

# YARRIAMBIACK SHIRE COUNCIL

## PERFORMANCE *Statement*

For the year ended 30 June 2024



  
- YARRIAMBIACK -  
**Libraries**  
**Warracknabeal Library**  
Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm  
(closed for lunch 12pm - 1pm)  
Saturday 10am - 12pm  
36 Lyle Street Warracknabeal 3393 Phone: (03) 5398 1270



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# Certification

## OF THE PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

In my opinion, the accompanying performance statement has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

**ANITA J MCFARLANE**

*Principal Accounting Officer*

Date: ?? October 2024

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the (council name) for the year ended 30 June 2024 presents fairly the results of council's performance in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

The performance statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the performance statement to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the council and by the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 to certify this performance statement in its final form.

**KYLIE ZANKER**

*Mayor*

Date: ?? October 2024

**GRAEME MASSEY**

*Councillor*

Date: ?? October 2024

**TAMMY SMITH**

*Chief Executive Officer*

Date: ?? October 2024

Insert VAGO Report

Insert VAGO Report

## **SECTION ONE: Description of the municipality**

Yarriambiack Shire Council is situated in the Grampians and Mildura & Murray Outback Regions and provides a link between Horsham in the south and Mildura in the northern end of that region. The Yarriambiack Creek is the main natural feature traversing the Shire. The area is also linked by road and rail systems that run in a north-south direction. The area has an almost ideal climate with a short winter and delightful autumn and spring. Summer temperatures can be hot, particularly in the north.

Yarriambiack Shire has an estimated residential population of 6,658 people. Warracknabeal is the main service centre of the area, with a catchment pattern that extends from the northern Wimmera to the Southern Mallee. It is complemented by Hopetoun in the north and Minyip, Murtoa and Rupanyup in the south, with 13 small towns spread throughout the Municipality.

The Shire is the heartland of grain production and handling in the Wimmera and Mallee. The dry-land farming area produces one quarter of Victoria's total production of wheat and barley and is noted for the production of lambs and wool.

Of the population, almost half the workforce is employed in agriculture. Many other residents depend indirectly on farming as they are employed in services used by the farming population. The population trends are remarkably similar to other areas across most of the Wimmera/Mallee.

## Performance Statement

**SECTION TWO: Service Performance Indicators**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Indicator/measure	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024	Material Variations
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	
<b>AQUATIC FACILITIES</b>						
Utilisation	0.49	0.48	0.63	N/A	<b>0.57</b>	A decrease in patronage is a result of seasonal/cooler weather conditions this summer period which would have resulted in fewer visitors to the pool. Harvest finishing on time this year would have also resulted in local families travelling/holidaying, instead of remaining in town and utilising the pool facility compared to last year.
<b>Utilisation of aquatic facilities</b> <i>Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population</i>						
<b>ANIMAL MANAGEMENT</b>						
Health and safety	100%	0%	100%	N/A	<b>100%</b>	6 successful animal prosecutions occurred during the 2023/24 financial year.
<b>Animal management prosecutions</b> <i>Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions x 100</i>						
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>						
Health and safety	100%	0%	0%	N/A	<b>0%</b>	No non-compliance notifications issued in 2023/2024.
<b>Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications</b> <i>Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises x100</i>						
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>						
Satisfaction	62	57	58	62	<b>58</b>	
<b>Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement (community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council)</b>						
<b>LIBRARIES</b>						
Participation	New	New	New	N/A	<b>16%</b>	
<b>Library membership</b> <i>Percentage of the population that are registered library members x100</i>						

