

WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL

# Quarterly Performance Report 2025/26

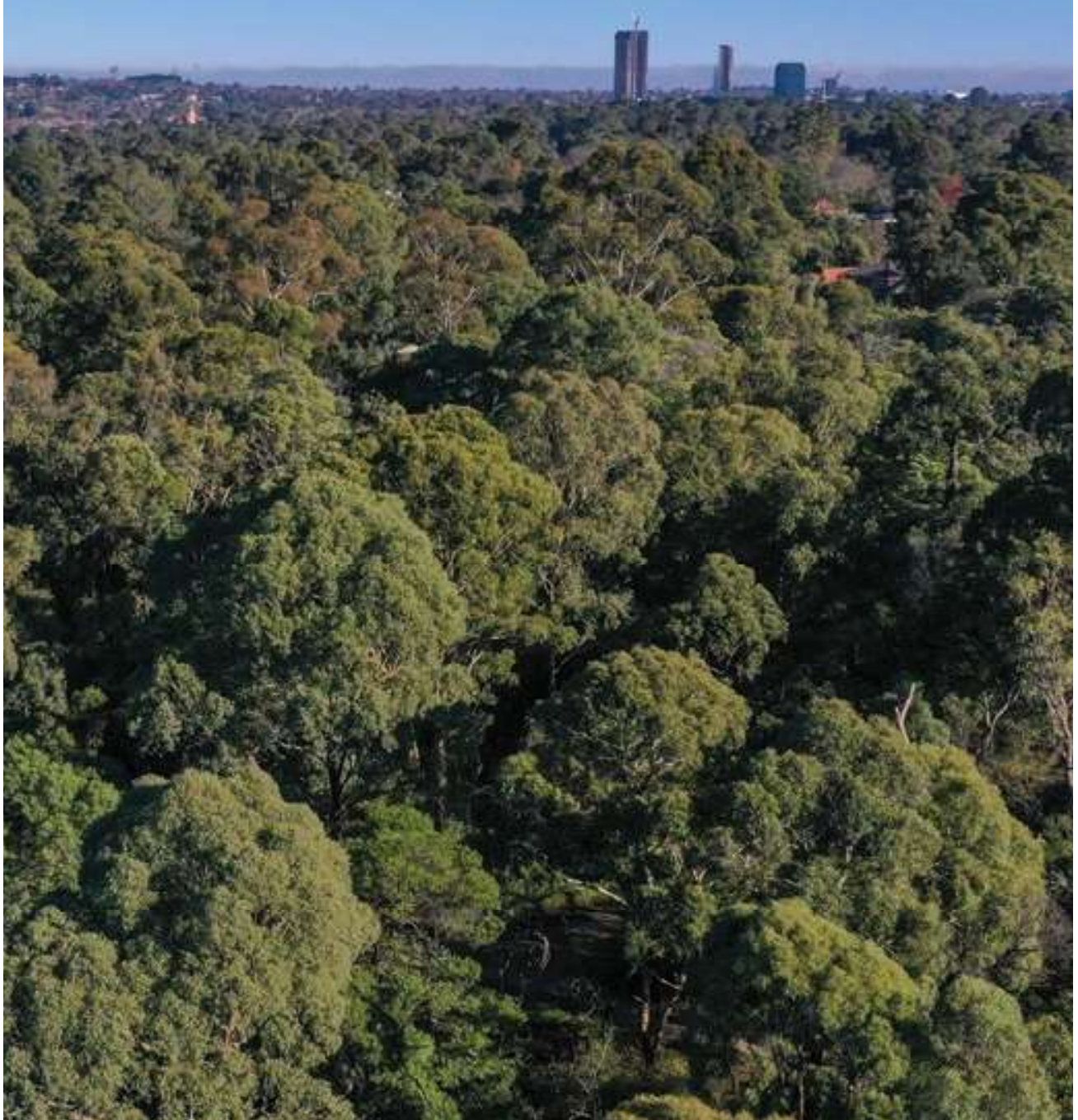
January - March 2026



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: January - March 2026



## How to Become a Council Supplier Workshop



In March, Council hosted a business development event, How to Become a Council Supplier, attracting 85 registrations.

Now in its fourth delivery, the session was well received by local businesses and reinforced Council's commitment to supporting and connecting businesses in Whitehorse.

## Mont Albert Station Transformed Into Vibrant Community Hub

Council has worked with the community to revitalise the historic 120-year-old Mont Albert Station Heritage Building, reopening it as the new home of Cape Cafe. The social enterprise cafe provides training and employment opportunities for people with disability in the hospitality sector, while helping to preserve a much loved local landmark that many feared would be lost.

Delivered in partnership with the Mont Albert Village Business Group and Cape group, the project also includes a new public plaza, creating a welcoming space for gatherings, events and connection in the heart of the village.

## Strong Turnout at Major Community Events!



126 mobile businesses engaged at Council

17,500 attendees at Whitehorse Twilight Markets



10,000 attendees at the Australia Day Concert

## Electric Vehicles 101 Workshop

In February, Council hosted an engaging electric vehicle information session alongside Whitehorse Manningham Libraries and Eastern Climate Action Melbourne, attracting 52 attendees. Guest speaker Bryce Gatton shared practical insights into EV ownership, covering everything from charging to choosing the right model, while highlighting ways to reduce household emissions. The session was complemented by a locally supported EV display, offering attendees valuable, community-based knowledge.



## Quarterly Highlights: January - March 2026



### Multicultural Precincts Funding

Council has secured \$400,000 in Multicultural Business Precinct Revitalisation funding, with two successful grants supporting improvements in Box Hill (\$150,000) and Britannia Mall (\$250,000).

The Box Hill project will help energise the night-time economy through enhanced shopfronts, wayfinding signage, murals and decorative lighting, while the Britannia Mall project will deliver a new shelter to activate the precinct and drive both economic and community outcomes.

### Community Funding Accelerator Program



Since the Community Funding Accelerator Program commenced in August 2025, 16 grant opportunities, including State and Federal Government programs, have been promoted to more than 300 community organisations across Whitehorse.

More recently, 14 clubs have successfully secured funding through the State Government's Sporting Club Grants Program.

## Asian Business Association of Whitehorse: Chinese New Year Festival



At the Asian Business Association of Whitehorse Chinese New Year Festival, Creative Whitehorse delivered a vibrant Year of the Horse activity, distributing 1,400 plaster horse artworks for the community to paint during the event or at home. Inspired by sculptures from the Whitehorse Art Collection, the activity encouraged creative participation across all ages. The festival, delivered by the Asian Business Association of Whitehorse, is the municipality's largest annual event.

## Celebrating Creativity Through 'Irrepressible'

In March, Whitehorse Artspace launched *Irrepressible*, a dynamic exhibition of contemporary printmaking curated by acclaimed artist and former Box Hill Institute educator, Rona Green. Two years in the making, the exhibition features new works by 53 Victorian artists responding to the theme *Irrepressible*. The exhibition opened on 21 March, attracting 150 guests and featuring a live music performance by exhibiting artists, creating a vibrant and engaging launch event.



# Quarterly Highlights: January - March 2026

## Working together to create a safer Whitehorse!

Everyone deserves to feel safe at home and in public spaces. To support this, Council has established a new Community Safety Advisory Committee, led by Cr Prue Cutts (Chair) and Cr Jason Martin, bringing together representatives from Victoria Police, Crime Stoppers, Asian Business Association of Whitehorse, EACH, Eastern Health, Department of Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH), Rotary Box Hill Burwood, and local residents.

The Committee held its first meeting in March and will meet quarterly to respond to emerging issues and promote practical actions that help keep the community safe, such as securing homes and vehicles and reporting suspicious behaviour.



## Affinity Quartet Brings Students to the Stage at The Round!

In February, The Round hosted a midweek matinee of chamber music featuring Melbourne's award-winning Affinity Quartet, joined by students from Blackburn High School Music program.

The Blackburn High Music students opened the performance, following a workshop the quartet had delivered at the school ahead of the concert.

This event reflects the Whitehorse Integrated Council Plan 2025–2029 in action, advancing the Plan's Community strategic direction, fostering a connected, inclusive community where everyone feels a sense of belonging.



## Whitehorse Twilight Markets!


Council successfully launched the new Whitehorse Twilight Markets initiative in February, activating the Box Hill and Mitcham precincts with a vibrant mix of local traders, food offerings and live entertainment.

The markets have welcomed over 17,000 attendees across 4 events and received strong positive community feedback.

