2024/25
Annual Report



Renmark Paringa Council

Love where you live



Acknowledgement of Country

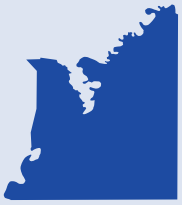
Renmark Paringa Council acknowledges the First Peoples of the Murray and Mallee region as the traditional custodians of the Renmark Paringa area, and acknowledges their cultural and spiritual connection to land, water and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Artist: Shila Giles, located at the Bookmark Creek Inlet Regulator

SNAPSHOT OF RENMARK PARINGA



10,173
residents



921 km²
total area



5,889
rateable properties



6,767
Electors



$620 million
Gross Regional Product (GRP)



966 local businesses



580km
road network

Council facilities

Renmark Paringa Community and Civic Centre
61 Eighteenth Street, Renmark

Renmark Visitor Information Centre
84 Murray Avenue, Renmark

Renmark Paringa Library
James Avenue, Renmark

Renmark Paringa Waste Transfer Station
750 Government Road, Renmark

Renmark Airport
Airport Road, Renmark

Alan Coulter Recreation Centre and Renmark Swimming Centre
Fifteenth Street, Renmark

The photos that appear in this document are thanks to Grant Schwartzkopff, staff and community members.

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Foreword from the Mayor



This year has very much been a year of rebuilding and resetting post flood. While we have not been able to completely deal with all of the issues, many of the remaining items will take considerable time and involvement of the higher levels of government in developing and changing policy and procedures.

We continue to pursue items in relation to the care of the levee banks, flood resilience, financial resilience and improved disaster readiness, for at some point, there will be another major event – and we need to be prepared.

It has been exciting this year to see some of the significant works completed, to be able to open the Renmark Riverfront Wharf, be part of the opening of the Twentyfirst Street Bridge and the completion of most of hundreds of issues identified over the past two years. Each time, we focus on building back better with a focus on improving the long-term resilience for our community.

While these significant flood related items were being completed, we also renewed the Renmark Waste Treatment Plant, dramatically upgraded the Paringa Town Centre, built the Renmark Rowing Dock and a new boat ramp at Lock 6.

Equally importantly, we committed to listening to the public particularly through the activation of *Engage RPC*, our online engagement platform, which encourages consultation on projects whilst also providing timely information about what Council is developing. This will continue to expand as we post more items on the website and continue to publish the online newsletter, inviting ratepayers to visit and provide input.

The number of people who have chosen to subscribe (follow) the various pages and initiatives has doubled across the year and we hope to continue to build on this growth.

I have continued my open sessions every Monday afternoon and appreciate the number of residents who have taken the opportunity to share their concerns directly.

Council has a key role in advocating for the Renmark, Paringa and Lyrup communities and we have continued to do this on issues including rural mental health, State and Federal funding in support of wine grape growers and navigation, river water quality and environmental issues, fruit fly and the Truro Freight Bypass.

We continue to work with Berri Barmera and Loxton Waikerie Councils on joint projects as well as sharing of staff and procurement to get the very best, most efficient processes in place to benefit everyone. We also work with

the eight councils of the River Murray and have made major strides in key areas, such as waste management where combined purchasing allows efficiencies in the longer term.

Future planning is also of vital importance and (within our Growth Plan), we map available land options for future builds, as we work to encourage an expansion of the available housing blocks – the shortage of which is hampering the attraction and retention of staff across our community. Alongside this are our Financial Plans and Community Plans – all integrated and looking to improve the region in a practical and manageable fashion.

The development of the Jane Eliza site has continued with the selection of an experienced build partner. Council will be working closely with them on this long term project of a new housing and marina development. The need to support our houseboat industry is a high priority and the development of industry and employment around this development is potentially very significant.

On January 26 we acknowledged the recipients of our Australia Day Awards, held in Jarrett Gardens and we congratulate Alan Eckermann (2025 Citizen of the Year), Angus Leesue (2025 Young Citizen of the Year), the Renmark Paringa Community Museum's *2024 Powering Up Paringa Open Day* (2025 Community Event of the Year) and Neil Martinson (2025 Active Citizen of the Year). We also welcomed new citizens to our community with the ceremony being a significant step for not only the new citizen, but also their family, friends and our broader community.

We have much to be thankful for and we should all be proud of what the Elected Members, staff and community have achieved over the past 12 months.

I sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to helping someone else in our district as we all work together to build a stronger, happier and more resilient community.

Let us all consider how fortunate we are to live in this amazing community and continue to reflect on this healthy, clean environment where so many others would love to live.

I commend this Annual Report to you as a detailed summary of the extensive work that our Council has successfully delivered for our community throughout 2024/25.



Peter Hunter

Message from the CEO



The 2024/25 financial year has been a defining one for Renmark Paringa Council. It was a year that demanded focus, resilience, and difficult but necessary decision-making to ensure our community remains strong and sustainable for the future.

Over the past twelve months, Council has worked diligently to set a clear and responsible financial path forward. Following several challenging years, including the significant impacts of the River Murray floods, we recognised the need to make considered budgeting decisions that would restore financial stability while continuing to deliver essential services and key community projects.

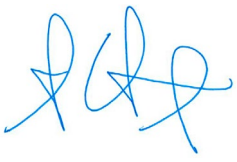
This meant confronting some tough choices. We carefully reviewed our operations and strengthened our long-term financial plan. These decisions were not made lightly, but they were made with our community's best interests at heart to ensure Council remains financially resilient and able to keep delivering for generations to come.

It has also been a year of major milestones. The opening of the Renmark Riverfront Wharf and the Twentyfirst Street Bridge were two significant moments in our flood recovery journey. Both projects not only represent vital infrastructure but also symbolise our community's strength and determination to rebuild after the floods that placed such a heavy financial and emotional burden on our region.

Council was committed to ensuring these assets were 'built back better' and were more flood resilient, safer, and designed to serve our community well into the future. While these projects carried substantial costs, and even with the benefit of significant external funding support, they still presented an unexpected financial impact for Council and our ratepayers. Nonetheless, their successful completion stands as a testament to what can be achieved when we plan carefully, work collaboratively, and remain focused on the long term.

As we look ahead, I am confident the decisions made this year have placed Council on a more secure footing. We have laid the groundwork to continue providing high-quality services and facilities while protecting the financial sustainability of our organisation.

I would like to thank our Elected Members, staff, and the Renmark Paringa community for their ongoing support, understanding, and resilience throughout this period of recovery and renewal. Together, we are ensuring that our region remains a great place to live, work, and visit - now and for generations to come.



Tony Siviour

ELECTED MEMBER INFORMATION



Elected Members

Our Council meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month commencing at 7:00pm. All meetings are held in the Renmark Paringa Council Chambers.



Peter Hunter | Mayor



Margaret Howie | Deputy Mayor



Cr James John



Cr Ben Townsend



Cr David Sims



Cr Maria Spano



Cr Stephanie Brauer



Cr Allan Maddocks



Cr Jack Gibb

Council Member mandatory training

Completion of mandatory training is a statutory obligation for all (continuing and new) council members. Every council member must undertake mandatory training within the first 12 months of their term and complete mid-term refresher workshops.

Committees

Decision making structure - Section 41 Committees

Committee	Purpose of committee
Audit and Risk Committee	Pursuant to Section 126(1) of the *Local Government Act 1999*. The functions of an Audit and Risk Committee are defined by Section 126(4) and include but are not limited to: to provide independent assurance and advice to the council on accounting, financial management, internal controls, risk management and governance matters.
Policy Review Committee	To review and recommend to Council Policy, Procedure, Codes of Practice, Guidelines and By Laws and to report to Council regarding the implementation requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999*.
Asset Committee	To review Council's asset portfolio with the aim to improve the strategic management of assets with a focus on Capital renewal as well as identifying opportunities to ensure an appropriate level of service is provided on behalf of the community.
Grants, Sponsorship and Awards Committee	To review and approve grants and sponsorship applications in accordance with Council's Grants and Sponsorship Policy, and to review and determine award recipients for Council's Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards.

Other Committees

Committee	Purpose of committee
Riverland Regional Assessment Panel	Pursuant to Section 84 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*. In accordance with the authority delegated to it by the Council, assesses all development applications that are referred to it by an Authorised Council Officer.
Building Fire Safety Committee (Regional)	Responsible, under Section 157 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, for building fire safety matters.

Committee membership



Mayor Peter Hunter

Section 41 Committees

- Policy Review Committee
- Grants, Sponsorship and Awards Committee
- Audit and Risk Committee
- Asset Committee

Other Committees/ Boards

- Local Government Association of South Australia (AGM and OCM)
- Local Government Finance Authority of South Australia
- Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association
- Riverland Local Government Forum
- Renmark Irrigation Trust Wetlands Committee
- Riverland Cruising Boat Club Chairperson
- Friends of Parks – Paringa Paddock - Coordinator
- Renmark Paringa Independent Living - Chairperson
- South Australian Murray Regional Strategic Advisory Committee
- Murray Darling Basin Advisory Forum
- Murray Darling Association – Region 5
- Dean-Gurr Scholarship Foundation Inc



Deputy Mayor Margaret Howie

Section 41 Committees

- Policy Review Committee
- Audit and Risk Committee
- Grants, Sponsorship and Awards Committee

Other Committees/ Boards

- Local Government Association of South Australia (AGM & OCM) (proxy)
- Local Government Finance Authority of South Australia (proxy)
- Riverland Fruit Fly Committee
- Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association (proxy)
- Riverland Local Government Forum
- Murray Darling Association Inc – Region 5
- Riverland Suicide Prevention Committee
- SACWA Riverland Evening Branch
- SA Rural Women's Gathering Association Inc



Cr Ben Townsend

Section 41 Committees

- Asset Committee

Other Committees/ Boards

- Nil



Cr David Sims

Section 41 Committees

- Asset Committee

Other Committees/ Boards

- Renmark High School Governing Council



Cr Jack Gibb

Section 41 Committees

- Policy Review Committee

Other Committees/ Boards

- Renmark Paringa Community Museum
- Friends of PS Industry



Cr James John

Section 41 Committees

- Policy Review Committee

Other Committees/ Boards

- Murray Darling Association Inc – Region 5 (proxy)
- Central Irrigation Trust – AGM



Cr Maria Spano

Section 41 Committees

- Asset Committee
- Grants, Sponsorship and Awards Committee

Other Committees/ Boards

- Renmark Paringa Health Advisory Committee



Cr Stephanie Brauer

Section 41 Committees

- Asset Committee
- Grants, Sponsorship and Awards Committee

Other Committees/ Boards

- National Trust (Olivewood) Renmark Branch
- Renmark Paringa Health Advisory Council
- Renmark Christmas Pageant Committee



Cr Allan Maddocks

Section 41 Committees

- Nil

Other Committees/ Boards

- Renmark Paringa Community Museum
- Friends of the PS Industry
- National Trust (Olivewood) Renmark Branch
- Renmark Men's Probus Club

GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE



Allowances

Elected members are paid an allowance for performing and discharging the functions and duties of their office in accordance with section 59 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

In accordance with section 76 of the Act, the Remuneration Tribunal determines the annual allowance for elected members. The determination applies to all members of a Council in South Australia and is based on five council groupings. The Remuneration Tribunal has determined that the Renmark Paringa Council be allocated to Group 4.

Allowances determined by the Remuneration Tribunal are to be adjusted on the first, second and third anniversary of the relevant periodic election to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. Council's Elected Member Allowances and Support Policy sets out a comprehensive summary of the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1999* and Regulations in respect to elected member allowances, expenses and provision of facilities, support and benefits. It also sets out the circumstances under which Council approves the reimbursement of additional expenses on a discretionary basis.

Mayor
$45,311

Deputy Mayor
$14,435

Councillor
$11,322

Council elections

The *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* provides for periodic Local Government elections to be held in November every four years.

The next local government elections will be held in November 2026.

Gifts and benefits

Elected Members 2024/25 gifts and benefits received

Date	Recipient	Organisation	Details
18 - 20 Aug 2024	Cr David Sims	Red Balloon - Enriching experiences	**ACCEPTED** 1x gift voucher door prize (value $100) received at the 2024 LGA Roads and Works Conference Local Government SA Mutual. Cr Sims gifted to Council to be used for a door prize winner at the 2024 Mayor's Christmas dinner for Elected Members and staff.
13 Sep 2024	Mayor Hunter	2024 Riverland Field Days	**ACCEPTED** 2 x Riverland Field Days tickets for the 13/14 September 2024 (value 2x $20 tickets) for Field Days promotion, offered to all Riverland mayors. Mayor Hunter accepted and attended the event.

Employees 2024/25 gifts and benefits received

Date	Recipient	Organisation	Details
8 July 2024	Steve Atkinson, Team Leader Open Space	Colin Chilton, resident	**ACCEPTED** Donation of 20kgs of Pro Parks Seed (estimated RRP $352) to be used over time on Council's open spaces.
29 Aug 2024	Tas Hodgson, Asset Officer	Allin Towbars	**ACCEPTED** Gift voucher ($500) won at the 2024 LG Roads and Works Conference. To be used at the depot to upgrade a touch hitch on Council's tipper truck.
29 Aug 2024	Allan Eastmond, Operations Manager		**ACCEPTED** 1x bottle Aberfeldy Scotch Whiskey and 1x bottle Archie Rose Signature Dry Gin won in a raffle at the 2024 LG Roads and Works Conference. Accepted and shared with depot staff.
13 Sep 2024	Tony Siviour, Chief Executive Officer	2024 Riverland Field Days	**ACCEPTED** 2 x Riverland Field Days tickets for the 13/14 September 2024 (value 2x $20 tickets) for Field Days promotion, offered to all Riverland CEOs. CEO accepted and attended the event.
1 April 2025	Visitor Information Centre staff	Hamilton Amusements	**ACCEPTED** Promotional donation of 10x tickets for amusement rides (value $100). CEO authorised tickets to be distributed to community members.
1 May 2025	Gerard Ridge, Head of ICT	Subnet	**ACCEPTED** Thank you gift for Council's business. 1x carton (24 cans) of Big Shed Brewing Beer (value $59). Accepted and distributed amongst staff and Elected Members.

Training, seminars and conferences

Intrastate training and development (July 2024 - June 2025)

Name	Date	Activity	Cost
Mayor Hunter	1 - 4 Jul, 2024	2024 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly, Canberra	$1,109 + GST + accommodation & travel costs
Mayor Hunter	26 Jul, 2024	2024 Mayor's and CEO's Forum, Adelaide Hills	$277 + GST + accommodation & travel costs
Mayor Hunter	21 Nov, 2024	Local Government Mayor's Forum, Adelaide	$582 + GST + accommodation & travel costs
Mayor Hunter	22 Nov, 2024	2024 SA Local Government Association Annual General Meeting and Conference	$263 + GST + accommodation & travel costs
Mayor Hunter	23 May, 2025	Local Government Association General Meeting and Conference	$290 + GST + accommodation & travel costs
Deputy Mayor Howie	22 Nov , 2024	2024 SA Local Government Association Annual General Meeting and Conference	$ 263 + GST + accommodation & travel costs
Deputy Mayor Howie	21 Feb, 2025	Local Government Association Deputy Mayor's Forum	$670 + GST + accommodation & travel costs
Deputy Mayor Howie	23 May, 2025	Local Government Association General Meeting and Conference	$290 + GST + accommodation & travel costs
Cr Sims	28 - 30 Aug, 2024	2024 LGA Roads and Works Conference, Port Lincoln	$550 + GST + accommodation & travel costs

Interstate conferences/ travel (July 2024 - June 2025)

Name	Date	Activity	Cost
Deputy Mayor Howie	8 - 11 Jul, 2024	Murray Darling Association Conference and AGM, Tamworth NSW	$790 + GST + accommodation & travel costs

Meeting attendance

During the year to 30 June 25, Council held twelve (12) ordinary meetings and eight (8) special meetings.

Meetings were held at the Renmark Paringa Community and Civic Cente. The public are welcome to attend all Council meetings. Council agendas are available from the Civic Centre and on the website. A copy is also provided at the Council meeting for public viewing.

Council meeting attendance schedule

Elected Members	Ordinary Council Meetings	Special Council Meetings
Peter Hunter (Mayor)	10	7
Margaret Howie (Deputy Mayor)	11	6
Cr James John	10	7
Cr Allan Maddocks	11	7
Cr Stephanie Brauer	12	8
Cr David Sims	10	1
Cr Jack Gibb	12	5
Cr Ben Townsend	11	7
Cr Maria Spano	11	6
TOTAL MEETINGS	**12**	**8**

Member behaviour

During the 2024/25 financial year, there were no contraventions of section 75G (Health and Safety Duties) and 75F (Council Behavioural Support Policies) and therefore no costs were incurred by Council relating to these sections.

Delegations register

Under the Act of Parliament, the *Local Government Act 1999* provides councils with a range of powers and functions to perform which are conferred under a number of various Acts of Parliament.

This allows for decisions to be made by the staff who carry out day to day operations. Section 44 of the Act states that council may at any time, and must within 12 months after the conclusion of each periodic election, review the delegations for the time being in force under this section. The last review of all delegations was adopted by Renmark Paringa Council on 22 February 2022.

The delegations register is able to be accessed on the Council's website.

Section 44 of the *Local Government Act 1999* allows a council to delegate many of its decision making powers and functions under these Acts. The primary purpose of delegating powers and functions is to facilitate an efficient and effective organisation by allowing decisions to be made by the staff who carry out the day to day operations.

Policies

Policies, codes of practice and codes of conduct are fundamental components of Council's good governance framework.

Council uses them to:

- set direction
- guide decision-making by the Elected Members and administration; and
- inform the public about how Council will normally act.

Policies and codes are reviewed either every four years (i.e. once per local government term) or as required by legislation. Policies are first reviewed by the Policy Review Committee (PRC), then recommendations are referred to Council for consideration. The current PRC was established in November 2022 under Section 41 of the *Local Government Act 1999*. The Terms of Reference are available on Council's website.

Giving effect to policy direction is then the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer and administration. This involves setting clear and detailed procedures to be followed by staff.

In addition to mandatory registers and codes, Council has a number of policies which can be viewed on Council's website. These policies are divided into two categories: Statutory Policies, required by the *Local Government Act 1999,* or other legislative acts. Council Policies are used to guide administrative procedures and consistent decision making.

Copies of the policies may also be obtained from the Council offices as per the set printing charges in the Schedule of Fees and Charges.

Registers and Codes of Practice

Pursuant to schedule 4 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Elected) Act 1999*, Council is required to maintain a series of registers, and codes of practice.

Mandatory Registers

- By Law Register
- Community Land Management Plan
- Fees and Charges Register
- Register of Allowances and Benefits (Elected Members)
- Register of Community Land
- Register of Interests (Council members)
- Register of Interests (Council officers)
- Register of Public Roads
- Register of Salaries and Wages

Additional Registers

- Assessment Record
- Approval Register
- Asset Register
- Certificate of Title Register
- Common Seal Register
- Confidential Minute Register
- Matters Laying on the Table Register

Confidentiality provisions

Meetings and documents

It is a requirement of the *Local Government Act 1999* (The Act), schedule 4, clause 1 (ga) that Council include in the annual report, information in relation to any orders of the Council or Council committee where the public have been excluded from attendance in accordance with Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

It is also a requirement of the Act, that Council are to include in the Annual Report, information in relation to any orders of the Council or Council committee that documents be kept on a confidential basis in accordance with Section 91(7) of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

During the year to 30 June 25 Council held twelve (12) ordinary meetings and eight (8) special meetings.

Council used the provisions of Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act, 1999*, on sixteen (16) separate occasions during the course of the Council meetings. Details of these are outlined on the following pages.

Section 90(3)(a) – 3 Items

Information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).

Meeting	Date	Subject
Briefing session of Council	8 Apr, 2025	Information Exchange on Draft 2025/26 Annual Business Plan, 2025/26 Infrastructure Asset Management Plan and Long Term Financial Plan.
Briefing session of Council	1 May, 2025	Annual Planning Process 2025/2026.
Briefing session of Council	6 May, 2025	Annual Planning Process 2025/2026.

Section 90(3)(b)(i)(ii) – 3 Items

Information the disclosure of which-

(i) could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposing to conduct, business, or to prejudice the commercial position of the council; and
(ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Meeting	Date	Subject
Briefing session of Council	8 Apr, 2025	Information Exchange on Draft 2025/26 Annual Business Plan, 2025/26 Infrastructure Asset Management Plan and Long Term Financial Plan.
Briefing session of Council	1 May, 2025	Annual Planning Process 2025/2026.
Briefing session of Council	6 May, 2025	Annual Planning Process 2025/2026.

Section 90(3)(d)(i)(ii) – 3 items

Commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which –

(i) could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or to confer a commercial advantage on a third party.
(ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Meeting	Date	Subject
Ordinary Council Meeting	22 Oct, 2024	Allotment 12 and Portion of 222, Eighteenth Street, Renmark.
Briefing session of Council	4 Mar, 2025	Jane Eliza Development briefing to Elected Members.
Briefing session of Council	11 Mar, 2025	Jane Eliza Development presentation to Elected Members.

Section 90(3)(e) – 3 items

Matters affecting the security of the council, members or employees of the council, or council property, or the safety of any person.

Meeting	Date	Subject
Ordinary Council Meeting	24 Sep, 2024	2024 ASU EBA negotiations.
Ordinary Council Meeting	17 Dec, 2024	2024 AWU EBA Agreement.
Ordinary Council Meeting	22 Apr, 2025	Chief Executive Officer's salary negotiations.

Section 90(3)(h) – 2 items

Legal advice

Meeting	Date	Subject
Ordinary Council Meeting	24 Sep, 2024	Lot 10 Panorama Court, Paringa.
Ordinary Council Meeting	17 Dec, 2024	Trans-Tasman Energy Group (TTEG) Claim Update Q2 2024.

Section 90(3)(i) – 1 item

Meeting	Date	Subject
Ordinary Council Meeting	24 Sep, 2024	Lot 10 Panorama Court, Paringa.

Section 90(3)(o) - 1 item

Meeting	Date	Subject
Grants, Sponsorship and Awards Committee meeting	2 Dec, 2024	Australia Day Awards 2025.

Review of items discussed in confidence is undertaken on a regular basis, quarterly or as required and this process has seen 17 items released from confidentiality provisions over the course of the year.

Confidential motions

During the course of the financial year, Council has made a total of 239 resolutions that were procedural and not procedural. These resolutions reflected the decisions made by Council. Council resolved to enter into confidence in 6.69% of instances.

Representation quota

Renmark Paringa Council has no wards and members are elected by eligible electors in the Council area.

Representation quota for a council is an amount ascertained by dividing the number of electors for the area of the council (as at the last closing date under the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*) by the number of members who constitute the council, ignoring any fractions resulting from the division and expressed as a quota.

Renmark Paringa Council's elector representation quota

Council	Number of Electors	Number of Elected Members	Electors per Elected Member
Renmark Paringa	6,957	8 plus Mayor	773

Other Riverland Council's elector representation quota

Council	Number of Electors	Number of Elected Members	Electors per Elected Member
Berri Barmera	7,772	8 plus Mayor	863
Loxton Waikerie	8,580	10 plus Mayor	780

Data source: Electoral Commission SA 2025 (available from Local Government Association South Australia).

Procurement statement

Each financial year, Council spends funds on a wide variety of works, goods and services. Council will ensure that it obtains value for money for our community through a strategic and cost effective approach.

Competitive tendering arrangements

Council ensures that public funds are spent in a way that is fair and transparent. The procurement approach for these projects varies in method relative to the risk, complexity and value of the project.

In 2024/25, Council had 14 instances that were subjected to competitive tendering in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy.

Local Goods and Services

Wherever appropriate, local suppliers are to be given the opportunity to tender and quote for the supply of goods and services. Further, the location of manufacturers of goods, and of suppliers of goods and services is considered in addition to the matters set out in Council's Policy in deciding on the purchase of goods and services.

Credit card expenditure

Credit cards are issued to the Executive Team and the Mayor to allow for operational expenses when purchase orders are not applicable.

Total amount of expenditure incurred using credit cards provided by Council for use by members or employees of Council from July 1 2024 to 30 June 2025 was $38,732.02.

Community Land Management Plans

A review of Council's Land Mangement Plan (CLMP) is being currently undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1999.* The Renmark Paringa Council has the following CLMPs in place:

- Major Parks/ Reserves
- Minor Parks/ Reserves
- Sport Recreation Facilities
- Cemeteries
- Other Community Land

External auditors

Council is required under the Act to appoint a suitably qualified person as its external auditor. The external auditor reports to Council on the General Purpose and Special Purpose Financial Report prepared annually in accordance with the Act.

The external auditor is also required to report to Council on particular matters arising from the audit and must specifically identify in the report any irregularity in Council's accounting practices or the management of its financial affairs.

Council thanks outgoing auditors Bentleys Business Advisors for their service and guidance over the past five years.

Following a competitive tendering process, Council appointed the firm Dean Newberry as Council's external Auditors for the next five (5) year term from the 2025/26 financial year to the 2030/31 financial year.

Pursuant to section 128 the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council must include in its annual report details of the renumeration paid to its external auditor for work performed during the review year.

