

2020-21

Long Term Financial Plan

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April 2020



Why does Council prepare a Long Term Financial Plan?

The *Local Government Act 1999* requires Council to prepare a Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) as part of its Strategic Management Plan. This means that members of the public are to be given a reasonable opportunity to be involved in the development and review of the Council's plan.

Council considers that its Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) is a fundamental instrument of accountability and provides projections for Council's planned activities over a ten year timeframe.

The key objective of Council's LTFP is financial sustainability in the medium to long term, while still achieving Council's corporate objectives as specified in its Strategic Plan, Corporate Plans and Functional Strategies. At the same time the LTFP ensures that there is an understanding of the impact of decisions made today on future sustainability. This means ensuring the cost effective delivery of works and services, and the appropriate maintenance and renewal of our asset base in a financially sustainable manner.

The purpose of this plan is not to provide specific detail about individual works or services. The LTFP provides a decision making tool that allows various assumptions and sensitivity analysis to be carried out that will indicate the ability of Council to deliver cost effective services to our community in the future in a financially sustainable manner.

A Council LTFP must contain estimated financials for a period of at least ten years. It should include estimates of the key ratios, operating surplus, net financial liabilities and asset renewal funding. This illustrates the expected long term financial performance of the Council, and hence whether financial sustainability is being achieved.

The model is a fluid document, continually reviewed, modified and refined as new information is discovered, usually at each Budget Review and during the construction and adoption of the annual budget.

How does Council prepare the plan?

The 10 year LTFP is prepared using a number of assumptions, with regard to projected rate income, projected fees, charges and grants and also includes assumptions about future operational and capital expenditure. Given that long term financial plans are derived from an estimate of future performance, it should be appreciated that actual results are likely to vary from the information contained in the LTFP.

The LTFP is based on a model which projects Council's future financial performance based on a very large range of variables applied to its performance in recent years. Because there are a large number of variables the model is quite complex. In order to use it to guide each year's budget setting process, the key variables have been divided into two groups:

- » Controllable variables – items that Council can control such as service levels, capital expenditure, rate increases and wage increases
- » Non-controllable variables – items outside Council's control, such as interest rates, inflation and economic growth (eg. residential development, new businesses, etc).

For controllable variables, Council is able to model different levels of activity to see what effect they have on financial performance. The long term effects of each decision can then be assessed.

For non-controllable variables, the plan uses reasonable long term estimates which do not change (except to update them at the beginning of each budget cycle). In this way the impact of different choices about the controllable variables can be assessed. For instance, inflation measured by CPI has fluctuated substantially in recent years. Because inflation works differently on different elements of Council's income and expense it can quickly and materially distort the LTFP, especially in its later years.

What key conclusions may be drawn from the plan?

Importantly the current LTFP demonstrates that the Council is financially sustainable over the 10 year term of the LTFP, whilst achieving the objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan. This includes:

- » Implementation and funding of the appropriate level of maintenance and renewal of the portfolio of infrastructure assets
- » Meeting the ongoing expectations of service delivery to our community
- » Managing the impact of cost shifting from other levels of government
- » Enabling the delivery of strategies identified within the Strategic Plan as well as other endorsed Functional Strategies
- » The appropriate use of debt as a means of funding new capital expenditure
- » Ensuring the financial sustainability of Council's operations.

Financial sustainability has been demonstrated through adherence to the agreed target ranges in all of the following three key ratios:

1. **Operating Surplus Ratio, target range 0% to 10%**
2. **Net Financial Liabilities Ratio, target range 0% to 100%**
3. **Asset Renewal Funding Ratio, (formerly titled Asset Sustainability Ratio) target range 90% to 110%**

In achieving these targets, which are explained in more detail below, there is a level of certainty provided to the community that financial sustainability will be maintained.

