



OBERON COUNCIL

137 Oberon Street
PO Box 84
Oberon NSW 2787

Telephone: (02) 6329 8100
Email: council@oberon.nsw.gov.au

Oberon Council Ordinary Meeting Tuesday 12 November 2024

Commencing at 5:30 pm
To be held at the Oberon Council Chambers



OBERON

MORE THAN YOU IMAGINE

EVACUATION SIGN AND DIAGRAM

Ground Floor 137-139 Oberon Street, Oberon NSW 2787

Chubb

Defibrillator Distribution Board Carbon Dioxide Dry Chemical Powder Water First Aid Point Hose Reel Exit Alternate Evacuation Path Evacuation Path Assembly Area

Evacuation Procedures

IN CASE OF FIRE

- R REMOVE people from immediate danger
- A ALERT people nearby and raise an alarm (Dial 000)
- C CONFINE fire and smoke (Close doors behind you if safe to do)
- E EVACUATE via the nearest emergency exit

Site Plan

Oberon Council Admin Building

Oberon Street

Sign Ref: AG - YAH - 2 Issue Date: 03/2021 Review Date: 03/2026 © Chubb Fire & Security PTY LTD 1300 650 182

Risk Matrix Legend

Through its Enterprise Risk Management Processes, Oberon Council has developed Risk Appetite Statements which are shown in the following table.

Category of Risk	Avoid	Resistant	Accept	Receptive
Business Continuity			PRIMARY	
Financial		PRIMARY	Secondary	
Safety	PRIMARY			
Environment	Secondary	PRIMARY		
People & Culture		Secondary	PRIMARY	
Project Performance		Secondary	PRIMARY	
Technical Complexity			PRIMARY	Secondary
Public Image and Reputation		PRIMARY	Secondary	
Assets & Infrastructure		Secondary	PRIMARY	
Governance	PRIMARY			
Service Delivery			PRIMARY	

Risk Appetite Scale

AVOID (little-to-no appetite) Avoidance of risk and uncertainty is key to achieving objectives	1	AVERSE (small appetite) Prefer safe options with little risk of adverse exposure	2	ACCEPT (medium appetite) Consider all options and choose most likely for successful delivery with reasonable degree of protection	3	RECEPTIVE (large appetite) Will engage with risks and opportunities when the potential benefit is great	4
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Each risk is evaluated in terms of potential loss, likelihood of occurrence and the effectiveness of controls in place to manage the risks according to the criteria set out below:

Likelihood	Impact	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Extreme
Almost Certain		Low	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme
Likely		Low	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme
Possible		Low	Low	Medium	High	High
Unlikely		Low	Low	Low	Medium	High
Rare		Low	Low	Low	Medium	High

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor will welcome members and declare the meeting open.

The meeting will be livestreamed via Zoom webinar facilities.

Recordings of Council Meetings or parts thereof cannot be copied, recorded, reproduced, reused or transmitted without the prior written consent of the General Manager. The meeting is being recorded and will be made publicly available on Council's website. Persons attending the meeting should refrain from making any defamatory statements.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Council acknowledges that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri, Gundungurra and Dharug People, and respects the history and culture of the elders both past and present.

3 PRAYER

The Meeting will be opened in prayer.

4 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Members	Mayor Mark Kellam Deputy Mayor Andrew McKibbin Clr Katie Graham Clr Helen Hayden Clr Clive McCarthy Clr Mick McKechnie Clr Lauren Trembath Clr Ian Tucker Clr Bruce Watt
Staff	Gary Wallace, General Manager Damian O'Shannassy, Planning and Development Director Mathew Webb, Corporate Services Director Dr Cornelia Wiebels, Technical Services Director Sharon Swannell, Executive Coordinator
Leave of Absence	Nil

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A GUIDE TO ETHICAL DECISION-MAKING

(Provided by the Independent Commission Against Corruption)

- Is the decision or conduct legal?
- Is it consistent with Government policy, Council's objectives and code of conduct?
- What will the outcome be for you, your colleagues, the Council, anyone else?
- Does it raise a conflict of interest?
- Do you stand to gain personally at public expense?
- Can the decision be justified in terms of public interest?
- Would it withstand public scrutiny?

A conflict of interest is a clash between private interest and public duty. There are two types of conflict:

- Pecuniary – regulated by the Local Government Act and Department of Local Government
- Non-pecuniary – regulated by codes of conduct and policy. ICAC, Ombudsman, Department of Local Government (advice only)

The test for conflict of interest:

- Is it likely I could be influenced by personal interest in carrying out my public duty?
- Would a fair and reasonable person believe I could be so influenced?
- Conflict of interest is closely tied to the layperson's definition of "corruption" – using public office for private gain
- Important to consider public perceptions of whether you have a conflict of interest

Identifying problems

- 1st Do I have private interests affected by a matter I am officially involved in?
- 2nd Is my official role one of influence or perceived influence over the matter?
- 3rd Do my private interest's conflict with my official role?

Whilst seeking advice is generally useful, the ultimate decision rests with the person concerned.

When making a Declaration of Interest the reason for making the declaration should be clearly stated. Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Significant Interests should be managed by leaving the room while the matter is considered.

Pecuniary -
Non-Pecuniary Significant -
Non-Pecuniary Less than Significant -

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The public gallery is open to members of the community. The community is to be given the opportunity to ask questions at the commencement of the council meeting, and the Mayor is to ask for questions from the gallery prior to the commencement of the ordinary meeting.

Members of the public wishing to address Council are permitted to do so provided the following guidelines are adhered to:

1. The person asking the question at the Council meeting must clearly state their name and in what capacity they are acting.
2. If the person asking the questions is acting as another person/organisation's agent, they must advise Council if they have their prior consent/authority.

Questions from the public is not an opportunity for debate with elected representatives or staff, it is an opportunity for the community to ask a question in relation to an issue or put a point of view relating to an issue that may be causing interest or concern. Due to time constraints a time frame of three minutes per speaker is allocated. All questions and comments must be directed through the Mayor and in the instance of a question, if it cannot be answered it will be taken on notice and a response given within a reasonable period. This is the only opportunity for a community member to address Council during an Ordinary Meeting.

None received.

8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

8.1 Ordinary Meeting 15 October 2024

Attached is the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 October 2024.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15 October 2024 be confirmed.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil



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Unconfirmed Minutes
Oberon Council Ordinary Meeting
Tuesday 15 October 2024

Commencing at 5:30 pm
Held at the Oberon Council Chambers



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1 OPENING OF MEETING

The General Manager welcomed members and declared the meeting open at 5.30pm.

The meeting was livestreamed via Teams webinar facilities. Recordings of Council Meetings or parts thereof cannot be copied, recorded, reproduced, reused or transmitted without the prior written consent of the General Manager. The meeting is being recorded and made publicly available on Council's website and persons attending the meeting should refrain from making any defamatory statements.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Council acknowledges that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri, Gundungurra and Dharug People, and respects the history and culture of the elders both past and present.

3 PRAYER

The Meeting was opened in prayer by Clr Clive McCarthy.

4 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Members	Clr Tony Alevras Clr Katie Graham Clr Helen Hayden Clr Clive McCarthy Clr Andrew McKibbin (Chair) Clr Frank O'Connor Clr Jill O'Grady Clr Lauren Trembath Clr Ian Tucker
Staff	Gary Wallace, General Manager Damian O'Shannassy, Planning and Development Director Mathew Webb, Corporate Services Director Dr Cornelia Wiebels, Technical Services Director Sharon Swannell, Governance and Executive Manager
Leave of Absence	Nil

4.2 Oath Or Affirmation Of Office By Councillors

4.2	Oath or Affirmation by Councillors
File No:	Governance/Councillors
Author:	Gary Wallace, General Manager

Summary

Under Section 233A of the *Local Government Act 1993* a councillor must take an oath of office or make an affirmation of office at or before the first meeting of the council after the councillor is elected.

Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr McKibbin

That Council note the councillors that took the Oath or Affirmation of Office at the commencement of the meeting.

That Councillors sign the Oath or Affirmation document confirming their pledge.

Carried - Resolution No: 1 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras,
Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker
Votes against: Nil

4.3 Election Of Mayor And Deputy Mayor

4.3	Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor
File No:	Governance/Meetings/Ordinary
Author:	Gary Wallace, General Manager

Summary

Section 290 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires that the election of the mayor and deputy mayor be held within the first three weeks after an ordinary election. In accordance with Section 230 of the *Local Government Act 1993* a mayor and deputy mayor elected by the councillors will hold office for two years.

The election of mayor and deputy mayor will take place at the start of the Ordinary Council Meeting on Tuesday 15 October 2024.

Nomination forms for the positions of mayor and deputy mayor are included with this business paper.

Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr Alevras

That if an election is required for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor, then the election is held by open voting in accordance with Councils Code of Meeting Practice.

Amendment

Moved: Clr Trembath
Second: Clr Tucker

That if an election is required for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor, then the election is held by closed voting in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

The Amendment was put and won, the Amendment becomes the Motion.

Moved: Clr Trembath
Second: Clr Tucker

That if an election is required for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor, then the election is held by closed voting in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

Carried - Resolution No: 2 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr McCarthy, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Clr Alevras and Clr Hayden

The General Manager advised there were two nominations received for the position of Mayor, being Clr Andrew McKibbin and Clr Frank O'Connor. Following the ballot the General Manager advised that Councillor Andrew McKibbin has the highest number of votes and is declared Mayor for the ensuing two years.

The General Manager advised that four nominations were received for the position of Deputy Mayor. The candidates are Clr Helen Hayden, Clr Katie Graham, Clr Frank O'Connor and Clr Ian Tucker. Following the first ballot Clr Tucker was excluded after being drawn by lot. Following the second ballot Clr Hayden was excluded. Following the third ballot the General Manager advised that Councillor Katie Graham had the highest number of votes and is declared Deputy Mayor for the ensuing two years.

The Mayor assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary - Nil
Non-Pecuniary Significant - Nil
Non-Pecuniary Less than Significant - Nil

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Vicki Walsh, a ratepayer of Oberon addressed Council. Vicki referred to a media release from 19 April 2024 which was on the Oberon Council website from General Manager Gary Wallace and former Mayor Mark Kellam. Vicki read the media release out to the meeting.

Vicki commented that she has been unable to find any answers to the questions that were put on notice six months ago. Vicki asked the following questions:

1. Have the questions been answered?
2. Have any of the recommendations from CWT been completed or even started
3. Has council obtained independent advice as stated for the commentary linking the previous water initiatives to the to the water quality?

Vicki asked that if these questions are taken on notice that it is not six months later that we are given a response.

The General Manager responded that Council provided a number of updates on its website and we are happy to provide those again. Council's Technical Services Director looks after the Water reticulation system and how it operates and has undertaken to provide ongoing updates to the community in regards to quality of water when we take those samples. We are working with CWT to undertake those recommendations in accordance with Councils resolution from earlier this year. A written response will be provided in response to the questions.

8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

8.1 Ordinary Meeting 13 August 2024
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Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr McCarthy

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13 August 2024 be confirmed.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Clr McKibbin advised of two minor amendments relating to the General Manager returning to the meeting following consideration of report item 13.5 and report item 16.3 was second by Clr McKibbin not Clr McCarthy

Carried - Resolution No: 3 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras, Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker
Votes against: Nil

8.2	Extraordinary Meeting 15 August 2024
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Moved: Clr Graham
Second: Clr Trembath

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 15 August 2024 be confirmed.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil

Carried - Resolution No: 4 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras and Clr McCarthy

9 MAYORAL MINUTE AND REPORT

Nil

10 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

11 COUNCILLOR AND DELEGATES REPORTS

11.1	Central NSW Joint Organisation Board Meeting and Meeting with Federal Ministers 21 and 22 August 2024
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File No:	Governance/Meetings/Ordinary
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Author:	General Manager, Gary Wallace
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Summary

General Manager Gary Wallace and Clr Katie Graham attended the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board Meeting and meeting with Federal representatives held in Canberra on 21 and 22 August. Clr Andrew McKibbin was also in attendance on behalf of the Central Tablelands Weeds Authority.

Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr Graham

That Council note the report from the General Manager on the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Board meetings 21 and 22 August 2024 and

1. Note a welcome to new Councillors session is under development for November 2024;
2. Note the cost savings to Councils for streetlighting charges from CNSWJO's negotiation through the Australian Energy Regulator delivering an average of 16.9% across regional NSW;
3. Note the Return on Investment from the CNSWJO for the 2023/2024 year of 8.3:1 for membership fees; and
4. Request a presentation from CNSWJO on its programming.

Carried - Resolution No: 5 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras, Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Nil

It was noted that Councillor Hayden wished to provide feedback in relation to the interpretation of traditional owners. The Mayor undertook to provide feedback as requested.

11.2	Country Mayors Association Meeting - 9 August 2024
File No:	Governance/Meetings/Ordinary
Author:	General Manager Gary Wallace

Summary

Country Mayors Association of NSW held its General Meeting in the Theatrette in NSW Parliament House, Sydney on Friday 9 August 2024. General Manager Gary Wallace attended the meeting on behalf of Oberon Council. The theme for the meeting was regional health.

Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr Trembath

That the delegates report for the 9 August 2024 Country Mayors Association Meeting be received and noted.

Carried - Resolution No: 6 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras, Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Nil

12 COMMITTEE REPORTS

12.1	Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting 11 September 2024
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File No:	ARIC
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Author:	Sharon Swannell (Governance and Executive Manager)
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Summary

Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 11 September 2024 are submitted for Council's information and endorsement.

Moved: Clr Tucker

Second: Clr Hayden

That Council:

1. Receive and note minutes of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 11 September 2024.
2. Note the approved Strategic Work plan 2024 – 2028
3. Note the approved 2024/25 Annual Work plan
4. Note the approved 2024/25 and 2025/26 Internal Audit Plan

Carried - Resolution No: 7 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras, Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Nil

12.2	Traffic Advisory Local Committee Meeting 08 August 2024
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File No:	Governance/Meetings/TALC
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Author:	Dr Cornelia Wiebels (Technical Services Director), Donah Foley (Technical Services Administrative Assistant)
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Summary

Minutes of the Traffic Advisory Local Committee Meeting held on 08 August 2024 are submitted for Council's information and endorsement.

Moved: Clr Tucker
Second: Clr McCarthy

That Council receive and note minutes of the Traffic Advisory Local Committee held on 08 August 2024.

Carried - Resolution No: 8 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras,
Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker
Votes against: Nil

12.3	Oberon Sports Facilities Committee Meeting
File No:	Governance/Meetings/OSFC
Author:	Dr Cornelia Wiebels (Technical Services Director), Donah Foley (Technical Services Administrative Assistant)

Summary

Minutes of the Oberon Sports Facilities Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 21 August 2024 are submitted for Council's information and endorsement.

Moved: Clr Trembath
Second: Clr Hayden

That Council receive and note minutes of the Oberon Sports Facilities Committee held on Wednesday, 21 August 2024.

Carried - Resolution No: 9 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras,
Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker
Votes against: Nil

12.4	Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting 12 August 2024
File No:	Governance/Meetings/LEMC
Author:	Donah Foley (Technical Services Administrative Assistant)

Summary

Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 12 August 2024 are submitted for Council's information and endorsement.

Moved: Clr O'Grady
Second: Clr Hayden

That Council receive and note minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee held on 12 August 2024.

Carried - Resolution No: 10 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras, Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Nil

13 REPORTS FOR DECISION

13.1	Oberon Local Government Election Results and Councillor Induction Program
File No:	Governance/Councillors
Author:	Gary Wallace (General Manager)

Summary

The report item provides details of the candidates elected to Oberon Council at the 14 September 2024 Local Government Elections.

The elected Councillors (in alphabetical order) are Clr Anthony Alevras; Clr Katie Graham; Clr Helen Hayden; Clr Clive McCarthy; Clr Andrew McKibbin; Clr Frank O'Connor; Clr Jill O'Grady; Clr Lauren Trembath and Clr Ian Tucker.

The report also provides an overview of the Councillor Induction program.

Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr Trembath

That Council note the schedule of training planned for Councillors and the Office of Local Government Councillor Induction program.

Carried - Resolution No: 11 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras, Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Nil

13.2 Countback Process for Casual Vacancies

File No: Governance/Elections Referendums and Polls

Author: Gary Wallace (General Manager)

Summary

Schedule 9A of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* outlines the process for filling a casual vacancy within 18 months after an ordinary election should Council resolve to utilise this provision.

Moved: Clr Hayden

Second: Clr Trembath

That pursuant to section 291A(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Oberon Council declares that casual vacancies occurring in the office of a councillor within 18 months after the last ordinary election of councillors for the Council on 14 September 2024, are to be filled by a countback of votes cast at that election for the office in accordance with section 291A of the Act and directs the General Manager to notify the Electoral Commissioner for NSW of Council's decision within 7 days of this decision.

Carried - Resolution No: 12 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras, Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Nil

13.3 Delegates to External Organisations

File No: Governance/Councillors/Delegates

Author: Gary Wallace (General Manager)

Summary

Following the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Council traditionally reviews its delegates to a number of external organisations. In most cases the Mayor is automatically designated as a delegate representing Council.

Moved: Clr Hayden

Second: Clr Tucker

That Council move into Committee of the Whole at 6.45pm.

Carried - Resolution No: 13 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Alevras, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Nil

Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr Tucker

That Council move out of Committee of the Whole at 6.56pm and return to the full meeting of Council.

Carried - Resolution No: 14 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Alevras, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker
Votes against: Nil

Moved: Clr McKibbin
Second: Clr O'Connor

That Council defer appointing its delegates to external organisations until an extraordinary meeting to be held on 5 November 2024.

That the General Manager place a spreadsheet on the Councillor portal and Councillors interested place their names next to the organisations they are interested in being a delegate on.

That in the interim if any decision is required in relation to external organisations and council committees that the Mayor or his delegate attend the meetings and be authorised to act on behalf of Council.

Carried - Resolution No: 15 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker
Votes against: Clr McCarthy

13.4	Delegations of Authority - General Manager
File No:	Governance/Delegations/General Manager
Author:	Sharon Swannell (Governance and Executive Manager)

Summary

Under the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), Council must review all delegations within 12 months of an election. Council may, by resolution, delegate to the General Manager or any other person or body (but not an employee of the Council other than the General Manager) any of the functions of the Council other than those referred to in section 377 of the Act.

This report is to review the delegations to the General Manager in accordance with section 377 of the Act.

Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr O'Connor

That Council:

1. Receive the report by the Governance and Executive Manager on the Review of Delegations to the General Manager;
2. Grant the General Manager, or the person who acts in that position from time to time, all of the functions, powers, duties and authorities of Council that may lawfully be delegated under the Local Government Act 1993, any other Act, regulation, or the like (including any functions, powers, duties and authorities delegated to Council by any authority, body, person or the like) other than the limitations outlined in the report.

Carried - Resolution No: 16 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras, Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Nil

13.5	Returns Disclosing Interests and Related Parties Disclosures
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File No:	Governance/Meetings/Ordinary
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Author:	Gary Wallace (General Manager)
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Summary

In accordance with Clause 4.21 of Council's Model Code of Conduct – Policy 1102; a councillor or designated person must make and lodge with the general manager a return in the form set out in schedule 2 to the code, disclosing the councillor's or designated person's interests as specified in schedule 1 to the code within 3 months after:

1. becoming a councillor or designated person, and
2. 30 June of each year, and
3. the councillor or designated person becoming aware of an interest they are required to disclose under schedule 1 that has not been previously disclosed in a return lodged under paragraphs (a) or (b).

In accordance with Policy 2220 Related Parties Disclosure, Councillors are required to complete a disclosure identifying any related parties that may present a conflict of interest or require disclosure to ensure transparency and compliance.

Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr Trembath

That:

1. Council note the requirement to lodge a return disclosing interests of Councillors and designated persons.
2. Council note the requirement to lodge a Related Parties disclosure for newly elected Councillors.

Carried - Resolution No: 17 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras,
Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Nil

13.6	Car Parking Modification - Child Care Centre - 6-8 Tasman St Oberon
File No:	DA10.2023.27.3
Author:	Bennett Kennedy (Senior Town Planner), Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director)

Summary

Council is in receipt of an application to Modify the Conditions of Consent for an approved Seventy-Seven (77) place Child Care Centre located at 6-8 Tasman Street Oberon. The modification (DA10.2023.27.3; PAN-468022) relates to Condition 11 regarding car parking.

The subject application is referred to Council for consideration because Council determined the original application.

Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr O'Connor

That Council:

1. Support the proposed modification to delete the dimensions from the condition relating to disabled car parking spaces and retain the reference to the Australian Standard 2890.6 for disabled parking.
2. That a division be called in accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act 1993.

Carried - Resolution No: 18 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras,
Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Nil

13.7 Footpath and access Modification - Child Care Centre - 6-8 Tasman St Oberon

File No: DA10.2023.27.5

Author: Bennett Kennedy (Senior Town Planner), Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director)

Summary

Council is in receipt of an application to Modify the Conditions of Consent for an approved Seventy-Seven (77) place Child Care Centre located at 6-8 Tasman Street Oberon. The proposed modification (10.2023.27.5; PAN-476504) relates to Condition 31 regarding provision of a footpath along the front boundary of the subject site.

The subject application is referred to Council for consideration because Council determined the original application.

Moved: Clr Tucker

Second: Clr Graham

That Council:

1. That condition 31 requiring the construction of a footpath in front of the Child Care Centre at 6-8 Tasman Street be deleted.
2. That a division be called in accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act 1993.

Lost

Division

Votes for: Clr O'Connor and Clr O'Grady

Votes against: Clr McKibbin, Clr Alevras, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Moved: Clr Hayden

Second: Clr Trembath

That Council:

1. Support the proposed modification by endorsing Option 5 by accepting a Contribution in lieu of Condition 31 for Council to install the footpath.
2. Accept a Contribution of \$5,000 as costed by Council's Development Engineer in view that a linear footpath may not address the retaining wall at the western end of the nature strip satisfactorily or align with the front boundary of the subject site.
3. That a division be called in accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act 1993.

Amendment

Moved: Clr Tucker
Second: Clr O'Connor

1. That the matter be deferred to the November Ordinary Meeting to allow the opportunity for further discussion with the applicant.
2. That a division be called in accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act 1993.

The Amendment was put and lost, the original Motion stands.

Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr Trembath

That Council:

1. Support the proposed modification by endorsing Option 5 by accepting a Contribution in lieu of Condition 31 for Council to install the footpath.
2. Accept a Contribution of \$5,000 as costed by Council's Development Engineer in view that a linear footpath may not address the retaining wall at the western end of the nature strip satisfactorily or align with the front boundary of the subject site.
3. That a division be called in accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act 1993.

Carried - Resolution No: 19 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Alevras, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady and Clr Trembath
Votes against: Clr Tucker

14 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

14.1	Monthly Activity Report General Manager - October 2024
File No:	Governance/Meetings/Ordinary
Author:	Gary Wallace (General Manager), Rebecca Burgess (Work Health Safety and Risk Manager), Julie Baker (Library Manager), Hannah Booth (Records and Communications Coordinator), Sharon Swannell (Governance and Executive Manager)

Summary

This report item summarises the main activity by the General Manager since the last report. Items include Human Resources, Workplace Health & Safety, Community Activity, Regional Issues, Executive Management Team Meetings and planned activities.

Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr O'Connor

That report Item 14.1 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 20 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras,
Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Nil

14.2 Monthly Activity Report - Planning & Development - August 2024 & September 2024

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director), Kirsty Hanrahan (Building Surveyor), Janet Bailey (Development Control Administration Officer), Lyn Hancox (Planning and Development Administration Assistant), David Sellers (Facilities Manager)

Summary

This report item summarises the main activity in the Planning and Development Department since the August 2024 Council Meeting.

Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr Trembath

That report item 14.2 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 21 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras,
Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Nil

14.3 Monthly Activity Report Technical Services - October 2024

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Dr Cornelia Wiebels (Technical Services Director), Paul Robinson (Plant Manager), Donah Foley (Technical Services Administrative Assistant), Sam Golam (Project Engineer), Geoff Paton (Works Engineer), Dani Bradshaw (Change Management Analyst), Lauren Dukes (Trainee Civil Engineer), Andrew Krol (Water and Sewer Officer in Charge)

Summary

This report item summarises the main activity in the Technical Services Department since the last Meeting.

Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr Trembath

That report 14.3 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 22 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras, Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Nil

14.4 Monthly Activity Report Corporate Services - October 2024

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director), Zoe Marks (Finance Manager), AJ Jack (IT and GIS Co-ordinator), Victoria Bewley (Acting Community Services Coordinator), Debra Keane (Tourism and Economic Development Manager)

Summary

This report provides an update on the activities of the Corporate Services Directorate from August to September and forward plans.

Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr O'Connor

That report item 14.4 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 23 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras, Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Nil

14.5 Investments - September 2024

File No: Financial Management/Investments/Register

Author: Lisa Koleda (Management Accountant), Zoe Marks (Finance Manager)

Summary

This report provides Council with the Statement of Investments as of 15 October 2024.

Moved: Clr Tucker
Second: Clr McCarthy

That report item 14.5 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 24 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras,
Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker
Votes against: Nil

- 14.6	Grants Update - September 2024
File No:	Governance/Grants 2024
Author:	Toni Dwyer (Grants Co-ordinator), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

Summary

This report provides a summary of grant funding applications submitted and funding notifications received during August and September 2024.

Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr Trembath

That report item 14.6 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 25 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras,
Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker
Votes against: Nil

14.7	Status of Council Resolutions - October 2024
File No:	Governance/Meetings/Ordinary
Author:	Gary Wallace (General Manager), Dr Cornelia Wiebels (Technical Services Director), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director), Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director)

Summary

This report item summarises the current status of Council resolutions and provides updates for actions taken.

Moved: Clr Hayden
Second: Clr Trembath

That report 14.7 is received as information.

Carried - Resolution No: 26 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras,
Clr McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Nil

14.8	Road Name Proposal Activity: 15 Aug 2024 Bill Klower Drive - Rejection notification
File No:	14.6
Author:	Donah Foley (Technical Services Administrative Assistant)

Summary

Council previously resolved to make a request to the Geographical Names Board (GNB) seeking to rename a section of road in the Burruga village to 'Bill Klower Drive'. Council is now in receipt of correspondence from the GNB rejecting the proposed name. This report seeks direction from Council as to possible ways forward.

Moved: Clr Tucker
Second: Clr McCarthy

That report Item 14.8 is received as information.

That Council write to the Burruga and District Community Association to advise them of the decision of the Geographic Names Board and seeking their advice about whether they favour naming another piece of infrastructure in honour of Mr Klower.

Carried - Resolution No: 27 - 15/10/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr McKibbin, Clr Graham, Clr O'Connor, Clr O'Grady, Clr Hayden, Clr Alevras, Clr
McCarthy, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Nil

15 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

16 CLOSED SESSION - CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Nil

17 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of Oberon Council will be held on Tuesday 12 November 2024, commencing at 5.30pm in the Oberon Council Chambers, 137 Oberon Street, Oberon.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.24pm.

9 MAYORAL MINUTE AND REPORT

9.1 Mayoral Minute and Report - November 2024

File No: Governance/Mayor/General

Author: Mayor Andrew McKibbin

Summary

This report summarises the main activity for the Mayor since my election to the role of Mayor at the 15 October 2024 Ordinary Meeting.

Recommendation:

That Report Item 09.01 is received as information.

A. Meetings

17 Oct 2024	ABC Radio Interview
17 Oct 2024	2BS Radio Interview
23 Oct 2024	Councillor Induction with Kath Roach, Sinc Solutions
28 Oct 2024	Councillor Induction with General Manager and Directors
30 Oct 2024	Central West and Orana Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan – Orange
31 Oct 2024	Central NSW Joint Organisation Review of Statement of Strategic Regional Priority Workshop – Blayney
4 Nov 2024	Central West Forestry Hub AGM and General Meeting
7 Nov 2024	Councillor Policy Lab Workshop
7 Nov 2024	Presentation from Central Tablelands Weeds Authority to Councillors
7 Nov 2024	Extraordinary Council Meeting
7 Nov 2024	Auditor Presentation of 2023/24 Audited Financial Statements
7 Nov 2024	Councillor Informal Briefing Session

B. Representation

19 Oct 2024	Official Opening of the Yarning Circle at Oberon Common and 2024 NAIDOC Celebrations
28 Oct 2024	Judging of “Oberon Pink Skies” Photographic Competition

C. Correspondence

18 Oct 2024	The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC providing a response to the Hon Paul Toole MP to correspondence forwarded on behalf of Clr Hayden seeking exemption from council rates for State Forests.
18 Oct 2024	Correspondence forwarded to Mayor of Bathurst, Robert Taylor congratulations on recent election.

- 18 Oct 2024 Correspondence forwarded to Mayor of Blayney, Bruce Reynolds congratulations on recent election.
- 21 Oct 2024 The President of the Legislative Council, the Hon Ben Franklin MLC letter of congratulations on election as Mayor of Oberon.
- 28 Oct 2024 Invitation to attend a Mayoral Luncheon for the Bathurst International being held on Sunday 10 November 2024, apology forwarded.
- 5 Nov 2024 Correspondence forwarded to Jason Molquentin, Forestry Corporation in relation to the weed management at the forest reserve within Black Springs, response received.
- 5 Nov 2024 Correspondence forwarded to William Cox, CEO of Aurecon Engineering seeking a meeting regarding connectivity of the Central West to Sydney
- 6 Nov 2024 Australian Local Government Association advising of the dates for the 31st National General Assembly of Local Government to be held in Canberra from 25 – 27 June 2025.

10 NOTICES OF MOTION

10.1	Abercrombie Road Repairs - Request for Report
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File No:	Governance/Meetings/Ordinary
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Author:	Clr Clive McCarthy
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Motion

That Council receive a full report to the December Ordinary Meeting, regarding the roadworks on Abercrombie Road, including the funding source for the repairs.

Reason

- Roadworks at Black Springs fail in sections

10.2 Well Planned Windfarm Providing a Positive Contribution to the Oberon Community and Environment

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Cllr Frank O'Connor

Motion

That Oberon Council write to Stromlo/TAG Energy, requesting their confirmation that the proposed wind farm development will comply with all aspects of our Councils and communities Development Control Plan – Wind Power Generation 2005.

Reason

Oberon Council Development Control Plan – Wind Power Generation 2005, sets out the guidelines, requirements and criteria for developers of wind tower projects in the Oberon Local Government Area. The Objectives, Development Application Guidelines, Planning and Environmental Controls and Council Contribution requirements are noted in the Development Control Plan.

Notwithstanding the proposed Stromlo/TAG Energy project is deemed one of State Significance, Stromlo/TAG Energy should be guided to adhere to our Development Control Plan – Wind Power Generation 2005, as this is our Council and Communities expectation.

10.3 Proposed Heritage Listing of The O'Connell First World War Memorial Avenue of Trees

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Cllr Frank O'Connor

Motion

That Council:

1. Advise as to the progress regarding - "Update the draft State Heritage Inventory Sheet for the Avenue of Trees at O'Connell (ref 2210207)", including a timeline for completion.
2. Provide an update regarding - "Prepare a Planning Proposal for the individual listing of the Avenue of Trees at O'Connell as a local item for inclusion in *Schedule 5 of the Oberon LEP 2013*", including a timeline for completion.
3. Progress regarding - "Advise the local community in O'Connell to consider liaising with Heritage NSW, based on the State level assessment of the 1998 CMP, with a longer-term view of nominating the Avenue of Trees for inclusion separately on the State Heritage Register".

Reason

Matters regarding the heritage listing of the O'Connell First World War Memorial Avenue of Trees has been considered as a matter of business during a number of 2024 year Council Meetings, with contributions also being made by the community.

The Proposed Heritage Listing of the O'Connell First World War Memorial Avenue of Trees was included in the reports for decision in the Oberon Council Extraordinary Meeting of 11 June 2024.

Recent wind tower project announcements in the Oberon Local Government Area sharply focus the potential threat to the Avenue of Trees and the Importance of completing the heritage listing for the Oberon community.

General Manager's Note: Council has prepared the documentation for state listings which is progressing through its Heritage Advisor. A report has previously been provided to Council. Councils Planning & Development Director is working on the development of a Comprehensive Land Use Strategy that will inform additional items Council (and its community) would like to see protected. This item has already been highlighted to Councils Planning Consultants that will assist in moving the item forward to a State listing.

5.2 Proposed Heritage Listing of The O'Connell Avenue of Trees

File No: Land Use and Planning/Heritage

Author: Christo Aitkin (Heritage Advisor) and Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director)

Summary

At the May Ordinary Meeting Council was presented with a report commissioned by Oberon Against Wind Towers (OAWT) from GML Heritage (Attachment 1) and sought Council to consider listing the O'Connell Avenue of Trees as an individual heritage item under the provisions of an Interim Heritage Order.

The Avenue of Trees is not currently individually listed on *Schedule 5 Part 1 of the Oberon LEP 2013* however, the Avenue is located within the O'Connell Urban Conservation Area which is listed on *Schedule 5 Part 2 of the Oberon LEP 2013* as a Heritage Conservation Area. The Avenue of Trees is a landmark element within the O'Connell Heritage Conservation Area as detailed in the heritage data sheet that accompanied the listing of the heritage conservation area in 2013.

This report provides Council the opportunity to consider the GML report as well as a detailed brief from Councils Heritage Advisor relating to current status of The Avenue of Trees in O'Connell.

Moved: Clr Trembath

Second: Clr Hayden

That Council,

1. Update the draft State Heritage Inventory Sheet for the Avenue of Trees at O'Connell (ref 2210207) .
2. Prepare a Planning Proposal for the individual listing of the Avenue of Trees at O'Connell as a local item for inclusion in *Schedule 5 of the Oberon LEP 2013*
3. Advise the local community in O'Connell to consider liaising with Heritage NSW, based on the State level assessment of the 1998 CMP, with a longer-term view of nominating the Avenue of Trees for inclusion separately on the State Heritage Register.

Amendment

Moved: Clr Tucker

Second: Clr McCarthy

That Council,

1. Provide a further report on the estimated extra cost involved in updating the State Heritage Inventory Sheet and preparing a planning proposal for the listing Avenue of Trees at O'Connell
-

as a local item for inclusion in Schedule 5 of the Oberon LEP 2013.

2. Advise the local community in O'Connell to consider liaising with Heritage NSW, based on the State level assessment of the 1998 CMP, with a longer-term view of nominating the Avenue of Trees for inclusion separately on the State Heritage Register.

The Amendment was put and lost, the original Motion stands.

Moved: Clr Trembath

Second: Clr Hayden

That Council,

1. Update the draft State Heritage Inventory Sheet for the Avenue of Trees at O'Connell (ref 2210207) .
2. Prepare a Planning Proposal for the individual listing of the Avenue of Trees at O'Connell as a local item for inclusion in *Schedule 5 of the Oberon LEP 2013*
3. Advise the local community in O'Connell to consider liaising with Heritage NSW, based on the State level assessment of the 1998 CMP, with a longer-term view of nominating the Avenue of Trees for inclusion separately on the State Heritage Register.

Carried - Resolution No: 4 - 11/06/2024

Division

Votes for: Clr Kellam, Clr Graham, Clr Hayden, Clr McCarthy, Clr McKechnie, Clr Trembath and Clr Tucker

Votes against: Nil

10.4 TAG Energy, Stromlo Energy and NSW Forestry

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Clr Trembath

Motion

That Council:

1. Invite Stromlo Energy, TAG Energy and NSW Forestry to bi-monthly meetings to keep Council up to date with The Pines Windfarm Project.
 2. Record the meetings using webinar facilities.
 3. Livestream the meetings via Teams for the community to watch online only.
 4. Diarise the meetings and community any non-attendance by TAG / Stromlo to the community.
-

Reason

- Open and transparent discussions for the community to see that Council and Councillors are not holding private discussions with Stromlo/TAG/NSW Forestry.
- The Community will get to hear the answers to the questions – a single response.
- Stromlo/TAG are developers and as such, should be treated the same way.

General Manager's Note: Council has received notification from Stromlo seeking interest in reestablishing a meeting with Council. Previously these have been closed to the public.

10.5 Active Transport Strategy - O'Connell Footpath

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Cllr Helen Hayden

Motion

That Council review the Active Transport Strategy for Oberon, O'Connell and the broader Local Government Area.

1. Review and Update:

- Initiate a comprehensive review of the Active Transport Strategy for Oberon, O'Connell, and the broader LGA.
- Assess changes in local dynamics, population growth, and infrastructure developments since 2016.

2. Proposed Footpath:

- Evaluate the proposed footpath from O'Connell Recreation Ground to Fish River Bridge.
- Investigate contribution from Bathurst Regional Council in relation to infrastructure from Fish River Bridge to O'Connell Public School (Bathurst LGA).
- Highlight that the current lack of a crossing at Fish River Bridge renders the footpath a waste of taxpayer funding as it goes nowhere.
- Contact Transport NSW regarding the current funding to see if the grant can be redirected to other similar projects within the Oberon LGA.

3. Community Engagement:

- Implement a broad and extensive community engagement plan to gather input from residents, businesses, and stakeholders across the LGA.
- Utilise surveys, public meetings, and online platforms to ensure diverse and inclusive participation.

4. Consideration of Other Villages:

- Assess the needs of residents in Edith, Black Springs, Burruga, and other villages regarding footpaths, walking tracks, and accessible community areas.
- Incorporate feedback and suggestions from these communities into the updated strategy.

5. Reporting and Implementation:

- Prepare a detailed report with findings and recommendations.
- Develop an implementation plan with clear timelines and responsibilities.

Purpose:

To review and update the Active Transport Strategy for Oberon, O'Connell, and the broader Local Government Area (LGA), considering the changes in local dynamics since the last strategy was developed in 2016. This review is to also address the proposed footpath from O'Connell Recreation Ground to Fish River Bridge, which currently lacks a crossing and is therefore considered a waste of taxpayer funding. The motion will ensure comprehensive community engagement and consideration of the needs of residents in Oberon, O'Connell rural area and other villages such as Edith, Black Springs, and Burruga.

Rationale:

The Active Transport Strategy needs to be updated to reflect the current needs and dynamics of the local area. The proposed footpath from O'Connell Recreation Ground to Fish River Bridge requires a crossing to be functional, and without it, the project is a waste of taxpayer funding.

Additionally, engaging the community and considering the needs of all villages will ensure the strategy is comprehensive and inclusive.

*This motion supports the community strategic plan: **Theme 4 - Infrastructure and Services (p. 16 - 4.2, 4.3)***

10.6 Black Springs Recreation Reserve

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Clr Helen Hayden

Motion

That Council remove blackberry and woody weed infestation at Black Springs Recreation Reserve.

Purpose

To address and remove the blackberry infestation as well as woody weeds such as black wattle at Black Springs Recreation Reserve, managed by the Oberon Council, and allocate necessary funding from the Parks and Gardens maintenance budget.

Background

Black Springs Recreation Reserve has been experiencing a significant blackberry infestation, which poses a threat to the local ecosystem, native flora and fauna, adjoining properties, and the overall aesthetic and usability of the reserve. Blackberries are classified as a noxious weed and require immediate attention to prevent further spread and damage, there is also woody weed overgrowth with excessive black wattle.

Reasoning

The Black Springs Recreation Reserve Masterplan, currently underway, aims to enhance the reserve's facilities and natural environment for community use and enjoyment. However, the overburden of blackberry and black wattle significantly hampers these efforts. These invasive species not only degrade the natural habitat but also obstruct the implementation of the masterplan, the infestation also creates further fire risk to the Public School, Fire Shed and other local homes. Additionally, some trees previously planted without consideration for future growth and maintenance now require removal to ensure the long-term sustainability and usability of the reserve.

(In relation to woody invasive species such as black wattle - *Acacia Mearnsii*, I will refer council to the self-assessable code of practice that helps landholders or land managers meet the NSW Native Vegetation Regulation 2013).

The NSW Minister for the Environment has declared clearing of INS (invasive native species) a Routine Agricultural Management Activity (RAMA), which means you do not need permission to clear if vegetation is cleared according to the conditions set out in this guide. In some cases, management decisions for clearing INS can be made using a self-assessable code rather than a PVP. This is part of a more balanced, practical and streamlined approach to native vegetation regulation. The code supports landholders' pursuit of practical approaches to INS control and explains the best INS clearing type for different condition

Guide- <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/vegetation/140274DraftINSGde.pdf>

Local government has a legal responsibility for managing weeds across their lands under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015. Local councils that are the local control authorities for weeds under the Act must deliver specific weed management functions and appoint and support staff as authorised officers under the Act (Biosecurity Act 2015).

Proposal

1. Assessment and Planning:

- Conduct a thorough assessment of the extent of the blackberry and black wattle infestation at Black Springs Recreation Reserve as a priority.

- Develop a comprehensive removal and management plan, including timelines, methods, and necessary resources.

2. Implementation:

- Engage qualified contractors or utilize council staff to carry out the removal of blackberry, black wattle, and other problematic trees.
- Employ effective methods to ensure complete eradication and prevent regrowth.
- Acknowledge that some trees and shrubs may possibly be damaged and/or killed from some control processes

3. Monitoring and Maintenance:

- Establish a monitoring program to regularly check for any regrowth or new infestations.
- Implement ongoing maintenance practices to manage and prevent future infestations.

Funding Source:

That council seek grant funding for weed control by applying for the crown reserves improvement fund – weeds 24/25 grant currently open now for applications. Should the application be unsuccessful council allocate funds from the existing parks and gardens maintenance budget.

Expected Outcomes:

- Restoration of the Black Springs Recreation Reserve to a manageable tidy area, removing further fire risk.
- Improved aesthetic and recreational value of the reserve for the community and visitors.
- Long-term prevention of blackberry and black wattle regrowth and spread.
- Successful implementation of the Black Springs Recreation Reserve Masterplan can be assisted.

It is important that the Oberon Council approve this motion and seek a grant funding to assist with costs to remediate the issues at the Black Springs recreation ground reserve, should the application for grant funding be unsuccessful it will require council to allocate the necessary funds from the Parks and Gardens Maintenance budget to address the blackberry and black wattle infestation, and to possibly remove any excess trees that were previously planted to provide better accessibility for maintenance of the area.

*This motion supports the community strategic plan: **Theme 1 (p.13 - 1.2, 1.4) - Community well being**, as well as **Theme 3 - Caring for the environment (p. 15 -3.3)** and **Theme 4 - Infrastructure and Services (p. 16 - 4.2, 4.3)***

General Manager's Note: Council staff have previously met on site to discuss the matter. Further contact has been made with Forestry Corporation who have acknowledged that they would like to work with Council to improve the area. With the potential for grant funding and with the support of Forestry Corporation a joint application. It is noted that only limited funding (outside the substantial contribution made to the CTWA) exist to assist this project and a source of income outside the Parks and Gardens Maintenance Fund would be required.







Black Springs Community Association Inc

ABN: 43153157296 Email: blackspringzca@outlook.com Website: blackspringcommunityassociation.com.au
President: Leon Dwyer Secretary: Michelle Swaan Treasurer: Ceanne Barron

Date: 28.10.2024

Dear council members,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Black Springs Community Association to express our support for Councillor Helen Hayden's motion to council regarding the noxious weed situation at the Black Springs recreation grounds.

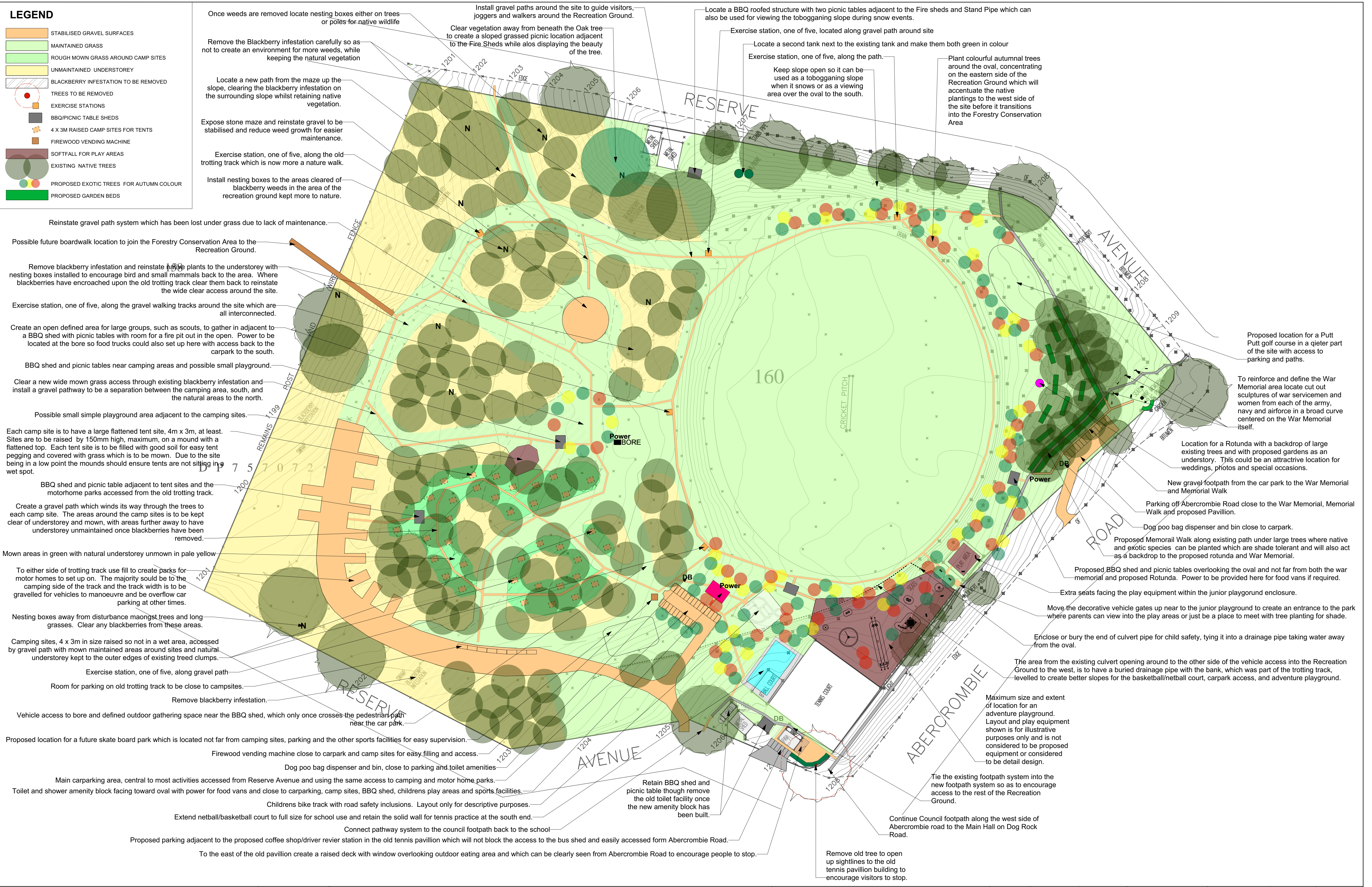
The situation regarding the black wattle trees and blackberries around the bottom end of the area, including around the fire station, has been ongoing for quite a few years now with little action being taken to rectify the issue.

As you are aware, the association is working alongside the council to develop a master plan for the village recreation area to identify the most effective and beneficial use of the area. Upon engaging the landscape architect and surveyor, the restriction to some areas due to the uncontrolled weeds was noted.

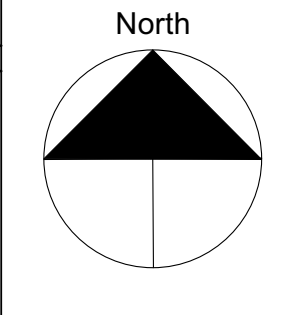
Attached is a copy of the preliminary landscape master plan outlining the need for extensive blackberry eradication along with suggested removal and thinning out of some trees. This document should make it easier for council to reach a resolution when deciding which course of action to take to rectify the issue.

Kind Regards,

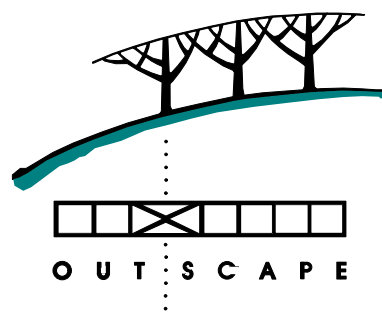
Michelle Swaan
BSCA - Secretary
0400691908



REVISION	ISSUE	DATE	COMMENT
A		29/10/2024	PRELIMINARY PLAN FOR COMMENT AND FEEDBACK



PRINCIPAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT - CATRIONA GLANVILLE, B.L.ARCH (UNSW), R.L.A., CERT. HORT(DIST), A.I.L.D.M.
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CLIENT **OBERON COUNCIL AND BLACK SPRINGS PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**
 PROJECT **RECREATION GROUND RESERVE AVENUE BLACK SPRINGS**

DRAWN **CJG** DESIGNED **CJG** CHECKED **CJG** SCALE **1:1000 @ A1**
 DATE **29/10/2024** PROJECT NO **24/26**
 TITLE **PRELIMINARY LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN**

DRAWING NO **1 OF 1** REV **A**

11 COUNCILLOR AND DELEGATES REPORTS

11.1	Oberon Arts Council Meeting - 19 September 2024
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File No:	Governance/Meetings/Ordinary
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Author:	Clr Katie Graham
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Summary

The Oberon Arts Council meeting was held on Thursday 19 September 2024. Councillor Katie Graham attended as the Council's delegate.

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the delegates report for the Oberon Arts Council meeting held on 19 September 2024.

List of Attachments

1. Oberon Arts Council Meeting Minutes Thursday 19th September 2024 Oberon Gol [11.1.1 - 2 pages]

Comment

Discussion at the meeting included:

- Arts OutWest held a "While the World Waits" exhibition at Parliament House. The exhibition was well attended and showcased works from the Central West Region.
- The Arts and Health update – Art Snacks program has concluded. The success of this program has been recognised across NSW and further funding is being sought.
- A new drumming session is being arranged with Rob Shannon. This will be coordinated in preparation for the Oberon street Festival.
- Four new pavers have been installed at the Oberon Common. The Oberon Arts Council continue to take orders for pavers – contact Fran Charge for further information.

The next meeting of the Oberon Arts Council will be held on 28 November 2024.

Oberon Arts Council Inc

Thursday 19th September 2024 6.00 pm Oberon Golf Club

Minutes GENERAL MEETING

Meeting Opens: 6.10pm

ACTION:

Present:	Mary David, Sally Parrington, Katie Graham, Malcolm Graham, Brian Harman, Sandra Harman, Caecelia Graham, Ann Olive, Tim Charge, Fran Charge
Apologies :	Carol Wilson, Melanie Lawson, Victoria Freeman
Minutes Meeting held 19 June 2024 Business arising:	Moved : C Graham Seconded: K Graham Carried
Correspondence In Letter from Oberon High re donation, Email from U3A re Citizen of the Year award nominations. OUT : Emails to members	Moved: B. Harman Seconded: A. Olive That we accept the correspondence, that OAC donate to schools as usual for the end of year awards, that we circulate the Australia Day Award nominations Carried
Treasurers Report: September - -looking for a Volunteer Treasurer.	Moved: S. Harman that any Accounts be paid and Treasurers Report be accepted Seconded: M. David carried .
GENERAL BUSINESS	
Oberon reports:	No Report our Council delegate is awaiting the election results Moved F. Charge that a vote of thanks be expressed for the work our Council delegate Katy Graham does.
Arts OutWest report: Fran	Arts OutWest While the World Waits showcased Art work from the Central West. This was held at at Parliament House and opened from the 8th August Well attended
Arts and Health Update:	Art Snacks program has concluded. The success of this program has been recognised state wide and further funding is being sought. This most successful program started in Oberon and has been rolled out across 19 MPS's in regional NSW. Fluffy the dog puppet will be coming to the Oberon MPS Oberon MPS had an RUOK day this week on Wednesday- this was well attended and the staff are all to be congratulated on their efforts for food decorations and such a positive atmosphere
ANY OTHER BUSINESS. Volunteers needed to help move -any suggestions for a storage place please advise Fran	RE Plinths stored at the Malachi Oberon Arts Council appreciate Lucy and Johnny for allowing us to store our Art show stands and plinths at the Malachi. Lucy needs the Plinths moved whilst painting is undertaken from mid October. Fran to check with Arts OutWest to see if they could use the Plinths and store them. Volunteers needed to help move them out before next Thursday 26 th Drumming A new session is being organised with Rob Shannon – suggestion from Katie that we wait and have a session in November in preparation for the 7 th December Street Party performance – Hopefully this will help some who

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

	<p>have stepped back to re-engage</p> <p>Pavers: 4 new pavers have been installed at the Oberon Common – thanks to Dave and Carol Wilson and Tim Charge for their assistance New Orders are being prepared if you know of anyone who needs a paver please let Fran know.</p>
<p>Date of Next Meeting: 28th November 6.30PM Venue TBC</p>	
<p>Followed by dinner</p>	

12 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil

13 REPORTS FOR DECISION

13.1	Rural Fire Service - Oberon Station
File No:	Tech Serv/Emergency Services/Bush Fire Sheds
Author:	Gary Wallace (General Manager), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director), Dr Cornelia Wiebels (Technical Services Director)

Summary

The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) is seeking to construct a new, modern fire station, forward command and training complex in Oberon. This facility would replace the existing Council owned facility located next to the Oberon Council Depot and SES.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Provide in principle support to the NSW RFS to allow for a grant application to be prepared for the construction of a new Fire Station.
 2. Delegate authority to the General Manager to negotiate the land area required to adequately assist the lodgement of a grant application.
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List of Attachments

Nil

Comment

Correspondence has been received from the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) seeking to construct a new, modern fire station, forward command and training complex in Oberon, replacing the existing council-owned facility that has reached the end of its useful life. The current site, located near the Council Depot, SES complex, and sporting facilities, is considered too constrained for a redevelopment.

Proposed Solution: A New Site and Facility

The RFS is proposing the construction of a new facility on a dedicated site of approximately one hectare. This site would need to be appropriately zoned and serviced to accommodate the new fire station, command and training complex. A high-level concept plan for the proposed building has been developed, outlining the key features and functionalities of the new facility.

Benefits of the New Facility

The construction of a new fire station and command complex in Oberon would bring numerous benefits to the RFS and the community:

- **Enhanced Operational Capabilities:** The new facility would provide the RFS with a modern and efficient hub for its operations within the local government area (LGA).
-

- **Improved Community Safety:** A well-equipped and strategically located fire station would enhance the RFS's ability to respond to emergencies and protect the community.
- **Increased Visibility and Engagement:** The new facility would serve as a visible reminder of the RFS's presence and commitment to the Oberon community.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** The new facility could provide opportunities for collaboration between the RFS, local council, SES, and other emergency services.

The RFS is seeking the council's assistance in identifying and providing a suitable site for the new facility. Once a suitable site is secured, the RFS plans to fund and construct the new facility within the next few years.

The construction of a new fire station, command and training complex in Oberon is a valuable project that will benefit both the NSW RFS and the Oberon community. By working together, the RFS and the council can ensure that the Oberon region has the necessary resources to respond to emergencies and protect its residents.

Council is currently developing additional industrial land within Stage 2 of the Industrial Estate. This land is adequately zoned and will be provided with all utilities to assist the proposal.

The question for Council to consider is establishment of the land (to be vested with RFS) will be required to be dedicated as an 'in kind' contribution. This contribution would be in the vicinity of \$100,000.

Financial Implications

Currently nil however should dedication of land be considered the sale potential of the land will need to be considered.

Relevance to Oberon Community Strategic Plan

Theme 1: Community Well Being

Action 1.4 Work with our partners to provide a safe community

1.4.1 Support the provision of emergency services

Risk Category

Safety

Environment

Assets and Infrastructure

Risk Severity Ranking

Minor - 32%

13.2 Playground Risk Assessment Further Report

File No: TS/Parks and Reserves/Playgrounds

Author: Geoff Paton (Works Engineer)

Summary

Previously Council resolved to receive a further report in relation to compliance of its playground equipment with current day standards. This report provides options, including cost estimates, and staff recommendations to address the advice received from independent experts in relation to Council's playgrounds. The importance of this report has been elevated by comments made by Councils Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC).

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Endorse the options recommended for repairs and upgrades to individual playgrounds as highlighted in the Options table of the report.
 2. Consider the allocation of \$144,000 into future Financial Years to address the remaining issues at Cunynghame Oval Park and The Common – Fenced Playground.
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List of Attachments

1. The Common - Oberon 2024-08-16 [13.2.1 - 72 pages]
2. Pool Park__ John Mawhood Memorial Complex 2024-08-16 [13.2.2 - 25 pages]
3. Miss Wilson Park__ Oberon 2024-08-16 [13.2.3 - 18 pages]
4. Herb David Park__ Carrington Street Park 2024-08-16 [13.2.4 - 24 pages]
5. Hassell Park__ O' Connell Road Rest Area 2024-08-16 [13.2.5 - 28 pages]
6. Glyndwr Avenue__ South 2024-08-16 [13.2.6 - 16 pages]
7. Glyndwr Avenue__ North 2024-08-16 [13.2.7 - 21 pages]
8. Cunynghame Oval Park__ Dulce Place Park 2024-08-16 [13.2.8 - 37 pages]
9. Buckley Crescent Park__ Oberon 2024-08-16 [13.2.9 - 32 pages]
10. Bligh Street Playground__ Oberon 2024-08-16 [13.2.10 - 29 pages]
11. Burraga Park 2024-08-16 [13.2.11 - 32 pages]
12. Black Springs__ Recreational Ground 2024-08-16 [13.2.12 - 22 pages]
13. Oberon Playground Upgrade Costing Sheet [13.2.13 - 2 pages]

BACKGROUND:

A report was presented to Council at the May 2024 Ordinary meeting advising of risks to Council resulting from playground assessments undertaken. The report was based on staff risk assessments and staff inspections of the condition and compliance with Australian Standards of playgrounds across the LGA. The report recommended that Council:

1. Prioritise its resourcing on maintaining and improving ten (10) out of its 16 playgrounds and, decommission the remaining six (6) being Miss Wilson; Glyndwr Ave South and North; Bligh Street; Buckley Crescent; and Armstrong Place.
 2. Remove non-compliant playground equipment as a priority.
 3. Allocate \$81,000 for playground decommissioning (Miss Wilson, Glyndwr North & South, Bligh St, Buckley Cr, Armstrong Pl) and short-term safety improvements (Common Upper & Middle, Cunningham Oval) in the FY 2024/25 from the Section 7.11 & 7.12 Contributions funds for Open Spaces and Community Facilities.
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4. Explore funding opportunities, or other funding sources to allocate ~\$300,000 for playground refurbishments and renewals (Common Upper & Middle, Cunningham Oval) over the FYs 2025/26 to 2027/28.

At the same meeting Council resolved (**Resolution 15 – 21/05/2024**) as follows:

That Council:

1. *Prioritise its resourcing on maintaining and improving its 10 identified playgrounds.*
2. *Explore funding opportunities, or other funding sources to allocate ~\$300,000 for playground refurbishments and renewals (Common Upper & Middle, Cunningham Oval) over the FYs 2025/26 to 2027/28.*
3. *A further report be provided on the feasibility and costs involved in upgrading the current 6 non-complying playgrounds equipment to comply with current day standards as outlined in the report.*

The matter was subsequently referred to ARIC in June 2024 given the risk profiling within the report.

Following ARIC, a report was presented to Council in July 2024, where Council resolved (**Resolution No: 12 - 16/07/2024**):

That Council:

1. *Receive and note the minutes of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee held on 27 June 2024.*
2. *In light of the risks involved, Council be requested to review its previous resolutions in relation to the Playground Risk Assessment report that was resolved on 21 May 2024 to take proper account of the risk appetite of Council, the potential personal liability for staff and Councillors and risks moving forward in relation to that resolution including the risk to Council.*
3. *Acknowledge concerns raised by ARIC in regard to the need for Councillors to be provided with clear responsibilities under the Code of Conduct and related legislation. Future induction of Councillors include specific workshops on Code of Conduct and the responsibilities of Councillors under the Code of Conduct, with specific reference to risk.*
4. *In light of the risks involved in this decision, Council take proper account of realised risks to staff and Councillors and that Council recognise there is an impact on staff and Councillors to ensure there is sufficient support for those impacted.*
5. *A Councillor Interaction Policy be developed to guide appropriate behaviour in relation to interaction between staff and councillors.*
6. *Council ensure that in future resolutions which do not follow staff recommendations there is a clear description as to how council is to address the risks and acknowledgement of the potential strategic impacts as presented to them.*

Council allocated \$232,900 from the Town Improvement Legacy fund to undertake repairs and improvements to playgrounds for 2024 /2025 and 2025/2026 Operational Plans. Council was also successful in receiving a \$14,000 grant from the NSW Government's Local Small Commitment Allocation Program for soft-fall renewal at the Common. This amounts to a total available budget of \$246,900.

Council engaged KidSafe to undertake a Comprehensive Playground Inspection of all playgrounds in the LGA during August 2024.

Staff have assessed the reports from KidSafe and undertook preliminary costings to repair and upgrade each playground area. This report recommends various treatments for different playground

areas to ensure the best value for the expenditure of the Town Improvement Legacy fund, which is not sufficient to repair and ensure the compliance of all playgrounds across the LGA. It is noted that this report refers to playgrounds only and does not extend to active and passive recreational areas, such as parks, sports grounds, or other recreational facilities.

It is also noted that previous Council reports in 2015 and 2021 looked at removing the playground equipment from Glyndwr Ave (North) and to use the available land differently. Meanwhile, the present equipment still requires removal and the area re-establishment to grass, which has been included in tables 2 and 3.

UPDATE:

Playgrounds are an asset that provide the community with an area for recreation, relaxation, learning and fun. They provide an opportunity for both active and passive play for children of all ages, in both a supervised and unsupervised setting. Council aims to provide the community with a strategic network of quality play areas, containing safe and compliant playground equipment that provide recreation and a challenge for the users.

Staff have developed options for each playground area (Table 3) which are based around a Hierarchy of Playgrounds, similar to what has been used by other NSW local government areas to assist in planning, grant funding, defining levels of service and minimising pressures to provide excessive / unaffordable play equipment and associated services.

Playground Hierarchy:

Council does not currently have an adopted Playground Service Hierarchy, although it is reasonable to apply the following hierarchy categories.

Table 1: Playground Service Hierarchy

Park Hierarchy	Service Level Objectives	Oberon Playgrounds
Regional Playground (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services a region or portion of local government area. • Usually located within regional parks which have a high carrying capacity. • Large sized playgrounds that offer a range of activities for all ages and maximum infrastructure. • Designed as a one-off park and play environment; a high level of landscaping, supporting amenities, public art. • Most facilities within the park will be fully accessible. • Support facilities (shade, seats, picnic tables, bins, public toilets, sporting or other recreation facilities, BBQs). • Playground consists of 10+ pieces of play equipment. • User Catchment - Distributed within approximately 1.5km distance to dwellings and workplaces. Large catchment serving LGA residents and regionally. These open spaces can be used for long periods of time. People may drive up to 30 minutes to get there. 	The Common
District Playground (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily services a major town or urban area, or a small area planning district • Located within large neighbourhood parks or district parks which have a moderate carrying capacity. • Ideally not cited within 1.5km of another playground. • Playground that offers multiple play experiences and cater for a range of ages and abilities. • Support facilities (shade, seats, picnic tables, bins, BBQs). • Playground consists of 6-8 pieces of play equipment. • User Catchment - Distributed within approximately 750m distance to dwellings and workplaces. Serves surrounding 	Black Springs Recreational Ground Burruga Park Herb David Park Oberon Recreational Ground (Proposed)

	suburbs and is generally within walking or cycling distance, but some may drive more than 15 or 20 minutes to get there.	
Local Playground (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primarily services local communities. Located within neighbourhood parks with mid-range carrying capacity or associated with sportsground, community hall, other publicly accessible asset. Playground that contains several items of equipment providing a variety of play equipment catering for a range of ages. Support facilities (seats, picnic table, bin). Playground consists of 3- 5 pieces of play equipment. User Catchment - Distributed within approximately 500m walking distance to dwellings and workplaces, or a short drive to get there. 	Pool Park Hassall Park Cunynghame Oval Buckley Crescent Park
Local Playground (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primarily services local communities. Usually located within smaller local parks which have a low carrying capacity. Small playgrounds that contain basic play equipment which caters for smaller children. Limited support facilities (seat). Playground consists of 1 or 2 pieces of play equipment (swing / side unit). User Catchment - Distributed within approximately 500m walking distance to dwellings and workplaces. 	Armstrong Place Park Bligh Street Park Glyndwr Avenue (North) Glyndwr Avenue (South) Miss Wilson Park

Distribution of Playgrounds within Oberon:

Figure 1 and **Figure 2** show the location of playgrounds and their user catchment areas based on the Hierarchy outlined in Table 1. This shows that the town of Oberon is well serviced by playground areas, with most of the residential areas serviced by a 1.5km radius around The Common and also serviced by an overlap of level 2 (Herb David Park) and level 3 play areas (The Pool Playground, Cunynghame Oval Playground, and Buckley Cres Playground).

When Level 4 Local Playgrounds are overlaid on the map in Figure 2, there is considerable overlap of play areas within Oberon, particularly in the eastern and western areas of the town. Figure 2 also shows the impact of adding a new District Level Playground at the new Recreation Ground in Oberon. Any playground addition in this facility will result in overlap with the user catchments for The Common, Herb David Park, and just outside of the user catchment for The Pool Park.

Options, Recommendations and Costings:

Table 3 summarises KidSafe recommendations for each playground, considered options including cost estimates as well as staff recommendations and comments. The table highlights the preferred option via a **green cell** shading and the compromised option – due to limited funding – in **orange cell** shading. In two cases the compromised option becomes the first step of the recommended option due to the currently available funding.

The KidSafe Comprehensive Playground Inspection Reports are attached together with a detailed table of cost estimates for the different options. **Table 2** summarises the recommended Options and costings for each playground further.

In line with recommendations from ARIC, legal advice obtained confirmed that protection of councillors and employees from liability under the Local Government (LG) Act becomes void where there is an absence of good faith or presence of negligence:

Part 3 Proceedings against councils, councillors and staff, Division 2 Liability, Section 731 Liability of councillors, employees and other persons of the LG Act states “A matter or thing done by the Minister, the Departmental Chief Executive, a council, a councillor, a member of a committee of the

council or an employee of the council or any person acting under the direction of the Minister, the Departmental Chief Executive, the council or a committee of the council does not, if the matter or thing was done in good faith for the purpose of executing this or any other Act, and for and on behalf of the Minister, the Departmental Chief Executive, the council or a committee of the council, subject a councillor, a member, an employee or a person so acting personally to any action, liability, claim or demand.”

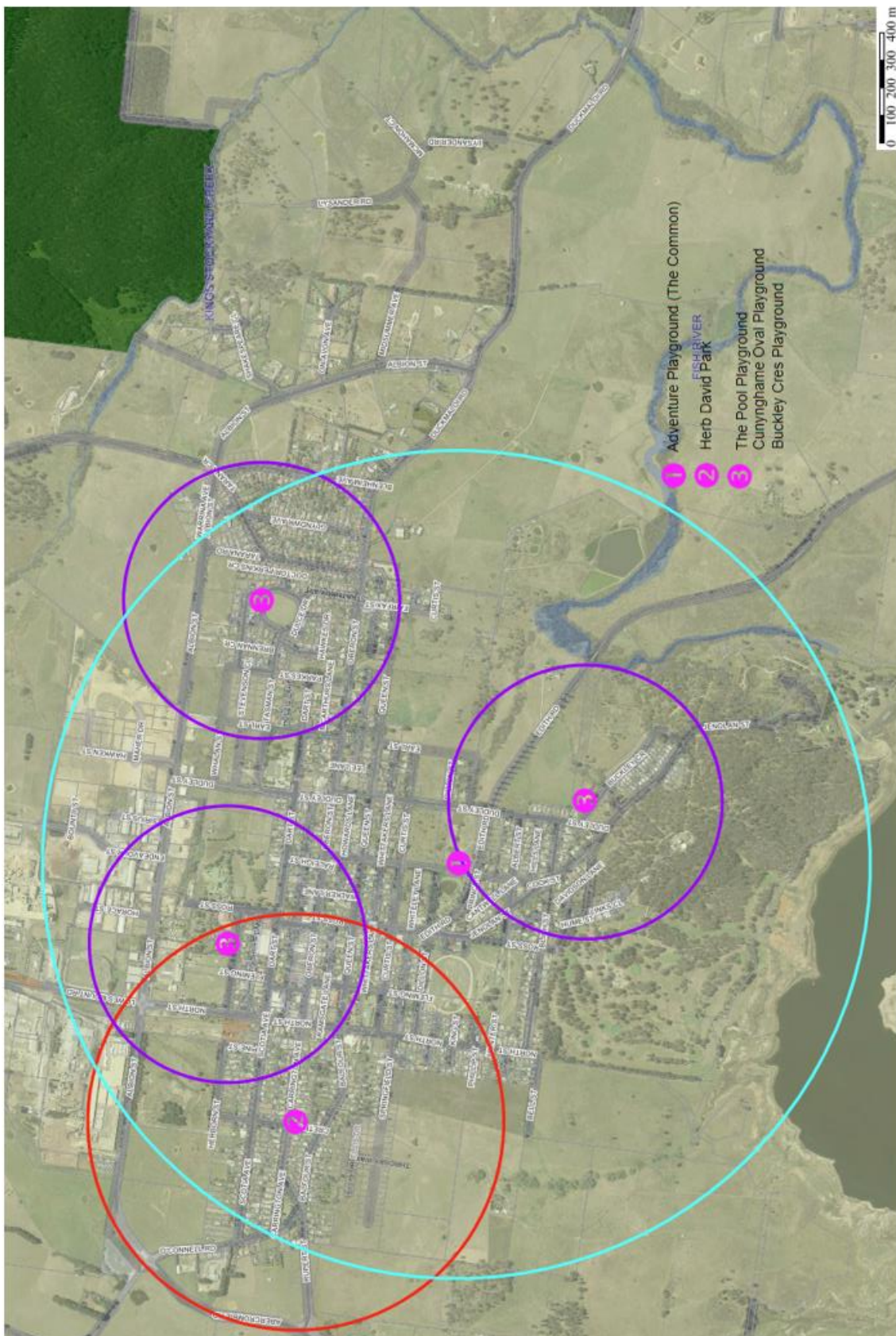


Figure 1: Hierarchy 1 to 3 Playgrounds in Oberon

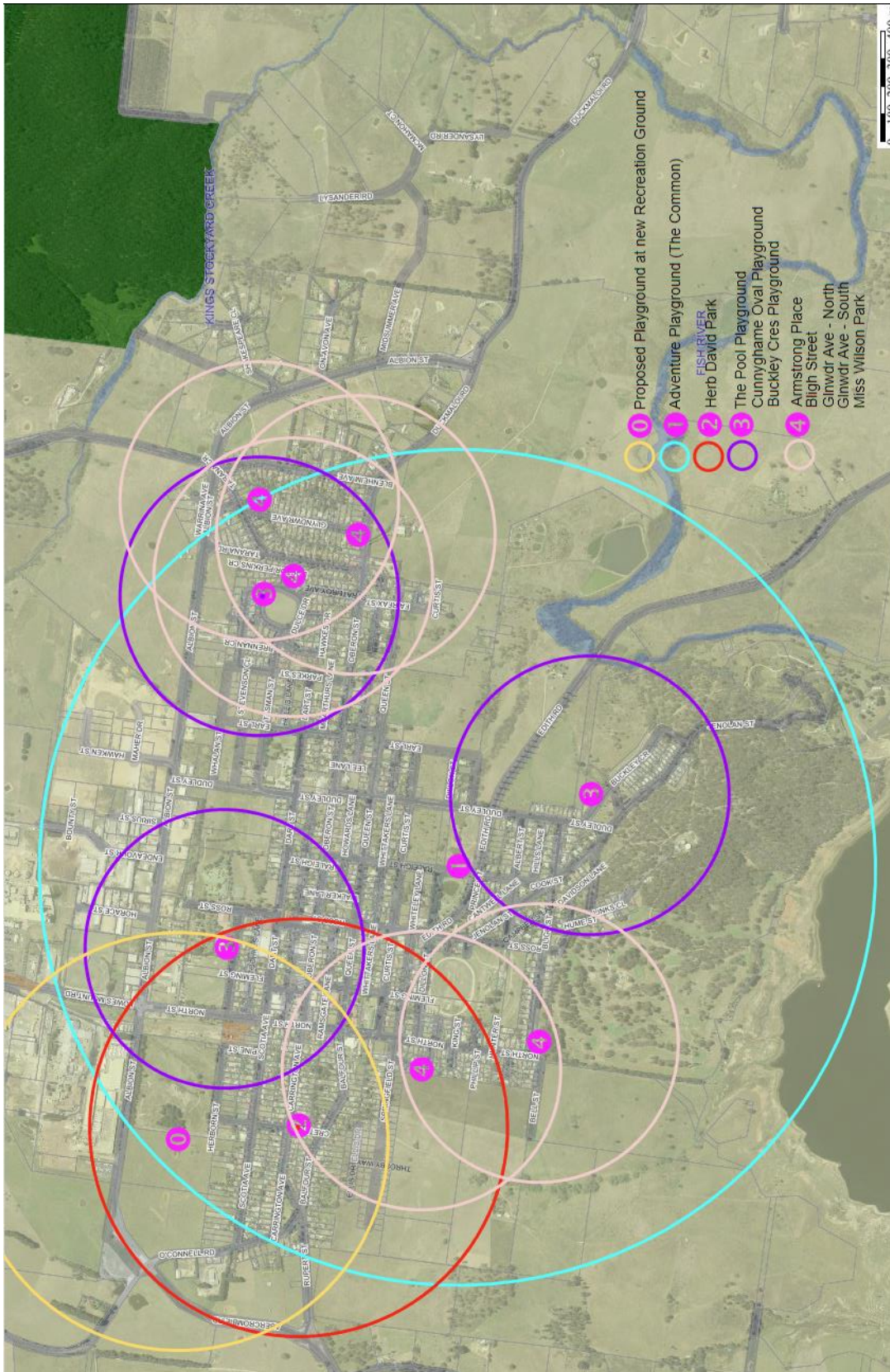


Figure 2: Hierarchy 1 to 4 Playgrounds in Oberon

Table 2: Summary of recommendations and associated cost estimates

Playground Location	Recommendation	Cost Estimate (excl. contingency)
Armstrong Place	Remove play equipment and make good*)	\$2,050
Black Springs Recreational Ground	Minor maintenance, signage and cleaning.	\$700
Bligh Street	Remove existing slide, climber, swing and make good*)	\$5,000
Buckley Crescent	Remove rocker and composite. Replace, double swing and slide. Install compliant soft-fall with barrier, replace park bench and slab.	\$23,460
Burruga Park	Remove old swing set and older composite structure. Repair Kangaroo rocker including correcting soft-fall, and repair concrete picnic table.	\$5,200
Cunynghame Oval Park	1. Replace swing set and remove all items and make good*) 2. <i>Replace excavator, medium composite, 1 x bench seat, 1 x bench seat and slab, seats in shelter.</i> <i>Remove drinking station.</i>	1. \$17,850 (Now) 2. \$64,430 (Later, needs extra budget)
Glyndwr Ave (North)	Remove slide and swing set and make good*)	\$1,500
Glyndwr Ave (South)	Remove digger and swing and make good*)	\$1,500
Hassall Park	Repair and upgrade composite structure, fence, swing set, raise ground level, and update soft-fall	\$26,350
Herb David Park	Minor repairs to fence, see saw and rubber soft-fall	\$1,500
Miss Wilson Park	Remove rocker and make good*)	\$500
Pool Playground	Repair upgrade composite to ensure compliance, extend soft-fall and install soft-fall barrier.	\$15,500
The Common – Fenced Playground	1. Repair / upgrade large composite to be compliant. Remove fence, install soft-fall barrier. 2. <i>Replace large composite. Remove fence and install soft-fall barrier.</i>	1. \$24,250 (Now) 2. \$60,500 (Later, needs extra budget)
The Common – Swing Set	Repair swing set and install soft-fall barrier and renew soft-fall.	\$8,220
The Common – Accessible Playground and Single Rocker	Minor maintenance, install soft-fall barrier and renew soft-fall around Single Rocker	\$1,850
The Common – Adventure Playground	Replace Spinning Poles x 3. Improve drainage (Design and Construct). Renew soft-fall and install barrier. Minor maintenance of flying fox.	\$79,540
	*) make good = re-grass/re-turf	Total = \$390,874 (incl. 15% contingency)

Table 3: Options including cost estimates and staff recommendations to address outcomes from KidSafe playground inspections

Playground	KidSafe Recommendation	Option 1	Cost Est.	Annual Cost ¹	Option 2	Cost Est.	Annual Cost ¹	Option 2	Cost Est.	Annual Cost ¹	Staff Recommendation	Comments
Armstrong Place (Lots 5 & 6 DP219824)	Due to significant entrapment issues and age of equipment, it may be more cost effective to replace playground rather than repair / replace individual elements.	Remove play equipment and make good.	\$2,050	-\$4,050	Replace Composite with slide, 2 swing sets, and install compliant soft-fall with barriers.	\$44,121	\$7,400	Option 1	This playground is on land owned by the NSW Land and Housing Corporation. For these to be considered Council assets there should be a formal lease arrangement in place.			
Black Springs Recreational Ground (Lot 160 DP757072)	Playground in good condition, requires minor repairs / maintenance.	Minor Maintenance, signage, cleaning, and monitor.	\$700	\$4,800	Not applicable	NA	NA	Option 1	Review in line with Masterplan being developed.			
Bligh Street (Lot 7306 DP1141921)	Due to significant entrapment issues and age of equipment, it may be more cost effective to replace playground rather than repair / replace individual elements.	Remove existing Slide, Climber, Swing and make good.	\$5,000	-\$4,050	Replace Swing, Slide, Climbing Frame, Park Bench, and install compliant soft-fall with barrier.	\$51,760	\$9,050	Option 1	Land is part of Oberon Golf Club Ltd.			
Buckley Crescent (Lot 262 DP757068)	Due to significant entrapment issues and age of equipment, it may be more cost effective to replace playground rather than repair / replace individual elements.	Remove play equipment and replace Park Bench with Sheltered Park Seating OR Park Bench on Slab (as per existing).	\$10,048 OR \$6,200	\$2,800	Remove Rocker and Composite. Replace, Double Swing and slide. Install compliant soft-fall with barrier, replace Park Bench and slab.	\$23,460	\$5,881	Option 2	Convert Playground to Local Playground with 2 items (Hierarchy 4).			

Playground	KidSafe Recommendation	Option 1	Cost Est.	Annual Cost ¹	Option 2	Cost Est.	Annual Cost ¹	Annual Cost ¹	Staff Recommendation	Comments
Burruga Park (Lot12 DP3789 SEC C)	Due to significant entrapment issues and age of old composite structure and old swing set, it may be more cost effective to replace these playground equipment items rather than repair / replace individual elements.	Remove old swing set and older Composite structure. Repair Kangaroo Rocker including correcting soft-fall, and repair concrete picnic table.	\$5,200	0	a) Replace old swing set and older composite. Install compliant soft-fall area. b) Replace old swing set and bring old composite to standard. Install compliant soft-fall area.	\$35,760	\$5,240	Option 1	Old swing set is a duplication, and older Composite is nearing end of life and requires considerable expense to bring to satisfactory condition/standard.	
Cunynghame Oval Park (Dulce Dr)	Due to significant entrapment issues and age of equipment, it may be more cost effective to replace playground rather than repair / replace individual elements.	Replace swing set and remove all items and make good.	\$17,850	0	Replace (swing set,) excavator, medium composite, 1 x bench seat, 1 x bench seat and slab, seats in shelter. Remove drinking station.	\$64,430 (excl. cost to replace swing set)	\$8,310	Option 1, and budget for Option 2	Not economically viable to repair / upgrade all items due to extensive issues and age.	
Glyndwr Ave (North) (Lot10 DP245689)	Due to significant entrapment issues and age of equipment, it may be more cost effective to replace playground rather than repair / replace individual elements.	Remove Slide and Swing set and make good.	\$1,500	0	Replace slide and swing set.	\$24,700	\$2,870	Option 1	Subject to previous Council Resolution to remove park and convert to operational land. Within 400m radius of Cunynghame Oval Playground	

Playground	KidSafe Recommendation	Option 1	Cost Est.	Annual Cost ¹	Option 2	Cost Est.	Annual Cost ¹	Option 2	Cost Est.	Annual Cost ¹	Staff Recommendation	Comments
Glyndwr Ave (South) (Lot 1 DP865394)	Due to missing swings, if replacing, ensure swings are compliant. Loose fill replenishment required.	Remove Digger and Swing and reestablish grass.	\$1,500	-\$750	Replace Swing, upgrade soft fall, and reinstall Excavator.	\$16,850	\$5,327	Option 1	Option 1	Option 1	Option 1	Within 400m radius of Curyngame Oval Playground
Hassall Park (O'Connell Road road reserve)	Due to significant entrapment issues and age of equipment, it may be more cost effective to replace playground rather than repair / replace individual elements. Due to loose fill surfacing and footing issues, ground level must be raised and loose fill topped up throughout play space.	Repair and upgrade composite structure, Fence, Swing Set, raise ground level, and update soft-fall	\$26,350	\$5,550	Replace Composite structure, repair fence, repair swing set, raise ground level, update soft-fall	\$45,050	\$5,740	Option 1	Option 1	Option 1	Option 1	Consider relocating playground to the Recreation ground On road reserve.
Herb David Park (Lot35 DP2364 SEC C)	Playground in good condition, requires minor repairs / maintenance.	Minor repairs to fence, See Saw and rubber soft-fall	\$1,500	\$4,300	NA			Option 1	Option 1	Option 1	Option 1	
Miss Wilson Park (Lot34 DP700974)	Due to significant damage and non-compliances with rocker, it may be more cost effective to replace rather than repair / replace individual elements	Remove Rocker and make good.	\$500	-\$2,750	Replace four-way rocker	\$11,920	\$4,000	Option 1	Option 1	Option 1	Option 1	Consider installation of Bus Shelter at this location.