In 2024/25, $26,070 ex GST is the remuneration payable for the annual audit of the Council's financial statements.

Legal costs

The Council incurred $233,645 (ex. GST) in legal costs in 2024/25. This is higher than usual, largely due to two significant matters that arose during the year.

Freedom of information

Where possible, Council provides information to residents/ ratepayers without referral to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI). Where information is requested under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* a request form (provided for in the Act) must be completed and forwarded with the required application fee (unless an exemption is granted).

Council responds to applications as soon as possible within the statutory 30 days of receipt of a request and application fee or proof of exemption. The council received three FOI applications during the reporting period. One was granted full release, two were refused access under sections 18 and 20 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*.

In accordance with section 38(1) of the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*, a person who is aggrieved by a determination made by the council is entitled to an internal review of the determination. Council received no requests for internal review in this reporting period.

All Freedom of Information applications and enquiries should be addressed to Council's Freedom of Information Officer via council@rpc.sa.gov.au. Please visit Council's website for further information on Freedom of Information.

By-Law review

Section 246 of the *Local Government Act 1999* provides for councils to make by-laws for the good rule and governance of an area and for the convenience, comfort and safety of its community.

Renmark Paringa Council has seven by-laws, accessible on Council's website in force until 2032, these being:

- By-Law No. 1 – Permits and Penalties
- By-Law No. 2 – Local Government Land
- By-Law No. 3 – Roads
- By-Law No. 4 – Movable Signs
- By-Law No. 5 – Dogs
- By-Law No. 6 – Cats
- By-Law No. 7 – Camping and Mooring

Internal review

Under Section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999* Council is required to have policies, practices and procedures to manage any request for a review of the Council decision.

Council has an Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy and Procedure. The policy and procedure are explained and available on Council's website.

For the period of 2024/25, Council did not receive an application for an internal review under Section 270(8) of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

National Competition Policy

The South Australian Government's Competitive Neutrality Policy ensures that significant government (and local government) businesses compete fairly in the market.

Pursuant to the *Government Business Enterprises (Competition) Act 1996*, and *Local Government Act 1999,* Council is required to provide a statement of competition neutrality principles within its Annual Report.

During 2024/25, there were no significant business activities controlled by the council that were commenced or ceased.

Subsidiaries of Council

Council is required to provide the annual report of any subsidiary. The Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association (MRLGA) is a regional subsidiary of member Councils. The association works to coordinate, advocate and represent member Councils at a regional level.

The member councils are:

- Berri Barmera Council
- Coorong District Council
- District Council of Karoonda East Murray
- District Council of Loxton Waikerie
- Mid Murray Council
- Renmark Paringa Council
- Rural City of Murray Bridge
- Southern Mallee District Council

The MRLGA 2024/25 Annual Report is included in the Appendices.

CORPORATE



Strategic Management Plans

The *Local Government Act 1999* requires Council to develop a suite of strategic management plans that enable the delivery of council services and projects, and provide long-term thinking and direction.

Council's Strategic Management Plans comprise of the Community Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan.

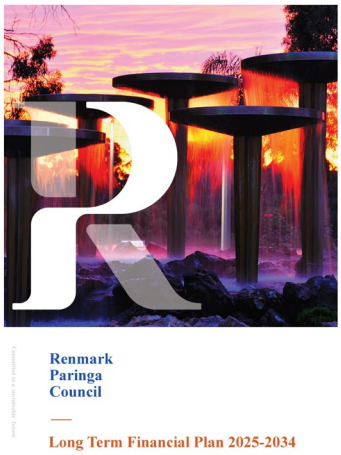
2024 - 2034 Community Plan

Renmark Paringa Council's *2024 -2034 Community Plan* is our overarching Strategic Plan which charts our desired future for the coming decade. The role of the Plan is to present our community vision and also our aligned strategic outcomes.



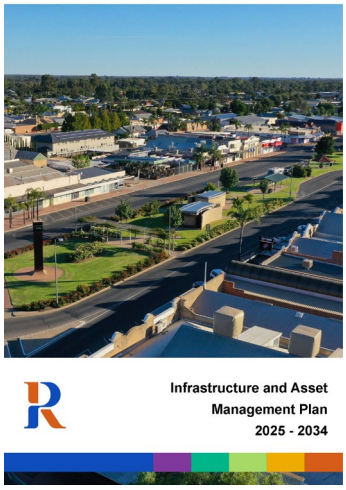
Long Term Financial Plan 2025 - 2034

The Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) serves as a strategic guide outlining Council's financial direction over the next ten years. It provides a high-level framework to support informed decision-making and reinforces Council's commitment to long-term financial sustainability.



Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan 2025 - 2034

The purpose of this Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan (IAMP) is to demonstrate Council's responsible management of assets, our compliance with regulatory requirements and to identify the funding required to provide the requisite levels of service to maintain, operate, renew and improve our assets and infrastructure.



Human resources

Our People, Safety and Culture team deliver best practice human resource and risk services, training and development, safety initiatives and implement service improvement and cultural initiatives that connects to Renmark Paringa's current Community Plan.

Employees of Renmark Paringa Council are a part of a professional, dedicated team committed to providing the highest level of service to the Renmark, Paringa and Lyrup community. Roles and responsibilities are aligned to meet a diverse range of tasks from administration, civil services, economic development, community development, planning and building, environmental health, events, aerodrome, library and visitor information, plus many more as outlined throughout this report.

Executive leadership

As of 30 June 2025, our Executive Leadership Team consisted of three members:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Director Corporate and Community Services
- Director Infrastructure and Environmental Services

Allowances and benefits available to the executive staff team include a motor vehicle allowance, the reimbursement of telephone expenses and the payment of memberships to professional bodies. No additional bonuses are payable.

Executive staff	Male	Female	Salary range
Chief Executive Officer	1		$236,880
Directors • Director Corporate and Community Services • Director Infrastructure and Environmental Services	1	1	$130,000 to $160,659

Key initiatives

Informed by insights from the Employee Perspective Survey, the Leadership Development Program is a transformational initiative designed to cultivate a sustainable leadership culture. It focuses on fostering collaboration, encouraging shared decision making, and promoting an inclusive and positive workplace environment, aligned with Council's vision and values.

Council workforce as of 30 June 2025

At 30 June 2025, Council employed a total of 59 staff, equaling 48.067 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions.

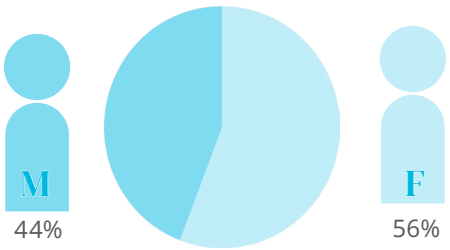
Council continue to offer flexible working arrangements, with 15.25% of staff taking advantage of the family friendly, work-life balance opportunity and approximately 18.64% of staff working under a 'rostered day off' system.

Council workforce as at June 30 2024	
Permanent	49
Fixed term	6
Casual	4
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	**59**

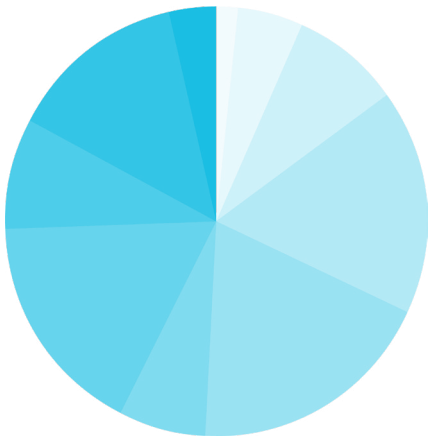
In 2024/25:	
New employees engaged	7
Employees who left Council	8

Employee demographics

Total workforce



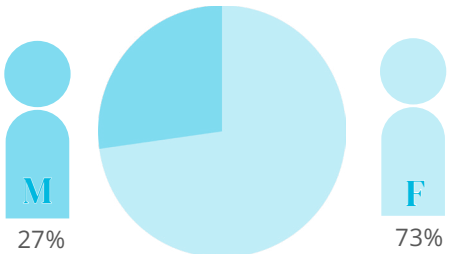
Age demographic



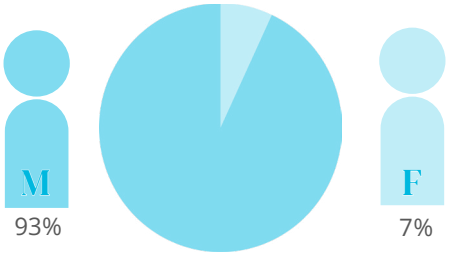
- 15 - 19 (0)
- 20 - 24 (1)
- 25 - 29 (3)
- 30 - 34 (5)
- 35 - 39 (10)
- 40 - 44 (11)
- 45 - 49 (4)
- 50 - 54 (10)
- 55 - 59 (5)
- 60 - 64 (8)
- 65+ (2)

Indoor/ outdoor workforce

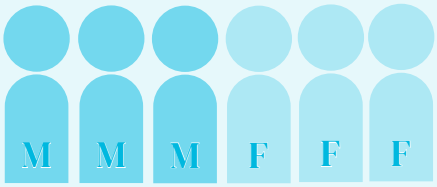
Indoor (SAMSOA) workforce



Outdoor (LGE) workforce



Leadership - Sphere of influence



3/6 of the Senior Management Team identify as female.

Staff interstate and international travel

Date	Activity	Employees	Cost
1 Jul, 2024	2024 National General Assembly - Canberra	1	$1,696.68
7 Apr, 2025	AustLink Driver Training (Grader) - Mildura	1	$239.00
19 Feb, 2025	Operational Development (Site visit) - Echuca	3	$651.77

Awards and recognition

At Renmark Paringa Council, we are proud to celebrate the dedication and achievements of our staff.

We recognise the value our employees bring to Council through milestone service awards and our values based recognition program. Our values recognition program invites employee nominations, with quarterly acknowledgements culminating in an annual awards event that highlights individuals and teams who exemplify Council's values in their work.

To honour milestone years of service, Council presents employees with a framed certificate and a commemorative item – such as a plaque, lapel pin, or service medal – upon reaching five years of service, and at every five-year increment thereafter.

Employee perspective survey

As part of our ongoing commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive workplace culture, we undertook an Employee Perspective Survey. The survey provided an opportunity for all staff to share their views on key aspects of their work experience, including leadership, communication, wellbeing, safety, and organisational values.

Participation in the survey was strong with an 80% response rate, reflecting a high level of engagement and a shared interest in making Council an even better place to work. The insights gathered have been invaluable in helping us understand what we're doing well and where we can improve.

The survey insights are being used to inform our strategic priorities and guide targeted initiatives, such as the Leadership Development Program, aimed at strengthening our culture and improving the employee experience. We are committed to listening, learning, and taking meaningful action based on staff feedback.

Work health safety and risk

Renmark Paringa Council values safety. Everyone working in or visiting our workplace has a right to go home safely each day to their family and friends.

Work Health Safety Information Management System (WHSIMS)

The implementation of the *Work Health Safety Information Management System (WHSIMS)* has significantly enhanced Council's abilities to proactively manage risks, capture all incident reports, record inspections and meet WHS compliance requirements.

Improved accessibility of the WHSIMS ensures that all staff, whether in the office or out on site, can easily access safety documentation when needed.

Our mobile WHS team regularly visits all Council sites and locations to engage directly with staff, fostering a culture of safety and support. This consistent, face-to-face engagement has encouraged broader feedback and staff participation, strengthening consultation and collaboration with staff across Council.

Health and wellbeing

Renmark Paringa Council is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and rewarding work environment free from accidents, injuries and illness.

A key initiative introduced in 2024/25 to support employee health and wellbeing was the adoption of "Friday Shirts" by our depot team.

This initiative is part of Trademutt's *'This Is A Conversation Starter'* campaign, which aims to promote mental health awareness and encourage open conversations among blue-collar Aussies talking about how they're really doing.

The vibrant shirts are designed to make the invisible impossible to ignore, sparking meaningful conversation and helping to break down the stigma around mental health in the workplace.

As part of this, our Depot Team are now sporting "Friday Shirts".

To further complement our health and wellbeing programs, we offer the following to all staff:

- Healthy Lifestyle Program – Annual health assessments
- Annual skin cancer screenings
- Mental Health Awareness Training
- Mental Health First Aid Training
- Vaccination Programs (Flu, Hepatitis A and B)
- EAP (Employee Assistance Program)

Training and development

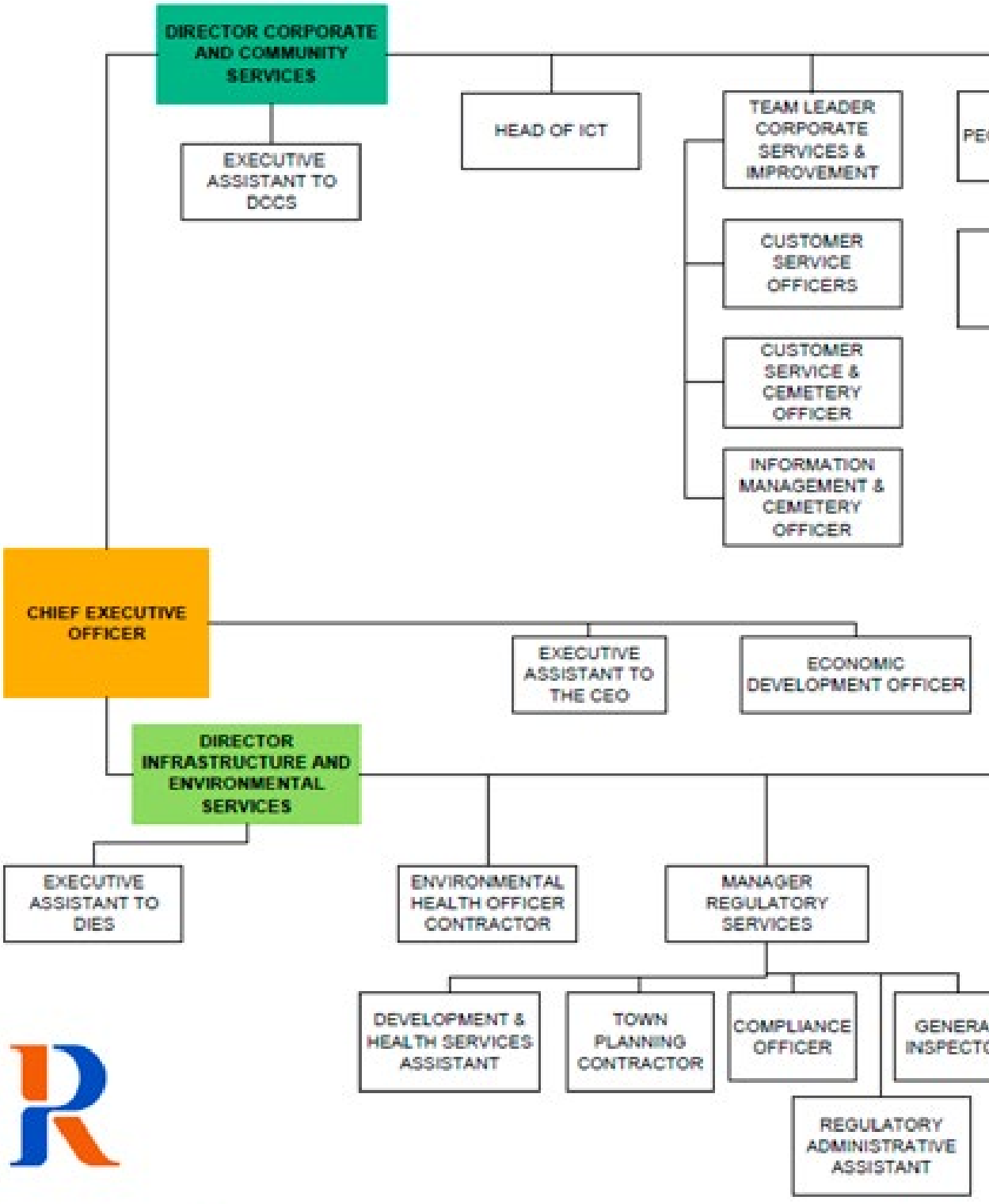
Renmark Paringa Council staff are set up for success through a comprehensive induction program. This includes mandatory training tailored to individual roles, ensuring staff are well informed about Council policies, procedures and systems.

Beyond induction, Council actively supports ongoing professional development. Staff are encouraged to pursue further studies, for example, trade and business certificates, strengthening their skills and enhancing their knowledge, expertise and contribution to Council and the community.

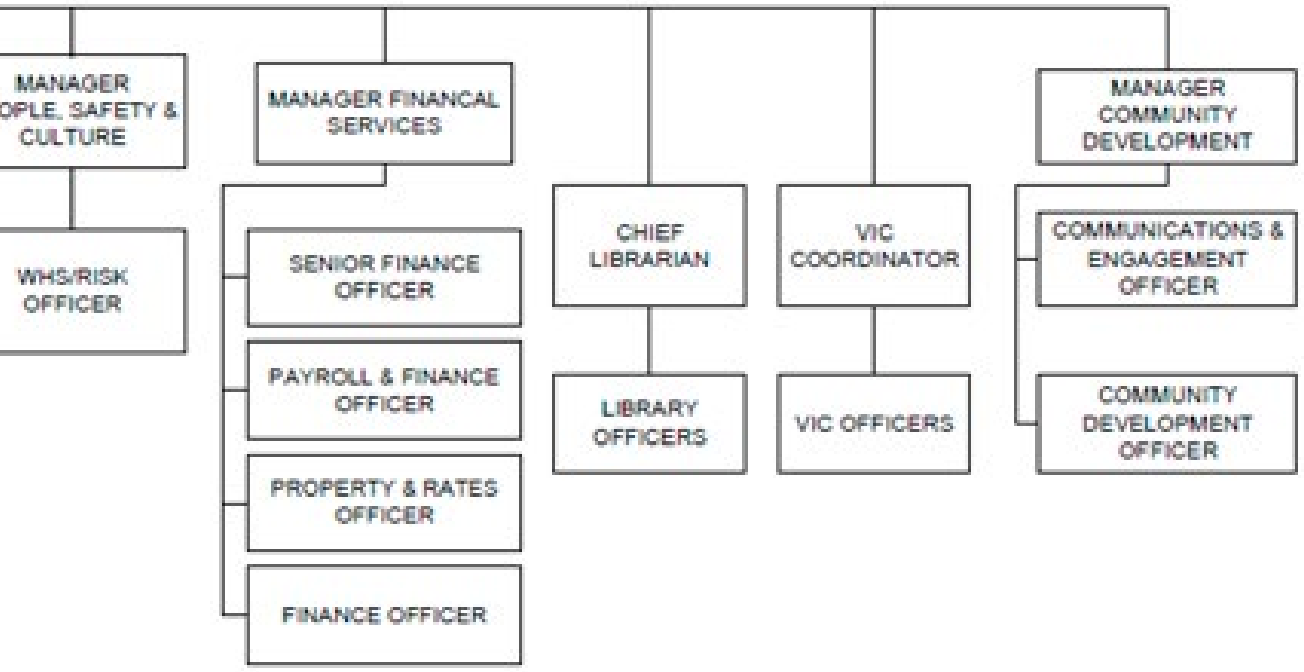


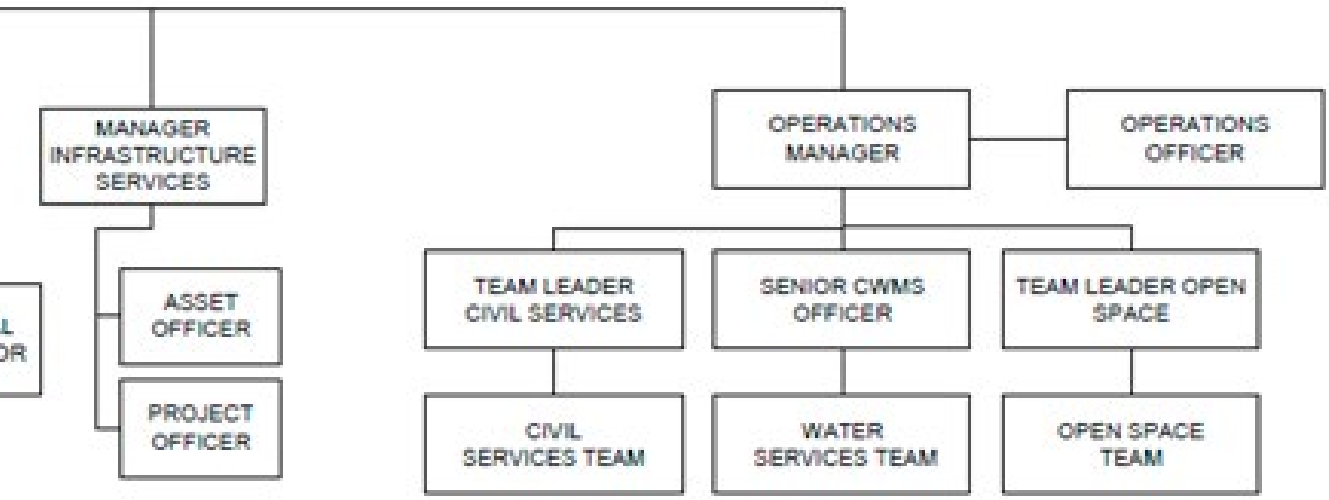
Depot team wearing their "Friday Shirts"

Organisational structure



Renmark Paringa Council





Updated July 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS



Waste Transfer Station

The Renmark Waste Transfer Station (RWTS) provides the community with a facility that encourages the separation of materials to reduce the amount of waste to landfill.

The RWTS works with the community to provide assistance on the importance of waste separation to achieve an optimal level of waste diversion.

In the 2024/25 financial year, customers entering the Waste Transfer Station contributed to the disposal of 511 tonnes of materials that were diverted from landfill! A summary of total waste collected at the facility is provided below.

Residual waste disposed to landfill	Tonnes
TOTAL	**507**

Waste sent for secondary use (recycled)	Tonnes
Scrap metal	119
Garden organics	226
Concrete	146
e-waste	12
Oil	5
Tyres	3
TOTAL	**511**

Size material quantity drumMUSTER	Number of drums
20L plastic drums	2,247
20 - 25L plastic drums	3,734

Renmark Riverfront Wharf Project

The Renmark Riverfront Wharf Upgrade represents the largest infrastructure investment in Renmark Paringa Council's history.

This transformative project was designed to revitalise a key community asset, enhance public access to the riverfront, and ensure long-term resilience against environmental challenges. The upgrade aligns with Council's Urban Design Framework and broader strategic goals for tourism, accessibility, and sustainable asset management.

Key achievements

Structural renewal and engineering innovation

Following significant damage caused by river vessels, the wharf was rebuilt using a precast concrete panel wall system anchored with structural screw piles. This design ensures exceptional rigidity and durability under mooring loads from houseboats and other large vessels. The screw pile system also reduced construction noise and environmental impact compared to traditional sheet piling methods.

Accessibility and public amenity

The upgraded wharf features 3-metre-wide walkways, accessible ramps, and sufficient lighting, making it inclusive and user-friendly for all members of the community. These enhancements improve walkability, safety, and enjoyment of the riverfront precinct.

Community and economic activation

The project supports tourism, small business activation, and community events by creating a more attractive and functional public space. It also contributes to the region's economic prosperity by enhancing visitor experiences and encouraging longer stays in the area.

Flood resilience and longevity

The new infrastructure is engineered to withstand future flood events, ensuring the wharf remains a reliable and safe asset for the next 30 to 50 years. This future-proofing approach supports sustainable asset management and reduces the need for major renewals.

Princess Wharf integration

As part of the broader upgrade, the Princess Wharf was also modified to align with the design and functionality of the wider riverfront precinct.

Collaborative funding model

The project was jointly funded by Renmark Paringa Council, the South Australian Government through the Local Government Infrastructure Partnership Program, and the Federal Government via the Constraints Measures Program. Council continues to explore additional funding opportunities to support future infrastructure initiatives.



Community impact

The Renmark Wharf Upgrade has transformed the riverfront into a vibrant, accessible, and resilient public space. It supports a wide range of uses, from recreation and tourism to emergency services access, and reflects Council's commitment to building infrastructure that serves both current and future generations.

Twentyfirst Street Bridge upgrade

The Twentyfirst Street Bridge upgrade was a critical infrastructure renewal project aimed at replacing an aging bridge with a modern, flood-resilient structure that meets current and future transport demands. The bridge serves as a key connector for residential, commercial, and emergency services traffic.

Key achievements

Bridge replacement and modernisation

The outdated single-lane bridge was replaced with a dual-lane structure featuring pedestrian pathways, improved load capacity, and enhanced safety features. The new design accommodates increased traffic volumes and supports active transport.

Flood resilience and climate adaptation

The bridge was elevated and fitted with advanced drainage systems to withstand high water events and reduce the risk of flood-related closures. This ensures reliable access during adverse weather conditions.

Traffic efficiency and safety

Road approaches were realigned and upgraded with new signage, guardrails, and lighting to improve traffic flow and reduce accident risk. The bridge now supports safer and more efficient movement across the region.

Stakeholder engagement and collaboration

Extensive consultation was undertaken with local residents, emergency services, and transport authorities to ensure the design met community needs and operational requirements. Feedback was incorporated throughout the project lifecycle.