Ratios

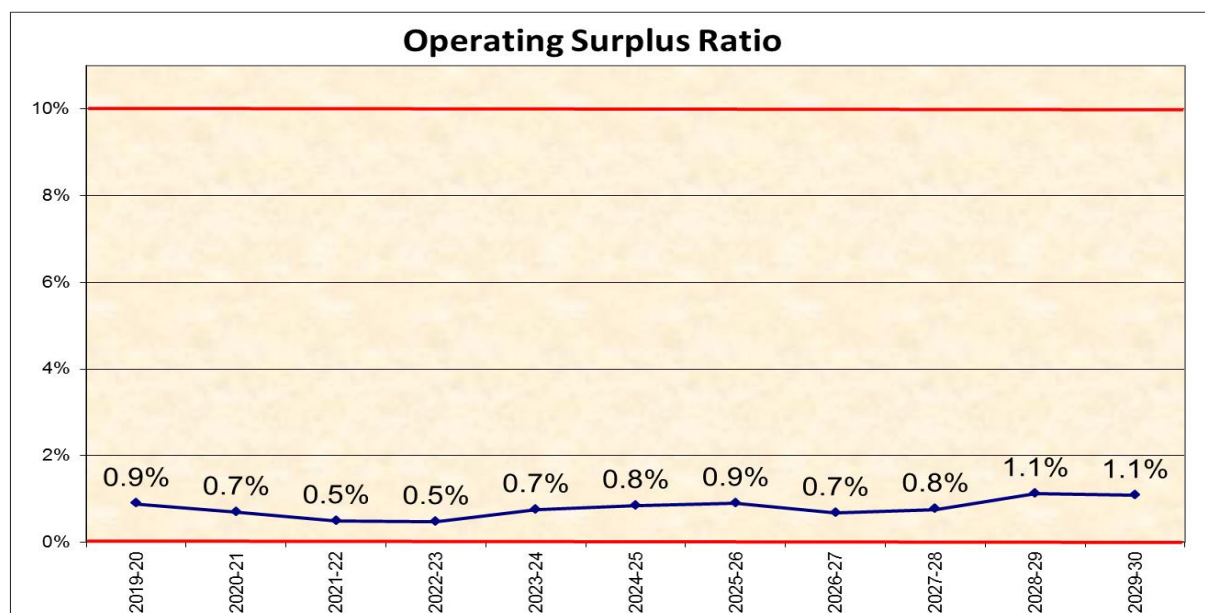
Operating Surplus Ratio

The operating surplus ratio indicates the extent to which operating revenue is sufficient to meet all operating expenses and whether current ratepayers are paying for their consumption of resources.

The Operating Surplus ratio expresses the operating surplus as a percentage of total operating income. A negative ratio indicates the percentage increase in total operating income required to achieve a break-even operating result. A positive ratio indicates the percentage of total rates available to fund capital expenditure over and above the level of depreciation expense without increasing council's level of net financial liabilities.

Target: 0 - 10%
10 Year Result Range: 0.5% - 1.1%

The ratio indicates the cost of services provided to ratepayers is being met from operating revenues with surplus's being used to fund infrastructure works in line with our LTFP projections.



Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

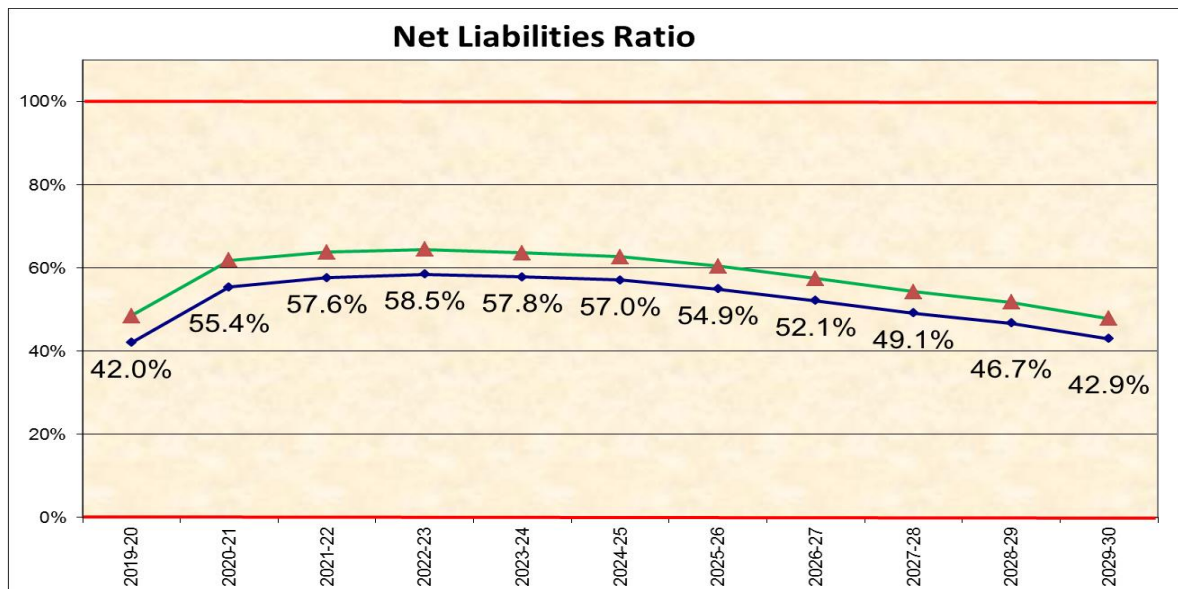
Net Financial Liabilities is an indicator of the Council's total indebtedness and includes all Council's obligations including provisions for employee entitlements and creditors.

