

Events Highlights

The Latrobe City Bocce Classic – July

The Latrobe City Bocce Classic is the biggest and most prestigious bocce tournament in Gippsland, held annually over two days, with competitors from Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia competing.

Australasian C and D Grade Sprint Kart Titles – August

Competitors from across Victoria and interstate came to Morwell to compete in what proved to be a highly competitive championship. Drivers from as young as seven years of age right through to over 40s competed in the event.

International Volleyball Test Match Australia versus New Zealand – September

Australia's junior women's volleyball team played the first match of a five test series against a team from New Zealand at Latrobe Leisure Moe Newborough. The match was part of the team's preparation for the next Asian Junior Volleyball Championships.

State Open Water Championships – October

Traralgon Swimming Club hosted the State Open Water Championships/Masters Open Water Championships, held in the warm waters of Hazelwood Pondage. The two day event included 1km, 3km, 5km and 10km swims.

Japanese Day – November

The 2009 Japanese Day event was a huge success, bringing the community together to celebrate Latrobe City's sister city relationship with Takasago City, Japan. A wide range of traditional children's activities, food and Japanese music contributed to the festive atmosphere.

Power of Racing Festival – October to December

This was the seventh consecutive year of the festival, which showcased more than 21 events across Latrobe City between October and December. The program encompassed the Spring Racing Carnival, State Open Water Swim and other racing themed events.

Touch Victoria VT League Gala Weekend – October

The VT League is an integral stepping-stone in the development of the game of Touch Football. The men's and women's teams comprised the brightest and best players, many representing Victoria at junior, open and senior levels. The event was held at the Traralgon West Sporting Complex.

2009 Australian Hill Climb Championship – October

The 2009 Australian Hill Climb Championship was held at Bryant Park, Yallourn. This four day motorsport event featured the top Australian cars and drivers and provided spectators with a first class display of hill climbing.

Football Federation Victoria (FFV) Summer League Gala Weekend – November

The FFV Summer League Gala, held at Harold Preston Reserve in Traralgon, saw an exciting weekend of competition. The weekend attracted more than 500 competitors.

Energy in Sport – January to February

The Energy in Sport cluster of events is an annual community celebration showcasing a diverse array of sporting events. This year's festival contained many highlights including the TRUenergy Classic Singles bowls event and the Latrobe City WIN Television Traralgon Golf Pro Am, to name only two.

Red Hot Summer Tour – Jimmy Barnes, Shannon Noll and Adam Brand – January

Latrobe City played host to Australian pop, rock and country icons, Jimmy Barnes, Shannon Noll and Adam Brand, as part of the Red Hot Summer Tour at Victory Park in Traralgon.

Loy Yang Power International Tennis Federation Tournament – January

Some 130 of the top junior international tennis competitors, including 70 Australians, and their entourages came to Traralgon to compete in this year's tournament that provides valuable points towards their international ranking.

Under 18 Commonwealth Bank Cup – January

More than 100 of the best Under 18 male cricketers from across Victoria took part in an exciting five-day tournament representing their region in the Commonwealth Bank Cup, which acts as a guide to selection for the Victorian Under 19 team in 2010/11.

Australia Day – January

Australia Day celebrations continued to grow in popularity in 2010 with celebrations held in Boolarra, Callignee, Churchill, Moe, Morwell, Toongabbie, Traralgon, Yallourn North and Yinnar. The festivities culminated in the annual Australia Day Awards and Citizenship ceremony at Kernot Hall in Morwell.

Eastern Districts Fire Brigade Championships – January

Twenty five brigades from across Victoria's Eastern District competed in the 2010 Eastern District's Fire Brigade Association Annual Competition at the Traralgon Recreation Reserve. The two days of competition included the discipline contest and a torch light procession through Traralgon CBD.

2010 Victorian Country Track and Field Championships (Athletics) – January

The Joe Carmody Athletics' Track in Newborough played host to the Victorian Country Track and Field Championships, with strong numbers from every corner of the state competing in three days of high-energy competition.

Movies in the Park – January

This year saw the consolidation of the Movies in the Park concept, with outdoor evening screenings augmented with children's activities, food and refreshments. Held over four nights in the lead up to Australia Day, families from across Latrobe City enjoyed screenings of 'Ratatouille' in Churchill, 'Night at the Museum' in Morwell, 'The Castle' in Traralgon and 'Mama Mia' in Moe.

Archery Victoria State Target Championships – February

Latrobe City Archery Park played host to two days of Archery State Target Championships, open to all age groups and divisions with distances shot up to 90 metres.

Boolarra Folk Festival – February

This was the eighth festival to be staged in the lovely parks at Boolarra. It featured more than 50 arts and craft stalls, a great variety of food and an exciting line up of musicians who provided nine hours of entertainment.

Festival Latrobe – March

Festival Latrobe is a cluster of cultural events held each March. The festival brings together a broad range of local community, music, multicultural, food, arts and lifestyle events.

Moe TRUenergy Yallourn Jazz Festival – March

One of Australia's premier Jazz Festivals, the Moe TRUenergy Yallourn Jazz Festival is four days of music and fun activities for all and was joined this year by the Gippsland Rhythm and Blues Club.

AFL – NAB Challenge Match – March

Morwell came alive with two AFL teams, Richmond and Essendon clashing in a NAB challenge match. As the last chance for teams to compete before the opening match of the 2010 Toyota AFL Premiership Season, it proved to be a high-energy contest.

Gippsland Multicultural Festival – March

Now a two day event held in Morwell, this unique annual event is held over a weekend in March. The first day at Kernot Hall included competition, singing and dancing by school children. It concluded the following day with an array of multicultural entertainment, food and craft stalls at Immigration Park in Morwell.

RACV – All British Classics Car Club Gippsland Tour – March

The Fly the Flag Tour by the All British Classics Car Club saw more than 300 veteran, vintage and classic vehicles travel to Latrobe City as part of their six day Gippsland tour, travelling through Yarram, Maffra, Sale, Heyfield, Toongabbie, Yallourn, Morwell, Moe and Rawson, with an overnight stop at Morwell.

2010 Victorian Inline Hockey Championships – June

The 2010 Victorian Inline Hockey Championships was held at Stadium 34 in Moe with more than 50 teams from all over Victoria competing in junior, senior and women's competitions to determine the best overall club in the state.

Victorian Country Volleyball Championships, CC'10 – June

The Victorian Country Volleyball Championships saw men and women's teams from across regional Victoria competing, with participants aged from 15 years through to masters. The competition was held at Latrobe Leisure Moe Newborough.

Economic Sustainability

During 2009/10 Latrobe City Council:

- Received 190 business enquiries.
- Conducted 15 small to medium enterprise training sessions to approximately 150 business leaders.
- Distributed four editions of the Business Connect newsletter to more than 3,500 people and organisations on a quarterly basis, and 11 editions of the Tourism Talks newsletter to approximately 420 businesses.
- Received more than 24,000 enquiries through the Visitor Information Centre, with a 42% increase in the dollar value of accommodation bookings made through the centre.
- Oversaw 25,000 aircraft movements at the Latrobe Regional Airport.

Council Plan Actions:

Further the establishment of the Gippsland Logistics Precinct, including the Intermodal Freight Terminal.	In progress
Coordinate and deliver the 2010 Eastern Victoria Major Projects and Opportunities Summit.	Complete
Continue implementation of the Latrobe Regional Airport Masterplan and continue leasing industrial allotments at the Latrobe Regional Airport.	Complete
Facilitate six tourism networking events each year to promote local businesses and increase product knowledge.	Complete
Facilitate ten training or networking sessions each year for small and medium enterprises in accordance with the project plan.	Complete
Prepare and distribute an information kit to assist businesses in attracting new employees.	Complete

Achievements

Gippsland Major Projects Summit 2010

The Gippsland Major Projects Summit 2010 was held on 10 February 2010 and was attended by more than 200 industry and government representatives. Six major projects were presented, including MBD Energy's CO₂ to Algae Project, the Wonthaggi Desalination Plant Project, Burra Foods Expansion and the Gippsland Logistics Precinct. The event successfully highlighted some of Gippsland's most significant major projects and provided details on their importance to the region.

International Delegations

International investment interest in Latrobe City continued to increase throughout 2009/10. In addition to ten international delegations from China and Japan, Latrobe City in March 2010 hosted a delegation of 11 Consuls General from various countries. The bulk of the interest received is in relation to coal and coal derivative technologies.

Industry and Employment Survey

The 2010 Latrobe City Industry and Employment survey was completed in June 2010. The survey was sent to more than 2,000 businesses across Latrobe City, with 565 responses received. Survey results indicated strong business confidence within the municipality, with 20% of survey firms intending to invest capital into their business in the next two years. The survey results will also be used to inform professional development activities delivered to the small business sector by Latrobe City Council.

Latrobe City People's Choice Awards

Support was provided to the Latrobe City Business Tourism Association to ensure the success of the inaugural People's Choice Awards held in April. With 208 businesses nominated and almost 3,000 votes cast, the awards invited community members to vote across a range of categories thereby encouraging pride in the Latrobe City business community.

Natural Environment Sustainability

During 2009/10 Latrobe City Council:

- Maintained 90,500 square meters of garden beds.
- Undertook more than 4,000 kilometres of street sweeping.
- Collected 13,493 tonnes of domestic waste and 23,645 tonnes of commercial waste for landfill, 8,689 tonnes of recyclables and 14,000 tonnes of green waste.
- Provided two no-charge green waste drop off weekends, utilised by 2,057 vehicles.
- Provided two no-charge hard waste drop off weekends, where 3,157 vehicles deposited 444 tonnes of waste.
- Provided two booked kerbside hard waste collections, which received 256 bookings for collection and resulted in 15.16 tonnes of waste and 6.78 tonnes of recyclables (steel) collected.
- Undertook 177 inspections of septic tank installations to ensure compliance with the *Environmental Protection Act*.

Council Plan Actions:

Implement actions from the Natural Environment Sustainability Strategy.	Complete
Report to Council regularly on the activities, proposals and suggestions of the Latrobe City Climate Change Consultative Committee.	Complete
Implement Latrobe City Council's decision regarding the hard waste service.	Complete
Comply with the EPA licence requirements for the Latrobe City Hyland Highway Landfill facility.	Complete
Implement actions of the Latrobe City Landfill Rehabilitation Program.	Complete

Achievements

Natural Environment Sustainability Strategy

Latrobe City Council continues to build on its Natural Environment Sustainability Strategy with the second year actions implemented.

Significant progress has been achieved through the operations of the Latrobe City Climate Change Consultative Committee, particularly in its contribution to the formation of Council policy and position statements on climate change.

Implementation of the strategy continues to provide support to the community through the Native Vegetation Protection Incentive Scheme and Trust for Nature Covenant, together with other native vegetation protection works. More than 6,000 indigenous seedlings have been planted from revegetation initiatives.

A strategic approach for pest plant control and treatment of roadside weeds is currently being developed with grant monies from the Department of Primary Industries used to target thistle, blackberry, broom and ragwort infestations. A particular focus for pest plant treatment has been on roadsides affected by the 2009 bushfires.

More generally, water and energy saving devices are being implemented wherever possible, such as LED lights replacing halogens, flow control valves in hot water taps, using pool backwash water for irrigation, water audits on high consumption facilities and trialling waterless urinals.

Traralgon Emergency Bushfire Landfill Rehabilitation

In response to the February 2009 bushfires, and under licence from the EPA, Latrobe City Council reopened the old Traralgon landfill for the disposal of burnt waste, demolition materials and perished livestock as part of the clean up and community recovery works. As a result, further rehabilitation works were required. These works are now complete with new waste capping, stormwater management, vegetation seeding and groundwater bores. The site will continue to be monitored according to EPA requirements.

E-waste

During the year Latrobe City Council partnered with the Gippsland Regional Waste Management Group and Lifeline Gippsland in an E-waste community recycling venture. The program enables residents to dispose of their surplus TV's, computers and associated hardware in an environmentally responsible and friendly manner, whilst also saving landfill airspace.

E-waste collected at transfer stations and community collection days is now being recycled. In May 2010, 3.5 tonnes of stockpiled e-waste was dismantled and sent for recycling, resulting in only 128 kg of waste to landfill. The breakdown of the products being recycled is 41.2% monitor

tubes, 22.5% metal, 18.5% plastic, 7.9% cardboards, 0.6% glass and 5.8% miscellaneous, leaving only 3.5% as waste to landfill.

Waste Education

Latrobe City Council has worked with nine local primary school groups and other interested community groups this year to encourage and promote good waste management practices.

One of the activities was Follow Your Waste tours, which visited the organics recycling centre, materials recovery facility, transfer stations and industry using recycling practises. The tours raise awareness among the community of what happens with waste.

Council has also set up composting trials with individual residents to encourage sustainable waste practices.

Challenges

State of the Environment Report

Latrobe City Council is working with the Victorian Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability to develop a Latrobe City State of the Environment Report. Designed to report on-ground environmental sustainability outcomes, it will indicate priorities and identify the effectiveness of current actions.

Sourcing useful and reliable data that is directly relevant to Latrobe City is not an easy task, so much of the project work has concentrated on identifying the data available, securing access and checking validity.

Obtaining locally relevant data, documenting the process to ensure it can be reliably updated in the future, devising useful indicators that are scientifically valid and easily understood, and developing ways of presenting this to a wider audience is an ongoing challenge.

Council is expecting to report to the community at the end of the 2010/11 financial year on the State of the Environment in Latrobe City.

Landfill Capacity

With a growing residential population and associated commercial activities in Latrobe City, greater volumes of waste are being received each year. Latrobe City Council is currently trying to maximise airspace at the Hyland Highway Landfill facility and is working with the EPA to progress the construction of a new landfill cell, now expected to be operational by July 2011.

Steps have been taken to reduce waste disposed at the Hyland Highway Landfill by encouraging commercial waste contractors to use alternatives for all recyclable waste materials. Initiatives have been implemented to divert waste from landfill by recycling mattresses, e-waste and timber, all of which is now separated at transfer stations.

Built Environment Sustainability

During 2009/10 Latrobe City Council:

- Issued 433 planning permits and 72 amended planning permits.
- Responded to 1,172 enquiries to provide statutory information on building activity and land designations.
- Conducted 207 inspections of private swimming pool barriers for essential child safety measure compliance.
- Conducted 98 inspections of essential safety measures in commercial, industrial, public and residential building to assist owners and occupiers meet their legislative requirements.