On-time and on-budget delivery

Despite challenges including weather delays and supply chain constraints, the project was delivered within the approved timeframe and budget, demonstrating strong project governance and contractor performance.



Community impact

The upgraded bridge has significantly improved regional connectivity, reduced travel times, and enhanced safety for all users. It supports economic activity by facilitating freight movement and provides a reliable route for emergency services and daily commuters.

Other project achievements

Renmark Wastewater Treatment Plant renewal

Key outcomes

- Increased treatment capacity by 50%, from 800KL to 1200KL per day to meet future demand.
- Refurbishment of existing infrastructure, including the bioreactor and concrete tank to extend asset life.
- Installation of new membrane filtration systems, back pulse tank, and chemical dosing equipment to improve treatment efficiency.
- Enhanced operational control through upgraded programming interfaces and comprehensive staff training.
- Delivery of a long-term solution for treating Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) flows to meet municipal reuse standards.

The upgraded plant ensures reliable wastewater treatment for Renmark's growing population, supports environmental sustainability, and strengthens Council's ability to manage essential infrastructure into the future.



Wastewater treatment plant renewal.

Pauline Street toilet renewal (Paringa Town Centre revitalisation)

As part of the broader Paringa Town Centre Revitalisation, the public toilets on Pauline Street have been fully refurbished and upgraded to provide safer, cleaner, and more accessible amenities for residents and visitors.

Key outcomes

- Complete renewal of the existing toilet facilities, improving hygiene, accessibility, and visual appeal.
- Enhanced signage and access pathways to ensure the amenities are easy to locate and navigate.
- Integration with surrounding upgrades, including new landscaping, lighting, and community spaces.

The upgraded toilets contribute to a more welcoming and functional town centre, supporting increased foot traffic, tourism, and community use. This renewal reflects Council's commitment to improving essential public infrastructure and enhancing the liveability of Paringa.



Pauline Street toilet renewal, Paringa.

Renmark Rowing Dock upgrade

The Renmark Rowing Dock Upgrade has been successfully completed, delivering a purpose built facility that enhances access to the River Murray for recreational and competitive rowing.

Key outcomes

- A new 70-metre pontoon system was installed, designed in collaboration with the Renmark Rowing Club to support training and events such as the Riverland Rowing Regatta.
- The project was fully funded by the Department of Environment and Water through the Constraints Program, with Renmark Paringa Council overseeing delivery and construction.
- The upgraded dock complements the broader riverfront improvements, including the Renmark Riverfront Wharf Upgrade, creating a cohesive and high-quality public precinct.

The new rowing dock provides a safer, more functional space for local and visiting rowing groups, supports regional sporting events, and encourages active use of the riverfront by the community.



Completed Renmark Rowing dock.

COMMUNITY SERVICES



Community Development

Renmark Paringa Council's Community Development team play a crucial role in enhancing local engagement and support through a diverse portfolio. The team manages Council's communications and engagement campaigns, oversees community grants and sponsorships, and recognises the invaluable contributions of volunteers in our community.

Additionally, the team's role extends to supporting community and sporting groups, coordinating the Australia Day Awards Program, and working with our executive team to prepare strategic documents that align with community needs.

By actively engaging with government and non-government organisations, the team is able to foster partnerships, analyse demographic data to identify community trends, and implement initiatives aimed at building local capacity and resilience. Through these efforts, we strive to strengthen connections and empower our community. Following is a summary of the key community development projects for 2024/25.

Public consultations

Community Plan 2024-34

The Community Development team facilitated the community engagement and consultation for Renmark Paringa Council's *2024 - 2034 Community Plan.*

An engaging campaign called *'Love where you live'* was developed to encourage more responses from the community and to gather an understanding of what our residents love about where they live.

Council conducted community consultation for the formation of the plan on the *Engage RPC* platform. The survey attracted strong interest and engagement with Council receiving 92 contributions which were integral to the formation of the plan.

Greening Renmark Paringa

Community feedback was sought on the *Greening Renmark Paringa Plan*. 15 submissions were received with all feedback being in-depth and highly relevant. The final document reflects this feedback.

Christmas on the Murray

Council received a high level of interest and feedback for the Christmas on the Murray Festival, likely due to an attractive incentive for participation. 225 survey responses were received during the consultation period, with an overwhelmingly positive response received for council's events.

Top 5 projects - Contributions received

Project name	Contributions
Renmark's Christmas on the Murray	225
Community Plan 2024 - 34	92
Winter Glow - Feedback	16
Greening Renmark Paringa	15
Celebrating Volunteers Event	15

Volunteer recognition

National Volunteer Week is an annual celebration that recognises the valuable contributions of volunteers across the country. In 2025, Renmark Paringa Council hosted a Celebrating Volunteers Event in May at the Hotel Renmark's Function Room.

Community members were invited to nominate, or self-nominate, any local volunteer for their dedication and service to the Renmark Paringa community. Nominations were accepted via Council's *Engage RPC* platform, with hard copy forms also available at the Renmark Paringa Civic Centre and the Renmark Paringa Public Library.

A total of 25 nominations were received, highlighting a diverse range of individuals and their volunteer efforts.



2025 volunteer nominations

- Ann Ryan (Olivewood and servicing the museum in Hotel Renmark).
- Robert Gelston (Renmark Dirt Kart Club).
- Cara Bush, Cassandra-Leigh Hollis, Jana Freeman, Ken Wilkinson, Val Hale, Dallas Zeliff (Make-A-Wish Australia Riverland Branch).
- Peter Butterworth, Wendy Leaf, Chris Berry, Louise Berry, Susan Selimich, Stacey Thompson-Leltman, Sherrie Axon (Meals on Wheels Renmark).
- Craig Poulton (Renmark Paringa Public Library.)
- Peter O'Donnell, Joan O'Donnell (St Vincent de Paul).
- Lesley Baldock (Renmark Visitor Centre).
- Judith Howie, Sue Schubert (Renmark Girl Guides).
- Luke Bihun (Renmark Paringa Community Museum, Friends of the PS Industry and Riverland Woodworkers).
- Barry Fuller (Renmark Paringa Independent Living).
- Blake Henderson (Renmark North Cricket Club).
- Troy Henderson (Renmark North Cricket Club).

Riverland Connected and Active Communities

The Connected and Active Communities (CAC) Project Officer is fully funded by the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing and is hosted by the District Council of Loxton Waikerie with a professional services agreement with Renmark Paringa Council and Berri Barmera Council to ensure all residents of the Riverland can access this service. A summary of the role's achievements are outlined below.

Riverland Recreation, Sport and Leisure Expo

Hosted by netball star Emily Beaton, and with Alexander Hill (Olympic rowing) and Zachary Schubert (Olympic volleyball) in attendance, the event was a huge success, with over 30 stallholders onsite and large participant numbers. The opportunity for sporting and recreation clubs to showcase their offerings to the wider Riverland was appreciated and a great example of collaboration between the three Riverland councils.

MOVE Riverland

Move Riverland is an initiative designed to encourage Riverland locals to get moving on their own terms, in their own way. The official launch was held on 25 June 2025 at Lake Bonney. Participants were able to log a 5km walk/run on the Strava app. The longer-term vision for this initiative is to engage with current groups and individuals who can then champion their own activities and be community-led.

Gamechanger

The first ever *Gamechanger* event was held on 5 April 2025 at St Francis of Assisi College, Renmark. With over 100 in attendance, the one-day workshop focused on upskilling and developing volunteers in sporting and recreation groups by providing access to valuable development tools, strategies and insights to support club sustainability. Topics covered on the day included succession planning, grant writing, navigating social media marketing and volunteers.

A highlight of the event was keynote speaker, 2002 Winter Olympic speed skating gold medallist Steven Bradbury OAM, who shared an entertaining and inspiring story of his journey, emphasising that local grassroots community groups are key to growing future leaders and high performance athletes in this country.



Riverland Council staff with Steven Bradbury OAM (middle).

Other initiatives

Website redevelopment

The website redevelopment project was undertaken to enhance community engagement, improve accessibility, and ensure that our digital presence reflects the values and vibrancy of the Renmark Paringa community. The new site features our updated colours and fonts and presents a fresh, modern look that is both user-friendly and easy to navigate.

Key goals of the website redevelopment project were to:

- improve user experience and streamline navigation,
- increase awareness of Council services and the value they provide to residents, and
- modernise our digital communications to be more inclusive and accessible for all users.

Waste trucks launch

Together with the other Riverland councils, the Community Development team assisted in the development of new characters to be featured on Riverland waste and recycling trucks. Three river-inspired characters were selected to promote the importance of preserving our environment. Once the designs were completed and the trucks were wrapped, the team led the communications to officially launch the trucks to the Riverland community.



Harmony Week 2025

Council proudly supported a special Harmony Week art installation created by students from Renmark Primary School, Renmark High School and the Renmark Children's Centre to celebrate the region's rich cultural diversity.

From March 17 - 21 hundreds of orange hand artworks were displayed at 180 Murray Avenue. The hands, crafted by the children and students, were arranged in the shape of Australia. Council supported the installation with an event permit, signage, site preparation and promotion ensuring the community could engage with and appreciate the display.



Above: The orange hand artworks. Below: Mayor Peter Hunter, Councillor Stephanie Brauer and Councillor Maria Spano with the Harmony Week sign provided by Council.



Community grants and support funding

In 2024/25, Council's Community Grant and Sponsorship Program offered four streams of funding support including:

- Community Grants
- Community Support Funding
- Youth Sponsorship
- Event Sponsorship

The aim of the program is to provide financial and in-kind assistance to local community-based organisations, groups, individuals, or local events to:

- promote strong community networks and mutual support;
- contribute to the development and strengthening of local communities;
- respond to emerging and specific needs of disadvantaged groups;
- actively promote access and inclusion for people living with a disability;
- promote community capacity and leadership;
- provide support to community groups who experience restricted access to resources;
- encourage community-led development of services, facilities and events, which meet and enhance community needs and strategic objectives of Renmark Paringa Council;
- promote active participation of local residents in community initiatives;
- provide opportunities to develop skills and expand on knowledge;
- facilitate positive social, economical and environmental outcomes for our community;
- provide youth with financial sponsorship to enable participation in State, National and International competitions, events or programs; and
- facilitate sustainable community events that promote visitation and economic outcomes.

Community Grants Program

In 2024/25, Council's Grants and Sponsorship Committee supported applications totaling $20,250.55 to six community groups.

Community group	Activity	Funding approved
Victorious Church Inc.	Kitchen upgrade to be able to offer greater catering provisions for those in the community.	$4,000
Renmark Evening Star Quilters	Provide funding to purchase materials to make and provide approx. 40 quilts for local charity groups to better support their clients.	$3,100
Renmark Paringa Community Museum	Create a 'fruit salad block and community garden' to showcase what is grown in the Riverland.	$4,000
Renmark Netball Club	Purchase of goal post paddings to enhance the safety of players during matches.	$2,236
Riverland Woodworkers	Installation of security cameras on the outside and inside of the workshop building.	$2,514.55
Renmark Bowling Club	Refurbishment of toilets and improvements to accessibility.	$4,400

Community Support Funding

The 2024/2025 financial year marks year three of the four-year grant cycle. No new applications were approved this financial year. Currently there are seven organisations with funding agreements until June 2027. The value is $16,850 per year.

Community group	Activity	Funding approved
Chaffey Theatre (Country Arts SA)	Ambassador Program and Nunga Screen.	$2,600
Crafty Capers	Quilt making for donation to those suffering serious illness.	$1,000
Foodbank	Initiative of putting meals on the table to those in need.	$5,000
Riverland Christmas Appeal	Food and toy hampers.	$2,000
Riverland Youth Theatre (Ramble Arts)	To broaden current program offerings to be more inclusive.	$5,000
Rotary Club of Berri	Riverland and Mallee Vocational Awards.	$250
Riverland Brass Inc	Update equipment, purchase new music, APRA fees.	$1,000
TOTAL		**$16,850**

The Community Support Funding Program also includes a policy which provides School Donations. The Grants and Sponsorship Policy 4.10 states that - *All schools in the Renmark Paringa Council area will receive a donation annually (financial year) to assist with school awards*. All high schools receive a donation of $150 and all primary schools receive a donation of $100. The total value is $700 per year.

School	School Award donation
Renmark High School	$150
St Francis of Assisi College	$150
Renmark North Primary School	$100
Renmark Primary School	$100
Renmark West Primary School	$100
St Joseph's School Renmark	$100
TOTAL	**$700**

Youth Sponsorship Program

The following young people of the Renmark Paringa Council area were successful in receiving sponsorship to assist them with costs associated with representing the Riverland region or South Australia at a variety of events throughout 2024/25. In total, Council's Youth Sponsorship Program received 54 applications, with 43 being successful, to 33 individuals attending a variety of sporting and leadership events at a local, state, or national level. Eligible applicants can apply and receive a maximum of six youth sponsorship approvals per financial year.

Participant(s)	Total participants	Event	Amount per participant	Total amount
Alex Cartwright Ayden Schloithe Callum Leckie-Hefford Charlotte Hodgson Chelsea Crack Chloe Milne Heidi James Jasmun Kaur Kahlon Jemma Haines Lachlan Keynes Layla Roth Matthew Wickham Mitchell Palmer Paityn Martinson Rachel Files Shaun Wundenberg William Grocke	17	Australian Volleyball School Cup (Renmark High School Team) **Gold Coast, QLD**	$ 250	$4,250
Hannah Keynes, Harrison Keynes, Jenson Hardwick, Madden Hardwick	4	Yorkers Basketball Carnival **Kadina, SA**	$150	$600
John Michael Callery	1	RC Celta Academy, **Spain**	$450	$450
Angus Leesue	1	2024 Premier ANZAC Spirit Study Tour **Vietnam**	$450	$450
Lachlan Keynes Harrison Keynes	2	Australian Junior Country Championships **Albury, NSW**	$250	$500
Billie Gray	1	Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Leadership and Networking event **Sydney, NSW**	$250	$250

Youth Sponsorship Program cont.

Participant(s)	Total participants	Event	Amount per participant	Total amount
Lachlan Keynes	1	National Basketball Championships (U18 Mens) **Brisbane, QLD**	$250	$250
Lachlan Keynes	1	National Junior Championships 'Classic' **Melbourne, VIC**	$250	$250
Lachlan Keynes	1	National U18 Club Championships **Perth, WA**	$250	$250
Lachlan Keynes	1	School Sports Australia 16U Basketball Championships **Gold Coast, QLD**	$250	$250
Blossom Kimberley	1	National Youth Baseball Championships U16's SA Team, **Melbourne, VIC**	$250	$250
Hugh Riedel	1	2025 SA Country Swimming Championships **Mount Gambier, SA**	$150	$150
Zoe Preece	1	Pony Club SA Championship **Kadina, SA**	$150	$150
Logan Foley	1	Adelaide Premier League - Junior T20 Tournament **Adelaide, SA**	$150	$150
Angus Leesue	1	SA School Sport Volleyball **Adelaide, SA**	$150	$150
Hannah Keynes Harrison Keynes	2	SA State Country Basketball Championships **Adelaide, SA**	$150	$300
Etienne Botha	1	SAPSASA Cricket Carnival **Adelaide, SA**	$150	$150

Youth Sponsorship Program cont.

Participant(s)	Total participants	Event	Amount per participant	Total amount
Harry Leesue	1	West Adelaide Football Young Bloods Academy **Barmera and Adelaide, SA**	$150	$150
Annie Hooper	1	School Sport Australia Swimming Championships 12 and under **Ballarat, VIC**	$250	$250
Samuel DePalma	1	U15 Boys National Football Championships **Brisbane, QLD**	$250	$250
Joel Stoeckel	1	2025 National Table Tennis Championship **Traralgon, VIC**	$250	$250
Hannah Keynes	1	SAPSASA Netball Riverland U13 **Adelaide, SA**	$150	$150
TOTAL	**43**			**$9,850**

Event Sponsorship

Council supported nine Event Sponsorship Funding applications on the recommendation of the Grants Assessment Panel. The funding assisted event organisers with the delivery of successful, safe and compliant events in the Renmark Paringa district with the aim of supporting the financial sustainabilty of the event and enhancing the event scope.

Name of event	Cash sponsorship	Non-cash sponsorship	Total sponsorship
Veterans Golf SA Inc	$1,870	-	$1,870
Cancer Council SA	$3,565	$1,405	$4,970
Riverland Rose and Garden Festival	$5,000	-	$5,000
Riverland Rowing Regatta (Renmark Rowing Club)	-	$5,000	$5,000
Dash 4 Cash (Riverland Dinghy Club)	$3,610	$1,390	$5,000
Renmark Christmas Pageant	$15,000	$2,767	$17,767
Ski For Life Inc	-	$1,200	$1,200
Renmark Tintra Lawn Tennis Club Inc Easter Tournament	-	$2,175	$2,175
Renmark Rocks on	$3,000	-	$3,000
TOTAL	**$32,045**	**$13,937**	**$45,982**

Awards and citizenship

Australia Day Awards

The 2025 Australia Day celebrations were held at Renmark's Jarrett Memorial Gardens with approximately 500 people attending the free community breakfast. Music entertainment was performed by William Heuzenroeder. Callum and Lauren Benda delivered the Australia Day message and award winners were presented with their certificates by Mayor Peter Hunter.

2025 Citizen of the Year

The 2025 Citizen of the Year was presented to Alan Eckermann. Alan has dedicated more than 60 years of service to the Renmark Paringa community. As President of the RFDS Riverland Support Group for 33 years, he helped raise over $1 million to support rural healthcare. A Life Member of both the Paringa Football Club and the Country Fire Service, Alan has contributed to local sport, emergency services, and civic life, including serving as the last Mayor of Paringa before amalgamation. His lifelong commitment to community service continues to inspire others and make a lasting impact on his community.



Alan Eckermann, 2025 Citizen of the Year.

2025 Young Citizen of the Year

The 2025 Young Citizen of the Year was presented to Angus Leesue. Angus is a Year 10 student at Renmark High School and was recognised for his exceptional achievements, including being named a 2024 Premier's ANZAC Spirit School Prize recipient, earning him a place on the 2025 study tour to Vietnam. His research on former student and WWII hero John Lill showcased his passion for history and community. A dedicated football umpire, Angus also marked his 100th umpired match in 2024, reflecting his strong commitment to service, leadership, and community involvement.


Angus Leesue, 2025 Young Citizen of the Year, with family.


2024 Powering Up Paringa Day, 2025 Community Event of the Year.

2025 Community Event of the Year

The 2025 Community Event of the Year was presented to the Renmark Paringa Community Museum for its *2024 Powering Up Paringa Open Day.* Held as part of the 2024 SA History Festival, the event brought the community together to celebrate the theme of "Power" through interactive displays, historic demonstrations, and the unveiling of new exhibits. Highlights included the PS Industry steaming under the historic Paringa Bridge and the opening of the PS Industry display and relocated Black Stump exhibit.

The day showcased the dedication of the museum's volunteers, who also powered up an extensive collection of stationary engines and partnered with local groups such as the Riverland Vintage and Classic Car Club and the Renmark Lions Club. The event was a vibrant celebration of local history, community spirit, and volunteer achievement.

2025 Award for Active Citizenship

The 2025 Award for Citizenship was presented to Neil Martinson. Neil played a pivotal role in reviving the Renmark Christmas Pageant in 2023 after a five-year hiatus, leading the newly formed Renmark Christmas Celebrations Committee Inc. to deliver a vibrant and successful community event. His vision and tireless efforts brought thousands of people together, reigniting a cherished local tradition and strengthening community spirit across the Riverland.

With more than 40 years of volunteer service, Neil has contributed significantly through roles in education, sport, and civic leadership. He served four terms as Renmark Paringa Mayor, volunteered for two decades in local schools, and umpired over 600 football games. A life member of the Riverland Football League, Riverland Umpires Association, and Paringa Tennis Club, Neil continues to give back as a Red Cross driver and Justice of the Peace.

Neil's lifelong commitment to community service and leadership truly embodies the spirit of active citizenship.

Neil went on to be recognised at a State level receiving South Australia's Award for Active Citizenship 2025.



Neil Martinson, winner of the 2025 Award for Active Citizenship.

Recognition of new citizens

During 2024/25, seven people became Australian Citizens in the Renmark Paringa Council area. Citizenship ceremonies for these community members were officiated by Mayor Peter Hunter at both the Civic Centre throughout the year and at Council's 2025 Australia Day celebrations. Becoming an Australian Citizen is a significant step for people and Council is privileged to be a part of the ceremonies.

CULTURE



Council Events

Renmark Riverfront Markets

The Riverfront Markets continue to be a popular event on the regional events calendar, attracting strong crowds, new stallholders and providing a range of free fun and family friendly activities.

Traditionally attracting over 2,500 people, the markets are strategically held on key holiday weekends and peak visitation periods to encourage success for participating vendors and local businesses.

Markets were held on the October Long Weekend, a Twilight Christmas Market in December, April school holidays and on the June long weekend, offering a fun day out for locals and visitors alike with entertainment and children's activities.



April Riverfront Markets

Winter Glow Festival

Winter Glow, Council's key mid-winter event, delivered a night full of amazing family memories, engaging locals and visitors in an array of activities and experiences throughout Jarrett Memorial Gardens.

Attracting over 5,000 attendees, the riverfront event featured new activations including stunning garden and riverfront tree lighting installations, Evelyn Roth's Nylon Zoo illuminated animals together with costume parades and magical story telling activities, an interactive shadow screen plus traditional favourites including a lantern making hub, lawn games, music, face painting, food trucks and warming fire buckets.

Data indicated 70% of attendees were from the Riverland, with 30% being visitors to the region (SA and VIC), with some planning their stay around the event. Attendee feedback was very positive, with some stating the event was the best yet delivered by Council!



Winter Glow

Council Events

Renmark's Christmas on the Murray Festival

Renmark's 2024 Christmas on the Murray Festival program featured over 20 events and activities delivered by Council, community and commercial operators. A printed program encapsulating all festive activities was distributed to schools, businesses and tourism operators in the lead up to December.

Council delivered a record number of eight events including the Festive Shopping Night at the Visitor Centre, Twilight Christmas Markets, Slip n' Slide Riverside featuring inflatable water slides, a Party in the Park, a Free Movie Screening at the Chaffey Theatre, Christmas Fun and Santa's Workshop at the Library.

The Festive Shopping Night attracted good numbers, return shoppers and generated strong sales, and the Twilight Markets, held to coincide with the biannual Riverland Rowing Regatta, were enjoyed by over 2,000 people. Slip n' Slide, Riverside proved to be an outstanding success, providing families with an engaging, affordable, active and fun-filled evening to cool off on the water slides, relax and enjoy the shady surrounds, complete the scavenger hunt or a quiet craft activity and support local food trucks throughout the evening.

Party in the Park proved extremely popular with the children's entertainer actively engaging and creating a special experience with musical instruments, singing, dancing, giant bubbles and kids karaoke plus free facepainting and a coffee van. The event maintained a connection with the Renmark Paringa Library, hosting Santa in his magically decorated workshop while also providing an option for those seeking a quieter space. Christmas fun continued at the library, with the team hosting eight fully booked activity sessions across the four days of school holidays prior to Christmas. The free movie screening at the Chaffey Theatre also provided an opportunity for residents to experience the valued facility while escaping the scorching summers day.

Community events like the Carols in the Garden, Renmark Christmas Pageant and the Renmark Swimming Centre Pool Party were promoted under the festival banner as well as local light displays and commercial events.



Party in the Park

Machine Mania

In perfect conditions, Council hosted its first 'touch a truck' style event with over 1,500 people making their way to Darnley Taylor Park to touch, climb and get behind the wheel of a range of Council construction and maintenance machines, emergency service vehicles, plus one of the newly delivered waste trucks, bringing smiles and squeals of delight to the faces of the young and young at heart!

Children, families and caregivers were able to interact with the machines in a sensitive manner with no sirens, horns or engines during the sensory quiet hour, with approx. 250 people onsite during this time and a high level of gratitude to make the event inclusive of all.

Once the clock ticked over, the sounds and sights escalated with horns, sirens, flashing lights and water sprays sounding out across the event. Staff and volunteers were able to share information and answer questions on the various machines as well as some demonstrations by fire and ambulance staff. Activities at the event proved popular with the machine scavenger hunt, the work-site photo booth, giant lawn games, local food trucks and a visit by Deefa the Dog.

The Renmark MFS, Paringa CFS, Renmark SES, Renmark Ambulance Services and Solo Resource Recovery, as well as Council, supported the event with multiple vehicle displays, knowledge sharing and experiences.



Machine Mania, Darnley Taylor Park

Renmark Paringa Library

The Renmark Paringa Public Library is a community hub of engagement, with welcoming spaces, diverse collections and an exciting calendar of events and activities to support community connections, literacy, creativity and lifelong learning.

37,095
Library visits

70,685
Loans

2,646
Members

Visitation and usage

The last year has seen increases in usage across multiple library services. Visits and loans have increased and the attendance at library events increased by 6% to 5,584.

Libraries SA provide the community with access to two extensive digital online libraries offering free eBooks, audiobooks and eMagazines. Online loans continue to rise and now represent 20% of the total loans.



