

WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL

Quarterly Performance Report 2025/26

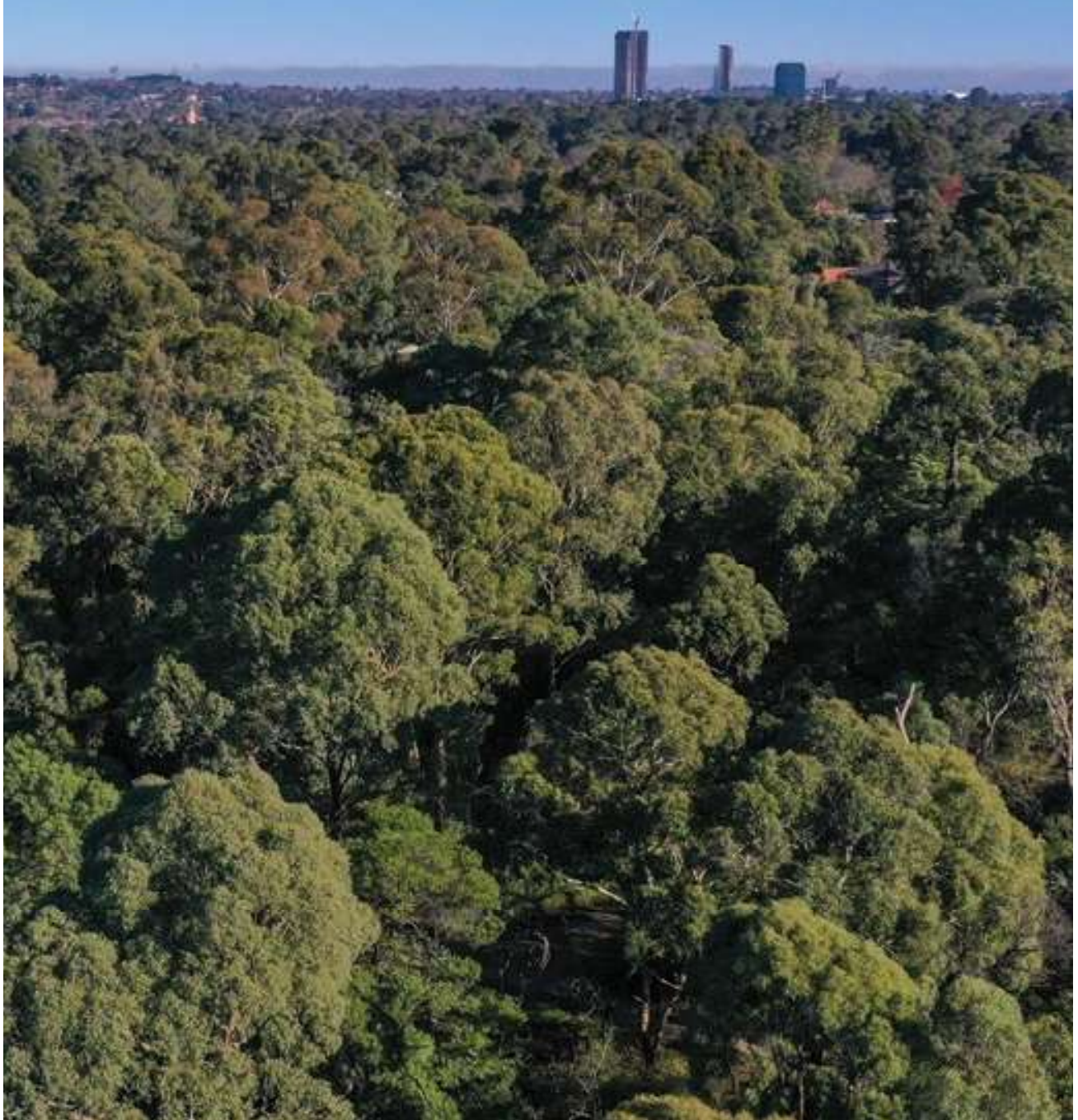
July - September 2025



WHITEHORSE
CITY COUNCIL



Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land on which Whitehorse City Council is situated and we pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



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Quarterly highlights: July - September 2025

Growth in New Housing Activity

Council has recorded a 15% increase in Report and Consent applications, rising from 635 last year to 730. This growth reflects continued demand for new housing opportunities in Whitehorse, supporting more young families to build and settle in the area.



Raising Awareness During Dementia Action Week



Council partnered with Eastern Health to deliver a major event for Dementia Action Week in September. The event attracted 200 participants and helped raise awareness, promote understanding, and reduce stigma surrounding dementia within the community.

Inspiring Art Exhibitions at Box Hill Community Arts Centre



Council's Box Hill Community Arts Centre hosted two powerful exhibitions:

1. **Kaleidoscopic** - a Deakin University Collective Visual Arts Exhibition that attracted over 100 guests on opening night and offered artists first-hand experience in exhibition delivery.
2. **Art from Inside** - presented by Prison Fellowship Australia, showcasing a moving collection of artworks created by inmates from across Victoria.

Celebrating Heritage Week: 'Changing Fashions'

Council celebrated Heritage Week with the theme Changing Fashions. The Schwerkolt Cottage Heritage Family Day drew over 1,200 visitors, and the centrepiece exhibition, Finding the One: Wedding Dresses from Whitehorse, featured works from the Whitehorse Art Collection and loaned dresses from the Historical Society - including Mary Schwerkolt's 1887 silk wedding dress purchased in Colombo.



Quarterly highlights: July - September 2025

Community Feedback on Future Waste Services

Council invited community feedback on proposed changes to the kerbside bin service, part of the State Government's requirement for all Victorian councils to introduce a standardised four-bin system by 1 July 2027.

The community response was exceptional, with 5,590 survey completions and over 1,150 participants attending focus groups and pop-up sessions. The feedback will guide Council's next steps in delivering a more sustainable and convenient waste service for all residents.



Supporting Business and Economic Growth

Council's Economic Development team has achieved several milestones this quarter, including:

- Winning two national Mainstreet Australia Awards for the Box Hill Cultural Food Tours and Mont Albert Place Activation,
- Launching the Small Business Permit Support Service, helping local businesses navigate regulatory processes, with 32 enquiries received so far, and
- Delivering the Shaping Box Hill event in September, engaging businesses and property owners in discussions about the precinct's future opportunities and challenges.



Women in Sport Leadership Program Success

Council proudly celebrated the completion of the inaugural Women in Sport Leadership Program, with 22 emerging female leaders completing the course. Designed for grassroots community leaders, the program reinforces Council's commitment to diverse and inclusive leadership across sports clubs and community groups.



Quarterly highlights: July - September 2025

Record-Breaking Exhibition at Whitehorse Artspace

Council's Whitehorse Artspace achieved its most popular exhibition in 27 years with Annemieke Mein: Nature Revealed, attracting 7,072 visitors. The exhibition was supported by workshops and events held across Creative Whitehorse venues, celebrating the work of this acclaimed artist and former local resident.



Aqualink Achieves National Quality Accreditation

Council's Aqualink centres have achieved AUSactive Quality Business Accreditation, recognising excellence in safety, professionalism, innovation, and service delivery. This national recognition reaffirms Council's commitment to fostering a healthier, happier, and more connected community through high-quality fitness and wellbeing experiences.

Empowering Travel Confidence and Inclusion

Council's Connect with Confidence Public Transport Education program successfully transitioned from a trial to an ongoing quarterly program for 2025/26 retaining key stakeholder relationships with Metro Trains, Kinetic buses, Whitehorse Manningham Libraries and the Department of Transport and Planning (Vic).

Thirteen participants from the August 4-week program expressed improvements in (out of 10):

- 8.2 for perceived safety in public spaces
- 8.7 improvement for social connectedness
- 9.1 for wellbeing (physical, mental, social)



Performance against our Integrated Council Plan 2025-2029

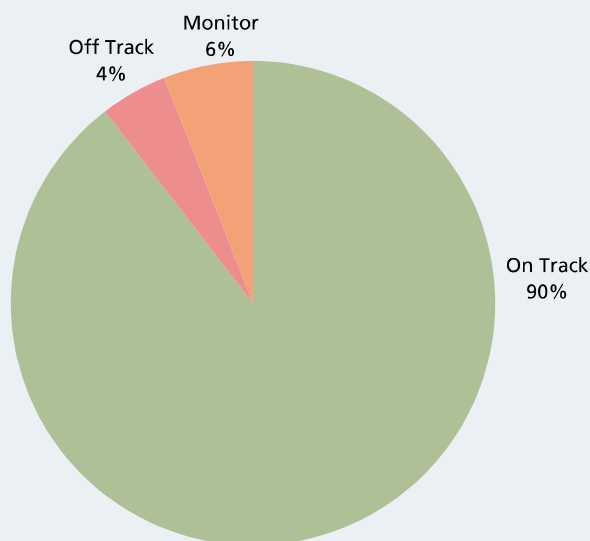


Our Integrated Council Plan 2025–2029 outlines the five strategic directions and related objectives for Council to work towards over the next four years to achieve the Whitehorse 2040 Community Vision. For the first time, the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) has been incorporated into the Council Plan, ensuring that health and wellbeing remain a priority in all that we do at Whitehorse City Council.