# Performance against our Integrated Council Plan 2025-2029

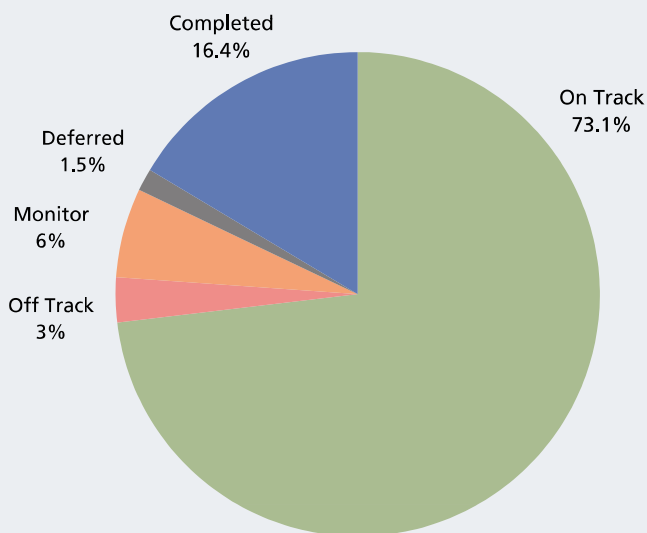



Our Integrated Council Plan 2025–2029 outlines the 5 strategic directions and related objectives for Council to work towards over the next 4 years to achieve the Whitehorse 2040 Community Vision.






The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is incorporated within Council Plan and outlines the activities Council and partners organisations will undertake to achieve the Health and Wellbeing objectives. The Health and Wellbeing actions can be identified by .

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

## Progress of the Council Plan actions




**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 Health and Wellbeing actions identified by .**

 Completed:	<b>11</b>
 Monitor (at risk of/or is falling behind):	<b>4</b>
 On Track (activities for an annual action or multi-year action are progressing as planned):	<b>49</b>
 Off Track (action falling behind schedule):	<b>2</b>
 Action is deferred/discontinued:	<b>1</b>

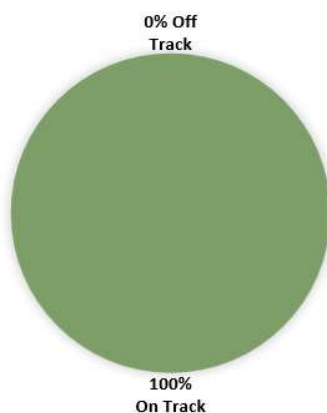
# The Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 Highlights








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 and can be identified by .

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



**Of the 67 actions in the Integrated Council Plan 2025-2029, 11 are identified as health and wellbeing actions with the progress at 31/3/2026 of:**

	Completed	<b>0</b>
	Monitor (at risk of/or is falling behind)	<b>0</b>
	On Track: (activities for an annual action or multi-year action is progressing as planned)	<b>11</b>
	Off Track (action falling behind schedule)	<b>0</b>
	Action is deferred/discontinued	<b>0</b>

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



Biscuit Tin Participants and Project Team (L-R): Dilnaz Billimoria, Eleanor McCoy, Sarah Codling (staff), Anne Payne, Stacey Faletose (staff), KRin Pender Gunn and Briony Squibb (staff)

## Challenging Ageism

Initial work on The Biscuit Tin project began two years ago, and the project has continued to resonate with the community. A final gathering of participants at The Round in March formally acknowledged their valued contribution.

Planning and promotion started for the 'Beyond Age' project, a photographic storytelling initiative that encourages positive conversations about ageing.

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## Food Access and Systems

The Whitehorse Food Access Mapping Project is nearing completion with the inclusion of additional factors that affect access to food. The report and recommendations will guide future community engagement and project design. An interactive map will be available for the community once completed.

Priority areas for 2026/27 include improving access to fresh food, building food literacy, and involving local businesses in food system initiatives.

## Climate Resilience

Council is working with an Environmentally Sustainable Design expert to explore whether a Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) developer offset scheme could work in Whitehorse. Instead of quickly sending rainwater into pipes and waterways, WSUD aims to slow it down, clean it, and reuse it where possible. This helps protect rivers and creeks, supports cooler and greener neighbourhoods, and makes communities more resilient to drought and flooding.

## Whitehorse Health and Wellbeing Working Groups

The Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee met in March to review progress and next steps. It now has six partnership working groups, each at different stages, from early planning through to project delivery.

## Swimming and Fitness Initiatives

Community consultation and construction are on track to finish an all-ages fitness station along Somers Trail near Chasta Crescent by the end of June 2026.

Council has worked closely with swim providers to support learn to swim programs for migrant and CALD communities. Program delivery has varied between sites, with 53 participants so far in 2025/26, and further growth expected in the final quarter.

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## Preventing Gender-based Violence

Council's Maternal Child Health Services introduced a new late-afternoon new parent group session in March focused on family wellbeing and improved access for fathers.

The Women in Sport Leadership Program supports female sports leaders to build confidence, skills and networks. Recruitment for the 2026 intake will be finalised in April. Participants in last year's program valued the presenters, practical leadership insights and peer learning. Deakin University will again sponsor the program.

A dedicated working group formed through the Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee is guiding Equality and Respect initiatives, including the development of an Active Bystander and Leadership Program.

# 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:

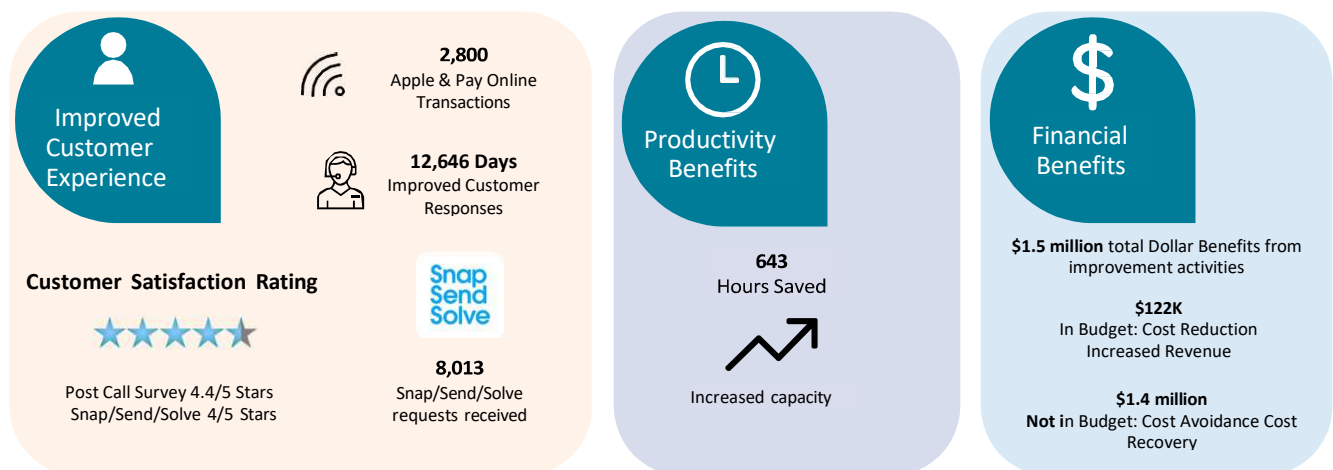


The program is driven by six core functions that work together to achieve meaningful and lasting change:

- 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 January to March 2026

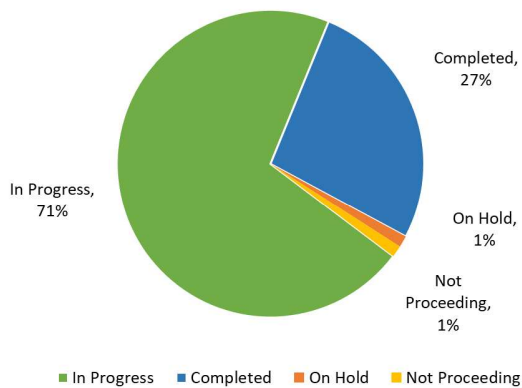


# Capital Works



The 2025/26 Capital Works Program includes 164 projects and programs to be delivered over the financial year with an adopted budget of \$53.12M. As at 31 March, the forecast capital expenditure for 2025/26 has been adjusted to \$54.33M following the inclusion of funding from 2024/25 carry forward projects (\$3.25M), increased grants, contributions and transfers (\$1.70M), and funding brought forward from 2026/27 (\$375k), partly offset by funding carried forward into 2026/27 (\$1.29M), a decrease in reserve funding (\$1.90M) and surplus funds (primarily from projects being delivered within their budget allocation) that have been identified as no longer required (\$924k).