Renmark Irrigation Trust history event- Chowilla Dam Project.



Easter fun at the library.



2024 Book Week theme- "Reading is magic".

Library programs and events

An exciting calendar of events and activities offer something for everyone to encourage community engagement, lifelong learning, literacy development, creativity and personal development.

Children's programs include Preschool Storytime, Summer Reading Club, Book Week and school holiday events. 182 child/ youth events were held with an attendance of 4,780.

Adult programs offering opportunities for community connections and lifelong learning include reading groups, author events, U3A programs, history events and digital literacy training. Featured events included a book launch by Kintsugi Heroes on River Murray Stories of resilience and recovery from the 2022-2023 floods and a memorable history event presented by the Renmark Irrigation Trust and a panel of three speakers on the Chowilla Dam project. These events continue to showcase the power of community partnerships and the public's strong interest in local history. The library plays an important role in building digital inclusion within the community, offering free and equitable digital access and digital literacy training. 99 one-on-one digital help sessions were delivered throughout the year with an additional 2,024 queries for assistance with emails, scanning, official forms and personal devices.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Jane Eliza development

In March 2025, the Council signed a Land Facilitation Agreement (LFA) with Wel. Co Developments Pty Ltd (Wel.Co) for the development of Jane Eliza.

Jane Eliza is a long-term, master planned, riverfront development on the banks of the River Murray. As the largest mixed-use development in the Riverland, the Jane Eliza extension will deliver around 800 new homes, a significantly expanded marina with high-quality mooring facilities, and a dedicated marine industry precinct. It also opens new opportunities for tourism, hospitality and future economic growth, all underpinned by Renmark's unique river lifestyle and passionate community.

The signing of the LFA is another step in the process towards the development of Jane Eliza. Following the signing, Wel.Co have now commenced investigations and planning for the site as they prepare to undertake a Code Amendment to realign the land use zones to reflect their development masterplan.

Council has undertaken significant due diligence to facilitate Jane Eliza for development, including commissioning hydrology studies to understand the potential impacts of the proposed Jane Eliza expansion on riverine flood risks in Renmark, Paringa, and surrounding areas. The study showed that even replicating the largest flood event on record the effects due to the development are predicted to be less than 5.8 centimetres in increased water height. The full report has now been released to the community.

Council and Wel.Co have established a Project Control Group and meet every two months to report on progress of the development.

Urban Design Framework (UDF)

The UDF was commissioned by Council in 2016. It was developed on the basis of a comprehensive community engagement process culminating in the UDF being adopted by Council in June 2017.

The UDF establishes an overarching vision for Renmark's town centre and riverfront area. It is designed to help facilitate high-quality, innovative and sustainable urban design and to address future challenges while enhancing the community's quality of life and economic prosperity.

Aside from creating a vibrant place for people to congregate, the UDF will deliver tangible economic and social benefits to the region.

Council resolved to convert stage 1b (180 Murray Avenue - old Westpac Bank site) to open space to link in with the Taylor Riverfront Precinct (stage 1a).

Council engaged urban designers, Jensen Plus, to design a concept for the redevelopment of land at 180 Murray Avenue into public open space which went to tender in September 2023 after the final design concept from Jenson Plus was endorsed by Council.

180 Murray Avenue was completed and opened in November 2024 and along with the substantial works undertaken to renew the Renmark Wharf the area provides high amenity open space. Following the completion of these projects a number of new and renovated hospitality and retail tenancies have opened to further activate the area and contribute to the vibrancy envisioned by the UDF.

Growth Strategy

In June 2025, Council formally endorsed the *Renmark Paringa Council Growth Strategy* (Growth Strategy). The Growth Strategy underwent two stages of public consultation including an online survey, face to face engagement and the ability to submit feedback through the *Engage RPC* webpage.

The purpose of the Growth Strategy is to identify how our region can grow over the next 15 to 30 years.

Council's Growth Strategy will be used in:

- Council decision making and investment regarding future rezoning proposals;
- infrastructure investment decisions;
- decisions around the use of community land and assets; and
- providing a clear message to the community and private sector about priorities for the region.

The Growth Strategy identifies the current supply of residential, employment and commercial land and sets clear objectives and strategies to guide growth and achieve our shared vision, as expressed by the *2024 -2034 Community Plan.*

The availability of land and housing has continued to be a key priority for Council. The market is responding to demand and several subdivisions making up over 450 allotments have been approved for development and likely to come onto the market in the next few years. Importantly the developments vary across a range of land use zones and development styles to provide potential buyers with a range of choices to meet their needs.

We have never had this level of land supply in the pipeline which makes for a bright future for our housing availability and growth.

Designed to be adaptable, the Growth Strategy will evolve over time in response to local, state, national, and global changes, and will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure it remains relevant and effective.

Visitor Information Centre

The Renmark Visitor Information Centre continues to deliver an enviable standard of visitor servicing, tourism and event support, event development and delivery.

Visitor servicing

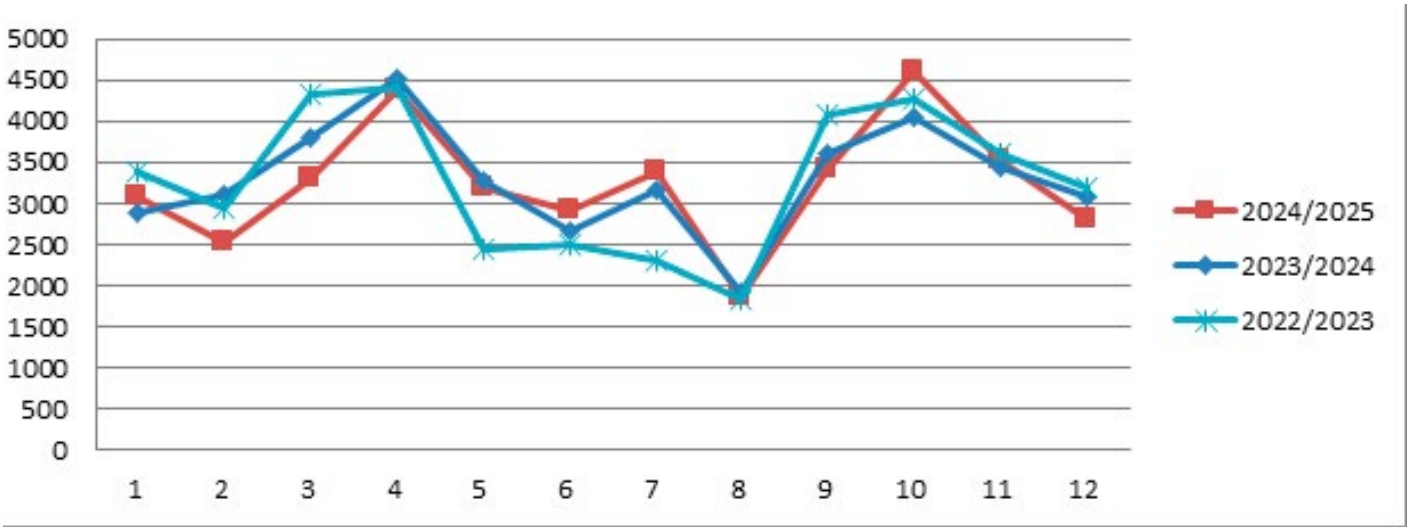
The Renmark Visitor Centre has again experienced strong visitation with just under 40,000 people through the site. The Visitor Centre was the *seventh* most visited centre in South Australia throughout the 2024/2025 year (Source: SAVISN Dashboard).

Annual visitor numbers

Year	Visitors
2022/23	39,280*
2023/24	39,531
2024/25	39,023

*Visitation affected by Murray River Flood 2022.

Monthly visitation trends



$53,994

Online cruises, tours and accommodation bookings

$36,375

4,794 online RV park bookings

$133,612

5,441 retail transactions

RV Parks

Council facilitated RV Parks (Plush's Bend RV Park, SS Ellen RV Park and TM Price Rotary RV Park) are a key part of our visitor economy, catering for the ever-growing independent traveller market and complimenting commercially operated accommodation options.



The Renmark Visitor Centre plays a key role in the coordination, promotion, booking, management, maintenance and closures of the camping aspects at the sites.

Online bookings have been in place since March 2021, though with COVID closures and the Murray River flood event, it has been challenging to get twelve months of baseline data to assess their performance. This was achieved over the 2024/25 year.

Some of the key findings from this data include:

Plush's Bend RV Park

- 33% overall occupancy (3,538 booked nights across all 30 sites).
- 47% occupancy for the 15 numbered sites 2,567 of the available 5,430 nights booked
- Sites 2, 6 and 14 were most popular.
- April was the busiest month with 67% occupancy across all 30 sites.
- The unallocated section experienced 18% occupancy with 971 of 5,430 nights booked.

SS Ellen RV Park

- 45% occupancy - 1,145 of the available 2,555 nights booked across 7 sites
- 62% occupancy - Powered sites are most popular with 910 of the available 1,460 nights booked
- Unpowered sites occupancy rate is 21% with 235 of the available 1,095 nights booked
- Consistently busy for last 6 months averaging 53% across all 7 sites

TM Price Rotary RV Park

- Occupancy sits at 13% with only 238 of the available 1,825 nights booked.
- Small updates continue to occur and over the past year new entry and wayfinding signage has been installed at Plush's Bend and low-lying sites have been remediated.

REGULATORY SERVICES



Planning and building

Over the past 12 months, the South Australian building industry is cautiously advancing, buoyed by public sector investment and gradual economic recovery. However, the industry still remains vulnerable to cost escalations and structural imbalances within the sector.

Interest rates, inflation, and escalating construction costs have continued to challenge our state in both residential and commercial development.

Within the Renmark Paringa Council's region, the building industry in the 2024/25 period reflects a cautious yet resilient outlook amid broader economic pressures.

Our Council area showed improvements for dwelling and additions approvals from the previous year, up from 31 to 54.

Furthermore, domestic structures (sheds, verandahs, carports and pools) also showed an increase from 75 to 84.

Across all categories of development applications, including dwellings and additions, verandahs, sheds, and commercial or industrial buildings, Renmark Paringa Council recorded an increase in total applications from 164 to 189.

The overall development cost nearly doubled compared to the previous year, rising from $22.14 million to $42.89 million. This substantial growth in development value is largely attributed to the completion of several major infrastructure projects within the region.

Type of development	2023/24	2024/25
Dwellings (new and additions)	31	54
Domestic structures (sheds, verandahs, carports, pools)	75	84
Commercial/ industrial/ horticulture	15	36
Land divisions	43	15
TOTAL	**164**	**189**

Total development cost of

$42.89 million

Dog and cat management

Council continues to enforce good dog and cat management with a successful year in 2024/25 seeing an increase in registrations. Council uses funds received through dog registrations to facilitate the administration of animal management.

Registrations	Total
Dogs	1,948
Cats	335

Reports and complaints	Total
Official barking dog complaints	**31**
Official wandering dog complaints	**79**
Total number of dogs impounded	**35**
Total dogs impounded and returned to owner	**13**
Reported dog harrassment on humans	**17**
Reported dog attack on human	**8**
Reported dog harrassment on animal	**4**
Reported dog attack on animal	**8**
Number of active dog management officers	**2**
Number of cat complaints	**15**
Total expiations issued	**159**

Local nuisance and litter control

Another role of the Regulatory Services team is to implement the *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016*. In 2024/25, Council officers undertook their roles and duties in accordance with the legislation.

Environmental health services

Public and environmental health services play a daily and often unseen role to protect, maintain and promote community health and wellbeing. Council continued to provide a broad range of public and environmental health services including the following key areas.

Wastewater systems and management

Council is the responsible authority to approve the installation or alteration of domestic and small commercial wastewater systems, which includes sanitary plumbing, septic tanks and onsite effluent disposal. During the financial year, Council assessed 99 applications and approved a total of 87 wastewater systems.

Complaints and reports received regarding defective or non-compliant wastewater systems are investigated to ensure the safe disposal and reuse of effluent.

Septic tank pump-outs continued to occur to remove the build-up of sludge from entering the Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS). At the time of the pump out, an inspection report is completed for the property owner that identifies the condition of the tank, presence of foreign materials (i.e. wipes, fats and oils) and any remedial work required.

Food Safety

For the 2024/25 year, there were 191 food businesses who were located within the area Council. Routine food inspections are undertaken to ensure appropriate food safety standards were met. Advice is provided to new food businesses to guide and assist with the construction and fit out of their premises. Free online food handler training is available through Council's website to assist food handlers to obtain improved food safety knowledge.

Mosquito Management Program

Council's mosquito management program operates between September and April annually. The 2024/25 program was initially allocated a risk rating of Level 3, low risk, however on 8 January 2025, SA Health raised the mosquito-borne disease threat level to 2 (medium) in South Australia following interstate flavivirus detections.

Trapping frequency was increased to twice monthly from January 2025 to April 2025, in accordance with the SA Arbovirus Coordinated Control and Operations Plan.

A total of 3,405 mosquitoes were trapped during the 2024/25 mosquito season. The average number of mosquitoes trapped across all locations for was 43. This was a decrease compared to the 2023/24 (67) and significantly lower than the 2022/23 seasons (398).

Screening of trapped mosquitoes continued throughout the 2024/25 season. There were no detections of arbovirus in any trapped mosquitoes.

Following significant rain around 25 November 2024 (approx. 40 - 60ml, depending on location), breeding site surveillance and treatment was undertaken approximately one week later, with ongoing surveillance of sites where water was present.

Fight the Bite resources and messaging was displayed at public facilities and shared electronically.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



Renmark Paringa Council

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Renmark Paringa Council

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

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Renmark Paringa Council

General Purpose Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Certification of Financial Statements

We have been authorised by the Council to certify the financial statements in their final form.

In our opinion:

- the accompanying financial statements comply with the *Local Government Act 1999, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* and Australian Accounting Standards,
- the financial statements present a true and fair view of the Council's financial position at 30 June 2025 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the financial year,
- internal controls implemented by the Council provide a reasonable assurance that the Council's financial records are complete, accurate and reliable and were effective throughout the financial year,
- the financial statements accurately reflect the Council's accounting and other records.



Tony Siviour
Chief Executive Officer

25 November 2025



Peter Hunter
Mayor

25 November 2025

Renmark Paringa Council

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Income			
Rates	2a	12,957	12,012
Statutory charges	2b	331	324
User charges	2c	896	957
Grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	2g	9,301	1,200
Grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	2g	5,120	2,742
Investment income	2d	30	204
Reimbursements	2e	122	183
Other income	2f	378	236
Total income		29,135	17,858
Expenses			
Employee costs	3a	5,912	5,975
Materials, contracts and other expenses	3b	8,538	9,217
Depreciation	3c	5,683	4,727
Finance costs	3d	338	12
Total expenses		20,471	19,931
Operating surplus / (deficit)		8,664	(2,073)
Asset disposal and fair value adjustments	4	(1,198)	(230)
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	2g	2,462	782
Physical resources received free of charge	2h	1,095	139
Net surplus / (deficit)		11,023	(1,382)
Other comprehensive income			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result			
Changes in revaluation surplus - I,PP&E	8a	28,328	10,079
Impairment (expense) / recoupments offset to asset revaluation reserve	8a	(1,172)	–
Total amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result		27,156	10,079
Amounts which will be reclassified subsequently to operating result			
Other movements		1,172	–
Total amounts which will be reclassified subsequently to operating result		1,172	–
Total other comprehensive income		28,328	10,079
Total comprehensive income		39,351	8,697
Alternate results adjustments			
Operating surplus / (deficit)		8,664	(2,073)
Grants, subsidies and contributions - capital		(9,301)	(1,200)
Financial Assistance Grant - Timing Adjustment		(1,740)	3,041
Alternate results adjustments		(2,377)	(232)

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Renmark Paringa Council

Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2025

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalent assets	5a	110	613
Trade and other receivables	5b	2,350	1,933
Other financial assets	5c	–	34
Inventories	5d	58	240
		2,518	2,820
Non-current assets held for sale	15	627	–
Total current assets		3,145	2,820
Non-current assets			
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	6	193,557	155,754
Total non-current assets		193,557	155,754
TOTAL ASSETS		196,702	158,574
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7a	2,489	6,335
Borrowings	7b	–	2,438
Provisions	7c	1,270	1,118
Total current liabilities		3,759	9,891
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	7b	6,070	–
Provisions	7c	173	162
Total non-current liabilities		6,243	162
TOTAL LIABILITIES		10,002	10,053
Net assets		186,700	148,521
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		49,409	31,774
Asset revaluation reserves	8a	136,241	109,085
Other reserves	8b	1,050	7,662
Total equity		186,700	148,521

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Renmark Paringa Council

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	Notes	Accumulated surplus	Asset revaluation reserve	Other reserves	Total equity
2025					
Balance as at 1 July		31,774	109,085	7,662	148,521
Adjustment to Asset Revaluation Reserve Opening Balance (correction)		–	(1,172)	–	(1,172)
Net surplus / (deficit) for year		11,023	–	–	11,023
Other comprehensive income					
Gain (loss) on revaluation of IPP&E	8a	–	28,328	–	28,328
Other comprehensive income		–	28,328	–	28,328
Total comprehensive income		11,023	28,328	–	39,351
Transfers between reserves		6,612	–	(6,612)	–
Balance at the end of period		49,409	136,241	1,050	186,700
2024					
Balance as at 1 July		34,303	99,006	6,515	139,824
Net surplus / (deficit) for year		(1,382)	–	–	(1,382)
Other comprehensive income					
Gain (loss) on revaluation of IPP&E	8a	–	10,079	–	10,079
Other comprehensive income		–	10,079	–	10,079
Total comprehensive income		(1,382)	10,079	–	8,697
Transfers between reserves		(1,147)	–	1,147	–
Balance at the end of period		31,774	109,085	7,662	148,521

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Renmark Paringa Council

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2025

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Rates receipts		12,883	11,793
Statutory charges		331	324
User charges		980	957
Grants, subsidies and contributions		5,632	1,620
Investment receipts		30	204
Reimbursements		134	183
Other receipts		1,887	236
Payments			
Payments to employees		(5,886)	(5,916)
Payments for materials, contracts and other expenses		(16,453)	(4,694)
Finance payments		(260)	(2)
Net cash provided by (or used in) operating activities	9b	(722)	4,705
Cash flows from investing activities			
Receipts			
Grants utilised for capital purposes		9,301	752
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets		2,950	782
Sale of replaced assets		154	584
Sale of surplus assets		509	–
Repayments of loans by community groups		34	34
Payments			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets		(12,257)	(7,377)
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets		(4,294)	(5,699)
Development of real estate for sale		190	(10)
Net cash provided (or used in) investing activities		(3,413)	(10,934)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Receipts			
Proceeds from loans		3,666	2,406
Payments			
Repayments of loans		(34)	(34)
Net cash provided by (or used in) financing activities		3,632	2,372
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		(503)	(3,857)
plus: cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period		613	4,470
Cash and cash equivalents held at end of period	9a	110	613

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Contents of the Notes accompanying the General Purpose Financial Statements

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Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted by Council in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below.

These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

(1) Basis of preparation

1.1 Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards

This general purpose financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis using the historical cost convention in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Interpretations and relevant South Australian legislation.

The financial report was authorised for issue by certificate under regulation 14 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* dated 25 November 2025

1.2 Historical cost convention

Except as stated below, these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

1.3 Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates and requires management to exercise its judgement in applying Council's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are specifically referred to in the relevant sections of this Note.

1.5 Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars ($'000).

(2) The local government reporting entity

Renmark Paringa Council is incorporated under the SA Local Government Act 1999 and has its principal place of business at 61 Eighteenth Street, Renmark.

(3) Income recognition

The Council recognises revenue under *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (AASB 1058) or *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (AASB 15) when appropriate.

In cases where there is an 'enforceable' contract with a customer with 'sufficiently specific' performance obligations, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 where income is recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or service to a customer). Revenue is measured based on the consideration to which the Council expects to be entitled in a contract with a customer.

In other cases, AASB 1058 applies when Council enters into transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than the fair value of the asset principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. The excess of the asset recognised (at fair value) over any 'related amounts' is recognised as income immediately, except in the case where a financial asset has been received to enable the council to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset that is to be controlled by the council. In this case, the council recognises the excess as a liability that is recognised over time in profit and loss when (or as) the entity satisfies its obligations under the transfer.

continued on next page ...

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (continued)

In recent years the payment of untied grants (financial assistance grants / local roads / supplementary grants) has varied from the annual allocation as shown in the table below:

	Cash Payment Received	Annual Allocation	Difference
2022/23	$4,155,553	$3,012,536	+ $1,143,017
2023/24	$131,429	$3,172,852	- $3,041,423
2024/25	$4,972,700	$3,232,616	+$1,740,084

Because these grants are untied, the Australian Accounting Standards require that payments be recognised upon receipt. Accordingly, the operating results of these periods have been distorted compared to those that would have been reported had the grants been paid in the year to which they were allocated. The amount of the distortion for 2024/25 is +$1,740,084 (2023/24 -$3,041,423).

The Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio disclosed in Note 12 has also been calculated after adjusting for the distortions resulting from the differences between the actual grants received and the grants entitlements allocated.

Some untied grants, while recognised as operating income, are used for capital expenditure and are disclosed below. The total amounts are then added back to Net Outlays on Existing Assets or Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets in Note 13.

Grants, Contributions & Subsidies - Capital	Renewal Capital Expenditure	New/Upgraded Expenditure	Total
LRCIP	$193,943		$193,943
Roads to Recovery	$333,349		$333,349
CRAAP	$375,257		$375,257
21st Street Road Bridge	$1,893,568		$1,893,568
Renmark Riverfront Wharf	$6,504,967		$6,504,967
TOTAL	$9,301,084		$9,301,084

(4) Cash, cash equivalents and other financial instruments

Cash assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Council's option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Receivables for rates and annual charges are secured over the subject land, and bear interest at rates determined in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999. Other receivables are generally unsecured and do not bear interest.

All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered doubtful.

All financial instruments are recognised at fair value at the date of recognition. A detailed statement of the accounting policies applied to financial instruments also form part of Note 10.

continued on next page ...

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (continued)

(5) Inventories
Inventories held in respect of stores have been valued by using the weighted average cost on a continual basis, after adjustment for loss of service potential. Inventories held in respect of business undertakings have been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(6) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

6.1 Initial recognition

All assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition.

All non-current assets purchased or constructed are capitalised as the expenditure is incurred and depreciated as soon as the asset is held “ready for use”. Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition, including architects' fees and engineering design fees and all other costs incurred. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the Council includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overhead.

6.2 Materiality

Assets with an economic life in excess of one year are only capitalised where the cost of acquisition exceeds materiality thresholds established by Council for each type of asset. In determining (and in annually reviewing) such thresholds, regard is had to the nature of the asset and its estimated service life. Examples of capitalisation thresholds applied during the year are given in Note 6. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

6.3 Subsequent recognition

All material asset classes are revalued on a regular basis such that the carrying values are not materially different from fair value. Significant uncertainties exist in the estimation of fair value of a number of asset classes including land, buildings and associated structures and infrastructure. Further detail of these uncertainties, and of existing valuations, methods and valuers are provided at Note 6.

6.4 Depreciation of non-current assets

Other than land, all infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets recognised are systematically depreciated over their useful lives on a straight-line basis which, in the opinion of Council, best reflects the consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets.

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values of classes of assets are reviewed annually.

Major depreciation periods for each class of asset are shown in Note 6. Depreciation periods for infrastructure assets have been estimated based on the best information available to Council, but appropriate records covering the entire life cycle of these assets are not available, and extreme care should be used in interpreting financial information based on these estimates.

6.5 Impairment

Assets whose future economic benefits are not dependent on the ability to generate cash flows, and where the future economic benefits would be replaced if Council were deprived thereof, are not subject to impairment testing.

Other assets that are subject to depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset’s carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount (which is the higher of the present value of future cash inflows or value in use).

Where an asset that has been revalued is subsequently impaired, the impairment is first offset against such amount as stands to the credit of that class of assets in Asset Revaluation Reserve, any excess being recognised as an expense.

6.6 Correction of errors relating to a previous reporting period
One error from 2023/24 has been identified with a correction made as at 1 July 2024 to reflect opening balances following the transfer of the asset data to a new system. The impact of this change can be seen in the Statement of Chages in Equity, and Note 8. Reserves.

continued on next page ...

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (continued)

Further review of 2023/24 asset data has led to a change in the categorisation of capital expenditure between new/upgrade and renewal of existing assets. This change has impacted the Asset Renewal Funding Ratio in Note 12. Financial Indicators and reallocated expenditure in the Cash Flow Statement and Note 13. Uniform Presentation of Finances.

(7) Payables

7.1 Goods & Services

Creditors are amounts due to external parties for the supply of goods and services and are recognised as liabilities when the goods and services are received. Creditors are normally paid 30 days after the month of invoice. No interest is payable on these amounts.

7.2 Payments Received in Advance & Deposits

Amounts received from external parties in advance of service delivery, and security deposits held against possible damage to Council assets, are recognised as liabilities until the service is delivered or damage reinstated, or the amount is refunded as the case may be.