Council Plan Actions:

Progress Stage 1 of the Building Asset Management Plan.	Complete
Review the Public Toilet Strategy and present to Council for consideration.	In progress
Finalise the design of the Moe Early Learning Centre.	Complete
Commence construction of the Moe Early Learning Centre.	Complete
Progress the planning scheme amendment to introduce heritage provisions into the Latrobe Planning Scheme.	Complete
Implement Council's decision in response to recommendations of the Traralgon Courthouse Conservation Management Plan.	Complete
Commence the Traralgon Activity Centre Plan.	Complete
Progress the Traralgon Growth Areas Review.	Complete
Construct a pedestrian plaza and access road, in accordance with the Churchill Town Centre Plan.	In progress
Progress the planning scheme amendment to include the Small Town Structure Plans for Tyers, Glengarry and Boolarra into the Latrobe Planning Scheme.	Complete
Finalise stage three of the Planning Scheme (Municipal Strategic Statement) review by implementing a planning scheme amendment.	Complete
Complete Traralgon Station Precinct Masterplan.	In progress
Progress Phase 1 of the Moe Railway Precinct Revitalisation Project from the Moe Activity Centre Plan.	Complete
Complete Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Clifton Street Precinct Project, in accordance with the Moe Activity Centre Plan.	In progress

Achievements

Planning Scheme Amendment (Local Planning Policy Framework/Municipal Strategic Statement)

The Local Planning Policy Framework was revised during 2008/09 and formed part of the Latrobe Planning Scheme during 2009/10 including a new Municipal Strategic Statement.

The revised framework, as well as the new Municipal Strategic Statement, introduces Structure Plans for Churchill, Moe/Newborough, Morwell and Traralgon that identify areas for future growth in each of the towns. The planning scheme amendment was completed on 14 January 2010.

The Local Planning Policy Framework provides Council and the community with the basis for land use planning and forms part of the Latrobe Planning Scheme.

Traralgon Growth Areas Review

The Traralgon Growth Areas Review will develop a growth strategy that identifies areas for future urban development (housing, retail, industrial and employment) around Traralgon, Traralgon-Morwell Corridor, Glengarry, Tyers and their surrounding areas up to the year 2050.

Stakeholder consultation activities were undertaken during September, with the draft report completed in March 2010. It is anticipated this project will be complete in December 2010.

Traralgon Station Precinct Masterplan

Latrobe City Council has continued its work with VicTrack, the Department of Planning and Community Development, the Department of Transport, VicRoads, V/Line, businesses and the community to develop a long-term plan for the Traralgon Station Precinct.

Following extensive community consultation undertaken during 2009, a draft Traralgon Station Precinct Masterplan was developed and released for eight weeks of community consultation, which concluded in June 2010.

A further report detailing the submissions received will be presented to Council for consideration early in the next financial year. This report will also consider issues that have been identified in other Traralgon related planning activities, including the Traralgon Activity Centre Plan and Traralgon Growth Areas Review.

The overall plan will provide a framework for improving public transport access and use, creating a safer environment for public transport users, ensuring high quality development around the station, improving streetscapes and promoting a mix of uses around the precinct.

Heritage Provisions

An amendment to the Latrobe Planning Scheme that will provide greater protection to sites of cultural heritage significance was supported by Council this year.

Latrobe City Council had received ministerial authorisation to prepare and exhibit Amendment C14 to the Latrobe Planning Scheme during the 2008/09 financial year.

After an eight week exhibition period, 41 submissions were received in response to the proposed Amendment.

A Planning Panel was held during March, with the final report received during May 2010. Council considered the recommendations of the panel during June and resolved to adopt the amendment with changes. Amendment C14 is to be submitted for approval to the Minister for Planning and inclusion within the Latrobe Planning Scheme early in the next financial year.

Once implemented, this amendment will apply a heritage overlay to sites recommended by the Latrobe City Heritage Study 2008, in recognition of the cultural heritage significance of these places to Latrobe City.

Building Asset Management Plan

The Building Asset Management Plan, adopted by Council in June 2010, has been developed to improve asset management of all Latrobe City Council buildings and structures, in order to provide infrastructure that is sustainable, appropriate, accessible and responsive to the community.

The plan has identified all of the buildings and building structure assets for which Latrobe City Council is responsible and the land tenure where these buildings and structures are located.

It has also mapped and listed those buildings and structures located on Latrobe City Council owned and managed land that are not the responsibility of Latrobe City Council.

A hierarchy of the buildings and structures has been developed and all assets categorised to this hierarchy. Work required over the next two years has also been identified in the plan.

Public Toilet Strategy Review

The Public Toilet Strategy has been reviewed and a revised Public Toilet Plan 2010-2014 developed and presented to Council. A decision on the plan was deferred until the 2010/11 year.

The initial Public Toilet Strategy was successful in guiding a capital works program to improve the network of public toilets and reshape the amenities to meet modern requirements.

Traralgon Activity Centre Plan

In December 2009, Latrobe City Council engaged Hansen Partnership to deliver the Traralgon Activity Centre Plan.

It provides an urban design framework and implementation plan, ensuring sustainable development of the town centre over the next 20 years and beyond.

Stage one of the project has progressed well, with a range of community consultation activities undertaken during March, and the preparation of background reports completed. During the next financial year stage two of the project will be undertaken, involving further community consultation, preparation of a Key Directions Report, Structure Plan, Urban Design Framework and an Implementation Plan.

Small Town Structure Plans

Structure Plans for Boolarra, Glengarry and Tyers have moved ahead following preparation and adoption by Council during the 2008/09 financial year.

After Ministerial authorisation was requested to prepare and exhibit an amendment to introduce the adopted structure plans into the Latrobe Planning Scheme, Amendment C24 (Part 1) incorporating the townships of Tyers and Boolarra was gazetted into the Latrobe Planning Scheme during May 2010.

A Planning Panel was held in relation to Amendment C24 (Part 2) incorporating the township of Glengarry, during April. It is anticipated that this part of Amendment C24 will form part of the Latrobe Planning Scheme early in the next financial year.

Bushfire Related Infrastructure Works

Roadside clearing is required for several years after a major fire, as affected trees die back and affected road seals have a shorter service life.

Following the 2009 fires, Latrobe City Council has this year undertaken roadside hazard reduction, including removal of identified dead trees, with an increased regime of road patrols.

Several roads have been resealed, with further roads scheduled for completion in the next financial year. Design works for a fire damaged bridge have been completed, with construction work to be undertaken next year.

Public Lighting Projects

Public lighting projects designed to enhance community safety, have been undertaken this year.

Lighting was installed along the walking track next to the east side of Waterhole Creek between Hourigan Road and the park area near Crinigan Road, Morwell, encouraging greater use of the walking trail during the evening.

A major upgrade of the public lighting in the car park bounded by Seymour Street, Church Street and Kay Street in Traralgon was also completed during the year, to significantly improve public safety in the busy pedestrian and entertainment precinct.

Challenges

Kay Street Elm Trees

Work has started on developing a management plan for the Kay Street elm trees, which are a significant asset in Latrobe City, providing an attractive open space for the benefit of the local community.

Major maintenance activities have occurred since July 2000, when trees were identified to be in poor health. Many were experiencing significant limb failure due to pruning practices from the 1970's and the instability of the trees has raised concerns for public safety.

To ensure the significant and historical avenue is retained, meetings were held with key stakeholders, such as the organisers of local markets held at the site, to develop a management plan that will address the issues and ensure a high standard of public safety.

Churchill Town Centre Plan

Work has continued on implementation of the Churchill Town Centre Plan, which Latrobe City Council first adopted in 2007, aiming to improve the safety, accessibility, amenity and attractiveness of the town centre.

Following further community consultation in 2008 and 2009 the design was refined, although still achieving the design principles in the original plan.

Elements of the plan have since been implemented, such as the reorientation of the southern car park and opening of an expanded retail area at West Place. Other parts, such as a major reconstruction of Philip Parade, have been planned with works to take place next financial year.

Council is negotiating a range of road re-alignments and land exchanges, aiming to ensure that the modified plan will be implemented successfully over the next few years.

Recreational Liveability

During 2009/10 Latrobe City Council:

- Received 1,576 enrolments in Latrobe Leisure's Learn to Swim Program.
- Welcomed 125,245 member attendances, 242,565 casual user attendances, and provided 27,468 visitor passes at Latrobe Leisure.
- Maintained 548 hectares of land including park, reserve, sporting fields and median strips, and 116 playgrounds.
- Received 23 educational bookings and 116 private bookings at the International Power Traffic School, and held two Bike Education Challenges.
- Provided 59,100 hours of Planned Activity Groups to frail, aged or disabled members of the community.

Council Plan Actions:

Implement year two actions from the Skate and BMX Plan.	Complete
Develop the Northern Towns (Yallourn North, Tyers, Glengarry and Toongabbie) Outdoor Recreation Plan, and present to Council for consideration.	Complete
Construct a synthetic hockey facility in Churchill, in conjunction with Monash University.	Not started
Conduct a feasibility study for an indoor aquatic facility in Traralgon, and present to Council for consideration.	In progress
Complete the redevelopment of Latrobe Leisure Churchill, in conjunction with Monash University.	In progress

Achievements

Northern Towns Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Northern Towns Outdoor Recreation Plan adopted by Council in June 2010 identifies the improvement or development of outdoor recreation facilities in Yallourn North, Tyers, Glengarry and Toongabbie.

This plan is the last in a series of Outdoor Recreation Plans developed for recreation reserves in Latrobe City.

The Northern Towns Outdoor Recreation Plan was developed in close consultation with clubs and reserve users to provide clear direction on the future development of outdoor recreational facilities.

After considering community feedback on the draft plan, these opportunities have been prioritised. Minor projects will be implemented in the next financial year, with major projects undergoing further design prior to being referred to Council for funding in the 2011/12 financial year.

Indoor Aquatic Centre Feasibility Study

During the year, Latrobe City Council started a feasibility study for the provision of an indoor aquatic facility in Traralgon.

It has so far analysed the need for aquatics and leisure activity services in line with community demand, the current shortfalls in existing aquatic and leisure facility provision and the future requirements of local and regional community and sporting stakeholders.

The study has investigated options for the proposed development and endeavours to outline the potential scale, scope and location for each. Detailed analysis of sites, their proposed designs, likely management and operational scenarios and financial viability will be considered in the final report.

However, due to the scope of works expanding to include more detailed financial modelling, capital expenditure analysis and detailed case studies, the Traralgon Indoor Aquatic Facility Feasibility Study has taken longer than anticipated and is continuing. It is anticipated that Council will consider a report in the 2010/11 financial year.

Fees and Charges for Council Sporting Reserves

A review has been conducted of Council-controlled Sporting Reserves Fees and Charges. The outcome of the review is equity within each reserve category and a fixed fee as opposed to the previous variable fee, which allows clubs to accurately budget for reserve fees. Another positive outcome of the review is that the current maintenance standard of reserves will continue and in some cases increase.

Challenges

Synthetic Hockey Facility

Latrobe City Council is planning to construct a regional synthetic hockey facility at Monash University Churchill Campus, on the site of the current soccer pitch.

Progress with this project has been delayed due to a shortfall of funding. A grant of \$300,000 was successfully secured from the State Government Synthetic Surface Program with a matching allocation of \$300,000 included in Latrobe City Council's 2009/10 Annual Budget.

The project was advertised for tender in late 2009 with received tenders considered by Council in December 2009. Council resolved not to award a contract for the works, as the lowest tender price well exceeded the available budget.

Investigations are currently underway to attract additional funding for the project. If funding is available, it is expected the project will proceed in the next financial year.

Community Liveability

During 2009/10 Latrobe City Council:

- Had 407 children enrolled in Latrobe City Council's early learning centres across the municipality.
- Had 63 registered carers with 998 children using the family day care service.
- Had 827 children enrolled in 22 preschools across the municipality.
- Had 837 children enrolled in Latrobe City Council's Maternal and Child health service.
- Provided a total of 8,546 immunisations across the municipality.
- Provided 70,955 hours of home care, personal care, respite care and home maintenance.
- Undertook 1,762 inspections to ensure compliance with the Food Act and Health Act.
- Investigated 334 environmental and public health complaints.

Council Plan Actions:

Maintain an active role on the Latrobe City Integrated Community Planning and Wellbeing Committee.	Complete
Continue to actively participate in the central business district safety planning committees for Morwell and Traralgon, and the Police Community Consultative Committee for Moe.	Complete
Provide accredited pre-employment and skills based training for the Gippsland indigenous community in accordance with the Structured Training and Employment Related Services Program.	Complete

Achievements

Traralgon Early Learning Centre Opening

The Traralgon Early Learning Centre has relocated from its site in Franklin Street to Mapleson Drive, with the new facility officially opening in February 2010.

Approximately 120 families relocated with the service and, with additional enrolments since its opening, the centre has now grown to more than 200 families.

The Traralgon Early Learning Centre provides Occasional Care, Long Day Care, a Preschool Program and community space that is utilised by Family Day Care and Good Beginnings for supported playgroups.

Maternal Child Health – Key Ages and Stages Project

Maternal and Child Health Services this year underwent the most significant change to the program for a number of decades, with a new framework implemented for delivery of the service.

The new framework establishes a revised range of health and well-being checks for children and mothers, based on an extensive evidence-based review of practice and client outcomes.

It includes an increased emphasis on family-centred practice, revised health and well-being checks at each age and stage visit, professional development and increased emphasis on networking with and referral to other services.

Best Start Relaunch

In November 2009, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development provided a commitment of \$100,000 annual recurrent funding for the Best Start initiative.

The resultant security of funding has provided an opportunity for Latrobe City Council to reengage with the Best Start partnership members and work towards relaunching the program, ensuring a renewed focus on system change, service integration and mobilising community interest in improving outcomes for children within the municipality. This was initiated during May with a community partnership breakfast event featuring keynote speaker Dr Tim Moore from the Centre for Community Child Health.

Booktober

Held during October at the Traralgon Library, Booktober is designed primarily to provide the community with an opportunity to select resources for inclusion in the library collection. However, it also offers an opportunity to talk with library staff to learn how a library operates and in particular, how collection development and acquisitions are undertaken. More than 500 people attended the event with more than 700 items selected and added to the library collection.

A range of other activities were also on offer, including face-painting, cartooning workshop, live music, story time session, craft workshop and a visit by Clifford the Big Red Dog. Feedback from those that attended was extremely encouraging, and it is planned to hold the event on an annual basis.

Preschool Story Time Road Show

The Preschool Story Time Program hit the road during the second half of 2009, visiting preschools across Morwell.

This initiative offers an opportunity for families across Latrobe City to experience a program that had previously only been available through the library network. The feedback from families was overwhelmingly positive. The program will continue with visits planned at preschools in Moe, Yinnar, Glengarry and Tyers.

Library Outreach Program

Commencing in July, this initiative aims to provide an outreach program to residents of aged care facilities in Moe, Morwell and Traralgon.

The outreach program provides an opportunity for people who are unable to visit a library to access library resources. It involves regular deliveries of library resources to the aged care facilities on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.

Home and Community Care – Disability Planning and Facilitation

During the year Latrobe City Council has undertaken the Assistance with Planning Pilot Program for people with a disability. Council officers work with both the client and their family and friends to develop goals for the client, then assist with the development of an implementation plan so the goals can be achieved.

