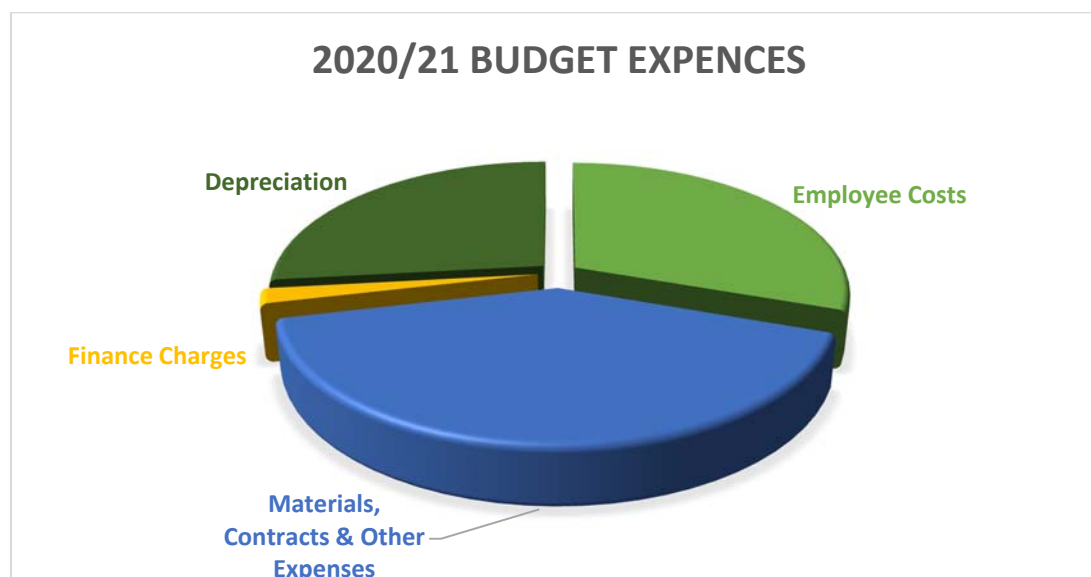
An operating deficit of \$195k is being targeted in 2020/2021. The operating deficit measures the difference between operating revenue and expenses for the period. The Council's long-term financial sustainability is dependent on ensuring that, on average over time, its expenses are less than its revenue.

Council's revenue in 2020/2021 includes \$3.996M proposed to be raised from general rates and service charges. This is based on an increase of 0% apart from Desludging to occur for relevant properties and an increase to the Regional Landscape (formerly NRM) Levy. Other sources of proposed revenue for the Council are:

- User Charges and Commercial Revenue
- Statutory Charges set by State Government
- Grants and subsidies
- Investment Income
- Other Revenue



Council's expenditure in 2020/2021 includes \$2.501M proposed for employee costs and \$3.381M for Materials and Contractors. This is based on an increase of 2.5%. Other sources of proposed expenditure for the Council are depreciation and finance charges.



10. Uniform Presentation of Council Finances

The Uniform Presentation of Council Finances together with the results of the Key Financial Indicators provides a summarised report that focuses on Council's finances at a strategic level.

The Summary of Financial Position report highlights the operating surplus (deficit) measure which is considered the most critical indicator of a Council's financial performance. The result of this report is the movement in Net Financial Liabilities (Net Lending / Borrowing) for the year based on Council's planned capital and operating budgets for that year. Achieving a zero result on the net lending / (borrowing) measure in any one year essentially means that the Council has met all of its expenditure (both operating and capital) from the current year's income (with income including amounts received specifically for new / upgraded assets).

	Budget Review #2 y.e. 30 June 2020	Proposed Budget y.e 30 June 2021	LTFP
	\$,000	\$,000	\$,000
Section 1:			
Operating Revenue	6,926	8,045	7,821
less Operating Expense	(7,567)	(8,241)	(7,604)
Operating Surplus / (Deficit) before Capital Amounts	(641)	(195)	217
Section 2:			
less Net Outlays on Existing Assets			
Capital Expenditure on renewal and replacement of Existing Assets	2,253	3,084	1,600
less Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	(2,183)	(2,205)	(2,205)
less Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets	(84)	(128)	(50)
	(14)	751	(655)
Section 3:			
less Net Outlays on New & Upgraded Assets			
Capital Expenditure on New & Upgraded Assets	1,685	276	800
less Amounts specifically for new or upgraded Assets	(316)	(1,100)	0
less Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets	0	(50)	0
	1,369	(874)	800
Section 4:			
Net Lending/ (Borrowing) for Financial year	(1,996)	(72)	71

A full explanation of the 2020/21 financial year components to the above Uniform Presentation of Finances is contained in Appendix A.