(8) Borrowings

Loans are carried at their principal amounts which represent the present value of future cash flows associated with servicing the debt. Interest is accrued over the period to which it relates and is recorded as part of “Payables”. Interest free loans are carried at their nominal amounts; interest revenues foregone by the lender effectively being a reduction of interest expense in the period to which it relates.

(9) Employee benefits

9.1 Salaries, Wages & Compensated Absences
Weighted avg. discount rate 5.83% (2024, 3.96%)
Weighted avg. settlement period 1.59 years (2024, 1 year)

Council makes payment to employees with a start date prior to the date of commencement of the Renmark Paringa Council EBA (AWU) No.6 of 2015 for untaken sick leave at percentages according to days accrued.

Council makes payment to employees with a start date prior to the date of commencement of the Renmark Paringa Council EBA (ASU) No.6 of 2016 for untaken sick leave at percentages according to days accrued.

9.2 Superannuation

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the HostPlus Superannuation Scheme. The Scheme has two types of membership, each of which is funded differently. Details of the accounting policies applied and Council’s involvement with the schemes are reported in Note 14.

(10) GST implications

In accordance with UIG Abstract 1031 “*Accounting for the Goods & Services Tax*”

- Receivables and creditors include GST receivable and payable.
- Except in relation to input taxed activities, revenues and operating expenditures exclude GST receivable and payable.
- Non-current assets and capital expenditures include GST net of any recoupment.
- Amounts included in the Statement of Cash Flows are disclosed on a gross basis.

(11) Accounting standard interpretations

Council has assessed all the standards / interpretations currently issued which are not yet effective and have determined that there is no expected material impact on the reported financial position or performance.

continued on next page ...

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies (continued)

(12) Comparative figures

To ensure comparability with the current reporting period's figures, some comparative period line items and amounts may have been reclassified or individually reported for the first time within these financial statements and/or the notes.

Note 2. Income

$ '000	2025	2024
(a) Rates		
General rates		
General rates	9,422	8,574
Less: mandatory rebates	(79)	(69)
Less: discretionary rebates, remissions and write-offs	(188)	(128)
Total general rates	9,155	8,377
Other rates (including service charges)		
Landscape levy	404	399
Waste collection	1,305	1,291
Community wastewater management systems	2,016	1,874
Total other rates (including service charges)	3,725	3,564
Other charges		
Penalties for late payment	70	60
Legal and other costs recovered	7	11
Total other charges	77	71
Total rates	12,957	12,012
(b) Statutory charges		
Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act fees	63	55
Town planning fees	97	111
Health and septic tank inspection fees	38	30
Animal registration fees and fines	101	104
Parking fines / expiation fees	9	4
Other	2	1
Property Search Fees	21	19
Total statutory charges	331	324
(c) User charges		
Cemetery/crematoria fees	92	69
Hall and equipment hire	42	60
Sundry	174	133
Houseboat Moorings	196	329
Visitor Information Centre	235	222
Waste Transfer Station	157	144

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Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2. Income (continued)

Total user charges	896	957

$ '000	2025	2024
(d) Investment income		
Local Government Finance Authority	16	194
- Banks and other	13	9
Loans to Community Groups	1	1
Total investment income	30	204

continued on next page ...

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2. Income (continued)

$ '000	2025	2024
(e) Reimbursements		
Private works	11	13
Other	111	170
Total reimbursements	122	183
(f) Other income		
Insurance and other recoupments - infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	176	57
Rebates received	74	2
Sundry	42	165
Water Leasing Income	86	12
Total other income	378	236
(g) Grants, subsidies and contributions		
Capital grants, subsidies and contributions		
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	2,462	782
Total amounts received for new or upgraded assets	2,462	782
Other grants, subsidies and contributions - capital		
Roads to Recovery	333	448
Untied - Local roads and community	194	752
CRAAP	375	–
21st Street Road Bridge	1,894	–
Renmark Riverfront Wharf Upgrade	6,505	–
Total Other grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	9,301	1,200
Operating grants, subsidies and contributions		
Flood Response	–	2,474
Library and communications	28	28
Mosquito Control	10	11
Other grants, subsidies and contributions	–	75
Sundry	37	12
Untied - Financial Assistance Grant	4,973	131
Waste Concessions/Rebates	72	11
Total other grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	5,120	2,742
Total grants, subsidies and contributions	16,883	4,724
(i) Sources of grants		
Commonwealth Government	739	4,456
State Government	16,143	170
Other	1	98
Total	16,883	4,724

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Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2. Income (continued)

$ '000	2025	2024
(h) Physical resources received free of charge		
Stormwater	229	–
CWMS	487	–
Transport	277	–
Other	–	139
Irrigation	15	–
Plant and equipment	87	–
Total physical resources received free of charge	1,095	139

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 3. Expenses

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
(a) Employee costs			
Salaries and wages		4,721	4,874
Employee leave expense		634	488
Superannuation - defined contribution plan contributions	14	48	91
Superannuation - NSS guarantee	14	495	441
Workers' compensation insurance		131	109
Other employee related costs		100	169
Less: capitalised and distributed costs		(217)	(197)
Total operating employee costs		5,912	5,975
Total number of employees (full time equivalent at end of reporting period)		49	51
(b) Materials, contracts and other expenses			
(i) Prescribed expenses			
Auditor's remuneration			
- Auditing the financial reports		26	27
Bad and doubtful debts		184	(7)
Elected members' expenses		167	169
Election expenses		3	3
Subtotal - prescribed expenses		380	192
(ii) Other materials, contracts and expenses			
Contractors - Other		1,943	1,859
Contractors - Waste		1,638	1,620
Contractors - Cleaning		255	224
Contractors - ICT		204	197
Consultants/Professional Services		1,013	1,192
Legal expenses		233	85
Maintenance		754	967
Sundry		522	744
Levies paid to Government - Landscape levy		396	393
Parts, accessories and consumables		167	180
Levies - other		80	76
Other		18	397
Utilities - Electricity		541	694
Utilities - Communication		67	72
Utillities - Water and Sewerage		125	98
Fuel & Gas		202	227
Subtotal - Other material, contracts and expenses		8,158	9,025
Total materials, contracts and other expenses		8,538	9,217

continued on next page ...

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 3. Expenses (continued)

$ '000	2025	2024
(c) Depreciation		
(i) Depreciation and amortisation		
Land improvements	438	389
Buildings and other structures	1,036	1,049
Infrastructure		
Stormwater	272	152
CWMS	609	572
Transport	2,513	2,119
Irrigation	347	91
Plant and equipment	438	294
Furniture and fittings	30	7
(ii) Impairment Loss		
Transport	–	54
Subtotal	–	54
Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment	5,683	4,727
(d) Finance costs		
Interest on loans	338	12
Total finance costs	338	12

Note 4. Asset disposal and fair value adjustments

$ '000	2025	2024
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		
Assets Renewed or Directly Replaced		
Proceeds from disposal	154	584
Less: carrying amount of assets sold	(1,671)	(814)
Gain (loss) on disposal	(1,517)	(230)
(ii) Assets surplus to requirements		
Proceeds from disposal	509	–
Less: carrying amount of assets sold	(190)	–
Gain (loss) on disposal	319	–
Net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets	(1,198)	(230)

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 5. Current assets

$ '000	2025	2024
(a) Cash and cash equivalent assets		
Cash on hand and at bank	110	612
Deposits at call	–	1
Total cash and cash equivalent assets	110	613
(b) Trade and other receivables		
Rates - general and other	612	538
Accrued revenues	51	–
Debtors - general	1,520	699
GST recoupment	119	610
Prepayments	241	90
Sundry	–	5
Subtotal	2,543	1,942
Less: provision for doubtful debts	(193)	(9)
Total trade and other receivables	2,350	1,933
(c) Other financial assets		
Loans to Community Organisations	–	34
Total other financial assets (investments)	–	34
(d) Inventories		
Stores and materials	5	6
Trading stock	53	44
Real estate developments	–	190
Total inventories	58	240

Aggregate write-downs and other losses recognised as an expense, and reversals of these, were not material in amount in either year. All such reversals occurred principally as a result of clerical inaccuracies during stores operations.

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

		as at 30/06/24				Asset movements during the reporting period										as at 30/06/25			
$ '000	Fair Value Level	At Fair Value	At Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying amount	Asset Additions New / Upgrade	Asset Additions Renewals	WDV of Asset Disposals	Depreciation Expense (Note 3c)	Impairment Loss (recognised in P/L) (Note 3c)	WIP Transfers	Adjustments & Transfers	Physical Assets Received Free of Charge	Tfrs from/(to) "Held for Sale" category	Revaluation Increments to Equity (ARR) (Note 9)	At Fair Value	At Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Carrying amount
Capital work in progress		–	11,018	–	11,018	79	161	–	–	–	(10,138)	(63)	–	–	–	–	1,058	–	1,058
Land	2	6,646	–	–	6,646	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	(367)	1,337	7,616	–	–	7,616
Land	3	12,017	–	–	12,017	–	–	(190)	–	–	–	(81)	–	(260)	2,772	14,258	–	–	14,258
Land improvements	2	316	–	(168)	148	–	–	(95)	(4)	–	–	(4)	–	–	–	118	–	(74)	44
Land improvements	3	12,470	852	(5,728)	7,594	1,643	3,559	(766)	(434)	–	7,216	(719)	–	–	–	9,977	13,270	(5,153)	18,094
Buildings and other structures	2	6,498	–	(3,010)	3,488	–	–	–	(178)	–	–	11	–	–	–	6,533	–	(3,212)	3,321
Buildings and other structures	3	38,107	73	(19,447)	18,733	115	285	(97)	(858)	–	40	(305)	–	–	–	36,679	512	(19,279)	17,912
Stormwater	3	12,937	449	(6,994)	6,392	–	80	(3)	(272)	–	–	36	229	–	6,122	23,781	760	(11,957)	12,584
CWMS	3	34,036	176	(16,517)	17,695	1,667	1,488	(447)	(609)	–	1,717	(66)	487	–	1,054	34,997	5,535	(17,546)	22,986
Transport	3	102,749	8,836	(43,656)	67,929	605	6,941	(133)	(2,513)	–	1,055	514	277	–	9,177	120,450	17,714	(54,311)	83,853
Irrigation	3	972	2,074	(1,182)	1,864	185	97	(51)	(347)	–	110	–	15	–	7,866	13,856	2,487	(6,603)	9,740
Plant and equipment		–	5,221	(3,030)	2,191	–	336	(81)	(438)	–	–	(13)	87	–	–	–	5,108	(3,026)	2,082
Furniture and fittings		–	304	(265)	39	–	–	–	(30)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	302	(293)	9
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		226,748	29,003	(99,997)	155,754	4,294	12,947	(1,863)	(5,683)	–	–	(690)	1,095	(627)	28,328	268,265	46,746	(121,454)	193,557
Comparatives		198,428	27,339	(87,644)	138,123	5,699	7,517	(825)	(4,673)	(54)	–	5	–	–	9,962	226,748	29,003	(99,997)	155,754

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Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property (continued)

Valuation of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property

Valuation of assets

The fair value of assets and liabilities must be estimated in accordance with various Accounting Standards for either recognition and measurement requirements or for disclosure purposes.

AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a "level" in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

Refer to Note 6 (a) for the disclosure of the Fair Value Levels of Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment Assets.

Information on valuations

Fair value hierarchy level 2 valuations - Certain land, and the buildings and structures thereon, are shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 2 valuation inputs. They are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, with directly or indirectly observable adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset.

Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of land - Valuations of Crown land, community land and land subject to other restrictions on use or disposal, shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 3 valuation inputs, are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, but include adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset that are not directly or indirectly observable in that market, or the number and / or amount of observable adjustments of which are so great that the valuation is more fairly described as being based on level 3 valuation inputs.

Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of buildings, infrastructure and other assets - There is no known market for buildings, infrastructure and other assets. These assets are valued at depreciated current replacement cost. This method involves:

- The determination of the cost to construct the asset (or its modern engineering equivalent) using current prices for materials and labour, the quantities of each being estimated based on recent experience of this or similar Councils, or on industry construction guides where these are more appropriate.
- The calculation of the depreciation that would have accumulated since original construction using current estimates of residual value and useful life under the prime cost depreciation method adopted by Council.

This method has significant inherent uncertainties, relying on estimates of quantities of materials and labour, residual values and useful lives, and the possibility of changes in prices for materials and labour, and the potential for development of more efficient construction techniques. Accordingly, formal sensitivity analysis does not provide useful information.
Transfers between fair value hierarchy levels

In the course of revaluing (name the asset classes), the nature of the inputs applied was reviewed in detail for each asset and where necessary, the asset reassigned to the appropriate fair value hierarchy level. Such transfers take effect as at the date of the revaluation.

Other information

At 1 July 2004 upon the transition to AIFRS, Council elected pursuant to *AASB 1.D5* to retain a previously established deemed cost under GAAP as its deemed cost. With subsequent addition at cost, this remains as the basis of recognition of non-material asset classes.

Upon revaluation, the current new replacement cost and accumulated depreciation are re-stated such that the difference represents the fair value of the asset determined in accordance with *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement*: accumulated depreciation is taken to be the difference between current new replacement cost and fair value. In the case of land, current replacement cost is taken to be the fair value.

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Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property (continued)

Highest and best use
All of Council's non financial assets are considered as being utilised for their highest and best use.

Highest and best use - For land which Council has an unfettered right to sell, the “highest and best use” recognises the possibility of the demolition or substantial modification of some or all of the existing buildings and structures affixed to the land. Much of the land under Council’s care and control is Crown land or has been declared as community land under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999. Other types of restrictions also exist.

For land subject to these restrictions, the highest and best use is taken to be the "highest and best use" available to Council, with a rebuttable presumption that the current use is the "highest and best use". The reason for the current use of a large proportion of Council’s assets being other than the “highest and best use” relates to Council’s principal role as the provider of services to the community, rather than the use of those assets for the generation of revenue.

For buildings and other structures on and in the land, including infrastructure, “highest and best use” is determined in accordance with the land on and in which they are situated.

Capitalisation Thresholds

Capitalisation thresholds used by Council for a representative range of assets are shown below. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

	$
Office Furniture & Equipment	5,000
Other Plant & Equipment	3,000
Buildings - new construction/extensions	10,000
Land Improvements	5,000
Infrastructure	10,000
Other	5,000

Estimated Useful Lives

Useful lives are estimated for each individual asset. In estimating useful lives, regard is had to technical and commercial obsolescence, as well as legal and other limitations on continued use. The range of useful lives for a representative range of assets is shown below, although individual assets may have an estimated total useful life of greater or lesser amount:

Buildings	50 years
Land Improvements	33 years
Office Furniture and Fittings	10 years
Computer Equipment	3 years
Minor Equipment	10 years
Bridges	100 years
Footpaths	10 to 50 years
Kerbing	70 years
Natural Formed Roads	unlimited
Unsealed Roads	15 to 40 years
Road Surfacing - Spray Seal	20 to 28 years

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Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property (continued)

Road Surfacing - Asphalt	18 to 28 years
Sealed Road Base	50 to 90 years
CWMS Treatment Plant	50 years
CWMS Pipelines	50 years
CWMS Plant and Equipment	10 years
Stormwater Drainage	100 years
Major Plant	10 years
Mowers	3 years
Passenger Vehicles	2 to 5 years
Office Furniture	10 to 20 years

Land & Land Improvements
Council being of the opinion that it is not possible to attribute a value sufficiently reliably to qualify for recognition, land under roads has not been recognised in these reports. Land acquired for road purposes during the year is initially recognised at cost, but transferred to fair value at reporting date, effectively writing off the expenditure.

Freehold land and land over which Council has control, but does not have title, is recognised on the cost basis. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

Land improvements, including bulk earthworks with an assessed unlimited useful life, are recognised at current replacement, originally deriving from a valuation at 1 July 2024 at current replacement cost by the Valuer Generals Department. Additions are recognised at cost.

Estimated future costs of reinstatement of land, capitalised in accordance with AASB 116.16(c), are reviewed annually (see Note 1).

Land & Land Improvements were revalued as at 1 July 2023 by Mitch Ekonomopoulos AAPI, Certified Practising Valuer of ASSETVAL, a business of Marsh Pty Ltd.

Buildings & Other Structures
Buildings and other structures were revalued as at 1 July 2023 by Mitch Ekonomopoulos AAPI, Certified Practising Valuer of ASSETVAL, a business of Marsh Pty Ltd.

Buildings and other structures generally are recognised at fair value, based on current market values. However, special purpose buildings (such as public toilets) for which there is no market are valued at depreciated current replacement cost. Buildings which Council does not intend to replace at the end of their useful life are valued at market value of the “highest and best” use. All acquisitions made in this financial year are recorded at cost.

Infrastructure
Transportation infrastructure was valued by Tonkin Consulting as at 1 July 2021 at depreciated current replacement cost. A desktop valuation was undertaken by Tonkin Consulting as at 1 July 2024, with indexation applied to unit rates based on the Capital Local Government Price Index ('LGPI') indices since 2021. All acquisitions made in this financial year are recorded at cost.

Stormwater drainage infrastructure was valued by Tonkin Consulting as at 1 July 2024 at depreciated current replacement cost. A comprehensive review was undertaken, including CCTV condition inspections. All acquisitions made in this financial year are recorded at cost.

Community wastewater management system infrastructure was valued by Tonkins as at 1 July 2023 at depreciated current replacement cost. The valuation included data from field inspections undertaken and condition data. A desktop valuation was

continued on next page ...

Note 6. Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment and investment property (continued)

undertaken by Tonkin Consulting as at 1 July 2024, with indexation applied to unit rates based on the Building Price Index, sourced from Rawlinsons Australian Construction Handbook, October 2024 quarterly update. All acquisitions made in this financial year are recorded at cost.

Irrigation infrastructure was valued by Tonkin Consulting as at 1 July 2023 at depreciated current replacement cost, which has been accounted for in 2024/25. The valuation involved digitisation of the entire irrigation system, and field inspection, with condition data and field data used in the valuation. A desktop valuation was undertaken by Tonkin Consulting as at 1 July 2024, with indexation applied to unit rates based on the Building Price Index, sourced from Rawlinsons Australian Construction Handbook, October 2024 quarterly update. All acquisitions made in this financial year are recorded at cost.

Plant & Equipment
These assets are recognised on the cost basis.

Furniture and Fittings
These assets are recognised on the cost basis.

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7. Liabilities

$ '000	2025 Current	2024 Current
(a) Trade and other payables		
Goods and services	1,165	5,566
Payments received in advance	755	435
Accrued expenses - employee entitlements	157	131
Accrued expenses - finance costs	89	11
Accrued expenses - other	256	125
Deposits, retentions and bonds	67	67
Total trade and other payables	2,489	6,335

$ '000	2025 Current	2025 Non Current	2024 Current	2024 Non Current
(b) Borrowings				
Loans	–	6,070	2,438	–
Total Borrowings	–	6,070	2,438	–

All interest bearing liabilities are secured over the future revenues of the Council

(c) Provisions				
LSL Employee Entitlements (including oncosts)	726	173	656	162
AL Employee Entitlements (including oncosts)	544	–	462	–
Total provisions	1,270	173	1,118	162

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 8. Reserves

$ '000	as at 30/06/24 Opening Balance	Increments (Decrements)	Adjustments	as at 30/06/25 Closing Balance
(a) Asset revaluation reserve				
Land - other	14,905	4,109	(190)	18,824
Land improvements	6,174	–	(558)	5,616
Buildings and other structures	8,427	–	(996)	7,431
Infrastructure				
- Stormwater drainage	5,165	6,122	–	11,287
- CWMS	17,164	1,054	–	18,218
- Transport	56,340	9,177	572	66,089
- Irrigation	910	7,866	–	8,776
Total asset revaluation reserve	109,085	28,328	(1,172)	136,241
Comparatives	99,006	10,079	–	109,085

$ '000	as at 30/06/24 Opening Balance	Tfrs to Reserve	Tfrs from Reserve	as at 30/06/25 Closing Balance
(b) Other reserves				
CWMS Reserve	6,612	–	(6,612)	–
Development Reserve	1,002	–	–	1,002
Open Space Reserve	48	–	–	48
Total other reserves	7,662	–	(6,612)	1,050
Comparatives	6,515	1,147	–	7,662

Purposes of reserves

Asset revaluation reserves
The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements arising from changes in fair value of non current assets (less any subsequent impairment losses, where applicable).

CWMS Reserve
Established to fund the future capital development and asset replacement of the CWMS assets. The CWMS reserve will no longer be held further to a review of accounting for CWMS and supporting Council decision.

Development Reserve
Established to receive funds from the sale of surplus assets, land sales and cash surplus from budget savings. The balance is then used as a source to fund major capital works in the future. All CWMS revenue, expenditure and liabilities continue to be seperately accounted for to ensure all CWMS expenditure is fully funded from CWMS revenue and / or borrowings specifically for CWMS.

Open Space Reserve
A reserve established to hold funds contributed by developers in lieu of providing an open space public space as part of their development.

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 9. Reconciliation to Statement of Cash Flows

$ '000	Notes	2025	2024
(a) Reconciliation of cash			
Cash assets comprise highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:			
Total cash and equivalent assets	5	110	613
Balances per Statement of Cash Flows		110	613
(b) Reconciliation of Operating Result			
Net surplus/(deficit)		11,023	(1,382)
Non-cash items in income statements			
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment		5,683	4,727
Non-cash asset acquisitions		(1,095)	(139)
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as investing activity		(11,763)	(1,534)
Net (gain)/loss on disposals		1,198	230
Adjustment to Asset Revaluation Reserve		(1,172)	–
		3,874	1,902
Add (less): changes in net current assets			
Net (increase)/decrease in receivables		(601)	(1,305)
Change in allowances for under-recovery of receivables		184	(18)
Net (increase)/decrease in inventories		(8)	(1)
Net increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables		(4,334)	4,125
Net increase/(decrease) in unpaid employee benefits		–	2
Net increase/(decrease) in other provisions		163	–
Net cash provided by (or used in) operations		(722)	4,705
(c) Financing arrangements			
Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit:			
Corporate credit cards		2	6
LGFA cash advance debenture facility		13,930	7,596

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 10. Financial instruments

Recognised financial instruments

Bank, deposits at call, short term deposits

Accounting Policy:
Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost; interest is recognised when earned.

Terms & Conditions:
Deposits are returning variable interest rates between 0.20% and 4.65% (2024: 1.05% and 4.30%).

Carrying Amount:
Approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.

Receivables - rates and associated charges (including legals and penalties for late payment)

Accounting Policy:
Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms & Conditions:
Secured over the subject land, arrears attract interest of 0.76% (2024: 0.75%). Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries in the State.

Carrying Amount:
Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

Receivables - fees and other charges

Accounting policy:
Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms and conditions:
Unsecured, and do not bear interest. Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries.

Carrying amount:
Approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).

Receivables - other levels of government

Accounting policy:
Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

Terms and conditions:
Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest. All amounts are due by Departments and Agencies of State and Federal Governments.

Carrying amount:
Approximates fair value.

Liabilities - creditors and accruals

Accounting policy:
Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Council.

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Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 10. Financial instruments (continued)

Terms and conditions:
Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.

Carrying amount:
Approximates fair value.

Liabilities - interest bearing borrowings

Accounting Policy:
Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest rate.

Terms & Conditions:
2 CAD facilities expiring November 2027 and September 2030 respectively; interest was charged at a quarterly with a year end rate of 5.5% (2024: 6.15%). A credit foncier loan expired in February 2025.

Carrying Amount:
Approximates fair value.

continued on next page ...

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 10. Financial instruments (continued)

$ '000	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year and ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
Financial assets and liabilities					
2025					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	110	–	–	110	110
Receivables	2,302	–	–	2,302	2,109
Total financial assets	2,412	–	–	2,412	2,219
Financial liabilities					
Payables	1,734	–	–	1,734	1,734
Current borrowings	–	–	–	–	–
Non-current borrowings	–	–	6,070	6,070	6,070
Total financial liabilities	1,734	–	6,070	7,804	7,804
Total financial assets and liabilities	4,146	–	6,070	10,216	10,023
2024					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	613	–	–	613	613
Receivables	1,877	–	–	1,877	1,843
Other financial assets	–	–	–	–	–
Total financial assets	2,490	–	–	2,490	2,456
Financial liabilities					
Payables	5,900	–	–	5,900	5,900
Current borrowings	2,438	–	–	2,438	2,438
Non-current borrowings	–	–	–	–	–
Lease liabilities	–	–	–	–	–
Total financial liabilities	8,338	–	–	8,338	8,338
Total financial assets and liabilities	10,828	–	–	10,828	10,794

The following interest rates were applicable to Council's borrowings at balance date:

	2025		2024	
$ '000	Weighted Avg Interest Rate	Carrying Value	Weighted Avg Interest Rate	Carrying Value
Other variable rates	5.50%	6,070	0.00%	–
Fixed interest rates	0.00%	–	6.72%	2,438
		6,070		2,438

Net fair value
All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of the Council.

Risk exposures

continued on next page ...