The program is based on a person-centred approach and therefore encourages personal capacity building.

The pilot has been expanded to include the role of facilitation, which involves coordinating the care requirements of clients who have been allocated disability funding in the form of an individual support package. The pilot program was fully funded by the Department of Human Services.

Bushfire Related Public Health Works

Public health recovery continued into the 2009/10 financial year for those areas affected by the January and February 2009 bushfires.

During the year, Latrobe City Council issued 17 temporary accommodation permits and 64 septic tank permits, while testing of tank water samples also continued.

Senior Citizen Week

Seniors Citizens Week for 2009/10 was by far the most successful, with more than 780 people attending the Country Concert at Kernot Hall in October despite inclement weather conditions. Free transport was provided to the majority of events which allowed more people to access the week long program.

The year also saw a 70% increase in nominations for Senior Citizen of the Year, with all being of a very high calibre. Gloria Whalan, an Indigenous Elder who arrived in the Latrobe Valley five years ago, was awarded the honour, recognising her contribution to the community through her work with the Central Gippsland Aboriginal Health Services, Anglicare Victoria's foster care program, the Victorian Permanent Care program and Indigenous Art GippsTAFE.

Community Meals Program

The 2009/10 year saw the introduction of the Community Meals Program, a new initiative offered to the Meals on Wheels clients of Traralgon and Morwell.

Instead of receiving and eating a meal in their own home, a three course meal and entertainment was provided in a community venue, allowing clients to enjoy the company of other members of the community and make new friends.

Four community lunches were held during the year, with increased participation at each luncheon. Guest speakers also attended providing information on available services, such as hearing, dietician, and physiotherapy.

Challenges

Legislation Changes to the Public Health and Wellbeing Act and Food Act

Two Acts that will impact on activities in Latrobe City have come into effect this year.

The *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* and *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009* came into effect on 1 January 2010. Replacing the *Health Act 1958*, the new Act intends to strengthen traditional public health roles as well as deal effectively and proactively with contemporary public health concerns.

The new regulations contain provisions covering nuisances, registration of prescribed accommodation and registered premises, aquatic facilities, and infectious disease controls, which are to be administered by Victorian councils.

As a result of the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission (VCEC) Report 2007 and Consultation Paper 2008, changes were made to the *Food Act 1984* with the introduction of the *Food Amendment (Regulation Reform) Act 2009* which will come into effect on 1 July 2010. Work was undertaken during the year in preparation for its implementation, which involve new food premises classifications, changes to the role of Victorian councils and the Department of Health, and the introduction of a convictions register.



Cultural Liveability

During 2009/10 Latrobe City Council:

- Hosted 34 exhibitions, with 162 Gippsland artists featured. There were 20,878 attendances at the Latrobe Regional Gallery.
- Showcased nine professional performances, 16 films in conjunction with the National Film and Sound Archive at the Latrobe Performing Arts Centre, with audience numbers of 7,694. This was together with 23 community shows, which attracted audience numbers of 3,924.
- Supported 463 local events, including 47 state and national events.

Council Plan Actions:

Deliver year three actions from the Latrobe City International Relations Plan.	Complete
Undertake activities to recognise the ten year anniversary of the sister city relationships with Taizhou and Takasago.	Complete
Implement Council's decision in response to recommendations from the feasibility study into the provision of a performing arts and convention centre for Latrobe City.	In progress
Develop and maintain event clusters: Festival Latrobe, Power of Racing and Energy in Sport.	Complete

Achievements

Performing Arts and Convention Centre Feasibility Study

The Performing Arts and Convention Centre Feasibility Study explored the feasibility of building a state of the art facility within Latrobe City. The study was released for community and stakeholder consultation in December 2009 with an overwhelming response, demonstrating a strong passion for arts and culture within the community.

In June 2010, Council resolved to adopt the Performing Arts and Convention Centre Feasibility Study, selecting Kernot Hall in Morwell as the preferred site. Council also resolved that the project will not commence until funding availability has been clarified. The project is included in Council's budget process, including the impact it will have on municipal rates.

Green Expectations

Through engagement with the arts, the Green Expectations project aimed to achieve greater community awareness and responsibility for initiating and managing changes which lead to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

A number of activities took place as part of the project, including 86 workshops in schools and across the broader community, an arts installation at Latrobe Regional Gallery titled *Cacoon*, The Grid - SP AusNet Short Film Competition, an origami Victorian schools project and the Power On! Street Parade and Twilight Market.

These workshops and events involved 73 artists and attracted 2,549 participants and 11,086 audience members.

Sister Cities Ten Year Anniversary

In 2010 Latrobe City Council celebrated the ten year anniversary of sister city relationships with the City of Takasago in Japan and City of Taizhou in China.

The main purpose of sister city relationships is to establish peace, goodwill and friendship between nations. Latrobe City Council leverages off these relationships to benefit the municipality in the areas of economy, trade, science, technology, culture, education, sports, health, personnel and youth development.

To celebrate the ten year anniversary a number of projects were undertaken, including an emerging artist exchange with the City of Takasago, delegation visits, festivals and events and Latrobe City Council Chief Executive Officer, Paul Buckley, receiving Honorary Citizenship to the City of Taizhou in China.

Challenges

Performing Arts and Convention Centre Feasibility Study

As a result of the June 2010 Council resolution, this project will not commence until funding availability has been clarified and the project has been considered in future Council budget processes. The budget estimate for this project is \$15 million.

The challenge to bring this project to fruition is to secure funding from both state and federal governments and factor the project into Council's long term financial plan. Increased operating costs of a new facility while maintaining the existing Performing Arts Centre in Traralgon will also need to be considered and may prove to be a challenge in the short and longer term.

Democratic Governance

During 2009/10 Latrobe City Council:

- Published and distributed Council's newsletter, Link, three times throughout the year, through insertion in the Latrobe Valley Express, with additional copies available at service centres, libraries and the Visitor Information Centre.

Council Plan Actions:

Prepare and distribute three editions of Link annually.	Complete
Review the Community Engagement Policy and Strategy, and present a Community Engagement Plan to Council for consideration.	In progress
Prepare the Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes for all Ordinary and Special Council Meetings.	Complete

Achievements

Australia Day Awards and Celebration

Mayor of Latrobe City, Cr Kellie O'Callaghan, presented the Latrobe City Australia Day Awards following a citizenship ceremony, where a record 29 residents became Australian citizens.

The 2010 Australia Day Civic Function was held at Kernot Hall, Morwell, where Zelma Mildenhall was announced the Citizen of the Year; Keren Palermo, Young Citizen of the Year; the 2009 Boolarra Folk Festival the Community Event of the Year; while the Community Service of the Year Award was shared by six Lions Clubs, Churchill and District, Moe, Morwell, Traralgon, Yinnar and District, and Wellington.

Increased Public Participation at Council Meetings

During the 2009/10 financial year, Council met on 46 occasions. Of the 46 meetings, 22 were Council Meetings, two Special Council Meetings and 22 Issues and Discussion Sessions.

Council Meetings were attended by almost 900 people during the year, with 52 public questions asked at these meetings. The increased level of community participation at Council Meetings is thought to be linked to the significant projects presented that have attracted strong community interest.

Challenges

Review of Community Engagement Policy and Strategy

A key project during the year was a review of the Community Engagement Policy and Strategy to develop a revised Community Engagement Plan.

A research program was implemented to ascertain how community members saw their role in community engagement, council's decision making processes and perceptions of Latrobe City Council's current community engagement practices.

Activities included community and business surveys, shopping centre displays in Moe, Morwell, Traralgon and Churchill, an online survey and blog, a twitter page, a facebook page, targeted advertisements and guest speakers at community meetings and service clubs.

Engagement activities were a key component in the development of the revised plan and became a more intensive process than initially anticipated. For that reason development of the Community Engagement Plan will continue into the next financial year.

Legislative Compliance

During 2009/10 Latrobe City Council:

- Impounded 1,200 dogs, with 669 of these released to owners, 113 rehoused and 223 entered into the Save a Dog Scheme.
- Impounded 1,081 cats, with 46 of these released to owners and 106 rehoused.
- Inspected numerous properties within Latrobe City, with 1,600 Fire Prevention Notices issued and 266 infringements issued where property owners failed to comply with the direction notice.
- Received 120 Public Liability Incident Reports, up from 119 last year. Of these, 43% of incidents resulted in a claim seeking compensation for personal injury or property damage, compared to 31% in the 2008/09 financial year.
- Issued 45 invitations to tender for the provision of goods and services.

Council Plan Actions:

Prepare the Council Plan annually, present to Council for consideration and submit to the Minister for Local Government within the legislated timeframe.	Complete
Prepare the Annual Report, submit to the Minister for Local Government and present to Council within the legislated timeframe.	Complete
Develop the Annual Budget, and present to Council for consideration.	In progress
Implement a programmed schedule of strategic service reviews across the organisation.	Complete
Review the fees and charges structure and usage policy for council owned and controlled sporting reserves and present to Council for consideration.	Complete

Achievements

Council Plan 2010-2014

The Latrobe City Council Plan 2010-2014 was developed in response to Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley, and adopted by Council in June 2010.

Nine objectives were identified as part of the Latrobe 2026 community vision to take the Latrobe Valley forward. These objectives are Economy, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Our Community, Culture, Recreation, Governance, Advocacy and Partnerships and Regulation and Accountability.

The Council Plan, built around these nine objectives, outlines the strategic direction of Latrobe City Council in each objective, supported by major initiatives and service delivery to be implemented during the four years of the plan.

The Council Plan also contains a Strategic Resource Plan that identifies the resources that will be required by Latrobe City Council over the next four years for implementation of the Council Plan.

General Revaluation

During 2010 a general valuation was undertaken in accordance with the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* and the Valuer General's Valuation 2010 Best Practice Specifications Guidelines.

The valuation figures as at 1 January 2010 were returned to Council for noting on 21 June 2010, then submitted to the Valuer General for certification.

The outcome of the general revaluation has been a significant change in property valuations which have increased by an average of 15.5%. The most significant increases have been for industrial, farm and rural residential properties.

Statutory Review of Officer Delegations

Sections 86(6) and 96(6) of the *Local Government Act 1989* require Victorian councils to conduct a complete review of their Instruments of Delegation (to the Chief Executive Officer, members of staff and special committees of council) within 12 months of a general election.

Following the 2008 general election and the statutory review of special committees in February 2009, Latrobe City Council completed a comprehensive review of delegations to the Chief Executive Officer and council staff in November 2009.

Domestic Animal Business Workshops

An initiative of the Domestic Animal Management Plan was a workshop conducted in May 2010 that focused on legislation changes while also providing a forum for business owners to discuss current and relevant matters affecting them and their businesses.

The workshop was well attended from the breeding and pet shop industry and, with excellent feedback received from participants, the workshops will now become an annual event.

Micro-Chipping Road Show

Another initiative of the Domestic Animal Management Plan was to offer and conduct a mobile micro-chipping service to the smaller townships across the municipality.

A caravan was adapted to suit the purpose and was staffed by a Local Laws Officer and a veterinarian. Visitors to the caravan also sought information in relation to Local Laws, animal registration and responsible pet ownership.

The townships of Boolarra and Yinnar were visited during the year, where the initiative was received well. The road show will continue in the next financial year, where the northern townships will be offered the mobile service.

Footpath Trading Guidelines

Latrobe City Council introduced its Footpath Trading Guidelines in July 2009. The guidelines were developed to provide advice for traders on how to comply with the footpath trading provisions of Local Law No. 2.

The guidelines present an appropriate and workable approach to footpath trading that balance community needs and compliance with the local law. They also ensure a consistent approach to footpath trading is applied in the central business districts of Moe, Morwell and Traralgon.

Improvements to the Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre and Emergency Management

In the early part of the year, a review of Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre (MECC) operating procedures and practices was undertaken in preparation for the 2009/10 bushfire season. While it was identified that the MECC was compliant with its requirements, several upgrades would be beneficial to its operation. The upgrades included a new phone system, projector and screen facilities, and re-branding of identification tabards.

Municipal emergency management capabilities have also benefited from an upgrade to equipment for the Traralgon Flood Warning System, and the introduction of a Narracan Creek Flood Warning System in April 2010.

Realignment of the Country Fire Authority boundaries, which now has Region 10 aligned to Latrobe City's municipal boundary, will also ensure greater efficiency in emergency management activities.

Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan

As a result of the Bushfire Royal Commission in 2009/10 a new requirement was established for all municipalities across Victoria to designate and establish Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSPs) throughout their respective municipalities.

Latrobe City Council has developed a Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan that recommends designating several NSPs. The plan will be considered by Council early in the next financial year.

Challenges

Annual Budget

Latrobe City Council's 2010/11 Annual Budget was originally planned to be presented to Council for consideration by 30 June 2010. However, during the budget preparation process it was identified that additional time was required to ensure councillors were able to effectively contribute to the draft budget process and gain a level of confidence in the draft before it was released to the public for comment. The budget is scheduled to be considered for adoption at a Council Meeting in July 2010, which is within the statutory timeframe outlined by the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Bushfire Royal Commission – Submissions and Interim Report

Following the bushfires that devastated parts of Victoria in January and February 2009, the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission commenced an investigation into the causes and circumstances of the fires.

As a heavily impacted municipality, Latrobe City Council invested significant time preparing and presenting statements to the commission, in collaboration with the Municipal Association of Victoria. In addition, following the release of the Interim Report of the Royal Commission, Latrobe City Council commenced the identification of Neighbourhood Safer Places and relief centres and enhanced its fire prevention inspection program for the 2009/10 bushfire season.

Advocacy and Leadership

During 2009/10 Latrobe City Council:

- Conducted five briefings with state parliamentarians, and three briefings with federal parliamentarians.
- Attended six meetings of the Regional Cities Victoria group and seven meetings of the Gippsland Local Government Network.
- Oversaw 108 projects and activities across fire affected communities, of which 26 projects were funded by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund.
- Managed 409 bushfire cases which included active, transition to closure and closed cases.
- Oversaw a total of 109 bushfire rebuild projects.
- Engaged almost 1,200 people in the Latrobe 2021 review project.

Council Plan Actions:

Actively participate in the Gippsland Local Government Network and Regional Cities Victoria.	Complete
Review Latrobe 2021, and present a revised version of the long-term strategic vision to Council for consideration.	Complete
Develop a Latrobe City Council policy position on the expected impacts on the local community and economy of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and advocate for appropriate transitional support.	Complete
Conduct quarterly briefing sessions with state and federal parliamentarians representing the municipal area.	Complete
Continue to provide support to the communities recovering from the 2009 bushfires.	Complete
Deliver the Latrobe City Youth Leadership and Youth Council Programs.	Complete

Achievements

Review of Latrobe 2021

Latrobe 2021: The Vision for Latrobe Valley was developed through in-depth consultation with the community and other stakeholders, and adopted by Council in December 2004, with a revised edition released in 2006. Latrobe Valley has experienced significant social, environmental and economic changes since its development, thus a review of the community vision was important to ensure it continues to reflect current community aspirations.