## Progress status of actions



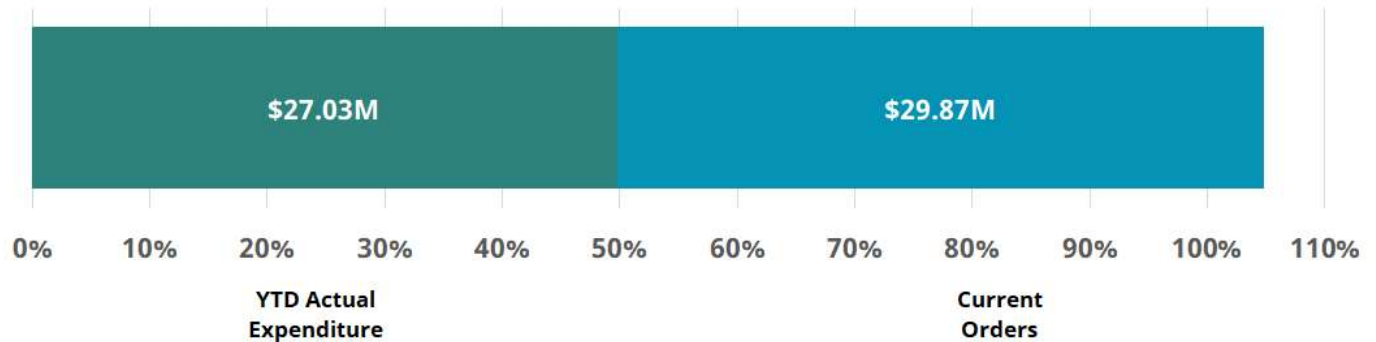
Capital Works Snapshot:	
Completed:	<b>44</b>
In Progress:	<b>117</b>
On Hold:	<b>1</b>
Not Proceeding:	<b>2</b>

# Capital expenditure

Capital Program expenditure snapshot:

At 31 March 2026:

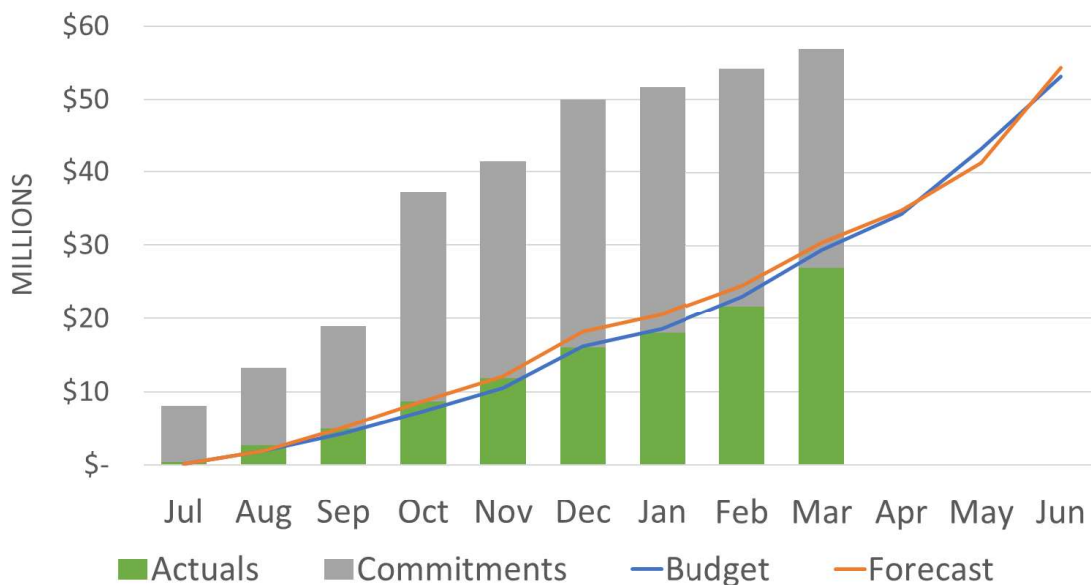
YTD actual expenditure:	\$27.03M (49.8%)*
Current orders:	\$29.87M (55.0%)*
Full year forecast:	\$54.33M



\* Percentage is greater than 100% due to current orders including commitments that will be expended in 2026/27.

As at 31 March, year to date expenditure was \$27.03M, which was \$2.48M below the budgeted expenditure of \$29.51M. There was \$29.87M in project commitments at the end of the third quarter, as shown by the March column in the graph below.

## Capital Works Program 2025/26 Expenditure Summary



The blue line indicates the cumulative adopted budget expenditure for the year, totaling \$53.12M. The orange line indicates the cumulative revised forecast expenditure of \$54.33M.

## 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	Q2 FORECAST CHANGE 000's	Notes
<b>PROPERTY</b>							
Land	500	-	(500)	3,000	1,100	(1,900)	1
Buildings	6,689	8,254	1,565	14,956	14,763	(157)	2
Building Improvements	1,715	2,382	667	2,821	3,002	(5)	3
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY</b>	<b>8,904</b>	<b>10,635</b>	<b>1,732</b>	<b>20,777</b>	<b>18,865</b>	<b>(2,062)</b>	

<b>PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>							
Plant, Machinery and Equipment	2,240	2,298	57	4,761	4,202	162	4
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture	759	827	68	885	950	(63)	
Computers and Telecommunications	825	1,064	239	1,415	1,295	(1)	5
<b>TOTAL PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>3,824</b>	<b>4,188</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>7,061</b>	<b>6,447</b>	<b>97</b>	

<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>							
Roads	2,484	3,925	1,441	6,987	8,400	448	6
Footpaths and Cycleways	3,162	3,104	(57)	5,172	5,158	(204)	7
Drainage	728	1,451	724	2,385	2,288	(142)	8
Rec, Leisure and Community Facilities	5,416	3,929	(1,487)	6,482	8,645	(50)	9
Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes	1,917	1,818	(99)	3,736	3,826	39	
Off Street Car Parks	598	454	(144)	515	701	10	10
<b>TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<b>14,305</b>	<b>14,682</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>25,277</b>	<b>29,019</b>	<b>101</b>	

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,033</b>	<b>29,505</b>	<b>2,472</b>	<b>53,115</b>	<b>54,332</b>	<b>(1,864)</b>	
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### Notes

(1.) Land Acquisitions expenditure was \$500k above YTD budget relating to a deposit paid for property purchased in Mont Albert, which will be converted into new public open space.

The Land Acquisitions expenditure full year forecast has decreased by \$1.9M during the third quarter. The abovementioned property acquisition in Mont Albert settles in July 2027, and it is unlikely for any further potential acquisitions to settle by 30 June.

(2.) Buildings expenditure was \$1.57M lower than YTD budget mainly due to cash flow profiling differences on the Vermont Reserve (\$1.03M) and Mirrabooka Reserve (\$344k) pavilion upgrades and the Box Hill City Oval Redevelopment (\$391k). These were partly offset by the East Burwood Reserve South Pavilion upgrade (\$247k), which was tracking ahead of budget, and carried forward expenditure from 2024/25 to complete the Forest Hill Reserve Pavilion upgrade (\$234k).

# Capital expenditure by asset category

## Notes - continued

The Buildings expenditure full year forecast decreased by \$157k during the third quarter reflecting unrequired contingency on the Vermont Reserve Pavilion Upgrade (\$138k) and a redistribution of advocacy funding from other asset categories (36k). These were partly offset by the proposed carry forward of funding into 2026/27 for the Nunawading Gymnastics Building Redevelopment concept design (\$30k), which is awaiting the Walker Park Masterplan, and Bungalook Nursery Upgrade (\$25k) to supplement funding in 2026/27 following the concept design in 2025/26.

**(3.)** Building Improvements expenditure was \$667k lower than YTD budget primarily due to timing differences in the Buildings Refurbishment and Component Renewal Program (\$370k), Mechanical Plant Replacement Program (\$157k), and the Mont Albert Reserve Pavilion Decking Improvements Project (\$126k) which have been impacted by delays in finalisation of scoping and external funding arrangements.

**(4.)** The Plant, Machinery and Equipment full year forecast increased by \$162k primarily due to additional grant funding received for the purchase of two new CCTV trailers which will be used by Victoria Police to enhance community safety (\$185k).

**(5.)** The Computers and Telecommunications expenditure was \$239k lower than YTD budget reflecting timing differences in the IT Infrastructure Upgrade Program (\$93k), Mobile Devices Renewal Program (\$96k) and Geographic Information System Upgrade Program (\$40k).

**(6.)** Roads expenditure was \$1.44M lower than YTD budget mainly reflecting timing differences in the Road Maintenance Funding Uplift Program (\$547k), Purches Street, Mitcham Road Resurfacing (\$143k), and road reconstructions in Raleigh Street, Forest Hill (\$323k), Drewett Street, Surrey Hills (\$294k) and Station Walk, Box Hill (\$180k), all of which are all scheduled for completion during the final quarter of the year.

The Roads expenditure full year forecast increased by \$448k mainly due to the redeployment of contract savings identified in Quarter 2 to the Local Roads Rehabilitation Renewal Program (\$336k) and reallocation of funding from Drainage towards the associated drainage works on the Drewett Street, Surrey Hills road reconstruction (\$86k).

**(7.)** Footpaths and Cycleways expenditure full year forecast decreased by \$204k mainly due proposed carry forward funding to 2026/27 due to a delay in the design for the Nelson Road Safety Improvements (\$140k), and lower than expected concept design costs for cycling connection improvements (\$160k) in locations around Whitehorse Road and Burwood Highway. These are partly offset by additional externally funded works to improve the pavement on the Mont Albert Road bridge (\$120k) following the rail/road separation.

**(8.)** Drainage expenditure was \$724k below YTD budget mainly reflecting a delay in drainage renewal works in the Drainage Stormwater Network Renewal Program (\$626k) while undertaking procurement processes to establish a new Civil and Drainage Works Panel Contract during the first half of the year.

The Drainage expenditure full year forecast decreased by \$142k reflecting a transfer of funding to the Roads asset category for drainage works to be completed as part of the Drewett Street (\$86k) and Raleigh Street (\$56k) road reconstruction projects.

