



2023-2024 **ANNUAL REPORT**

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SCENIC RIM

REGIONAL COUNCIL

OUR PURPOSE

Scenic Rim Regional Council will enable a sustainable future for our unique communities and rich environments

OUR VALUES

SRRC



SERVICE

Able to apply a consistent and positive approach towards internal/external customers and community.

RESILIENCE

The ability to respond under pressure, recover from a challenge, manage adversity and view the experience of overcoming obstacles as a learning opportunity.

RESPECT

Acts respectfully to others, accepting each person's individuality and their role.

COMMITMENT

The level of commitment towards tasks in the workplace including commitment to SRRC goals, mission, and vision.

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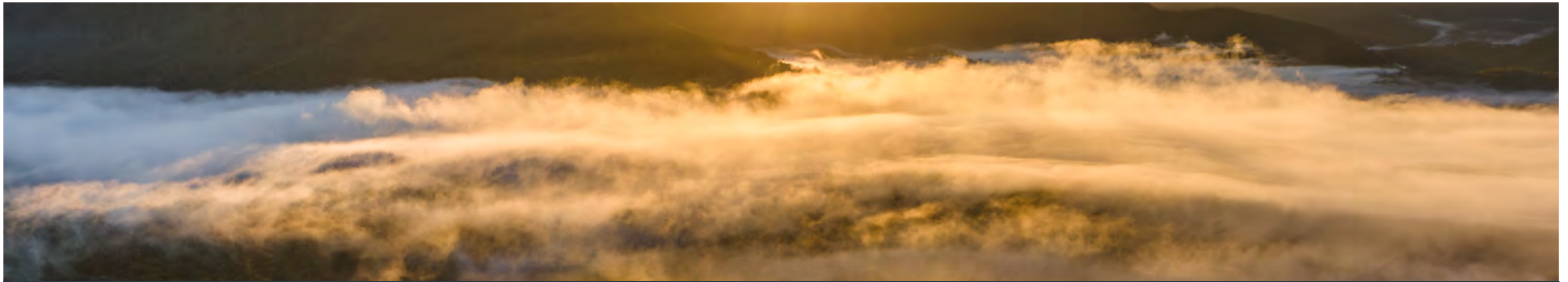
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Acknowledgement of Country

Scenic Rim Regional Council respectfully acknowledges the traditional country across our region. We also acknowledge and pay our respects to the Mununjali, Wangerriburra and Ugarapul peoples of the Scenic Rim, and their elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within the Scenic Rim community.

About This Report

Under the *Local Government Regulation 2012* Council is required to adopt an Annual Report for each financial year. The report provides the Chief Executive Officer's assessment of the Council's progress towards implementing its five year Corporate Plan and annual Operational Plan. In addition to statutory obligations in reporting, for ease of reading and navigation, this report presents the information in a way that reflects the structure of the Corporate Plan.



OUR REGION

AN OUTLINE OF OUR VISION, PLANS
AND FRAMEWORK FOR THE SCENIC RIM.



OUR REGION

OUR SCENIC RIM

Author and naturalist Arthur Groom, who co-founded Binna Burra Lodge in 1933, coined the phrase Scenic Rim in describing the region's chain of mountains, plateaus and peaks that extend from the coastal hinterland in the east to the Great Dividing Range in the west. The local government area formed during the council amalgamations of 2008 encompasses many of these features and was subsequently named Scenic Rim Regional Council. The Scenic Rim region covers an area of 4,294 km² and is located within South East Queensland.

Known for our breathtaking scenery, the Scenic Rim region is a popular tourist destination offering visitors plenty to see and do. From its myriad of wineries and

art galleries to expansive bushwalking tracks, state of the art equine facilities, growing rural communities and friendly country charm, the Scenic Rim region is a must-see destination. It includes the unique towns and villages of Beaudesert, Boonah, Tamborine Mountain, Kooralbyn, Beechmont, Kalbar, Aratula, Canungra, Rathdowney, Harrisville and Peak Crossing. The region's primary businesses are agricultural/horticultural production and tourism/ecotourism.

The Scenic Rim region contains more than 30,000 hectares of parkland, including national parks and Council controlled parks.

Supported by a thriving economy, a farming industry and a vibrant arts community, the Scenic Rim has a strong community spirit and friendly locals.

OUR COMMUNITY

As well as understanding where our residents live, it is important for Council to understand how our community is changing, because this represents what we need to consider in terms of future service delivery.

As at 30 June 2023, the Scenic Rim had an estimated resident population of 45,248, which was 917 more people than in 2022 (2.07 per cent increase). At the time of the last Census in 2021, the Scenic Rim had a lower proportion of children under 18 (21.5 per cent) and a higher proportion of persons aged 60 or older (30.1 per cent) than regional Queensland.

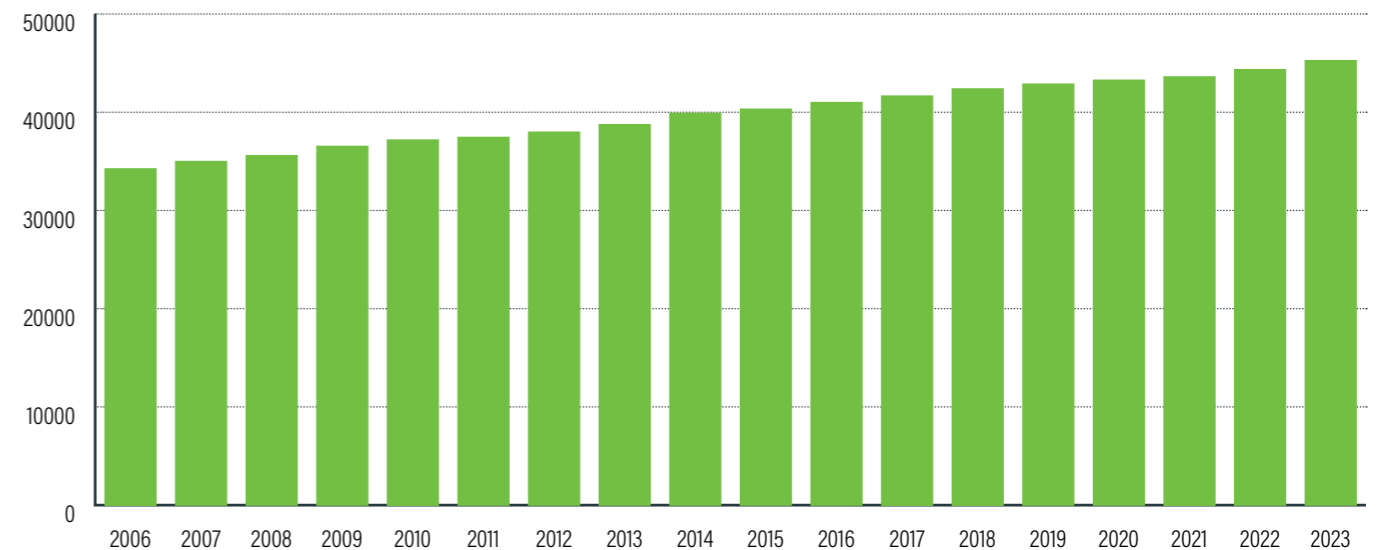
While the parents and homebuilders (aged 35-49) made up the biggest service age group cohort at 18.4 per cent of the population, the Scenic Rim has a larger proportion of 'empty nesters and retirees' (14.5 per cent compared to 12.2 per cent) and a smaller percentage of the 'young workforce' cohort (9 per cent compared to 12.4 per cent), than regional Queensland.

In terms of employment, more Scenic Rim residents worked in health care and social assistance than any other industry in 2021. The aging population and the increase in people who reported in the Census needing help in their day-to-day lives due to a disability, will continue to drive demand for these key workers in the region.

The lack of affordable housing options in neighbouring Local Government Areas has the potential to disrupt current trends in household composition and age structure in places where new housing development is occurring, such as Beaudesert and Canungra. In particular, families with younger children are expected to represent strong growth over the next five years, as they are attracted to the relatively affordable housing options with good access to services and recreation.



ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth

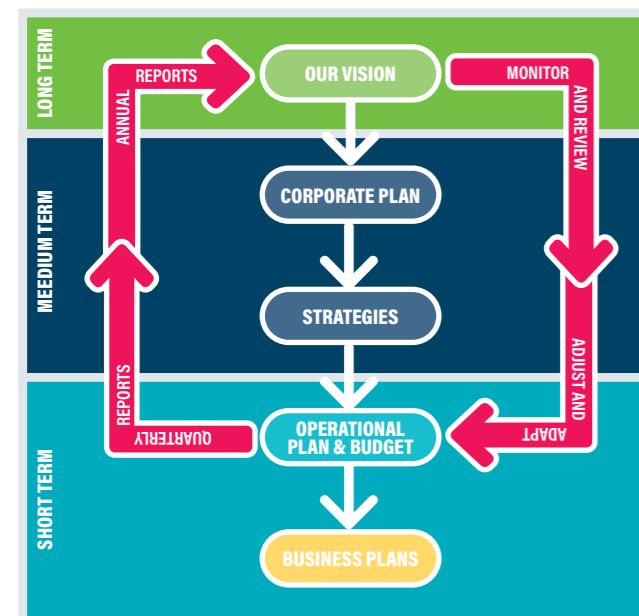
STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

OUR REGIONAL VISION

The *Scenic Rim Community Plan 2011-2026* provides the shared vision for our region's future. By 2026, the Scenic Rim will be a network of unique rural communities embedded in a productive and sustainable landscape. We will enjoy a high-quality rural lifestyle in self-reliant communities that provide a choice of quality local food, products, services and recreation opportunities. Our residents will have affordable transport options and ready access to the broader South East Queensland region. Our community will support sustainable farms, businesses and industries that are compatible with our environment and lifestyle and provide rewarding employment and prosperity for residents.

Residents will benefit from the region's productive farmland, stunning natural environment and character-filled towns and villages, which attract tourists and visitors and provide ecosystem services for the broader South East Queensland community.

The Scenic Rim will be an inclusive, caring and creative environment with healthy and active residents. The region will provide a happy, safe and nurturing environment for children and families. We will participate in planning and managing our communities and act to ensure that the Scenic Rim is enhanced for future generations.



COMMUNITY PLAN 2011-2026

The *Scenic Rim Community Plan 2011-2026* articulates the aspirational shared vision and provides the foundation for long-term plans for the future of the Scenic Rim region. It acknowledges the heritage of the region, defines its identity, and highlights the challenges it will face in the future. Developed in consultation with the community, the Community Plan provides the overarching framework for our operations through seven pillars (our themes), which are supported by the delivery of services and strategic activity through the five-year life of the Corporate Plan (*Scenic Rim 2026*) and annual Operational Plan.

CORPORATE PLAN 2021-2026 (SCENIC RIM 2026)

On 22 June 2021, Council adopted its Corporate Plan – Scenic Rim 2026, which reflects the strategic direction for the organisation and supports delivery of the aspirational vision set out in the Community Plan 2011-2026. Positioned between the Community Plan and Council's annual Operational Plan, Scenic Rim 2026 informs operational priorities for the region's growth and development, from 2021 to 2026. The Corporate Plan establishes the key initiatives guiding the direction of Council's Operational Plan.

Our Corporate Plan provides clear strategic direction for the organisation to ensure Council's strategic focus areas are aligned to the community's aspirational vision for the region. It informs decisions about operational priorities and allocation of resources.

Comprising seven key themes, each has areas of focus that describe where we will concentrate our efforts. Accessible and Serviced provides direction on how we are going to meet community expectations by discussing what we do, while the five themes in the middle of the diagram (refer page 7) describe the impacts of those efforts and shed light on the question

of why we do it. The final theme of the Corporate plan is Council's commitment to ensuring that everything we do is delivered in accordance with good governance principles and excellence in business practices in mind.

This Annual Report provides an objective assessment of Council's progress toward achieving its strategic objectives, beginning with our performance scorecard (see pp. 27-30), which shows the progress that Council has made during the year towards achieving the strategic objectives of our Corporate Plan and ultimately towards achieving Council's vision.



OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-2023

The Operational Plan 2023-2024 provided the detail around the delivery of Council's goals and objectives, as defined in the Corporate Plan 2021-2026.

It included a broad range of deliverables across the seven themes of Council's Corporate Plan. The progress of these deliverables was monitored by Council through detailed quarterly progress reports, which included measures against key performance indicators and highlights of key achievements and outcomes. The Annual Report includes a summary of progress of individual activities and assesses how these activities contributed to progressing our overall strategic objectives and our vision.

SERVICE PLANS

Council remains dedicated to delivering a seamless and efficient range of services for the Scenic Rim community, encompassing essential infrastructure like roads and parks, robust waste management solutions, and engaging cultural programs offered through libraries and events.

Additionally, Council actively fosters a supportive environment for local businesses, recognising their vital role in our region's economic future. It is the delivery of these services that the community sees and engages with on a daily basis.

Whether it is our well-maintained parks and gardens, our sporting facilities or our disaster management planning, all of the services that Council provides directly benefit the community.

The Annual Report also provides an assessment of the key role that services have played in our progress during the year.

LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PLANS

Additionally, Council has established a comprehensive suite of strategies and plans for the provision of services to the community. Where appropriate, these are supported by policies and the delegation of statutory powers to the Chief Executive Officer. Council reviews its policies in accordance with the Policy Framework and delegations are reviewed annually.



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



I am pleased to present Scenic Rim Regional Council's 2023–2024 Annual Report which details the progress made during the year by an organisation striving to deliver the highest standards of service to our community.

Much of the year's programmed activity was substantially completed before the swearing in of the new Council in April 2024 and I wish to acknowledge the contribution of the previous Council team and employees across the organisation in striving to achieve Council's objectives during 2023–2024.

Although a number of activities were delayed following two extreme weather events which impacted the Scenic Rim, steady progress was made across many areas although there was still much to be done at the year's end as our region continued its journey of recovery.

A particular focus for Council in 2024–2025 will be on continuous improvement and minimising waste to ensure we provide best value for our Scenic Rim ratepayers.

Increased community consultation and advocacy for our region will also be defining features of this Council term.

Following the swearing in of the new Council in April, we moved quickly to seek the community's feedback on the draft 2024–2025 Budget to ensure it aligned with community expectations.

While planning for the budget was well underway before the start of the new Council term, community consultation was extremely valuable, not only in helping Council to refine its financial settings for the coming year but also in identifying ratepayers' priorities that will continue to inform Council's planning and decision making.

I appreciate the time taken by everyone who contributed to the development of the budget and also in offering feedback on a range of projects including the Scenic Rim Sport and Recreation Plan 2024–2034.

Over the next 12 months we will continue to engage with members of our communities across the Scenic Rim to ensure our objectives continue to meet ratepayers' needs.

The budget consultation identified the Scenic Rim's local transport infrastructure network as a top priority for the community and this was reflected in the 2024–2025 Budget's focus on consolidating infrastructure programs and community services to reflect current economic conditions.

Understanding the cost-of-living pressures faced by our community, it was pleasing to see the Scenic Rim introduced the lowest rates rise of any South East Queensland Council for the coming year.

With tourism and agriculture providing the foundation for the Scenic Rim's economy, the maintenance and continued improvement of the Scenic Rim's infrastructure are core priorities for Council.

Recognising our community's increasing demand for services and infrastructure, which presents particular challenges for this Council as it relies heavily on other levels of government for funding, we have stepped up our advocacy for our region.

The Scenic Rim's population is expected to increase by more than 25 per cent by 2041 and, in the next decade alone, Council will need to allocate funds for the renewal, maintenance and construction of more than \$1 billion of community infrastructure.

This highlights the importance of our advocacy for the region and our continued pursuit of funding opportunities that reduce the pressure on ratepayers so that we do not leave a legacy of financial burden for future generations.

As advocacy for road, energy and water infrastructure leads to action and implementation, key investments will flow in to our region.

Our vision is for compatible investment in the areas of agriculture, waste and energy, defence and aeronautics, environmental science research and education and we will continue to work to capitalise on opportunities to create a stronger future for the Scenic Rim.

Council's achievements in 2023–2024, as highlighted in this Annual Report, reflect our commitment to creating a stronger economy for our region, meeting infrastructure needs, encouraging the health and wellbeing of our community, protecting our environment and providing open and transparent government.

I look forward to continuing to build on this in the year ahead.

**CR TOM SHARP
MAYOR**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE



The past 12 months have been challenging for both the community and the organisation, particularly with the impacts of the Christmas-New Year weather event and the flooding that occurred in Boonah. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Scenic Rim Regional Council employees who responded to these natural disasters. I would also like to thank Energex, and all of the emergency responders and volunteers, who did such a great job looking after affected communities. These natural events occurred in an environment in which the cost of living has placed additional pressure on residents and businesses. While Council has sought to minimise costs, the same pressures experienced by the community also impact the delivery of Council services and the cost of capital works.

The range of services that Council funds and delivers was captured and detailed in the first part of a Service Catalogue which was developed during the year. The second part of the Service Catalogue will link the delivery of specific services to the budget, enabling the identification of services that are the core business of Scenic Rim Regional Council and those that may be best delivered by another party. The next stage in the development of the Service Catalogue will also seek to identify 'user pays' systems that may be more appropriate, and the potential for new income streams for new services.

A staff survey was rolled out in 2023–2024 and the draft organisational Values and Expected Behaviours developed during the year will be formalised in coming months, establishing the benchmarks for the performance of the organisation. During the past 12 months, the organisation has sought to attract new employees as well as retain key staff. It has worked to increase the awareness of health and safety in the workplace and developed policies and strategies that promote employees' wellbeing.

The 2024 Local Government Elections on 16 March 2024 delivered a new Mayor and three new Councillors for the Scenic Rim. Once the election result was finalised, Council officers provided extensive training for the newly elected representatives. The Mayor and Councillors quickly familiarised themselves with their portfolio responsibilities and continue to be briefed by the General Managers and Managers each month. Councillors have also received presentations from the private sector, especially in relation to residential development, as well as other government agencies. Council will work closely with Rowing Queensland, South East Queensland Water and the Queensland Government to ensure Wyaralong Dam has the necessary infrastructure to accommodate some of the 2032 Olympic Game events.

Once again, Council took the draft budget to community consultation, holding public meetings in Beaudesert, Tamborine Mountain and Boonah, and receiving written submissions from across the community. As a result, residents were made more aware of Council's financial situation and the likely capital works delivery program over the next four-year period. The timing of the elections did not assist with the budget consultation process. However, next year's consultation is likely to involve further details and a description of Council's financial position.

Planning for Bromelton has continued over the past 12 months, with the project gaining significant momentum. The Queensland Government and the private sector are supporting the development of the site and there has been strong interest from investors in Queensland and beyond. This will support the creation of local employment for local people. More information about the Bromelton project will be provided as identified milestones are met.

Council continues to maintain the road network, drawing on State and Federal Government funding wherever possible. Additionally, Council continues to access funding to develop sporting and community infrastructure to meet the expectations of the community, with projects including sports field lighting and new playground installations.

The 2023–2024 financial year ended on a high note with Scenic Rim Eat Local Month and the Winter Harvest Festival, signature events for our region which attracted more than 4,000 attendees.

Major projects to be delivered in the next 12 months include the Beaudesert Town Centre Revitalisation Project, the construction of a number of bridges across the region and additional lighting at a number of recreational facilities. Council officers will continue to support the Mayor and Councillors in developing and implementing strategies and policies that will allocate the necessary funding to respond to operational matters and quality service delivery. The Mayor and Councillors will continue to be briefed on important issues and supported in their advocacy to the state and federal government.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff at Scenic Rim Regional Council who deliver services across the region and take pride in what they do.

**DAVID KEENAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



OUR COUNCIL

THE SCENIC RIM REGIONAL COUNCIL, DIVISIONAL COUNCILLORS
AND OUR EXECUTIVE TEAM.



OUR COUNCIL

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Australia has three levels of government that **work together** to provide us with the services we need. The three levels are:

- Federal Parliament—makes laws for the whole of Australia;
- Six State and two mainland Territory Parliaments—make laws for their state or Territory; and
- over 500 local councils—make local laws (by-laws) for their region or district.

Each level of government has its own responsibilities, although in some cases these responsibilities are shared. All Australians aged 18 years and over vote to elect representatives to Federal, State and Territory Parliaments, and local councils to make decisions on their behalf. This means Australians have someone to represent them at each level of government.

One of the main tasks of local government is to regulate and manage services and activities, often unique to their local communities.

In Queensland, Councils are regulated by the State Government through the *Local Government Act 2009* (LGA) and the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (LGR), which provide the rules for their creation and operation. These laws cover how councils are elected and their power to make and enforce local laws, known as by-laws.

Elected Councillors decide on policy and make by-laws for their community at Council meetings. These decisions are then put in place by the Chief Executive Officer and other non-elected employees of the Council.



THE ROLE OF THE COUNCILLORS

The fundamental role of each Councillor is to represent the current and future interests of the residents of the whole local government area.

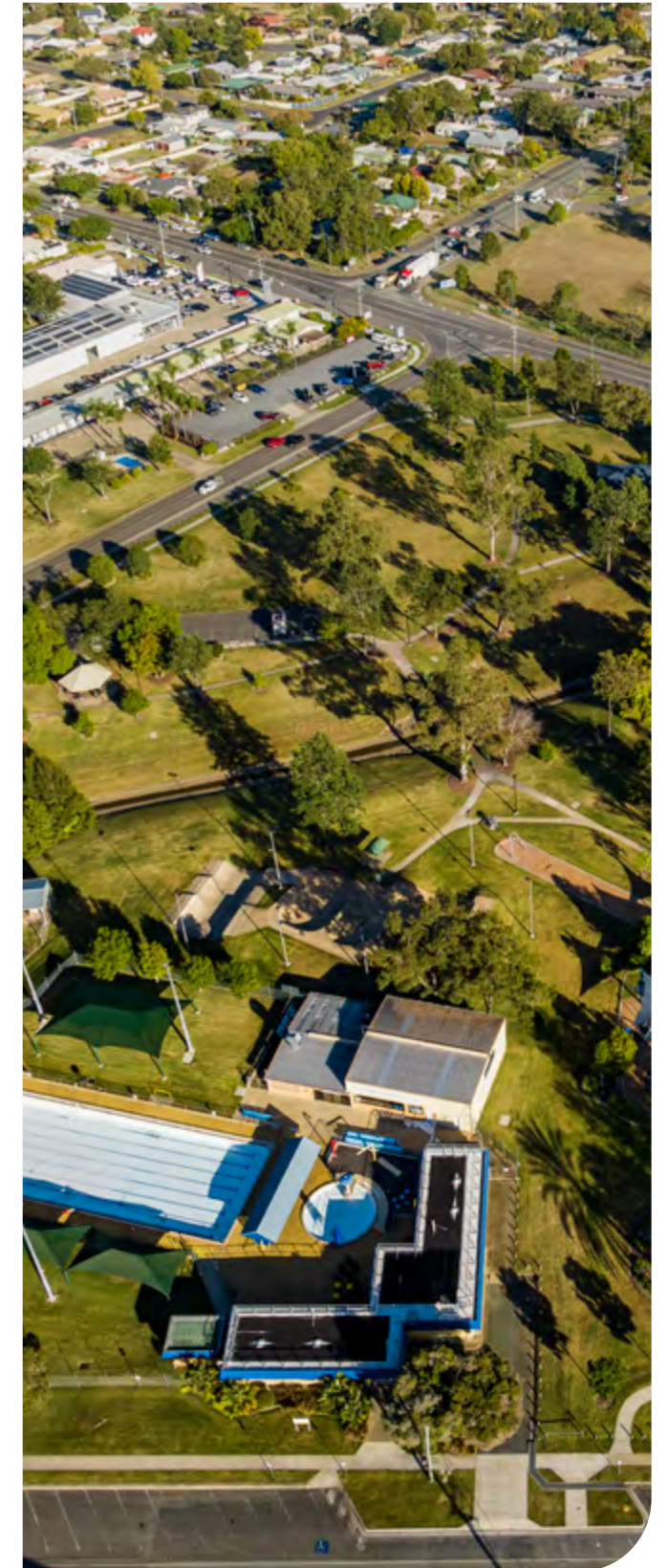
Councillors represent all members of the community, not just those in one division or the area near where they live. Councillors are required to:

- participate in Council meetings to make decisions by consensus with the other Councillors for the good of the whole council area;
- provide leadership focusing on strategic matters, rather than being involved in everyday matters like maintenance requests or logging Council jobs;
- shape the future of the community by adopting a development planning scheme which sets out how land in the Council area can be used and rules for developers;
- be responsible to the community for making sure the Council is performing well;
- make decisions for the benefit of the whole community; and
- make local laws on matters such as parking and dog registration.

THE ROLE OF THE MAYOR

The Mayor has the same responsibilities as a Councillor, as well the following:

- lead and manage Council meetings;
- decide any tied votes at Council meetings by making a casting vote;
- represent Council and the community at ceremonial functions; and
- lead and manage the Chief Executive Officer to ensure Council decisions are implemented in accordance with the policies of the local government.



OUR COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

The Queensland Local Government Elections were held across the State on Saturday, 16 March 2024, and this included Scenic Rim Regional Council.

The Scenic Rim community elected a new Mayor, three new Councillors in Stephen Moriarty, Kerri Cryer and Jennifer Sanders (who previously served during the 2012 to 2016 Council term), and three returning Councillors, Amanda Hay, Marshall Chalk and Duncan McInnes OAM.

Following the Electoral Commission of Queensland's declaration of the final results of the elections, the swearing-in of Scenic Rim's new Mayor and Councillors for the 2024–2028 Council term then took place at The Centre Beaudesert on Thursday, 4 April 2024 at 4pm.

The new Council was sworn in by Council's Chief Executive Officer David Keenan, who took each of the Councillors' Declarations of Office.

"Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Scenic Rim Regional Council as we swear in our newly elected Mayor and Councillors," he said.

"Those who have been chosen to represent their communities, and work for the benefit of the Scenic Rim as a whole, have a great responsibility ahead of them."

"On behalf of Council's Executive Team and employees, I am looking forward to working in partnership with our new Mayor and Councillors to deliver the highest standards of service to our residents, ratepayers and business operators across our region."

After the swearing-in ceremony Mayor Tom Sharp congratulated the newly elected, and returning Councillors, and said that he was looking forward to working with his fellow Councillors to ensure the highest standards of local government.

"Having a generational connection to the Scenic Rim and to local government, I am extremely passionate about the region in which I grew up and have made my home."



THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2024-2028 TERM COMPRISES:

MAYOR	Cr Tom Sharp
DIVISION 1	Cr Amanda Hay
DIVISION 2	Cr Kerri Cryer
DIVISION 3	Cr Stephen Moriarty
DIVISION 4	Cr Jennifer Sanders
DIVISION 5	Cr Marshall Chalk
DIVISION 6	Cr Duncan McInnes OAM (Deputy Mayor)



OUR COUNCILLORS



MAYOR CR TOM SHARP

Mayor Tom Sharp was born in Beaudesert and raised on his family's dairy farm at Beechmont. After secondary school he studied finance at the Securities Institute of Australia and began his career with Paul Morgan & Co Stockbrokers in Brisbane. In 1987, Cr Sharp relocated to Sydney and in 1989 moved into funds management with BZW Investment Management. During this time he became a foundation member of Sydney's Gypsie Cricket Club and a foundation director of the Sydney Harlequins Rugby Union Football Club, a director of The Rugby Club and served as Junior Vice President of The Gallipoli Club, of which he is now a Life Member. Cr Sharp accepted a position with Cazenove Stockbrokers in 1998, responsible for Australian sales into Asian markets with a focus on Hong Kong, Singapore and Tokyo. That year he also acquired a small acreage in Beechmont and invested in developing a citrus orchard. Having branched out into the corporate world on his own in 2008, raising funds for development projects, Cr Sharp was employed in 2018 by NASDAQ-listed US company The Metals Co for which he continues to work as a consultant.

Family, and caring for his elderly parents, has been a focus for Cr Sharp since returning to Beechmont with his wife and daughter in 2013.

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DIVISION 1 CR AMANDA HAY

Parks Gardens and Open Spaces portfolio

Cr Amanda Hay came to Council in April 2023 following a by-election and was returned to represent Division 1 at the 2024 Local Government Elections.

At the first meeting of the 2024–2028 Council term, Cr Hay was appointed as a representative on Council's Audit and Risk Committee. She has wide-ranging experience in both the private and public sectors and, originally from the semi-rural area of Wagga Wagga in New South Wales, has enjoyed a varied career that has taken her to Canberra, Papua New Guinea, Logan and Tamborine Mountain where she now resides with her partner, Stuart. As a civilian, Cr Hay served as paymaster for the Department of Defence in Canberra and Port Moresby and has held a credit management role in the wholesale grocery and hardware sector in Brisbane. She also filled officer advisory and audit roles with the Australian Taxation Office, recruitment roles with the Commonwealth Employment Service and later Employment National, before moving into compliance and investigation activities with the Department of Human Services. During her career, Cr Hay prepared briefs of evidence for prosecutions by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions.

Accredited by Logan TAFE, Cr Hay worked as a volunteer tutor in English as a Second Language and has a Graduate Certificate of Case Management and Client Service.

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DIVISION 2 CR KERRI CRYER

Community Arts and Culture portfolio

Cr Kerri Cryer has enjoyed a career of more than three decades in the field of graphic and web design and marketing and, since 2019, has published two local community focused newspapers, one based in the Scenic Rim. She completed a Bachelor of Business, with Distinction, from Griffith University, earning membership into the Golden Key International Honour Society, and has been closely connected with her local community for the past 28 years through volunteer roles in community groups and her work in media and marketing.

Cr Cryer has served the local community in key secretarial and media roles promoting the Tamborine & Districts Citizens Association Inc, the Tamborine Memorial Hall Management Association, the Tamborine Cenotaph Committee and the Tamborine Car Show Committee. Key issues for Cr Cryer are that of acknowledging residents and their environment, including protection of wildlife, maintaining the Scenic Rim lifestyle for families, positive connectivity through local community groups and activities, while supporting local business and commercial enterprise. Married with two adult children, Cr Cryer was elected to represent Division 2 at the 2024 Local Government Elections.

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DIVISION 3 CR STEPHEN MORIARTY

Sport and Recreation portfolio

Elected unopposed at the 2024 Local Government Elections, Cr Stephen (Steve) Moriarty is committed to working as part of a united Council that puts the needs of ratepayers at the forefront of every decision. At the first meeting of the 2024–2028 Council term Cr Moriarty was appointed Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group. He has long been an active volunteer in the community and, at the time of his election, was the President of the Moriarty Park Community Sporting Centre and coordinator of the Moriarty Park Sportsperson of the Year awards, a member of the Canungra Rural Fire Brigade, a long-standing volunteer and current beef cattle steward at the Canungra Show, and Chairman of the Scenic Rim Uniting Church Council.

Born and raised in Canungra, Cr Moriarty has worked as a teacher in the Scenic Rim for the past 20 years at Beaudesert State High School, Canungra State School and, most recently, McAuley College, Beaudesert. He has taken unpaid leave from his teaching position to dedicate his time and energy to the role of Councillor.

Continuing a family tradition in agritourism, he also operates the Sarabah Camping business, welcoming visitors to the Scenic Rim on his family's property at Sarabah, which runs a few cattle and horses.

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OUR COUNCILLORS



DIVISION 4 CR JENNIFER SANDERS

Tourism and Regional Events portfolio

Re-elected to Council in 2024, Cr Jennifer Sanders previously served as Division 4 Councillor from 2012 to 2016, during which time she was Chair of Council's Planning and Development Committee. At the first meeting of the 2024–2028 Council term, Cr Sanders was appointed as a representative on Council's Audit and Risk Committee. She had previously worked as a Council officer for both Beaudesert Shire Council and Logan City Council and, in addition to her local government experience, has a professional background that includes wide-ranging private and public sector roles. With experience in risk, governance and finance, Cr Sanders was a member representative Director for four-and-a-half years of Brighter Super, with \$29 billion of superannuation funds under management, and served for a year on its Audit and Risk and Finance Committees.

She has also worked from home as a claims manager for an insurance company assisting householders with home flood claims. A Justice of the Peace (Qualified) Cr Sanders has served as the President and Chair of the Board of Beaucare, a community health and welfare organisation. Cr Sanders has a Bachelor of Australian Studies, a Graduate Certificate in Development Processing, and Diplomas in Local Government and Project Management.

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DIVISION 5 CR MARSHALL CHALK

Biodiversity and Agribusiness portfolio

Cr Marshall Chalk is the sixth generation of his family born and raised in the Scenic Rim. A fourth-generation farmer, he runs a beef cattle business on his property at Carney's Creek, south of Boonah, with his wife Samantha and their three sons. Cr Chalk was first elected to Scenic Rim Regional Council in 2020 and re-elected to represent Division 5 in 2024. At the first meeting of the 2024–2028 Council term he was appointed proxy to Council's Audit and Risk Committee. Having attended Mount Alford State School and Boonah State High School, Cr Chalk worked on the family farm after completing Year 12 before following his passion to play rugby league. His football career began with the Fassifern Bombers and the Ipswich Jets before he relocated to Canberra to play professional rugby league for the Canberra Raiders.

After playing in the United Kingdom for the Celtic Crusaders in the English Super League, Cr Chalk returned to work the family farm in 2010. Since then, he has been actively involved in the local community and is currently the First Officer and Deputy Fire Warden in Croftby Carneys Creek Fire Brigade. Still a keen sportsman, Cr Chalk enjoys having a hit of cricket with the Fassifern Bushrangers or playing a round of golf at the Boonah Golf Club.

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DIVISION 6 CR DUNCAN McINNES OAM DEPUTY MAYOR

Transportation Infrastructure portfolio

Scenic Rim Regional Council's longest-serving councillor, Duncan McInnes OAM was first elected to represent Division 6 in 2012. At the first meeting of the 2024–2028 Council term, he was appointed Deputy Mayor (for the next four years) – a position he held previously in 2019. He was also appointed Deputy Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group.

Born and raised at Radford, Cr McInnes is involved in a number of family farming enterprises in the western area of the Scenic Rim. He has spent more than 30 years within the wider dairying community, having served as a director at local, state and national levels and has represented his industry internationally. He is also a Commissioner of Declarations. He holds positions with a number of local organisations and is a member of Harrisville Lions Club, Harrisville and District Historical Society and Boonah Show Society.

In January 2020, Cr McInnes was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his service to the community and the dairy industry. He has four daughters, three of whom live with their families in the Scenic Rim.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PREVIOUS COUNCILLORS

Scenic Rim Regional Council would also like to acknowledge the contribution and dedication of the following Councillors who served with the previous Council, prior to the elections.

Cr Christensen served as Mayor from 2016 until 2024, while Cr McConnell, Cr West and Cr Enright all accepted the role of Deputy Mayor at various times during their terms in office. Council would like to thank them for their service and commitment to the Scenic Rim community.



Cr Greg Christensen
2016 to 2024



Cr Jeff McConnell
2020 to 2024



Cr Virginia West
2008 to 2024



Cr Michael Enright
2016 to 2024

OUR COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETINGS

Ordinary Meetings are held to conduct the core business of the Council and make decisions. The local governments set their policies, adopt their corporate plans, approve, and adopt budgets, and make their local laws in meetings.

Decisions taken in these meetings are a prime example of accountable and transparent decision-making by local governments. Ordinary Meetings are normally held monthly on Wednesdays (usually the third or fourth Wednesday of the month). Occasionally Council is required to hold Special Meetings in addition to the Ordinary Meetings, for example to approve the Budget.

Ordinary Meetings are open to members of the general public to attend. Councillors can however make a resolution to close a meeting to the public to discuss confidential matters, including but not limited to matters such as appointment, dismissal, or discipline of employees, legal advice or legal proceedings involving the Council, or business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government or someone else or enable a person to gain a financial advantage.

Meeting agendas and minutes are available on the Scenic Rim Regional Council website and all Council meetings are livestreamed for residents who are unable to attend in person. Details of the livestream link are also available on the website.

STRATEGY WORKSHOPS AND BRIEFING SESSIONS

Commencing in October 2023, Councillor Strategy Workshops and Briefing Sessions were included in the Scenic Rim Regional Council suite of meetings. All Councillors are required to attend Briefing Sessions and Workshops and no decision-making or voting takes place at these meetings. These are not formal meetings of Council, so there is no public gallery for these meetings and they are not live streamed however following these forums, Council will publish on its website, subject to confidentiality, a list of topics which were discussed.



Strategy Workshops

Workshops are an opportunity for Councillors, employees and external parties to collaborate, develop or advance proposals, and include topics of strategic importance to collectively develop proposals prior to formal decision-making. Examples might include discussions to determine strategic priorities, the development of the budget, initial input into the development or review of Council policies, or the initial development of a new Planning Scheme. While Workshops are not formal decision-making forums, they may be used as the basis for officers to develop a firmer proposal which may be considered formally by Council in the future.

Briefing Sessions

Briefing Sessions provide a valuable opportunity to enhance the decision-making process and are a forum for the Chief Executive Officer and senior officers to address any Councillor questions and provide additional background on matters coming before Council for decisions.

Briefing Sessions provide a forum for:

- Councillors to be fully informed on complex matters that will allow for more effective discussion and debate during subsequent Ordinary Meetings;
- Councillors to share their views with each other, and for Councillors to seek further information, clarification and background details from Council officers or any guest presenters;
- Officers to advise Councillors of their professional opinions and reasoning behind their intended recommendations; or
- Presentations by an external party.

COUNCILLOR REMUNERATION

Section 186(a) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* requires Council to publish remuneration and superannuation payments that were made to Councillors during FY 2023–2024.