The Quarterly Performance Report provides transparency to our community by providing an update on Council’s activities and performance in this quarter.



Progress status of actions in Quarter 1



Council will report on 67 actions for the 2025/26 financial year that directly contributes to the achievement of the objectives in the Integrated Council Plan 2025-2029. These include the 11 Health and Wellbeing actions.

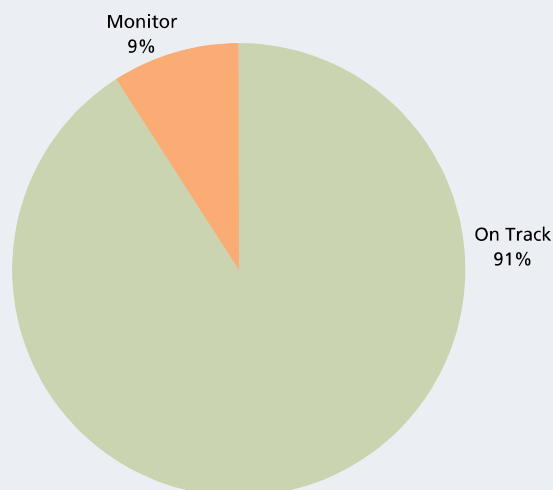
Completed:	0
On Track	60
Monitor (at risk of/or is falling behind):	4
Off Track	3

The Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 highlights ❤️



The Integrated Council Plan 2025-2029 incorporates the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and outlines the objectives and key strategies to improve the health and wellbeing of people in the municipality. Each year, the activities Council and partner organisations will undertake over the 12 months towards these objectives are detailed in the Council Plan. Of the 67 Council Plan actions, 11 of them are identified as health and wellbeing actions. The actions also include prevention and early intervention measures to respond to family violence, including elder abuse. For more information visit Council's [Health and Wellbeing page](#).

Progress status of health and wellbeing actions identified in the Integrated Council Plan 2025-2029



In the 2024/25 Financial Year, Council will be reporting on 11 health and wellbeing actions.

Completed:	0
On Track:	10
Monitor (at risk of/or is falling behind):	1
Off Track:	0

The Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 highlights



Pictured: Bottom Row (R-L) Phoebe Anglim, FRVEE; Pinar Tankir, MIC; Zoe Quinn and Shayne Price, WCC. Middle Row (R-L) Katie Norton, WML; Bronwyn Upston and Sara Ferdowsi, WCC; Katherine Hampton, WHE. Top Row (R-L) Simon Kinsey, WCC; Rosalyn Sandwell and Julia Bilton, healthAbility.

Whitehorse Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee

Great things happen when we work together. That's why Whitehorse City Council has teamed up with local organisations to support healthier, happier, and more connected communities.

The Whitehorse Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee (some members pictured), established early in 2025, has overseen the establishment of five project working groups to progress the 2025/26 Health and Wellbeing Action Plan. Each group has membership of partner organisations committed to work together on a shared health and wellbeing priority for the people of Whitehorse.

Thanks to members: AMES, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, EACH, Eastern Health, Eastern Community Legal Centre, FVREE, healthAbility, Migrant Information Centre (MIC), Neighbourhood and Community Houses, North-Eastern Public Health Unit, Whitehorse Manningham Library (WML), Women's Health East (WHE) and University of Melbourne.

The achievements so far

- ❖ The initial phase of a food system and local fresh food access project, involving data collection and analysis about opportunities for Whitehorse, is nearing completion. Outcome will inform the next steps of the Food Systems and Access Working Group.
- ❖ The Mental Health Champions Project Working Group has determined the approach for a mental health champions project to increase the capacity of community members to identify and respond to others facing mental wellbeing challenges.
- ❖ Planning, engagement, and project commissioning is complete for the installation of senior-friendly outdoor fitness equipment at Tunstall Park by the end of 2025.

Understanding Dementia, Supporting Carers

Council's Positive Ageing team and Eastern Health delivered a Dementia Action Week Event in September with over 200 attendees. Participants reported a range of positive impacts:

- ❖ 91% were more aware of how to reduce the risk of dementia
- ❖ 91% were more aware of how to help people feel included and supported
- ❖ 85% discovered something new about dementia

Preventing Gender-based Violence

- ❖ The Together for Equality and Respect (TFER) Whitehorse Working Group has progressed planning for this year's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign.
- ❖ Council's Maternal Child Health services are progressing fathers' inclusion and engagement by embedding the learnings of recent Baby Makes 3: Strengthening Gender Equality training into practice.
- ❖ Early Childhood Services programs at Council promote gender equality and respectful relationships through inclusive language, diverse resources, and intentional teaching practices.

Council Transformation

Council is undertaking a whole-of-organisation transformation to ensure we continue to meet the evolving needs and expectations of our community. As our external environment changes rapidly, this program enables us to adapt, innovate, and deliver services more effectively.

The Transformation Program is a multi-year initiative that brings together projects and teams from across Council to deliver on five key strategic objectives:

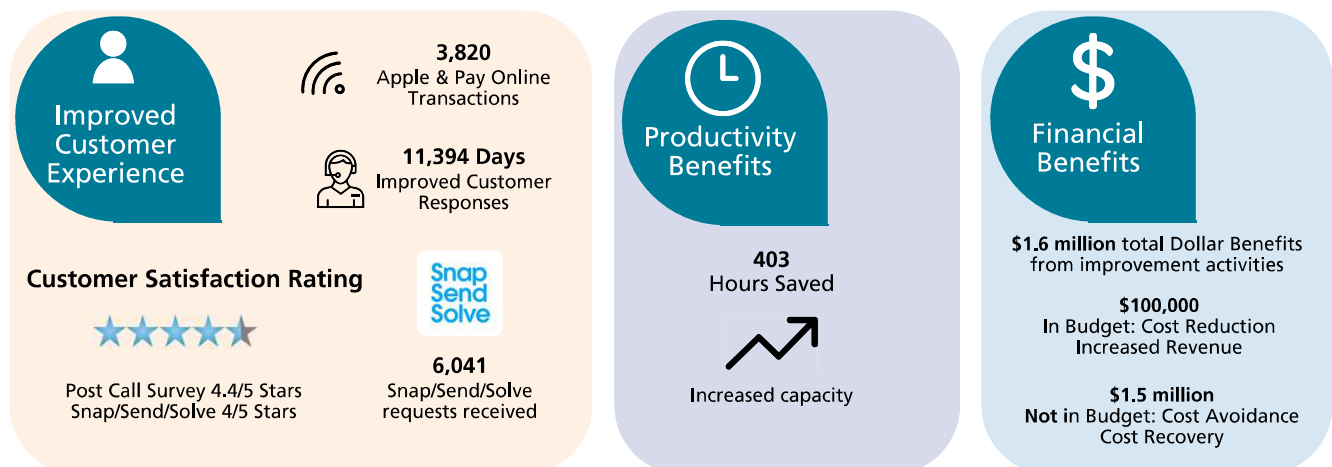


The program is driven by six core functions that work together to achieve meaningful and lasting change:

- Technology Transformation modernising systems and improving digital capability.
- Service Excellence reviewing and re-designing services to meet community expectations.
- Customer and Human Experience integrating customer insights to guide improvements.
- Enterprise Change Management ensuring changes are well-planned, sustainable, and embedded.
- Strategic Property enhancing the management and use of Council assets.
- Continuous Improvement equipping staff with tools, skills, and support to drive innovation and improved ways of working and service delivery.

Together, these initiatives form a coordinated, long-term approach to transformation, ensuring Council continues to deliver high-quality services, strengthen organisational culture, and remain financially sustainable into the future.

Summary of Transformation Program benefits July 2025 – September 2025



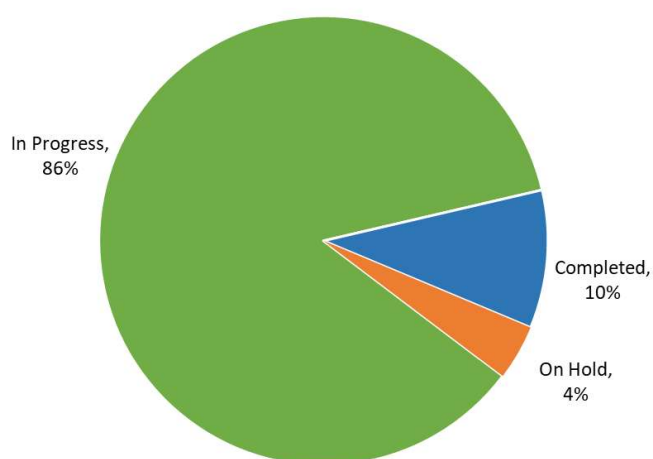
Highlights of key improvements in Q1 2025/26 include enhanced customer experience with 11,394 days of faster response times achieved in applications and permits through process improvements. The launch of Bookable, a new technology platform for managing bookings and venues, has streamlined access to our spaces and enhanced the overall customer experience. By simplifying the process for community members to book and use facilities, Bookable aims to improve venue utilisation. We will continue to improve and embed the system strengthening community outcomes.