## Capital expenditure by asset category

### Notes - continued

**(9.)** Recreation, Leisure and Community Facilities expenditure was \$1.49M above YTD budget mainly reflecting carried forward expenditure from 2024/25 to complete the Ballyshannassy Reserve New Sports Field Lighting (\$752k) and Morack Public Golf irrigation upgrade (\$633).

**(10.)** Off Street Car Park expenditure was \$144k higher than YTD budget mainly reflecting the Elgar Park North East Car Park upgrade (\$179k), which was brought forward and completed in conjunction with the sports field surface and lighting improvements and funded from surplus funds in other asset categories.

# Capital Works highlights: January - March 2026

## Box Hill City Oval Redevelopment and Sports Field Improvements – In progress

A major \$25.10M redevelopment of the Box Hill City Oval pavilions is in progress. The previous western pavilion and adjacent wooden buildings on the oval's western side have been demolished in readiness for construction of a new contemporary double-story multipurpose venue.

- The full refurbishment of the lower level and minor upgrade of the upper level of the southern pavilion interior reached practical completion on 10 April.
- The Western pavilion redevelopment is currently progressing and is at in-ground works stage.

A \$3.70M renewal of the sports field and associated infrastructure is in progress and due for completion in May 2026.

- The sports field construction renewal is complete. Installation of upgraded the lighting will be undertaken after the 2026 VFL season.

This project is being funded by Council in partnership with the Australian and Victorian Governments and expected to be completed by mid-2027.

### South Pavilion refurbishment



### Box Hill City Oval Sports Field



### West Pavilion Ground works



# Capital Works highlights: January - March 2026

## Vermont Reserve Pavilion Upgrade – In progress

The \$4.96M upgrade of the Vermont Reserve Pavilion involves partial demolition of the existing sports pavilion and the construction of a new addition with multiple change rooms, amenities and facilities to support our sporting clubs and for community use.

Council is delivering this project with funding contributions from the State Government (\$260k) and the Vermont Sports Club Inc. (\$300k)

- Works progressing during Q3 with anticipated project completion June - July 2026.
- External Cladding and Door installation in progress
- Change Rooms – All wall and ceiling linings complete. Painting in Progress
- Change Room Amenities – All wall and ceiling lining complete. Wall tiling and painting nearing completion.

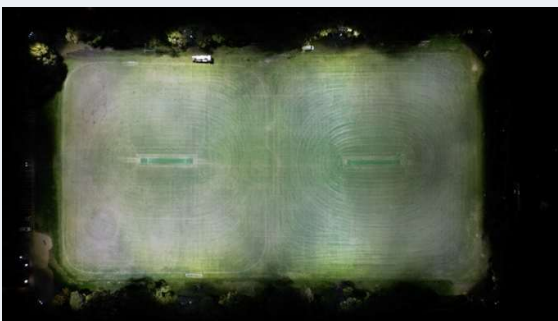
### In Progress



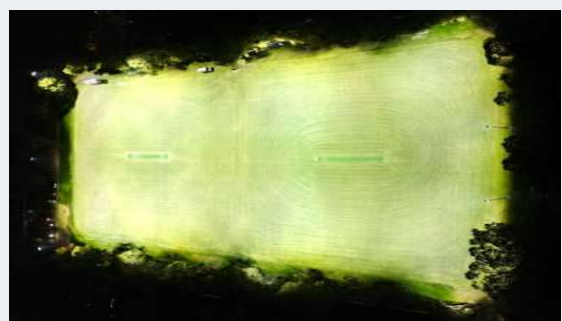
## Ballyshannassy Reserve New Sports Field Lighting

New sports field lights were delivered at Ballyshannassy Reserve. The scope included demolition and removal of the old lighting towers and fittings and installation of a new lighting solution featuring new conduit, cabling, light towers and LED light fittings. The scope also included the provision of smart on-demand lighting for public use. The on-demand lighting feature allows the community to use sports field flood lighting in the morning and evenings when they are not in use by sporting clubs. The total cost of this project was \$934k and was partly funded by the State Government.

### Before



### After



# Capital Works highlights: January - March 2026

## The Avenue Neighbourhood House Footpath

A new sealed footpath has been constructed to improve pedestrian access from Eley Road to Eley Park Community Centre and The Avenue Neighbourhood House in response to community feedback. This project was completed for a cost of \$50k.

**Before**



**After**



## New Dog Bowl Drinking Fountains

New or upgraded dog-bowl drinking fountains have been installed during the third quarter at Slater Reserve, Nicoll Park, Abbey Walk and Somers Street providing improved facilities for park users in response to community feedback. This project included the establishment of new water lines at three of the parks and the total cost to deliver this project was \$56k.

**Nicoll Park**



**Abbey Walk**



# Capital Works highlights: January - March 2026

## Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion Redevelopment – In progress

Works have commenced on the \$7.59M Mirrabooka Reserve Pavilion redevelopment to provide an upgraded facility which is fit for purpose and better caters for female and gender-diverse users.

The scope of works involves demolition of the old pavilion and construction of a new sporting pavilion with six change rooms (multi-configurable) and associated amenities, accessible change spaces, umpire changing rooms, first aid room, storage spaces, multi-purpose room, community meeting room and kitchen / kiosk servery.

Demolition, screw piles, in ground services, footings and structural blockwork have all been completed, with the slab and steel structure to follow in Quarter Four. Building construction works are on track to be completed late 2026 followed by landscaping and make good works being delivered in early 2027.

The project is being funded by Council in partnership with the Australian and Victorian Governments.

### In progress



# Year to date result

For the period ending 31 March 2026



## Executive summary

The year to date (YTD) financial result as of 31 March 2026 was a surplus of \$55.76m, \$7.43m favourable to the YTD Adopted Budget surplus of \$48.33m.

Income was \$4.20m higher than budget primarily reflecting higher than budgeted interest on investments income (\$1.71m), capital grants (\$1.37m), operating grants (\$648k), rates and charges income (\$583k) and other income (\$1.41m), partially offset by higher net loss on disposal of assets (\$1.33m) and lower user fees (\$208k). Expenditure was \$3.23m lower than budget primarily reflecting lower materials and services expenditure (\$3.33m), employee costs (\$458k) and other expenses (\$318k), partially offset by higher than budgeted depreciation and amortisation costs (\$998k). 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 August forecast estimated a surplus result of \$17.98m, \$2.16m lower than the Adopted Budget of \$20.14m. A subsequent review in September 2025 revised the projected year-end surplus result to \$16.84m, a reduction of \$1.14m from the August forecast and \$3.30m below the Adopted Budget.

A further review, completed in early March 2026 and reported as the March forecast, projects a year end surplus of \$14.05m, representing a further reduction of \$2.79m from the September forecast and \$6.09m below the Adopted Budget.

The March forecast was developed in a challenging and evolving economic environment, based on the best information available at the time of preparation. Since the forecast was finalised, economic conditions have remained uncertain, with a range of global and domestic factors contributing to renewed inflationary pressures and volatility, particularly in fuel prices, construction costs and supply chains. The extent and timing of any resulting financial impacts remain uncertain and may not be known for some time. These conditions are being actively monitored and will be considered through future forecasting and reporting cycles as impacts become clearer.

## Year to date result

As outlined in the Executive Summary, the actual YTD result at 31 March 2026 was a surplus of \$55.76m, \$7.43m favourable to YTD Adopted Budget. The significant variances to budget were:

**(1) Rates and charges** were \$583k above budget reflecting more than budgeted rates income (\$215k) and waste service charge income (\$189k) mainly due to timing. In addition, the interest on rates was \$179k higher than YTD budget.

**(2) Statutory fees** were \$81k lower than YTD budget. This was largely driven by a \$431k reduction in planning permit application fees, mainly reflecting the impact of recent State Government planning reforms, with a temporary decline in planning permit income as developers defer planning applications while adjusting to new planning application pathways and as application volumes shift toward simpler, lower fee “deemed-to-comply” and expedited assessment streams. This was partially offset by higher-than-budget temporary road closure permit revenue (\$249k), driven by ongoing SRL project activity in Box Hill and Burwood, and stronger-than-expected building-related property information income (\$115k).

**(3) User fees** were (\$208k) below YTD budget mainly related to the following variances:

- Health and Family Services were \$351k lower than budget primarily for Whitehorse Early Learning Services (WELS) due to a change in mix between fee paying and subsidised childcare placements partly offset by higher enrolment grant funding (as noted in Item 4).
- City Planning and Development were \$230k under budget, driven mainly by fewer than budgeted public protection hoarding and gantry fees in building activities (\$211k).
- Community Safety was \$191k lower than budget primarily reflecting a timing difference against budget phasing for animal registration fees (\$294k) which is expected to be on budget by end of year and lower Local Laws infringements (\$203k) as a result of a decrease in building related offences, partly offset by higher parking meter money collection fees (\$310k) driven by higher than expected street parking demand at Box Hill.
- Recycling and Waste Centre was \$107k lower than budget, mainly due 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.

The above below budget variances were partly offset by higher than budgeted income for:

- The Round was \$514k higher than budget, reflecting strong demand for theatre and venue hire coupled with higher catering income, retail and ticket sales related to Council’s curated programmes.
- Leisure and Recreation Services were \$261k above budget, mainly reflecting higher membership income (\$510k). This was partly offset by lower than budgeted aquatics income (\$179k) related to school groups income for Aqualink Nunawading, which has been incorporated into the monthly Learn to Swim contract (previously paid separately) and reflected in Other Income (as noted in Item 9).