Councillor	Remuneration	Superannuation	Total
Tom Sharp*	\$32,606	\$3,587	\$36,193
Amanda Hay	\$75,000	\$9,000	\$84,000
Kerri-Marie Cryer*	\$17,322	\$2,079	\$19,401
Stephen Moriarty*	\$17,322	\$2,079	\$19,401
Jennifer Sanders*	\$17,322	\$2,079	\$19,401
Marshall Chalk	\$75,000	\$8,250	\$83,250
Duncan McInnes	\$78,057	\$9,367	\$87,424
Gregory Christensen#	\$108,573	\$13,029	\$121,602
Virginia West#	\$57,678	\$6,922	\$64,600
Michael Enright#	\$57,678	\$6,922	\$64,600
Jeffrey McConnell#	\$67,858	\$8,143	\$76,001

#1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024 *1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024



OUR COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR EXPENSES

Section 186(b) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* requires Council to publish remuneration and superannuation payments that were made to Councillors during FY 2023–2024.

Councillor	Mobile Devices/ Technology Expenses	Council Vehicles	Training and Conferences	Total
Tom Sharp*	\$4,579	\$1,563	\$391	\$6,533
Amanda Hay	\$5,013	\$3,385	\$3,430	\$11,828
Kerri-Marie Cryer*	\$4,579	\$579	\$0	\$5,158
Stephen Moriarty*	\$4,579	\$3,454	\$0	\$8,033
Jennifer Sanders*	\$4,579	\$873	\$0	\$5,452
Marshall Chalk	\$6,644	\$6,142	\$2,509	\$15,295
Duncan McInnes	\$5,786	\$4,274	\$0	\$10,060
Gregory Christensen #	\$1,027	\$5,930	\$4,586	\$11,543
Virginia West #	\$1,027	\$4,785	\$2,810	\$8,622
Michael Enright #	\$1,027	\$1,438	\$2,648	\$5,113
Jeffrey McConnell #	\$1,027	\$5,344	\$4,704	\$11,075

#1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024 *1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024

COUNCILLOR MEETING ATTENDANCE

Section 186(c) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* requires Council to publish details of the number of local government meetings each Councillor attended during FY 2023–2024.

Councillor	Ordinary Meetings		Post Election Meetings	Special Meetings		Councillor & Executive Workshops		Briefing Sessions		Strategy Workshops	
	12#	3*	1*	3#	3*	Day 1 (6#)	Day 2 (6#)	5#	2*	3#	2*
Councillor	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Tom Sharp*	N/A	2	1	N/A	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	2
Amanda Hay	12	3	1	3	3	6	5	4	2	3	2
Kerri Cryer*	N/A	3	1	N/A	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	2
Stephen Moriarty*	N/A	3	1	N/A	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	2
Jennifer Sanders*	N/A	3	1	N/A	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	2
Marshall Chalk	12	3	1	3	3	6	5	5	2	2	2
Duncan McInnes	10	3	1	3	3	3	2	4	2	3	2
Gregory Christensen#	12	N/A	N/A	3	N/A	5	6	5	N/A	3	N/A
Jeffrey McConnell#	11	N/A	N/A	3	N/A	6	5	5	N/A	3	N/A
Virginia West#	12	N/A	N/A	3	N/A	6	6	5	N/A	3	N/A
Michael Enright#	12	N/A	N/A	3	N/A	6	6	5	N/A	3	N/A

#1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024 *1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024

COUNCILLOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Becoming a Councillor and making a difference in the community is a serious commitment and comes with very real responsibilities. Making decisions in the public interest in a transparent way, overseeing the delivery of vital services to the community and representing and meaningfully engaging with the community are essential to being an effective Councillor.

Our Councillors come from a variety of backgrounds and while all of them bring with them their own individual qualifications, knowledge and experience, not all of them have previously undertaken the role of an elected official in local government.

Under section 169A of the *Local Government Act 2009* all Queensland local government Councillors must complete approved Councillor training about the responsibilities of councillors. This training covers the three most important topics of Code of Conduct, Registers of Interests, and Conflicts of Interests. All of our Councillors have completed this training, however continuing professional development is encouraged. This comprises active and reflective engagement in a range of professional experiences that are supplementary to their day-to-day responsibilities as Councillors. This can involve formal courses, online training and attendance at conferences and seminars. Continuing professional development will enhance our Councillor's skills, knowledge and understanding, and enhance their ability to undertake their role in representing the community.



OUR ORGANISATION

OUR ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Below is a representation of Council's organisational structure. The diagram shows clear lines of authority from Councillors through to the operational/functional areas of Council. It ensures that everyone knows who they report to and ultimately makes decision-making processes more efficient and more transparent. The Audit and Risk Committee and Internal Audit, two of Council's key internal control mechanisms, while guided by Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer, provide oversight and advice to Council and the Executive Team that contributes to robust governance.



Organisational Structure adopted by Council in August 2018.

OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

David joined Scenic Rim Regional Council as Chief Executive Officer in November 2022, and brings to the Scenic Rim a wealth of experience in local government through previous Chief Executive Officer roles with Mitchell Shire Council, Hume City Council (acting), Tweed Shire Council, Southern Downs Regional Council and, most recently, Mount Isa City Council. In his role at Mount Isa David was involved in facilitating investment in renewable energy, as well as working closely with the mining and agriculture sectors. David's qualifications include a Master of Business Management, Post Graduate Diplomas in Town Planning and Environment, Management and Government Business and Environmental Science, amongst other qualifications. David has also completed the Australian Institute of Company Director's course and was the inaugural President of Economic Development Australia. David is the Treasurer for AFL Masters Queensland.



OUR SERVICES

At the heart of what we do is the provision of services to the Scenic Rim community.

Planning, funding and delivering services to meet the needs of the community is a fundamental element of what Council does. In addition to planning to meet current needs, Council is also working hard to consider community needs in terms of future service delivery to the community.



Service delivery at a local government level presents significant challenges particularly in the way of rapidly evolving community expectations, driven by advances in technology and improvements in other sectors such as retail, technology and hospitality. Council faces mounting pressure to adapt and overhaul our service delivery models to mirror those of the private sector, but at the same time balance this with the community's capacity to pay, and the competing needs of the local environment, economy and community.

Despite these challenges, Council continued to deliver a broad range of services to the community during 2023–2024. These services included:

- Biodiversity and Climate Change
- Campgrounds
- Cemeteries
- Community Development
- Cultural Services
- Customer Service and Community Engagement
- Design and Survey
- Development Services
- Disaster Management
- Economic Development
- Library Services
- Landscape Maintenance
- Plant Maintenance
- Property Management
- Regional Events
- Regulatory Services
- Roads and Traffic
- Strategic Infrastructure Planning and Delivery
- Strategic Planning
- Swimming Pools
- Waste Management
- Waste Services

OUR STRATEGIC RISKS

The role of local government is not only to deliver day-to-day services to the community but also to undertake activities that address current and emerging risks. Councils need to focus on providing the essential services that the community has come to expect, a significant challenge in itself, but they need to do it in a way that takes into account a broader and longer-term strategic risk landscape. While many of these risks present challenges for this Council, they also provide opportunities which is why Council is undertaking many activities to position themselves to take advantage of these opportunities.

Current risks to Council's ability to deliver basic services include skills shortages and long-term vacancies in key roles, cybersecurity and data security, asset management and maintenance to name a few.

Emerging risks for the region include climate change, advancements in digital technologies, and the level of predicted population growth in the region. While these risks are not unique to the Scenic Rim, they will have impacts on our region that differ from the way they impact other local government areas and therefore each needs to be assessed and managed in a way that best suits the need of the Scenic Rim community.

Skills shortages and long-term vacancies affect all Councils and we are not immune. Council is currently developing a strategy to not only attract talent but maintain a focus on retaining the excellent employees we already have. Key advantages for Council are our relatively affordable housing, compared to major metropolitan areas, and the serenity of a rural lifestyle. Alongside our Smart Region Strategy, Council's *Information and Communication Technology Strategy* is also close to being approved and this will guide Council in the best way to leverage emerging technologies, providing greater efficiencies for Council operations and improved pathways to connect with our community. Improved and more robust incident response plans are also needed, as along with opportunities technology brings greater threats in the form of cyber-attacks and Council continues to manage this threat. Understanding the opportunities that emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, 5G networks, quantum computing and cloud based operations provide will also be beneficial to our regional

economy, providing greater opportunities for remote working and learning and perhaps hosting a regional data centre.

Climate change has impacts in many ways on our region. In recent years, Council has experienced an increase in extreme weather events which has impacted regional infrastructure and created additional burdens on Council's ability to maintain our assets. In the longer term, Council's heavy reliance on climate dependent industries such as agriculture is a risk that must be considered, and Council is working to diversify the region's economic base by embracing the Bromelton State Development Area providing greenfield land in South East Queensland suitable for medium to large scale industrial activities. In terms of providing protections for our world-renowned natural areas, Council's *Climate Change Roadmap, Action Plan* and *Biodiversity Strategy* outline a range of activities from internal operational changes to revegetation and ecosystem restoration on Council owned and controlled land. Council has committed to ensuring the Scenic Rim will have made significant progress towards net zero emissions and have greater resilience to climate change impacts.

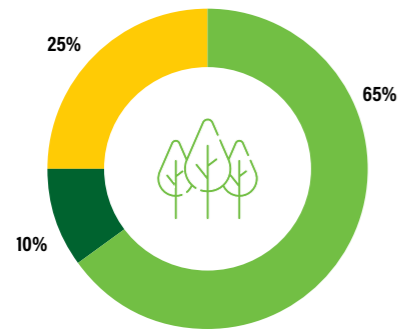
Council's long-term planning documents are refreshed regularly to ensure that our efforts to meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities current and emerging risks present, are continually analysed and amended as necessary.



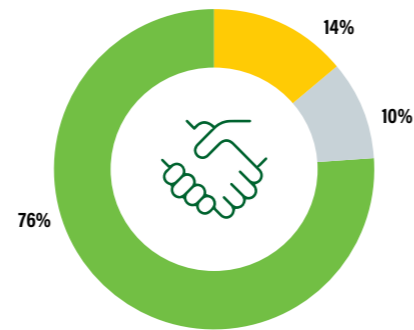
OUR PERFORMANCE

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

SPECTACULAR SCENERY AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT	
INDICATOR	RESULT
Biodiversity across the region is protected	✓✓
Natural environment and rural landscapes are enhanced as a result of planned actions	✓
Outcomes are enhanced by productive partnerships and knowledge sharing	✓
Council's assets provide appropriate and sustainable levels of service	✓
Water resilience across the region is increased	✓
Increased community awareness of drought and natural disaster mitigation enhances resilience	✓✓



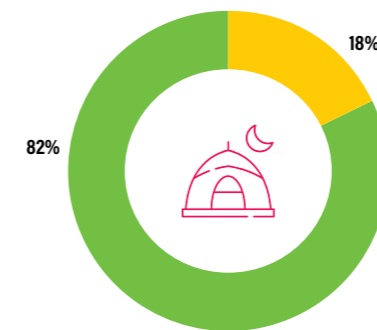
SUSTAINABLE AND PROSPEROUS ECONOMY	
INDICATOR	RESULT
Increased community awareness of drought and natural disaster mitigation enhances resilience	✓
Investment in the region grows	✓
Creation of valued employment for local residents is supported	✓✓
Council continues to focus on 'buying local'	✓
Advocacy and innovative partnerships enable the delivery of economic, social, and environmental priorities across the region	✗
Renewal of Council's assets, including facilities and infrastructure, is partially offset through value captured from tourism and other activities	Not Available



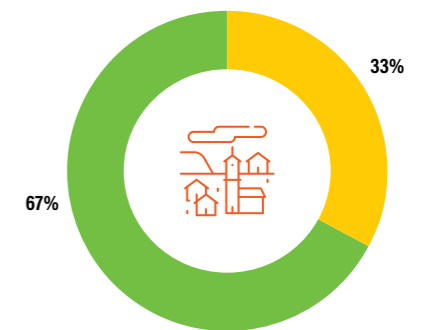
OUR PROGRESS

This scorecard provides a high-level view of Scenic Rim Regional Council's performance during 2023-2024, and indicates that while there is room for improvement, overall Council made significant progress towards realising the goals articulated in our Statements of Intent and enabling a sustainable future for our unique communities and rich environments.

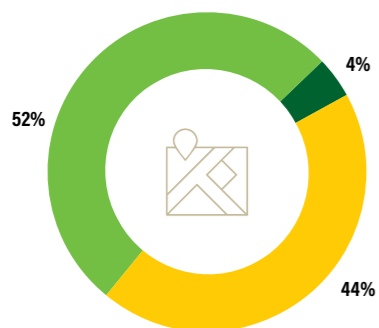
RELAXED LIVING AND RURAL LIFESTYLE	
INDICATOR	RESULT
Advocacy and innovative partnerships enable the delivery of economic, social and environmental priorities across the region	✓
Legislation and regional planning instruments facilitate Scenic Rim's strategic framework for growth	✓
Growth in the region is supported by a clear and evidence-based planning vision	✓
Mobile and data services connectivity across the region is enhanced	✓



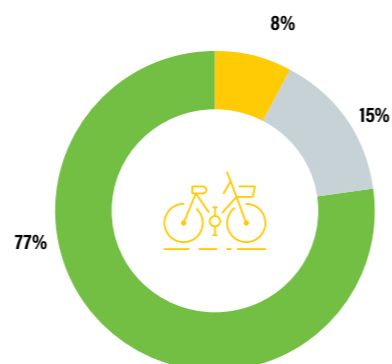
VIBRANT AND ACTIVE TOWNS AND VILLAGES	
INDICATOR	RESULT
Our parks, playgrounds and open spaces are popular and utilised by our diverse communities and visitors	✓
The Scenic Rim's heritage is reflected in our planning guidelines, infrastructure design, public art and community events	✓
The community is supported to deliver, or participate in, programs and activities that drive the vibrancy of our towns	✓
Our streetscapes enhance the attractiveness of our unique towns and villages to residents and visitors	✓



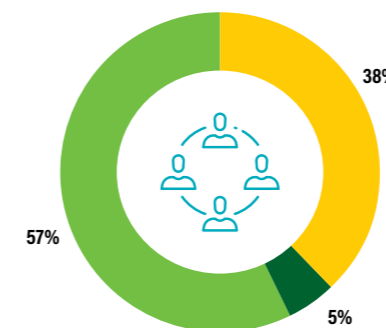
ACCESSIBLE AND SERVICED REGION	
INDICATOR	RESULT
Community has access to readily available information regarding Council's full suite of services, including defined service standards and cost to serve.	✓
Council-controlled community facilities and sporting infrastructure meet the identified needs of the community.	✓
Sustainable asset lifecycle is assured through integration of asset planning and financial forecasting.	✓
Council's advocacy enables the delivery of economic, social and environmental priorities across the region.	✓
Total volume of waste disposed to landfill is decreased, resulting in value stream creation.	✓



HEALTHY, ENGAGED AND RESOURCEFUL COMMUNITIES	
INDICATOR	RESULT
Existing, new and returning residents are motivated to participate in the community, resulting in strong and inclusive social networks and increased resilience	✓✓
The inaugural Scenic Rim Reconciliation Action Plan is evidenced by action	✓
The community has access to a broad range of resources that drive increased community capability and resilience	✓✓
The community has access to recreational infrastructure and opportunities that enable improved health and wellbeing	✓✓
Productive discussions with government and agency partners facilitate the community's access to required human and social services	Not Available



OPEN AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT	
INDICATOR	RESULT
Council has the systems and digital capability to improve customer experience	✓✓
Council has ethical and transparent governance.	✓
Community sentiment regarding Council and its services is improved.	✓✓
Council's advocacy enables the delivery of economic, social and environmental priorities across the region.	✓✓
Clear and relevant information is delivered proactively and in a timely manner.	✓
Council's practice is consistent, accurate, open and honest.	✓
Relationships with customers are improved.	✓
Ongoing integrity of Council's practice and processes.	✓✓



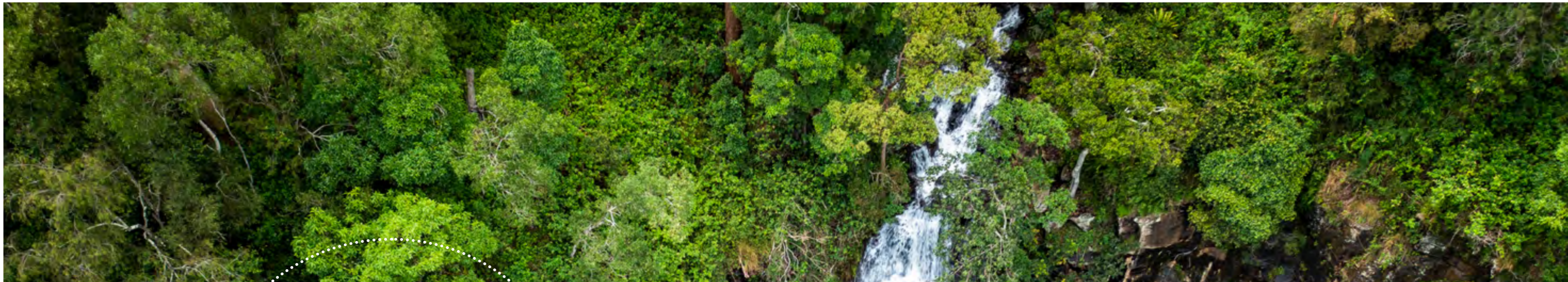
The scorecard below the status of each of the Indicators of Success from Council's Corporate Plan as they relate to the themes and statements of intent. Below the success indicators are charts showing the overall status of activities carried out during the year in support of our Operational Plan.

Scorecard
 Fully Achieved ✓✓
 Substantially Achieved ✓
 Partially Achieved ✓
 Not Achieved ✗

The legend below provides an explanation of the symbols used to indicate KPI status:

Legend:
 Completed ● On Track ● Requires Attention ● Canceled ●









SPECTACULAR SCENERY AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

THE REGION'S UNIQUE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL LANDSCAPES.



OUR HIGHLIGHTS

The Scenic Rim region is renowned nationally and internationally for its unique natural environment and rural landscapes. Council is proud of the region's spectacular scenery and natural landscapes and is committed to preserving and enhancing these in partnership with our community. During 2023-2024, we:

	PLANTED MORE THAN 4,000 KOALA HABITAT TREES AT SUNDOWN RESERVE, TAMBORINE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE QUEENSLAND TRUST FOR NATURE
	ADOPTED THE FLYING-FOX MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND TWO ROOST MANAGEMENT PLANS
	ADOPTED THE SCENIC RIM CLIMATE CHANGE ROADMAP 2024-2034 AND SCENIC RIM CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2024-2026
	SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FOR A \$179,450 GRANT FOR A KOALA CONSERVATION PROJECT

OUR PROGRESS

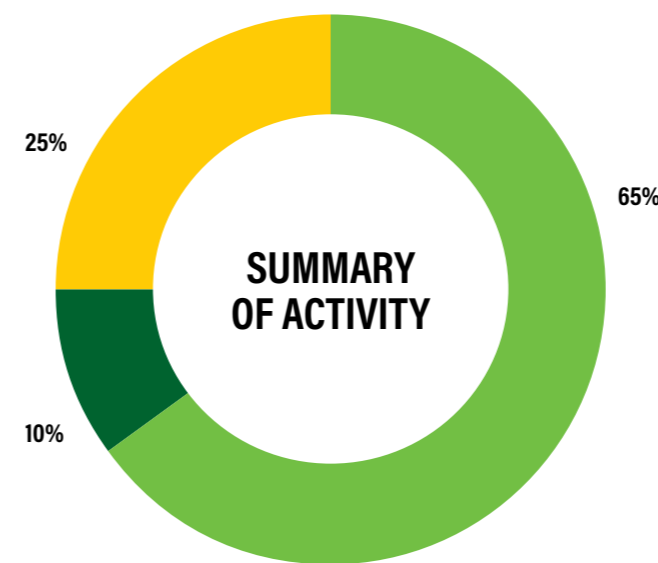
Council made excellent progress towards achieving its Corporate Plan outcomes relating to the protection and enhancement of the Scenic Rim's natural environment. Most of our indicators of success were fully or substantially achieved during the year, with the successful delivery of some 75 per cent of activities supporting this theme, contributing to an excellent overall result.

OUR INDICATORS OF SUCCESS



INDICATOR	RESULT
Biodiversity across the region is protected	✓✓
Natural environment and rural landscapes are enhanced as a result of planned actions	✓
Outcomes are enhanced by productive partnerships and knowledge sharing	✓
Council's assets provide appropriate and sustainable levels of service	✓
Water resilience across the region is increased	✓
Increased community awareness of drought and natural disaster mitigation enhances resilience	✓✓

Legend: Fully Achieved ✓✓ Substantially Achieved ✓ Partially Achieved ✓ Not Achieved ✗

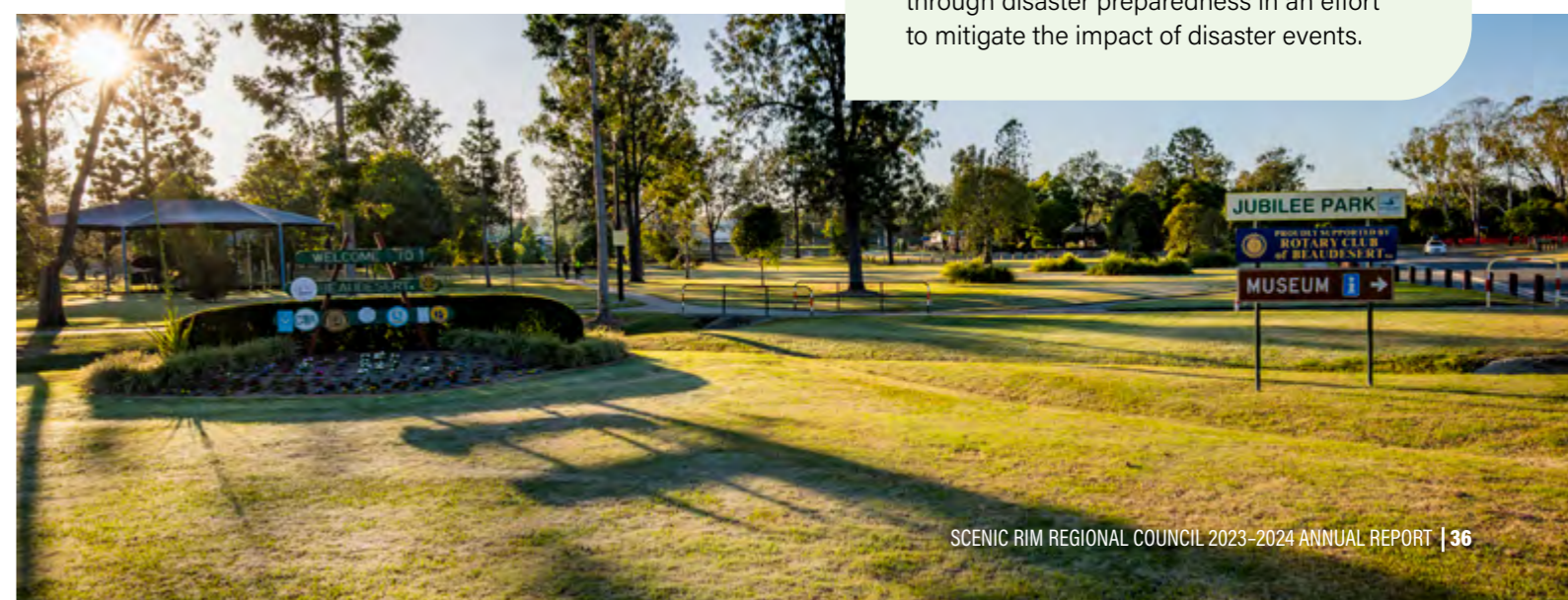


Legend: Completed ● On Track ● Requires Attention ● Cancelled ●

OUR CHALLENGES

With tourism and agriculture underpinning the Scenic Rim's economy, balancing the community's desire for increased economic outcomes against responsible management of the environment presents an ongoing challenge for Council.

The increasing frequency and severity of weather events also impact our natural environment and Council and the community face substantial costs in the aftermath of disasters. We continue to work to build resilience in the community through disaster preparedness in an effort to mitigate the impact of disaster events.





OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



PROTECTING OUR KOALAS

Council enlisted the support of the community in a campaign in August 2023 to raise awareness of the koala breeding season in the Scenic Rim to help reduce the numbers of koalas killed on our roads.

This was followed by the launch in September of the Scenic Rim Koala Count, which ran for two weeks, and resulted in an increase in reports of koala sightings and interest in koala conservation and awareness across the region.

Council commenced a koala conservation project following the signing of a \$179,450 grant agreement with the Australian Government. This aims to improve the extent, quality and connectivity of koala habitat and increase community engagement in koala conservation through participation, applied research and ecological restoration.

Council also partnered with Queensland Trust for Nature to provide \$40,000 worth of specialised tree guards to Land for Wildlife properties to ensure the success of plantings of trees for koalas.

MANAGING FLYING-FOXES

While not always welcomed as neighbours by Scenic Rim residents, flying-foxes play a key role as pollinators and their conservation and management is vital for the region's natural environment and agricultural sector.

Council's consultation on the draft Flying-Fox Management Strategy in 2023 aimed to ensure the community's involvement in the future management of this protected species.

Community feedback was considered and, where appropriate, was addressed or included in both the Strategy and two Roost Management Plans that were subsequently adopted by Council.

ENHANCING THE RESILIENCE OF WATERWAYS

The Resilient Rivers Initiative benefited from the release of the South East Queensland Waterways and Wetlands Investment Strategy in 2023, with \$40 million to be channelled towards improving the health and resilience of waterways and wetlands over the following five years.

Controlling erosion is key to the health of waterways and a field plan prioritising on-ground works was developed for the Upper Bremer River and Warrill Creek sub-catchments. In partnership with the community, restoration works as part of the Resilient Rivers Initiative were commenced at properties at Moorang.

Council also engaged with landholders in the Logan-Albert and Bremer-Warill catchments to begin 12 new projects to improve the rivers' resilience to further degradation.

IMPROVING OUR DISASTER RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

Another year of severe weather events, including the 2023 Christmas Night Storm, again placed Council at the forefront of the region's disaster response.

Council also supported the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services in managing the response to events including several fast-moving vegetation fires by establishing Places of Refuge.

Council continued to promote Get Ready Week with a range of communication and promotional activities to foster disaster resilience and preparedness in the lead up to the bushfire season.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

PROVIDING HOMES FOR VULNERABLE BIRDLIFE

The Glossy Black Cockatoo Nestbox Project, which aims to provide shelter for this vulnerable species, commenced with the installation of specialised nest boxes on Land for Wildlife properties.

The success of this initiative will be monitored as part of a citizen science project by participating Scenic Rim landholders.

DELIVERING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND EVENTS

Council delivered or supported a wide range of environmental education programs throughout the year including the Scenic Rim Koala Forum in July 2023, followed by the Bremer River Network gathering in August.

A field event, conducted in conjunction with Boonah and District Landcare and Watergum Community Inc, was held in September to identify koala populations. Other successful environmental events held during the year included Koala Scat Collection, Citizen Science, Significant Flora and Fauna of the Scenic Rim, Fluvial Geomorphology Workshop, Reynolds Creek Platypus Pathways Workshop, Fire Ecology Workshop and the opening of the Western Escarpment Fire Trail.

SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY

Mini-bioblitzes at five Nature Refuge properties across the region during the year identified multiple threatened and noteworthy species including brush-tailed rock wallabies and the potential discovery of a new plant species, adding to the bank of biodiversity data for high-value conservation areas.

The eradication of invasive species is key to supporting the Scenic Rim's biodiversity. Council's work to eradicate Cat's Claw Creeper and other invasive weeds at various locations across the region has contributed to protecting important habitat trees.

SHARING OUR KNOWLEDGE

Council hosted and delivered presentations at the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Natural Resource Forum in May 2024.

This forum, organised by the LGAQ, brought together Councils from across Queensland to learn about and discuss topics of interest relating to regional natural resources.



SERVICING OUR COMMUNITY



Local government's key role is the delivery of core services to meet community needs.

Scenic Rim Regional Council's activities are detailed in our Service Catalogue, reflecting our strategic direction and aligned with the objectives of our Corporate Plan. While there is often an overlap in services in terms of meeting our Corporate Plan commitments, for the purpose of clarity in reporting the following stories are examples of projects that have contributed significantly to preserving the Scenic Rim amenity and natural assets.

BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Recognising the importance of the natural environment to the Scenic Rim's economy and lifestyle, Council delivers a range of biodiversity, waterway and climate change outcomes through planning, project development and programs.

Council has continued to work in partnership with the community to ensure the region's unique natural environment is preserved for future generations.

In response to the threat of climate change, Council has continued to progress towards net zero emissions, improved resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts.

Environmental management activities such as fire, weed and catchment management programs have been delivered along with conservation and education programs in partnership with the community and other levels of government.



SERVICING OUR COMMUNITY



The table below shows some of Council's environmental management activities over the past five years.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Number of new Voluntary Conservation Agreements	0	0	0	2	8
LAND PROTECTED UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS					
Land for Wildlife properties	287	290	320	348	387
Environmental Grants	29	16	36	52	39
New Conservation Agreements	21	20	25	25	8
SCENIC RIM ONE MILLION TREES PROGRAM					
Rural Trees Initiative	11,557	17,797	21,845	9,219	11,115
Habitat Trees Initiative	6,400	6,890	7,722	21,679	8,931
Community Trees Initiative	4,307	7,274	950	6,045	1,575
River Trees Initiative	2,638	7,632	4,420	4,630	5,270
TOTAL	30,382	45,225	35,025	46,493	26,891
NURSERY TREES					
	2022-2023	2023-2024			
To the public (free trees)	6,364	6,959			
To the Parks and Landscape Maintenance team - (internal landscaping)	22	78			
Advanced Trees	0	4			
TOTAL	34,126	3,980			



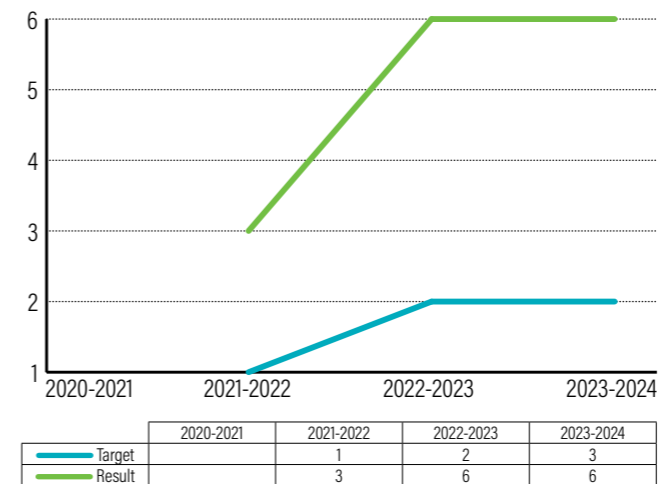
DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Several severe weather events that have impacted the Scenic Rim region in recent years have highlighted Council's need to deliver services that minimise the impact of emergencies and disasters on the community and Council's operations.

Council employs wide-ranging systems and strategies to meet Australian and Queensland Government policies and guidelines, ensuring it meets its obligations under the *Disaster Management Act 2003* and *Disaster Management Regulation 2014*.

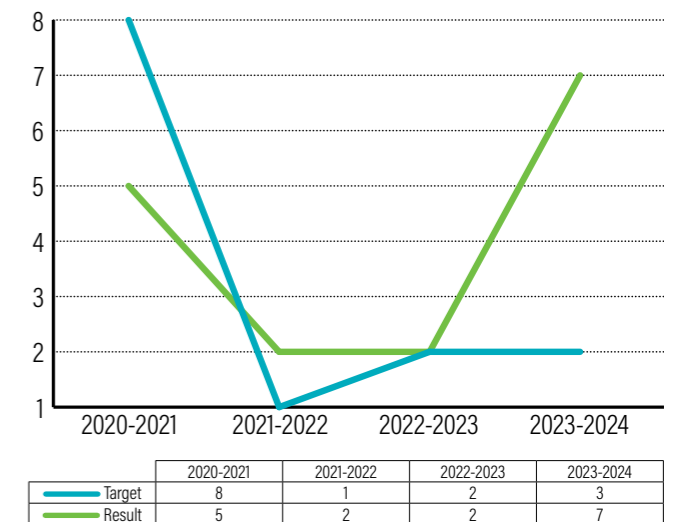
Council also has an obligation to respond to emergencies and disasters in line with its responsibilities specified in state and local policies, procedures and guides.

Number of disaster management exercises and training sessions facilitated



Council continues to ensure our community and stakeholders are prepared in the event of disasters, with the number of exercises exceeding our target during the past three years.

Number of local disaster management plans and procedures developed and/or reviewed and endorsed by Local Disaster Management Group



Appropriate plans and procedures to guide Council's response during disasters is vital to ensuring the safety of our community and infrastructure. During 2023-2024 Council has continued to exceed its target of keeping plans up to date.



DELIVERING OUR OPERATIONAL PLAN

DELIVERABLE	STATUS	DELIVERABLE	STATUS
Install improved flood signage for category 4A and 4B roads which are impacted by flooding, to provide improved information and warnings for road users	✘	Deliver actions under the Logan-Albert Catchment Action Plan	✔
Complete a review to identify category 5A and 5B local roads which are impacted by flooding and explore options for improved signage to provide information and warning to road users	✘	Deliver actions under the Bremer Catchment Action Plan	✔
Develop or review disaster management plans and procedures, as required, by the Local Disaster Management Group	✔	Deliver Rural, Community Habitat and River Trees initiatives	✔
Deliver annual disaster management exercises to increase local coordination capability	✔	Deliver planting projects on Council lands	✔
Deliver the annual Get Ready campaign	✔	Deliver Year One Strategic Priorities of Council's Biosecurity Plan 2023-2028	✘
Deliver actions identified in the five-year Biodiversity Strategy implementation plan (2020-2025)	✔	Develop a carbon footprint for Council operations for the 2023-2024 financial year	✘
Deliver programs aligned with Council's biodiversity vision	✔	Progress amendments to the Scenic Rim Planning Scheme 2020, that increase domestic water storage capacity requirements for new dwellings, to a State Interest Review.	✘
Support landholders in the control of invasive animals	✔	Deliver a program of lighting replacement within Council buildings to improve energy efficiency	✔
Establish project agreements with agencies, community groups or private landholders	✔	Investigate options for including alternative power solutions in Council's administrative buildings, cultural centres, and libraries	✔
Deliver biodiversity projects in collaboration with agencies, community groups or private landholders	✔	Continue to monitor progress of the Water for Warrill Project with the Queensland and Australian Governments and provide in-kind support, where appropriate	✔

Legend: Completed ✔ On Track ✔ Requires Attention ✘ Cancelled/Postponed ◆



LOOKING AHEAD



In 2024-2025, Council will continue to focus on managing and conserving the Scenic Rim's natural environment and building resilience within the community by:

- delivering actions identified in the five-year Biodiversity Strategy implementation plan (2020-2025)
- developing a program of work to facilitate climate change adaptation across the region
- delivering rural, community habitat and river trees initiatives, and
- promoting community awareness of the need to prepare for extreme weather and natural disasters.





SUSTAINABLE AND PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

AN ENHANCED REGIONAL BRAND UNDERPINS SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR BUSINESSES, STRONG LOCAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND HIGH-PERFORMING PRIMARY PRODUCTION AND TOURISM INDUSTRIES.



OUR HIGHLIGHTS

With a continued focus on the growth of the local economy and employment opportunities Council in 2023-2024:

PRESENTED THE 2023 SCENIC RIM BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

ACHIEVED AN AUDIENCE REACH OF MORE THAN 6,600,000 THROUGH DESTINATION MARKETING ACTIVITIES

CONTINUED TO PROMOTE THE BROMELTON STATE DEVELOPMENT AREA, ACHIEVING A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES FROM POTENTIAL INVESTORS

OUR PROGRESS

Council continued to make steady progress towards meeting the Corporate Plan outcomes for the region's sustainable and prosperous economy.

Investment in the region continued to grow during 2023-2024 and local employment rates proved positive. Council aims to support the local business community through its 'buy local' focus and, while targets for the year were not met, substantial gains were made.

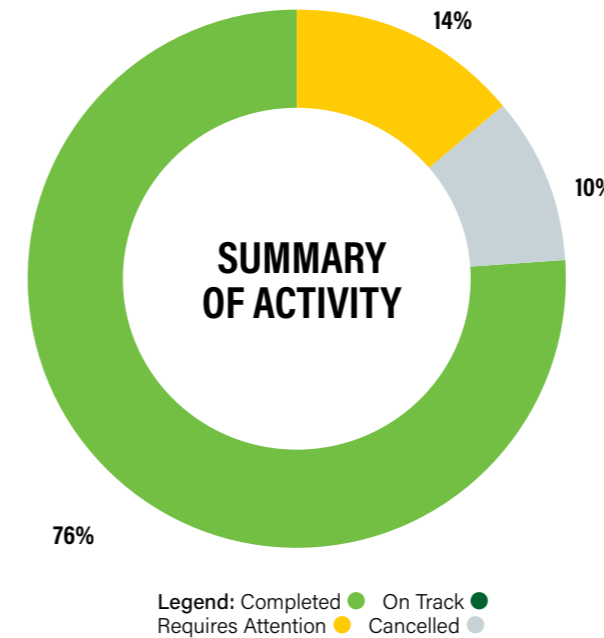
While advocacy targets were not achieved for a number of reasons, Council remains committed to engaging with other levels of government, completing 76 per cent of planned advocacy activities during the year.