Capital Works



The 2025/26 Capital Works Program includes 151 projects and programs to be delivered over the financial year with an adopted budget of \$53.12M. As at 30 September, the forecast capital expenditure for 2025/26 has been adjusted to \$57.23M following the inclusion of funding from 2024/25 carry forward projects (\$3.25M), increased grants and contributions (\$690k), funding brought forward from 2026/27 (\$183k), partly offset by surplus funds that have been identified as no longer required (\$13k).

Progress status of actions



Capital Works Snapshot:

Completed:	15
In Progress:	130
On Hold:	6

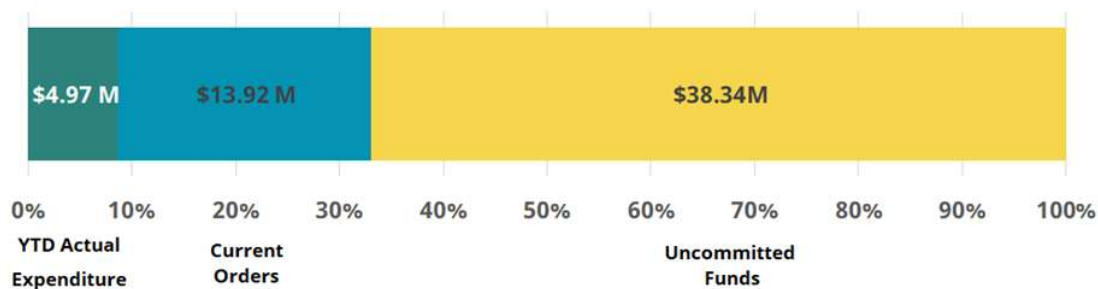
Capital expenditure

Capital Program expenditure snapshot:

At 30 September 2025

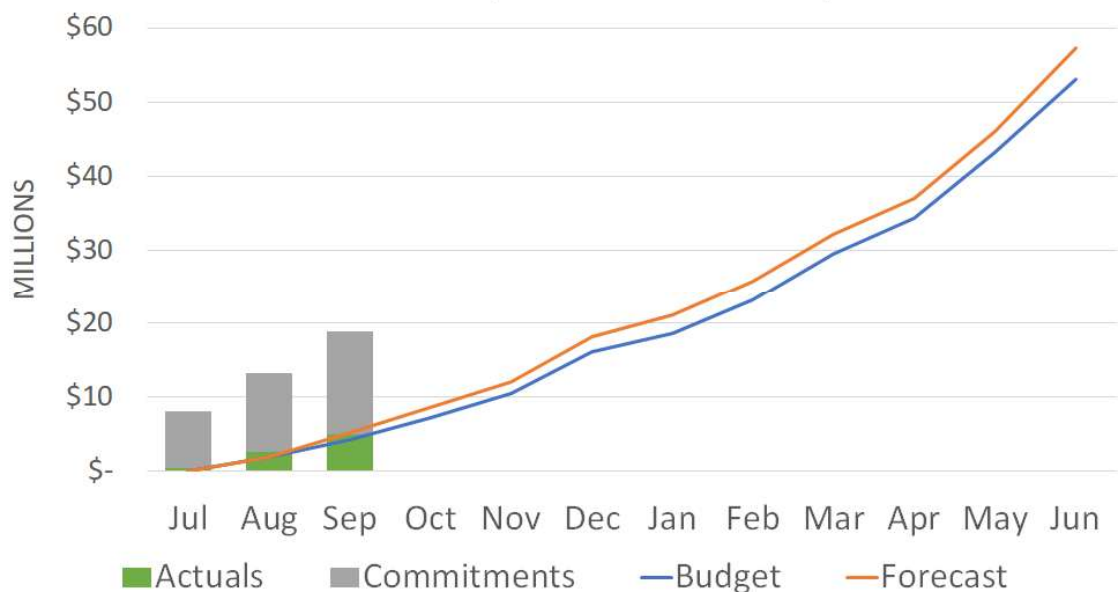
YTD actual expenditure:
Current orders:
Remaining funding for commitment / expenditure:

\$4.97M (8.7%)
\$13.92M (24.3%)
\$38.34M (72.0%)



As at 30 September, year to date expenditure was \$4.97M, which was \$682k ahead of the budgeted expenditure of \$4.29M. This variance primarily reflects a timing difference due to early works through the Footpath Renewal Program (\$886k). There was \$18.90M in project commitments at the end of the first quarter, as shown by the September column in the graph below.

Capital Works Program
2025/26 Expenditure Summary



The blue line indicates the cumulative adopted budget expenditure for the year, totalling \$53.12M. The orange line indicates the cumulative revised forecast expenditure of \$53.23M.

Capital expenditure by asset category

ASSET CATEGORY	YTD ACTUAL 000's	YTD BUDGET 000's	YTD VARIANCE 000's	ANNUAL BUDGET 000's	NEW ANNUAL FORECAST 000's	Q1 FORECAST CHANGE 000's	NOTES
PROPERTY							
Land	-	-	-	3,000	3,000	-	
Buildings	838	1,071	233	14,956	15,610	654	1
Buildings Improvements	511	241	(270)	2,821	2,878	57	2
TOTAL PROPERTY	1,349	1,312	(37)	20,777	21,489	712	

PLANT & EQUIPMENT							
Plant, Machinery and Equipment	411	1,209	798	4,761	4,761	-	3
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture	82	39	(44)	885	885	-	
Computers and Telecommunications	110	330	220	1,415	1,415	-	4
TOTAL PLANT & EQUIPMENT	603	1,577	974	7,061	7,061	-	

INFRASTRUCTURE							
Roads	67	153	86	6,987	7,392	405	5
Footpaths and Cycleways	1,637	368	(1,269)	5,172	5,423	251	6
Drainage	138	361	223	2,385	2,506	121	7
Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities	731	467	(264)	6,482	8,649	2,167	8
Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes	352	41	(311)	3,736	3,989	253	9
Off Street Car Parks	95	10	(85)	515	717	202	10
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	3,020	1,400	(1,620)	25,277	28,677	3,400	
TOTAL	4,972	4,289	(682)	53,115	57,227	4,112	

Notes

(1.) Buildings expenditure was \$233k lower than YTD budget mainly due to cash flow profiling differences on the Vermont Reserve Pavilion (\$333k) and Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion (\$112k) upgrades, partly offset by \$225k of carried forward expenditure from 2024/25 to complete the Forest Hill Reserve Pavilion upgrade.

The Buildings expenditure full year forecast increased by \$654k during the first quarter primarily reflecting the carry forward of 2024/25 funding for multi-year pavilion upgrade projects, including \$315k for East Burwood Reserve South Pavilion, \$234k for Forest Hill Reserve Pavilion and \$193k for Vermont Reserve Pavilion.

Capital expenditure by asset category

Notes - continued

(2.) Building Improvements expenditure was \$270k higher than YTD budget mainly reflecting early works in the Buildings Refurbishment and Component Renewal Program (\$131k), which includes \$128k of pit renewal works at the Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Centre, carried forward expenditure from 2024/25 to complete an office refurbishment at the Box Hill Town Hall (\$34k) plus smaller timing variances across several other programs.

The Building Improvements full year forecast was increased by \$57k during the first quarter mainly reflecting the carry forward of 2024/25 funding to complete an office refurbishment at the Box Hill Town Hall (\$49k).

(3.) Plant, Machinery and Equipment expenditure was \$798k lower than YTD budget primarily reflecting variances in the Heavy Plant Renewal Program (\$503k) and Passenger Vehicle Changeover Renewal Program (\$324k) due to earlier than anticipated delivery of vehicles ordered during the second half of 2024/25 which were delivered by 30 June.

(4.) Computers and Telecommunications expenditure was \$220k lower than YTD budget reflecting timing differences between budget profiling and actual expenditure across the End User Devices Renewal Program (\$108k), Mobile Devices Renewal Program (\$60k) and IT Infrastructure Upgrade Program (\$52k).

(5.) Roads expenditure was \$86k lower than YTD budget mainly reflecting timing differences in the Local Roads Rehabilitation Renewal Program (\$65k) and Design for Future Road Reconstructions Program (\$17k).

The Roads expenditure full year forecast increased by \$405k during the first quarter mainly due to State Government grant funding for two traffic management improvement projects in Rostrevor Parade, Mont Albert North (\$331k) and Doncaster East Road, Mitcham (\$135k).