**(4) Operating Grant income** was \$648k above budget, primarily reflecting higher than budgeted enrolment grants for Childcare Centres (\$162k, offsetting reduced direct fee income as noted in Item 3 above), plus unbudgeted State Government grants (\$427k) mainly related to:

- the Business Acceleration Fund initiative (\$157k) to support digitisation of Council’s building planning and property records and
- Combustible Cladding Rectification Program from Cladding Safety Victoria (\$84k),
- Active Communities (\$92k) to support the installation of a new scoreboard at Elgar Park and court resurfacing works at Nunawading Tennis Club,
- and the NELP funded Elgar Park and Eram Park Relocation project (\$75k).

## Year to date result

**(5) Capital Grant income** was \$1.37m higher than budget, mainly reflecting unbudgeted Commonwealth Government funding for the Forest Hill Reserve Pavilion Upgrade (\$1.00m) due to a timing difference in the payment of funding instalments (originally anticipated to be received in 2024/25 financial year).

**(6) Contribution income** was \$100k higher than budget, primarily due to higher than budgeted development contributions plan (DCP) income (\$598k) and unbudgeted capital contributions (\$307k) largely associated with the SRL road resurfacing works (\$132k) and Elgar Park/Koonung Creek Reserve shared user path upgrade (\$147k). This was partially offset by lower than budgeted public open space contributions received to date (\$805k; timing).

**(7) Net loss on disposal of assets** was \$1.33m higher than budget primarily reflecting higher than budgeted net gain on disposal of vehicles, plant and equipment (\$1.50m) mainly related to higher vehicle sales (88 vehicles sold to date) which primarily related to changes to commuter vehicles and reduction in private use vehicles as a result of changes in Council's updated fleet policy.

These gains were more than offset by the unbudgeted disposal of assets (\$2.67m) related to the Box Hill City Oval redevelopment (\$1.29m) and Mirrabooka Pavilion (\$1.38m), with the amount representing the net book value of demolished buildings at said sites ahead of redevelopment, and the net loss on sale of Neil Court (\$238k).

**(8) Interest on investments** was \$1.71m higher than budget due to higher than budgeted investment balances and favourable interest rates on investments to date compared to budget assumption.

**(9) Other income** was \$1.41m favourable to budget, mainly reflecting:

- a reclassification of proceeds on sale of discontinued roads (\$470k) from Proceeds on Disposal of Assets category, where the amount was originally budgeted,
- higher swim school licence fee income at Aqualink Nunawading (\$266k),
- higher reimbursement (\$183k) from State Revenue Office in relation to administration of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF), including \$103k earlier receipt of baseline funding (budget phased in June) and additional once off funding (\$80k) to support the transition from Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) to ESVF.
- unbudgeted reimbursement income for SRL Structure Plans and Planning Scheme Amendments project (\$183k),
- higher than budgeted non-voter election fines (\$154k),
- higher lease and rental income at Morack Public Golf (\$126k) and
- a rental compensation from the Level Crossing Removal project for the occupation of Morton Park in Blackburn (\$74k).

These were partly offset by lower container deposit scheme income (\$163k, timing) and Vicroads reimbursement income (\$117k) for street sweeping and mowing of arterial roads managed by Vicroads, with payment deferred until the final quarter of the financial year.

**(10) Employee costs** were \$458k favourable compared to YTD budget, primarily reflecting lower than budgeted training and development expenditure (\$309k) mainly due to timing against planned budget phasing and lower Fringe Benefits Tax expense to date (\$189k) arising from changes to commuter vehicles and reduced private use vehicles under Council's updated fleet policy.

## Year to date result

**(11) Materials and services expenditure** was \$3.33m lower than budget, with the most significant variances being:

- Technology Transformation initiatives were \$1.75m under YTD budget due mainly to a revision in the scope and timing of projects and lower than budgeted project costs as a result of more cost-effective suppliers being selected through competitive tendering processes.

The annual forecast has been reduced by \$1.00m compared to the adopted budget, primarily reflecting the descoping of two projects following the Technology Transformation Roadmap Review.

- City Services expenditure was \$1.19m under budget, primarily due to lower tipping fee costs at the Recycling and Waste Centre (\$655k), reflecting lower volumes of waste materials being processed through the site due to a two week maintenance closure at the end of August 2025. In addition, kerbside waste and recycling collection and disposal costs were \$362k lower than budgeted, largely driven by lower average tonnage volumes and fewer bin numbers compared to budget assumptions. Expenditure on environmental initiatives (previously for the purchase of carbon offsets) was \$120k below budget as these funds were transferred (repurposed) to the capital works program to support emissions reduction and electrification projects per Council resolution on 13 October 2025.

These variances were partly offset by the undertaking of additional concrete works (\$128k) resulting from changes to Council's adopted Road Management Plan.

- Arts and Cultural services were \$588k below budget, due to timing of events expenditure for Lunar new year (\$109k) and reclassification of events expenditure under "other expenses" category (\$210k) (as noted under Item 14 below), and lower catering costs to date at The Round (\$131k), and contracted services at Box Hill Town Hall (\$72k).
- Parks and Natural Environment were \$550k lower than budget, primarily associated with the timing of tree pruning contract costs (\$314k) and weed eradication contract costs (\$190k) related to Open Space and Park Assets.
- Communications, Advocacy and Investment were \$338k below budget, mainly related to lower marketing and promotions (\$114k), Whitehorse News costs (\$45k) and brochures and publications expense (\$39k) as a result of more cost-effective outsourcing costs for graphic design / printing combined with timing differences in spending against budget phasing. Contracted services costs were also \$57k lower than budget, largely related to a reduced scope of work for the Box Hill brickworks open space advocacy project.
- Leisure Services were \$250k under budget primarily due to lower gas expenditure (\$119k) and cleaning contract expenditure (\$65k) due to timing of invoices.
- Project Delivery and Assets were \$226k under budget, primarily due to lower building facilities maintenance expenditure to date (\$174k) and timing of Civic Centre utilities costs (\$25k).

The above favourable variances were partly offset by higher expenditure within:

- City Planning and Development (\$1.72m over budget), mainly driven by unbudgeted project costs related to the SRL Structure Plans and Planning Scheme Amendment (\$2.43m), with this expenditure approved by Council in July 2025. This expenditure included legal costs (\$2.32m) and contracted services costs (\$113k) to appoint experts and legal advisors to assist Council to prepare a detailed submission and represent Council at the East Precincts Standing Advisory Committee Hearings.

This variance was partly offset by lower project costs to date in relation to Council's Housing Strategy and Neighbourhood Character Study (\$118k) and Planning Reform Initiative project (\$118k) with unspent budget to be carried forward to 2026/27.

## Year to date result

- Organisational Technology (\$457k more than budget) primarily reflecting higher than budgeted software licences, support and hosting expenses to date (\$510k).

**(12) Depreciation and amortisation** were \$998k over budget, impacted by the revaluation of building assets and sportsfields (infrastructure) in 2024/25 financial year. The revaluation of building assets 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. These impacts were not included into the adopted budget, as the effect of the standard and the resulting valuation movements could not be reliably estimated at the time the budget was developed. Depreciation on sportsfields also increased significantly, driven by higher unit rates resulting from cost escalations over the past three years.

**(13) Allowance for impairment losses** were \$123k lower than budget, mainly related to lower doubtful debts expense associated with parking infringements.

**(14) Other expenses** were \$318k below budget, driven largely by timing of the payment of Council's Clayton landfill contribution (\$200k), lower community grants expenditure (\$166k) and lower internal audit fees (\$46k) due to timing. These were partially offset by the reclassification of some festivals and events expenditure (\$210k) related to equipment hire as noted in Item 11 above.

## 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 anticipated a surplus result of \$17.98m, \$2.16m lower than the Adopted Budget of \$20.14m. The difference was 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 anticipated a surplus of \$16.84m, \$1.14m below the August forecast and \$3.30m below the 2025/26 Adopted Budget. The key variances compared to the August full year forecast included higher depreciation expense (\$1.71m) based on revaluation of building assets and sportsfields (infrastructure) in 2024/25 and increased legal costs (\$1.00m) in relation to the 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).

A final review of the 2025/26 full year forecast, completed in early March 2026 and reported as the March forecast, further revised the projected year-end surplus to \$14.05m. This represents a \$2.79m reduction from the September forecast and is \$6.09m below the Adopted Budget. The key variances compared to the September forecast include higher net loss from asset disposals of \$6.21 million predominately related the demolition of a number of Council buildings ahead of redevelopment. Employee costs were \$831k higher than previously forecast, reflecting one off organisational change impacts, including staff departures from discontinued roles. These impacts were partially offset by increases in contribution income (\$1.02m) to reflect increased Development Contribution Plan levy and unbudgeted capital contributions, interest on investments (\$1.00m), capital grants (\$451k), rates and charges (\$357k) and other income (\$1.30m).