OUR INDICATORS OF SUCCESS



INDICATOR	RESULT
Increased community awareness of drought and natural disaster mitigation enhances resilience	✓
Investment in the region grows	✓
Creation of valued employment for local residents is supported	✓✓
Council continues to focus on 'buying local'	✓
Advocacy and innovative partnerships enable the delivery of economic, social, and environmental priorities across the region	✗
Renewal of Council's assets, including facilities and infrastructure, is partially offset through value captured from tourism and other activities	Not Available

Legend: Fully Achieved ✓✓ Substantially Achieved ✓ Partially Achieved ✓ Not Achieved ✗



OUR CHALLENGES

The Scenic Rim has not been immune to the broader global and national economic trends and cost-of-living pressures that impact our region and our community and present wide-ranging challenges for Council.

Balancing population growth and preserving high-quality agricultural land while creating employment opportunities in small, medium and large businesses will be priorities for Council in the next 10 years.

It will prioritise attracting investment in compatible industries such as food processing, tourism, defence, aeronautical, environmental science, technology, and education sectors, which will further support the Scenic Rim's major economic driver, agriculture. Securing this investment requires support from other levels of government to recognise and fulfil their obligations of providing the necessary infrastructure of roads, energy and water, so we can attract these types of industries to our region.





OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



BUILDING ON OUR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

The launch of the Beaudesert Enterprise Precinct in November 2023 represented a landmark in the Scenic Rim's economic development with the 11-hectare site set to create a wealth of business and employment opportunities for the region.

The expansion of the industrial area at Enterprise Drive, Beaudesert, was the culmination of four years of planning and construction to create 30 additional lots available by tender for small to medium-sized businesses.

Queensland Government funding of \$5 million enabled the expansion of the industrial estate on Council-owned land, creating opportunities for local businesses to retain and expand their capabilities and encouraging the establishment of new businesses.

Funding for the expansion was announced in 2019 and operational works at the precinct were completed in February 2023 following a series of delays due to extreme weather events. The 30 new lots range in size from 2,000m² to 5,000m², with the ability to be amalgamated if necessary, and include power, telecommunications, water, sewer and NBN connections.

The precinct's newly constructed roads, Don Franklin Court and Ric Enright Court, honour the contribution to the community of two members of the Beaudesert Development Board who, in the 1970s, served alongside Doug Sullivan and Dick Barram for whom two of the industrial estate's cul-de-sacs were named. The Beaudesert Enterprise Precinct offers an alternative location to Brisbane or the Gold Coast for light-to-medium industry and complements the heavy industries of the Bromelton State Development Area. The significant increase in the number of enquiries regarding the Bromelton State Development Area, particularly from overseas investors during the year, indicates the precinct's potential for development and as a driver of economic growth in the Scenic Rim.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



RECOGNISING AND REWARDING BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

The spirit of entrepreneurship and the rising stars of the region's business community were celebrated at the 2023 Scenic Rim Business Excellence Awards on Friday, 10 November 2023.

Almost 200 guests gathered at The Centre Beaudesert, where veterinary pharmaceuticals enterprise Plasvacc Pty Ltd received the highest accolade, the Regional Prosperity Award, after also winning the Excellence in Business Award as an employer of more than 20 staff. Competition for the awards was keen, with 43 businesses and four individuals competing for awards in 11 categories.



REALISING GOLD MEDAL OPPORTUNITIES

Council continued its engagement with local businesses and industry groups throughout the year through its Business Networking Breakfasts which were well attended.

The final business breakfast for 2023, held at the Boonah Cultural Centre, included a presentation from Queensland Small Business Commissioner, Dominique Lamb, about Queensland Government services and support available to small businesses, and Committee of Brisbane CEO Barton Green, who spoke of the economic opportunities offered by the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In celebration of Queensland Small Business Month in May 2024, a business networking breakfast was held featuring as its guest speaker economic specialist Katrina Paterson from .ID Community and a panel drawn from members of the local business community.

HELPING BUSINESSES GET BACK ON TRACK

The initial focus following natural disasters and severe weather events is often on damage to residential properties and community infrastructure. However, businesses are often left counting the long-term costs of direct and indirect impacts from disaster events.

Following the December-January storm events that hit Tamborine Mountain area and surrounds, Council implemented a disaster recovery response which saw members of the Regional Prosperity team working with Queensland Government agencies to minimise the impact of the disaster on businesses.

Council's advocacy for the region secured funding from other levels of government and multiple tourism campaigns were developed in partnership with Tourism and Events Queensland and the Brisbane Economic Development Agency to encourage visitors back to the region.

MARKETING OUR DESTINATION TO DRIVE OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

An audience reach of more than 6,600,000 potential customers was generated through destination marketing activities during the year. Council's delivery of a marketing campaign to drive traffic to the Visit Scenic Rim destination website resulted in more than 60,000 visits to the site.

Taken together, these statistics point to the significant 'flow-on' opportunities for local tourism providers and the potential economic benefit for businesses across the Scenic Rim region. Despite the success of our marketing activities, audience reach generated through destination marketing was reduced early in the 2024 New Year due to the severe storms that impacted Tamborine Mountain and surrounding areas in late December 2023 and early January.

SUPPORTING AND DELIVERING EVENTS

Council delivered the expanded and highly anticipated Scenic Rim Eat Local Month and Winter Harvest Festival incorporating a range of improvements that resulted in positive feedback from participants.

Some 18 capability-building events were delivered for the business community as part of Small Business Month in May, attracting more than 530 registrations. Council's ongoing support of the Tamborine Mountain, Canungra and Boonah Chambers of Commerce, as well as Destination Scenic Rim, enabled these organisations to deliver Small Business Month events for their members.

An estimated economic impact of almost \$6,500,000 was generated during the year through Council's sponsorship of regional events, representing a 14:1 return on investment.



SERVICING OUR COMMUNITY



Local government's key role is the delivery of core services to meet community needs.

Scenic Rim Regional Council's activities are detailed in our Service Catalogue, reflecting our strategic direction aligned with the objectives of our Corporate Plan. While there is often an overlap in services in terms of meeting our Corporate Plan commitments, for the purpose of clarity in reporting the services detailed below are those which have contributed most significantly to building prosperity in our region.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

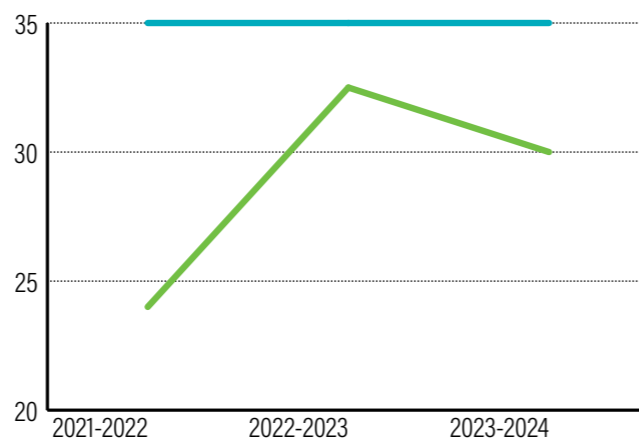
Council is committed to strengthening and growing the local economy to improve the Scenic Rim's prosperity and standard of living for the community.

Council works to maintain the character of the Scenic Rim and its culture through capacity and capability-building initiatives, placemaking and advocacy activities to encourage economic growth across the region and promote the Scenic Rim as a destination for tourism and business.

Council partners with industry and government agencies to help local businesses grow and prosper. It also works to create new jobs for the region by delivering programs aimed at specific sectors of our regional economy such as agribusiness, manufacturing, education, tourism and industry.

Council continues to focus on supporting the local economy by sourcing services and materials, where possible, from local suppliers. This policy not only generates a degree of goodwill amongst local businesses but also contributes to the economic health of the region. In 2021-2022, our target was increased from 25 per cent to 35 per cent and Council is nearing this ambitious target.

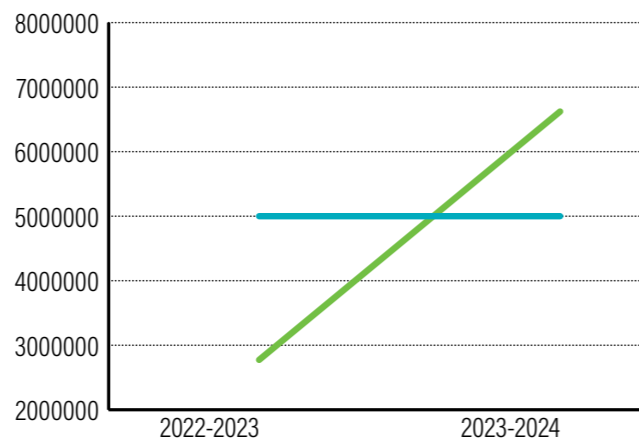
Percentage of Council's materials and services expenses purchased from local suppliers



	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Target	35	35	35
Result	24	32.5	30

Tourism and events contribute significantly to our local economy, and promoting the Scenic Rim region to potential visitors and investors is key to achieving growth in this sector. With results showing an overall upward trend, Council exceeded its expected target this year.

Audience reach through destination marketing activities

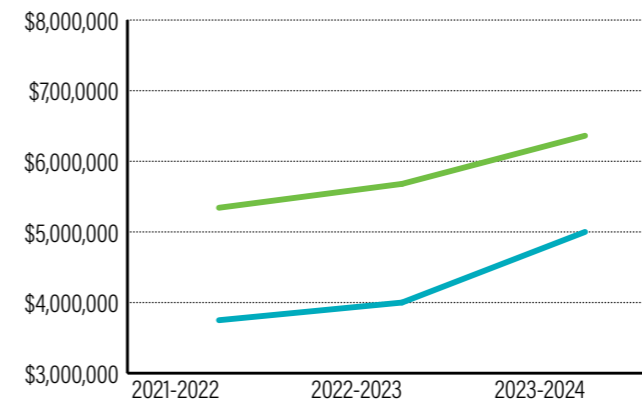


	2022-2023	2023-2024
Target	5,000,000	5,000,000
Result	2,772,903	6,622,382

REGIONAL EVENTS

The development and delivery of quality regional events, along with delivering and growing existing regional events, contribute to building a sustainable and prosperous economy. Regional events not only provide a direct economic return for the region but also help to build our destination brand.

Total value of economic impact generated by delivery and support of events



	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Target	\$3,750,000	\$4,000,000	\$5,000,000
Result	\$5,342,178	\$5,690,122	\$6,361,960

Another excellent result was achieved this year in terms of revenue generated from regional events. Council exceeded its target in line with a continuing trend.



CAMPGROUNDS

The Scenic Rim's tourism industry is a key driver of the local economy and its continued growth is vital to the region's prosperity and sustainability.

Providing a range of quality accommodation options is essential to broadening our visitor base, particularly as recent years have seen enormous growth in the number of families and visitors returning to camping and caravanning.

Council recognises the importance of this trend and has worked to ensure its Council-controlled campgrounds are well managed and maintained.

As part of this service delivery, Council maintains amenities and plumbing, manages water supply, effluent pump-outs and potentially hazardous trees as well as safety signage.

DELIVERING OUR OPERATIONAL PLAN

DELIVERABLE	STATUS	DELIVERABLE	STATUS
Public rollout of Council's Local Preference Policy and raising awareness promotion of Council's procurement tools including VendorPanel and MarketPlace	✘	Promote Bromelton State Development Area opportunity in broader investment attraction activity through increased marketing and promotion and advocacy	✔
Deliver Year Three actions contained within the Scenic Rim Regional Prosperity Strategy 2020-2025	✔	Deliver tactical destination marketing activities and campaigns in conjunction with industry partners	✔
Market and promote the region to attract investment and new jobs, making the process as efficient as possible for potential investors	✔	Plan and deliver Scenic Rim Eat Local Month 2024, including delivery of strategic recommendations for improvement relevant to 2023- 2024	✔
Engage with local businesses through visitation schedule, regular program of assistance and referral to opportunities through local, Queensland and Australian Government programs	✔	Attract, expand, and develop new and existing events in the region that align with tourism strategies and drive yield and increase length of stay	✔
Deliver a region-relevant program of activities as part of Small Business Month including partnering on initiatives with four Chambers of Commerce	✔	Mentor organisers of regional events to build their capability to deliver economic return	✔
Plan and deliver the 2023 Scenic Rim Business Excellence Awards	✔	Jointly deliver a range of destination marketing and industry development activities agreed within the Destination Scenic Rim Business Plan and Partnership Agreement	✔
Deliver capability development workshops and initiatives catering to identified needs of the business community	✔	Identify and investigate potential initiatives to mitigate environmental and amenity impacts from visitation growth	◆
Continue to engage local businesses in exploring opportunities for increasing local economic spend	✔	Provide support and advocacy to assist progression of the Water for Warrill Project	✘
Progress and promote the Shop Scenic Rim fixed gift card program	✔	Work with agri-sector to facilitate growth and capitalise on opportunities in both agri-business and agri-tourism	✘
Promote Beaudesert Enterprise Precinct opportunities in broader investment attraction through increased marketing and promotion	✔	Conduct review of environmental and amenity impacts from visitation growth	◆
Shadow and support the progression of the Scenic Rim Agricultural Industrial Precinct	✔		

Legend: Completed ✔ On Track ✔ Requires Attention ✘ Cancelled/Postponed ◆



LOOKING AHEAD



With the goal of building a more sustainable and prosperous economy for the Scenic Rim, in 2024-2025 Council will:

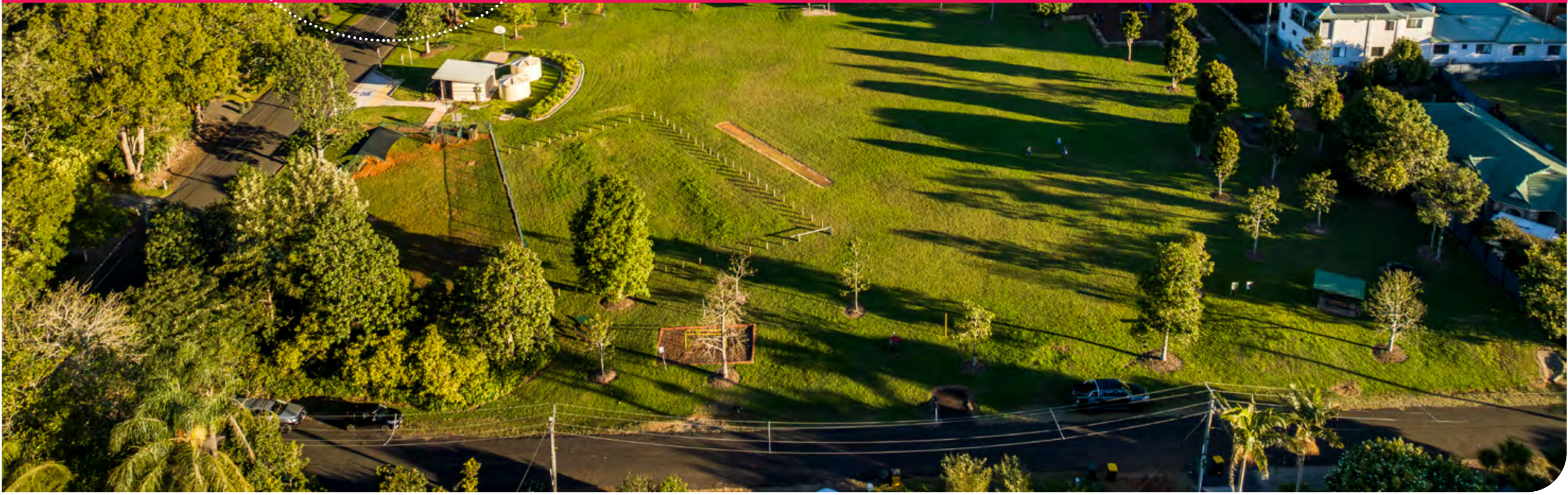
- continue to explore opportunities for increasing its local spend to support local businesses
- promote and advocate for the Bromelton State Development Area
- plan and deliver Scenic Rim Eat Local Month 2025, actioning the improvements detailed in the strategic recommendations report relating to the 2024 event, and
- attract, expand, and develop new and existing events in the region aligned with tourism strategies to drive yield and increase visitors' length of stay.





RELAXED LIVING AND RURAL LIFESTYLE

FUTURE GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION ENHANCE OUR LIFESTYLE AND PRESERVE OUR NATURAL ASSETS AND PRIME AGRICULTURAL LAND.



OUR HIGHLIGHTS

With a continued focus on the growth of the local economy and employment opportunities, during 2023-2024 Council:



ENDORSED THE SCENIC RIM LOCAL HOUSING ACTION PLAN



DEVELOPED A MAJOR AMENDMENT TO UPDATE THE PLANNING SCHEME

OUR PROGRESS

Solid progress was made during the year towards meeting Council's Corporate Plan outcomes that contribute to maintaining the Scenic Rim's relaxed living and rural lifestyle. The achievement of these outcomes has been the result of careful planning and the ability to adjust those plans to accommodate emerging issues.

Significant progress was made in terms of activity undertaken, with the completion of more than 80 per cent of planned activities.

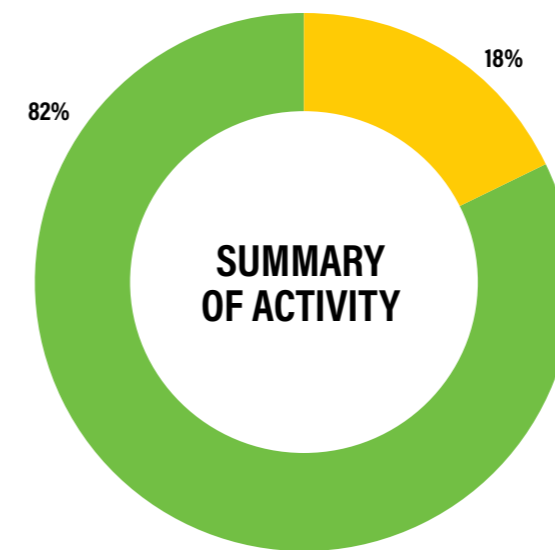
Indicators of success also show very good results, with the exception of enhanced mobile and data services, which are largely beyond Council's control. Council will continue to advocate on behalf of the region to improve connectivity for our residents and businesses.

OUR INDICATORS OF SUCCESS



INDICATOR	RESULT
Advocacy and innovative partnerships enable the delivery of economic, social and environmental priorities across the region	✓
Legislation and regional planning instruments facilitate Scenic Rim's strategic framework for growth	✓
Growth in the region is supported by a clear and evidence-based planning vision	✓
Mobile and data services connectivity across the region is enhanced	✓

Legend: Fully Achieved ✓✓ Substantially Achieved ✓ Partially Achieved ✓ Not Achieved ✗



Legend: Completed ● On Track ● Requires Attention ● Cancelled ●

OUR CHALLENGES

Balancing the need for a growth in industry alongside our agricultural sector presents a major challenge for Council in maintaining the region's relaxed living and rural lifestyle.

Council is meeting the challenge of balancing the liveability of the region with industry development, including increased tourism, which provides valuable employment opportunities for Scenic Rim residents who want to work closer to home and avoid a lengthy commute outside the region.

The lack of consistent mobile and data service connectivity is a particular challenge for the region and Council is continuing to lobby telecommunications companies to improve their standard of service to the community.





OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



ADDRESSING THE REGION'S ACCOMMODATION NEEDS

Supported by the Queensland Government, in partnership with the Local Government Association of Queensland, the Scenic Rim Local Housing Action Plan was endorsed by Council and is expected to help address the region's immediate, emerging and longer-term housing issues. The Plan was developed following the Queensland Government's Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025, which recognised a role for councils in increasing housing supply and diversity.

Scenic Rim is one of 38 local government areas to have developed a Local Housing Action Plan based on their community's current and future housing needs and the actions required to meet these challenges. The Local Housing Action Plan's key focus will be to address the lack of housing supply for smaller households, improved housing choices for an ageing population, opportunities for social and affordable housing and community and government partnerships to provide housing support for people in crisis or First Nations people. Council has a clear understanding of the region's housing needs following a Housing Needs Assessment which was completed as part of the Scenic Rim Growth Management Strategy 2041. Planning to meet the region's housing needs is already underway, with Council preparing a major amendment to the Scenic Rim Planning Scheme that will encourage greater housing diversity and zoning for medium-density development. Council is investigating opportunities to play a key role in delivering well designed social and affordable housing on surplus Council land.

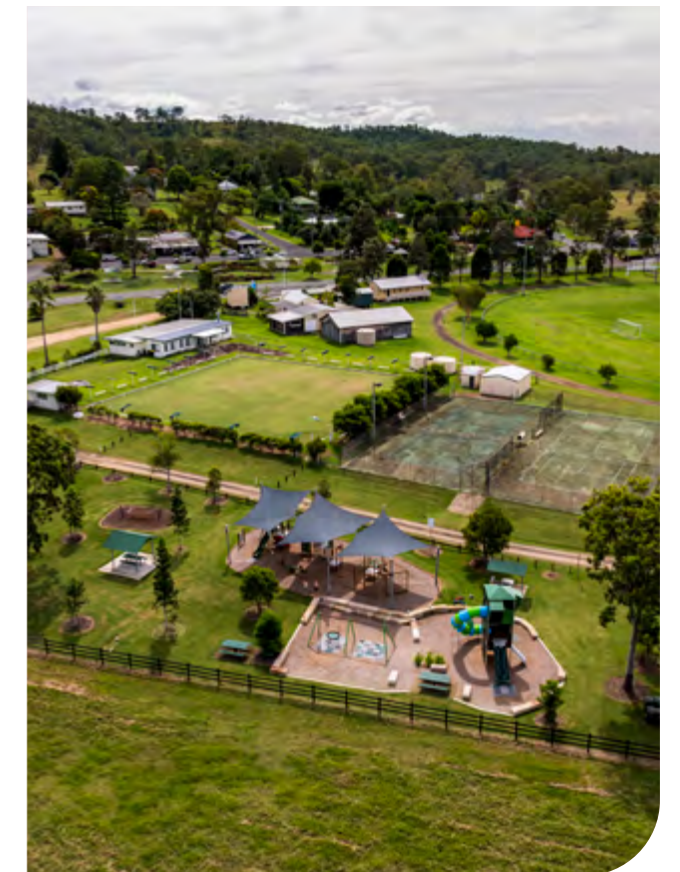
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Council began preparing a major amendment to update the Planning Scheme in response to emerging issues and matters identified during the Planning Scheme's implementation.

Significant progress was made during the year in developing the draft amendments, including:

- the development of character precincts and guidelines;
- updates to Matters of Environmental Significance; and
- amendments to implement the Growth Management Strategy.

The major amendment developed during the year will be submitted to the Minister for Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works for a state interest review in the latter half of 2024 following its endorsement by Council.



SERVICING OUR COMMUNITY

MEETING REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITMENTS

Council continued to participate in the SEQ Local Government Working Group to inform the SEQ Regional Planning Committee and SEQ Growth Monitoring Program. Council's submission to the ShapingSEQ 2023 plan – the Queensland Government's long-term vision for growth in South East Queensland – advocated for a practical framework that supports the sustainable growth and prosperity of the Scenic Rim's towns and villages. Released in December, ShapingSEQ 2023 includes provisions allowing councils to progress plans enabling the considered growth of selected towns.

PROGRESSING THE SMART REGION STRATEGY

The Scenic Rim Smart Region Strategy 2022–2032, adopted by Council in June 2022, provides a shared vision for the region's use of technology and data as it looks to a digital future. Following its adoption of the Strategy, Council has continued to work with internal and external stakeholders to promote the Scenic Rim as a priority region for digital connectivity.

The Strategy explores digital opportunities for the region including:

- the installation of smart infrastructure points in key areas such as the main streets of Beaudesert, Tamborine Mountain, Boonah, and Canungra;
- technologies that can be incorporated in Council facilities to capture data, improve amenity, accessibility, energy efficiency and provide insights to Council; and
- the investigation of potential avenues to establish electric vehicle charging facilities within the region.



DELIVERING OUR OPERATIONAL PLAN



DELIVERABLE	STATUS	DELIVERABLE	STATUS
Continue representation on Council of Mayors (South East Queensland) and quarterly meetings with the SEQ Local Government Working Group to inform the SEQ Regional Planning Committee and the SEQ Growth Monitoring Program	✓	Represent Scenic Rim Regional Council on COMSEQ 2032 Regional Legacy Working Group	✓
Continue representation on the SEQ Regional Planning Committee to advocate for planning policy administered by the Queensland Government that better supports the economic, social, and environmental policies for the region	✓	Work with internal and external stakeholders to promote Scenic Rim as a priority region for digital connectivity	✓
Facilitate meetings between Council, and the Federal and State Members, to discuss priority projects and key advocacy topics for the region	✓	Deliver regular updates to local Queensland and Australian Government representatives	✓
Advocate for a practical planning framework that enables the sustainable growth and prosperity of the region's towns and villages	✓	Prepare a major amendment to update the Planning Scheme in response to emerging issues and matters identified through its implementation	✗
Work with business and industry to embrace the global digital trend, in order to advance the region's economy and attract investment	✓	Amendments to the Scenic Rim Planning Scheme 2020 are made to implement the Growth Management Strategy	✗
Provide support and advocacy for delivery of transformational investment in critical infrastructure	✓		

Legend: Completed ✓ On Track ✓ Requires Attention ✗ Cancelled/Postponed ◆





Ensuring the region retains its rural charm while continuing to grow employment opportunities and embracing innovation, in 2024-2025, Council will:

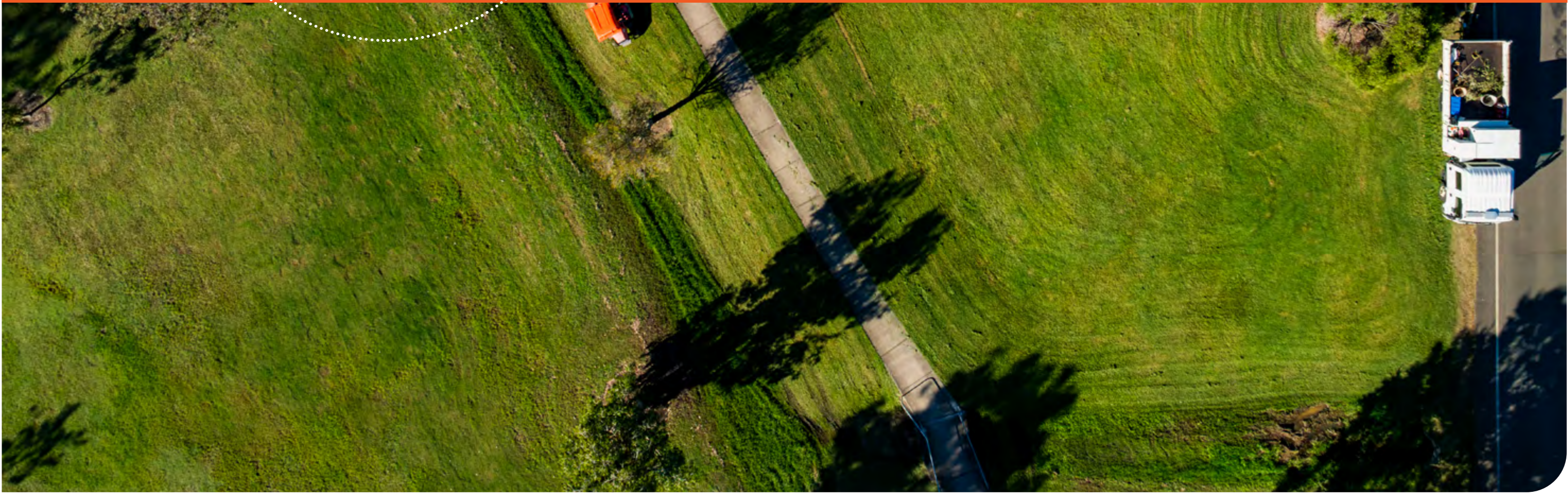
- continue to provide input to the SEQ Regional Planning Committee and the SEQ Growth Monitoring Program
- facilitate meetings between Council and Queensland and Australian Government members to discuss priority projects and key topics of advocacy for the region
- undertake a local planning study that investigates options to support the social and economic sustainability of the township of Rathdowney, and
- continue to progress implementation of the Smart Region Strategy.





VIBRANT AND ACTIVE TOWNS AND VILLAGES

OUR VIBRANT TOWNS AND VILLAGES EMBRACE THEIR UNIQUENESS, HERITAGE VALUES AND SENSE OF PLACE.



OUR HIGHLIGHTS

The renewal of the Scenic Rim's towns and villages and Council's investment in community infrastructure continued in 2023-2024 with the:

	STAGING OF EXHIBITIONS FEATURING WORKS BY LOCAL ARTISTS AT THE CENTRE BEAUDESERT
	COMMENCEMENT OF STORMWATER DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS AS PART OF THE BEAUDESERT TOWN CENTRE UPGRADE
	DEVELOPMENT OF MASTERPLANS FOR CANUNGRA AND KALBAR
	DELIVERY OF PROGRAMS WHICH SAW AN INCREASE OF 76.6% IN ATTENDANCE ACROSS ALL CULTURAL VENUES

OUR PROGRESS

Council continued to make steady progress towards enhancing and maintaining the vibrancy and unique character of our region's towns and villages, delivering 67 per cent of planned activities during 2023-2024.

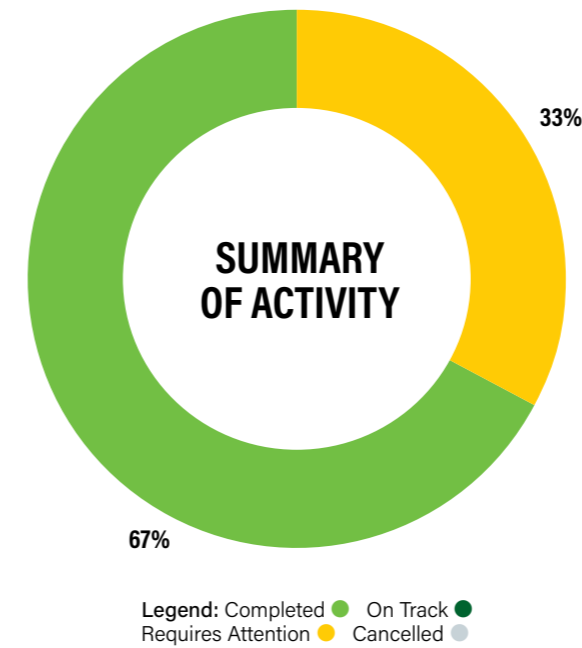
Although some 30 per cent of activities required attention, this was due primarily to manufacturing and supply chain issues resulting in delayed projects. These are expected to be on track for completion before the end of 2024.

OUR INDICATORS OF SUCCESS



INDICATOR	RESULT
Our parks, playgrounds and open spaces are popular and utilised by our diverse communities and visitors	✓
The Scenic Rim's heritage is reflected in our planning guidelines, infrastructure design, public art and community events	✓
The community is supported to deliver, or participate in, programs and activities that drive the vibrancy of our towns	✓
Our streetscapes enhance the attractiveness of our unique towns and villages to residents and visitors	✓

Legend: Fully Achieved ✓✓ Substantially Achieved ✓ Partially Achieved ✓ Not Achieved ✗



OUR CHALLENGES

The cost of maintaining the unique character of our towns and villages through bespoke solutions is just one of the challenges facing Council in creating more vibrant and active communities.

To remain vibrant, our towns and villages must continue to appeal to visitors as well as locals, but increasing visitor numbers must be balanced against the potential for over-tourism which may impact negatively on the country charm of our towns and villages.

Understanding the subtle but unique nature of each of the Scenic Rim's communities – and what is important to their residents – while embracing modern technology and employment opportunities which do not detract from the heritage values of our towns and villages, are all challenges in ensuring these continue to thrive and remain vibrant.





OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH ART AND CULTURE

Members of Scenic Rim's creative community shared in almost \$72,000 in grants through the Regional Arts Development Fund, which helped get small projects and big ideas off the drawing board. In April, Council allocated \$56,069 under the Big Ideas Round of the 2023-2024 Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) to six projects with an estimated total value of more than \$234,000.

Ranging from visual and performing arts to music and film, the successful projects highlighted the wealth of talent in the Scenic Rim and represented an excellent return on investment for the community, Council and Council's RADF funding partner, Arts Queensland.

Funded projects focused on supporting First Nations artists, valuing young people, supporting local artists or enhancing our towns and villages.

Council is grateful for the Queensland Government's contribution of \$41,475 through Arts Queensland, matched by Council's contribution of \$30,500, which

supported arts, cultural and heritage projects as well as employment opportunities and pathways for learning for arts and cultural workers during the year.

Although members of Tamborine Mountain's creative community were well represented in the grants allocations in 2023-2024, their projects will enrich the cultural life of the wider Scenic Rim region.

RADF funding will enable the Tamborine Mountain Arts Collective to present an arts trail from Tamborine Mountain to Canungra, with open studios providing a window into the creative world of artists and artisans and showcasing the region as a leading arts destination.

A film project by Ryan Gittoes will capture the remarkable journey of Tamborine Mountain's award-winning Mountain Mates disability support service, which celebrates the positive impact of inclusion and the power of community support and solidarity.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



Inspired by the Scenic Rim's Back Creek/Coomera River area, a ritual installation and performance artwork by Sri Lankan-born Beechmont artist Kuweni Dias Mendis will use movement, marks and voice to speak to the multicultural influence of contemporary Australia. Through pop-up concerts and a new music theatre work, *Florence*, adapted from Helen O'Neill's internationally acclaimed and award-winning book, *Florence Broadhurst, Her Secret and Extraordinary Lives*, will be brought to life by actor and writer Elise Greig in partnership with Voices FTP and local artists including Margy Rose. RADF funding will provide local musicians Global Assets with access to a professional studio to record and launch their first EP and stage a series of public performances of their music. William Smith's music project will feature First Nations musician Russell Smith as the host of monthly performance and question and answer sessions with local musicians and artists in collaboration with Tamborine Mountain Library, with the additional aim of increasing community interaction in the library space.

Although none of the grants recipients received the full amount they were seeking, all were awarded significant funding, enabling the limited funds available to be shared more equitably among the applicants.

All of the projects were assessed by the Scenic Rim Arts Reference Group against RADF program criteria and Arts Queensland's arts, culture and creativity strategy, *Creative Together 2022-2030*.

IMPROVING PLAYGROUND ACCESSIBILITY

A playground upgrade at a popular Beaudesert park has taken fun to new heights, with a three-level play space providing exciting activities for all abilities under one shaded area.

The completion of the area at Junior Chamber Park was the latest in Scenic Rim Regional Council's ongoing Playground Strategy which identifies and prioritises playgrounds requiring replacement or upgrading to meet community needs and contemporary standards. The new play area has been welcomed by families in the Beaudesert and wider community. Upgraded to modern standards, it provides inclusive play equipment for all children. The three-level play space is covered by



a shade sail and includes a toddler seat, classic swing seat and bird's nest seat for children of all ages and abilities.

The height of the bird's nest seat allows for easy transfer from a wheelchair or walker and users can choose to sit, lie or stand on the swing.

This one-of-a-kind play space includes three levels of exciting activities in one impressive unit enabling children to experience high and low-level play. Sliding, swinging and testing climbing skills assists children's physical development and helps to improve their balance and coordination.

The new concrete footpath, which connects to the new shared footpath from Brooklands Drive to Kingsley Drive, also provides space for young children to learn to ride a scooter or bike under the supervision of parents or carers. The playground's upgrade has made the Junior Chamber Park a more appealing and family-friendly community facility. New equipment and improved accessibility have provided even more opportunities for children to be physically active, which plays an important part in health and wellbeing.

SHOWCASING OUR CULTURAL COMMUNITY

Council delivered four engaging and thought-provoking exhibitions at The Centre Beaudesert during 2023-2024.

Moving Mountains, which opened in June 2023, celebrated the success of the Scenic Rim community in its battle to save valuable farmland and the region's natural beauty from mining and coal seam gas extraction. This exhibition proved so popular that it was extended by six weeks.

Scenic Rim residents and visitors to the region had an opportunity to experience a wide range of art forms and also to purchase unique Christmas gifts at Council's Gift Wrapped exhibition launched in October

2023. The exhibition showcased works by artists, artisans and authors from the Scenic Rim and beyond and highlighted the breadth of talent within the region's creative community.

A sculptural installation created by members of the Scenic Rim community, including school children, was the centrepiece of the *A Garden of Possibility* exhibition which ran from February to April 2024. Combining environmental awareness with creative expression, this exhibition showed how upcycled materials and textiles could be used to produce artworks reflective of a garden.

The spectacular colours of the Scenic Rim's World Heritage-listed Gondwana rainforest were captured in artworks featured in the *Floras of Gondwanan Heritage* exhibition which opened in May. Through textiles, works on paper and video by Renata Buziak, the exhibition focused on the remarkable image-making process developed by the artist based on the fusion of organic and photographic materials.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



ACTIVATING TOWNS AND VILLAGES THROUGH PUBLIC ART

A vibrant artwork celebrating the Scenic Rim's wildlife was delivered in Beaudesert, bringing to life a colourful concept by Ash Taylor.

Funded by the Scenic Rim Story Marker Project, the mural forms part of a planned regional public artwork trail. Recognising the role of public art in adding to the vibrancy of communities, Council also installed a sculpture by Paul Stumkatt at George Street Park in Kalbar, The Angels of Agriculture public artwork in the grounds of the Beaudesert Museum, and storyboards at Harrisville and Rosins Lookout.

The RADF provided funding for four murals which have added to the unique character of Canungra.



PRESERVING AND ENHANCING OUR UNIQUE RURAL CHARACTER

Adding vibrancy to our towns and villages, placemaking helps to shape our public spaces and create a greater sense of community connection both with our region's past and its future.

Council is committed to preserving and enhancing the unique rural character of our towns and villages through placemaking that respects their history and minimises the environmental footprint of works undertaken.