(6.) Footpaths and Cycleways expenditure was \$1.27M above YTD budget primarily reflecting earlier than planned works in the Footpath Renewal Program works (\$886k) and Footbridge and Path Structures in Parks Renewal Program at Bellbird Dell (\$303k).

The Footpaths and Cycleways expenditure full year forecast increased by \$251k during the first quarter mainly reflecting \$144k of State Government funding towards unbudgeted shared user path upgrades, and \$81k of funding carried forward from 2024/25 to complete an upgrade at the Elizabeth Street / Woodhouse Grove path connection in Box Hill North.

(7.) Drainage expenditure was \$223k below YTD budget mainly reflecting a timing difference between budget profiling and actual expenditure in the Drainage Stormwater Network Renewal Program (\$281k).

The Drainage expenditure full year forecast increased by \$121k during the first quarter due to the carry forward of 2024/25 funding for the Hamilton Street, Mont Albert Drainage Upgrade Design (\$61k) and a design for Orchard Grove drainage improvements through the Storm Water Management Infrastructure Renewal Program (\$60k).

Capital expenditure by asset category

Notes - continued

(8.) Recreation, Leisure and Community Facilities expenditure was \$264k above YTD budget mainly reflecting carried forward expenditure from 2024/25 to complete the Ballyshannassy Reserve New Sports Field Lighting (\$144k) and Elgar Park North East Sports Field improvements (\$119k) projects.

The Recreation, Leisure and Community Facilities expenditure full year forecast increased by \$2.17M during the first quarter primarily reflecting:

- Funding carried forward from 2024/25 to complete the Ballyshannassy Reserve New Sports Field Lighting (\$816k), Sports Field Lighting Renewal Program works (\$287k), and the Elgar Park North East Sports Field Improvements (\$265k),
- A combination of funding carried forward from 2024/25 and funding brought forward from 2026/27 for an irrigation upgrade at Morack Public Golf (\$597k), and
- Advocacy funding reallocated from the Buildings asset class to complete designs of the RHL Sparks Reserve Upper Synthetic Sports Field (\$170k) and Hagenauer Reserve Athletics Track (\$50k).

(9.) Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes expenditure was \$311k ahead of YTD budget primarily due to earlier than planned works in the Park Furniture Renewal Program (\$135k) and Nunawading Shopping Centre Streetscape Upgrade (\$109k).

The Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes expenditure full year forecast was increased by \$253k during the first quarter mainly reflecting funding carried forward from 2024/25 for the Tunstall Park Seniors Exercise Equipment (\$151k) and Hamilton Street, Mont Albert Streetscape Upgrade Design (\$71k).

(10.) Off Street Car Park expenditure was \$85k higher than YTD budget primarily due to carried forward expenditure from 2024/25 to complete the upgrade of the RHL Sparks Reserve Upper car park (\$78k).

The Off Street Car Park expenditure full year forecast increased by \$202k during the first quarter to reflect the carry forward of funding from 2024/25 for the RHL Sparks Reserve Upper car park (\$102k) and a reallocation of \$100k funding from the Roads asset class for design and preliminary costs associated with the East Burwood Reserve Car Park / Road Realignment, which is guided by the site masterplan.

Capital Works highlights: July - September 2025

Elgar Park North East Sports Field Improvements

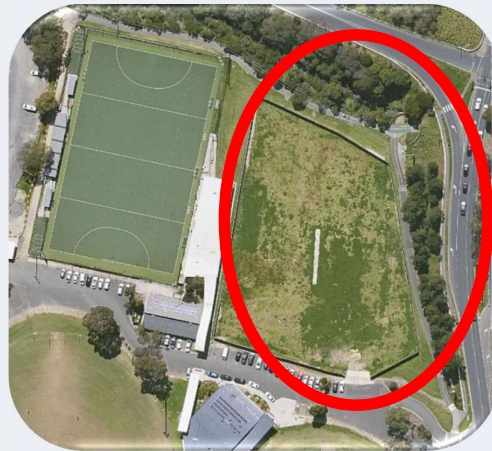
Construction of a multi-use synthetic field and associated sports field lighting at Elgar Park North East oval was completed and opened for use in August 2025. Guided by the 2016 Elgar Park Master Plan, the project has delivered a Federation Internationale de Hockey (FIH) accredited synthetic surface hockey pitch with multi-use sports line markings and competition level lighting (500 lux) for use by sporting clubs, schools and the broader community.

The scope of works included:

- construction of synthetic sporting surface with multi-use sports line markings
- installation of 500 Lux sports field lighting
- construction of a sealed car park providing 26 additional parking spaces.

The project is funded by a Victorian State Government funding contribution of \$2.75M, and a Council allocation of \$571k from the public open space reserve.

Before



After



Capital Works highlights: July - September 2025

Churchill Street, Mont Albert Drainage Upgrade

A drainage upgrade has been completed at a property in Churchill Street, Mont Albert from the Drainage Upgrade Works Program. Site investigations following receipt of customer service requests identified the need for improvement works, which included pit reconstruction, pipe replacement and pipe relining works. The works were completed for a project budget of \$65k.

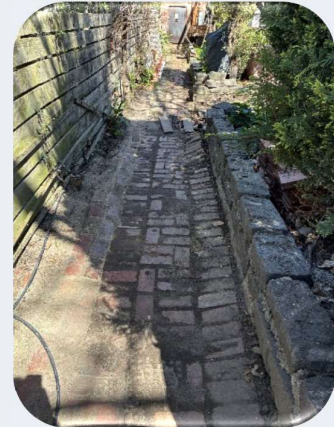
Before



In Progress



After



Springfield Park Multipurpose Court and Cricket Nets

An upgrade of netball and cricket facilities at Springfield Park, Box Hill was completed and opened for community use in August. Fully funded by a \$1.50M State Government grant, works included construction of:

- an acrylic surface netball court with 100 lux LED lighting,
- a 5-wicket multi-purpose cricket training facility with 250 lux LED lighting and retractable netting to support cricket, soccer and other ball games, and
- connecting pathways and landscaping to the oval new car parking to the south east of the pavilion, including an accessible car park with 16 parking spaces including one accessible space.



Capital Works highlights: July - September 2025

Vermont Reserve Pavilion Upgrade

A \$4.96M upgrade of the Vermont Recreation Reserve Pavilion is underway. Funded by Council along with contributions from the State Government (\$260k) and clubs (\$300k), the scope of works includes:

- Flexible spaces that can be converted using roller shutters for between one and four spaces for use as changerooms and other purposes,
- Change room amenities including an accessible change room,
- Double umpire / official unisex change rooms including amenities,
- First aid room including cupboard storage,
- External ambulant and accessible public unisex toilets,
- A sheltered spectator area off the existing multi-purpose room,
- Accessible toilet to service the multi-purpose room and adjustments to existing multi-purpose room toilets to include ambulant toilets.

Demolition, gas service and screw pile installation works have been completed. Underpinning to existing facility, inground services and multipurpose room canopy pad footings were in progress at the end of the first quarter.

In progress



Capital Works highlights: July - September 2025

Nunawading Shopping Centre Streetscape Upgrade

A \$659k streetscape upgrade of the Nunawading Shopping Centre along the western side of Springvale Road, between Whitehorse Road and Oval Way, was completed in September. Works included demolition of the existing streetscape pavement to allow for exposed aggregate paving, asphalt paving, feature bluestone paving, street furniture, garden beds, pram crossings and two raised pedestrian intersections at Oval Way and Silver Grove. This followed an upgrade of the eastern side of Springvale Road completed in the previous year.

Before



After



RHL Sparks Reserve Upper Car Park Upgrade

An upgrade of the RHL Sparks Reserve Upper Car Park was completed in August for \$143k, funded from the Sealed Car Parks Renewal Program. The former gravel car park has been converted into a sealed car park providing 27 parking spaces.

Before



After



Financial report

For the period ending 30 September 2025



The year to date (YTD) financial result as of 30 September 2025 was a surplus of \$119.02m, \$5.73m favourable to the YTD Adopted Budget surplus of \$113.29m.

Income was \$2.93m higher than budget primarily reflecting higher than budgeted capital grants (\$1.17m), net gain on disposal of assets (\$710k), interest income (\$654k) and operating grant income (\$314k). Expenditure was \$2.80m lower than budget primarily reflecting lower materials and services expenditure (\$2.09m), employee costs (\$587k) and other expenses (\$348k), partially offset by higher than budgeted depreciation and amortisation (\$297k). Further explanations of significant variances are detailed in this report.

In August 2025, Council updated its financial forecast for 2025/26 to reflect the approved carry forward of unspent funds from 2024/25 into 2025/26. The revised forecast now anticipates a surplus result of \$17.98m, \$2.16m lower than the Adopted Budget of \$20.14m. The difference is largely due to the early payment of 50% of the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission allocation, which was received in the 2024/25 financial year.