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 10. Financial instruments (continued)

Credit Risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties fail to perform as contracted. The maximum credit risk on financial assets of the Council is the carrying amount, net of any impairment. All Council investments are made with the SA Local Government Finance Authority and are guaranteed by the SA Government. Except as detailed in Note 5 in relation to individual classes of receivables, exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries, and there is no material exposure to any individual debtor.

Market Risk is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices. All of Council's financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk nor currency risk apply.

Liquidity Risk is the risk that Council will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations with financial liabilities. In accordance with the model Treasury Mangement Policy (LGA Information Paper 15), liabilities have a range of maturity dates. Council also has available a range of bank overdraft and standby borrowing facilities that it can access.

Interest Rate Risk is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Councils borrowings are entirely fixed interest rate borrowings. Cash flow fluctuations are managed holistically in seeking to minimise interest costs over the longer term in a risk averse manner.

Note 11. Capital expenditure and investment property commitments

$ '000	2025	2024
Capital commitments		
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
Infrastructure	1,535	10,622
	1,535	10,622
These expenditures are payable:		
Not later than one year	1,535	10,622
	1,535	10,622

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 12. Financial indicators

$ '000	Amounts 2025	Indicator 2025	Indicators 2024	Indicators 2023
Financial Indicators overview *These Financial Indicators have been calculated in accordance with Information paper 9 - Local Government Financial Indicators prepared as part of the LGA Financial Sustainability Program for the Local Government Association of South Australia.*				
1. Operating Surplus Ratio				
Operating surplus	**8,664**	**29.7%**	(11.6)%	(7.1)%
Total operating income	**29,135**			
This ratio expresses the operating surplus as a percentage of total operating revenue.				
2. Net Financial Liabilities Ratio				
Net financial liabilities	**7,542**	**26%**	42%	(7)%
Total operating income	**29,135**			
Net Financial Liabilities are defined as total liabilities less financial assets (excluding equity accounted investments in Council businesses). These are expressed as a percentage of total operating revenue.				
Adjustments to Ratios				
In recent years the Federal Government has made advance payments prior to 30th June from future year allocations of financial assistance grants, as explained in Note 1. These Adjusted Ratios correct for the resulting distortion in key ratios for each year and provide a more accurate basis for comparison. *The operating income and operating surplus are adjusted by adding back the current year timing difference of Financial Assistance Grants and subtracting the current year capital grants income (Grants, subsidies and contributions-capital) excluding Roads to Recovery.* *The Net Financial Liabilities are adjusted to add back the Financial Assistance Grants received in advance for the next financial year.* *Where required, 2023-24 comparative ratios have been changed according to the South Australian Local Government Model Financial Statements.*				
Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio				
Operating surplus	**(2,044)**	**(11.1)%**	(0.2)%	(11.9)%
Total operating income	**18,427**			
Adjusted Net Financial Liabilities Ratio				
Net financial liabilities	**9,253**	**50%**	38%	7%
Total operating income	**18,427**			

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Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 12. Financial indicators (continued)

$ '000	Amounts 2025	Indicator 2025	Indicators 2024	Indicators 2023
3. Asset Renewal Funding Ratio				
Asset renewals	**12,257**			
Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan required expenditure	**5,618**	**218%**	293%	212%

Asset renewals expenditure is defined as capital expenditure on the renewal and replacement of existing assets relative to the optimal level planned, and excludes new capital expenditure on the acquisition of additional assets.

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 13. Uniform presentation of finances

$ '000	2025	2024
The following is a high level summary of both operating and capital investment activities of the Council prepared on a simplified Uniform Presentation Framework basis.		
All Councils in South Australia have agreed to summarise annual budgets and long-term financial plans on the same basis.		
The arrangements ensure that all Councils provide a common 'core' of financial information, which enables meaningful comparisons of each Council's finances.		
Income		
Rates	12,957	12,012
Statutory charges	331	324
User charges	896	957
Grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	9,301	1,200
Grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	5,120	2,742
Investment income	30	204
Reimbursements	122	183
Other income	378	236
Total Income	29,135	17,858
Expenses		
Employee costs	(5,912)	(5,975)
Materials, contracts and other expenses	(8,538)	(9,217)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(5,683)	(4,727)
Finance costs	(338)	(12)
Total Expenses	(20,471)	(19,931)
Operating surplus / (deficit)	8,664	(2,073)
Net timing adjustment for general purpose grant funding	(1,740)	3,041
Less: grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	(9,301)	(1,200)
Adjusted Operating surplus / (deficit)	(2,377)	(232)
Net outlays on existing assets		
Capital expenditure on renewal and replacement of existing assets	(12,257)	(7,377)
Add back depreciation, amortisation and impairment	5,683	4,727
Add back grants, subsidies and contributions - capital renewal	9,301	1,200
Add back proceeds from sale of replaced assets	154	584
	2,881	(866)
Net outlays on new and upgraded assets		
Capital expenditure on new and upgraded assets (including investment property and real estate developments)	(4,294)	(5,709)
Add back amounts received specifically for new and upgraded assets	2,950	782
Add back proceeds from sale of surplus assets (including investment property, real estate developments and non-current assets held for resale)	699	–
	(645)	(4,927)
Annual net impact to financing activities (surplus/(deficit))	(141)	(6,025)

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 14. Superannuation

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to Hostplus (formerly Local Government Superannuation Scheme and Statewide Super). There are two types of membership, each of which is funded differently. Permanent and contract employees of the South Australian Local Government sector with Salarylink benefits prior to 24 November 2009 have the option to contribute to the Accumulation section and/or Salarylink. All other employees (including casuals) have all contributions allocated to the Accumulation section.

Accumulation only members

Accumulation only members receive both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of ordinary time earnings in accordance with superannuation guarantee legislation (11.50% in 2024/25; 11.00% in 2023/24). No further liability accrues to the Council as the superannuation benefits accruing to employees are represented by their share of the net assets of the Fund.

Salarylink (Defined Benefit Fund) members

Salarylink is a defined benefit scheme where the benefit payable is based on a formula determined by the member's contribution rate, number of years and level of contribution and final average salary. Council makes employer contributions to Salarylink as determined by the Fund's Trustee based on advice from the appointed Actuary. The rate is currently 6.3% (6.3% in 2023/24) of "superannuation" salary.

In addition, Council makes a separate contribution of 3% of ordinary time earnings for Salarylink members to their Accumulation account. Employees also make member contributions to the Salarylink section of the Fund. As such, assets accumulate in the Salarylink section of the Fund to meet the member's benefits, as defined in the Trust Deed, as they accrue.

The Salarylink section is a multi-employer sponsored plan. As the Salarylink section's assets and liabilities are pooled and are not allocated by each employer, and employees may transfer to another employer within the local government sector and retain membership of the Fund, the Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers. As provided by AASB 119.34(a), Council does not use defined benefit accounting for these contributions.

The most recent actuarial investigation was conducted by the Fund's actuary, Louise Campbell, FIAA, of Willis Towers Watson as at 30 June 2023. The Trustee has determined that the current funding arrangements are adequate for the expected Salarylink liabilities. However, future financial and economic circumstances may require changes to Council's contribution rates at some future time.

Contributions to other superannuation schemes

Council also makes contributions to other superannuation schemes selected by employees under the "choice of fund" legislation. All such schemes are of the accumulation type, where the superannuation benefits accruing to the employee are represented by their share of the net assets of the scheme, and no further liability attaches to the Council.

Note 15. Non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations

$ '000	2025	2024
(ii). Carrying amounts of assets and liabilities		
Assets		
Land Held for Sale	627	–
Total assets	627	–
Net assets	627	–

Note 16. Contingencies and assets/liabilities not recognised in the balance sheet

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but knowledge is considered relevant to the users of the financial report in making and evaluating decisions about the allocation of scarce resources.

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Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 16. Contingencies and assets/liabilities not recognised in the balance sheet

Land under roads

As reported in the Financial Statements, Council is of the opinion that it is not possible to attribute a value sufficiently reliably for these assets to qualify for recognition, and accordingly land under roads has not been recognised in the reports. Land acquired for road purposes during the year is initially recognised at cost, but transferred to fair value at reporting date, effectively writing off the expenditure.

At reporting date, Council controlled 580 km of road reserves of average width 6 metres.

4. Legal expenses

Council is the planning consent authority for its area under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*. Pursuant to that Act, certain persons aggrieved by a planning decision of the Council may appeal. It is normal practice that parties bear their own legal costs. At the date of these reports, Council had notice of 1 appeal relating to a planning decision made prior to the reporting date. The appeal was withdrawn in July 2025.

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 17. Events after the balance sheet date

Events that occur after the reporting date of 30 June 2025, up to and including the date when the financial statements are "authorised for issue" have been taken into account in preparing these statements.

Council has adopted the date of receipt of the Auditors' Report as the appropriate "authorised for issue" date relating to these General Purpose Financial Statements.

Note 18. Related party transactions

Key management personnel

Transactions with key management personnel

The Key Management Personnel of the Council include the Mayor, Councillors, CEO and certain prescribed officers under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1999. In all, 14 persons were paid the following total compensation.

$ '000	2025	2024
The compensation paid to key management personnel comprises:		
Salaries, allowances & other short term benefits	803	874
Total	803	874

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, one elected member declared that one close family member was employed by Council during the return period. This family member of KMP was employed by Council during the 2024/25 amd received total payments amounted to $24,029.57. All payments were inline with employment terms of Council.

One Elected Member is the chairman of Renmark Paringa Homes for the Aged (Renmark Paringa Independent Living). In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, this person declares an interest in matters relating to Renmark Paringa Homes for the Aged. During 2024-25 Renmark Paringa Homes for the Aged recevied a Rate rebate of $70,900.10.

One Elected Member is a committee member of the RIT & Renmark Paringa Council Wetland Committee. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, this person declares an interest in matters relating to RIT & Renmark Paringa Council Wetland Committee. During 2024-25 RIT & Renmark Paringa Council Wetland Committee did not receive any funding from Council.

One Elected Member is a committee member of the Riverland Cruising Boat Club & Friends of Riverland Parks. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, this person declares an interest in matters relating to Riverland Cruising Boat Club & Friends of Riverland Parks. During 2024-25 Riverland Cruising Boat Club & Friends of Riverland Parks did not receive any funding from Council.

One Elected Member is a committee member of the Riverland Evening Branch CWA & SA Rural Womens Gathering Association Inc. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, this person declares an interest in matters relating to Riverland Evening Branch CWA & SA Rural Womens Gathering Association Inc. During 2024-25 Riverland Evening Branch CWA & SA Rural Womens Gathering Association Inc did not receive any funding from Council.

One Elected Member is a committee member of the Paringa Football Netball Club. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, this person declares an interest in matters relating to Paringa Football Netball Club. During 2024-25 Paringa Football Netball Club did not receive any funding from Council.

One Elected Member is a committee member of the Renmark Health Advisory Board. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, this person declares an interest in matters relating to Renmark Health Advisory Board. During 2024-25 Renmark Health Advisory Board did not receive any funding from Council.

One KMP is a committee member of the Renmark North Cricket Club. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, this person declares an interest in matters relating to Renmark North Cricket Club. During 2024-25 Renmark North Cricket Club did not receive any funding from Council.

continued on next page ...

Renmark Paringa Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 18. Related party transactions (continued)

One KMP is the Chairperson of the Renmark West Primary School Governing Council. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, this person declares an interest in matters relating to Renmark West Primary School. During 2024-25 Renmark West Primary School recevied $100 as community support funding from Council

Key management personnel or close family members (including related parties) lodged 2 planning and/or building applications in 2024/25. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, these persons declared conflicts of interest and took no part in the assessment or approval processes for these applications. Fees paid in relation to these applicatios totalled $5,604.00

One development application was received. This development application was subject to assessment at 30 June 2025.
One planning application was received. Consent for the planning application was granted.

One Elected Member is a member of the Rotary Club of Renmark. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, this person declares an interest in matters relating to Rotary Club of Renmark. During 2024/25 the Rotary Club of Renmark recevied $2,000 as community support funding for maintenance work at the Renmark Cemetery Memorial Gardens for years 22/23 & 23/24. The Rotary Club of Renmark also received a $750 donation for the Australia Day Community Breakfast.

One KMP is a board member of the Renmark Hotel Incorporated, which is a community owned hotel. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, this person declares an interest in matters relating to Renmark Hotel Incorporated. The Renmark Hotel Incorporated periodically provides accommodation and hospitality services to Council. Total payments amounted to $6,137.70 during 2024/25. All payments were inline with commercial terms of Council. The Renmark Hotel Incorporated paid $61,812.80 to Renmark Paringa Council in the form of Council Rates.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF RENMARK PARINGA COUNCIL

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Renmark Paringa Council, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the Certification of the Financial Statements.

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Renmark Paringa Council as of 30 June 2025, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, which gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*, and for such internal control as the committee and management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

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Advisors
Accountants
Auditors

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BENTLEYS SA AUDIT PARTNERSHIP



DAVID PAPA
PARTNER

Dated at Adelaide this 27th day of November 2025

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INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROLS OF RENMARK PARINGA COUNCIL

Opinion

We have audited the compliance of Renmark Paringa Council (the Council) with the requirements of *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation to the Internal Controls established by the Council to ensure that financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 are in accordance with legislative provisions.

In our opinion, the Council has complied, in all material respects, with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation to Internal Controls, established by the Council in relation to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities so as to provide reasonable assurance that the financial transactions of the Council have been conducted properly and in accordance with legislative provisions for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Limitation on Use

This report has been prepared for the members of the Council in accordance with *Section 129 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation to Internal Controls specified above. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report to any persons or users other than the members of the Council, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Limitations of Controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and operating effectively, the control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error, or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected.

An assurance engagement on internal controls is not designed to detect all instances of controls operating ineffectively as it is not performed continuously throughout the period and the tests performed are on a sample basis. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with them may deteriorate.

Independence

In conducting our engagement, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

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Advisors
Accountants
Auditors

The Council's Responsibility for the Internal Controls

The Council is responsible for implementing and maintaining an adequate system of internal controls, in accordance with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation to Internal Controls, to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and incurring of liabilities are in accordance with legislative provisions.

Our Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Council's compliance with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation only to the Internal Controls established by the Council to ensure that financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities, based on our procedures. Our engagement has been conducted in accordance with applicable Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000 *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* and ASAE 3150 *Assurance Engagement on Controls*, issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, in order to state whether, in all material respects, the *Council* has complied with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation only to the Internal Controls specified above for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. ASAE 3000 also requires us to comply with the relevant ethical requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Our procedures included obtaining an understanding of internal controls in relation to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities, evaluating management's assessment of these internal controls, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and implementation of controls on a sample basis on the assessed risks.

BENTLEYS SA AUDIT PARTNERSHIP



DAVID PAPA
PARTNER

Dated at Adelaide this 27th day of November 2025

Renmark Paringa Council

General Purpose Financial Statements

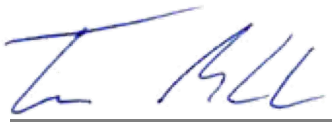
for the year ended 30 June 2025

Certification of Auditor Independence

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we confirm that, for the purpose of the audit of Renmark Paringa Council for the year ended 30 June 2025, the Council's Auditor, Bentleys, has maintained its independence in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22(3) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011.*





Tony Siviour
Chief Executive Officer

Tim Muhlhausler
Presiding Member, Audit and Risk Committee

Date: 20 November 2025

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Certification of Auditor Independence

I confirm that, for the audit of the financial statements of Renmark Paringa Council for the year ended 30 June 2025, I have maintained my independence in accordance with the requirements of APES 110 – Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards), Part 4A published by the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011 made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22 (5) Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011.

Bentleys SA Audit Partnership

David Papa
Partner

Dated at Adelaide this 10th day of November 2025

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APPENDICES



ANNUAL REPORT

Murraylands & Riverland Local Government Association
2024 / 25









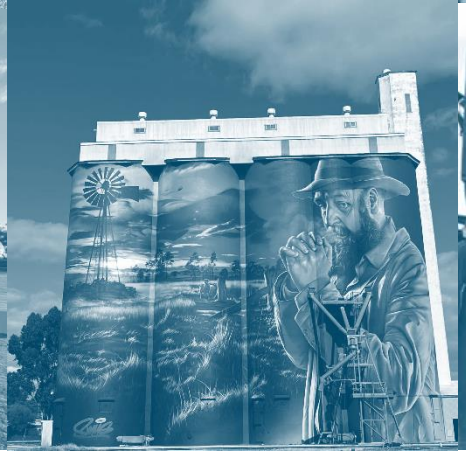














Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association



Constituent Councils

















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MRLGA OVERVIEW

Mission

Being a unified local government sector working in the best interest of the region and our communities.

Our Charter

- Speaking with one voice
- Building partnerships
- Working with the LGA
- Planning for and with the region
- Coordinating resources and representation
- Enhancing efficiencies

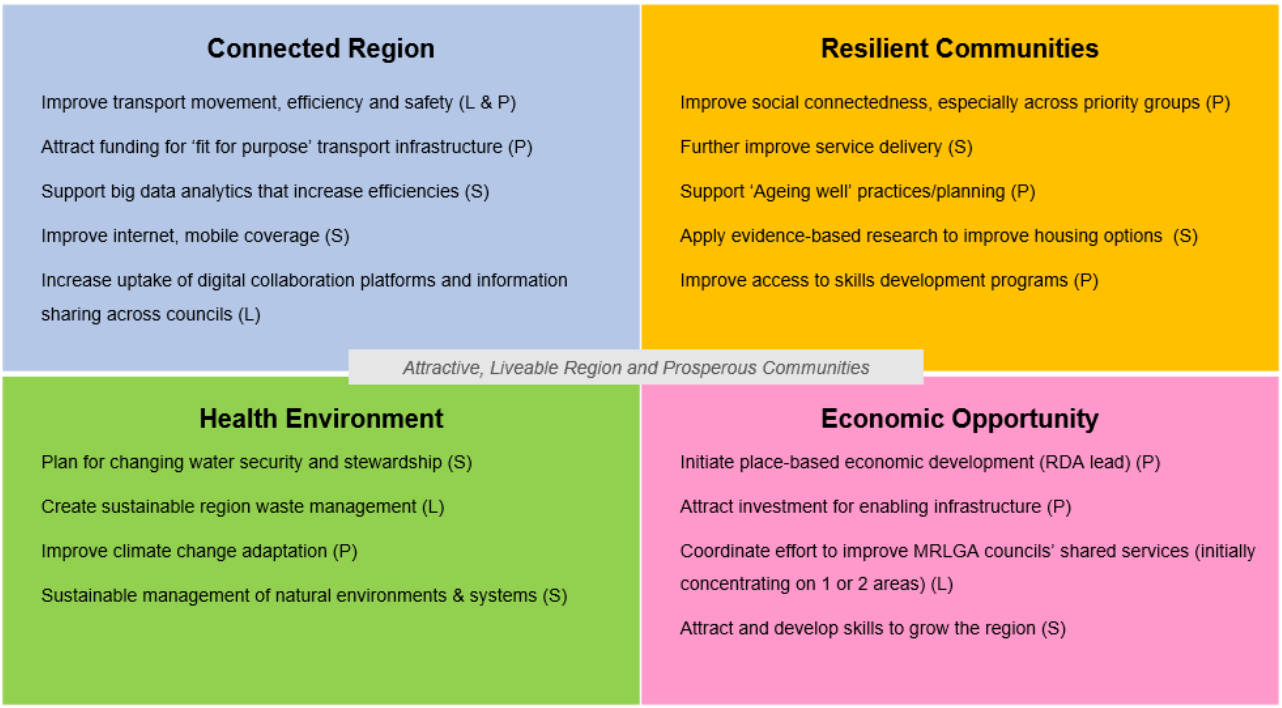
Values and Behaviours

Integrity, Leadership, Collaboration, Credibility, Unity

Role

Working to the MRLGA Charter, the Association motivates, advocates and represents its eight constituent Councils to advance cooperation, strategic partnerships and governance arrangements that oversee programs and projects in the region. Through its coordination of effort, the Association leads and assists its councils with evidence-based approaches to high level planning, communication and representation. The MRLGA works closely with Local Government Association SA, Commonwealth and State Governments, as well as regional partners including Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland (RDA MR) and Murraylands & Riverland Landscape Board.

Strategic Framework



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



MRLGA President
Mayor Caroline Phillips

The Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association, together with its eight constituent councils, continued in 2024/25 to pursue its goal of fostering a unified local government sector that works collaboratively in the best interests of the region and our communities.

As regional councils across the state deliver outstanding services to their local communities, our role as listeners, leaders, and advocates has been to engage with neighbouring councils on shared regional challenges and opportunities. These conversations have enabled us to exchange ideas, identify solutions, build networks, and strengthen cooperation—ultimately leading to greater efficiencies, mutual support, and collective progress.

On behalf of the Association, I extend my sincere thanks to all Board Members, CEOs, Committee Members, and staff for their continued commitment to collaboration. It is through this spirit of working together that we achieve unity, and in unity, we find our strength.

Reflecting on the achievements of the 2024/25 year, I am proud of the continuing strides the MRLGA has made toward our vision of creating attractive, livable, and prosperous communities. Our efforts remain firmly anchored in our mission to cultivate strong, enduring relationships, unify the local government sector, foster partnerships, and enhance regional efficiencies. With the support of our councils and partners, we have continued to advance strategic initiatives that strengthen regional infrastructure, enhance social resilience, and promote environmental sustainability.

Key achievements and highlights throughout the year have included:

Drought Response and Preparedness

Over the past year, we increased our role in drought advocacy, ensuring local voices were heard at both State and Federal levels from within the region. We gathered and shared critical intelligence on the impacts of drought to pass to Ministerial offices, advocated for regional round tables to be held more widely following the Limestone Coast session, and highlighted regional needs and financial relief measures at the Agribusiness Forum. Our active contribution to the SA Drought Advisory Working Group fed intelligence into the States working group that influences the recovery support packages. This time was further complimented through in-kind resources from the subsidiary to administer, design and deliver Regional Drought Resilience (RDR) under Future Drought Program. To optimise this funding, we designed and hosted a dedicated stakeholder workshop with over 30 participants collaborating on opportunities to increase drought preparedness for farming communities. We supported the Murraylands Drought Survey with targeted presentations to peak bodies. And facilitated regular online updates with Rural Business Support, ensuring Councils remained informed of case numbers and emerging challenges. A submission was also made to the Federal Productivity Commission on the RDRP. In a regional first, we curated the design and secured state support for a central coordination role at the RDR Consortium, hosted by the Landscape Board. The role will lead region-wide resilience initiatives under the FDF program. Its central positioning will enable it to see all resilience projects across the region (including the Climate Smart Agriculture program and other resilience programs) enabling greater cross-pollination of ideas and a stronger chance of reaching communities with practical outcomes. The pilot of the central role will begin in 25/26.

We acknowledge and thank Mayor Paul Simmons of Coorong District Council for representing local government at the SA Drought Advisory Group since October 2024. The unprecedented conditions of 2024 were the driest rainfall year on record and it placed immense pressure on farming businesses, families, and regional communities. In response, local government has remained a trusted advocate and strong voice, continuing to seek reforms in drought response and working to influence the design of investment initiatives that deliver meaningful support into those most affected.

Public Health and Wellbeing

The year marked good progress in advancing regional public health and wellbeing initiatives. We facilitated and co-ordinated the biannual Section 52 statutory reporting from eight councils to the Chief Public Health Officer on the Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (and Council's 126 initiatives). The process included several engagement opportunities across all eight Councils including online information sessions, capturing regional issues, and advocating to the Mental Health Commissioner's Office. A significant achievement following this was the brokering of a partnership with Preventive Health SA, securing a $400,000 regional

investment in prevention efforts with only a $5,000 contribution required from participating councils. The partnership is giant leap towards greater State to Local joint efforts for healthy communities and alongside the funding component is a substantial non-monetary value through access to data and information, campaigns, specialist advice, intelligence, and strategic planning. This achievement strengthens cross-council collaboration and provides a foundation for greater cross agency initiatives towards public health and reducing siloed work. We also hosted a regional workshop in Mannum for the Regional Public Health & Wellbeing Committee and key staff, strengthening collaboration and knowledge-sharing. In addition, we observed many positive achievements, events and outcomes in year two of the three-year partnership we brokered with Riverland Council and Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR), which is successfully increasing community participation across the Riverland. Our efforts to widen the program to neighbouring Councils as well as continue the partnership with State is underway.
We continued to maintain growing relationships with agency's connected to this portfolio including MMRLHN and Country SAPHN, (3) Regional Education Directors, SA Health, Foundations SA, WoTL and SA Drought Hub. And attended the State Strategic Direction workshop for the State Public Health Plan (2030). We were part of a targeted group of invited stakeholders to inform future opportunities. And attended the Foundations SA opening and have since promoted their programs to Councils as an alternative avenue for community to empower action.

Waste Management & Resource Recovery

Waste management remains a critical focus for many councils, given its status as one of the largest and most enduring service contracts delivered. In 2024/25, significant efforts were made to align our strategic vision with our capacity for implementation. Working closely with our constituent councils, the MRLGA structured two new positions within the waste management portfolio: Circular Economy and Waste Lead, and Waste Educational Program Lead. These appointments have been pivotal in advancing our regional waste management initiatives.