To ensure that works are carried out sympathetically, a consultant was engaged during 2023–2024 to complete a study to identify character precincts and built form requirements with the aim of protecting and enhancing cherished historic streetscapes. This work will also assist in delivering masterplans for Canungra and Kalbar and contribute to future developments in the Planning Scheme.

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY AND BUSINESSES

Works commenced in 2023–2024 on the installation of stormwater drainage infrastructure as part of the Beaudesert Town Centre revitalisation project to provide increased confidence to businesses and the community.

Works to be completed between Selwyn Street and Short Street will help to reduce the frequency of stormwater inundation in Beaudesert's main street, addressing issues which, for decades, have impacted the potential growth of businesses and investment in the town centre.

Council is committed to ensuring the best value to ratepayers through its investment in infrastructure that provides the catalyst for ongoing growth and economic development.



SERVICING OUR COMMUNITY



Local government's key role is the delivery of core services to meet community needs.

Scenic Rim Regional Council's activities are detailed in our Service Catalogue, reflecting our strategic direction aligned with the objectives of our Corporate Plan. While there is often an overlap in services in terms of meeting our Corporate Plan commitments, for the purpose of clarity in reporting the services detailed below are those which have contributed most significantly to building vibrant and active towns and villages.

CULTURAL SERVICES

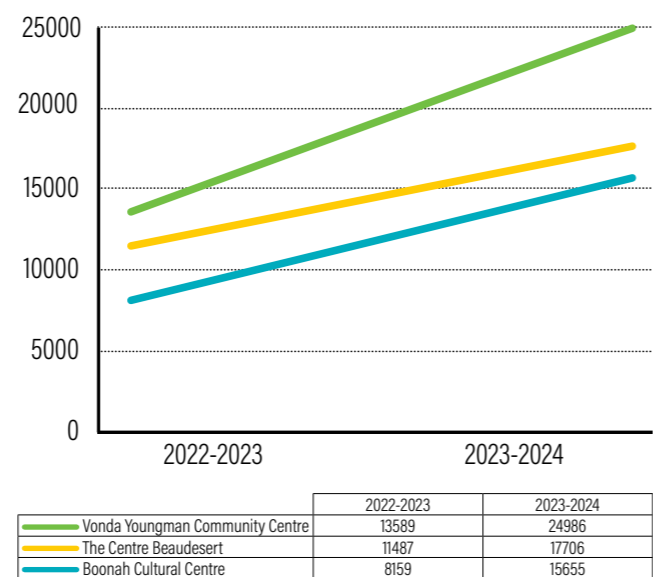
Council supports the cultural life of our communities, which contributes to the vibrancy of our towns and villages. Three cultural centres – at Beaudesert, Boonah and Tamborine Mountain – deliver a wide range of arts and cultural programs for all ages and interests including exhibitions, concerts, performances, workshops, and school holiday activities that enrich our communities.

Cultural Services recognise the importance of our region's heritage and the Scenic Rim's growing reputation as a creative community, supporting heritage groups and local museums, the delivery of public art and placemaking projects and the work of local artists through the Regional Arts Development Fund grant program.

Providing opportunities for local artists to display their work and for residents and visitors to view locally produced and inspired art continues to be a focus for Council.

The support for Council's cultural programs that appeal to a wide audience has been reflected by a 76.6 per cent increase in total attendance at its cultural centres in 2023–2024.

Increase in total attendance at Council managed cultural centres



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Council provides information, assessment and decision making related to development applications to ensure development not only complies with relevant legislation but also is sympathetic to the heritage of the region.

Development Services also provide audit and compliance functions as well as advocacy for development-related matters, assess plumbing and

building applications, and carry out inspections as required. This service recovers levied infrastructure charges and facilitates the provision of trunk infrastructure, along with the acceptance of any infrastructure which will become a public asset.

The table below shows the number of development applications submitted over the past five years. The figures in the table for 2023–2024 indicate that there is still strong growth in the region.

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Material Change of Use	90	129	195	117	163
Reconfiguration of a lot	25	51	41	43	55
Operational works (signage)	2	1	2	1	2
Operational works (other)	N/A	N/A	4	7	17
Operational works for land development	30	17	46	58	34
Change of development conditions	28	27	27	22	28
Extension of time	23	8	11	3	10
Building envelope amendment	8	30	13	11	12
New lots approved	144	232	351	296	756
Survey plans signed	51	44	49	40	74
Planning certificates issued	26	49	81	38	47
Flood certificates issued	89	129	150	151	174



SERVICING OUR COMMUNITY



The building industry within the region continued to grow during 2023–2024 in line with the trend seen since 2020. The number and value of building approvals has continued to be strong, surpassing pre-2020 levels. Continued development of residential land indicates that this level of building will continue well into the future. Council is predicting stability for the Scenic Rim region in the coming financial period.

The tables below show the applications processed by Council under the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019*. There was a substantial increase in building applications, particularly in the last quarter of 2023–2024, and Council staff have continued to work diligently to ensure approvals are delivered within legislative timeframes.

	2019–2020	2020–2021	2021–2022	2022–2023	2023–2024
BUILDING APPROVALS					
Inspections performed	461	313	288	80	24
Council certified building applications	187	199	107	32	23
Privately certified building applications	647	915	928	1,023	1283
PLUMBING APPROVALS					
Inspections performed	2,615	2,361	3,146	2,995	3,446
Approvals issued	293	500	462	485	597
FACILITIES REGISTERED UNDER THE PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE REGULATION 2019					
Backflow prevention devices	787	810	844	861	915
On-site sewerage facilities	3,433	4,704	4,890	5,095	5,290



PARKS AND LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

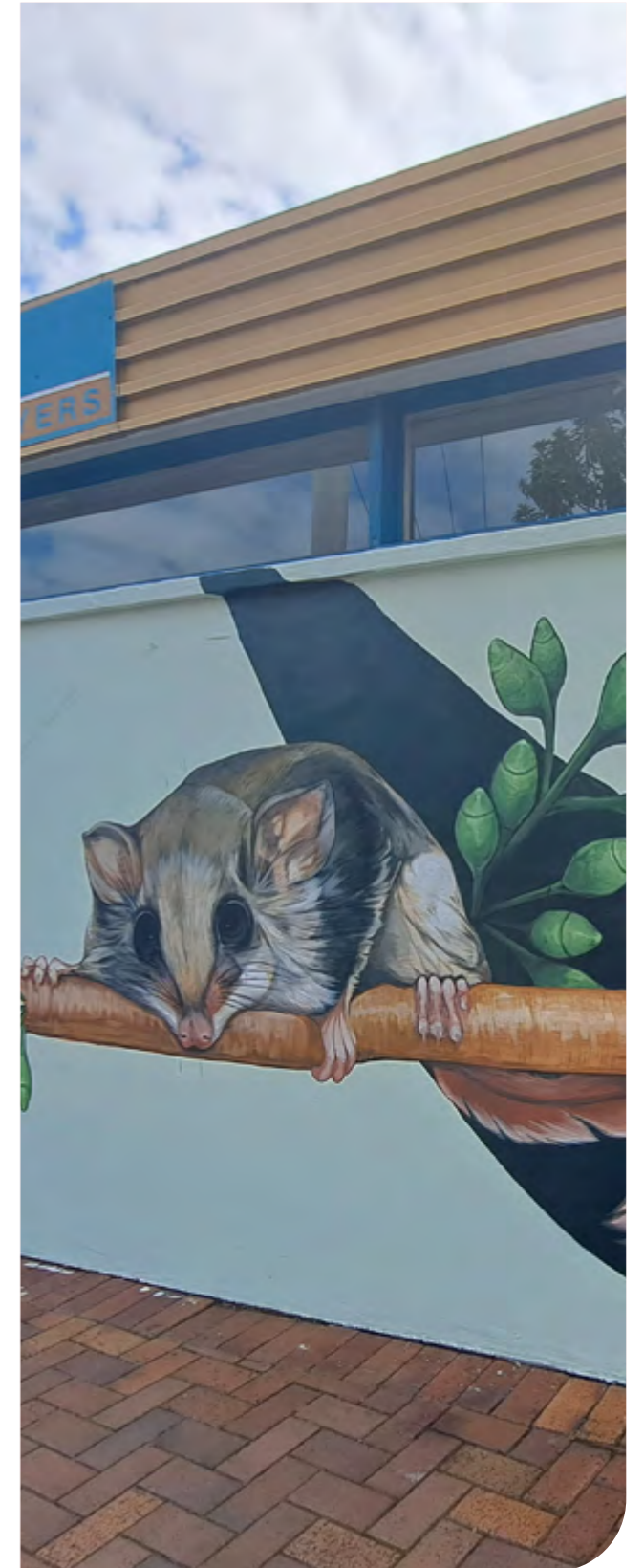
While our Parks and Landscape Maintenance service contributes to achieving our Corporate Plan objectives for an Accessible and Serviced Region, it also plays a key role in realising our vision for Vibrant Towns and Villages.

Through public parks and open spaces that complement the unique character of our communities, this service provides safe, open public spaces for recreation, social gatherings, exercise, and relaxation, all of which add to the vibrancy of our towns and villages across the Scenic Rim.

CEMETERIES

Providing well-maintained, suitably located and peaceful places for residents to remember family members goes to the heart of our communities. Council is responsible for nine cemeteries for burials, interments, monumental work and the placement of ashes.

Within its Cemeteries service, Council coordinates activities such as funeral and service bookings, grave digging, placement of ashes, maintenance of lawn areas and trees, asset management and the renewal and upgrade of cemeteries and associated facilities.



DELIVERING OUR OPERATIONAL PLAN

DELIVERABLE	STATUS	DELIVERABLE	STATUS
Review the infrastructure requirements for the range of park categories to both inform developers' and Council's future planning	✘	Support and strengthen local community museums	✔
Refresh the existing Parks and Amenities Strategy to reflect industry standards and Council's future plans	✘	Support Scenic Rim writers and artists to tell local stories that explore and capture the identity of the region	✔
Develop and review a 10-year capital vibrancy and strategic projects program, with a 20-year horizon forecast	✔	Deliver an exhibition program that supports local artists and builds capacity	✔
Actively seek alternative funding streams through application to external grant sources	✔	Deliver a cultural program that promotes community participation and connection	✔
Identify character precincts and built form requirements that aim to protect and enhance the unique character and built form of valued historic streetscapes for implementation in the Planning Scheme	✔	Develop new masterplans for two key villages identified within the region	✘
Encourage community participation in decision making relating to cultural outcomes	✔	Implement public art as scheduled as part of the Vibrant and Active Towns and Villages program	✘
Implement a Regional Arts Development Fund program that supports the community to deliver a variety of projects across the region	✔	Implement public art as part of the Cultural Services annual program	✘
Engage with the community through Scenic Rim Arts Reference Group consultation	✔		

Legend: Completed ✔ On Track ✔ Requires Attention ✘ Cancelled/Postponed ◆



LOOKING AHEAD



The Scenic Rim's unique identity will continue to be celebrated in 2024-2025 as Council:

- develops a project plan for the management and enhancement of significant trees based on its Parks and Amenity Strategy
- develops and reviews a 10-year capital vibrancy and strategic projects program, and
- undertakes a study identifying potential character precincts and design guidelines incorporating feedback from community consultation.





ACCESSIBLE AND SERVICED REGION

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES SUPPORT THE PRIORITISED NEEDS OF OUR GROWING COMMUNITY.



OUR HIGHLIGHTS

To support the region's economic growth and the community's increasing need for key services and infrastructure, in 2023-2024, Council:

	DEVELOPED A REGIONAL SPORTS AND RECREATION PLAN
	INSTALLED NEW SPORTS FIELD LIGHTING AT SELWYN PARK
	WON THE OUTSTANDING WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY - REGIONAL/RURAL AWARD FOR ITS DISASTER WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT
	CONTINUED TO PROGRESS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN TO SUPPORT OUR GROWTH MANAGEMENT
	UNDERTOOK REPARATION WORK FOLLOWING TWO SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS

OUR PROGRESS

The Scenic Rim's economy, which is underpinned by agriculture and tourism, depends on modern and reliable local transport infrastructure for our residents, businesses, and visitors to our region.

Council's progress in delivering works to support the region's vast network of local transport infrastructure was hampered in 2023-2024 by two severe weather events.

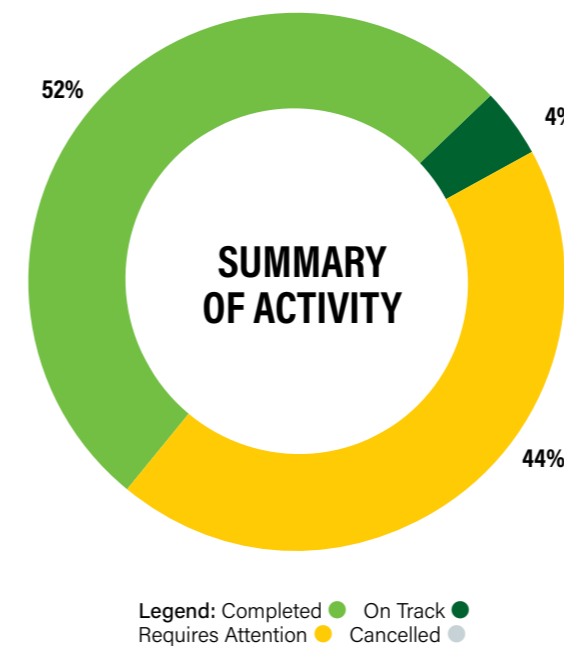
These resulted in a number of activities being delayed while urgent restoration work was carried out on damaged roads, bridges and floodways. Despite the slower pace of progress, more than half of the scheduled activities contributing to an accessible and serviced region were completed during the year.

OUR INDICATORS OF SUCCESS



INDICATOR	RESULT
Community has access to readily available information regarding Council's full suite of services, including defined service standards and cost to serve.	✓
Council-controlled community facilities and sporting infrastructure meet the identified needs of the community.	✓
Sustainable asset lifecycle is assured through integration of asset planning and financial forecasting.	✓
Council's advocacy enables the delivery of economic, social and environmental priorities across the region.	✓
Total volume of waste disposed to landfill is decreased, resulting in value stream creation.	✓

Legend: Fully Achieved ✓✓ Substantially Achieved ✓ Partially Achieved ✓ Not Achieved ✗



OUR CHALLENGES

Council faces significant challenges in its delivery of services and infrastructure to support the Community Plan vision for an accessible and serviced region.

The Scenic Rim's vast network of community infrastructure includes more than 1,750 km of local roads and 130 bridges, of which more than half are traditional timber structures requiring ongoing maintenance or replacement to meet the needs of residents, industry, and an increasing number of visitors to the region.

The maintenance and continued improvement of the Scenic Rim's civil infrastructure are a core priority for Council.

However, meeting the needs of current and future residents without creating a legacy of financial burden for future generations requires better planning and delivery of capital works which depend on increased funding from other levels of government. Increasing cost pressures and the unprecedented frequency and impact of several severe weather events, which have delayed some key regional infrastructure projects while more urgent restoration works have been carried out, have also created challenges for Council.





OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



RESTORING OUR ROAD NETWORK

Council continued to progress recovery works supported by the jointly-funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) from the 2019 bushfires to the more recent severe storms and flooding experienced in the region. In the wake of large-scale damage in the Scenic Rim's east following the Christmas-New Year storms, the mammoth task of clearing disaster vegetation from Council-controlled road reserves was completed at the end of January 2024 before moving to the collection of tonnes of disaster vegetation directly impacting private residences. As at 24 January, 855 emergency damage works had been carried out by teams at 189 points across the Scenic Rim road network. Inspections had also been carried out across 466 kilometres of Council's unsealed road network and assessments were continuing. Council has shared the frustration of the community with the pace of the recovery process since 2019 as funding approvals have been progressed and approved works have been delayed by ongoing wet weather and subsequent disaster events.

While DRFA works were completed following the bushfires of September to December 2019 and the extreme wet weather event during December 2020, Council has continued to work with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) to restore vital infrastructure across the Scenic Rim following other declared disasters. Progress has continued following QRA approval in January 2022 of emergency works following the southern Queensland severe weather event of March 2021. Designs of floodway replacements at Cainbale Creek Road and Snake Gully Creek Road were completed and Council procured the box culverts for the floodways to avoid supply delays during construction

Betterment funding, to improve the resilience of roads and bridges to future disasters, will support works at Geiger Road floodway. The design of landslip remediation projects at Philp Mountain Road and Flanagan Reserve Road were completed and emergency works following flooding between 10 November and 3 December 2021 saw damage repaired at 722 sites. Works to repair a landslip at Black

Gully Road were approved with a design to be finalised for Tartar Creek floodway. A total of 2,076 repairs to damage following the flooding which occurred between 22 February and 5 April 2022 were completed in emergency works by late May 2022. A submission for works at The Shelf Road at Tamborine Mountain was lodged by Council and approved by the QRA, with onsite geotechnical investigations completed in November 2023 enabling the design to be finalised.

Detailed designs were finalised for eight of 11 landslips – Black Gully Road, Christmas Creek Road, Knapp Creek Road, Stacey Road, Stockyard Creek Road, two sites at Tabletop Road and Wild Pig Creek Road – with designs for Price Creek Road, The Hollow Road and Upper Coomera Road continuing to progress.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



The QRA also approved submissions for works to repair a landslip on Roadvale Teviotville Road, floodways at Cryna Road, Back Creek Road and Allens Road and restoration and betterment works at Round Mountain Road. The Teviotville Road betterment project also neared completion. A major milestone on the region's road to recovery was the reopening in late December 2023 of Head Road, which was damaged during flooding which impacted southern Queensland during May 2022. This flood event required emergency works to repair damage at 490 sites and works to repair Council's sealed roads continued.

Works to repair landslips at Knapp Creek Road, Wild Pig Creek Road, Beechmont Road, Cannon Creek Road, Knoll Road, Mocker Road, Philip Mountain Road and Stacey Road have all received QRA approval. The replacement of the Tamrookum Creek Road floodway was approved and detailed design works continued. Allandale Road was approved for betterment works, with site preparations completed. Two unsealed road submissions were approved with the priority gravel roads being completed and the remainder programmed. Council is grateful for QRA's support that has enabled the reinstatement of vital infrastructure across the Scenic Rim and for the community's patience as works have continued to progress across our region.



DRIVING THE GROWTH OF SPORT AND RECREATION

Council's development of a plan for the future growth of recreational opportunities and sporting infrastructure in the Scenic Rim will play a key role in shaping the region's sport and recreation landscape over the next decade. Aligning Council's investment and service strategies with community needs, and providing a valuable resource to inform future funding opportunities, the Scenic Rim Sport and Recreation Plan 2024-2034 reflects Council's commitment to meeting the needs of its growing and diverse communities. With a population above the state's average age, Council has identified a growing need for low-impact physical activities and casual sport and recreation opportunities throughout the Scenic Rim. Its plan provides a comprehensive, modern strategy to guide Council's delivery of sustainable and inclusive sport and active recreation programs to increase community health and wellbeing through participation across all age groups in sporting and recreational activities. It also provides a strategic analysis of the community's sporting and recreational needs supported by the four pillars of infrastructure, participation, governance and events and programs in line with Council's Growth Management Strategy, Health and Wellbeing Plan, and Nature-Based Tourism Strategy.

Consultation on the draft plan, through the Let's Talk Scenic Rim online community engagement platform and attendance at eight face-to-face sessions across the Scenic Rim during May 2024, resulted in 259 submissions, one of the highest ever response rates to Council's community consultations.

Council is grateful for the community's feedback on the draft plan, which was prepared in consultation with sporting organisations from across the region, peak sporting bodies, Queensland Government departments and non-Council sport and recreation providers. The plan takes account of community needs, access to

sporting and recreational opportunities, the region's changing demographics, environmental sustainability, infrastructure needs and potential funding opportunities as well as opportunities associated with the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games. It also identified Scenic Rim's potential to become a hub for elite niche sports such as equestrian, camp drafting and rowing, particularly with Lake Wyaralong's selection as the host venue for rowing and canoe spring events for the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games. While the Games represent significant opportunities for the region, Council will continue to focus on developing participation in grassroots sporting and recreational activities for the health and wellbeing of our community.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THE REGION

Beaudesert's sporting community has been the winner from Scenic Rim Regional Council's installation of new lighting at Selwyn Park. The new LED lighting funded through Council's budget, meets soccer competition standards and was installed with an eye not only to players' needs but also the amenity of residents in Hopkins Street and the nearby St Mary's Catholic Primary School. The lighting installation had been a longstanding priority for Council and the project's completion represented an important milestone in encouraging community participation in sport.

Council recognises the part played by sports participation in individual health and wellbeing and also to the overall health and wellbeing of the community by bringing people together.

The Selwyn Park Management Association, the Beaudesert Cricket Club and the Beaudesert Soccer Club all expressed their appreciation for the new lighting which will enable the fullest use of this popular community facility. The next step for Selwyn Park will be the installation of lighting to cricket competition standards and the carpark upgrade which will be funded externally.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



DEVELOPING A NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT FREIGHT PRECINCT

The Bromelton State Development Area (SDA) promotes economic development within the Scenic Rim by meeting the growing demand in South East Queensland for greenfield land suitable for medium to large-scale industrial activities of regional, state and national significance.

Strategically located within one hour of the Port of Brisbane – Australia’s fastest-growing container port with access to the Sydney-Brisbane rail corridor and future connectivity to Inland Rail – the SDA is an ideal location for freight and logistics operations. Declared in 2008 and totalling some 15,610 hectares, Bromelton provides an intermodal, industrial and logistics hub with access to intrastate and interstate markets and is set to become Queensland’s largest road and rail intermodal freight terminal. Some 1,800 hectares have been earmarked specifically for industrial development, making Bromelton the prime location for industries requiring separation from residential areas.

MANAGING WASTE TO REDUCE NATURAL DISASTER IMPACTS

Scenic Rim Regional Council’s innovative Disaster Waste Management Project won national recognition at the 2023 Waste Innovation and Recycling Awards in Melbourne. Council’s plan, which won the Outstanding Waste and Resource Recovery Project Award: Regional/Rural, was developed in conjunction with Talis Consultants and aimed to reduce the impact of natural disasters on the community.

The project included the development of a Waste Services Resilience Road Map, believed to be the first of its kind in Australia. Council’s award marked its achievement as an innovative and forward-thinking waste services provider and its commitment to driving societal change and delivering best-practice waste and recycling solutions for the region. The award also recognised Council’s Disaster Waste Management Plan as a benchmark document that could assist other organisations in developing similar strategies to manage waste generated from declared disasters practically, safely, efficiently and sustainably. Receiving the award, Council acknowledged the Australian Government’s support of the Disaster Waste Management Plan and the Waste Services Resilience Road Map through its Preparing Australian Communities Program – Local Stream.

SEEKING COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON BUDGET PRIORITIES

Community consultation during May and June 2024 contributed to developing Council’s 2024–2025 Budget and will be valuable in informing its priorities for the year ahead. In face-to-face sessions and online via the Let’s Talk Scenic Rim platform, Council asked residents to rate its services, enabling Council to review its priorities and finetune the budget to ensure it aligned with community expectations.

The transport infrastructure network and the maintenance of public facilities topped the community’s list of priorities, which was reflected in the final budget’s focus on consolidating infrastructure programs and community services.

A report on the community consultation was tabled at a Special Meeting on 24 June 2024, attended by nine community members who accepted Council’s invitation to present their submissions before finalisation of the budget. While the community consultation and engagement was limited by the timeframes between the swearing in of the new Council in April and the adoption of the budget in June, there were some 31 respondents to the survey which was comparable to the lengthier budget consultation of 2022–2023.

PRIORITISING INVESTMENT IN OUR TRANSPORT ASSETS

Inspections of the condition of Council’s transport assets – its network of sealed and unsealed roads and its footpaths and kerb and channel during 2023–2024 – will inform the prioritisation of investment through the 10-year Capital Works program. With the aim of optimising investment in infrastructure and service delivery, Council engaged Queensland Treasury Corporation to assist in developing a tool to prioritise projects based on agreed criteria and weightings.

Council continues to strive to balance long-term financial sustainability against increasing community expectations for infrastructure improvements in an environment of rising costs and falling levels of government funding. The 10-year Capital Works Program aims to provide best value for money to the community through infrastructure that will meet the needs of our growing region well into the future.

MEETING FUTURE COMMUNITY NEEDS

Condition assessments and comprehensive analysis of data sets were undertaken during 2023–2024 as part of the rolling five-year program to monitor Council’s assets including open spaces, buildings and facilities and Council-controlled transport and urban drainage infrastructure. This work is critical in determining the condition of Council’s infrastructure which provides a platform for developing Council’s future maintenance and renewal programs to meet community needs.



SERVICING OUR COMMUNITY



Local government's key role is the delivery of core services to meet community needs.

Scenic Rim Regional Council's activities are detailed in our Service Catalogue, reflecting our strategic direction aligned with the objectives of our Corporate Plan. While there is often an overlap in services in terms of meeting our Corporate Plan commitments, for the purpose of clarity in reporting the services detailed below are those which have contributed most significantly to achieving our goals for an accessible and service region.

ROADS AND TRAFFIC

The delivery of this service ensures our region's road network is safe and fit for purpose and that transport and drainage infrastructure continue to be maintained and renewed. During 2023–2024, Council continued to progress works on its network of sealed and unsealed roads, footpaths, bridges,

culverts and floodways and the planned delivery of its maintenance program and infrastructure improvements.

A series of severe weather events since March 2021 has presented challenges for service delivery. Council continues to deliver recovery efforts under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) approved approximately \$53.5 million of funding, with some \$33 million already expended.

The estimated final cost of the reconstruction program across four events disaster events, including Betterment applications still being assessed by QRA, is approximately \$70.2 million.



The table below provides a breakdown of the Scenic Rim's transport network by road classification:

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
ROAD HIERARCHY ANALYSIS (KM)					
- 4a Rural Connector	73	75	75	75	75
- 4b Rural Collector	120	121	121	121	121
- 5a Rural Access	301	299	303	303	303
- 5b Rural Access	340	341	341	341	343
- 5c Rural Access	362	362	363	367	370
- 5d Rural Access	462	467	468	468	468
- 5e Rural Formed	45	45	45	45	45
- 5f Rural Unformed	45	46	46	46	46
- 5g Rural Unformed	66	63	63	63	63
- Unrated (parking bays, etc.)	7	15	15	15	15
TOTAL (EXCLUDING UNRATED)	1,819	1,813	1,825	1,829	1,834
Gravel road length graded (km)	350	420	417	435	371
Gravel road length resheeted (km)	144	93	35	56	66
Gravel road shoulder resheeted (km)	32	49	9	39	16
Sealed roads resealed (km) including top coats replaced under NDRRA	74	0	0	31	56
BRIDGES					
CONCRETE	63	63	68	68	683
TIMBER					
- Load limited below MALL*	4	4	4	3	3
- Load limited above MALL*	2	2	2	2	2
- Not load limited	57	57	52	53	53
OTHER CONSTRUCTION	4	4	4	4	4
TOTAL	130	130	130	130	130

*MALL – Minimum Acceptable Load Limit

SERVICING OUR COMMUNITY



PRIVATE WORKS

Council has been contracted to deliver two Queensland Government roads projects, including pavement and roadside vegetation maintenance, on behalf of the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR).

This service is delivered in partnership with DTMR to maintain Council and State-owned roads, drawing on local skills and knowledge. Activities carried out within this service during the year included slashing, mowing, herbicide spraying, pothole repairs, minor patching of roads, edge repairs, gravel grading and guard rail repairs.

DESIGN AND SURVEY

All infrastructure activities undertaken by Council must comply with legislative, statutory, and regulatory requirements to ensure community safety.

Council's Design and Survey services support internally delivered capital works projects for roads and traffic through 3D design modelling, engineering certification, the provision of expert technical design advice and collaboration with other infrastructure owners to improve design standards and specifications.

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

As the owner and operator of a range of facilities, including public halls and community centres, Council has an obligation to ensure these are maintained to acceptable standards, fit for purpose and comply with appropriate regulations.

During 2023-2024 Council continued to deliver cost-effective maintenance and building services to ensure best value for the Scenic Rim community.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

In addition to buildings and infrastructure, Council also has a significant property portfolio whose management supports the delivery of its Corporate Plan objectives.

Council manages land sales, land acquisitions and ensures its activities comply with relevant legislation. This service is also responsible for balancing the needs of a wide range of community members, from Native Title claims and cultural heritage matters concerning our Indigenous residents, to the management of grazing licences and agistment permits and the coordination of land development projects for our agricultural community.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste management covers a range of activities from the operation of landfill and waste transfer stations, to protection of the environment by ensuring legislative compliance and the delivery of infrastructure and waste capital projects.

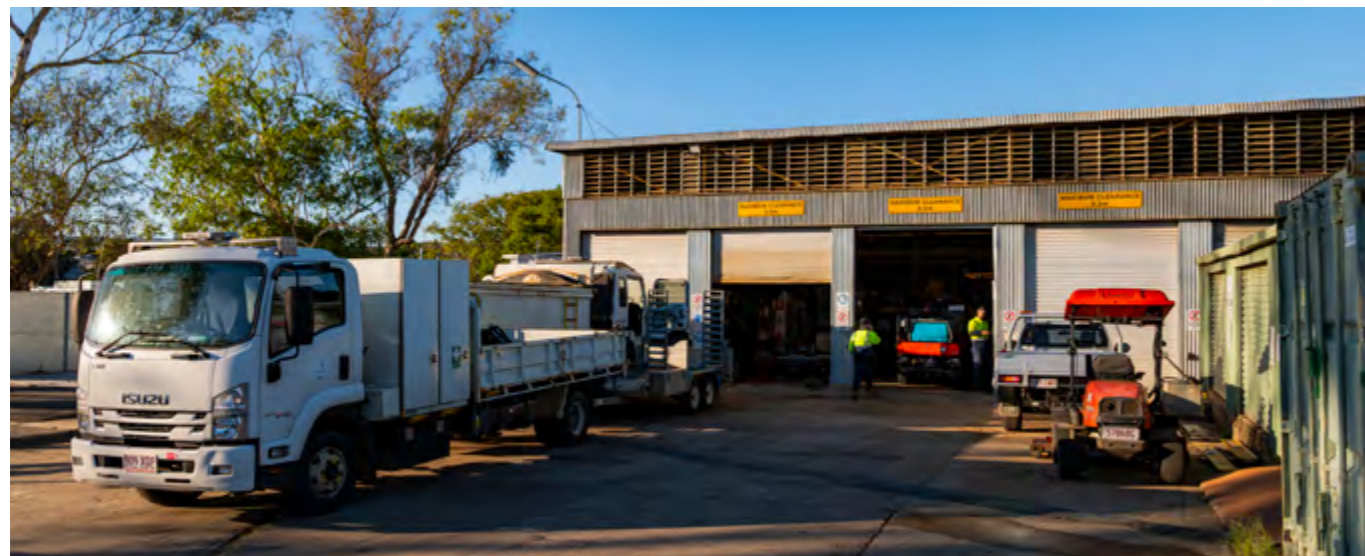
Council continued to ensure the safety and amenity of Scenic Rim's residential and business community through the management of waste facilities, open and closed landfills, asset projects and repair and maintenance activities.

WASTE SERVICES

Waste collection is a vital part, but only one facet, of Council's waste management services. Council works with all levels of government to deliver waste management with a focus on achieving a zero-waste future.

Council's community-based waste education programs continue to raise awareness of how everyone can play a part in reducing the amount of waste - and valuable material - finding its way to landfill.

In line with our Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy 2021-2026, we are committed to minimising the impact of waste on the environment while maximising economic opportunities through recycling and resource recovery. Waste Services incorporates contract and strategic assets management, strategy development and implementation, commercial business development, policy development and liaison, planning and development and customer request management.



SERVICING OUR COMMUNITY



The table below provides a five-year comparison of Council's waste management activities.

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
WEEKLY KERBSIDE COLLECTION BY END OF PERIOD (WASTE BIN ONLY)					
Domestic services	15,052	15,286	15,608	15,926	16,263
Commercial	1,110	1,197*	1,208	1,206	1,221
RECYCLING STATISTICS					
GREEN WASTE MULCHED					
- Tonnes	3,391	3,842	2,986	3,444	4,811
- Cubic Metres	11,304	12,794	9,954	11,481	16,035
GREEN WASTE RAW					
- Tonnes	1,314	3,842	0	0	0
- Cubic metres	11,304	12,794	0	0	0
Waste oil (litres)	50,520	48,700	56,800**	67,500	54,100
Tyres (number)	3,900	3,569	2,995	4,438	5,156
Batteries (tonnes)	278	41.5	376	44.68	43
Scrap metal (tonnes)	1,561	1,889	1,912	2,287	2,292
Refrigeration units degassed	1,467	1,152	2,617	1,925	2,355
Cardboard (tonnes)	904	1,035	1,044	3,289	4,145
Mixed Recyclables (Kerbside collection, other glass and plastics (tonnes)	2,515	2,486	2,619	2,456	2,307
E-waste (tonnes)	35	39	110	95	100

* Figure was incorrectly reported in the 2020-2021 annual report as 1,460

** Due to system issues, the figure reported is an estimate of the annual total

WASTE PROCESSED (TONNES)	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
RECEIVED AT TRANSFER STATIONS					
- Beaudesert	1,600	1,755	1,949	1,891	2,110
- Canungra	1,319	1,281	1,492	1,499	1,474
- Rathdowney	394	448	465	398	423
- Tambourine Mountain	1,628	1,855	1,951	1,774	1,878
- Boonah	1,473	1,649	1,752	1,584	1,574
- Kalbar	154	103	180	100	93
- Peak Crossing	428	427	479	456	434
TOTAL	6,996	7,518	8,267	7,701	7,986
DEPOSITED INTO CENTRAL LANDFILL	31,645	33,476	34,809	40,806*	37,504

*The 2022-2023 year has seen a significant increase in commercial waste to landfill.



DELIVERING OUR OPERATIONAL PLAN

DELIVERABLE	STATUS	DELIVERABLE	STATUS
Develop a landfill rehabilitation plan reflecting the current site master plan	✘	Development of key Council infographic material to inform and raise awareness of assets, services and financial parameters	✔
Develop the Bromelton Circular Precinct Plan	✘	Engage with the Queensland Government, private sector and community sector, as opportunities arise, to advocate for improved public transport in the region	✔
Update Council's financial Chart of Accounts to align to the Service Catalogue	✘	Continue to identify infrastructure and services controlled by other levels of Government or statutory entities which are critical to supporting population and economic growth in the region	✔
Review Council's long term financial plan forecasting methodology to incorporate medium to long-term service considerations	✘	Deliver community consultation on the Draft 2024-2025 Budget position	✔
Complete investigation into the ongoing cost requirements for the maintenance of sporting facilities within the region	✔	Continue the development of an online platform that provides stakeholders with information about works on road reserves that may impact the transport network	✘
Participate in COMSEQ Waste Management Plan Portfolio Management Office (PMO) meetings	✔	Review and update existing Council Policy: Provision of Road Network	✘
Undertake asset condition assessments and comprehensive analyses of asset condition data sets as outlined in the rolling five-year condition assessment program	✔	Develop sports and recreation plan for the ongoing maintenance and development to meet future community needs	✘
Undertake asset condition assessments and comprehensive analyses of asset condition data sets as outlined in the rolling five-year condition assessment program	✔	Implement and monitor management model for Council owned camping facilities	✘
Update the Asset Management Plans to include infrastructure renewal, rehabilitation and upgrade treatment options that will increase the resilience of Council's critical infrastructure assets against natural disaster events	✔	Finalise the review of Council's land holdings, with reports relating to the central and Western region to be presented to Council	✘
Undertake asset condition assessments and comprehensive analyses of asset condition data sets as outlined in the rolling five-year condition assessment program	✔	Undertake a feasibility assessment for diversion of food organics and garden organics from landfill	✘
Implement the Asset Information Strategy elements relevant to Council's open spaces	✔	Revise Council's Depot Strategy and develop a supporting implementation plan to ensure Council can meet future service delivery requirements	✘
Progress the review and amendment of Council's Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP) in alignment with Council's Growth Management Strategy	✔	Develop remote waste servicing options	✘
Monitor the delivery of the current LGIP projects through the capital works program and development contribution	✔	Consult key stakeholders on development of Bromelton facility	✔
Develop Council's 10-year capital works program in line with Council's long term financial plan	✔		

Legend: Completed ✔ On Track ✔ Requires Attention ✘ Cancelled/Postponed ◆

LOOKING AHEAD



With a focus on the delivery of key infrastructure and the sustainable management of waste, in 2024-2025, Council will:

- consult with key stakeholders on the continuing development of the Bromelton State Development Area
- commence preparatory works for the diversion of organic waste from landfill
- continue to investigate opportunities to reuse recyclable materials from Council activities
- undertake condition assessments of Council's assets
- identify and implement new project management software, and
- continue to develop an online platform to provide stakeholders with information about works that may impact the transport network.









HEALTHY ENGAGED AND RESOURCEFUL COMMUNITIES

THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF OUR GROWING REGION IS
FRIENDLY, ACTIVE, HEALTHY AND INCLUSIVE.