## SECTION TWO: Service Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Indicator/measure	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024	Material Variations
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	
<b>MATERNAL &amp; CHILD HEALTH</b>						
Participation	86.12%	80.25%	82.95%	N/A	<b>84.36%</b>	
<b>Participation in the MCH service</b>						
<i>Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service x100</i>						
Participation	90%	72.73%	75%	N/A	<b>100%</b>	Our nurses see clients at 2 years, then not again till 3.5 years. If a child is not seen for 18-24 months, the child is deemed not to have participated in the MCH service in the financial year.
<b>Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children</b>						
<i>Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service x100</i>						
<b>ROADS</b>						
Condition	100%	99.41%	87.62%	100%	<b>97.38%</b>	This is reflective of the prioritisation of this metric by the infrastructure and operations department and significant capital works program undertaken over the last twelve months.
<b>Sealed local roads below the intervention level</b>						
<i>Percentage of sealed local roads that are below the renewal intervention level set by Council and not requiring renewal</i>						
<b>STATUTORY PLANNING</b>						
Service standard	97.56%	89.09%	97.96%	91%	<b>71.70%</b>	There were also a few applications that were relatively straightforward in assessment which therefore reduced average number of days before a decision was made. The target was based on prior year trends in planning applications.
<b>Planning applications decided within the relevant required time</b>						
<i>percentage of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time</i>						
<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT</b>						
Waste diversion	21.54%	16.30%	16.71%	18%	<b>17.13%</b>	
<b>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</b>						
<i>Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins x100</i>						



## Performance Statement

**SECTION THREE: Financial Performance Indicators**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Dimension/ indicator/ measure	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Material Variations
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	
<b>EFFICIENCY</b>									
Expenditure level	\$3,621.43	\$3,838.43	\$4,184.57	\$4,413.00	\$4,322.43	\$4,366.29	\$4,497.43	\$4,632.14	
<b>Expenses per property assessment</b> <i>[Total expenses / Number of property assessments]</i>									
Revenue level	\$1,835.43	\$1,876.14	\$1,705.00	N/A	\$1,813.14	\$1,949.86	\$2,010.86	\$2,074.00	
<b>Average rate per property assessment</b> <i>Sum of all general rates and municipal charges / Number of property assessments</i>									
<b>LIQUIDITY</b>									
Working capital	193.36%	242.62%	193.62%	74%	276.87%	232.34%	195.45%	160.30%	Liquidity in actual results includes carryovers which distorts the true results. The forecast results assumes that there will be no carryovers and all works will be completed each year
<b>Current assets compared to current liabilities</b> <i>Current assets / Current liabilities x100</i>									
Unrestricted cash	131.90%	203.37%	123.21%	N/A	202.93%	159.31%	122.44%	87.27%	The trend in percentage of unrestricted cash has seen a decrease in 2023/24 from the previous year due to more cash being required for carried forward capital works from the prior year. The cash reserves are anticipated to decrease as the spend on maintenance and renewal of assets increases to improve the condition of Council's assets.
<b>Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities</b> <i>Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities x100</i>									

## SECTION THREE: Financial Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Dimension/ indicator/ measure	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Material Variations
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	
<b>OBLIGATIONS</b>									
Loans and borrowings compared to rates	0.45%	0%	0%	N/A	2.91%	2.56%	2.23%	1.92%	In the 2023/24 financial year, Council drew down a new loan for the construction of two units.
<b>Expenses per property assessment</b> <i>Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue x100</i>									
Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates	0	0.44%	0.13%	N/A	0.38%	0.37%	0.36%	0.36%	
<i>Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue x100</i>									
Indebtedness	6.13%	5.06%	4.92%	N/A	6.88%	5.34%	5.03%	4.73%	Council has drawn down a new loan and increased our lease liabilities, while decreasing our capacity to generate own source revenue especially with the loss of the CHSP services.
<b>Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue</b> <i>[Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100</i>									
Asset renewal and upgrade	128.97	137.23	198.98	163%	78.98%	66.71%	66.56%	66.42%	
<b>Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation</b> <i>Asset renewal and asset upgrade expense / Asset depreciation x100</i>									

## Performance Statement

## SECTION THREE: Financial Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Dimension/ indicator/ measure	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Material Variations
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	
<b>OPERATING POSITION</b>										
Adjusted underlying result	15.17	14.50	(5.69%)	N/A	(33.76%)	(8.62%)	(11.88%)	(11.55%)	(11.54%)	Council's revenue is not increasing sufficiently to cover increases in operating costs associated with delivering the current level of services. Council's Long Term Financial Plan projects that its financial challenges will continue.
Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)										
Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit)/ Adjusted underlying revenue x100										
<b>STABILITY</b>										
Rates concentration	42.99	41.79	48.33	58%	67.46%	53.95%	56.66%	56.49%	56.49%	Council is heavily reliant on rate revenue with limited ability to identify new sources of revenue. There is an increase in 2023/24 due to an increase in the rate cap as well as a reduction in own source revenue.
Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue										
Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue x100										
Rates effort	0.47%	0.42%	0.30%	N/A	0.26%	0.23%	0.23%	0.23%	0.23%	This indicator shows rate revenue as a percentage of property values in the municipality. Its capacity to increase at the same rate as property values is limited due to rate increase caps set which results in a reduction over recent years.
Rates compared to property values										
Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality x100										