11. Rating Arrangements 2020/2021

11.1 Business Impact

The Council has considered the impact of rates on all businesses in the Council area, including Primary Production. In considering the impact, Council assessed the following matters:

- those elements of the Council's Strategic Management Plan relating to business development;
- the equity of the distribution of the rate burden by rating using one rate in the dollar against capital value;
- Council's policy on facilitating local economic development through its financial support to the Regional Development Australia Board, who employ a small business advisor;
- assisting tourism product development;
- rebates of rates given to certain businesses where Council considered rates levied were beyond the capacity of those businesses to pay;
- specific projects that have principally provided benefit to the primary producers included;
- a continuing proactive effort in promoting the Single Farm Enterprise benefit which has reduced the rate burden on primary production enterprises;
- continuation of the CWMS implementation program which will assist both residential and business land uses to dispose of waste water. These Schemes will have a largely beneficial use to high water usage businesses e.g. hotels, caravan parks and other accommodation facilities;
- Increased Regulatory Requirements and Legislative compliance;
- In accordance with Section 166(3a) of the Local Government Act 1999, the previous 15% rate capping provided will cease as it cannot exceed 3 years.

11.2 Method Used to Value Land

Council may adopt one of three valuation methodologies to value the properties in its area;

- Capital Value - the value of the land and all of the improvements on the land.
- Site Value - the value of the land and any improvements which permanently affect the amenity of use of the land, such as drainage works, but excluding the value of buildings and other improvements.
- Annual Value - a valuation of the rental potential of the property.

Council conducted a review of its basis of rating to ensure that the rating methodology it applies generates equitable outcomes for all classes of ratepayers. The review focussed on what share of total rate revenue will be collected from different types of properties (for example commercial, industrial, primary production and residential) and of different relative values (high or low).

Council proposes to adopt:

- Capital value based rating;
- Using land use Council-wide as the basis of differential rating;
- Maintaining a fixed charge when implementing changes to the basis of rating; and
- Using a common rate for all properties Council-wide.

11.3 Adoption of Valuations

Council is proposing to adopt the valuations made by the Valuer-General. If landowners are dissatisfied with the valuation made by the Valuer-General then they may object to the Valuer-General in writing, within 60 days of receiving notice of the valuation on their rate notice, explaining the basis for the objection, provided they have not:

- (a) previously received a notice of this valuation under the Local Government Act, in which case the objection period is 60 days from the receipt of the first notice; or
- (b) previously had an objection to the valuation considered by the Valuer-General.

The contact details for the State Valuation Office are:

State Valuation Office

GPO Box 1354

ADELAIDE SA 5001

Email: lsg.objections@sa.gov.au or Telephone: 1300 653 345

The Council has no role in this process. It is important to note that the lodgement of an objection does not change the due date for payment of rates.

11.4 General Rates

All land within a Council area, except for land within a specific exemption (eg. Crown land, Council occupied land and other land prescribed in Section 147 of the Act), is rateable. The Act provides for a Council to raise revenue for the broad purposes of the Council through a general rate which applies to all rateable properties. For the 2020/2021 financial year, Council is raising general rate and service charge revenue of \$3.996M.

11.4.1 Fixed Charge

The Council is proposing to continue to impose a fixed charge system, rather than a minimum rate. This financial year the fixed charge will be \$325.50 (same as 2019/2020). This fixed charge is levied uniformly on all non-contiguous assessments, unless the principal ratepayer has applied for and been granted the benefit of a Single Farm Enterprise. In this instance, only one fixed charge is applied to that Farm Enterprise. The fixed charge is levied against the whole of an allotment (including land under a separate lease or licence) and only one fixed charge is levied against two or more pieces of adjoining land (whether intercepted by a road or not) if they are owned by the same owner and occupied by the same occupier.

The reasons for imposing a fixed charge are:

- the Council considers it appropriate that all rateable properties make a reasonable base contribution to the cost of administering the Council's activities;
- the Council considers it appropriate that all rateable properties make a contribution to the cost of creating and maintaining the physical infrastructure that supports each property;
- the fixed charge system has a lesser proportionate impact on lower income earners than a minimum rate system;
- the fixed charge system is more readily understandable than a minimum rate system.

11.4.2 Differential General Rates

The differential general rates pursuant to Section 156(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1999 is proposed to be declared by Council as 0.3706 cents in the dollar for the 2020/2021 financial year.