OUR HIGHLIGHTS

With a focus on the health and wellbeing of the community and the Scenic Rim's rich cultural heritage, in 2023-2024, Council:

- 
COMPLETED WORK ON THE TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN LIBRARY
- 
WELCOMED 31 SCENIC RIM RESIDENTS FROM 17 NATIONS AT THE AUSTRALIA DAY CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY IN JANUARY AND 43 RESIDENTS FROM 12 COUNTRIES AT THE QUEENSLAND DAY CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY IN JUNE
- 
HOSTED 1,800 GUESTS AT THE QUEENSLAND DAY FAMILY FUN DAY IN JUNE 2024
- 
HOSTED AN AFTERNOON TEA IN TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN, WHERE THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNOR THANKED ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THE RESPONSE TO THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR STORM EVENT

OUR PROGRESS

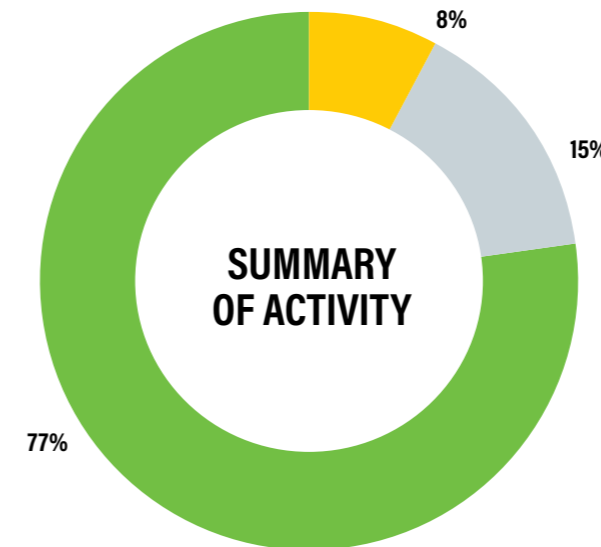
The successful delivery of almost 80 per cent of activity scheduled for the year shows Council's significant progress in 2023-2024 towards achieving the outcomes of our Corporate Plan for healthier and more engaged and resourceful communities.

OUR INDICATORS OF SUCCESS



INDICATOR	RESULT
Existing, new and returning residents are motivated to participate in the community, resulting in strong and inclusive social networks and increased resilience	✓✓
The inaugural Scenic Rim Reconciliation Action Plan is evidenced by action	✓
The community has access to a broad range of resources that drive increased community capability and resilience	✓✓
The community has access to recreational infrastructure and opportunities that enable improved health and wellbeing	✓✓
Productive discussions with government and agency partners facilitate the community's access to required human and social services	Not Available

Legend: Fully Achieved ✓✓ Substantially Achieved ✓ Partially Achieved ✓ Not Achieved ✗



Legend: Completed ● On Track ● Requires Attention ● Cancelled ●

OUR CHALLENGES

With 11 main population centres and numerous villages, each with their own character, across the region's more than 4,259 square kilometres, the Scenic Rim is one of the most geographically dispersed regions in South East Queensland.

This presents unique challenges for Council in creating a sense of community connection for the region's more than 40,000 residents. The Scenic Rim has a higher proportion of residents above the age of 45 compared to Queensland overall and, although the region's population is expected to reach 64,679 by 2041, there is likely to be a significant increase in the number of people over 65, challenging Council's delivery of activities to support a healthy and active community.

Ensuring Council services and community infrastructure are located within a reasonable distance from residents is also a challenge, although the use of technology through internet and mobile services enables Council to provide services to residents in more remote areas. While not the primary provider of communications infrastructure, Council continues to advocate on behalf of the community for improved connectivity.





OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



OPENING A NEW CHAPTER FOR OUR LIBRARIES

The opening of Tamborine Mountain's refurbished library in December 2023 marked the beginning of its new chapter as a dynamic community space with a range of facilities catering for all ages and interests.

The project, that saw an almost trebling in size of the former library space, was funded with more than \$2.14 million from the Australian and Queensland governments through the Local Economic Recovery (LER) Program to support areas impacted by the 2019 Queensland bushfires.

The library's move into its new location, on the site of the former IGA supermarket within the Main Street shopping centre, was symbolic of the region's journey since 2016, when the need for a new library was identified, and following the 2019 Black Summer bushfires.

Council's vision for the library was for a vibrant hub that not only held a wider range of books and electronic resources but also offered more meeting rooms, quiet study spaces, areas for children and young people, improved technology hubs with free internet and a place for the community to gather.

This new, modern space will be a focal point for the Tamborine Mountain community for decades to come as a hub around which community life revolves.

Community consultation completed in 2021 helped to shape planning for the new library following Council's purchase of the former shopping centre site, with key features of the new space identified through a 'have your say' process. Architects also worked with Council's library and customer service staff to ensure the design met the needs of those working in the space.

The new library includes:

- an expanded collection of books and resources
- dedicated areas for children and young people
- meeting rooms and study areas
- an expanded customer service area
- a dedicated space for the Friends of the Library group
- a new makers' space
- new furnishings including seating for casual gatherings, and
- a wheelchair-accessible toilet and baby change room.

In addition, Council funded the construction of an outdoor area to provide a gathering space for the community to accommodate school holiday and group activities.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Council allocated more than \$356,000 during 2023–2024 through major and minor grants to not-for-profit organisations which add value to the community and support Council's achievement of the shared Community Plan vision for healthy, engaged and resourceful communities.

Events ranging from community Christmas carols to orchestral concerts, and projects including major infrastructure upgrades for sporting clubs, benefited from Council's Community Grants Program, which supports grassroots organisations contributing to the quality of life enjoyed throughout the Scenic Rim. Council is proud to support organisations which rely heavily on volunteers who give so much to the community and enrich the lives of residents of all ages, from kindergarten children to senior citizens.

Community grants not only provide not-for-profit groups with vital resources, but also empower them to create positive change and a sense of community connection.

Council recognises the importance of financial support for organisations which depend on fundraising to continue to provide a wide range of programs and activities that enrich the Scenic Rim's cultural and sporting life and cater to the diverse needs and interests of residents across the region.

There was keen competition for funding, with Council receiving 33 applications for the first round of minor community grants, which offered a maximum of \$5,000, and 22 applications for major grants, which provided funding for up to \$20,000 for maintenance or improvements to community facilities. The total value of applications received was \$455,000 and a rigorous selection process was undertaken before \$200,550 for major grants and \$81,109 for minor grants was awarded to a total of 38 organisations in September 2023. Keen interest in the second funding round resulted in 42 applications for minor grants with a total value of \$158,198 - more than double the amount available. In May 2024, Council allocated more than \$75,000



in minor grants to 22 not-for-profit organisations for projects ranging from website development and marketing strategies to sporting club upgrades.

ENCOURAGING AN ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY

The success of Council's health and wellbeing programs in meeting the needs of a diverse and growing population was reviewed with the results of community feedback shared through the Let's Talk Scenic Rim online platform.

Council also reviewed expressions of interest from service providers to help deliver the 2024 Be Healthy and Active Program through a range of activities for all ages and abilities to enhance community health and wellbeing across the region.

HOSTING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Council stages a number of events which bring the community together each year, including workshops and guest speaker sessions at libraries, exhibition openings, school holiday activities and the screening of free Movies in the Park.

As part of the Queensland Government's 2024 Queensland Day celebrations, Council hosted the Scenic Rim's Queensland Day Family Fun Day on 2 June 2024, which drew a crowd of 1,800 to Jubilee Park, Beaudesert. Local Mununjali elders opened the event with a Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country, which was followed by a citizenship ceremony to welcome the Scenic Rim's newest Australians.

Queensland's 165th birthday was celebrated with live music, a performance by the Mununjali Ngari Dance Troupe and all the fun of the fair with an animal farm, reptile display, face painting and jumping castles.

ENGAGING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Council continued to provide a wide range of community engagement opportunities, both face-to-face and through the Let's Talk Scenic Rim online platform, throughout the year.

Recognising the importance of local halls as special spaces in our towns and villages - not only as social hubs but also potential places of refuge during disasters - Council staged seven Community Hall Roadshows with live music and free food across the Scenic Rim during May and June.

More than 455 residents provided their feedback on the use of community halls, providing Council with a better understanding of the need for activities requiring development. Our Cuppa in the Communi-Tea events continued to be popular points of community connection between Council and local residents as well as government and non-government service providers.

More than 720 community members attended Cuppa events across eight locations - Boonah, Kooralbyn, Aratula, Harrisville, Tamborine Village, Kalbar, Beechmont and Tamborine Mountain - in the fourth quarter alone. Community engagement has also helped us to improve our customers' experience of dealing with Council as shown by the results of the Customer Effort Score Survey.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY SERVICE

The contribution of community volunteers and grassroots organisations to the region was celebrated at the Scenic Rim Australia Day Awards in January 2024. From 21 nominations for Citizen of the Year across all age categories, women were the winners with each of the four awards presented to an individual recognised for her role within the community.

SERVICING OUR COMMUNITY



Local government's key role is the delivery of core services to meet community needs.

Scenic Rim Regional Council's activities are detailed in our Service Catalogue, reflecting our strategic direction aligned with the objectives of our Corporate Plan. While there is often an overlap in services in terms of meeting our Corporate Plan commitments, for the purpose of clarity in reporting the services detailed below are those which have contributed most significantly to building healthy, engaged and resourceful communities.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development strives to build healthier and more resilient, inclusive, welcoming and connected communities in the Scenic Rim. It supports the community through a wide range of social, sporting and recreational, heritage and cultural initiatives to promote inclusion and connection.

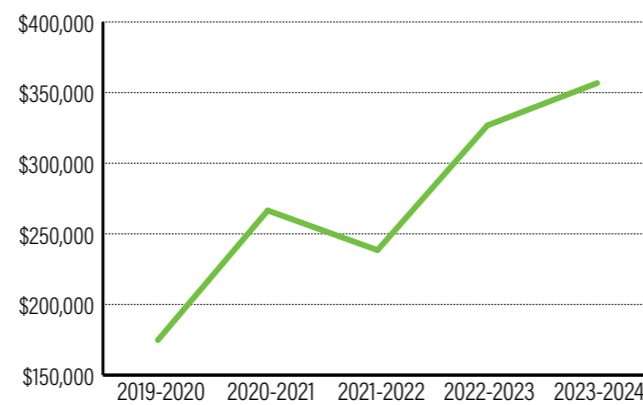


Through advocacy for access to community and government services, and by providing programs which aim to improve the health and wellbeing of all Scenic Rim residents, Community Development plays an important role in strengthening the social fabric of our region.

Council's Community Grants Program supports grassroots organisations and their volunteers who make a positive contribution to the Scenic Rim's quality of life.

Some 86 community grants totalling \$356,740 allocated during the year demonstrate Council's commitment to supporting the community. As well as providing direct funding through its Community Grants Program, Council also supports the activities of local not-for-profit organisations through in-kind contributions, including the subsidised use of Council's community and cultural centres and waste bins for local community events.

Value of community grants



Value	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Value	\$174,765	\$266,540	\$238,452	\$326,732	\$356,740

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Meaningful community engagement, delivered in line with an international standards framework, assists Council in achieving excellence in customer service and in meeting the obligations of our Customer Charter.

Through a multi-channel service delivery model, Council works to ensure meaningful community consultation for a range of projects. Council also coordinates community engagement programs and undertakes continuous improvement initiatives to improve our customers' overall experience in their interactions with us.

LIBRARY SERVICES

The delivery of library services, providing access to information and resources for leisure and learning, is central to creating connected communities. Council's library services are delivered through four branch libraries - at Beaudesert, Boonah, Tamborine Mountain and Canungra - and mobile library and online to foster a culture of learning, research, and community connection.

Our libraries support the changing needs of our residents in an increasingly digital and interconnected world.

They also represent an investment by Council in the educational, cultural, and social wellbeing of residents and a more informed, connected, and enriched community.

Activities including the management of physical and digital library collections, the delivery of programs and events supporting literacy and lifelong learning, and a range of information services, are key to building resilience within our community.

The table below shows the growing popularity of Council's libraries and library programs, with almost 20,000 members now using these facilities. Council staff delivered 370 Story Time sessions, 78 School Holiday sessions and 201 Adult Activity sessions during the year.

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Library Statistics					
Visits to libraries	149,697	112,442	128,209	150,815	181,439
Items borrowed	188,309	132,386	133,054	145,240	153,165
New members	1,479	1,424	2,477	2,534	3,631
Internet / PC bookings	19,812	2,969	6,090	9,562	12,716
Items delivered to housebound customers	2,216	1,954	1,514	1,319	1,352
Storytelling attendees	4,452	2,265	3,520	6,012	7,267
School holiday activity attendees	2,778	2,725	953	1,039	945
Adult regular program attendees	4,277	2,798	1,341	1,084	2,157
Online loans (digital resources)	30,126	33,219	37,357	40,745	53,974

SERVICING OUR COMMUNITY



SWIMMING POOLS

To support a healthy and active community, Council provides five seasonal public swimming pools and one aqua fitness centre for water sport, health and fitness, physical therapy, recreation and water safety education.

These facilities offer residents and visitors the opportunity to learn to swim, participate in physical

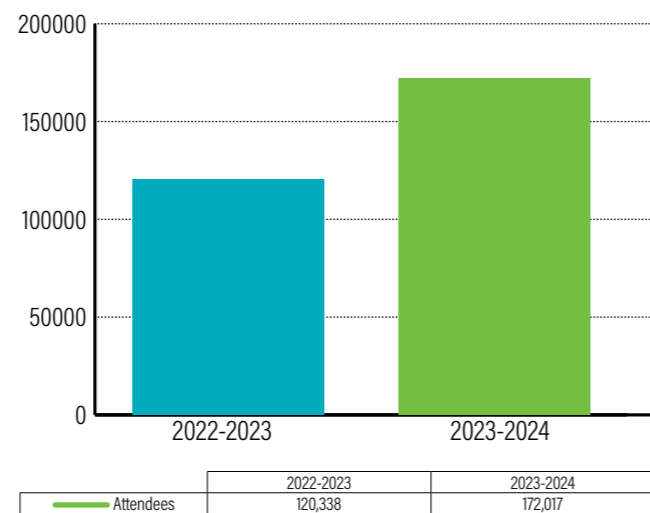
activity and exercise and socialise with friends and family in a safe aquatic setting. Council's pools cater for a wide range of needs and abilities through recreational swimming, lap swimming, swimming programs, carnivals, learn-to-swim lessons and hydrotherapy.

The table below shows swimming pool attendance figures for the past two years. Pool facilities are growing in popularity across all aquatic facilities as indicated.

	2022-2023	2023-2024
Beaudesert	38,085	53,699
Boonah	8,584	14,341
Canungra	13,301	23,493
Rathdowney (only open during December / January school holidays)	198	666
Scenic Rim Aqua Fitness	10,278	10,691
Tamborine Mountain	19,807	29,218
Total	90,253	132,108



Total Swimming Pool Attendance 2023-2024



An increase in total attendance of more than 40 per cent shows the value of Council's investment in the renewal and maintenance of our region's swimming pools and aquatic facilities.

REGULATORY SERVICES

Council's delivery of a range of compliance, environmental health, education and enforcement activities contributes to the safety of our community and visitors to our region. This includes inspection activities and enforcement of local laws and other regulations such as the *Building Act 1975*, Queensland Development Code and pool safety laws. As an alternative to enforcement action, Council provides guidance and advice to members of the community

and business operators. It provides environmental protection programs that reduce risks to the environment from contaminants such as hazardous materials, waste, fuel, and oil and monitors standards for food service and to protect public health. Animal management and biosecurity compliance are also delivered through Council's Regulatory Services.

The table below shows the number of cats and dogs impounded, returned to their owner, rehomed or euthanised during the past five years.

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Dogs					
Registered at end of period	5,243	5,025	5,174	5,185	5,232
Impounded	191	168	159	130	127
Impounded and returned to owner	82	73	62	53	68
Impounded and re-homed	82	67	80	62	72
Impounded and euthanised	27	24	12	13	26
Cats					
Impounded	255	216	244	270	169
Impounded and returned to owner	12	23	18	22	26
Impounded and re-homed	125	115	123	48	49
Impounded and euthanised	118	78	90	200	94

Animals reported lost/found by the public

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Animals reported lost	148	139	139	103	68
Animals reported found	35	25	10	14	14

SERVICING OUR COMMUNITY

Council manages a diverse range of health services programs, enforcing state and local laws to ensure the community's health, safety and amenity are protected. Council's Food Safety Program is managed by environmental health officers, who are trained to work with operators of licensed food premises to ensure they understand the legislative requirements for safe food production. Council works closely with external agencies with an interest in community health and wellbeing and local economic growth.

Accommodation, including camp grounds, caravan parks and other operations involving shared facilities are also under the umbrella of Council's health services programs. Temporary entertainment events across the region are also assessed by Council to ensure their safe operation for attendees as well as surrounding neighbours.

To protect the health of the environment, Council also responds to requests raised by members of the public in relation to litter and waste dumping and water and land contamination.

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Environmental and Public Health Licencing					
Food	416	378	367	399	77
Personal appearance services	1	4	5	8	2
All Local Law Licences (advertisements, kennels, events)	301	300	332	343	71
Service requests investigated					
Health Services	1,798	1,915	1,701	1,853	1,837
Compliance Services	478	638	720	832	874

DELIVERING OUR OPERATIONAL PLAN



DELIVERABLE	STATUS	DELIVERABLE	STATUS
Adopt Council's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan	✘	Ensure that Council's investment in health and wellbeing is fit-for-purpose, delivers value for money, and continues to meet the needs of a diverse and growing population	✔
Provide outreach library services in rural locations located throughout the region	✔	Explore funding opportunities and strategic partnerships to grow participation in health and wellbeing programs	✔
Deliver library programs and events that engage with both young people and adults through STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics)	✔	Build the capacity of the community to participate in health and wellbeing programs	✔
Deliver First 5 Forever early literacy programs that include indigenous groups	✔	Facilitate planning for the delivery of community infrastructure leading into the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games	✔
Develop and foster partnerships with key stakeholders to deliver events and activities that celebrate identity, social inclusion and connectedness	✔	Finalise the Scenic Rim Community and Culture Strategy 2023-2032 for adoption by Council	◆
Deliver the Scenic Rim Community Disaster Volunteers program to build the capacity and resilience of Community Disaster Volunteers	✔	Commence Year 1 actions outlined in the Scenic Rim Community and Culture Strategy 2023-2032	◆
Attract, manage, and retain volunteers through targeted initiatives and programs that are purposeful and meaningful	✔		

Legend: Completed ✔ On Track ✔ Requires Attention ✘ Cancelled/Postponed ◆





The Scenic Rim's health and wellbeing will continue to be bolstered during 2024–2025 as Council:

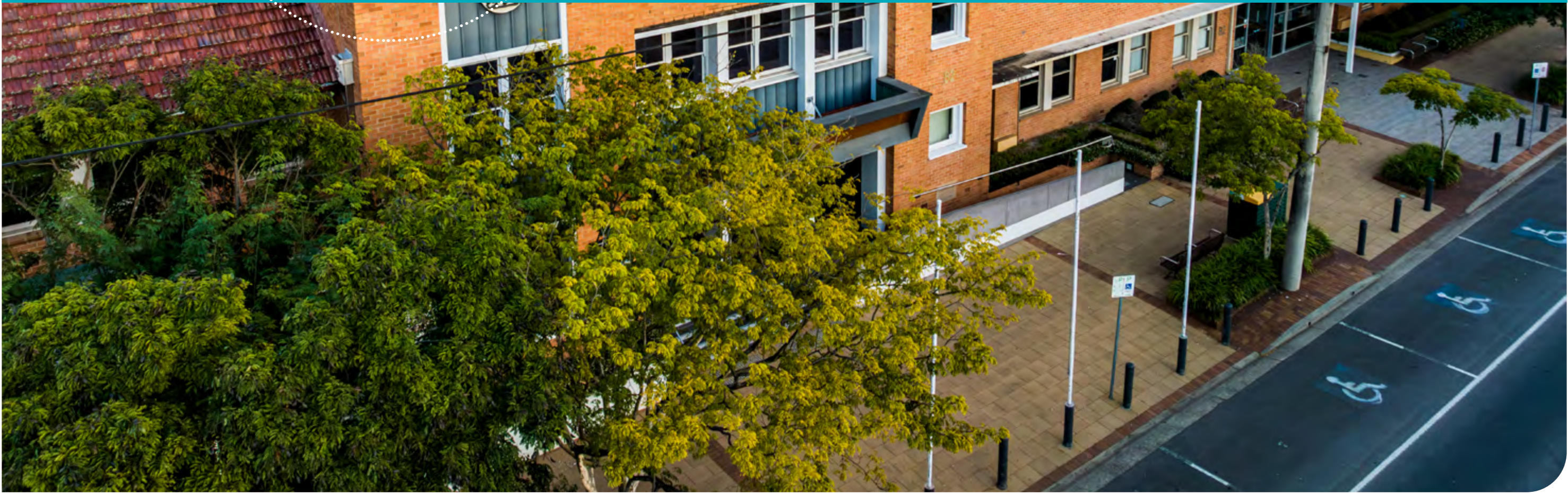
- continues to provide a range of community health and wellbeing programs
- improves the quality and accessibility of sports facilities in the Scenic Rim
- delivers digital learning programs across Scenic Rim Libraries that improve digital literacy, and
- provide diversified and inclusive community engagement opportunities for residents.





OPEN AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

ETHICAL AND TRANSPARENT LEADERSHIP SUPPORTS THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY VIA A HIGH PERFORMING AND FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION



OUR HIGHLIGHTS

In line with our commitment to delivering the highest standards of service to the community, in 2023-2024 council:

COMMENCED VIDEO LIVE STREAMING ITS ORDINARY MEETINGS TO PROVIDE GREATER TRANSPARENCY OF ITS DECISION MAKING

SOUGHT COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON THE DRAFT 2024-2025 BUDGET, RESULTING IN 31 RESPONSES WHICH WILL BE VALUABLE IN SHAPING COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

CONSULTED THE COMMUNITY ON THE DRAFT SPORT AND RECREATION PLAN 2024-2034 IN FACE-TO-FACE SESSIONS AND ONLINE VIA THE LET'S TALK SCENIC RIM ONLINE PLATFORM PORTAL WHICH RESULTED IN MORE THAN 250 SUBMISSIONS

OUR PROGRESS

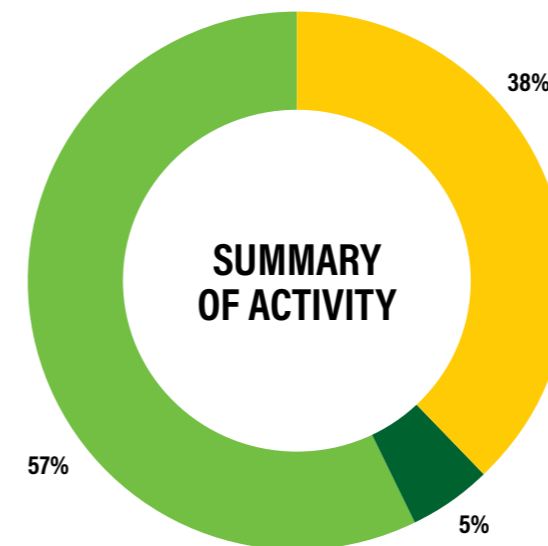
Council continued to work towards its goals for open and responsive government to support the diverse needs of our community through ethical and transparent leadership. Indicators of success reflected our progress in improving our customers' experience, advocating for the community and ensuring the integrity of Council's processes, with more than 60 per cent of scheduled activities fully or substantially completed during the 2023-2024 period.

OUR INDICATORS OF SUCCESS



INDICATOR	RESULT
Relationships with customers are improved	✓
Council's practice is consistent, accurate, open and honest	✓
Community sentiment regarding Council and its services is improved	✓✓
Council has the systems and digital capability to improve customer experience	✓✓
Clear and relevant information is delivered proactively and in a timely manner	✓
Council's advocacy enables the delivery of economic, social and environmental priorities across the region	✓✓
Ongoing integrity of Council's practice and processes	✓✓
Council has ethical and transparent governance	✓

Legend: Fully Achieved ✓✓ Substantially Achieved ✓ Partially Achieved ✓ Not Achieved ✗



Legend: Completed ● On Track ● Requires Attention ● Cancelled ●

OUR CHALLENGES

Over the next 10 years, Council will allocate funds for the renewal, replacement, maintenance and construction of more than \$1 billion of community infrastructure, which will depend on increased support from other levels of government.

Council currently receives 70 per cent of its income from rates, with grants, fees and charges and external funding accounting for the remaining 30 per cent.

Addressing the challenges of ensuring long-term financial sustainability and meeting the needs of current and future residents without creating a legacy of financial burden for future generations requires a review of funding from other levels of government. A more immediate challenge is how Council can better engage with its residents, given the Scenic Rim's size and its dispersed population. Advances in technology have bolstered community engagement but more needs to be done to ensure all residents feel they are connected with the community and have a voice in Council decisions.





OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



TAKING ACCOUNT OF COST OF LIVING PRESSURES

The 2024–2025 Budget, the first of the new Council term, signalled a change of direction, with a focus on consolidating infrastructure programs and services to reflect current economic conditions and community needs and priorities.

Fine-tuned following community consultation prior to its adoption, the budget took account of cost of living pressures on ratepayers, achieving the lowest rates increase in South East Queensland with an overall increase in revenue of 2.76 per cent in the minimum general rate and community infrastructure charge.

For principal place of residence properties on the minimum general rate, the increase equated to just \$45 a year. Representing 62 per cent of Scenic Rim ratepayers, principal place of residence properties saw an average increase of 2.94 per cent. Rates for rural principal place of residence properties, representing seven per cent of Scenic Rim ratepayers, also saw an average increase of 2.95 per cent.

For most residential property owners in the Scenic Rim, the rates increases were below the current CPI of 3.4%.

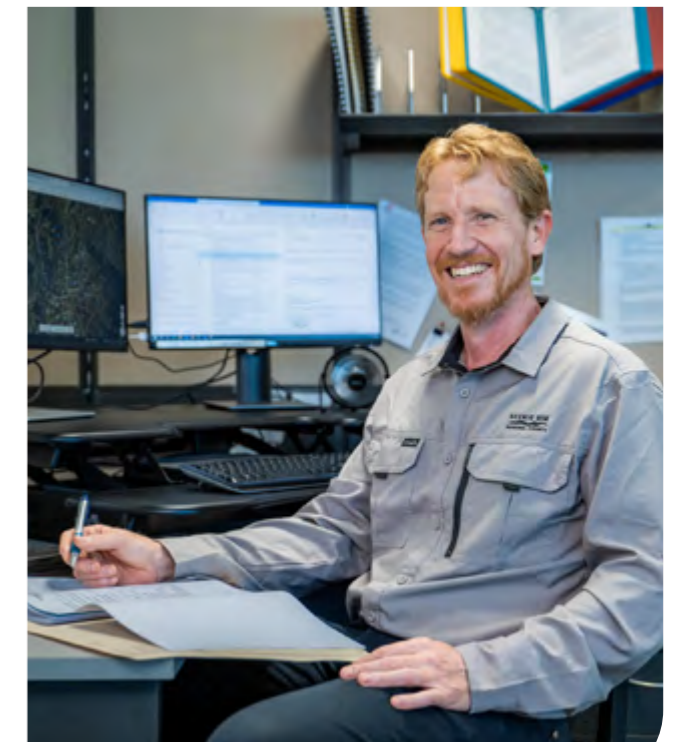
The 2024–2025 Budget aimed to balance increasing cost of living pressures being experienced by our community and Council's commitment to delivering the services and infrastructure necessary for our region.

It provided for total capital spending of \$371 million, with a focus on roadworks which were allocated \$17.88 million.

This included Australian and Queensland Government capital grants funding of \$7.04 million, enabling Council to deliver key infrastructure projects for the community. Key infrastructure works were also supported in the budget, providing \$6.8 million for Council's Fleet Replacement Program, which includes big-ticket heavy machinery needed for capital projects. Council's investment in community infrastructure will continue in 2024–2025 with the allocation of \$4.2 million for the first stage of the Gallery Walk car park at Tamborine Mountain. The maintenance and upgrade of community facilities across the region were also supported with more than \$1.88 million in the 2024–2025 Budget.

Much of the budget planning was well under way before the swearing in of the new Council in April 2024, leaving limited time for the incoming Council to significantly adjust the budget settings for the next 12 months. However, feedback from the community before the Budget's adoption was valuable in ensuring it aligned with community needs and expectations and consultation will be ongoing as Council continues to engage with members of the community across the Scenic Rim to ensure its objectives meet ratepayers' needs.

The 2024–2025 Budget also reflects Council's commitment to achieving greater efficiencies and increasing productivity, as well as delivering vital capital works. Council will continue to work to achieve the best outcomes for the Scenic Rim by establishing a baseline of services, identifying and eliminating waste and achieving improved efficiencies. It will focus on achieving higher levels of productivity and creating an environment of continuous improvement to increase productivity and efficiency gains by eliminating waste to provide the best value for money to the community in a challenging economic environment.



OUR SERVICES



Local government's key role is the delivery of core services to meet community needs.

Scenic Rim Regional Council's activities are detailed in our Service Catalogue, reflecting our strategic direction aligned with the objectives of our Corporate Plan. While there is often an overlap in services in terms of meeting our Corporate Plan commitments, for the purpose of clarity in reporting, the services detailed below are those which have contributed most significantly to achieving our goals for open and responsive government.

CUSTOMER SERVICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

REDUCING CALL WAITING TIMES

Council's frontline service strives to provide an excellent customer experience and has focused on reducing call waiting times.

During 2023–2024, Council received more than 40,000 calls, achieving an average call waiting time of just 33 seconds.

Although this was a slightly longer timeframe than Council's target of answering all calls in 30 seconds or less, this was a pleasing result.

ENHANCING DECISION-MAKING THROUGH ENGAGEMENT

Effective community engagement is the cornerstone of a responsive Council, enhancing accountability and transparency in decision-making. By actively involving the community in decision-making processes, Council ensures that diverse perspectives are considered, leading to policies that reflect the community's needs and aspirations. This collaborative approach fosters trust and strengthens the relationship between Council and its constituents, creating a shared sense of ownership and responsibility.

Ultimately, robust community engagement not only improves the quality and effectiveness of local government services, strategies and programs, but also enables community members to feel empowered, contributing to a more connected and cohesive community.

Underpinned by the International Association for Public Participation Framework, Council's community consultations are developed to ensure that timelines, engagement goals and strategic objectives are met and that the customer remains at the heart of everything we do. Community engagement has continued to grow through the Let's Talk Scenic Rim online platform, with Council receiving 878 responses to its requests for feedback on projects and 489 new registrations to the site during 2023–2024. The platform now reaches more than 1,122 registered participants, an increase from 705 in 2022–2023, providing community members with information about project outcomes and how they can contribute to future consultations. During 2023–2024, Let's Talk Scenic Rim achieved 27,493 site visits relating to 15 surveys, with an engagement rate of 2.8 per cent.

Consultation on the Draft Sport and Recreation Plan 2024–2034, was the most successful since Council adopted the Community Engagement Strategy in 2021 and endorsed Let's Talk Scenic Rim as the online engagement platform. High participation rates online and in person resulted in an extended period for this survey and a record number of responses, as more than 250 residents provided their input into the strategic direction of sporting and recreational facilities in the Scenic Rim. In addition to the online platform, Council's community engagement also included the distribution of 25 newsletters and notifications to more than 1,000 community members and individuals, achieving an average opening rate of 65 per cent.

GOVERNANCE

Council's governance services and activities promote robust, streamlined and sound decision-making processes with a focus on transparency, accountability and efficiency to provide confidence to our community.

RESOLVING COMPLAINTS THROUGH BEST PRACTICE

Council is committed to managing and resolving complaints made by the public fairly and transparently and promotes a positive customer-focused approach to complaints management. Council has made significant improvements in relation to Administrative Action Complaints through process improvements as shown by the increase in the number of complaints recognised

this year. Council has also made a concerted effort to record and complete all outstanding complaints from prior years.

A full review of the Complaints Management Framework was carried out during the year and a new best practice approach is set to be adopted in the first half of 2024–2025.

The table below shows the number of complaints received during the past three years. The significant increase seen in 2023–2024 was due to changes in the complaints resolution process that redefined what constituted a complaint under the process.

COMPLAINTS	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Administrative Action Complaints Open	28	26	46
Administrative Action Complaints Closed	14	26	114
TOTAL	42	52	160
Outstanding from Previous Year	0	28	0
Competitive Neutrality Complaints	0	0	0

Note: Due to a change in the way this data is calculated, these figures are not consistent with the data published in our 2022–2023 Annual Report.

PROVIDING INFORMATION TO IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY

Transparency is an important element of good governance and Council encourages the provision of information through use of the Publication Scheme and Access Applications under the *Right to Information Act 2009* and the *Information Privacy Act 2009*. A slight increase in the total number of Access Applications

received was seen during 2023–2024. Although there was only a slight increase in the number of applications, there was a significantly higher number of documents considered, with an increase of 25 per cent in the number of pages provided through these applications.

APPLICATION TYPE	2022-2023	2023-2024
Access Request under the Right to Information Act	11	10
Access Request under the Information Privacy Act	2	5
TOTAL	13	15



INTERNAL AUDIT AND IMPROVEMENT

Appropriately managed risks and controls, compliance with legislation, managed risk of fraud and integrity in financial reporting are fundamentals of open and responsive government. This is achieved within Council through its internal audit, assurance and advisory services including the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) and coordination of the external audit function.

ENSURING TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT

Since its establishment in 2009, the ARC has provided assurance to the community that Council is fulfilling its legislative responsibilities in relation to financial reporting, internal controls, risk management and ethical accountability.

The ARC comprises two Councillors and two external independent members, in accordance with section 210(1) of the *Local Government Regulations (2012)*. In accordance with the Terms of Reference, the Chair of the ARC is one of the external members.

During 2023–2024, the ARC's membership was as follows:

NAME	ROLE	NOTES
Stephen Coates	Independent Chair	For full year
Melissa Jacobs	Independent Member	For full year
Mayor Greg Christensen	Member	July 2023 to March 2024
Councillor Jeff McConnell	Member	July 2023 to March 2024
Councillor Amanda Hay	Proxy Member	July 2023 to March 2024 April 2024 to June 2024
Councillor Jennifer Sanders	Member	April 2024 to June 2024
Councillor Marshall Chalk	Proxy	April 2024 to June 2024

During 2023–2024, the ARC held five standard meetings plus one special meeting specifically to examine Council's final draft financial statements.

The ARC comprises:

- Stephen Coates, the external Chair, who has 25 years' experience in internal audit, consulting and risk management roles with a focus on the public sector. As Chair and member of a number of other audit committees, Stephen has significant experience and skills in financial matters. His skills also include internal audit, governance risk and compliance, quality assurance and technology risks and controls.
- Melissa Jacobs, an external member, has more than 20 years' experience in corporate governance and risk management roles, primarily for local government and the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Organising Committee. Melissa also has experience as a member of other local government audit committees and a wide range of skills including

risk management, corporate governance, program/project management, financial management and organisational change management.

- Two Councillors - Cr Amanda Hay and Cr Jennifer Sanders.

The ARC operates in accordance with the (ARC) Terms of Reference, which were last updated in 2024. The ARC follows an Annual Meeting Planner, with agenda items planned for all meetings to help ensure its Terms of Reference are met. During 2023–2024, the ARC discussed 75 reports on a wide range of topics. The ARC produces an annual report to Council, providing a comprehensive summary of the Committee's activities during the year. The report and discussion between the Councillors and the ARC Chair has been positively received in previous years. The ARC's 2023–2024 report is to be presented to Council in October 2024.

PROVIDING INTERNAL AUDIT

Internal Audit is an independent professional appraisal function established within Council to examine and evaluate its activities including the review of Council's risks, internal controls, efficiency, effectiveness, governance, performance and compliance.

The Internal Audit function:

- provides a high-quality audit, assurance and advisory service to Council
- assists in embedding a culture of continuous improvement practices across Council
- supports Council's risk management processes, and
- provides assurance and assists the Chief Executive Officer and Council's Management Team in effectively discharging their responsibilities by providing them with analyses, appraisals, recommendations, counsel, reports and information.

During 2023–2024, Internal Audit completed reviews of Council's business continuity planning (Stage 2), Queensland Audit Office recommendation implementation, contract management and procurement via corporate credit cards. Through an ongoing process, updates are collated on Council's progress in implementing agreed audit actions to ensure identified risks are managed appropriately. During 2023–2024, a total of 48 actions were added to the tracking process and 41 actions were closed.

RISK MANAGEMENT

REDUCING RISK THROUGH A ROBUST FRAMEWORK

Council has a well-established enterprise risk management framework which includes the Risk Management Policy, guidelines and toolkit. The framework also establishes the Risk Reference Group as the internal governance mechanism for managing risk. Council's Risk Management Framework is based on an embedded, continuous improvement model in which processes are continually reviewed and enhanced to remain current, agile and responsive. The framework's success depends on its integration throughout management and all levels of decision making as well as the embedding of risk management in the organisational structure and Council processes and operations.

Council's Risk Management Framework is supported by the:

- Scenic Rim Regional Council Risk Register
- Risk Management Policy
- Risk Management Guidelines, and
- Risk Tool Sheet.

These key documents, which are based on the principles of the Australian Standards Risk Management - Guidelines AS31000:2018, form the governing platform from which Council's risk management objectives are delivered.

The ARC regularly receives the latest version of Council's Strategic Risk Register and, at each meeting, an update is provided on the activities that demonstrate ongoing effective risk management for Council. These include updates from specific risk reviews, training and awareness activities and the application of risk management in practice.

TESTING OUR CONTINUITY

During 2023–2024, the Executive Team endorsed Council's Business Continuity Plan (BCP) after extensive consultation throughout the organisation and beyond. The BCP includes critical function identification, a roles and responsibility matrix and the collation of a Coordinator Kit. A successful training exercise, using the BCP, was conducted during 2023–2024 and focused on a simulated incident affecting Council's main administration building.

This exercise proved extremely valuable, resulting in several amendments and a better understanding of the BCP and its effectiveness in mitigating the impacts of a serious disruption to Council operations.

OUR SERVICES



OUR PEOPLE

Attracting and retaining suitably qualified, experienced and talented staff is an ongoing challenge for Scenic Rim and our Human Resources team worked diligently during 2023–2024 to support the organisation in recruiting new employees.