**SECTION FOUR: Sustainable Capacity Indicators**

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Indicator / measure	2021	2022	2023	2024	Material Variations
<b>POPULATION</b>					
Expenses per head of municipal population	\$3,847.91	\$4,165.09	\$4,551.98	<b>\$4594.46</b>	
Infrastructure per head of municipal population	\$21,505.92	\$21,461.32	\$26,370.86	<b>\$26,092.97</b>	
<i>Value of infrastructure / Municipal population</i>					
Population density per length of road	1.39	1.34	1.33	<b>1.32</b>	
<i>Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads</i>					
<b>OWN-SOURCE REVENUE</b>					
Own-source revenue per head of municipal population	\$2,246.21	\$2,232.13	\$2,224.55	<b>\$2,590.55</b>	Council received the 2022/23 payment in lieu of rates (PiLOR) payment (\$300,727) in 2023/24, therefore inflating Councils own source revenue indicator 2023/24.
<i>Own-source revenue / Municipal population</i>					
<b>RECURRENT GRANTS</b>					
Recurrent grants per head of municipal population	\$2,289.77	\$1,864.21	\$1,937.37	<b>\$687.28</b>	At the end of the 2022/23 financial year, Council made the decision to withdraw from the provision of CHSP services which has resulted in a reduction of our recurrent grants.
<i>Recurrent grants / Municipal population</i>					
<b>DISADVANTAGE</b>					
Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage	1	1	2	<b>2</b>	
<i>Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by decile</i>					
<b>WORKFORCE TURNOVER</b>					
Percentage of staff turnover	16.84%	18.49%	14.75%	<b>23%</b>	Council had an increase in the number of staff who retired or resigned during 2023/24.
<i>Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year x100</i>					

**SECTION FIVE: Notes to the accounts**

*For the year ended 30 June 2024*

**5.1. Basis of preparation**

Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its annual report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed, service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district, an explanation of material variations in the results and notes to the accounts. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

Where applicable the results in the performance statement have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those reported in the Financial Statements. The other results are based on information drawn from council information systems or from third parties (e.g., Australian Bureau of Statistics or the Council's satisfaction survey provider).

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and the previous three years, along with the current year's target, if mandated by the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. Additionally, for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the performance statement includes the target budget for the current year and the results forecast for the period 2024-25 to 2027-28 by the council's financial plan.

The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

## 5.2. Definitions

KEY TERM	DEFINITION
<i>Aboriginal children</i>	means a child who is an Aboriginal person
<i>Aboriginal person</i>	has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
<i>adjusted underlying revenue</i>	means total income other than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and</li> <li>• non-monetary asset contributions; and</li> <li>• contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to above</li> </ul>
<i>adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)</i>	means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure
<i>annual report</i>	means an annual report prepared by a council under section 98 of the Act
<i>asset renewal expenditure</i>	means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability
<i>asset upgrade expenditure</i>	means expenditure that— (a) enhances an existing asset to provide a higher level of service; or (b) extends the life of the asset beyond its original life
<i>critical non-compliance outcome notification</i>	means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the Food Act 1984 , or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health
<i>current assets</i>	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
<i>current liabilities</i>	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
<i>food premises</i>	has the same meaning as in the Food Act 1984
<i>intervention level</i>	means the level set for the condition of a road beyond which a council will not allow the road to deteriorate and will need to intervene
<i>local road</i>	means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the Road Management Act 2004
<i>major non-compliance outcome notification</i>	means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the Food Act 1984, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken
<i>MCH</i>	means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age
<i>non-current liabilities</i>	means all liabilities other than current liabilities
<i>own-source revenue</i>	means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)
<i>population</i>	means the resident population estimated by council
<i>rate revenue</i>	means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges
<i>relative socio-economic disadvantage</i>	in relation to a municipal district, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipal district is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage of SEIFA
<i>restricted cash</i>	means cash, cash equivalents and financial assets, within the meaning of the Australian Accounting Standards, not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year
<i>SEIFA</i>	means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet site
<i>unrestricted cash</i>	means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash

### 5.3. Other Matters

#### **Overview of 2024**

Our Council participates annually in the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey. The survey is conducted by the Department of Government Services on behalf of participating Councils. A minimum of 400 local residents and ratepayers in each municipality over 18 years of age are selected at random. Council moved to a quarterly data capture process, opposed to an annual process for the 2023 year, and continued this into 2024.

Sealed local roads continue to score poorly at 33, two points less than 2023 and less than the small rural average of 41 and state average of 45. Our poor score reflects the state of our surrounding Victorian Government owned, maintained and managed roads, which was identified with the addition of an added question in the 23/24 year.

In 2024 Council introduced an additional question to the survey, requesting residents identify the roads they were most concerned about.

When analysing the verbatim detailed comments in relation to the roads, it identified that 35% of the complaints related to VicRoads roads, 47% to local roads, 17% to roads in general and 1% to non-sealed roads.

Majority of the concerns were in relation to Warracknabeal and surrounds, with 39% of responses identifying Warracknabeal as their township. This was followed by Hopetoun 10%, Murtoa 10% and Rupanyup 8%.

Whilst we recognise our roads require increased investment and we continue to lobby both Commonwealth and State Government for further funding to address our renewal gap.

Our own source revenue continues to sit at 52%, which further extenuates how heavily reliant we are on Grant funding to undertaken our operational, maintenance and capital works program.

Our workforce turnover has increased in 2024, from 14.75% to 23%. This is due to a number of retirements, the conclusion of the regional assessment service and staff pursuing alternative career options.

The 2021 SEIFA (Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas) data reveals a stark reality for the Yarriambiack region in Victoria. With a SEIFA Index for Disadvantage of 946, Yarriambiack finds itself ranked 72 out of 81 local government areas in the state (includes G20 and Unincorporated Vic in the stats). These numbers paint a picture of economic hardship and vulnerability within the community.

Volunteers are a large fabric of our rural community. Without volunteers we would be unable to operate and/or support our halls, recreation reserves and swimming pools across our Shire. Council has a high rate of volunteerism, with 28.7% of the residents undertaking voluntary work through an organisation or group in the last 12 months. Significantly higher than the Victorian state average of 13.3%.

According to the 2021 Census, the population in the Shire had a significantly higher proportion of adults aged 60 to 85 years old (38.3%) compared to the Victorian state average (22.4%).

Since the COVID pandemic, and with an ageing population, we are experiencing a decline in volunteerism, which in turn has seen a shift in community expectations and higher demands on YSC. We are facing the very real possibility, due to funding constraints on not being able to meet the service level demands.

Waste and recycling continue to be a cost burden for Council and our residents. The cost breakdown is eye-opening. Presently, it costs Council \$389.39 per ton to send waste to landfill. In stark contrast, disposing of recycling sets us back a whopping \$1,302.72 per ton—more than three times the cost of landfill disposal. These expenses directly affect our ratepayers, who bear the financial burden through their waste charges.

The State Government's mandate for Local Governments to adopt glass bins, despite funding support, failed to consider the container deposit scheme's (CDS) impact on local glass and recycling collection or the environmental effects of kerbside collection in large areas like our Council's 7,500 square kilometres. Since the CDS's inception, glass collection rates have dropped significantly. Rural Councils need better planning and consultation to ensure future strategies are cost-effective, reduce emissions, and benefit the community.

Currently, our residents pay for an unwanted glass bin service, with low collection and presentation rates.

As a Council we are committed to exploring alternative options for our community, to stabilise the high costs incurred for both Council and Community.

With the reduction in grant funding, the low rate cap that does not reflect wage growth, as a Council we must continue to focus on our service level planning and continue that focus into the 2024/25 financial year.