11.5 Separate Rates

Landscape South Australia Levy (State Government Charge)

Councils are required, by the State Government, to collect an amount specified as the Landscape South Australia Levy on all rateable land. Collection occurs on behalf of the State Government via the Northern & Yorke Landscape Board, which uses the funds to manage natural resources.

The Northern & Yorke Landscape Board has declared a total contribution to be raised by Council from this area of \$132,265, being an increase of \$10,994. The Board has advised that the Board will continue to use, the value of rateable land (capital value) as the basis for determining the levy which will mean a rate of 0.0262 cents in the dollar for the 2020/2021 financial year.

Any queries relating to the Landscape Levy should be directed to the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, 155 Main North Road, Clare SA 5453, Phone: (08) 8841 3400 email: ny.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au.

11.6 Service Charges

The Council continues to raise revenue by means of service charges because of:

- the concept of user pays;
- the nature of the service;
- the cost to operate and maintain the service;
- the capital cost to establish the service;
- the cost to improve or replace the service;
- recognition that the value of a property is likely to be enhanced by the availability of the service, whether or not the service is actually being used.

Properties rebated from payment of general rates in part or in full, are not provided with a rebate on these service charges.

11.6.1 Community Wastewater Management Schemes

The Council provides a Community Wastewater Management Scheme (CWMS) to all residential, commercial and vacant properties in Wilmington, Melrose, Booleroo Centre and Wirrabara. The Council will recover the cost of servicing the construction loans, operating and maintaining these services for this financial year through the imposition of service charges for each occupied property unit and for each vacant allotment of \$526.20 (same as 2019/2020) in the 2020/2021 financial year.

The charges were increased to the current levels over a period of time to comply with a sustainable pricing regime being promoted by the State Government and the Local Government Association. A move in this direction will ensure that the current Schemes, together with any future Schemes, receive appropriate State Government financial assistance and are sustainable financially in the longer term.

11.6.2 Waste Management

In the 2020/2021 financial year, Council will continue to provide a weekly kerbside waste collection service and fortnightly recycling collection to townships in the Council area and to the rural residential properties abutting the collection route.

The cost to operate these services is beyond Council's ability to absorb in general revenue and it would not be equitable to all ratepayers for them to do so. Council will therefore continue to recover the cost of these services through the imposition of a service charge of \$255.60 (same as 2019/2020) for the collection and disposal of domestic waste and of recycling. The service charge will apply to all occupied properties that have access to the service, regardless of whether or not the service is utilised. The exception is vacant land.

Where the service is available to non-rateable land, the charge is levied against that land. Where the service is made available after the declaration of rates, Section 188 of the Act permits Council to apply the charge pro rata against the remaining period of the financial year.

11.6.3 Weeroona Island Water Supply

The cost to operate the Weeroona Island Water Supply is beyond Council's ability to absorb in general revenue and it would not be equitable to all ratepayers for them to do so. Pursuant to Section 155 of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council will recover the cost of operating and maintaining this service for this financial year through the imposition of an annual service charge of \$301.60 and a supply charge of \$3.007 per kilolitre of water (both same as 2019/2020). These service charges also apply to non-rateable land to which the service is made available within the area of Weeroona Island.

11.6.4 Road Rental

Persons wishing to rent a road pursuant to Section 222 of the Act, will be imposed a rate of 0.01 cents in the dollar of the road estimated value for the 2020/2021 financial year.

11.7 Rate Concessions

CWMS and Water Supply concessions will be determined and administered by the State Government.

11.8 Quarterly Payment of Rates

The Act provides that rates are payable in four quarterly instalments. The quarterly instalments must be approximately equal in value and a rate notice in relation to each instalment must be sent at least 30 days and no more than 60 days before payment is due. The due dates for instalments for 2020/2021 are proposed to be:

- 25 September 2020;
- 11 December 2020;
- 12 March 2021;
- 11 June 2021.

11.9 Methods by Which Rates May Be Paid

Council continues to provide a wide variety of payment methods, including:

- Direct Debit Account Name: The District Council of Mount Remarkable
 Account BSB: 105-091 Number: 020809040
- BPay Biller Code 2253
- Post: PO Box 94, Melrose SA 5483
- In person at the office of the Council on 3 Stuart Street Melrose between the hours of 9.00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday. Council also has EFTPOS facilities available.
- Centrepay: (555012845S).

11.10 Postponement of Rates for Seniors

Section 182A of the Act allows eligible Senior Ratepayers to postpone a proportion of their Council rates each financial year commencing in 2007/2008 (there is a threshold amount of rates which cannot be postponed). The outstanding rates remain a charge on the property until it is sold or the Senior person no longer lives on the property or becomes ineligible to continue the postponement. For further information, please contact the Rates Officer at the Council office.