As at 30 June 2024, Scenic Rim Regional Council had the equivalent of 416.58 full-time employees, comprising 87 per cent of its workforce.

Part-time employees comprised 2.6 per cent, 7.2 per cent of employees worked on a casual basis and trainees/apprentices represented 3.2 per cent of Council's workforce. As well as the recruitment and induction of new employees, our Human Resources team supported the organisation with employee performance management, learning and development, industrial relations, legislative compliance and advice and guidance on workforce-related matters.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DIVERSITY

As an equal opportunity employer, Council considers its employees on their merit at every stage of their employment - from the recruitment and interview process through to their daily duties, promotion, training and development opportunities to resignation, retrenchment or redundancy. Council is committed to providing a safe work environment free from bullying and harassment and in which equitable employment



opportunities are maintained to ensure a workplace free from discrimination. As at 30 June 2024, Council's workforce identified as 42.3 per cent female, 57.5 per cent male and 0.2 per cent of employees identifying as intersex or indeterminate.

Council views workplace discrimination as completely unacceptable and all reports of this behaviour are taken seriously and managed in accordance with the provisions of the relevant policies. All employees, including contractors, are required to undertake training at induction and then at regular intervals throughout their tenure.

CELEBRATING OUR EMPLOYEES

While staff retention can be a challenge in the current climate, Council strives to develop an organisational culture in which high-performing and long-serving employees are valued, providing positive feedback to employees to maximise staff morale and improve operational performance.

The Chief Executive Officer's Valued Employee Award acknowledges the important contribution of high-performing and long-serving employees, recognising those who demonstrate outstanding performance in their role in line with Council's values. The award is presented quarterly with an overall award presented annually. All employees are eligible for the award except members of Council's Management Team.

Council also encourages informal rewards and a general culture of recognition in the workplace, with acknowledgement of staff ranging from spontaneous, sincere and personal appreciation of an individual or groups, short notes of appreciation or formal acknowledgement on an employee's personnel file, or developmental opportunities such as conference attendance. In addition to Council's Valued Employee Award scheme, Council recognises the value to Council and the community of those who have provided extended years of dedicated service. Awards are made annually to employees who, during the preceding financial year have completed 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 or 50 years of continuous service to Council.

DEVELOPING OUR EMPLOYEES

Council is committed to creating an environment that offers learning and development opportunities to ensure employees keep up to date and are able to perform at their best in a world that is constantly changing in terms of culture, technology, regulation, processes and procedures. The annual Personal Performance and Development Plan for employees promotes open and honest two-way communication between staff and line managers and encourages skills development and performance management for all staff. Through this process, employees are accountable for demonstrating their capabilities and that their performance aligns with the business and its corporate objectives. This also provides opportunities for managers and employees to identify and discuss training and development opportunities.

Council recognises the benefits of formal qualifications and the value of supporting employees in acquiring these. Where prospective qualifications complement Council's goals - and are relevant to the work or agreed career path - Council offers assistance for employees undertaking university or TAFE courses with full or partial reimbursement for some expenses and study leave to attend examinations. Council is also committed to supporting and providing learning and development opportunities that enhance employees' skills and knowledge and align with operational needs and priorities.

During 2023–2024 Council provided more than 400 individual learning opportunities to employees. This included training in the use of social media, safe dog handling, de-escalation of volatile situations, stress management, load restraint and first aid. Council also employed 17 trainees and apprentices and provided local schools with work experience opportunities.

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

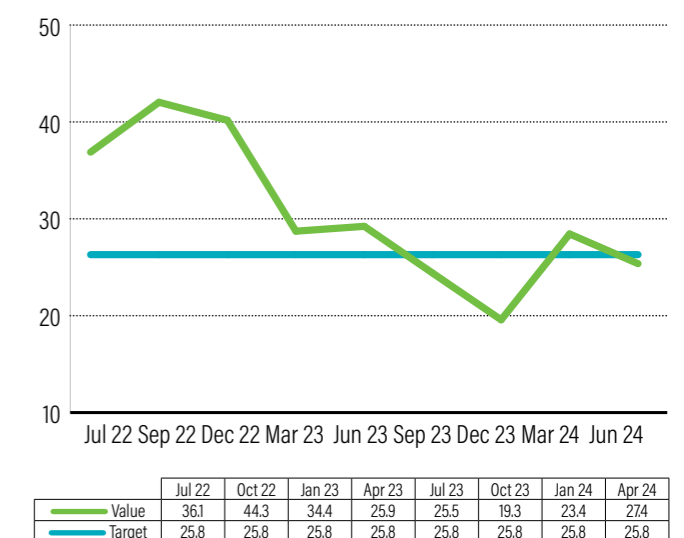
Council takes seriously its obligation to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all workers. It is committed to maintaining a safe work environment, safe systems of work, safe plant and structures and to preventing and managing illness or injury arising from its operations. All Council staff have a part to play, recognising their responsibilities for ensuring systems and services ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of

themselves and co-workers, contractors, employees of contractors and sub-contractors as well as visitors.

Throughout the year, Council's Work Health and Safety team worked to create an even safer workplace by developing and delivering training and training materials which focused on traffic management and general work health and safety for new employees. Due Diligence training for the Executive and Management Team was completed, along with the Mates in Construction general awareness training. Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan for 2024–2025 was finalised and endorsed. A key achievement of 2023–2024 was the introduction of Council's online WHS platform for reporting incidents and hazards, Safety Champion, which went live in February and was complemented by online and face-to-face training across Council. The completion of line marking at Council's Boonah and Canungra depots has helped to reduce potential traffic hazards at these sites.

The chart below shows our Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate achieved with a 10 per cent reduction year on year on recordable injuries. At the end of 2023–2024, this rate was 24.86 against a target of 25.77.

Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate



OUR SERVICES

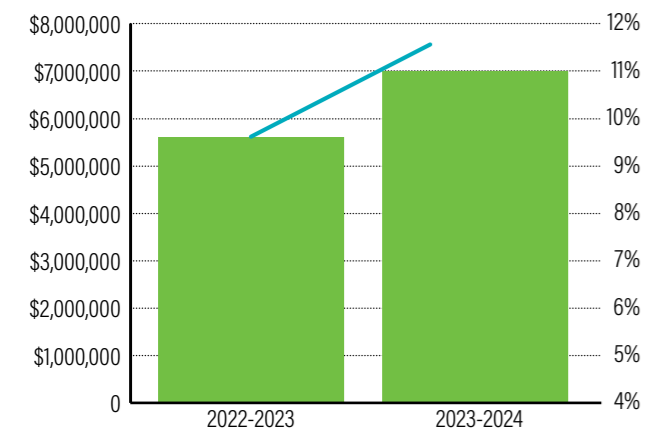


RATES AND REVENUE

Rates represent Council's main source of revenue and are vital for supporting its delivery of services and infrastructure to the community. The processing of rates, levying of charges, collection of outstanding rates-related debts, and fast and effective resolution of customer enquiries is carried out with the aim of ensuring exceptional customer service.

The chart below shows Council's outstanding rates revenue as at 30 June 2024, a slight increase compared with the same period last year at 11.40 per cent. Council continues to work with residents and the community to reduce the level of outstanding rates.

Revenue Outstanding



	2022-2023	2023-2024
Rates outstanding (\$)	\$5,618,605	\$7,010,100
Rates outstanding as % of rates outstanding for financial year	9.86%	11.40%

PURCHASING AND STORES

Council's procurement and supply services are responsible for developing strategic solutions in sourcing goods and services that are fit for purpose and support Council's operations.

Achieving value for money is not limited to pricing considerations but also involves assessing the quality of goods and services, warranty conditions, future maintenance requirements, environmental sustainability and even issues relating to modern day slavery.

Council has a policy of supporting local business wherever possible and has set a positive target of spending 35 per cent of its overall purchasing allocation with local suppliers.

INFORMATION SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY

As technology has become embedded in the workplace, providing, managing and maintaining a range of information systems and services is critical to the continuity of Council's operations and its ability to serve the community.

PROTECTING OUR INFORMATION AND SYSTEMS

Council is committed to protecting the security of data belonging to residents, businesses and visitors to the region and is continuously reviewing and revising its practices to align with emerging threats. It takes a layered defence approach that combines technology and people to provide the best outcome possible with available resources. A number of legacy technology systems were upgraded throughout 2023–2024 as part of an ongoing program to reduce the risk of attack and increase Council's resilience. The Disaster Recovery Plan is undergoing a comprehensive review to update and align it with Council's Business Continuity Plan to reduce the impact on day-to-day operations in the event of an incident. Cybersecurity awareness and regular testing assists our most important layer of defence, our people, in understanding and responding appropriately to potential threats.

EMBRACING DIGITAL MODERNISATION

Significant work was undertaken during 2023–2024 to develop an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Strategic Plan. The theme of the draft ICT Strategic Plan 2024–2028, Embracing Digital Modernisation, recognises the opportunities for Council to better utilise technology. By taking full advantage of Council's existing ICT investments, we can drive innovative digital solutions that revolutionise service delivery, streamline operations and ultimately empower our residents and strengthen our community.

Council engaged a strategic IT consulting company, with extensive local government experience, to undertake information discovery and develop an ICT Review report following workshops and interviews with the Executive Team, management and key stakeholders from across Council. The report made 75 recommendations, resulting in 85 actions forming the basis for the development of the ICT Strategic Plan 2024–2028. This includes projects that will enhance our public-facing online services, strengthen our cybersecurity capability, formalise our ICT governance framework and provide service improvements across our ICT operations. Consultation with the newly elected Council is expected to take place in the first half of 2024–2025, with final approval to follow.

MAINTAINING OUR VEHICLE AND PLANT FLEET

Council's management of its fleet of vehicles, plant and equipment plays a vital role in its service delivery to the community. Its vehicle and plant fleet operations include the procurement of equipment that meets Council's needs, complies with legislative and regulatory requirements and provides value for money.

Coordinating disposal, replacement and servicing schedules as well as arranging fuel, tyres, insurance, registration, vehicle allocation and induction for employees in equipment use all serve to ensure the cost effectiveness of Council's fleet. In addition to ensuring a dependable and fit-for-purpose fleet, assets and equipment, Council staff manage and deliver

high quality scheduled maintenance, preventative maintenance and repairs, where possible, in Council workshops. More than 400 motor vehicles, trucks and heavy and light plant assets were serviced in 2023–2024. During this period Council commenced the delivery program for the installation of new 4G global positioning monitoring system for its light motor vehicles, plant and truck fleet necessitated by the shutdown of the 3G network.



DELIVERING OUR OPERATIONAL PLAN

LOOKING AHEAD



DELIVERABLE	STATUS	DELIVERABLE	STATUS
Complete key projects identified in the Customer Experience Strategy 2021-2023	✘	Provide support to elected representatives for their participation in strategic discussions with LGAQ and COMSEQ	✔
Deliver customer-focussed projects that are aligned with the intent and vision of the Customer Charter	✘	Deliver training and other activities to ensure awareness of Council's Policy Review Framework and promote best practice for corporate governance	✔
Implement the adopted community engagement framework to ensure Council delivers best practice standards	✘	Monitor and provide assistance in the review of policies and procedures to ensure legislative obligations are maintained	✔
Adopt and implement an updated Complaints Management Framework	✘	Continue to maintain high standards when facilitating matters and processing applications from public and external agencies	✔
Partner with external agencies to promote awareness of good decision making and ethical conduct including privacy and confidentiality requirements	✘	Make Council's suite of standard development conditions readily available to the public	✘
Become more accessible and inclusive by diversifying Council's engagement activities to include more face-to-face sessions to build transparency and trust with communities across the region	✔	Develop a risk-based compliance and enforcement strategy	✘
Review the current approach to the development compliance management and complaint-based investigations	✔	Develop an internal communications plan that aims to strengthen engagement and communication with employees	✘
Deliver year three (and any other outstanding) actions from the Scenic Rim Communication Strategy 2020-2023	✔	Develop and implement the Annual Audit Plan incorporating a range of internal audit services	✔
Increase Council's digital footprint by increasing engagement rates across digital platforms, increasing traffic to Council's website, and developing an Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) strategy	✔	Facilitate the ongoing operation of the Audit and Risk Committee	✔
Create and implement a user-friendly online form for reporting administrative action complaints, fraud and corruption	✔	Review and update standard development conditions in line with the Scenic Rim Planning Scheme 2020, policies and best practice	✔
Finalise the review of Council's meeting structures and associated policies and procedures	✔		

Legend: Completed ✔ On Track ✔ Requires Attention ✘ Cancelled/Postponed ◆



Scenic Rim Regional Council is committed to ensuring open and responsive government by:

- continuing to provide diversified and inclusive community engagement opportunities
- delivering internal training relating to fraud, corruption prevention and sound decision making, and
- supporting the ongoing operation of the Audit and Risk Committee.



STATUTORY INFORMATION

THIS SECTION OF THE REPORT CONTAINS INFORMATION WHICH IS PRESCRIBED BY THE *LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2009* AND *LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATION 2012* TO BE DISCLOSED IN COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2009 (LGA)

LGA s41 - Beneficial Enterprises

During 2023–2024 Council did not conduct any beneficial enterprises.

LGA s41(a) - Business Activities

During the period Council operated the following business activities:

- Roads
- Waste collection
- Building certification

LGA s41(b) - Significant Business Activities

None of the above activities satisfied the statutory threshold for classification as a significant business activity.

LGA s41(c) - Competitive Neutrality

Council applied the competitive neutrality principle to these business activities.

LGA s41(d) - New Business Activities

None of these business activities commenced operations during the period.

LGA s201(1)(a)and(c) - Total Remuneration Paid to Senior Management

The total of all remuneration packages payable to the senior management was: \$2,583,500.

Council did not appoint any councillor advisors during the year.

LGA s201(1)(b) - Number of Senior Management in Each Remuneration Band

Effective 30/06/2024	Number of Senior Management
\$100,000 - \$149,999	1
\$150,000 - \$199,999	2
\$200,000 - \$249,999	3
\$250,000 - \$299,999	4
\$300,000 - \$349,999	1
\$350,000 - \$399,999	1
\$400,000 - \$449,999	0

LGR s183(a) - General Purpose Financial Statement

The general purpose financial statement is contained on [pages 155-185](#).

LGR s183(b) - Financial Sustainability Statement

The financial sustainability statement is contained on [page 189](#).

LGR s183(c) - Long-term Financial Sustainability Statement

The long-term financial sustainability statement is contained on [page 194](#).

LGR s183(d) - Auditor-General's Audit Reports

The Auditor-General's audit reports are contained on [pages 186-188](#).

LGR s184 - Community Financial Report

The Community Financial Report is contained on [pages 143-53](#).

LGR s185(a) - Resolutions Relating to Expenses Reimbursement Policy

There were no resolutions made relating to this Policy.

LGR s185(b) - Resolutions Relating to Thresholds for Non-current Physical Assets

There were no resolutions made relating to thresholds for non-current physical assets.

LGR s186(a)(b)and(c) - Remuneration, Expenses and Meeting Attendance Relating to Councillors

The total remuneration paid, expenses incurred, facilities provided and number of meetings attended by each Councillor is contained on [pages 22-23](#).

LGR s186(d) - Information Relating to Unsuitable Conduct by Councillors:

- LGR s186(d)(i) - There were no orders made under s150I(2) of the LGA.
- LGR s186(d)(ii) - There were no orders made under s150IA(2)(b) of the LGA.
- LGR s186(d)(iii) - There were three orders made under s150AH(1) of the LGA.
- LGR s186(d)(iv) - There were no decisions, orders, and recommendations made under s150AR(1) of the LGA.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATION 2012 (LGR)

LGR s186(e) - Information Relating to Decisions, Orders and Recommendations

- LGR s186(e)(i) - The name of each Councillor for whom a decision, order, or recommendation under section 150I(2), 150IA(2)(b), 150AH(1) or 150 AR(1) of the LGA was made:
 - Former Cr Gregory Christensen
 - Former Cr Derek Swanborough
 - Former Cr Jeff McConnell
- LGR s186(e)(ii) - Description of the unsuitable meeting conduct, inappropriate conduct or misconduct engaged in by each of the Councillors:
 - That Council, pursuant to section 150AHA of the *Local Government Act 2009* find that on Sunday 16 April 2023, Councillor Christensen used his private email address to write to the then Honourable Steven Miles MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure seeking a revocation of a decision of council about an inappropriate conduct matter involving Councillor Christensen. Council decided that the email communication was Council business and is a breach of the Councillor Code of Conduct and constitutes a conduct breach.
 - Council decided that during his term as a Councillor with Scenic Rim Regional Council, Councillor Derek Swanborough engaged in inappropriate conduct as defined under Section 150K(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, through his actions on nine occasions in using his personal email account for the conduct of Council business, such actions being a breach of Standard of Behaviour 1.3 listed in the Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland.
 - Councillor McConnell did engage in inappropriate conduct for the words used when speaking to a Council employee at the Council Christmas function held on 9 December 2022.

- LGR s186(e)(iii) - Summary of the decision, order or recommendation made for each Councillor:
 - Councillor Christensen reimburse the local government for an amount of \$5,000 for the costs arising from the investigation, within 28 days after the issuance of an invoice from the Council; and Councillor Christensen make a public admission at the next Ordinary Meeting that he has engaged in a conduct breach.
 - Former Councillor Swanborough reimburse the Council for 30% of the costs arising from this investigation into the Councillor's inappropriate conduct and Council note the investigation costs paid to Ray Burton Consulting to the amount of \$4,950 excluding GST.
 - That Cr McConnell make a public admission at the next available Ordinary Meeting that the Councillor has engaged in inappropriate conduct.

LGR s186(1)(f)(i) - Complaints referred to the assessor under LGA s150P(2)(a)

There were 11 complaints referred.

LGR s186(1)(f)(ii) - Matters Mentioned in LGA s150P(3)

There were no matters mentioned.

LGR s186(1)(f)(iii) - Notices given under LGA s150R(2)

There were 12 notice given.

LGR s186(1)(f)(iv) - Notices given under LGA s150S(2)(a)

There were no notices given.

LGR s186(1)(f)(v) - Occasions information was given under LGA s150AF(3)(a)

There were no notices given.

LGR s186(1)(f)(vi) - Occasions the Local Government Asked Another Entity to Investigate under LGA Chapter 5A, Part 3, Division 5

There were three occasions.

LGR s186(1)(f)(vii) - Applications Heard by the Conduct Tribunal Under LGA Chapter 5A, Part 3, Division 6

There were no applications.

LGR s186(1)(g) - Total Number of Referral Notices Given to the Local Government Under LGA s150AC(1)

There were three referral notices given.

LGR s186(1)(h) - Total Number of Suspected Conduct Breaches and Number Where Investigation Was Not Started.

There were no suspected conduct breaches where an investigation was not started.

LGR s186(1)(i) - The Number of Decisions Made by The Local Government Under LGA s150AG(1)

There were three decisions made.

LGR s186(1)(j) - The Number of Matters Not Decided Under LGA s150AG(1)

There were no matters not decided.

LGR s186(1)(k) - The Average Time Taken by The Local Government in Making a Decision Under LGA s150AG(1)

The average time taken in making a decision was 209 days.

LGR s187(1)and(2) - Information in Relation to Administrative Complaints

The relevant information in relation to administrative complaints is contained on [page 124](#).

LGR s188(1)and(2) - Information in Relation to Overseas Travel Made by A Councillor or Employee

There was no overseas travel undertaken by any Councillor or employee in any official capacity.

LGR s189(1) - Summary of Expenditure on Grants to Community Organisations

Grants from Council Programs were:

Program	Grants Paid
Community Grants Program	\$36,000
Public Halls Assistance Program	\$351,740
Environmental Grants Program	\$153,326
Regional Arts Development Fund	\$62,969



LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATION 2012 (LGR)

LGR s189(2) - Information Related to Discretionary Funds

- LGR s189(2)(a) - The Total Amount Budgeted as Discretionary Funds
This section is not applicable.
- LGR s189(2)(b) & LGR s201B(5) - The Prescribed Amount
This section is not applicable.
- LGR s189(2)(c)(i)&(ii) - The Total Amount of Discretionary Funds for Councillors to Allocate:
There were no discretionary funds for Councillors to allocate for capital works or other community purposes.
- LGR s189(2)(d) - The Amount of Discretionary Funds Budgeted for Use by Each Councillor
There were no discretionary funds budgeted for use by Councillors.
- LGR s189(2)(e)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v) - Councillor Allocated Discretionary Funds
There were no discretionary funds allocated by Councillors.

LGR s190(1)(d) - Expenditure on a Service, Facility or Activity

- LGR s190(1)(d)(i)&(ii) - There were none that were supplied by another local government nor where a special rate was levied.

LGR s190(1)(e) - Invitations to Change Tenders Under LGR s228(8)

The was no changes from last year.

LGR s190(1)(f) - List of Registers Kept

The following registers were kept by Council during 2023–2024:

- Register of Interests
- Related Parties Register
- Burial Register
- Infrastructure Charges Register
- Register of Delegations
- Register of Resolutions About Land Subject to Flooding
- Council Policies

- Register of On-site Sewerage and Greywater Facilities
- Register of Local Laws
- Register of Backflow Prevention Devices
- Register of Cost Recovery Fees
- Register of Notices given under Section 251
- Register of Impounded Animals
- Building Act 1975
- Dog Registry
- Register of Pest Control and Entry Notices
- Road Map and Register
- Register of Development Applications
- Asset Register
- Register of Decision Notices re Development Applications
- Register of Council Business Activities
- Register of Licenses under the Food Act 2006
- Outcomes of Complaints against Councillors
- Register of Licenses under the Public Health (Infection Control and Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003.
- Register of Pre-qualified suppliers

LGR s190(1)(g) - A Summary of All Concessions for Rates and Charges Granted by the Local Government.

In accordance with Section 130 of the LGR, a discount of five per cent was allowed on general rates only for the 2023–2024 financial year, only if the total amount of all rates and charges included on an assessment for which the discount is allowed and all overdue rates and charges, is received by Council on or before the due date for payment, within 31 days from date of issue shown on the rate notice.

As part of Council's commitment to preserving the environment, a whole or partial concession on the General Rate was provided to owners of land who entered into a voluntary conservation covenant and/or a voluntary conservation agreement, depending on the portion of the area of the conservation area defined in the voluntary conservation covenant agreement for the total area of land.

In 2023–2024, Council granted a full rebate of the general rate, separate charge and the waste disposal utility charge to:

- Sporting groups and associations on Council-owned and controlled land that do not have a liquor licence.
- Not-For-Profit Organisations.
- Not-For-Profit Community Service Providers.

In 2023–2024, Council granted a full rebate of the separate charge and the waste disposal utility charge and a partial rebate on the general rate to:

- Stock dips and pump sites held separately from the balance of holdings or held separately by trustees; and
- Land identified as Historic Subdivisions under the Scenic Rim Planning Scheme 2020.

Council also granted a rebate of the lesser of \$200 or 20 per cent of the gross rates and charges levied on rateable properties owned and occupied by totally and permanently incapacitated (TPI) veterans holding a TPI Gold Card.

LGR s190(1)(h) - The Report of the Internal Audit.

The report on the internal audit for the financial year is contained on [page 185](#).

LGR s190(1)(i)and(ii) - A Summary of Investigation Notices Given Under S49 and Responses to Any Competitive Neutrality Complaints Under s52(3)

Council did not receive any investigation notices about competitive neutrality complaints and no competitive neutrality complaint reports were received or responses required during the period.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATION 2012 (LGR)

2023-2024 FINANCIAL YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE CHARGES REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY				
Infrastructure Charges Revenue		Infrastructure Charges Revenue Expenditure		
Total amount of infrastructure charges revenue collected (by way of infrastructure charges levied)	Total amount of infrastructure charges that were offset (i.e. infrastructure provided by a developer in lieu of paying the charge)	Total amount of infrastructure charges revenue spent on the supply of trunk infrastructure	Total amount of infrastructure charges that the local government refunded	Total amount of unspent infrastructure charges revenue
\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
\$10,026	\$0	\$2,577	\$11	\$7,449

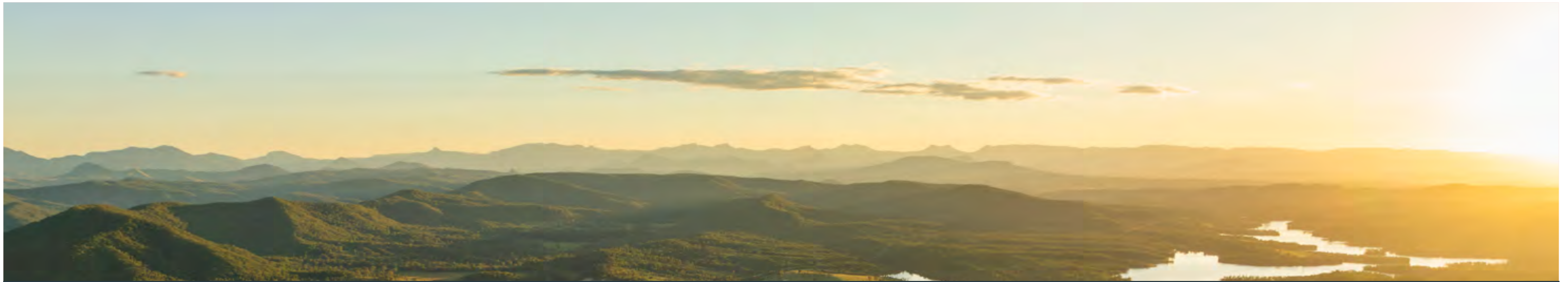
INFRASTRUCTURE CHARGES INFORMATION/TRUNK INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION

Infrastructure charges revenue and expenditure reporting (actual and forecast) and trunk infrastructure information summary.

2023-24 FINANCIAL YEAR TRUNK INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION SUMMARY					
Trunk infrastructure description	LGIP reference number (if applicable)	Trunk infrastructure network	Suburb or locality of trunk infrastructure	Method of infrastructure delivery (council or developer contributed)	Infrastructure value (\$'000)
Beaudesert Town Centre Improvements	NP3	Scenic Rim	Beaudesert	Council	\$1,791
Church St (Macquarie St to McDonald St)	62	Scenic Rim	Beaudesert	Council	\$238
Flying Fox Bridge, Upper Coomera Road	54	Scenic Rim	Tamborine Mountain	Council	\$213
Kerry Road	41	Scenic Rim	Munbilla	Council	\$107
Beechmont Road Footpath (Windabout Rd to School)	61	Scenic Rim	Beaudesert	Council	\$100
Other		Scenic Rim	Various	Council	\$128

FORECAST INFRASTRUCTURE CHARGES REVENUE AND TRUNK INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURE SUMMARY					
	Financial Year				Total
	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Infrastructure charges revenue	\$2,535	\$2,585	\$2,637	\$2,690	\$10,448
Trunk infrastructure expenditure	\$476	\$235	\$2,276	\$2,142	\$5,129





COMMUNITY FINANCIAL REPORT

A REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S FISCAL PERFORMANCE
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



COMMUNITY FINANCIAL REPORT

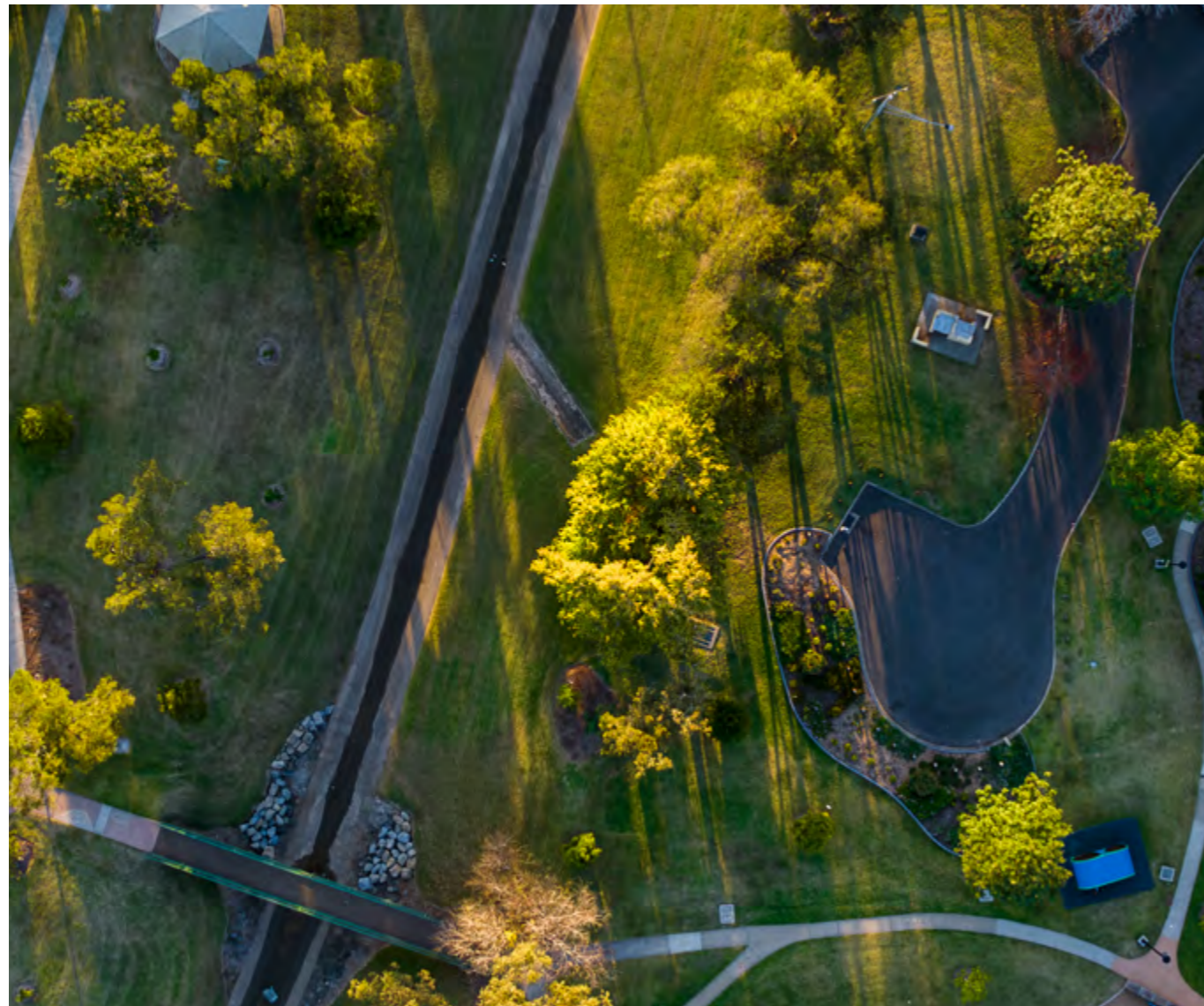
Council is required to prepare a community financial report each year in accordance with Section 179 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

The community financial report is required to:

- a) contain a summary and analysis of Council's financial performance and position for the financial year;
- b) be consistent with the general purpose financial statement for the financial year;
- c) include the relevant measures of financial sustainability for the financial year; and

d) be written in a way that can be easily understood by the community.

This community financial report complies with the above requirements and covers the financial performance and position of Scenic Rim Regional Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Council is required to prepare a set of general purpose financial statements each year in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009, Local Government Regulation 2012* and Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements are required to be independently audited. The audited financial statements, as set out on pages 155 onwards outline (the financial performance), financial position, cash flows and net wealth of Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2024, incorporating four financial statements and accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

This Statement outlines:

- All sources of Council's income (revenue);
- All recurrent expenditure; and
- Capital expenses relating to the write-off of non-current assets.

Both recurrent revenue and capital revenue are reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Income but only recurrent expenditure is recognised. Capital expenditure is recognised in the Statement of Financial Position. 'Recurrent' is also referred to as 'operating' because the income and expenditure relate to operations and maintenance and not capital, although depreciation of assets is included.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

This Statement outlines what Council owns (assets) and what it owes (liabilities) at a point in time. Council's net wealth is determined by deducting total liabilities from total assets; the larger the net equity, the stronger the financial position.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

This Statement summarises the actual flows of cash for a period and explains the change in the cash balance held from the start of the period through to the end of the reporting period. Cash flows are separated into operating, investing and financing activities.

Operating activities include the normal transactions of conducting Council's day-to-day business while investing activities include the purchase and sale of assets and receipt of capital grants, subsidies and contributions. Financing activities include loan income and repayment of debt. The 'cash at the end of the reporting period' equals the amount reported as 'cash and cash equivalents' in the Statement of Financial Position.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

This Statement summarises the change in Council's real worth throughout the financial year. Council's net worth can change as a result of:

- A surplus or deficit as recorded in the Statement of Comprehensive Income; and
- An increase or decrease in the net value of non-current assets resulting from a revaluation of those assets.

OVERVIEW

Council's key financial results for the financial year ended 30 June 2023:

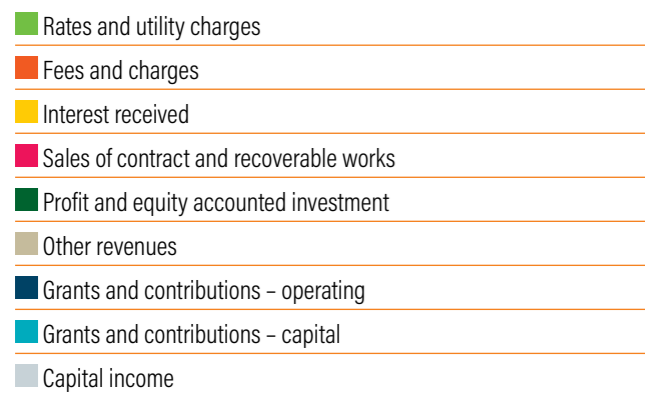
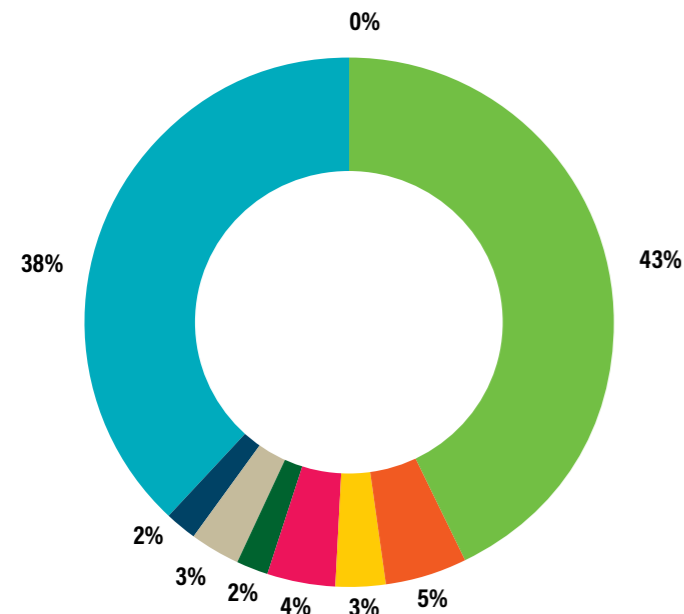
KEY RESULTS	2023-24
Total Income	\$158.2M
Total Expenses	\$113.2M
Net Result	\$45.0M
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$8.0M)
Total Assets	\$1,261.0M
Total Liabilities	\$89.4M
Net Assets	\$1,171.5M

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

TOTAL INCOME

Council's income is derived from various sources and a breakdown of Council's 2023–2024 income is shown below.

Rates and utility charges are Council's main source of recurrent income. However, other types of income such as fees and charges, sale of contract and recoverable works, grants and contributions are also important sources of funding.



TOTAL INCOME	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Rates and utility charges	\$58.0M	\$61.5M	\$67.4M
Fees and charges	\$6.4M	\$7.6M	\$8.4M
Interest received	\$1.2M	\$2.8M	\$4.4M
Sales of contract and recoverable works	\$6.5M	\$7.4M	\$6.4M
Profit from equity accounted investment	\$2.3M	\$2.0M	\$2.8M
Other revenues	\$4.2M	\$5.1M	\$5.1M
Grants and contributions - operating	\$9.2M	\$11.7M	\$3.6M
Grants and contributions - capital	\$19.4M	\$47.8M	\$60.0M
Capital income	\$0.3M	\$0.0M	\$0.1M
TOTAL INCOME	\$107.6M	\$145.8M	\$158.2M

Total income received during 2023–2024 was \$158.2M, which is an increase of \$12.5M from the previous year.

Net rates and utility charges were \$5.9M higher than the previous year. However, this result is slightly behind the 2023–2024 budgeted revenue for net rates and utility charges of \$67.9M.

Fees and charges were \$0.8M higher than the previous year predominantly due to an increase in fees associated with plumbing services, caravan parks, signing and sealing fees and planning application fees.

Interest received was \$1.7M higher than the previous year as investment rates increased during the year.

Sales of contract and recoverable works income were \$1.0M lower than the previous year due to lower levels Road Maintenance Performance Contract (RMPC) contract works.