A subsequent review of the annual forecast was completed in September 2025, projecting a year-end surplus result of \$16.84m, \$1.14m lower than the August forecast and \$3.30m below the 2025/26 Adopted Budget. The key variances compared to the August full year forecast include higher depreciation expense (\$1.71m) based on revaluation of building assets in 2024-25, and increased legal costs (\$1.00m) in relation to the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) project. These impacts were partially offset by increased interest on investments income (\$900k) and higher net gains from asset disposals (\$550k, predominately related to vehicle sales).

Year to date result

As outlined in the Executive Summary, the actual year to date (YTD) result at 30 September 2025 was a surplus of \$119.02m, \$5.73m favourable to YTD Adopted Budget. The significant variances to budget were:

(1) Rates and charges were \$94k above budget primarily due to higher waste service charge income (\$100k), mainly as a result of changes in bin numbers compared to the budgeted assumptions (note this increase will be offset by a corresponding increase in collection and processing costs for waste and recycling services).

(2) Statutory fees and fines were \$207k higher than YTD budget, mainly reflecting higher temporary road closure permits (\$137k) and road opening permits (\$29k) in relation to continued Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) project works in Box Hill and Burwood.

(3) User fees were (\$321k) below YTD budget mainly related to the following variances:

- Recycling and Waste Centre user fee income was \$355k lower than budget, due mainly to a two week closure of the facility for maintenance activities at the end of August 2025. This income reduction was offset by associated reductions in expenditure as a result of the closure, as noted in Item 10 of this report;
- Community Safety was \$162k lower than budget primarily reflecting timing difference against budget phasing for animal registration fees (\$190k; NB – 90% animal registration will occur between March and May); and
- The above variances were partly offset by increased user fee income at The Round (\$261k higher than budget) mainly related to higher staff recovery cost income (\$91k, partially offset by associated increased casual staff expenditure to service event bookings), and higher venue hire income (\$79k), retail sales (\$42k) and equipment hire income (\$25k) compared to planned budget phasing.

(4) Operating Grant income was \$314k above budget, primarily reflecting higher than budgeted enrolment grants for Childcare Centres (\$190k), receipt of grant income to be passed on to Box Hill North Football Club and Nunawading Tennis Club (\$54k; unbudgeted), and receipt of School Focused Youth Service (\$46k) funding ahead of planned budget phasing.

(5) Capital Grant income was \$1.17m higher than budget, mainly reflecting unbudgeted Commonwealth Government funding for the Forest Hill Reserve Pavilion Upgrade (\$800k) due to a timing difference in the payment of funding instalments (originally anticipated to be received in 2024/25 financial year), as well as State Government grants carried forward from 2024/25 for Ballyshannassy Reserve New Sportsfield Lighting (\$144k) and Elgar Park North East Sportsfield Upgrade (\$117k, NELP funded).

(6) Net gain on disposal of assets was \$710k higher than budget primarily related to vehicle sales (\$588k, 54 vehicles sold to date), of which 44 vehicle sales related to the cyclical fleet replacement program and 10 vehicle sales related to changes in Council's updated fleet policy.

(7) Interest on investments was \$654k higher than budget due to higher than budgeted investment balances and favourable interest rates on investments to date.

(8) Other income was \$101k favourable to budget, mainly reflecting higher than budgeted non-voter election fines to date (\$131k) and higher swim school licence fee income at Aqualink Nunawading (\$127k). This was partially offset by lower than budgeted Container Deposit Scheme income (\$130k; timing).

Year to date result

(9) Employee costs were \$587k favourable compared to YTD budget, primarily reflecting lower salary costs (\$319k) mainly due to vacancies across the organisation. Training and development expenses were also \$135k under YTD budget primarily due to timing against planned budget phasing, as well as lower than budgeted Fringe Benefits Tax expense to date (\$71k) and lower annual workcover insurance premiums (\$44k).

(10) Materials and services expenditure was \$2.09m lower than budget, with the most significant variances being:

- Technology Transformation initiatives were \$633k under budget as at September, primarily due to timing differences between actual expenditure and the planned budget phasing. To date, activity has focused on project scoping and design, with the majority of budgeted expenditure expected to be incurred in the second half of the financial year.
- City Services were \$535k under budget, primarily due to lower tipping fee costs (\$236k) at the Recycling and Waste Centre, resulting from lower volumes of waste materials being processed through the site due to a two week maintenance closure at the end of August 2025. Further, green waste collection and disposal costs (\$185k) and kerbside garbage and recycling collection and disposal costs (\$94k) were lower to date than budgeted due to lower average tonnage volumes and fewer bin numbers compared to budget assumptions.
- Leisure and Recreational Services were \$352k lower than budgeted, mainly related to lower utilities costs (\$191k) and cleaning contract expenditure due to timing.
- Project Delivery and Assets were \$175k under budget, primarily due to lower building maintenance expenditure to date (\$83k) and timing of utilities costs (\$35k).
- Engineering was \$172k lower than budget, primarily related to lower electricity costs for public street lighting (\$143k) due to a delay in the receipt of some August & September invoices.
- Communications, Advocacy and Investment were \$135k below budget, mainly reflecting lower marketing and promotions expense (\$67k) and contracted services costs (\$25k), mainly due to timing compared to planned budget phasing.
- Parks and Natural Environment were \$104k lower than budget, primarily associated with the timing of materials and supplies expenditure (\$135k), turf contractors (\$75k), weed eradication (\$64k) and reactive tree pruning contract costs (\$57k). This was partially offset by street tree pruning contract expenditure (\$361k) completed ahead of planned budget phasing.
- Governance and Integrity was \$101k lower than budget, primarily related to lower contracted services costs to date (\$47k) and lower annual organisational insurance premiums (\$39k).
- The above favourable variances were partly offset by increased expenditure within City Planning and Development (\$298k over budget), mainly due to legal costs (\$340k; unbudgeted) related to the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) East Precincts Standing Advisory Committee Hearing for the SRL Box Hill and Burwood precincts. This additional expenditure was approved via Council resolution on 28 July 2025 (total approved additional expenditure \$1.0m).

(11) Depreciation and amortisation were \$297k over budget, impacted by the revaluation of building assets in 2024/25 financial year. This was primarily due to changes in Accounting Standard AASB13 relating to fair value measurement, which resulted in the inclusion of site preparation and demolition costs as part of the valuations. Depreciation on sportsfields (infrastructure) also rose significantly, driven by a substantial increase in unit rates from cost escalations over the past three years.

(12) Other expenses were \$348k below budget, driven largely by lower community grants expenditure (\$264k) due to timing.

Projected year end result

Council adopted the 2025/26 budget at its Ordinary Meeting held on 16 June 2025, projecting a surplus of \$20.14m for the year.

In August 2025, Council updated its financial forecast for 2025/26 to reflect the approved carry forward of unspent funds from 2024/25 into 2025/26. The revised forecast now anticipates a surplus result of \$17.98m, \$2.16m lower than the Adopted Budget of \$20.14m. The difference is largely due to the early payment of 50% of the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission allocation, which was received in the 2024/25 financial year.

In September 2025, Council further reviewed the projected year-end financial result to account for any emerging changes since the 2025/26 Budget was adopted. The updated projection anticipates a surplus of \$16.84m, \$1.14m below the August forecast and \$3.30m below the 2025/26 Adopted Budget.

The most significant movements in the September forecast (compared to the August forecast) relate to:

(13) Operating Grant income is projected to increase by \$582k, mainly reflecting unspent external grant income received in 2024/25 that is expected to be spent in 2025/26. The corresponding offsetting expenditure has also been reflected in Item 18 below.

(14) Net gain on disposal of assets is projected to increase by \$550k, primarily reflecting the higher than budgeted net gain on vehicle sales in the first quarter of 2025/26 financial year (\$588k), as well as the net loss on disposal of Neil Court (\$39k).

(15) Interest on investments is forecast to increase by \$900k compared to the August forecast, reflecting higher than budgeted investment balances and interest income on investments.

(16) Employee cost estimates are \$101k favourable compared to August forecast, mainly reflecting the reallocation of some direct salary costs to contracted services.

(17) Materials and services expenditure is projected to increase by \$1.50m compared to the August forecast due to the inclusion of \$1.00m in additional legal costs, approved via Council resolution on 28 July 2025, related to the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) East Precincts Standing Advisory Committee Hearing. Further adjustments also include the recognition of operating expenditure tied to unspent external operating grants carried forward from 2024/25, which are anticipated to be expended in FY2025/26 (\$501k).

(18) Depreciation and amortisation is expected to increase by \$1.71m compared to the August forecast, reflecting the impact of the revaluation of building assets in the 2024/25 financial year due to changes in Accounting Standard AASB13 – Fair Value Measurement with the inclusion of site preparation costs and demolition costs as part of the valuations. These adjustments were not factored into the original budget, as the impact of the standard and the associated valuation changes are difficult to predict.