# Income statement

	YEAR-TO-DATE				FULL YEAR			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Variance	Adopted Budget	September Forecast	March Forecast	Variance: Mar vs Sep Forecast
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Rates and Charges	154,981	154,398	583	0.4%	154,478	154,478	154,835	357
Statutory Fees and Fines	10,088	10,169	(81)	(0.8%)	13,558	13,558	13,613	55
User Fees	30,418	30,626	(208)	(0.7%)	40,518	40,517	40,365	(152)
Grants Operating	8,738	8,090	648	8.0%	13,866	11,245	11,491	246
Grants Capital	5,750	4,384	1,366	31.2%	8,377	9,602	10,053	451
Contributions	4,600	4,500	100	2.2%	6,300	6,300	7,317	1,017
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of assets	(1,580)	(249)	(1,331)	534.5%	168	718	(5,489)	(6,207)
Interest Income	7,786	6,075	1,711	28.2%	8,100	9,000	10,000	1,000
Other Income	7,117	5,704	1,413	24.8%	8,037	8,017	9,317	1,300
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>227,898</b>	<b>223,697</b>	<b>4,201</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>253,402</b>	<b>253,435</b>	<b>251,502</b>	<b>(1,933)</b>
Employee Costs	(67,333)	(67,791)	458	0.7%	(90,279)	(90,178)	(91,009)	(831)
Materials and Services	(61,945)	(65,279)	3,334	5.1%	(86,930)	(88,614)	(88,468)	146
Depreciation and Amortisation	(35,219)	(34,221)	(998)	(2.9%)	(45,628)	(47,334)	(47,349)	(15)
Finance Costs	(80)	(76)	(4)	(5.3%)	(101)	(101)	(105)	(4)
Allowance for impairment losses	(917)	(1,040)	123	11.8%	(1,389)	(1,389)	(1,389)	-
Other Expenses	(2,007)	(2,325)	318	13.7%	(2,754)	(2,799)	(2,948)	(149)
WMRLC Contribution Expense	(4,638)	(4,638)	-	0.0%	(6,183)	(6,183)	(6,183)	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>(172,139)</b>	<b>(175,370)</b>	<b>3,231</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>(233,264)</b>	<b>(236,598)</b>	<b>(237,451)</b>	<b>(853)</b>
<b>NET OPERATING SURPLUS</b>	<b>55,759</b>	<b>48,327</b>	<b>7,432</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>20,138</b>	<b>16,837</b>	<b>14,051</b>	<b>(2,786)</b>

## Balance sheet

	31-Mar-26	30-Jun-25
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	27,231	21,815
Trade and other receivables	49,929	20,536
Other financial assets	259,323	197,667
Prepayments	2,732	1,854
Other assets	2,883	3,806
Non-current assets held for sale	-	2,414
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>342,098</b>	<b>248,092</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Trade and other receivables	229	278
Investments in associates	6,162	6,162
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	4,495,484	4,506,106
Right-of-use assets	6,601	7,188
Intangible assets	472	753
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>4,508,948</b>	<b>4,520,487</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>4,851,046</b>	<b>4,768,579</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	14,945	15,552
Trust funds and deposits	35,950	14,673
Provisions	17,113	16,746
Contract and other liabilities	12,106	5,845
Lease Liabilities	1,275	1,250
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>81,389</b>	<b>54,066</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Provisions	1,588	1,588
Provision for investments in joint operation accounted for using the equity method	1,796	1,796
Lease Liabilities	5,542	6,154
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>8,926</b>	<b>9,538</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>90,315</b>	<b>63,604</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>4,760,731</b>	<b>4,704,975</b>
Accumulated surplus	1,632,389	1,576,633
Reserves	3,128,342	3,128,342
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>4,760,731</b>	<b>4,704,975</b>

## Cash flow statement

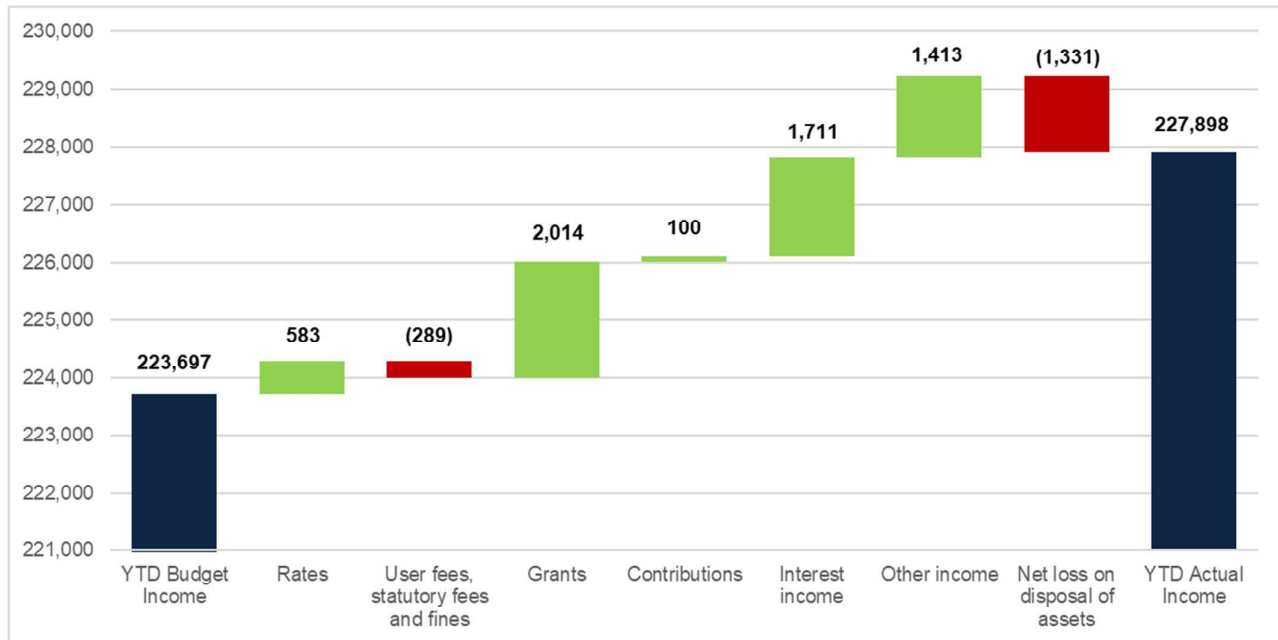
	31-Mar-26 \$'000	30-Jun-25 \$'000
GST inclusive	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Rates and charges	129,461	149,774
Statutory fees and fines	9,202	12,059
User fees	27,634	39,057
Grants - operating	9,567	18,457
Grants - capital	12,374	7,998
Contributions - monetary	5,058	9,837
Interest received	7,763	10,651
Other receipts	8,306	7,694
Net GST refund	6,910	9,440
Employee costs	(70,099)	(88,178)
Materials and services	(64,665)	(99,397)
Short-term, low value and variable lease payments	0	(8)
Contribution expense - Whitehorse Manningham Library	(4,638)	(6,003)
Net trust funds taken/(repaid) <sup>1</sup>	21,277	(563)
Other payments	(2,234)	(2,820)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>95,916</b>	<b>67,999</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(32,313)	(42,301)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	4,527	9,938
Payments of loans and advances	0	3
Net proceeds/(payment) for Investments	(61,656)	(27,637)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(89,442)</b>	<b>(59,997)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Interest paid - lease liability	(81)	(120)
Repayment of lease liabilities	(977)	(1,255)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities</b>	<b>(1,058)</b>	<b>(1,375)</b>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	5,416	6,627
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the financial year	21,815	15,188
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the financial year</b>	<b>27,231</b>	<b>21,815</b>

**Note:**

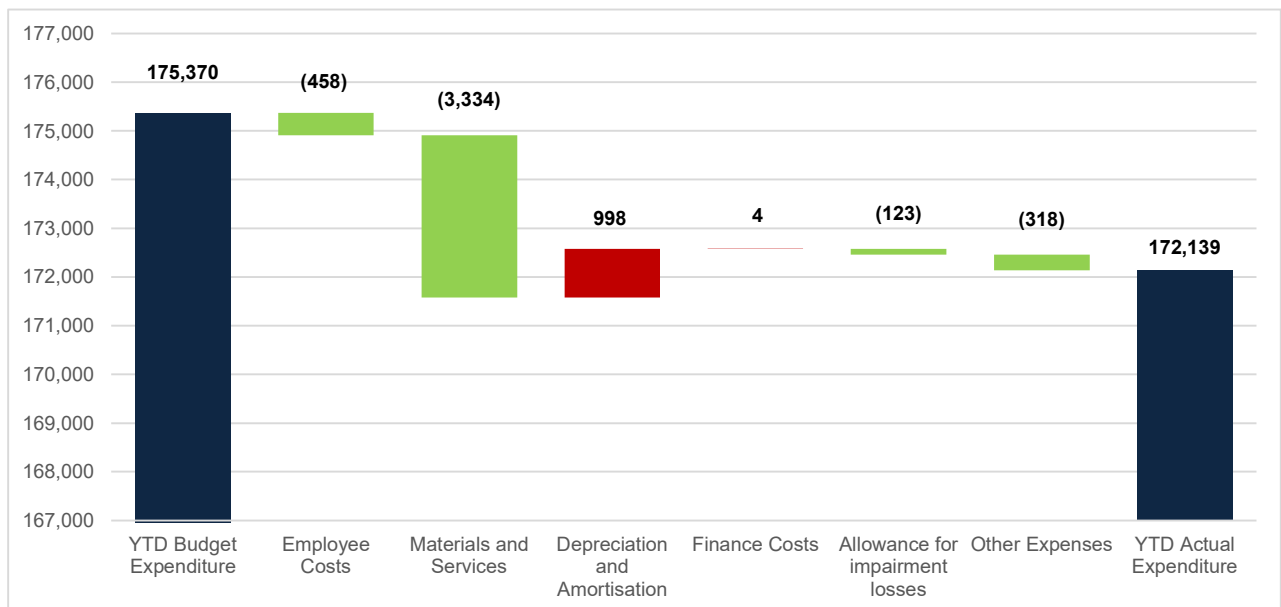
1. Trust funds and deposits includes the emergency services volunteers fund (ESVF) received which relates to the timing of emergency services volunteers fund and fund interest amounts received and subsequently remitted to the State Revenue Office over four payments.