Guided by our Regional Strategy, we have advanced a range of initiatives designed to strengthen waste management, sustainability, and community awareness. Key projects underway include:

- Kerbside Waste Service Review,
- Cross-council contract management for waste services,
- Procured and project managed a joint waste bin audit across five participating councils (that resulted in an overall savings of $70k from undertaking joint procurement).
- A Waste Education Program was developed across five participating councils and includes targeted themes and events, some include community information sessions, facility tours, a new Sustainability Calendar and enhanced 'which bin' material to amplify the campaign, all to build awareness and encourage community participation.
- We are also exploring future opportunities for Riverland Composting, comparing case studies like the Mildura regional composting model, and
- We have developed a logistics map to identify the regions waste assets and future freight efficiencies.

In addition to these initiatives, we actively represented the region in advocacy efforts, including a submission to the EPA on future reform and GISA's Draft State Waste Strategy. We continue to strengthen partnerships across the sector, maintaining strong connections with the LGA, GISA, AHRWMA, Greenhill Energy, WMRR, End Food Waste Australia (The Great Unwaste), KESAB, PIRSA Fruit Fly team and other key stakeholders.

Transport and Infrastructure

Our Regional Transport and Assets Committee made strong progress in strategic infrastructure planning. 2024/25 delivered continued collaboration and coordination across Council infrastructure teams to oversee the Regional Transport Plan and associated database of roads. The coordinated efforts resulted in a remarkable $4.3 million funding package through the Special Local Roads Program (SLRP) for priority road upgrades across councils. These projects are essential for maintaining and enhancing road infrastructure that supports economic growth, tourism routes and community transport. This is a significant regional roads package obtained through the program and we give credit to all Council Director's and their infrastructure teams for their forward integrated planning and shovel ready agility. Councils were supported through complex claim processes, and a priority list for 2025/26 SLRP applications was successfully coordinated.

We have also initiated liaison with Federal Government on Roads to Recovery and SA Grants commission on opportunities for efficiency and consolidation of asset databases to inform forward work plans. We represented the region at the 2024 LGA Roads and Works Conference, and have provided feedback and advice to the State Government for regional needs as it relates to the State Public Transport Strategy under review for (2030).

Murray Darling Basin Plan / Water Recovery

MRLGA has remained a support line to the Councils while they took the lead and attended meetings with PIRSA to influence and contribute to the development of business case plans for the Resilient Rivers Infrastructure Program and Sustainable Communities Program.
We provided representation at the Murray Darling Basin Authority Conference, held in Murray Bridge that included presentations from a range of experts. One of the emerging forecasts is 73 Councils in the Murray Darling Basin will grow over the next 10 years while 42 Councils will either remain unchanged or contract. Murray Bridge has been identified as a 'Rocket Town' listed as one of the top ten highest growth areas and these nuanced forecasts reaffirm the need for Councils to invest in region wide relationships to continue to be in a strong position for partnerships, sharing, coordination and regional development.

(Zone) Emergency Management

We continued to play a role in strengthening regional resilience and emergency management. Our participation included attendance at the Zone Meetings, SES Annual Symposium, the Bureau's Seasonal Outlook webinar, and Disaster Relief's Big Map session in Mannum, ensuring regional perspectives were represented in statewide conversations. We advocated strongly to SAFECOM and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) on the need for improve *betterment funding* following very limited funding post floods. And, together with the ZEMC Chair, engaged with DPC on alternative proposals to an emerging notion to shift regional recovery coordinators from state into zones. And to support continuous improvement, we submitted a lessons learned observations report to SES as part of the State review process.
We continue to strengthen partnerships under this portfolio maintaining strong connections with the LGA Functional Support Group, SafeCom, DPC Recovery, MFS, SES and SaPOL.

Financial Sustainability

We provided a comprehensive 14-page submission to the Federal Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability, presenting 18 key opportunities to reduce financial sustainability hazards. These spanned critical issues such as Financial Assistance Grants, the design of grant programs for regional and rural communities, the Local Government Advice Scheme, infrastructure and asset needs, gaps in aged care and early learning facilities, and workforce challenges and enablers. We also commend Mayor Bailey and Ceo Ben Scales (Mid Murray Council) and Mayor Ron Valentine and Ceo Lachlan Miller (Southern Mallee District Council) for their powerful presentations to the Committee during its visit to South Australia. Throughout the year, we maintained active dialogue with the LGA to ensure our constituent Councils' priorities were aligned with the sector's collective efforts to address financial sustainability risks and secure stronger outcomes for local government.

Climate Ready Regions

We have been a supportive stakeholder in the Climate Ready Regions Steering Committee, contributing to the development of a strong business case for Federal and State funding. Our involvement has included participating in engagement events, helping to facilitate a regional workshop, and acting as a connector between the metropolitan coordination project team and a wide range of stakeholders across the region. We also provided executive advice on future governance models and collaboration opportunities, particularly with the SA Drought Hub and other Federal programs for climate adaptation and resilience, ensuring the business case is positioned with the greatest chance of success.

SAROC Representatives

Mayor Caroline Phillips, Mayor Paul Simmons (July-Nov) and Mayor Simone Bailey (Dec-June) continued to serve as the region's nominated representatives on LGA's SAROC Committee, ensuring our regional voice was heard on sector-wide priorities. On behalf of the constituent Council's, I extend our thanks to Mayor Simone Bailey and Mayor Paul Simmons for generously dedicating their time to travel, attendance, and represent the region at these important forums, demonstrating our collective commitment to collaborating as a sector through to the peak body: LGA.

Looking Ahead

As we enter the 2025/26 period, we remain committed to addressing the evolving needs of our communities. The subsidiary will continue a triple approach to cross council collaboration including a) operational efficiencies and supporting sharing, collaboration and service efficiencies b) region wide strategic projects and c) region wide advocacy, particularly as the State election nears.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to express our appreciation for CEO Carron McLeod for her dedication and leadership throughout the year. Together, we will continue to work towards a vibrant and resilient region.

In Closing

I wish to thank all constituent councils and MRLGA Board Members for the opportunity to be the MRLGA President. The work and service undertaken by our CEO for the Association is valued and I can see our cumulative teamwork, cooperation and collaboration building with each year passing.

I also wish to thank Deputy President, Mayor Ella Winnall for joining me in leading the Association. Mayor Winnall excels in her leadership and responsibilities with her Council and community, as well as a key regional influence for strategic responses and initiatives.

To Mayor Paul Simmons and Mayor Simone Bailey, I congratulate you both as the region's representatives on SAROC. Mayor Simone Bailey has also been a keen attendee at SAROC meetings, forever pursuing advocacy opportunities on behalf on regional and rural communities including the pursuit for financial sustainability of the sector, equity and fairness for regions and healthy communities.

I hand over the Presidency baton to Mayor Winnall, voted in at the MRLGA AGM on 31 July 2025, and also extend my support for Mayor Bailey voted in as Vice President.

I will continue to support platforms like MRLGA for regional, rural and remote Councils. Being the closest level of government to community's, it is important the sector demonstrates to State and Federal Governments that we are a coordinated and cohesive sector as we approach place based strategy's and advocating for communities.

We also acknowledge the Mayors and Councilors who have served a third of a four-year term to its communities. There's a lot of work that goes unseen in the roles, plenty of expectation and a responsibility to carry out our duties in the interest of all, with impartiality. Congratulations on your achievements in the third year, and together we can continue growing the regional community of 74,000 onwards and upwards.

To our most valued Ceo's, we congratulate you individually and as a collective. You provide daily leadership to the teams that drive the outcomes and deliver services to community in a respectful, caring and purposeful manner. They are incredibly hard working, wearing multiple hats and showing up to all the conversations at all levels, and we thank you for your devotion to the important leadership roles.

To our Committee Members and supporting key staff we extend our appreciation and thanks to your subject matter expertise that drives our regional strategies, and skills to lead support teams who deliver and coordinate at an operational level. Individually and collectively, your leadership for healthy workplace cultures, innovation and identifying links between strategic objectives and how to deliver them, we thankyou for your contributions.

Lastly, as change naturally occurs in the region and we endeavor to keep up with the pressure, expectations and an emerging modern world, it highlights the importance of collaboration and cooperation. We exist beyond our own council boundaries and quite often we can gain more by working together at all levels of Council and all levels of Government. Thank you again for the work you do in all regional and rural communities and the MRLGA looks forward to consolidating on its current work, as together we collaborate, identify and advance the sector where we can for the benefit of the region and our community's.

Mayor Caroline Phillips
MRLGA President (24/25)

MRLGA Board



Board Members

Berri Barmera Council (BBC)	Mayor Ella Winnall (Deputy President)
Coorong District Council (CDC)	Mayor Paul Simmons
District Council of Karoonda East Murray (DCKEM)	Mayor Caroline Phillips (President)
District Council of Loxton Waikerie (DCLW)	Mayor Trevor Norton
Mid Murray Council (MMC)	Mayor Simone Bailey
Renmark Paringa Council (RPC)	Mayor Peter Hunter
Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB)	Mayor Wayne Thorley
Southern Mallee District Council (SMDC)	Mayor Ron Valentine

Deputy Delegates (Proxy Members)

Berri Barmera Council (BBC)	Cr Trevor Scott
Coorong District Council (CDC)	Cr Jeff Arthur
District Council of Loxton Waikerie (DCLW)	Cr Clive Matthews
District Council Karoonda East Murray (DCKEM)	Cr Russell Norman
Mid Murray Council (MMC)	Cr Jen Davis and Cr John Forrester
Renmark Paringa Council (RPC)	Cr Margaret Howie
Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB)	Cr Andrew Baltensperger
Southern Mallee District Council (SMDC)	Cr Chris Mead

South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) Representatives

1 July 2024 to 17 November 2024

Coorong District Council (CDC)	Mayor Paul Simmons
District Council of Karoonda East Murray	Mayor Caroline Phillips (MRLGA President)

18 November 2024 to 30 June 2025

Mid Murray Council	Mayor Simone Bailey
District Council of Karoonda East Murray	Mayor Caroline Phillips (MRLGA President)

CEO Network

Berri Barmera Council	**Tim Pfeiffer**
Coorong District Council	Bridget Mather
District Council of Loxton Waikerie	David Beaton
District Council of Karoonda East Murray	Scott Reardon
Mid Murray Council	Ben Scales
Renmark Paringa Council	Tony Siviour
Rural City of Murray Bridge	Heather Barclay
Southern Mallee District Council	Lachlan Miller (July 2024 to January 2025)
	Jason Beaton (April to June 2025)
Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association	Carron McLeod

MRLGA CEO Network and Committees
At the January 2023 MRLGA Board Meeting, Committees were rationalised to 1 representative per Council, creating a committee of 8 people, plus MRLGA CEO and President. Membership is as follows.

Regional Transport and Asset Committee

BBC	Travis Hay	Acting Manager Infrastructure Services
	Maddie Frew	General Manager, Infrastructure & Env Reg Ser.
CDC	Joshua Bowen	Director of Infrastructure Services
DCLW	Greg Perry	Director of Infrastructure Services
DCKEM	James McInnes	Director of Infrastructure Services
MMC	David Hassett	Director Infrastructure & Field Services
RPC	Tarik Wolf	Director Infrastructure & Environmental Services
RCMB	Thuyen Vi-Alternetti	General Manager Infrastructure & Environment
SMDC	Lachlan Miller	CEO
	Ben Wright	Director of Infrastructure
MRLGA	Carron McLeod	CEO
MRLGA	Mayor Caroline Philips	Ex officio, MRLGA President

Regional Waste & Resource Recovery Committee

BBC	Tracey Alexander (July ’24 Jan ’25)	Manager Env Reg Services
	Travis Hay (July ’24 Jan ’25)	Acting Manager of Infrastructure
	Maddie Frew (Feb-June ’25)	General Manager, Infrastructure & Env Reg Ser
CDC	Joshua Bowen	Director Infrastructure & Assets
DCLW	Greg Perry	Director of Infrastructure Services
DCKEM	James McInnes	General Manager, Infrastructure
MMC	David Hassett	Director Infrastructure & Field Services
RPC	Tarik Wolf	Director Infrastructure & Environmental Services
RCMB	Thuyen Vi-Alternetti	General Manager Assets & Infrastructure
SMDC	Lachlan Miller	CEO
	Calvin Hoye(Oct ’24-Nov’24)	Director Infrastructure
	Ben Wright (Jan ’25 - June ’25)	Director Infrastructure
MRLGA	Carron McLeod	CEO
MRLGA	Mayor Caroline Philips	Ex officio, MRLGA President

Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Committee

BBC	Andrew Haigh (July to Dec '24)	Manager Community Development
	Veronica Lambert (Jan to March '25	Acting Manager Community Services
	Conny Wilson (March to June '25)	General Manager Community Services
CDC	Myles Somers	Director Community and Corporate Services
DCKEM	Scott Reardon	Ceo
	Kate Waters	Project Officer
DCLW	Andrew Waters	Director Commercial and Community Services
MMC	Gary Mavrinac	Director - Development & Community Services
RPC	Alyson Modlinski	Director Community Services
RCMB	Kriston Manson (June-Dec '24)	General Manager Community Development
	David Waters (Feb-June '25)	General Manager Community Development
SMDC	Shilo Wyatt	Manager Property & Development Services
MRLGA	Mayor Caroline Philips	Ex officio, MRLGA President
MRLGA	Carron McLeod	Chief Executive Officer

Performance Management Working Group (associated with the joint Waste Services Contracts) for 5 Councils (as listed):

BBC	Travis Hay	Acting Manager Infrastructure Services
	Tracey Alexander	Manager Environment & Regulatory Services
	Maddie Frew	Director Infrastructure & Env Reg Services
CDC	Joshua Bowen	Director Infrastructure & Assets
	Skye Blythe	Admin Officer for Infrastructure Services
DCLW	Greg Perry	Director of Infrastructure Services
	Kelly Michella	Works Project Officer
RPC	Tarik Wolf	Director Infrastructure & Environmental Services
	Terri Hentschke	EA to Director
RCMB	Thuyen Vi-Alternetti	General Manager of Infrastructure Services
	Sue Reynolds	Manager City Assets
MRLGA	Carron McLeod	CEO

Zone Emergency Management (Chaired by RCMB)

MRLGA Representative:

MRLGA	Carron Mcleod	CEO (Attendee)

MRLGA Board:

The MRLGA Board met quarterly. Membership of the Board is filled by the Principal Members (Mayor) of each Constituent Council. Meetings of the Board were held on:

1. Friday 9 August 2024
2. Thursday 7 November 2024
3. Thursday 6 February 2025
4. Thursday 10 April 2025

The meetings of the Board also provided a forum for updates and/or presentations from:

- LGA SA Secretariat
- PIRSA
- Regional Development Australia, Murraylands and Riverland
- Landscape Board, Murraylands and Riverland Wellbeing SA (now Preventive Health)
- Office of Small and Family Business
- Murray and Mallee Public Transport
- SA Drought Hub
- One Basin CRC
- DPC, Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), State Digital Connectivity
- Zone Emergency Management Committee
- Murray Darling Association – Region 5 and Region 6
- Members of Parliament

SA Regional Organisation of Councils

The South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) is a Committee of the LGA that meets bimonthly to focus on key issues affecting country Councils.

MRLGA representatives at SAROC in 2024/25 was:

- President, Mayor Caroline Phillips (of District Council of Karoonda East Murray) and Mayor Paul Simmons (of Coorong District Council) during 1 July 2024 to 17 November 2024
- President, Mayor Caroline Phillips (of District Council of Karoonda East Murray) and Mayor Simone Bailey (of Mid Murray Council) during 18 November 2024 to 30 June 2025.

MRLGA supports SAROC by attending meetings, preparing regional reports and creating discussion at regional quarterly board meetings to inform content in/out of SAROC. The committee met on:

- 18 July 2024 Adelaide
- 3 October 2024 Mount Gambier
- 5 December 2024 Adelaide
- 23 January 2025 Adelaide
- 27 March 2025 Whyalla
- 24 July 2025 Adelaide

CEO Network

The MRLGA CEO Network is established as a strategic advisory group to the MRLGA Board as well as to assist and advise the MRLGA CEO in governance, project delivery and the development and implementation of the Annual Business Plan, or other plans. As the name suggests its membership is the CEOs of the eight constituent councils. The Charter outlines at Clause 7.11.8 that the Network will operate on an informal basis, and is therefore not subject to formal meeting procedures.

The Network provided a range of support including oversight, updates, feedback, guidance and discussion regarding :

• Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy	*Resolved the contracts model, future resourcing, regional infrastructure and future advocacy to GISA*
• Flood Recovery	*Collaboration and strategic positioning regarding the States $9m 'Council Community and Recreational Asset Restoration Program'.*

• Office of Recreation Sport and Racing	*Connected and Active Communities Program* *3 Year Partnership with all three Riverland Councils and ORSR.*
• Preventive Health Partnership	*2 Year Partnership model with Preventive Health SA*
• Regional Drought Resilience Plan (MR Plan)	*Strategic direction, funding models and the central coordination role.*
• A.I.	*Attended the LGA AI Conference to consider joint initiatives and/or shared services*
• Regional Digital Connectivity Plan	*Strategic conversations with State Government on its digital plan as well as the NSW VIC Partnership pursing a joint application along the River Murray across 23 Councils.*
• Drought Response	*Reviewing council hardship policy approaches, drought response needs and collective responses.*

The MRLGA wishes to acknowledge the enormous dedication that regional CEO's play each and every day in our region to:

- Support healthy teams and cultures amongst staff and working environments at Council's
- Guiding successful services, governance, reporting and oversight to Council operations
- Providing leadership, strategic thinking and professionalism to the local government sector and more.

The role they play is instrumental in setting the tone of successful Council operations, and without them the MRLGA would not be as enhanced and capable as it is without them, both individually and collectively.

Zone Emergency Management Committee

Heather Barclay from Rural City of Murray Bridge continued as Chair for ZEMC meetings.

Meetings are convened by SES and were held on the following dates of which MRLGA had attendance and input towards:

- 19 March 2025 Murray Bridge
- 14 May 2025 Loxton

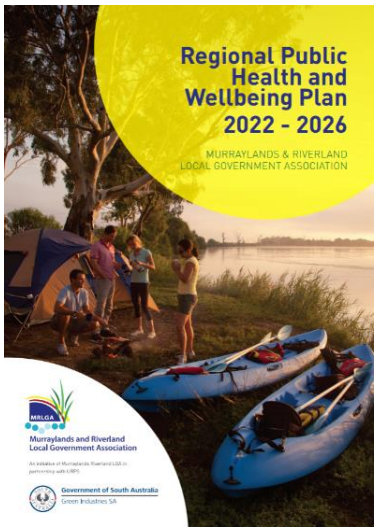
Placed Based Regional Strategies

When regional councils collaborate to develop a region-wide strategy, they can leverage collective strengths and address shared challenges. The benefits include:

- Resource Efficiency and Cost Sharing: Collaborating on a strategy allows councils to pool resources, reducing the cost burden on individual councils. Shared services, infrastructure, and expertise can result in significant savings and better resource allocation.
- Stronger Regional Advocacy: A unified regional strategy gives councils a stronger voice when advocating for state or federal funding. It allows them to present a cohesive, region-wide vision, which can attract larger-scale investment and government support.
- Holistic Planning: Working together enables councils to address broader issues that transcend local boundaries, such as economic development, transport networks, and environmental management. This leads to more balanced and sustainable regional growth.
- Shared Knowledge and Best Practices: Collaboration fosters the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and successful initiatives. Councils can learn from each other's experiences, adopting best practices in governance, planning, and service delivery.
- Improved Resilience and Crisis Management: Joint strategies are especially beneficial for managing regional crises, such as droughts, natural disasters, or economic downturns. Councils can coordinate their efforts, share resources, and develop more robust contingency plans to enhance regional resilience.

These benefits can lead to stronger, more sustainable communities through cooperation and shared vision.

The following is an update on the regional plans and strategies:

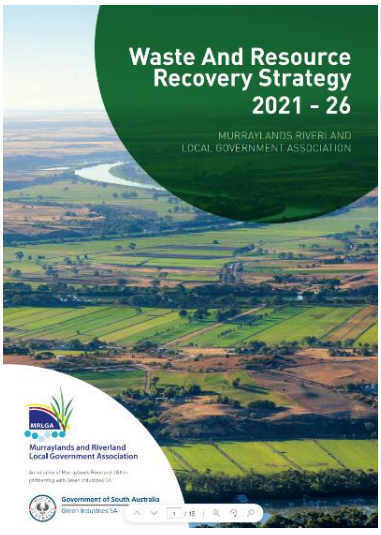


The Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is a statutory plan under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act.

It is overseen by the MRLGA Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Committee. The Committee includes one Director, from each of the 8 constituent Councils.

Key activities and advancements in 2024/25:

- **State Statutory Reporting**: Completed the Section 52 (Public Health Act 2011) report for the South Australian Chief Public Health Officer, a comprehensive update on council responsibilities under public health legislation, submitted bi-annually.
- **Partnership with Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR)**: MRLGA brokered this partnership, and has been observing sequential achievements and success coming out of its first year of the three-year partnership. District Council of Loxton Waikerie is hosting the central role, and we will liaise with ORSR and the three Riverland Councils to see where opportunities lie to expand and build the program regionally.
- **Emergency Management**: Participated at all Murray and Mallee Zone Emergency Management Committee meetings to support regionwide emergency management networking and planning. Provided a range of support for emergency management including representation at the SES Symposium, advocacy to SafeCOM and DPC on betterment, undertook support and analysis of the Community, Recreation and Asset Restoration Flood Recovery grant, Big Map Disaster Relief and more.
- **Preventive Health SA**: brokered a two year partnership with the State / Preventive Health SA that will see a $400k investment into the region to help promoting healthy communities.
- **LGA Alignment**: Continued ongoing collaboration with the LGA Public health liaison officer as part of uplift for the portfolio.
- **Foundations SA**: continued liaison with the foundation to promote these opportunities across region.
- **Mental Health Commissioner** – attended webinars from the Commissioner and built relationship with the office to elevate regional needs.



The Regional Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy (and associated Implementation Plan) is a statutory plan. In South Australia, waste management targets for councils are primarily determined by the Green Industries SA (GISA) agency, operating under the Green Industries SA Act 2004. GISA leads the state's waste management and resource recovery strategies, providing guidance, grants, and policy direction. The South Australian Waste Strategy 2020-2025, developed by Green Industries SA, outlines key waste management targets, including reducing landfill, increasing recycling, and improving resource recovery. It aligns with South Australia's overall environmental goals, and councils are required to work within this framework.
Additionally, the Environment Protection Act 1993, administered by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) South Australia, also plays a role in regulating waste management activities, particularly concerning environmental protection standards. Councils are expected to adhere to the targets and strategies set forth by these agencies and legislative acts when managing waste within their jurisdictions.

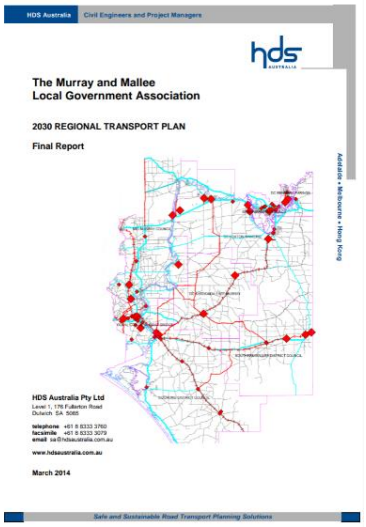
The regional strategy is overseen by the MRLGA Regional Waste & Resource Recovery Committee. The Committee includes one Director, from each of the 8 constituent Councils.

Key activities included:

- **Established Shared Services Models,** we established tow new roles at MRLGA as part of a trialling more shared service models

across Councils. The new roles were Circular Economy & Waste Lead and Waste Education. These roles have enabled the following work to be undertaken.

- **Established cross- Council Waste Service Contract Management via the Performance Management Working Group** (PMWG) with representation from all five regional councils involved in the joint waste services contract. The group meets quarterly and is formed under the governance structure outlined in the contracts. The working group offers Councils an opportunity to unite; and to collate challenges and opportunity's in a cohesive and efficient manner across the region, working towards solutions for improved performance via the waste service contract.
- **Kerbside Waste Service Review** – we commenced the kerbside waste service review, including case study reports and will deliver the draft report to Council before the end of 2025.
- **Waste Education Program** : with 6 key themes and 23 styled activities to grow waste educations across the five participating councils and its communities.



The Regional Transport Plan is the result of collaboration across Councils to have a cohesive road network, and it also conforms to the Local Government Transport Advisory Panel (LGTAP) needs.

The regional plan is overseen by the MRLGA Regional Transport Committee. The Committee includes the Directors of Infrastructure from each of the 8 constituent councils.

This year, MRLGA in consultation with its Regional Transport Committee secured a remarkable $4.3 million in funding through the Special Local Roads Program (SLRP) for priority road upgrades across councils. These projects are essential for maintaining and enhancing road infrastructure that supports economic growth and connects communities. Through targeted planning we have continued to grow the funding package in size in recent years for regional areas.