Playground	KidSafe Recommendation	Option 1	Cost Est.	Annual Cost ¹	Option 2	Cost Est.	Annual Cost ¹	Staff Recommendation	Comments
The Common - Accessible Playground and single Rocker (Lot701 DP1032524)	Minor maintenance issues on rocker (old). Minor design issues on accessible rocker (new). Consider extending wet pour rubber surfacing.	Minor maintenance, install soft-fall barrier and renew soft-fall around Single Rocker	\$1,850	\$4,300	NA			Option 1	
The Common - Adventure Playground (Lot7305 DP1138538)	Due to significant damage to spinning poles and cableway platform, it may be more cost effective to replace whole equipment items rather than repair / replace individual elements. Due to loose fill surfacing and footing issues, ground level must be raised and loose fill topped up throughout play space.	Replace Spinning Poles x 3. Improve drainage (Design and Construct). Renew Soft-fall and install barrier. Minor maintenance of Cableway.	\$79,540	\$11,370	NA			Option 1	
The Common - Fitness Equipment (Lot701 DP1032524 & Lot7305 DP1138538)	Minor maintenance issues on fitness equipment and surfacing.	Repair equipment and reinstate rubber soft-fall mats.	Not yet costed						
Total Cost (without contingency)					\$152,030			\$214,960	$\Sigma = \$339,890$
Total Cost with 15% contingency					\$174,835			\$247,204	$\Sigma = \$390,874$

1) Annual cost estimate includes additional Depreciation Expense, Inspection Cost and an estimated Maintenance Cost for annual cleaning, mowing and whipper snipping.

Notes:

Soft-fall has been costed on the basis of requiring a concrete barrier to contain and define the soft-fall maintenance area. Prior to undertaking soft-fall upgrades, an analysis will be conducted to compare the whole of life cost of loose fill soft-fall versus rubberised soft-fall. Rubber soft-fall has a greater capital cost, however would reduce the cost of replenishing soft-fall (topping up and replacing every 5 years) and weekly raking of soft-fall.

Financial Implications

The cost estimates in Table 3 are initial estimates based on a mix of in-house and contractor rates and amount to a total of \$339,890; it is reasonable to add a 15% contingency, which generates a total cost of \$390,874.

Currently allocated funding amounts to \$246,900, leaving a shortfall of approximately \$144,000.

The staff recommendations propose a staged approach, with the estimated expenditure in stage 1 amounting to \$247,204 (incl. 15% contingency), leaving a shortfall of \$304.

It is recommended to allocate further budget to cover the estimated expenditure for stage 2 (approximately \$144,000) to be considered in future operational plan deliberations.

It is noted that the totals do not include recurring annual maintenance cost.

Relevance to Oberon Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Infrastructure and Services

Action 4.2 Provide accessible, safe and well maintained community spaces and facilities

4.2.10 Assets maintenance and improvement program for parks and open spaces infrastructure

Risk Category

Safety

Public Image and Reputation

Assets and Infrastructure

Risk Severity Ranking

Major - 60%



COMPREHENSIVE PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT

The Common - (Oberon)

44 Edith Road
Oberon NSW 2787

Client:

Oberon Council

137 - 139 Oberon Street
Oberon, NSW 2787

August 2024

Prepared by:
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Disclaimer

This report has been prepared from information available to Kidsafe NSW at the time of inspection.

Whilst care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this report, Kidsafe NSW and its employees, take no responsibility for any errors, omissions or changes to information that may occur and disclaim all responsibility and liability to any person in respect to anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon information within this report.

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PREAMBLE

This report assesses the nominated playground/s and surrounding areas against the relevant Australian Standards listed below.

Australian Standard AS 4685.0:2017 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 0: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation

Australian Standard AS 4685:2021, Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods

Part 2: Particular safety requirements and test methods for swings

Part 3: Particular safety requirements and test methods for slides

Part 4: Particular safety requirements and test methods for cableways

Part 5: Particular safety requirements and test methods for carousels

Part 6: Particular safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment

Australian Standard AS 4685:2014 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 11: Particular safety requirements and test methods for spatial networks

Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing

Specifications, requirements and test method

Australian Standard AS 1428.1 Design for access and mobility

(Selected clauses)

REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARDS

For the purpose of this inspection report, the following requirements of the Standards are considered as part of the scope and are addressed in Appendix A - Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations.

General

Individual play equipment structures are permanently marked with a plate clearly identifying the name, address, ABN, the equipment reference and year of manufacture. A basic level mark for the associated impact attenuating surface is required on fixed equipment installed in loose-fill surfacing. Equipment stating compliance with the Australian Standards must be marked with AS 4685.

Protection against Falling

Guardrails or barriers are installed for heights of more than 600mm above ground level. Continuous handrails are required on each side of access ways and bridges. All items intended for gripping must have a diameter that measures between 16mm-45mm.

Head and Neck Entrapment

Head and neck entrapment refers to any opening at a height of more than 600mm above ground level that would allow a child's body to pass through but not their head. Bound head and neck entrapment (dimensions of 89mm – 230mm), partially bound and V-shaped openings, shearing or moving openings (flexible and rigid parts with openings less than 230mm) must be eliminated.

Clothing/Hair Entrapment

Clothing/hair entrapment refers to situations where parts of clothing/hair may become trapped.

Foot Entrapment

Foot entrapment refers to situations where there are gaps wider than 30mm on surfaces intended for running/walking or completely bound rigid openings in surfaces for running/climbing and inclined up to 45°.

Finger Entrapment

Finger entrapment refers to any opening that would allow a child's fingers or thumbs to be trapped in a fall situation. Gaps or openings with dimensions of 8-25mm at 1000mm or more above playing surface level or at the entrance to equipment with forced movement must be eliminated. Chains require a maximum opening of 8.6mm. Connectors require an opening of greater than 12mm or less than 8.6mm.

Free Height of Fall

Free height of fall must not exceed 1800mm for Supervised Early Childhood Settings and 3000mm for All Age Settings. The free height of fall is the greatest vertical distance measured from the intended body support of the equipment to the impact area below. Unintended access to excessive heights should be avoided.

Spaces and Areas

A minimal impact area of 1500mm is required around equipment (with fall heights of 600mm or more above ground level) and between individual items of equipment. AS 4685 requires an increase in the impact area for equipment with platforms measuring more than 1500mm above ground level. AS 4685 specifies falling spaces for specific equipment with forced movement such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items. The falling space and impact area for equipment with forced movement cannot overlap with other falling spaces and impact areas.

Means of Access

Equipment designed to provide safe ascent or descent. Means of access include steps, stairs, ladders and ramps. Equipment designed to ensure that adults are able to gain access to assist children within the equipment.

Means of Access

Playground equipment should be structurally stable, in good condition and fit for children's play.

Materials

Appropriate material used in the construction of equipment taking into account climatic and atmospheric conditions, toxicity, flammability and ultraviolet radiation. No Copper Chromium Arsenate (CCA) or creosote timber treatments are to be used on timbers either above ground or below ground in playground spaces. For any new timber installations use naturally durable timbers (Durability Class 1 or Class 2) complying with AS5604 or treated timbers (H3/H4) complying with AS1604.

Finish of Equipment

Finish on equipment shall have no protruding nails, bolt threads, projecting wire rope terminations, pointed or sharp ended components. Projecting parts and corners measure less than 8mm (or covered) with a minimum radius of 3mm. Accessible surfaces finished smooth with no splintering or burrs.

Playground Surfacing

Impact attenuating surfacing compliant with AS 4422:2022 is required across the impact area where play equipment is more than 600mm above ground level and for specific equipment such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items.

The critical fall height is determined by test methods as per AS 4422:2022. Impact testing of unitary surfacing is required post installation then every 3 years. Loose-fill surfacing installed at 300mm depth and maintained at minimum 200mm depth. Surface impact testing is only conducted if agreed prior to the inspection. If playground surface impact testing has been conducted refer to Appendix B: On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report. This report assesses the nominated playground/s surfacing against Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing: Specifications, requirements and test method.

The testing is completed onsite as a part of a playground inspection regime as outlined in AS 4685.0 2017. It is a form of testing to determine the post installation and ongoing performance of impact attenuating surfacing as installed on site. Testing positions are indicated in images provided. A HIC meter calibrated and complying with AS 4422:2022 is used for the testing. It is a hemispherical head form measuring 160mm in diameter and 4.6kg in weight and has an internal accelerometer. Temperature and humidity measurements were taken to demonstrate testing was done in accordance to the minimum/maximum requirements of the Australian Standard.

NB: Testing is not done under laboratory conditions and does not replicate or replace laboratory testing of impact attenuating surfacing prior to installation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Kidsafe NSW uses a risk rating for each identified issue and hazard. Refer to the Risk Assessment Matrix (Figure1).

Figure 1: Risk Assessment Matrix

		CONSEQUENCES			
		Major	Moderate	Minor	Insignificant
LIKELIHOOD	Almost Certain	1	1	2	3
	Likely	1	2	3	4
	Possible	2	3	4	5
	Unlikely	3	4	5	5

Risk rating		
1	VH - Very High Risk – Rectify immediately	
2	H - High Risk – Immediate control required	
3	S - Significant Risk – Make plan to control risk	
4	M - Medium Risk – Monitor risk on ongoing basis	
5	L - Low Risk – Set a time to review risks	

(Adapted from AS/NZS ISO 31000 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines: HB 89 Risk Management - Guidelines on risk assessment techniques)

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Documentation

The playground owner/operator should establish a Playground Safety Management System to include the recording and archiving of documentation.

Documentation may include:

- Policies and procedures
- Reports eg. accident/injury
- Inventory/Equipment register
- Inspection checklists
- Inspection reports
- Works orders
- Maintenance actions
- Certification records eg. equipment, surfacing
- Manufacturer's warranty details
- Manufacturer's installation, inspection and maintenance instructions
- Operating Instructions (if applicable)
- Supervision plan
- Risk and risk benefit assessments

Relevant information sheets include:

- AS4685 Impact Areas Ready Reckoner
- Assessing Risk and Benefit in Playspaces
- Barriers, Guardrails and Handrails - Protection Against Falling
- Bike Tracks
- Entrapment
- Fencing Playspaces
- Impact Areas
- Mounds for Play
- Natural Playspaces
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- Playground Development
- Playground Safety Management System
- Playground Surfacing
- Portable Mats
- Safe Play in Backyards
- Sandpits
- Shade in Playspaces
- Slides
- Stepping Stones
- Swings
- Timber in Playspaces
- Trampolines
- Tree Climbing

For more information regarding Australian Standards for playgrounds, refer to the suite of Kidsafe NSW information sheets available to download from the website:

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/information-sheets/playground-safety/>

Moveable Play Equipment - a guide for playground owners and educators, a valuable resource for Education and Care Services. Order a copy from the website:

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/playground-safety/>

Information on safe gardening with children and recommended plants for playgrounds can be found on the web resource 'grow me safely':

<https://www.kidsafensw.org/safety/playground-safety/>

Kidsafe NSW Playground News informs readers of latest issues, trends and development in playgrounds. Visit the website to view published newsletters:

<https://www.kidsafensw.org/resources/newsletters/playground-news/>

Subscribe to Playground News: <https://www.kidsafensw.org/resources/newsletters/subscribe/>

Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit is available for design and planning advice for existing and planned playgrounds. Please do not hesitate to contact the office on 02 9845 0893 or email

SCHN-KIDSAFE@health.nsw.gov.au

Summary

Kidsafe NSW conducted a comprehensive playground inspection of the playground at The Common - (Oberon) on 05 August 2024 and has systematically identified hazards and issues (refer to Appendix A) and conducted on site playground surface testing (refer to Appendix B). Each section of the report addresses specified requirements of the Australian Standards.

Ensure all issues and hazards identified as non-complying with Australian Standards for playgrounds are addressed and rectified to meet those Standards. Consult with manufacturer/supplier of equipment or surfacing prior to making any repair or modification so as not to void any warranty or guarantee.

For further information or clarification on this report, please contact:

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Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit
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P: 0447 636 818





APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

1. The Common - Fenced Playground	Key: ND=Not Determined	NA=Not Applicable
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Inspector: Christie Fyffe	Date: 05 August 2024	Time: 11:00am
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Equipment Item	Manufacturer/Installer/Supplier	Installation Date
Composite structure - Serial number: N58-150 List of components: Platforms x 7 Yellow wave slide Step ladder Square loop climber with sliding pole Chain climber Shop front Arched bridge Loop climber Corkscrew climber Chain climbing ramp Ramp Tunnel Monkey bars Beam challenge	Forpark	November 2004
Slides (Yellow wave slide) - Serial number: Composite structure	Forpark	November 2004
Auxiliary items: Bench seats Fence	ND	ND

Playground Surfacing	Mulch
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APPENDIX A


Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations





APPENDIX A


Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

	Image	Issue/Hazard	Risk Rating	Comment/Recommendation
1 Marking				
1.1 Equipment Identification				
1.1.1		Marking plate did not comply. No reference to AS 4685.	N/A	Marking plate may have complied at time of installation. Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance to AS 4685 and a marking label is permanently fixed to equipment.
1.2 Basic Level Mark				
1.2.1		No basic level marks on equipment in loose fill.	N/A	Attach a permanent basic level mark 300mm above ground level to indicate installation depth for loose-fill playground surfacing. Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance and basic level marks are permanently fixed to equipment.
2 Design and Manufacture				
2.1 Materials				
2.1.1		Unable to determine if metal utilised in the construction of the composite structure are coated with anti corrosive protective layer.	ND	Refer to documentation from supplier to determine if metal items are corrosion protected. Monitor for rust and corrosion. Treat and maintain as required.
2.1.2		Unable to determine if the playspace is free of dangerous substances (EG; asbestos, formaldehyde, chemicals).	ND	Refer to any site specific specialist inspection reports, if applicable.
2.2 Accessibility				
2.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.3 Protection Against Falling				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.3.1</p>		<p>Exit/entrance openings on steep play elements measured greater than 500mm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corkscrew climber (640mm) • Climbing ramp (840mm; no grab rails) • Chain climber (660mm) • Beanstalk climber/sliding pole (670mm) <p>NB: this equipment is identified as 'easily accessible'</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>AS 4685:2021 specifies the maximum width of exit/entrance openings in barriers on steep play elements to be no more than 500mm wide.</p> <p>Install grab rails to assist users in climbing.</p> <p>Consider installation of signage to encourage active supervision and rules of the playground.</p> <p>Alternatively, reduce opening to 500mm.</p>
<p>2.4 Moving Parts</p>				
<p>2.4.1</p>		<p>N/A</p>		<p>N/A</p>
<p>2.5 Entrapments</p>				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.1</p>		<p>Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening of grab rail on LHS of chain climber.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm.</p> <p>Replace with grab rail compliant with AS 4685.</p>
<p>2.5.2</p>		<p>Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening between bridge barrier and posts (on side of loop climber).</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm.</p> <p>Replace with barrier compliant with AS 4685.</p>



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.3</p>		<p>Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening of barrier and bridge.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm.</p> <p>Lower barrier to reduce openings to less than 89mm, and mor than 25mm.</p>
<p>2.5.4</p>		<p>Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening of step ladder and posts.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm.</p> <p>Replace with ladder compliant with AS 4685 or install infil panel.</p>



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.5</p>		<p>Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening of shop front and barrier/platform.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm.</p> <p>Increase height of shop front to reduce opening to less than 89mm, and greater than 25mm.</p>
<p>2.5.6</p>		<p>Clothing/hair entrapment located on both sides of slide.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment to be free from clothing and hair entrapment.</p> <p>Fill opening with silicone or insert rubber strip.</p>



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.7</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the opening between the slide and platform.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground should not measure between 8mm – 25mm.</p> <p>Fill gaps with silicone.</p>
<p>2.5.8</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the vacant bolt holes on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post between bridge and chain climber • Platform between bridge and climbing ramp • Missing element on blue barrier • Platform of square loop climber and sliding pole 	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground should not measure between 8mm – 25mm.</p> <p>Plug holes/replace elements, if applicable.</p>



APPENDIX A





Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.9</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in barrier of bridge due to corrosion (next to climbing ramp).</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground should not measure between 8mm – 25mm.</p> <p>Repair section/replace barrier.</p>
<p>2.5.10</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the opening between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The top rung of climbing ramp and platform • All bridge panels • Bridge and platform 	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground should not measure between 8mm – 25mm.</p> <p>Reduce openings to less than 8mm.</p> <p>Alternatively, replace bridge.</p>
<p>2.5.11</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the chains on the suspended beam (only one link due to wear).</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment is free from potential finger entrapment. Chains should not allow 8.6mm probe to pass through.</p> <p>Replace chains.</p>



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.5.12		Finger entrapment in the S-hook of climbing ramp.	H	AS 4685 specifies equipment is free from potential finger entrapment. Connectors (S-hooks, D-shackles) should allow 8.6 and 12mm probes to pass through. Install spacers, S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock compliant with AS 4685.
2.5.13		Finger entrapment in the missing bolt hole of tunnel.	H	AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground should not measure between 8mm – 25mm. Replace bolt and secure.
2.5.14		Finger entrapment in the attachment loop on climbing ramp.	H	AS 4685 specifies equipment is free from potential finger entrapment. Connectors should allow 8.6 and 12mm probes to pass through. Install spacers, S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock compliant with AS 4685.
2.6 Free Height of Fall				
2.6.1		Free height of fall of static equipment measured less than 3m - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required
2.7 Spaces and Areas				
2.7.1		Inadequate impact area from the end of the slide. 1700mm measured from the slide to the fence.	S	AS 4685 specifies an impact area of 2000mm from the end of a Type 1 slide (short run-out section with long impact area). Extend falling space/impact area by relocating fence.
2.8 Means of Access (Playground Equipment)				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.8.1		Potential slip hazards due to no anti-slip surface on ramp.	L	Apply anti-slip strips to ramp panels.
2.9 Connections, Ropes and Chains				
2.9.1		Missing bolt connection on tunnel.	L	Replace and secure.



APPENDIX A




Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.9.2</p>		<p>Surface rust on all chains throughout composite structure.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Maintain/replace as required.</p>
<p>2.9.3</p>		<p>S-hooks open more than 1mm and not safeguarded on all S-hooks throughout composite structure.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Insert S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock.</p>



APPENDIX A


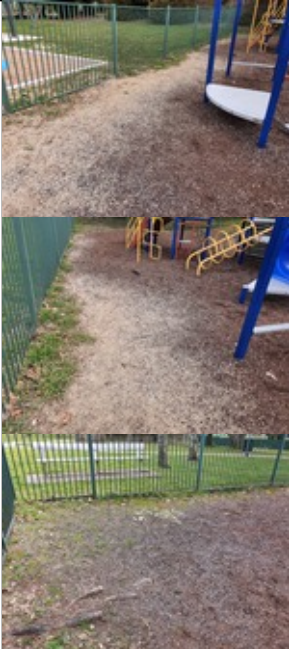
Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.10 Foundations				
2.10.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.11 Heavy Suspended Beams				
2.11.1		N/A		N/A
2.12 Other Equipment Items (e.g moveable play equipment, water pumps etc.)				
2.12.1		N/A		N/A
3 Specific Equipment (AS 4685 Parts 2-6, 11)				
3.1 Slides				
3.1.1		Slide (composite structure): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking on composite structure • Entrapment issues • Inadequate impact area • Inadequate loose fill depth at run out • Grime 	N/A	Refer to the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Entrapments • Spaces and areas • Loose fill items • Synthetic products
4 Playground Surfacing				
4.1 Certified Surfacing and Impact Testing Requirements				
4.1.1		Unable to determine if mulch is impact attenuating playground surfacing compliant with AS 4422.	ND	Obtain certificates of compliance from the surfacing supplier.
4.2 Hazards (trip, protrusion, toxicity, inhalation)				
4.2.1		Potential trip hazard due to exposed tree roots in area of playground.	M	Contact a tree specialist for solutions such as installation of a root barrier.



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

4.3 Loose-fill Materials				
4.3.1		Inadequate loose fill depth measured less than 200mm at slide run out.	M	AS 4685 specifies loose-fill to be installed at 300mm (to base level mark) and maintained at no less than 200mm. Top up loose-fill. Unitary impact attenuating surfacing such as wet pour rubber installed in high impact areas under swings and at slide exits, can significantly reduce displacement. Install with an angled edge, below or level with loose fill surfacing to avoid a trip hazard.
4.3.2		Grass growing through loose fill mulch.	L	Remove. Monitor and maintain regularly
4.4 Unitary Surfacing				
4.4.1		N/A		N/A
5 General Issues				



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.1 Timber and Associated Products				
5.1.1		N/A		N/A
5.2 Metal Items				
5.2.1		Surface rust due to worn/chipped paint throughout composite structure.	L	Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Repaint. Maintain, as required.



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.2</p>		<p>Sharp edges on bridge barrier due to corrosion.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Remove rust. Repair section. Apply rust inhibitor. Repaint. Maintain, as required. Replace as necessary.</p>
<p>5.2.3</p>		<p>Grime on composite structure.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>High pressure clean.</p>
<p>5.3 Synthetic Products</p>				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.3.1</p>		<p>Sharp edge on damaged end caps.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Replace end caps.</p>
<p>5.3.2</p>		<p>Grime on slide and tunnel.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>High pressure clean.</p>



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.4 Corners, Edges and Protrusions				
5.4.1		Sharp edges on barrier and end caps.	M	Refer to the following sections: • Metal items • Synthetic products
5.5 Ramps and Pathways (trips, slips and general issues)				
5.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.6 Gates and Fences				
5.6.1		Access gate not self-closing.	M	Adjust hinges or self-closing mechanism.



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.6.2		<p>Fencing issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loose fence panels due to missing connections • Not secured in foundation on loose section • Missing end caps. 	S	Repair fence and secure foundation post. Replace missing end caps.
5.7 Auxiliary Items (e.g. seating, tables, rubbish bins, shade structures etc.)				
5.7.1		Grime on bench seat.	L	High pressure clean.
5.8 Sandpits and Digging Patches				
5.8.1		N/A		N/A
5.9 Grounds				
5.9.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2. The Common - Swing Set	Key: ND=Not Determined	NA=Not Applicable
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Inspector: Christie Fyffe	Date: 05 August 2024	Time: 11:00am
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Equipment Item	Manufacturer/Installer/Supplier	Installation Date
Swings (Infant and rubber seat swing set) - Serial number: ND	ND	ND

Playground Surfacing	Mulch
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APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

	Image	Issue/Hazard	Risk Rating	Comment/Recommendation
1 Marking				
1.1 Equipment Identification				
1.1.1		No marking plate on equipment.	N/A	Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance to AS 4685 and a marking plate is permanently fixed to equipment.
1.2 Basic Level Mark				
1.2.1		No basic level marks on equipment in loose fill.	N/A	Attach a permanent basic level mark 300mm above ground level to indicate installation depth for loose-fill playground surfacing. Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance and basic level marks are permanently fixed to equipment.
2 Design and Manufacture				
2.1 Materials				
2.1.1		Unable to determine if metal utilised in the construction of the swing set frame are coated with anti corrosive protective layer.	ND	Refer to documentation from supplier to determine if metal items are corrosion protected. Monitor for rust and corrosion. Treat and maintain as required.
2.1.2		Unable to determine if the playspace is free of dangerous substances (EG; asbestos, formaldehyde, chemicals).	ND	Refer to any site specific specialist inspection reports, if applicable.
2.2 Accessibility				
2.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.3 Protection Against Falling				
2.3.1		N/A		N/A
2.4 Moving Parts				
2.4.1		N/A		N/A
2.5 Entrapments				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.5.1		Finger entrapment in the attachment loop on the rubber seat swing seat.	H	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment is free from potential finger entrapment. Connectors should allow 8.6 and 12mm probes to pass through.</p> <p>Install spacers, S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock compliant with AS 4685.</p>
2.5.2		Finger entrapment in the S-hooks of both swings.	H	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment is free from potential finger entrapment. Connectors (S-hooks, D-shackles) should allow 8.6 and 12mm probes to pass through.</p> <p>Install spacers, S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock compliant with AS 4685.</p>
2.6 Free Height of Fall				
2.6.1		Free height of fall of static equipment measured less than 3m - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required
2.7 Spaces and Areas				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.7.1		<p>Inadequate impact area provided for the swings.</p> <p>Front and rear impact area of swings measured less than 3550mm (required impact area based on length of swing chains).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact area provided at front 2200mm • Impact area provided at rear 2400mm 	S	<p>AS 4685 specifies for the dimensions of this swing there should be an impact area of 3550mm to the front and rear of the swings.</p> <p>Extend impact area.</p>
2.8 Means of Access (Playground Equipment)				
2.8.1		N/A		N/A
2.9 Connections, Ropes and Chains				
2.9.1		<p>Loose connections on rubber seat swing.</p>	M	Secure.



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.9.2</p>		<p>Surface rust on the chains and attachment items of both swings.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Maintain as required.</p>
<p>2.9.3</p>		<p>S-hooks open more than 1mm and not safeguarded on both swings.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Insert S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock.</p>
<p>2.9.4</p>		<p>Damaged S-hook at top of rubber seat swing.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Replace.</p>



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.10 Foundations				
2.10.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.11 Heavy Suspended Beams				
2.11.1		N/A		N/A
2.12 Other Equipment Items (e.g moveable play equipment, water pumps etc.)				
2.12.1		N/A		N/A
3 Specific Equipment (AS 4685 Parts 2-6, 11)				
3.1 Swings				
3.1.1		Swings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Entrapment issues • Inadequate impact area • Connection issues • S-hook issues • Surface rust issues • Minor seat damage 	N/A	Refer to the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Entrapments • Spaces and areas • Connections, ropes and chains • Metal items • Synthetic products
4 Playground Surfacing				
4.1 Certified Surfacing and Impact Testing Requirements				
4.1.1		Unable to determine if mulch is impact attenuating playground surfacing compliant with AS 4422.	ND	Obtain certificates of compliance from the surfacing supplier.
4.2 Hazards (trip, protrusion, toxicity, inhalation)				
4.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
4.3 Loose-fill Materials				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

4.3.1		Grass growing in loose fill mulch.	L	Remove. Monitor and maintain regularly. Install a retaining border to manage impact areas and retain mulch depth.
4.4 Unitary Surfacing				
4.4.1		N/A		N/A
5 General Issues				
5.1 Timber and Associated Products				
5.1.1		N/A		N/A
5.2 Metal Items				



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<p>5.2.1</p>		<p>Surface rust due to worn/chipped paint on swing frame.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Repaint. Maintain, as required.</p>
<p>5.2.2</p>		<p>Surface rust on the swing seat attachment items.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required.</p>



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5.3 Synthetic Products				
5.3.1		Minor damage to seats.	L	Pic 1 - Replace seat. Pic 2 - Monitor for further deterioration. Replace as required.
5.4 Corners, Edges and Protrusions				
5.4.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.5 Ramps and Pathways (trips, slips and general issues)				
5.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.6 Gates and Fences				
5.6.1		N/A		N/A
5.7 Auxiliary Items (e.g. seating, tables, rubbish bins, shade structures etc.)				
5.7.1		N/A		N/A
5.8 Sandpits and Digging Patches				
5.8.1		N/A		N/A
5.9 Grounds				
5.9.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

3. The Common - Accessible Playground	Key: ND=Not Determined	NA=Not Applicable
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Inspector: Christie Fyffe	Date: 05 August 2024	Time: 11:00am
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Equipment Item	Manufacturer/Installer/Supplier	Installation Date
Swings (Basket swing) - Serial number: 120215	Moduplay	September 2023
Carousel (In ground carousel) - Serial number: 120215	Moduplay	September 2023
Rockers 1 (Accessible rocker) - Serial number: 120215	Moduplay	September 2023
Rockers 2 (Horse rocker) - Serial number: ND	Forpark	ND
Auxiliary items: Tables and chairs Shade shelter Moduplay musical items: • Xylophone • Drum	ND	ND

Playground Surfacing	Wet Pour Rubber, Mulch
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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

	Image	Issue/Hazard	Risk Rating	Comment/Recommendation
1 Marking				
1.1 Equipment Identification				
1.1.1		No marking plate on horse rocker.	N/A	Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance to AS 4685 and a marking plate is permanently fixed to equipment.
1.2 Basic Level Mark				
1.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2 Design and Manufacture				
2.1 Materials				
2.1.1		Unable to determine if metal utilised in the construction of the playground are coated with anti corrosive protective layer.	ND	Refer to documentation from supplier to determine if metal items are corrosion protected. Monitor for rust and corrosion. Treat and maintain as required.
2.1.2		Unable to determine if the playspace is free of dangerous substances (EG; asbestos, formaldehyde, chemicals).	ND	Refer to any site specific specialist inspection reports, if applicable.
2.2 Accessibility				
2.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.3 Protection Against Falling				
2.3.1		N/A		N/A
2.4 Moving Parts				
2.4.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.5 Entrapments				
2.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.6 Free Height of Fall				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.6.1		Free height of fall of static equipment measured less than 3m - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required
2.7 Spaces and Areas				
2.7.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.8 Means of Access (Playground Equipment)				
2.8.1		N/A		N/A
2.9 Connections, Ropes and Chains				
2.9.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.10 Foundations				
2.10.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.11 Heavy Suspended Beams				
2.11.1		N/A		N/A
2.12 Other Equipment Items (e.g moveable play equipment, water pumps etc.)				
2.12.1		N/A		N/A
3 Specific Equipment (AS 4685 Parts 2-6, 11)				
3.1 Swings				
3.1.1		Basket swing - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required.
3.2 Carousels				
3.2.1		Carousel - No issues identified.	N/A	No action required.



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3.3 Rocking Equipment				
3.3.1		Inclusive rocker: • Design issue of unitary surfacing	N/A	Refer to the following sections: • Additional items
3.3.2		Horse rocker: • No marking • Surface rust issues • Grime	N/A	Refer to the following sections: • Marking • Metal items
4 Playground Surfacing				
4.1 Certified Surfacing and Impact Testing Requirements				
4.1.1		Unable to determine if mulch is impact attenuating playground surfacing compliant with AS 4422.	ND	Obtain certificates of compliance from the surfacing supplier.
4.1.2		Wet pour rubber surfacing tested - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required. Refer to Appendix B for test results. Surface testing next due August 2027.
4.2 Hazards (trip, protrusion, toxicity, inhalation)				
4.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
4.3 Loose-fill Materials				
4.3.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
4.4 Unitary Surfacing				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

4.4.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5 General Issues				
5.1 Timber and Associated Products				
5.1.1		N/A		N/A
5.2 Metal Items				
5.2.1		Surface rust on the horse rocker.	L	Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required. Consider replacing with stainless steel items.



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.2.2		Grime on horse rocker.	L	High pressure clean.
5.3 Synthetic Products				
5.3.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.4 Corners, Edges and Protrusions				
5.4.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.5 Ramps and Pathways (trips, slips and general issues)				
5.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.6 Gates and Fences				
5.6.1		N/A		N/A
5.7 Auxiliary Items (e.g. seating, tables, rubbish bins, shade structures etc.)				
5.7.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.8 Sandpits and Digging Patches				
5.8.1		N/A		N/A
5.9 Grounds				
5.9.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
6 Additional Issues				
6.1				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>6.1.1</p>		<p>Wet pour rubber does not extend adequately to front of accessible seat rocker, providing difficulty for wheelchair users to access.</p>	<p>ND</p>	<p>Monitor usage and community reports. Consider installing more wet pour rubber to front of make accessible rocker accessible.</p>
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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

4. The Common - Adventure Playground	Key: ND=Not Determined	NA=Not Applicable
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Inspector: Christie Fyffe	Date: 05 August 2024	Time: 11:00am
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Equipment Item	Manufacturer/Installer/Supplier	Installation Date
Swings (Contact swing) - Serial number: ND	Kompan	ND
Cableway / runway (Pommel seat cableway) - Serial number: ND	ND	ND
Carousel 1 (Spinning poles x 3) - Serial number: ND	ND	ND
Carousel 2 (Bowl) - Serial number: ELE400024	Kompan	2009
Spatial network (Spatial network) - Serial number: ND	Corocord Raumnetz	2009
Auxiliary items: Bench seats Shade shelter	ND	ND
Other items: Mouse House	ND	ND

Playground Surfacing	Mulch
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations





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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

	Image	Issue/Hazard	Risk Rating	Comment/Recommendation
1 Marking				
1.1 Equipment Identification				
1.1.1		<p>Marking plate did not comply on spatial network, contact swing and bowl carousel. NB: Reference to EN standards</p> <p>No marking plate on spinning poles and cableway.</p>	N/A	<p>Marking plate may have complied at time of installation.</p> <p>Ensure future purchases of moveable playground equipment have certificates of compliance to AS 4685 and a marking label is permanently fixed to equipment.</p>
1.2 Basic Level Mark				
1.2.1		No basic level marks on equipment in loose fill.	N/A	<p>Attach a permanent basic level mark 300mm above ground level to indicate installation depth for loose-fill playground surfacing.</p> <p>Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance and basic level marks are permanently fixed to equipment.</p>
2 Design and Manufacture				
2.1 Materials				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.1.1		Unable to determine if timber utilised in the construction of the cableway platform and posts and mouse house is treated with CCA or creosote.	ND	Refer to documentation from the supplier to determine if timber is CCA or creosote free. Seal timber. Monitor and recoat when required.
2.1.2		Unable to determine if metal utilised in the construction of the play space including shade posts are coated with anti corrosive protective layer.	ND	Refer to documentation from supplier to determine if metal items are corrosion protected. Monitor for rust and corrosion. Treat and maintain as required.
2.1.3		Unable to determine if the playspace is free of dangerous substances (EG; asbestos, formaldehyde, chemicals).	ND	Refer to any site specific specialist inspection reports, if applicable.
2.2 Accessibility				
2.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.3 Protection Against Falling				
2.3.1		N/A		N/A
2.4 Moving Parts				
2.4.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.5 Entrapments				
2.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.6 Free Height of Fall				
2.6.1		Free height of fall of static equipment measured less than 3m - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required
2.7 Spaces and Areas				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.7.1		<p>Inadequate impact area provided from the end of pommel seat to cableway frame. 1600mm measured from end of maximum swing position to post.</p>	M	<p>AS 4685 specifies an impact area of 2000mm is required beyond the end of maximum swing position (45 degrees) of the grip or seat at the end of travel.</p> <p>Move end stop to allow for adequate impact area.</p>
2.8 Means of Access (Playground Equipment)				
2.8.1		N/A		N/A
2.9 Connections, Ropes and Chains				
2.9.1		<p>Significant damage to spinning poles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loose connections • Poles misaligned/not installed correctly 	S	<p>Repair/remove/replace.</p>



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<p>2.9.2</p>		<p>Minor fraying and moss on ropes of spatial network.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>High pressure clean and monitor for deterioration. Plan for replacement of ropes once steel cable exposed.</p>
<p>2.10 Foundations</p>				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.10.1</p>		<p>Surface rust on the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swing foundation posts (pics 1-3) • Cableway foundation post (pic 4) 	<p>M</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required. Consider replacing with stainless steel items.</p>
<p>2.10.2</p>		<p>Footings of swing frame less than 200mm below playing surface.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies footings to be installed at least 400mm below the playing surface or 200mm below playing surface and top of footing chamfered.</p> <p>Raise ground level by adding soil and top up loose fill mulch.</p>



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2.10.3		Footings of spinning poles exposed through ground surface on spinning poles.	S	<p>AS 4685 specifies footings to be installed at least 400mm below the playing surface or 200mm below playing surface and top of footing chamfered.</p> <p>Raise ground level by adding soil and top up loose fill mulch.</p>
2.11 Heavy Suspended Beams				
2.11.1		N/A		N/A
2.12 Other Equipment Items (e.g moveable play equipment, water pumps etc.)				
2.12.1		N/A		N/A
3 Specific Equipment (AS 4685 Parts 2-6, 11)				
3.1 Swings				
3.1.1		<p>Contact swing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking does not comply • Surface rust on foundation posts • Foundation issues 	N/A	<p>Refer to the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Foundations
3.2 Cableways				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>3.2.1</p>		<p>Cableway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Inadequate impact area • Surface rust on foundation posts • Timber issues • Damage to pommel seat • Protruding screw on platform 	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Refer to the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Spaces and areas • Foundations • Timber items • Synthetic products • Corners, edges and protrusions
<p>3.3 Carousels</p>				
<p>3.3.1</p>		<p>Spinning poles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Significant damage; loose connections, misalignment • Foundation issues • Surface rust issues 	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Refer to the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Connections, ropes and chains • Foundations • Metal items
<p>3.3.2</p>		<p>Bowl carousel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking does not comply 	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Refer to the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking
<p>3.4 Spatial Networks</p>				



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3.4.1		Spatial network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking does not comply • Minor frayed ropes • Moss on ropes 	N/A	Refer to the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Connections, ropes and chains
4 Playground Surfacing				
4.1 Certified Surfacing and Impact Testing Requirements				
4.1.1		Unable to determine if mulch is impact attenuating playground surfacing compliant with AS 4422.	ND	Obtain certificates of compliance from the surfacing supplier.
4.2 Hazards (trip, protrusion, toxicity, inhalation)				
4.2.1		Potential trip hazards due to uneven loose fill surfacing. NB: Rainfall and slope in land has washed away sections of mulch.	M	Top up mulch. Monitor and maintain regularly.
4.3 Loose-fill Materials				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>4.3.1</p>		<p>Inadequate loose fill depth measured less than required 200mm throughout play space (measured <100mm).</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies loose-fill to be installed at 300mm (to base level mark) and maintained at no less than 200mm.</p> <p>Top up loose-fill.</p> <p>Unitary impact attenuating surfacing such as wet pour rubber installed in high impact areas under swings and at slide exits, can significantly reduce displacement. Install with an angled edge, below or level with loose fill surfacing to avoid a trip hazard.</p>
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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>4.3.2</p>		<p>Grass growing throughout loose fill mulch.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Remove. Monitor and maintain regularly. Consider replacement of border to reduce likelihood of grass growing into area.</p>
<p>4.4 Unitary Surfacing</p>				
<p>4.4.1</p>		<p>N/A</p>		<p>N/A</p>
<p>5 General Issues</p>				
<p>5.1 Timber and Associated Products</p>				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.1.1</p>		<p>Timber issues on mouse house:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Split timber • Worn sealant • Moss 	<p>L</p>	<p>Remove shards. Caulk splits. Sand to a smooth finish. Seal timber. Monitor and maintain. Replace timber as required.</p> <p>High pressure clean.</p>
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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.1.2</p>		<p>Timber issues on cableway and platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Split and broken timber • Missing verticals on barrier • Moss 	<p>M</p>	<p>Remove shards. Caulk splits. Sand to a smooth finish. Seal timber. Monitor and maintain. Replace timber as required.</p> <p>High pressure clean.</p>
<p>5.2 Metal Items</p>				



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5.2.1		Surface rust on the spinning poles.	L	Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required. Consider replacing with stainless steel items.
5.3 Synthetic Products				
5.3.1		Damage to pommel seat on cableway.	L	Monitor for further deterioration. Replace seat, as required.
5.4 Corners, Edges and Protrusions				
5.4.1		Protruding screw thread on cableway platform.	S	Remove screw/Repair section.
5.5 Ramps and Pathways (trips, slips and general issues)				
5.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.6 Gates and Fences				
5.6.1		N/A		N/A



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5.7 Auxiliary Items (e.g. seating, tables, rubbish bins, shade structures etc.)				
5.7.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.8 Sandpits and Digging Patches				
5.8.1		N/A		N/A
5.9 Grounds				
5.9.1		Significant damage to timber border surrounding playground.	M	Replace.



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5. The Common - Fitness Equipment	Key: ND=Not Determined	NA=Not Applicable
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Inspector: Christie Fyffe	Date: 05 August 2024	Time: 11:00am
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Equipment Item	Manufacturer/Installer/Supplier	Installation Date
Other items: Forpark Fitness Equipment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Station 1 - Leg press • Station 2 - Oblique pivot & shoulder press • Station 3 - Aerobic walker • Station 4 - Plyo Box Jump 	ND	ND

Playground Surfacing	Other
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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations





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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

	Image	Issue/Hazard	Risk Rating	Comment/Recommendation
1 Marking				
1.1 Equipment Identification				
1.1.1		<p>Marking plates do not comply on outdoor fitness equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reference to standards • Station 3 does not reference an installation date <p>NB: Equipment installed prior to development of AS 16630 standard.</p>	N/A	Ensure future purchases of permanently installed outdoor fitness equipment have certificates of compliance to AS 16630 Permanently fixed to equipment.
1.2 Basic Level Mark				
1.2.1		N/A		N/A



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2 Design and Manufacture				
2.1 Materials				
2.1.1		Unable to determine if metal utilised in the construction of the fitness equipment are coated with anti corrosive protective layer.	ND	Refer to documentation from supplier to determine if metal items are corrosion protected. Monitor for rust and corrosion. Treat and maintain as required.
2.1.2		Unable to determine if the playspace is free of dangerous substances (EG; asbestos, formaldehyde, chemicals).	ND	Refer to any site specific specialist inspection reports, if applicable.
2.2 Accessibility				
2.2.1		N/A		N/A
2.3 Protection Against Falling				
2.3.1		N/A		N/A
2.4 Moving Parts				
2.4.1		N/A		N/A
2.5 Entrapments				
2.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.6 Free Height of Fall				
2.6.1		Free height of fall (FHF) for all fitness equipment measured less than 1000mm - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required
2.7 Spaces and Areas				
2.7.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.8 Means of Access (Playground Equipment)				
2.8.1		N/A		N/A
2.9 Connections, Ropes and Chains				
2.9.1		Missing bolt on equipment at station 2.	L	Replace and secure.



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2.9.2		Surface rust on bolts at station 1.	L	Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Replace bolts, as required.
2.9.3		Misaligned connection/damage on equipment at station 3.	M	Repair.
2.10 Foundations				
2.10.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.11 Heavy Suspended Beams				
2.11.1		N/A		N/A
2.12 Other Equipment Items (e.g moveable play equipment, water pumps etc.)				
2.12.1		N/A		N/A
3 Specific Equipment (AS 4685 Parts 2-6, 11)				
3.1		N/A		N/A
4 Playground Surfacing				
4.1 Certified Surfacing and Impact Testing Requirements				
4.1.1		FHF of fitness equipment less than 1000mm - no requirement for impact attenuating surfacing, therefore testing not required.	N/A	No action required.
4.2 Hazards (trip, protrusion, toxicity, inhalation)				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

4.2.1		Trip hazard due to significant damage to unitary surfacing at Station 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing tiles • Loose tiles • Undulations 	M	Repair.
4.3 Loose-fill Materials				
4.3.1		N/A		N/A
4.4 Unitary Surfacing				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>4.4.1</p>		<p>Damage to surfacing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Station 1 - damage to rubber toles on edges (pic 1) • Station 2 - refer to hazards (pic 2) • Station 3 - Lifting tiles (pic 3) • Station 4 - Lifting tiles and undulations (pic 4) 	<p>M</p>	<p>Repair surfacing/replace tiles, as required.</p> <p>Secure tiles, as required.</p>
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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

4.4.2		Moss/grime on surfacing at station 1 & 2.	L	High pressure clean.
5 General Issues				
5.1 Timber and Associated Products				
5.1.1		N/A		N/A
5.2 Metal Items				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.1</p>		<p>Grime on equipment at station 1, 2 and 3.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>High pressure clean.</p>
<p>5.3 Synthetic Products</p>				
<p>5.3.1</p>		<p>No issue identified</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No action required</p>
<p>5.4 Corners, Edges and Protrusions</p>				



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5.4.1		End cap missing from posts of equipment at station 3, exposing protruding screw threads.	M	Replace end caps.
5.5 Ramps and Pathways (trips, slips and general issues)				
5.5.1		Excess water on pathway adjacent to station 1, causing potential slip hazards on muddy path. NB: Risk management strategies have been put in place to minimise risk and warn users.	M	Monitor regularly and clean pathway, as required.
5.6 Gates and Fences				
5.6.1		N/A		N/A
5.7 Auxiliary Items (e.g. seating, tables, rubbish bins, shade structures etc.)				
5.7.1		N/A		N/A
5.8 Sandpits and Digging Patches				



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5.8.1		N/A		N/A
5.9 Grounds				
5.9.1		Graffiti on oblique pivot at station 2.	L	Remove graffiti.
6 Additional Issues				
6.1				
6.1.1		Missing platforms on plyo box jump.	ND	Replace platforms.

**APPENDIX B****On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report**

Test 5 - Accessible rocker	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	50mm	1000mm	1350mm	138G	724HIC	5.760ms	Pass
Test 6 - Carousel	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	50mm	1000mm	1260mm	119G	534HIC	6.180ms	Pass
Test 7 - Carousel	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	50mm	1000mm	1330mm	128G	620HIC	5.850ms	Pass
Test 8 - Carousel	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	50mm	1000mm	1220mm	124G	599HIC	6.180ms	Pass
Test 9 - Carousel	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	50mm	1000mm	1300mm	134G	678HIC	5.850ms	Pass

NOTES:

*Gmax - a unit of measurement that quantifies the hardness of a surface. The higher the Gmax of a playing surface, the harder and more hazardous. Over '200G' is considered a high risk for injury.

**HIC (Head Injury Criteria) - a measure of impact severity. Over 1000HIC is considered a high risk for injury.

*** HIC Time - The interval over which the HIC is calculated, ie (t1 - t2). An interval of less than 3ms (millisecond) is considered a high risk for injury.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT

Pool Park (John Mawhood Memorial Complex)

1-11 Cunynghame Street
Oberon NSW 2787

Client:

Oberon Council

137 - 139 Oberon Street
Oberon, NSW 2787

August 2024

Prepared by:
Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit
C/- Locked Bag 4001
Westmead NSW 2145
SCHN-KIDSAFE@health.nsw.gov.au
kidsafensw.org
0447 636 818

Disclaimer

This report has been prepared from information available to Kidsafe NSW at the time of inspection.

Whilst care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this report, Kidsafe NSW and its employees, take no responsibility for any errors, omissions or changes to information that may occur and disclaim all responsibility and liability to any person in respect to anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon information within this report.

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PREAMBLE

This report assesses the nominated playground/s and surrounding areas against the relevant Australian Standards listed below.

Australian Standard AS 4685.0:2017 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 0: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation

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Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing

Specifications, requirements and test method

Australian Standard AS 1428.1 Design for access and mobility

(Selected clauses)

REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARDS

For the purpose of this inspection report, the following requirements of the Standards are considered as part of the scope and are addressed in Appendix A - Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations.

General

Individual play equipment structures are permanently marked with a plate clearly identifying the name, address, ABN, the equipment reference and year of manufacture. A basic level mark for the associated impact attenuating surface is required on fixed equipment installed in loose-fill surfacing. Equipment stating compliance with the Australian Standards must be marked with AS 4685.

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Guardrails or barriers are installed for heights of more than 600mm above ground level. Continuous handrails are required on each side of access ways and bridges. All items intended for gripping must have a diameter that measures between 16mm-45mm.

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Head and neck entrapment refers to any opening at a height of more than 600mm above ground level that would allow a child's body to pass through but not their head. Bound head and neck entrapment (dimensions of 89mm – 230mm), partially bound and V-shaped openings, shearing or moving openings (flexible and rigid parts with openings less than 230mm) must be eliminated.

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Foot entrapment refers to situations where there are gaps wider than 30mm on surfaces intended for running/walking or completely bound rigid openings in surfaces for running/climbing and inclined up to 45°.

Finger Entrapment

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Free Height of Fall

Free height of fall must not exceed 1800mm for Supervised Early Childhood Settings and 3000mm for All Age Settings. The free height of fall is the greatest vertical distance measured from the intended body support of the equipment to the impact area below. Unintended access to excessive heights should be avoided.

Spaces and Areas

A minimal impact area of 1500mm is required around equipment (with fall heights of 600mm or more above ground level) and between individual items of equipment. AS 4685 requires an increase in the impact area for equipment with platforms measuring more than 1500mm above ground level. AS 4685 specifies falling spaces for specific equipment with forced movement such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items. The falling space and impact area for equipment with forced movement cannot overlap with other falling spaces and impact areas.

Means of Access

Equipment designed to provide safe ascent or descent. Means of access include steps, stairs, ladders and ramps. Equipment designed to ensure that adults are able to gain access to assist children within the equipment.

Means of Access

Playground equipment should be structurally stable, in good condition and fit for children's play.

Materials

Appropriate material used in the construction of equipment taking into account climatic and atmospheric conditions, toxicity, flammability and ultraviolet radiation. No Copper Chromium Arsenate (CCA) or creosote timber treatments are to be used on timbers either above ground or below ground in playground spaces. For any new timber installations use naturally durable timbers (Durability Class 1 or Class 2) complying with AS5604 or treated timbers (H3/H4) complying with AS1604.

Finish of Equipment

Finish on equipment shall have no protruding nails, bolt threads, projecting wire rope terminations, pointed or sharp ended components. Projecting parts and corners measure less than 8mm (or covered) with a minimum radius of 3mm. Accessible surfaces finished smooth with no splintering or burrs.

Playground Surfacing

Impact attenuating surfacing compliant with AS 4422:2022 is required across the impact area where play equipment is more than 600mm above ground level and for specific equipment such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items.

The critical fall height is determined by test methods as per AS 4422:2022. Impact testing of unitary surfacing is required post installation then every 3 years. Loose-fill surfacing installed at 300mm depth and maintained at minimum 200mm depth. Surface impact testing is only conducted if agreed prior to the inspection. If playground surface impact testing has been conducted refer to Appendix B: On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report. This report assesses the nominated playground/s surfacing against Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing: Specifications, requirements and test method.

The testing is completed onsite as a part of a playground inspection regime as outlined in AS 4685.0 2017. It is a form of testing to determine the post installation and ongoing performance of impact attenuating surfacing as installed on site. Testing positions are indicated in images provided. A HIC meter calibrated and complying with AS 4422:2022 is used for the testing. It is a hemispherical head form measuring 160mm in diameter and 4.6kg in weight and has an internal accelerometer. Temperature and humidity measurements were taken to demonstrate testing was done in accordance to the minimum/maximum requirements of the Australian Standard.

NB: Testing is not done under laboratory conditions and does not replicate or replace laboratory testing of impact attenuating surfacing prior to installation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Kidsafe NSW uses a risk rating for each identified issue and hazard. Refer to the Risk Assessment Matrix (Figure1).

Figure 1: Risk Assessment Matrix

		CONSEQUENCES			
		Major	Moderate	Minor	Insignificant
LIKELIHOOD	Almost Certain	1	1	2	3
	Likely	1	2	3	4
	Possible	2	3	4	5
	Unlikely	3	4	5	5

Risk rating		
1	1	VH - Very High Risk – Rectify immediately
2	2	H - High Risk – Immediate control required
3	3	S - Significant Risk – Make plan to control risk
4	4	M - Medium Risk – Monitor risk on ongoing basis
5	5	L - Low Risk – Set a time to review risks

(Adapted from AS/NZS ISO 31000 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines: HB 89 Risk Management - Guidelines on risk assessment techniques)

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Documentation

The playground owner/operator should establish a Playground Safety Management System to include the recording and archiving of documentation.

Documentation may include:

- Policies and procedures
- Reports eg. accident/injury
- Inventory/Equipment register
- Inspection checklists
- Inspection reports
- Works orders
- Maintenance actions
- Certification records eg. equipment, surfacing
- Manufacturer's warranty details
- Manufacturer's installation, inspection and maintenance instructions
- Operating Instructions (if applicable)
- Supervision plan
- Risk and risk benefit assessments

Relevant information sheets include:

- AS4685 Impact Areas Ready Reckoner
- Assessing Risk and Benefit in Playspaces
- Barriers, Guardrails and Handrails - Protection Against Falling
- Bike Tracks
- Entrapment
- Fencing Playspaces
- Impact Areas
- Mounds for Play
- Natural Playspaces
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- Playground Development
- Playground Safety Management System
- Playground Surfacing
- Portable Mats
- Safe Play in Backyards
- Sandpits
- Shade in Playspaces
- Slides
- Stepping Stones
- Swings
- Timber in Playspaces
- Trampolines
- Tree Climbing

For more information regarding Australian Standards for playgrounds, refer to the suite of Kidsafe NSW information sheets available to download from the website:

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/information-sheets/playground-safety/>

Moveable Play Equipment - a guide for playground owners and educators, a valuable resource for Education and Care Services. Order a copy from the website:

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/playground-safety/>

Information on safe gardening with children and recommended plants for playgrounds can be found on the web resource 'grow me safely':

<https://www.kidsafensw.org/safety/playground-safety/>

Kidsafe NSW Playground News informs readers of latest issues, trends and development in playgrounds. Visit the website to view published newsletters:

<https://www.kidsafensw.org/resources/newsletters/playground-news/>

Subscribe to Playground News: <https://www.kidsafensw.org/resources/newsletters/subscribe/>

Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit is available for design and planning advice for existing and planned playgrounds. Please do not hesitate to contact the office on 02 9845 0893 or email

SCHN-KIDSAFE@health.nsw.gov.au

Summary

Kidsafe NSW conducted a comprehensive playground inspection of the playground at Pool Park (John Mawhood Memorial Complex) on 06 August 2024 and has systematically identified hazards and issues (refer to Appendix A). Each section of the report addresses specified requirements of the Australian Standards.

Ensure all issues and hazards identified as non-complying with Australian Standards for playgrounds are addressed and rectified to meet those Standards. Consult with manufacturer/supplier of equipment or surfacing prior to making any repair or modification so as not to void any warranty or guarantee.

For further information or clarification on this report, please contact:

Kim Cooke
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Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit
E: schn-kidsafe@health.nsw.gov.au
P: 0447 636 818





APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

Pool Park (John Mawhood Memorial Complex)	Key: ND=Not Determined	NA=Not Applicable
--	------------------------	-------------------

Inspector: Christie Fyffe	Date: 06 August 2024	Time: 3:15pm
----------------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------

Equipment Item	Manufacturer/Installer/Supplier	Installation Date
Composite structure - Serial number: ND List of components: Spiral slide Curved slide Shop front Bench seat Corkscrew climber Abacus rail Steering wheel Beanstalk climber Half loop incline climber Sliding pole Tunnel Curved climber Monkey bars Bench seat (steep play element)	Pal Systems	ND
Swings (Strap seat swing x 2) - Serial number: ND	ND	ND
Slides 1 (Spiral slide) - Serial number: Composite structure	ND	ND
Slides 2 (Curved slide) - Serial number: Composite structure	ND	ND
Auxiliary items: Shade shelter Ball toss	ND	ND



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

Playground Surfacing


Mulch





APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

	Image	Issue/Hazard	Risk Rating	Comment/Recommendation
1 Marking				
1.1 Equipment Identification				
1.1.1		No marking plates on equipment.	N/A	Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance to AS 4685 and a marking plate is permanently fixed to equipment.
1.2 Basic Level Mark				
1.2.1		No basic level marks on equipment in loose fill.	N/A	Attach a permanent basic level mark 300mm above ground level to indicate installation depth for loose-fill playground surfacing. Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance and basic level marks are permanently fixed to equipment.
2 Design and Manufacture				
2.1 Materials				
2.1.1		Unable to determine if metal utilised in the construction of the play space are coated with anti corrosive protective layer.	ND	Refer to documentation from supplier to determine if metal items are corrosion protected. Monitor for rust and corrosion. Treat and maintain as required.
2.1.2		Unable to determine if the playspace is free of dangerous substances (EG; asbestos, formaldehyde, chemicals).	ND	Refer to any site specific specialist inspection reports, if applicable.
2.2 Accessibility				
2.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.3 Protection Against Falling				
2.3.1		Missing element on composite structure. NB: Bench seat installed beneath.	M	AS 4685 specifies that a barrier is provided to platforms that measure >600mm above playing surface (easily accessible equipment). Install barrier, remove bench seat.



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.3.2</p>		<p>Exit/entrance openings on steep play elements measured greater than 500mm.</p> <p>Missing grab rail above corkscrew climber.</p> <p>NB: this equipment is identified as 'easily accessible'.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>AS 4685:2021 specifies the maximum width of exit/entrance openings in barriers on steep play elements to be no more than 500mm wide.</p> <p>Replace grab rails.</p> <p>Consider installation of signage to encourage active supervision and rules of the playground.</p> <p>Alternatively, reduce opening to 500mm.</p>
<p>2.4 Moving Parts</p>				
<p>2.4.1</p>		<p>No issue identified</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No action required</p>
<p>2.5 Entrapments</p>				
<p>2.5.1</p>		<p>Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening of bench seat to platform.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm.</p> <p>Remove bench seat and bracket, plug holes.</p>



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.2</p>		<p>Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening between the vertical bars of the blue barrier.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm.</p> <p>Replace with barrier compliant with AS 4685.</p>
<p>2.5.3</p>		<p>whole body entrapment in the opening of half loop incline climber and platform.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm.</p> <p>Install infill panel or replace with element compliant with AS 4685.</p>
<p>2.5.4</p>		<p>Clothing/hair entrapment located on spiral slide.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment to be free from clothing and hair entrapment.</p> <p>Fill opening with silicone or insert rubber strip.</p>
<p>2.5.5</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the opening between the curved slide and platform.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground should not measure between 8mm – 25mm.</p> <p>Fill gaps with silicone.</p>



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.6</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the vacant bolt holes, missing end caps and displaced sections of composite structure posts.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground should not measure between 8mm – 25mm.</p> <p>Plug holes/fill gaps/replace end cap.</p>
<p>2.5.7</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the chains on the swings. NB: Displaced sheathing.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment is free from potential finger entrapment. Chains should not allow 8.6mm probe to pass through.</p> <p>Replace/repair sheathing.</p>



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.8</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the S-hooks on the swings.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment is free from potential finger entrapment. Connectors (S-hooks, D-shackles) should allow 8.6 and 12mm probes to pass through.</p> <p>Install spacers, S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock compliant with AS 4685.</p>
<p>2.5.9</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the opening between the grab rails between sliding pole and beanstalk climber.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground should not measure between 8mm – 25mm.</p> <p>Replace with compliant grab rails.</p>
<p>2.6 Free Height of Fall</p>				
<p>2.6.1</p>		<p>Free height of fall of static equipment measured less than 3m - no issues identified.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No action required</p>
<p>2.7 Spaces and Areas</p>				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.7.1</p>		<p>Grass growing in loose fill of impact area of composite structure.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Remove. Monitor and maintain regularly. Install a retaining border to manage impact areas and mulch depth.</p>
<p>2.7.2</p>		<p>Hard surface (landing pad) in impact area of slide.</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies slides are to have impact attenuating surfacing compliant with AS 4422 in entire impact area. (NB: May have complied at time of installation) Remove landing pad and install adequate depths of loose fill in impact area of slide.</p>



APPENDIX A




Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.7.3		<p>Inadequate impact area provided for swings. Front and rear impact area of swings measured less than required 2464mm (required impact area based on length of swing chains).</p> <p>NB: Not able to clearly distinguish where impact area finishes.</p> <p>Grass growing in impact area.</p>	M	<p>AS 4685 specifies for the dimensions of this swing there should be an impact area of 2464mm to the front and rear of the swings.</p> <p>Remove grass. Monitor and maintain regularly.</p> <p>Extend impact area. Install a retaining border to manage impact areas and retain mulch depth.</p>
2.8 Means of Access (Playground Equipment)				
2.8.1		N/A		N/A
2.9 Connections, Ropes and Chains				
2.9.1		<p>Surface rust on the chains and S-hooks on swings.</p>	L	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Maintain as required.</p>



APPENDIX A




Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.9.2		S-hooks open more than 1mm and not safeguarded on swings.	M	Insert S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock.
2.10 Foundations				
2.10.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.11 Heavy Suspended Beams				
2.11.1		N/A		N/A
2.12 Other Equipment Items (e.g moveable play equipment, water pumps etc.)				
2.12.1		N/A		N/A
3 Specific Equipment (AS 4685 Parts 2-6, 11)				
3.1 Slides				
3.1.1		Spiral slide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Entrapment issues 	N/A	Refer to the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Entrapments
3.1.2		Curved slide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Entrapment issues 	N/A	Refer to the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Entrapments



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

3.1.3		The height of the run-out section measured 300mm above ground level.	M	AS 4685 specifies the height of the run-out section should measure less than 350mm above ground level. Monitor reported incidents. Replace slide, as required.
3.2 Swings				
3.2.1		Swings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Entrapment issues • Inadequate impact area • Inadequate loose fill depth • Surface rust issues • S-hook issues • Grime • Damaged sheathing 	N/A	Refer to the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Entrapments • Spaces and areas • Loose fill items • Connections, ropes and chains • Metal items • Synthetic products
4 Playground Surfacing				
4.1 Certified Surfacing and Impact Testing Requirements				
4.1.1		Unable to determine if mulch is impact attenuating playground surfacing compliant with AS 4422.	ND	Obtain certificates of compliance from the surfacing supplier.
4.2 Hazards (trip, protrusion, toxicity, inhalation)				



APPENDIX A




Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

4.2.1		Potential trip hazards due to uneven surfaces.	M	Level ground and top up loose fill mulch. Install retaining border to manage impact areas and mulch depth.
4.3 Loose-fill Materials				
4.3.1		Inadequate loose fill depth measured less than 200mm in area of swings (measured less than 100mm).	S	AS 4685 specifies loose-fill to be installed at 300mm (to base level mark) and maintained at no less than 200mm. Top up loose-fill. Unitary impact attenuating surfacing such as wet pour rubber installed in high impact areas under swings and at slide exits, can significantly reduce displacement. Install with an angled edge, below or level with loose fill surfacing to avoid a trip hazard.
4.3.2		Grass growing in loose fill.	M	Refer to 'Spaces and areas' section.
4.4 Unitary Surfacing				
4.4.1		N/A		N/A



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5 General Issues				
5.1 Timber and Associated Products				
5.1.1		N/A		N/A
5.2 Metal Items				
5.2.1		Grime on swing frame.	L	High pressure clean.
5.2.2		Surface rust on the swing attachment items.	L	Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required. Consider replacing with stainless steel items.
5.2.3		Damaged metal platform between tunnel and beanstalk climber.	M	Replace platform.



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.4</p>		<p>Surface rust due to worn/chipped paint on metal elements on composite structure.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Repaint. Maintain, as required.</p>
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.2.5		Grime throughout composite structure.	L	High pressure clean.
5.3 Synthetic Products				
5.3.1		Damaged sheathing on swing.	L	Replace.



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.3.2</p>		<p>Grime throughout composite structure.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>High pressure clean.</p>
<p>5.4 Corners, Edges and Protrusions</p>				



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.4.1		End cap missing from posts on the composite structure.	M	Replace end caps.
5.4.2		Missing element and hand rail on composite structure.	L	Replace elements.
5.5 Ramps and Pathways (trips, slips and general issues)				
5.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.6 Gates and Fences				
5.6.1		N/A		N/A
5.7 Auxiliary Items (e.g. seating, tables, rubbish bins, shade structures etc.)				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.7.1		Loose connection and protruding bolt on ball toss.	L	Grind bolt thread to less than 8mm and secure.
5.8 Sandpits and Digging Patches				
5.8.1		N/A		N/A
5.9 Grounds				
5.9.1		Graffiti on composite structure.	L	Remove graffiti.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT

Miss Wilson Park (Oberon)

3 Doctor Perkins Crescent
Oberon NSW 2787

Client:

Oberon Council

137 - 139 Oberon Street
Oberon, NSW 2787

August 2024

Prepared by:
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0447 636 818

Disclaimer

This report has been prepared from information available to Kidsafe NSW at the time of inspection.

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Free height of fall must not exceed 1800mm for Supervised Early Childhood Settings and 3000mm for All Age Settings. The free height of fall is the greatest vertical distance measured from the intended body support of the equipment to the impact area below. Unintended access to excessive heights should be avoided.

Spaces and Areas

A minimal impact area of 1500mm is required around equipment (with fall heights of 600mm or more above ground level) and between individual items of equipment. AS 4685 requires an increase in the impact area for equipment with platforms measuring more than 1500mm above ground level. AS 4685 specifies falling spaces for specific equipment with forced movement such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items. The falling space and impact area for equipment with forced movement cannot overlap with other falling spaces and impact areas.

Means of Access

Equipment designed to provide safe ascent or descent. Means of access include steps, stairs, ladders and ramps. Equipment designed to ensure that adults are able to gain access to assist children within the equipment.

Means of Access

Playground equipment should be structurally stable, in good condition and fit for children's play.

Materials

Appropriate material used in the construction of equipment taking into account climatic and atmospheric conditions, toxicity, flammability and ultraviolet radiation. No Copper Chromium Arsenate (CCA) or creosote timber treatments are to be used on timbers either above ground or below ground in playground spaces. For any new timber installations use naturally durable timbers (Durability Class 1 or Class 2) complying with AS5604 or treated timbers (H3/H4) complying with AS1604.

Finish of Equipment

Finish on equipment shall have no protruding nails, bolt threads, projecting wire rope terminations, pointed or sharp ended components. Projecting parts and corners measure less than 8mm (or covered) with a minimum radius of 3mm. Accessible surfaces finished smooth with no splintering or burrs.

Playground Surfacing

Impact attenuating surfacing compliant with AS 4422:2022 is required across the impact area where play equipment is more than 600mm above ground level and for specific equipment such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items.

The critical fall height is determined by test methods as per AS 4422:2022. Impact testing of unitary surfacing is required post installation then every 3 years. Loose-fill surfacing installed at 300mm depth and maintained at minimum 200mm depth. Surface impact testing is only conducted if agreed prior to the inspection. If playground surface impact testing has been conducted refer to Appendix B: On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report. This report assesses the nominated playground/s surfacing against Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing: Specifications, requirements and test method.

The testing is completed onsite as a part of a playground inspection regime as outlined in AS 4685.0 2017. It is a form of testing to determine the post installation and ongoing performance of impact attenuating surfacing as installed on site. Testing positions are indicated in images provided. A HIC meter calibrated and complying with AS 4422:2022 is used for the testing. It is a hemispherical head form measuring 160mm in diameter and 4.6kg in weight and has an internal accelerometer. Temperature and humidity measurements were taken to demonstrate testing was done in accordance to the minimum/maximum requirements of the Australian Standard.

NB: Testing is not done under laboratory conditions and does not replicate or replace laboratory testing of impact attenuating surfacing prior to installation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Kidsafe NSW uses a risk rating for each identified issue and hazard. Refer to the Risk Assessment Matrix (Figure1).

Figure 1: Risk Assessment Matrix

		CONSEQUENCES			
		Major	Moderate	Minor	Insignificant
LIKELIHOOD	Almost Certain	1	1	2	3
	Likely	1	2	3	4
	Possible	2	3	4	5
	Unlikely	3	4	5	5

Risk rating		
1	VH - Very High Risk – Rectify immediately	
2	H - High Risk – Immediate control required	
3	S - Significant Risk – Make plan to control risk	
4	M - Medium Risk – Monitor risk on ongoing basis	
5	L - Low Risk – Set a time to review risks	

(Adapted from AS/NZS ISO 31000 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines: HB 89 Risk Management - Guidelines on risk assessment techniques)

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Documentation

The playground owner/operator should establish a Playground Safety Management System to include the recording and archiving of documentation.

Documentation may include:

- Policies and procedures
- Reports eg. accident/injury
- Inventory/Equipment register
- Inspection checklists
- Inspection reports
- Works orders
- Maintenance actions
- Certification records eg. equipment, surfacing
- Manufacturer's warranty details
- Manufacturer's installation, inspection and maintenance instructions
- Operating Instructions (if applicable)
- Supervision plan
- Risk and risk benefit assessments

Relevant information sheets include:

- AS4685 Impact Areas Ready Reckoner
- Assessing Risk and Benefit in Playspaces
- Barriers, Guardrails and Handrails - Protection Against Falling
- Bike Tracks
- Entrapment
- Fencing Playspaces
- Impact Areas
- Mounds for Play
- Natural Playspaces
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment
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- Playground Safety Management System
- Playground Surfacing
- Portable Mats
- Safe Play in Backyards
- Sandpits
- Shade in Playspaces
- Slides
- Stepping Stones
- Swings
- Timber in Playspaces
- Trampolines
- Tree Climbing

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Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit is available for design and planning advice for existing and planned playgrounds. Please do not hesitate to contact the office on 02 9845 0893 or email

SCHN-KIDSAFE@health.nsw.gov.au

Summary

Kidsafe NSW conducted a comprehensive playground inspection of the playground at Miss Wilson Park (Oberon) on 06 August 2024 and has systematically identified hazards and issues (refer to Appendix A). Each section of the report addresses specified requirements of the Australian Standards.

Ensure all issues and hazards identified as non-complying with Australian Standards for playgrounds are addressed and rectified to meet those Standards. Consult with manufacturer/supplier of equipment or surfacing prior to making any repair or modification so as not to void any warranty or guarantee.

For further information or clarification on this report, please contact:

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Manager
Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit
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P: 0447 636 818





APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

Miss Wilson Park	Key: ND=Not Determined	NA=Not Applicable
-------------------------	------------------------	-------------------

Inspector: Christie Fyffe	Date: 06 August 2024	Time: 1:00pm
----------------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------

Equipment Item	Manufacturer/Installer/Supplier	Installation Date
Rockers (Horse multi rocker) - Serial number: ND	ND	ND
Auxiliary items: Toilet block	ND	ND

Playground Surfacing	Mulch
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APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

	Image	Issue/Hazard	Risk Rating	Comment/Recommendation
1 Marking				
1.1 Equipment Identification				
1.1.1		No marking plate on equipment.	N/A	Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance to AS 4685 and a marking plate is permanently fixed to equipment.
1.2 Basic Level Mark				
1.2.1		No basic level marks on equipment in loose fill.	N/A	Attach a permanent basic level mark 300mm above ground level to indicate installation depth for loose-fill playground surfacing. Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance and basic level marks are permanently fixed to equipment.
2 Design and Manufacture				
2.1 Materials				
2.1.1		Unable to determine if metal utilised in the construction of the rocker are coated with anti corrosive protective layer.	ND	Refer to documentation from supplier to determine if metal items are corrosion protected. Monitor for rust and corrosion. Treat and maintain as required.
2.1.2		Unable to determine if the playspace is free of dangerous substances (EG; asbestos, formaldehyde, chemicals).	ND	Refer to any site specific specialist inspection reports, if applicable.
2.2 Accessibility				
2.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.3 Protection Against Falling				
2.3.1		N/A		N/A
2.4 Moving Parts				
2.4.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.5 Entrapments				



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.5.1		Finger entrapment in the holes on seat and middle posts (forced movement).	H	AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground or in areas of forced movement should not measure between 8mm – 25mm. Plug holes.
2.6 Free Height of Fall				
2.6.1		Free height of fall of static equipment measured less than 3m - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required
2.7 Spaces and Areas				
2.7.1		Grass growing in impact area of rocker.	L	Remove. Monitor and maintain regularly. Install a retaining border to manage impact areas and retain mulch depth.
2.8 Means of Access (Playground Equipment)				
2.8.1		N/A		N/A



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.9 Connections, Ropes and Chains			
2.9.1		Broken spring on rocker.	<p>S</p> <p>Repair/replace spring. Alternatively, decommission/remove rocker.</p>
2.9.2		Surface rust on the bolts.	<p>L</p> <p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Maintain as required. Replace bolts, as required.</p>
2.10 Foundations			



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.10.1		Footings of rocker less than 200mm below playing surface. Concrete foundations exposed with sharp edges.	S	AS 4685 specifies footings to be installed at least 400mm below the playing surface or 200mm below playing surface and top of footing chamfered. Raise ground level by adding soil and top up loose fill mulch.
2.11 Heavy Suspended Beams				
2.11.1		N/A		N/A
2.12 Other Equipment Items (e.g moveable play equipment, water pumps etc.)				
2.12.1		N/A		N/A
3 Specific Equipment (AS 4685 Parts 2-6, 11)				
3.1 Rocking Equipment				
3.1.1		Rocker: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Entrapment issues • Grass in impact area • Inadequate loose fill depth • Broken spring • Surface rust issues • Corrosion issues • Foundations exposed • Mould issues • Sharp edges • Missing end cap 	N/A	Refer to the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Entrapments • Spaces and areas • Loose fill items • Connections, ropes and chains • Metal items • Foundations • Synthetic products • Corners, edges and protrusions



APPENDIX A


Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

3.1.2		Projections identified on hand support/foot rest of rocker	M	<p>AS 4685 specifies no projections with diameter less than 44mm and longer than 22mm in length on hand support/foot rest of rockers.</p> <p>Replace hand and foot rests compliant with AS 4685.</p> <p>Alternatively, remove or replace rocker.</p>
4 Playground Surfacing				
4.1 Certified Surfacing and Impact Testing Requirements				
4.1.1		Unable to determine if mulch is impact attenuating playground surfacing compliant with AS 4422.	ND	Obtain certificates of compliance from the surfacing supplier.
4.2 Hazards (trip, protrusion, toxicity, inhalation)				
4.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
4.3 Loose-fill Materials				



APPENDIX A




Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

4.3.1		Inadequate loose fill depth measured less than 200mm.	M	<p>AS 4685 specifies loose-fill to be installed at 300mm (to base level mark) and maintained at no less than 200mm.</p> <p>Top up loose-fill.</p> <p>Unitary impact attenuating surfacing such as wet pour rubber installed in high impact areas under swings and at slide exits, can significantly reduce displacement. Install with an angled edge, below or level with loose fill surfacing to avoid a trip hazard.</p>
4.4 Unitary Surfacing				
4.4.1		N/A		N/A
5 General Issues				
5.1 Timber and Associated Products				
5.1.1		N/A		N/A
5.2 Metal Items				



APPENDIX A




Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.1</p>		<p>Surface rust due to worn/chipped paint on rocker.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Repaint. Maintain, as required.</p>
<p>5.2.2</p>		<p>Surface rust on the springs.</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required. NB: Due to broken spring replace/remove.</p>
<p>5.2.3</p>		<p>Corrosion on posts .</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Remove rust. Repair section. Apply rust inhibitor. Repaint. Maintain, as required. Replace as necessary.</p>



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.4.1		Sharp edge on corrosion and connection plates.	M	File to smooth edges.
5.4.2		End cap missing on handrest.	M	Due to other issues of non-compliance replace with compliant handrests.
5.5 Ramps and Pathways (trips, slips and general issues)				
5.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.6 Gates and Fences				
5.6.1		N/A		N/A
5.7 Auxiliary Items (e.g. seating, tables, rubbish bins, shade structures etc.)				
5.7.1		Toilets out of order at time of inspection. ND: reason for this.	ND	Ensure toilets are in working order/safe to use prior to re-opening.
5.8 Sandpits and Digging Patches				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.8.1		N/A		N/A
5.9 Grounds				
5.9.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required



COMPREHENSIVE PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT

Herb David Park (Carrington Street Park)

32 Carrington Street
Oberon NSW 2787

Client:

Oberon Council

137 - 139 Oberon Street
Oberon, NSW 2787

August 2024

Prepared by:
Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit
C/- Locked Bag 4001
Westmead NSW 2145
SCHN-KIDSAFE@health.nsw.gov.au
kidsafensw.org
0447 636 818

Disclaimer

This report has been prepared from information available to Kidsafe NSW at the time of inspection.

Whilst care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this report, Kidsafe NSW and its employees, take no responsibility for any errors, omissions or changes to information that may occur and disclaim all responsibility and liability to any person in respect to anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon information within this report.

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PREAMBLE

This report assesses the nominated playground/s and surrounding areas against the relevant Australian Standards listed below.

Australian Standard AS 4685.0:2017 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 0: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation

Australian Standard AS 4685:2021, Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods

Part 2: Particular safety requirements and test methods for swings

Part 3: Particular safety requirements and test methods for slides

Part 4: Particular safety requirements and test methods for cableways

Part 5: Particular safety requirements and test methods for carousels

Part 6: Particular safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment

Australian Standard AS 4685:2014 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 11: Particular safety requirements and test methods for spatial networks

Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing

Specifications, requirements and test method

Australian Standard AS 1428.1 Design for access and mobility

(Selected clauses)

REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARDS

For the purpose of this inspection report, the following requirements of the Standards are considered as part of the scope and are addressed in Appendix A - Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations.

General

Individual play equipment structures are permanently marked with a plate clearly identifying the name, address, ABN, the equipment reference and year of manufacture. A basic level mark for the associated impact attenuating surface is required on fixed equipment installed in loose-fill surfacing. Equipment stating compliance with the Australian Standards must be marked with AS 4685.

Protection against Falling

Guardrails or barriers are installed for heights of more than 600mm above ground level. Continuous handrails are required on each side of access ways and bridges. All items intended for gripping must have a diameter that measures between 16mm-45mm.

Head and Neck Entrapment

Head and neck entrapment refers to any opening at a height of more than 600mm above ground level that would allow a child's body to pass through but not their head. Bound head and neck entrapment (dimensions of 89mm – 230mm), partially bound and V-shaped openings, shearing or moving openings (flexible and rigid parts with openings less than 230mm) must be eliminated.

Clothing/Hair Entrapment

Clothing/hair entrapment refers to situations where parts of clothing/hair may become trapped.

Foot Entrapment

Foot entrapment refers to situations where there are gaps wider than 30mm on surfaces intended for running/walking or completely bound rigid openings in surfaces for running/climbing and inclined up to 45°.

Finger Entrapment

Finger entrapment refers to any opening that would allow a child's fingers or thumbs to be trapped in a fall situation. Gaps or openings with dimensions of 8-25mm at 1000mm or more above playing surface level or at the entrance to equipment with forced movement must be eliminated. Chains require a maximum opening of 8.6mm. Connectors require an opening of greater than 12mm or less than 8.6mm.

Free Height of Fall

Free height of fall must not exceed 1800mm for Supervised Early Childhood Settings and 3000mm for All Age Settings. The free height of fall is the greatest vertical distance measured from the intended body support of the equipment to the impact area below. Unintended access to excessive heights should be avoided.

Spaces and Areas

A minimal impact area of 1500mm is required around equipment (with fall heights of 600mm or more above ground level) and between individual items of equipment. AS 4685 requires an increase in the impact area for equipment with platforms measuring more than 1500mm above ground level. AS 4685 specifies falling spaces for specific equipment with forced movement such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items. The falling space and impact area for equipment with forced movement cannot overlap with other falling spaces and impact areas.

Means of Access

Equipment designed to provide safe ascent or descent. Means of access include steps, stairs, ladders and ramps. Equipment designed to ensure that adults are able to gain access to assist children within the equipment.

Means of Access

Playground equipment should be structurally stable, in good condition and fit for children's play.