# Operating income and expenditure

## Year-to-date Operating Income Variance

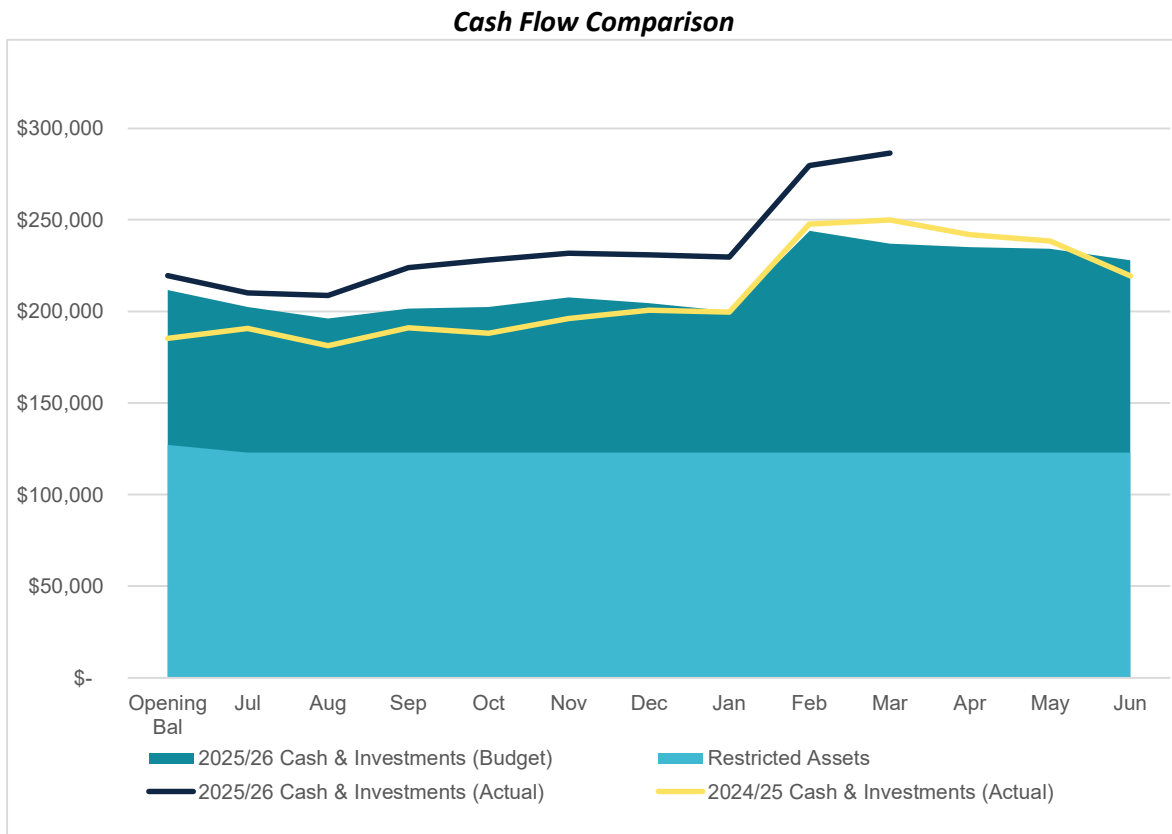


## Year-to-date Operating Expenditure Variance

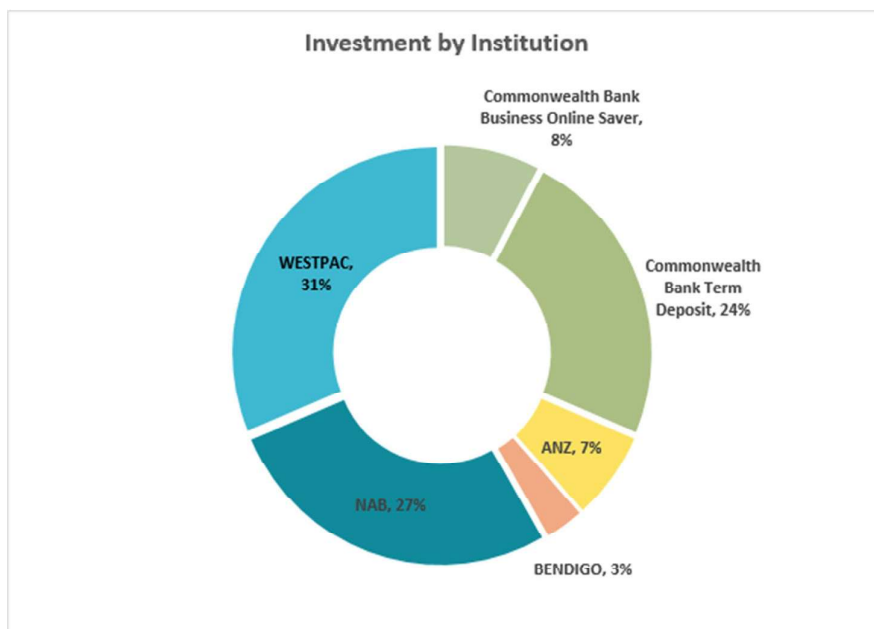


# Cash and investments

Cash and investments (including other financial assets) totaled \$286.55m at the end of March 2026, representing a \$67.07m 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.*

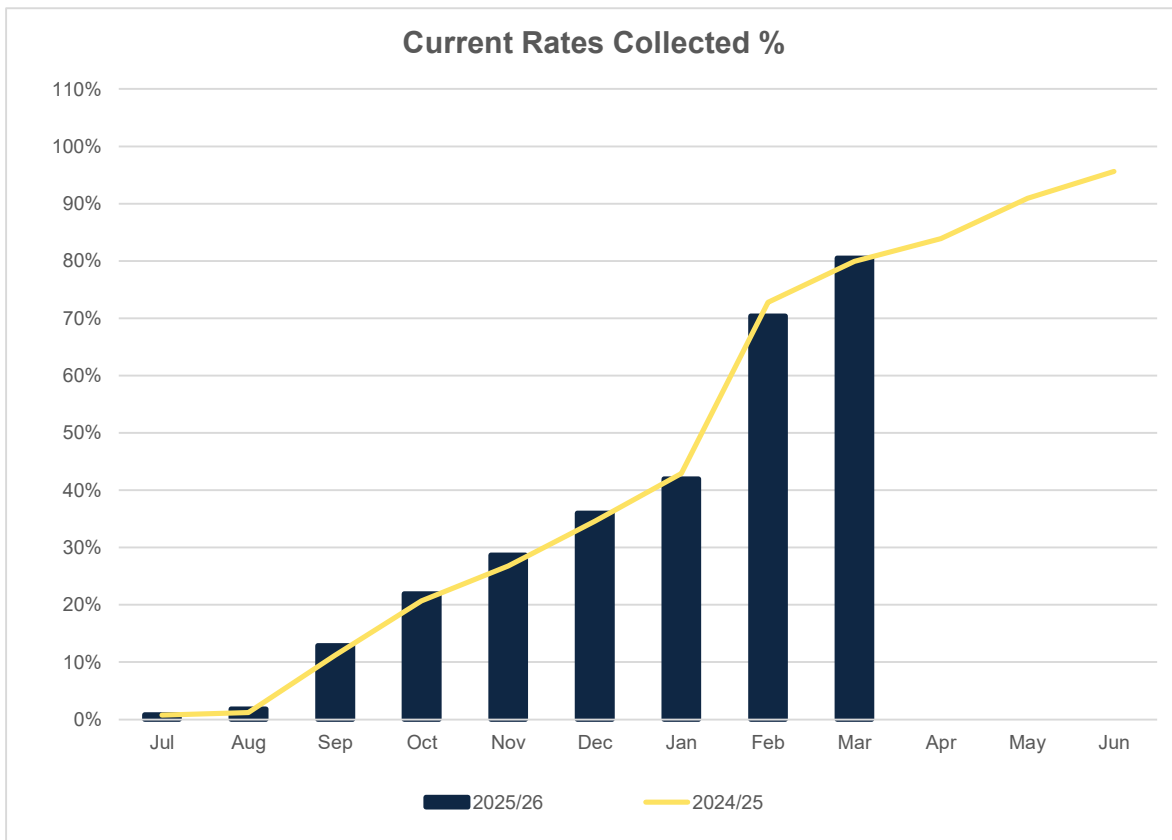


# Rate debtors

Council has collected \$124.25m or 80.52% of 2025/26 rate debtors as at 31 March 2026.