Initial preparations for the review, including several research projects, were undertaken during the previous financial year. This, together with an extensive community engagement program conducted from August through to October, provided the foundation from which Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley was developed.

The revised community vision was adopted by Council in May 2010. Following this formal endorsement by Council, a further 21 organisations from across the Latrobe Valley have also provided their public support for Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley.

Positioning Latrobe City for a Low Carbon Emissions Future

The policy Positioning Latrobe City for a Low Carbon Emissions Future, adopted by Council on 6 April, provides a framework to position and help Latrobe City prosper in a low carbon emissions future. Believed to be the first of its kind undertaken by local government in Australia, the policy identifies the expected implications of government greenhouse gas emission mitigation policies on the municipality. It proposes transition arrangements, including interventions and support mechanisms, to enable Latrobe City to optimise its transition under future government greenhouse gas mitigation schemes.

Youth Leadership Program

The Youth Leadership Program has attracted 13 participants from a diverse range of applicants, including a mix of gender and an age range of 16 to 26.

Participants in the program have taken part in workshops on public speaking and personal development, as well as team building and leadership development activities conducted through day sessions and overnight camps.

Bushfire Case Management and Community Support

Following the 2009 bushfires, Latrobe City Council has supported more than 400 families by providing help to access grants, material aid, emotional support and assistance in working through various rebuilding issues.

At the conclusion of the 2009/10 financial year, 300 of these families no longer required the assistance of Latrobe City Council.

Community Recovery Committees continue to work in each of the three bushfire affected areas within Latrobe City. Through these committees, a Recovery Action Plan has been developed for each of the affected communities. The plan identifies how the communities can be supported in their reconstruction and recovery activities by the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority, the three levels of government, local agencies, organisations, business and groups.

Latrobe City Council has also worked with the affected communities in more than 100 projects and activities, aimed at assisting the recovery process. Included in these projects was the February 2010 memorial service.

Latrobe City Council will continue to support the bushfire affected communities into the next financial year.

Partnerships and Inclusiveness

During 2009/10 Latrobe City Council:

- Provided 35,819 meals across the municipality under the Meals on Wheels program.
- Assisted 60 indigenous or disadvantaged people to gain employment through the Indigenous Employment Programs. Approximately 90% of those who gained employment are continuing in their roles.
- Participated in the Youth FReeZA Committee to deliver a dance party in Yinnar, with preparations underway for a Battle of the Bands event.

Council Plan Actions:

Review the Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (CALD) Action Plan in conjunction with the CALD reference committee, and present to Council for consideration.	Complete
Maintain an active role in the Latrobe Settlement Committee to assist in the settlement of new migrants.	Complete
Implement actions from the Disability Action Plan and report on progress to Council.	Complete
Deliver the annual Community Grants Program.	Complete
Deliver a biennial Safety, Health and Well-being Expo for older persons.	Complete

Achievements

Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Action Plan Review

The Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Action Plan 2010-2013 was adopted by Council in March 2010 following a lengthy consultation process, and reflects the changing demographic of the Latrobe City community.

The plan was developed with five key objectives; equal access to services, resources and facilities for all residents, active community consultation and participation, celebrating and valuing community diversity and cultural expression, leadership and advocacy, and sustaining the global city.

Actions contained in the Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Action Plan will be implemented over the coming years.

Community Planning and Wellbeing Committee

The Integrated Community Planning and Wellbeing Committee continued to meet quarterly throughout the year. The committee promotes a common understanding and commitment in planning together to coordinate and strengthen health and community service provision across the Latrobe City community.

Latrobe City Council acts as an auspice agency for the committee which includes representatives from Latrobe Community Health, Latrobe Regional Hospital, Victoria Police, Central West Gippsland Primary Care Partnership, Anglicare, Department of Health, Department of Planning and Community Development, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and VicRoads.

Disability Action Plan

The Latrobe City Council Disability Action Plan was integrated with the organisation's business planning process, enabling disability focused actions to be incorporated with departmental business plans. This is significant in that it provides for a whole of organisation approach to ensure people with a disability have equitable access to the facilities and services provided by Latrobe City Council.

Highlights of the 2009/10 Disability Action Plan included a film screening and art exhibition at the Latrobe Performing Arts Centre on International Day of People with Disability.

Consultation with the Disability Reference Committee regarding the Moe Rail Precinct Revitalisation Project and the Traralgon Activity Centre Plan Project resulted in enhanced outcomes for people with disabilities.

Rural Access Program

The Rural Access Program has continued to develop during the year with the implementation of several projects in partnership with individuals and organisations across Latrobe City and the wider Gippsland region.

A major achievement this year was the inclusion of a Good Access Is Good Business category in the 2010 Gippsland Business Awards.

Another highlight was the business breakfast on International Day of People with Disability, where more than 100 people attended to congratulate 55 local businesses who received a Latrobe Access and Inclusion Award.

Latrobe City Council worked in partnership with Scope Victoria to secure funding for a Super Accessible toilet facility, which will be constructed as part of the Moe Rail Precinct Revitalisation Project. This facility will enable people with high support needs to participate in activities in Moe and could be the first of its type in rural Victoria.

CBI Program

The state government-funded Community Building Initiative program has now concluded, with 2009/10 the final year of a four year program. During the year, six of the seven small town communities received assistance to review their community's priorities and plans, with more than \$70,000 funding sourced to deliver minor works identified.

Projects included the Bell Tower in Yinnar, upgrade of the Boolarra Football Club kitchen facilities, Traralgon South bus garage, Yallourn North Skate Park, Tyers town entry signage and an upgrade to the BMX track which is still in progress.

Central Business District Safety Committees

Latrobe City Council remains heavily involved in the Traralgon, Morwell and Moe safety committees.

Traralgon is considered a hub for nightlife locally with a convergence of approximately six thousand people from Traralgon and other towns into the Traralgon Central Business District on weekends. Consequently, the Traralgon committee has developed a 12 month action plan largely directed by the outcomes and discussions from the Safe Street Summits held in 2008 and 2009.

This year funding was sourced to improve lighting within the Church Street car park and install CCTV cameras at the main taxi rank in Traralgon, both being identified as priority projects.

Organisational Excellence

During 2009/10 Latrobe City Council:

- Attracted 196,776 unique visitors to the Latrobe City Council website, with the most frequently viewed pages being the impound register, careers and news releases pages.
- Ran 89 recruitment campaigns, with 135 new employees commencing with the organisation.
- Latrobe City Council experienced a total of 14 lost time injuries, compared to 19 in the 2008/09 financial year.

Achievements

Wireless Access at Libraries

Wireless internet in public libraries is a state government initiative aimed at providing councils and regional library services with high quality and accessible information technology that support the role of public libraries in strengthening communities.

Implemented by Latrobe City Council during the year, this was a significant project and has provided those in the community with personal laptops and other wireless devices with free access to the internet when visiting libraries.

Information Technology Plan

Information Technology is becoming increasingly important in providing council services and new ways in which councils can inform and engage with their community. During the year, Latrobe City Council developed an Information Technology Plan, which will be implemented over the next three years.

During the 2010/11 financial year, the plan will focus on improving systems that support the call centre, and many of Council's internal operations. The plan will also look at ways in which information technology can help to make Council operations more efficient and sustainable.

Supporting skill development in the region

Latrobe City Council is committed to supporting skill development in the region by participating in advisory committees, the development of localised education courses through the Regional Managers Forum and by supporting local student scholarships.

Latrobe City Council has continued to provide opportunities across the organisation with a wide range of work experience and placement positions, traineeships and internships, cadetships and graduate placements in place within many different employment fields of Council.

Learning and Development Programs

Latrobe City Council is committed to providing ongoing learning and development opportunities for staff. Both individual and team learning and development initiatives are supported, through facilitation of workshops, internal and external development programs and training support.

Programs range from early introduction to leadership through to advanced, fast-track leadership programs incorporating action learning and reflection workshops, simulations, individual and group coaching, personality profiling, 360 degree feedback and career planning.

Challenges

Community Feedback regarding Customer Service

Feedback has been received in relation to Latrobe City Council's customer service through several community engagement activities conducted. This has included a number of comments relating to frustrations experienced by customers when trying to connect to Council's call centre.

As a result of this feedback, investigations are currently underway to identify options to reduce these concerns. Latrobe City Council acknowledges and appreciates the community's feedback on this topic and is committed to addressing these concerns as quickly as possible.

Statutory Information:

Equal Employment Opportunity Program

Latrobe City Council is committed to achieving Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) for all staff and believes that its employees, contractors, volunteers and agents are entitled to be treated on the basis of their abilities and merit and work in an environment free from discrimination.

During the year frameworks and procedures in relation to discrimination and harassment were reviewed and updated, while an EEO Committee consisting of Contact Officers, who are selected as staff representatives and including members of trade unions, was established.

Latrobe City Council's Corporate Induction Program continues to promote a discrimination-free workplace and existing staff are provided with education and information in relation to ensuring the workplace is free from harassment or discriminatory processes.

During the 2009/10 financial year, Latrobe City Council received one written complaint in relation to an alleged breach of EEO legislation. The internal matter was investigated promptly following Council's EEO Operational Framework and Grievance procedure and all parties were satisfied with the resolution of the matter.

Employee statistics as at 30 June 2010:

Division	Total	Full Time	Part Time	Casual
Built and Natural Environment Sustainability	111	102	6	3
Executive Office	6	3	2	1
Community Liveability	435	93	256	86
Governance	105	43	43	19
Recreational and Cultural Liveability	202	64	56	82
Economic Sustainability	15	11	4	0
Organisational Excellence	28	22	4	2
Totals	902	338	371	193

Gender	Total	Full Time	Part Time	Casual
Male	243	167	32	44
Female	659	171	339	149
Totals	902	338	371	193

Best Value

Strategic Alignment Program – Child and Family Services Review

The Child and Family Services Review considered the needs of the early childhood education and care sector now and into the future. Specifically the review considered:

- Integrated service delivery options – moving from specialised streams of management to areas of management across integrated services;
- Service delivery methods – exploring the benefits of internally provided services versus contracting service delivery to an external provider;
- Cluster management arrangements for preschools – particular focus on state and local government funding arrangements;
- Latrobe City Council's planning and leadership role within the early childhood education sector; and
- Staff succession planning within this field.

The Child and Family Services Review will be completed in the next financial year, with a focus on ensuring that Latrobe City Council continues to provide quality early childhood education and care service across the municipality.

Strategic Alignment Program – Built and Natural Environment Sustainability Review

The Built and Natural Environment Sustainability Review, finalised during 2009/10, considered several resourcing and internal process aspects, to ensure the division is operating effectively now and into the future. Specifically the review considered:

- Resource and business process optimisation – opportunities to achieve efficiencies and synergies from different departments within the division, including the strategic alignment of teams alongside key business processes;
- Urban design and development – opportunities for more coordinated focus on urban design and development across the municipality, including private development construction, and exploring the benefits of expanding internal expertise in the area of urban design; and
- Delivery of capital works – opportunity to review similar functions currently being delivered by different departments within the division, including some similar strategic development projects that sit in different departments.

The findings of the review will be implemented during the 2010/11 financial year, to ensure Latrobe City Council delivers more effective and efficient services from this division.

Home and Community Care – Quality Assurance Assessment

During the year, the Home and Community Care area undertook a pilot accreditation process called the Community Care Standards. This is a federal accreditation program aimed at providers funded by the Federal Government. Latrobe City Council's Home and Community Care Program has previously received accreditation through the Home and Community Care National Standards.

Under the pilot program, evidence was provided for compliance against the Community Care Standards. This provided Council with an opportunity to be rated against other providers and to develop a continuous improvement plan for the service. The process also included feedback from users and staff as well as review against legislative requirements and relevant policies and procedures.

Tenderlink

During November 2009, Latrobe City Council commenced use of Tenderlink, an online electronic tendering portal. The program allows easier and broader access to tender processes initiated by Council, providing organisations with the option to submit tenders electronically, thereby reducing paper usage and storage requirements.

Fees and Charges for Council Sporting Reserves

A review of Council Managed Sporting Reserve Fees and Charges was undertaken during the year, which addressed the following key areas:

- Current and future maintenance standards;
- Maintenance expenditure;
- Reserve categories;
- Junior sport users;
- Multiple reserve usage;
- Fees and charges;
- Reserve Usage Policy; and
- Usage agreement documentation.

All sporting reserve users were consulted as a part of the review process, with four organisations providing valuable feedback. The review was subsequently adopted by Council in April 2010.

Statutory Planning Continuous Improvement Plan

Since its inception, there have been 24 actions included in the Statutory Planning Continuous Improvement Plan. Designed initially to develop written procedures and policies for statutory planning tasks, there have also been a number of improvements made that have proved to be more time efficient and cost effective.

A significant change is automation to the statutory planning reporting process which has made a difference in officer hours required. Previously manual reports were produced that took four to six hours to complete; the new automated process takes approximately one hour.

A Continuous Improvement Accomplishment Register was also established during the year which documents any significant changes and developments within Latrobe City Council's statutory planning practices.

Childcare and Family Day Care Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey

During the year 2,010 customer satisfaction surveys were sent out to Childcare and Family Day Care families. The survey is conducted on an annual basis to ensure the needs of those who use the services are met and any continuous improvement initiatives are identified.

Approximately 13% of the surveys were returned for Childcare centres with results indicating positive feedback for Childcare staff in the areas of staff and child interaction, staff and parent interaction and the administration of the centres.

Approximately 9% of the surveys were returned for the Family Day Care service, with positive feedback for health and safety, carer and child interaction and the care environment.

Preschools Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey

More than 700 customer satisfaction surveys were sent out to families accessing the 2009 Preschool Program, with a return rate of approximately 20%.

Feedback provided was particularly favourable in the areas of centre administration, child and staff interaction, staff and parent interaction and the centre environment.

Maternal and Child Health Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey

During the year more than 780 customer satisfaction surveys were sent out to families accessing the Maternal Child Health Program, with a return rate of approximately 9%.

Feedback provided was particularly favourable in the areas of staff and parent interaction and the overall customer satisfaction levels.

Universal Access for Preschools Project

Latrobe City Council received funding from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to support planning for the implementation of Universal Access, which is 15 hours of kindergarten provided to all four year old children in the year prior to school by 2013.

The project required the completion of a capacity assessment of all licensed children's services in the municipality, followed by a final report including an action plan submitted to the department in April.