Materials

Appropriate material used in the construction of equipment taking into account climatic and atmospheric conditions, toxicity, flammability and ultraviolet radiation. No Copper Chromium Arsenate (CCA) or creosote timber treatments are to be used on timbers either above ground or below ground in playground spaces. For any new timber installations use naturally durable timbers (Durability Class 1 or Class 2) complying with AS5604 or treated timbers (H3/H4) complying with AS1604.

Finish of Equipment

Finish on equipment shall have no protruding nails, bolt threads, projecting wire rope terminations, pointed or sharp ended components. Projecting parts and corners measure less than 8mm (or covered) with a minimum radius of 3mm. Accessible surfaces finished smooth with no splintering or burrs.

Playground Surfacing

Impact attenuating surfacing compliant with AS 4422:2022 is required across the impact area where play equipment is more than 600mm above ground level and for specific equipment such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items.

The critical fall height is determined by test methods as per AS 4422:2022. Impact testing of unitary surfacing is required post installation then every 3 years. Loose-fill surfacing installed at 300mm depth and maintained at minimum 200mm depth. Surface impact testing is only conducted if agreed prior to the inspection. If playground surface impact testing has been conducted refer to Appendix B: On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report. This report assesses the nominated playground/s surfacing against Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing: Specifications, requirements and test method.

The testing is completed onsite as a part of a playground inspection regime as outlined in AS 4685.0 2017. It is a form of testing to determine the post installation and ongoing performance of impact attenuating surfacing as installed on site. Testing positions are indicated in images provided. A HIC meter calibrated and complying with AS 4422:2022 is used for the testing. It is a hemispherical head form measuring 160mm in diameter and 4.6kg in weight and has an internal accelerometer. Temperature and humidity measurements were taken to demonstrate testing was done in accordance to the minimum/maximum requirements of the Australian Standard.

NB: Testing is not done under laboratory conditions and does not replicate or replace laboratory testing of impact attenuating surfacing prior to installation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Kidsafe NSW uses a risk rating for each identified issue and hazard. Refer to the Risk Assessment Matrix (Figure1).

Figure 1: Risk Assessment Matrix

		CONSEQUENCES			
		Major	Moderate	Minor	Insignificant
LIKELIHOOD	Almost Certain	1	1	2	3
	Likely	1	2	3	4
	Possible	2	3	4	5
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Risk rating		
1	VH - Very High Risk – Rectify immediately	
2	H - High Risk – Immediate control required	
3	S - Significant Risk – Make plan to control risk	
4	M - Medium Risk – Monitor risk on ongoing basis	
5	L - Low Risk – Set a time to review risks	

(Adapted from AS/NZS ISO 31000 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines: HB 89 Risk Management - Guidelines on risk assessment techniques)

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Documentation

The playground owner/operator should establish a Playground Safety Management System to include the recording and archiving of documentation.

Documentation may include:

- Policies and procedures
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Relevant information sheets include:

- AS4685 Impact Areas Ready Reckoner
- Assessing Risk and Benefit in Playspaces
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- Entrapment
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SCHN-KIDSAFE@health.nsw.gov.au

Summary

Kidsafe NSW conducted a comprehensive playground inspection of the playground at Herb David Park (Carrington Street Park) on 07 August 2024 and has systematically identified hazards and issues (refer to Appendix A) and conducted on site playground surface testing (refer to Appendix B). Each section of the report addresses specified requirements of the Australian Standards.

Ensure all issues and hazards identified as non-complying with Australian Standards for playgrounds are addressed and rectified to meet those Standards. Consult with manufacturer/supplier of equipment or surfacing prior to making any repair or modification so as not to void any warranty or guarantee.

For further information or clarification on this report, please contact:

Kim Cooke
Manager
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P: 0447 636 818





APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

Herb David Park (Carrington Street Park)	Key: ND=Not Determined	NA=Not Applicable
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Inspector: Christie Fyffe	Date: 07 August 2024	Time: 7:45am
----------------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------

Equipment Item	Manufacturer/Installer/Supplier	Installation Date
Composite structure - Serial number: 101018 List of components: Small slide Rope net Rope climber Tunnel slide Climbing wall x 2 Wobble bridge Platforms x 7 Cross bar climber Step ladder Climbing ramp	willPlay	November 2018
Swings (Basket swing, rubber seat and infant swing) - Serial number: 101018	willPlay	November 2018
Slides 1 (Red straight slide) - Serial number: Composite structure	willPlay	November 2018
Slides 2 (Tunnel slide) - Serial number: Composite structure	willPlay	November 2018
Rockers (See saw) - Serial number: 101018	willPlay	November 2018
Auxiliary items: Tables and chairs Bench seats Shade shelter Ball O Maze Activity panel 4 in a row activity panel	ND	ND



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

Bin Fencing Garden beds		
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Playground Surfacing	Wet Pour Rubber
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APPENDIX A


Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations





APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

	Image	Issue/Hazard	Risk Rating	Comment/Recommendation
1 Marking				
1.1 Equipment Identification				
1.1.1		Marking plates located - No issues identified.	N/A	No action required.
1.2 Basic Level Mark				
1.2.1		N/A		N/A
2 Design and Manufacture				
2.1 Materials				
2.1.1		Unable to determine if metal utilised in the construction of the play space are coated with anti corrosive protective layer.	ND	Refer to documentation from supplier to determine if metal items are corrosion protected. Monitor for rust and corrosion. Treat and maintain as required.
2.1.2		Unable to determine if the playspace is free of dangerous substances (EG; asbestos, formaldehyde, chemicals).	ND	Refer to any site specific specialist inspection reports, if applicable.
2.2 Accessibility				
2.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.3 Protection Against Falling				
2.3.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.4 Moving Parts				
2.4.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.5 Entrapments				
2.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.6 Free Height of Fall				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.6.1		Free height of fall of static equipment measured less than 3m - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required
2.7 Spaces and Areas				
2.7.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.8 Means of Access (Playground Equipment)				
2.8.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.9 Connections, Ropes and Chains				



APPENDIX A


Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.9.1</p>		<p>Loose connections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wobble bridge (most connections) • Climbing ramp (top and bottom) • Rope climber (most connections) • Rope net 	<p>M</p>	<p>Secure.</p>
<p>2.10 Foundations</p>				
<p>2.10.1</p>		<p>Unable to inspect foundations due to unitary surfacing – no evidence of any issues identified.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
<p>2.11 Heavy Suspended Beams</p>				
<p>2.11.1</p>		<p>N/A</p>		<p>N/A</p>
<p>2.12 Other Equipment Items (e.g moveable play equipment, water pumps etc.)</p>				



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.12.1		N/A		N/A
3 Specific Equipment (AS 4685 Parts 2-6, 11)				
3.1 Slides				
3.1.1		Small slide: • Dirt/grime	N/A	Refer to the following sections: • Synthetic products
3.1.2		Tunnel slide - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required.
3.2 Swings				
3.2.1		Swings: • Surface rust issues • Dirt/grime	N/A	Refer to the following sections: • Metal items
3.3 Rocking Equipment				
3.3.1		See saw: • Dirt/grime	N/A	Refer to the following sections: • Metal items



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

3.3.2		Minor damage to damping	L	Refer to : Synthetic material section.
3.3.3		Hard surfaces in impact area/falling space.	S	Impact attenuating surfacing is required in entire impact area/falling space. Refer to manufacturer.

4 Playground Surfacing

4.1 Certified Surfacing and Impact Testing Requirements

4.1.1		Wet pour rubber surfacing tested - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required. Refer to Appendix B for test results. Surface testing next due August 2027.
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4.2 Hazards (trip, protrusion, toxicity, inhalation)

4.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
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4.3 Loose-fill Materials

4.3.1		N/A		N/A
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4.4 Unitary Surfacing



APPENDIX A

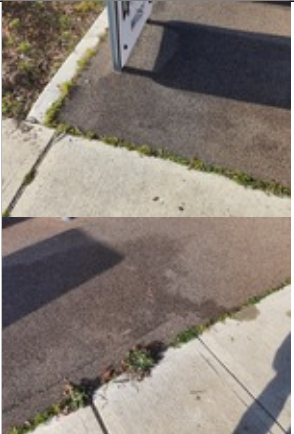

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>4.4.1</p>		<p>Wet pour rubber damaged in sections.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Repair.</p>
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

4.4.2		Weeds growing between wet pour rubber surfacing and concrete path.	L	Remove weeds. Monitor and maintain regularly.
5 General Issues				
5.1 Timber and Associated Products				
5.1.1		N/A		N/A
5.2 Metal Items				
5.2.1		Surface rust due to worn/chipped paint on swing frame.	L	Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Repaint. Maintain, as required.



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.2</p>		<p>Dirt/grime on metal elements.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>High pressure clean.</p>
<p>5.3 Synthetic Products</p>				



APPENDIX A


Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.3.1</p>		<p>Damaged damping on see saw.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Replace.</p>
<p>5.3.2</p>		<p>Dirt/grime on synthetic elements.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>High pressure clean.</p>



APPENDIX A


Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.4 Corners, Edges and Protrusions				
5.4.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.5 Ramps and Pathways (trips, slips and general issues)				
5.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.6 Gates and Fences				
5.6.1		<p>Gate issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gate on Crete Street is not self closing and has damaged hinges • Gate on Carrington Street has a damaged cover on latch 	M	<p>Adjust hinges or self-closing mechanism.</p> <p>Repair hinges and latch.</p>



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.6.2		Missing end caps on fence.	L	Replace end caps.
5.7 Auxiliary Items (e.g. seating, tables, rubbish bins, shade structures etc.)				
5.7.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.8 Sandpits and Digging Patches				
5.8.1		N/A		N/A
5.9 Grounds				
5.9.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required



APPENDIX B

On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report

Herb David Park (Carrington Street Park)

Inspector: Christie Fyffe

Date: 07 August 2024

Time: 7:45am

Ambient Temperature: 1C

Ambient Humidity: 86%





APPENDIX B

On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report



Type of Test: One Drop Method									
Test area:	Surface	Surface Condition:	Surface & Shockpad Depth (mm):	Free Height of Fall (Hf):	Drop Height:	Gmax*:	HIC**:	HIC Time***:(T1-T2 >3ms)	Results:
Test 1 - Small slide (starting section)	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	70mm	1000mm	1240mm	114G	495HIC	6.330ms	Pass
Test 2 - Small slide (starting section) / Rope climber	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	70mm	1000mm	1230mm	103G	424HIC	6.960ms	Pass
Test 3 - Small slide (run out)	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1000mm	1230mm	126G	565HIC	5.670ms	Pass
Test 4 - Cross bar ladder	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	920mm	1230mm	123G	545HIC	5.730ms	Pass
Test 5 - Climbing wall	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	>100mm	1730mm	2000mm	107G	559HIC	9.510ms	Pass
Test 6 - Tunnel slide (run out)	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	80mm	1000mm	1130mm	88G	317HIC	7.830ms	Pass
Test 7 - Climbing wall (pegs)	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	>100mm	2040mm	2270mm	121G	684HIC	7.680ms	Pass
Test 8 - Climbing wall (LHS)	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	>100mm	1440mm	1590mm	88G	384HIC	10.830ms	Pass



APPENDIX B

On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report

Test 9 - Climbing wall (RHS)	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	>100mm	1440mm	1680mm	84G	381HIC	11.730ms	Pass
Test 10 - Ladder (LHS)	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	80mm	1220mm	1470mm	113G	507HIC	6.690ms	Pass
Test 11 - Ladder (RHS)	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	70mm	1220mm	1490mm	113G	525HIC	6.660ms	Pass
Test 12 - Rope net	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	800mm	1110mm	128G	571HIC	5.310ms	Pass
Test 13 - Rope net	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	800mm	1080mm	100G	382HIC	6.810ms	Pass
Test 14 - Basket swing	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1170mm	1440mm	129G	632HIC	5.940ms	Pass
Test 15 - Basket swing	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1170mm	1440mm	121G	555HIC	6.180ms	Pass
Test 16 - Rubber seat swing	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1200mm	1490mm	140G	732HIC	5.550ms	Pass
Test 17 - Rubber seat swing	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1200mm	1500mm	134G	683HIC	5.850ms	Pass
Test 18 - Infant swing	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1130mm	1450mm	141G	745HIC	5.550ms	Pass
Test 19 - Infant swing	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1130mm	1450mm	141G	736HIC	5.490ms	Pass
Test 20 - See saw	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1000mm	1320mm	127G	601HIC	5.850ms	Pass
Test 21 - See saw	Wet Pour Rubber	Cracked	60mm	1000mm	1340mm	120G	542HIC	6.060ms	Pass
Test 22 - See saw	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1000mm	1310mm	121G	555HIC	6.150ms	Pass
Test 23 - See saw	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1000mm	1300mm	116G	519HIC	6.390ms	Pass

NOTES:

*Gmax - a unit of measurement that quantifies the hardness of a surface. The higher the Gmax of a playing surface, the harder and more hazardous. Over '200G' is considered a high risk for injury.

**HIC (Head Injury Criteria) - a measure of impact severity. Over 1000HIC is considered a high risk for injury.

*** HIC Time - The interval over which the HIC is calculated, ie (t1 - t2). An interval of less than 3ms (millisecond) is considered a high risk for injury.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT

Hassell Park (O'Connell Road Rest Area)

O'Connell Road (near Fish River bridge)
O'Connell NSW 2795

Client:

Oberon Council

137 - 139 Oberon Street
Oberon, NSW 2787

August 2024

Prepared by:
Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit
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Disclaimer

This report has been prepared from information available to Kidsafe NSW at the time of inspection.

Whilst care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this report, Kidsafe NSW and its employees, take no responsibility for any errors, omissions or changes to information that may occur and disclaim all responsibility and liability to any person in respect to anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon information within this report.

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PREAMBLE

This report assesses the nominated playground/s and surrounding areas against the relevant Australian Standards listed below.

Australian Standard AS 4685.0:2017 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 0: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation

Australian Standard AS 4685:2021, Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods

Part 2: Particular safety requirements and test methods for swings

Part 3: Particular safety requirements and test methods for slides

Part 4: Particular safety requirements and test methods for cableways

Part 5: Particular safety requirements and test methods for carousels

Part 6: Particular safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment

Australian Standard AS 4685:2014 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 11: Particular safety requirements and test methods for spatial networks

Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing

Specifications, requirements and test method

Australian Standard AS 1428.1 Design for access and mobility

(Selected clauses)

REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARDS

For the purpose of this inspection report, the following requirements of the Standards are considered as part of the scope and are addressed in Appendix A - Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations.

General

Individual play equipment structures are permanently marked with a plate clearly identifying the name, address, ABN, the equipment reference and year of manufacture. A basic level mark for the associated impact attenuating surface is required on fixed equipment installed in loose-fill surfacing. Equipment stating compliance with the Australian Standards must be marked with AS 4685.

Protection against Falling

Guardrails or barriers are installed for heights of more than 600mm above ground level. Continuous handrails are required on each side of access ways and bridges. All items intended for gripping must have a diameter that measures between 16mm-45mm.

Head and Neck Entrapment

Head and neck entrapment refers to any opening at a height of more than 600mm above ground level that would allow a child's body to pass through but not their head. Bound head and neck entrapment (dimensions of 89mm – 230mm), partially bound and V-shaped openings, shearing or moving openings (flexible and rigid parts with openings less than 230mm) must be eliminated.

Clothing/Hair Entrapment

Clothing/hair entrapment refers to situations where parts of clothing/hair may become trapped.

Foot Entrapment

Foot entrapment refers to situations where there are gaps wider than 30mm on surfaces intended for running/walking or completely bound rigid openings in surfaces for running/climbing and inclined up to 45°.

Finger Entrapment

Finger entrapment refers to any opening that would allow a child's fingers or thumbs to be trapped in a fall situation. Gaps or openings with dimensions of 8-25mm at 1000mm or more above playing surface level or at the entrance to equipment with forced movement must be eliminated. Chains require a maximum opening of 8.6mm. Connectors require an opening of greater than 12mm or less than 8.6mm.

Free Height of Fall

Free height of fall must not exceed 1800mm for Supervised Early Childhood Settings and 3000mm for All Age Settings. The free height of fall is the greatest vertical distance measured from the intended body support of the equipment to the impact area below. Unintended access to excessive heights should be avoided.

Spaces and Areas

A minimal impact area of 1500mm is required around equipment (with fall heights of 600mm or more above ground level) and between individual items of equipment. AS 4685 requires an increase in the impact area for equipment with platforms measuring more than 1500mm above ground level. AS 4685 specifies falling spaces for specific equipment with forced movement such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items. The falling space and impact area for equipment with forced movement cannot overlap with other falling spaces and impact areas.

Means of Access

Equipment designed to provide safe ascent or descent. Means of access include steps, stairs, ladders and ramps. Equipment designed to ensure that adults are able to gain access to assist children within the equipment.

Means of Access

Playground equipment should be structurally stable, in good condition and fit for children's play.

Materials

Appropriate material used in the construction of equipment taking into account climatic and atmospheric conditions, toxicity, flammability and ultraviolet radiation. No Copper Chromium Arsenate (CCA) or creosote timber treatments are to be used on timbers either above ground or below ground in playground spaces. For any new timber installations use naturally durable timbers (Durability Class 1 or Class 2) complying with AS5604 or treated timbers (H3/H4) complying with AS1604.

Finish of Equipment

Finish on equipment shall have no protruding nails, bolt threads, projecting wire rope terminations, pointed or sharp ended components. Projecting parts and corners measure less than 8mm (or covered) with a minimum radius of 3mm. Accessible surfaces finished smooth with no splintering or burrs.

Playground Surfacing

Impact attenuating surfacing compliant with AS 4422:2022 is required across the impact area where play equipment is more than 600mm above ground level and for specific equipment such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items.

The critical fall height is determined by test methods as per AS 4422:2022. Impact testing of unitary surfacing is required post installation then every 3 years. Loose-fill surfacing installed at 300mm depth and maintained at minimum 200mm depth. Surface impact testing is only conducted if agreed prior to the inspection. If playground surface impact testing has been conducted refer to Appendix B: On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report. This report assesses the nominated playground/s surfacing against Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing: Specifications, requirements and test method.

The testing is completed onsite as a part of a playground inspection regime as outlined in AS 4685.0 2017. It is a form of testing to determine the post installation and ongoing performance of impact attenuating surfacing as installed on site. Testing positions are indicated in images provided. A HIC meter calibrated and complying with AS 4422:2022 is used for the testing. It is a hemispherical head form measuring 160mm in diameter and 4.6kg in weight and has an internal accelerometer. Temperature and humidity measurements were taken to demonstrate testing was done in accordance to the minimum/maximum requirements of the Australian Standard.

NB: Testing is not done under laboratory conditions and does not replicate or replace laboratory testing of impact attenuating surfacing prior to installation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Kidsafe NSW uses a risk rating for each identified issue and hazard. Refer to the Risk Assessment Matrix (Figure1).

Figure 1: Risk Assessment Matrix

		CONSEQUENCES			
		Major	Moderate	Minor	Insignificant
LIKELIHOOD	Almost Certain	1	1	2	3
	Likely	1	2	3	4
	Possible	2	3	4	5
	Unlikely	3	4	5	5

Risk rating		
1	VH - Very High Risk – Rectify immediately	
2	H - High Risk – Immediate control required	
3	S - Significant Risk – Make plan to control risk	
4	M - Medium Risk – Monitor risk on ongoing basis	
5	L - Low Risk – Set a time to review risks	

(Adapted from AS/NZS ISO 31000 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines: HB 89 Risk Management - Guidelines on risk assessment techniques)

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Documentation

The playground owner/operator should establish a Playground Safety Management System to include the recording and archiving of documentation.

Documentation may include:

- Policies and procedures
- Reports eg. accident/injury
- Inventory/Equipment register
- Inspection checklists
- Inspection reports
- Works orders
- Maintenance actions
- Certification records eg. equipment, surfacing
- Manufacturer's warranty details
- Manufacturer's installation, inspection and maintenance instructions
- Operating Instructions (if applicable)
- Supervision plan
- Risk and risk benefit assessments

Relevant information sheets include:

- AS4685 Impact Areas Ready Reckoner
- Assessing Risk and Benefit in Playspaces
- Barriers, Guardrails and Handrails - Protection Against Falling
- Bike Tracks
- Entrapment
- Fencing Playspaces
- Impact Areas
- Mounds for Play
- Natural Playspaces
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- Playground Development
- Playground Safety Management System
- Playground Surfacing
- Portable Mats
- Safe Play in Backyards
- Sandpits
- Shade in Playspaces
- Slides
- Stepping Stones
- Swings
- Timber in Playspaces
- Trampolines
- Tree Climbing

For more information regarding Australian Standards for playgrounds, refer to the suite of Kidsafe NSW information sheets available to download from the website:

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/information-sheets/playground-safety/>

Moveable Play Equipment - a guide for playground owners and educators, a valuable resource for Education and Care Services. Order a copy from the website:

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/playground-safety/>

Information on safe gardening with children and recommended plants for playgrounds can be found on the web resource 'grow me safely':

<https://www.kidsafensw.org/safety/playground-safety/>

Kidsafe NSW Playground News informs readers of latest issues, trends and development in playgrounds. Visit the website to view published newsletters:

<https://www.kidsafensw.org/resources/newsletters/playground-news/>

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Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit is available for design and planning advice for existing and planned playgrounds. Please do not hesitate to contact the office on 02 9845 0893 or email

SCHN-KIDSAFE@health.nsw.gov.au

Summary

Kidsafe NSW conducted a comprehensive playground inspection of the playground at Hassell Park (O'Connell Road Rest Area) on 07 August 2024 and has systematically identified hazards and issues (refer to Appendix A). Each section of the report addresses specified requirements of the Australian Standards.

Ensure all issues and hazards identified as non-complying with Australian Standards for playgrounds are addressed and rectified to meet those Standards. Consult with manufacturer/supplier of equipment or surfacing prior to making any repair or modification so as not to void any warranty or guarantee.

For further information or clarification on this report, please contact:

Kim Cooke
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

Hassell Park	Key: ND=Not Determined	NA=Not Applicable
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Inspector: Christie Fyffe	Date: 07 August 2024	Time: 9:45am
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Equipment Item	Manufacturer/Installer/Supplier	Installation Date
Composite structure - Serial number: ND List of components: Curved slide Platform x 2 Climbing ramp Ladder Half loop climber Monkey bars Chain climber Timber wobble bridge Sliding pole	ND	ND
Swings (Rubber seat and infant swing set) - Serial number: ND	ND	ND
Slides (Curved slide) - Serial number: Composite structure	ND	ND
Auxiliary items: Shade shelter Fence	ND	ND
Playground Surfacing	Mulch	



APPENDIX A


Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations





APPENDIX A




Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

	Image	Issue/Hazard	Risk Rating	Comment/Recommendation
1 Marking				
1.1 Equipment Identification				
1.1.1		No marking plates on equipment.	N/A	Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance to AS 4685 and a marking plate is permanently fixed to equipment.
1.2 Basic Level Mark				
1.2.1		No basic level marks on equipment in loose fill.	N/A	Attach a permanent basic level mark 300mm above ground level to indicate installation depth for loose-fill playground surfacing. Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance and basic level marks are permanently fixed to equipment.
2 Design and Manufacture				
2.1 Materials				
2.1.1		Unable to determine if timber utilised in the construction of the timber wobble bridge is treated with CCA or creosote.	ND	Refer to documentation from the supplier to determine if timber is CCA or creosote free. Seal timber. Monitor and recoat when required.
2.1.2		Unable to determine if metal utilised in the construction of the equipment and shade posts are coated with anti corrosive protective layer.	ND	Refer to documentation from supplier to determine if metal items are corrosion protected. Monitor for rust and corrosion. Treat and maintain as required.
2.1.3		Unable to determine if the playspace is free of dangerous substances (EG; asbestos, formaldehyde, chemicals).	ND	Refer to any site specific specialist inspection reports, if applicable.
2.2 Accessibility				
2.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.3 Protection Against Falling				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.3.1</p>		<p>Single handrail on chain climber measured greater than 900mm above foot position.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>NB: Structure may have complied with relevant standard at time of installation.</p> <p>AS 4685:2021 specifies that single handrails in all age settings measure not less than 600mm and not more than 9000mm above the foot position.</p> <p>Consider installation of signage to encourage active supervision and rules of the playground.</p> <p>Alternatively, adjust handrail.</p>
<p>2.3.2</p>		<p>Upper handrail on wobble bridge measured greater than 900mm above foot position.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>NB: Structure may have complied with relevant standard at time of installation.</p> <p>AS 4685:2021 specifies that the handrails on a multi handrail installation in all age settings measure not less than 600mm or more than 900mm above the foot position. Consideration should be given to entrapment dimensions ie no gaps to be created between 89-230mm.</p> <p>Consider installation of signage to encourage active supervision and rules of the playground.</p> <p>Alternatively, adjust handrail.</p>
<p>2.3.3</p>		<p>Exit/entrance openings on steep play elements measured greater than 500mm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sliding pole (measured 700mm) • Climbing ramp (measured 940mm; no grab rails) <p>NB: this equipment is identified as 'easily accessible'.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>AS 4685:2021 specifies the maximum width of exit/entrance openings in barriers on steep play elements to be no more than 500mm wide.</p> <p>Consider installation of signage to encourage active supervision and rules of the playground.</p> <p>Alternatively, reduce opening to 500mm.</p>
<p>2.4 Moving Parts</p>				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.4.1		N/A		N/A
2.5 Entrapments				
2.5.1		Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening of grab rails both sides of sliding pole.	H	AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm. Replace with grab rails compliant with AS 4685.



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.2</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the vacant bolt holes on the sides of the platform.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground should not measure between 8mm – 25mm.</p> <p>Plug holes.</p>
<p>2.5.3</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the opening between the chain climber and platform.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground should not measure between 8mm – 25mm.</p> <p>Reduce opening to less than 8mm.</p>



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.4</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the chains on the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chain climber • Chains on timber wobble bridge 	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment is free from potential finger entrapment. Chains should not allow 8.6mm probe to pass through.</p> <p>Install sheath or replace with short linked chain compliant with AS 4685.</p>
<p>2.5.5</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the S-hooks on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chain climber • Rubber seat swing (due to displaced sheath) 	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment is free from potential finger entrapment. Connectors (S-hooks, D-shackles) should allow 8.6 and 12mm probes to pass through.</p> <p>Install spacers, S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock compliant with AS 4685.</p>



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.5.6		Excess chains on chain climber.	M	Due to entrapment issues, replace chains.
2.6 Free Height of Fall				
2.6.1		Free height of fall of static equipment measured less than 3m - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required
2.7 Spaces and Areas				
2.7.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.8 Means of Access (Playground Equipment)				
2.8.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.9 Connections, Ropes and Chains				
2.9.1		Connections missing on chain climber.	M	Due to entrapment issues, replace.



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.9.2</p>	<p>Surface rust on the chains and S-hooks throughout play space.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Maintain as required.</p>
<p>2.9.3</p>	<p>S-hooks open more than 1mm and not safeguarded on chain climber.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Insert S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock.</p>



APPENDIX A





Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.10 Foundations				
2.10.1		Footings of swing frame less than 200mm below playing surface. Foundations exposed through ground surface.	H	<p>AS 4685 specifies footings to be installed at least 400mm below the playing surface or 200mm below playing surface and top of footing chamfered.</p> <p>Raise ground level by adding soil and top up with loose fill mulch.</p>
2.11 Heavy Suspended Beams				
2.11.1		N/A		N/A
2.12 Other Equipment Items (e.g moveable play equipment, water pumps etc.)				
2.12.1		N/A		N/A
3 Specific Equipment (AS 4685 Parts 2-6, 11)				
3.1 Slides				
3.1.1		<p>Slide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Inadequate loose fill depth • Grime/spiderwebs 	N/A	<p>Refer to the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Loose fill items • Synthetic products



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

3.1.2		Opening in barrier is greater than starting section of slide.	M	AS 4685 specifies that the opening in the barrier is the same as the width of the starting section for attachment slides. Install compliant guarding section.
3.2 Swings				
3.2.1		Swings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Entrapment issues • Inadequate loose fill depth • Surface rust issues • Foundation issues • Grime/spiderwebs on frame • Displaced sheath • Sharp edges 	N/A	Refer to the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Entrapments • Loose fill items • Connections, ropes and chains • Metal items • Foundations • Synthetic products • Corners, edges and protrusions
4 Playground Surfacing				
4.1 Certified Surfacing and Impact Testing Requirements				
4.1.1		Unable to determine if mulch is impact attenuating playground surfacing compliant with AS 4422.	ND	Obtain certificates of compliance from the surfacing supplier.
4.2 Hazards (trip, protrusion, toxicity, inhalation)				
4.2.1		Potential trip hazards due to uneven surface throughout loose fill.	M	Level ground surface and top up loose fill mulch.
4.3 Loose-fill Materials				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>4.3.1</p>		<p>Inadequate loose fill depth measured less than 200mm in impact area of swings (less than 50mm measured).</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies loose-fill to be installed at 300mm (to base level mark) and maintained at no less than 200mm.</p> <p>Top up loose-fill.</p> <p>Unitary impact attenuating surfacing such as wet pour rubber installed in high impact areas under swings and at slide exits, can significantly reduce displacement. Install with an angled edge, below or level with loose fill surfacing to avoid a trip hazard.</p>
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>4.3.2</p>		<p>Inadequate loose fill depth measured less than 200mm in impact area of composite structure.</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies loose-fill to be installed at 300mm (to base level mark) and maintained at no less than 200mm.</p> <p>Top up loose-fill.</p> <p>Unitary impact attenuating surfacing such as wet pour rubber installed in high impact areas under swings and at slide exits, can significantly reduce displacement. Install with an angled edge, below or level with loose fill surfacing to avoid a trip hazard.</p>
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

4.3.3		Grass growing in loose fill.	L	Remove. Monitor and maintain regularly.
4.4 Unitary Surfacing				
4.4.1		N/A		N/A
5 General Issues				
5.1 Timber and Associated Products				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.1.1</p>		<p>Splitting timber and moss on the wobble bridge.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Remove moss. Remove shards. Caulk splits. Sand to a smooth finish. Seal timber. Monitor and maintain. Replace timber as required.</p>
<p>5.2 Metal Items</p>				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.1</p>		<p>Surface rust due to worn/chipped paint on metal elements on composite structure.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Repaint. Maintain, as required.</p>
--------------	--	---	----------	---



APPENDIX A


Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.2</p>		<p>Surface rust on the metal elements of composite structure and swing attachment items.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required. Consider replacing with stainless steel items.</p>
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.3</p> 	<p>Grime and spider webs throughout play space.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>High pressure clean. Monitor and maintain regularly.</p>
<p>5.3 Synthetic Products</p>			



APPENDIX A





Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.3.1</p>		<p>Displaced sheathing on swings.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Repair/replace.</p>
<p>5.3.2</p>		<p>Spiderwebs on synthetic items on composite structure.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Remove. Monitor and maintain regularly.</p>



APPENDIX A


Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.4 Corners, Edges and Protrusions				
5.4.1		Sharp edge on infant swing attachment plate.	M	Replace swing seat.
5.4.2		Protruding bolt thread under composite structure platform.	M	Grind/cut back to less than 8mm in length ensuring there are no resultant burrs and cover with a domed cap.
5.4.3		Damaged end cap on post near ladder and half loop climber.	M	Replace end cap.
5.5 Ramps and Pathways (trips, slips and general issues)				
5.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.6 Gates and Fences				
5.6.1		Access gate not self-closing.	M	Adjust hinges or self-closing mechanism.



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.6.2		Bent fence railing on gate.	L	Repair.
5.7 Auxiliary Items (e.g. seating, tables, rubbish bins, shade structures etc.)				
5.7.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.8 Sandpits and Digging Patches				
5.8.1		N/A		N/A
5.9 Grounds				
5.9.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required



COMPREHENSIVE PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT

Glyndwr Avenue (South)

14 Duckmaloi Road
Oberon NSW 2787

Client:

Oberon Council

137 - 139 Oberon Street
Oberon, NSW 2787

August 2024

Prepared by:
Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit
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Disclaimer

This report has been prepared from information available to Kidsafe NSW at the time of inspection.

Whilst care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this report, Kidsafe NSW and its employees, take no responsibility for any errors, omissions or changes to information that may occur and disclaim all responsibility and liability to any person in respect to anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon information within this report.

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PREAMBLE

This report assesses the nominated playground/s and surrounding areas against the relevant Australian Standards listed below.

Australian Standard AS 4685.0:2017 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 0: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation

Australian Standard AS 4685:2021, Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods

Part 2: Particular safety requirements and test methods for swings

Part 3: Particular safety requirements and test methods for slides

Part 4: Particular safety requirements and test methods for cableways

Part 5: Particular safety requirements and test methods for carousels

Part 6: Particular safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment

Australian Standard AS 4685:2014 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 11: Particular safety requirements and test methods for spatial networks

Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing

Specifications, requirements and test method

Australian Standard AS 1428.1 Design for access and mobility

(Selected clauses)

REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARDS

For the purpose of this inspection report, the following requirements of the Standards are considered as part of the scope and are addressed in Appendix A - Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations.

General

Individual play equipment structures are permanently marked with a plate clearly identifying the name, address, ABN, the equipment reference and year of manufacture. A basic level mark for the associated impact attenuating surface is required on fixed equipment installed in loose-fill surfacing. Equipment stating compliance with the Australian Standards must be marked with AS 4685.

Protection against Falling

Guardrails or barriers are installed for heights of more than 600mm above ground level. Continuous handrails are required on each side of access ways and bridges. All items intended for gripping must have a diameter that measures between 16mm-45mm.

Head and Neck Entrapment

Head and neck entrapment refers to any opening at a height of more than 600mm above ground level that would allow a child's body to pass through but not their head. Bound head and neck entrapment (dimensions of 89mm – 230mm), partially bound and V-shaped openings, shearing or moving openings (flexible and rigid parts with openings less than 230mm) must be eliminated.

Clothing/Hair Entrapment

Clothing/hair entrapment refers to situations where parts of clothing/hair may become trapped.

Foot Entrapment

Foot entrapment refers to situations where there are gaps wider than 30mm on surfaces intended for running/walking or completely bound rigid openings in surfaces for running/climbing and inclined up to 45°.

Finger Entrapment

Finger entrapment refers to any opening that would allow a child's fingers or thumbs to be trapped in a fall situation. Gaps or openings with dimensions of 8-25mm at 1000mm or more above playing surface level or at the entrance to equipment with forced movement must be eliminated. Chains require a maximum opening of 8.6mm. Connectors require an opening of greater than 12mm or less than 8.6mm.

Free Height of Fall

Free height of fall must not exceed 1800mm for Supervised Early Childhood Settings and 3000mm for All Age Settings. The free height of fall is the greatest vertical distance measured from the intended body support of the equipment to the impact area below. Unintended access to excessive heights should be avoided.

Spaces and Areas

A minimal impact area of 1500mm is required around equipment (with fall heights of 600mm or more above ground level) and between individual items of equipment. AS 4685 requires an increase in the impact area for equipment with platforms measuring more than 1500mm above ground level. AS 4685 specifies falling spaces for specific equipment with forced movement such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items. The falling space and impact area for equipment with forced movement cannot overlap with other falling spaces and impact areas.

Means of Access

Equipment designed to provide safe ascent or descent. Means of access include steps, stairs, ladders and ramps. Equipment designed to ensure that adults are able to gain access to assist children within the equipment.

Means of Access

Playground equipment should be structurally stable, in good condition and fit for children's play.

Materials

Appropriate material used in the construction of equipment taking into account climatic and atmospheric conditions, toxicity, flammability and ultraviolet radiation. No Copper Chromium Arsenate (CCA) or creosote timber treatments are to be used on timbers either above ground or below ground in playground spaces. For any new timber installations use naturally durable timbers (Durability Class 1 or Class 2) complying with AS5604 or treated timbers (H3/H4) complying with AS1604.

Finish of Equipment

Finish on equipment shall have no protruding nails, bolt threads, projecting wire rope terminations, pointed or sharp ended components. Projecting parts and corners measure less than 8mm (or covered) with a minimum radius of 3mm. Accessible surfaces finished smooth with no splintering or burrs.

Playground Surfacing

Impact attenuating surfacing compliant with AS 4422:2022 is required across the impact area where play equipment is more than 600mm above ground level and for specific equipment such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items.

The critical fall height is determined by test methods as per AS 4422:2022. Impact testing of unitary surfacing is required post installation then every 3 years. Loose-fill surfacing installed at 300mm depth and maintained at minimum 200mm depth. Surface impact testing is only conducted if agreed prior to the inspection. If playground surface impact testing has been conducted refer to Appendix B: On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report. This report assesses the nominated playground/s surfacing against Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing: Specifications, requirements and test method.

The testing is completed onsite as a part of a playground inspection regime as outlined in AS 4685.0 2017. It is a form of testing to determine the post installation and ongoing performance of impact attenuating surfacing as installed on site. Testing positions are indicated in images provided. A HIC meter calibrated and complying with AS 4422:2022 is used for the testing. It is a hemispherical head form measuring 160mm in diameter and 4.6kg in weight and has an internal accelerometer. Temperature and humidity measurements were taken to demonstrate testing was done in accordance to the minimum/maximum requirements of the Australian Standard.

NB: Testing is not done under laboratory conditions and does not replicate or replace laboratory testing of impact attenuating surfacing prior to installation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Kidsafe NSW uses a risk rating for each identified issue and hazard. Refer to the Risk Assessment Matrix (Figure1).

Figure 1: Risk Assessment Matrix

		CONSEQUENCES			
		Major	Moderate	Minor	Insignificant
LIKELIHOOD	Almost Certain	1	1	2	3
	Likely	1	2	3	4
	Possible	2	3	4	5
	Unlikely	3	4	5	5

Risk rating		
1	VH - Very High Risk – Rectify immediately	
2	H - High Risk – Immediate control required	
3	S - Significant Risk – Make plan to control risk	
4	M - Medium Risk – Monitor risk on ongoing basis	
5	L - Low Risk – Set a time to review risks	

(Adapted from AS/NZS ISO 31000 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines: HB 89 Risk Management - Guidelines on risk assessment techniques)

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Documentation

The playground owner/operator should establish a Playground Safety Management System to include the recording and archiving of documentation.

Documentation may include:

- Policies and procedures
- Reports eg. accident/injury
- Inventory/Equipment register
- Inspection checklists
- Inspection reports
- Works orders
- Maintenance actions
- Certification records eg. equipment, surfacing
- Manufacturer's warranty details
- Manufacturer's installation, inspection and maintenance instructions
- Operating Instructions (if applicable)
- Supervision plan
- Risk and risk benefit assessments

Relevant information sheets include:

- AS4685 Impact Areas Ready Reckoner
- Assessing Risk and Benefit in Playspaces
- Barriers, Guardrails and Handrails - Protection Against Falling
- Bike Tracks
- Entrapment
- Fencing Playspaces
- Impact Areas
- Mounds for Play
- Natural Playspaces
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- Playground Development
- Playground Safety Management System
- Playground Surfacing
- Portable Mats
- Safe Play in Backyards
- Sandpits
- Shade in Playspaces
- Slides
- Stepping Stones
- Swings
- Timber in Playspaces
- Trampolines
- Tree Climbing

For more information regarding Australian Standards for playgrounds, refer to the suite of Kidsafe NSW information sheets available to download from the website:

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/information-sheets/playground-safety/>

Moveable Play Equipment - a guide for playground owners and educators, a valuable resource for Education and Care Services. Order a copy from the website:

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/playground-safety/>

Information on safe gardening with children and recommended plants for playgrounds can be found on the web resource 'grow me safely':

<https://www.kidsafensw.org/safety/playground-safety/>

Kidsafe NSW Playground News informs readers of latest issues, trends and development in playgrounds. Visit the website to view published newsletters:

<https://www.kidsafensw.org/resources/newsletters/playground-news/>

Subscribe to Playground News: <https://www.kidsafensw.org/resources/newsletters/subscribe/>

Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit is available for design and planning advice for existing and planned playgrounds. Please do not hesitate to contact the office on 02 9845 0893 or email

SCHN-KIDSAFE@health.nsw.gov.au

Summary

Kidsafe NSW conducted a comprehensive playground inspection of the playground at Glyndwr Avenue (South) on 06 August 2024 and has systematically identified hazards and issues (refer to Appendix A). Each section of the report addresses specified requirements of the Australian Standards.

Ensure all issues and hazards identified as non-complying with Australian Standards for playgrounds are addressed and rectified to meet those Standards. Consult with manufacturer/supplier of equipment or surfacing prior to making any repair or modification so as not to void any warranty or guarantee.

For further information or clarification on this report, please contact:

Kim Cooke
Manager
Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit
E: schn-kidsafe@health.nsw.gov.au
P: 0447 636 818





APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

Glyndwr Avenue (South) Playground	Key: ND=Not Determined	NA=Not Applicable
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Inspector: Christie Fyffe	Date: 06 August 2024	Time: 12:30pm
----------------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------

Equipment Item	Manufacturer/Installer/Supplier	Installation Date
Swings (Swing frame only (swings missing)) - Serial number: ND	ND	ND
Other items: Excavator	ND	ND

Playground Surfacing	Mulch
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

	Image	Issue/Hazard	Risk Rating	Comment/Recommendation
1 Marking				
1.1 Equipment Identification				
1.1.1		No marking plate on equipment	N/A	Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance to AS 4685 and a marking plate is permanently fixed to equipment.
1.2 Basic Level Mark				
1.2.1		No basic level marks on equipment in loose fill.	N/A	Attach a permanent basic level mark 300mm above ground level to indicate installation depth for loose-fill playground surfacing. Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance and basic level marks are permanently fixed to equipment.
2 Design and Manufacture				
2.1 Materials				
2.1.1		Unable to determine if metal utilised in the construction of the equipment are coated with anti corrosive protective layer.	ND	Refer to documentation from supplier to determine if metal items are corrosion protected. Monitor for rust and corrosion. Treat and maintain as required.
2.1.2		Unable to determine if the playspace is free of dangerous substances (EG; asbestos, formaldehyde, chemicals).	ND	Refer to any site specific specialist inspection reports, if applicable.
2.2 Accessibility				
2.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.3 Protection Against Falling				
2.3.1		N/A		N/A
2.4 Moving Parts				
2.4.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.5 Entrapments				
2.5.1		Swings missing - not able to determine entrapment issues.	ND	Reinstall compliant swings.
2.6 Free Height of Fall				



APPENDIX A


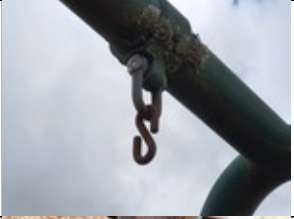


Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.6.1		N/A		N/A
2.7 Spaces and Areas				
2.7.1		Swings missing - not able to determine impact areas.	ND	Reinstall compliant swings and ensure adequate impact area is provided.
2.7.2		Grass growing in swing impact area.	M	Remove grass. Monitor and maintain regularly. Install a retaining border to manage impact areas and distinguish impact areas from open space play areas.
2.8 Means of Access (Playground Equipment)				
2.8.1		N/A		N/A
2.9 Connections, Ropes and Chains				



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.9.1		Loose connection on excavator.	L	Secure.
2.9.2		S-hooks open more than 1mm and not safeguarded on top of swing frame.	L	If swings are reinstalled, insert S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock.
2.9.3		Loose connection on post of excavator.	L	Secure to eliminate movement.
2.10 Foundations				
2.10.1		Surface rust on the excavator.	L	Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required. Consider replacing with stainless steel items.
2.11 Heavy Suspended Beams				
2.11.1		N/A		N/A
2.12 Other Equipment Items (e.g moveable play equipment, water pumps etc.)				
2.12.1		N/A		N/A
3 Specific Equipment (AS 4685 Parts 2-6, 11)				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

3.1 Swings				
3.1.1		Swings missing - not able to determine impact areas.	ND	Reinstall swings. Install a retaining border to manage impact areas and retain mulch depth. NB: Impact area calculated:(length of chain x .866) + 2250mm, this impact area is to be provided to the front and rear of swing.
4 Playground Surfacing				
4.1 Certified Surfacing and Impact Testing Requirements				
4.1.1		Unable to determine if mulch is impact attenuating playground surfacing compliant with AS 4422.	ND	Obtain certificates of compliance from the surfacing supplier.
4.2 Hazards (trip, protrusion, toxicity, inhalation)				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>4.2.1</p>		<p>Potential trip hazards due to uneven surfaces.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Level ground surface and top up loose fill mulch. Install a retaining border to manage impact areas and distinguish impact areas from open space play areas.</p>
<p>4.3 Loose-fill Materials</p>				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

4.3.1		Inadequate loose fill depth measured less than 200mm in area of swings (missing).	S	<p>AS 4685 specifies loose-fill to be installed at 300mm (to base level mark) and maintained at no less than 200mm.</p> <p>Top up loose-fill.</p> <p>Unitary impact attenuating surfacing such as wet pour rubber installed in high impact areas under swings and at slide exits, can significantly reduce displacement. Install with an angled edge, below or level with loose fill surfacing to avoid a trip hazard.</p>
4.3.2		Grass growing in loose fill.	M	Refer to 'Spaces and areas' section.
4.4 Unitary Surfacing				
4.4.1		N/A		N/A
5 General Issues				
5.1 Timber and Associated Products				
5.1.1		N/A		N/A
5.2 Metal Items				



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.1</p>		<p>Grime/moss on swing frame.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>High pressure clean.</p>
<p>5.2.2</p>		<p>Surface rust due to worn/chipped paint on excavator.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Repaint. Maintain, as required.</p>



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.3 Synthetic Products				
5.3.1		N/A		N/A
5.4 Corners, Edges and Protrusions				
5.4.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.5 Ramps and Pathways (trips, slips and general issues)				
5.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.6 Gates and Fences				
5.6.1		N/A		N/A
5.7 Auxiliary Items (e.g. seating, tables, rubbish bins, shade structures etc.)				
5.7.1		<p>Damaged bench seat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Splitting timber • Worn sealant/paint • Moss 	M	Repair.
5.8 Sandpits and Digging Patches				
5.8.1		N/A		N/A
5.9 Grounds				
5.9.1		Adequate shade not provided in playspace.	L	Conduct a shade audit to ascertain shade requirements for the playground. Install shade structure or additional planting of trees as determined by audit.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT

Glyndwr Avenue (North)

34 Glyndwr Avenue
Oberon NSW 2787

Client:

Oberon Council

137 - 139 Oberon Street
Oberon, NSW 2787

August 2024

Prepared by:
Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit
C/- Locked Bag 4001
Westmead NSW 2145
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(Selected clauses)

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Impact attenuating surfacing compliant with AS 4422:2022 is required across the impact area where play equipment is more than 600mm above ground level and for specific equipment such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items.

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NB: Testing is not done under laboratory conditions and does not replicate or replace laboratory testing of impact attenuating surfacing prior to installation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Kidsafe NSW uses a risk rating for each identified issue and hazard. Refer to the Risk Assessment Matrix (Figure1).

Figure 1: Risk Assessment Matrix

		CONSEQUENCES			
		Major	Moderate	Minor	Insignificant
LIKELIHOOD	Almost Certain	1	1	2	3
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(Adapted from AS/NZS ISO 31000 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines: HB 89 Risk Management - Guidelines on risk assessment techniques)

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Documentation

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- Manufacturer's installation, inspection and maintenance instructions
- Operating Instructions (if applicable)
- Supervision plan
- Risk and risk benefit assessments

Relevant information sheets include:

- AS4685 Impact Areas Ready Reckoner
- Assessing Risk and Benefit in Playspaces
- Barriers, Guardrails and Handrails - Protection Against Falling
- Bike Tracks
- Entrapment
- Fencing Playspaces
- Impact Areas
- Mounds for Play
- Natural Playspaces
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- Playground Development
- Playground Safety Management System
- Playground Surfacing
- Portable Mats
- Safe Play in Backyards
- Sandpits
- Shade in Playspaces
- Slides
- Stepping Stones
- Swings
- Timber in Playspaces
- Trampolines
- Tree Climbing

For more information regarding Australian Standards for playgrounds, refer to the suite of Kidsafe NSW information sheets available to download from the website:

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/information-sheets/playground-safety/>

Moveable Play Equipment - a guide for playground owners and educators, a valuable resource for Education and Care Services. Order a copy from the website:

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/playground-safety/>

Information on safe gardening with children and recommended plants for playgrounds can be found on the web resource 'grow me safely':

<https://www.kidsafensw.org/safety/playground-safety/>

Kidsafe NSW Playground News informs readers of latest issues, trends and development in playgrounds. Visit the website to view published newsletters:

<https://www.kidsafensw.org/resources/newsletters/playground-news/>

Subscribe to Playground News: <https://www.kidsafensw.org/resources/newsletters/subscribe/>

Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit is available for design and planning advice for existing and planned playgrounds. Please do not hesitate to contact the office on 02 9845 0893 or email

SCHN-KIDSAFE@health.nsw.gov.au

Summary

Kidsafe NSW conducted a comprehensive playground inspection of the playground at Glyndwr Avenue (North) on 06 August 2024 and has systematically identified hazards and issues (refer to Appendix A). Each section of the report addresses specified requirements of the Australian Standards.

Ensure all issues and hazards identified as non-complying with Australian Standards for playgrounds are addressed and rectified to meet those Standards. Consult with manufacturer/supplier of equipment or surfacing prior to making any repair or modification so as not to void any warranty or guarantee.

For further information or clarification on this report, please contact:

Kim Cooke
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

Glyndwr Avenue (North) Playground	Key: ND=Not Determined	NA=Not Applicable
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Inspector: Christie Fyffe	Date: 06 August 2024	Time: 12:00pm
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Equipment Item	Manufacturer/Installer/Supplier	Installation Date
Swings (Strap seat swing x 2) - Serial number: ND	ND	ND
Slides (Free-standing stainless steel slide) - Serial number: ND	ND	ND

Playground Surfacing	Mulch
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

	Image	Issue/Hazard	Risk Rating	Comment/Recommendation
1 Marking				
1.1 Equipment Identification				
1.1.1		No marking plates on equipment.	N/A	Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance to AS 4685 and a marking plate is permanently fixed to equipment.
1.2 Basic Level Mark				
1.2.1		No basic level marks on equipment in loose fill.	N/A	Attach a permanent basic level mark 300mm above ground level to indicate installation depth for loose-fill playground surfacing. Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance and basic level marks are permanently fixed to equipment.
2 Design and Manufacture				
2.1 Materials				
2.1.1		Unable to determine if metal utilised in the construction of the equipment are coated with anti corrosive protective layer.	ND	Refer to documentation from supplier to determine if metal items are corrosion protected. Monitor for rust and corrosion. Treat and maintain as required.
2.1.2		Unable to determine if the playspace is free of dangerous substances (EG; asbestos, formaldehyde, chemicals).	ND	Refer to any site specific specialist inspection reports, if applicable.
2.2 Accessibility				
2.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.3 Protection Against Falling				
2.3.1		N/A		N/A
2.4 Moving Parts				
2.4.1		N/A		N/A
2.5 Entrapments				



APPENDIX A


Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.1</p>		<p>Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening of handrails of free-standing slide.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm.</p> <p>Replace with slide/ladder compliant with AS 4685.</p>
<p>2.5.2</p>		<p>Clothing/hair entrapment located on slide (both sides).</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment to be free from clothing and hair entrapment.</p> <p>Fill opening with silicone or insert rubber strip.</p>



APPENDIX A


Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.5.3		Finger entrapment in the S-hooks on the swings.	H	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment is free from potential finger entrapment. Connectors (S-hooks, D-shackles) should allow 8.6 and 12mm probes to pass through.</p> <p>Install spacers, S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock compliant with AS 4685.</p>
2.6 Free Height of Fall				
2.6.1		Free height of fall of static equipment measured less than 3m - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required
2.7 Spaces and Areas				



APPENDIX A




Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.7.1</p>		<p>Leaf/tree debris and grass growing throughout impact area of equipment.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Remove. Monitor and maintain regularly. Install a retaining border to manage impact areas and retain mulch depth.</p>
<p>2.8 Means of Access (Playground Equipment)</p>				
<p>2.8.1</p>		<p>No issue identified</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No action required</p>
<p>2.9 Connections, Ropes and Chains</p>				



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.9.1</p>		<p>Surface rust on the chains and S-hooks of swings.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Maintain as required.</p>
<p>2.9.2</p>		<p>S-hooks open more than 1mm and not safeguarded on swings.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Insert S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock.</p>
<p>2.9.3</p>		<p>Twisted chains on swings.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Repair.</p>
<p>2.10 Foundations</p>				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.10.1		Surface rust on the slide foundation posts.	M	Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required.
2.11 Heavy Suspended Beams				
2.11.1		N/A		N/A
2.12 Other Equipment Items (e.g moveable play equipment, water pumps etc.)				
2.12.1		N/A		N/A
3 Specific Equipment (AS 4685 Parts 2-6, 11)				
3.1 Slides				
3.1.1		Slide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Entrapment issues • Inadequate loose fill at slide run out • Foundation issues • Surface rust issues • Moss/grime • Contact burns on sliding section • Graffiti 	N/A	Refer to the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Entrapments • Loose fill items • Foundations • Metal items • General/grounds



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>3.1.2</p>		<p>No guarding section on slide.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that free-standing slides have a guarding section with a height of at least 700mm at some point.</p> <p>Consider installation of signage to promote active supervision and rules of the playground.</p> <p>Alternatively, plan for replacement.</p>
<p>3.1.3</p>		<p>Sides of slide less than 500mm.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that easily accessible slides over 2000mm, have a minimum side height of slide of 500mm.</p> <p>Consider installation of signage to encourage active supervision and rules of the playground.</p> <p>Alternatively, plan for replacement of equipment.</p>
<p>3.2 Swings</p>				
<p>3.2.1</p>		<p>Swings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Entrapment issues • Surface rust issues • S-hook issues • Twisted chains • Moss/grime • Deteriorated swing seats 	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Refer to the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Entrapments • Connections, ropes and chains • Metal items • Synthetic products
<p>4 Playground Surfacing</p>				
<p>4.1 Certified Surfacing and Impact Testing Requirements</p>				



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

4.1.1		Unable to determine if mulch is impact attenuating playground surfacing compliant with AS 4422.	ND	Obtain certificates of compliance from the surfacing supplier.
4.2 Hazards (trip, protrusion, toxicity, inhalation)				
4.2.1		Potential trip hazards due to uneven surfaces/transition surfaces between equipment items.	M	Install a retaining border to manage impact areas and retain mulch depth and highlight open play areas from impact areas.
4.3 Loose-fill Materials				



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

4.3.1		Sharp sticks in the loose-fill.	M	Remove sticks. Monitor and maintain regularly.
4.3.2		Inadequate loose fill depth measured less than 200mm in slide run out area.	M	<p>AS 4685 specifies loose-fill to be installed at 300mm (to base level mark) and maintained at no less than 200mm.</p> <p>Top up loose-fill.</p> <p>Unitary impact attenuating surfacing such as wet pour rubber installed in high impact areas under swings and at slide exits, can significantly reduce displacement. Install with an angled edge, below or level with loose fill surfacing to avoid a trip hazard.</p>
4.4 Unitary Surfacing				
4.4.1		N/A		N/A
5 General Issues				
5.1 Timber and Associated Products				
5.1.1		N/A		N/A
5.2 Metal Items				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.1</p>		<p>Surface rust due to worn/chipped paint on swing frame.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Repaint. Maintain, as required.</p>
<p>5.2.2</p>		<p>Surface rust on the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swing attachment items • Sliding surface of slide • Slide ladder and handrails 	<p>M</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required.</p>



APPENDIX A


Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.3</p>		<p>Grime/moss/debris on all equipment in play space.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>High pressure clean.</p>
<p>5.2.4</p>		<p>Potential contact burns on stainless steel equipment. Some shade at various times of the day provided by surrounding trees.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Consider installation of signage to warn users of hot surfaces. Plan for replacement of slide.</p>



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.3 Synthetic Products				
5.3.1		Damage to swing seats.	M	Replace seats.
5.4 Corners, Edges and Protrusions				
5.4.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.5 Ramps and Pathways (trips, slips and general issues)				
5.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.6 Gates and Fences				
5.6.1		N/A		N/A
5.7 Auxiliary Items (e.g. seating, tables, rubbish bins, shade structures etc.)				
5.7.1		N/A		N/A
5.8 Sandpits and Digging Patches				
5.8.1		N/A		N/A
5.9 Grounds				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.9.1</p> 	<p>Split timber logs in play space.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Remove.</p>
<p>5.9.2</p> 	<p>Graffiti beneath slide.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Remove graffiti.</p>



COMPREHENSIVE PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT

Cunynghame Oval Park (Dulce Place Park)

Dulce Drive
Oberon NSW 2787

Client:

Oberon Council

137 - 139 Oberon Street
Oberon, NSW 2787

August 2024

Prepared by:
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Disclaimer

This report has been prepared from information available to Kidsafe NSW at the time of inspection.

Whilst care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this report, Kidsafe NSW and its employees, take no responsibility for any errors, omissions or changes to information that may occur and disclaim all responsibility and liability to any person in respect to anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon information within this report.

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PREAMBLE

This report assesses the nominated playground/s and surrounding areas against the relevant Australian Standards listed below.

Australian Standard AS 4685.0:2017 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 0: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation

Australian Standard AS 4685:2021, Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods

Part 2: Particular safety requirements and test methods for swings

Part 3: Particular safety requirements and test methods for slides

Part 4: Particular safety requirements and test methods for cableways

Part 5: Particular safety requirements and test methods for carousels

Part 6: Particular safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment

Australian Standard AS 4685:2014 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 11: Particular safety requirements and test methods for spatial networks

Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing

Specifications, requirements and test method

Australian Standard AS 1428.1 Design for access and mobility

(Selected clauses)

REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARDS

For the purpose of this inspection report, the following requirements of the Standards are considered as part of the scope and are addressed in Appendix A - Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations.

General

Individual play equipment structures are permanently marked with a plate clearly identifying the name, address, ABN, the equipment reference and year of manufacture. A basic level mark for the associated impact attenuating surface is required on fixed equipment installed in loose-fill surfacing. Equipment stating compliance with the Australian Standards must be marked with AS 4685.

Protection against Falling

Guardrails or barriers are installed for heights of more than 600mm above ground level. Continuous handrails are required on each side of access ways and bridges. All items intended for gripping must have a diameter that measures between 16mm-45mm.

Head and Neck Entrapment

Head and neck entrapment refers to any opening at a height of more than 600mm above ground level that would allow a child's body to pass through but not their head. Bound head and neck entrapment (dimensions of 89mm – 230mm), partially bound and V-shaped openings, shearing or moving openings (flexible and rigid parts with openings less than 230mm) must be eliminated.

Clothing/Hair Entrapment

Clothing/hair entrapment refers to situations where parts of clothing/hair may become trapped.

Foot Entrapment

Foot entrapment refers to situations where there are gaps wider than 30mm on surfaces intended for running/walking or completely bound rigid openings in surfaces for running/climbing and inclined up to 45°.

Finger Entrapment

Finger entrapment refers to any opening that would allow a child's fingers or thumbs to be trapped in a fall situation. Gaps or openings with dimensions of 8-25mm at 1000mm or more above playing surface level or at the entrance to equipment with forced movement must be eliminated. Chains require a maximum opening of 8.6mm. Connectors require an opening of greater than 12mm or less than 8.6mm.

Free Height of Fall

Free height of fall must not exceed 1800mm for Supervised Early Childhood Settings and 3000mm for All Age Settings. The free height of fall is the greatest vertical distance measured from the intended body support of the equipment to the impact area below. Unintended access to excessive heights should be avoided.

Spaces and Areas

A minimal impact area of 1500mm is required around equipment (with fall heights of 600mm or more above ground level) and between individual items of equipment. AS 4685 requires an increase in the impact area for equipment with platforms measuring more than 1500mm above ground level. AS 4685 specifies falling spaces for specific equipment with forced movement such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items. The falling space and impact area for equipment with forced movement cannot overlap with other falling spaces and impact areas.

Means of Access

Equipment designed to provide safe ascent or descent. Means of access include steps, stairs, ladders and ramps. Equipment designed to ensure that adults are able to gain access to assist children within the equipment.

Means of Access

Playground equipment should be structurally stable, in good condition and fit for children's play.

Materials

Appropriate material used in the construction of equipment taking into account climatic and atmospheric conditions, toxicity, flammability and ultraviolet radiation. No Copper Chromium Arsenate (CCA) or creosote timber treatments are to be used on timbers either above ground or below ground in playground spaces. For any new timber installations use naturally durable timbers (Durability Class 1 or Class 2) complying with AS5604 or treated timbers (H3/H4) complying with AS1604.

Finish of Equipment

Finish on equipment shall have no protruding nails, bolt threads, projecting wire rope terminations, pointed or sharp ended components. Projecting parts and corners measure less than 8mm (or covered) with a minimum radius of 3mm. Accessible surfaces finished smooth with no splintering or burrs.

Playground Surfacing

Impact attenuating surfacing compliant with AS 4422:2022 is required across the impact area where play equipment is more than 600mm above ground level and for specific equipment such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items.

The critical fall height is determined by test methods as per AS 4422:2022. Impact testing of unitary surfacing is required post installation then every 3 years. Loose-fill surfacing installed at 300mm depth and maintained at minimum 200mm depth. Surface impact testing is only conducted if agreed prior to the inspection. If playground surface impact testing has been conducted refer to Appendix B: On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report. This report assesses the nominated playground/s surfacing against Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing: Specifications, requirements and test method.

The testing is completed onsite as a part of a playground inspection regime as outlined in AS 4685.0 2017. It is a form of testing to determine the post installation and ongoing performance of impact attenuating surfacing as installed on site. Testing positions are indicated in images provided. A HIC meter calibrated and complying with AS 4422:2022 is used for the testing. It is a hemispherical head form measuring 160mm in diameter and 4.6kg in weight and has an internal accelerometer. Temperature and humidity measurements were taken to demonstrate testing was done in accordance to the minimum/maximum requirements of the Australian Standard.

NB: Testing is not done under laboratory conditions and does not replicate or replace laboratory testing of impact attenuating surfacing prior to installation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Kidsafe NSW uses a risk rating for each identified issue and hazard. Refer to the Risk Assessment Matrix (Figure1).

Figure 1: Risk Assessment Matrix

		CONSEQUENCES			
		Major	Moderate	Minor	Insignificant
LIKELIHOOD	Almost Certain	1	1	2	3
	Likely	1	2	3	4
	Possible	2	3	4	5
	Unlikely	3	4	5	5

Risk rating		
	1	VH - Very High Risk – Rectify immediately
	2	H - High Risk – Immediate control required
	3	S - Significant Risk – Make plan to control risk
	4	M - Medium Risk – Monitor risk on ongoing basis
	5	L - Low Risk – Set a time to review risks

(Adapted from AS/NZS ISO 31000 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines: HB 89 Risk Management - Guidelines on risk assessment techniques)

Summary

Kidsafe NSW conducted a comprehensive playground inspection of the playground at Cunynghame Oval Park (Dulce Place Park) on 06 August 2024 and has systematically identified hazards and issues (refer to Appendix A). Each section of the report addresses specified requirements of the Australian Standards.

Ensure all issues and hazards identified as non-complying with Australian Standards for playgrounds are addressed and rectified to meet those Standards. Consult with manufacturer/supplier of equipment or surfacing prior to making any repair or modification so as not to void any warranty or guarantee.

For further information or clarification on this report, please contact:

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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

Cunningham's Oval Park (Dulce Place Park)	Key: ND=Not Determined	NA=Not Applicable
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Inspector: Christie Fyffe	Date: 06 August 2024	Time: 2:00pm
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Equipment Item	Manufacturer/Installer/Supplier	Installation Date
Composite structure - Serial number: ND List of components: Platform x 5 2 x blue wave slides Zigzag sliding pole Ladder Chain climber Monkey bars Track ride	Ausplay	ND
Swings (Infant swing x 2) - Serial number: ND	ND	ND
Slides (Blue wave slides x 2) - Serial number: Composite structure	Ausplay	ND
Auxiliary items: Bench seats Shade shelter Drinking station Toilets	ND	ND
Other items: Excavator	ND	ND

Playground Surfacing	Mulch
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations





APPENDIX A




Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

	Image	Issue/Hazard	Risk Rating	Comment/Recommendation
1 Marking				
1.1 Equipment Identification				
1.1.1		No marking plates on equipment.	N/A	Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance to AS 4685 and a marking plate is permanently fixed to equipment.
1.2 Basic Level Mark				
1.2.1		No basic level marks on equipment in loose fill.	N/A	Attach a permanent basic level mark 300mm above ground level to indicate installation depth for loose-fill playground surfacing. Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance and basic level marks are permanently fixed to equipment.
2 Design and Manufacture				
2.1 Materials				
2.1.1		Unable to determine if metal utilised in the construction of the play spae are coated with anti corrosive protective layer.	ND	Refer to documentation from supplier to determine if metal items are corrosion protected. Monitor for rust and corrosion. Treat and maintain as required.
2.1.2		Unable to determine if the playspace is free of dangerous substances (EG; asbestos, formaldehyde, chemicals).	ND	Refer to any site specific specialist inspection reports, if applicable.
2.2 Accessibility				
2.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.3 Protection Against Falling				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.3.1		<p>Handrail on the chain climber measured >900mm above foot position.</p>	M	<p>NB: Structure may have complied with relevant standard at time of installation.</p> <p>AS 4685:2021 specifies that the handrail in all age settings measure not more than 900mm above the foot position.</p> <p>Consider installation of signage to encourage active supervision and rules of the playground.</p> <p>Alternatively, adjust handrail.</p>
2.3.2		<p>Exit/entrance openings on steep play element (zigzag climber) measured 680mm.</p> <p>NB: this equipment is identified as 'easily accessible'.</p>	M	<p>AS 4685:2021 specifies the maximum width of exit/entrance openings in barriers on steep play elements to be no more than 500mm wide.</p> <p>Consider installation of signage to encourage active supervision and rules of the playground.</p> <p>Alternatively, reduce opening to 500mm.</p>
2.4 Moving Parts				
2.4.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.5 Entrapments				
2.5.1		<p>Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening of red curved barrier and platform.</p>	H	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm.</p> <p>Install infill panel to inside of barrier to reduce opening to less than 89mm.</p> <p>Alternatively, replace with barrier compliant with AS 4685.</p>



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.2</p>		<p>Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening of curved barrier and posts (both sides).</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm.</p> <p>Replace with barrier compliant with AS 4685.</p>
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.3</p>		<p>Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening of guarding section on both slides.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm.</p> <p>Replace with guarding sections compliant with AS 4685.</p>
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.4</p>		<p>Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening of grab rails both sides of zig zag sliding pole.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm.</p> <p>Replace with grab rails compliant with AS 4685.</p>
<p>2.5.5</p>		<p>Clothing/hair entrapment located on both sides of tall slide.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment to be free from clothing and hair entrapment.</p> <p>Fill opening with silicone or insert rubber strip.</p>



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.6</p>		<p>Missing bolt on LHS of tall slide.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>Replace bolt and secure.</p>
<p>2.5.7</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the vacant bolt holes on the sides of the platform.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground should not measure between 8mm – 25mm. Plug holes.</p>



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.8</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the chains on the chain climber and track ride.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment is free from potential finger entrapment. Chains should not allow 8.6mm probe to pass through.</p> <p>Install sheath or replace with short linked chain compliant with AS 4685.</p>
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.9</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in all S-hooks in play space (swings, chain climber and track ride).</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment is free from potential finger entrapment. Connectors (S-hooks, D-shackles) should allow 8.6 and 12mm probes to pass through.</p> <p>Install spacers, S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock compliant with AS 4685.</p>
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.10</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the opening between the blue barrier and posts/platform.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground should not measure between 8mm – 25mm.</p> <p>Fill gaps.</p>
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.5.11		Finger entrapment in vacant bolt holes on blue barriers (missing elements and damage to barrier).	H	AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground should not measure between 8mm – 25mm. Plug holes/fill gaps/repair/replace missing elements.
2.6 Free Height of Fall				
2.6.1		Free height of fall of static equipment measured less than 3m - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required
2.7 Spaces and Areas				
2.7.1		Grass growing in loose fill through impact area of composite structure.	M	Remove. Monitor and maintain regularly. Installing retaining border to manage impact areas and mulch depth.



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.7.2</p>		<p>Inadequate impact area provided for swings. Front and rear impact area of swings measured less than required 3116mm (required impact area based on length of swing chains).</p> <p>NB: Not able to clearly distinguish where impact area finishes.</p> <p>Grass growing in impact area.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies for the dimensions of this swing there should be an impact area of 3166mm to the front and rear of the swings.</p> <p>Remove grass. Monitor and maintain regularly.</p> <p>Extend impact area. Install a retaining border to manage impact areas and retain mulch depth.</p>
<p>2.7.3</p>		<p>Potential conflict of play due to the design of composite structure guiding children to access the ladder through the free space zone for the slide.</p> <p>Items in free space of slide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ladder measured <1000mm from centre of slide 	<p>M</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies free space of 1000mm radius from the centre of the slide.</p> <p>Consider installation of signage to encourage active supervision and rules of the playground.</p> <p>Alternatively, remove ladder and replace with barrier.</p>
<p>2.8 Means of Access (Playground Equipment)</p>				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.8.1</p>		<p>Sharp edges due to corrosion on metal plate connected to top of ladder.</p> <p>Not determined purpose of plate.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Remove/replace.</p> <p>NB: Ensure no head and neck entrapment (89-230mm) if removed.</p>
<p>2.9 Connections, Ropes and Chains</p>				
<p>2.9.1</p>		<p>Missing bolt on tall slide.</p> <p>NB: Risk rating increased to (H) due to finger entrapment.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>Replace bolt and secure.</p>



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<p>2.9.2</p>		<p>Surface rust on the chains and S-hooks throughout play space.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Maintain as required.</p>
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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.9.3</p>		<p>S-hooks open more than 1mm and not safeguarded on all S-hooks.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Insert S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock.</p>
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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.9.4</p>		<p>Surface rust on the bolts throughout composite structure.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Maintain as required.</p>
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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.9.5</p>		<p>Loose connections on excavator.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Secure.</p>
<p>2.10 Foundations</p>				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.10.1		<p>Corrosion on foundation posts of swings. Surface rust on foundation post of excavator.</p>	M	<p>Monitor for further deterioration that affects structural integrity of swing frame. Remove/replace, as required.</p> <p>Brush/sand to remove rust on excavator post. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required. Consider replacing with stainless steel items.</p>
2.11 Heavy Suspended Beams				
2.11.1		N/A		N/A
2.12 Other Equipment Items (e.g moveable play equipment, water pumps etc.)				
2.12.1		No impact attenuating leading edge on platforms of track ride.	M	<p>AS 4685:2021 specifies the leading edge of platforms for track rides should have an impact attenuating edge.</p> <p>(NB: equipment would have complied at time of installation)</p> <p>Consider installation of signage to encourage active supervision and rules of the playground.</p> <p>Alternatively, install impact attenuating edge to platforms.</p>



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2.12.2		Minor deterioration of track ride buffer.	L	Monitor for further deterioration. Replace, as required.
3 Specific Equipment (AS 4685 Parts 2-6, 11)				
3.1 Slides				
3.1.1		Slides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Entrapment issues • Conflict of play • Inadequate loose fill depth • Missing bolt • Fading sliding surface 	N/A	Refer to the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Entrapments • Spaces and areas • Loose fill items • Connections, ropes and chains • Synthetic products
3.2 Swings				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

3.2.1		<p>Swings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Entrapment issues • Inadequate impact area • Inadequate loose fill depth • Surface rust issues • S-hook issues • Foundation issues • Damaged lap chain sheath • Sharp edges on attachment plates 	N/A	<p>Refer to the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Entrapments • Spaces and areas • Loose fill items • Connections, ropes and chains • Foundations • Synthetic products • Corners, edges and protrusions
4 Playground Surfacing				
4.1 Certified Surfacing and Impact Testing Requirements				
4.1.1		<p>Unable to determine if mulch is impact attenuating playground surfacing compliant with AS 4422.</p>	ND	<p>Obtain certificates of compliance from the surfacing supplier.</p>
4.2 Hazards (trip, protrusion, toxicity, inhalation)				
4.2.1		<p>Potential trip hazard due to exposed tree roots in area of playground.</p>	M	<p>Contact a tree specialist for solutions such as installation of a root barrier.</p>
4.3 Loose-fill Materials				



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4.3.1		Inadequate loose fill depth measured less than 200mm in area of: • Small slide • Swings	M	AS 4685 specifies loose-fill to be installed at 300mm (to base level mark) and maintained at no less than 200mm. Top up loose-fill. Unitary impact attenuating surfacing such as wet pour rubber installed in high impact areas under swings and at slide exits, can significantly reduce displacement. Install with an angled edge, below or level with loose fill surfacing to avoid a trip hazard.
4.3.2		Grass growing in loose fill.	M	Refer to 'Spaces and areas' section.
4.4 Unitary Surfacing				
4.4.1		N/A		N/A
5 General Issues				
5.1 Timber and Associated Products				
5.1.1		N/A		N/A
5.2 Metal Items				



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<p>5.2.1</p>		<p>Surface rust due to worn/chipped paint on metal elements of composite structure.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Repaint. Maintain, as required.</p>
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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.2</p>		<p>Sharp edges due to peeling wear layer on the composite structure platforms. (M)</p> <p>Surface rust on swing connections and attachment items.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust and loose paint. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required.</p>
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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.3</p>		<p>Grime throughout composite structure.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>High pressure clean.</p>
<p>5.2.4</p>		<p>Surface rust due to worn/chipped paint on excavator.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Repaint. Maintain, as required.</p>



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<p>5.2.5</p>		<p>Surface rust on the swing frame.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required.</p>
<p>5.2.6</p>		<p>Sharp edges on infill panel on ladder due to corrosion.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Remove infill panel - Refer to 'Means of Access' section. Alternatively, remove rust. Repair section. Apply rust inhibitor. Repaint. Maintain, as required. Replace as necessary.</p>
<p>5.3 Synthetic Products</p>				
<p>5.3.1</p>		<p>Fading of sliding section on small slide.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Monitor for further deterioration. Replace slide, as required.</p>



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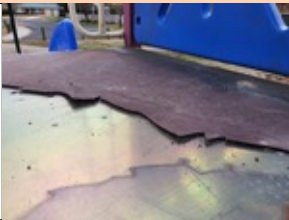

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.3.2</p>		<p>Worn rubber coating on platforms of composite structure.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Replace coating.</p>
<p>5.3.3</p>		<p>Damaged rubber coating on chain climber chains.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Due to entrapment issues, replace chains.</p>
<p>5.3.4</p>		<p>Damaged rubber end caps on excavator.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Replace.</p>



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5.3.5		Damaged lap chain sheath.	L	Replace.
5.4 Corners, Edges and Protrusions				
5.4.1		Sharp edge on damaged rubber coating on composite structure platforms.	M	Remove wear layer and repaint with non slip paint. Alternatively, replace platforms.
5.4.2		Sharp edge on attachment plates on swings.	M	Replace seats.
5.5 Ramps and Pathways (trips, slips and general issues)				
5.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.6 Gates and Fences				
5.6.1		N/A		N/A
5.7 Auxiliary Items (e.g. seating, tables, rubbish bins, shade structures etc.)				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.7.1</p>		<p>Damage to bench seat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Splitting timber • Worn sealant/paint • Moss/grime • Protruding screw due to missing timber board 	<p>M</p>	<p>Repair.</p>
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.7.2		<p>Metal bench seats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grime • Dents 	L	<p>High pressure clean.</p> <p>Monitor for further deterioration. Replace/repair, as required.</p>
5.8 Sandpits and Digging Patches				
5.8.1		N/A		N/A
5.9 Grounds				
5.9.1		Vandalism on composite structure posts.	L	Remove.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT

Buckley Crescent Park (Oberon)

(adjacent) 43-45 Buckley Crescent
Oberon NSW 2787

Client:

Oberon Council

137 - 139 Oberon Street
Oberon, NSW 2787

August 2024

Prepared by:
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Disclaimer

This report has been prepared from information available to Kidsafe NSW at the time of inspection.

Whilst care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this report, Kidsafe NSW and its employees, take no responsibility for any errors, omissions or changes to information that may occur and disclaim all responsibility and liability to any person in respect to anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon information within this report.

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PREAMBLE

This report assesses the nominated playground/s and surrounding areas against the relevant Australian Standards listed below.

Australian Standard AS 4685.0:2017 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 0: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation

Australian Standard AS 4685:2021, Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods

Part 2: Particular safety requirements and test methods for swings

Part 3: Particular safety requirements and test methods for slides

Part 4: Particular safety requirements and test methods for cableways

Part 5: Particular safety requirements and test methods for carousels

Part 6: Particular safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment

Australian Standard AS 4685:2014 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 11: Particular safety requirements and test methods for spatial networks

Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing

Specifications, requirements and test method

Australian Standard AS 1428.1 Design for access and mobility

(Selected clauses)

REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARDS

For the purpose of this inspection report, the following requirements of the Standards are considered as part of the scope and are addressed in Appendix A - Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations.

General

Individual play equipment structures are permanently marked with a plate clearly identifying the name, address, ABN, the equipment reference and year of manufacture. A basic level mark for the associated impact attenuating surface is required on fixed equipment installed in loose-fill surfacing. Equipment stating compliance with the Australian Standards must be marked with AS 4685.

Protection against Falling

Guardrails or barriers are installed for heights of more than 600mm above ground level. Continuous handrails are required on each side of access ways and bridges. All items intended for gripping must have a diameter that measures between 16mm-45mm.

Head and Neck Entrapment

Head and neck entrapment refers to any opening at a height of more than 600mm above ground level that would allow a child's body to pass through but not their head. Bound head and neck entrapment (dimensions of 89mm – 230mm), partially bound and V-shaped openings, shearing or moving openings (flexible and rigid parts with openings less than 230mm) must be eliminated.

Clothing/Hair Entrapment

Clothing/hair entrapment refers to situations where parts of clothing/hair may become trapped.

Foot Entrapment

Foot entrapment refers to situations where there are gaps wider than 30mm on surfaces intended for running/walking or completely bound rigid openings in surfaces for running/climbing and inclined up to 45°.

Finger Entrapment

Finger entrapment refers to any opening that would allow a child's fingers or thumbs to be trapped in a fall situation. Gaps or openings with dimensions of 8-25mm at 1000mm or more above playing surface level or at the entrance to equipment with forced movement must be eliminated. Chains require a maximum opening of 8.6mm. Connectors require an opening of greater than 12mm or less than 8.6mm.

Free Height of Fall

Free height of fall must not exceed 1800mm for Supervised Early Childhood Settings and 3000mm for All Age Settings. The free height of fall is the greatest vertical distance measured from the intended body support of the equipment to the impact area below. Unintended access to excessive heights should be avoided.

Spaces and Areas

A minimal impact area of 1500mm is required around equipment (with fall heights of 600mm or more above ground level) and between individual items of equipment. AS 4685 requires an increase in the impact area for equipment with platforms measuring more than 1500mm above ground level. AS 4685 specifies falling spaces for specific equipment with forced movement such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items. The falling space and impact area for equipment with forced movement cannot overlap with other falling spaces and impact areas.

Means of Access

Equipment designed to provide safe ascent or descent. Means of access include steps, stairs, ladders and ramps. Equipment designed to ensure that adults are able to gain access to assist children within the equipment.

Means of Access

Playground equipment should be structurally stable, in good condition and fit for children's play.

Materials

Appropriate material used in the construction of equipment taking into account climatic and atmospheric conditions, toxicity, flammability and ultraviolet radiation. No Copper Chromium Arsenate (CCA) or creosote timber treatments are to be used on timbers either above ground or below ground in playground spaces. For any new timber installations use naturally durable timbers (Durability Class 1 or Class 2) complying with AS5604 or treated timbers (H3/H4) complying with AS1604.

Finish of Equipment

Finish on equipment shall have no protruding nails, bolt threads, projecting wire rope terminations, pointed or sharp ended components. Projecting parts and corners measure less than 8mm (or covered) with a minimum radius of 3mm. Accessible surfaces finished smooth with no splintering or burrs.

Playground Surfacing

Impact attenuating surfacing compliant with AS 4422:2022 is required across the impact area where play equipment is more than 600mm above ground level and for specific equipment such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items.

The critical fall height is determined by test methods as per AS 4422:2022. Impact testing of unitary surfacing is required post installation then every 3 years. Loose-fill surfacing installed at 300mm depth and maintained at minimum 200mm depth. Surface impact testing is only conducted if agreed prior to the inspection. If playground surface impact testing has been conducted refer to Appendix B: On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report. This report assesses the nominated playground/s surfacing against Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing: Specifications, requirements and test method.