Income statement

YEAR-TO-DATE						FULL YEAR			
Actual	Budget	Variance	Variance	Note		Budget	August Forecast	September Forecast	Variance: Sep vs Aug
\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	FC
									\$'000
Rates and Charges	153,492	153,398	94	0.1%	1	154,477	154,477	154,477	-
Statutory Fees and Fines	3,596	3,390	207	6.1%	2	13,559	13,559	13,559	-
User Fees	9,672	9,993	(321)	(3.2%)	3	40,517	40,517	40,517	-
Grants Operating	2,725	2,410	314	13.0%	4	13,866	10,663	11,245	582
Grants Capital	1,569	398	1,171	294.1%	5	8,377	9,602	9,602	-
Contributions	1,495	1,500	(5)	(0.3%)		6,300	6,300	6,300	-
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of assets	627	(83)	710	(855.9%)	6	168	168	718	550
Interest Income	2,679	2,025	654	32.3%	7	8,100	8,100	9,000	900
Other Income	1,920	1,819	101	5.5%	8	8,037	8,037	8,017	(20)
TOTAL INCOME	177,775	174,850	2,925	1.7%		253,401	251,422	253,434	2,012
Employee Costs	(22,929)	(23,516)	587	2.5%	9	(90,279)	(90,279)	(90,178)	101
Materials and Services	(21,783)	(23,869)	2,086	8.7%	10	(86,929)	(87,112)	(88,613)	(1,501)
Depreciation and Amortisation	(11,704)	(11,407)	(297)	(2.6%)	11	(45,628)	(45,628)	(47,334)	(1,706)
Finance Costs	(27)	(25)	(2)	(7.1%)		(101)	(101)	(101)	-
Allowance for impairment losses	(270)	(347)	77	22.3%	12	(1,389)	(1,389)	(1,389)	-
Other Expenses	(500)	(848)	348	41.0%	13	(2,754)	(2,754)	(2,799)	(45)
WMRLC Contribution Expense	(1,546)	(1,546)	(0)	(0.0%)		(6,183)	(6,183)	(6,183)	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(58,758)	(61,558)	2,800	4.5%		(233,263)	(233,447)	(236,597)	(3,150)
NET OPERATING SURPLUS	119,017	113,292	5,726	5.1%		20,138	17,975	16,837	(1,138)

Balance sheet

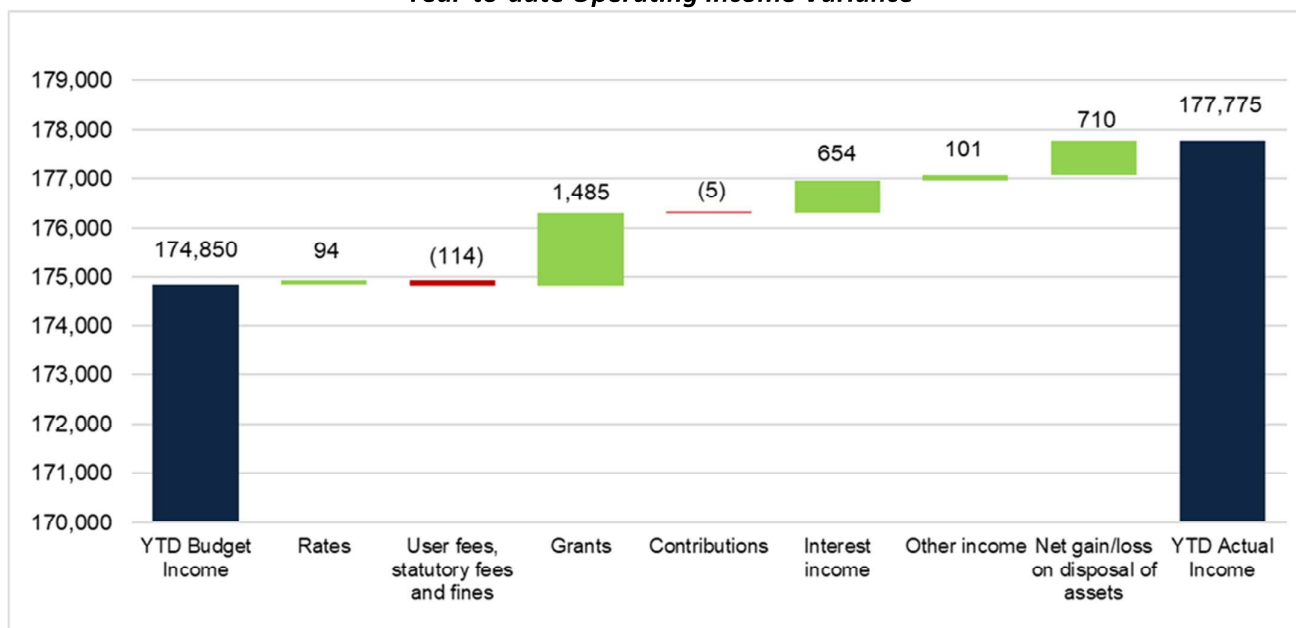
	30-Sep-25 \$'000	30-Jun-25 \$'000
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	37,884	21,815
Trade and other receivables	151,312	20,536
Other financial assets	186,073	197,667
Prepayments	542	1,854
Other assets	2,986	3,806
Non-current assets held for sale	2,414	2,414
Total Current Assets	381,211	248,092
Non-Current Assets		
Trade and other receivables	230	278
Investments in associates	6,162	6,162
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	4,499,107	4,506,106
Right-of-use assets	6,867	7,188
Intangible assets	656	753
Total Non-Current Assets	4,513,022	4,520,487
TOTAL ASSETS	4,894,233	4,768,579
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	14,740	15,552
Trust funds and deposits	21,870	14,673
Provisions	17,059	16,746
Contract and other liabilities	6,102	5,845
Lease Liabilities	1,225	1,250
Total Current Liabilities	60,996	54,066
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	1,588	1,588
Provision for investments in joint operation accounted for using the equity method	1,796	1,796
Lease Liabilities	5,864	6,154
Total Non-Current Liabilities	9,248	9,538
TOTAL LIABILITIES	70,244	63,604
NET ASSETS	4,823,989	4,704,975
Accumulated surplus	1,695,647	1,576,633
Reserves	3,128,342	3,128,342
TOTAL EQUITY	4,823,989	4,704,975

Cash flow statement

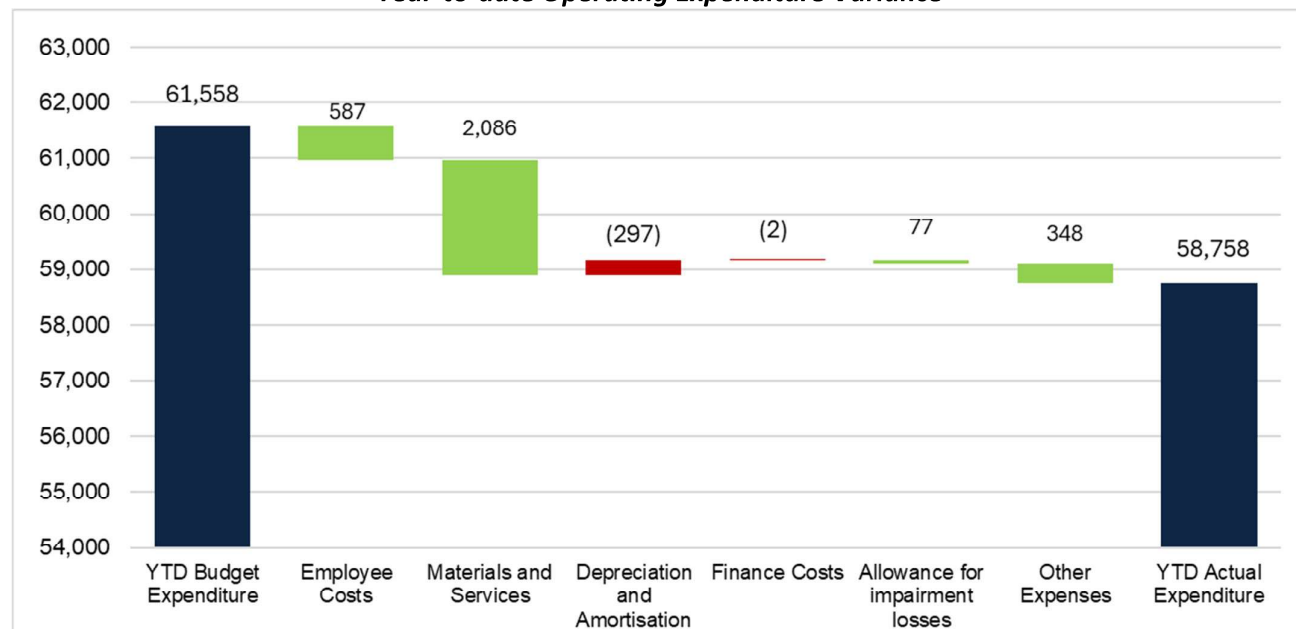
	30-Sep-25 \$'000 Inflows (Outflows)	30-Jun-25 \$'000 Inflows (Outflows)
GST inclusive		
Cash flows from operating activities		
Rates and charges	21,399	149,774
Statutory fees and fines	3,348	12,059
User fees	10,123	39,057
Grants - operating	3,014	18,457
Grants - capital	1,752	7,998
Contributions - monetary	1,630	9,837
Interest received	3,056	10,651
Other receipts	2,576	7,694
Net GST refund	2,860	9,440
Employee costs	(24,617)	(88,178)
Materials and services	(16,608)	(99,397)
Short-term, low value and variable lease payments	0	(8)
Contribution expense - Whitehorse Manningham Library	(1,546)	(6,003)
Net trust funds taken/(repaid) ¹	7,196	(563)
Other payments	(572)	(2,820)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	13,611	67,999
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(10,160)	(42,301)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	1,366	9,938
Payments of loans and advances	-	3
Net proceeds/(payment) for Investments	11,594	(27,637)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	2,800	(59,997)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Interest paid - lease liability	(27)	(120)
Repayment of lease liabilities	(315)	(1,255)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(342)	(1,375)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	16,069	6,627
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the financial year	21,815	15,188
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the financial year	37,884	21,815