As a transition to 15 hours of preschool by 2013 key initiatives proposed include the move to 12 hours of preschool per week in 2011; centralisation of enrolments for all preschool services; provision of support to all providers for the implementation of early childhood education reforms; and innovative delivery models that are inclusive of specialist service providers and offsite education.

Information in Alternate Formats – Child and Family Services

The Information in Alternate Formats project has seen information about child and family services provided in alternate languages and formats.

Research was undertaken to ensure that the project would prove relevant to as many stakeholders as possible, resulting directly in translation of documents into two commonly used languages within the municipality, Dinka and Arabic. The ongoing nature of the project will include further interpretations over the next financial year as well as ensuring the improved availability of information in forms for those that are hearing impaired.

Statutory Information

Risk Management and Auditing

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee, which is in place to assist Council in the effective conduct of financial reporting, management of risk, maintaining internal controls and facilitating ethical development, met five times during the year.

Its membership comprises two independent external members, Mr Richard McDowell and Mr Ron Gowland, and two Councillors. These were Councillors Middlemiss and Fitzgerald until January 2010 and since then Councillors Vermeulen and Fitzgerald. The Chief Executive Officer, General Manager Governance, Manager Finance and Manager Legislative Compliance also attend Audit Committee meetings.

During the year, the committee dealt with a range of activities, including:

- Internal Audit Program;
- 2010/11 Annual Budget;
- 2008/09 financial statements;
- Risk management;
- Outstanding debtors review;
- Quarterly financial and performance reports and mid year review;
- Monthly performance reporting; and
- Strategic risk reporting.

Internal Audit Program

Latrobe City Council engaged the services of Oakton AA Services to provide its internal audit services. A three year internal audit program has been undertaken to review a range of internal functions of Council. The following reviews were undertaken during the year:

- Risk Management;
- Major Projects; and
- Financial Controls.

Industrial Special Risks Insurance Audit

In 2010, Jardine Municipal Asset Protection Plan Civic Mutual Plus, Council's industrial special risks insurer, conducted the bi-annual property insurance audit. Latrobe City Council received an audit score of 86.3%.

Excellent results were achieved in several audit areas including incident prevention and response, inspection programs and business continuity.

Improvements have been suggested for contract risk management processes and training the organisation on the business continuity program.

Insurance

Latrobe City Council has a responsibility to the community to ensure that the nature and extent of Latrobe City Council's insurance cover is adequate. Council has insurance policies covering:

- Public liability;
- Industrial special risk and Business interruption;
- Public/products liability;
- Councillors and officers liability;
- Motor vehicles;
- Engineering risks;
- Machinery and computer breakdown;
- Hangar keeper's liability; and
- Personal accident/corporate travel.

These insurances are reviewed annually and adjusted accordingly, having consideration for the various associated risks, past history and the benefit of expert advice.

Latrobe City Council liaises regularly with its insurers regarding changes in legislation, court decisions and industry best practice. Latrobe City Council manages public and property liability claims based on the framework and advice of its insurers. Regular contact is made with the insurers to discuss claims and/or risk mitigation activities.

Statutory Information

Privacy

Latrobe City Council is obliged to ensure the personal privacy of all residents and ratepayers in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2001*. Council will only collect, use or disclose personal information where it is necessary to perform Council functions or where required by law. Council has adopted a Privacy Policy which can be obtained upon request.

During the 2009/10 financial year, Latrobe City Council had one complaint referred to the Privacy Commissioner who determined there was no breach of the Act.

Documentation available for public inspection

In accordance with Section 11 of the *Local Government (Finance and Reporting) Regulations 2004*, the following documents are available for public inspection:

- Details of current allowances fixed for the Mayor and councillors.
- Details of senior officers' total salary packages for the current financial year and the previous year.
- Details of overseas or interstate travel (with the exception of interstate travel by land for less than three days) undertaken in an official capacity by councillors or any member of council staff in the previous 12 months.
- Council officers who were required to submit a return of interest during the financial year.
- Councillors who submitted a return of interest during the financial year.
- Agendas for and minutes of Ordinary and Special Meetings held in the previous 12 months.
- A list of all special committees established by Council and the purpose for which each committee was established.
- A list of all special committees established by the Council which were abolished or ceased to function during the financial year.
- Minutes of meetings of special committees.
- A register of delegations.
- Submissions received in accordance with Section 223 of the Act during the previous 12 months.
- Agreements to establish regional libraries.
- Details of all property, finance and operating leases involving land, buildings, plant, computer equipment or vehicles entered into by the Council as lessor or lessee.
- A register of authorised officers.
- A list of donations and grants made by the Council during the financial year.
- Organisations of which the Council was a member during the financial year.
- A list of contracts valued at \$100,000 or more which the Council entered into during the financial year without first engaging in a competitive process.

Other documentation and registers available to the public include:

- The Councillor Reimbursement Policy.
- The Councillor Code of Conduct.
- Records of Assembly of Councillors.
- Register of Interests.
- Local Laws 1, 2 and 3.
- The annual Council Plan.
- The Strategic Resource Plan.

- The annual budget.
- The Annual Report including the Auditor's Report.
- All adopted Council Policies.

In accordance with Section 222 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, inspection of these documents at Latrobe City Council's Corporate Headquarters, 141 Commercial Road, Morwell, can be arranged by contacting Latrobe City Council on 1300 367 700.

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

Latrobe City Council is subject to the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

All Council policies have been adopted following proper consideration of all of the rights contained within the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Freedom of Information

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* gives the community the right to access certain Council documents. The Act has four basic principles:

- Local governments are required to publish information about the documents they hold, particularly those which affect members of the public in their dealings with Council.
- Each person has a legally enforceable right to access information, limited only by exemptions necessary for the protection of the public interest and the private and business affairs of persons from whom information is collected by Council.
- People may request inaccurate, incomplete, out of date or misleading information in their personal records be amended.
- People may appeal against a decision not to give access to information or not amend a personal record.

During the 2009/10 financial year, Latrobe City Council received 17 requests to access information under the Freedom of Information legislation. This is one more request than the previous year.

Freedom of Information requests must be made in writing and accompanied by a \$22.70 application fee. Requests for access to information should be addressed to:

Freedom of Information Officer
 Latrobe City Council
 PO Box 264
 MORWELL VIC 3840

In accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, Latrobe City Council must decide if this information will be provided within 45 days. Of the 17 requests received, three were not processed within the statutory timeframe.

Whistleblowers Protection

The *Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001* aims to protect and encourage disclosure of wrongful acts by councils and other similar bodies. It relates to the behaviours and actions of council officers and councillors. A person is entitled to make a complaint pursuant to the *Whistleblowers Act 2001* by contacting the Ombudsman of Victoria.

Council has adopted a policy in relation to this Act, which can be obtained by contacting Latrobe City Council on 1300 367 700.

During the 2009/10 financial year there were no disclosures made or referred to Latrobe City Council or the Ombudsman of Victoria under the *Whistleblowers Act 2001*.

Strategic Indicator Snapshot

The Council Plan 2009-2013 outlines the Latrobe 2021 indicators under the four strategic objectives; Sustainability, Liveability, Governance and Community Capacity Building.

The transition from Latrobe 2021 to Latrobe 2026 included the review and update of these indicators.

For reporting purposes a snapshot of the Latrobe 2021 strategic indicators relevant to Latrobe City Council are provided below.

Sustainability

Economic

Indicator	Increase community satisfaction with economic development.
Data	The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey rating for economic development remained steady, with Latrobe City Council scoring an indexed mean score of 56 in both 2009 and 2010.

Natural Environment

Indicator	Move to recycle 60% of waste.
Data	Diversion of landfill waste to recycling in Latrobe City increased from 55.82% in 2008/09 to 56.53% in 2009/10.

Built Environment

Indicator	Increase community satisfaction with local roads and footpaths.
Data	The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey rating for local roads and footpaths decreased marginally with Latrobe City Council scoring 58 in 2009 and 57 in 2010. This still remains higher than the indexed median score of 56 for Rural Cities and Regional Centres in 2010.

Liveability

Cultural	
Indicator	Increase the participants using arts and cultural services to decrease user subsidies.
Data	Participation in arts and cultural services has increased in Latrobe City during 2009/10; however user subsidies have increased marginally from \$11.37 in 2008/09 to \$11.60 in 2009/10.
Community	
Indicator	Increase the participation in libraries.
Data	Visits to Latrobe City libraries increased from 208,546 during 2008/09 to 217,500 in 2009/10. Online activity has increased from 20,696 in 2008/09 to 22,566 in 2009/10.
Recreational	
Indicator	Increase the participants at recreational and leisure facilities to decrease user subsidies.
Data	Visits to Latrobe City Council Leisure Centres increased from 417,261 attendances in 2008/09 to 420,967 attendances in 2009/10.

Governance

Legislative	
Indicator	Comply with Local Government Act.
Data	Latrobe City Council was found to be compliant with the Local Government Act 1989 during 2009/10.
Democratic	
Indicator	Greater community perception of interaction and responsiveness, compared to other regional Victorian cities.
Data	The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey rating for customer contact remained steady with Latrobe City Council scoring an indexed mean of 69 in 2009 and 2010.

Community Capacity Building

Advocacy and Leadership	
Indicator	Greater community perception of advocacy compared to other regional Victorian cities.
Data	The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey rating for community perceptions of advocacy decreased with Latrobe City Council scoring 64 in 2009 and 60 in 2010. This was lower than the indexed median score of 65 for Rural Cities and Regional Centres in 2010.
Partnerships and Inclusiveness	
Indicator	Increase community volunteer participation rates compared to other regional Victorian cities.
Data	During 2009/10 there were 32 individual, two corporate and three school volunteer registrations received for the Meals on Wheels, Planned Activity Groups and We Care programs run by Latrobe City Council. No comparable data is available for other regional Victorian cities for this indicator.

Further information on the revised Latrobe 2026 community indicators can be obtained online from www.ourfuture2026.com.au

Council's response to Latrobe 2026, the Council Plan 2010-2014, is also available online at www.latrobe.vic.gov.au.

National Competition Policy Compliance: 2009/10

Certification by Chief Executive Officer

Latrobe City Council has complied with the requirements of the National Competition Policy (NCP) for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, in accordance with the requirements outlined in *National Competition Policy and Local Government – A Revised Statement of Victorian Government Policy, December 2008 (2008 Statement)* as set out below:

A. Trade Practices Compliance

State whether the Council is compliant or non-compliant. If non-compliant, justify or cite actions to redress. Compliant

B. Local Laws Compliance

State whether the Council is compliant or non-compliant. List all local laws made or remade during 2009/10 which impose a restriction on competition. Compliant

C. Competitive Neutrality Compliance

State whether the Council is compliant or non-compliant for all significant businesses. List any significant businesses that are non-compliant. Compliant

I certify that:

- a) this statement has been prepared in accordance with the 2009/10 National Competition Policy reporting guidelines, which is pursuant to the 2008 Statement; and
- b) this statement presents fairly the Council's implementation of the National Competition Policy.

Signed



Paul Buckley

Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 3 September 2010

Victorian Local Government Indicators

Victorian Local Government Indicators

The Victorian Government requires all Victorian councils to measure and annually report against 11 Victorian Local Government Indicators. These indicators are designed to quantify aspects of expenditure, the cost of service and infrastructure provision, customer satisfaction and governance. As a comparison, figures from the past two years are provided.

Category	VLGI No	Description	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Cost of Governance	1	Average rates and charges per assessment	\$1,289	\$1,351	\$1,402
	2	Average residential rates and charges per assessment	\$1,022	\$1,032	\$1,078
Sustainability	3	Average liabilities per assessment	\$979	\$1,246	\$1,502
	4	Operating result per assessment	\$319	\$296	\$389
Services	5	Average operating expenditure per assessment	\$2,234	\$2,595	\$2,614
	6	Community satisfaction rating for the overall performance of Council	65%	64%	61%
Infrastructure	7	Average capital expenditure per assessment	\$555	\$602	\$774
	8	Renewal	84%	85%	99%
	9	Renewal and maintenance	88%	89%	99%
Governance	10	Community satisfaction rating for the Council's advocacy and community representation on key local issues	66%	64%	60%
	11	Community satisfaction rating for the Council's engagement in decision making on key local issues	58%	60%	57%

Financial Report

This report shows how Council performed financially during the 2009/10 financial year. It also provides the overall financial position of Council as at 30 June 2010.

Latrobe City Council presents this Finance Report in accordance with the Australian International Financial Reporting Standards. As the Council is a not-for-profit organisation, some terms used in the private sector are not appropriate for use with these statements.

Introduction

The Finance Report contains four main sections:

- Summary Report
- Financial Statements
- Notes to the Accounts
- Standard Statements

The statements and notes to the accounts are prepared by the Council's Finance Unit, audited by the Victorian Auditor General and examined by the Audit Committee and Council.

Financial Statements

Comprehensive Income Statement

The Comprehensive Income Statement shows:

- revenue sources by income category;
- expenses relating to Council operations, not including costs associated with the purchase or building of assets. While costs for asset purchase are not shown, asset depreciation is included;
- non-owner changes in equity (e.g Asset Revaluation Reserve increments/decrements).

The key figure in this statement is the surplus or deficit for the year. A surplus indicates that revenue exceeded expenses.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet is a one-page summary of Latrobe City Council's financial position as at the 30 June 2010. It shows what Council owns as assets and what is owed in liabilities. Assets and liabilities are split into current and non-current items. Current items reflect those assets or liabilities that will fall due in the next 12 months. The 'Total Equity' line of this statement indicates the net worth of Latrobe City Council which has been developed over many years.

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement summarises Council's cash payments and cash receipts for the 2009/10 financial year indicating the net increase or decrease in cash held by Latrobe City Council. Values in this statement represent 'cash-in-hand' and may vary from the Income Statement and Balance Sheet which are prepared on an accrual basis. Cash in this statement refers to bank deposits and other forms of liquid investments.

Statement of Changes in Equity

This statement summarises the change in the net worth of Latrobe City Council. The net worth of Council can change as a result of:

- a surplus or deficit recorded in the Comprehensive Income Statement;
- use of money from Council reserves;
- an increase or decrease in the value of non-current assets based on revaluation of assets.

Notes to the Accounts

These notes provide detailed information to assist understanding of the financial statements including statement preparation procedures, significant Council accounting policies, and many summary figures underlying the values contained within the statements. Notes also provide information and detail that Council wishes to provide but cannot be included within the financial statements. Numbers associated with notes are shown beside the relevant items within the financial statements.

Standard Statements

Latrobe City Council is required to present audited Standard Statements for Income, Balance Sheet, Cash Flows and Capital Works in accordance with the *Local Government Act (1989)*. Each standard statement reports the difference between actual results for the financial year and the adopted Council budget that was established at the start of the financial year. Any major differences between the financial statements and the standard statements are explained within the notes.