The testing is completed onsite as a part of a playground inspection regime as outlined in AS 4685.0 2017. It is a form of testing to determine the post installation and ongoing performance of impact attenuating surfacing as installed on site. Testing positions are indicated in images provided. A HIC meter calibrated and complying with AS 4422:2022 is used for the testing. It is a hemispherical head form measuring 160mm in diameter and 4.6kg in weight and has an internal accelerometer. Temperature and humidity measurements were taken to demonstrate testing was done in accordance to the minimum/maximum requirements of the Australian Standard.

NB: Testing is not done under laboratory conditions and does not replicate or replace laboratory testing of impact attenuating surfacing prior to installation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Kidsafe NSW uses a risk rating for each identified issue and hazard. Refer to the Risk Assessment Matrix (Figure1).

Figure 1: Risk Assessment Matrix

		CONSEQUENCES			
		Major	Moderate	Minor	Insignificant
LIKELIHOOD	Almost Certain	1	1	2	3
	Likely	1	2	3	4
	Possible	2	3	4	5
	Unlikely	3	4	5	5

Risk rating		
1	VH - Very High Risk – Rectify immediately	
2	H - High Risk – Immediate control required	
3	S - Significant Risk – Make plan to control risk	
4	M - Medium Risk – Monitor risk on ongoing basis	
5	L - Low Risk – Set a time to review risks	

(Adapted from AS/NZS ISO 31000 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines: HB 89 Risk Management - Guidelines on risk assessment techniques)

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Documentation

The playground owner/operator should establish a Playground Safety Management System to include the recording and archiving of documentation.

Documentation may include:

- Policies and procedures
- Reports eg. accident/injury
- Inventory/Equipment register
- Inspection checklists
- Inspection reports
- Works orders
- Maintenance actions
- Certification records eg. equipment, surfacing
- Manufacturer's warranty details
- Manufacturer's installation, inspection and maintenance instructions
- Operating Instructions (if applicable)
- Supervision plan
- Risk and risk benefit assessments

Relevant information sheets include:

- AS4685 Impact Areas Ready Reckoner
- Assessing Risk and Benefit in Playspaces
- Barriers, Guardrails and Handrails - Protection Against Falling
- Bike Tracks
- Entrapment
- Fencing Playspaces
- Impact Areas
- Mounds for Play
- Natural Playspaces
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- Playground Development
- Playground Safety Management System
- Playground Surfacing
- Portable Mats
- Safe Play in Backyards
- Sandpits
- Shade in Playspaces
- Slides
- Stepping Stones
- Swings
- Timber in Playspaces
- Trampolines
- Tree Climbing

For more information regarding Australian Standards for playgrounds, refer to the suite of Kidsafe NSW information sheets available to download from the website:

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/information-sheets/playground-safety/>

Moveable Play Equipment - a guide for playground owners and educators, a valuable resource for Education and Care Services. Order a copy from the website:

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/playground-safety/>

Information on safe gardening with children and recommended plants for playgrounds can be found on the web resource 'grow me safely':

<https://www.kidsafensw.org/safety/playground-safety/>

Kidsafe NSW Playground News informs readers of latest issues, trends and development in playgrounds. Visit the website to view published newsletters:

<https://www.kidsafensw.org/resources/newsletters/playground-news/>

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Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit is available for design and planning advice for existing and planned playgrounds. Please do not hesitate to contact the office on 02 9845 0893 or email

SCHN-KIDSAFE@health.nsw.gov.au

Summary

Kidsafe NSW conducted a comprehensive playground inspection of the playground at Buckley Crescent Park (Oberon) on 06 August 2024 and has systematically identified hazards and issues (refer to Appendix A). Each section of the report addresses specified requirements of the Australian Standards.

Ensure all issues and hazards identified as non-complying with Australian Standards for playgrounds are addressed and rectified to meet those Standards. Consult with manufacturer/supplier of equipment or surfacing prior to making any repair or modification so as not to void any warranty or guarantee.

For further information or clarification on this report, please contact:

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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

Buckley Crescent Park	Key: ND=Not Determined	NA=Not Applicable
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Inspector: Christie Fyffe	Date: 06 August 2024	Time: 10:30am
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Equipment Item	Manufacturer/Installer/Supplier	Installation Date
Composite structure - Serial number: ND List of components: Platform x 2 Slide Grid climber Abacus rails Shop front Steering wheel	Ausplay	ND
Swings (Infant and strap seat swing set) - Serial number: ND	Ausplay	ND
Slides 1 (Yellow free-standing slide) - Serial number: ND	ND	ND
Slides 2 (Red straight slide) - Serial number: Composite structure	Ausplay	ND
Rockers (Whale spring rocker) - Serial number: ND	ND	ND
Auxiliary items: Bench seats	ND	ND

Playground Surfacing	Mulch
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations





APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

	Image	Issue/Hazard	Risk Rating	Comment/Recommendation
1 Marking				
1.1 Equipment Identification				
1.1.1		No marking plates on equipment.	N/A	Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance to AS 4685 and a marking plate is permanently fixed to equipment.
1.2 Basic Level Mark				
1.2.1		No basic level marks on equipment in loose fill.	N/A	Attach a permanent basic level mark 300mm above ground level to indicate installation depth for loose-fill playground surfacing. Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance and basic level marks are permanently fixed to equipment.
2 Design and Manufacture				
2.1 Materials				
2.1.1		Unable to determine if metal utilised in the construction of the play space are coated with anti corrosive protective layer.	ND	Refer to documentation from supplier to determine if metal items are corrosion protected. Monitor for rust and corrosion. Treat and maintain as required.
2.1.2		Unable to determine if the playspace is free of dangerous substances (EG; asbestos, formaldehyde, chemicals).	ND	Refer to any site specific specialist inspection reports, if applicable.
2.2 Accessibility				
2.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.3 Protection Against Falling				
2.3.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.4 Moving Parts				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.4.1		Crush hazard within the steering wheel.	M	Review reported incidents. If required, replace with a solid wheel.
2.5 Entrapments				
2.5.1		Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening between the vertical bars of the barriers.	H	AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm. Replace with barrier compliant with AS 4685.



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.2</p>		<p>Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening of grab rails throughout composite structure.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm.</p> <p>Replace with grab rails compliant with AS 4685.</p>
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.3</p>		<p>Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening of handrails on free-standing slide.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm.</p> <p>Replace with ladder/handrails compliant with AS 4685.</p>
<p>2.5.4</p>		<p>Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening of ladder (second opening only).</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm.</p> <p>Replace with ladder compliant with AS 4685.</p>



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.5</p>		<p>Clothing/hair entrapment located on RHS of slide (composite structure slide).</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment to be free from clothing and hair entrapment. Fill opening with silicone or insert rubber strip.</p>
<p>2.5.6</p>		<p>Clothing/hair entrapment located on free-standing slide (both sides).</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment to be free from clothing and hair entrapment. Fill opening with silicone or insert rubber strip.</p>



APPENDIX A


Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.7</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the opening between the slide and platform (free-standing slide).</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground should not measure between 8mm – 25mm. Fill gaps with silicone.</p>
<p>2.5.8</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the vacant bolt hole, due to missing element.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground should not measure between 8mm – 25mm. Plug hole/replace element.</p>
<p>2.5.9</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the chains on the swings.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment is free from potential finger entrapment. Chains should not allow 8.6mm probe to pass through. Install sheath or replace with short linked chain compliant with AS 4685.</p>



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.5.10		Finger entrapment in the S-hooks of both swings.	H	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment is free from potential finger entrapment. Connectors (S-hooks, D-shackles) should allow 8.6 and 12mm probes to pass through.</p> <p>Install spacers, S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock compliant with AS 4685.</p>
2.6 Free Height of Fall				
2.6.1		Free height of fall of static equipment measured less than 3m - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required
2.7 Spaces and Areas				



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.7.1</p>		<p>Grass growing in loose fill through swing and composite structure impact area.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Remove. Monitor and maintain regularly. Install retaining border to manage impact areas and mulch depth.</p>
<p>2.7.2</p>		<p>No defined impact area/surfacing provided for rocker. Grass growing in impact area.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies for a minimum 1000mm impact area around rockers. Install retaining border to manage impact areas and mulch depth.</p>
<p>2.8 Means of Access (Playground Equipment)</p>				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.8.1		<p>Spacing between rungs on the ladder uneven.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 225mm (second opening) <p>NB: Other openings measure 235mm. Only marginal difference, although opening size is a head and neck entrapment which increases risk rating to (H).</p>	H	<p>AS 4685 requires even spacing between rungs.</p> <p>Refer to 'Entrapments' section.</p>
2.9 Connections, Ropes and Chains				
2.9.1		<p>Crush hazard between playing surface and grid climber (not attached at base).</p>	M	<p>Secure grid climber into the ground or brace at top to eliminate movement.</p>



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.9.2</p>		<p>Surface rust and damaged rubber coating on the chains of swings.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Maintain as required.</p> <p>Due to entrapment issues, install sheathing or replace with short link chains.</p>
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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.9.3</p>		<p>S-hooks open more than 1mm and not safeguarded on swings.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Insert S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock.</p>
<p>2.9.4</p>		<p>Vacant bolt holes on composite structure.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Plug holes.</p>
<p>2.9.5</p>		<p>Broken lap chain latch on infant swing.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Replace.</p>



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.9.6		Surface rust on bolts throughout composite structure.	L	Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Replace bolts, as required.
2.9.7		Missing bolt on whale rocker.	M	Replace and secure.
2.10 Foundations				
2.10.1		Surface rust on the slide foundation posts of free-standing slide.	M	Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required.



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.10.2		Footings of composite structure and slide less than 200mm below playing surface.	M	<p>AS 4685 specifies footings to be installed at least 400mm below the playing surface or 200mm below playing surface and top of footing chamfered.</p> <p>Raise ground level by adding soil and topping up loose fill mulch.</p>
2.10.3		Footings of rocker less than 200mm below playing surface. Protruding bolts on foundation plate.	S	<p>AS 4685 specifies footings to be installed at least 400mm below the playing surface or 200mm below playing surface and top of footing chamfered.</p> <p>Grind/cut back to less than 8mm in length ensuring there are no resultant burrs and cover with a domed cap.</p> <p>Raise ground level by adding soil and topping up loose fill mulch.</p>
2.11 Heavy Suspended Beams				
2.11.1		N/A		N/A
2.12 Other Equipment Items (e.g moveable play equipment, water pumps etc.)				
2.12.1		N/A		N/A
3 Specific Equipment (AS 4685 Parts 2-6, 11)				
3.1 Slides				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>3.1.1</p>		<p>Free-standing slide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Entrapment issues • Uneven rungs • Foundation issues • Surface rust issues • Moss/grime • Fibreglass exposed on sliding surface 	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Refer to the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Entrapments • Means of access • Foundations • Metal items • Synthetic products
<p>3.1.2</p>		<p>Slide (composite structure):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking on composite structure • Entrapment issues • Inadequate loose fill at run out • Grime/moss 	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Refer to the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Entrapments • Loose fill items • Synthetic products
<p>3.1.3</p>		<p>No guarding section on slide.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that free-standing slides have a guarding section with a height of at least 700mm at some point.</p> <p>Consider installation of signage to promote active supervision and rules of the playground.</p> <p>Alternatively, plan for replacement.</p>
<p>3.1.4</p>		<p>Opening of barrier is greater than starting section for attachment slide.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that the opening in the barrier is the same width of the starting section for attachment slides.</p> <p>Consider installation of signage to encourage active supervision and rules of the playground.</p> <p>Due to entrapment issues in grab rails, install compliant guarding section.</p>
<p>3.2 Swings</p>				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

3.2.1		<p>Swings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Entrapment issues • Grass growing in impact area • Inadequate loose fill • Surface rust issues • Damaged rubber coating of chains • S-hook issues • Broken lap chain latch • Moss/grime on frame • Damaged infant seat 	N/A	<p>Refer to the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Entrapments • Spaces and areas • Loose fill items • Connections, ropes and chains • Metal items • Synthetic products
3.3 Rocking Equipment				
3.3.1		<p>Rocker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Inadequate impact area • Missing bolt • Foundation issues • Protruding bolts • Grime 	N/A	<p>Refer to the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Spaces and areas • Connections, ropes and chains • Foundations • Corners, edges and protrusions • Synthetic products
4 Playground Surfacing				
4.1 Certified Surfacing and Impact Testing Requirements				
4.1.1		<p>Unable to determine if mulch is impact attenuating playground surfacing compliant with AS 4422.</p>	ND	<p>Obtain certificates of compliance from the surfacing supplier.</p>
4.2 Hazards (trip, protrusion, toxicity, inhalation)				
4.2.1		<p>Potential trip hazards due to uneven surfaces.</p>	M	<p>Level ground surface and top up loose fill mulch.</p> <p>Install retaining border to manage impact areas and mulch depth.</p>



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

4.3 Loose-fill Materials				
4.3.1		Grass growing through loose fill mulch.	M	Refer to 'Spaces and areas' section.
4.3.2		Inadequate loose fill depth less than 200mm in runout impact area of slide (composite structure) and impact area of swings. Significant weed growth with can compromise impact attenuation.	S	AS 4685 specifies loose-fill to be installed at 300mm (to base level mark) and maintained at no less than 200mm. Top up loose-fill. Unitary impact attenuating surfacing such as wet pour rubber installed in high impact areas under swings and at slide exits, can significantly reduce displacement. Install with an angled edge, below or level with loose fill surfacing to avoid a trip hazard.
4.4 Unitary Surfacing				
4.4.1		N/A		N/A
5 General Issues				
5.1 Timber and Associated Products				
5.1.1		N/A		N/A
5.2 Metal Items				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.1</p>		<p>Surface rust due to worn/chipped paint on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers of composite structure • Ladder and platform of free-standing slide 	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Repaint. Maintain, as required.</p>
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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.2</p>		<p>Surface rust on the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation posts of slide • Connection plates beneath slide • Swing attachment items 	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required. Consider replacing with stainless steel items.</p>
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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.3</p>		<p>Moss/grime:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneath slide • Swing frame • Platforms of composite structure 	<p>L</p>	<p>High pressure clean.</p>
<p>5.3 Synthetic Products</p>				
<p>5.3.1</p>		<p>Damaged rubber coating on swing chains.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Refer to 'Connections, ropes and chains'.</p>



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.3.2</p>		<p>Torn infant swing seat.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Replace seat.</p>
<p>5.3.3</p>		<p>Gel coating worn on the sliding surface. Potential for fibreglass shards to be exposed.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Replace/recoat slide.</p>



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.3.4		Grime on rocker.	L	High pressure clean.
5.3.5		Moss/grime on composite structure.	L	High pressure clean.
5.4 Corners, Edges and Protrusions				
5.4.1		Protruding bolts on foundation of rocker.	S	Refer to 'Foundations' section.



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.4.2		End cap missing from a post on the composite structure.	M	Replace end cap.
5.5 Ramps and Pathways (trips, slips and general issues)				
5.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.6 Gates and Fences				
5.6.1		N/A		N/A
5.7 Auxiliary Items (e.g. seating, tables, rubbish bins, shade structures etc.)				
5.7.1		Damaged bench seat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Splitting and broken timber slats • Worn sealant • Moss 	M	Repair.
5.7.2		Sharp edges on cracked concrete between bench seat.	M	Repair.
5.8 Sandpits and Digging Patches				
5.8.1		N/A		N/A
5.9 Grounds				
5.9.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
6 Additional Issues				
6.1				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>6.1.1</p>		<p>Significant animal faeces throughout play space.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Remove. Monitor and maintain regularly.</p>
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COMPREHENSIVE PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT

Bligh Street Playground (Oberon)

(opposite) 43-45 Bligh Street
Oberon NSW 2787

Client:

Oberon Council

137 - 139 Oberon Street
Oberon, NSW 2787

August 2024

Prepared by:
Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit
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Disclaimer

This report has been prepared from information available to Kidsafe NSW at the time of inspection.

Whilst care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this report, Kidsafe NSW and its employees, take no responsibility for any errors, omissions or changes to information that may occur and disclaim all responsibility and liability to any person in respect to anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon information within this report.

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PREAMBLE

This report assesses the nominated playground/s and surrounding areas against the relevant Australian Standards listed below.

Australian Standard AS 4685.0:2017 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 0: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation

Australian Standard AS 4685:2021, Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods

Part 2: Particular safety requirements and test methods for swings

Part 3: Particular safety requirements and test methods for slides

Part 4: Particular safety requirements and test methods for cableways

Part 5: Particular safety requirements and test methods for carousels

Part 6: Particular safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment

Australian Standard AS 4685:2014 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 11: Particular safety requirements and test methods for spatial networks

Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing

Specifications, requirements and test method

Australian Standard AS 1428.1 Design for access and mobility

(Selected clauses)

REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARDS

For the purpose of this inspection report, the following requirements of the Standards are considered as part of the scope and are addressed in Appendix A - Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations.

General

Individual play equipment structures are permanently marked with a plate clearly identifying the name, address, ABN, the equipment reference and year of manufacture. A basic level mark for the associated impact attenuating surface is required on fixed equipment installed in loose-fill surfacing. Equipment stating compliance with the Australian Standards must be marked with AS 4685.

Protection against Falling

Guardrails or barriers are installed for heights of more than 600mm above ground level. Continuous handrails are required on each side of access ways and bridges. All items intended for gripping must have a diameter that measures between 16mm-45mm.

Head and Neck Entrapment

Head and neck entrapment refers to any opening at a height of more than 600mm above ground level that would allow a child's body to pass through but not their head. Bound head and neck entrapment (dimensions of 89mm – 230mm), partially bound and V-shaped openings, shearing or moving openings (flexible and rigid parts with openings less than 230mm) must be eliminated.

Clothing/Hair Entrapment

Clothing/hair entrapment refers to situations where parts of clothing/hair may become trapped.

Foot Entrapment

Foot entrapment refers to situations where there are gaps wider than 30mm on surfaces intended for running/walking or completely bound rigid openings in surfaces for running/climbing and inclined up to 45°.

Finger Entrapment

Finger entrapment refers to any opening that would allow a child's fingers or thumbs to be trapped in a fall situation. Gaps or openings with dimensions of 8-25mm at 1000mm or more above playing surface level or at the entrance to equipment with forced movement must be eliminated. Chains require a maximum opening of 8.6mm. Connectors require an opening of greater than 12mm or less than 8.6mm.

Free Height of Fall

Free height of fall must not exceed 1800mm for Supervised Early Childhood Settings and 3000mm for All Age Settings. The free height of fall is the greatest vertical distance measured from the intended body support of the equipment to the impact area below. Unintended access to excessive heights should be avoided.

Spaces and Areas

A minimal impact area of 1500mm is required around equipment (with fall heights of 600mm or more above ground level) and between individual items of equipment. AS 4685 requires an increase in the impact area for equipment with platforms measuring more than 1500mm above ground level. AS 4685 specifies falling spaces for specific equipment with forced movement such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items. The falling space and impact area for equipment with forced movement cannot overlap with other falling spaces and impact areas.

Means of Access

Equipment designed to provide safe ascent or descent. Means of access include steps, stairs, ladders and ramps. Equipment designed to ensure that adults are able to gain access to assist children within the equipment.

Means of Access

Playground equipment should be structurally stable, in good condition and fit for children's play.

Materials

Appropriate material used in the construction of equipment taking into account climatic and atmospheric conditions, toxicity, flammability and ultraviolet radiation. No Copper Chromium Arsenate (CCA) or creosote timber treatments are to be used on timbers either above ground or below ground in playground spaces. For any new timber installations use naturally durable timbers (Durability Class 1 or Class 2) complying with AS5604 or treated timbers (H3/H4) complying with AS1604.

Finish of Equipment

Finish on equipment shall have no protruding nails, bolt threads, projecting wire rope terminations, pointed or sharp ended components. Projecting parts and corners measure less than 8mm (or covered) with a minimum radius of 3mm. Accessible surfaces finished smooth with no splintering or burrs.

Playground Surfacing

Impact attenuating surfacing compliant with AS 4422:2022 is required across the impact area where play equipment is more than 600mm above ground level and for specific equipment such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items.

The critical fall height is determined by test methods as per AS 4422:2022. Impact testing of unitary surfacing is required post installation then every 3 years. Loose-fill surfacing installed at 300mm depth and maintained at minimum 200mm depth. Surface impact testing is only conducted if agreed prior to the inspection. If playground surface impact testing has been conducted refer to Appendix B: On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report. This report assesses the nominated playground/s surfacing against Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing: Specifications, requirements and test method.

The testing is completed onsite as a part of a playground inspection regime as outlined in AS 4685.0 2017. It is a form of testing to determine the post installation and ongoing performance of impact attenuating surfacing as installed on site. Testing positions are indicated in images provided. A HIC meter calibrated and complying with AS 4422:2022 is used for the testing. It is a hemispherical head form measuring 160mm in diameter and 4.6kg in weight and has an internal accelerometer. Temperature and humidity measurements were taken to demonstrate testing was done in accordance to the minimum/maximum requirements of the Australian Standard.

NB: Testing is not done under laboratory conditions and does not replicate or replace laboratory testing of impact attenuating surfacing prior to installation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Kidsafe NSW uses a risk rating for each identified issue and hazard. Refer to the Risk Assessment Matrix (Figure1).

Figure 1: Risk Assessment Matrix

		CONSEQUENCES			
		Major	Moderate	Minor	Insignificant
LIKELIHOOD	Almost Certain	1	1	2	3
	Likely	1	2	3	4
	Possible	2	3	4	5
	Unlikely	3	4	5	5

Risk rating		
1	VH - Very High Risk – Rectify immediately	
2	H - High Risk – Immediate control required	
3	S - Significant Risk – Make plan to control risk	
4	M - Medium Risk – Monitor risk on ongoing basis	
5	L - Low Risk – Set a time to review risks	

(Adapted from AS/NZS ISO 31000 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines: HB 89 Risk Management - Guidelines on risk assessment techniques)

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Documentation

The playground owner/operator should establish a Playground Safety Management System to include the recording and archiving of documentation.

Documentation may include:

- Policies and procedures
- Reports eg. accident/injury
- Inventory/Equipment register
- Inspection checklists
- Inspection reports
- Works orders
- Maintenance actions
- Certification records eg. equipment, surfacing
- Manufacturer's warranty details
- Manufacturer's installation, inspection and maintenance instructions
- Operating Instructions (if applicable)
- Supervision plan
- Risk and risk benefit assessments

Relevant information sheets include:

- AS4685 Impact Areas Ready Reckoner
- Assessing Risk and Benefit in Playspaces
- Barriers, Guardrails and Handrails - Protection Against Falling
- Bike Tracks
- Entrapment
- Fencing Playspaces
- Impact Areas
- Mounds for Play
- Natural Playspaces
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- Playground Development
- Playground Safety Management System
- Playground Surfacing
- Portable Mats
- Safe Play in Backyards
- Sandpits
- Shade in Playspaces
- Slides
- Stepping Stones
- Swings
- Timber in Playspaces
- Trampolines
- Tree Climbing

For more information regarding Australian Standards for playgrounds, refer to the suite of Kidsafe NSW information sheets available to download from the website:

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/information-sheets/playground-safety/>

Moveable Play Equipment - a guide for playground owners and educators, a valuable resource for Education and Care Services. Order a copy from the website:

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/playground-safety/>

Information on safe gardening with children and recommended plants for playgrounds can be found on the web resource 'grow me safely':

<https://www.kidsafensw.org/safety/playground-safety/>

Kidsafe NSW Playground News informs readers of latest issues, trends and development in playgrounds. Visit the website to view published newsletters:

<https://www.kidsafensw.org/resources/newsletters/playground-news/>

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Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit is available for design and planning advice for existing and planned playgrounds. Please do not hesitate to contact the office on 02 9845 0893 or email

SCHN-KIDSAFE@health.nsw.gov.au

Summary

Kidsafe NSW conducted a comprehensive playground inspection of the playground at Bligh Street Playground (Oberon) on 06 August 2024 and has systematically identified hazards and issues (refer to Appendix A). Each section of the report addresses specified requirements of the Australian Standards.

Ensure all issues and hazards identified as non-complying with Australian Standards for playgrounds are addressed and rectified to meet those Standards. Consult with manufacturer/supplier of equipment or surfacing prior to making any repair or modification so as not to void any warranty or guarantee.

For further information or clarification on this report, please contact:

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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

Bligh Street Playground	Key: ND=Not Determined	NA=Not Applicable
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Inspector: Christie Fyffe	Date: 06 August 2024	Time: 7:45am
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Equipment Item	Manufacturer/Installer/Supplier	Installation Date
Composite structure - Serial number: ND List of components: Jungle gym: • Chain ladder • Chin up bar • Trapeze swing	ND	ND
Swings (2 x strap seat swing) - Serial number: ND	ND	ND
Slides (Free-standing stainless steel slide) - Serial number: ND	ND	ND
Auxiliary items: Bench seats	ND	ND

Playground Surfacing	Mulch
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations





APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

	Image	Issue/Hazard	Risk Rating	Comment/Recommendation
1 Marking				
1.1 Equipment Identification				
1.1.1		No marking plates on equipment.	N/A	Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance to AS 4685 and a marking plate is permanently fixed to equipment.
1.2 Basic Level Mark				
1.2.1		No basic level marks on equipment in loose fill.	N/A	Attach a permanent basic level mark 300mm above ground level to indicate installation depth for loose-fill playground surfacing. Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance and basic level marks are permanently fixed to equipment.
2 Design and Manufacture				
2.1 Materials				
2.1.1		Unable to determine if metal utilised in the construction of the equipment are coated with anti corrosive protective layer.	ND	Refer to documentation from supplier to determine if metal items are corrosion protected. Monitor for rust and corrosion. Treat and maintain as required.
2.1.2		Unable to determine if the playspace is free of dangerous substances (EG; asbestos, formaldehyde, chemicals).	ND	Refer to any site specific specialist inspection reports, if applicable.
2.2 Accessibility				
2.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.3 Protection Against Falling				
2.3.1		N/A		N/A
2.4 Moving Parts				
2.4.1		N/A		N/A
2.5 Entrapments				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.1</p>		<p>Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening of top rung of chain ladder to top of frame.</p> <p>NB: Was tested with head and neck entrapment tool, although unable to take photo with testing tool due to height and instability.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm.</p> <p>Replace with element compliant with AS 4685 or remove.</p>
<p>2.5.2</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the chains on the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chain ladder • Trapeze swing 	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment is free from potential finger entrapment. Chains should not allow 8.6mm probe to pass through.</p> <p>Install sheath or replace with short linked chain compliant with AS 4685.</p>



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.3</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the S-hooks of swings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LHS swing - right S-hok • RHS swing - both S-hooks 	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment is free from potential finger entrapment. Connectors (S-hooks, D-shackles) should allow 8.6 and 12mm probes to pass through.</p> <p>Install spacers, S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock compliant with AS 4685.</p>
<p>2.5.4</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the attachment loops on chain ladder.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment is free from potential finger entrapment. Connectors (S-hooks, D-shackles) should allow 8.6 and 12mm probes to pass through.</p> <p>Install spacers, S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock compliant with AS 4685.</p>
<p>2.6 Free Height of Fall</p>				
<p>2.6.1</p>		<p>Free height of fall of static equipment measured less than 3m - no issues identified.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No action required</p>
<p>2.7 Spaces and Areas</p>				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.7.1</p>		<p>Leaf/tree debris and grass growing in impact area of jungle gym.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Remove. Top up mulch as required. Monitor and maintain</p> <p>Install a retaining border to manage impact areas and retain mulch depth.</p>
<p>2.7.2</p>		<p>Inadequate impact area provided for the swings. Front and rear impact area of swings measured less than required 3900mm (required impact area based on length of swing chains).</p> <p>NB: Not able to clearly distinguish where impact area finishes.</p> <p>Leaf/tree debris and grass in impact area.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies for the dimensions of this swing there should be an impact area of 3900mm to the front and rear of the swings.</p> <p>Remove tree debris and grass. Monitor and maintain regularly.</p> <p>Extend impact area. Install a retaining border to manage impact areas and retain mulch depth.</p>
<p>2.7.3</p>		<p>Inadequate impact area provided for slide. FHF at top of slide measured 2200mm.</p> <p>NB: Not able to clearly distinguish where impact area finishes.</p> <p>Leaf/tree debris and grass in impact area.</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies for playground equipment with a free height of fall of 2200mm an impact area of 1966mm should be provided.</p> <p>Remove tree debris and grass. Monitor and maintain regularly.</p> <p>Extend impact area. Install a retaining border to manage impact areas and retain mulch depth.</p>



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.8 Means of Access (Playground Equipment)				
2.8.1		Slide Ladder - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required.
2.9 Connections, Ropes and Chains				
2.9.1		<p>Surface rust on the chains and attachment items of jungle gym.</p> <p>Surface rust on the chains and S-hooks of swings.</p>	L	Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Maintain as required.



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.9.2</p>		<p>Wear in the chains greater than 40% on trapeze swing.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Replace chains.</p>
<p>2.9.3</p>		<p>S-hooks open more than 1mm and not safeguarded on swing.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Insert S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock.</p>
<p>2.9.4</p>		<p>Twisted chains on trapeze swing causing misalignment.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Due to other non-compliance issues, replace chains.</p>
<p>2.10 Foundations</p>				



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.10.1</p>		<p>Surface rust on all of the foundation posts.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required.</p>
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.10.2		<p>Footings of equipment less than 200mm below playing surface:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jungle gym and swings • Exposed foundations on jungle gym 	M	<p>AS 4685 specifies footings to be installed at least 400mm below the playing surface or 200mm below playing surface and top of footing chamfered.</p> <p>Raise ground level by adding soil and topping up loose fill mulch.</p>
2.11 Heavy Suspended Beams				
2.11.1		N/A		N/A
2.12 Other Equipment Items (e.g moveable play equipment, water pumps etc.)				
2.12.1		N/A		N/A
3 Specific Equipment (AS 4685 Parts 2-6, 11)				
3.1 Slides				
3.1.1		<p>Slide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Inadequate impact area • Inadequate loose fill depth • Surface rust issues • Foundation issues • Metal issues • Graffiti 	N/A	<p>Refer to the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Spaces and areas • Loose fill items • Metal items • Foundations • General/Grounds



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>3.1.2</p>		<p>No guarding section on slide.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that free-standing slides have a guarding section with a height of at least 700mm at some point.</p> <p>Consider installation of signage to promote active supervision and rules of the playground.</p> <p>Alternatively, plan for replacement.</p>
<p>3.1.3</p>		<p>Sides of slide less than 500mm.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that easily accessible slides over 2000mm, have a minimum side height of slide of 500mm.</p> <p>Consider installation of signage to encourage active supervision and rules of the playground.</p> <p>Alternatively, plan for replacement of equipment.</p>
<p>3.2 Swings</p>				
<p>3.2.1</p>		<p>Swings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Entrapment issues • Inadequate impact area • Inadequate loose fill • Surface rust issues • S-hook issues • Foundation issues • Minor deterioration of swing seat • Bird faeces on swing seat 	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Refer to the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Entrapments • Spaces and areas • Loose fill items • Connections, ropes and chains • Metal items • Foundations • Synthetic products
<p>4 Playground Surfacing</p>				
<p>4.1 Certified Surfacing and Impact Testing Requirements</p>				



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4.1.1		Unable to determine if mulch is impact attenuating playground surfacing compliant with AS 4422.	ND	Obtain certificates of compliance from the surfacing supplier.
4.2 Hazards (trip, protrusion, toxicity, inhalation)				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>4.2.1</p>		<p>Potential trip hazards due to uneven surfaces/transition surfaces between equipment items. Protruding tree roots between equipment.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Install a retaining border to manage impact areas and distinguish impact areas from open space play areas.</p>
<p>4.3 Loose-fill Materials</p>				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>4.3.1</p>		<p>Sharp sticks in the loose-fill.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Remove sticks. Monitor and maintain regularly.</p>
<p>4.3.2</p>		<p>Inadequate loose fill depth measured less than 200mm in area of swings and jungle gym (<100mm measured).</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies loose-fill to be installed at 300mm (to base level mark) and maintained at no less than 200mm.</p> <p>Top up loose-fill.</p> <p>Unitary impact attenuating surfacing such as wet pour rubber installed in high impact areas under swings and at slide exits, can significantly reduce displacement. Install with an angled edge, below or level with loose fill surfacing to avoid a trip hazard.</p>



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

4.3.3		Inadequate loose fill depth measured less than 200mm in impact area of slide, including slide run out.	S	<p>AS 4685 specifies loose-fill to be installed at 300mm (to base level mark) and maintained at no less than 200mm.</p> <p>Top up loose-fill.</p> <p>Unitary impact attenuating surfacing such as wet pour rubber installed in high impact areas under swings and at slide exits, can significantly reduce displacement. Install with an angled edge, below or level with loose fill surfacing to avoid a trip hazard.</p>
4.4 Unitary Surfacing				
4.4.1		N/A		N/A
5 General Issues				
5.1 Timber and Associated Products				
5.1.1		N/A		N/A
5.2 Metal Items				



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<p>5.2.1</p>		<p>Surface rust on the swing frame and swing seat attachment items.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required.</p>
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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.2</p>		<p>Surface rust on the jungle gym.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required.</p>
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.3</p>		<p>Issues with posts of jungle gym:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hole on post • Dents in post • Chin up bar not welded on adequately (NB: Does not appear to be affecting structural integrity) 	<p>M</p>	<p>Monitor for further deterioration that affects the structural integrity of equipment.</p> <p>Plan for replacement of equipment.</p>
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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.4</p>		<p>Surface rust on the slide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sliding surface • Ladder 	<p>M</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required.</p>
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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.5</p>		<p>Elements on ladder not welded adequately (NB: Does not appear to be affecting structural integrity).</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Monitor for further deterioration that affects the structural integrity of equipment. Plan for replacement of equipment.</p>
<p>5.2.6</p>		<p>Dents in slide.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Monitor for further deterioration that affects the structural integrity of equipment. Plan for replacement of equipment.</p>
<p>5.2.7</p>		<p>Potential contact burns on stainless steel equipment. Some shade at various times of the day provided by surrounding trees.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Consider installation of signage to warn users of hot surfaces. Plan for replacement of equipment.</p>



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5.3 Synthetic Products				
5.3.1		Minor deterioration of swing seat.	L	Monitor for further deterioration. Replace seat, as required.
5.3.2		Bird faeces on strap seat swing.	L	Remove.
5.4 Corners, Edges and Protrusions				
5.4.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.5 Ramps and Pathways (trips, slips and general issues)				
5.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.6 Gates and Fences				
5.6.1		N/A		N/A
5.7 Auxiliary Items (e.g. seating, tables, rubbish bins, shade structures etc.)				
5.7.1		Significant damage to bench seat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Splitting timber • Worn sealant • Moss 	M	Repair.
5.8 Sandpits and Digging Patches				
5.8.1		N/A		N/A
5.9 Grounds				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.9.1		Graffiti beneath slide.	L	Remove graffiti.
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COMPREHENSIVE PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT

Burruga Park

67 Edgar Hanrahan Drive
Burruga NSW 2795

Client:

Oberon Council

137 - 139 Oberon Street
Oberon, NSW 2787

August 2024

Prepared by:
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Disclaimer

This report has been prepared from information available to Kidsafe NSW at the time of inspection.

Whilst care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this report, Kidsafe NSW and its employees, take no responsibility for any errors, omissions or changes to information that may occur and disclaim all responsibility and liability to any person in respect to anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon information within this report.

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PREAMBLE

This report assesses the nominated playground/s and surrounding areas against the relevant Australian Standards listed below.

Australian Standard AS 4685.0:2017 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 0: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation

Australian Standard AS 4685:2021, Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods

Part 2: Particular safety requirements and test methods for swings

Part 3: Particular safety requirements and test methods for slides

Part 4: Particular safety requirements and test methods for cableways

Part 5: Particular safety requirements and test methods for carousels

Part 6: Particular safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment

Australian Standard AS 4685:2014 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 11: Particular safety requirements and test methods for spatial networks

Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing

Specifications, requirements and test method

Australian Standard AS 1428.1 Design for access and mobility

(Selected clauses)

REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARDS

For the purpose of this inspection report, the following requirements of the Standards are considered as part of the scope and are addressed in Appendix A - Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations.

General

Individual play equipment structures are permanently marked with a plate clearly identifying the name, address, ABN, the equipment reference and year of manufacture. A basic level mark for the associated impact attenuating surface is required on fixed equipment installed in loose-fill surfacing. Equipment stating compliance with the Australian Standards must be marked with AS 4685.

Protection against Falling

Guardrails or barriers are installed for heights of more than 600mm above ground level. Continuous handrails are required on each side of access ways and bridges. All items intended for gripping must have a diameter that measures between 16mm-45mm.

Head and Neck Entrapment

Head and neck entrapment refers to any opening at a height of more than 600mm above ground level that would allow a child's body to pass through but not their head. Bound head and neck entrapment (dimensions of 89mm – 230mm), partially bound and V-shaped openings, shearing or moving openings (flexible and rigid parts with openings less than 230mm) must be eliminated.

Clothing/Hair Entrapment

Clothing/hair entrapment refers to situations where parts of clothing/hair may become trapped.

Foot Entrapment

Foot entrapment refers to situations where there are gaps wider than 30mm on surfaces intended for running/walking or completely bound rigid openings in surfaces for running/climbing and inclined up to 45°.

Finger Entrapment

Finger entrapment refers to any opening that would allow a child's fingers or thumbs to be trapped in a fall situation. Gaps or openings with dimensions of 8-25mm at 1000mm or more above playing surface level or at the entrance to equipment with forced movement must be eliminated. Chains require a maximum opening of 8.6mm. Connectors require an opening of greater than 12mm or less than 8.6mm.

Free Height of Fall

Free height of fall must not exceed 1800mm for Supervised Early Childhood Settings and 3000mm for All Age Settings. The free height of fall is the greatest vertical distance measured from the intended body support of the equipment to the impact area below. Unintended access to excessive heights should be avoided.

Spaces and Areas

A minimal impact area of 1500mm is required around equipment (with fall heights of 600mm or more above ground level) and between individual items of equipment. AS 4685 requires an increase in the impact area for equipment with platforms measuring more than 1500mm above ground level. AS 4685 specifies falling spaces for specific equipment with forced movement such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items. The falling space and impact area for equipment with forced movement cannot overlap with other falling spaces and impact areas.

Means of Access

Equipment designed to provide safe ascent or descent. Means of access include steps, stairs, ladders and ramps. Equipment designed to ensure that adults are able to gain access to assist children within the equipment.

Means of Access

Playground equipment should be structurally stable, in good condition and fit for children's play.

Materials

Appropriate material used in the construction of equipment taking into account climatic and atmospheric conditions, toxicity, flammability and ultraviolet radiation. No Copper Chromium Arsenate (CCA) or creosote timber treatments are to be used on timbers either above ground or below ground in playground spaces. For any new timber installations use naturally durable timbers (Durability Class 1 or Class 2) complying with AS5604 or treated timbers (H3/H4) complying with AS1604.

Finish of Equipment

Finish on equipment shall have no protruding nails, bolt threads, projecting wire rope terminations, pointed or sharp ended components. Projecting parts and corners measure less than 8mm (or covered) with a minimum radius of 3mm. Accessible surfaces finished smooth with no splintering or burrs.

Playground Surfacing

Impact attenuating surfacing compliant with AS 4422:2022 is required across the impact area where play equipment is more than 600mm above ground level and for specific equipment such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items.

The critical fall height is determined by test methods as per AS 4422:2022. Impact testing of unitary surfacing is required post installation then every 3 years. Loose-fill surfacing installed at 300mm depth and maintained at minimum 200mm depth. Surface impact testing is only conducted if agreed prior to the inspection. If playground surface impact testing has been conducted refer to Appendix B: On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report. This report assesses the nominated playground/s surfacing against Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing: Specifications, requirements and test method.

The testing is completed onsite as a part of a playground inspection regime as outlined in AS 4685.0 2017. It is a form of testing to determine the post installation and ongoing performance of impact attenuating surfacing as installed on site. Testing positions are indicated in images provided. A HIC meter calibrated and complying with AS 4422:2022 is used for the testing. It is a hemispherical head form measuring 160mm in diameter and 4.6kg in weight and has an internal accelerometer. Temperature and humidity measurements were taken to demonstrate testing was done in accordance to the minimum/maximum requirements of the Australian Standard.

NB: Testing is not done under laboratory conditions and does not replicate or replace laboratory testing of impact attenuating surfacing prior to installation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Kidsafe NSW uses a risk rating for each identified issue and hazard. Refer to the Risk Assessment Matrix (Figure1).

Figure 1: Risk Assessment Matrix

		CONSEQUENCES			
		Major	Moderate	Minor	Insignificant
LIKELIHOOD	Almost Certain	1	1	2	3
	Likely	1	2	3	4
	Possible	2	3	4	5
	Unlikely	3	4	5	5

Risk rating		
1	1	VH - Very High Risk – Rectify immediately
2	2	H - High Risk – Immediate control required
3	3	S - Significant Risk – Make plan to control risk
4	4	M - Medium Risk – Monitor risk on ongoing basis
5	5	L - Low Risk – Set a time to review risks

(Adapted from AS/NZS ISO 31000 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines: HB 89 Risk Management - Guidelines on risk assessment techniques)

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Documentation

The playground owner/operator should establish a Playground Safety Management System to include the recording and archiving of documentation.

Documentation may include:

- Policies and procedures
- Reports eg. accident/injury
- Inventory/Equipment register
- Inspection checklists
- Inspection reports
- Works orders
- Maintenance actions
- Certification records eg. equipment, surfacing
- Manufacturer's warranty details
- Manufacturer's installation, inspection and maintenance instructions
- Operating Instructions (if applicable)
- Supervision plan
- Risk and risk benefit assessments

Relevant information sheets include:

- AS4685 Impact Areas Ready Reckoner
- Assessing Risk and Benefit in Playspaces
- Barriers, Guardrails and Handrails - Protection Against Falling
- Bike Tracks
- Entrapment
- Fencing Playspaces
- Impact Areas
- Mounds for Play
- Natural Playspaces
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- Playground Development
- Playground Safety Management System
- Playground Surfacing
- Portable Mats
- Safe Play in Backyards
- Sandpits
- Shade in Playspaces
- Slides
- Stepping Stones
- Swings
- Timber in Playspaces
- Trampolines
- Tree Climbing

For more information regarding Australian Standards for playgrounds, refer to the suite of Kidsafe NSW information sheets available to download from the website:

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/information-sheets/playground-safety/>

Moveable Play Equipment - a guide for playground owners and educators, a valuable resource for Education and Care Services. Order a copy from the website:

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/playground-safety/>

Information on safe gardening with children and recommended plants for playgrounds can be found on the web resource 'grow me safely':

<https://www.kidsafensw.org/safety/playground-safety/>

Kidsafe NSW Playground News informs readers of latest issues, trends and development in playgrounds. Visit the website to view published newsletters:

<https://www.kidsafensw.org/resources/newsletters/playground-news/>

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Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit is available for design and planning advice for existing and planned playgrounds. Please do not hesitate to contact the office on 02 9845 0893 or email

SCHN-KIDSAFE@health.nsw.gov.au

Summary

Kidsafe NSW conducted a comprehensive playground inspection of the playground at Burruga Park on 07 August 2024 and has systematically identified hazards and issues (refer to Appendix A) and conducted on site playground surface testing (refer to Appendix B). Each section of the report addresses specified requirements of the Australian Standards.

Ensure all issues and hazards identified as non-complying with Australian Standards for playgrounds are addressed and rectified to meet those Standards. Consult with manufacturer/supplier of equipment or surfacing prior to making any repair or modification so as not to void any warranty or guarantee.

For further information or clarification on this report, please contact:

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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

Burruga Park	Key: ND=Not Determined	NA=Not Applicable
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Inspector: Christie Fyffe	Date: 07 August 2024	Time: 1:00pm
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Equipment Item	Manufacturer/Installer/Supplier	Installation Date
Composite structure 1 - Serial number: 100949 List of components: Slide Platform x 1 Sliding pole Rope climber Climbing wall Cross bar ladder Climbing ramp	willPlay	September 2018
Composite structure 2 - Serial number: PP07390 List of components: Slide Platform x 2 Abacus rail Noughts and crosses activity panel Shop front Wobble climber Steering wheel	Omnitech	May 2009
Swings 1 (Infant and rubber swing (new)) - Serial number: 100949	willPlay	September 2018
Swings 2 (Rubber seat and infant swing set (old)) - Serial number: ND	ND	ND
Slides 1 (Blue and red straight slide) - Serial number: Composite structure 1	willPlay	September 2018
Slides 2 (Yellow straight slide) - Serial number: Composite structure 2	Omnitech	May 2009



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

Rockers 1 (See saw) - Serial number: 100949	willPlay	September 2018
Rockers 2 (Koala spring rocker) - Serial number: 100949	willPlay	September 2018
Rockers 3 (Kangaroo rocker) - Serial number: ND	ND	ND
Auxiliary items: Tables and chairs Bin	ND	ND

Playground Surfacing	Wet Pour Rubber, Mulch
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations





APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

	Image	Issue/Hazard	Risk Rating	Comment/Recommendation
1 Marking				
1.1 Equipment Identification				
1.1.1		No marking plates on equipment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kangaroo rocker • Swing set (old) 	N/A	Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance to AS 4685 and a marking plate is permanently fixed to equipment.
1.2 Basic Level Mark				
1.2.1		No basic level marks on equipment in loose fill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swing set (old) • Composite structure 2 • Kangaroo rocker 	N/A	Attach a permanent basic level mark 300mm above ground level to indicate installation depth for loose-fill playground surfacing. Ensure future purchases of playground equipment have certificates of compliance and basic level marks are permanently fixed to equipment.
2 Design and Manufacture				
2.1 Materials				
2.1.1		Unable to determine if metal utilised in the construction of the play space are coated with anti corrosive protective layer.	ND	Refer to documentation from supplier to determine if metal items are corrosion protected. Monitor for rust and corrosion. Treat and maintain as required.
2.1.2		Unable to determine if the playspace is free of dangerous substances (EG; asbestos, formaldehyde, chemicals).	ND	Refer to any site specific specialist inspection reports, if applicable.
2.2 Accessibility				



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Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.3 Protection Against Falling				
2.3.1		Exit/entrance openings on steep play elements (climbing ramp and sliding pole) measured greater than 740mm NB: this equipment is identified as 'easily accessible'.	M	AS 4685:2021 specifies the maximum width of exit/entrance openings in barriers on steep play elements to be no more than 500mm wide. Consider installation of signage to encourage active supervision and rules of the playground. Alternatively, reduce opening to 500mm.
2.4 Moving Parts				
2.4.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.5 Entrapments				
2.5.1		Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening of green barrier and platform on composite structure 2.	H	AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm. Lower barrier. Alternatively, replace with barrier compliant with AS 4685.



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.2</p>		<p>Bound head and neck entrapment in the opening between the vertical bars of the yellow barrier of composite structure 2.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 600mm above ground should not measure between 89mm – 230mm.</p> <p>Replace with barrier compliant with AS 4685.</p>
<p>2.5.3</p>		<p>Partially bound head and neck entrapment in the U shape opening located in both sides of slide.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies no U shaped openings 600mm above ground.</p> <p>Replace guarding section compliant with AS 4685.</p>



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.5.4</p>		<p>Clothing/hair entrapment located on both sides of slide on composite structure 2.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies equipment to be free from clothing and hair entrapment. Fill opening with silicone or insert rubber strip.</p>
<p>2.5.5</p>		<p>Finger entrapment in the hole of green barrier on composite structure 2 (missing element).</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground should not measure between 8mm – 25mm. Plug hole/replace element.</p>



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.5.6		Finger entrapment in the opening between the blue barrier/noughts and crosses panel and post (both sides).	H	AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground should not measure between 8mm – 25mm. Fill gaps.
2.5.7		Finger entrapment in the S-hooks of the swing set (old).	H	AS 4685 specifies equipment is free from potential finger entrapment. Connectors (S-hooks, D-shackles) should allow 8.6 and 12mm probes to pass through. Install spacers, S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock compliant with AS 4685.
2.6 Free Height of Fall				
2.6.1		Free height of fall of static equipment measured less than 3m - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required
2.7 Spaces and Areas				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.7.1</p>		<p>Inadequate impact area provided for swings (old). Front and rear impact area of swings measured less than required 3506mm (required impact area based on length of swing chains).</p> <p>NB: Not able to clearly distinguish where impact area finishes.</p> <p>Grass growing in impact area.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>AS 4685 specifies for the dimensions of this swing there should be an impact area of 3506mm to the front and rear of the swings.</p> <p>Remove grass. Monitor and maintain regularly.</p> <p>Extend impact area. Install a retaining border to manage impact area and retain mulch depth.</p>
<p>2.7.2</p>		<p>Significant leaf debris throughout impact area of composite structure and kangaroo rocker.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Remove. Monitor and maintain regularly.</p>
<p>2.8 Means of Access (Playground Equipment)</p>				
<p>2.8.1</p>		<p>No issue identified</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No action required</p>
<p>2.9 Connections, Ropes and Chains</p>				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.9.1</p>		<p>Loose connection on rope connections on composite structure 1.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Secure.</p>
<p>2.9.2</p>		<p>Ropes fading on composite structure 1</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Monitor for further deterioration. Replace ropes if any steel cable becomes exposed.</p>



APPENDIX A




Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.9.3</p>		<p>Surface rust on the chains and S-hooks on swing (old).</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Maintain as required.</p>
<p>2.9.4</p>		<p>S-hooks open more than 1mm and not safeguarded on swing S-hooks (old).</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Insert S-hook closures or replace with attachment items such as D-shackle or hammer lock.</p>



APPENDIX A





Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.10 Foundations				
2.10.1		Unable to inspect foundations due to unitary surfacing – no evidence of any issues identified.	N/A	No action required.
2.11 Heavy Suspended Beams				
2.11.1		N/A		N/A
2.12 Other Equipment Items (e.g moveable play equipment, water pumps etc.)				
2.12.1		N/A		N/A
3 Specific Equipment (AS 4685 Parts 2-6, 11)				
3.1 Slides				
3.1.1		Slide (composite structure 1) - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required.
3.1.2		Slide (composite structure 2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrapment issues • Inadequate loose fill depth 	N/A	Refer to the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrapments • Loose fill items
3.1.3		No cross bar provided over starting section of the attachment slide.	M	AS 4685 specifies for attachment slides with free height of fall over 1000mm, a cross bar should be provided between 600-900mm above the starting section. Install cross bar.



APPENDIX A





Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

3.1.4		Opening in barrier greater than the slide starting section.	H	<p>AS 4685 specifies that the opening in the barrier is the same width of the starting section for attachment slides.</p> <p>Due to entrapment issues, replace guarding sections to be compliant with AS 4685. Refer to entrapment section.</p>
3.1.5		The height of the run-out section measured 500mm above ground level.	S	<p>AS 4685 specifies the height of the run-out section should measure less than 350mm above ground level.</p> <p>Adjust finished surfacing level.</p>
3.2 Swings				
3.2.1		Swing set 1 - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required.
3.2.2		<p>Swing set 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Inadequate impact area • Surface rust issues • Damaged seats • Sharp edges 	N/A	<p>Refer to the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Spaces and areas • Connections, ropes and chains • Metal items • Synthetic products • Corners, edges and protrusions
3.3 Rocking Equipment				



APPENDIX A




Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>3.3.1</p> 	<p>See saw: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage/missing damping mechanism, see saw connects directly with ground/hard surface. </p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Refer to the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthetic products </p>
<p>3.3.2</p> 	<p>Koala rocker - no issues identified.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
<p>3.3.3</p> 	<p>Kangaroo rocker: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No marking • Inadequate loose fill depth • Damage to synthetic elements </p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Refer to the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Loose fill items • Synthetic products </p>
<p>3.3.4</p> 	<p>Hard surfaces in falling space/impact area of rocker, connects directly with ground.</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Impact attenuating surfacing is required in entire impact area/falling space. Refer to manufacturer.</p>
<p>4 Playground Surfacing</p>			
<p>4.1 Certified Surfacing and Impact Testing Requirements</p>			



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

4.1.1		Unable to determine if mulch is impact attenuating playground surfacing compliant with AS 4422.	ND	Obtain certificates of compliance from the surfacing supplier.
4.1.2		Wet pour rubber surfacing tested - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required. Refer to Appendix B for test results. Surface testing next due August 2024.
4.2 Hazards (trip, protrusion, toxicity, inhalation)				
4.2.1		Trip hazard on exposed tree/tree in loose fill area (near base of slide).	M	Remove.
4.2.2		Undulations beneath playground surfacing (may be due to tree roots).	M	Contact a tree specialist for solutions such as installation of a root barrier. Monitor for deterioration of the surface and development of trip hazards.



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>4.2.3</p>		<p>Potential trip hazards due to uneven surfaces and tree/plant roots.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Remove. Level ground surface and top up loose fill mulch. Install retaining border to manage impact areas and mulch depth.</p>
<p>4.3 Loose-fill Materials</p>				
<p>4.3.1</p>		<p>Tree/plant roots throughout loose fill.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to 'Hazards' section.</p>



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

4.3.2		Inadequate loose fill depth measured less than 200mm in area of composite structure and kangaroo rocker (measured less than 50mm).	H	<p>AS 4685 specifies loose-fill to be installed at 300mm (to base level mark) and maintained at no less than 200mm.</p> <p>Top up loose-fill.</p> <p>Unitary impact attenuating surfacing such as wet pour rubber installed in high impact areas under swings and at slide exits, can significantly reduce displacement. Install with an angled edge, below or level with loose fill surfacing to avoid a trip hazard.</p>
4.4 Unitary Surfacing				
4.4.1		Undulations in unitary surfacing.	M	Refer to 'Hazards' section.
5 General Issues				
5.1 Timber and Associated Products				
5.1.1		N/A		N/A
5.2 Metal Items				
5.2.1		Surface rust due to worn/chipped paint on swing frame (old).	L	Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Repaint. Maintain, as required.



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.2</p>		<p>Surface rust on the swing attachment items (old).</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required. Consider replacing with stainless steel items.</p>
<p>5.2.3</p>		<p>Surface rust due to worn/chipped paint on metal elements of composite structure 2.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Repaint. Maintain, as required.</p>



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.3 Synthetic Products			
5.3.1		Minor damage to swing seats (old).	L Monitor for further deterioration. Replace seats, as required.
5.3.2		Minor deterioration of plastic rocker kangaroo.	L Monitor for further deterioration and development of sharp edges developing.



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.3.3</p>		<p>Grime on synthetic products of composite structure 2.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>High pressure clean.</p>
<p>5.3.4</p>		<p>Damping damaged on see saw.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Replace.</p>
<p>5.4 Corners, Edges and Protrusions</p>				



APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.4.1		Sharp edges on attachment plate of swing (old).	M	Replace seat.
5.5 Ramps and Pathways (trips, slips and general issues)				
5.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.6 Gates and Fences				
5.6.1		N/A		N/A
5.7 Auxiliary Items (e.g. seating, tables, rubbish bins, shade structures etc.)				
5.7.1		Rough edges on concrete table and chairs.	L	Grind to smooth finish, ensuring no sharp edges.
5.8 Sandpits and Digging Patches				
5.8.1		N/A		N/A
5.9 Grounds				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.9.1		Graffiti on composite structure 2.	L	Remove graffiti.
5.9.2		Adequate shade not provided in playspace.	M	Conduct a shade audit to ascertain shade requirements for the playground. Install shade structure or additional planting of trees as determined by audit.



APPENDIX B

On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report

Burraga Park

Inspector: Christie Fyffe

Date: 07 August 2024

Time: 1:00pm

Ambient Temperature: 11C

Ambient Humidity: 58%



Type of Test: One Drop Method



APPENDIX B

On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report

Test area:	Surface	Surface Condition:	Surface & Shockpad Depth (mm):	Free Height of Fall (Hf):	Drop Height:	Gmax*:	HIC**:	HIC Time***:(T1-T2 >3ms)	Results:
Test 1 - Slide (starting section)	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	900mm	1180mm	103G	426HIC	6.990ms	Pass
Test 2 - Slide (starting section)	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	900mm	1180mm	108G	443HIC	6.570ms	Pass
Test 3 - Slide (run out)	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1000mm	1160mm	124G	564HIC	5.850ms	Pass
Test 4 - Sliding pole	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	900mm	1130mm	105G	441HIC	6.810ms	Pass
Test 5 - Climbing wall / Rope climber / Cross bar ladder	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1740mm	1915mm	130G	720HIC	6.510ms	Pass
Test 6 - Climbing wall	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1740mm	1980mm	153G	932HIC	5.850ms	Pass
Test 7 - Rope climber	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1740mm	1920mm	139G	801HIC	6.480ms	Pass
Test 8 - Climbing ramp	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	900mm	1090mm	94G	339HIC	7.230ms	Pass
Test 9 - Climbing ramp	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	900mm	1220mm	96G	390HIC	7.650ms	Pass
Test 10 - Infant swing	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1160mm	1410mm	94G	385HIC	7.830ms	Pass
Test 11 - Infant swing	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1160mm	1340mm	99G	388HIC	7.140ms	Pass
Test 12 - Rubber seat swing	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1260mm	1390mm	112G	527HIC	6.960ms	Pass
Test 13 - Rubber seat swing	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1260mm	1480mm	110G	505HIC	6.990ms	Pass
Test 14 - See saw	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	70mm	1000mm	1300mm	108G	455HIC	6.600ms	Pass
Test 15 - See saw	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	70mm	1000mm	1330mm	95G	366HIC	7.680ms	Pass
Test 16 - See saw	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	70mm	1000mm	1320mm	94G	351HIC	7.320ms	Pass
Test 17 - See saw	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	70mm	1000mm	1360mm	93G	349HIC	7.530ms	Pass
Test 18 - Rocker	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	70mm	1000mm	1280mm	107G	475HIC	7.110ms	Pass
Test 19 - Rocker	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	70mm	1000mm	1220mm	92G	370HIC	8.190ms	Pass
Test 20 - Rocker	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	70mm	1000mm	1280mm	97G	400HIC	7.800ms	Pass



APPENDIX B

On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report

Test 21 - Rocker	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	70mm	1000mm	1330mm	86G	341HIC	9.660ms	Pass
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NOTES:

**Gmax - a unit of measurement that quantifies the hardness of a surface. The higher the Gmax of a playing surface, the harder and more hazardous. Over '200G' is considered a high risk for injury.*

***HIC (Head Injury Criteria) - a measure of impact severity. Over 1000HIC is considered a high risk for injury.*

**** HIC Time - The interval over which the HIC is calculated, ie (t1 - t2). An interval of less than 3ms (millisecond) is considered a high risk for injury.*



COMPREHENSIVE PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT

Black Springs – Recreational Ground

Abercombe Road
Black Springs NSW 2787

Client:

Oberon Council

137 - 139 Oberon Street
Oberon, NSW 2787

August 2024

Prepared by:
Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit
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Disclaimer

This report has been prepared from information available to Kidsafe NSW at the time of inspection.

Whilst care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this report, Kidsafe NSW and its employees, take no responsibility for any errors, omissions or changes to information that may occur and disclaim all responsibility and liability to any person in respect to anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon information within this report.

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PREAMBLE

This report assesses the nominated playground/s and surrounding areas against the relevant Australian Standards listed below.

Australian Standard AS 4685.0:2017 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 0: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation

Australian Standard AS 4685:2021, Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods

Part 2: Particular safety requirements and test methods for swings

Part 3: Particular safety requirements and test methods for slides

Part 4: Particular safety requirements and test methods for cableways

Part 5: Particular safety requirements and test methods for carousels

Part 6: Particular safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment

Australian Standard AS 4685:2014 Playground equipment and surfacing

Part 11: Particular safety requirements and test methods for spatial networks

Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing

Specifications, requirements and test method

Australian Standard AS 1428.1 Design for access and mobility

(Selected clauses)

REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARDS

For the purpose of this inspection report, the following requirements of the Standards are considered as part of the scope and are addressed in Appendix A - Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations.

General

Individual play equipment structures are permanently marked with a plate clearly identifying the name, address, ABN, the equipment reference and year of manufacture. A basic level mark for the associated impact attenuating surface is required on fixed equipment installed in loose-fill surfacing. Equipment stating compliance with the Australian Standards must be marked with AS 4685.

Protection against Falling

Guardrails or barriers are installed for heights of more than 600mm above ground level. Continuous handrails are required on each side of access ways and bridges. All items intended for gripping must have a diameter that measures between 16mm-45mm.

Head and Neck Entrapment

Head and neck entrapment refers to any opening at a height of more than 600mm above ground level that would allow a child's body to pass through but not their head. Bound head and neck entrapment (dimensions of 89mm – 230mm), partially bound and V-shaped openings, shearing or moving openings (flexible and rigid parts with openings less than 230mm) must be eliminated.

Clothing/Hair Entrapment

Clothing/hair entrapment refers to situations where parts of clothing/hair may become trapped.

Foot Entrapment

Foot entrapment refers to situations where there are gaps wider than 30mm on surfaces intended for running/walking or completely bound rigid openings in surfaces for running/climbing and inclined up to 45°.

Finger Entrapment

Finger entrapment refers to any opening that would allow a child's fingers or thumbs to be trapped in a fall situation. Gaps or openings with dimensions of 8-25mm at 1000mm or more above playing surface level or at the entrance to equipment with forced movement must be eliminated. Chains require a maximum opening of 8.6mm. Connectors require an opening of greater than 12mm or less than 8.6mm.

Free Height of Fall

Free height of fall must not exceed 1800mm for Supervised Early Childhood Settings and 3000mm for All Age Settings. The free height of fall is the greatest vertical distance measured from the intended body support of the equipment to the impact area below. Unintended access to excessive heights should be avoided.

Spaces and Areas

A minimal impact area of 1500mm is required around equipment (with fall heights of 600mm or more above ground level) and between individual items of equipment. AS 4685 requires an increase in the impact area for equipment with platforms measuring more than 1500mm above ground level. AS 4685 specifies falling spaces for specific equipment with forced movement such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items. The falling space and impact area for equipment with forced movement cannot overlap with other falling spaces and impact areas.

Means of Access

Equipment designed to provide safe ascent or descent. Means of access include steps, stairs, ladders and ramps. Equipment designed to ensure that adults are able to gain access to assist children within the equipment.

Means of Access

Playground equipment should be structurally stable, in good condition and fit for children's play.

Materials

Appropriate material used in the construction of equipment taking into account climatic and atmospheric conditions, toxicity, flammability and ultraviolet radiation. No Copper Chromium Arsenate (CCA) or creosote timber treatments are to be used on timbers either above ground or below ground in playground spaces. For any new timber installations use naturally durable timbers (Durability Class 1 or Class 2) complying with AS5604 or treated timbers (H3/H4) complying with AS1604.

Finish of Equipment

Finish on equipment shall have no protruding nails, bolt threads, projecting wire rope terminations, pointed or sharp ended components. Projecting parts and corners measure less than 8mm (or covered) with a minimum radius of 3mm. Accessible surfaces finished smooth with no splintering or burrs.

Playground Surfacing

Impact attenuating surfacing compliant with AS 4422:2022 is required across the impact area where play equipment is more than 600mm above ground level and for specific equipment such as slides, swings, carousels, cableways, rocking and spinning items.

The critical fall height is determined by test methods as per AS 4422:2022. Impact testing of unitary surfacing is required post installation then every 3 years. Loose-fill surfacing installed at 300mm depth and maintained at minimum 200mm depth. Surface impact testing is only conducted if agreed prior to the inspection. If playground surface impact testing has been conducted refer to Appendix B: On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report. This report assesses the nominated playground/s surfacing against Australian Standard AS 4422:2022 Playground surfacing: Specifications, requirements and test method.

The testing is completed onsite as a part of a playground inspection regime as outlined in AS 4685.0 2017. It is a form of testing to determine the post installation and ongoing performance of impact attenuating surfacing as installed on site. Testing positions are indicated in images provided. A HIC meter calibrated and complying with AS 4422:2022 is used for the testing. It is a hemispherical head form measuring 160mm in diameter and 4.6kg in weight and has an internal accelerometer. Temperature and humidity measurements were taken to demonstrate testing was done in accordance to the minimum/maximum requirements of the Australian Standard.

NB: Testing is not done under laboratory conditions and does not replicate or replace laboratory testing of impact attenuating surfacing prior to installation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Kidsafe NSW uses a risk rating for each identified issue and hazard. Refer to the Risk Assessment Matrix (Figure1).

Figure 1: Risk Assessment Matrix

		CONSEQUENCES			
		Major	Moderate	Minor	Insignificant
LIKELIHOOD	Almost Certain	1	1	2	3
	Likely	1	2	3	4
	Possible	2	3	4	5
	Unlikely	3	4	5	5

Risk rating		
1	VH - Very High Risk – Rectify immediately	
2	H - High Risk – Immediate control required	
3	S - Significant Risk – Make plan to control risk	
4	M - Medium Risk – Monitor risk on ongoing basis	
5	L - Low Risk – Set a time to review risks	

(Adapted from AS/NZS ISO 31000 Risk Management - Principles and Guidelines: HB 89 Risk Management - Guidelines on risk assessment techniques)

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Documentation

The playground owner/operator should establish a Playground Safety Management System to include the recording and archiving of documentation.

Documentation may include:

- Policies and procedures
- Reports eg. accident/injury
- Inventory/Equipment register
- Inspection checklists
- Inspection reports
- Works orders
- Maintenance actions
- Certification records eg. equipment, surfacing
- Manufacturer's warranty details
- Manufacturer's installation, inspection and maintenance instructions
- Operating Instructions (if applicable)
- Supervision plan
- Risk and risk benefit assessments

Relevant information sheets include:

- AS4685 Impact Areas Ready Reckoner
- Assessing Risk and Benefit in Playspaces
- Barriers, Guardrails and Handrails - Protection Against Falling
- Bike Tracks
- Entrapment
- Fencing Playspaces
- Impact Areas
- Mounds for Play
- Natural Playspaces
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- Playground Development
- Playground Safety Management System
- Playground Surfacing
- Portable Mats
- Safe Play in Backyards
- Sandpits
- Shade in Playspaces
- Slides
- Stepping Stones
- Swings
- Timber in Playspaces
- Trampolines
- Tree Climbing

For more information regarding Australian Standards for playgrounds, refer to the suite of Kidsafe NSW information sheets available to download from the website:

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/information-sheets/playground-safety/>

Moveable Play Equipment - a guide for playground owners and educators, a valuable resource for Education and Care Services. Order a copy from the website:

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/playground-safety/>

Information on safe gardening with children and recommended plants for playgrounds can be found on the web resource 'grow me safely':

<https://www.kidsafensw.org/safety/playground-safety/>

Kidsafe NSW Playground News informs readers of latest issues, trends and development in playgrounds. Visit the website to view published newsletters:

<https://www.kidsafensw.org/resources/newsletters/playground-news/>

Subscribe to Playground News: <https://www.kidsafensw.org/resources/newsletters/subscribe/>

Kidsafe NSW Playground Advisory Unit is available for design and planning advice for existing and planned playgrounds. Please do not hesitate to contact the office on 02 9845 0893 or email

SCHN-KIDSAFE@health.nsw.gov.au

Summary

Kidsafe NSW conducted a comprehensive playground inspection of the playground at Black Springs – Recreational Ground on 07 August 2024 and has systematically identified hazards and issues (refer to Appendix A) and conducted on site playground surface testing (refer to Appendix B). Each section of the report addresses specified requirements of the Australian Standards.

Ensure all issues and hazards identified as non-complying with Australian Standards for playgrounds are addressed and rectified to meet those Standards. Consult with manufacturer/supplier of equipment or surfacing prior to making any repair or modification so as not to void any warranty or guarantee.

For further information or clarification on this report, please contact:

Kim Cooke
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APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

Black Springs Playground	Key: ND=Not Determined	NA=Not Applicable
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Inspector: Christie Fyffe	Date: 07 August 2024	Time: 11:30am
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Equipment Item	Manufacturer/Installer/Supplier	Installation Date
Composite structure - Serial number: 100950 List of components: Curved slide Rope climber Cross bar ladder x 2 Platform x 5 Climbing wall Climbing ramp	willPlay	September 2018
Swings (Basket swing) - Serial number: 100950	willPlay	September 2018
Slides (Curved slide) - Serial number: 100950	willPlay	September 2018
Carousel (Spinning pole) - Serial number: 100950	willPlay	September 2018
Rockers (Bike rocker) - Serial number: 100950	willPlay	September 2018
Auxiliary items: Shade shelter Fence	ND	ND

Playground Surfacing	Wet Pour Rubber
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APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations





APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

	Image	Issue/Hazard	Risk Rating	Comment/Recommendation
1 Marking				
1.1 Equipment Identification				
1.1.1		Marking plates located on all equipment - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required.
1.2 Basic Level Mark				
1.2.1		N/A		N/A
2 Design and Manufacture				
2.1 Materials				
2.1.1		Unable to determine if metal utilised in the construction of the equipment and shade posts are coated with anti corrosive protective layer.	ND	Refer to documentation from supplier to determine if metal items are corrosion protected. Monitor for rust and corrosion. Treat and maintain as required.
2.1.2		Unable to determine if the playspace is free of dangerous substances (EG; asbestos, formaldehyde, chemicals).	ND	Refer to any site specific specialist inspection reports, if applicable.
2.2 Accessibility				
2.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.3 Protection Against Falling				
2.3.1		Exit/entrance openings on steep play element (climbing ramp) measured 740mm (NB: no grab rails). NB: this equipment is identified as 'easily accessible'.	M	AS 4685:2021 specifies the maximum width of exit/entrance openings in barriers on steep play elements to be no more than 500mm wide. Consider installation of signage to encourage active supervision and rules of the playground. Alternatively, reduce opening to 500mm.
2.4 Moving Parts				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.4.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.5 Entrapments				
2.5.1		Finger entrapment in the opening between/in the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant holes on both sides of slide • Guarding section and side of slide on RHS 	H	AS 4685 specifies that any openings 1000mm above ground should not measure between 8mm – 25mm. Plug holes/fill gaps with silicone.
2.6 Free Height of Fall				
2.6.1		Free height of fall of static equipment measured less than 3m - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required
2.7 Spaces and Areas				
2.7.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.8 Means of Access (Playground Equipment)				
2.8.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
2.9 Connections, Ropes and Chains				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.9.1</p>		<p>Loose connections on rope elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climbing ramp (top and bottom) • Rope climber (most connections) 	<p>L</p>	<p>Secure.</p>
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APPENDIX A



Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>2.9.2</p>		<p>Minor fraying on the ropes on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climbing ramp • Rope climber 	<p>L</p>	<p>Monitor for deterioration.</p> <p>Plan for replacement of ropes once steel cable exposed.</p>
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APPENDIX A





Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

2.9.3		Minor fraying on the ropes on basket swing.	L	Monitor for deterioration. Plan for replacement of ropes once steel cable exposed.
2.10 Foundations				
2.10.1		Unable to inspect foundations due to unitary surfacing – no evidence of any issues identified.	N/A	No action required.
2.11 Heavy Suspended Beams				
2.11.1		N/A		N/A
2.12 Other Equipment Items (e.g moveable play equipment, water pumps etc.)				
2.12.1		N/A		N/A
3 Specific Equipment (AS 4685 Parts 2-6, 11)				
3.1 Slides				
3.1.1		Slide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrapment issues • Grime/debris 	N/A	Refer to the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrapments • Synthetic products
3.2 Swings				



APPENDIX A


Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

3.2.1		Basket swing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor frayed ropes • Grime/debris on frame 	N/A	Refer to the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connections, ropes and chains • Metal items
3.2.2		Fence positioned 1200mm from swing seat.	M	AS 4685 specifies that fences are positioned a minimum of 1500mm from side edge of the swing seat. Monitor reported incidents. Relocate fence and extend circulation space, as required.
3.3 Carousels				
3.3.1		Spinning pole: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface rust on post 	N/A	Refer to the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metal items
3.4 Rocking Equipment				
3.4.1		Bike rocker - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required.
4 Playground Surfacing				
4.1 Certified Surfacing and Impact Testing Requirements				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

4.1.1		Wet pour rubber surfacing tested - no issues identified.	N/A	No action required. Refer to Appendix B for test results. Surface testing next due August 2027.
4.2 Hazards (trip, protrusion, toxicity, inhalation)				
4.2.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
4.3 Loose-fill Materials				
4.3.1		N/A		N/A
4.4 Unitary Surfacing				
4.4.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5 General Issues				
5.1 Timber and Associated Products				
5.1.1		N/A		N/A
5.2 Metal Items				
5.2.1		Surface rust on the post of spinning pole.	L	Brush/sand to remove rust. Apply rust inhibitor. Monitor for deterioration and replace items as required. Consider replacing with stainless steel items.



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

<p>5.2.2</p>		<p>Grime/debris on metal elements.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>High pressure clean.</p>
<p>5.3 Synthetic Products</p>				



APPENDIX A


Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.3.1		Grime/debris/spiderwebs on synthetic elements.	L	High pressure clean. Monitor and maintain, as required.
5.4 Corners, Edges and Protrusions				
5.4.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.5 Ramps and Pathways (trips, slips and general issues)				
5.5.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.6 Gates and Fences				



APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Playground Inspection Issues and Recommendations

5.6.1		End cap missing from a post on the fence.	L	Replace end cap.
5.7 Auxiliary Items (e.g. seating, tables, rubbish bins, shade structures etc.)				
5.7.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required
5.8 Sandpits and Digging Patches				
5.8.1		N/A		N/A
5.9 Grounds				
5.9.1		No issue identified	N/A	No action required



APPENDIX B

On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report

Black Springs Playground

Inspector: Christie Fyffe

Date: 07 August 2024

Time: 11:30am

Ambient Temperature: 10C

Ambient Humidity: 70%



Type of Test: One Drop Method



APPENDIX B

On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report

Test area:	Surface	Surface Condition:	Surface & Shockpad Depth (mm):	Free Height of Fall (Hf):	Drop Height:	Gmax*:	HIC**:	HIC Time***:(T1-T2 >3ms)	Results:
Test 1 - Basket swing	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1210mm	1530mm	130G	612HIC	5.850ms	Pass
Test 2 - Basket swing	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	50mm	1210mm	1500mm	140G	669HIC	5.370ms	Pass
Test 3 - Slide (starting section)	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	70mm	1200mm	1390mm	102G	483HIC	7.950ms	Pass
Test 4 - Slide (starting section)	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	70mm	1200mm	1410mm	113G	523HIC	6.870ms	Pass
Test 5 - Slide (run out)	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	80mm	1000mm	1230mm	87G	338HIC	8.700ms	Pass
Test 6 - Cross bar ladder / Climbing wall	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	80mm	2040mm	2250mm	130G	797HIC	7.650ms	Pass
Test 7 - Climbing wall	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	80mm	2040mm	2340mm	147G	958HIC	6.660ms	Pass
Test 8 - Climbing ramp	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	80mm	1240mm	1480mm	101G	470HIC	8.220ms	Pass
Test 9 - Climbing ramp	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	80mm	1240mm	1430mm	88G	376HIC	9.030ms	Pass
Test 10 - Cross bar ladder / Rope climber	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	80mm	1170mm	1410mm	111G	547HIC	7.440ms	Pass
Test 11 - Rope climber	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	80mm	1000mm	1450mm	110G	547HIC	7.350ms	Pass
Test 12 - Spinning pole	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	>100mm	1000mm	1300mm	99G	399HIC	7.380ms	Pass
Test 14 - Spinning pole	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1000mm	1210mm	111G	459HIC	6.270ms	Pass
Test 14 - Spinning pole	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1000mm	1370mm	116G	525HIC	6.540ms	Pass
Test 15 - Spinning pole	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1000mm	1350mm	102G	421HIC	7.230ms	Pass
Test 16 - Rocker	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	80mm	1000mm	1330mm	110G	473HIC	6.870ms	Pass
Test 17 - Rocker	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1000mm	1330mm	104G	439HIC	7.380ms	Pass
Test 18 - Rocker	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1000mm	1360mm	113G	492HIC	6.690ms	Pass
Test 19 - Rocker	Wet Pour Rubber	Good	60mm	1000mm	1390mm	109G	478HIC	7.080ms	Pass



APPENDIX B

On Site - Playground Surface Impact Testing Report

NOTES:

**Gmax - a unit of measurement that quantifies the hardness of a surface. The higher the Gmax of a playing surface, the harder and more hazardous. Over '200G' is considered a high risk for injury.*

***HIC (Head Injury Criteria) - a measure of impact severity. Over 1000HIC is considered a high risk for injury.*

**** HIC Time - The interval over which the HIC is calculated, ie (t1 - t2). An interval of less than 3ms (millisecond) is considered a high risk for injury.*

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

	Staff Recommendation (Option 1)	Cost Option 1	GST	Installation	Softfall	Softfall Barrier	TOTAL COST	UL (Yrs)	Ann Dep 0=Expend	Mtce Cost/Ann	Annual Cost	Staff Recommendation (Option 2)	Cost Option 2	GST	Installation	Softfall	UL (Yrs)	Softfall Barrier (\$150/m)	Barrier Length	TOTAL COST	UL (Yrs)	Annual Depreciation	Mtce Cost/Ann	Annual Cost	
Armstrong Place Park	Remove play equipment and regrass	\$2,000					\$2,000	Infinite				Replace Composite and 2 x Swing Sets	\$7,620	\$762	\$4,000	\$3,000	5	\$8,610	57.4	\$23,230	20	\$1,934		\$1,934	
	Remove Metal Stakes			\$50			\$50					Replace Composite / Slide	\$13,300	\$1,330	\$2,500	\$1,500	5	\$3,591	23.9	\$20,891	20	\$1,416		\$1,416	
	Cleaning Cost									150	\$150												\$150	\$150	
	Maintenance Cost									1300	\$1,300												\$1,300	\$1,300	
	Inspection Cost						\$2,600			2600	\$2,600												\$2,600	\$2,600	
							\$2,050		\$0	\$4,050	\$4,050		\$20,920	\$2,092	\$6,500	\$4,500		\$12,201		\$44,121		\$3,350	\$4,050	\$7,400	
Black Springs Recreational Ground	Plug holes / fill gaps with Silicone, Replace end caps, signage and clean.	\$300		\$400			\$700				\$0	NA													
	Cleaning Cost									250	\$250												\$250	\$250	
	Inspection Cost									1950	\$1,950												\$1,950	\$1,950	
	Maintenance Cost									2600	\$2,600												\$2,600	\$2,600	
							\$700		\$0	\$4,800	\$4,800		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0	\$4,800	\$4,800	
Bligh Street Playground	Remove Composite, Swing and Slide and regrass	\$5,000					\$5,000					Replace Swing Set	\$4,130	\$413	\$2,500	\$3,000	5	\$3,720	24.8	\$13,350	20	\$1,026.55	\$433	\$1,460	
												Replace Slide	\$9,560	\$956	\$2,500	\$3,000	5	\$5,340	35.6	\$20,400	20	\$1,357.60	\$433	\$1,791	
												Replace Climbing Frame	\$6,670	\$667	\$2,500	\$3,000	5	\$4,140	27.6	\$16,310	20	\$1,174.65	\$433	\$1,608	
												Replace Seat on Slab	\$1,200	\$120	\$500		0.0	\$0	0.0	\$1,700	20	\$141.67		\$142	
	Cleaning Cost									150	\$150											\$150	\$150		
	Inspection Cost									1300	\$1,300											\$1,300	\$1,300		
	Maintenance Cost						\$2,600			2600	\$2,600											\$2,600	\$2,600		
							\$5,000		\$0	\$4,050	\$4,050		\$21,560	\$2,156	\$8,000	\$9,000		\$13,200		\$51,760		\$3,700	\$5,350	\$9,050	
Buckley Crescent Park	Replace Park Bench & Slab	\$5,048	\$505	\$1,500			\$6,548	30	\$218		\$218	Upgrade of Softfall	\$8,000			\$5,000	5	\$10,200	68.0	\$16,700	80	\$1,127.50		\$1,128	
	Replace Park Bench & Slab	\$1,200	\$120	\$1,500			\$2,700	30	\$90		\$90	Replace Park Bench and Slab	\$2,700	\$270	\$1,500					\$4,200	30	\$140.00		\$140	
	Remove Composite/slide, Large Slide, Rocker and Swing	\$3,500					\$3,500				\$0	Replace Rocker	\$2,570	\$257	\$1,000					\$3,570	20	\$178.50		\$179	
											\$0	Repair Double Swing	\$800	\$80	\$500						\$1,300	20	\$331.50		\$332
											\$0	Replace double swing set	\$4,130	\$413	\$2,500		24.8			\$6,630	20	\$331.50		\$332	
											\$0	Replace Slide	\$3,630	\$363	\$1,000					\$4,630	20	\$231.50		\$232	
											\$0	Replace Platform Composite	\$15,410	\$1,541	\$2,500					\$17,910	20	\$895.50		\$896	
											\$0	Reinstall and repair & clean Whale Rocker	\$500		\$1,000					\$1,500					
		Cleaning Cost									\$200	\$200	Cleaning Cost										\$200	\$200	
		Inspection Cost									1300	\$1,300	Inspection Cost										\$1,300	\$1,300	
	Maintenance Cost						\$1,300			\$1,300	\$1,300	Maintenance Costs (2x1hr/wk)										\$2,600	\$2,600		
							\$6,200		\$308	\$2,800	\$3,018		\$29,740	\$2,924	\$10,000	\$5,000		\$10,200		\$53,640		\$4,100	\$7,005		
Burraga Park	Remove old swing set 'outside' park and make good			\$1,000			\$1,000					Replace old swing set	\$4,130	\$413	\$2,500	\$2,500	5	\$3,720	24.8	\$12,850	20	\$1,189.00	\$433	\$1,622	
	Repair Kangaroo Rocker			\$500	\$500	\$1,200	\$2,200	20	\$115	\$100	\$215														
	Repair / Bring to Standard Composite 2	\$3,000		\$1,500	\$750	\$4,800	\$10,050	20	\$210	\$200	\$410	Repair / Bring to Standard Composite 2	\$3,000		\$2,000	\$2,000	5	\$3,000	20.0	\$10,000	20	\$937.50		\$938	
	Maintenance of Concrete Picnic Table and chairs (Grinding rough edges)			\$500			\$500	50				Replace Composite 2	\$15,410	\$1,541	\$2,500	\$2,000	5	\$3,000	20.0	\$22,910	20	\$1,145.50		\$1,146	
	Remove Old Composite and regrass			\$1,500			\$1,500																		
	Cleaning Cost									400	\$400											\$400	\$400		
	Inspection Cost									1300	\$1,300											\$1,300	\$1,300		
	Maintenance Cost						\$2,600			2600	\$2,600											\$2,600	\$2,600		
							\$15,250		\$325	\$4,600	\$4,925		\$29,740	\$2,924	\$10,000	\$5,000		\$10,200		\$53,640		\$4,100	\$7,005		
Cunynghame Oval Park												Replace Swing Set	\$4,130	\$413	\$2,500	\$2,500	5	\$3,720	24.8	\$12,850	20	\$642.50		\$643	
												Replace Excavator	\$3,880	\$388	\$500	\$1,500	10	\$1,800	12.0	\$7,680	20	\$556.50		\$557	
												Replace Bench Seat on existing slab	\$1,100	\$110	\$250					\$1,350	20	\$67.50		\$68	
												Replace Bench seat & add Slab	\$1,100	\$110	\$1,500					\$2,600	20	\$130.00		\$130	
												Replace Composite	\$35,000	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$5,000	5	\$5,100	34.0	\$50,100	20	\$2,505.00		\$2,505	
												Replace Seats on benches in Shelter	\$2,000	\$200	\$200					\$2,200	20	\$110.00		\$110	
	Cleaning Cost										Remove Bubbler			\$500						\$500					
	Inspection Cost																					\$400	\$400		
	Maintenance Cost																					\$1,300	\$1,300		
							\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0											\$2,600	\$2,600		
							\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0											\$4,300	\$8,312		
Glyndwr Avenue (North)	Remove Slide and Swing and reestablish grass	\$1,500					\$1,500	Infinite		(\$750)	(\$750)	Replace Slide and Swing with compliant items	\$12,710	\$1,271	\$4,000	\$3,000	5	\$3,720	24.8	\$24,701	20	\$1,573.45	\$1,300	\$2,873	
							\$1,500		\$0	(\$750)	(\$750)									\$24,701					
Glyndwr Avenue (South)	Remove Digger and Swing and reestablish grass	\$1,500					\$1,500	Infinite		(\$750)	(\$750)	Replace Swing and reinstall Excavator	\$5,630	\$413	\$4,000	\$3,500	5	\$3,720	24.8	\$16,850	20	\$1,276.55	\$1,300	\$2,577	
																						\$150	\$150		
																						\$1,300	\$1,300		
																						\$1,300	\$1,300		
							\$1,500		\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000											\$1,300	\$1,300		
	Repair / upgrade Composite	\$7,500	\$750	\$2,500			\$10,000	20	\$1,250		\$1,250	Replace Composite	\$23,400	\$413	\$5,000					\$28,400	20	\$1,440.65		\$1,441	

13.3 BreastScreen Mobile Van Transport Subsidy

File No: OD/Community Relations/Planning & Requests

Author: Dr Cornelia Wiebels (Technical Services Director), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

Summary

BreastScreen NSW offers free mammograms to Oberon residents through a mobile van service available locally every two years. Currently, Oberon Council supports this initiative by providing parking and electricity. BreastScreen NSW has now requested additional support from Council to cover the transportation of the mobile van to Oberon.