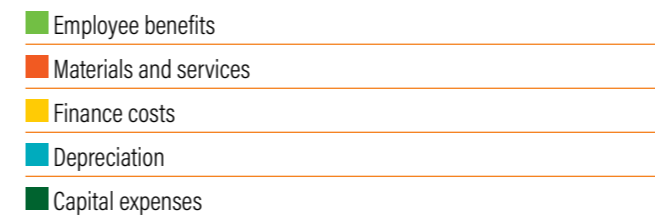
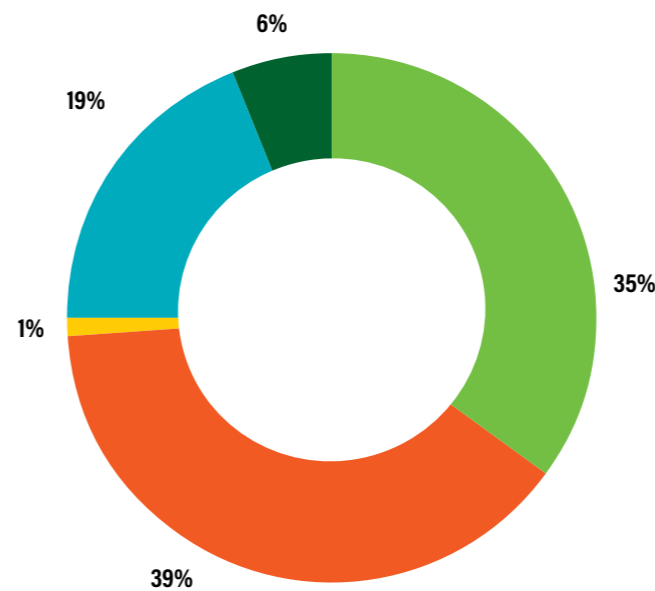
Operating grants and contributions were \$8.1M below prior year due to the timing of payments for the Financial Assistance Grant and through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

The profit from equity accounted investments is Council's share of profits from Urban Utilities (UU), in which it has an ownership interest of 1.042%. Further information on UU is contained at Note 9 of the audited financial statements.

Capital grants and contributions are \$12.2M higher than the previous year largely due to the recovery of expenditure on restoration works through the DRFA.

TOTAL EXPENSES

Council provides a wide range of services to the community and in doing so incurs a variety of expenses. A breakdown of Council's 2023–2024 expenses is shown below.



TOTAL EXPENSES	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Employee benefits	\$33.9M	\$35.2M	\$40.0M
Materials and services	\$34.9M	\$35.9M	\$43.6M
Finance costs	\$1.3M	\$1.3M	\$1.5M
Depreciation	\$17.7M	\$19.1M	\$21.1M
Capital expenses	\$5.1M	\$3.8M	\$7.1M
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$92.9M	\$95.3M	\$113.2M

Employee benefits have increased by \$4.8M from the previous year.

Materials and services have increased by \$7.7M from the previous year. This relates largely due to an increase in emergency works and counter disaster operations as a result natural disasters, and an increase in both maintenance and operations of Council infrastructure.

Finance costs have increased by \$0.2M due to new borrowings towards the end of the 2022–2023 financial year.

Depreciation expenses are non-cash and represent the reduction of the value of non-current assets as a result of wear and tear, age, or obsolescence. Non-current assets are shown in the Statement of Financial Position.

Capital expenses represent the non-cash write-off of the written down value of non-current assets because they have been disposed of through sale, obsolescence or renewal.

OPERATING RESULT

OPERATING RESULT	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$0.1M	\$6.4M	(\$8.0M)

The operating surplus/(deficit) is the net result excluding capital items related to income and expenses. A surplus indicates that revenue raised covers operational expenses and there is an amount available equivalent to the surplus for capital funding purposes or other purposes. A deficit indicates that revenue raised does not cover operational expenses. Council's operating deficit in 2023–2024 was (\$8.0M).

The deficit is largely due to two factors. Firstly, timing in relation to the receipt of the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant. In June 2023, Council received an amount of \$4,573,291 being an advance payment of the 2023–2024 Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant allocation. As these grants are considered untied grants, they were recognised upon receipt in the 2022–2023 financial year. In the 2023–2024 financial year, Council did not receive any such advance grant funding and as such, there is a decrease in Council's revenue. Secondly, Council incurred expenditure during the 2023–2024 financial year on emergency works and counter disaster operations as a result of natural disasters of \$5.0M. To date Council have only recovered \$1.5M for this expenditure through the DRFA. It is anticipated that the majority of the remainder of

FINANCIAL POSITION

this expenditure shall be recovered during the 2023–24 financial year.

TOTAL ASSETS

Assets consist of current assets, which can be converted to cash in less than one year and non-current assets, which would most likely take longer than a year to convert to cash.

A breakdown of Council's assets is shown below:

TOTAL ASSETS	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Cash and investments	\$56.4M	\$54.4M	\$48.7M
Trade and other receivables	\$10.4M	\$12.2M	\$13.9M
Other assets	\$4.9M	\$13.4M	\$19.8M
Loan to Urban Utilities	\$14.7M	\$14.7M	\$14.7M
Investment in associate	\$38.2M	\$38.8M	\$40.3M
Non-current assets held for sale	\$0.0M	\$0.0M	\$18.5M
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	\$913.7M	\$1,044.9M	\$1,105.1M
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,038.2M	\$1,178.3M	\$1,261.0M

Cash and investments has decreased from the previous year by (\$5.7M).

Trade and other receivables increased by \$1.7M from the previous year due to a higher level of outstanding rates and utility charges.

Other assets consist of inventories, contract assets (work performed on capital grants prior to the receipt of grant monies), and prepayments. This saw an increase of \$6.4M from the previous year due largely to an increase in contract assets.

The loan balance of \$14.7M represents Council's loan to UU. This is an interest only loan and payments received are recognised as interest revenue. The value of the loan represents 40% of Council's regulatory asset base that was transferred to UU upon formation.

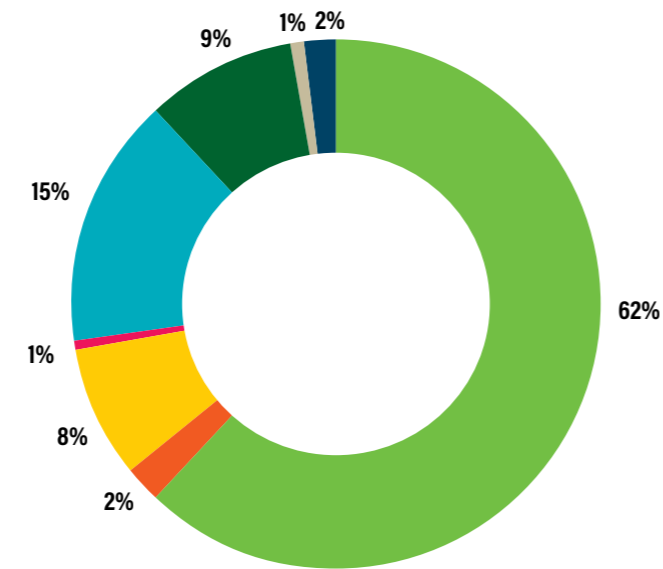
The investment in associate represents Council's participation rights in UU. Upon formation of UU, Council's participation rights represented 60% of Council's regulatory asset base. The increase of \$1.5M from the previous year is due to the recognition of Council's share of UU returns.

The written down value of infrastructure, property, plant

and equipment increased by \$60.2M from the previous year. Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment accounts for 88% of Council's total assets.

Capital works of \$61.6M were undertaken during 2023–2024.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	2023-24
Roads	\$38.4M
Bridges	\$1.4M
Drainage	\$5.0M
Footpaths	\$0.3M
Facilities, parks and gardens	\$9.4M
Vehicles, plant and equipment	\$5.6M
Waste management	\$0.6M
Other projects	\$1.1M



Roads
Bridges
Drainage
Footpaths
Facilities, Parks and gardens
Vehicles, plant and equipment
Waste management
Other projects

TOTAL LIABILITIES

Liabilities consist of current liabilities, which are expected to be paid or settled in less than one year and non-current liabilities, expected to be paid or settled in more than one year. A breakdown of Council's liabilities is shown below:

A breakdown of Council's liabilities is shown below:

TOTAL LIABILITIES	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Trade and other payables	\$17.0M	\$17.9M	\$27.7M
Borrowings	\$44.9M	\$47.4M	\$43.3M
Provisions	\$9.4M	\$10.6M	\$10.9M
Other liabilities	\$13.3M	\$11.0M	\$7.6M
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$84.6M	\$86.9M	\$89.4M

Trade and other payables increased by \$9.8M from the previous year largely due to high activity on the restoration of Council infrastructure as a result of natural disasters.

Borrowings decreased by \$4.1M from the previous year due to no new loans during the 2023-24 financial year offset by \$4.1M in repayments of loan principle.

Provisions consist of long service leave and rehabilitation and monitoring provisions for quarries and waste disposal landfill sites.

Other liabilities consists mainly of contract liabilities (capital grants received in advance of the work being performed) and the domestic waste levy refund received in advance from the Queensland State Government. This decreased by \$3.4M due to a decrease in both the contract liabilities and the domestic waste levy refund received in advance.

NET COMMUNITY ASSETS AND EQUITY

Net community assets and equity are represented by what we own (total assets) less what is owed (total liabilities).

NET COMMUNITY ASSETS	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Net assets	\$953.6M	\$1,091.4M	\$1,171.5M

COMMUNITY EQUITY	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Accumulated surplus	\$684.0M	\$734.4M	\$779.4M
Asset revaluation surplus	\$269.7M	\$357.0M	\$392.1M
TOTAL EQUITY	\$953.6M	\$1,091.4M	\$1,171.5M

Community equity increased by \$80.1M from the previous year, which is the value of total comprehensive income from the Statement of Comprehensive Income of \$45.0M and an increase in the Asset Revaluation Surplus of \$35.1M.

CASH FLOWS

The Statement of Cash Flows outlines where Council received its cash from and where it was subsequently spent.

CASH FLOWS	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM:			
Operating activities	\$20.2M	\$21.5M	\$11.8M
Investing activities	(\$23.2M)	(\$26.0M)	(\$13.3M)
Financing activities	(\$0.9M)	\$2.6M	(\$4.1M)
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD	(\$3.9M)	(\$2.0M)	(\$5.7M)

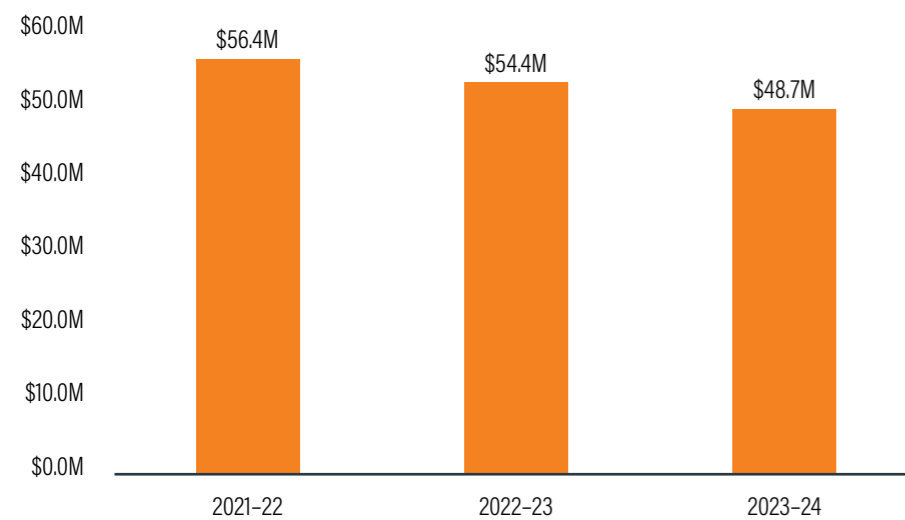
Net cash from operating activities decreased by (\$9.8M) from the previous year.

Net cash used in investing activities decreased by \$12.7M from the previous year.

Net cash from financing activities decreased by (\$6.7M) from the previous year.

FINANCIAL POSITION

YEAR END CASH BALANCE



Council's year end cash balance was \$48.7M as at 30 June 2024.



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

Section 104(2) of the *Local Government Act 2009* provides the following definition of financial sustainability:

A local government is financially sustainable if the local government is able to maintain its financial capital and infrastructure capital over the long term.

Financial sustainability is a strategy and ratios are used as point-in-time measurements to assess the outcomes of the strategy. The Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning has developed financial sustainability indicators to assist in the assessment of the long-term financial sustainability of councils.

Section 169(5) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* refers Local Government entities to the financial management (sustainability) guideline for relevant measures of financial sustainability.

The Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024 outlines nine sustainability measures for the Queensland local government sector. Council is required to report on only eight of these for the 2023–2024 financial year, with the ninth (Asset Renewal Funding Ratio) required to be reported on from the 2024–2025 financial year forward.

The eight sustainability measures Council is required to report on are:

MEASURE	TARGET	2023-24 RESULT	5-YEAR AVERAGE	COUNCIL NARRATIVE
Operating Surplus Ratio	> 0%	-8.1%	-1.8%	Actual current year ratio impacted by the non receipt of the Financial Assistance Grant prepayment and timing with the receipt of DRFA emergency works funding. Adjusted for this the actual current year ratio would have been -0.4% and the five-year average -0.2%.
Operating Cash Ratio	> 0%	12.1%	18.5%	Result within Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024 target range. Actual current year ratio impacted by the non receipt of the Financial Assistance Grant prepayment and timing with the receipt of DRFA emergency works funding.
Unrestricted Cash Expense Cover Ratio	> 3 months	5.4	NA	Result within Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024 target range.
Asset Sustainability Ratio	> 80%	226.5%	142.9%	Result within Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024 target range. Ratio impacted by DRFA reconstruction works.
Asset Consumption Ratio	> 60%	73.1%	75.6%	Result within Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024 target range.
Leverage Ratio	0 - 3 times	3.0	2.3	Result within Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024 target range. Actual current year ratio impacted by the non receipt of the Financial Assistance Grant prepayment and timing with the receipt of DRFA emergency works funding.
Contextual Ratios				
Council Controlled Revenue	Not Applicable	77.3%	74.1%	Actual current year ratio impacted by the non receipt of the Financial Assistance Grant prepayment and timing with the receipt of DRFA emergency works funding.
Population Growth	Not Applicable	1.2%	1.2%	Source: Queensland Government population projections (medium series), 2023 edition; Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional population, 2021.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

WHY IS FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY IMPORTANT?

Local governments are responsible for directly providing residents with a wide range of public services and community infrastructure and facilities. This requires local governments to hold and maintain a significant base of infrastructure assets, which necessitates not only substantial initial investments but also continued expenditure to maintain and renew assets over the course of their respective useful lives.

The outcomes of Council's financial sustainability strategy are as follows:

- To allow for the adequate provision for programs (including capital expenditure) and services into the future without having to introduce substantial or disruptive revenue (and expenditure) adjustments; and

- To allow for the equitable distribution of the costs of establishing and maintaining community assets and services between current and future ratepayers.

The Queensland Treasury Corporation performed a credit risk assessment during 2022–2023 and rated Scenic Rim Regional Council as being Sound with a Developing outlook. Council is committed to remaining financially sustainable through appropriate levels of service provision.

The Queensland Treasury Corporation shall perform another credit risk assessment during 2024–2025 financial year in line with its schedule.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council
Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024

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Scenic Rim Regional Council
Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Income			
Recurrent revenue			
Rates and utility charges	3(a)	67,440	61,487
Fees and charges	3(b)	8,438	7,593
Interest received		4,413	2,755
Sales revenue	3(c)	6,358	7,369
Profit from equity accounted investment	9	2,771	1,992
Other revenues	3(d)	5,092	5,058
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	3(e)	3,629	11,664
Total recurrent revenue		98,141	97,918
Capital revenue			
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	3(e)	59,957	47,846
Total revenue		158,098	145,764
Capital income		123	0
Total income		158,221	145,764
Expenses			
Recurrent expenses			
Employee benefits	4	39,970	35,160
Materials and services	5	43,560	35,898
Finance costs	6	1,508	1,283
Depreciation	10	21,086	19,134
Total recurrent expenses		106,124	91,475
Capital expenses		7,086	3,826
Total expenses		113,210	95,301
Net result		45,011	50,463
Other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to net result			
Increase in asset revaluation surplus	17	35,133	87,312
Total comprehensive income for the year		80,144	137,775

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and accounting policies.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council Statement of Financial Position As at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	48,686	54,411
Receivables	8	13,905	12,183
Inventories		1,082	1,197
Contract assets	12	17,363	10,953
Other assets		1,380	1,238
		82,416	79,982
Non-current assets held for sale	11	18,492	0
Total current assets		100,908	79,982
Non-current assets			
Receivables	8	14,676	14,676
Equity accounted investments	9	40,315	38,795
Property, plant and equipment	10	1,105,072	1,044,865
Total non-current assets		1,160,063	1,098,336
Total assets		1,260,971	1,178,318
Current liabilities			
Payables	13	27,679	17,927
Contract liabilities	12	2,975	4,683
Borrowings	14	4,023	4,182
Provisions	15	8,147	7,767
Other liabilities	16	1,720	1,731
Total current liabilities		44,544	36,290
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	14	39,285	43,265
Provisions	15	2,712	2,818
Other liabilities	16	2,902	4,561
Total non-current liabilities		44,899	50,644
Total liabilities		89,443	86,934
Net community assets		1,171,528	1,091,384
Community equity			
Accumulated surplus		779,433	734,422
Asset revaluation surplus	17	392,095	356,962
Total community equity		1,171,528	1,091,384

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and accounting policies.

Scenic Rim Regional Council Statement of Changes in Equity For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Accumulated surplus \$'000	Asset revaluation surplus (Note 17) \$'000	Total \$'000
Balance as at 1 July 2023	734,422	356,962	1,091,384
Net result	45,011	0	45,011
Other comprehensive income			
Revaluations of property, plant and equipment	0	35,129	35,129
Change in value of future rehabilitation cost	0	4	4
Total comprehensive income for the year	45,011	35,133	80,144
Balance as at 30 June 2024	779,433	392,095	1,171,528
Balance as at 1 July 2022	683,959	269,650	953,609
Net result	50,463	0	50,463
Other comprehensive income			
Revaluations of property, plant and equipment	0	87,357	87,357
Change in value of future rehabilitation cost	0	(45)	(45)
Total comprehensive income for the year	50,463	87,312	137,775
Balance as at 30 June 2023	734,422	356,962	1,091,384

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and accounting policies.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council Statement of Cash Flows For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
<i>Inflows:</i>			
Receipts from customers		96,108	88,297
Interest received		4,385	2,542
Grants, subsidies and contributions		2,166	11,664
<i>Outflows:</i>			
Payments to suppliers and employees		(89,583)	(79,833)
Interest expense		(1,326)	(1,170)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	22	11,750	21,500
Cash flows from investing activities			
<i>Inflows:</i>			
Proceeds from sale of property plant and equipment		567	426
Grants, subsidies and contributions for capital acquisitions		41,261	30,681
Dividends received		1,303	1,458
<i>Outflows:</i>			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(56,467)	(58,573)
Net cash outflow from investing activities		(13,336)	(26,008)
Cash flows from financing activities			
<i>Inflows:</i>			
Proceeds from borrowings		0	5,075
<i>Outflows:</i>			
Repayment of borrowings		(4,139)	(2,522)
Net cash inflow / (outflow) from financing activities	23	(4,139)	2,553
Net decrease in cash held		(5,725)	(1,955)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of reporting period		54,411	56,366
Cash and cash equivalents at end of reporting period	7	48,686	54,411

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and accounting policies.

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

1 Information about these financial statements

1.A Basis of preparation

The Scenic Rim Regional Council is constituted under the Queensland *Local Government Act 2009* and is domiciled in Australia.

These general purpose financial statements are for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. They are prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Council is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes and these financial statements comply with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as applicable to not-for-profit entities.

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the revaluation of certain classes of property, plant and equipment and non-current assets held for sale which are measured at fair value less cost to dispose.

1.B New and revised accounting standards adopted during the year

Scenic Rim Regional Council adopted all standards which became mandatorily effective for annual reporting periods beginning on 1 July 2023. None of the standards had a material impact on reported position, performance and cash flows.

The adoption of the revisions to *AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements* resulted in disclosure of material accounting policy information only rather than significant accounting policies. This means that accounting policy information is disclosed only if it relates to material transactions, other events or conditions and:

- Council has changed accounting policy during the reporting period and this change resulted in a material change to the information in the financial statements.
- Council chose (or was mandated to use) the accounting policy from one or more options permitted by Australian Accounting Standards.
- The accounting policy was developed in accordance with *AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* in the absence of an Australian Accounting Standard that specifically applies.
- The accounting policy relate to an area for which a Council is required to make significant judgements or assumptions in applying an accounting policy, and the Council discloses those judgements or assumptions in the financial statements.
- The accounting required for them is complex and users of the entity's financial statements would otherwise not understand those material transactions, other events or conditions.

1.C Standards issued by AASB not yet effective

The AASB has issued Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations which are not effective at 30 June 2024. These standards have not been adopted by Council and will be included in the financial statements on their effective date. None of these standards are expected to have a significant impact for Council.

1.D Estimates and judgements

Councils make a number of judgements, estimates and assumptions in preparing these financial statements. These are based on the best information available to Council at the time, however due to the passage of time, these assumptions may change and therefore the recorded balances may not reflect the final outcomes. The significant judgements, estimates and assumptions relate to the following items and specific information is provided in the relevant note:

- Valuation of property, plant and equipment - Note 10(d)
- Impairment / condition assessment of property, plant and equipment due to natural disaster events - Note 25
- Depreciation of property, plant and equipment - Note 10
- Revenue recognition – Note 3
- Provisions - Note 15
- Annual leave within payables - Note 13
- Contingent liabilities - Note 19

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

1 Information about these financial statements (continued)

1.E Rounding and comparatives

The financial statements are in Australian dollars and have been rounded to the nearest \$1,000 or, where that amount is \$500 or less, to zero, unless otherwise stated.

Comparative information is generally restated for reclassifications, errors and changes in accounting policies unless permitted otherwise by transition rules in a new Accounting Standard. Comparative information is prepared on the same basis as prior year.

1.F Taxation

Council is exempt from income tax and payroll tax, however council is subject to Fringe Benefits Tax and Goods and Services Tax ('GST'). The net amount of GST recoverable from the ATO or payable to the ATO is shown as an asset or liability respectively.

Council has a participating interest in the Central SEQ Distributor-Retailer Authority (trading as Urban Utilities) governed by a Participation Agreement. The Authority is subject to the Local Government Tax Equivalents Regime (LGTERR). Under the LGTERR the Authority is required to make income tax equivalent payments to Council in accordance with the requirements of the Participation Agreement. Income tax equivalent payments from the Authority are recognised as revenue when the significant risks and rewards related to the corresponding assets have been transferred to Council.

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

2 Analysis of results by function

(a) Components of Council functions

The activities relating to the Council's components reported on in Note 2(b) are as follows :

Chief executive office

The objective of this function is to provide high quality support to the Mayor and Councillors and Chief Executive Officer.

Asset and environmental sustainability

The objective of this function is to provide professional services to assist with infrastructure construction, maintenance and asset management. This includes the provision of capital works, design services, asset management, facility and property management, fleet and waste management services as well as external contract management.

Customer and regional prosperity

The objective of this function is to provide professional services to assist the community with economic growth and development, customer service, planning and development activities, disaster management preparedness and recovery as well as community services.

People and strategy

The objective of this function is for the provision of human resources, work health and safety and payroll functions across all of Council. This function also includes business systems analysis and corporate strategy and performance reporting.

Council sustainability

The objective of this function includes the provision of governance, audit/risk and professional financial and information services across Council. The function includes finance, information services and technology, records, governance, audit and risk as well as business continuity and council wide transactions.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024

2 (b) Revenue, expenses and assets have been attributed to the following functions:

Year ended 30 June 2024

Functions	Income		Total income	Total expenses	Net result for period	Assets
	Grants	Other				
	\$'000	\$'000				
Chief executive office	0	2	2	1,825	(1,823)	171
Asset and environmental sustainability	41,450	22,171	63,621	72,241	(8,620)	1,091,983
Customer and regional prosperity	13,677	5,759	19,436	22,448	(3,012)	2,600
People and strategy	149	1	150	4,166	(4,016)	14
Council sustainability	8,310	66,702	75,012	12,530	62,482	166,203
Total	63,586	94,635	158,221	113,210	45,011	1,260,971

Year ended 30 June 2023

Functions	Income		Total income	Total expenses	Net result for period	Assets
	Grants	Other				
	\$'000	\$'000				
Chief executive office	0	0	0	1,718	(1,718)	123
Asset and environmental sustainability	36,520	22,120	58,640	60,387	(1,747)	1,008,142
Customer and regional prosperity	6,974	4,851	11,825	19,556	(7,731)	2,377
People and strategy	317	35	352	3,576	(3,224)	14
Council sustainability	15,699	59,248	74,947	10,064	64,883	167,662
Total	59,510	86,254	145,764	95,301	50,463	1,178,318

Scenic Rim Regional Council
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024

2024
\$'000

2023
\$'000

3 Revenue

(a) Rates and utility charges

Rates and annual charges are recognised as revenue at the beginning of the rating period to which they relate. Prepaid rates are recognised as a financial liability until the beginning of the rating period.

General rates	49,306	45,416
Separate rates	11,441	10,231
Garbage charges	8,750	7,763
Rates and utility charge revenue	69,497	63,410
Less: Discounts	(2,057)	(1,923)
Net rates and utility charges	67,440	61,487

(b) Fees and charges

Revenue arising from fees and charges is recognised at the point in time when the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided. The performance obligation relates to the specific services which are provided to the customers. There is no material obligation for Council in relation to refunds or returns. Licences granted by Council are all either short-term or low value and all revenue from licences is recognised at the time that the licence is granted rather than the term of the licence.

Animal management fees	273	254
Building fees	1,779	1,288
Caravan park fees	911	637
Cemetery fees	460	508
Document lodgement fees	356	314
Food premises licencing fees	189	184
Planning application fees	1,398	1,285
Refuse tipping fees	1,551	1,831
Search fees	292	246
Subdivision fees	582	553
Other fees and charges	647	493
	8,438	7,593

(c) Sales revenue

Revenue arising from sales of contract and recoverable works is recognised at the point in time when the performance obligation is completed and generally comprises a recoupment of material costs together with an hourly charge for use of equipment and employees. This revenue and the associated costs are recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract activity based on costs incurred at the reporting date.

Road maintenance performance contract	4,568	5,357
Responsive maintenance contract	1,719	1,516
Other contracts and recoverable works	71	496
	6,358	7,369

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
3 Revenue (continued)		
(d) Other revenues		
Other revenue is recognised at the point in time when the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided. The performance obligation relates to the specific services which are provided to the customers. There is no material obligation for Council in relation to refunds or returns.		
Cultural centre revenues	253	198
Fuel rebates	267	230
Rental fees	82	83
Tax equivalent - Urban Utilities	965	930
Waste charges from Logan City Council	2,687	2,757
Other revenues	838	860
	5,092	5,058

(e) Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations

Grant income under AASB 15

Where grant income arises from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations then the revenue is recognised when control of each performance obligation is satisfied. The performance obligations are varied based on the agreement. Payment terms vary depending on the terms of the grant, cash is received upfront for some grants and on the achievement of certain payment milestones for others. Each performance obligation is considered to ensure that the revenue recognition reflects the transfer of control and within grant agreements there may be some performance obligations where control transfers at a point in time and others which have continuous transfer of control over the life of the contract. Where control is transferred over time, revenue is recognised using either costs or time incurred.

Grant income under AASB 1058

Where Council receives an asset for significantly below fair value, the asset is recognised at fair value, related liability (or equity items) are recorded and income is then recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received.

Capital grants

Where council receive funding under an enforceable contract to acquire or construct a specified item of property, plant and equipment which will be under Council's control on completion, revenue is recognised as and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed. For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred.

Donations and contributions

Where assets are donated or purchased for significantly below fair value, the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the council. Donations and contributions are generally recognised on receipt of the asset since there are no enforceable performance obligations. Physical assets contributed to council by developers in the form of road works, stormwater infrastructure and park equipment are recognised as revenue when Council obtains control of the asset and there is sufficient data in the form of drawings and plans to determine the approximate specifications and values of such assets. Non-cash contributions with a value in excess of the recognition thresholds disclosed in Note 10(a) are recognised as non-current assets. Those below the thresholds are recorded as expenses.

Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant

In June 2023, Council received an amount of \$4,573,291 being an advance payment of the 2023-2024 Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant allocation. As these grants are considered untied grants, they were recognised upon receipt in the 2022-2023 financial year. In the 2023-2024 financial year, Council did not receive any such advance grant funding and as such, there is a decrease in Council's revenue.

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
3 Revenue (continued)		
(e) Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations (continued)		
i) Operating		
Commonwealth general purpose grant	192	5,890
Other commonwealth government grants	109	460
State government subsidies & grants	2,847	4,635
Contributions	481	679
Total operating grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	3,629	11,664
ii) Capital		
a) Monetary revenue		
Commonwealth government grants	7,238	9,400
State Government subsidies & grants	32,154	26,331
Contributions	10,032	4,587
	49,424	40,318
b) Non-monetary revenue		
Roads and drainage contributed by developers at fair value	10,222	6,990
Other physical assets contributed by developers at fair value	311	538
	10,533	7,528
Total capital grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	59,957	47,846
iii) Timing of revenue recognition for grants, subsidies, contributions and donations		
	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
	Revenue recognised at a point in time	Revenue recognised over time
	Revenue recognised at a point in time	Revenue recognised over time
Grants and subsidies	3,148	39,392
Contributions	21,046	0
	24,194	39,392
	10,985	12,794
	35,731	0
	23,779	35,731
4 Employee benefits		
	Note	2024 \$'000
		2023 \$'000
Total staff wages and salaries		34,995
Councillors' remuneration		605
Termination benefits		64
Annual, sick and long service leave entitlements		3,630
Superannuation	20	4,446
Other employee related expenses		1,535
		45,275
Less: Capitalised employee expenses		(5,305)
		39,970
		35,160
Councillors' remuneration represents salary, and other allowances paid in respect of carrying out their duties.		
Total Council employees at end of reporting period:		
Elected members		7
Administration staff		235
Depot and outdoors staff		174
Total full time equivalent employees		416

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
5 Materials and services			
Asset revaluation and condition assessments		321	215
Audit of annual financial statements by the Auditor-General of Queensland *		153	146
Consultancies		787	1,260
Cultural services		314	322
Economic development		1,077	1,005
Grants provided		421	430
Grant funded expenditure		1,299	1,360
Insurance		678	622
IT systems maintenance		2,633	2,580
Legal costs		1,655	1,205
Maintenance and operations - facilities		6,456	4,969
Maintenance and operations - fleet		3,867	3,745
Maintenance and operations - parks, gardens and cemeteries		1,966	1,701
Maintenance and operations - roads and bridges		9,936	5,483
Maintenance and operations - waste facilities		3,059	2,594
Office expenses		651	460
Pest and animal management		390	373
Recoverable works		2,487	4,210
Rentals - operating leases		63	128
Subscriptions		374	323
Vibrant and active towns and villages		298	317
Waste collection contract		2,703	2,543
Other materials and services		5,774	3,884
		<u>47,362</u>	<u>39,875</u>
Less: Capitalised fleet expenses		(3,802)	(3,977)
		43,560	35,898

* Total audit fees quoted by the Queensland Audit Office relating to the 2023-24 financial statements are \$152,500 (2023: \$145,900)

6 Finance costs

Finance costs - Queensland Treasury Corporation		1,134	979
Bank charges		192	191
Unwinding of discount - quarry site provisions	15	16	15
Unwinding of discount - refuse site provisions	15	166	98
		<u>1,508</u>	<u>1,283</u>

7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and on hand		515	1,491
Deposits at call		25,171	27,920
Term deposits		23,000	25,000
Balance as per statement of financial position		48,686	54,411
Less: Externally imposed restrictions on cash		(20,986)	(25,734)
Unrestricted cash		27,700	28,677

Externally imposed expenditure restrictions at the reporting date relate to the following cash assets:

Unspent government grants and subsidies		5,920	7,658
Unspent loan monies		10,481	11,797
State domestic waste levy refund received in advance		4,585	6,279
		<u>20,986</u>	<u>25,734</u>

The Council has an ongoing working capital facility with Queensland Treasury Corporation (facility limit \$10 million). The facility has not been utilised as at 30 June 2024.

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
8 Receivables		
Settlement of receivables is generally required within 30 days from the invoice date.		
Receivables are measured at amortised cost which approximates fair value at reporting date.		
The loan to Urban Utilities is an interest only loan.		
<i>Current</i>		
Rates and utility charges	7,382	5,680
GST recoverable	1,155	435
Other debtors	5,368	6,068
	<u>13,905</u>	<u>12,183</u>

Interest was charged on outstanding rates at a rate of 9% per annum for the period ended 30 June 2024. No interest is charged on other debtors. There is no concentration of credit risk for rates and utility charges, fees and other debtors receivable.

Non-current

Shareholder loan - Urban Utilities	14,676	14,676
	<u>14,676</u>	<u>14,676</u>

9 Equity accounted investments

Name - Urban Utilities
Principal activity - Water and sewerage services
Proportion of ownership interest - 1.042%

Participation rights held in Urban Utilities are accounted for using the equity method to reflect Council's significant influence on Urban Utilities. The initial value of the participating rights on 1 July 2010 was calculated using a regulatory asset base valuation, and by applying a ratio agreed by the participating Councils and Urban Utilities. The value at year end includes Council's share of Urban Utilities' profit and other comprehensive income at 30 June 2024.

Council's investment in Urban Utilities comprises:

Participation rights	40,315	38,795
Details of movements in participation rights		
Opening balance	38,795	38,157
Plus share of profit of associate	2,771	1,992
Less participation return received and accrued	(1,251)	(1,354)
Closing balance at end of year	<u>40,315</u>	<u>38,795</u>

Extract from the Urban Utilities statement of comprehensive income:

Revenue	1,648,209	1,508,048
Net profit	265,903	204,446

Extract from Urban Utilities statement of financial position:

Current assets	422,913	368,278
Non-current assets	7,006,711	6,761,164
	<u>7,429,624</u>	<u>7,129,442</u>
Current liabilities	323,923	337,833
Non-current liabilities	3,241,321	3,072,934
	<u>3,565,244</u>	<u>3,410,767</u>
Net assets	3,864,380	3,718,675

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024

10 Property, plant and equipment (continued)

As at 30 June 2023														
Basis of measurement														
Asset Values														
	Land	Buildings at valuation	Buildings at cost	Road and bridge network	Drainage	Other infrastructure	Plant and equipment	Capital work in progress	Total					
	Valuation	Valuation	Cost	Valuation	Valuation	Valuation	Valuation	Cost	Cost	Cost	\$'000			
Opening gross value as at 1 July 2022	67,179	\$'000	58,204	0	0	\$'000	63,895	\$'000	2,872	\$'000	33,443	\$'000	56,378	1,232,890
Additions*	3,525	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,168	0	2,169	0	52,704	59,586
Contributed assets at valuation	0	0	291	0	0	0	3,438	0	0	0	0	0	7,528	7,528
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	(919)	0	0	0	(919)	0	(919)	(919)
Write-offs	0	0	(339)	(575)	(22,472)	(33)	(33)	(2,923)	(39)	(638)	(39)	(638)	(27,019)	(27,019)
Revaluation due to external assessment and indexation	42,409	0	3,323	20	67,763	4,929	1,155	51	0	0	0	0	118,495	118,495
Transfers between classes	0	0	9,423	1,607	59,927	0	1,155	0	2,166	0	0	0	(74,278)	0
Closing gross value	113,113	0	70,902	39,137	1,021,851	73,384	3,334	34,674	3,334	0	34,674	0	34,166	1,390,561

As at 30 June 2023											
Basis of measurement											
Asset Values											
	Land	Buildings at valuation	Buildings at cost	Road and bridge network	Drainage	Other infrastructure	Plant and equipment	Capital work in progress	Total		
	Valuation	Valuation	Cost	Valuation	Valuation	Valuation	Valuation	Cost	Cost	Cost	\$'000
Opening balance as at 1 July 2022	0	18,035	12,975	243,420	25,640	2,833	16,258	0	319,161		
Depreciation expense	0	1,697	982	12,915	903	220	2,417	0	19,134		
Depreciation on disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	(484)	0	(484)		
Depreciation on write-offs	0	(137)	(294)	(19,860)	(18)	(2,922)	(22)	0	(23,253)		
Revaluation due to external assessment and indexation	0	(514)	20	15,564	1,931	88	(2)	0	17,089		
Transfers between classes	0	865	(865)	14,049	0	0	0	0	14,049		
Closing accumulated depreciation balance	0	19,946	12,818	266,088	28,456	219	18,169	0	345,696		
Net value as at 30 June 2023	113,113	\$0,956	26,319	755,763	44,928	3,115	16,505	34,166	1,044,865		

* Additions comprise:
Infrastructure renewals
Other additions
Total additions

Range of estimated useful life in years	15-100	10-100	15-120	15-80	6-75	2-40	Not depreciated
\$'000	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$'000
3,525	0	0	0	0	1,168	2,169	28,017
3,525	0	0	0	0	1,168	2,169	24,587
							52,704
							99,586

Scenic Rim Regional Council
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024

10 Property, plant and equipment

As at 30 June 2024											
Basis of measurement											
Asset Values											
	Land	Buildings at valuation	Buildings at cost	Road and bridge network	Drainage	Other infrastructure	Plant and equipment	Capital work in progress	Total		
	Valuation	Valuation	Cost	Valuation	Valuation	Valuation	Valuation	Cost	Cost	Cost	\$'000
Opening gross value as at 1 July 2023	113,113	\$'000	70,902	1,021,851	73,384	3,334	34,674	\$'000	34,166	\$'000	1,390,561
Additions*	5,096	0	0	0	0	0	7,327	0	49,339	0	61,762
Contributed assets at valuation	0	0	536	11,253	1,523	0	(1,643)	0	(1,643)	0	13,421
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1,643)	0	(1,643)	0	(1,643)
Write-offs	(774)	(69)	(1,041)	(34,226)	(12)	0	(35)	(1,948)	(38,005)	(1,948)	(38,005)
Revaluation due to external assessment and indexation	13,686	5,600	42,180	3,270	3,270	19	0	0	64,755	0	64,755
Non-current assets held for sale	(18,492)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(18,492)	0	(18,492)
Transfers between classes	0	1,644	2,740	42,893	5,660	0	0	0	(52,937)	0	28,720
Closing gross value	112,829	0	78,613	1,083,951	83,825	3,353	40,323	0	28,720	0	1,472,359

Accumulated depreciation and impairment

Opening balance as at 1 July 2023											
Depreciation expense											
Depreciation on disposals											
Depreciation on write-offs											
Contributed assets at valuation											
Revaluation due to external assessment and indexation											
Transfers between classes											
Closing accumulated depreciation balance											
Net Value as at 30 June 2024											
0	19,946	12,818	266,088	28,456	219	18,169	0	345,696			
0	1,823	1,051	14,203	1,070	417	2,522	0	21,086			
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1,090)	0	(1,090)		
0	(18)	(698)	(30,164)	(9)	0	(31)	0	(30,919)			
0	334	0	2,554	0	0	0	0	2,888			
0	1,751	0	9,896	1,198	7	0	0	12,852			
0	0	0	16,774	0	0	0	0	16,774			
0	23,836	13,171	279,351	30,716	643	0	19,570	0	367,297		
112,829	54,777	27,774	904,600	53,109	2,710	20,753	28,720	1,105,072			

Range of estimated useful life in years

* Additions comprise:
Infrastructure renewals
Other additions
Total additions

Range of estimated useful life in years	15-100	10-100	15-120	15-80	6-75	2-40	Not depreciated
\$'000	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$'000
5,096	0	0	0	0	7,327	7,327	42,042
5,096	0	0	0	0	7,327	7,327	19,720
							49,339
							61,762

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024

10 Property, plant and equipment (continued)

(a) Recognition

Plant and equipment with a total value of less than \$5,000, and infrastructure assets and buildings with a total value of less than \$10,000, are treated as an expense in the year of acquisition. All other items of property, plant and equipment are capitalised (including Land with a total value greater than \$1).