These standard statements reflect the financial statements with the addition of the capital works statement. The Statement of Capital Works provides details of Council expenditure on creating or purchasing property, infrastructure, plant and equipment, furniture and equipment and drainage by asset category. Overall figures for asset renewal and creation (new assets) are also shown.

Certification Reports

Certification of the Principal Accounting Officer is made by the Latrobe City Council Manager Finance who is responsible for the financial management of Council. The report certifies that in their opinion, the financial statements have met all statutory and professional reporting requirements.

Certification is also required by the Latrobe City Council Chief Executive Officer, and two Councillors on behalf of Council. Their reports certify that in their opinion, the financial statements are fair and not misleading.

Auditor General Report

The Independent Audit Report presents an external professional opinion on the financial statements. The report provides confirmation that the Finance Report has been prepared to comply with relevant legislation and professional standards, and provides a fair representation of Council finances.

Summary

Latrobe City Council concluded 2009/10 in a strong financial position. All the key financial indicators demonstrate that Council is being managed in a financially prudent and responsible manner. The financial statements have been audited by the Victorian Auditor-General and endorsed by Latrobe City Council's Audit Committee. Latrobe City Council has delivered on the majority of key strategic objectives outlined in the 2009/10 budget, with the exception of two projects that were delayed through consultation and changes to the scope of works. Latrobe City Council continues to strive to deliver a high level of value for the community.

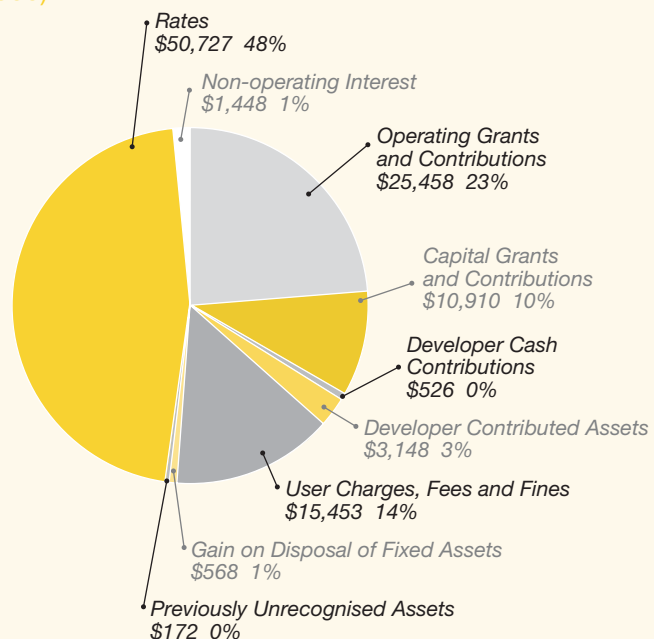
A key financial challenge for Latrobe City Council into the future is to continue to deliver community services and programs whilst balancing the need to invest in infrastructure to ensure Latrobe City remains a community with high levels of liveability and sustainability.

2009/10 SOURCES OF REVENUE (\$'000)

Revenue

Latrobe City Council's total revenue for the 2009/10 year was \$108,410 million (13% over budget). The main factors contributing to this favourable increase were Victorian Grants Commission increased grant allocations together with advanced instalments received for 2010/11 grant allocations, additional developer contributed assets, a greater than expected return on the investment of surplus funds and additional user fees from various sources.

A breakdown of Council's revenue sources, shown right, highlights the reliance on rate revenue to fund community services and the renewal of community assets.



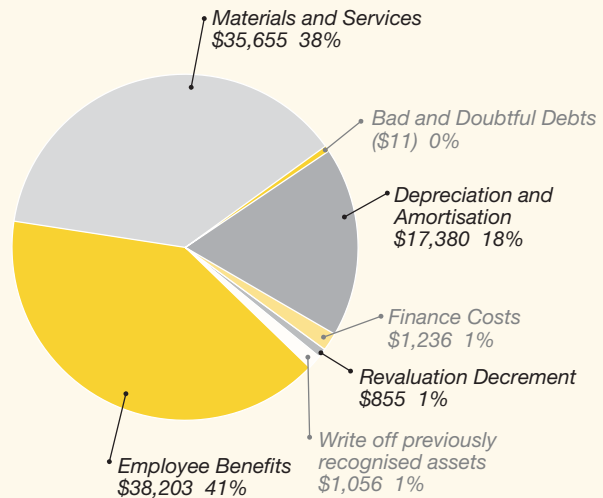
2009/10 CATEGORIES OF EXPENDITURE (\$'000)

Expenses

Latrobe City Council's total expenditure for the 2009/10 year was \$94.374 million (\$11% over budget).

The main factors contributing to this unfavourable variance were additional materials and services due to various factors including project works carried over that were funded in previous financial reporting periods and additional government grants received and continuing works associated with recovery from the January/February 2009 bushfires, increased depreciation expense primarily due to an increase in the value of landfill rehabilitation, together with the value of assets written off as a result of the findings of a revaluation of council land and playgrounds.

A breakdown of Council's expenditure categories is shown right. The graph highlights that 79% of Council's total spending relates to materials and employee costs.



Financial Strength

The Balance Sheet indicates that Latrobe City Council continues to be in a sound financial position, with a healthy Working Capital Ratio, as shown in the graph.

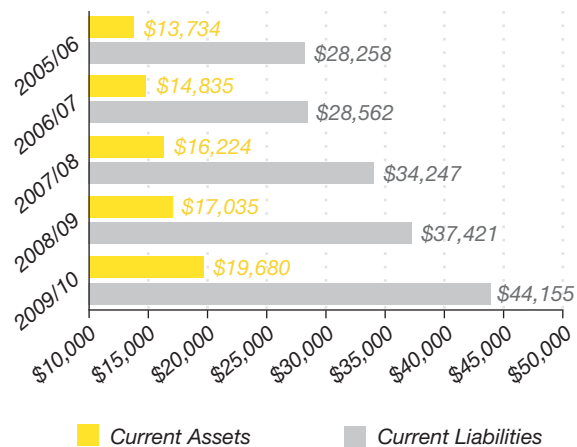
The Working Capital Ratio assesses Council's ability to meet current commitments and is calculated by measuring Council's current assets against current liabilities. Council's ratio of 2.24:1 is an indicator of a sound financial position, having \$2.24 of current assets for every \$1 of current liabilities. The level of working capital over the past five years shows that Council's ability to meet current commitments has remained strong.

Council's total net assets increased to \$895.779 million as at 30 June 2010, an increase of \$122.466 million from the previous year. This was due to Asset Revaluation increments of \$108.430 million together with an operating surplus for the year of \$14.036 million.

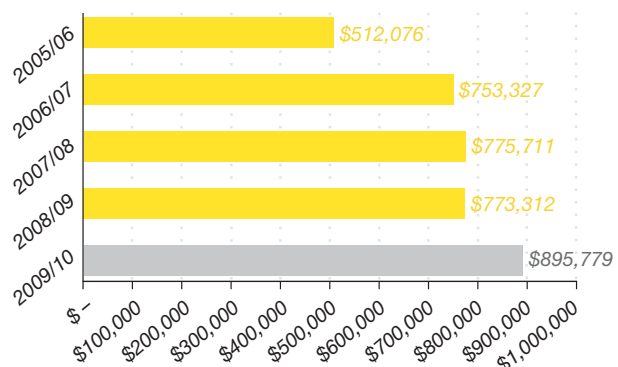
Cash

Latrobe City Council had a net overall cash inflow for the year of \$4.468 million compared to a budgeted net cash outflow of \$6.920 million. This favourable variance is primarily the result of advance funding received for projects together with several major capital works projects that will be completed in 2010/11.

WORKING CAPITAL RATIO (\$'000)



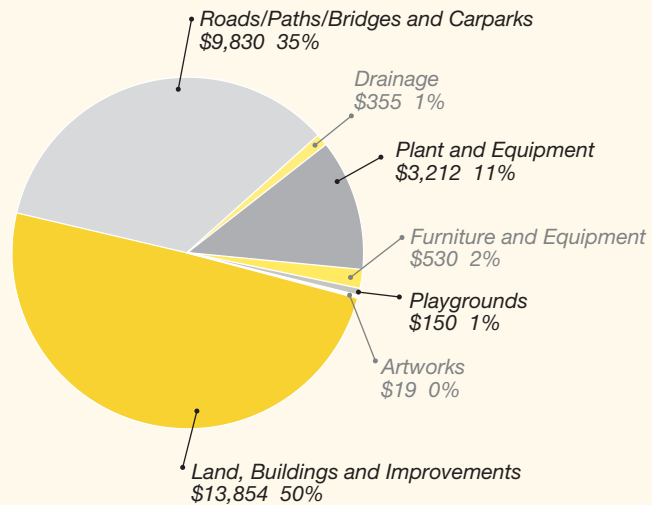
NET ASSETS (\$'000)



2009/10 CAPITAL SPENDING (\$'000)

Capital Spending

Latrobe City Council's continuing commitment to renewing existing infrastructure is highlighted in the graph shown right. Council's capital expenditure during 2009/10 was \$27.949 million. A large proportion of this was spent on roads and associated works (35%) and Buildings and Improvements (50%).



Looking Ahead – Financial Planning

The Council Plan, supported by the Strategic Resource Plan, is a four year strategic plan targeting allocation of resources to meet the strategic objectives set by Latrobe City Council. A key component of the Strategic Resource Plan is the Long Term Financial Strategy, which expresses the strategic objectives and strategies of the Council Plan in financial terms. The table below depicts key financial information as forecast in Council's four year Council Plan.

Council projects a surplus will continue to be achieved over the four years of the Plan which will provide a sustainable level of funding for the renewal and refurbishment of community assets.

The net cash inflow/(outflow) is indicative of Council's ability to maintain its day to day operations in the longer term together with providing cash funding for the Capital Works Program. The financial year 2010/11 indicates a decrease in cash at year end. This is reflective of several major capital works projects that have been funded in prior years that are to be completed in 2010/11.

	Actual			Budget		Forecast	
	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
Financial Performance							
Rate Revenue	45,675	47,624	50,727	54,020	57,234	60,608	64,151
Total Revenue	90,449	103,115	108,410	108,346	97,395	101,744	106,288
Total Expenditure	79,153	92,560	94,374	98,863	91,846	96,272	97,751
Net Result for Year	11,296	10,555	14,036	9,483	5,549	5,472	8,537
Cash Flows							
Surplus from Operations	23,627	21,185	30,368	24,900	19,865	20,628	23,423
Capital Expenditure	19,677	21,486	27,949	31,857	16,303	17,091	20,388
Net cash inflow/(outflow)	5,394	1,982	4,468	(9,496)	281	279	277

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Financial Statements

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT – YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	<i>NOTE</i>	2010 \$'000s	2009 \$'000s
INCOME			
Rates	2	50,727	47,624
Grants	3	36,368	34,505
User Charges, Fees and Fines	4	15,453	13,640
Developer Cash Contributions	5	526	351
Developer Contributed Assets	6	3,148	5,654
Non-operating Interest		1,448	1,341
Net gain (loss) on disposal of assets	13(b)/15(b)	568	(1,171)
Recognition of Previously Unrecognised Assets		172	0
Total Income		108,410	101,944
EXPENSES			
Employee Benefits	7	(38,203)	(34,645)
Materials and Services	8	(35,655)	(39,204)
Bad and Doubtful Debts	9	11	(105)
Depreciation and Amortisation	10	(17,380)	(16,198)
Finance Costs		(1,236)	(1,048)
Revaluation Decrement		(855)	0
Write off Previously Recognised Assets		(1,056)	(189)
Total Expenses		(94,374)	(91,389)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		14,036	10,555
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Net Asset Revaluation increment (decrement)	21(a)	108,430	0
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT		122,466	10,555

The above statement should be read with the accompanying notes

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

	NOTE	2010 \$'000s	2009 \$'000s
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	28	34,349	29,881
Prepayments		999	422
Trade and Other Receivables	11	8,807	6,341
Non-current assets held for sale	13(a)	0	777
Total Current Assets		44,155	37,421
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment	15(a)	905,780	780,230
Trade and Other Receivables	11	84	104
Other Financial Assets	12	2	2
Total Non-Current Assets		905,866	780,336
TOTAL ASSETS		950,021	817,757
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	16	7,101	5,407
Interest-bearing Liabilities	18	2,679	2,441
Employee Benefits	17	7,602	7,042
Provisions	19	920	1,000
Other Current Liabilities	20	1,378	1,145
Total Current Liabilities		19,680	17,035
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Interest-bearing Liabilities	18	17,678	16,030
Employee Benefits	17	1,163	856
Provisions	19	15,721	10,524
Total Non-Current Liabilities		34,562	27,410
TOTAL LIABILITIES		54,242	44,445
NET ASSETS		895,779	773,312
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus		589,415	575,396
Reserves	21	306,364	197,916
TOTAL EQUITY		895,779	773,312

The above statement should be read with the accompanying notes

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY – YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Total 2010 \$'000s	Accumulated Surplus \$'000s	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$'000s	Other Reserves Note 21(b) \$'000s
Equity at beginning of year	773,312	575,396	196,217	1,699
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	14,036	14,036		
Net Asset Revaluation Increment/ (decrement)	108,430		108,430	
Transfers to Reserves		(526)		526
Transfers from Reserves		509		(509)
Equity at 30 June 2010	895,779	589,415	304,647	1,716

The above statement should be read with the accompanying notes

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY – YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	Total 2009 \$'000s	Accumulated Surplus \$'000s	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$'000s	Other Reserves Note 21(b) \$'000s
Equity at beginning of year	775,710	577,976	196,217	1,517
Prior Year Correction of Errors:				
Error in processing of depreciation (Derecognised)/Found Assets	655 (13,608)	655 (13,608)		
Restated Opening Equity	762,757	565,023	196,217	1,517
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	10,555	10,555		
Transfers to Reserves		(351)		351
Transfers from Reserves		169		(169)
Equity at 30 June 2009	773,312	575,396	196,217	1,699

The above statement should be read with the accompanying notes

CASH FLOW STATEMENT – YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	NOTE	2010 \$'000s Inflows (Outflows)	2009 \$'000s Inflows (Outflows)
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
INFLOWS			
Receipts from ratepayers		50,948	47,647
Government Grants (inclusive of GST)		36,405	33,492
Interest received		1,286	1,428
User charges, fines and fees (inclusive of GST)		14,708	13,479
Developer Contributions		526	351
OUTFLOWS			
Payments to Employees		(37,020)	(33,804)
Payments to Suppliers (inclusive of GST)		(36,486)	(41,408)
Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	28	30,368	21,185
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for property, plant, equipment and infrastructure assets		(27,949)	(21,486)
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	13(b)/15(b)	1,400	1,388
Net Cash used in Investing Activities		(26,549)	(20,098)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Finance Costs		(1,236)	(1,048)
Loan Funds		4,350	4,450
Repayment of Borrowings		(2,465)	(2,507)
Net Cash provided by (used in) Financing Activities		649	895
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents		4,468	1,982
Cash and Cash Equivalents at beginning of the Financial Year		29,881	27,899
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the Financial Year	28	34,349	29,881

The above statement should be read with the accompanying notes

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

Introduction

The Latrobe City Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 2 December 1994. The Council's main office is located at 141 Commercial Road, Morwell 3840.