Recommendation:

That Council

1. Supports the BreastScreen NSW mobile van visit by transporting the van from Gulgong to Oberon.
 2. Sources the plant hire cost from the Community Services budget.
-

List of Attachments

Nil

Comment

The BreastScreen NSW mobile van visits Oberon every two years in December; 2 years is the recommended frequency for the relevant medical check-ups/screens. The mobile van's next visit is scheduled for 11 – 19 December 2024.

BreastScreen NSW is a not-for-profit organisation, as part of NSW Health, that provides free mammograms aiming to improve the survival rate of women with breast cancer by early detection. The nearest alternatives (from Oberon) for impacted community members are Bathurst and Katoomba (permanent set-ups), with a distance of just over 40km each.

BreastScreen NSW approached Council to assist with transporting the mobile van from Gulgong to Oberon. The transport distance is around 200km. Oberon Council can use its Prime Mover to undertake the transport; under a Private Works agreement this is currently charged at \$325/hr (wet hire). BreastScreen NSW has asked Council to review this hire fee for the purpose of transporting the mobile van.

Considerations:

- Council already supports this cause by providing parking and electricity.
 - Supporting this cause further would further increase Council's positive image in the community.
 - The financial impact is small, however there is currently no budget allocated.
 - BreastScreen does not expect this support by default and understands councils' budget constraints; from the correspondence with BreastScreen NSW it is understood that BreastScreen will bear the cost of the transport should Council not provide for it.
-

- BreastScreen advised that Council provided the transport free of charge in 2016/17, however did not provide support in 2020 and 2022.
- The transport could be sourced from the Community Services budget.

Financial Implications

There is capacity within the Community Services budget to cover for the costs for the transport, due to the positive response to PinkUp Oberon and savings within the event budget. It is considered the in-kind contribution would be \$1,100.

Relevance to Oberon Community Strategic Plan

Theme 1: Community Well Being

Action 1.3 Meet the health, education and social service needs of the community

1.3.1 Support community health initiatives

Risk Category

Public Image and Reputation

Risk Severity Ranking

Insignificant - 20%

13.4 Council Fees and Charges - Mixed Builders Waste Charges

File No: TS/Waste Management/Fees and Charges

Author: Dani Bradshaw (Change Management Analyst), Dr Cornelia Wiebels (Technical Services Director)

Summary

In preparing for the installation of a weighbridge and consolidating fees at the Oberon Waste Facility, the fee for mixed builders' waste was unintentionally omitted. On average, one cubic meter of mixed builders' waste is equivalent to one tonne, and the processing cost at the facility is approximately \$110 per tonne. It is proposed to introduce a fee of \$110 per cubic meter for mixed builders' waste, which will be put on public exhibition for 28 days.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Place the proposed Mixed Builders Waste Fee of \$110 per cubic meter on public exhibition for 28 days and submissions be invited during that period.
 2. If no submissions are received within the exhibition period, the proposed fee be adopted as presented.
-

List of Attachments

Nil

Comment

During the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) process for the 2024/2025 financial year, the waste facility's fee structure was reviewed. One objective of this review was to simplify and consolidate fee categories in preparation for the installation of a weighbridge. However, the category for mixed builders' waste was inadvertently overlooked.

Typically, mixed builders' waste weighs approximately one tonne per cubic meter, and the cost to process one tonne at the Oberon waste facility is around \$110. Under the current fee structure, builders' waste is charged as general commercial waste at \$22 per cubic meter. In the previous financial year (2023/2024), mixed builders' waste was charged at a rate of \$50 per cubic meter.

Last year, the facility processed approximately 250 tonnes of mixed builders' waste. At this year's rate, processing a similar volume would cost the Council \$27,500, while the current commercial fee structure would only recover \$5,500. The estimated shortfall of \$22,000 would require supplementary funding from ratepayers or alternative revenue sources.

Financial Implications

The current fee of \$22 per cubic meter results in domestic waste users needing to cover \$88 for every cubic meter of builders' waste processed at the Oberon Waste Facility.

Relevance to Oberon Community Strategic Plan

Theme 3: Caring for the Environment

Action 3.3 Ensure sustainable waste management services and programs, with a commitment to

resource recovery

3.3.5 Garbage collection contract and associated policies

Risk Category

Environment

Service Delivery

Risk Severity Ranking

Minor - 32%

13.5	DA10.2023.54.2 - 2 Fleming Street, Oberon - DCP variation - front setback
File No:	DA10.2023.54.2
Author:	Mark Hitchenson (Consultant Town Planner), Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director)

Summary

Council has received a Modification Application (DA10.2023.54.2) for alterations to the Essential Energy Depot at 2 Fleming Street, Oberon. The modification seeks to relocate an existing carport on the site. The carport will also be raised in height by up to 800mm with leg extensions to allow a forklift to fit under the structure.

Key Issue

The development does not comply with the 6m front setback requirement for commercial and industrial development in the Oberon Development Control Plan 2001. The carport is currently located with a setback to Fleming Street of 8.7m. The new location of the carport will have a 1.5m setback to Fleming Street. The DA was notified from 9 October 2024 to 23 October 2024 with no submissions received.

The proposal is considered acceptable despite the DCP variation.

Recommendation:

That Council,

1. Vary Part D.4.1 – “Building Setback” of its current DCP 2001 in relation to Development Application DA10.2023.54.2 for alterations to Depot construction of a shed at Lot 30 in DP 740674 being known as 2 Fleming Street, Oberon.
2. A division be called in accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act 1993.

List of Attachments

Nil

Modification Application DA10.2023.54.2 has been received for alterations to a depot at 2 Fleming Street, Oberon. The modification seeks to relocate an existing carport on the site.

A variation to DCP 2001 is sought in relation to Part D.4.1.

Part D.4.1 - “Building Setback” in relation to commercial and industrial development requires:

“Provide a building setback minimum of 6 metres from the Street and 4.5 metres from any side street. This area is not in any circumstance to be utilised for car parking. Where an existing development provides for parking within an existing setback area, where practicable, provision should be made for that parking to be provided on the rear of the site, upon the redevelopment or extension of the development.

Where there is an existing development which is built to the front boundary along the Street, the Plan does not require that building to be set back upon redevelopment or extension.

If there is a development proposed which adjoins an existing development built to the front boundary, or closer than 6 metres to the front boundary, the setback requirement may be reduced having regard to the adjoining development and the overall appearance of the proposed development in the streetscape.”

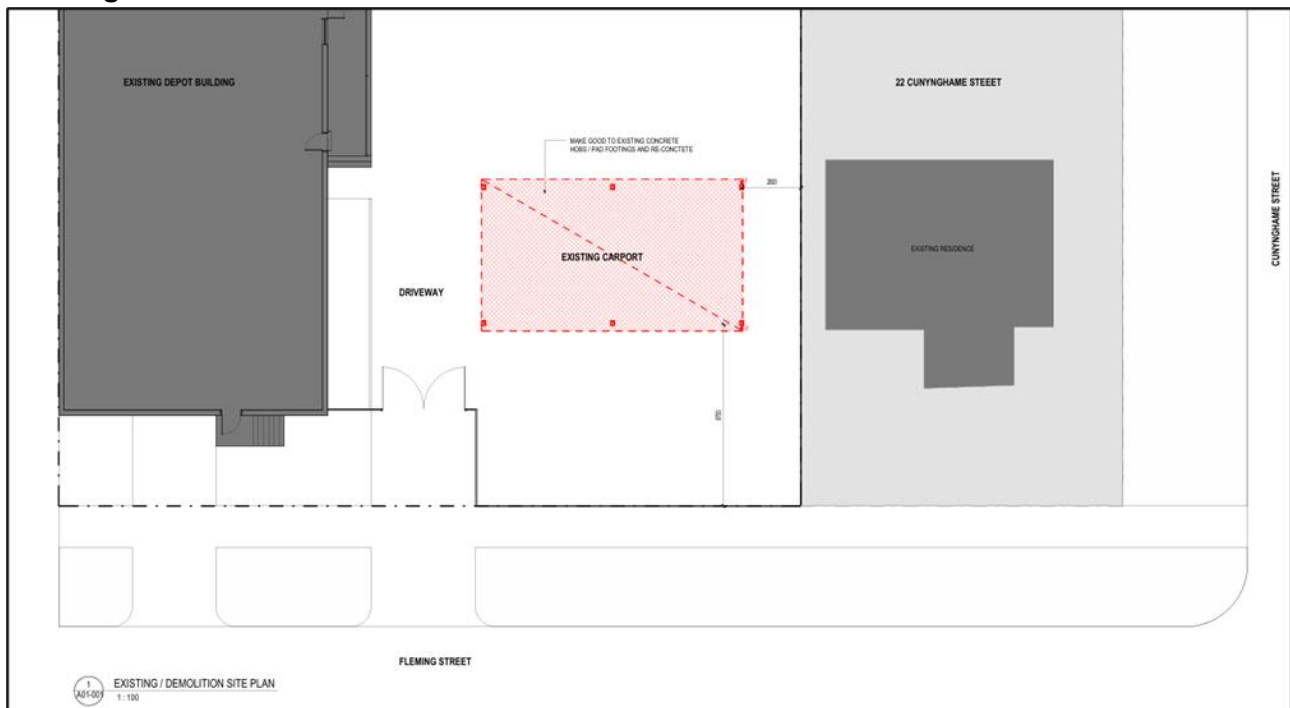
The proposal seeks to relocate the carport to have a 1.5m setback from Fleming Street. The proposal therefore does not comply with the DCP.

The applicant has requested a variation to the setback requirement, on the following grounds:

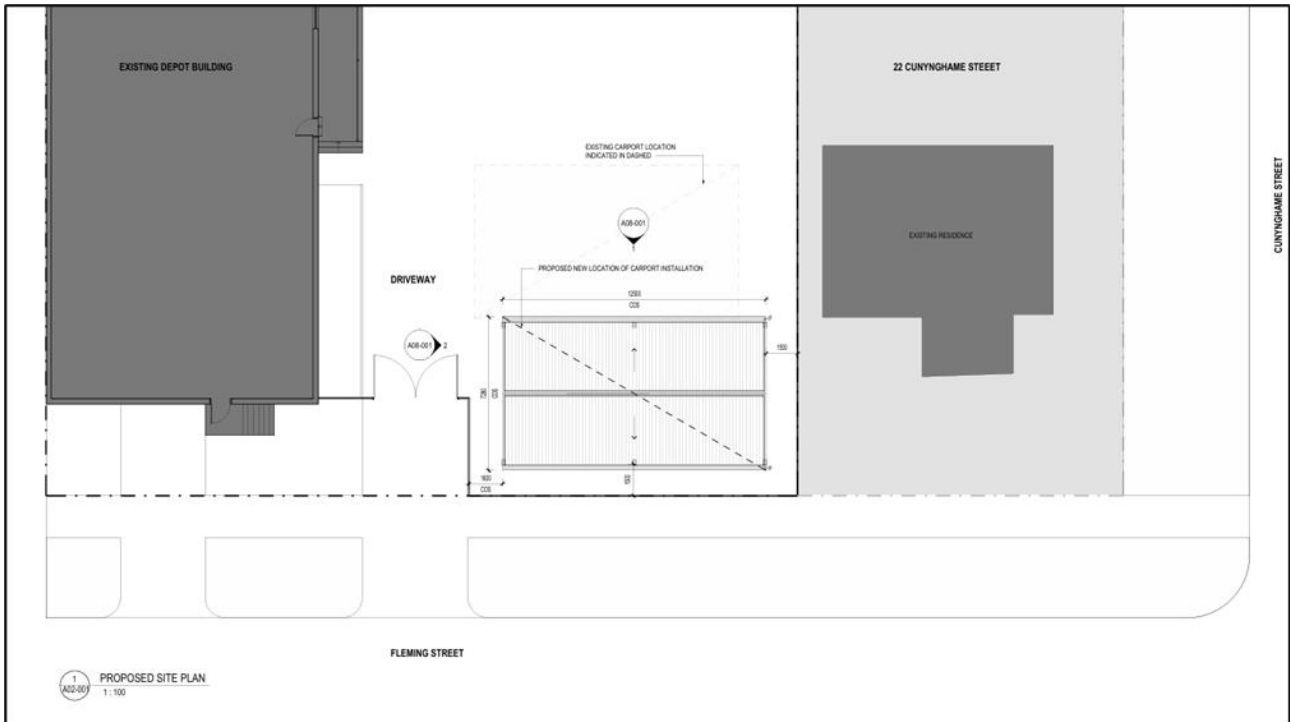
- *The Essential Energy Depot has operated from the site for an extended period of time;*
- *The awning is not enclosed, minimising potential visual impact posed by long lengths of solid wall;*
- *A high colorbond fence exists along the street boundary creating a screen in front of the proposed awning location and thus minimising any further potential visual impact;*
- *There are existing street trees located in front of the proposed location which shall help provide a further buffer between the street and development;*
- *Neighbouring private open space shall not be impacted by overshadowing;*
- *Within the Fleming Street locality, there are buildings that have similar front setbacks, thus are not out of context; and*
- *The new location provides safer vehicle manoeuvrability within the Essential Energy Depot.*

The existing and proposed site plans are provided below.

Existing Site Plan



Proposed Site Plan



Comment – As can be seen from the photo below, the main depot building has a less than 6m setback to the street. The setback is approximately 5m. The photo also shows the existing carport, the Colourbond fence along the site frontage and the street trees in Fleming Street.

Photo of subject site



It is considered that the building setback from roads variation for the carport can be supported in this instance as:

- the carport is an open sided structure with a lesser visual impact than a building with solid walls,

- a garage with a near zero setback to Fleming Street is located in close proximity to the site, as shown in the photo below, and
- the proposed carport relocation will not impact on the amenity of the adjoining residential property.

Photo of existing structure with minimal setback to Fleming Street



Financial Implications

Nil

Relevance to Oberon Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Infrastructure and Services

Action 4.4 Plan for infrastructure and land use needs ready for future growth

4.4.3 Development assessment and building approval services

Risk Category

Environment

Public Image and Reputation

Risk Severity Ranking

Insignificant - 20%

13.6 State of the Shire Report

File No: OD/IP & R

Author: Gary Wallace (General Manager), Sharon Swannell (Governance and Executive Manager)

Summary

Councils are required to develop a State of the Shire report and present it to the second meeting of a newly elected Council for noting.

Recommendation:

That Council note the 2024 State of the Shire Report as presented.

List of Attachments

1. OC State of the Shire Report - Dec 2021 - Aug 2024 [**13.6.1** - 22 pages]

Comment

The State of the Shire Report has been prepared for the previous term of Council. The report provides an overview of Council's progress against the themes and actions contained in the Council's Delivery Program.

The State of the Shire report was previously known as the End of Term report. Before each Local Government Election, this report must be tabled at the last meeting of the outgoing Council and incorporated into that year's Annual Report.

The report for the recently completed term gives a summary of Council's key achievements over the last five years and demonstrates the progress made for the Oberon community under the leadership of the outgoing Council in the strategic focus areas of being healthy, wealthy, safe, and connected.

We are all incredibly proud of the work that we have delivered and look forward to working with the new Mayor and Councillors to provide so much more for this community.

The State of the Shire Report has been reviewed and prepared for the new Council from the previously endorsed End of Term Report and provides an overview of the themes and actions outlined within the 2040 Road Map to our Future (Councils Community Strategic Plan).

The following snapshot provides an overview of the number of actions and activities contained under the CSP Strategic Themes and their status at the end of the last term of Council.

Theme breakdown and actions

CSP Strategic Themes	Community Wellbeing	A Growing Economy	Caring for the Environment	Infrastructure and Services	Leadership and Engagement
Delivery Program Supporting Strategies	4	5	5	5	5
Delivery Program / Operational Plan Actions	50	16	19	45	24
Completed Actions	26	6	4	6	2
Ongoing Actions	24	10	15	38	22
Commenced Actions	0	0	0	1	0

Financial Implications

Council's performance against its adopted operational plan is provided through the Audited Annual Financial Statements (see separate report to the 12 November 2024 Ordinary Meeting).

Relevance to Oberon Community Strategic Plan

Theme 5: Leadership and Engagement

Action 5.3 Council builds strong relationships with other Councils and organisations in support of the Oberon plan and the wider region

5.3.3 Delivery of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP)

Risk Category

Governance

Risk Severity Ranking

Insignificant - 20%



Oberon Council STATE OF THE SHIRE REPORT



Image courtesy of Alan Sheehan

December 2021 – August 2024



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A message from Mayor Mark Kellam

It is my pleasure to present the State of the Shire Report for Oberon Council, formerly known as the End of Term Report. This term of Council has been shorter due to the delay in Local Government elections caused by Covid. It has also been a period of recovery following unprecedented events which have significantly affected the Oberon Local Government area, including catastrophic fires, flooding, the ongoing impact of Covid as well as a number of natural disaster declarations. Council has been well supported by both State and Federal Government grants in response to these events.

A number of milestones have been met with significant infrastructure projects coming to fruition. The development of the O'Connell Recreation Ground is nearing completion, the long awaited new Library and Community Centre was officially opened and work has commenced on the Oberon Sports Complex. Work continues on the new Oberon Sewerage Treatment Plant project. This project has seen some significant obstacles we continue to work through.

Key road work projects have been completed. The Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Oberon Council and Lithgow City Council received significant funding to upgrade the Tablelands Way touring route. Oberon Council completed a full refurbishment of Lowes Mount Road across three years as part of this project. Other road projects included upgrades to Campbells River Road, Burruga Road, Mozart Road, Arkstone Road and Albion Street. Abercrombie Road received significant safety upgrades. Following a number of natural disasters, Council developed an environmentally effected roads matrix. Works to address the ongoing environmental issues were completed on Sewells Creek Road, Mount Olive Road, Bosworth Falls Road, Nunans Hill Road and Bald Ridge Road

New bridges were installed on Bald Ridge Road and Swallows Nest Road and a new causeway installed on Nunans Hill Road.

Apex Park toilets received funding for a refurbishment; Herb David Park has a new playground and shade sails and an accessible playground has been installed at the Oberon Common.

Development of a Oberon Street Tree Masterplan was also completed during this term of Council and plantings have commenced in line with the adopted master plan. Council resumed management of the Oberon Pool and Fitness Centre and this facility continues to thrive under the new management arrangements.

A major reform undertaken by the Council related to the Town Improvement Levy. This levy dated back to 1934 and allows a levy to be raised from town residents for various capital and other activities within the town. The reform abolished the Levy and spread the equivalent of the Levy across the entire LGA and rolled it into the general rate without increasing the overall level of rates.

Council has undertaken a major IT transformation. During the term a new website has been introduced as well as a community engagement platform Have Your Say Oberon. Internally Council has migrated its enterprise management systems and records management systems to new platforms and continues to make improvements in these areas to streamline services for the community. The most significant challenge has come from the implementation of the State Government Planning Portal.

Our achievements as listed in the State of the Shire Report are a good foundation for the years ahead. It has been my pleasure to lead the Council through this time and I thank the community, the Oberon Council Staff and outgoing Councillors for their dedication and hard work.

Mayor Mark Kellam

Introduction

Background

The State of our Shire Report (previously known as the End of Term Report) is an overview on Council's and the community's progress in implementing the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) during the term. As a community it is important for us to have a document that defines how we want to grow into the future. The CSP is part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework that Council uses for strategic and operational planning.

The CSP is used to provide an understanding of community priorities and guides service delivery over the term of Council. The Oberon Council- Roadmap to 2040 Community Strategic Plan) is the foundation of this framework, was prepared and adopted by the community and Council in December 2019 and amended in 2021. The specific details of projects and programs that support the community's strategic objectives reflected in the CSP are spelt out in Council's Delivery Program (4 years) and Operational Plan (1 year). These documents are readily available to the community on Council's website or by contacting Council.

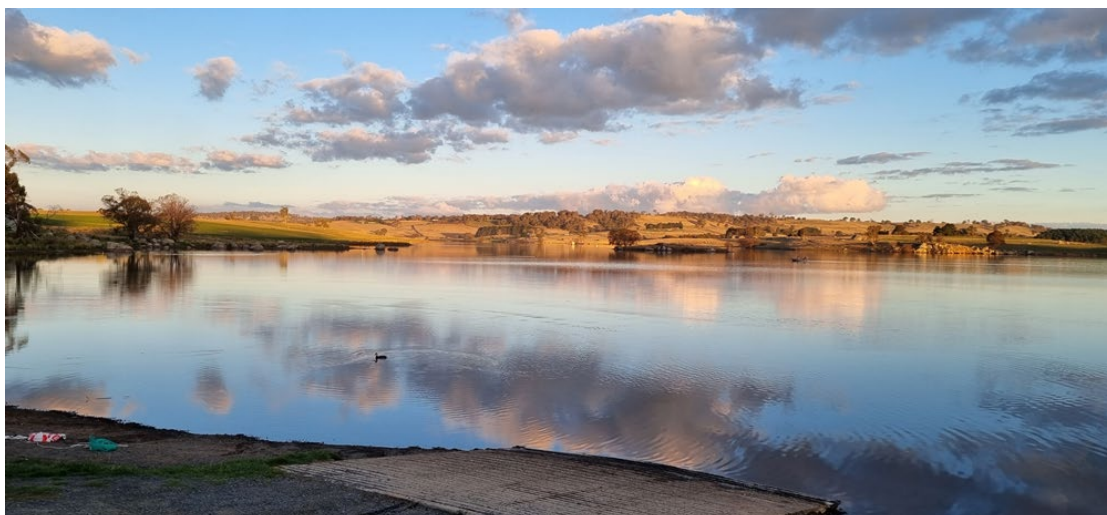
Supporting documents, via a Resourcing Strategy, that are integral to the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework and guide future planning processes include a Long Term Financial Plan (10 years), an Asset Management Plan (10 years) and a Workforce Management Plan (4 years).

The Report

The State of our Shire Report is a reporting requirement under the IP&R framework. It serves as the outgoing Council's report to its community, reporting on Council's progress in implementing the Community Strategic Plan during its term, focusing on the initiatives Council has direct influence over.

It will also assist in informing the new Council when it reviews the Community Strategic Plan within nine months of its election.

The State of our Shire Report focuses on how effective council has been in delivering social, environmental, economic and civic leadership objectives over the term of the previous council. It reports against the high-level strategies and priorities of the CSP and has a community focus, rather than a council one. The Report covers the highlights and achievements over the term of Council and will be included in Council's Annual Report for 2023/24.



View of Lake Oberon from The Reef Reserve Boat Ramp

Our Councillors & Current Structure



Mayor
Mark Kellam



Deputy Mayor
Andrew McKibbin



Councillor
Clive McCarthy



Councillor
Mick McKechnie



Councillor
Katie Graham



Councillor
Lauren Trembath



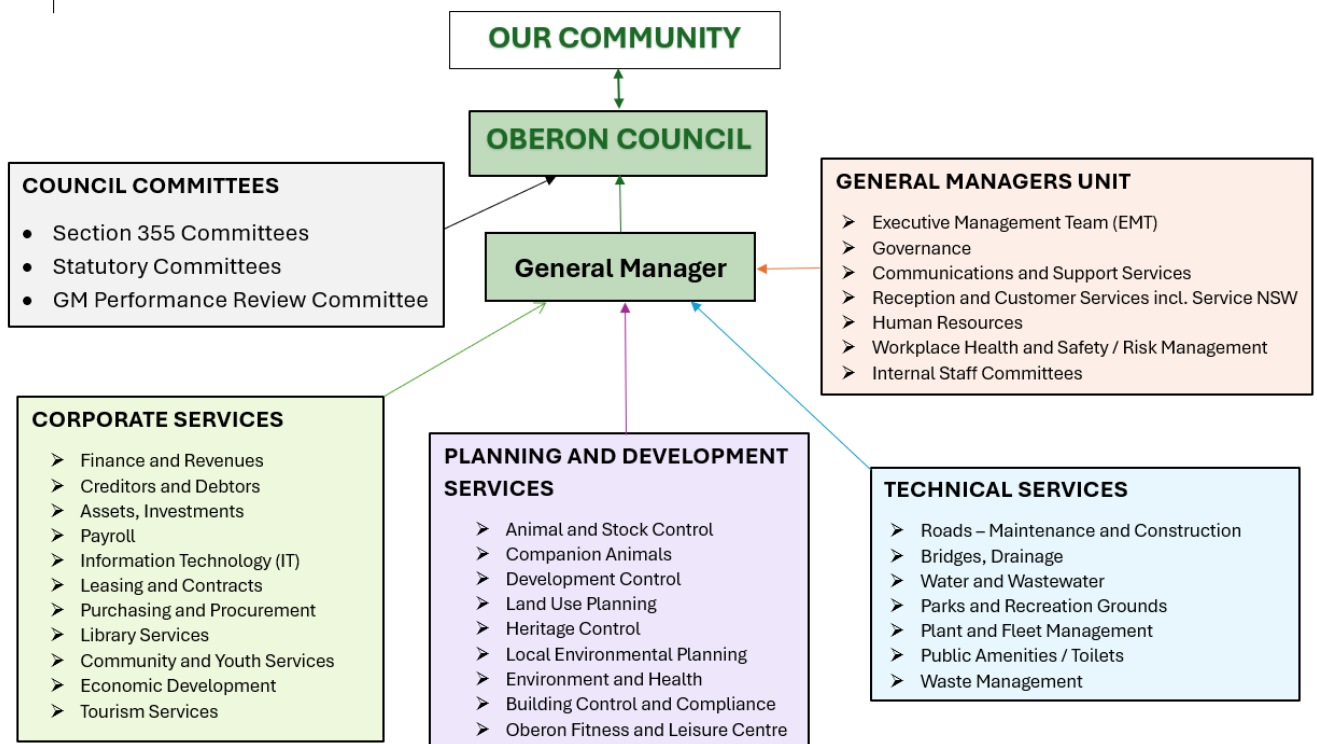
Councillor
Helen Hayden



Councillor
Ian Tucker



Councillor
Bruce Watt



Some of our Major Projects



New Amenities at The Reef Reserve



Oberon Library and Community Centre



Refurbishment - Oberon Visitor Information Centre



Oberon Common Commemorative Rose Wall



Accessible Playground at the Oberon Common



Road Safety - Abercrombie Road Safety Upgrade Stage 2



Oberon Off Leash Dog Park



New Playground Equipment and Shade Sails at Herb David Park



Bridge Upgrades - Bald Ridge Road and Swallows Next Road



The Tablelands Way Road Project Lowes Mount Road



Road Infrastructure Improvements - Campbells River Road



O'Connell Recreation Ground



Our Corporate Planning

IP&R Framework



Theme breakdown and actions

CSP Strategic Themes	Community Wellbeing	A Growing Economy	Caring for the Environment	Infrastructure and Services	Leadership and Engagement
Delivery Program Supporting Strategies	4	5	5	5	5
Delivery Program / Operational Plan Actions	50	16	19	45	24
Completed Actions	26	6	4	6	2
Ongoing Actions	24	10	15	38	22
Commenced Actions	0	0	0	1	0

THEME 1: COMMUNITY WELLBEING

The feedback from community identified some common themes and ideas relating to community wellbeing and health. People wanted to acknowledge the strong sense of pride and community spirit of the Oberon town and villages – that people are friendly and supportive of each other and that overall the community was safe and thriving. Having services which support community such as health, education, transport, aged care and childcare, were critical to the liveability of the Oberon region. Celebrating creativity, the arts and culture were important, with suggestions for major events or opportunities to come together as a community and dedicated spaces for art. Facilities such as walking and cycling tracks, gymnasium, fully enclosed pool and equine facilities were all ideas put forward that would support a healthy lifestyle for residents. Services and activities for young people and children, particularly outside of school hours, were listed by a number of people as being important.

ACTION 1.1 Meet the transport needs for all community members within the area and the region			
Strategy	Status	Comment	
1.1.1	Improve public transport services to meet community needs	Ongoing	Transport raised with providers at every opportunity. Council has led advocating for the Bathurst bullet train to stop at Tarana Station with a connecting bus from Oberon to Tarana to assist the community's ability to travel easily to Sydney.
1.1.2	Continued community based transport program through external provider	Ongoing	Community Transport provided by LiveBetter in Oberon, which is continually supported by Council. This has been undertaken through ongoing financial commitment to the external provider. Advocacy for patient transport options for rural patients continues to be a high priority.

ACTION 1.2 Meet the social, cultural and physical activity needs of the community			
Strategy	Status	Comment	
1.2.1	Develop a program to increase the level of volunteering	Ongoing	Council actively supports volunteering in the community by direct contributions to community groups via the donation program or recognition through avenues such as the Australia Day Citizenship Awards annually. Many volunteer working groups have been developed through the Section 355 committees to gather volunteers for a variety of events and initiatives. This allows community members to build skills and gain experience in events and initiatives such as the End of Year Spectacular, Youth Council fundraisers and Tourism events.
1.2.2	Increase Pool patronage	Ongoing	The Pool was managed by YMCA until September 2023. Council now has taken over control of the facility and has employed a Facilities Manager who has KPI's developed into the position description. An infrastructure project to infill walls around the pool complex has enabled better climate control to the facility.
1.2.3	Implement the pool operations and maintenance program	Completed	Council ensures regulations and guidelines compliance each season.
1.2.4	Expand the Indoor Multi-Purpose Sports Complex	Completed	Through government grants Council has been able to provide a state of the art Indoor Fitness Centre to cater for the requirements of the Oberon community. The Multi-purpose sports complex is now under Council control after the third party lease with The Y ceased in September 2023. Maintenance is undertaken as required by Council. Council has further resolved to expand the existing Gym facility to provide a better space for users. A DA is currently approved and works being undertaken for completion in late 2024.
1.2.5	Implement the sports fields maintenance program and coordinate use of facilities with user groups	Completed	Maintenance program in place, and coordination of use of facilities undertaken by staff. This has been assisted through Town Improvement Funds and an annual top dressing and maintenance program.

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

1.2.6	Assist the golf course with plant maintenance and irrigation water	Completed	Maintenance of plant and water are budgeted and supported by Council each year through the lease agreement. Additional fuel allowances have been provided due to higher than expected mowing requirements.
1.2.7	Lease building facilities to the Rugby Leagues Club	Completed	Current lease in place. This will need to be reconsidered when the new Oberon Sports Ground Complex is complete with the land being transitioned to Borg.
1.2.8	Expand programs and maintain the Library to enable increased services	Ongoing	Relocation of the Library to St Barnabas Hall was undertaken during the construction of the new Library and Community Centre. Council offered an array of programs and services in the temporary location to maintain this service for the community. Upon opening of the new library in 2023 services have been able to be expanded in a contemporary, state of the art facility.
1.2.9	Maintain and expand the community programs held at the Community Centre	Ongoing	Construction of the new state of the art Library and Community Centre (opened in July 2023) has allowed for services to be expanded within the facility.
1.2.10	Seek grant funding to provide arts and cultural opportunities	Completed	Council has secured \$3 million in grant funding for the development of the Community Hub that will assist in providing and facilitating these opportunities. The new facility opened in early July 2023. Funding has also been secured for an array of art, recreational and cultural initiatives.
1.2.11	Financial contribution to Arts OutWest	Ongoing	Council has entered into a MOU with Arts OutWest and continues to provide annual financial support.
1.2.12	Provide arts and cultural program opportunities through the Library and Community Centre	Ongoing	Provided through school holiday programs and annual Waste2Art competition.
1.2.13	Use Council buildings and facilities to assist with art exhibitions	Completed	Library and Community Centre are currently used to host art exhibitions.
1.2.14	Seek funding for design and construction of the Oberon Sports Complex	Ongoing	Funding pursued through grants. Design was completed and currently \$2M funding has been secured from the NSW State Government and \$4.8 million has been secured through the Building Better Regions Fund towards the project. Council continues to work with Borg and Government partners to progress the project. Sod turning for the early stage earthworks was undertaken on 13 February 2024. Stage one of the complex is to be completed by June 2025. Funding continues to be sourced for the construction of a hockey field and netball courts.
1.2.15	Management of the Oberon Sports Complex	Completed	Oberon Sports Complex (Tennis Centre) is used for various sporting activities. A Managed Trust is in place to meet this requirement.
1.2.16	Maintain and develop sporting facilities and grounds	Ongoing	All existing sports grounds and facilities are continuously maintained to an acceptable level of service for public use.
1.2.17	Design and project manage the construction of Oberon Fitness Centre	Completed	Fitness Centre constructed. Final occupation and hand over on 7 August 2020. Official opening held 23 August 2020. A modified Development Application is approved for enclosure of the rear of the gym.
1.2.18	Manage Oberon Fitness Centre	Completed	Oberon Fitness Centre is currently managed by Council after the Y NSW ceased management of the centre in September 2023.
1.2.19	Maintain community halls and coordinate use of facilities for user groups	Completed	Maintenance implemented; coordinated use of facilities by Community Services staff.
1.2.20	Develop a Community Hub, combining the Library and Community Centre into one facility	Completed	New Oberon Library and Community Centre facility completed in July 2023. Facility is fully operational and well utilised from a broad cross section of community members.

ACTION 1.3 Meet the health, education and social service needs of the community			
Strategy		Status	Comment
1.3.1	Support community health initiatives	Completed	Council is involved in a range of initiatives each year. The outbreak of COVID-19 has seen Council initiate a working group from all health related community groups to proactively work with the community to provide support and assistance. The Mayor sits on the Oberon Health Council.
1.3.2	Provide environmental health services	Completed	Inspection program developed and undertaken for septic systems, food and skin penetration premises.
1.3.3	Maintain and review Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP)	Completed	DIAP review completed in December 2023. This was completed being led by a DIAP community reference group. Community consultation.
1.3.4	Continue to encourage participation in Oberon Youth Council	Completed	Efforts continue to refresh the OYC and related activities. Renewed partnership with the Oberon High School to broaden the reach and engagement with youth was undertaken. Opportunities for 'out of the box' concepts are also being utilised.
1.3.5	Seek opportunities for Life Skill programs for young people	Completed	Council developed a Youth Hospitality Skills program which ran in October / November 2022. This included securing grant funding for a Barista course which was offered free of charge to Youth in the area.
1.3.6	Support youth program initiatives and organise Youth Week	Completed	In partnership with the Oberon Youth Council a variety of youth programs have been facilitated throughout the term with one of the highlights being the Barista training course and Outdoor Week events.
1.3.7	Support schools to improve services and facilities	Ongoing	Regular meetings with school groups and students to understand Council initiatives and opportunities.
1.3.8	Assist and promote library services to schools and outreach	Completed	Council provides an outreach program to the Black Springs and Hampton schools, as well as to Columbia Oberon Village Aged Care Facility.
1.3.9	Provide and utilise the Community Technology Centre (CTC) as a facility for vocational and adult learning	Completed	CTC operation was moved to the Visitor Centre during the construction of the new Library. Programming continued although was disrupted by staff movements in the CTC. With the new facility now complete the CTC operations have been integrated into Library offerings and courses.
1.3.10	Provide Library services and utilise the facility for a range of programs	Completed	Council provides regular activities in the Library for community members of all ages; and actively seek grant funding for programs and activities.
1.3.11	Lobby State Government agencies and training providers for adult education opportunities	Ongoing	Council partners with an array of third party providers to deliver targeted programs within the community.
1.3.12	Provide opportunities for a continued dental practice	Completed	Continued dental services for children available at the Oberon MPS for the community. Council continues to advocate for a private dentist through the Oberon Health Council to utilise the facility.
1.3.13	Lobby for the retention of existing medical services and additional allied health services	Ongoing	Council continues to lobby State and Federal Governments for broader range of services including palliative care and allied health services. Council developed a health profile in conjunction with the PHN which gives an overall snapshot and needs analysis for the Oberon community. Patient Transport continues to be a high priority for the community. Advocacy continues in this space.
1.3.14	Support the provision of aged care facilities and services across the Oberon LGA	Ongoing	Staff liaise with Oberon Health Council, Columbia Oberon Village Aged Care Facility, LiveBetter, Oberon Medical Centre, Oberon MPS and Oberon Pharmacy to ensure facilities and services available.
1.3.15	Organise and participate in Seniors Festival	Ongoing	Council host Seniors Festival activities each year through own source and grant funding.

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1.3.16	Provide and maintain the Independent Living Units	Ongoing	Ongoing maintenance continues for existing units. New heating has been installed in the older 18 units reducing energy costs for tenants. New footpath, drainage, carpet and painting undertaken across both facilities. An annual allocation of funds is provided to maintain all existing and new units.
1.3.17	Opportunities and funding to expand Independent Living Units	Completed	Construction of six additional independent living units completed in early 2021.
1.3.18	Support strategies and programs for mental health initiatives	Ongoing	Mental Health programs are incorporated into Youth Week and Seniors Festival where possible. Council continues to provide and undertake Mental Health First Aid training. Council staff assist with the 'Walk n Talk for Life' program in Oberon. Council's wellbeing policies have led to a strong relationship with Rural Adversity Mental Health Program.
1.3.19	Organise and promote International Women's Day	Completed	Council promote and organise a free community Mayoral IWD event annually in March. A budget for this event is included in Council's operational plan.
1.3.20	Develop business plan for a Youth Space	Complete	Youth space delivered as part of the new Library.
1.3.21	Youth services and programs	Ongoing	Council staff continue to work with the OYC and schools to develop youth activities and programs, including a gym program funded under Section 356. Other youth related infrastructure concepts have been developed by staff in conjunction with the OYC such as the Mountain Bike Trail concept. Council decided to refuse the DA. Other locations are being sought.
1.3.22	Implement the fluoridation of the reticulated water supply as per NSW Health guidelines to assist with dental health	Completed	The fluoridation program has been completed and implemented in April 2021.

ACTION 1.4 Work with our partners to provide a safe community

Strategy	Status	Comment
1.4.1	Ongoing	Ongoing communication with emergency services through LEMC and an annual budget allocation to support emergency services.
1.4.2	Ongoing	Review of the network was undertaken, and expansion opportunities provided to Council. Ongoing maintenance of the network continues, and options highlighted for future funding to secure the network.
1.4.3	Ongoing	Examples of participation in initiatives, promotions and programs include the RMS Winter Road Campaign. Grant funding has been obtained under the Safer Roads Program to facilitate road safety improvements across the road network.
1.4.4	Ongoing	Continued advocacy through JO, RDA and Telcos. Further continued advocacy to State and Federal Governments seeking better outcomes for rural areas. New Mobile Towers have been installed at Porters Retreat, Mount Ryan and Mount Defiance. A new small cell tower has been earmarked for Black Springs and Burruga with Federal funding announced.
1.4.5	Ongoing	Council actively communicates with its local Police District to address any concerns raised. Rural crime continues to be an area of concern for the public.
1.4.6	Ongoing	Staff trained and responding accordingly, as part of workforce management plan.

THEME 2: A GROWING ECONOMY

Economic growth, increasing the population and tourist visitor numbers, diversification in industries and business and growth in employment were common themes in the feedback. Increased tourism was a way of improving the economy of the area, with a range of suggestions on how to do this provided through the “big ideas” questions. Major events, capitalising on the beautiful landscape and climate of the region and dedicated and improved tourism facilities were some ideas generated through engagement. At the same time a number of people raised concerns about getting “too big” and that one of the strongest benefits of living in Oberon or the region currently is the smaller population and the closeness of community which could be compromised by getting too big or having too many visitors. Improved digital connectivity was described as being critically important – not only for growth, industries and businesses but for health, education, tourism and communication. Working with current industries to identify ways to increase or diversify employment along with ways to attract new industries and business to the area were suggested strategies. Land use planning is important to residents and development of village plans to enhance the infrastructure and liveability of the villages was raised by a number of respondents.

ACTION 2.1 Develop strong relationships with local industry, organisations and government to ensure a sustainable local economy			
Strategy	Status	Comment	
2.1.1	Provide innovative tourism services and infrastructure across the region.	Ongoing	Repurposing of the Mountain Bike Trail grant funding to resurfacing of the Pioneer Rail Trail pathway. Funding secured for a major refurbishment of the Visitor Information Centre which will provide enhanced visitor experiences, retail opportunities and promotion opportunities for local businesses.
2.1.2	Assist local tourism providers to scale their business and maximise tourism returns	Ongoing	Staff have undertaken an array of tourism promotion and event initiatives that have continue to grow the visitor economy. This has included Oberon Outdoor Festival, Field to Forest Festival and subsequent event marketing.
2.1.3	Develop and deliver an Oberon LGA branding strategy	Completed	Branding Strategy was developed in 2019, with entrance signage, associated signage for sports grounds and community buildings being finalised in early 2021. Community branding theme being implemented across Council’s new website and key community documents.
2.1.4	Development of the 2020/21 - 2024/25 tourism strategy	Ongoing	Oberon has been included in the new Central West Destination Network. This Destination network developed a Destination Management plan in late 2022 and staff have developed a draft localised plan. This is currently seeking feedback from key stakeholders before being further developed to align with the Regional Plan.
2.1.5	Creation and coordination of tourism events and festivals	Completed	Staff work with OBTA and local providers to maximise tourism returns, for example Field to Forest Festival and Oberon Outdoor Festival.
2.1.6	Attract new tourism providers and products to the region to enhance tourism appeal	Completed	Increased portfolio of tourism offerings within the region during the term, including a major event owners and hospitality providers.
2.1.7	Partnerships with neighbouring LGA’s to develop and enhance touring routes, such as the Tablelands Way	Ongoing	Agreements formulated, upgraded marketing and signage. Funding application supported with over \$14M provided for the project. Both Oberon and Lithgow Councils have completed work, Upper Lachlan preparing delivery in 23/24.

ACTION 2.2 Encourage sustainable tourism initiatives which create employment and boost the local economy			
Strategy	Status	Comment	
2.2.1	Prepare and initiate a localised economic development strategy for the Oberon LGA	Ongoing	Local economic audit has been completed. Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) has had an update with Council input. Draft Tourism and Economic Strategy seeking feedback from local stakeholders. This strategy is used for funding applications, although a localised strategy is being developed in conjunction with local groups. EV Strategy has been finalised and supported to drive the EV tourism economy.

ACTION 2.3 Explore new and innovative approaches to economic development to enhance skills and provide broader employment opportunities for future generations

Strategy		Status	Comment
2.3.1	Establish partnerships between business/industry leaders and education providers to improve the link between employment needs & training opportunities	Ongoing	Development of Oberon Small Business Month in October and improved communication between industry, schools and Council.
2.3.2	Formulation of local trade groups that can collectively discuss issues, best practise and advocate for further government support	Ongoing	Mayor and GM are part of the Central West Forestry Hub which has federal government support with \$1,000,000 over the next four years to provide value add opportunities to the region. Through the CNSWJO and Regional Development Australia Council works with regional partners to deliver broader business initiatives. On a local level Biz HQ help support local trade groups and small business.

ACTION 2.4 Promote, support and attract local businesses and industry

Strategy		Status	Comment
2.4.1	Oberon LGA branding strategy that can enhance the Region's reputation for high quality agricultural products	Completed	Council and staff worked with the community to develop a branding strategy.
2.4.2	More informed agricultural sector on the training, technology and export opportunities available from the various regional, state and federal bodies	Ongoing	Ongoing activities with NSW Farmers Association and state agencies to secure training and funding opportunities for the region. Council works with the Central West Forestry Hub to develop opportunities for a more informed agricultural sector relating to Forestry activity and potential value adds for property. Application for grant funding for Drought diversification program across three LGA's was successful and will be rolled out during 2024.
2.4.3	Protect valuable agricultural land in future land use planning	Completed	LSPS will inform this which was endorsed in June 2020.

ACTION 2.5 Lobby for better telecommunication services

Strategy		Status	Comment
2.5.1	Continued improvements to telecommunications networks across the region.	Ongoing	Work with Telco, JO and RDA for improved telecommunication services, e.g. Mt Ryan and Mt Defiance CB/UHF retained. Black Springs and Burruga Small Cell Towers are now federally funded. Refer to strategy 1.4.4. Council is also supportive of the Tuglow Landcare Group who is lobbying for increased connectivity in the Shooters Hill/Tuglow area.
2.5.2	Advocate for funding to upgrade transport and road infrastructure into and out of the region, including the north and south link via Tablelands Way which opens up the region to tourism and trade opportunities with Southeast Asia through Canberra	Ongoing	Plan developed and grant funding application submitted. Over \$14 million has been secured under the Growing Local Economies Fund to implement a project across three local government areas to improve road infrastructure on the route. This project will see a direct injection of \$7.9 million for 21 km upgrade to Lowes Mount Road.
2.5.3	Attract Smart City infrastructure projects	Completed	Oberon has participated in the Southern Lights program, as part of a CNSW JO initiative. This program has been completed. Opportunities for smart controllers on this network will allow for future initiatives to be considered. Direct cost savings to Council will occur as a result of the project long term.

THEME 3: CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The Oberon area was described in such positive tones – spectacular, beautiful, pristine, “almost like heaven”. In that context a theme emerged about balancing the care of the natural environment with strategies that could have a direct impact on environment.

Water security strategies need to include mitigation actions to ensure the care of the natural waterways, rivers and streams. Likewise, waste and weeds management must be equally balanced and ensure the long term sustainability of the beautiful natural environment. Ideas on how to capitalise on this unique natural environment were discussed and offered – promoting the region to visitors as a must see destination and identifying ways to make use of the natural environment for sustainable recreation activities. The climate and the distinct four seasons were seen as a positive of the region.

ACTION 3.1 Protect and manage local air quality, waterways, rivers and streams

Strategy	Status	Comment
3.1.1 Prepare the State of Environment (SoE) report including review and management of water, air, biodiversity, soil and salinity	Completed	The submission of a (SoE) report annually has been removed from the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993.
3.1.2 Ensure compliance with environmental legislation	Ongoing	Continue to monitor compliance with environmental legislation through contractor engagement and staff compliance program. Council has two environmental licences for the Solid Waste Landfill and Oberon Sewerage Treatment Plant with annual reports submitted demonstrating compliance.
3.1.3 Appropriate environmental plans for construction within high risk areas	Ongoing	LSPS completed in second half of 2019/20FY. Roadside Vegetation Management Plan has been completed in consultation with UMCC and NSW Farmers. Updates to legislative documents gazetted throughout term of Council with the addition of additional permitted uses and Plans of Management being endorsed during 2023.
3.1.4 Reported environmental impacts	Ongoing	Processes are in place and licence requirements met for any reported environmental impacts.

ACTION 3.2 Work with other agencies to protect fauna and biodiversity

Strategy	Status	Comment
3.2.1 Provide regulatory services required by the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and other legislation	Ongoing	Staff assess all applications to ensure the environment is protected and undertake compliance action as required.
3.2.2 Community awareness and understanding of environmental issues	Ongoing	Council continues to make the community aware of environmental issues as they become prominent, e.g. water restrictions. Waste initiatives are becoming more prevalent in current environment
3.2.3 Roadside Vegetation Management Plan	Completed	Roadside Vegetation Management Plan has been completed and utilised as part of the Council’s road management activities.
3.2.4 Weed and pest control management	Ongoing	Oberon Council is an active member of the Upper Macquarie County Council (who have changed their name to Central West Weeds Authority) and continues to proactively participate in an annual roadside weed contract. Council has an MOU with UMCC for a three year roadside vegetation spraying plan.
3.2.5 Provide regulatory services to protect natural resources	Ongoing	Reporting in accordance with licences approved by EPA and undertake compliance action as appropriate for unlicensed premises. Compliance with annual licencing requirements of Department of Primary Industries and Environment (Water) for water extraction from two drought bores located in Black Springs and O’Connell.

ACTION 3.3 Ensure sustainable waste management services and programs, with a commitment to resource recovery			
Strategy	Status	Commentary	
3.3.1	Waste management strategy inc. consideration of intro recycling initiatives, programs and services	Ongoing	Council has engaged waste consultants JS Regulatory Services to complete a Waste Management Strategy, which has been endorsed by Council. Actions arising from the Waste Management Strategy have been prioritised and are currently being implemented. Recycling occurs at the Oberon Waste Management Facility and programs such as the Bulky Goods Kerbside Collection and free tip vouchers assist with initiatives at the facility.
3.3.2	Manage and future development of landfill sites, waste transfer stations	Ongoing	Council has waste transfer stations located in Black Springs and Burruga. Ongoing management of these sites is via a contract. Future development of the Oberon Landfill forms part of the Waste Management Strategy. Development consent for the new landfill site has been activated through the development of the new cell with a closure plan for the old tip included in the waste management strategy.
3.3.3	Support state wide recycling initiatives	Ongoing	Council previously conducted a community survey seeking support for kerbside recycling, at that time less than 50% of the community supported this initiative. Since that time staff continue to advocate for return and earn opportunities. A community recycling centre has been implemented at the solid waste landfill. Council is a member of Netwaste and is active in waste initiatives regionally.
3.3.4	Initiatives for community use of solid waste landfill	Ongoing	Developed waste reduction opportunities at the solid waste landfill, currently no kerbside recycling. Development of a waste landfill closure plan will provide for further opportunities.
3.3.5	Garbage collection contract and associated policies	Completed	Garbage collection contract in place.

ACTION 3.3 Ensure sustainable waste management services and programs, with a commitment to resource recovery – Continued ...			
Strategy	Status	Commentary	
3.3.6	Support and participate in NetWaste programs	Ongoing	Participated in annual Waste2Art exhibition and competition. Hosted regional Waste2Art and involved in NetWaste contracts for regional state of the environment report, community recycling centre and chemical collections.

ACTION 3.4 Recognise the valuable contribution of the agriculture sector to the local economy			
Strategy	Status	Commentary	
3.4.1	Recognise the importance of agriculture to the Oberon economy	Ongoing	Council advocates with State and Federal Governments for agricultural funding to assist local farmers. Council is also working with adjoining LGA's to seek opportunities for value add agriculture in the region.
3.4.2	Provide assistance in times of drought and hardship	Completed	Council assisted through the Drought Weed Assistance Program and assisted with OBTA Shop Local competition. Purpose built Water reticulation bores have been supplied at Black Springs and O'Connell.

ACTION 3.5 Reduce the impact of Councils carbon footprint through energy saving innovations			
Strategy	Status	Commentary	
3.5.1	Alternative energy and new technologies in Council operations	Ongoing	Council continues to investigate energy saving technologies. The rollout of LED street lighting has been finalised. Council's Energy Plan has been developed assisted by State Government funding. Council looks at opportunities in its light fleet to provide hybrid and electric vehicles.
3.5.2	Reduce Councils carbon footprint	Ongoing	Council monitors its carbon footprint through the E21 program assisted by its partnership with the CNSWJO. Councils light fleet is being dispersed with hybrid vehicles and our Energy Plan provides direction to minimise the carbon footprint through the implementation of green energy. Council has resolved that any future electricity tender to include 50% renewable energy. The rollout of the LED street lights under the Southern Lights program has been completed.

THEME 4 – INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Rural communities such as Oberon and the surrounding villages rely heavily on key infrastructure such as roads, bridges, footpaths, water and sewerage. Significant number of responses centred on quality infrastructure and service provision. Open spaces, walking and cycling tracks were also raised. The ongoing discussion around fully enclosing the pool and additional facilities such as a gymnasium and walking tracks was prominent in feedback. The community want transparency and timely communications from council on the funding allocations and service levels for roads maintenance and improvements and capital projects. Water fluoridation remains a strongly debated issue with a number of responses either for or against. The history of the railway and train services is a topic many people raised and a number of ideas around reinstating train access to Tarana and the larger centres was suggested.

ACTION 4.1 Provide a program to improve local roads and work with partners on state road infrastructure			
Strategy	Status	Comment	
4.1.1	Maintenance program for roads, bridges, drains and walkways in the Oberon LGA.	Ongoing	Maintenance program continually updated for roads, bridge, drains and footpaths in line with approved operational plans. Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP) continues to provide opportunity for additional footpaths and connectivity opportunities for Oberon and surrounding villages. Infrastructure Asset Management Plans have been developed for roads, bridges and footpaths and continue to be updated annually.
4.1.2	Deliver sealed road network program	Complete	Council continues to support 1 - 2 km of bitumen seal in its annual operation plan in accordance with Road Matrix. In 2023/24 Council resolved to suspend this program in lieu of a bitumen reseals program. This will be determined annually. State funding continue to be supported together with funding from Council ongoing operations plans.
4.1.3	Road reseal and re-sheeting program	Ongoing	Developed and implementing road bitumen reseals for the sealed road network and gravel re-sheeting program for unsealed roads across the LGA. Council participated in a review of its Road Making, Road Maintenance and Road Management activities to understand current practices and develop future strategies to meet community expectations. Council uses the recommendations from this strategic Audit and its Roads Asset Management Plan to assist in developing appropriate programs for Roads in the Oberon LGA.
4.1.4	Road capital works program	Ongoing	Council endorses an annual capital works program and continues to focus on delivering construction projects which enhance the road network. Typically, the “construction” period in Oberon local government area is limited due to climate conditions during winter months meaning significant construction programs overlap during the spring and summer period. Significant works in 2022, 2023 and 2024 include Campbells River Road, Sewells Creek Road, Arkstone Road and Lowes Mount Road.
4.1.5	Grant funding opportunities for road works	Ongoing	Council continues to seek grant funding for road works such as Fixing Country Roads, Fixing Local Roads, Department of Premier and Cabinet program (Road reclassification program). Major funding for Arkstone Road and Lowes Mount Road have been secured and major works continue during this period. Other minor grants and capital works projects are also provided to the road network where opportunities exist.
4.1.6	Road signage, line marking and associated road furniture	Ongoing	Continues to be undertaken as part of road maintenance for all operational plans.
4.1.7	Road works for the State Government under Roads Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC) and compliance with	Ongoing	Work continues with maintenance and upgrade schedule as approved by Transport for NSW. Council continues to look for opportunities for additional RMCC projects. Traditionally work has been undertaken in adjoining local government areas.

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	quality and other contract requirements		These opportunities will continue to be pursued in consultation with Transport for NSW.
4.1.8	Road projects delivered on time and within budget	Ongoing	Council continues to monitor and deliver all road projects in accordance with allocated budget. This is contingent on a number of influencing factors such as weather conditions, availability of resources and contractor services.
4.1.9	Work with forestry for the maintenance of local road networks	Ongoing	Council undertakes collaboration with Forestry Corporation to understand future harvesting plans and impacts on the road network. In collaboration with Forestry Corporation, Council has been successful in attracting a number of grant projects for capital upgrades of the road network to minimise the impact of forestry activities on the local road network.
4.1.10	Quarries available for road base material within legislation	Ongoing	Continue to manage and operate quarries, while seeking new opportunities to source suitable alternate road building materials.
4.1.11	Opportunities to undertake private works and road construction to offset costs and augment Council revenue	Ongoing	Council continues to seek opportunities to undertake private works projects for road construction activities to compliment and augment Council revenue.

ACTION 4.2 Provide accessible, safe and well maintained community spaces and facilities

Strategy	Status	Comment
4.2.1	Ongoing	Draft Village Plans have been prepared and distributed to relevant community groups for initial consultation. Significant strategic planning work is being prepared during 2023-24. Village Plans will form part of this strategic work.
4.2.2	Ongoing	In developing the Draft Village Plans improved signage has been prioritised and delivered for each village. Work will progress as outlined in 4.2.1.
4.2.3	Complete	Master Plan endorsed by Council December 2020. Projects continue to be rolled out in accordance with the Master Plan.
4.2.4	Ongoing	Continued maintenance and improvements to Councils cemeteries in line with budget & regulatory requirements. A geo-spatial imaging management module is being implemented through a staged process that will provide information to the community and operational staff as to life and functionality of public cemeteries.
4.2.5	Ongoing	Negotiate on behalf of members of the public for access to private cemeteries as requested.
4.2.6	Ongoing	Maintenance and improvement to public toilet amenities continues. Contributions through town improvement fund have assisted in providing upgrades to existing facilities within Oberon. Apex Park amenities upgrade completed during this period. Grant funding is sourced to assist with those amenities outside the Oberon town improvement district.
4.2.7	Ongoing	A Street Tree Master Plan has been adopted for the Oberon CBD and surrounds. This has extended to Town entrances around Oberon. Tree maintenance and renewal is catered for through previous Town Improvement Fund. Works to commence with Oberon Town entrances.
4.2.8	Ongoing	A Streetscape Masterplan has been endorsed for the Oberon CBD, adjacent streets and town entrances.
4.2.9	Ongoing	Regulated through DA consent in conjunction with energy provider.
4.2.10	Ongoing	Annual maintenance program is delivered on time and within budget. Safety audits undertaken on all playground equipment in the local government area to ensure compliance with Australian Standards. Grant funding has been allocated to replace equipment that no longer meets Australian Standards. A Master Plan has been developed for the Oberon Common

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			and the O'Connell Recreation Ground. These master plans will guide the development of our major open space precincts in Oberon and O'Connell.
4.2.11	Asset maintenance and improvement program for Council properties	Completed	Annual maintenance plan has been developed and work carried out in accordance with the Asset Management Building Plan.

ACTION 4.3 Provide infrastructure which encourages the use of sustainable transport, such as cycleways and walking tracks

Strategy	Status	Comment
4.3.1	Ongoing	PAMP in place and grant funding approved to provide over 3km of footpath within Oberon, 900m in Black Springs and approx. 300m in Burruga. Work on increased heritage based walkways and bridges within O'Connell has been completed. Further works are planned for the future to extend footpaths to Hassall Park and the Fish River. Maintenance of parks and walkways is undertaken on a routine basis.
4.3.2	Ongoing	Walkways and pedestrian bridges have been improved during the period utilising grant funding and town improvement funds. Council continues to pursue funding opportunities to improve these facilities using the approved Active Transport Strategies for Oberon and O'Connell. Work has been completed to upgrade 900m of the Pioneer Rail Trail along Lowes Mount Road.
4.3.3	Ongoing	As in point 4.3.1 and 4.3.2, ongoing funding is sourced to continue to provide improved pedestrian access.
4.3.4	Commenced	Feasibility study being undertaken through ongoing volunteer commitment, however no additional updates within the last period.
4.3.5	Ongoing	Development consent and implementation of primitive camping at the Reef Reserve completed. Lake Oberon walking path being developed in accordance with 4.3.4. Additional amenities (toilets and showers) have been provided at the Reef Reserve.

ACTION 4.4 Plan for infrastructure and land use needs ready for future growth

Strategy	Status	Comment
4.4.1	Ongoing	Council has budgeted funding within this reporting period with the project to commence in 23/24.
4.4.2	Ongoing	Plans updated as required. New LEP planned for 24/25 following completion of 4.4.1.
4.4.3	Ongoing	Council continues to provide professional staff to assess development applications. The implementation of the NSW Planning Portal, new IT systems and the transition of staff continues to provide challenges in this area.
4.4.4	Completed	Program established for earthen building project completed. Local heritage fund supported by Council.
4.4.5	Ongoing	Provision of quality heritage advice service. Council continues to support this initiative.
4.4.6	Ongoing	Consider impacts on heritage items during all assessments.

ACTION 4.5 Provide secure and safe water supply and manage waste water

Strategy	Status	Comment
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4.5.1	Potable water to Oberon residents, business and industry	Ongoing	Council continues to provide water to Oberon residents, business and industry in accordance with regulatory requirements.
4.5.2	Maintain and improve the Water Treatment Plant	Ongoing	Council provides potable water to the Oberon reticulated water network in accordance with regulatory requirements. Upgrades have been undertaken at the Oberon Water Treatment Plant to improve capital infrastructure. Significant planning has been undertaken to replace the filtration membranes at the Water Treatment Plant.
4.5.3	Maintain and improve the Water reticulation system	Ongoing	Council continues to regularly maintain the water reticulation in accordance with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and NSW Health regulations. Council provides an annual financial contribution to water mains replacement program.
4.5.4	A secure and reliable supply of raw water	Completed	Contract in place with Water NSW. Ongoing advocacy between Council and Water NSW to ensure a secure and reliable supply of raw water. Council's four-year pricing review reduced Council's raw water purchase price after substantial advocacy through the IPART process.
4.5.5	Regional water security initiatives	Ongoing	Council is a member of the Water Utilities Alliance. Further, Council is an active partner in the CNSW JO advocating for town water supplies to be drought proof whilst maintaining environmental flows. Council continues to advocate for the Duckmaloi Weir pipeline project providing water from the Weir to Lake Oberon.
4.5.6	Opportunities for water protection and reuse	Ongoing	Opportunities for water harvesting, bores etc. ensuring water security being identified through the regional water strategies and the Water NSW regional water plan.
4.5.7	Improved sewage treatment for Oberon township	Ongoing	Council continue to source funding for new STP to cover the delta currently forecast. Concept Plans have been developed by Hunter H2O. Council has completed a Detailed Design for the project. The construction project has undertaken tender documents and has preferred contractors.
4.5.8	Sewerage reticulation system in Oberon township	Ongoing	Council monitor and undertake necessary maintenance for sewerage reticulation to ensure appropriate levels of service being provided in accordance with legislative requirements.
4.5.9	Installation of onsite sewage treatment systems	Ongoing	Approval process in place to ensure compliance and satisfactory system performance.
4.5.10	Sewerage rising mains, pumping stations and reticulation systems in Oberon township	Ongoing	Council monitor and undertake necessary maintenance for rising mains, pumping stations and reticulation system to ensure appropriate levels of service being provided.
4.5.11	State Government licence requirements for the discharge of treated wastewater	Ongoing	Council operates under an EPA licence to ensure environmental standards and compliance.
4.5.12	Implement Fluoridation program in accordance Council's resolution after community consultation	Completed	Facility constructed and fluoridation equipment installed. Fluoridation of the water reticulation network completed April 2021.

THEME 5: LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

This theme emerged during engagement and focused on the leadership of elected members, the desire of community for meaningful and transparent engagement, and ability for residents views to be heard. Regular and timely communication from Council is important and valued. The capability and capacity of the council to deliver on strategies and actions was noted. Positive feedback on service provision was included alongside concerns about ability to deliver from time to time due to staff shortages or lack of particular expertise. Opportunities for residents to be involved in committees which provide advice to council on local issues was suggested by a number of people.

ACTION 5.1 Partner with local communities to create an ongoing culture of engagement to aid Council decision making

Strategy	Status	Comment
5.1.1	Ongoing	Undertaken in August 2023.
5.1.2	Ongoing	Civic and Community events are promoted across the whole LGA, in the Community Newsletter, Oberon Review, Website, Facebook and Community Noticeboards in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Strategy.
5.1.3	Ongoing	Council promotes volunteer work through Section 355 Committees; support via Section 356 donations and in kind contributions through its operational plans. Council recognises the substantial contribution of volunteers each year through Australia Day Volunteer of the Year awards.
5.1.4	Ongoing	Council utilises the Community Newsletter, Oberon Review, Website, Facebook and Community Noticeboards in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Strategy to inform members of the community. In addition Council delegates regularly attend meetings of External Organisations and Community Groups. Council has implemented a new "Have Your Say Oberon" website for community engagement projects.
5.1.5	Ongoing	Council has endorsed a Community Engagement Policy that indicates how Council will talk to its community.
5.1.6	Ongoing	Community members are invited to participation in Section 355 Committees.

ACTION 5.2 Council has sound organisational health, strong leadership and governance frameworks

Strategy	Status	Comment
5.2.1	Ongoing	Council meeting papers are prepared and business papers distributed within agreed timeframes. Briefing Sessions and workshops are held to assist ongoing professional development.
5.2.2	Ongoing	Committees have clear terms of reference; and provided with agenda and papers prior to meetings in sufficient timeframe. Council has established its Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) with clear Terms of Reference and expert independent members.
5.2.3	Ongoing	Council has effective meeting structures that utilise policies and guidelines.
5.2.4	Ongoing	Council has an active WHS Committee, work health and safety is being effectively implemented. Robust policies and systems assist in risk management and procurement. Councils Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) provides independent expert advice ensuring these systems remain effective.
5.2.5	Ongoing	Councillor training and development opportunities are offered to Councillors, budget provided, with Councillor Expenses policy in place which provides funding for continual professional development.

5.2.6	Review the Workforce Management Plan	Ongoing	The General Manager implements the workforce management plan yearly in accordance with IP&R requirements.
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ACTION 5.3 Council builds strong relationships with other Councils and organisations in support of the Oberon plan and the wider region

Strategy	Status	Comment
5.3.1	Ongoing	Staff participate and contribute to the regions development and growth through membership and interaction with the Central West JO on a regular basis. The Mayor is Deputy Chair of the Central NSW JO and is a member of the Country Mayors Association. Staff continue to engage in sub-committees of the JO including HR, Planners Group, IT Network, Water Utilities Alliance and Tourism Group. The Mayor is the leading Mayor for the CNSWJO Regional Energy Projects Committee.
5.3.2	Ongoing	Council works with other councils to identify ways to share expertise, collaborate on projects or programs, or share services.
5.3.3	Ongoing	Council delivery of the CSP strategies and actions developed through community collaboration.

ACTION 5.4 Council has a focus on providing excellence in service delivery

Strategy	Status	Comment
5.4.1	Ongoing	Council staff provide excellent customer service with ongoing training. The addition of the Service NSW Council Agency has substantially enhanced the offerings to the Oberon community from the partnership. 95% of all Service NSW Centre transactions are available through Oberon Council.
5.4.2	Ongoing	Council review customer service policies and systems periodically to meet community and legislative, and authority expectations.
5.4.3	Ongoing	Council staff reviewed new electronic management systems which will provide customer access. Implementation of this system has commenced in May 2023.
5.4.4	Completed	Council staff continue to work with Service NSW to provide a quality service locally in accordance with 5.4.1.

ACTION 5.5 Ensure financial stability and support efficient council operations

Strategy	Status	Commentary
5.5.1	Ongoing	Staff manage plant and fleet through an annual replacement program. This program reflects the operational needs of Council and the return on investment each item of plant in the fleet can provide to maximise use.
5.5.2	Completed	Updated procurement policy and procedures have been completed together with a suite of documents including Project and Contract Management Policies.
5.5.3	Ongoing	Council has internal controls to ensure compliance, including rigorous internal and external audit.
5.5.4	Ongoing	Financial reporting is undertaken in accordance with the LG Act and Regulations.
5.5.5	Ongoing	An Internal Working Party undertook an investigation of its electronic management system and made a recommendation to the Executive Management Team to move to a new provider. Phase 1 of this transition was implemented in May 2023 with further phases to be rolled out in 2023. Council continues to utilise new technologies to optimise efficiency throughout the organisation. Complete transition will be undertaken by 30 June 2024.

13.7 Local Government Remuneration Tribunal 2025 Review

File No: OD/Governance/Councillors

Author: Gary Wallace (General Manager)

Summary

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) determines an increase for mayoral and councillor fees each year in accordance with Sections 248 and 249 of the Local Government Act. The Tribunal has commenced its review for the 2025 annual determination.

Recommendation:

That Councillor provide any comments relating to the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal review of mayoral and councillor fees to the General Manager by 10 December 2024 to allow time for a submission to be prepared.

List of Attachments

Nil

Comment

As outlined in section 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act), the Tribunal is required to make an annual determination, on the fees payable to Councillors and Mayors. The determination is to take effect from 1 July 2025.

The minimum and maximum fee levels for each category will be assessed by the Tribunal as part of the 2025 review process. The Tribunal is required to review the categories every three years under section 239 of the LG Act. The Tribunal will next consider the model, the criteria applicable to each group and the allocation of councils in 2026, however, this year, the Tribunal will examine if any councils warrant a recategorisation, due to meeting a category's criteria outlined in Appendix 1 of the 2024 Determination. Oberon Council is categorised as Rural with a residential population of less than 10,000.

The Tribunal invites submissions from individual councils as part of this review. It is expected that submissions are endorsed by their respective council. Any submission that Council may wish to make should be received no later than 20 December 2024.

Financial Implications

Council allocates funding as part of its Annual Operational Plan in accordance with the endorsed Councillor Remuneration.

Relevance to Oberon Community Strategic Plan

Theme 5: Leadership and Engagement

Action 5.2 Council has sound organisational health, with strong leadership and governance frameworks

5.2.1 Enable Elected Members to better represent community

Risk Category

Governance

Risk Severity Ranking

Insignificant - 20%

14 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

14.1 Monthly Activity Report General Manager - November 2024

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Gary Wallace (General Manager), Rebecca Burgess (Work Health Safety and Risk Manager), Hannah Booth (Records and Communications Coordinator), Sharon Swannell (Governance and Executive Manager), Julie Baker (Library Manager)

Summary

This report item summarises the main activity by the General Manager since the last report. Items include Human Resources, Workplace Health & Safety, Community Activity, Regional Issues, Executive Management Team Meetings and planned activities.

Recommendation:

That report Item 14.1 is received as information.

List of Attachments

Nil

1. PLANNED ACTIVITY

POST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS – work has continued on the development of a number of strategic documents that will be workshopped with Councillors over the next two months. They include:

- Oberon Council WHS Induction and Councillor Handbook
- Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy
- Development of the new Councillor Portal
- Overview of s355 Manual

Further substantial work has been undertaken in the onboarding of the new Council. These have included Director Responsibilities, Induction Overview with Kath Roach, Committees Workshops, to name a few. Further, the Office of Local Government's Hit the Ground Running sessions have been run in conjunction.

OBERON SPORTSGROUND – Work continues on the development of this once-in-a-generation development. A report to the August Meeting provided an overview of progression and proposed next steps for the project. Spring will see the transformation of the site into something that will be the final landform for the development.

DA 2 has been approved to allow the sportsground to be developed and DA 3 now lodged. All these things strategically work to allow the development of the facility to proceed in a timely manner.

Work will continue to seek funding for the next stages of the development that include the Hockey Field and the progressive onsite infrastructure such as site sheds communications box and landscaping.

STATEWIDE INITIATIVES - Each year Council's insurer Statewide offer Board Funded Initiatives (BFI) which are free offerings aimed at assisting Council to reduce risk. In past years Council have

availed itself of Risk Appetite and Risk Category BFI which assisted Council to move forward in this space. This year Council availed itself of a Climate Change Risk Assessment BFI. A skilled consultant attended a session with Council's GM and Executive and a number of climate change risk scenarios were assessed based on forecast modelling. Research and forecasting shows that climate changes Oberon can expect include higher temperatures, changes in rainfall patterns and increase in bushfire weather. Being an integral part of the community, how Council responds to these forecast changes is critical. The Climate Change Risk Assessment not only helps Council plan proactively, it also assists in grant applications and obtaining funding for initiatives which can reduce risk to Council and the Oberon community.

2. WHS/RISK LEADER

	October 2024
Incidents/Accidents/Hazards Reported	2
Hazards Reported	0
Near Miss	0
No Injury, Damage to Assets	2
First Aid Injuries	0
Medical Treatment Injuries	0
Lost Time Injuries	0
Restricted Duty Injuries	0
Incident Reported to Regulator	0
Toolbox/Safety Meetings	193
Plant Pre-Start Inspections	117

a. Work Health Safety and Risk Activities

- WHSR attended the Black Springs Hall with the Director of Corporate Services and the Planning Director for the purposes of a safety inspection. There were some issues identified with a disused tank. Methods for removal and disposal of this tank will be investigated. Other minor safety issues were discussed, any risk assessment needs to balance the upgrade requirements with Council's availability of funding and resources as well as the patronage and usage of the facility.
- Representatives from Council's insurer, Statewide, visited Council in October. Council's WHSR met with Statewide's Account Manager, Claims Manager and Risk Manager, who went through Council's insurance portfolio to ensure coverage is appropriate, they also updated Council on current trends in coverage and exclusions, and went through current claims impacting Council.
- WHSR attended a free webinar offering from Lifeline covering resilience, self-care and ideas for workplace initiatives. This was an excellent opportunity to garner ideas for Council's Wellbeing program.
- Council's Planning Director and Facilities Manger met with Council's WHSR and Statewide Regional Risk Manager in order to complete and finalize the Swimming Pools component of the CIP return for 2024. The CIP process is an excellent method for recognizing Council's achievements in risk mitigation in various areas, as well as identifying challenges and further required progress in these areas.
- WHSR attended a free webinar session facilitated by Essential Energy, covering electrical safety for roadworks. This is very useful being ahead of planned training in December where Essential Energy training reps will deliver on site electrical safety for staff. Hazards relating

to underground and overhead electricity is an everyday consideration for Works staff and refreshing on how to work safely aims to reduce the risk for staff.

- October is National Safe Work Month and Safework Australia run a campaign annually to raise awareness of safety in the workplace. This year Safework ran a theme each week, they were: WHS Fundamentals, Psychosocial Hazards, Risk Management Fundamentals, and Musculoskeletal Injuries. Council's WHSR promoted the weekly themes for staff.
- At the request of the Technical Services Director, Council's WHSR undertook and documented an investigation into an incident which occurred during smoke testing activities by Council contractors. Information was collated from Council, the contractor, NSW Police and FRNSW. The investigation highlighted numerous deficiencies in the contractor not following their own safety protocols. Council's Technical Services department are using this information to develop robust new protocols prior to the contractor returning to complete the works.
- WHSR arranged specialized training for Works staff who operate the Class B water jetting equipment.
- October was a busy time for the onboarding and inductions of various pool staff. Some returning pool team members were refreshed whilst new staff underwent full inductions. There are many safety hazards for pool staff including manual tasks, slips, trips and falls, and working with hazardous chemicals. The seasonal nature of this work increase risk for staff, this is why a thorough WHS induction is essential.
- WHS Inductions were completed for one new starter.

3. HUMAN RESOURCES

a. Employee Statistics

2024	Staff Movements						Total Staff
	Employee Separation	New employee	Casual	Part-time	Full Time	Senior Officer (GM)	
September	1	1	15	4	72	1	92
October	1	0	25	4	72	1	102

The start of the 24/25 swim season resulted in the increase of casual staff. There were 6 new staff onboarded and 4 returning staff.

b. Consultative Committee

- The next meeting is scheduled for November 2024.

c. Training

- TPR/IMP refresher training: all staff with TPR/IMP tickets issued more than 2 years ago have undertaken refresher training.
- PWZTMP training was held on 26 - 27 October 2024. This allows staff to plan and modify traffic control plans.

d. Recruitment

- Administration/Customer Service Trainee closed 20 October 2024. Shortlisting and interviews to be scheduled.
- Contractor engaged to assist in Technical Services following the resignation of the Technical Services Manager.

e. General HR Matters

- Visit from United Services Union Representative in October 2024.
- Library assistant resigned, last day being 7 November 2024.
- Project Engineer resigned, last day being 29 November 2024.
- HR Manager and Technical Services Assistant attended the LGNSW HR Conference on 24-26 October 2024.
- HR Manager attended the CNSWJO Training, Learning and Development group meeting on 16 October 2024.

4. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Oberon Council continues to engage with the community through a variety of platforms, including updates on Council's website (www.oberon.nsw.gov.au), the Oberon Council Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/oberoncouncil>), the *Have Your Say Oberon* community engagement platform and Council's LinkedIn page. These channels are used to share media releases, public notices, position vacancies, public exhibitions, events and other relevant information.