Land under roads and reserve land under the *Land Act 1994* or *Land Title Act 1994* is controlled by Queensland State Government and not recognised in the Council financial statements.

(b) Measurement

Property, plant and equipment assets are initially recorded at cost. Subsequently, each class of property, plant and equipment is stated at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment loss.

(c) Depreciation

Land and capital work in progress are not depreciated.

Depreciation, where applicable, is calculated on a straight-line basis. Management believe that the straight-line basis appropriately reflects the pattern of consumption of all Council assets.

(d) Valuation

Valuation processes

Council considers the carrying amount of its property, plant and equipment on an annual basis compared to fair value and makes adjustment where these are materially different. Council performs a full comprehensive revaluation of each asset class every 3 years with different classes being revalued each year on a rolling basis. An external professionally qualified valuer is engaged to perform these revaluations.

In the intervening years, Council undertakes:

- a management valuation using internal engineers and asset managers to assess the condition and cost assumptions associated with all infrastructure assets and an appropriate cost index for the region.
- a desktop valuation for land and buildings at valuation which involves management assessing a suitable index and applying an indexation if it is determined appropriate.

On revaluation, accumulated depreciation is restated proportionately with the change in the carrying amount of the asset and any change in the estimate of remaining useful life.

Fair values are classified into three levels as follows:

- Level 1 - fair value based on quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 - fair value based on inputs that are directly or indirectly observable, such as prices for similar assets, for the asset or liability
- Level 3 - fair value based on unobservable inputs for the asset and liability

There were no transfers between levels during the year.

Scenic Rim Regional Council
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024
10 Property, plant and equipment (continued)
(e) Valuation (continued)
(f) Valuation techniques used to derive values

Asset class and fair value hierarchy	Valuation approach	Last comprehensive valuation date	Valuer engaged	Key assumptions and estimates (related data sources)	Index applied (change in index recognised this year)	Other interim revaluation adjustment
Buildings (level 2) 2024: \$4,575K 2023: \$4,306K	Market value	28-Feb-23	APV Valuers and Asset Management	Sales prices of comparable land sites in close proximity are adjusted for differences in key attributes such as property size. The most significant inputs into this valuation approach are price per square metre.	Movement in consumer price index, housing (3.13%)	Beaudesert Enterprise Precinct land was externally valued by Herron Todd White as at 19 February 2024. This land was subsequently indexed using the consumer price index, housing (0.86%) for the period 19 February 2024 to 30 June 2024.
Buildings (level 3) 2024: \$50,202K 2023: \$46,650K	Current replacement cost	28-Feb-23	APV Valuers and Asset Management	Current replacement cost with a new asset having similar service potential. In determining the level of accumulated depreciation the asset has been disaggregated into significant components which exhibit different useful lives.	Movement in producer price index, non-residential building construction Queensland (8.05%)	Nil
Road and bridge network (level 3)	Current replacement cost	28-Feb-22	APV Valuers and Asset Management	Current replacement cost for each asset by componentising the assets into significant parts with different useful lives and taking into account a range of factors, the most significant of which is the unit rate per square metre to construct similar assets.	Producer price index, road and bridge construction Queensland (4.06%)	Assessment made of damage to network due to weather events.
Drainage (level 3)	Current replacement cost	28-Feb-22	APV Valuers and Asset Management	Current replacement cost for each asset by componentising the assets into significant parts with different useful lives and taking into account a range of factors, the most significant of which is the unit rate per square metre to construct similar assets.	Producer price index, road and bridge construction Queensland (4.06%)	Nil
Other infrastructure (level 3)	Current replacement cost	30-Jun-24	Internal qualified staff	Current replacement cost of construction, estimates of present value of future restoration costs and estimates of present value of future monitoring costs of refuse and quarry sites.	Consumer price index historical average	Review of future restoration and monitoring costs. Review of useful life estimates.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
11 Non-current assets held for sale			
Opening balance		0	0
Transferred from property, plant and equipment	10	18,492	0
Closing balance		<u>18,492</u>	<u>0</u>

Council has developed industrial land at the Beaudesert Enterprise Precinct which has been marketed for sale. The fair value of the land was determined using the direct comparison to sales approach. In this approach, the property is compared to recently sold properties which are of a similar type. This comparison is adjusted to take into consideration the characteristics of the land, such as size, zoning, topography and configuration. The most significant inputs into this valuation approach are price per square metre. The land is categorised as a level 2 valuation. Disposal costs were estimated including real estate agent commission, legal and advertising costs.

12 Contract balances

(a) Contract assets

Contracts to construct Council controlled assets	17,363	10,953
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(b) Contract liabilities

Funds received upfront to construct Council controlled assets	2,975	4,683
Revenue recognised that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the year		
Funds to construct Council controlled assets	3,485	6,465

(c) Significant changes in contract balances

Contract assets has increased significantly due to Council advancing works in several programs but has not yet received funding. The funding in relation to the grants that made up the balance as at 30 June 2023 has now largely been received. Grant programs that make up the balance as at 30 June 2024 include Bridge Renewal Program, SEQ Community Stimulus Package, Building Better Regions, Building Our Regions, Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Contract liabilities has decreased significantly as works in relation to the funds received in advance as at 30 June 2023 have now largely been completed. Funds received in advance as at 30 June 2024 consist of grant programs including the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Emergency Response Fund and the Community and Recreational Asset Recovery and Resilience Program.

13 Payables

A liability for creditors is recognised upon receipt of the goods or services ordered and are measured at the agreed purchase/contract price net of applicable discounts other than contingent discounts. Amounts owing are unsecured and are generally settled on 30 day terms.

A liability for salaries and wages is recognised and measured as the amount unpaid at the reporting date at current pay rates in respect of employees' services up to that date.

A liability for annual leave has been calculated based on the present value of wage and salary levels that will be paid when the liability is expected to be settled and includes related employee on-costs. All annual leave is classified as current as Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement beyond twelve months.

<i>Current</i>		
Creditors and accruals	20,501	11,361
Salary and wages accruals	1,212	692
Annual leave	3,073	3,114
Prepaid rates	2,893	2,760
	<u>27,679</u>	<u>17,927</u>

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

14 Borrowings

Interest is expensed as it accrues. No interest has been capitalised during the current or comparative reporting period. Final repayment dates vary from 15 June 2025 to 15 June 2043.

Borrowings are underwritten by the Queensland State Government.

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<i>Current</i>		
Queensland Treasury Corporation	4,023	4,182
<i>Non-current</i>		
Queensland Treasury Corporation	39,285	43,265
	<u>43,308</u>	<u>47,447</u>

Details of movements in borrowings:

Queensland Treasury Corporation		
Opening balance	47,447	44,894
New loan advances	0	5,075
Interest accrued	1,134	979
Principal and interest repayments	(5,273)	(3,501)
Book value at period end	<u>43,308</u>	<u>47,447</u>

All unsecured borrowings are provided by Queensland Treasury Corporation.

There have been no defaults or breaches of the loan agreement during the period.

The loan market value at the reporting date was \$35,465,447. This represents the value of the debt if the Council repaid it at that date. As it is the intention of the Council to hold the debt for its term, no provision is required to be made in these accounts.

Council has no assets pledged as security.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
15 Provisions		
<i>Current</i>		
Long service leave	6,205	5,875
Refuse sites restoration	1,563	1,524
Quarry sites restoration	379	368
	<u>8,147</u>	<u>7,767</u>
<i>Non-Current</i>		
Refuse sites restoration	1,831	1,840
Long service leave	881	978
	<u>2,712</u>	<u>2,818</u>

Details of movements in provisions:

(a) Restoration provisions

Provisions are made for the cost of restoring refuse and quarry sites where it is probable the Council will be liable, or required, to do this when the use of the facilities is complete. The provisions are calculated as the present value of anticipated future costs associated with the restoration of these sites.

The calculation of these provisions requires assumptions such as application of environmental legislation, available technologies and engineering cost estimates. These uncertainties may result in future actual expenditure differing from amounts currently provided. Due to the long-term nature of the liabilities, the most significant uncertainty in estimating the provisions is the cost that will be incurred. The provisions recognised are reviewed at least annually and updated based on the facts and circumstances available at the time.

Refuse sites restoration		
Balance at beginning of financial year	3,364	2,358
Increase due to unwinding of discount	166	98
Additional provisions	0	1,168
Amounts used	(112)	(68)
Increase (decrease) due to change in estimated future cost	157	(350)
Increase (decrease) due to change in discount rate	(181)	158
Balance at the end of financial year	<u>3,394</u>	<u>3,364</u>
Quarry sites restoration		
Balance at beginning of financial year	368	295
Increase due to unwinding of discount	16	15
Increase (decrease) due to change in estimated future cost	10	(156)
Increase (decrease) due to change in discount rate	(15)	214
Balance at the end of financial year	<u>379</u>	<u>368</u>

(b) Long service leave

The provision for long service leave represents the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

The liability is calculated using current pay rates and projected future increases in those rates and includes related employee on-costs. The estimates are adjusted for the probability of the employee remaining in the council's employment or other associated employment which would result in the Council being required to meet the liability. Adjustments are then made to allow for the proportion of the benefit earned to date, and the result is discounted to present value. The provision is discounted using the Commonwealth Bond yield rates.

Balance at beginning of financial year	6,853	6,776
Entitlements accrued	847	826
Entitlements paid	(614)	(749)
Balance at the end of financial year	<u>7,086</u>	<u>6,853</u>

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
16 Other liabilities		
<i>Current</i>		
Ticket sales received in advance	37	13
Domestic waste levy refund received in advance*	1,683	1,718
	<u>1,720</u>	<u>1,731</u>
<i>Non-Current</i>		
Domestic waste levy refund received in advance*	2,902	4,561
	<u>2,902</u>	<u>4,561</u>

* The State government made an advance payment to Council for the domestic waste levy refund in June 2022. The advance payment covers the years 2022-2023 to 2025-2026. A further advance payment was received in June 2023 to cover the 2026-2027 year. The payment received in advance for the 2024-2025 financial year has been treated as a current liability. The payments received in advance for the financial years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 have been treated as a non-current liability.

17 Asset revaluation surplus

The asset revaluation surplus comprises revaluation movements on property, plant and equipment.

18 Commitments for expenditure

Contractual commitments for operating expenditure

Contractual commitments at the reporting date but not provided for in the financial statements are as follows:		
Within one year	4,128	3,954
One to five years	9,918	12,670
	<u>14,046</u>	<u>16,624</u>

Contractual commitments for capital

Capital expenditure contracted for at the reporting date but not provided for in the financial statements are as follows:		
Within one year	33,972	17,127
	<u>33,972</u>	<u>17,127</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

19 Contingent liabilities

Details and estimates of maximum amounts of contingent liabilities are as follows:

Local Government Workcare

The Scenic Rim Regional Council is a member of the Queensland local government workers compensation self insurance scheme, Local Government Workcare. Under this scheme the Council has provided an indemnity towards a bank guarantee to cover bad debts which may remain should the self insurance licence be cancelled and there was insufficient funds available to cover outstanding liabilities. Only the Queensland Government's workers compensation authority may call on any part of the guarantee should the above circumstances arise. The Council's maximum exposure to the bank guarantee is \$916,823.

Local Government Mutual

The Scenic Rim Regional Council is a member of the local government mutual liability self-insurance pool, LGM Queensland. In the event of the pool being wound up or it is unable to meet its debts as they fall due, the trust deed and rules provide that any accumulated deficit will be met by the individual pool members in the same proportion as their contribution is to the total pool contributions in respect to any year that a deficit arises. As at 30 June 2023 the Local Government Mutual financial statements reported an accumulated surplus and it is not anticipated any liability will arise.

Scenic Rim Developments v Scenic Rim Regional Council

A claim has been lodged against Scenic Rim Regional Council in the Supreme Court seeking damages, costs and relief of a value, which the Plaintiff stated to the media to be in excess of \$35 million. Council has been ably represented throughout the matter through the engagement of legal and insurance service providers.

Council is unable to reliably estimate the value of the outcome and advice from Councils legal experts indicates there is a strong defence and no basis for Council to pay the Plaintiff any substantial amount to settle the matter. The matter is scheduled to be heard in the Supreme Court in November 2024 to finalise the matter. Council's liability is partially covered by our insurers.

Environmental Matter

In July 2023 Scenic Rim Regional Council received a notice to conduct or commission an environmental investigation pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. The notice was issued by the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI) for a property controlled by Scenic Rim Regional Council. The notice alleged that petroleum hydrocarbons had been deposited on the land over an extended period. Council have been required to engage an appropriately qualified person to undertake a site examination to determine the extent of the contamination and the steps required to remediate the land.

Council engaged Redleaf Environmental (Engineering and Environmental Consultancy) to undertake the site examination. Following the site examination, options aimed at remediating the impacted land have been developed and were submitted to DESI for their consideration on 26 August 2024. Following that submission, DESI issued a notice to Council requiring further information to be submitted to the Department on or before 5 November 2024. Council officers continue to liaise with DESI staff to work towards a suitable solution to the matter.

Shelf Road Tamborine Mountain

A claim has been lodged against Scenic Rim Regional Council in the Supreme Court seeking damages incurred as a result of a natural disaster. Council has been ably represented throughout the matter through the engagement of legal and insurance service providers.

Council is unable to reliably estimate the value of the outcome and advice from Council's legal experts indicates that there is no basis for Council to pay the Plaintiff any substantial amount to settle the matter. At this point in time, the legal process for the claim is continuing and further legal proceedings may establish a reliable estimate of any potential liability.

Other Legal Matters

From time to time Council is involved in investigations and legal matters, the effects and any potential impacts are unknown at this point in time.

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

20 Superannuation - Regional defined benefit fund

Council contributes to the LGIAsuper Regional Defined Benefits Fund (the scheme), at the rate of 12% for each permanent employee who is a defined benefit member. This rate is set in accordance with the LGIAsuper trust deed and may be varied on the advice of an actuary. The Regional Defined Benefits Fund is a complying superannuation scheme for the purpose of the Commonwealth Superannuation Industry (Supervision) legislation and is also governed by the *Local Government Act 2009*. The scheme is managed by the LGIAsuper trustee as trustee for LGIAsuper trading as Brighter Super.

The scheme is a pooled defined benefit plan and it is not in accordance with the deed to allocate obligations, plan assets and costs at the Council level.

Any amount by which the scheme is over or under funded may affect future benefits and result in a change to the contribution rate obligations, but has not been recognised as an asset or liability of the Council.

Scenic Rim Regional Council may be liable to the scheme for a portion of another local governments' obligations should that local government be unable to meet them. However the risk of this occurring is extremely low and in accordance with the LGIAsuper trust deed changes to council's obligations will only be made on the advice of an actuary.

The last completed actuarial assessment of the scheme was undertaken as at 1 July 2021. The actuary indicated that "at the valuation date of 1 July 2021, the net assets of the scheme exceeded the vested benefits and the scheme was in a satisfactory financial position as at the valuation date." The measure of vested benefits represents the value of benefit entitlements should all participating employees voluntarily exit the scheme. The Council is not aware of anything that has happened since that time that indicates the assets of the scheme are not sufficient to meet the vested benefits, as at the reporting date.

No changes have been made to prescribed employer contributions which remain at 12% of employee salary or wages and there are no known requirements to change the rate of contributions.

Another actuarial investigation is being conducted as at 1 July 2024.

The most significant risks that may result in LGIAsuper increasing the contribution rate, on the advice of the actuary, are:

Investment risk - The risk that the scheme's investment returns will be lower than assumed and additional contributions are needed to fund the shortfall.

Salary growth risk - The risk that wages or salaries will rise more rapidly than assumed, increasing vested benefits to be funded.

	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Superannuation contributions made to the Regional Defined Benefits Fund	127	139
Other superannuation contributions for employees	4,247	3,718
Other superannuation contributions for elected members	72	67
Total superannuation contributions	Note 4 <u>4,446</u>	<u>3,924</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
21 Trust funds			
Monies collected or held on behalf of other entities yet to be paid out to or on behalf of those entities		6,494	4,130
The Scenic Rim Regional Council performs only a custodial role in respect of these monies. As these funds cannot be used by the Council, they are not brought to account in these financial statements.			
22 Reconciliation of net operating surplus to net cash inflow / (outflow) from operating activities			
Net result		45,011	50,463
Non-cash operating items:			
Depreciation and amortisation		21,086	19,134
Change in restoration provisions expensed		182	113
Share of profit from associate		(2,771)	(1,992)
		<u>18,497</u>	<u>17,255</u>
Investing and development activities:			
Capital grants, subsidies and contributions		(59,957)	(47,846)
Capital income		(123)	0
Capital expenses		7,086	3,826
		<u>(52,994)</u>	<u>(44,020)</u>
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
(Increase) decrease in receivables		(1,620)	(1,987)
(Increase) decrease in inventories		115	(158)
(Increase) decrease in other assets		(142)	(564)
Increase (decrease) in payables		4,553	1,090
Increase (decrease) in provisions		0	(169)
Increase (decrease) in other liabilities		(1,670)	(410)
		<u>1,236</u>	<u>(2,198)</u>
Net cash inflow / (outflow) from operating activities		<u>11,750</u>	<u>21,500</u>
23 Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities			
Borrowings:			
Opening balance		47,447	44,894
Cashflows		(4,139)	2,553
Closing balance	14	<u>43,308</u>	<u>47,447</u>

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

24 Financial instruments and financial risk management

Financial assets and liabilities

Scenic Rim Regional Council has exposure to the following risks arising from financial instruments:

- Market risk
- Credit risk
- Liquidity risk

Financial risk management

Exposure to financial risks is managed in accordance with Council approved policies on financial risk management. These policies focus on managing the volatility of financial markets and seek to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of Council.

Council's Audit and Risk Committee oversees how management monitors compliance with Council's risk management policies and procedures, and reviews the adequacy of the risk managements framework in relation to the risks faced by Council. The Audit and Risk Committee is assisted in its oversight role by internal audit. Internal audit undertakes both regular and ad hoc reviews of risk management controls and procedures, the results of which are reported to the Audit and Risk Committee.

(a) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market indices, such as interest rates, will affect Council's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. Council is exposed to market risk through its investments and borrowings with Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) and other financial institutions. The Council has access to a mix of variable and fixed rate funding options through QTC so that interest rate risk exposure can be minimised.

Sensitivity to interest rate movements is shown for variable financial assets and liabilities based on the carrying amount at reporting date.

The following interest rate sensitivity analysis depicts what effect a reasonably possible change in interest rates (assumed to be 1% increase) would have on profit and equity, based on the carrying values at the end of the reporting period. The calculation assumes that the change in interest rates would be held constant over the period.

	Net carrying amount		Profit		Equity	
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	48,686	54,411	487	544	487	544
Net			487	544	487	544

QTC borrowings are at fixed interest rates and are therefore not subject to interest rate sensitivity.

(b) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss if a counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations. These obligations arise principally from the council's investments and receivables.

The carrying amounts of financial assets at the end of the reporting period represent the maximum exposure to credit risk for the Council.

The following table represents the Council's maximum exposure to credit risk:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	48,686	54,411
Receivables	28,581	26,859
	<u>77,267</u>	<u>81,270</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

24 Financial instruments and financial risk management (continued)

Cash and cash equivalents

The Council may be exposed to risk through its investments with the Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) and deposits held with banks or other financial institutions. The QTC Cash Fund is an asset management portfolio that invests with a wide variety of high credit rating counterparties. Deposits are capital guaranteed. Other investments are held with highly rated/regulated banks and financial institutions and whilst not capital guaranteed, the likelihood of a credit failure is assessed as remote.

Receivables

In the case of rate receivables, the Council has the power to sell the property to recover any defaulted amounts. In effect this power protects the Council against credit risk in the case of these debts.

In other cases, Council assesses the credit risk before providing goods or services and applies normal business credit protection procedures to minimise the risk.

The Council does not require collateral in respect of other receivables. The Council does not have receivables for which no loss allowance is recognised because of collateral.

A summary of the Council's exposure to credit risk for which impairment requirements of AASB9 - Financial Instruments have been applied, being for statutory charges (non-rates & charges) and other debtors, are as follows:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Subject to impairment		
Not past due	4,513	4,406
Past due 1-30 days	421	321
Past due 31-60 days	232	673
Past due 61-90 days	7	545
More than 90 days	195	123
Total Gross Carrying Amount	5,368	6,068
Loss Allowance	0	0
	5,368	6,068
Not subject to impairment		
Rates and utility charges	7,382	5,680
GST recoverable	1,155	435
Shareholder loan - Urban Utilities	14,676	14,676
Total Gross Carrying Amount	23,213	20,791
	28,581	26,859

(c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk refers to the situation where the Council may encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Council is exposed to liquidity risk through its trading in the normal course of business and borrowings from Queensland Treasury Corporation for capital works.

The Council's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure, as far as possible, that it will have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they are due, under both normal and stressed conditions, without incurring unacceptable losses or risking damage to the Council's reputation.

The following table sets out the liquidity risk of financial liabilities held by the Council. It represents the remaining contractual cashflows (principal and interest) of financial liabilities at the end of the reporting period, excluding the impact of netting agreements:

	Total			contractual cashflow \$'000	Carrying amount \$'000
	0 to 1 year \$'000	1 to 5 years \$'000	Over 5 years \$'000		
2024					
Payables	20,501	0	0	20,501	20,501
Loans - QTC	4,990	13,224	33,734	51,948	43,308
	25,491	13,224	33,734	72,449	63,809
2023					
Payables	11,361	0	0	11,361	11,361
Loans - QTC	5,272	15,105	36,843	57,220	47,447
	16,633	15,105	36,843	68,581	58,808

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

25 Events after the reporting period

There were no material adjusting events after the balance date.

26 National competition policy

(a) Activities to which the code of competitive conduct is applied

The Scenic Rim Regional Council applies the code of competitive conduct to the following activities:

Roads
Building Certifying
Waste Collection

This requires the application of full cost pricing, identifying the cost of community service obligations (CSO's) and eliminating the advantages and disadvantages of public ownership within that activity. Council has not identified any CSO's.

(b) Financial performance of activities subject to code of competitive conduct:

	Roads \$'000	Building Certifying \$'000	Waste Collection \$'000
Revenue for services provided	6,358	456	7,770
Community service obligations	0	0	0
	6,358	456	7,770
Less : Expenditure	5,749	442	4,886
Surplus / (deficit)	609	14	2,884

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
27 Transactions with related parties		
(a) Transactions with associates		
Revenue		
Urban Utilities		
Participation return (Note 9)	1,251	1,354
Tax equivalents (Note 3(d))	965	930
Loan interest	618	546
Waste tipping fees	21	3
Venue hire	0	1
Sponsorship - Eat Local Month	5	8
	2,860	2,842
Expenditure		
Urban Utilities		
Water and sewerage access and consumption charges	345	269
Repairs and maintenance	0	1
Maintenance bond - Enterprise Drive Development	56	0
Easement processing fee - Enterprise Drive Development	2	0
Laboratory sampling and analysis - swimming pools	65	30
	468	300

All transactions with Urban Utilities were at arm's length and were in the normal course of Council operations.

(b) Outstanding balances

Receivables

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Urban Utilities		
Participation return	625	677
Tax equivalents	32	101
Loan interest	51	45
	708	823

Urban Utilities have proposed a payment date of 30 September 2024 for the final participation return.

(c) Loans and guarantees to/from related parties

Urban Utilities

Shareholder loan (Note 8)	14,676	14,676
No guarantees have been provided.		

(d) Transactions with key management personnel (KMP)

KMP include the Mayor, Councillors, Council's Chief Executive Officer and some executive management. KMP compensation paid or accrued during the financial year comprises:

Short-term employee benefits	2,419	1,944
Long-term benefits	24	21
Post employment benefits	244	184
	2,687	2,149

Detailed remuneration disclosures are provided in the annual report.

Scenic Rim Regional Council Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2024

27 Transactions with related parties (continued)

(e) Transactions with other related parties

		Amount of transactions during year \$'000	Outstanding balance (incl doubtful debts commitments) \$'000	Provisions for doubtful debts on outstanding \$'000	Doubtful debts expense recognised \$'000
2024					
Purchase of materials and services from an entity controlled by members of KMP	(i)	67	0	0	0
Payment of a precept and provision of in-kind support to Scenic Rim Rivers Improvement Trust	(ii)	104	0	0	0
Employee expenses for close family members of KMP	(iii)	101	0	0	0
Rates and charges on property developments charged to entities controlled by a close family member of KMP	(iv)	69	0	0	0
Reimbursement by members of KMP for legal assistance and investigation costs	(v)	9	11		
2023					
Purchase of materials and services from an entity controlled by members of KMP	(i)	49	0	0	0
Payment of a precept and provision of in-kind support to Scenic Rim Rivers Improvement Trust	(ii)	105	0	0	0
Employee expenses for close family members of KMP	(iii)	101	0	0	0
Rates and charges on property developments charged to entities	(iv)	67	0	0	0
Reimbursement by members of KMP for legal assistance and investigation costs	(v)	2	2		

(i) Council purchased materials and services from entities that are controlled by members of KMP. All purchases were at arm's length and were in the normal course of Council operations.

(ii) Scenic Rim Rivers Improvement Trust is controlled by members of the KMP and operates under the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940*. Council's contribution assists with riverine maintenance works in the region.

(iii) All close family members of KMP were employed through an arm's length process. They are paid in accordance with the Award for the job they perform. Council employs 409 staff of which only 1 is a close family member of key management personnel (2023: 406 staff employed of which only 1 was a close family member of key management personnel).

(iv) Rates and charges on property developments charged to entities controlled by a close family member of KMP. All transactions were at arm's length and were in the normal course of Council operations.

(v) Reimbursements relate to Councillor conduct not indicative of fraud or other contingent liabilities.

(f) Transactions with related parties that have not been disclosed

Most of the entities and people that are related parties of Council live and operate within the Scenic Rim Regional Council area. Therefore, on a regular basis ordinary citizen transactions occur between Council and its related parties. Some examples include:

- Payment of rates and utility charges
- Fees and charges included in Council's Register of Fees and Charges
- Fines and penalties included in Council's Register of Local Laws and Subordinate Local Laws
- Attendance at Council functions which are open to the general public
- Visiting Council facilities which are open to the general public

Council has not included these types of transactions in its disclosure, where they are made on the same terms and conditions available to the general public.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council
Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Management Certificate For the year ended 30 June 2024

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared pursuant to sections 176 and 177 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the Regulation) and other prescribed requirements.

In accordance with section 212(5) of the Regulation we certify that:

- (i) the prescribed requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulation 2012* for the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
- (ii) the general purpose financial statements as set out on pages 1 to 30, present a true and fair view, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, of the Council's transactions for the financial year and financial position at the end of the year.


Mayor, Tom Sharp
Scenic Rim Regional Council
Date: 11 October 2024


Chief Executive Officer, David Keenan
Scenic Rim Regional Council
Date: 11 October 2024



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the councillors of Scenic Rim Regional Council

Report on the audit of the financial report

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of Scenic Rim Regional Council.

The financial report comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements including material accounting policy information and the certificate given by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer.

In my opinion, the financial report:

- a) gives a true and fair view of the council's financial position as at 30 June 2024, and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b) complies with the *Local Government Act 2009*, the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for opinion

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

I am independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code and the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*.

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

Other information

The councillors are responsible for the other information.

The other information comprises the information included in the entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

At the date of this auditor's report, the available other information in Scenic Rim Regional Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 was the current year financial sustainability statement, current year financial sustainability statement - contextual ratios and long term financial sustainability statement (unaudited).

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024



My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. However, as required by the Local Government Regulation 2012, I have formed a separate opinion on the current year financial sustainability statement.

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

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the councillors for the financial report

The councillors are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Local Government Regulation 2012 and Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as the councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The councillors are also responsible for assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is intended to abolish the council or to otherwise cease operations of the council.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at:

https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf

This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

In accordance with s. 40 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009*, for the year ended 30 June 2024:

- a) I received all the information and explanations I required
- b) I consider that, the prescribed requirements in relation to the establishment and keeping of accounts were complied with in all material respects.



Prescribed requirements scope

The prescribed requirements for the establishment and keeping of accounts are contained in the *Local Government Act 2009*, and the Local Government Regulation 2012. The applicable requirements include those for keeping financial records that correctly record and explain the council's transactions and account balances to enable the preparation of a true and fair financial report.

Jacques Coetzee

14 October 2024

Jacques Coetzee
as delegate of the Auditor-General

Queensland Audit Office
Brisbane

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council
Current Year Financial Sustainability Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Type	Measure	Target (Tier 2)	Actual Current Year	5-Year Average	Council Narrative	
Audited Ratios	Operating Performance	Operating Surplus Ratio	Greater than 0%	-8.1%	-1.8%	Actual current year ratio impacted by the non receipt of the Financial Assistance Grant prepayments and funding with the receipt of emergency works funding. Adjusted for this the actual current year ratio would have been -0.6% and the 5-year average -0.2%.
	Opening Performance	Operating Cash Ratio	Greater than 0%	12.1%	18.5%	Result within Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024 target range. Actual current year ratio impacted by the non receipt of the Financial Assistance Grant prepayments and funding with the receipt of DIFA emergency works funding.
Liquidity	Asset Management	Unrealised Cash Expense Cover Ratio	Greater than 3 months	3.4	NA	Result within Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024 target range.
		Asset Sustainability Ratio	Greater than 60%	226.5%	142.3%	Result within Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024 target range. Ratio impacted by DIFA reconstruction works.
Debt Servicing Capacity		Asset Consumption Ratio	Greater than 60%	73.1%	75.6%	Result within Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024 target range.
		Leverage Ratio	0 - 3 times	3.0	2.3	Result within Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024 target range. Actual current year ratio impacted by the non receipt of the Financial Assistance Grant prepayments and funding with the receipt of DIFA emergency works funding.

The current year financial sustainability statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Regulation 2012 and the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024. The amounts used to calculate the reported measures are enclosed on an accrual basis and are drawn from the council's audited general purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Certificate of Accuracy
For the year ended 30 June 2024

This current year financial sustainability statement has been prepared pursuant to Section 178 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (the regulation) in accordance with Section 21(5) of the Regulation to certify that the current year financial sustainability statement has been accurately calculated.


Mayor Tom Sherry
Scenic Rim Regional Council
Date: 11 October 2024


Chief Executive Officer, David Keenan
Scenic Rim Regional Council
Date: 11 October 2024



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Councillors of Scenic Rim Regional Council

Report on the Current-Year Financial Sustainability Statement

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying current year financial sustainability statement of Scenic Rim Regional Council for the year ended 30 June 2024, comprising the statement, explanatory notes, and the certificate of accuracy given by the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer.

In accordance with s.212 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, in my opinion, in all material respects, the current year financial sustainability statement of Scenic Rim Regional Council for the year ended 30 June 2024 has been accurately calculated.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the current year financial sustainability statement* section of my report.

I am independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the statement in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code and the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*.

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

Emphasis of matter – basis of accounting

I draw attention to the note which describes the basis of accounting. The current year financial sustainability statement has been prepared in accordance with the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2024 for the purpose of fulfilling the council's reporting responsibilities under the Local Government Regulation 2012. As a result, the statement may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Information

The councillors are responsible for the other information.

The other information comprises the information included in the entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024, but does not include the financial sustainability statement and our auditor's report thereon.

At the date of this auditor's report, the available other information in Scenic Rim Regional Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 was the general-purpose financial statements, current-year financial sustainability statement - contextual ratios and the long term financial sustainability statement (unaudited).

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024



My opinion on the current year financial sustainability statement does not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. However, as required by the Local Government Regulation 2012, I have formed a separate opinion on the general-purpose financial report.

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

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the councillors for the current year financial sustainability statement

The councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the current year financial sustainability statement in accordance with the Local Government Regulation 2012. The councillors responsibility also includes such internal control as the councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the statement that is accurately calculated and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the current year financial sustainability statement

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the current year financial sustainability statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this statement.

My responsibility does not extend to forming an opinion on the appropriateness or relevance of the reported ratios, nor on the council's future sustainability.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of material accounting policy information used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the council.



I communicate with the council regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Jacques Coetzee

Jacques Coetzee
as delegate of the Auditor-General

14 October 2024
Queensland Audit Office
Brisbane

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023-2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council
Current Year Financial Sustainability Statement - Contextual Ratios
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Type	Measure	Target (Tier 2)	Actual Current Year	5-Year Average	Council Narrative
Contextual Ratios (Unaudited)					
Financial Capacity	Council Controlled Revenue	Not Applicable	77.3%	74.1%	Actual current year ratio impacted by the non receipt of the Financial Assistance Grant payment and timing with the receipt of DRFA emergency works funding.
	Population Growth	Not Applicable	1.2%	1.2%	Source: Queensland Government population projections (medium series) 2023 edition; Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional population, 2021

The current year financial sustainability statement - Contextual Ratios is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Regulation 2012 and the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2014. The amounts used to calculate the reported measures are prepared on an accrual basis and are drawn from the council's audited general purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Certificate of Accuracy
For the year ended 30 June 2024

This current year financial sustainability statement has been prepared pursuant to Section 178 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (the regulation). In accordance with Section 2(3)(5) of the Regulation we certify that this current year financial sustainability statement - contextual ratios has been accurately calculated.


Mayor Tom Sharp
Scenic Rim Regional Council
Date: 11 October 2024


Chief Executive Officer David Keenan
Scenic Rim Regional Council
Date: 11 October 2024

Scenic Rim Regional Council
Long Term Financial Sustainability Statement (Unaudited)
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Type	Measure	Target (Tier 3)	Actuals as at 30 June 2024	30 June 2025	30 June 2026	30 June 2027	30 June 2028	30 June 2029	30 June 2030	30 June 2031	30 June 2032	30 June 2033
Financial Capacity	Council Controlled Revenue	Not Applicable	77.3%	76.8%	77.3%	77.5%	77.9%	78.3%	78.7%	79.0%	79.3%	79.5%
	Population Growth	Not Applicable	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%
Operating Performance	Operating Surplus Ratio	Greater than 0%	-8.1%	0.4%	1.0%	2.6%	3.1%	3.0%	4.2%	4.7%	5.2%	5.0%
	Operating Cash Ratio	Greater than 0%	12.1%	19.5%	20.4%	20.7%	20.9%	21.2%	21.4%	21.7%	22.0%	22.4%
Liquidity	Unrestricted Cash Expense Cover Ratio	Greater than 3 months	5.4				Not applicable for long-term sustainability statement					
Asset Management	Asset Sustainability Ratio	Greater than 80%	226.5%	79.1%	68.3%	90.3%	67.2%	56.9%	68.5%	70.8%	73.6%	69.8%
	Asset Consumption Ratio	Greater than 60%	73.1%	71.3%	70.7%	70.3%	69.9%	69.5%	69.2%	68.9%	68.6%	68.4%
Debt Servicing Capacity	Leverage Ratio	0 - 3 times	3.0	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6

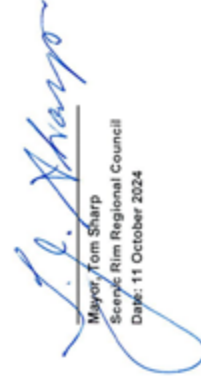
Scenic Rim Regional Council's Long Term Financial Management Strategy

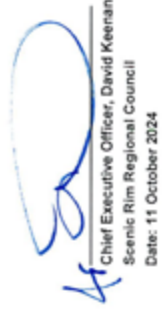
Council measures revenue and expenditure trends over time as a guide to future requirements and to make decisions about the efficient allocation of resources to ensure the most effective provision of services. Council ensures that its financial management strategy is prudent and that its long term financial forecast shows a sound financial position whilst also being able to meet the community's current and future needs.

Certificate of Accuracy
For the year ended 30 June 2024

This long-term financial sustainability statement has been prepared pursuant to Section 178 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (the regulation).

In accordance with Section 212(5) of the Regulation we certify that this long-term financial sustainability statement has been accurately calculated.


Mayor Tom Sharp
Scenic Rim Regional Council
Date: 11 October 2024


Chief Executive Officer David Keenan
Scenic Rim Regional Council
Date: 11 October 2024

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