## Current Rate Debtors

Rates Collection	31-Mar-26	31-Mar-25	28-Feb-26
YTD Current Rates Collected (\$'000)	124,248	118,930	108,422
Current Rates Collected (%)	80.52%	79.90%	70.35%



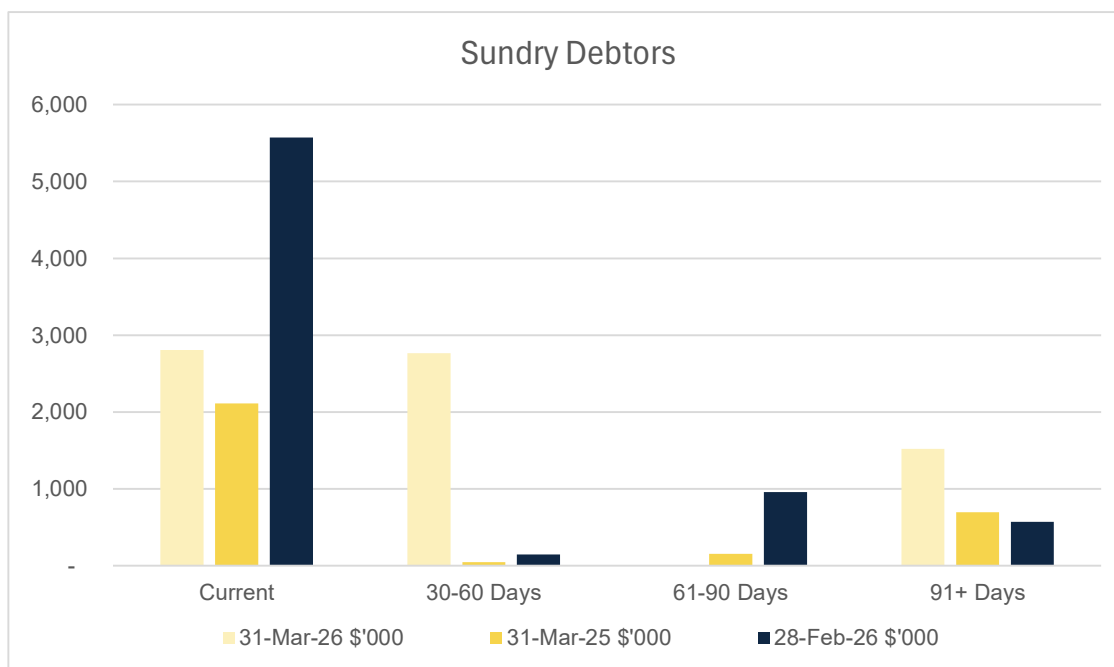
## Sundry debtors

Sundry debtors outstanding at 31 March 2026 total \$7.11m, including \$1.52m outstanding over 90 days.

### General and Sundry Debtors

	31-Mar-26 \$'000	31-Mar-25 \$'000	28-Feb-26 \$'000
<b>Current</b>	2,808	2,115	5,569
<b>30-60 Days</b>	2,769	50	145
<b>61-90 Days</b>	10	159	962
<b>91+ Days</b>	1,525	696	570
<b>Total Owing</b>	<b>7,112</b>	<b>3,020</b>	<b>7,246</b>
<b>Total over 60 days</b>	1,535	855	1,532
<b>% over 60 days</b>	21.6%	28.3%	21.1%
<b>Total over 90 days</b>	1,525	696	570
<b>% over 90 days</b>	21.4%	23.0%	7.9%

### General and Sundry Debtors – Aged Comparison

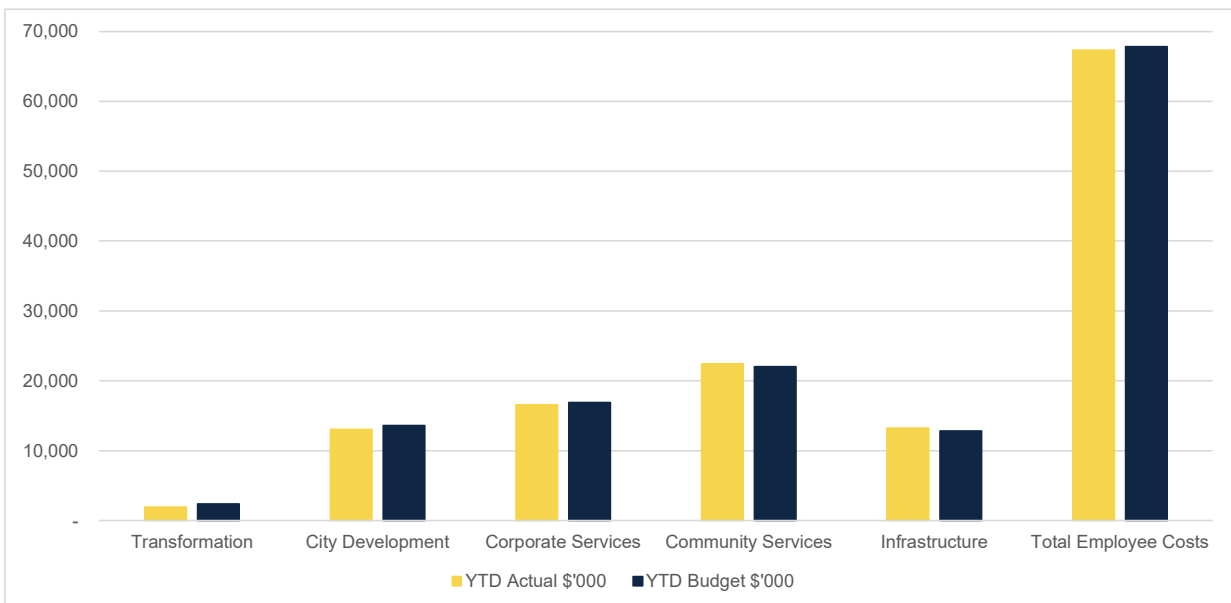


# Employee costs

## Employee Costs by Directorate

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance	Variance	Annual Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%	\$'000
Transformation	(1,932)	(2,412)	480	19.9%	(3,239)
City Development	(13,036)	(13,588)	552	4.1%	(18,218)
Corporate Services	(16,633)	(16,900)	267	1.6%	(21,981)
Community Services	(22,476)	(22,049)	(427)	(1.9%)	(29,592)
Infrastructure	(13,256)	(12,842)	(414)	(3.2%)	(17,249)
<b>Total Employee Costs</b>	<b>(67,333)</b>	<b>(67,791)</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>(90,279)</b>

## Employee Costs – Actual to Budget Comparison



## Corporate Governance

Publicly tendered contracts greater than \$500,000 (excluding GST) for goods, services and works  
1 January to 31 March 2026

Contract	Supplier/s Awarded	Value Ex GST	Commencement Date	Term	Awarded By
30704 Street Tree Planting Stock (Supply Only) Panel of 5 providers	1. Mount William Advanced Trees Nursery 2. Speciality Trees Pty Ltd 3. Fleming's Nurseries Pty Ltd 4. Botanix Plant Supply Pty Ltd 5. Plants Direct Australia	\$841,500	9 February 2026	3 years	Executive Leadership Team 10/02/26
30733 Supply of Merchandise for Aqualink Facilities	Pentland Australia Pty Ltd t/as Speedo Australia	\$1,000,000	30 March 2026	3 years	Council 16/03/2026
30728 Redevelopment of East Burwood Reserve South Pavilion	Melbcon Pty Ltd	\$10,070,500	1 May 2026	2 years	Council 16/03/2026
30651 Demolition of Gowanlea	City Circle Demolition & Excavation Pty Ltd	\$834,404	1 May 2026	5 months	Council 16/03/26



## Contacting Council

**Postal address:**

Whitehorse City Council  
Locked Bag 2  
Nunawading Delivery Centre 3131

**ABN:** 39 549 568 822

**Telephone:** 9262 6333

**Fax:** 9262 6490

**NRS:** 133 677 then quote 9262 6333

(Service for deaf or hearing impaired people)

**TIS:** 131 450

(Telephone Interpreter Service. Call and ask to be connected to Whitehorse City Council)

**Email:** [customer.service@whitehorse.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer.service@whitehorse.vic.gov.au)

**Website:** [whitehorse.vic.gov.au](http://whitehorse.vic.gov.au)

**Service centres:**

**Whitehorse Civic Centre**

379-397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading 3131

**Box Hill Town Hall Service Centre**

Box Hill Town Hall

1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill 3128



WHITEHORSE  
CITY COUNCIL