This financial report is a general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Income Statement, a Balance Sheet, a Cash Flow Statement, and Statement of Changes in Equity and Notes accompanying these statements. The general purpose financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the *Local Government Act 1989* and the Local Government (Financial and Reporting) Regulations 2004.

NOTE 1

(a) BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

This financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and going concern basis.

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention except where otherwise noted.

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those of the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

(b) STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

(i) *Adoption of new Australian Accounting Standard requirements*

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the effective date in the current period.

(ii) *Financial Statement Presentation*

The entity has applied the revised AASB101 *Presentation of Financial Statements* which became effective on 1 January 2009. The revised standard requires a Comprehensive Income Statement. All non-owner changes in equity must now be presented in the Comprehensive Income Statement.

NOTE 1 (CONTINUED)

(iii) Pending Accounting Standard

The following Australian Accounting Standards have been issued or amended and are applicable to the Council but are not yet effective.

They have not been adopted in preparation of the financial statements at reporting date.

Standard/ Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning	Impact on Local Government Financial Statements
AASB 2009-5 Further Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project. [AASB 5, 8, 101, 107, 117, 118, 136 and 139]	Some amendments will result in accounting changes for presentation, recognition or measurement purposes, while other amendments will relate to terminology and editorial changes.	1 January 2010	Terminology and editorial changes. Impact minor.
AASB 2009-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Group Cash- settled Share-based Payment Transactions. [AASB 2]	The amendments clarify the scope of AASB 2.	1 January 2010	No impact. AASB 2 does not apply to Local Government; consequently this Standard does not apply.
AASB 2009-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Additional Exemptions for First-time Adopters [AASB 1]	Applies to entities adopting Australian Accounting Standards for the first time, to ensure entities will not face undue cost or effort in the transition process in particular situations.	1 January 2010	No impact. Relates only to first time adopters of Australian Accounting Standards.
AASB 2009-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Rights Issues [AASB 132]	The Standard makes amendments to AASB 132, stating that rights issues must now be classed as equity rather than derivative liabilities.	1 February 2010	No impact. Local Government do not issue rights, warrants and options, consequently the amendment does not impact on the statements.
AASB 9 Financial Instruments	This standard simplifies requirements for the classification and measurement of financial assets resulting from Phase 1 of the IASB's project to replace IAS 39 <i>Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement</i> (AASB 139 <i>Financial Instruments; Recognition and Measurement</i>).	1 January 2013	Detail of impact is still being assessed.

NOTE 1 (CONTINUED)

Standard/ Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning	Impact on Local Government Financial Statements
AASB 2009–11 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 139, 1023 and 1038 and interpretations 10 and 12]	This gives effect to consequential changes arising from the issuance of AASB 9.	1 January 2013	Detail of impact is still being assessed.
AASB 2009–12 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 5, 8, 108, 110, 112, 119, 133, 137, 139, 1023 and 1031 and Interpretations 2, 4 16, 1039 and 1052]	This Standard amends AASB 8 to require and entity to exercise judgement in assessing whether a government and entities know to be under the control of that government are considered a single customer for purposes of certain operating segment disclosures. This standard also makes numerous editorial amendments to other AASs.	1 January 2011	AASB 8 does not apply to Local Government therefore no impact expected. Otherwise, only editorial changes arising from amendments to other standards, no major impact. Impacts of editorial amendments are not expected to be significant.
AASB 2009–13 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Interpretation 19. [AASB 1]	Consequential amendment to AASB 1 arising from publication of Interpretation 19.	1 July 2010	Local Governments do not extinguish financial liabilities with equity instruments, therefore requirements of Interpretation 17 and related amendments have no impact.
AASB 2009–14 Amendment to Australian Interpretation – Prepayments of a Minimum Funding Requirements [AASB Interpretation 14]	Amendment to Interpretation 14 arising from the issuance of <i>Prepayments of a Minimum Funding Requirement</i> .	1 January 2011	Expected to have no significant impact.

(c) LATROBE CITY COUNCIL REPORTING ENTITY

In the process of reporting on the Council as a single unit, all transactions and balances between the Council and controlled entities have been eliminated in full.

(i) Other Operations not controlled by Council

Preschools operate from Council owned land and buildings. Council provides grants and can obtain financial information on request. The Council is the employer of teaching and relief staff.

These operations of the Preschool Committees are not considered as forming part of the reporting entity on the basis that Council does not have the capacity to control these operations. However, the Land/Buildings are included in Council's assets and applicable depreciation charges are included in the Comprehensive Income Statement.

NOTE 1 (CONTINUED)

(ii) *Special Committees*

Special Committees of Council include sporting, recreational and foreshore committees. Council contributes significantly to the operation of these Committees and has a representative on each Committee.

On the basis of materiality, only the operations of the Latrobe Regional Airport Committee have been incorporated into the financial statements. However, the Land and Buildings of all Committees are included in the Balance Sheet.

(d) SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(i) *Recognition and Measurement of Assets*

Acquisition

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition. Fair value is the amount for which the asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, any direct labour and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

Council has certain assets that require major periodic maintenance to be undertaken to ensure that they achieve their full service potential as anticipated at the time of acquisition and/or construction. Major cyclical maintenance costs are capitalised if the expenditure meets the criteria for recognition as an asset. Maintenance, repair costs and minor renewals are charged as expenses as incurred.

Capitalisation Thresholds

Capitalisation thresholds for all classes of assets, with the exception of Land, are as shown below which are consistent with prior year unless otherwise stated. Land including Land Under Roads has no capitalisation threshold.

Asset Type	Threshold \$
<i>Property</i>	
Buildings and Improvements	10,000
<i>Plant and Equipment</i>	
Office Furniture and Equipment	1,000
Plant and Equipment	1,000
Art Works Collection	500
<i>Infrastructure</i>	
Drainage Works	10,000
Roads and Streets	10,000
Bridges	10,000
Playgrounds	5,000

NOTE 1 (CONTINUED)

Revaluation

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment are measured at fair value, being the amount for which the assets could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arms length transaction. At balance date, the Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets within land and buildings and infrastructure assets to ensure that each asset materially approximates its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differs from the fair value the class of asset is revalued.

In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 3 to 5 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts.

Where the assets are revalued, the revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation except to the extent that an increment reverses a prior year decrement for that class of asset that had been recognised as an expense in which case the increment is recognised as revenue up to the amount of the expense. Revaluation decrements are recognised as an expense except where prior increments are included in the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset in which case the decrement is taken to the reserve to extent of the remaining increments. Within the same class of assets, revaluation increments and decrements within the year are offset.

Plant and Equipment are valued at cost.

Refer to note 15 for the basis of revaluation of all non-current assets.

(ii) Depreciation and amortisation of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

Buildings, plant and equipment, infrastructure and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Depreciation is provided based on the residual useful life as determined each year. There has been no change in the estimated useful life of assets as compared to the previous financial year. The following table summarises the estimated useful life and the depreciation rates applied for the different categories of assets:

Asset Category	Depreciation/Amortisation Useful Life (Years)	Estimated Rate (%)
Building and Improvements	30 – 50	2 – 3.3
Office Furniture and Equipment	5 – 10	10 – 20
Plant and Equipment	5	20
Drainage Works	50 – 70	2
Roads and Streets	7 – 73	2 – 14
Bridges	75	2
Art Works Collection	N/A	N/A
Playgrounds	11	9
Landfill Improvements	6 – 31	3 – 17

Various sub-categories of furniture and equipment, plant and equipment, car parks and roads have different estimated useful lives and therefore attract different depreciation rates. Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Land, Land Under Roads, Road earthworks and Artworks are not depreciated.

Assets are depreciated from the date of acquisition or, in respect of internally constructed assets, from the date they are completed and held ready for use.

NOTE 1 (CONTINUED)

(iii) *Employee Benefits*

Wages and Salaries

Liabilities for wages and salaries and rostered days off are measured as the amount unpaid at balance date. Entitlements include oncosts that are calculated using employee remuneration rates as at balance date.

Long Service Leave

Long Service Leave entitlements payable are assessed at balance date having regard to expected employee remuneration rates on settlement, employment related oncosts and other factors including accumulated years of employment, on settlement, and experience of employee departure per year of service.

Long Service Leave expected to be paid within 12 months is measured at nominal value based on the amount expected to be paid when settled.

Long Service Leave expected to be paid later than one year has been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for these accrued entitlements. Commonwealth Bond Rates are used for discounting future cash flows.

Annual Leave

Annual leave entitlements are accrued on a pro rata basis in respect of services provided by employees up to balance date.

Annual leave expected to be paid within 12 months is measured at nominal value based on the amount, including appropriate oncosts, expected to be paid when settled.

Annual leave expected to be paid later than one year has been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for these accrued entitlements. Commonwealth bond rates are used for discounting future cash flows.

Superannuation

A liability is recognised in respect of Council's present obligation to meet the unfunded obligations of defined benefit superannuation schemes to which its employees are members. The liability is defined as the Council's share of the scheme's unfunded position, being the difference between the present value of employees' accrued benefits and the net market value of the scheme's assets at balance date. The liability also includes applicable contributions tax of 17.65%.

The superannuation expense for the reporting year is the amount of the statutory contribution the Council makes to the superannuation plan which provides benefits to its employees, together with any movements (favourable/unfavourable) in the position of any defined benefits schemes. Details of these arrangements are set out in Note 26.

Sick Leave

No provision has been made for sick leave as the entitlement is non-vesting and it is not considered probable that the entitlement that will accrue in the future will be greater than the amount of sick leave taken.

(iv) *Accounts Receivable*

Rate Debtors

Rates are carried at nominal amounts due plus interest and are secured by a charge over the ratepayer's property. A provision for doubtful rate debtors is not required due to the Council's extensive legal powers for recovery, unless the value of the specific property involved is less than the outstanding debt.

Other Debtors

Other debtors represent amounts due to Council for the provision of services, advances and accrued income. The carrying amount of non-rate debtors (including any loans made) has been assessed for recovery at year end and provision made for doubtful debts as deemed necessary. Recoverability of debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis throughout the course of each financial year and debts which are known to be uncollectable are written off.

NOTE 1 (CONTINUED)

(v) User Fees and Fines

User fees and fines (including parking 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 first occurs.

A provision for doubtful debts is recognised when collection in full is no longer probable.

(vi) Investments

Investments are recognised and brought to account at their cost. Interest revenues are recognised as they accrue.

(vii) Leases

All Council's leases are deemed to be 'operating leases' as the lessor effectively retains substantially all of the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of the leased items. The related rentals are expensed as incurred (refer to Note 24).

(viii) Rates, grants, donations and other contributions

Rates, grants, donations and contributions (including developer contributions), other than reciprocal contributions, are recognised as revenues when the Council obtains control over the assets comprising these receipts. Control over assets acquired from rates is obtained at the commencement of the rating year as it is an enforceable debt linked to the rateable property or, where earlier, upon receipt of the rates. A provision for doubtful debts on rates has not been established as unpaid rates represent a charge against the rateable property that will be recovered when the property is next sold. Control over granted assets is normally obtained upon their receipt (or acquittal) or upon earlier notification that a grant has been secured, and are valued at their fair value at the date of transfer.

Income is recognised when the Council obtains control of the contribution or the right to receive the contribution, it is probable that the economic benefits comprising the contribution will flow to the Council and the amount of the contribution can be measured reliably.

Where grants or contributions recognised as revenues during the financial year were obtained on condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period and those conditions were undischarged at balance date, the unused grant or contribution is disclosed in Note 3. The note also discloses the amount of unused grant or contribution from prior years that was expended on Council's operations during the current year.

A liability is recognised in respect of revenue that is reciprocal in nature to the extent that the requisite service has not been provided at balance date.

(ix) Sale of property, plant and equipment

The profit or loss on the sale of an asset is determined when control has passed to the buyer.

(x) Interest and rents

Interest and rentals are recognised as revenue when the payment is due, the value of the payment is notified, or the payment is received, whichever first occurs.

(xi) Dividends

Dividend revenue is recognised when the Council's right to receive payment is established.

(xii) Deposits and Retentions

Amounts received as tender deposits and retention amounts controlled by Council are included in the financial statements as liabilities until they are returned or forfeited. Amounts received and paid by Council where it has merely acted as a collection agent have been eliminated.

(xiii) Creditors and Other Current Liabilities

Creditors and other current liabilities are amounts due to external parties for the purchase of goods and services and are recognised as liabilities when the goods and services are received. Creditors are normally paid within 30 days after initial recognition. Interest is not payable on these liabilities.

NOTE 1 (CONTINUED)

(xiv) Finance Costs

Finance costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

(xv) Allocation between Current and Non-Current

In the determination of whether an asset or liability is current or non-current, consideration is given to the time when each asset or liability is expected to be settled. The asset or liability is classified as current if it is expected to be settled within the next twelve months, being the Council's operational cycle or if the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting date.

(xvi) Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, the Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the comprehensive income statement, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

(xvii) Rounding

Unless otherwise stated, amounts in the financial report have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. Figures in the financial statements may not equate due to rounding.

(xviii) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purposes of the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call and other highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity that are readily convertible to cash on hand at the Council's option and are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

(xix) Other Financial Assets

Managed funds are valued at fair value, being market value, at balance date. Any unrealised gains and losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either a revenue or expense.

(xx) Non-Current Assets held for sale

A non-current asset held for sale is measured at the lower of its carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell and are not subject to depreciation. Non current assets are treated as current and classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. This condition is regarded as met only when the sale is highly probable and the asset's sale is expected to be completed within 12 months from the date of classification.

(xxi) Financial Guarantees

Financial guarantee contracts are recognised as a liability at the time the guarantee is issued. The liability is initially measured at fair value, and if there is material increase in the likelihood that the guarantee may have to be exercised, at the higher of the amount determined in accordance with AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets and the amount initially recognised less cumulative amortisation, where appropriate. In the determination of fair value, consideration is given to factors including the probability of default by the guaranteed party and the likely loss to Council in the event of default.

(xxii) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

NOTE 1 (CONTINUED)

(xxiii) Contingent assets and contingent liabilities and commitments

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed by way of a note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value and exclusive of the GST payable.