Articles prepared and released during October 2024 included:

- Mayors Column
- Found animals x 2
- Pink Up Oberon campaign – Photo competition and 'Paint it Pink' event
- Yarning Circle unveiling
- Australia Day Awards 2025 – Call for nominations
- Swim season – Pool opening
- Council Meetings
- OBTA Poster Competition
- Public Notice – Fireworks
- Public Notice – Woodchem evacuation drill
- HSC – Good luck from all at Oberon Council
- Mayoral election results
- Play Our Way Program announcement
- Off-leash Dog Park – Use reminder

Council is currently looking at alternate options for its communications strategy and a separate paper is provided within this business paper outlining options for the future. Councillor communications are all being channeled via the Councillor Portal and regular updates are provided in relation to current activities and future planned works as well as other news articles and information to assist Councillors in their role. For Councillors this has replaced the previous weekly edition of "Good News Week".

5. COMMUNITY ACTIVITY, REGIONAL ISSUES and OTHER MEETINGS

8 Oct 2024	Councillor Welcome and Informal Briefing Session
9 Oct 2024	Meeting with Oberon Golf Club regarding Local Government Golf Day
10 Oct 2024	Meeting with new councillors regarding upcoming Council Meeting
15 Oct 2024	Ordinary Council Meeting
23 Oct 2024	Councillor Induction with Kath Roach, Sinc Solutions
28 Oct 2024	Director Inductions for Councillors
29 Oct 2024	Meeting with StateWide regarding Climate Change Risk Assessment

30 Oct 2024	Central West and Orana Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan Meeting
31 Oct 2024	Central NSW Joint Organisation GMAC Meeting
31 Oct 2024	Review of Statement of Strategic Regional Planning (SSRP) Workshop – Blayney
4 Nov 2024	Central West Forestry Hub AGM and General Meeting
5 Nov 2024	Fish River-Wywendy Regional Water Strategy Workshop
7 Nov 2024	Councillor Workshop – Policy Lab
7 Nov 2024	Extraordinary Council Meeting
7 Nov 2024	Auditor Presentation to Councillors – Audited Financial Statements
7 Nov 2024	Councillor Informal Briefing Session

14.2 Monthly Activity Report - Planning & Development - November 2024

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Kirsty Hanrahan (Building Surveyor), Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director), Lyn Hancox (Planning and Development Administration Assistant), Janet Bailey (Development Control Administration Officer), David Sellers (Facilities Manager)

Summary

This report item summarises the main activity in the Planning and Development Department since the October 2024 Council Meeting.

Recommendation:

That report item 14.2 is received as information.

List of Attachments

Nil

Comment

1. PLANNED ACTIVITY FOR OCTOBER 2024

Development Applications

The number of applications submitted to Council during October 2024 has increased compared with previous months and applications being assessed remains high, with some complex applications continuing to be assessed. Council continues to utilise, on a part time basis, a Planning Consultant to assist in reducing the backlog of Development Applications and other Planning related matters.

Comprehensive Land Use Strategy (CLUS)

The contract was signed by the Consultant and the General Manager at the inception meeting held on 6 September 2024. A progress report with timeline and engagement strategy is provided separately in this agenda for the November Council meeting.

28 Tasman St Oberon (Council owned vacant allotment)

Council engaged a local Real Estate Agent to market the sale of the subject land as per Council's resolution to sell the land as is. Before advertising the sale publicly, the agent reached out to potential buyers who had previously expressed interest in vacant land in Oberon. As a result, an offer exceeding market expectations was made and accepted, with a contract now exchanged and settlement scheduled for early 2025. This approach saved Council on advertising expenses.

Oberon Indoor Sports and Tennis Centre

Council has recently received a request from the Oberon Tennis Club to be released from the current lease with Council, which expires in 2026. A report will be brought to Council at the December Ordinary Meeting, detailing particulars.

PROJECTS

Oberon Gym Complex (enclosure of the rear area)

Minor works are continuing (railing to new accessible ramp and fitout works) with an anticipated completion date by the end of 2024.

These works are the result of Council receiving a Stronger Country Community Fund Round 5 grant for \$585,362.00. The project remains on track to be completed within the grant timeframe.

Solar to the Oberon Pool, Gym and Library/Community Centre

A Local electrical contractor has been engaged to install additional solar to the Oberon Pool and new solar to the gym and Library/community centre. Additional solar panels have been installed to the Oberon Pool roof with the total panels now offsetting 23% of consumption on a sunny day, therefore reducing overall cost to Council to run the facility.

Library works are now complete with the new panels currently offsetting 49% of consumption since being installed, therefore reducing Council's power bill by nearly 50%. The gym solar panels are programmed to be installed once the rear works are completed.

The solar installations are the result of Council receiving a Stronger Country Community Fund Round 5 grant for \$100,000.00. The project remains on track to be completed within the grant timeframe.



SUMMARY

The Oberon Fitness and Leisure Centre (OFLC) is pleased to submit the report for October 2024.

October brought in the opening of the new pool season (Oct 8th). The last month or so was prep to have everything in line for the opening. The second milestone was the commencement of swimming lessons that began on the 28th of October.

The new computer operating system went live on 16th of October and all the data from the old system links had to be transferred over. This system will allow for great capabilities and provide an enhanced customer experience.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

- Weekly Personal training sessions.
- Small group training sessions run for teacher groups from Oberon High School and St Josephs aimed at improving teacher wellbeing and reducing stress.
- Oberon U3a fitness sessions for senior community members.
- New fitness membership special.
- Community swimming lessons.

Pool Report.

The pool opened on Tuesday the 8th of October. Whilst the early seasons' numbers have been soft, as the weather has warmed up towards the end of the month the numbers have increased.

The swim school opened on the 28th of October with 80 students enrolled over an 8-week period. This has brought a much-needed revenue boost to the center.

Fitness Centre Report.

October numbers have remained strong. OFLC hosted a Women's Health Clinic in partnership with the Pink Up Oberon campaign. This clinic focused on specific health areas of concern for women and exercises/nutrition tips to help.

The back area of the gym is being utilized strongly and the finishing touches are going into the new completed "consult" room.

Centre visits	October 1-28th
Memberships	1063
Visit passes	4
Personal training	13
Total Attendance	1080

Membership Type	October 1-28th
Concession Fitness DD	38
Adult Fitness DD	146
1 Month Upfront	21
1 Week	1
Pt DD	12
Student 16-18	10
Teen Under 16	16
Fitness Passport	40
Council Staff Reduced Rate	13

Membership Movement	October 1-28
New Fitness Sales	7
Cancellations	10
Loss	-3

2. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

DETERMINATIONS – October 2024

CC2024.009	New Shed	1021 Duckmaloi Road, OBERON NSW 2787
S682024.013	Installation of a On-site Wastewater System	10 Lysander Road, OBERON NSW 2787
DA2024.034	Change of Use of Residence (Former Church Rectory) to Arts & Crafts Shop	3870 Beaconsfield Road, O'CONNELL NSW 2795
10.2024.26.1	Alterations & Additions to Mixed Commercial & Residential Premises	131 Oberon Street, OBERON NSW 2787
CDC2024.055	Inground Fibreglass Swimming Pool	207 Bloom Hill Road, O'CONNELL NSW 2795
DA2024.060	Business Identification Signage-Child Care Centre	6-8 Tasman Street, OBERON NSW 2787
15.2024.27.1	Subdivision Certificate -release Strata Subdivision 2 lots	96 Howards Lane, OBERON NSW 2787
2024.026	Subdivision Certificate -Release plans- 5 Lot subdivision	2451 O'Connell Road, O'CONNELL NSW 2795
10.2023.10.3 11.2023.10.3	Modification to Existing DA 10.2023.10.2 & CC 11.2023.10.2 - Increase Roof Pitch of the Primary Dwelling	9 Ellis Drive, OBERON NSW 2787
11.2023.67.1	New Clubhouse -Pony Club	Lots 1 & 2 Abercrombie Road, OBERON NSW 2787
10.2023.27.3	Modification to DA 10.2023.27.2- Condition No.11 - Carparking	6-8 Tasman Street, OBERON NSW 2787
10.2023.27.5	Modification to DA 10.2023.27.2 - Condition No 31 - Footpath	6-8 Tasman Street, OBERON NSW 2787
18.2024.2.2	Modification to CDC 18.2024.2.1 - Change of Shed Company and Distances from Boundries	33a Bligh Street, OBERON NSW 2787
DA2024.052	Minor Earthworks, Drainage & Irrigation of Playing Fields for Oberon Sporting Complex	31 O'Connell Road, OBERON NSW 2787

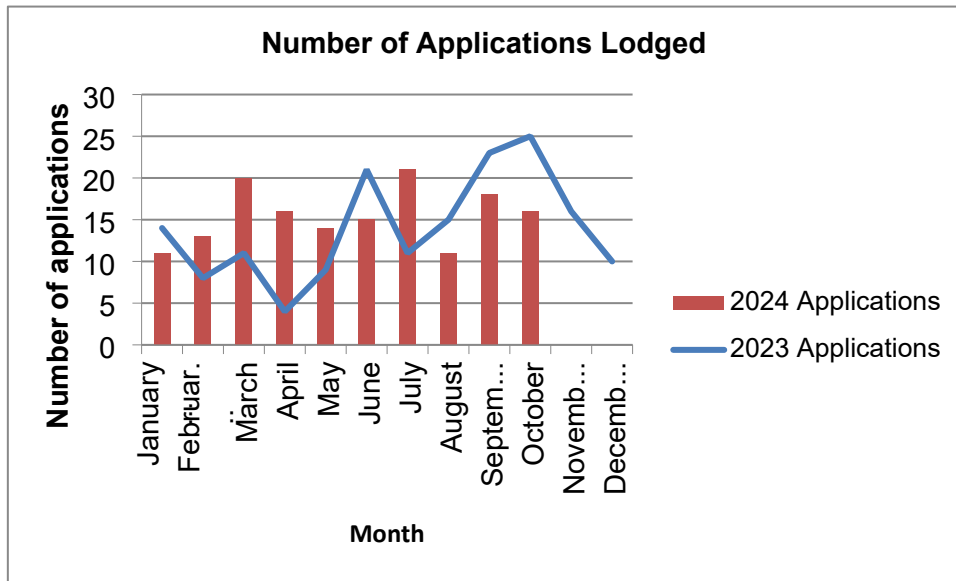
DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS IN PROGRESS – October 2024

No.	Date sub Portal	Lodgement Date	Commencement Date	Stop the Clock Date	Information Received Date	Determination date
10.2021.72.1	22.09.2021	06.10.2021	10.11.2021	10.11.2021		
10.2022.8.1	16.12.2022	25.01.2023	21.02.2023	14.03.2023		
10.2023.16.1	13.03.2023	29.03.2023	18.07.2023	18.07.2023		
10.2023.30.1	08.05.2023	09.06.2023	26.06.2023	14.07.2023		
10.2024.19.1	23.04.2024	29.04.2024	29.04.2024	20.05.2024		
10.2024.28.1	19.06.2024	02.07.2024	03.07.2024	12.07.2024		
DA2024.035	09.07.2024	15.07.2024	19.07.2024	19.07.2024		
DA2024.034	04.07.2024	16.07.2024	19.07.2024	01.10.2024	14.10.2024	16.10.2024
10.2024.28.1	19.06.2024	17.07.2024	17.07.2024	12.07.2024		
DA2024.038	09.07.2024	24.07.2024	04.09.2024	04.09.2024		
DA2024.040	06.08.2024	09.08.2024	28.08.2024	28.08.2024	08.10.2024	
DA2024.043	07.08.2024	23.08.2024	29.08.2024	30.08.2024		
DA2024.049	05.09.2024	06.09.2024	15.09.2024	20.09.2024		
DA2024.048	04.09.2024	09.09.2024	17.09.2024	24.09.2024		
10.2023.27.3	06.09.2024	10.09.2024	21.09.2024			15.10.2024
10.2023.54.2	05.09.2024	11.09.2024	03.10.2024	04.10.2024	04.10.2024	
DA2024.054	10.09.2024	19.09.2024	03.10.2024	08.10.2024		
DA2024.053	30.08.2024	19.09.2024	03.10.2024	08.10.2024		
DA2024.056	10.09.2024	23.09.2024	02.10.2024	02.10.2024	09.10.2024	
DA2024.052	16.09.2024	26.09.2024	02.10.2024	02.10.2024		24.10.2024
DA2024.058	13.09.2024	03.10.2024	08.10.2024	09.10.2024		
10.2023.10.3	24.09.2024	03.10.2024	14.10.2024			16.10.2024
DA2024.060	09.09.2024	04.10.2024	08.10.2024			21.10.2024
10.2023.27.5	04.10.2024	09.10.2024	11.10.2024			15.10.2024
DA2024.064	01.10.2024	10.10.2024	12.10.2024			
DA2024.070	19.09.2024	15.10.2024	21.10.2024			
10.2024.22.2	24.09.2024	15.10.2024	21.10.2024			
DA2024.065	03.10.2024	18.10.2024	24.10.2024			
DA2024.068	01.10.2024	22.10.2024	28.10.2024			
DA2024.067	03.10.2024	10.10.2024	28.10.2024	28.10.2024		
DA2024.069	01.10.2024	28.10.2024				
DA2024.048	24.10.2024	28.10.2024				

Total fees for Applications during October 2024 were \$18,207.54.

The income from applications year to date is \$239,862.76.

Copies of determinations are available for inspection at Council's Administration Centre. Applications for the calendar year are being provided in a table form to give an outline of applications being lodged against those of the previous year.

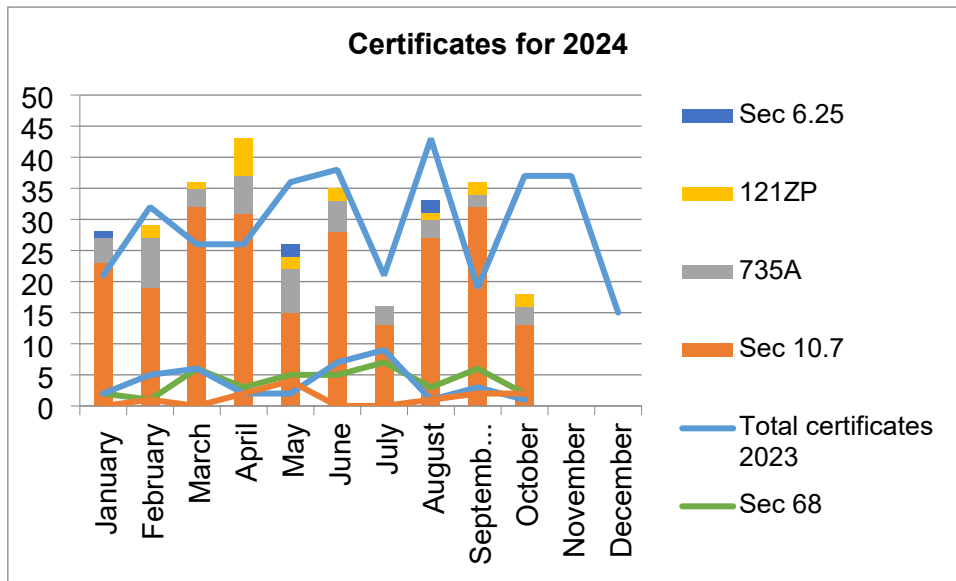


CERTIFICATES ISSUED

During the Conveyancing process and normally as part of the sale of a property, various Certificates are applied for by Solicitors, Real Estate Agents or by the public. In October 2024 the following Certificates were issued:

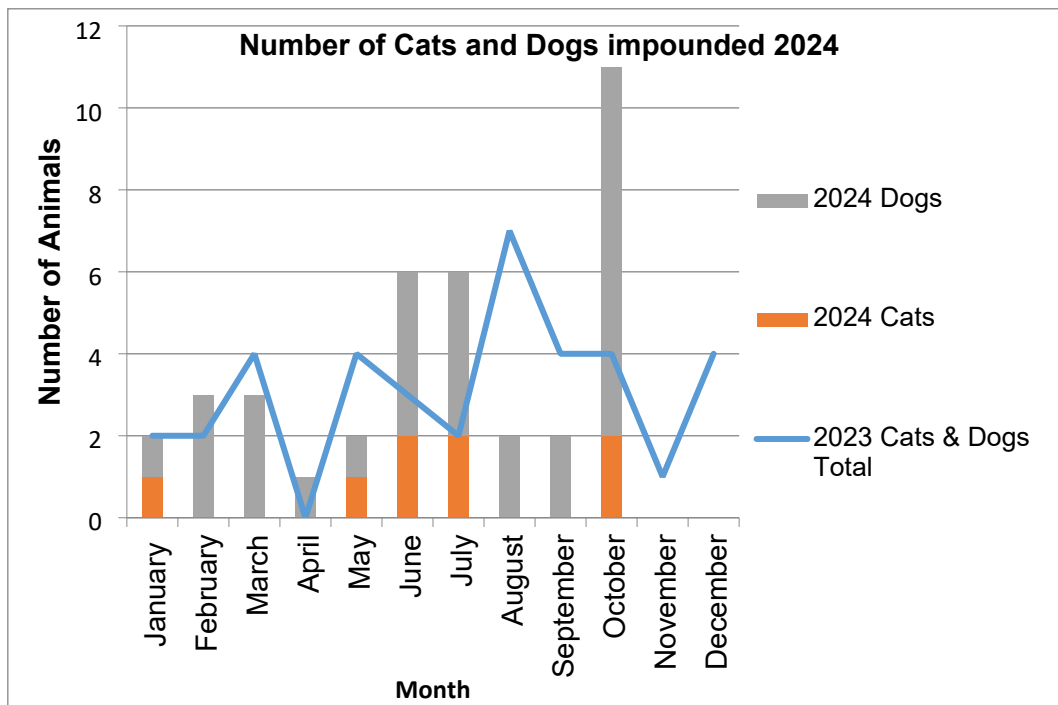
CERTIFICATES	October 2024
SECTION 10.7 PLANNING CERTIFICATES Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979	13
SECTION 735A CERTIFICATES AS TO NOTICES Local Government Act, 1993.	3
CERTIFICATES AS TO ORDERS SCHEDULE 5 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979	0
SECTION 6.26 BUILDING INFORMATION CERTIFICATES Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979	2
CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATES	1
COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT	2
SECTION 68 APPLICATIONS Local Government Act 1993	2

Certificates for the calendar year are being provided in a table form to give an outline of certificates being lodged against those of the previous year.



OBERON ANIMAL POUND

The following are details of activity at the Animal Pound in October 2024



DOG DECLARATIONS	October 2024
Notice of Intention to Declare a Dog Dangerous	0
Notice to Declare a Dog Dangerous	0
Notice of Intention to Declare a Dog Menacing	0
Notice to Declare a Dog Menacing	0
Notice of Intention to Declare a Dog Nuisance	0

Notice to Declare a Dog Nuisance	0
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MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Various inspections, including building inspections, health inspections, environmental inspections and complaints were conducted during October 2024.

TYPE OF INSPECTIONS	October 2024
Building Inspections	43
Food Inspections	0
Environmental Inspections (Air, Noise and Water Pollution)	0
Subdivisions Certificate Inspections	2
Complaints (Including Animal Control & Livestock)	28
Building Maintenance Inspections	6

Monthly Activity Report Technical Services - November 2024

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary
Author: Dr Cornelia Wiebels (Technical Services Director), Sam Golam (Project Engineer), Andrew Krol (Water and Sewer Officer in Charge), Paul Robinson (Plant Manager), Geoff Paton (Works Engineer), Lauren Dukes (Trainee Civil Engineer), Dani Bradshaw (Change Management Analyst), Donah Foley (Technical Services Administrative Assistant), Gary Chapman (Roads Operation Manager)

Summary

This report item summarises the main activity in the Technical Services Department during the month of October.

Recommendation:

That report 14.3 is received as information.

List of Attachments

Nil

Comment

1. Roads – Regional and Local

Tree Pruning on Regional Roads and Town Streets

Tree cutting activities were undertaken on both local and regional roads. This is necessary to maintain road safety and ensure clear visibility for drivers. These roads included the lengths where issues were identified, however not limited to:

- Burruga Road
- Titania Road

Gravel Road Maintenance & Re-sheeting

Gravel maintenance and gravel re-sheeting has occurred across areas of concern on the following roads:

- Swatchfield Road
- Chatham Valley Road
- Ivers Road
- Springmount Road
- Tilsbury Lane

Drainage and Culvert Maintenance, Replacement & Repair Works

Council's road maintenance team has been busy during October on the following roads in the lead up to maintenance grading.

- Jerula Road

Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF) Potholes

The total number of potholes repaired for October 2024 is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Regional and Local roads pothole repair numbers 2024/25

REGIONAL ROADS		
Abercombe Rd	770	
Titania Rd	100	
Edith Rd	200	
Sub totals		1070
LOCAL ROADS		
Burruga Rd	150	
Lowes Mount Rd	200	
Muttons Falls Rd	300	
Shooters Hill Rd	280	
Beaconsfield Rd	300	
O'Connell Plains Rd	500	
Carlwood Rd	200	
Sub total		1930
TOTAL		3000

The Jet Patcher pothole repair truck has had limited utilisation due to staff leave and a lack of suitability qualified traffic control staff. The truck is currently off-road due to mechanical issues.

2. RMCC (Road Maintenance Council Contract) Works for Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW)

Routine Maintenance

Routine road maintenance work and condition monitoring are ongoing on both O'Connell and Duckmaloi Roads, in accordance with the Council's TfNSW Roads Maintenance Contract.

R2 Prequalification Contractor Renewal

Council has applied for the renewal of their R2 pre-qualified contractor status with TfNSW for the next three years. Awaiting approval from TfNSW.

The Duckmaloi Safety Project was successfully completed on 23rd October 2024 and will be handed over to TfNSW in mid-November. Total project cost was \$1.174 million and section treated

covered 5.5 km, starting from the intersection of Duckmaloi Road and Jenolan Caves Road towards Oberon.



Heavy Patching and Resealing On Duckmaloi Rd and Oconnell Rd

Council and TfNSW have collaboratively investigated and identified areas on State Roads requiring heavy patching, covering approximately 4,500 m² for the 2024-2025 period.

Council’s work proposal estimates the following, awaiting TfNSW issue of work orders:

- **O’Connell Road:** \$168,000.00
- **Duckmaloi Road:** \$200,000.00

Additionally, resealing works are planned for Duckmaloi Road and O’Connell Road, covering a combined area of 43,154 m² for 2024-2025.

3. Water & Wastewater

Weekly Oberon Dam Levels

Table 2: Weekly dam level recordings for Oberon Dam, supplied by Water NSW

October 2024
01.10.2024 - 100%
07.10.2024 - 100%
14.10.2024 - 99%
24.10.2024 - 100%
31.10.2024 - 100%

Water Consumption from WaterNSW Oberon Dam

October 2024
01.10.2024 - 06.10.2024 - 22.852 ML
07.10.2024 - 13.10.2024 - 13.706 ML
14.10.2024 - 20.10.2024 - 13.603 ML
21.10.2024 - 31.10.2024 - 21,930 ML

The total raw water consumption during October 2024 was 72.091 ML.
 The daily average consumption was 2.325 ML.

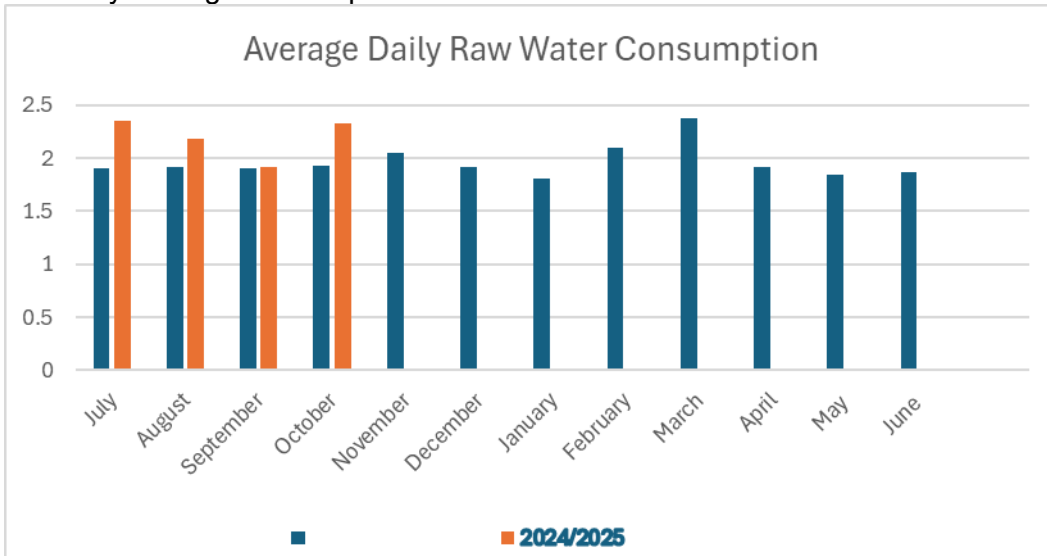


Figure 1: Oberon average daily consumption in ML

Sewage Treatment Plant – Weekly kL Intake for Treatment of Wastewater

October 2024	
01.10.2024 - 06.10.2024	7592 kL
07.10.2024 - 13.10.2024	8592 kL
14.10.2024 - 20.10.2024	9971 kL
21.10.2024 - 27.10.2024	8411 kL
28.10.2024 - 31.10.2024	4768 kL

The daily average wastewater flow into Oberon Sewerage Treatment Plant was 1,268.838 kL.
 The total wastewater volume into Oberon Sewer Treatment Plant October 2024 was 39,334 kL.

Smoke Testing

Smoke testing of selected properties within the Oberon township commenced in September, however was postponed due to multiple Fire and Rescue call-outs. Testing will resume in November.

4. Parks and Gardens

Tree and Garden Maintenance

Council staff have undertaken a great deal of work last month. There has been a lot of mowing in Parks, Sporting Fields and Cemeteries. Staff have also maintained the Lookout, the Independent Living Units and multiple street verges, including the town entries. Other activities have included maintaining the beautiful gardens in the main street and within parks around town.



Figure 2: Main Street Gardens looking spectacular.



Figure 3: Apex Park in bloom

Unfortunately, there were some incidents at The Reef over the October long weekend, with reports of trees being cut down, fires lit and left unattended, four-wheel driving on main tracks and toilet paper being scattered across camping areas. These activities led to visits from both the RFS and the Police, which is disappointing, especially when considering the preceding theft of the solar system at The Reef amenities block.



Figure 4: Four-wheel drive damage, trees cut down and fires at the base of trees at The Reef

Further activities of the team during the month was mowing and whipper snipping the Avenue of Trees in O'Connell and the Recreation Ground ready for the 'Fish River Cup', the annual Tarana versus O'Connell cricket match.

5. Waste Depot

Works have progressed towards the installation of the weighbridge, including construction of the bypass road and submission of the Construction Certificate application.



6. Director Technical Services Appointments October 2024

15/10/2024	Meeting with TfNSW re funded programs
16/10/2024	Liquid Trade Waste Regulation training
16/10/2024	Meeting with EPS and Dupont re Oberon Water Treatment Plant
17/10/2024	Liquid Trade Waste Regulation training
21/10/2024	Meeting with Interflow re Smoke Testing
22/10/2024	Meeting with community member re predevelopment application
23/10/2024	Liquid Trade Waste Regulation training
23/10/2024	Councillor Induction – Sinc Solutions

24/10/2024 Liquid Trade Waste Regulation training
25/10/2024 Meeting with Borg re Oberon Waste Facility
28/10/2024 Directors Induction for Councillors
29/10/2024 Statewide Board Funded Initiatives – Climate Change Risk Assessment

14.4 Monthly Activity Report Corporate Services - November 2024

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director), Victoria Bewley (Acting Community Services Coordinator), Debra Keane (Tourism and Economic Development Manager), Rhiannon Mijovic (Library Manager), AJ Jack (IT and GIS Co-ordinator), Zoe Marks (Finance Manager)

Summary

This report provides an update on the activities of the Corporate Services Directorate during October and forward plans.

Recommendation:

That report item 14.4 is received as information.

List of Attachments

Nil

1. Information Technology

The finalisation of the setup of the records system (AvePoint Opus) continues. Preparation is starting for Phase 2 of the digital transformation including additional ReadyTech modules and an HR system.

CCTV upgrade options and quotations have been received for the Oberon Township network upgrade. An assessment is underway to review the hardware and software involved.

2. Finance

Financial Statements Submitted

The Audit Office has finalised the audit on the Financial Statements and issued the audit report. As such the following items have been submitted to the relevant bodies:

Matters which are being audited include:

- 2023/24 General Purpose Financial Statements
- 2023/24 Special Purpose Financial Statements
- 2023/24 Special Schedules, including
 - o Permissible Income
 - o Report on Infrastructure
- 2023/24 Roads to Recovery Grant
- 2024/25 Pensioner Concession Claim

The 2023/24 LRCI Phase 3 and Phase 4 Grant Audit was not completed by the due date.

Employee Self-Service (ESS) for Outdoor Staff

The payroll team has been gradually adding outdoor staff onto ESS. So far successful transitions have happened for:

- Workshop Staff
- Waste Facility Staff

It is intended the Water and Sewer Staff will go onboard soon.

3. Community Services

End of Year Spectacular 2024

The Community Services team is excited to unveil the entertainment lineup for this year's End of Year Spectacular. This year, the team aims to engage the entire event site, offering multiple interactive entertainment zones for all attendees to explore and enjoy.

Featured attractions include a circus performer, a balloon artist, a giant bubble performer, a caricature artist, and a tarot reader. Inside Malachi Gilmore Hall, guests can experience a unique 360-degree photobooth platform that accommodates 4-5 people, capturing dynamic, orbiting videos with an instant download option.

The kids' zone will make a comeback with popular activities from last year, including axe throwing and archery. All activities, giveaways, and interactive experiences are free of charge.

Additional festivities will feature carols, a Christmas tree, live music, and a complimentary community BBQ to celebrate the season together.

2024 ENTERTAINMENT

TAROT READER CARICATURIST

BALLOON TWISTING EXPERT

360 CAMERA GIANT BUBBLES

ROWING CIRCUS PERFORMER

ARCHERY LASER TAG

AXE THROWING PETTING ZOO

FACE PAINTING

2024

END OF YEAR SPECTACULAR

SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER
4PM - 8.30PM

MAIN STREET, OBERON

STREET FESTIVAL WILL INCLUDE NIGHT MARKETS, COMMUNITY SERVICES, FOOD VENDORS, SANTA VISIT, CAROLS, CHRISTMAS TREE, LIVE MUSIC AND A FREE COMMUNITY BBQ.

Columbia AGED CARE SERVICES

OBERON COUNCIL MORE THAN YOU IMAGINE

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

For more information please contact the Community Services Team on 02 6329 8156 or community@oberon.nsw.gov.au

Pink Up Oberon – October 2024: Total raised - \$2,298.23

This year PinkUp Oberon raised a total of \$2,298.23 which will support the ongoing work of the McGrath Foundation. A variety of activities were undertaken across the month, with great support from the schools, business community and residents. A summary of the activities and amounts are highlighted below.

- **Schools Fundraising:** Lolly guessing competitions and “pink” themed events at Black Springs, Oberon, and St Joseph's schools raised \$796.40.
- **Shops Fundraising:** Over 30 local shops participated with posters, direct donations, and donation boxes, raising \$225.50.
- **Photography Competition:** A “Pink Skies” photo contest with over 30 entries raised \$351.78, showcasing beautiful pink-themed photos.
- **Paint it Pink Tea:** Hosted by artist Madison Ryan, with a health talk by Kathy Packham, raised \$750.00.
- **Wellbeing Workshop:** Despite low attendance, the workshop received positive feedback and raised \$70.00.
- **Council Morning Tea:** Oberon Council staff held a morning tea, raising \$104.55.

Overall, each event highlighted the community's spirit and raised funds through creative, engaging activities.

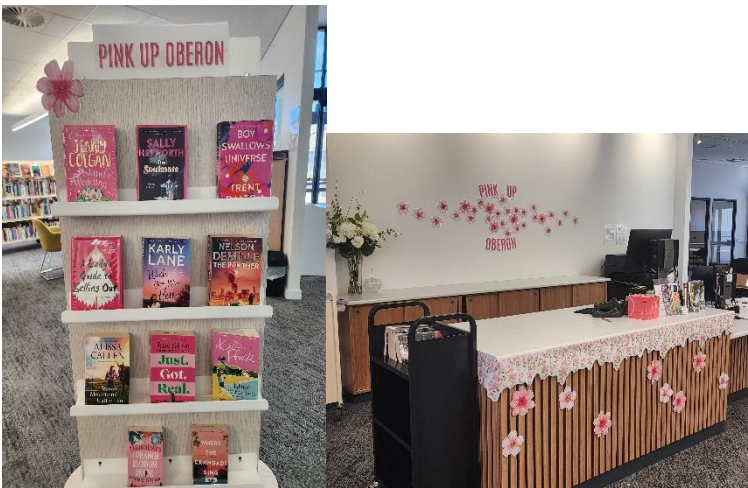




4. Oberon Library & Community Centre

The Oberon Library was host to a number of Council events across the month, Pink Up and NSW Small Business Month. The library supported the month with a pink inspired book display and decorations.

A 12-month building review with the builder and contractor was undertaken, with remedy items noted and accepted by the builder. The building was also fitted with solar panels, which will improve the energy efficiency.



5. Tourism and Economic Development

Tourism

Data provided by Destination Central West indicated visitor numbers across the Central West for September were down by 14.2% although Oberon fared well with a small increase of 0.3%. Visitor spend across the Central West is also down 8.5% compared to this time last year, although Oberon is up 3.4% on the same period last year. Oberon's food retailing, eating and drinking out sector is performing well with the visitor markets, although the team have noticed families seeking more budget conscious options.

Small Business Month – Digital & Social Media Workshop

The Tourism and Economic Development team coordinated this workshop as part of Small Business Month, to assist with digital literacy on social platforms. It was undertaken in partnership with Business Connect and Regional Development Australia, Central West. The event was well attended with 30 registrations and attendees were able to book a follow-up face to face session to assist with further learning.



NAIDOC Family Fun Day & Cultural Burning Workshop



The second NAIDOC Day was attended by a range of service providers, community, and crafters. The Yarning Circle was opened, and we had several of our new Councillors in attendance. There were learning workshops with Ochre and a Cultural Burning workshop. The experience was inclusive and enjoyed by over 100 who attended.

Oberon Outdoor Festival

Events have been finalised with experiences ranging from film screenings, hiking, 4WD tours, Teddy Bears Picnic, and the popular Redfin Roundup fishing competition. Final rounds of promotion are underway with experiences available for all the family. Thanks to the sponsors who have come on board to support the festival this year.

14.5 Investments - November 2024

File No: Financial Management/Investments/Register

Author: Lisa Koleda (Management Accountant), Zoe Marks (Finance Manager)

Summary

This report provides Council with the Statement of Investments as of 31 October 2024.

Recommendation:

That report item 14.5 is received as information.

List of Attachments

Nil

Comment

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) held their last meeting on October 8, 2024. The cash rate once again remained unchanged at 4.35%.

This decision was made for several reasons: - ongoing inflation concerns, which remain above the target range despite easing; economic uncertainties, both global and domestic, along with the impacts of previous rate hikes and a tight labour market with high wages growth.

Council staff have seen the commencement of interest yields falling for cash term deposits due to expectations of future rate cuts by the RBA as inflation cools and economic activity slows. Additionally, global trends of lowering interest rates and bank strategies to maintain profitability by reducing deposit rates contribute to this decline. These factors combined lead to lower returns for savers relying on term deposits.

As of 31 October 2024, Council had \$24,750,000 invested with term deposits. Total cash and cash equivalents were \$28,400,130. Below is a breakup of Council's Cash and Cash Equivalents:

Cash at bank

Institution	Value
CBA Business - General Funds	1,612,757.64
CBA Business - Online Saver	2,037,372.87
NAB Business - Cheque	-
	<u>3,650,130.51</u>

Active Term Deposits:

Institution	Date Invested	Rate	Maturity Date	Amount
Commonwealth Bank	8/11/2023	5.17%	5/11/2024	500,000.00
Judo Bank - STP	12/10/2022	4.45%	6/11/2024	500,000.00
Judo Bank - STP	12/10/2022	4.45%	6/11/2024	500,000.00
Defence Bank - STP	12/10/2022	4.70%	6/11/2024	500,000.00
Commonwealth Bank	22/11/2023	5.11%	19/11/2024	500,000.00
Macquarie Bank - STP	9/11/2023	5.09%	20/11/2024	500,000.00
AMP Bank	9/11/2023	5.10%	4/12/2024	500,000.00
Defence Bank - STP	8/11/2023	5.15%	18/12/2024	500,000.00
Judo Bank	8/11/2023	5.40%	18/12/2024	250,000.00
National Australia Bank	17/01/2024	5.05%	15/01/2025	500,000.00
Australian Unity Bank	6/12/2023	5.25%	15/01/2025	500,000.00
Illawarra Credit Union	31/01/2024	5.10%	29/01/2025	500,000.00
Australian Unity Bank	20/12/2023	5.20%	29/01/2025	500,000.00
Commonwealth Bank	31/01/2024	4.97%	12/02/2025	500,000.00
Australian Unity Bank	21/12/2023	5.10%	26/02/2025	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	28/02/2024	5.00%	26/02/2025	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	28/02/2024	5.00%	26/02/2025	500,000.00
Bank of Queensland	11/09/2024	4.97%	11/03/2025	500,000.00
Australian Unity Bank	20/12/2023	5.10%	12/03/2025	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	13/03/2024	4.95%	12/03/2025	500,000.00
Australian Unity Bank	20/12/2023	5.10%	26/03/2025	500,000.00
National Australia Bank - (Sewer)	28/06/2024	5.32%	9/04/2025	500,000.00
AMP Bank - (Sewer)	24/04/2024	5.05%	23/04/2025	500,000.00
G&C Mutual Bank	21/12/2023	5.10%	7/05/2025	500,000.00
G&C Mutual Bank	21/12/2023	5.10%	21/05/2025	500,000.00
Bank Of Queensland - STP	14/08/2024	4.80%	4/06/2025	500,000.00
Commonwealth Bank	14/08/2024	4.63%	18/06/2025	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	03/07/2024	5.42%	03/07/2025	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	03/07/2024	5.39%	17/07/2025	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	03/07/2024	5.38%	31/07/2025	500,000.00
Bank Australia - (Sewer)	03/07/2024	5.10%	13/08/2025	500,000.00
Bank Of Queensland.	03/07/2024	5.20%	27/08/2025	500,000.00
Defence Bank	04/07/2024	5.30%	27/08/2025	500,000.00
Bank Of Queensland.	03/07/2024	5.20%	10/09/2025	500,000.00
Defence Bank	04/07/2024	5.30%	10/09/2025	500,000.00
Defence Bank	04/07/2024	5.30%	24/09/2025	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	17/07/2024	5.16%	08/10/2025	500,000.00
Bank Of Queensland.	17/07/2024	4.95%	22/10/2025	500,000.00
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	16/10/2024	5.03%	22/10/2025	500,000.00
National Australia Bank	17/07/2024	5.13%	05/11/2025	500,000.00
Commonwealth Bank	28/08/2024	4.60%	19/11/2025	500,000.00
Rabobank Australia	04/09/2024	4.90%	03/12/2025	500,000.00
Rabobank Australia	04/09/2024	4.90%	17/12/2025	500,000.00
Rabobank Australia	04/09/2024	4.90%	14/01/2026	500,000.00
Rabobank Australia	04/09/2024	4.90%	28/01/2026	500,000.00
Rabobank Australia	04/09/2024	4.90%	11/02/2026	500,000.00
Family First Credit Union	11/09/2024	4.90%	25/02/2026	500,000.00
G&C Mutual Bank	25/09/2024	4.30%	11/03/2026	500,000.00
Rabobank Australia	25/09/2024	4.78%	25/03/2026	500,000.00
Bank Of Queensland.	23/10/2024	4.70%	22/04/2026	500,000.00

24,750,000.00**Total Cash & Cash Equivalents 28,400,130.51****Externally restricted* 20,462,352.80****Internally restricted** 7,733,414.08****Unrestricted Cash 204,363.63**

* Externally Restricted presented as at 31 October 2024

** Internal Restricted approximate as at 31 October 2024

Investments matured during this reporting period:

Institution	Date Invested	Rate	Maturity Date	Amount
Commonwealth Bank	16/08/2023	5.13%	09/10/2024	500,000.00
Commonwealth Bank	18/10/2023	5.02%	22/10/2024	500,000.00
Bank Of Queensland.	18/10/2023	5.10%	23/10/2024	500,000.00

Investments placed during this reporting period:

Institution	Date Invested	Rate	Maturity Date	Amount
ING Bank (Australia) Ltd	16/10/2024	5.03%	22/10/2025	500,000.00
Bank Of Queensland.	23/10/2024	4.70%	22/04/2026	500,000.00

Summary of Interest earned for - 2024/25

Interest received on matured investments for the month	85,407.95
Year to Date interest received on matured investments	537,595.36
Monthly accrued interest on active investments	101,672.55
Average interest rate achieved	5.02%
90-day BBSW	4.42%
CBA Business - General Funds Acc (YTD Interest received)	28,659.57
CBA Business - Online Saver Acc (YTD Interest received)	25,271.93

Definitions:

Interest received for the month and YTD (year to date) represent the actual payments received into Council's general fund bank account.

Monthly accrued interest on active investments is accumulated interest that has yet to be paid – at time of reporting.

Average interest rate achieved is the sum of all interest dividends, divided by the length of time investments are held – at time of reporting.

90 days BBSW is a benchmark interest rate at the time of reporting.

Biz Saver Online Acc, interest received is the accumulated interest earned on fund held in the Biz Saver available for use.

I certify that the investments have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005, and Council's Investments Policy.

Zoe Marks
Responsible Accounts Officer

- 14.6 Grants Update - November 2024

File No: Governance/Grants 2024

Author: Toni Dwyer (Grants Co-ordinator), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

Summary

This report provides a summary of grant funding applications submitted and funding notifications received during October 2024.

Recommendation:

That report item 14.6 is received as information.

List of Attachments

Nil

Comment

GRANT NOTIFICATIONS

a. Australian Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, Safer Local Roads, and Infrastructure Program

This program commences from 1 July 2024 to provide funding for projects to address current and emerging priorities in road infrastructure needs that support the delivery of safer and more productive roads across Australia. The Program is an application-based merit-assessed funding program, open to all state and territory governments and LGAs. Applications must directly address at least one of the Program's focus Road Safety:

1. Productivity
2. Bridge Renewal
3. Road Resilience
4. Road Sustainability
5. Heavy Vehicle Rest Area

The projects must all be for construction on an existing or proposed public road and be a whole and complete project (not reliant on other works). The program will not fund projects already underway.

The program will contribute up to a maximum of \$5 million in Australian Government funding for each eligible project. All projects will require a funding co-contribution. For projects submitted by LGAs, the Program will contribute up to 80% of the total project cost for projects located in regional and remote areas and up to 50% for projects located in urban areas.

Applications are accepted all year round and are batched for assessment up to three times a year in tranches. The next available tranche closes on 31 January 2025.

Details and costings for the following projects are being investigated mindful that this program will only contribute up to 80% of project costs. For every \$1,000,000 of project cost Council would need to contribute \$200,000. Projects that have been identified for assessment include:

1. Culvert Crossing – Brisbane Valley Creek, Sewells Creek Road (Requires survey, design and construction)
2. Arkstone Road – Realignment (Estimated to be multi-million-dollar contract involving survey, acquisition, design, and construction)
3. Bald Ridge Road Remediation Causeway – Obligatory remediation ordered by Fisheries NSW.
4. Campbells River Road Realignment - (estimated at \$1.8 million in 2019, estimated currently between \$2 to \$3 million)
5. Lowes Mount Road Guard Rails – Submitted, pending advice – Road Safety Program

Based on the initial assessment both Campbells River Road Realignment and Arkstone Road realignment, may not be suitable based on the large contribution costs and suitability with the grant guidelines. Project 1, 3 and 5 are being further assessed with the intention to lodge potentially an application for each. The next tranche of this program that closes 31 January 2025.

b. Australian Government Black Spot (AGBS) Program 2025/26

Applications for the 2025/2026 program recently opened on 16 October 2024 and closes on 13 December 2024. The AGBS Program is a federally funded infrastructure program targeting road locations where crashes occur or are at risk of occurring. Eligibility is determined based on the length of the location and number of casualty crashes over a five-year period. The project must have a Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) greater than two, a cost of \$3 million or less. Proactive proposals may be nominated where the crash BCR are not met but must have a Safe Systems Assessment completed and attached. Projects nominated under the 2025/26 round have a two year delivery timeframe and must be completed by 30 June 2027.

Oberon Council currently has three applications pending under the Road Safety Program/Towards Zero Safer Roads Program. If these projects met eligibility criteria for the Black Spot Program Council could clone the projects and resubmit under the AGBS program. It is highly probable that they would have to all be proactive projects due to lack of crash statistics. Notification is expected before this grant closes.

c. NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund – Round 3

The Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund is available to all regional councils. The fund helps councils to deliver strategies, plans and studies that increase housing supply, affordability, diversity and resilience. The fund will support the regions to plan for future housing supply that meets the needs of regional communities and helps unblock existing housing capacity. Applications close 22 November 2024.

An application is being prepared to enable the modernising and alignment of the Current Development Control Plan 2001 and Developer Contribution Plan 2004 to current Local Environments Planning Instruments. This will enable and accelerate new housing capacity by resolving issues and constraints, removing inequities and improving efficiencies of outdated unsynchronised documents.

d. NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, 2024-25 Crown Reserves Improvement Fund (CRIF).

The 2024-25 funding round opened on 21 October and closes 22 November 2024, with \$10 million available across three different application types:

1. General – Minimum \$100,000 up to \$1,000,000 (inc. GST)
2. Weed management grants – Minimum of \$500 up to \$200,000 (inc. GST)
3. Pest control grants – Minimum of \$500 up to \$200,000 (inc. GST)

This year’s grant general grants program is deliberately targeting a small number of highly utilised reserves (40%) with projects that have a significant community impact (40%) and are deliverable and affordable (20%). Generally, all Crown land is eligible for CRIF grants, but all applications must be authorised by the official manager of the Crown reserve. However, as many reserves would not be able to prepare a competitive general grant application in this timeframe and may not have high visitation rates for this funding round, further CRIF funds have been reserved and will be made available for strategic emergency grants.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

a. ANZAC Day

A grant application will be submitted by 11 November for the ANZAC Community Grants Program 2024 Round to refresh the Burruga War Memorial Park contingent on receipt of a letter of support from stakeholders. The Burruga War Memorial Park honours WW1 and WW2 with a stone obelisk and marble plaques. Enhancing the park with suitable landscaping and protective fencing will help preserve and highlight the memorial. The application requested the maximum of \$3,000 in funding.

b. Arts OutWest Inc. Country Arts Support Program(CASP)

An application was submitted on 16 October 2024 for a Pre-NAIDOC Week Youth Workshop Program. The application was for \$3,000 to conduct a workshop at the Oberon Council Library/Hub to introduce and teach significance of indigenous art and craft experienced during NAIDOC week. The workshop will be conducted by a local artist indigenous to the area.

GRANT APPLICATION PROGRESS

Grant Progress Table				
Submitted	Details/Description of Project	Grant Program	Grant Amount	Status
16 October 2024	Pre-NAIDOC Week Youth Workshop Program	Arts OutWest Inc Community Arts Support Program (CASP)	\$3,000	Pending
23 September 2024	Oberon Hockey Pitch & Facilities	Australian Government Play Our Way Program	\$2,000,000	Pending – expected mid-December
22 September 2024	Free Fitness Centre & Pool for Youth	NSW Government Holiday Break Program Summer 2024/25 Autumn 2025	\$10,000	Pending – expected 11/11/2024

6 September 2024	A Synergising Seniors Shindig	NSW Government 2025 Seniors Week Festival	\$8,510	Pending
18 July 2024	Construction Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrade	Housing Support Program – Community Enabling Infrastructure Stream	\$11,250,000	Pending – Expected mid-October 2024
11 June 2024	Cyber Security Training	Australian Government, Cyber Security Awareness Support for Vulnerable Groups	3 x \$15,000	Pending
10 May 2024	Abercrombie Road- Raised Pavement Markers	Road Safety Program (Federal & State) and (State) Towards Zero Program	\$118,000	Pending
10 May 2024	Lowes Mt Road – Guard Railing	Road Safety Program (Federal & State) and (State) Towards Zero Program	\$334,000	Pending
10 May 2024	Dudley Dart Street footpath and pedestrian refuge	Road Safety Program – Sub School Zone Infrastructure	\$54,000	Pending

14.7 Status Update - November 2024

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Gary Wallace (General Manager), Dr Cornelia Wiebels (Technical Services Director), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director), Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director)

Summary

This report item summarises the current status of Council resolutions and provides updates for actions taken.

Recommendation:

That report 14.7 is received as information.

List of Attachments

1. 241106 Status Update Report November 2024 Ordinary Meeting [**14.7.1** - 22 pages]

Comment

Following each Council Meeting the General Manager and Directors review the decisions and agree on a priority for actioning these decisions. Each Director will provide an update to the Council Action Checklist, as well as reporting on actions to the General Manager.

With respect to outstanding actions from previous Council Meetings the General Manager will review these with the Mayor and the Directors on at least a monthly basis.

If any Councillor requires an update on a specific item, they should contact the General Manager or the relevant Director or submit a Councillor Request Form to the Governance and Executive Manager.

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
Ordinary Meeting - Carried over actions from status report	15 210921 Business Case - Land at 34 Glyndwr Avenue, Oberon	That Council provide up to \$20,000 from the Land Bank to prepare documentation in preparation of a development application for a dual occupancy on land known as Lot 10 DP 245689 being known as 34 Glyndwr Avenue.	Gary Wallace	<p>02/02/2023 Gary Wallace Developing project scope for consultant services.</p> <p>Advice received for grant opportunities relating to residential and industrial developments to be considered from Regional Infrastructure Fund expected in October.</p> <p>03/02/2023 Gary Wallace No information has been forthcoming regarding the Regional Infrastructure Fund. Progression of plans and engineering for the site continue given the site constraints.</p> <p>14/06/2023 Gary Wallace Currently awaiting outcome of the Housing Australia Fund Bill and opportunities that may exist for Council to utilise this for subsidized housing.</p> <p>09/08/2023 Gary Wallace No further understanding of bill status. Options for medium density being considered given site constraints.</p> <p>13/09/2023 Gary Wallace The Australian Housing Bill has seen support at a Federal level between the Greens and Labour. Awaiting the detail to see if opportunities for Council exist.</p> <p>13/12/2023 Gary Wallace No additional advice received as yet, however substantial housing packages are earmarked for 2024 from both Federal and State Governments</p> <p>14/02/2024 Gary Wallace Council is undertaking an assessment of the requirements for the Housing Australia Grant</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
				<p>funding opportunity, applications open until 22 March 2024.</p> <p>15/05/2024 Gary Wallace Opportunities have potentially arisen from the Federal Budget and will look to progress when and if opportunities present.</p> <p>10/07/2024 Gary Wallace New grant opportunities have presented and looking at options to best fit Council's needs. Applications open until late August.</p> <p>9/10/2024 Gary Wallace A number of grant opportunities have presented and looking at options to best fit Council's needs.</p> <p>8/11/2024 Gary Wallace Grant opportunities progressing</p>	
Ordinary Meeting - Carried over actions from status report	33 150322 Humphries Road Oberon - Partial Road Reconstruction	A report be prepared detailing guidelines for developers in the construction of roads for future consideration by Council.	Damian O'Shannassy	<p>02/02/2023 Gary Wallace To be included in an update to the DCP as part of our strategic planning review.</p> <p>10/10/2023 Gary Wallace Strategic process to commence in November. Scope complete.</p> <p>14/02/2024 Gary Wallace Tender for comprehensive Land Use Strategy to be advertised in February.</p> <p>14/03/2024 Gary Wallace Request for Tender uploaded on the e-Tendering Portal with closing date 4 April 2024</p> <p>10/04/2024 Gary Wallace Request for Tender to May 2024 Ordinary Meeting.</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
				<p>10/07/2024 Damian O'Shannassy Tender for CLUS adopted at June Ordinary Meeting. Contract being prepared for signing with the preferred Town Planning consultant.</p> <p>03/10/2024 Damian O'Shannassy Contract for the Comprehensive Land Use Strategy review signed with the Consultant and General Manager on 6 September 2024.</p>	
Ordinary Meeting - Carried over actions from status report	35 190422 Residential Land Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nominate the Open Tendering method as prescribed in accordance with Clause 166(b) of the Local Government Regulation 2005 seeking interest in the development of residential land. 2. Upon completion of the mandatory 21-day tender period, assessment by a panel will provide a further report to Council for consideration and determination. 	Gary Wallace	<p>02/02/2023 Gary Wallace Noted – Design Specification and construction plans to supplement the Tender documentation is complete.</p> <p>Advice received for grant opportunities relating to residential and industrial developments to be considered from Regional Infrastructure Fund expected in November/December. Should no additional advice be received Tender will be sent out for costs.</p> <p>03/02/2023 Gary Wallace No further progress on the Regional Infrastructure Fund. Given the proximity of the NSW State election, it is considered that this fund will be activated after the NSW State election in March. Council will progress to tender.</p> <p>14/03/2023 Gary Wallace Tender documents currently being prepared to be exhibited in March 2023.</p> <p>10/05/2023 Gary Wallace Current opportunities are being considered for further options for construction. A report is provided to the May 2023 meeting.</p> <p>14/06/2023 Gary Wallace</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
				<p>Reported to May 2023 Meeting.</p> <p>08/08/2023 Gary Wallace DA being prepared for Council consideration.</p> <p>13/09/2023 Gary Wallace The Australian Housing Bill has seen support at a Federal level between the Greens and Labour. Awaiting the detail to see if opportunities for Council exist.</p> <p>10/10/2023 Gary Wallace Scope finalised in October, will be uploaded to portal in December.</p> <p>14/02/2024 Gary Wallace Council undertaking an assessment of the requirements for the Housing Australia Grant funding opportunity, applications open until 22 March 2024.</p> <p>15/05/2024 Gary Wallace Opportunities have potentially arisen from the Federal Budget and will look to progress when and if opportunities present.</p> <p>10/07/2024 Gary Wallace New grant opportunities have presented and looking at options to best fit Council's needs. Applications open until late August.</p> <p>9/10/2024 Gary Wallace A number of grant opportunities have presented and looking at options to best fit Council's needs.</p> <p>8/11/2024 Gary Wallace Development application developed in preparation for an assessment process.</p>	

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
230418 Ordinary Meeting 18 April 2023	22 - 18/04/2023 Policy 2123 Anti Bullying Positive Working Relationships Policy	That Workplace Behavioural Standards and Expectations Policy 2123 be further reviewed to ensure it is consistent with Policy 2101, and that Complaints Handling Policy 2101 also be reviewed.	Gary Wallace, Mathew Webb	<p>09/05/2023 Mathew Webb Review underway</p> <p>08/08/2023 Gary Wallace Working group established to critique current policy.</p> <p>13/12/2023 Gary Wallace Values and Commitments phase complete. Will be reported to March 2024.</p> <p>14/03/2024 Gary Wallace Resourcing (sickness) has delayed this. The finalisation of this action requires the melding of two existing policies.</p> <p>13/06/2024 Mathew Webb This will be updated in conjunction with the new Council and other relevant policies such as the Code of Conduct, Complaints Handling and Internal Reporting.</p> <p>9/10/2024 Gary Wallace A review of policies will be provided to Councillors in workshop form to provide an understanding of the revised policies so as they align to others within the register. This will mean transitioning from some policies to others. A comprehensive report will be provided to the December Ordinary Meeting.</p>	In Progress
230516 Ordinary Meeting 16 May 2023	9 - 16/05/2023 Tender 2023-09 Oberon Kerbside Garbage Collection	That Council: 1. Nominate the Open Tendering method as prescribed in accordance with Clause 166(a) of the Local Government Regulation 2005 for the provision of Kerbside	Dr Cornelia Wiebels	<p>14/06/2023 Chris Schumacher Tender documents currently being prepared.</p> <p>13/09/2023 Chris Schumacher Kerbside Waste Tender held over until following Councillor Waste Workshop.</p> <p>10/10/2023 Chris Schumacher Waste Workshop held in September. Progress</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
		<p>Garbage Collection services for the next three (3) year period with an option for a further extension of 2-years (T2023-09).</p> <p>2. At the conclusion of the Tender period all information will be assessed by a panel and a report will be put to the next available Ordinary Meeting of Council seeking endorsement of a suitable provider for the new Oberon Kerbside Garbage Collection Contract.</p>		<p>report presented to October Ordinary Meeting. 14/12/2023 Gary Wallace Council utilising options for 2023/24 and the development of a tender in the last quarter of 2023/24.</p> <p>13/06/2024 Dr Cornelia Wiebels Tender documents drafted for review and finalisation; TRP being formed</p> <p>09/10/2024 Dr Cornelia Wiebels The tender was advertised in September 2024 with two submissions received. Evaluation pending. Report expected to November 2024 Confidential Council Meeting.</p> <p>05/11/2024 Dr Cornelia Wiebels Report to Confidential Council Meeting on 12 November 2024.</p>	
230919 Ordinary Meeting 19 September 2023	15 - 19/09/2023 Delegates to Council Committees	That Council endorse in principle the proposed alternative facility management options for the administration of the independent living units to reduce the associated psychosocial risks to staff with the General Manager to provide a variety of options including indicative costings to fund the options.	Mathew Webb	<p>12/10/2023 Mathew Webb Various scenarios and costings still being gathered.</p> <p>14/02/2024 Mathew Webb Discussions continue with Columbia regarding a community outreach program. Units management model unchanged at this time</p> <p>15/05/2024 Mathew Webb Columbia in conjunction with Council submitted a grant application under Innovative Models of Care, Funding Community Supported Rural Primary Care Trials - Federal Government. The application would provide seed funding to kickstart a community outreach program at the ILU. Unfortunately this grant application was not successful.</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
				<p>Investigations still underway regarding another appropriate model for the management of the ILUs.</p> <p>08/10/2024 Mathew Webb Staff are currently updating the maintenance plans for the units over the short, medium and longer term. No alternative management models have been identified at this stage.</p>	
231219 Ordinary Meeting 19 December 2023	4 - 19/12/2023 Black Springs Land	<p>That:</p> <p>1. Oberon Council explore compulsory acquisition of the land situation at 67 Dog Rocks Road, Black Springs, (Lot 174, DP757072) being the Black Springs Transfer Station utilising their powers as outlined in the <i>Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991</i> or other acquisition methods.</p> <p>2. Provide to Council at its February or March Meeting a further report on the acquisition of the subject land at 67 Dog Rocks Road, Black Springs.</p>	Gary Wallace	<p>14/02/2024 Gary Wallace Noted, Telco informed that they are currently in negotiations with private landholder. No further action at this time.</p> <p>14/03/2024 Gary Wallace No further information provided by Telco at this stage.</p> <p>10/04/2024 Gary Wallace Request for meeting with Telco has been requested to update the current situation.</p> <p>Additional information is provided below outlining the process Council will be required to undertake prior to acquisition being considered by the Crown.</p> <p>When Crown land is needed for a specific public purpose, authorities notify the department that they plan to compulsorily acquire any interest in land as defined by the <i>Crown Land Management Act 2016</i>. This can include any Crown reserves, travelling stock reserves, Crown roads and unidentified Crown land, waterways, substratum and stratum lots, easements and commercial leases.</p> <p>The Just Terms Act requires that acquiring</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
				<p>authority to be satisfied that it has identified all interests in the land.</p> <p>Before acquiring land, the authority must consider the rights and interests of Aboriginal people and communities. Compulsory acquisition cannot go ahead where there is an undetermined Aboriginal claim over the land. Native title applies to all Crown land unless the Federal Court has made a native title determination.</p> <p>From initial searches no Federal Court determination exists for the subject land.</p> <p>10/07/2024 Gary Wallace Meeting held with Federal Member to look at acceleration options for tower. Telco has considered the project 'frustrated' and Federal Member to chase with Federal Communications Minister.</p> <p>9/10/2024 Gary Wallace No further information has been provided by Federal Member. All information has been forwarded to Telco to assist in the finalisation of this matter</p> <p>8/11/2024 Gary Wallace Mayoral letter to be forwarded to federal member and telco seeking update on previous information supplied by Council.</p>	
231219 Ordinary Meeting 19 December 2023	21 - 19/12/2023 Late Report - Oberon Sewerage Treatment Plant Replacement Project - Tender	That: 1. Council acknowledge the changes to the closing of the new Sewerage Treatment Plant tender from 29 January 2024 to 16	Gary Wallace	<p>14/02/2024 Gary Wallace</p> <p>1. Noted 2. Correspondence forwarded to Public Works in line with Council resolution, awaiting response. 3. Correspondence forwarded to Ministers office awaiting response.</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
		<p>February 2024.</p> <p>2. The Managing Director/CEO of Public Works Advisory be directed to attend the next Ordinary Council Meeting to explain the significant delay in providing detailed design documents for the Oberon Sewerage Treatment Plant project.</p> <p>3. Correspondence be forwarded to the Minister responsible for the portfolio outlining the Council's concerns regarding delays to this project.</p>		<p>14/03/2024 Gary Wallace No response received at this time.</p> <p>13/06/2024 Gary Wallace Initial response received asking Council to work with PWA to minimise concerns. A further response is being prepared.</p> <p>9/10/2024 Gary Wallace Initial response to PWA provided. Deed requirements from grants may condition further engagement with PWA.</p> <p>8/11/2024 Gary Wallace No further information supplied at this time..</p>	
240319 Ordinary Meeting - 19 March 2024	21 - 19/03/2024 Grants Update and Contribution	<p>That Council:</p> <p>1. Commit \$21,000 for a Consultant to undertake a thorough review and determine which is the best project in our Renewable Energy Action Plan and work towards a January 2025 submission under the Community Energy Upgrades Fund.</p> <p>2. That Council consider as part of its ongoing Operational Plan a reserve fund to support energy initiatives as identified from our Renewable Energy</p>	Mathew Webb	<p>15/05/2024 Mathew Webb Consultant appointed and work underway on the development of the plan and grant application documentation</p> <p>08/10/2024 Mathew Webb Consultant has completed site visits and including this data in compilation of the report and application.</p> <p>06/11/2024 Mathew Webb Draft report has been received from consultant and staff are currently assessing. Both also awaiting outcome of Round 1 grant funding, to see what types of projects have been funded.</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
		<p>Action Plan analysis to help ongoing support for grant funding.</p> <p>3. Note other grant updates and activities have been included in the report.</p>			
240416 Ordinary Meeting - 16 April 2024	30 - 16/04/2024 STP Construction Tender Update	<p>That Council;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Note the Sewerage Treatment Plant Tender Update Report Enter negotiations for the supply of the construction of the Sewerage Treatment Plant with the lowest two (2) compliant Tenderers, given the closeness in the price of the Tenders and Council's wish to achieve the most advantageous supply of the project. 	Gary Wallace	<p>15/05/2024 Gary Wallace Await advice on outcome of grant application.</p> <p>13/06/2024 Gary Wallace Grant application unsuccessful. STP Steering Committee met to discuss options to move the project forward.</p> <p>10/07/2024 Gary Wallace Council has engaged consultants to look at options for the project to proceed. A report to August is expected.</p> <p>8/11/2024 Gary Wallace Work progressing with two compliant tenderers whilst Grant opportunities continue.</p>	In Progress
240521 Ordinary Meeting - 21 May 2024	4 - 21/05/2024 Extension of Herborn Street	That Oberon Council support consideration of the extension of Herborn Street in the new land use study.	Damian O'Shannassy	<p>13/06/2024 Damian O'Shannassy To be considered as part of the Comprehensive Land Use Study.</p> <p>03/10/2024 Damian O'Shannassy Contract for the Comprehensive Land Use Strategy review signed on 6 September 2024</p>	In Progress
240521 Ordinary Meeting - 21 May 2024	13 - 21/05/2024 Kerb and Gutter Captial Works Allocations for	<p>That Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Allocate \$155,000 from the Legacy Town Improvement (TI) unallocated 'Drainage, 	Dr Cornelia Wiebels	<p>13/06/2024 Dr Cornelia Wiebels</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Noted. Noted. JO's Smoke Testing contractor Interflow being 	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
	2024 - 2025	<p>Kerb & Gutter' allocation to start implementing part of Council's seven-year Kerb & Gutter Capital Works Program in Financial Year (FY) 2024/25 with the project of Edith Road – Canterwell Lane to Ross Street (southern side only, 160m) and investigation, design and installation of drainage in Dudley Street between Dillon Street and the unnamed road to the south.</p> <p>2. Review its Kerb & Gutter program under consideration of required road widening and requirements for significant additional drainage installations including associated costs and alignment with Council's sealed town roads program.</p> <p>3. Further investigate the reported sewer-overflow issue at East Dillon Street through its Technical Services Department and that a report is provided back to Council with findings, recommendations and estimated costings once the investigation has progressed.</p>		<p>consulted, smoke testing being scoped within available budget with the aim to commence this in July/August 2024.</p> <p>09/07/2024 Dr Cornelia Wiebels 3. Meeting with Interflow held; smoke testing of around 200 properties intended as well as cleaning and CCTV inspection of identified sewer mains; on-site works forecast for September 2024</p> <p>07/08/2024 Dr Cornelia Wiebels 3. Smoke testing of 179 properties as well as cleaning and CCTV inspections of selected sewer mains forecast to commence in Sept 2024</p> <p>09/10/2024 Dr Cornelia Wiebels Smoke testing commenced in September and already found some issues, however has been postponed and will resumed once any smoke testing related issues are resolved in collaboration with Council's contractor Interflow.</p> <p>05/11/2024 Dr Cornelia Wiebels Smoke testing scheduled to resume in the week starting 11 November 2024</p>	
240521 Ordinary	15 - 21/05/2024	That Council:	Dr Cornelia	13/06/2024 Dr Cornelia Wiebels	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
Meeting - 21 May 2024	Playground Risk Assessment Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritise its resourcing on maintaining and improving its 10 identified playgrounds. 2. Explore funding opportunities, or other funding sources to allocate ~\$300,000 for playground refurbishments and renewals (Common Upper & Middle, Cunningham Oval) over the FYs 2025/26 to 2027/28. 3. A further report be provided on the feasibility and costs involved in upgrading the current 6 non-complying playgrounds equipment to comply with current day standards as outlined in the report. 	Wiebels	<p>1. Noted.</p> <p>2. To commence during FY24/25 for funds from FY25/26. Considerations also given in TI report within June 2024 Business Paper.</p> <p>3. Quotes being sought for assessments incl. costing - Parks and Gardens Update in Technical Services Monthly Activity Report, June 2024; matter referred to ARIC</p> <p>09/07/2024 Dr Cornelia Wiebels 2. \$232,930 allocated for Playgrounds Upgrades and Make Safe as per Resolution to Item 13.1 in June 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting.</p> <p>07/08/2024 Dr Cornelia Wiebels 3. KidSafe on site first week of August, awaiting report</p> <p>09/10/2024 Dr Cornelia Wiebels Received a detailed assessment of the compliance and condition of all Playground areas across the LGA. Staff are currently working on costing upgrade works for individual playgrounds, with a report to be prepared for the November Ordinary Meeting of Council.</p> <p>05/11/2024 Dr Cornelia Wiebels Further report to Ordinary Council Meeting on 12 November 2024</p>	
240521 Ordinary Meeting - 21 May 2024	16 - 21/05/2024 Oberon Common Footpath Extension	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council commence construction of the footpath identified on the Common Master Plan from Curtis Street to the link path at the Common. 	Dr Cornelia Wiebels	<p>13/06/2024 Dr Cornelia Wiebels Design work is required for the footpath so as to meet the requirements of Council's DIAP. The grades of the path will require design for contractors to appropriately quote. Design consultant engaged - Parks and Gardens update in Technical Services Monthly Activity Report, June 2024</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
		2. The funding be provided from the internal reserve for railway crossings and unallocated Town Improvement Fund.		<p>07/08/2024 Dr Cornelia Wiebels Detailed design completed to Australian Accessibility Standards. Consultant engaged to undertake sampling & testing along the planned path for (naturally occurring) asbestos. An open tender is being considered in conjunction with the O'Connell Rec Ground Shared Path (report to August 2024 Ordinary Meeting).</p> <p>09/10/2024 Dr Cornelia Wiebels Asbestos was detected in one sample along the planned footpath; it needs to be considered further how this will be managed prior to progressing with further construction preparation.</p> <p>05/11/2024 Dr Cornelia Wiebels Consultant engaged to develop a Remediation Action Plan. Contract expected to be considered in December</p>	
240611 - Extraordinary Council Meeting - 11 June 2024	4 - 11/06/2024 Proposed Heritage Listing of The O'Connell Avenue of Trees	That Council, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Update the draft State Heritage Inventory Sheet for the Avenue of Trees at O'Connell (ref 2210207) . Prepare a Planning Proposal for the individual listing of the Avenue of Trees at O'Connell as a local item for inclusion in <i>Schedule 5 of the Oberon LEP 2013</i> Advise the local community in O'Connell to consider liaising with Heritage NSW, based on the State level 	Damian O'Shannassy	<p>13/06/2024 Damian O'Shannassy Staff have contacted State Heritage who have requested some information of Council. Council's Heritage Advisor has been engaged to update the State Heritage Inventory Sheet.</p> <p>01/10/2024 Damian O'Shannassy Work is progressing on the Planning Proposal including but not limited to mapping of the item.</p> <p>8/11/2024 Gary Wallace Heritage Advisor continue to progress the State Listing with NSW Heritage. All documentation has been prepared for State to consider.</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
		assessment of the 1998 CMP, with a longer-term view of nominating the Avenue of Trees for inclusion separately on the State Heritage Register.			
240618 Ordinary Meeting - 18 June 2024	36 - 18/06/2024 Industrial Subdivision Stage 2	That Council proceed with the recommendations outlined within the report.	Dr Cornelia Wiebels, Gary Wallace	<p>10/07/2024 Gary Wallace Notification of successful Tenderer advised. Contract being developed</p> <p>8/10/2024 Gary Wallace Project management for the development is being put together in house in conjunction with the approved Tenderer.</p> <p>8/11/2024 Gary Wallace Development application approved for the development. Contracts being finalized prior to end of December..</p>	In Progress
240716 Ordinary Meeting - 16 July 2024	4 – 16/07/2024 Landscaping at Hughes Pit	<p>That Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the original terms in which this pit was purchased/operated with the Hughes family If Council did purchase the land, that Council ascertain if the Hughes family are interested in taking back ownership of this land and on what terms Provide remediation activities required for the Hughes Pit 	Dr Cornelia Wiebels	<p>10/07/2024 Gary Wallace Land is currently owned by Crown Lands. Restoration work in accordance with the development consent is limited given the age of the approval and work is continuing to resolve and finalise the matter. A report will be submitted to the December ordinary Meeting.</p> <p>8/11/2024 Gary Wallace Mine closure plan required to be developed in accordance with Mines Act given the land is a crown land reserve. A full report will be provided to December Ordinary Meeting subject to final requirements from Crown and closure rehabilitation plans being approved.</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
		4. Seek advice on whether the pit contains any usable material			
240716 Ordinary Meeting - 16 July 2024	5 – 16/07/2024 Tree Planting	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate the feasibility of Community involvement in progressing the Streetscape Tree planting program noting the program is currently in significant delay 2. The General Manager report back to Council as soon as feasibly possible on the practicality of accelerating the program utilising community involvement 	Gary Wallace	<p>08/11/2024 Gary Wallace A report will be tabled to the November 26 extraordinary Meeting outlining all associated benefits and risks.</p>	In Progress
240716 Ordinary Meeting - 16 July 2024	13 - 16/07/2024 Oberon Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritise the Visitor Information Centre and Oberon Library as suitable locations for an application under the NSW Government Electric Vehicle destination charging grant scheme 2. Continue to investigate the viability of the Tally's Lane and Dart Street Carpark sites and a report be provided to Council prior to any project progression in these locations 	Mathew Webb	<p>08/10/2024 Mathew Webb Grant secured for upgrade of charging stations at the Visitor Information Centre</p> <p>06/11/2024 Mathew Webb Works booked with contractor awaiting installation</p>	In Progress
240716 Ordinary Meeting - 16 July 2024	14 - 16/07/2024 MOU with O'Connell Cricket Club re O'Connell	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receive and note the report 2. Applaud the intention of 	Gary Wallace	<p>08/10/2024 Gary Wallace Meeting with O'Connell Cricket Club undertaken in September 2024. Awaiting final information prior to finalising the MOU in draft form</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
	Recreation Ground	<p>O'Connell Cricket Club to enter into a MOU with Council</p> <p>3. Delegate the GM to negotiate the MOU with the O'Connell Cricket Club and gather more details and outline responsibilities</p> <p>4. The finalised MOU to come back to August 2024 Ordinary Meeting, if possible, for approval</p>		<p>8/11/2024 Gary Wallace Awaiting final information from O'Connell Cricket Club to finalise the draft. Upon receipt the MoU will be forwarded to the next available meeting.</p>	
240813 Ordinary Meeting - 13 August 2024	7 - 13/08/2024 Black Springs Community Hall Committee Meeting 1 August 2024	<p>That Council:</p> <p>1. Receive and note the minutes of the Black Springs Community Hall Committee Meeting held on 1 August 2024.</p> <p>2. Prioritise and seek grant funding opportunities for the installation of blackout blinds at the Black Springs Community Hall.</p> <p>3. Undertake a structural assessment on the concrete tank and if deemed unsafe undertake removal activities.</p>	Mathew Webb	<p>08/10/2024 Mathew Webb Project entered into the Grants projects register. Structural assessment of concrete tank scheduled for 9 October 2024.</p> <p>06/11/2024 Mathew Webb Assessment completed and tank scheduled for removal. Just awaiting for works crew to complete</p>	In Progress
240813 Ordinary Meeting - 13 August 2024	8 - 13/08/2024 Review of Roadside Weed Control Services Program	<p>That:</p> <p>1. Council note the information provided by Central Tablelands Weeds Authority (CWTA).</p> <p>2. Seek a meeting with CTWA and all General Managers and</p>	Gary Wallace	<p>08/10/2024 Gary Wallace With the election process being undertaken, representatives for external organisations will only be verified at the October Meeting. Once verified action pertaining to the current recommendation will ensue</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
		<p>Delegates from constituent Councils to be included in that meeting.</p> <p>3. Determine how the increased kilometre cost of spraying occurred and resulted in Oberon Council's sector one not being completed.</p> <p>4. A review of the service level agreement be undertaken.</p> <p>5. A report be provided to the October Ordinary Council Meeting.</p>		<p>8/11/2024 Gary Wallace Meeting to be prioritised once delegates have been endorsed</p>	
240813 Ordinary Meeting - 13 August 2024	11 - 13/08/2024 O'Connell Shared Pathway - Open Tender Request	<p>That Council:</p> <p>1. Nominate the Open Tendering method as prescribed in accordance with Clause 166(b) of the Local Government Regulation 2021 for the O'Connell Shared Pathways to Fish River Bridge construction.</p> <p>2. Approve the inclusion of the Oberon Common Curtis Street link footpath in the open tender as an additional option for quoting.</p>	Dr Cornelia Wiebels	<p>8/10/2024 Gary Wallace With the detection of small amounts of asbestos in The Common the projects are unlikely to be able to be linked. Awaiting signoff from Transport for NSW to allow the O'Connell development to occur</p> <p>8/11/2024 Gary Wallace Contact has been made with Transport for NSW seeking an expedient reply to the design requirements.</p>	In Progress
241015 Ordinary Meeting - 15 October 2024	5 - 15/10/2024 Central NSW Joint Organisation	That Council note the report from the General Manager on the Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Board	Gary Wallace	<p>06/11/2024 Gary Wallace Information noted.</p> <p>Request for presentation to Council submitted for</p>	In Progress

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
	Board Meeting and Meeting with Federal Ministers 21 and 22 August 2024	<p>meetings 21 and 22 August 2024 and</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Note a welcome to new Councillors session is under development for November 2024; Note the cost savings to Councils for streetlighting charges from CNSWJO's negotiation through the Australian Energy Regulator delivering an average of 16.9% across regional NSW; Note the Return on Investment from the CNSWJO for the 2023/2024 year of 8.3:1 for membership fees; and Request a presentation from CNSWJO on its programming. 		timetabling by Joint Organisation.	
241015 Ordinary Meeting - 15 October 2024	7 - 15/10/2024 Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting 11 September 2024	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Receive and note minutes of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 11 September 2024. Note the approved Strategic Work plan 2024 – 2028 Note the approved 2024/25 Annual Work plan 	Mathew Webb	8/11/2024 Mat Webb Recommendations noted.	Matter closed

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
		4. Note the approved 2024/25 and 2025/26 Internal Audit Plan			
241015 Ordinary Meeting - 15 October 2024	11 - 15/10/2024 Oberon Local Government Election Results and Councillor Induction Program	That Council note the schedule of training planned for Councillors and the Office of Local Government Councillor Induction program.	Gary Wallace	06/11/2024 Gary Wallace Training plan and induction program noted.	Matter closed
241015 Ordinary Meeting - 15 October 2024	12 - 15/10/2024 Countback Process for Casual Vacancies	That pursuant to section 291A(1)(b) of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> , Oberon Council declares that casual vacancies occurring in the office of a councillor within 18 months after the last ordinary election of councillors for the Council on 14 September 2024, are to be filled by a countback of votes cast at that election for the office in accordance with section 291A of the Act and directs the General Manager to notify the Electoral Commissioner for NSW of Council's decision within 7 days of this decision.	Gary Wallace	06/11/2024 Gary Wallace Electoral Commissioner notified of Council's resolution.	Matter closed
241015 Ordinary Meeting - 15 October 2024	15 - 15/10/2024 Delegates to External Organisations	That Council defer appointing its delegates to external organisations until an extraordinary meeting to be held on 5 November 2024. That the General Manager place a spreadsheet on the Councillor portal and	Gary Wallace	06/11/2024 Gary Wallace Extraordinary Meeting deferred upon request from two Councillors to 7 November 2024.	Matter closed

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
		<p>Councillors interested place their names next to the organisations they are interested in being a delegate on.</p> <p>That in the interim if any decision is required in relation to external organisations and council committees that the Mayor or his delegate attend the meetings and be authorised to act on behalf of Council.</p>			
<p>241015 Ordinary Meeting - 15 October 2024</p>	<p>16 - 15/10/2024 Delegations of Authority - General Manager</p>	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receive the report by the Governance and Executive Manager on the Review of Delegations to the General Manager; 2. Grant the General Manager, or the person who acts in that position from time to time, all of the functions, powers, duties and authorities of Council that may lawfully be delegated under the Local Government Act 1993, any other Act, regulation, or the like (including any functions, powers, duties and authorities delegated to Council by any authority, body, person or the like) other than the limitations outlined in the report. 	<p>Gary Wallace</p>	<p>06/11/2024 Gary Wallace Authorised delegation in place.</p>	<p>Matter closed</p>

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
241015 Ordinary Meeting - 15 October 2024	18 - 15/10/2024 Returns Disclosing Interests and Related Parties Disclosures	That: 1. Council note the requirement to lodge a return disclosing interests of Councillors and designated persons. 2. Council note the requirement to lodge a Related Parties disclosure for newly elected Councillors.	Gary Wallace	06/11/2024 Gary Wallace Requirements noted	Matter closed
241015 Ordinary Meeting - 15 October 2024	18 - 15/10/2024 Car Parking Modification - Child Care Centre - 6-8 Tasman St Oberon	That Council: 1. Support the proposed modification to delete the dimensions from the condition relating to disabled car parking spaces and retain the reference to the Australian Standard 2890.6 for disabled parking. 2. That a division be called in accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act 1993.	Damian O'Shannassy	8/11/2024 Gary Wallace Development application approved 15 October.	Matter closed
241015 Ordinary Meeting - 15 October 2024	19 - 15/10/2024 Footpath and access Modification - Child Care Centre - 6-8 Tasman St	That Council: 1. Support the proposed modification by endorsing Option 5 by accepting a Contribution in lieu of Condition 31 for Council to	Damian O'Shannassy	8/11/2024 Gary Wallace Modification approved. 15 October.	Matter closed

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Document	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
	Oberon	<p>install the footpath.</p> <p>2. Accept a Contribution of \$5,000 as costed by Council's Development Engineer in view that a linear footpath may not address the retaining wall at the western end of the nature strip satisfactorily or align with the front boundary of the subject site.</p> <p>3. That a division be called in accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act 1993.</p>			
241015 Ordinary Meeting - 15 October 2024	27 - 15/10/2024 Road Name Proposal Activity: 15 Aug 2024 Bill Klower Drive - Rejection notification	That Council write to the Burruga and District Community Association to advise them of the decision of the Geographic Names Board and seeking their advice about whether they favour naming another piece of infrastructure in honor of Mr. Klower.	Dr Cornelia Wiebels	8/11/2024 Gary Wallace Development application developed in preparation for an assessment process. Correspondence provided to Burruga Community Association. Supportive of another option for dedication.	Matter closed

14.8 Questions Taken on Notice at the Previous Council Meeting

File No: Governance/Meetings/Ordinary

Author: Gary Wallace (General Manager)

Summary

This report item provides a formal record of questions taken on notice at the previous Council meeting and subsequent responses.