Operating income and expenditure

Year-to-date Operating Income Variance

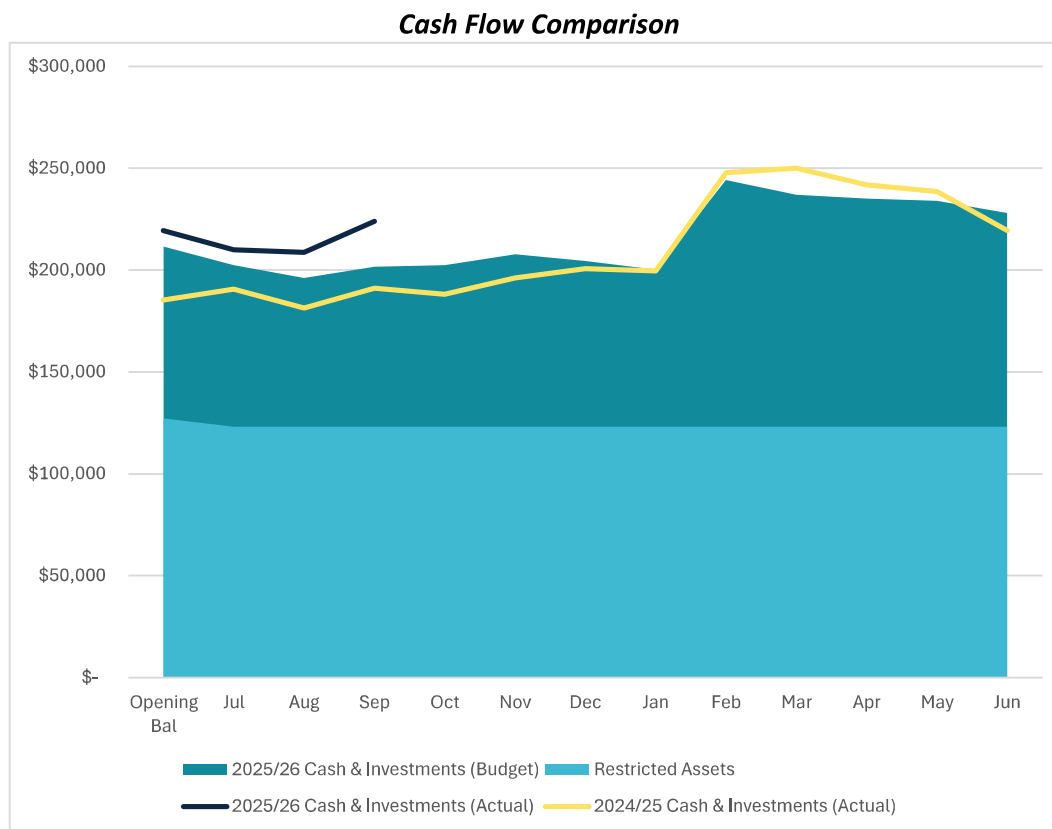


Year-to-date Operating Expenditure Variance

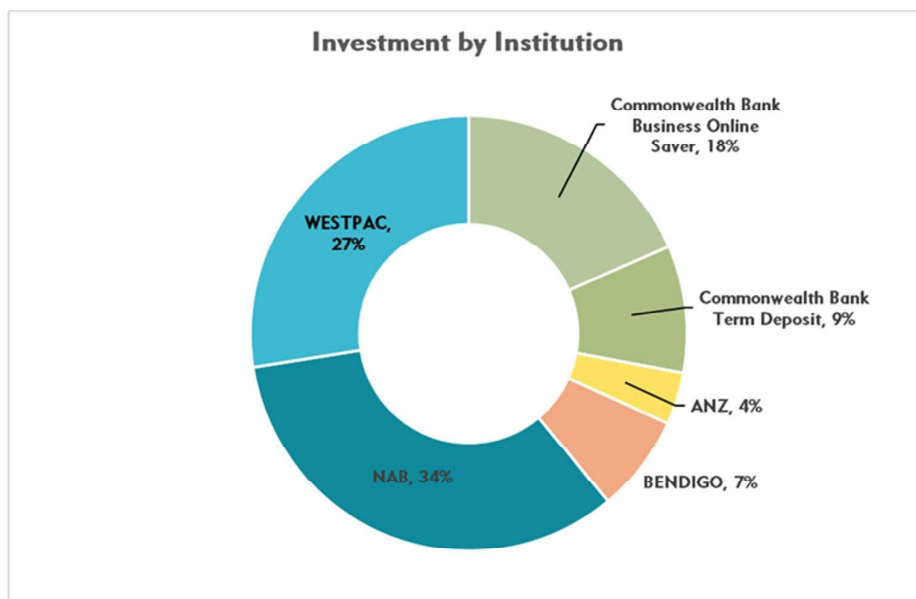


Cash and investments

Total cash and investments (including other financial assets) totalled \$223.96m at the end of September 2025, representing a \$4.47m increase since the start of the financial year.



Note: Restricted Funds include cash that is subject to external restrictions such as trust funds and deposits, public open space reserve and the car parking in lieu reserve. It also includes funds allocated for specific future purposes such as the community development reserve, waste management reserve, art collection reserve, and the Development Contributions Plan (DCP) reserves.

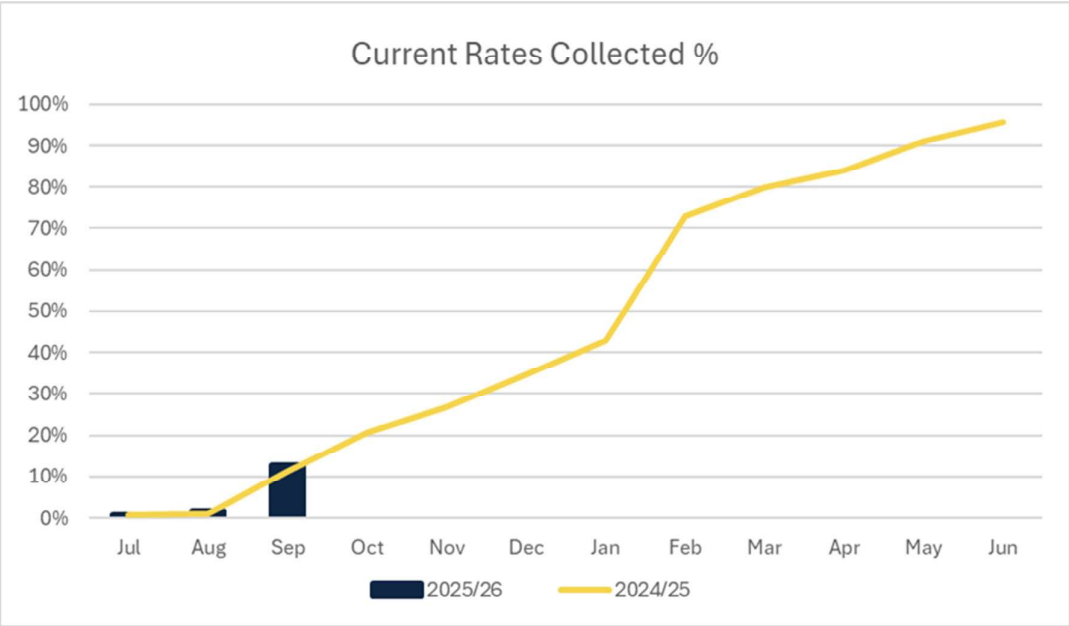


Rate debtors

Council has collected \$19.79m or 12.90% of 2025/26 rate debtors as at 30 September 2025.