11.11 Late Payment of Rates

The Local Government Act 1999 provides that Councils impose a fine penalty of 2.0% on any payment of rates that is received late. A payment that continues to be late is then charged a prescribed interest rate on the expiration of each month that it continues to be late. For each financial year this interest rate is determined by the Local Government Association Cash Advance Debenture Rate.

Council issues a final notice for payment of rates when rates are overdue i.e. unpaid by the due date. Should rates remain unpaid more than 30 days after the due date, unless alternative payment arrangements have been agreed with the Council, the debt may be referred to a debt collection agency for collection. The debt collection agency charges collection fees to the ratepayer.

When Council receives a payment in respect of overdue rates, it applies the money received as follows:

- first - to satisfy any costs awarded in connection with court proceedings;
- second - to satisfy any interest costs;
- third - in payment of any fines imposed;
- fourth - in payment of rates, in chronological order, starting with the oldest account first.

11.12 Remission and Postponement of Rates

Section 182 of the Act permits the Council, on the application of the ratepayer, to partially or wholly remit rates or postpone rates, make extended payment provisions or payments by deferred arrangement, on the basis of demonstrable hardship. Where a ratepayer is suffering hardship in paying rates he/she is invited to contact the Chief Executive Officer at the Council Office on (08) 8666 2014 to discuss the matter. All such enquiries are treated confidentially.

11.13 Rebate of Rates

Rebates and remissions are a concession granted by the Council and the granting of such rebates redistribute the rate burden to other ratepayers, irrespective of whether the rebates are mandated by legislation or granted on a discretionary basis by the Council.

11.13.1 Mandatory Rebates

The Local Government Act 1999 requires Councils to rebate the rates payable for certain land uses. These include rebates of 100% for land being predominantly used for service delivery or administration by a hospital or health centre; containing a church or other building used for public worship; used for a cemetery.

The Recreational Grounds Rates and Taxes Exemption Act 1981 also provides for rebates on land and various other legislation makes provision for rate rebates, for example the National Trust Act; and the Native Vegetation Act.

11.13.2 Discretionary Rebates

Pursuant to Section 166 of the Act, the Council may in its absolute discretion grant a rebate of rates or service charges in any of the following cases:

- where it is desirable for the purpose of securing the proper development of the area (or a part of the area);
- where it is desirable for the purpose of assisting or supporting a business in its area;
- where it will be conducive to the preservation of buildings or places of historic significance;
- where the land is being used for educational purposes;
- where the land is being used for agricultural, horticultural or floricultural exhibitions;
- where the land is being used for a hospital or health centre;
- where the land is being used to provide facilities or services for children or young persons;
- where the land is being used to provide accommodation for the aged or disabled;
- where the land is being used for a residential aged care facility that is approved for Commonwealth funding under the Aged Care Act 1987 (Commonwealth) or a day therapy centre;
- where the land is being used by an organisation which, in the opinion of the Council, provides a benefit or service to the local community;
- where the rebate relates to common property or land vested in a community corporation under the Community Titles Act over which the public has a free and unrestricted right of access and enjoyment;
- where the rebate is considered by the Council to be appropriate to provide relief against what would otherwise amount to a substantial change in rates payable due to a change in the basis of valuation used for the purposes of rating, rapid changes in valuations, or anomalies in valuations;
- where the rebate is considered by the Council to be appropriate to provide relief in order to avoid what would otherwise constitute a liability to pay a rate or charge that is inconsistent with the liabilities that were anticipated by the council in its annual business plan; or a liability that is unfair or unreasonable;
- where the rebate is to give effect to a review of a decision of the Council under Chapter 13 Part 2;
- where the rebate is contemplated under another provision of this Act.

In exercising this general power, Council is able to pursue policy objectives and provide assistance to local community groups as well as local businesses and residential use landowners experiencing above normal increases in rates that result from property valuation 'spikes'.

11.14 Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Rates

The Act provides that a Council may sell any property where the rates have been in arrears for three years or more. The Council is required to notify the owner of the land of:

- its intention to sell the land;
- details of the outstanding amounts;
- Council's intention to sell the land if payment of the outstanding amount is not received within one month.

Except in extraordinary circumstances, Council enforces the sale of land for arrears of rates.