(xxiv) Prior Year Correction

The revaluation process of Council's infrastructure classes of assets identified roads that had been derecognised in previous reporting periods by Council engineering staff that had not been processed to the asset registers. The reasons for derecognition were that they were either not Council's responsibility to maintain or the lengths had been recorded incorrectly. This led to an overstatement of the written down value of \$13.608M. It was also discovered that an error in the calculation of depreciation for Roads, Streets and Bridges had resulted in an overstatement of depreciation in 2009 of \$655K. These corrections have resulted in net adjustments of \$12.953M to opening accumulated surplus and the 2008/09 comparative figures for Property, Plant and Equipment.

A third balance sheet has not been presented to disclose the prior year error as they were considered not material to the comparative amounts included in the Balance Sheet.

	2009 as previously stated \$'000s	Prior Year Adjustment \$'000s	2009 Restated Balance \$'000s
Balance Sheet			
Non Current Assets			
Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment	793,183	(12,953)	780,230
Equity			
Accumulated Surplus	588,349	(12,953)	575,396

NOTE 2

RATES

Council uses Capital Improved Value (CIV) as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipal district. The CIV of a property is its total land and improvements value.

This valuation base was used to calculate general rates, excluding valuations for power generation companies and Australian Paper Maryvale LTD:

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2009/10 was \$7,542,375,000 (2008/09 was \$7,397,962,000).

The applicable rates in the CIV dollar were:

	2010	2009
- General	0.00443739	0.00419717
- Farm	0.00332804	0.00314788
- Recreation Land	0.00221870	0.00209859

This derived Rate revenues of:

	2010 \$'000s	2009 \$'000s
Residential	25,762	24,074
Commercial/Industrial	5,189	4,795
Farm	2,010	1,916
Recreation Land	25	24
Rating Agreements	7,928	7,683
Municipal Charge	3,401	3,188
Garbage Charge	6,412	5,944
Total Rates	50,727	47,624

The date of the latest general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2008, and the valuation was first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2008.

The date of the next general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district is 1 January 2010, and the valuation will be first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2010.

NOTE 3

GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Grants and contributions were received in respect of the following:

	2010 \$'000s	2009 \$'000s
Recurrent		
Commonwealth Government – Roads to Recovery	1,175	1,038
Victorian Grants Commission – General Purpose	8,453	10,165
Victorian Grants Commission – Local Roads	2,076	2,484
Aged and Disability	3,621	3,304
Preschools	2,229	2,146
Employment Facilitation Programs	607	339
Libraries	459	458
Family Day Care	286	310
Maternal and Child Health	414	362
Arts	160	252
Enhanced Home Visiting Program	164	155
School Crossing Supervision	83	86
Health Programs	67	130
Community Development and Support Programs	153	281
Rural Access Program	95	94
Family and Children	240	173
Other	46	32
Total Recurrent	20,328	21,809
Non Recurrent		
Bushfire Recovery	3,592	2,349
Churchill Leisure Centre Redevelopment	2,270	450
Bushfire Recovery Case Management	1,901	462
Callignee Community Centre	1,898	435
Moe Activity Centre Plan Development	1,469	0
Moe Early Learning Centre Development	1,444	500
Ted Summerton Reserve Redevelopment	1,103	1,575
Other Infrastructure Grants	725	1,475
Other Recreation Facilities	276	932
Moe Newborough Leisure Centre Redevelopment	250	1,000
Traralgon Activity Centre Plan and Growth Review	210	0
Federal Blackspot Program (Vic Roads)	172	0
Better Roads Victoria Program	157	0
Family and Children	148	42
Community Support and Development Programs	134	410
Arts	94	0
Economic Development	92	180
Employment Facilitation Programs	29	112
Transit Cities Projects	20	212
Churchill Intergenerational Hub	0	1,760
Regional Airport	0	501
Roads to Recovery Program	0	195
Other	56	106
Total Non Recurrent	16,040	12,696
Total Grants, Subsidies and Reimbursements	36,368	34,505

NOTE 3 (CONTINUED)

Conditions on Grants and Contributions

Grants and Contributions recognised as revenue during the year and were obtained on the condition that they be expended in a specified manner, that had not occurred at balance date were:

	2010 \$'000s	2009 \$'000s
Recurrent		
Family and Children Programs	479	269
Employment Facilitation Programs	247	126
Community Support and Development	21	161
Aged and Disability Programs	399	303
Health and Immunisation	3	48
Libraries	23	62
Victorian Grants Commission – General Purpose	2,099	2,070
Victorian Grants Commission – Local Roads	516	509
Total Recurrent	3,787	3,548
Non Recurrent		
Bushfire Recovery	1,617	357
Moe Early Learning Centre Development	1,444	500
Callignee Community Centre	590	391
Ted Summerton Reserve Redevelopment	581	1,575
Other Infrastructure	479	688
Recreation	144	915
Traralgon Activity Centre Plan and Growth Review	91	0
Community Support and Development	72	217
Economic Development	40	60
Transit Cities Projects	13	150
Other	91	76
Total Non Recurrent	5,162	4,929
Total	8,949	8,477

NOTE 3 (CONTINUED)

Grants and Contributions which were recognised as revenue in prior years and were expended during the current year in the manner specified by the grantor were:

	2010 \$'000s	2009 \$'000s
Recurrent		
Victorian Grants Commission – General Purpose	2,070	0
Victorian Grants Commission – Local Roads	509	0
Family and Children Programs	269	561
Aged and Disability Programs	214	196
Community Support and Development Programs	140	138
Employment Facilitation Programs	133	64
Libraries	69	0
Health	45	18
Other Grants and Contributions	0	40
Total Recurrent	3,449	1,017
Non Recurrent		
Ted Summerton Reserve Redevelopment	1,575	0
Other Infrastructure	683	809
Recreation	527	152
Callignee Community Centre	391	0
Bushfire Recovery	384	0
Moe Early Learning Centre Development	319	0
Transit Cities Projects	239	377
Community Support and Development Programs	197	106
Family and Children Programs	109	42
Economic Development	81	101
Other Grants and Contributions	187	453
Total Non Recurrent	4,692	2,040
Total	8,141	3,057
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Restricted Assets Resulting from Grant Revenues for the Year	808	5,420

NOTE 4

USER CHARGES, FEES AND FINES

	2010 \$'000s	2009 \$'000s
Leisure Centres	2,848	2,755
Outdoor Pools	106	125
Childcare/Preschools	3,669	3,384
Aged Services	1,898	1,686
Recreation (Halls and Reserves)	487	514
Planning	389	411
Building Services	177	145
Health Services	374	316
Local Laws	1,143	952
Waste Services	2,155	792
Property Rentals	95	100
Other Fees and Charges	2,112	2,460
Total User Charges, Fees and Fines	15,453	13,640

NOTE 5

DEVELOPER CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

	2010 \$'000s	2009 \$'000s
Street Lighting	0	0
Carparking	91	0
Public Open Space	85	2
Drainage Headworks	299	160
Street Trees	45	29
Future Roadworks	6	160
Total Developer Cash Contributions	526	351

NOTE 6

DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTED ASSETS

	2010 \$'000s	2009 \$'000s
Roads	1,340	2,523
Drains	816	1,090
Footpaths	484	878
Kerb and Channel	353	525
Land	135	597
Land Under Roads	20	41
Total Developer Contributed Assets	3,148	5,654

NOTE 7

EMPLOYEE COSTS (EXCLUDING AMOUNTS CAPITALISED)

	2010 \$'000s	2009 \$'000s
Salaries and Wages	33,055	29,557
Superannuation	2,924	2,568
Workcover	496	709
Other OnCosts	1,340	1,453
Fringe Benefits Tax	388	358
Total Employee Costs	38,203	34,645

NOTE 8

MATERIALS AND SERVICES

	2010 \$'000s	2009 \$'000s
Contracts	16,735	20,642
Plant Hire	1,277	1,189
Utilities	2,051	1,982
Building Maintenance	1,584	1,117
Grants and Contributions	1,291	1,246
Advertising	208	191
Telephones and Communications	743	753
IT Software Maintenance	494	399
Levies	428	39
Family Day Care	1,946	1,860
Other Materials	8,898	9,786
Total Materials and Contracts	35,655	39,204

NOTE 9

BAD AND DOUBTFUL DEBTS

	2010 \$'000s	2009 \$'000s
Other Debtors	(11)	105
Total Bad and Doubtful Debts	(11)	105

NOTE 10

DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION EXPENSES

Depreciation and amortisation expense for the year was charged in respect of:

	2010 \$'000s	2009 \$'000s
Building and Improvements	2,588	2,469
Furniture and Office Equipment	614	602
Playground Improvements	69	69
Plant and Equipment	1,344	1,169
Roads, Streets and Bridges	9,638	10,236
Drainage Works	1,349	1,341
Landfill Rehabilitation	1,778	312
Total Depreciation	17,380	16,198

NOTE 11

TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2010 \$'000s	2009 \$'000s
Current		
Childcare	54	55
Family Day Care	150	85
Home Care/Maintenance/Meals on Wheels	261	243
Rates	1,296	1,507
Government Grants and Subsidies	3,157	2,132
Private Schemes	0	1
Accrued Interest	254	92
Staff Advances	15	12
Preschools	9	16
Health Registrations	14	5
Advances to Community Groups/Vendor Term Loans	19	20
Pension Claim	1	2
Latrobe Regional Airport Projects	20	114
Landfill	329	320
Latrobe Leisure Churchill Upgrade	1,413	0
Other	1,874	1,845
Provision for Doubtful Debts	(59)	(108)
Total Current	8,807	6,341

Rates are payable by four instalments during the year or by lump sum in February. Arrears attract interest, currently at the rate of 10.5% per annum.

Non Current

Advances to Community Group/Vendor Term Loans	84	104
Total Non Current	84	104

NOTE 12

OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2010 \$'000s	2009 \$'000s
Non Current		
MAPS Group Ltd Shares	2	2
Total Non Current	2	2

NOTE 13

(a) ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

	Carrying Amount 30/06/09 \$'000s	WDV T'fer Assets Held for Sale (i) \$'000s	WDV Disposals \$'000s	Carrying Amount 30/06/09 \$'000s
ASSET CLASS				
Land	418	(191)	(227)	0
Building and Improvements	359	(359)		0
Total Fixed Assets	777	(550)	(227)	0

- (i) Assets that meet/(no longer meet) the criteria under AASB5 Non Current Assets held for sale, transferred from/(to) Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment (Note 15).

(b) GAIN/(LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

	Land \$'000s	Properties \$'000s	Total 2010 \$'000s	Total 2009 \$'000s
Proceeds of Sales	425		425	583
Book Values	(227)		(227)	(1,787)
Profit/(loss) on Sales	198	0	198	(1,204)

NOTE 14

RESTRICTED ASSETS

Cash

Council has cash and cash equivalents (Note 28) that are subject to restrictions as at the reporting date. Council has legislative restrictions in relation to employee entitlements (Long Service Leave) and non discretionary reserve and grant funds.

	2010 \$'000s	2009 \$'000s
Restricted Cash Assets		
Long Service Leave (1) (Note 17)	5,449	4,842
Street Lighting Reserve (2)	9	9
Off Street Parking Contributions (2)	440	463
Drainage Contributions (2)	585	566
Playground/Public Open Space Contributions (2)	139	130
Tree Planting Contributions (2)	211	204
Future Roadwork (2)	333	327
Unexpended Grants and Contributions (Note 3)	9,890	9,082
Total Restricted Cash Assets	17,056	15,623
Other		
Morwell Civic Centre Site (3)	3,500	3,500
Total Other Restricted Assets	3,500	3,500

- (1) Restricted asset for long service leave is based on the Local Government (Long Service Leave) Regulations 2002, and does not necessarily equate to the long service leave liability disclosed in Note 17 due to a different basis of calculation prescribed by the regulation.
- (2) Funds required to be spent on projects for which contributions have been received.
- (3) Land held by Council for which a covenant exists requiring that the land be used for municipal or education purposes.

NOTE 15

PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2010 \$'000s	2009 \$'000s
Land (1)		
– at independent valuation 2010	168,846	89,673
– at cost		1,747
Total Land	168,846	91,420
Building and Improvements (1)		
– at independent valuation 2010	157,882	111,611
– at cost		15,944
	157,882	127,555
Less Accumulated Depreciation		(7,057)
Total Buildings and Improvements	157,882	120,498
Office Furniture and Equipment (3)		
– at cost	4,523	3,994
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(2,552)	(1,938)
Total Office Furniture and Equipment	1,972	2,056
Plant and Equipment (3)		
– at cost	10,147	9,120
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(3,430)	(3,665)
Total Plant and Equipment	6,717	5,455
Drainage Works (2)		
– at Council valuation	134,910	93,437
– at cost		871
	134,910	94,308
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(50,207)	(10,935)
Total Drainage Works	84,703	83,373
Land Under Roads (6)		
– at Fair value	14,431	10,721
Total Land Under Roads	14,431	10,721
Roads, Streets and Bridges (2)		
– at Council valuation	601,318	452,020
– at cost		37,494
	601,318	489,514
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(157,951)	(39,912)
Total Roads, Streets and Bridges	443,368	449,602
Landfill Improvements (5)		
– at Council valuation	5,440	5,440
– at cost	12,806	7,609
	18,246	13,049
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(3,302)	(1,525)
Total Landfill Improvements	14,943	11,524

NOTE 15 (CONTINUED)

PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2010 \$'000s	2009 \$'000s
Playground Improvements (2)		
– at Council valuation 2010	1,386	859
– at cost		777
	1,386	1,636
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(721)	(196)
Total Playground Improvements	665	1,440
Art Collection (4)		
– at valuation	1,733	1,733
– at cost	65	45
Total Art Collection	1,798	1,778
Works in Progress – at cost	10,455	2,364
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	905,780	780,231
Property, Plant and Equipment		
At Valuation	1,071,515	754,773
At Cost	37,996	79,965
At Fair Value	14,431	10,721
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(218,162)	(65,228)
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	905,780	780,231

- (1) Land (excluding land under roads) has been stated at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Buildings and Improvements have been stated at fair value on the basis of written down replacement cost as at 30 June 2010. Valuations were carried out by:
 - CJA Lee Property, Valuers and Consultants
- (2) Roads, Streets and Bridges, Playground improvements and Drainage assets have been valued on the basis of written down replacement cost, using the Greenfield approach, by Council's Engineering staff. The majority of the assets have been valued as at 30 June 2010 with additions since that time being added at valuation.
- (3) Plant and Equipment and Office Furniture and Equipment have been stated at cost.
- (4) Art Collection has been valued at market value by an independent art valuer.
- (5) Landfill Improvements has been valued at the expected whole of life cost for required improvement works by Council's Coordinator Landfill Services.
- (6) Land under roads is valued at fair value. Fair value is based on Council valuations at 30 June 2010 for land under roads in existence at that date and at the date acquired for subsequent acquisitions using site values adjusted for englobo (undeveloped and/or unserviced) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. The valuation has been undertaken by Council's finance and infrastructure staff.