This ratio indicates the extent to which the net financial liabilities of the Council can be met by the Council's total operating revenue. Where the ratio is falling, it indicates that the Council's capacity to meet its financial obligations from operating revenues is strengthening. Where the ratio is increasing, it indicates that a greater amount of Council's operating revenues is required to service its financial obligations.

Council has considered the financial impact of significant events such as disasters including bushfire or storm as these type of events have occurred more regularly in recent years. As a result, in developing the LTFP, Council also assesses its Net Financial Liability ratio with an additional \$3m of borrowings (representing the likely Council net contribution to a very significant disaster in the order of \$10m taking into account financial assistance from State and Federal Governments). The resultant ratio shows that even with the additional \$3m, Council still maintains this ratio well within target. Consideration of this additional ratio is premised on the assumption that Council has a strong preference to borrow if such a major event did occur rather than requiring an increase in rates to fund any financial impact.

Target: 0 - 100%
10 Year Result Range: 42% - 58%

This ratio demonstrates that council's total indebtedness (including borrowings) can be met by operating revenue.



Note: The additional liabilities ratio included above in 'green' projects the financial impact should a significant event (i.e. fire or storm) in the order of \$10m impact on the region.

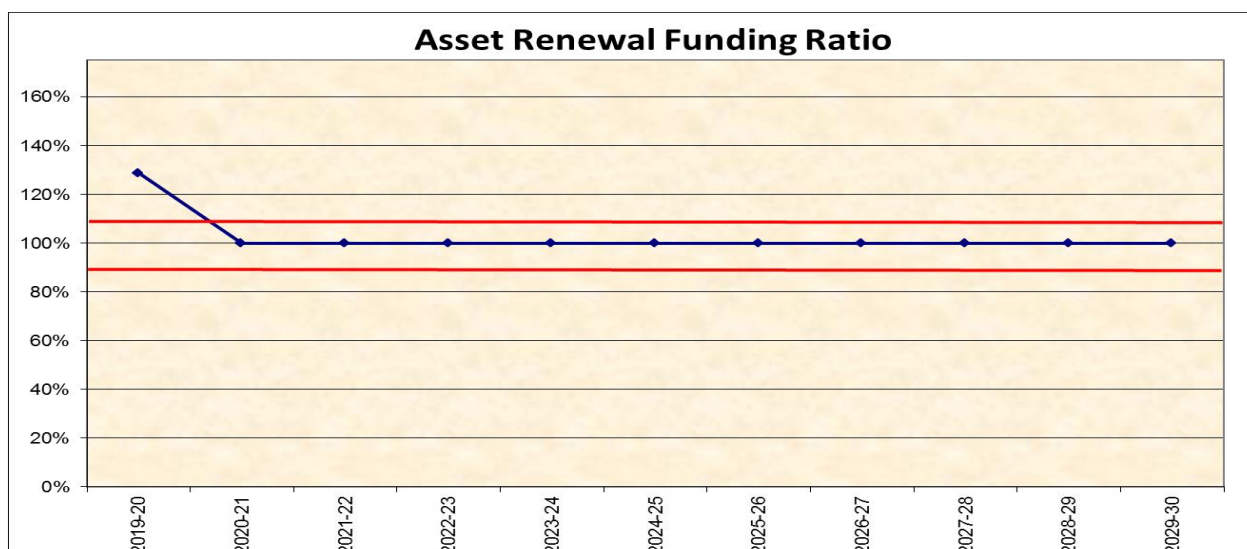
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio

This ratio indicates whether a Council is renewing or replacing existing infrastructure assets at the same rate that its asset management plan requires.

The target for this ratio is to be between 90% and 110% in any given year, with 100% on average over five years. This would mean that Council is replacing 100% (or all) of the assets that require renewal.

Target: 90 - 110%
10 Year Result Range: 100%

The result achieved for this measure is the same throughout the 10 year horizon of the LTFP as the amount of future renewal expenditure is based on the required asset management expenditure.



Key sections explained.....

Uniform Presentation of Finances

In accordance with the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* this section of the LTFP presents the financial position for the next 10 years in a manner consistent with the note in the *Model Financial Statements* entitled “Uniform Presentation of Finances”.

This section of the LTFP is broken into three key elements as follows:

- » A summary of all operating income and expenditure to highlight the Net Operating Surplus
- » Net Outlays on Existing Assets after providing for depreciation and proceeds from any replacement asset sales
- » Net outlays on new and upgraded assets after providing for grants received and proceeds from any surplus asset sales

The result of these three elements for each forecast year represents the impact on Council’s net financial liabilities whereby a net lending result reduces net financial liabilities, and a net borrowing result increasing net financial liabilities.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

This Statement provides a 10 year projection of operating income and expenditure using the 2018-19 adjusted Budget as the base year. The projections result from the application of the indices mentioned in a subsequent section of this Plan.

Key points of note include:

- » Rates revenue is shown to increase by CPI +1.75% from 2020-21 through 2022-23. The 1.75% in initial years is attributable to:
 - growth from new development of 0.75%, and
 - a 1% increase to support increased levels of renewal of capital works as forecast within current Asset Management Plans.From 2023-24 the increase applied is CPI + 0.5% (growth).
- » Employee costs increase by 2.45% to 2021-22 in line with predicted Enterprise Development Agreements and then 2.70% in subsequent years in line with forecasts for average weekly earnings. Both percentages include a provision for revaluation of current provisions and grade step increases.
- » An allowance has been made for the proposed increase in Superannuation Guarantee levy from 2021-22.
- » Materials, Contractors and Other costs increased by CPI as well as being driven by projected movements in the cost of Power, Water and Waste.

Statement of Financial Position

This Statement provides a 10 year projection of Council's assets and liabilities using the projected 30 June 2020 Budget as the base year. The projections result from proposed capital expenditure emanating from the Asset Management Plans and adopted strategies, together with borrowings necessary to meet those capital requirements, and net funding generated by operations.

Key points of note include:

- » The Written Down Value (WDV) of Infrastructure and Fixed Assets increases from \$424m to \$504m over the ten year term.
- » Borrowings (both short term including draw down and long term) peak at \$25m in 2024-25.

Capital Investment by Asset Category

The Asset Management Plans are currently being reviewed given the previous adopted Plans were completed seven years ago in 2012 (refer to Council's website for details).

This review has highlighted the need for additional renewal expenditure in some of the infrastructure categories which has been provided for within the current LTFP.

Key points of note include:

- » Total capital expenditure projected over the 10 year period totals \$126m of which \$110m has been allocated to the renewal of current assets.
- » \$16m allocated to new, capacity/upgraded assets is derived from Council's current adopted Strategic Plan and endorsed Functional Strategies. However given that many of the initiatives are ongoing it was considered appropriate to realign the strategic initiative expenditure (both operating and capital) in accordance with the draft new Strategic Plan currently out for consultation. A separate summary of this amount broken down into the draft new Strategic Plan Objectives and Priorities is provided in a subsequent section of the LTFP.