Current Rate Debtors			
Rates Collection	30-Sep-25	30-Sep-24	31-Aug-25
YTD Current Rates Collected (\$'000)	19,789	16,623	2,715
Current Rates Collected (%)	12.90%	11.18%	1.77%

Note: The percentage of current rates collected is 1.72% higher than the same period in 2024/25, due to the uptake in ratepayers choosing to pay their rates via Payble (new payment platform), that enables ratepayers to pay their rates via regular instalments (final instalment due on 31 May 2026) rather than a lump sum payment.



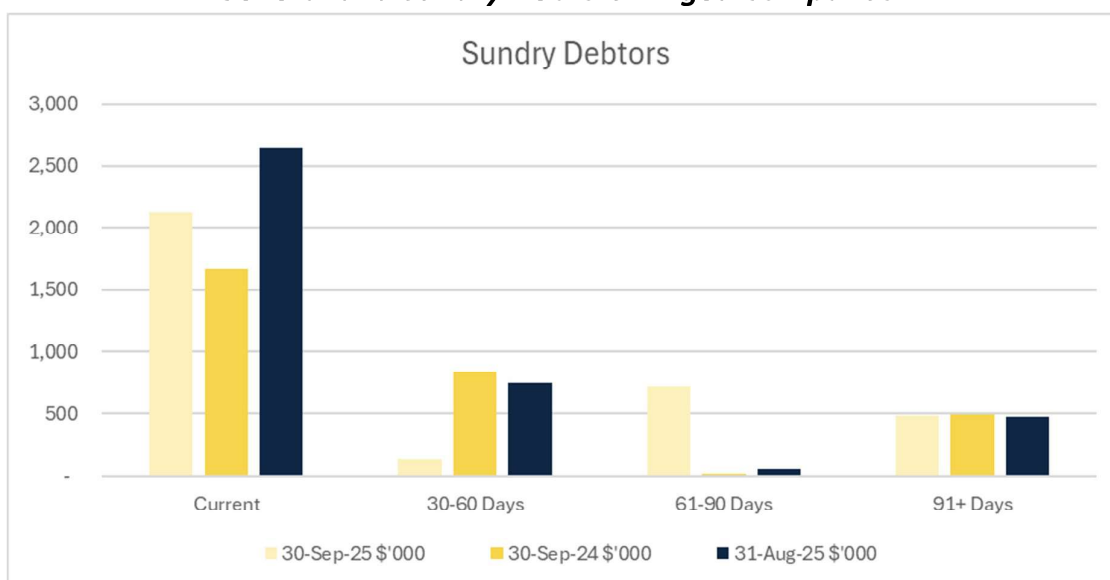
Sundry debtors

Sundry debtors outstanding at 30 September 2025 total \$3.47m, including \$485k outstanding over 90 days.

General and Sundry Debtors

	30-Sep-25 \$'000	30-Sep-24 \$'000	31-Aug-25 \$'000
Current	2,127	1,670	2,648
30-60 Days	130	842	743
61-90 Days	723	12	56
91+ Days	485	493	479
Total Owing	3,465	3,017	3,926
Total over 60 days	1,208	506	535
% over 60 days	34.9%	16.8%	13.6%
Total over 90 days	485	493	479
% over 90 days	14.0%	16.4%	12.2%

General and Sundry Debtors – Aged Comparison

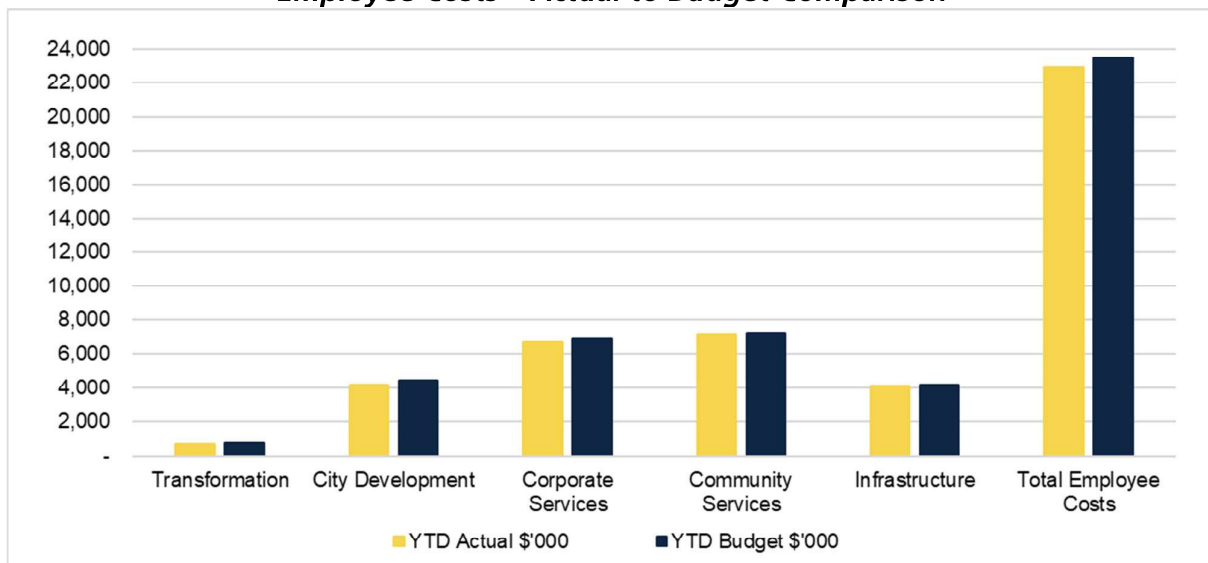


Employee costs

Employee Costs by Directorate

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance	Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Transformation	724	787	63	8.0%
City Development	4,174	4,448	274	6.2%
Corporate Services	6,720	6,895	175	2.5%
Community Services	7,176	7,212	36	0.5%
Infrastructure	4,134	4,173	39	0.9%
Total Employee Costs	22,929	23,516	587	2.5%

Employee Costs – Actual to Budget Comparison



Corporate Governance

Publicly tendered contracts greater than \$500,000 (excluding GST) for goods, services and works

Contract	Supplier/s Awarded	Value Ex GST	Commencement Date	Term	Awarded By
30592 Bulk Fuel, Fuel Card Services and Oils, Lubricants and Vehicles Care Products	Panel of 3 1. Ampol Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd 2. Castrol Australia Pty Ltd 3. BP Australia Pty Ltd	\$1,363,636.36	1 August 2025	3 years	Council 14/07
30632 Cleaning of Public Toilets and Barbeques	W.C Convenience Management Pty Ltd (WC Innovations)	\$1,073,528.55	1 August 2025	3 years – no option to extend	Council 14/07
30634 Morack Public Golf Course Irrigation Project	Planned Irrigation Projects Pty Ltd (Thinkwater)	\$1,097,092.1	11 August 2025	16 months – no option to extend	Council 14/07
30650 Supply of 17 Vans	Barry Bourke Motors Pty Ltd	\$642,615.45	29 July 2025	2 months – no option to extend	CEO 22/07
30628 Box Hill City Oval Sportsfield Ground and Training Net Renewal	Evergreen Turf Group Pty Ltd	\$3,367,720.97	15 September 2025	18 months – no option to extend	Council 11/08
30605 Box Hill City Oval Development	Building Engineering Pty Ltd	\$16,742,120.00	29 September 2025	2 years and 6 months – no option to extend	Council 22/09
30619 Contingent Workforce	Panel of 11 1. Unidex Consulting Pty Ltd 2. Work Solutions (Melb) Pty Ltd 3. Horner Recruitment Systems Pty 4. Design & Build Recruitment Pty 5. Chandler Macleod Group Limited 6. IPA by Synergie Pty Ltd 7. PERSOKELLY Australia Pty Ltd 8. Programmed Skilled Workforce Pty Ltd 9. Randstad Pty Limited 10. Drake Australia Pty Ltd 11. Talenza VIC Pty Ltd 12. McArthur (VIC) Pty Ltd	\$8,079,677.27	1 October 2025	3 years with an option to extend for a further 2 years	Council 22/09

Corporate Governance

Publicly tendered contracts greater than \$500,000 (excluding GST) for goods, services and works

Contract	Supplier/s Awarded	Value Ex GST	Commencement Date	Term	Awarded By
30643 Plumbing Installation and Maintenance Services	Panel of 3: 1. DBS Plumbing Services Pty Ltd 2. New Plumbing Solutions Group Holdings Pty Ltd 3. Shield Plumbing and Drainage Pty Ltd	\$6,445,967.00	1 October 2025	5 years – no option to extend	Council 22/09



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Box Hill Town Hall Service Centre

Box Hill Town Hall

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