Recommendation:

That report 14.8 is received as information and the responses noted.

List of Attachments

Nil

Comment

The following question was taken on notice at the 15 October 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council. The answers to the questions are provided in blue and have been provided via email.

In relation to the water quality issues raised at the April Ordinary Meeting I have been unable to find any answers to the questions that were put on notice six months ago.

1. Have the questions been answered?

The questions that were taken on notice at the April Ordinary Council Meeting have been answered and the answers are available on Council's website. The link to the response which was uploaded to Council's website on 14 May 2024 is as follows: [Response to Questions from 16 April 2024 Ordinary Meeting - Water Oberon Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

2. Have any of the recommendations from CWT been completed or even started?

Updates have been provided to Council through their business papers on 18 June 2024, report item 14.8. The business papers are available on Council's website [240618 Ordinary Meeting - 18 June 2024 \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

A further update in relation to the progress of the implementation of the CWT report was provided to Council at its 16 July 2024 Ordinary Meeting, report item 14.8. The business paper report is available on Council's website [240716 Ordinary Meeting - 16 July 2024 \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

3. Has council obtained independent advice as stated for the commentary linking the previous water initiatives to the to the water quality?

The actions undertaken in response to the independent advice received from CWT has been reported and endorsed by Council at its June 2024 and July 2024 Ordinary Meetings (links above). In addition, water quality data is available on Council's website and updated periodically.

14.9 Oberon Comprehensive Land Use Strategies Engagement Plan update

File No: Oberon CLUS

Author: Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director), Bennett Kennedy (Senior Town Planner)

Summary

Oberon Council has engaged Currajong Consulting Pty Ltd to prepare a Comprehensive Land Use Strategy (CLUS 2041) for the Oberon Local Government Area (LGA). The CLUS 2041 will be the cornerstone for a suite of plans and strategies that will establish a new strategic planning framework for the Oberon LGA.

Attached is an engagement strategy and current project timeline.

Recommendation:

That report Item 14.9 is received as information.

List of Attachments

1. Oberon Land-use Strategies Engagement Plan - October 2024 [**14.9.1** - 4 pages]
2. Oberon Land-use Strategies Project - Project Timeline [**14.9.2** - 1 page]

Comment

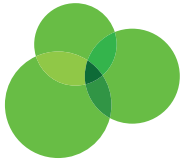
Oberon Council has engaged Currajong Planning to prepare a Comprehensive Land Use (CLUS) Strategy 2041 that will establish a new strategic planning framework for the Oberon Local Government Area (LGA).

The CLUS 2041 project will include the following three (3) deliverables; a Housing, Employment Lands and Open Spaces Strategy. Two (2) functional components include a Review of the Existing Oberon Planning Framework, and a Demographic Analysis and Population Forecast Report.

The project is at inception stage, where Currajong has met with Oberon Council planning staff and discussed the broad requirements for the project. It has been agreed that both Council and Currajong approach the project with a degree of flexibility, based around three main aspects of work relating to housing, employment lands and open spaces. It has also been agreed that a comprehensive engagement strategy is required to ensure both Council and Currajong understand the community's views on the key land-use planning issues, opportunities and constraints that need to be considered in the preparation of new land-use strategy documents.

Both the Oberon Land Use Strategies Engagement Plan and the Project Timeline are conceptual at this stage with the timetable and detailed engagement documents to be finalised.

A key document that forms part of the collaborative engagement approach is Councils Policy 1120 - Community Engagement Framework and Strategy.



CURRAJONG
PLANNING, PROPERTY + PROJECT MANAGEMENT



CLIENT

Oberon Council

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Oberon Land-use Strategies

DOCUMENT TITLE

Oberon Engagement Plan

DATE

8 October 2024

Oberon Land-use Strategies Engagement Plan**01. Our Collaborative Approach**

Oberon Council has engaged Currajong to prepare a number of land-use strategies to establish a new strategic planning framework for the Oberon Local Government Area (LGA). The project is at inception stage, where Currajong has met with Oberon Council planning staff and discussed the broad requirements for the project. It has been agreed that both Council and Currajong approach the project with a degree of flexibility, based around three main aspects of work relating to housing, employment lands and open spaces. It has also been agreed that a comprehensive engagement strategy is required to ensure both Council and Currajong understand the community's views on the key land-use planning issues, opportunities and constraints that need to be considered in the preparation of new land-use strategy documents. A key document that forms part of the collaborative engagement approach is Councils Policy I120 - Community Engagement Framework and Strategy. The following outlines the engagement approach:

02. Background of the Project

Growth and development in the Oberon LGA has evolved since COVID, with increases in demand for residential housing and housing diversity as well as employment lands. Open spaces are also being used differently by many in the community. The lack of a Housing Strategy, Employment Lands Strategy and an Open Spaces Strategy has been identified by Oberon Council as a key gap in its strategic planning framework. Without these new strategy documents, Council is faced with the challenge of determining Planning Proposals without guidance from a strategic-led framework that aligns with the DPHI Local Housing Strategy Guidelines 2018, Local Employment Land Strategy Guidelines 2022 and the NSW Public Open Spaces Charter as well as other policy documents.

03. Purpose of the Engagement

The Oberon Land-use Strategies Project needs to inform and involve a number of stakeholders, community groups, businesses and individuals about Council's intention to introduce a Housing Strategy, Employment Lands Strategy and Open Spaces Strategy to apply to the whole of the Oberon LGA. With Oberon Council as the lead, Currajong will undertake stakeholder and community engagement (as nominated by Council).

04. Oberon Land-use Strategies Engagement Plan

The preparation of the Oberon Land-use Strategies Engagement Plan is the first step in preparing a draft Oberon Housing Strategy, Oberon Employment Lands Strategy and Oberon Open Spaces Strategy. The next steps include:

1. Baseline data analysis.
 2. Early stakeholder engagement, including, a media release, letter box drop and community survey.
 3. Drafting of the Oberon Housing Strategy, Oberon Employment Lands Strategy and Oberon Open Spaces Strategy.
 4. Public exhibition of the draft Oberon Housing Strategy, Oberon Employment Lands Strategy and Oberon Open Spaces Strategy, including community and industry stakeholder workshops.
 5. Finalisation of the Oberon Housing Strategy, Oberon Employment Lands Strategy and Oberon Open Spaces Strategy.
-

05. Oberon Land-use Strategies Engagement Plan Objectives

The engagement objectives for the Oberon Land-use Strategies Project are:

1. To use Council's 'Have Your Say' website and letter box drops to launch the Oberon Land-use Strategies Project to the community and the opportunities for participation in the drafting of the Oberon Housing Strategy, Oberon Employment Lands Strategy and Oberon Open Spaces Strategy.
2. To provide early opportunity for key stakeholders and interested members of the community to provide preliminary feedback on the drafting of the Oberon Housing Strategy, Oberon Employment Lands Strategy and Oberon Open Spaces Strategy via the Oberon Land-use Strategies Survey.
3. To provide opportunity for discussion on the draft Oberon Housing Strategy, Oberon Employment Lands Strategy and Oberon Open Spaces Strategy at workshops held at various locations during the public exhibition of the draft strategy documents.
4. To provide opportunity for stakeholders to review the draft Oberon Housing Strategy, Oberon Employment Lands Strategy and Oberon Open Spaces Strategy and provide written feedback on the draft strategies prior to its adoption by Council.
5. To review submissions received for consideration in the adoption of the Oberon Housing Strategy, Oberon Employment Lands Strategy and Oberon Open Spaces Strategy by Council.

06. Engagement Methodology

The aim is for the Oberon Council and the Currajong team to work together to engage with stakeholders and prepare the Oberon Housing Strategy, Oberon Employment Lands Strategy and Oberon Open Spaces Strategy for adoption by Council. The following engagement actions will form the basis for stakeholder engagement on the Oberon Land-use Strategies Project:

1. Preliminary community engagement
 - + Oberon Council to provide Currajong with a spreadsheet list of stakeholders that should be consulted as part of early stakeholder engagement.
 - + Currajong to provide draft media, survey and draft stakeholder email / letter templates to launch the Oberon Land-use Strategies Project by Council.
 - + Oberon Council to launch the Oberon Land-use Strategies Project on its website, via the 'Have Your Say' platform.
 - + Oberon Council to send out emails / letters to known stakeholders with a link to the survey and workshop schedule.
 - + Oberon Council and Currajong to hold meetings with key stakeholders (as nominated by Council).
2. Public exhibition of the draft Oberon Housing Strategy, Oberon Employment Lands Strategy and Oberon Open Spaces Strategy.
 - + Currajong to provide the draft Oberon Housing Strategy, Oberon Employment Lands Strategy and Oberon Open Spaces Strategy to Oberon Council to review and advise changes, ready for public exhibition by Council.
 - + Oberon Council to book workshop venues for engagement workshop sessions to be held by Currajong and Council planning staff.

- + Currajong to provide draft info flyer of workshop schedules for display by Oberon Council at Council offices, website, local businesses and media.
- + Oberon Council to update Council's website platform to outline exhibition details, workshop schedule and provide a link to the draft Oberon Housing Strategy, Oberon Employment Lands Strategy and Oberon Open Spaces Strategy.
- + Oberon Council and Currajong to conduct community and stakeholder workshops, meetings and media updates during the exhibition period.
- + Currajong to review submissions and complete final draft Oberon Housing Strategy, Oberon Employment Lands Strategy and Oberon Open Spaces Strategy.



CLIENT
Oberon Council

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Oberon Land-use
Strategies Project

DOCUMENT TITLE
Project Plan

REVISION
A



- Currajong Responsibility
- Council Responsibility
- Shared Responsibility

01. PROJECT INCEPTION

- Inception Meeting with Council
- Data collection and exchange
- Assist with Council briefing
- Preparation of Engagement Plan

02. BASELINE DATA ANALYSIS

- Land-use policy health check

03. EARLY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Meetings with relevant Council staff
- Stakeholder / agency engagement
- Media launch
- Community survey
- Council briefing

04. DRAFT STRATEGIES PREPARATION

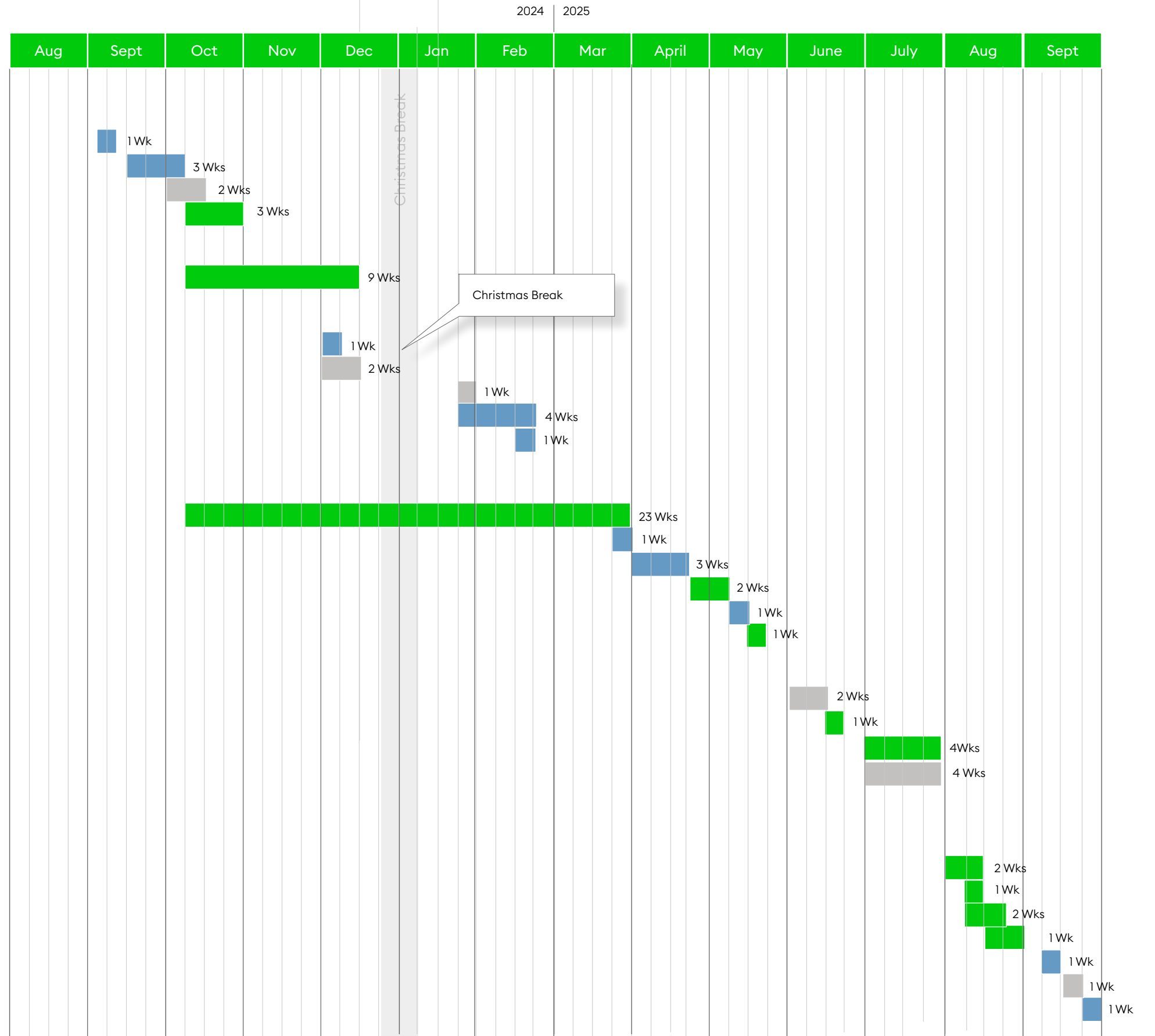
- Preparation of draft Strategies
- Provision of draft Strategies to Council staff
- Internal Council review
- Update Strategies following internal review
- Councillor workshop
- Update draft Strategies, ready for exhibition

05. EXHIBITION OF STRATEGIES

- Preparation of Exhibition Material
- Prepare a Report to Council
- Exhibition of draft Strategies
- Community workshops

06. PROJECT FINALISATION

- Collation of public submissions
- Preparation of Review of Submissions Report
- Prepare final amendments to Strategies
- Prepare Report to Council
- Council Meeting
- Adoption of Strategies
- Project Acquittal



14.10 League Table Publication - Development Assessment

File No: Planning and Development

Author: Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director)

Summary

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has advised the NSW Government has released the second iteration of the Council League Tables. The League Table monitors Council performance in the area of Development Assessment, Planning Proposals and Strategic Planning and this release is to monitor how Councils are performing against the Minister of Planning and Public Spaces expectations.

Recommendation:

That report Item 14.10 is received as information.

List of Attachments

1. Oberon Council - Council League Table [**14.10.1** - 2 pages]

Comment

Data gained from the NSW Planning Portal as at the 2 July 2024 identifies Oberon Council's previous financial year average development application determination time was 126 days. Consequently, your Council's expectation for average determination for the 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 period will be 115 days.

As per the Ministerial Statement of Expectations Order 2024, councils should determine DAs for which it is the consent authority (including DAs determined by a local planning panel), as soon as practical and whichever is the lesser of council's previous financial year average, or within an average of 115 days of lodgement between 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

The Department advises that Council's performance for lodging and determining DAs will be monitored each month and published on the department's website. Councils will be provided with a grace period of 5 working days at the beginning of every month to upload data from the previous month into the NSW Planning Portal.

Previously, Council has been active in providing information to the State regarding a number of inefficiencies that it has experienced with the NSW Planning Portal which has also been acknowledged. It is considered that targeted improvements within the Planning Portal will make assessments more consistent and easier to lodge, assess and determine. This in turn will see assessment days improve across the industry.



Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Our ref: IRF24/1903

Mr Gary Wallace
General Manager
Oberon Council

Via email: gary.wallace@oberon.nsw.gov.au

8 August 2024

Subject: League Table Publication

Dear Mr Wallace

Further to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces letter of 3 July 2024 advising councils of an updated Ministerial Statement of Expectations Order 2024, the NSW Government is today releasing the second iteration of the council league tables. The league tables monitor council performance in the areas of development assessment, planning proposals and strategic planning. This second release is to monitor how councils are performing against the Minister's expectations.

As per the Ministerial Statement of Expectations Order 2024, councils should determine DAs for which it is the consent authority (including DAs determined by a local planning panel), as soon as practical and whichever is the lesser of council's previous financial year average, or within an average of 115 days of lodgement between 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Data gained from the NSW Planning Portal as at the 2 July 2024 identifies your Council's previous financial year average development application determination time was **126** days. Consequently, your Council's expectation for average determination for the 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 period will be 115 days.

Council performance for lodging and determining DAs will be monitored each month and published on the department's website. Councils will be provided with a grace period of 5 working days at the beginning of every month to upload data from the previous month into the NSW Planning Portal.



Should you have any queries in relation to the Statement of Expectations Order or the council league tables please contact Chantelle Chow at Chantelle.Chow@planning.nsw.gov.au to discuss.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read "Monica Gibson".

Monica Gibson
Deputy Secretary
Planning, Land Use Strategy, Housing and Infrastructure
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

14.11 Audited Financial Statements FY23/24

File No: Financial/2023-24FY

Author: Zoe Marks (Finance Manager), Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director)

Summary

Council's Auditors, the Audit Office of NSW, have completed their audit of Oberon Council's Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Recommendation:

That report Item 14.11 is received as information.

List of Attachments





1. Annual Financial Statements- General Purpose [14.11.1 - 81 pages]
2. Annual Financial Statements- Special Purpose [14.11.2 - 14 pages]
3. Annual Financial Statements- Special Schedules [14.11.3 - 11 pages]

Comment

Council's Auditors, the Audit Office of NSW, have completed their audit of Oberon Council's Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024. In accordance with Section 418 (3) the audited Financial Statements and the Auditor's Reports for the year ending 30 June 2024 are presented to Council, as attachments.

In accordance with Section 420 of the Local Government Act, the public are invited to make submissions on the Audited Financial Statements until 4 pm on Thursday, 21 November 2024. All submissions received must be forwarded to Council's auditor.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SUMMARY**1. Income Statement****Operating result**

	2024	2023	Variance
	\$m	\$m	%
Rates and annual charges revenue	7.1	6.7	6.0 
Grants and contributions revenue	18.7	19.8	5.6 
Operating result from continuing operations	7.4	11.0	32.7 
Net operating result before capital grants and contributions	(3.8)	0.2	2,000 

Rates and annual charges revenue (\$7.1 million) increased by \$0.4 million (6.0 per cent) in 2023–24, primarily due to rate peg increase of 3.7 per cent.

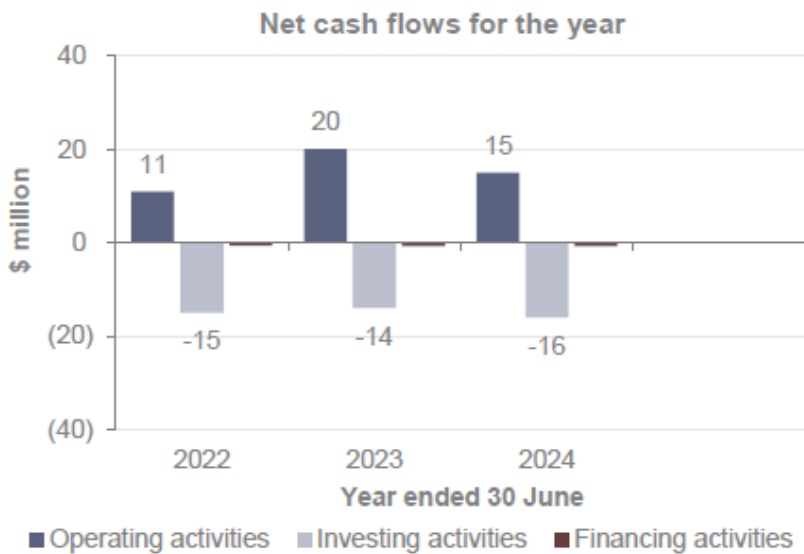
Grants and contributions revenue (\$18.7 million) decreased by \$1.1 million (5.6 per cent) in 2023–24 due to:

- Receiving financial assistance grants for 2024-25 in advance amounting to \$3.3 million in contrast to \$3.6 million for 2023-24 in advance.
- Decrease of \$2.2 million in grants recognised due to the completion of Community Hub projects under the Drought Stimulus program that was largely completed in 2022-23.
- Increase of \$2.9 million in Transport for NSW contributions primarily from the \$2.5 million Regional Emergency Road Repair Funds.

Council’s operating result from continuing operations (\$7.4 million including depreciation, amortisation and impairment expense of \$6.4 million) was \$3.6 million lower than the 2022–23 result.

The net operating result before capital grants and contributions (\$3.8 million deficit) was \$4.0 million lower than the 2022–23 result. The decrease was largely due to the lower operating grants revenue and higher employee benefits cost.

2. Statement of Cash Flows



The significant movements in the Statement of Cash Flows primarily due to a decrease in net cash flows from operating activities by \$4.3 million from 2022-23 to 2023-2024. This decrease is primarily due to increase in payments for materials and services and decrease in receipt of grants and contributions. There were no significant fluctuations for investing and financing activities.

3. Statement of Financial Position

a. Cash and investments

Cash and investments	2024	2023	Commentary
	\$m	\$m	
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	28.2	29.7	Externally restricted balances comprise mainly of developer contributions, water and sewer funds.
Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments:			Internal allocations are determined by council policies or decisions, which are subject to change.
• External restrictions	19.9	21.5	
• Internal allocations	8.3	8.1	

b. Debt

At 30 June 2024, Council had:

- \$3.3 million in secured loans (\$4.0 million in 2022-23)
- \$0.5 million in approved overdraft facility with nil drawn down
- \$16,000 in credit card facility with nil used.

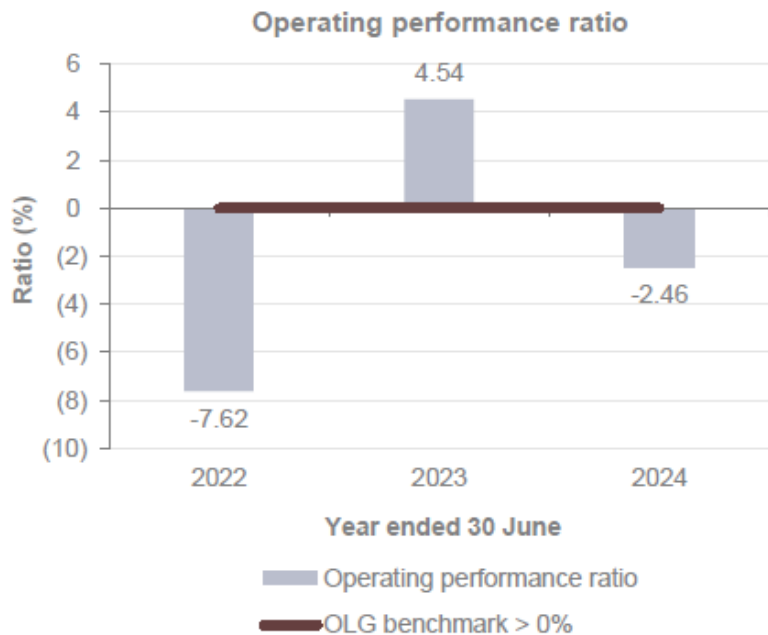
4. Performance

The following section provides an overview of the Council’s performance against the performance measures and performance benchmarks set by the Office of Local Government (OLG) within the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

Operating performance ratio

Council did not meet the benchmark for the current reporting period.

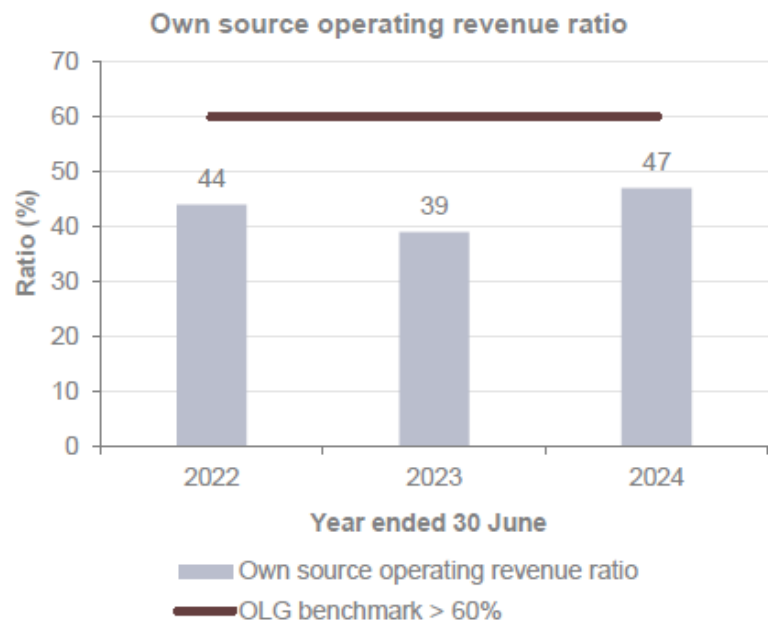
The ‘operating performance ratio’ measures how well council contained operating expenditure within operating revenue (excluding capital grants and contributions, fair value adjustments, and reversal of revaluation decrements). The benchmark set by OLG is greater than zero per cent.



Own source operating revenue ratio

Council did not meet the benchmark for the current reporting period.

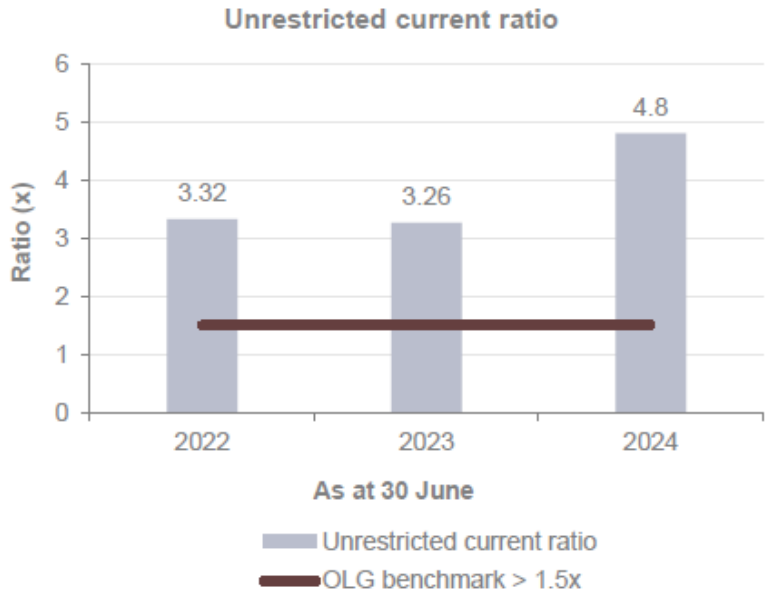
The ‘own source operating revenue ratio’ measures council’s fiscal flexibility and the degree to which it relies on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 60 per cent.



Unrestricted current ratio

Council exceeded the benchmark for the current reporting period.

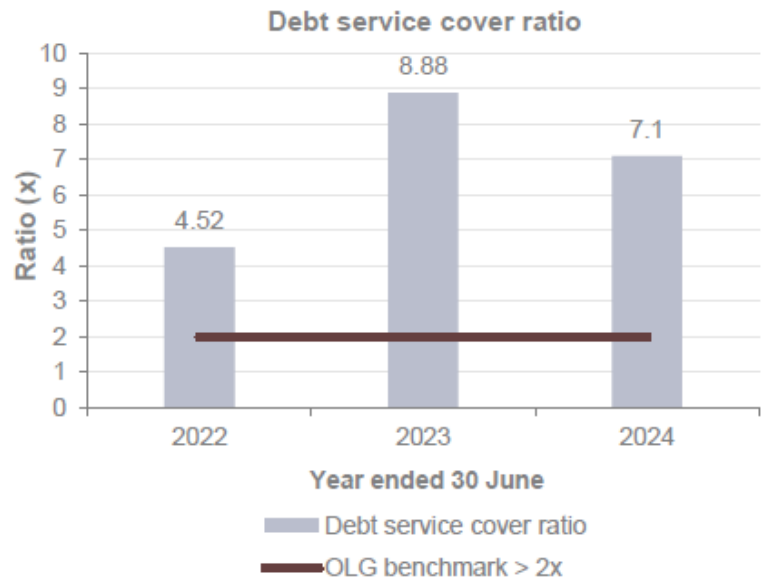
The 'unrestricted current ratio' is specific to local government and represents council's ability to meet its short-term obligations as they fall due. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 1.5 times.



Debt service cover ratio

Council exceeded the benchmark for the current reporting period.

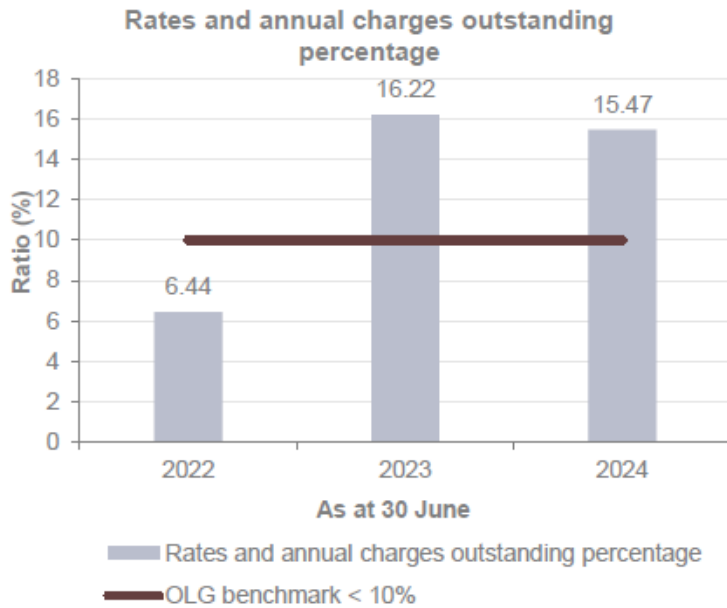
The 'debt service cover ratio' measures the operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than two times.



Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage

Council exceeded the benchmark for the current reporting period.

The 'rates and annual charges outstanding percentage' assesses the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on council's liquidity and the adequacy of debt recovery efforts. The benchmark set by OLG is less than 10 per cent for regional and rural councils.



Cash expense cover ratio

Council exceeded the benchmark for the current reporting period.

This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months the council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than three months.



5. Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

Council renewed \$14.4 million of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment during the 2023-24 financial year. This was mainly spent on roads (\$7.8 million) and repairing assets damaged by natural disasters.



Oberon Council

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024



OBERON

MORE THAN YOU IMAGINE



OBERON COUNCIL

Oberon Council

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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Overview

Oberon Council is constituted under the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) and has its principal place of business at:

137-139 Oberon Street
OBERON NSW 2787

Council's guiding principles are detailed in Chapter 3 of the LGA and includes:

- principles applying to the exercise of functions generally by council,
- principles to be applied when making decisions,
- principles of community participation,
- principles of sound financial management, and
- principles for strategic planning relating to the development of an integrated planning and reporting framework.

A description of the nature of Council's operations and its principal activities are provided in Note B1-2.

Through the use of the internet, we have ensured that our reporting is timely, complete and available at minimum cost. All press releases, financial statements and other information are publicly available on our website: www.oberon.nsw.gov.au.

Oberon Council

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Statement by Councillors and Management

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to Section 413(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (as amended)

The attached General Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) (as amended) and the regulations made thereunder,
- the Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board
- the *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting*.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 13 August 2024.



Mark Kellam
Mayor
14 August 2024



Andrew McKibbin
Deputy Mayor
14 August 2024



Gary Wallace
General Manager
14 August 2024



Mathew Webb
Responsible Accounting Officer
14 August 2024

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Oberon Council | Income Statement | for the year ended 30 June 2024

Oberon Council

Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Original unaudited budget 2024	\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2024	Actual 2023
Income from continuing operations				
7,007	Rates and annual charges	B2-1	7,057	6,671
5,336	User charges and fees	B2-2	7,187	4,679
383	Other revenues	B2-3	342	403
4,085	Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	B2-4	7,578	9,081
16,357	Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	B2-4	11,157	10,763
224	Interest and investment income	B2-5	1,356	655
483	Other income	B2-6	463	483
33,875	Total income from continuing operations		35,140	32,735
Expenses from continuing operations				
6,258	Employee benefits and on-costs	B3-1	7,977	6,816
8,089	Materials and services	B3-2	9,340	8,023
281	Borrowing costs	B3-3	144	67
5,286	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	B3-4	6,398	5,465
771	Other expenses	B3-5	715	603
(2,050)	Net loss from the disposal of assets	B4-1	3,182	769
18,635	Total expenses from continuing operations		27,756	21,743
15,240	Operating result from continuing operations		7,384	10,992
15,240	Net operating result for the year attributable to Council		7,384	10,992
1,115	Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes		(3,773)	229

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

Oberon Council

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2024

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
Net operating result for the year – from Income Statement		7,384	10,992
Other comprehensive income:			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to the operating result			
Gain (loss) on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-7	24,431	23,665
Total items which will not be reclassified subsequently to the operating result		24,431	23,665
Total other comprehensive income for the year		24,431	23,665
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to Council		31,815	34,657

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

Oberon Council

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2024

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	7,463	8,424
Investments	C1-2	20,750	18,750
Receivables	C1-4	2,617	3,709
Inventories	C1-5	444	600
Contract assets and contract cost assets	C1-6	359	51
Other	C1-8	648	33
Total current assets		32,281	31,567
Non-current assets			
Investments	C1-2	–	2,500
Inventories	C1-5	153	153
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)	C1-7	347,157	316,224
Total non-current assets		347,310	318,877
Total assets		379,591	350,444
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	C3-1	1,126	2,410
Contract liabilities	C3-2	1,253	3,089
Borrowings	C3-3	673	695
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	1,897	1,764
Total current liabilities		4,949	7,958
Non-current liabilities			
Payables	C3-1	1,000	–
Borrowings	C3-3	2,625	3,297
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	44	41
Provisions	C3-5	245	235
Total non-current liabilities		3,914	3,573
Total liabilities		8,863	11,531
Net assets		370,728	338,913
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus	C4-1	172,721	165,337
IPPE revaluation reserve	C4-1	198,007	173,576
Council equity interest		370,728	338,913
Total equity		370,728	338,913

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

Oberon Council

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2024

\$ '000	Notes	2024			2023		
		Accumulated surplus	IPPE revaluation reserve	Total equity	Accumulated surplus	IPPE revaluation reserve	Total equity
Opening balance at 1 July		165,337	173,576	338,913	154,345	149,911	304,256
Opening balance		165,337	173,576	338,913	154,345	149,911	304,256
Net operating result for the year		7,384	–	7,384	10,992	–	10,992
Other comprehensive income							
Gain (loss) on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-7	–	24,431	24,431	–	23,665	23,665
Other comprehensive income		–	24,431	24,431	–	23,665	23,665
Total comprehensive income		7,384	24,431	31,815	10,992	23,665	34,657
Closing balance at 30 June		172,721	198,007	370,728	165,337	173,576	338,913

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

Oberon Council

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Original unaudited budget 2024	\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2024	Actual 2023
Cash flows from operating activities				
<i>Receipts:</i>				
7,007	Rates and annual charges		6,981	6,051
5,336	User charges and fees		8,751	4,547
225	Interest received		1,040	291
20,443	Grants and contributions		16,591	21,382
–	Bonds, deposits and retentions received		163	40
–	Other		737	1,546
<i>Payments:</i>				
(6,258)	Payments to employees		(7,905)	(6,378)
(8,089)	Payments for materials and services		(10,614)	(7,628)
(281)	Borrowing costs		(144)	(67)
(771)	Other		(285)	(214)
17,612	Net cash flows from operating activities	G1-1	15,315	19,570
Cash flows from investing activities				
<i>Receipts:</i>				
19,750	Sale of investments		21,250	19,750
–	Sale of real estate assets		–	663
–	Proceeds from sale of IPPE		157	247
<i>Payments:</i>				
(19,750)	Purchase of investments		(21,250)	(19,750)
–	Acquisition of term deposits		500	(500)
(24,732)	Payments for IPPE		(16,239)	(14,716)
–	Purchase of real estate assets		–	238
(24,732)	Net cash flows from investing activities		(15,582)	(14,068)
Cash flows from financing activities				
<i>Payments:</i>				
(857)	Repayment of borrowings		(694)	(668)
(857)	Net cash flows from financing activities		(694)	(668)
(7,977)	Net change in cash and cash equivalents		(961)	4,834
8,424	Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		8,424	3,590
447	Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	C1-1	7,463	8,424

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

Oberon Council

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Oberon Council

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A About Council and these financial statements

A1-1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements were authorised for issue by Council on 14 August 2024. Council has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements in cases where critical information is received from public submissions or where the OLG directs Council to amend the financial statements.

The material accounting policy information related to these financial statements are set out below. Accounting policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations, the *Local Government Act 1993 (Act)* and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (Regulation)*, and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. Council is a not-for-profit entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain infrastructure, property, plant and equipment and investment property.

Significant accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Council's accounting policies. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on the Council and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

Council makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future.

The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

- (i) estimated fair values of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment – refer Note C1-7
- (ii) estimated tip remediation provisions – refer Note C3-5
- (iii) employee benefit provisions – refer Note C3-4.

Significant judgements in applying the Council's accounting policies

- i. Impairment of receivables – refer Note C1-4.
- ii. Determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific and whether the contract is within the scope of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and / or AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities – refer to Notes B2-2 – B2-4.
- iii. Determination of the lease term, discount rate (when not implicit in the lease) and whether an arrangement contains a lease – refer to Note C2-1.

Monies and other assets received by Council

The Consolidated Fund

In accordance with the provisions of Section 409(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*, all money and property received by Council is held in the Council's Consolidated Fund unless it is required to be held in the Council's Trust Fund.

Cash and other assets of the following entities have been included as part of the Consolidated Fund:

- General purpose operations
- Water service
- Sewerage service

The Trust Fund

In accordance with the provisions of Section 411 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* (as amended), a separate and distinct Trust Fund is maintained to account for all money and property received by the council in trust which must be applied only for the purposes of, or in accordance with, the trusts relating to those monies.

A1-1 Basis of preparation (continued)

Trust monies and property subject to Council's control have been included in these reports.

Volunteer services

Council relies on local community members to assist with the hosting of Community Events throughout the year. This service is on a volunteer basis and as such is not recognised in the income statement as an expense. All other associated expenses relating to community events are recognised in the income statement.

New accounting standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations (ie. pronouncements) have been published by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2023 reporting period.

Council has elected not to apply any of these pronouncements in these financial statements before their operative dates.

As at the date of authorisation of these financial statements Council does not consider that any of these new (and still to be applied) standards and interpretations are likely to have a material impact on the Council's future financial statements, financial position, financial performance or cash flows.

New accounting standards adopted during the year

During the year, Council adopted all standards which were mandatorily effective for the first time at 30 June 2024.

Those newly adopted standards which had an impact on reported position, performance and/or disclosures have been discussed in Notes.

B Financial Performance

B1 Functions or activities

B1-1 Functions or activities – income, expenses and assets

Income, expenses and assets have been directly attributed to the following functions or activities. Details of those functions or activities are provided in Note B1-2.

\$ '000	Income		Expenses		Operating result		Grants and contributions		Carrying amount of assets	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Functions or activities										
A Growing Economy	608	2,593	1,879	1,753	(1,271)	840	366	217	43	40
Caring for the Environment	239	1,538	513	2,204	(274)	(666)	185	–	8,877	8,180
Community Wellbeing	381	644	1,092	813	(711)	(169)	101	991	23,345	21,513
Infrastructure and Services	25,362	19,988	18,796	13,802	6,566	6,186	15,655	18,637	347,032	319,796
Leadership and Engagement	8,550	7,972	5,476	3,171	3,074	4,801	2,428	–	294	275
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	(1)	–	640
Total functions and activities	35,140	32,735	27,756	21,743	7,384	10,992	18,735	19,844	379,591	350,444

B1-2 Components of functions or activities

Details relating to the Council's functions or activities as reported in B1-1 are as follows:

A Growing Economy

Includes expenses relating to the "A Growing Economy" CSP theme which includes:

- Develop strong relationships with local industry, organisations and government to ensure a sustainable local economy
- Encourage sustainable tourism initiatives which create employment and boost the local economy
- Explore new and innovative approaches to economic development to enhance skills and provide broader employment opportunities for future generations
- Promote, support and attract local businesses and industry
- Lobby for better telecommunication services

Caring for the Environment

Includes expenses relating to the "Caring for the Environment" CSP theme which includes:

- Protect and manage local air quality, waterways, rivers and streams
- Work with other agencies to protect local fauna and biodiversity
- Ensure sustainable waste management services and programs, with a commitment to resource recovery
- Recognise the valuable contribution of the agriculture sector to the local economy
- Reduce the impact of Council's carbon footprint through energy saving innovations

Community Wellbeing

Includes expenses relating to the "Community Wellbeing" CSP theme which includes:

- Meet the transport needs for all community members within the area and to the region and cities
- Meet the social, cultural and physical needs of the community
- Meet the health, educational and social service needs of the community
- Work with our partners to provide a safe community

Infrastructure and Services

Includes expenses relating to the "Infrastructure and Services" CSP theme which includes:

- Provide a program to improve local roads and work with partners on state road infrastructure
- Provide accessible, safe and well-maintained community spaces and facilities
- Provide infrastructure which encourages the use of sustainable transport, such as cycleways and walking tracks
- Plan for infrastructure and land use needs for future growth
- Provide secure and safe water supply, and manage wastewater

Leadership and Engagement

Includes expenses relating to the "Leadership and Engagement" CSP theme which includes:

- Partner with local communities to create an ongoing culture of engagement to aid Council decision making
- Council has sound organisational health with strong leadership and governance frameworks
- Council builds strong relationships with other Councils and organisations in support of the Oberon Plan and the wider region
- Council has a focus on providing excellence in service delivery
- Ensure financial stability and support efficient Council operations

B2 Sources of income**B2-1 Rates and annual charges**

\$ '000	2024	2023
Ordinary rates		
Residential	2,002	1,897
Farmland	2,366	2,288
Business	252	244
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	(44)	(44)
Less: pensioner rebates (Council policy)	(37)	(37)
Rates levied to ratepayers	4,539	4,348
Pensioner rate subsidies received	46	42
Total ordinary rates	4,585	4,390
Special rates		
Town improvement	551	536
Rates levied to ratepayers	551	536
Total special rates	551	536
Annual charges (pursuant to s496, 496A, 496B, 501 & 611)		
Domestic waste management services	353	265
Water supply services	602	562
Sewerage services	936	879
Waste management services (non-domestic)	57	63
Less: pensioner rebates (mandatory)	(42)	(40)
Less: pensioner rebates (Council policy)	(15)	(15)
Annual charges levied	1,891	1,714
Pensioner annual charges subsidies received:		
– Water	11	11
– Sewerage	11	10
– Domestic waste management	8	10
Total annual charges	1,921	1,745
Total rates and annual charges	7,057	6,671

Council has used 2022 year valuations provided by the NSW Valuer General in calculating its rates.

Material accounting policy information

Rates and annual charges are recognised as revenue at the beginning of the rating period to which they relate. Prepaid rates are recognised as a financial liability until the beginning of the rating period.

Pensioner rebates relate to reductions in rates and certain annual charges for eligible pensioners' place of residence in the local government council area.

Pensioner rate subsidies are received from the NSW Government to provide a contribution towards the pensioner rebates and are recognised within the underlying revenue item based on their substance.

B2-2 User charges and fees

\$ '000	2024	2023
Specific user charges (per s502 - specific 'actual use' charges)		
Water supply services	1,520	1,575
Sewerage services	465	426
Waste management services (non-domestic)	309	100
Industrial waste management	412	290
Total specific user charges	2,706	2,391
Other user charges and fees		
(i) Fees and charges – statutory and regulatory functions (per s608)		
Inspection services	–	2
Planning and building regulation	114	155
Regulatory/ statutory fees	98	86
Regulatory fees	27	38
Section 603 certificates	16	16
Town planning	12	16
Total fees and charges – statutory/regulatory	267	313
(ii) Fees and charges – other (incl. general user charges (per s608))		
Cemeteries	94	70
Gravel pits	1	–
Library	6	2
Transport for NSW works (state roads not controlled by Council)	3,995	1,775
Tourism	12	1
Visitor Information Centre	31	26
Private Works - Local Government	70	101
Other	5	–
Total fees and charges – other	4,214	1,975
Total other user charges and fees	4,481	2,288
Total user charges and fees	7,187	4,679
Timing of revenue recognition for user charges and fees		
User charges and fees recognised over time	6,701	3,785
User charges and fees recognised at a point in time	486	894
Total user charges and fees	7,187	4,679

Material accounting policy information

Revenue arising from user charges and fees is recognised when or as the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided.

The performance obligation relates to the specific services which are provided to the customers and generally the payment terms are within 30 days of the provision of the service or in some cases such as caravan parks, the customer is required to pay on arrival or a deposit in advance. There is no material obligation for Council in relation to refunds or returns.

Licences granted by Council are all either short-term or low value and all revenue from licences is recognised at the time that the licence is granted rather than over the term of the licence.

B2-3 Other revenues

\$ '000	2024	2023
Legal fees recovery – rates and charges (extra charges)	29	17
Legal fees recovery – other	–	68
Diesel rebate	99	85
Insurance claims recoveries	–	5
FESL	139	136
Other	66	56
Sales – general	1	–
Workers comp	8	36
Total other revenue	342	403

Timing of revenue recognition for other revenue

Other revenue recognised over time	–	–
Other revenue recognised at a point in time	342	403
Total other revenue	342	403

Material accounting policy information for other revenue

Where the revenue is earned for the provision of specified goods / services under an enforceable contract, revenue is recognised when or as the obligations are satisfied.

Statutory fees and fines are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received or when the penalty has been applied, whichever occurs first.

Other revenue is recorded when the payment is due, the value of the payment is notified, or the payment is received, whichever occurs first.

B2-4 Grants and contributions

\$ '000	Operating 2024	Operating 2023	Capital 2024	Capital 2023
General purpose grants and non-developer contributions (untied)				
General purpose (untied)				
Current year allocation				
Financial assistance – general component	143	605	–	–
Financial assistance – local roads component	73	277	–	–
Payment in advance - future year allocation				
Financial assistance – general component	2,177	2,362	–	–
Financial assistance – local roads component	1,075	1,205	–	–
Amount recognised as income during current year	3,468	4,449	–	–
Special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)				
Cash contributions				
Community infrastructure	288	177	1,045	813
Economic development	185	–	–	–
Employment and training programs	36	66	–	–
Heritage and cultural	–	19	–	–
Library – special projects	–	–	383	2,584
LIRS subsidy	30	–	–	–
Recreation and culture	5	–	–	–
Restart NSW – fixing local roads	–	335	4,568	4,059
Sewerage services	–	–	218	–
Street lighting	–	–	68	–
Transport (roads to recovery)	–	–	382	553
Transport (other roads and bridges funding)	–	–	–	8
Youth week	6	3	–	–
Other specific grants	(38)	70	–	9
Community services	94	–	–	–
Roads and bridges	–	1,408	543	214
Transport for NSW contributions (regional roads, block grant)	3,328	2,181	3,389	1,582
Tourism	65	184	–	33
Other contributions	111	189	15	–
Total special purpose grants and non-developer contributions – cash	4,110	4,632	10,611	9,855
Total special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)	4,110	4,632	10,611	9,855
Total grants and non-developer contributions	7,578	9,081	10,611	9,855
Comprising:				
– Commonwealth funding	3,468	4,449	675	429
– State funding	3,652	4,632	9,921	9,394
– Other funding	458	–	15	32
	7,578	9,081	10,611	9,855

B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Developer contributions

\$ '000	Notes	Operating 2024	Operating 2023	Capital 2024	Capital 2023
Developer contributions:					
(s7.4 & s7.11 - EP&A Act, s64 of the LGA):					
Cash contributions					
S 7.11 – contributions towards amenities/services	G4	–	–	372	488
S 64 – water supply contributions		–	–	36	84
S 64 – sewerage service contributions		–	–	138	336
Total developer contributions – cash		–	–	546	908
Total developer contributions		–	–	546	908
Total contributions		–	–	546	908
Total grants and contributions		7,578	9,081	11,157	10,763
Timing of revenue recognition for grants and contributions					
Grants and contributions recognised over time		3,757	2,882	10,159	10,529
Grants and contributions recognised at a point in time		3,821	6,199	998	234
Total grants and contributions		7,578	9,081	11,157	10,763

B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)**Unspent grants and contributions**

Certain grants and contributions are obtained by Council on the condition they be spent in a specified manner or in a future period but which are not yet spent in accordance with those conditions are as follows:

\$ '000	Operating 2024	Operating 2023	Capital 2024	Capital 2023
Operating grants and contributions				
Unspent grants at 1 July	132	352	2,957	3,396
Add: Funds recognised as revenue in the reporting year but not yet spent in accordance with the conditions	-	-	-	-
Add: Funds received and not recognised as revenue in the current year	235	402	2,205	1,992
Less: Funds recognised as revenue in previous years that have been spent during the reporting year	(250)	(622)	(4,026)	(2,431)
Unspent grants at 30 June	117	132	1,136	2,957
Contributions				
Unspent funds at 1 July	-	-	3,920	3,262
Add: contributions recognised as revenue in the reporting year but not yet spent in accordance with the conditions	-	-	677	908
Less: contributions recognised as revenue in previous years that have been spent during the reporting year	-	-	(210)	(250)
Unspent contributions at 30 June	-	-	4,387	3,920

B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Material accounting policy information

Grants and contributions – enforceable agreement with sufficiently specific performance obligations

Grant and contribution revenue from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised as or when control of each performance obligations is transferred.

The performance obligations vary according to the agreement but include Destination Marketing Campaign/VIC upgrade/O'Connell Recreational Grounds work. Payment terms vary depending on the terms of the grant, cash is received upfront for some grants and on the achievement of certain payment milestones for others.

Performance obligations may be satisfied either at a point in time or over time and this is reflected in the revenue recognition pattern. Point in time recognition occurs when the beneficiary obtains control of the goods / services at a single time (e.g. completion of the project when a report / outcome is provided), whereas over time recognition is where the control of the services is ongoing throughout the project (e.g. provision of community health services through the year).

Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods of costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

Capital grants

Capital grants received by Council under an enforceable contract for the acquisition or construction of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment to identified specifications which will be under Council's control on completion are recognised as revenue as and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed.

For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred since this is deemed to be the most appropriate measure of the completeness of the construction project.

For acquisitions of assets, the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Council.

Developer Contributions

Oberon Council has obligations to provide facilities from contribution revenues levied on developers under the provisions of s 7.4, 7.11 and 7.12 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).

While Oberon Council generally incorporates these amounts as part of a Development Consents Order, such developer contributions are only recognised as income upon receipt by Council, due to the possibility that individual development consents may not be acted upon by the applicant and, accordingly, would not be payable to Council.

Developer contributions may only be expended for the purposes for which the contributions were required, but Council may apply contributions according to the priorities established in work schedules for the contribution plan.

Other grants and contributions

Assets, including cash, received from other grants and contributions are recognised at fair value when the asset is received. Council considers whether there are any related liability or equity items associated with the asset which are recognised in accordance with the relevant accounting standard.

Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised then income is recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received.

B2-5 Interest and investment income

\$ '000	2024	2023
Interest on financial assets measured at amortised cost		
– Overdue rates and annual charges (incl. special purpose rates)	29	32
– Cash and investments	1,327	623
Finance income on the net investment in the lease	–	–
Total interest and investment income (losses)	1,356	655

B2-6 Other income

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
Rental income			
Other lease income			
Room/Facility Hire		4	29
Leaseback fees - council vehicles		35	28
Other		38	10
Affordable Living - Independent Living Units		124	116
Oberon Fitness & Aquatic Centre		232	278
Oberon Jenolan Caravan Park		28	22
Total other lease income		461	483
Total rental income	C2-2	463	483
Total other income		463	483

B3 Costs of providing services**B3-1 Employee benefits and on-costs**

\$ '000	2024	2023
Salaries and wages	7,402	6,445
Travel expenses	9	37
Employee leave entitlements (ELE)	126	44
Superannuation	768	647
Superannuation – defined benefit plans	14	1
Workers' compensation insurance	255	272
Fringe benefit tax (FBT)	20	34
Training costs (other than salaries and wages)	67	54
Protective clothing	5	17
Medicals	5	8
Recruitment Costs	1	4
Other	16	13
Total employee costs	8,688	7,576
Less: capitalised costs	(711)	(760)
Total employee costs expensed	7,977	6,816

Material accounting policy information

Employee benefit expenses are recorded when the service has been provided by the employee.

Retirement benefit obligations

All employees of the Council are entitled to benefits on retirement, disability or death. Council contributes to various defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans on behalf of its employees.

Superannuation plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

Council participates in a defined benefit plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, however, sufficient information to account for the plan as a defined benefit is not available and therefore Council accounts for its obligations to defined benefit plans on the same basis as its obligations to defined contribution plans, i.e. as an expense when it becomes payable – refer to Note E3-1 for more information.

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B3-2 Materials and services

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
Raw materials and consumables		3,898	4,203
Contractor costs		3,072	534
– Animal control		2	1
– Asset mgt		199	120
– Building contractors		673	4,440
– Cleaning		54	30
– Ground maintenance		89	436
– Plant		14	44
– Road maintenance contractors		10,419	6,672
– Sewer infrastructure		533	89
– Water infrastructure		493	557
– Waste		683	346
– Noxious Weeds		54	–
– Health Inspector		8	6
Audit Fees	F2-1	71	28
Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses	F1-2	164	141
Advertising		48	52
Bank charges		27	27
Computer software charges		765	295
Electricity and heating		295	272
Insurance		17	982
Office expenses (including computer expenses)		8	32
Postage		42	24
Printing and stationery		105	91
Repairs and maintenance		55	13
Subscriptions and publications		46	9
Telephone and communications		85	432
Valuation fees		–	32
Training costs (other than salaries and wages)		112	122
Other expenses		95	35
YMCA Contract		58	562
Engineering/finance/development/IT & corporate contractors		445	217
Hardware expensed		10	–
Heritage		17	27
Rates and charges		111	74
Vehicle registration		100	96
Water Charges		208	72
Legal expenses:			
– Legal expenses: other		77	37
– Legal expenses: debt recovery		43	36
– Legal expenses: planning and development		7	–
Total materials and services		23,202	21,186
Less: capitalised costs		(13,862)	(13,163)
Total materials and services		9,340	8,023

B3-3 Borrowing costs

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
(i) Interest bearing liability costs			
Interest on loans		134	136
Total interest bearing liability costs		134	136
Total interest bearing liability costs expensed		134	136
(ii) Other borrowing costs			
– Remediation liabilities	C3-5	10	(69)
Total other borrowing costs		10	(69)
Total borrowing costs expensed		144	67

B3-4 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
Depreciation and amortisation			
Plant and equipment		820	789
Office equipment		8	7
Furniture and fittings		30	24
Land improvements (depreciable)		8	10
Infrastructure:	C1-7		
– Buildings – non-specialised		24	10
– Buildings – specialised		943	596
– Other structures		162	118
– Roads		3,370	2,972
– Bridges		144	126
– Footpaths		43	39
– Stormwater drainage		144	131
– Water supply network		357	340
– Sewerage network		205	190
– Swimming pools		35	23
– Other open space/recreational assets		77	62
Other assets:			
– Library books		22	22
– Other		3	3
Reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration assets:			
– Tip assets	C3-5,C1-7	1	1
– Quarry assets	C3-5,C1-7	2	2
Total gross depreciation and amortisation costs		6,398	5,465
Total depreciation and amortisation costs		6,398	5,465
Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment for non-financial assets		6,398	5,465

Material accounting policy information**Depreciation and amortisation**

Depreciation and amortisation are calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives. Useful lives are included in Note C1-7 for IPPE assets.

Impairment of non-financial assets

Council assets held at fair value that are not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash flow, and that are deemed to be specialised, are not tested for impairment since these assets are assessed on an annual basis to ensure that the carrying amount is not materially different from fair value and therefore an impairment loss would be captured during this assessment.

Intangible assets not yet available for use, are tested annually for impairment, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that they might be impaired.

Other non-financial assets that do not meet the criteria above are tested 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. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units).

Impairment losses for revalued assets are firstly offset against the amount in the revaluation surplus for the class of asset, with only the excess to be recognised in the Income Statement.

B3-5 Other expenses

\$ '000	2024	2023
Other		
Contributions/levies to other levels of government	4	–
– Emergency services levy (includes FRNSW, SES, and RFS levies)	25	48
– NSW fire brigade levy	26	16
– NSW rural fire service levy	427	320
– Upper Macquarie County Council	163	162
Donations, contributions and assistance to other organisations (Section 356)	70	57
Total other	715	603
Total other expenses	715	603

B4 Gains or losses**B4-1 Gain or loss from the disposal, replacement and de-recognition of assets**

\$ '000	2024	2023
Gain (or loss) on disposal of plant and equipment		
Proceeds from disposal – plant and equipment	157	246
Less: carrying amount of plant and equipment assets sold/written off	(22)	(17)
Gain (or loss) on disposal	135	229
Gain (or loss) on disposal of real estate assets held for sale		
Proceeds from disposal – real estate assets	–	663
Gain (or loss) on disposal	–	663
Gain (or loss) on disposal of investments		
Proceeds from disposal/redemptions/maturities – investments	21,250	19,750
Less: carrying amount of investments sold/redeemed/matured	(21,250)	(19,750)
Gain (or loss) on disposal	–	–
Building Specialised		
Less: carrying amount of Building Specialised-sold/written off	(157)	(4)
Gain (or loss) on disposal	(157)	(4)
Other Structures		
Proceeds from disposal – Other structures	–	–
Less: carrying amount of Other structure-sold/written off	–	(18)
Gain (or loss) on disposal	–	(18)
Roads		
Proceeds from disposal – Roads	–	–
Less: carrying amount of Roads sold/written off	(3,128)	(1,639)
Gain (or loss) on disposal	(3,128)	(1,639)
Water supply network		
Proceeds from disposal – Water supply network	–	1
Less: carrying amount of Water supply network- sold/written off	(32)	(1)
Gain (or loss) on disposal	(32)	–
Net gain (or loss) from disposal of assets	(3,182)	(769)

B5 Performance against budget

B5-1 Material budget variations

Council's original budget was adopted by the Council on 20 June 2023 and is not required to be audited. The original projections on which the budget was based have been affected by a number of factors. These include state and federal government decisions, including new grant programs, changing economic activity, environmental factors, and by decisions made by Council.

While these General Purpose Financial Statements include the original budget adopted by Council, the Act requires Council to review its financial budget on a quarterly basis, so it is able to manage the variation between actuals and budget that invariably occur during the year.

Material variations of more than 10% between original budget and actual results or where the variance is considered material by nature are explained below.

Variation Key: **F** = Favourable budget variation, **U** = Unfavourable budget variation.

\$ '000	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2024 ----- Variance -----	
Revenues				
User charges and fees	5,336	7,187	1,851	35% F
Oberon Council received more work than anticipated from our Roads Maintenance Council Contract on both the O'Connell and Duckmaloi Roads.				
Other revenues	383	342	(41)	(11)% U
Council overestimated potential legal expenses recovery income and diesel rebates as these items are hard to estimate and depend on actions.				
Operating grants and contributions	4,085	7,578	3,493	86% F
Council received additional funding under the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund which was not known about prior to receiving.				
Capital grants and contributions	16,357	11,157	(5,200)	(32)% U
Council had anticipated to start a grant funded project to build a new Sewerage Treatment Plant. Unfortunately due to costings and additional grants required this project has yet to start the building phase.				
Interest and investment revenue	224	1,356	1,132	505% F
Council historically employs conservative accounting in relation to investment revenue.				
Expenses				
Employee benefits and on-costs	6,258	7,977	(1,719)	(27)% U
Council originally budget for more labour costs to be capitalised than what eventuated.				
Materials and services	8,089	9,340	(1,251)	(15)% U
Due to increase in RMCC works additional Material and services were required to complete the projects.				
Borrowing costs	281	144	137	49% F
Council underwent an internal borrowing which is reflected in the budget, however the actuals are removed upon consolidation.				
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	5,286	6,398	(1,112)	(21)% U
Asset indexations and revaluation last year saw a significant increase in the depreciation required for this financial year. Unfortunately this information is not available at time of budgeting hence the difference.				
Net losses from disposal of assets	(2,050)	3,182	(5,232)	255% U
Oberon Council had originally budget to sell more parcels of land at its industrial subdivision. This did not eventuate during				

B5-1 Material budget variations (continued)

\$ '000	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2024 ----- Variance -----	
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the financial year. The loss comes from the "disposal" of roads from an accounting perspective for roads which had rehabilitation completed.

Statement of cash flows

Cash flows from operating activities	17,612	15,315	(2,297)	(13)%	U
Due to higher employee costs along with materials and services for projects, along with less grant income from capital perspective to assist.					
Cash flows from investing activities	(24,732)	(15,582)	9,150	(37)%	F
Higher than anticipated cash amounts being able to be invested.					
Cash flows from financing activities	(857)	(694)	163	(19)%	F
Due to internal borrowing being removed on consolidation.					

C Financial position**C1 Assets we manage****C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents**

\$ '000	2024	2023
Cash assets		
Cash on hand and at bank	5,451	6,295
Cash equivalent assets		
– Deposits at call	2,012	2,129
Total cash and cash equivalents	7,463	8,424

Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents

Total cash and cash equivalents per Statement of Financial Position	7,463	8,424
Balance as per the Statement of Cash Flows	7,463	8,424

C1-2 Financial investments

\$ '000	2024	2024	2023	2023
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
Debt securities at amortised cost				
Long term deposits	20,750	–	18,750	2,500
Total	20,750	–	18,750	2,500
Total financial investments	20,750	–	18,750	2,500
Total cash assets, cash equivalents and investments	28,213	–	27,174	2,500

Material accounting policy information

Financial instruments are recognised initially on the date that the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

Financial assets

All recognised financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial assets.

Classification

On initial recognition, Council classifies its financial assets into the following categories – those measured at:

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit and loss (FVTPL)
- fair value through other comprehensive income – equity instrument (FVOCI-equity)

Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition.

Amortised cost

Council's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other receivables, term deposits and cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Financial Position. Term deposits with an initial term of more than 3 months are classified as investments rather than cash and cash equivalents.

Subsequent to initial recognition, these assets are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less provision for impairment.

C1-2 Financial investments (continued)

Interest income, impairment and gains or loss on de-recognition are recognised in profit or loss.

C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments

\$ '000	2024	2023
(a) Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments		
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	28,213	29,674
Less: Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	<u>(19,855)</u>	<u>(21,540)</u>
Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions	8,358	8,134
External restrictions		
External restrictions – included in liabilities		
External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:		
Specific purpose unexpended grants – general fund	<u>1,253</u>	<u>3,089</u>
External restrictions – included in liabilities	1,253	3,089
External restrictions – other		
External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:		
Developer contributions – general	2,853	2,507
Developer contributions – water fund	320	335
Developer contributions – sewer fund	1,212	1,075
Water fund	2,746	2,928
Sewer fund	8,185	8,608
Town improvements	2,288	798
Domestic waste management	<u>998</u>	<u>2,200</u>
External restrictions – other	18,602	18,451
Total external restrictions	19,855	21,540

Cash, cash equivalents and investments subject to external restrictions are those which are only available for specific use by Council due to a restriction placed by legislation or third-party contractual agreement.

\$ '000	2024	2023
Internal allocations		
At 30 June, Council has internally allocated funds to the following:		
Plant and vehicle replacement	–	200
Employees leave entitlement	1,061	1,086
Carry over works	3,227	2,577
Election	96	90
Financial Assistance Grant	2,602	2,768
Land development	<u>1,181</u>	<u>1,391</u>
Total internal allocations	8,167	8,112

Internal restrictions over cash, cash equivalents and investments are those assets internally allocated by resolution of Council.

C1-4 Receivables

\$ '000	2024	2024	2023	2023
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
Rates and annual charges	1,228	–	1,140	–
Interest and extra charges	53	–	24	–
User charges and fees	302	–	1,867	–
Private works	14	–	13	–
Accrued revenues				
– Interest on investments	702	–	415	–
– Other income accruals	139	–	69	–
Net GST receivable	198	–	200	–
Total	2,636	–	3,728	–
Less: provision for impairment				
Other debtors	(19)	–	(19)	–
Total provision for impairment – receivables	(19)	–	(19)	–
Total net receivables	2,617	–	3,709	–

\$ '000	2024	2023
Movement in provision for impairment of receivables		
Balance at the beginning of the year	19	6
+ new provisions recognised during the year	–	13
Balance at the end of the year	19	19

Material accounting policy information

Receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

Impairment

Impairment of financial assets measured at amortised cost is recognised on an expected credit loss (ECL) basis.

When determining whether the credit risk of a financial asset has increased significantly since initial recognition, and when estimating ECL, the Council considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on Council's historical experience and informed credit assessment, and including forward-looking information.

When considering the ECL for rates debtors, Council takes into account that unpaid rates represent a charge against the rateable property that will be recovered when the property is next sold. For non-rates debtors, Council uses the presumption that an asset which is more than 30 days past due has seen a significant increase in credit risk.

The Council uses the presentation that a financial asset is in default when:

- the other party is unlikely to pay its credit obligations to the Council in full, without recourse by the Council to actions such as realising security (if any is held) or
- the financial assets (for non-rates debtors) are more than 90 days past due.

Credit losses are measured as the present value of the difference between the cash flows due to the entity in accordance with the contract, and the cash flows expected to be received. This is applied using a probability weighted approach.

On initial recognition of the asset, an estimate of the expected credit losses for the next 12 months is recognised. Where the asset has experienced significant increase in credit risk then the lifetime losses are estimated and recognised.

C1-5 Inventories

\$ '000	2024	2024	2023	2023
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current

C1-5 Inventories (continued)

\$ '000	2024		2023	
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
Real estate for resale	122	153	122	153
Stores and materials	300	–	458	–
Trading stock	22	–	20	–
Total inventories at cost	444	153	600	153
Total inventories	444	153	600	153

Material accounting policy information**Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods**

Costs are assigned to individual items of inventory on the basis of weighted average costs.

Land held for resale

Cost is assigned by specific identification and includes the cost of acquisition, and development and borrowing costs during development.

C1-6 Contract assets and Contract cost assets

\$ '000	2024 Current	2024 Non-current	2023 Current	2023 Non-current
Contract assets	359	-	51	-
Total contract assets and contract cost assets	359	-	51	-

Contract assets

Work relating to infrastructure grants	359	-	51	-
Total contract assets	359	-	51	-

Significant changes in contract assets

Contract Assets disclosed relate to work completed for the following: Sewer Treatment Plant grant claim.

Contract assets

Contract assets represent Councils right to payment in exchange for goods or services the Council has transferred to a customer when that right is conditional on something other than the passage of time.

Contract assets arise when the amounts billed to customers are based on the achievement of various milestones established in the contract and therefore the amounts recognised as revenue in a given period do not necessarily coincide with the amounts billed to or certified by the customer. Once an invoice or payment claim is raised or the relevant milestone is reached, Council recognises a receivable.

Impairment of contract assets is assessed using the simplified expected credit loss model where lifetime credit losses are recognised on initial recognition.

C1-7 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2023			Asset movements during the reporting period							At 30 June 2024		
	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions renewals ¹	Additions new assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	WIP transfers	Adjustments and transfers	Revaluation increments to equity (ARR)	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
\$ '000													
Capital work in progress	6,444	–	6,444	4,957	–	–	–	(4,373)	–	–	7,028	–	7,028
Plant and equipment	12,208	(7,993)	4,215	–	671	(22)	(820)	–	–	–	12,444	(8,400)	4,044
Office equipment	324	(303)	21	–	53	–	(8)	–	–	–	377	(311)	66
Furniture and fittings	506	(316)	190	–	36	–	(30)	–	–	–	543	(347)	196
Land:													
– Operational land	8,386	–	8,386	–	–	–	–	–	–	410	8,796	–	8,796
– Community land	13,579	–	13,579	–	1,003	–	–	–	–	712	15,294	–	15,294
– Land under roads (post 30/6/08)	9,489	–	9,489	–	–	–	–	–	–	797	10,286	–	10,286
Land improvements – non-depreciable	80	–	80	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	80	–	80
Land improvements – depreciable	1,018	(998)	20	–	45	–	(8)	–	–	–	1,064	(1,007)	57
Infrastructure:													
– Buildings – non-specialised	727	(88)	639	–	–	–	(24)	–	–	50	786	(121)	665
– Buildings – specialised	31,448	(12,012)	19,436	880	–	(157)	(943)	115	42	1,544	34,666	(13,749)	20,917
– Other structures	4,165	(863)	3,302	423	–	–	(162)	–	(21)	251	4,890	(1,097)	3,793
– Roads	217,748	(48,747)	169,001	7,814	–	(3,128)	(3,370)	4,258	8	14,578	243,692	(54,531)	189,161
– Bridges	12,336	(3,040)	9,296	172	–	–	(144)	–	1	464	13,132	(3,343)	9,789
– Footpaths	4,542	(944)	3,598	2	–	–	(43)	–	–	232	4,841	(1,052)	3,789
– Bulk earthworks (non-depreciable)	39,296	–	39,296	2	–	–	–	–	1	3,281	42,580	–	42,580
– Stormwater drainage	12,941	(4,759)	8,182	10	–	–	(144)	–	(1)	1,028	14,605	(5,530)	9,075
– Water supply network	18,231	(8,372)	9,859	150	–	(32)	(357)	–	(3)	488	19,197	(9,092)	10,105
– Sewerage network	24,223	(15,447)	8,776	–	–	–	(205)	–	(2)	434	25,449	(16,446)	9,003
– Swimming pools	1,389	(278)	1,111	10	–	–	(35)	–	(7)	86	1,501	(336)	1,165
– Other open space/recreational assets	1,664	(475)	1,189	–	–	–	(77)	–	(21)	76	1,757	(590)	1,167
Other assets:													
– Library books	455	(395)	60	–	13	–	(22)	–	2	–	470	(417)	53
– Other- mobile waste bins	85	(71)	14	–	–	–	(3)	–	(1)	–	85	(75)	10
Reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration assets (refer Note 14):													
– Quarry assets	59	(30)	29	–	–	–	(2)	–	–	–	59	(32)	27
– Tip assets	27	(15)	12	–	–	–	(1)	–	–	–	27	(16)	11
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	421,370	(105,146)	316,224	14,420	1,821	(3,339)	(6,398)	–	(2)	24,431	463,649	(116,492)	347,157

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

C1-7 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2022			Asset movements during the reporting period								At 30 June 2023		
	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions renewals ¹	Additions new assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	WIP transfers	Adjustments and transfers	Revaluation decrements to equity (ARR)	Revaluation increments to equity (ARR)	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
\$ '000														
Capital work in progress	4,137	–	4,137	5,239	–	–	–	(2,932)	–	–	–	6,444	–	6,444
Plant and equipment	11,683	(7,343)	4,340	–	681	(17)	(789)	–	–	–	–	12,208	(7,993)	4,215
Office equipment	324	(296)	28	–	–	–	(7)	–	–	–	–	324	(303)	21
Furniture and fittings	469	(292)	177	–	37	–	(24)	–	–	–	–	506	(316)	190
Land:														
– Operational land	8,386	–	8,386	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8,386	–	8,386
– Community land	13,579	–	13,579	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13,579	–	13,579
– Land under roads (post 30/6/08)	9,489	–	9,489	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9,489	–	9,489
Land improvements – non-depreciable	80	–	80	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	80	–	80
Land improvements – depreciable	1,018	(988)	30	–	–	–	(10)	–	–	–	–	1,018	(998)	20
Infrastructure:														
– Buildings – non-specialised	531	(36)	495	–	–	–	(10)	–	–	–	154	727	(88)	639
– Buildings – specialised	27,730	(11,918)	15,812	4,396	–	(4)	(596)	411	(6)	(577)	–	31,448	(12,012)	19,436
– Other structures	4,909	(1,172)	3,737	40	–	(18)	(118)	56	(2)	(393)	–	4,165	(863)	3,302
– Roads	192,982	(41,890)	151,092	2,796	–	(1,599)	(2,972)	2,375	–	–	17,309	217,748	(48,747)	169,001
– Bridges	10,642	(2,884)	7,758	1,142	–	(40)	(126)	–	–	–	562	12,336	(3,040)	9,296
– Footpaths	4,140	(833)	3,307	–	57	–	(39)	–	–	–	273	4,542	(944)	3,598
– Bulk earthworks (non-depreciable)	35,218	–	35,218	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4,078	39,296	–	39,296
– Stormwater drainage	11,771	(4,245)	7,526	–	127	–	(131)	–	2	–	658	12,941	(4,759)	8,182
– Water supply network	16,922	(7,434)	9,488	–	1	(1)	(340)	–	6	–	705	18,231	(8,372)	9,859
– Sewerage network	22,489	(14,241)	8,248	–	–	–	(190)	90	–	–	628	24,223	(15,447)	8,776
– Swimming pools	1,154	(279)	875	–	–	–	(23)	–	–	–	259	1,389	(278)	1,111
– Other open space/recreational assets	1,638	(578)	1,060	197	–	–	(62)	–	(15)	–	9	1,664	(475)	1,189
Other assets:														
– Library books	440	(373)	67	–	15	–	(22)	–	–	–	–	455	(395)	60
– Other	81	(68)	13	–	3	–	(3)	–	1	–	–	85	(71)	14
Reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration assets (refer Note 14):														
– Tip assets	27	(14)	13	–	–	–	(1)	–	–	–	–	27	(15)	12
– Quarry assets	59	(27)	32	–	–	–	(2)	–	(1)	–	–	59	(30)	29
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	379,898	(94,911)	284,987	13,810	921	(1,679)	(5,465)	–	(15)	(970)	24,635	421,370	(105,146)	316,224

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

C1-7 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

Material accounting policy information

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are held at fair value. Independent comprehensive valuations are performed at least every five years, however the carrying amount of assets is assessed by Council at each reporting date to confirm that it is not materially different from current fair value.

Water and sewerage network assets are indexed at each reporting period in accordance with the Rates Reference Manual issued by Department of Industry (Dol) – Water.

Increases in the carrying amounts arising on revaluation are credited to the revaluation reserve. To the extent that the increase reverses a decrease previously recognising profit or loss relating to that asset class, the increase is first recognised as profit or loss. Decreases that reverse previous increases of assets in the same class are first charged against revaluation reserves directly in equity to the extent of the remaining reserve attributable to the class; all other decreases are charged to the Income Statement.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the Income Statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

When infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are acquired by Council for nil or nominal consideration, the assets are initially recognised at their fair value at acquisition date.

Land is not depreciated. The property, plant and equipment acquired under finance leases is depreciated over the asset's useful life or over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term if there is no reasonable certainty that the Council will obtain ownership at the end of the lease term. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Plant and equipment	Years	Other equipment	Years
Office equipment	5 to 10	Playground equipment	5 to 15
Office furniture	10 to 20	Benches, seats etc.	10 to 20
Computer equipment	4		
Vehicles	5 to 8	Buildings	
Heavy plant/road making equipment	5 to 8	Buildings: masonry	50 to 100
Other plant and equipment	5 to 15	Buildings: other	20 to 40
		Stormwater assets	
Water and sewer assets		Drains	80 to 100
Dams and reservoirs	80 to 100	Culverts	50 to 80
Bores	20 to 40	Flood control structures	80 to 100
Reticulation pipes: PVC	70 to 80		
Reticulation pipes: other	25 to 75		
Pumps and telemetry	15 to 20		
		Other infrastructure assets	
Transportation assets		Bulk earthworks	non-deprec
Sealed roads: surface	20	Swimming pools	50
Sealed roads: structure	50	Unsealed roads	20
Unsealed roads	20	Other open space/recreational assets	20
Bridge: concrete	100	Other infrastructure	20
Bridge: other	50		
Road pavements	60		
Kerb, gutter and footpaths	40		

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

Land under roads

Land under roads is land under roadways and road reserves including land under footpaths, nature strips and median strips.

Council has elected not to recognise land under roads acquired before 1 July 2008. Land under roads acquired after 1 July 2008 is recognised in accordance with the IPPE accounting policy.

Crown reserves

Crown reserves under Council's care and control are recognised as assets of the Council. While ownership of the reserves remains with the Crown, Council retains operational control of the reserves and is responsible for their maintenance and use in accordance with the specific purposes to which the reserves are dedicated.

C1-7 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

Improvements on Crown reserves are also recorded as assets, while maintenance costs incurred by Council and revenues relating to the reserves are recognised within Council's Income Statement.

Rural Fire Service assets

Under Section 119 of the Rural Fire Services Act 1997 (NSW), "all firefighting equipment purchased or constructed wholly or from money to the credit of the Fund is to be vested in the council of the area for or on behalf of which the firefighting equipment has been purchased or constructed".

These Rural Fire Service assets are recognised as assets of the Council in these financial statements.

C1-8 Other

Other assets

\$ '000	2024	2024	2023	2023
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
Prepayments	648	–	33	–
Total other assets	648	–	33	–

C2 Leasing activities

C2-1 Council as a lessee

Council holds no leases over land and buildings, motor vehicles and machinery, it does however have leases on office equipment such as photo copiers and desk phones. Council has reviewed its waste management agreement to determine the need to recognise a right of use liability. After considering all aspect of accounting standard, Council view is that office equipments and Waste agreement fall outside the bounds of AASB 16.

(a) Income Statement

\$ '000	2024	2023
Expenses relating to short-term leases	52	39
	52	39

(b) Statement of Cash Flows

Total cash outflow for leases	52	39
	52	39

C2-2 Council as a lessor

Operating leases

The amounts recognised in the Income Statement relating to operating leases where Council is a lessor are shown below:

\$ '000	2024	2023
Lease income (excluding variable lease payments not dependent on an index or rate)	-	(28)
Total income relating to operating leases for investment property assets	-	(28)
Lease income	461	511
Total income relating to operating leases for Council assets	461	511
Amount of IPPE leased out by Council under operating leases		
Motor Vehicles	35	28
Total amount of IPPE leased out by Council under operating leases	35	28

C3 Liabilities of Council

C3-1 Payables

\$ '000	2024		2023	2023
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
Goods and services – operating expenditure	216	–	1,646	–
Prepaid rates	277	–	265	–
Accrued expenses:				
– Interest	7	–	13	–
– Salaries and wages	122	–	186	–
– Salary RDO accruals	110	–	117	–
– Other expenditure accruals	127	–	79	–
Security bonds, deposits and retentions	267	–	104	–
Other - Delayed Land Transfer	–	1,000	–	–
Total payables	1,126	1,000	2,410	–

Payables

Payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to Council prior to the end of financial year that are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

C3-2 Contract Liabilities

\$ '000	Notes	2024		2023	2023
		Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
Grants and contributions received in advance:					
Unexpended capital grants (to construct Council controlled assets)	(i)	1,253	–	3,089	–
Total grants received in advance		1,253	–	3,089	–
Total contract liabilities		1,253	–	3,089	–

Notes

Council has received funding to construct assets including sporting facilities, bridges, library and other infrastructure. The funds received are under an enforceable contract which require Council to construct an identified asset which will be under Council's control on completion. The revenue is recognised as Council constructs the asset and the contract liability reflects the funding received which cannot yet be recognised as revenue. The revenue is expected to be recognised in the next 12 months.

Revenue recognised (during the financial year) from opening contract liability balances

\$ '000	2024	2023
Grants and contributions received in advance:		
Capital grants (to construct Council controlled assets)	2,571	2,431
Total revenue recognised that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the period	2,571	2,431

Significant changes in contract liabilities

The decreased in contract liabilities is primarily due to grants in the scope of AASB 15 and capital grants revenue being able to be recognised.