Appendix A - Statutory Statements

District Council of Mount Remarkable Statement of Comprehensive Income Proposed Budget for Year Ending 30 June 2021

	Budget Review #2 y.e. 30 June 2020	Proposed Budget y.e 30 June 2021	LTFP
	\$,000	\$,000	\$,000
INCOME			
Rates	3,946	3,996	3,884
Statutory Charges	68	66	51
User Charges	598	598	730
Grants & Subsidies	1,739	3,027	2,750
Investment Income	70	68	68
Reimbursements	308	130	130
Other Revenues	196	160	208
Total Operating Income	6,926	8,045	7,821
EXPENDITURE			
Employee Costs	2,556	2,501	2,501
Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses	2,677	3,381	2,744
Finance Charges	151	154	154
Depreciation	2,183	2,205	2,205
Total Operating Expenditure	7,567	8,241	7,604
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(641)	(195)	217
Gain / Loss on Disposal & Fair Value Adjustments			
Amounts specifically for new or upgraded assets	316	1,100	0
Physical resources received free of charge			
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(325)	905	217

District Council of Mount Remarkable
Statement of Financial Position
Proposed Budget for Year Ending 30 June 2021

	Budget Review #2 y.e. 30 June 2020	Proposed Budget y.e 30 June 2021	LTFP
	\$,000	\$,000	\$,000
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1,876	1,653	2,285
Trade & Other Receivables	683	650	650
Inventories	40	40	40
Total Current Assets	2,599	2,343	2,975
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Financial Assets	30	30	30
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	72,485	73,494	72,161
Total Non-Current Assets	72,515	73,464	71,191
TOTAL ASSETS	75,114	75,867	75,166
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade & Other Payables	253	253	253
Borrowings	151	151	151
Short Term Provisions	107	107	107
Total Current Liabilities	511	511	511
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Long Term Borrowings	1,382	1,231	1,231
Long Term Provisions	86	86	86
Total Non-Current Liabilities	1,468	1,317	1,317
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,979	1,828	1,828
NET ASSETS	73,135	74,039	73,338
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus	36,695	37,599	36,898
Asset Revaluation Reserve	35,285	35,285	35,285
Other Reserves	1,155	1,155	1,155
TOTAL EQUITY	73,135	74,039	73,338

District Council of Mount Remarkable
Statement of Cash Flows
Proposed Budget for Year Ending 30 June 2021

	Budget Review #2 y.e. 30 June 2020	Proposed Budget y.e 30 June 2021	LTFP
	\$,000	\$,000	\$,000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
<i>Receipts</i>			
Operating Receipts	6,855	7,977	7,753
Investment Receipts	70	68	68
<i>Payments</i>			
Operating Payments to Suppliers & Employees	(5,233)	(5,882)	(5,245)
Finance Payments	(151)	(154)	(154)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	1,542	2,010	2,422
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
<i>Receipts</i>			
Grants specifically for new or upgraded assets	316	1,100	0
Sale of replaced Assets	56	128	50
Sale of surplus Assets	0	50	0
<i>Payments</i>			
Expenditure on renewal/replaced assets	(2,253)	(3,084)	(1,600)
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets	(1,685)	(276)	(800)
Net cash provided by (used in) Investing Activities	(3,566)	(2,082)	(2,350)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
<i>Receipts</i>			
Proceeds from Borrowings	434	0	0
<i>Payments</i>			
Repayment of Borrowings	(151)	(151)	(151)
Net Cash Provided by (used in) Financing Activities	283	(151)	(151)
Net Increase / Decrease in Cash	(1,741)	(223)	(79)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at start of reporting period	3,617	1,876	2,364
Cash & Cash Equivalents at the end of the reporting period	1,876	1,653	2,285

District Council of Mount Remarkable
Statement of Changes in Equity
Proposed Budget for Year Ending 30 June 2021

	Budget Review #2 y.e. 30 June 2020	Proposed Budget y.e 30 June 2021	LTFP
	\$,000	\$,000	\$,000
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS			
Balance at end of previous reporting period	37,020	36,695	36,681
Net Result for Year	(325)	905	217
Transfer from Reserves	0	0	0
Transfer to Other Reserves	0	0	0
Balance at end of period	36,695	37,599	36,898
ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE			
Balance at end of previous reporting period	35,285	35,285	35,285
Gain on Revaluation of Property Plant & Equipment	0	0	0
Balance at end of period	35,285	35,285	35,285
OTHER RESERVES			
Balance at end of previous reporting period	1,155	1,155	1,155
Transfers from Accumulated Surplus	0	0	0
Transfers to Accumulated Surplus	0	0	0
Balance at end of period	1,155	1,155	1,155
TOTAL EQUITY AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD	73,135	74,039	73,338