The paper was a collaborative piece of work to support Councils as they liaise with State and Federal government on Murray Darling Basin Plan (2.0) reviews and updates, as well as the water recovery discussions that have transpired from the Resilient Rivers Bill.
The document is accompanied by a Regional Profile that outlines the evidence and statistics that form the points within the advocacy paper.
MRLGA has remained a support line to Councils while they undertook more hands on consultation with PIRSA as part of business case development work for the Resilient Rivers Infrastructure Program and Sustainable Communities Program.
Our recent representation at the annual Murray Darling Basin Authority Conference at Murray Bridge proved critical in understanding the emerging economic data, climate, environment projections, water recovery intel happening across the states and network with MDBA and other MDB stakeholders.

In addition to incremental progress with the above strategy's, the Association also prepared and delivered a :

- Submission to the Federal Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability
- Submission to the State EPA Reform
- Submission to the State Draft Waste Strategy
- Submission to the Productivity Commission on the Future Drought Fund Regional Drought Resilience Planning program

Regional LGA's, Chief Executive Officers

The Regional LGA's Ceo Group is an informal meeting of Executive Officers of the Regional Local Government Associations. Opportunities of collaborating across regional LGA include:

- Provide input into SAROC Business Plan and the Agenda
- Develop a working relationship with the LGA Management team
- Advocate on behalf of the regions and regional initiatives
- Share information and provide collegiate support
- Coordinate collaborative project activity

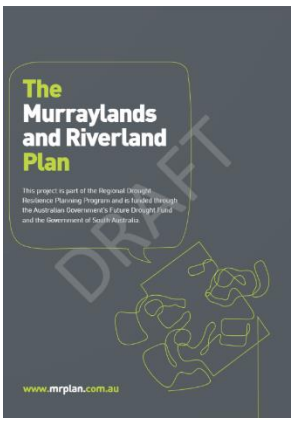
The Association also availed itself to other opportunities occurring in the region including:

Future Drought Fund – Regional Drought Resilience Program

In 20/21 two South Australian regions were selected to participate in a pilot year to develop Regional Drought Resilience Plans. The plans in SA were funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund Program: Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program to the approximate value of $1.18m.

The MRLGA were invited to participate in a joint partnership with Regional Development Australia, Murraylands and Riverland (RDAMR) and Landscape Board, Murraylands and Riverland to develop a regional drought resilience plan.

For more information on the background, process or a copy of the plan, please visit:



- MR (Drought Resilience) Plan landing page https://www.mrplan.com.au/theplan
- The Process https://rdamr.com.au/information/mrplan/#:~:text=The%20Murraylands%20and%20Riverland%20Plan%20(MR%20Plan)%20is%20about%20supporting,Riverland%20towards%20achieving%20this%20vision.
- Future Drought Fund, Regional Drought Resilience Program https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/future-drought-fund/regional-drought-resilience-planning#daff-page-main

In August 2024, PIRSA advised that seed funding for the program would be available and the partnership is working together on the initiative. The funding was then made available in April 2025 and MRLGA has been working with the consortium to partner on drought preparedness initiatives.

Operational (external) Service Agreements

The list below outlines the Service Agreements MRLGA held in 24/25 to support operations or initiatives:

- Payroll and BAS services provided by EKM Accounting
- Formula Accounting for accounting services to prepare the independent audited financial statements
- Rawtec Consulting (associated with the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy).
- HDS Traffic Engineering – Regional Road Assessments
- Dean Newberry Accountants for annual auditing services

2024 / 2025 Audit

The 24/25 external audit was undertaken by Accru Harris Orchard | AHO Audit Pty Ltd ABN 55 670 721 712

Financial Statements prepared by Formula Accounting ABN 50 410 043 228

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

General Purpose Financial Reports

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

General Purpose Financial Reports

for the year ended 30 June 2025

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Audit Report - Financial Statements

Association Certificate of Audit Independence

Auditor Certificate of Audit Independence

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association
Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2025

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been authorised by the Association to certify the financial statements in their final form. In our opinion:

- the accompanying financial statements comply with the *Local Government Act 1999, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* and Australian Accounting Standards.

- the financial statements present a true and fair view of the Association's financial position at 30 June 2025 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the financial year.

- internal controls implemented by the Association provide a reasonable assurance that the Association's financial records are complete, accurate and reliable and were effective throughout the financial year.

- the financial statements accurately reflect the Association's accounting and other records.

.....
Carron McLeod
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

.....
Mayor Ella Winnall
CHAIRPERSON

Date:

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 $	2024 $
INCOME			
Council Subscriptions	2	**465,106**	209,750
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions	2	**80,000**	44,912
Investment income	2	**49,518**	52,298
Total Income		**594,624**	306,960
EXPENSES			
Employee costs	3	**390,434**	191,766
Materials, contracts & other expenses	3	**74,768**	80,215
Total Expenses		**465,202**	271,981
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		**129,422**	34,979
Other Comprehensive Income			
Total Other Comprehensive Income		**-**	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		**129,422**	34,979

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 $	2024 $
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	**1,194,574**	1,098,993
Trade & other receivables	4	**26,588**	7,063
		1,221,162	1,106,056
Total Current Assets		**1,221,162**	1,106,056
Total Assets		**1,221,162**	1,106,056
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade & other payables	5	**33,136**	64,025
Provisions	5	**37,753**	21,180
Total Current Liabilities		**70,889**	85,205
Non-current Liabilities			
Provisions	8	**1,724**	1,724
Total Non-current Liabilities		**1,724**	1,724
Total Liabilities		**72,613**	86,929
NET ASSETS		**1,148,549**	1,019,127
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		**1,148,549**	1,019,127
TOTAL EQUITY		**1,148,549**	1,019,127

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	Acc'd Surplus	TOTAL EQUITY
2025		**$**	**$**
Balance at end of previous reporting period		**1,019,127**	**1,019,127**
Restated opening balance		**1,019,127**	**1,019,127**
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		**129,422**	**129,422**
Balance at end of period		**1,148,549**	**1,148,549**
2024			
Balance at end of previous reporting period		984,148	984,148
Restated opening balance		984,148	984,148
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		34,979	34,979
Balance at end of period		1,019,127	1,019,127

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2025

		2025	2024
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	**Notes**	**$**	$
Receipts:			
Council Subscriptions		**439,907**	212,116
Investment receipts		**55,192**	45,235
Grants utilised for operating purposes		**80,000**	44,912
Other revenues		**-**	-
Payments:			
Employee costs		**(363,992)**	(180,177)
Materials, contracts & other expenses		**(75,526)**	(80,208)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	6b	**95,581**	41,878
Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held		**95,581**	41,878
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period	6	**1,098,993**	1,057,115
Cash & cash equivalents at end of period	6	**1,194,574**	1,098,993

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial report are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

1 Basis of Preparation

1.1 Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards

This general purpose financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis using the historical cost convention in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Interpretations and relevant South Australian legislation.

The financial report was authorised for issue by certificate under regulation 14 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011.

1.2 Historical Cost Convention

Except as stated below, these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

1.3 Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates and requires management to exercise its judgement in applying assocation's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are specifically referred to in the relevant sections of these Notes.

1.4 Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

2 The Local Government Reporting Entity

The Association is a Regional Subsidiary under Section 43 and Schedule 2 of the SA Local Government Act 1999.

The Constituent Councils are:

Berri Barmera Council
Coorong District Council
District Council Loxton Waikerie
District Council Karoonda East Murra
Mid Murray Council
Renmark Paringa Council
Rural City of Murray Bridge
Southern Mallee District Council

All funds received and expended by the Group have been included in the Financial Statements forming part of this Financial Report.

3 Income recognition

3.1 Revenue

The Association recognises revenue under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 1058) or AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers (AASB 15) when appropriate.

In cases where there is an 'enforceable' contract with a customer with 'sufficiently specific' performance obligations, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 where income is recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or service to a customer). Revenue is measured based on the consideration to which the Association expects to be entitled in a contract with a customer.

In other cases, AASB 1058 applies when Association enters into transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than the fair value of the asset principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. The excess of the asset recognised (at fair value) over any 'related amounts' is recognised as income immediately, except in the case where a financial asset has been received to enable the Association to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset that is to be controlled by the Association. In this case, the Association recognises the excess as a liability that is recognised over time in profit and loss when (or as) the entity satisfies its obligations under the transfer.

4 Cash, Cash Equivalents and Other Financial Instruments

4.1 Cash, Cash Equivalent Assets

Cash assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Association's option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

4.2 Other Financial Instruments

All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered doubtful.

All financial instruments are recognised at fair value at the date of recognition, except for trade receivables from a contract with a customer, which are measured at the transaction price.

5 Payables

5.1 Goods & Services

Creditors are amounts due to external parties for the supply of goods and services and are recognised as liabilities when the goods and services are received. Creditors are normally paid 30 days after the month of invoice. No interest is payable on these amounts.

5.2 Payments Received in Advance & Deposits

Amounts (other than grants) received from external parties in advance of service delivery, and security deposits held against possible damage to Association assets, are recognised as liabilities until the service is delivered or damage reinstated, or the amount is refunded as the case may be.

6 GST Implications

In accordance with UIG Abstract 1031 "Accounting for the Goods & Services Tax"

- Receivables and Creditors include GST receivable and payable.
- Except in relation to input taxed activities, revenues and operating expenditures exclude GST receivable and payable.
- Non-current assets and capital expenditures include GST net of any recoupment.
- Amounts included in the Statement of Cash Flows are disclosed on a gross basis.

7 New and amended standards and interpretations

The Association applied for the first-time certain standards and amendments, which are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023. New standards and amendments relevant to the Association are listed below. The Association has not early adopted any other standard, interpretation or amendment that has been issued but is not yet effective.

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies

8 Superannuation

The Association contributed the statutory 11.0% Superannuation Guarantee to the nominated superannuation fund of the Executive Officer.

9 Provisions

9.1 Employee Benefits

Liabilities for employee's entitlements to salaries, wages and compensated absences expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of reporting date are accrued at nominal amounts (including payroll based on-costs) measured in accordance with AASB 119.

Liabilities for employee benefits not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows (including payroll based on-costs) to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

No accrual is made for sick leave as Council experience indicates that, on average, sick leave taken in each reporting period is less than the entitlement accruing in that period, and this experience is expected to recur in future reporting periods. No payment is made for untaken sick leave.

10 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

At 30 June 2025, the Association is unaware of any liability, contingent or otherwise, which has not already been recorded elsewhere in this financial report.

11 Events after the end of the reporting period

There are no events subsequent to 30 June 2025 that need disclosure in the financial statements.

12 Economic Dependence

The Association is dependent on the Local Councils within its jurisdiction and other funding bodies for the majority of the revenue used to operate the business. At the date of this report, the Board believe that the Local Councils and other bodies will continue to fund the Association.

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 2 - INCOME

	Notes	2025 $	2024 $
COUNCIL SUBSCRIPTIONS			
General Subscriptions		**239,971**	209,750
		239,971	209,750
Other Charges			
Waste Contract Management Levy		**64,580**	-
Waste Education Levy		**160,555**	-
		225,135	-
		465,106	209,750
INVESTMENT INCOME			
Interest on investments:			
Local Government Finance Authority		**49,518**	52,298
		49,518	52,298
GRANTS, SUBSIDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS			
Other grants, subsidies and contributions			
Regional Capacity Buildings		**40,000**	40,000
Community Wellbeing Alliance		**40,000**	-
Building Better Regions		**-**	4,912
		80,000	44,912
Sources of grants			
Commonwealth government		**40,000**	44,912
Other		**40,000**	-
		80,000	44,912

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 3 - EXPENSE

	Notes	2025 $	2024 $
EMPLOYEE COSTS			
Salaries and Wages		**333,761**	161,850
Employee leave expense		**16,573**	10,412
Superannuation	1.8	**38,383**	17,804
Workers' Compensation Insurance		**1,717**	1,700
Total Operating Employee Costs		**390,434**	191,766
Total Number of Employees		***1***	-
(Full time equivalent at end of reporting period)			
MATERIALS, CONTRACTS & OTHER EXPENSES			
Prescribed Expenses			
Auditor's Remuneration			
- Auditing the financial reports		**3,830**	3,050
Elected members' expenses		**3,550**	3,400
Subtotal - Prescribed Expenses		**7,380**	6,450
Other Materials, Contracts & Expenses			
Accounting Services		**3,599**	4,467
Computer & Software		**3,095**	2,713
Insurance		**8,594**	7,061
Meeting Expenses		**8,311**	10,481
Office Expenses		**6,520**	1,178
Project Expenditure		**33,552**	41,198
Website Maintenance		**-**	4,245
Sundry		**3,717**	2,422
Subtotal - Other Materials, Contracts & Expenses		**67,388**	73,765
		74,768	80,215

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 4 - CURRENT ASSETS

		2025	2024
CASH & EQUIVALENT ASSETS	**Notes**	**$**	$
Cash on Hand and at Bank		**177,536**	125,347
Deposits at Call		**1,017,038**	973,646
		1,194,574	1,098,993
TRADE & OTHER RECEIVABLES			
Subscriptions - General & Other		**25,199**	-
Accrued Interest Revenue		**1,389**	7,063
		26,588	7,063

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 5 - LIABILITIES

		2025		2024	
		$		$	
TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES	**Notes**	**Current**	**Non-current**	Current	Non-current
Goods & Services		**-**	**-**	-	-
Payments received in advance		**-**	**-**	40,000	-
Accrued expenses - other		**21,393**	**-**	11,524	-
GST Payable		**11,743**	**-**	12,501	-
		33,136	**-**	64,025	-
PROVISIONS					
LSL Employee entitlements (including oncosts)		**-**	**1,724**	-	1,724
AL Employee entitlements (including oncosts)		**37,753**	**-**	21,180	-
		37,753	**1,724**	21,180	1,724

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 6 - RECONCILIATION TO CASH FLOW STATEMENT

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash Assets comprise highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

	Notes	2025 $	2024 $
Total cash & equivalent assets	4	**1,194,574**	1,098,993
Less: Short-term borrowings		**-**	-
Balances per Cash Flow Statement		**1,194,574**	1,098,993
(b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities			
Net Surplus (Deficit)		**129,422**	34,979
Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets			
Net (increase) decrease in receivables		**(19,525)**	(4,697)
Net increase (decrease) in trade & other payables		**(30,889)**	1,184
Net increase (decrease) in other provisions		**16,573**	10,412
Net increase (decrease) in other liabilities		**-**	
Net Cash provided by (or used in) operations		**95,581**	41,878

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

All financial instruments are categorised as *loans and receivables.*

Accounting Policies - Recognised Financial Instruments

Bank, Deposits at Call, Short Term Deposits	**Accounting Policy:** initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured atamortised cost, interest is recognised when earned **Terms & conditions:** Short term deposits are avaliable on 24 hour call with the LGFA and have an interest rate of 4.15% as at 30 June 2025 (2024: 4.55%) **Carrying amount:** approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.
Receivables - Trade and other debtors	**Accounting Policy:** Carried at nominal value **Terms & conditions:** Amounts due have been calcualted in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest. **Carrying amount:** approximates fair value.
Liabilities - Creditors and Accruals	**Accounting Policy:** Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Association. **Terms & conditions:** Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms. **Carrying amount:** approximates fair value.

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 7 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (con't)

Liquidity Analysis

2025	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
Financial Assets	$	$	$	$	$
Cash & Equivalents	**1,194,574**			**1,194,574**	**1,194,574**
Receivables	**26,588**			**26,588**	**26,588**
Total	**1,221,162**	**-**	**-**	**1,221,162**	**1,221,162**
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	**33,136**			**33,136**	**33,136**
Total	**33,136**	**-**	**-**	**33,136**	**33,136**

2024	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year; ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
Financial Assets	$	$	$	$	$
Cash & Equivalents	1,098,993			1,098,993	1,098,993
Receivables	7,063			7,063	7,063
Total	1,106,056	-	-	1,106,056	1,106,056
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	24,025			24,025	24,025
Total	24,025	-	-	24,025	24,025

Note 7 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (con't)

Net Fair Value

All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of the Association.

Risk Exposures:

Credit Risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties fail to perform as contracted. The maximum credit risk on financial assets of the Association is the carrying amount, net of any impairment. All Association investments are made with the SA Local Government Finance Authority and are guaranteed by the SA Government. Except as detailed in Note 4 in relation to individual classes of receivables, exposure is concentrated within the Association's boundaries, and there is no material exposure to any individual debtor.

Market Risk is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices. All of Association's financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk nor currency risk apply.

Liquidity Risk is the risk that Association will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations with financial liabilities. In accordance with the model Treasury Management Policy (LGA Information Paper 15), liabilities have a range of maturity dates. The Association also has available a range of bank overdraft and standby borrowing facilities that it can access.

Interest Rate Risk is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Association has a balance of both fixed and variable interest rate borrowings and investments. Cash flow fluctuations are managed holistically in seeking to minimise interest costs over the longer term in a risk averse manner.

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

Note 8 - RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The Key Management Personnel of the Association include the Mayors/Chairpersons of the constituent Councils and the CEO. The following total compensation was paid:

	2025	2024
	$	$
CEO salary and superannuation	190,386	179,654
Member Allowance	3,550	3,400
TOTAL	**193,936**	183,054

PARTIES RELATED TO KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

During the reporting period, no Key management Personnel or parties related to them had any transactions on more favourable than those avaliable to the public.

OTHER RELATED PARTIES	2025	2024
Amounts received from Related Parties during the financial year and owed by Related Parties at the end of the financial year (inclusive of GST).	$	$
Berri Barmera Council	24,830	24,540
Coorong District Council	20,986	20,480
District Council Loxton Waikerie	28,186	27,815
District Council Karoonda East Murray	11,739	11,328
Mid Murray Council	36,049	26,828
Renmark Paringa Council	23,609	23,231
Rural City of Murray Bridge	44,400	43,526
Southern Mallee District Council	13,954	13,757
SLRP Surcharge	36,218	18,245
TOTAL	**239,971**	**209,750**

Description of Services provided to all Related Parties above:
The Association's primary purpose focuses on the wealth, wellbeing and social cohesion of these communities via a sustainable approach of productive landscapes and natural environment. Its focus is on the key roles of local government.

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

Annual Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2025

CERTIFICATION OF AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we confirm that, for the purpose of the audit of Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association for the year ended 30 June 2025, the Association's Auditor, Dean Newbery, has maintained its independence in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22(3) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.

Maddie Frew (Sep 30, 2025 14:35:32 GMT+9.5)

Maddy Frew
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Berri Barmera Council

BMather

Bridget Mather
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Coorong District Council

David Beaton (Oct 2, 2025 09:49:18 GMT+9.5)

David Beaton
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
District Council Loxton Waikerie

James McInnes (Oct 2, 2025 08:30:17 GMT+9.5)

James McInnes
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
District Council Karoonda East Murray

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Mid Murray Council

Tony Siviour
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
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Heather Barclay
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Rural City of Murray Bridge

Jason Beaton
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Southern Mallee District Council

Carron McLeod
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Murraylands and Riverland LGA

Mayor Ella Winnall
CHAIRPERSON
Murraylands and Riverland LGA

Date: 7 October 2025

Audit and Risk Committee 2024/25 Annual Report

Background

In accordance with section 126(8)(b) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Audit and Risk Committee ("the Committee") must provide an annual report to the Council, on the work of the Committee during the period to which the report relates. The following report meets these requirements.

In accordance with section 126(1a) of the Local Government Act 1999, the purpose of an Audit and Risk Committee established by a Council is to provide independent assurance and advice to the Council on accounting, financial management, internal controls, risk management, and governance matters. Importantly, the role of the Audit and Risk Committee is that of an oversight body to review and provide feedback to Council and management on matters within its scope. The Committee does not make decisions on behalf of Council.

Under the Act, the Committee's focus on oversight of risk management, including non-financial risks, ensures that appropriate policies, systems, and procedures relating to risk management are implemented and maintained. Strong risk management promotes prudent decision making, facilitates appropriate prioritization of finite resources, and strengthens mitigation of strategic, financial, and operation risks relevant to Council.

The following report summarises the membership composition, meetings held, and items considered by the Committee.

Membership

From July 2024 to September 2024 the membership of the Renmark Paringa Council (RPC) Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) was:

- Tim Muhlhausler (Independent Chairperson)
- Felicity-Ann Lewis (Independent Member)
- Brian Clancey (Independent Member)
- Deputy Mayor Margaret Howie (Elected Member Representative)
- Mayor Peter Hunter (ex-officio).

Following a carried Motion without Notice from the 21 March 2024 ARC meeting, the ARC Terms of Reference were amended at the 24 September 2024 to remove Mayor Hunter's ex-officio status and appoint him as an Elected Member Representative. Further amendments to the Terms of Reference were also recommended by the ARC to enable Elected Member Representatives to have a proxy. Following the 24 September 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting motion, the ARC membership comprised of the following:

- Tim Muhlhausler (Independent Chairperson)
- Felicity-Ann Lewis (Independent Member)
- Brian Clancy (Independent Member)
- Deputy Mayor Margaret Howie (Elected Member Representative)
- Mayor Peter Hunter (Elected Member Representative)
- Councillor James John (Proxy for Elected Member Committee Members)
- Councillor Ben Townsend (Proxy for Elected Member Committee Members)

Meetings per Quarter

It is noted in Section 126(5) of the *Local Government Act 1999* that there must be at least 1 meeting of a council Audit and Risk Committee in each quarter. The following table indicates that the RPC Audit and Risk Committee has satisfied this requirement.

Quarter	Meetings Held
2024 – Quarter 1	23 July 2024 All members present, except for Tim Muhlhausler
2024 – Quarter 2	19 November 2024 All members present
2025 – Quarter 3	12 February 2025 All members present, except for Mayor Peter Hunter
2025 – Quarter 4	15 April 2025 30 May 2025 18 June 2025 All members present at all meetings in Quarter 4

Functions of the Committee

The following table provides an overview of the recommendations and activities of the Committee.

Meetings Held	**6**
Recommendation Reports Considered	**31**
• Financial	10
• Internal Controls & Risk Management	3
• Public Interest Disclosure	1
• External Audit	4
• Policy Review	6
• Other	7
Information Reports Received	**11**
Motions Without Notice	**2**

Detailed Overview of Activities

The following table provides a more detailed overview of the activities of the Committee.

Meeting Date	Items Considered
23 July 2024	**Recommendation Reports** • Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2034 • Draft Annual Business Plan & Budget 2024/25 • Interim Report of Audit Finding • Cash Advance Debenture **Information Only Reports** • Monthly Credit Card Statements **Motions without Notice** • Nil
19 November 2024	**Recommendation Reports** • External Audit & Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024 • CEO Sustainability Statement • Q1 Budget Review 2024/2025 • Audit & Risk Committee 2024/25 Workplan • Audit & Risk Committee 2023/24 Annual Report • Treasury Management Policy – Annual Report • General Ledger Policy – Annual Review of Access Levels • Motor Vehicle Fringe Benefits Tax Policy • Entertainment & Hospitality Policy • Public Interest Disclosure Report • Expression of Interest – Financial Sustainability Pilot Program **Information Only Reports** • 2024-2034 RPC Community Plan • Monthly Credit Card Statements • Risk Management Update • Motion without Notice – from Audit & Risk Committee March 2024 meeting • Manager Financial Services Recruitment • Outstanding Debt (confidential report) **Motions without Notice** • Nil
12 February 2025	**Recommendation Reports** • Amended Workplan • Monitoring Implementation of External Audit • Q2 Budget Review • Rate Rebate Policy **Information Only Reports** • Monthly Credit Card Statements • Financial Sustainability Pilot Program – Application Update

	Motions without Notice • Recommendation to adopt annual indexation policy for infrastructure and assets using Local Government Price Index
15 April 2025	**Recommendation Reports** • CWMS Accounting Methodology Review • Internal Controls Self-Assessment & Update on Internal Audit Function • Internal Controls Policy • Asset Recognition and Accounting Policy **Information Only Reports** • Nil **Motions without Notice** • Nil
30 May 2025	**Recommendation Reports** • Audit Implementation • Q3 Budget Review • CWMS Methodology Report – Responses to Recommendations • Risk Management Update **Information Only Reports** • Monthly Credit Card Statements • Outstanding Action Items Register **Motions without Notice** • Recommendation for Council to liaise with other Riverland and Murraylands Councils to advocate for enhanced responses to natural disaster recovery from Mutual Liability Scheme, LGA Board, insurers, and relevant authorities.
18 June 2025	**Recommendation Reports** • Rating Policy • Draft Annual Business Plan & Budget 2025/26 • Long Term Financial Plan & CEO's Sustainability Statement • Draft Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan **Information Only Reports** • Nil **Motions without Notice** • Nil

Audit and Risk Committee Recommendations to Council 2024-25

In the 2024/25 year, all Committee recommendations to Council were adopted and endorsed by Council.

Acknowledgements

The Committee wishes to acknowledge the support provided by Administration in the coordination and functions of the Committee.



Contact Details

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Web	renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au
Engage RPC	engagement.renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au

Opening Hours

Monday	9am – 5pm
Tuesday	9am – 5pm
Wednesday	9am – 5pm
Thursday	9am – 5pm
Friday	9am – 5pm

Social Media

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