Summary of New Strategic Initiatives Expenditure

This section provides a detailed breakdown of all new expenditure that has been included within the LTFP to ensure that the Strategic Plan and related Strategies can be delivered. Information is broken down into each goal area and strategic objective within the draft new Strategic Plan. For a number of objectives, there is no additional funding required over and above existing operational requirements for delivering the strategy and as such the summary of total strategic initiatives expenditure shows \$Nil across projected years.

At the end of this section the amounts that have been brought into each year of the LTFP for both operating and capital expenditure are provided and show that the 10 year forecast requires \$15.9m in capital and \$16.8m in operating.

The overall total includes an amount of \$350k as an allowance for Strategic Operating Initiatives identified as part of the 2020-21 Annual Business Plan and Budget Build. This will be refined as part of Budget Workshops to be conducted later in the 2019-20 financial year.

The allowance for Strategic Operating Initiatives has been increased from \$350k in 2020-21 to \$450k in 2021-22 and \$550k in 2022-23. In subsequent years an amount of \$600k has been allowed for Strategic Operating Initiatives.

Economic Indicators

A key element of the LTFP relates to the economic indicators and indices used to project future year's income and expenditure. All the indices are changeable, and the effects of any amendment will flow through to the financial projections and associated graphs.

A summary of these indices is as follows:

- » Consumer Price Index (CPI) is used as a primary driver for income and expenditure in the model. 2.25% has been used for period 2020-21 to 2022-23 and 2.4% in subsequent years.
- » 'Rates' indices are adjustable for growth (new development) or rate increase over CPI. As previously indicated rates revenue is shown to increase by CPI +1.75% from 2020-21 through to 2022-23. The 1.75% in initial years is attributable to growth from new development of 0.75% in addition to a 1% increase to support increased levels of renewal of capital works as forecast within current Asset Management Plans. After 2022-23 the increase applied is CPI + 0.5% (growth).
- » Employee costs increase by 2.45% to 2021-22 in line with predicted Enterprise Development Agreements and then 2.70% in subsequent years in line with forecasts for average weekly earnings. Both percentages include a provision for revaluation of current provisions and grade step increases.
- » For materials, contracts and other expenditure, unique indices have been applied where it is expected costs will vary significantly from CPI. In the current model separate indices have been included for waste collection, power and water.
- » Estimated future interest rates relating to loans (borrowings) and Cash Advance Debenture (CAD) interest have been included.

Risks Associated with the Long Term Financial Plan

The LTFP has been developed based on the best information and assumptions available at the time. However, users of this information should be aware that there are risks associated with using estimated increases to Consumer Price Index (CPI), Local Government Price Index (LGPI), Average Weekly Earnings (AWE) and predictions in finance costs and interest rates.

In addition, the LTFP may be impacted by events such as new legislation or disasters that could materially affect the projected outcomes and results of the LTFP. Council is fully aware of the substantial impact that the 2019-20 Cudlee Creek bushfire and the COVID-19 pandemic are having on our community. As such, the organisational response by Council needs to be financially sustainable over the long term and therefore will be a matter for future LTFP consideration. At the time of adopting this plan, the Council is targeting net operating expenditure of under \$1m for the Cudlee Creek bushfire, which can be accommodated within the \$3m borrowing provision for natural disasters without materially affecting other LTFP parameters.

Council is aware that Campbelltown City Council (CCC) has received approval from the Boundaries Commission to lodge a Stage 2 proposal for the boundary between CCC and Adelaide Hills Council to be realigned to the eastern and southern side of Woodforde and Rostrevor suburbs, effectively moving those suburbs into CCC's area. Given that boundary change process involves a number of assessments (and these are still to occur) prior to the Commission determining whether to recommend a change, no adjustment has been made to Council's LTFP for any possible impact on rates revenue, servicing costs and capital expenditure.

In order to reduce risk the plan is reviewed and updated annually to incorporate the best available information for a given point in time. In addition, the LTFP and its assumptions are reviewed by Council's Audit Committee.