C3-3 Borrowings

\$ '000	2024		2023	2023
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current

C3-3 Borrowings (continued)

\$ '000	2024		2023	
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
Loans – secured ¹	673	2,625	695	3,297
Total borrowings	673	2,625	695	3,297

(1) Loans are secured over the general rating income of Council.

Disclosures on liability interest rate risk exposures, fair value disclosures and security can be found in Note E1-1.

(a) Changes in liabilities arising from financing activities

\$ '000	2023		Non-cash movements				2024
	Opening Balance	Cash flows	Acquisition	Fair value changes	Acquisition due to change in accounting policy	Other non-cash movement	Closing balance
Loans – secured	3,992	(694)	–	–	–	–	3,298
Total liabilities from financing activities	3,992	(694)	–	–	–	–	3,298

\$ '000	2022		Non-cash movements				2023
	Opening Balance	Cash flows	Acquisition	Fair value changes	Acquisition due to change in accounting policy	Other non-cash movement	Closing balance
Loans – secured	4,660	(668)	–	–	–	–	3,992
Total liabilities from financing activities	4,660	(668)	–	–	–	–	3,992

(b) Financing arrangements

\$ '000	2024	2023
---------	------	------

Total facilities

Total financing facilities available to Council at the reporting date are:

Bank overdraft facilities ¹	500	500
Credit cards/purchase cards	16	16
Total financing arrangements	516	516

Drawn facilities

Financing facilities drawn down at the reporting date are:

Undrawn facilities

Undrawn financing facilities available to Council at the reporting date are:

– Bank overdraft facilities	500	500
– Credit cards/purchase cards	16	16
Total undrawn financing arrangements	516	516

(1) The bank overdraft facility may be drawn at any time and may be terminated by the bank without notice.

C3-4 Employee benefit provisions

\$ '000	2024		2023	
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
Annual leave	776	–	696	–
Long service leave	953	40	929	39
Superannuation	105	2	81	1

C3-4 Employee benefit provisions (continued)

\$ '000	2024		2023	
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
ELE on-costs	63	2	58	1
Total employee benefit provisions	1,897	44	1,764	41

Current employee benefit provisions not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

\$ '000	2024	2023
The following provisions, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.		
Provisions – employees benefits	953	931
	953	931

Material accounting policy information
Other long-term employee benefit obligations

The liability for long-service leave and annual leave that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

C3-5 Provisions

\$ '000	2024 Current	2024 Non-Current	2023 Current	2023 Non-Current
Asset remediation/restoration:				
Asset remediation/restoration (future works)	–	245	–	235
Sub-total – asset remediation/restoration	–	245	–	235
Total provisions	–	245	–	235

\$ '000	Other provisions	
	Asset remediation	Total
2024		
At beginning of year	235	235
Add- Unwinding of discount	10	10
Total other provisions at end of year	245	245
2023		
At beginning of year	304	304
Add- Unwinding of discount	(69)	(69)
Total other provisions at end of year	235	235

Nature and purpose of provisions

Asset remediation

Council has a legal/public obligation to make, restore, rehabilitate and reinstate the council tip and quarry.

Material accounting policy information

Provisions are recognised when Council has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount has been reliably estimated.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

Provisions are measured at the present value of management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date. The discount rate used to determine the present value reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as a borrowing cost.

Asset remediation – tips and quarries

Close-down and restoration costs include the dismantling and demolition of infrastructure, and the removal of residual materials and remediation of disturbed areas. Estimated close-down and restoration costs are provided for in the accounting period when the obligation arising from the related disturbance occurs, whether this occurs during the development or during the operation phase, based on the net present value of estimated future costs. Provisions for close-down and restoration costs do not include any additional obligations which are expected to arise from future disturbance. The cost estimates are calculated annually during the life of the operation to reflect known developments, e.g. updated cost estimates and revisions to the estimated lives of operations, and are subject to formal review at regular intervals.

The ultimate cost of environmental remediation is uncertain and cost estimates can vary in response to many factors, including changes to the relevant legal requirements, the emergence of new restoration techniques, or experience at other locations. The expected timing of expenditure can also change, for example in response to changes in quarry reserves or production rates. As a result, there could be significant adjustments to the provision for close down and restoration and environmental clean-up, which would affect future financial results.

Other movements in the provisions for close-down and restoration costs, including those resulting from new disturbance, updated cost estimates, changes to the estimated lives of operations, and revisions to discount rates, are capitalised within infrastructure, property, plant and equipment. These costs are then depreciated over the lives of the assets to which they relate.

C4 Reserves

C4-1 Nature and purpose of reserves

IPPE Revaluation reserve

The infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE) revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements in the revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

D Council structure

D1 Results by fund

General fund refers to all Council activities other than water and sewer. All amounts disclosed in this note are gross i.e. inclusive of internal charges and recoveries made between the funds. Assets and liabilities shown in the water and sewer columns are restricted for use for these activities.

D1-1 Income Statement by fund

\$ '000	General 2024	Water 2024	Sewer 2024
Income from continuing operations			
Rates and annual charges	5,537	593	927
User charges and fees	5,206	1,516	465
Interest and investment revenue	1,048	88	220
Other revenues	342	–	–
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	7,372	–	206
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	11,157	–	–
Other income	463	–	–
Total income from continuing operations	31,125	2,197	1,818
Expenses from continuing operations			
Employee benefits and on-costs	7,536	240	201
Materials and services	7,839	1,225	276
Borrowing costs	71	–	73
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	5,793	387	218
Other expenses	715	–	–
Net losses from the disposal of assets	3,150	32	–
Total expenses from continuing operations	25,104	1,884	768
Operating result from continuing operations	6,021	313	1,050
Net operating result for the year	6,021	313	1,050
Net operating result attributable to each council fund	6,021	313	1,050
Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	(5,136)	313	1,050

D1-2 Statement of Financial Position by fund

\$ '000	General 2024	Water 2024	Sewer 2024
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	(1,000)	3,066	5,397
Investments	16,750	–	4,000
Receivables	2,051	314	252
Inventories	444	–	–
Contract assets and contract cost assets	359	–	–
Other	648	–	–
Total current assets	19,252	3,380	9,649
Non-current assets			
Inventories	153	–	–
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	322,612	13,199	11,346
Other	(797)	797	–
Total non-current assets	321,968	13,996	11,346
Total assets	341,220	17,376	20,995
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	1,058	68	–
Contract liabilities	1,253	–	–
Borrowings	548	–	125
Employee benefit provision	1,823	37	37
Other	(6)	6	–
Total current liabilities	4,676	111	162
Non-current liabilities			
Payables	1,000	–	–
Borrowings	104	–	2,521
Employee benefit provision	44	–	–
Provisions	245	–	–
Total non-current liabilities	1,393	–	2,521
Total liabilities	6,069	111	2,683
Net assets	335,151	17,265	18,312
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus	153,243	8,707	10,771
Revaluation reserves	181,908	8,558	7,541
Council equity interest	335,151	17,265	18,312
Total equity	335,151	17,265	18,312

D1-3 Details of internal loans

(in accordance with s410(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*)

Details of individual internal loans	Community Hub Loan
Borrower (by purpose)	General Fund
Lender (by purpose)	Water Fund
Date of Minister's approval	29/8/2023
Date raised	29/8/2023
Term years	10
Dates of maturity	29/8/2033
Rate of interest (%)	3.85%
Amount originally raised (\$'000)	850
Total repaid during year (principal and interest) (\$'000)	77
Principal outstanding at end of year (\$'000)	797

D2 Interests in other entities

D2-1 Interests in associates

(a) The nature and extent of significant restrictions relating to associates

Council is a member of the Upper Macquarie County Council (which is a body incorporated under the Local Government Act):

The County Council is a noxious weeds control authority.

Council is of the opinion that at 25% it has influence over the County Council and has deemed it as an Associate. This disclosure note is based on the draft 2023-24 financial statements for Upper Macquarie County Council.

The following information is provided for associates that are individually immaterial to the Council. Included are the amounts as per the individual associates' financial statements, adjusted for fair-value adjustments at acquisition date and differences in accounting policies, rather than the Council's share.

(b) Summarised financial information for individually immaterial associates

\$ '000	2024	2023
Individually immaterial associates		
Aggregate carrying amount of individually immaterial Associate	349	328
Aggregate amounts of Council's share of individually immaterial:		
Profit/(loss) from continuing operations	21	32
Total comprehensive income – individually immaterial associates	21	32

E Risks and accounting uncertainties

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held

Council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks including **(1)** price risk, **(2)** credit risk, **(3)** liquidity risk and **(4)** interest rate risk.

The Council's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Council.

Council does not engage in transactions expressed in foreign currencies and is therefore not subject to foreign currency risk.

Financial risk management is carried out by Council's finance section under policies approved by the Council.

The fair value of Council's financial assets and financial liabilities approximates their carrying amount.

Fair value is determined as follows:

- **Cash and cash equivalents, receivables, payables** – are estimated to be the carrying value that approximates market value.
- **Borrowings and measure at amortised cost investments** – are based upon estimated future cash flows discounted by the current market interest rates applicable to assets and liabilities with similar risk profiles, unless quoted market prices are available.
- Financial assets classified (i) **at fair value through profit and loss** or (ii) **at fair value through other comprehensive income** – are based upon quoted market prices (in active markets for identical investments) at the reporting date or independent valuation.

Council's objective is to maximise its return on cash and investments whilst maintaining an adequate level of liquidity and preserving capital.

Council's finance area manages the cash and Investments portfolio with the assistance of independent advisors.

Council has an investment policy which complies with the Local Government Act 1993 and Minister's investment order 625. This policy is regularly reviewed by Council and it's staff and an investment report is tabled before Council on a monthly basis setting out the portfolio breakup and its performance as required by Local Government regulations.

The risks associated with the financial instruments held are:

- **Price risk** – the risk that the capital value of Investments may fluctuate due to changes in market prices, whether there changes are caused by factors specific to individual financial instruments or their issuers or are caused by factors affecting similar instruments traded in a market.
- **Interest rate risk** – the risk that movements in interest rates could affect returns and income.
- **Liquidity risk** – the risk that Council will not be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
- **Credit risk** – the risk that the investment counterparty will not complete their obligations particular to a financial instrument, resulting in a financial loss to Council – be it of a capital or income nature.

Council manages these risks (amongst other measures) by diversifying its portfolio and only purchasing investments with high credit ratings or capital guarantees.

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

(a) Market risk – interest rate and price risk

\$ '000	2024	2023
<p>The impact on result for the year and equity of a reasonably possible movement in the price of investments held and interest rates is shown below. The reasonably possible movements were determined based on historical movements and economic conditions in place at the reporting date.</p> <p>Impact of a 1% movement in interest rates</p>		
– Equity / Income Statement	27	27

(b) Credit risk

Council’s major receivables comprise (i) rates and annual charges and (ii) user charges and fees.

Council manages the credit risk associated with these receivables by monitoring outstanding debt and employing stringent debt recovery procedures. Council also encourages ratepayers to pay their rates by the due date through incentives.

The credit risk for liquid funds and other short-term financial assets is considered negligible, since the counterparties are reputable banks with high quality external credit ratings.

There are no significant concentrations of credit risk, whether through exposure to individual customers, specific industry sectors and/or regions given the nature of Council activities.

Council makes suitable provision for doubtful receivables as required and carries out credit checks on most non-rate debtors.

There are no material receivables that have been subjected to a re-negotiation of repayment terms.

Credit risk profile

Receivables – rates and annual charges

Credit risk on rates and annual charges is minimised by the ability of Council to recover these debts as a secured charge over the land; that is, the land can be sold to recover the debt. Council is also able to charge interest on overdue rates and annual charges at higher than market rates which further encourages payment.

\$ '000	Not yet overdue	overdue rates and annual charges		Total
		< 5 years	≥ 5 years	
2024				
Gross carrying amount	227	812	189	1,228
2023				
Gross carrying amount	574	447	119	1,140

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

Receivables - non-rates and annual charges and contract assets

Council applies the simplified approach for non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets to provide for expected credit losses, which permits the use of the lifetime expected loss provision at inception. To measure the expected credit losses, non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due.

The loss allowance provision is determined as follows. The expected credit losses incorporate forward-looking information.

\$ '000	Not yet overdue	Overdue debts				Total
		0 - 30 days	31 - 60 days	61 - 90 days	> 91 days	
2024						
Gross carrying amount	1,677	(1)	4	11	76	1,767
Expected loss rate (%)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.60%	0.07%
ECL provision	-	-	-	-	19	19
2023						
Gross carrying amount	2,293	(56)	402	-	-	2,639
Expected loss rate (%)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.60%	0.00%
ECL provision	-	-	-	-	-	-

(c) Liquidity risk

Payables, lease liabilities and borrowings are both subject to liquidity risk; that is, the risk that insufficient funds may be on hand to meet payment obligations as and when they fall due.

Council manages this risk by monitoring its cash flow requirements and liquidity levels, and by maintaining an adequate cash buffer. Payment terms can be extended, and overdraft facilities drawn upon in extenuating circumstances.

Borrowings are also subject to interest rate risk: the risk that movements in interest rates could adversely affect funding costs. Council manages this risk through diversification of borrowing types, maturities and interest rate structures.

The finance team regularly reviews interest rate movements to determine if it would be advantageous to refinance or renegotiate part or all of the loan portfolio.

The timing of cash flows presented in the table below to settle financial liabilities reflects the earliest contractual settlement dates. The timing of expected outflows is not expected to be materially different from contracted cashflows.

The amounts disclosed in the table are the undiscounted contracted cash flows for non-lease liabilities (refer to Note C2-1(b) for lease liabilities) and therefore the balances in the table may not equal the balances in the Statement of Financial Position due to the effect of discounting.

\$ '000	Weighted average interest rate	Subject to no maturity	payable in:			Total cash outflows	Actual carrying values
			≤ 1 Year	1 - 5 Years	> 5 Years		
2024							
Payables	0.00%	267	582	-	-	849	2,126
Borrowings	3.75%	-	760	881	2,334	3,975	3,298
Total financial liabilities		267	1,342	881	2,334	4,824	5,424
2023							
Payables	0.00%	104	2,041	-	-	2,145	2,410
Borrowings	0.00%	-	810	2,062	1,915	4,787	3,992
Total financial liabilities		104	2,851	2,062	1,915	6,932	6,402

E2-1 Fair value measurement

The Council measures the following asset and liability classes at fair value on a recurring basis:

- Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment
- Financial assets and liabilities

\$ '000	Notes	Fair value measurement hierarchy						Total	
		Level 1 Quoted prices in active mkts		Level 2 Significant observable inputs		Level 3 Significant unobservable inputs		2024	2023
		2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Recurring fair value measurements									
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment									
	C1-7								
Plant and equipment		–	–	–	–	4,044	4,215	4,044	4,215
Office equipment		–	–	–	–	66	21	66	21
Furniture and fittings		–	–	–	–	196	190	196	190
Operational land		–	–	–	–	8,796	8,386	8,796	8,386
Community land		–	–	–	–	15,294	13,579	15,294	13,579
Land improvements		–	–	–	–	137	100	137	100
Buildings		–	–	–	–	21,582	20,075	21,582	20,075
Other structures		–	–	–	–	3,793	3,302	3,793	3,302
Land under roads		–	–	–	–	10,286	9,489	10,286	9,489
Bulk earth works		–	–	–	–	42,580	39,296	42,580	39,296
Roads		–	–	–	–	189,161	169,001	189,161	169,001
Bridges		–	–	–	–	9,789	9,296	9,789	9,296
Footpaths		–	–	–	–	3,789	3,598	3,789	3,598
Stormwater drainage		–	–	–	–	9,075	8,182	9,075	8,182
Water supply network		–	–	–	–	10,105	9,859	10,105	9,859
Sewerage network		–	–	–	–	9,003	8,776	9,003	8,776
Swimming pools		–	–	–	–	1,165	1,111	1,165	1,111
Open space/recreation assets		–	–	–	–	1,167	1,189	1,167	1,189
Library books and other		–	–	–	–	53	60	53	60
Gravel pits		–	–	–	–	27	29	27	29
Garbage tips		–	–	–	–	11	12	11	12
Other-mobile waste bins		–	–	–	–	10	14	10	14
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		–	–	–	–	340,129	309,780	340,129	309,780

Valuation techniques

Where Council is unable to derive fair valuations using quoted market prices of identical assets (ie. level 1 inputs) Council instead utilises a spread of both observable inputs (level 2 inputs) and unobservable inputs (level 3 inputs).

The fair valuation techniques Council has employed while utilising level 2 and level 3 inputs are as follows:

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)

Plant and Equipment – Major plant (graders, loaders trucks etc.), fleet vehicles (cars, utes etc.) and minor plant (chainsaws, mowers etc.)

Valuation Techniques: 'Cost approach'

Inputs Used (Level 3): Purchase price, useful lives (current replacement cost)

Office Equipment – Computers, printers etc

Valuation Techniques: 'Cost approach'

Inputs Used (Level 3): Purchase price, useful lives (current replacement cost)

Furniture and Fittings – Desks, chairs, air conditioners, etc

Valuation Techniques: 'Cost approach'

Inputs Used (Level 3): Purchase price, useful lives (current replacement cost)

Operational Land – Industrial land, quarries, residential aged care units

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Valuation Techniques: 'Market approach' Inputs Used (Level 3): Land area, rate per square metre, zoning restrictions, geographical location, sales of comparable land

Council properties zoned for residential, commercial, or industrial use have been valued by reference to the analysed sale of other privately owned sites, with similar zonings, that have sold on the open market. This is called the Direct Comparison Method. When assessing the value of each of the subject sites, consideration has been given to the size, shape, location, and exposure of that particular site. After analysing open market transactions, a "\$ per square metre/per hectare" has been applied to the area of the site in question. Hence a council owned industrial land has been simply valued as industrial land if owned by a private proprietor.

In June 2024, Council has undertaken a fair value assessment to index this asset class to ensure the carrying value approximates the fair value.

Community Land – Parkland, sporting grounds, reserves, land under public buildings (halls & community centres)

Valuation Techniques: 'Market approach adjusted for restrictions'

Inputs Used (Level 3): The NSW Valuer General's valuations (as at 30 June 2022).

Council's community land is land intended for public access and use, or where other restrictions applying to the land create some obligation to maintain public access (such as a trust deed, or dedication under section 94 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979). This gives rise to the restrictions in the Act, intended to preserve the qualities of the land.

Community land:

- Cannot be sold
- Cannot be leased, licenced, or any other estate granted over the land for more than 21 years
- Must have a plan of management

In relation to the valuing of Community Land the Office of Local Government has authorised the use of the NSW Valuer General's valuations as a sufficient basis to represent fair value for the revaluation of community land under clause 31 of AASB 116.

In June 2024, Council has undertaken a fair value assessment to index this asset class to ensure the carrying value approximates the fair value.

Depreciable Land Improvements

Valuation Techniques: 'Cost approach'

Inputs Used (Level 3): Unit rates, purchase price, useful lives

Buildings (Specialised/Non Specialised) – Community halls, toilet blocks, council offices, library, works depot

Valuation Techniques: 'Cost approach'

Inputs Used (Level 3): Unit rates, useful life, asset condition

Council's buildings were valued at fair value on 30th June 2023 in accordance with Compiled Accounting Standard AASB116 Property, Plant and Equipment.

Councils buildings were valued by Asset Val. Asset Val valuations were calculated by determining the Gross Current Replacement Cost and determining the amount of accumulated depreciation to reflect the level of service potential remaining in the asset. Assessed on the basis of replacement with a new asset having similar service potential and includes allowances for preliminaries and professional fees.

In June 2024, Council has undertaken a fair value assessment to index this asset class to ensure the carrying value approximates the fair value.

Roads – Road surface, pavement, formation, major earthworks

Valuation Techniques: 'Cost approach'

Inputs Used (Level 3): Unit rates, useful life/remaining life, asset condition, length

Councils road infrastructure assets were last valued in 2020.

Councils roads infrastructure assets were segmented and componentised into the following categories (each representing a significant part of the overall asset):

- Road Surface
- Pavement
- Formation & Major Earthworks
- Kerb and Gutter

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

GPS logged to establish the length and extent of the network. Road terminuses (extent of Council maintenance activities) were taken as the measure of OC asset length.

Seal widths (sealed roads) were taken from full condition assessment (undertaken by IMG Data and OC staff).

The pavement width of each segment was an additional 1m on each side of the Seal (e.g. Seal of 6 m was measured to have an 8m wide pavement).

Unit rates for formation, pavement and sealing were based on the Rawlinson's; Construction Cost Guide 2015, Edition 18. These rates were verified against recent actual rates from OC road works. Unit rates are assumed to be for an undulating topography, as this represents the majority of road corridors in the Shire. The slightly steeper grades are assumed to be countered by the substantially longer corridors of flat to slightly undulating topography.

Formation widths for sealed roads was assumed to be an additional 1m on each side of pavement width.

Kerb and Gutter

Unit rates for Kerb and Gutter are all based on average cost of previous works.

In June 2024, Council has undertaken a fair value assessment to index this asset class to ensure the carrying value approximates the fair value.

Bridges

Valuation Techniques: 'Cost approach'

Inputs Used (Level 3): Unit rates, useful life, asset condition, dimension and specifications (concrete/timber), bridge traffic

Councils bridge infrastructure assets were last valued on 30 June 2020.

Condition assessment for bridges was provided by Assetic Pty Ltd, valuation was based on observed defects, but does not include core sampling or tensile testing of any components.

Bridge values were determined on the basis of a square metre (of deck) rate. This was in part because council does not possess sufficient detail on the individual components of individual bridges, or their respective conditions.

In June 2024, Council has undertaken a fair value assessment to index this asset class to ensure the carrying value approximates the fair value.

Footpaths – Footways including cycleways

Valuation Techniques: 'Cost approach'

Inputs Used (Level 3): Unit rates, useful life, asset condition, dimensions and specifications (concrete/bitumen)

Footpaths assets were valued Assetic Pty Limited as at 30 June 2020. Aerial imagery was used to calculate the length of Councils footpath/cycleway network combined with an extensive inspection program. In-house unit rates were developed using recent construction data providing a square metre rate which was then applied across the network.

Condition data (captured through the inspection program) was then applied to each individual asset segment to provide a written down value.

In June 2024, Council has undertaken a fair value assessment to index this asset class to ensure the carrying values approximates the fair value.

Stormwater Drainage – includes pits, pipes

Valuation Techniques: 'Cost approach'

Inputs Used (Level 3): Unit rates, useful life, asset condition, dimensions and specifications

A valuation was completed by Assetic Pty as at 30 June 2021 to ensure unit rates were current and that recent capital works were reflected in individual asset remaining useful life and fair value.

In June 2024, Council has undertaken a fair value assessment to index this asset class to ensure the carrying value approximates the fair value.

Sewerage Network – Sewer pipes, pump stations, treatment plant, telemetry system, manholes

Valuation Techniques: 'Cost approach'

Inputs Used (Level 3): Unit rates, useful life, asset condition, dimensions and specifications

Councils Sewer Network was valued through the asset management company Assetic Pty Ltd as at 30 June 2022. The valuation was based on the NSW Office of Water's NSW Reference Rates Tables along with the data source Rawlinson's Construction Handbook 2020.

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

In June 2024, Council has undertaken a fair value assessment to index this asset class to ensure the carrying values approximates the fair value.

Water Supply Network - Water mains, Water Equipment

Valuation Techniques: 'Cost approach'

Inputs Used (Level 3): Unit rates, useful life, asset condition, dimensions and specification

Council's Water Supply Network was valued through the asset management company Assetic Pty Ltd as at 30 June 2022. The valuation was based on the NSW Office of Water's NSW Reference Rates Tables along with the data source Rawlinson's Construction Handbook 2020.

In June 2024, Council has undertaken a fair value assessment to index this asset class to ensure the carrying value approximates the fair value.

Tip and Quarry Assets – Reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration

Valuation Techniques: 'Cost approach'

Inputs Used (Level 3): Unit rates, useful life, asset condition, dimensions and specifications

E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3)

A reconciliation of the movements in recurring fair value measurements allocated to Level 3 of the hierarchy is provided below:

\$ '000	IPP&E Assets	
	2024	2023
Opening balance	309,780	280,850
Total gains or losses for the period		
Other movements		
Purchases (GBV)	15,657	12,424
Disposals (WDV)	(3,338)	(1,702)
Depreciation and impairment	(6,398)	(5,465)
FV Adjustments to Equity	24,428	23,673
Closing balance	340,129	309,780

E3-1 Contingencies

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but their knowledge and disclosure is considered relevant to the users of Council's financial report.

LIABILITIES NOT RECOGNISED

1. Guarantees

(i) Defined benefit superannuation contribution plans

Council is party to an Industry Defined Benefit Plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, named The Local Government Superannuation Scheme – Pool B (the Scheme) which is a defined benefit plan that has been deemed to be a 'multi-employer fund' for purposes of AASB119 Employee Benefits for the following reasons:

- Assets are not segregated within the sub-group according to the employees of each sponsoring employer.
- The contribution rates have been the same for all sponsoring employers. That is, contribution rates have not varied for each sponsoring employer according to the experience relating to the employees of that sponsoring employer.
- Benefits for employees of all sponsoring employers are determined according to the same formulae and without regard to the sponsoring employer.
- The same actuarial assumptions are currently used in respect of the employees of each sponsoring employer.

Given the factors above, each sponsoring employer is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers, and hence shares in the associated gains and losses (to the extent that they are not borne by members). As such we do not believe that there is sufficient reliable information to allow each sponsoring employer to account for its proportionate share of the defined benefit obligation, sub-group asset and costs associated with the sub-group in the same way it would for a single employer sponsored defined benefit plan.

As a result we believe that each sponsoring employer should account for the subgroup under paragraph 34 of the Standard and in particular the additional disclosure requirements set out in paragraph 148 apply.

Disclosure items under paragraph 148

a) a description of the funding arrangements, including the method used to determine the entity's rate of contributions and any funding requirements.

Pooled employers are required to pay future service employer contributions and past service employer contributions to the fund.

The future service contributions were determined using the new entrant rate method under which a contribution rate sufficient to fund the total benefits over the working life-time of a typical new entrant is calculated. The current future service employer contribution rates are:

Division B	1.9 times member contributions for non-180 Point Members; Nil for 180 point Members*
Division C	2.5% salaries
Division D	1.64 times employee contributions

* For 180 Point Members, employers are required to contribute 8.0% of salaries for the year ending 30 June 2024 (increasing to 8.5% in line with the increase in the Superannuation Guarantee) to these members accumulation accounts, which are paid in addition to the members' defined benefits

The past service contribution for each Pooled Employer is a share of the total past service contributions of \$20 million per annum from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024, apportioned according to each employer's share of the accrued liabilities as at 30 June 2023. These past service contributions are used to maintain the adequacy of the funding position for the accrued liabilities.

The adequacy of contributions is assessed at each triennial actuarial investigation, the next of which is due effective 30 June 2024, and monitored annually between triennials.

b) description of the extent to which Council can be liable to the plan for other Council's obligations under the terms and conditions of the multi-employer plan

As stated above, each sponsoring employer (Council) is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers and hence shares in the associated gains and losses.

However, there is no relief under the Fund's trust deed for employers to walk away from their defined benefit obligations. Under limited circumstances, an employer may withdraw from the plan when there are no active members, on full payment

E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

of outstanding additional contributions. There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of the Council.

c) a description of any agreed allocation of a deficit or surplus on:

i) wind-up of plan

There are no specific provisions under the Fund's trust deed dealing with deficits or surplus on wind-up.

ii) the entity's withdrawal from the plan

There is no provision for allocation any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of an employer.

d) Given the entity accounts for that plan as if it were a defined contribution plan in accordance with paragraph 34, the following information:

i) the fact the plan is a defined benefit plan.

We confirm the plan is a defined benefit plan.

ii) the reason why sufficient information is not available to enable the entity to account for the plan as a defined benefit plan.

See earlier section on "AASB119 accounting observations".

iii) the expected contributions to the plan for the next annual reporting period.

Council's expected contribution to the plan for the next annual reporting period is \$7,328.15.

iv) information about any deficit or surplus in the plan that may affect the amount of future contributions, including the basis used to determine that deficit or surplus and the implications, if any, for the entity.

The estimated employer reserves financial position for the Pooled Employers at 30 June 2024 is:

Defined benefit reserves only *	\$millions	Asset Coverage
Assets	2,237.5	
Past Service Liabilities	2,141.9	104.5%
Vested Benefits	2,159.8	103.6%

* excluding member accounts and reserves in both assets and liabilities.

The key economic long term assumptions used to calculate the present value of accrued benefits are:

Investment return	6.0% per annum
Salary inflation *	3.5% per annum
Increase in CPI	3.5% for FY23/24 2.5% per annum thereafter

* Plus promotional increases

The contribution requirements may vary from the current rates if the overall sub-group experience is not in line with the actuarial assumptions in determining the funding program; however, any adjustment to the funding program would be the same for all sponsoring employers in the Pooled Employers group. Please note that the estimated employer reserves financial position above is a preliminary calculation, and once all the relevant information has been received by the Funds Actuary, the final end of year review will be complete by December 2024.

Based on a Past Service methodology, the share of any surplus or deficit that can be attributed to Council is 0.05%.

v) an indication of the level of participation of the entity in the plan compared with other participating entities.

As previously notified, the past service contributions \$20M per annum remain in place and will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis or as required. The funding requirements for the defined benefits schemes are assessed by the Trustess on an annual basis with the outcome of each annual funding update communicated in the new year. It is estimated that there is \$4,820.63 past service contributions remiaing.

The amount of Council employer contributions to the defined benefit section of the Local Government Superannuation Scheme and recognised as an expense for the year ending 30 June 2024 was \$25,498.74. The last valuation of the Scheme was undertaken by the fund actuary Mr Richard Boyfield, FIAA on 30 June 2023.

(ii) Statewide Limited

Council is a member of Statewide Mutual, a mutual pool scheme providing liability insurance to local government.

Membership includes the potential to share in either the net assets or liabilities of the fund depending on its past performance. Council's share of the net assets or liabilities reflects Council's contributions to the pool and the result of insurance claims within each of the fund years.

E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

The future realisation and finalisation of claims incurred but not reported to 30 June this year may result in future liabilities or benefits as a result of past events that Council will be required to fund or share in respectively.

(iii) StateCover Limited

Council is a member of StateCover Mutual Limited and holds a partly paid share in the entity.

StateCover is a company providing workers compensation insurance cover to the NSW local government industry and specifically Council.

Council has a contingent liability to contribute further equity in the event of the erosion of the company's capital base as a result of the company's past performance and/or claims experience or as a result of any increased prudential requirements from APRA.

These future equity contributions would be required to maintain the company's minimum level of net assets in accordance with its licence requirements.

(iv) Other guarantees

Council has provided no other guarantees other than those listed above.

E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

2. Other liabilities

(i) Third party claims

The Council is involved from time to time in various claims incidental to the ordinary course of business including claims for damages relating to its services.

Council believes that it is appropriately covered for all claims through its insurance coverage and does not expect any material liabilities to eventuate.

F People and relationships

F1 Related party disclosures

F1-1 Key management personnel (KMP)

Key management personnel (KMP) of the council are those persons having the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the council, directly or indirectly.

The aggregate amount of KMP compensation included in the Income Statement is:

\$ '000	2024	2023
Compensation:		
Short-term benefits	1,636	1,620
Other long-term benefits	249	545
Termination benefits	115	–
Total	2,000	2,165

Other transactions with KMP and their related parties

Council has determined that transactions at arm's length between KMP and Council as part of Council delivering a public service objective (e.g. access to library or Council swimming pool by KMP) will not be disclosed.

F1-2 Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses

\$ '000	2024	2023
The aggregate amount of Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses included in materials and services expenses in the Income Statement are:		
Mayoral fee	24	24
Councillors' fees	106	94
Other Councillors' expenses (including Mayor)	34	23
Total	164	141

F2 Other relationships

F2-1 Audit fees

\$ '000	2024	2023
During the year, the following fees were incurred for services provided by the auditor of Council, related practices and non-related audit firms		
Auditors of the Council - NSW Auditor-General:		
(i) Audit and other assurance services		
Audit and review of financial statements	71	28
Remuneration for audit and other assurance services	71	28
Total Auditor-General remuneration	71	28
Total audit fees	71	28

G Other matters

G1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information

(a) Reconciliation of Operating Result

\$ '000	2024	2023
Net operating result from Income Statement	7,384	10,992
Add / (less) non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortisation	6,398	5,465
(Gain) / loss on disposal of assets	3,182	769
Movements in operating assets and liabilities and other cash items:		
(Increase) / decrease of receivables	1,092	(343)
Increase / (decrease) in provision for impairment of receivables	-	13
(Increase) / decrease of inventories	156	(129)
(Increase) / decrease of other current assets	(615)	599
(Increase) / decrease of contract asset	(308)	2,197
Increase / (decrease) in payables	(1,430)	524
Increase / (decrease) in other accrued expenses payable	(16)	12
Increase / (decrease) in other liabilities	1,162	(142)
Increase / (decrease) in contract liabilities	(1,836)	(659)
Increase / (decrease) in employee benefit provision	136	341
Increase / (decrease) in other provisions	10	(69)

G1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information (continued)

\$ '000	2024	2023
Net cash flows from operating activities	15,315	19,570

Please refer to Note D3-1 for details of cash flows that relate to discontinued operations

G2-1 Commitments

Capital commitments (exclusive of GST)

\$ '000	2024	2023
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
Property, plant and equipment		
Sewerage and water infrastructure	11,937	15,500
Buildings	650	1,205
Other	551	115
Road infrastructure	4,627	10,409
Total commitments	17,765	27,229

Details of capital commitments

Buildings:

- Oberon Fitness Centre Stage 2
- Solar System for Pool, Gym and Library

Other:

- O'Connell Rec Ground
- Sporting Complex

Roads:

- Arkstone Rd - Fixing Local Roads R4
- Tablelands Way
 - Project has been ongoing and is scheduled to be completed during the 2024/25FY
- LRCI Phase 4 Part A Road Projects
- LRCI Phase 4 Part B Road Projects
- Regional Emergency Road Repair Funded Projects

Sewerage and water infrastructure:

- Water Mains replacement
- UV Filtration
- Sewerage Treatment Plant (at time of writing Council is still sourcing funds for the completion of this large scale project)

G3-1 Events occurring after the reporting date

Council is unaware of any material or significant 'non-adjusting events' that should be disclosed.

G4 Statement of developer contributions as at 30 June 2024

G4-1 Summary of developer contributions

\$ '000	Opening balance at 1 July 2023	Contributions received during the year			Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowing to/(from)	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2024	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
		Cash	Non-cash Land	Non-cash Other					
Drainage	178	8	-	-	6	-	-	192	-
Roads	1,076	128	-	-	35	(153)	-	1,086	-
Open space	57	7	-	-	2	-	-	66	-
Community facilities	72	7	-	-	2	-	-	81	-
Emergency services	210	9	-	-	7	-	-	226	-
S7.11 contributions – under a plan	1,593	159	-	-	52	(153)	-	1,651	-
Total S7.11 and S7.12 revenue under plans	1,593	159	-	-	52	(153)	-	1,651	-
S7.11 not under plans	918	259	-	-	33	(7)	-	1,203	-
S64 contributions	1,406	128	-	-	47	(50)	-	1,531	-
Total contributions	3,917	546	-	-	132	(210)	-	4,385	-

Under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, Council has significant obligations to provide Section 7.11 (contributions towards provision or improvement of amenities or services) infrastructure in new release areas. It is possible that the funds contributed may be less than the cost of this infrastructure, requiring Council to borrow or use general revenue to fund the difference.

G4-2 Developer contributions by plan

\$ '000	Opening balance at 1 July 2023	Contributions received during the year			Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowing to/(from)	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2024	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
		Cash	Non-cash Land	Non-cash Other					
CONTRIBUTION PLAN NUMBER 1 – URBAN DEVELOPMENT									
Drainage	178	8	-	-	6	-	-	192	-
Roads	430	31	-	-	13	(116)	-	358	-
Open space	25	2	-	-	1	-	-	28	-
Community facilities	40	2	-	-	1	-	-	43	-
Emergency services	146	3	-	-	5	-	-	154	-
Total	819	46	-	-	26	(116)	-	775	-
CONTRIBUTION PLAN NUMBER 2 – RURAL DEVELOPMENT									
Roads	646	97	-	-	22	(37)	-	728	-
Open space	32	5	-	-	1	-	-	38	-
Community facilities	32	5	-	-	1	-	-	38	-
Emergency services	64	6	-	-	2	-	-	72	-
Total	774	113	-	-	26	(37)	-	876	-

G4-3 Contributions not under plans

CONTRIBUTIONS – NOT UNDER A PLAN									
Roads	918	259	-	-	33	(7)	-	1,203	-
Total	918	259	-	-	33	(7)	-	1,203	-

G5 Statement of performance measures

G5-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results

\$ '000	Amounts 2024	Indicator 2024	Indicators 2023 2022		Benchmark
1. Operating performance ratio					
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions less operating expenses ^{1,2}	(591)	(2.46)%	4.54%	(7.62)%	> 0.00%
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions ¹	23,983				
2. Own source operating revenue ratio					
Total continuing operating revenue excluding all grants and contributions ¹	16,405	46.68%	39.38%	43.75%	> 60.00%
Total continuing operating revenue ¹	35,140				
3. Unrestricted current ratio					
Current assets less all external restrictions	11,860	4.80x	3.26x	3.32x	> 1.50x
Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities	2,470				
4. Debt service cover ratio					
Operating result before capital excluding interest and depreciation/impairment/amortisation ¹	5,951	7.10x	8.88x	4.52x	> 2.00x
Principal repayments (Statement of Cash Flows) plus borrowing costs (Income Statement)	838				
5. Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage					
Rates and annual charges outstanding	1,281	15.47%	16.22%	6.44%	< 10.00%
Rates and annual charges collectable	8,279				
6. Cash expense cover ratio					
Current year's cash and cash equivalents plus all term deposits	28,213	17.24	23.81	17.52	> 3.00
Monthly payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities	1,637	months	months	months	months

(1) Excludes fair value increments on investment properties, reversal of revaluation decrements, reversal of impairment losses on receivables, net gain on sale of assets and net share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method and includes pensioner rate subsidies

(2) Excludes impairment/revaluation decrements of IPPE, fair value decrements on investment properties, net loss on disposal of assets and net loss on share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method

G5-2 Statement of performance measures by fund

\$ '000	General Indicators ³		Water Indicators		Sewer Indicators		Benchmark
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	
1. Operating performance ratio							
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions less operating expenses ^{1,2}	(9.79)%	0.22%	14.25%	18.74%	57.76%	37.22%	> 0.00%
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions ¹							
2. Own source operating revenue ratio							
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions ¹	40.47%	31.79%	100.00%	99.15%	88.67%	99.31%	> 60.00%
Total continuing operating revenue ¹							
3. Unrestricted current ratio							
Current assets less all external restrictions	4.80x	3.26x	30.45x	41.28x	59.56x	47.68x	> 1.50x
Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities							
4. Debt service cover ratio							
Operating result before capital excluding interest and depreciation/impairment/amortisation ¹	5.11x	7.48x	∞	∞	18.37x	10.80x	> 2.00x
Principal repayments (Statement of Cash Flows) plus borrowing costs (Income Statement)							
5. Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage							
Rates and annual charges outstanding	15.58%	20.16%	23.44%	0.00%	9.60%	0.00%	< 10.00%
Rates and annual charges collectable							
6. Cash expense cover ratio							
Current year's cash and cash equivalents plus all term deposits	10.88 months	17.03 months	24.89 months	∞	141.49 months	∞	> 3.00 months
Monthly payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities							

(1) - (2) Refer to Notes at Note 25a above.

(3) General fund refers to all of Council's activities except for its water and sewer activities which are listed separately.

End of the audited financial statements



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the general purpose financial statements

Oberon Council

To the Councillors of Oberon Council

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Oberon Council (the Council), which comprise the Statement by Councillors and Management, the Income Statement and Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2024, the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2024, the Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information and other explanatory information.

In my opinion:

- the Council's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2 (the Division)
- the financial statements:
 - have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of this Division
 - are consistent with the Council's accounting records
 - present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2024, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards
- all information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained
- no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial statements have come to light during the audit.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Other Information

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the special purpose financial statements and Special Schedules (the Schedules).

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the special purpose financial statements and Special Schedule - Permissible income for general rates.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1993* and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

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

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- on the Original Budget information included in the Income Statement, Statement of Cash Flows, and Note B5-1 'Material budget variations
- on the Special Schedules. A separate opinion has been provided on Special Schedule - Permissible income for general rates
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.



Farisha Ali
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

8 October 2024
SYDNEY



Mayor
Oberon Council
PO Box 84
OBERON NSW 2787

Contact: Farisha Ali
Phone no: 02 9275 7373
Our ref: [R008-2124742775-6302](#)

8 October 2024

Dear Mayor

**Report on the Conduct of the Audit
for the year ended 30 June 2024
Oberon Council**





I have audited the general purpose financial statements (GPFS) of the Oberon Council (the Council) for the year ended 30 June 2024 as required by section 415 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).

I expressed an unmodified opinion on the Council's GPFS.

This Report on the Conduct of the Audit (the Report) for the Council for the year ended 30 June 2024 is issued in accordance with section 417 of the Act. This Report should be read in conjunction with my audit opinion on the GPFS issued under section 417(2) of the Act.

INCOME STATEMENT

Operating result

	2024	2023	Variance
	\$m	\$m	%
Rates and annual charges revenue	7.1	6.7	 6.0
Grants and contributions revenue	18.7	19.8	 5.6
Operating result from continuing operations	7.4	11.0	 32.7
Net operating result before capital grants and contributions	(3.8)	0.2	 2,000

Rates and annual charges revenue (\$7.1 million) increased by \$0.4 million (6.0 per cent) in 2023–24, primarily due to rate peg increase of 3.7 per cent.

Grants and contributions revenue (\$18.7 million) decreased by \$1.1 million (5.6 per cent) in 2023–24 due to:

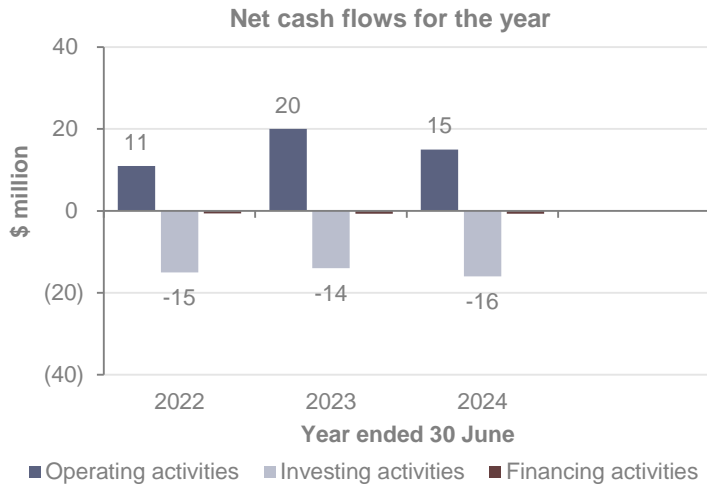
- receiving financial assistance grants for 2024-25 in advance amounting to \$3.3 million in contrast to \$3.6 million for 2023-24 in advance.
- decrease of \$2.2 million in grants recognised due to the completion of Community Hub projects under the Drought Stimulus program that was largely completed in 2022-23.
- increase of \$2.9 million in Transport for NSW contributions primarily from the \$2.5 million Regional Emergency Road Repair Funds.

Council's operating result from continuing operations (\$7.4 million including depreciation, amortisation and impairment expense of \$6.4 million) was \$3.6 million lower than the 2022–23 result.

The net operating result before capital grants and contributions (\$3.8 million deficit) was \$4.0 million lower than the 2022–23 result. The decrease was largely due to the lower operating grants revenue and higher employee benefits cost.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

The significant movements in the Statement of Cash Flows primarily due to a decrease in net cash flows from operating activities by \$4.3 million from 2022-23 to 2023-2024. This decrease is primarily due to increase in payments for materials and services and decrease in receipt of grants and contributions. There were no significant fluctuations for investing and financing activities.



FINANCIAL POSITION

Cash and investments

Cash and investments	2024	2023	Commentary
	\$m	\$m	
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	28.2	29.7	Externally restricted balances comprise mainly of developer contributions, water and sewer funds.
Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments:			Internal allocations are determined by council policies or decisions, which are subject to change.
• External restrictions	19.9	21.5	
• Internal allocations	8.3	8.1	

Debt

At 30 June 2024, Council had:

- \$3.3 million in secured loans (\$4.0 million in 2022-23)
- \$0.5 million in approved overdraft facility with nil drawn down
- \$16,000 in credit card facility with nil used.

PERFORMANCE

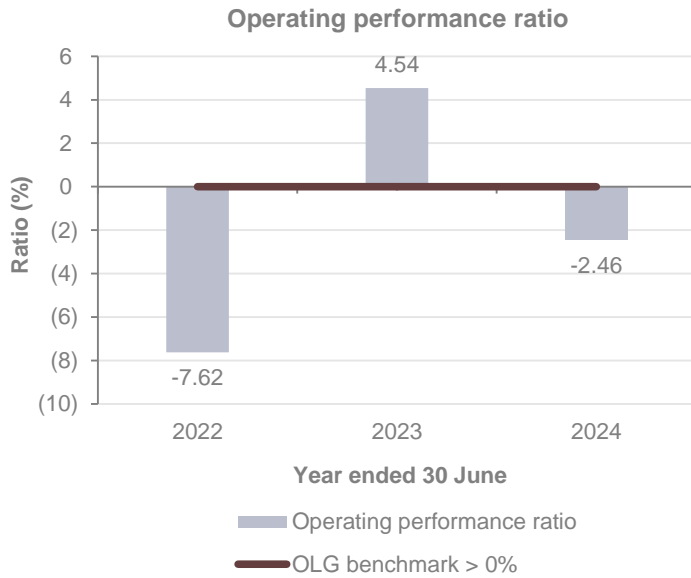
Performance measures

The following section provides an overview of the Council's performance against the performance measures and performance benchmarks set by the Office of Local Government (OLG) within the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

Operating performance ratio

Council did not meet the benchmark for the current reporting period.

The 'operating performance ratio' measures how well council contained operating expenditure within operating revenue (excluding capital grants and contributions, fair value adjustments, and reversal of revaluation decrements). The benchmark set by OLG is greater than zero per cent.



Own source operating revenue ratio

Council did not meet the benchmark for the current reporting period.

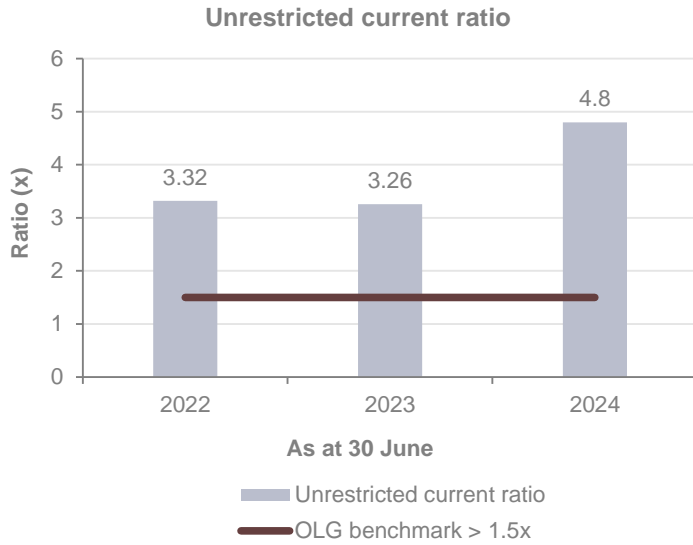
The 'own source operating revenue ratio' measures council's fiscal flexibility and the degree to which it relies on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 60 per cent.



Unrestricted current ratio

Council exceeded the benchmark for the current reporting period.

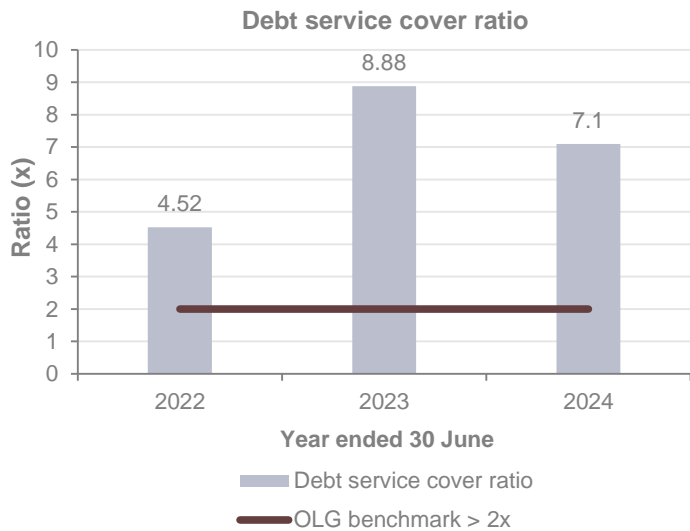
The 'unrestricted current ratio' is specific to local government and represents council's ability to meet its short-term obligations as they fall due. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 1.5 times.



Debt service cover ratio

Council exceeded the benchmark for the current reporting period.

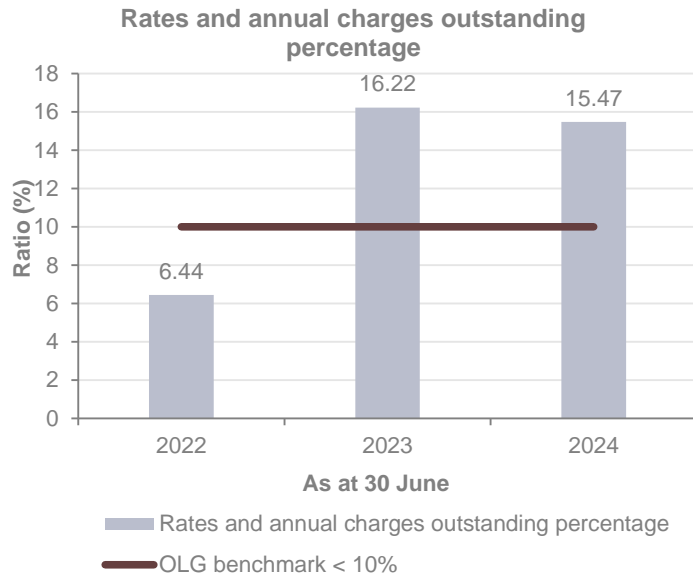
The 'debt service cover ratio' measures the operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than two times.



Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage

Council exceeded the benchmark for the current reporting period.

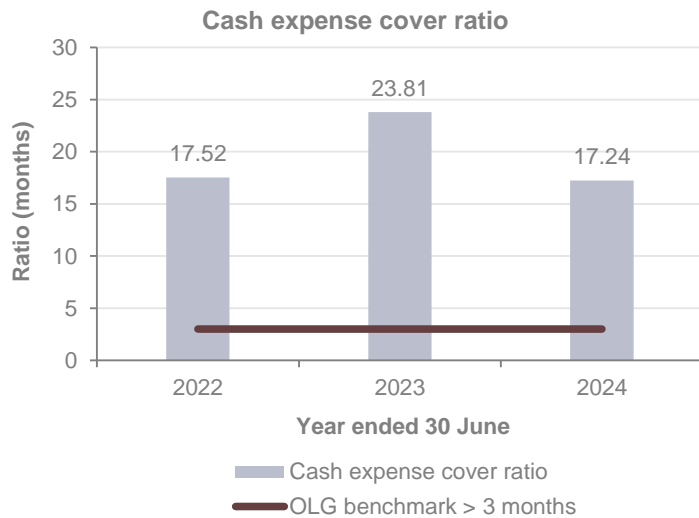
The 'rates and annual charges outstanding percentage' assesses the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on council's liquidity and the adequacy of debt recovery efforts. The benchmark set by OLG is less than 10 per cent for regional and rural councils.



Cash expense cover ratio

Council exceeded the benchmark for the current reporting period.

This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months the council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than three months.



Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment renewals

Council renewed \$14.4 million of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment during the 2023-24 financial year. This was mainly spent on roads (\$7.8 million) and repairing assets damaged by natural disasters.

OTHER MATTERS

Legislative compliance

My audit procedures did not identify any instances of material non-compliance with the financial reporting requirements in Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2 of the LG Act and the associated regulation or a material deficiency in the Council's accounting records or financial statements. The Council's:

- accounting records were maintained in a manner and form to allow the GPFS to be prepared and effectively audited
- staff provided all accounting records and information relevant to the audit.



Farisha Ali

Associate Director, Financial Audit

Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales



Oberon Council

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2024



OBERON

MORE THAN YOU IMAGINE



OBERON COUNCIL

Oberon Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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Background

- i. These Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared for the use by both Council and the Office of Local Government in fulfilling their requirements under National Competition Policy.
- ii. The principle of competitive neutrality is based on the concept of a 'level playing field' between persons/entities competing in a market place, particularly between private and public sector competitors.

Essentially, the principle is that government businesses, whether Commonwealth, state or local, should operate without net competitive advantages over other businesses as a result of their public ownership.

- iii. For Council, the principle of competitive neutrality and public reporting applies only to declared business activities.

These include **(a)** those activities classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as business activities being water supply, sewerage services, abattoirs, gas production and reticulation, and **(b)** those activities with a turnover of more than \$2 million that Council has formally declared as a business activity (defined as Category 1 activities).

- iv. In preparing these financial statements for Council's self-classified Category 1 businesses and ABS-defined activities, councils must **(a)** adopt a corporatisation model and **(b)** apply full cost attribution including tax-equivalent regime payments and debt guarantee fees (where the business benefits from Council's borrowing position by comparison with commercial rates).

Oberon Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Statement by Councillors and Management

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

The attached Special Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the NSW Government Policy Statement 'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government',
- the Division of Local Government Guidelines 'Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality',
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting,
- the NSW Office of Water Best-Practice Management of Water and Sewerage Guidelines.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the operating result and financial position for each of Council's declared business activities for the year, and
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.
- present overhead reallocation charges to the water and sewerage businesses as fair and reasonable.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 13 August 2024.



Mark Kellam

Mayor

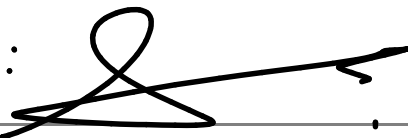
14 August 2024



Andrew McKibbin

Deputy Mayor

14 August 2024



Gary Wallace

General Manager

14 August 2024



Mathew Webb

Responsible Accounting Officer

14 August 2024

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Oberon Council | Income Statement of water supply business activity | for the year ended 30 June 2024

Oberon Council

Income Statement of water supply business activity

for the year ended 30 June 2024

\$ '000	2024	2023
Income from continuing operations		
Access charges	593	542
User charges	1,516	1,563
Interest and investment income	88	112
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	–	19
Total income from continuing operations	2,197	2,236
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	240	273
Materials and services	1,108	464
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	387	363
Water purchase charges	117	717
Net loss from the disposal of assets	32	–
Total expenses from continuing operations	1,884	1,817
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	313	419
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	313	419
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	313	419
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	(78)	(105)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	235	314
Plus accumulated surplus	8,394	7,975
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Corporate taxation equivalent	78	105
Closing accumulated surplus	8,707	8,394
Return on capital %	2.5%	3.6%
Subsidy from Council	228	37
Calculation of dividend payable:		
Surplus (deficit) after tax	235	314
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes	235	314
Potential dividend calculated from surplus	117	157

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Oberon Council | Income Statement of sewerage business activity | for the year ended 30 June 2024

Oberon Council

Income Statement of sewerage business activity

for the year ended 30 June 2024

\$ '000	2024	2023
Income from continuing operations		
Access charges	927	860
User charges	465	422
Interest and investment income	220	156
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	206	10
Total income from continuing operations	1,818	1,448
Expenses from continuing operations		
Employee benefits and on-costs	201	228
Borrowing costs	73	76
Materials and services	276	399
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	218	206
Total expenses from continuing operations	768	909
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations before capital amounts	1,050	539
Surplus (deficit) from continuing operations after capital amounts	1,050	539
Surplus (deficit) from all operations before tax	1,050	539
Less: corporate taxation equivalent (25%) [based on result before capital]	(263)	(135)
Surplus (deficit) after tax	787	404
Plus accumulated surplus	9,721	9,182
Plus adjustments for amounts unpaid:		
– Corporate taxation equivalent	263	135
Closing accumulated surplus	10,771	9,721
Return on capital %	11.5%	5.5%
Subsidy from Council	–	–
Calculation of dividend payable:		
Surplus (deficit) after tax	788	404
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes	788	404
Potential dividend calculated from surplus	394	202

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Oberon Council | Statement of Financial Position of water supply business activity | as at 30 June 2024

Oberon Council

Statement of Financial Position of water supply business activity

as at 30 June 2024

\$ '000	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,066	3,263
Receivables	314	411
Total current assets	3,380	3,674
Non-current assets		
WIP	610	496
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	12,589	11,355
Other	797	–
Total non-current assets	13,996	11,851
Total assets	17,376	15,525
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Payables	68	49
Employee benefit provisions	37	34
Other	6	6
Total current liabilities	111	89
Total liabilities	111	89
Net assets	17,265	15,436
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	8,707	8,394
Revaluation reserves	8,558	7,042
Total equity	17,265	15,436

Oberon Council - Agenda - Ordinary Meeting - 12 November 2024

Oberon Council | Statement of Financial Position of sewerage business activity | as at 30 June 2024

Oberon Council

Statement of Financial Position of sewerage business activity

as at 30 June 2024

\$ '000	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	5,397	5,183
Investments	4,000	4,500
Receivables	252	235
Total current assets	9,649	9,918
Non-current assets		
WIP	1,588	813
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	9,758	8,951
Total non-current assets	11,346	9,764
Total assets	20,995	19,682
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Payables	-	53
Borrowings	125	121
Employee benefit provisions	37	34
Total current liabilities	162	208
Borrowings	2,521	2,646
Total non-current liabilities	2,521	2,646
Total liabilities	2,683	2,854
Net assets	18,312	16,828
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	10,771	9,721
Revaluation reserves	7,541	7,107
Total equity	18,312	16,828

Note – Material accounting policy information

A statement summarising the supplemental accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the special purpose financial statements (SPFS) for National Competition Policy (NCP) reporting purposes follows.

These financial statements are SPFS prepared for use by Council and the Office of Local Government. For the purposes of these statements, the Council is a non-reporting not-for-profit entity.

The figures presented in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement criteria of relevant Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and Australian Accounting Interpretations.

The disclosures in these special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act), the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (Regulation) and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

The statements are prepared on an accruals basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, fair value of non-current assets. Certain taxes and other costs, appropriately described, have been imputed for the purposes of the National Competition Policy.

The Statement of Financial Position includes notional assets/liabilities receivable from/payable to Council's general fund. These balances reflect a notional intra-entity funding arrangement with the declared business activities.

National Competition Policy

Council has adopted the principle of 'competitive neutrality' in its business activities as part of the National Competition Policy which is being applied throughout Australia at all levels of government. The framework for its application is set out in the June 1996 NSW Government Policy statement titled 'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government'. *The Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality* issued by the Office of Local Government in July 1997 has also been adopted.

The pricing and costing guidelines outline the process for identifying and allocating costs to activities and provide a standard for disclosure requirements. These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and/or financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents, Council subsidies, and returns on investments (rate of return and dividends paid).

Declared business activities

In accordance with Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses – A Guide to Competitive Neutrality, Council has declared that the following are to be considered as business activities:

Category 1

(where gross operating turnover is over \$2 million)

None

Category 2

(where gross operating turnover is less than \$2 million)

a. Oberon Council Water Supply

Comprising the whole of the water supply activities and net assets therein servicing the town of Oberon, which is established as a separate Special Rate Fund.

b. Oberon Council Sewerage Service

Comprising the whole of the sewerage reticulation & treatment activities and the net assets therein servicing the town of Oberon, which is established as a separate Special Rate Fund.

Taxation equivalent charges

Council is liable to pay various taxes and financial duties. Where this is the case, they are disclosed as a cost of operations just like all other costs.

However, where Council does not pay some taxes which are generally paid by private sector businesses, such as income tax, these equivalent tax payments have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities and are reflected in Special Purpose Financial Statements.

Note – Material accounting policy information (continued)

For the purposes of disclosing comparative information relevant to the private sector equivalent, the following taxation equivalents have been applied to all Council-nominated business activities (this does not include Council's non-business activities):

Notional rate applied (%)

Corporate income tax rate – 25%

Land tax – the first \$1,075,000 of combined land values attracts **0%**. For the combined land values in excess of \$1,075,000 up to \$6,571,000 the rate is **1.6% + \$100**. For the remaining combined land value that exceeds \$6,571,000 a premium marginal rate of **2.0%** applies.

Payroll tax – 5.45% on the value of taxable salaries and wages in excess of \$1,200,000.

In accordance with the Department of Industry (DoI) – Water guidelines, a payment for the amount calculated as the annual tax equivalent charges (excluding income tax) must be paid from water supply and sewerage business activities.

The payment of taxation equivalent charges, referred to in the DoI – Water guidelines as a 'dividend for taxation equivalent', may be applied for any purpose allowed under the *Local Government Act, 1993*.

Achievement of substantial compliance to the DoI – Water guidelines is not a prerequisite for the payment of the tax equivalent charges, however the payment must not exceed \$3 per assessment.

Income tax

An income tax equivalent has been applied on the profits of the business activities.

Whilst income tax is not a specific cost for the purpose of pricing a good or service, it needs to be taken into account in terms of assessing the rate of return required on capital invested.

Accordingly, the return on capital invested is set at a pre-tax level - gain/(loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts, as would be applied by a private sector competitor. That is, it should include a provision equivalent to the corporate income tax rate, currently 25%.

Income tax is only applied where a gain/ (loss) from ordinary activities before capital amounts has been achieved.

Since the taxation equivalent is notional – that is, it is payable to Council as the 'owner' of business operations - it represents an internal payment and has no effect on the operations of the Council. Accordingly, there is no need for disclosure of internal charges in the SPFS.

The rate applied of 26% is the equivalent company tax rate prevalent at reporting date. No adjustments have been made for variations that have occurred during the year.

Local government rates and charges

A calculation of the equivalent rates and charges for all Category 1 businesses has been applied to all assets owned, or exclusively used by the business activity.

Loan and debt guarantee fees

The debt guarantee fee is designed to ensure that Council business activities face 'true' commercial borrowing costs in line with private sector competitors. In order to calculate a debt guarantee fee, Council has determined what the differential borrowing rate would have been between the commercial rate and Council's borrowing rate for its business activities.

(i) Subsidies

Government policy requires that subsidies provided to customers, and the funding of those subsidies, must be explicitly disclosed. Subsidies occur where Council provides services on a less than cost recovery basis. This option is exercised on a range of services in order for Council to meet its community service obligations. The overall effect of subsidies is contained within the Income Statements of business activities.

(ii) Return on investments (rate of return)

The NCP policy statement requires that councils with Category 1 businesses 'would be expected to generate a return on capital funds employed that is comparable to rates of return for private businesses operating in a similar field'.

Note – Material accounting policy information (continued)

Funds are subsequently available for meeting commitments or financing future investment strategies. The rate of return is disclosed for each of Council's business activities on the Income Statement.

The rate of return is calculated as follows:

Operating result before capital income + interest expense

Written down value of I,PP&E as at 30 June

As a minimum, business activities should generate a return equal to the Commonwealth 10 year bond rate which is 4.30% at 30/6/24.

(iii) Dividends

Council is not required to pay dividends to either itself (as owner of a range of businesses) or to any external entities.

Local government water supply and sewerage businesses are permitted to pay an annual dividend from its water supply or sewerage business surplus.

Each dividend must be calculated and approved in accordance with the Department of Industry – Water guidelines and must not exceed:

- 50% of this surplus in any one year, or
- the number of water supply or sewerage assessments at 30 June 2024 multiplied by \$30 (less the payment for tax equivalent charges, not exceeding \$3 per assessment).

In accordance with the Department of Industry – Water guidelines a Dividend Payment form, Statement of Compliance, Unqualified Independent Financial Audit Report and Compliance Audit Report are required to be submitted to the Department of Industry – Water.

Oberon Council

Special Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the special purpose financial statements

Oberon Council

To the Councillors of Oberon Council

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying special purpose financial statements (the financial statements) of Oberon Council's (the Council) Declared Business Activities, which comprise the Statement by Councillors and Management, the Income Statement of each Declared Business Activity for the year ended 30 June 2024, the Statement of Financial Position of each Declared Business Activity as at 30 June 2024 and the Material accounting policy information note.

The Declared Business Activities of the Council are:

- water supply
- sewerage

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council's declared Business Activities as at 30 June 2024, and their financial performance for the year then ended, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards described in the Material accounting policy information note and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting 2023–24 (LG Code).

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as the auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the Material accounting policy information note to the financial statements which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's financial reporting responsibilities under the LG Code. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

Other Information

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the general purpose financial statements and Special Schedules (the Schedules).

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the general purpose financial statements and Special Schedule 'Permissible income for general rates.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and for determining that the accounting policies, described in the Material accounting policy information note to the financial statements, are appropriate to meet the requirements in the LG Code. The Councillors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

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

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.



Farisha Ali
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

8 October 2024
SYDNEY



Oberon Council

SPECIAL SCHEDULES
for the year ended 30 June 2024



OBERON

MORE THAN YOU IMAGINE



OBERON COUNCIL

Oberon Council

Special Schedules

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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Oberon Council

Permissible income for general rates

\$ '000	Notes	Calculation 2023/24	Calculation 2024/25
Notional general income calculation ¹			
Last year notional general income yield	a	4,984	5,199
Plus or minus adjustments ²	b	46	(5)
Notional general income	c = a + b	5,030	5,194
Permissible income calculation			
Percentage increase	d	3.70%	5.20%
Plus percentage increase amount ³	f = d x (c + e)	186	270
Sub-total	g = (c + e + f)	5,216	5,464
Plus (or minus) last year's carry forward total	h	43	55
Less valuation objections claimed in the previous year	i	(5)	-
Sub-total	j = (h + i)	38	55
Total permissible income	k = g + j	5,254	5,519
Less notional general income yield	l	5,199	5,396
Catch-up or (excess) result	m = k - l	56	123
Carry forward to next year ⁶	p = m + n + o	56	123

Notes

- (1) The notional general income will not reconcile with rate income in the financial statements in the corresponding year. The statements are reported on an accrual accounting basis which include amounts that relate to prior years' rates income.
- (2) Adjustments account for changes in the number of assessments and any increase or decrease in land value occurring during the year. The adjustments are called 'supplementary valuations' as defined in the *Valuation of Land Act 1916 (NSW)*.
- (3) The 'percentage increase' is inclusive of the rate-peg percentage, and/or special variation and/or Crown land adjustment (where applicable).
- (6) Carry-forward amounts which are in excess (an amount that exceeds the permissible income) require Ministerial approval by order published in the *NSW Government Gazette* in accordance with section 512 of the Act. The OLG will extract these amounts from Council's Permissible income for general rates Statement in the financial data return (FDR) to administer this process.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Special Schedule – Permissible income for general rates

Oberon Council

To the Councillors of Oberon Council

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying Special Schedule – Permissible income for general rates (the Schedule) of Oberon Council (the Council) for the year ending 30 June 2025.

In my opinion, the Schedule is prepared, in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting 2023–24 (LG Code) and is in accordance with the books and records of the Council.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the special purpose framework used to prepare the Schedule. The Schedule has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's reporting obligations under the LG Code. As a result, the Schedule may not be suitable for another purpose.

Other Information

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 includes other information in addition to the Schedule and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the general purpose financial statements, special purpose financial statements and Special Schedule 'Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024.

My opinion on the Schedule does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the general purpose financial statements and the special purpose financial statements.

In connection with my audit of the Schedule, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the Schedule or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Schedule

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation of the Schedule in accordance with the LG Code. The Councillors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the Schedule that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the Schedule, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance whether the Schedule as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the Schedule.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the Schedule is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar8.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited Schedule on any website where it may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the Schedule.



Farisha Ali
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

8 October 2024
SYDNEY

Oberon Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

Asset Class	Asset Category	Estimated cost to bring assets to satisfactory standard		Estimated cost to bring to the agreed level of service set by Council	2023/24 Required maintenance ^a	2023/24 Actual maintenance	Net carrying amount	Gross replacement cost (GRC)	Assets in condition as a percentage of gross replacement cost				
		\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	1	2	3	4	5
Buildings	Council Offices/Admin	–	–	91	–	–	2,177	4,562	11.9%	32.3%	55.8%	0.0%	0.0%
	Other Buildings	54	54	7	16	–	959	1,612	77.4%	14.1%	5.1%	1.5%	1.8%
	Council Works Depot	143	143	70	46	–	1,364	3,249	12.3%	27.2%	56.1%	3.4%	1.0%
	Amenities/Toilets	123	123	25	84	–	998	1,875	28.1%	44.7%	20.7%	6.6%	0.0%
	Libraries	–	–	–	2	–	5,149	5,200	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Emergency Services	208	208	47	10	–	3,398	5,325	45.0%	40.4%	10.8%	3.9%	0.0%
	Independent Living Units	–	–	52	56	–	2,171	3,739	53.7%	0.0%	46.3%	0.0%	0.0%
	Recreational Facilities	906	906	146	123	–	5,366	10,144	50.3%	7.1%	33.8%	8.9%	0.0%
Sub-total		1,434	1,434	438	337	–	21,582	35,706	48.8%	17.6%	29.6%	3.8%	0.2%
Other structures	Other structures	184	184	21	–	–	3,793	4,644	81.5%	7.5%	7.0%	3.6%	0.4%
	Sub-total	184	184	21	–	–	3,793	4,644	81.5%	7.5%	7.0%	3.6%	0.4%
Roads	Sealed roads	4,888	4,888	919	1,768	–	150,279	186,649	75.4%	14.1%	7.1%	2.7%	0.7%
	Unsealed roads	–	–	126	1,107	–	34,662	47,248	77.6%	20.2%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%
	Bridges	118	118	108	1	–	9,789	13,132	35.2%	56.8%	7.1%	0.2%	0.7%
	Footpaths	–	–	2	3	–	3,789	4,841	97.4%	2.2%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
	Bulk earthworks	–	–	–	–	–	42,580	42,580	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Kerb & Gutter	328	328	103	–	–	2,006	4,394	13.9%	19.7%	58.9%	0.0%	7.5%
	Street Furniture	–	–	84	–	–	2,214	5,401	32.2%	23.5%	44.3%	0.0%	0.0%
	Sub-total		5,334	5,334	1,342	2,879	–	245,319	304,245	76.2%	15.0%	6.7%	1.6%
Water supply network	Mains	2,448	2,448	136	79	–	4,909	8,965	42.1%	24.4%	6.1%	27.3%	0.0%
	Reservoirs	647	647	46	6	–	826	1,892	0.0%	45.1%	20.7%	34.2%	0.0%
	Treatment	1,051	1,051	123	39	–	4,019	7,932	8.9%	66.8%	11.1%	11.1%	2.2%
	Other Meters	–	–	–	–	–	351	409	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Sub-total		4,146	4,146	305	124	–	10,105	19,198	25.5%	43.4%	9.5%	20.7%
Sewerage network	Sewer Treatment	7,729	7,729	443	50	–	582	9,656	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	1.3%	78.7%
	Pumping Stations	16	16	18	55	–	659	1,356	16.4%	59.9%	22.6%	1.2%	0.0%
	Sewer Mains	4,354	4,354	256	21	–	7,763	14,437	26.1%	37.3%	6.4%	30.2%	0.0%
	Sub-total		12,099	12,099	717	126	–	9,003	25,449	15.7%	24.4%	12.4%	17.7%

Oberon Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024 (continued)

Asset Class	Asset Category	Estimated cost		2023/24 Required maintenance ^a	2023/24 Actual maintenance	Net carrying amount	Gross replacement cost (GRC)	Assets in condition as a percentage of gross replacement cost					
		Estimated cost to bring assets to satisfactory standard	to bring to the agreed level of service set by Council					1	2	3	4	5	
		\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000						
Stormwater drainage	Inlet and Junction Pits	–	–	12	–	1,664	2,443	50.9%	49.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
	Stormwater Pipes	233	233	145	–	7,411	12,161	34.0%	40.5%	23.6%	1.9%	0.0%	
	Sub-total	233	233	157	–	9,075	14,604	36.9%	41.9%	19.6%	1.6%	0.0%	
Open space / recreational assets	Swimming pools	–	–	–	9	1,171	1,501	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
	Other Open Spaces/ Recreational	64	64	14	–	1,161	1,749	46.9%	41.3%	8.1%	3.7%	0.0%	
	Sub-total	64	64	14	9	2,332	3,250	71.4%	22.2%	4.4%	2.0%	0.0%	
Total – all assets		23,494	23,494	2,994	3,475	301,209	407,096	66.2%	18.1%	9.6%	3.8%	2.3%	

(a) Required maintenance is the amount identified in Council's asset management plans.

Infrastructure asset condition assessment 'key'

#	Condition	Integrated planning and reporting (IP&R) description
1	Excellent/very good	No work required (normal maintenance)
2	Good	Only minor maintenance work required
3	Satisfactory	Maintenance work required
4	Poor	Renewal required
5	Very poor	Urgent renewal/upgrading required

Oberon Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

Infrastructure asset performance indicators (consolidated) *

\$ '000	Amounts 2024	Indicator 2024	Indicators		Benchmark
			2023	2022	
Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio					
Asset renewals ¹	14,420	261.99%	253.74%	282.21%	> 100.00%
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	5,504				
Infrastructure backlog ratio					
Estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory standard	23,494	7.62%	8.01%	8.42%	< 2.00%
Net carrying amount of infrastructure assets	308,237				
Asset maintenance ratio					
Actual asset maintenance	3,475	116.07%	89.69%	138.57%	> 100.00%
Required asset maintenance	2,994				
Cost to bring assets to agreed service level					
Estimated cost to bring assets to an agreed service level set by Council	23,494	5.77%	6.09%	6.24%	
Gross replacement cost	407,096				

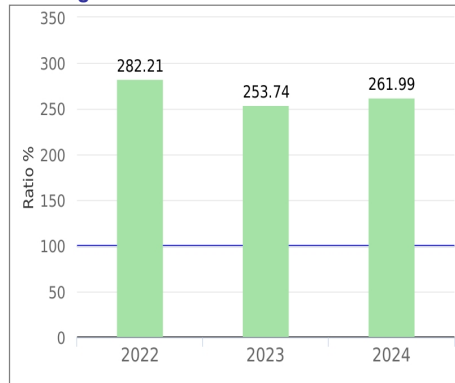
(*) All asset performance indicators are calculated using classes identified in the previous table.

(1) Asset renewals represent the replacement and/or refurbishment of existing assets to an equivalent capacity/performance as opposed to the acquisition of new assets (or the refurbishment of old assets) that increases capacity/performance.

Oberon Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio



Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio

To assess the rate at which these assets are being renewed relative to the rate at which they are depreciating.

Commentary on result	
23/24 ratio	261.99%

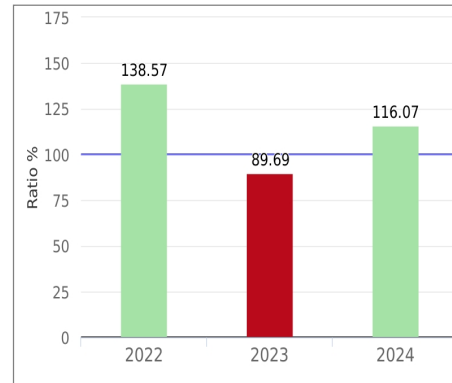
Benchmark: — > 100.00%

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

Asset maintenance ratio



Asset maintenance ratio

Compares actual vs. required annual asset maintenance. A ratio above 1.0 indicates Council is investing enough funds to stop the infrastructure backlog growing.

Commentary on result	
23/24 ratio	116.07%

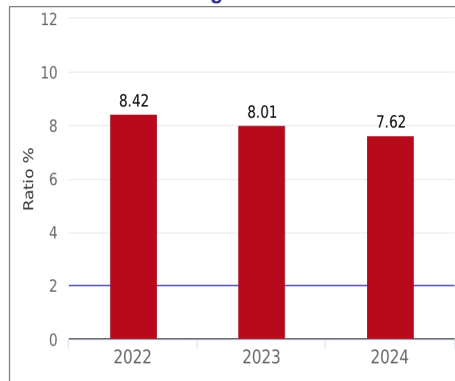
Benchmark: — > 100.00%

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

Infrastructure backlog ratio



Infrastructure backlog ratio

This ratio shows what proportion the backlog is against the total value of a Council's infrastructure.

Commentary on result	
23/24 ratio	7.62%

Benchmark: — < 2.00%

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

Cost to bring assets to agreed service level



Cost to bring assets to agreed service level

This ratio provides a snapshot of the proportion of outstanding renewal works compared to the total value of assets under Council's care and stewardship.

Commentary on result	
23/24 ratio	5.77%

Oberon Council

Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

Infrastructure asset performance indicators (by fund)

\$ '000	General fund		Water fund		Sewer fund		Benchmark
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	
Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio							
Asset renewals ¹	267.73%	286.73%	116.25%	0.00%	377.56%	0.00%	> 100.00%
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment							
Infrastructure backlog ratio							
Estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory standard	2.51%	2.62%	41.03%	41.52%	134.39%	131.20%	< 2.00%
Net carrying amount of infrastructure assets							
Asset maintenance ratio							
Actual asset maintenance	163.54%	105.26%	40.66%	153.05%	17.57%	20.82%	> 100.00%
Required asset maintenance							
Cost to bring assets to agreed service level							
Estimated cost to bring assets to an agreed service level set by Council	2.00%	2.10%	21.60%	22.45%	47.54%	47.54%	
Gross replacement cost							

(1) Asset renewals represent the replacement and/or refurbishment of existing assets to an equivalent capacity/performance as opposed to the acquisition of new assets (or the refurbishment of old assets) that increases capacity/performance.

15 URGENT BUSINESS

Summary

In accordance with Clause 232 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 "Model Code of Meeting practice" business may be transacted at a meeting of Council even though due notice of the business has not been given to the Councillors. However, this can happen only if:

- a) A motion is passed to have the business transacted at the meeting: and
- b) The business proposed to be brought forward is ruled by the Chairperson to be of great urgency.

Recommendation:

That Council consider the following matters as they are considered to be of an urgent nature requiring immediate consideration by Council.

16 CLOSED SESSION - CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Summary

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in Section 10A(2) of the Act and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the media and public.

Set out below is Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993 in relation to matters which can be dealt with in the closed part of a meeting.

The matters and information are the following:

- (a) Personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors)
- (b) The personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer
- (c) Information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business
- (d) Commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - (i) Prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - (ii) Confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council, or
 - (iii) Reveal a trade secret
- (e) Information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law
- (f) Matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property
- (g) Advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the grounds of legal professional privilege
- (h) Information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land
- (i) alleged contraventions of any code of conduct requirements applicable under section 440

16.1 Kerbside Garbage Collection Tender

File No: TS/Waste Mgt/Contracts and Agreements

Author: Dr Cornelia Wiebels (Technical Services Director), Dani Bradshaw (Change Management Analyst), Damian O'Shannassy (Planning and Development Director)

This report is CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1993, as it relates to commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed: (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council, or (iii) reveal a trade secret.

16.2 Newspaper Communication Options

File No: OD/Information Management/Media

Author: Sharon Swannell (Governance and Executive Manager), Hannah Booth (Records and Communications Coordinator)

This report is CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1993, as it relates to commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed: (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council, or (iii) reveal a trade secret.

16.3 Water Write-off Request - Assessment 1236971

File No: Finance/Rates

Author: Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director), Zoe Marks (Finance Manager)

This report is CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1993, as it relates to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer.

16.4 Water Write-off Request - Assessment 12366596

File No: Finance/Rates

Author: Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director), Zoe Marks (Finance Manager)

This report is CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1993, as it relates to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer.

16.5 Water Write-off Request - Assessment 12398519

File No: Finance/Rates

Author: Mathew Webb (Corporate Services Director), Zoe Marks (Finance Manager)

This report is CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1993, as it relates to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer.

17 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Mayor will declare the meeting closed.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Oberon Council will be held on 17 December 2024 commencing at 5.30pm, in the Oberon Council Chambers, 137 Oberon Street, Oberon.