

Independent Auditor's Report
To the Councillors of Hobart City Council
Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of Hobart City Council (Council), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021 and statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement of certification by the General Manager.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report:

- (a) presents fairly, in all material respects, Council's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended
- (b) is in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

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

The *Audit Act 2008* further promotes the independence of the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Tasmanian public sector entities and can only be removed by Parliament. The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which audit powers are to be exercised. The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

My audit responsibility does not extend to the budget figures included in the financial report, the asset renewal funding ratio disclosed in note 50, nor the Significant Business Activities disclosed in note 52 to the financial report and accordingly, I express no opinion on them.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in my professional judgement, were of most significance in my audit of the financial report of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of my audit of the financial report as a whole, and in forming my opinion thereon, and I do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Why this matter is considered to be one of the most significant matters in the audit	Audit procedures to address the matter included
<p>Property and infrastructure Refer to notes 1(i), 20 to 30 and 51</p>	
<p>Property, and infrastructure includes land, buildings, land improvements, roads, bridges, pathways, cycleways and other property recognised at fair value totalling \$2.20bn at 30 June 2021. The fair values of these assets are based on market value or current replacement cost. Council undertakes formal revaluations on a regular basis to ensure valuations represent fair value. Indexation is applied to fair values between formal valuations.</p> <p>In 2020-21, Council revalued roads, bridges and other property based on current replacement cost valuations determined by both internal and external experts. All other asset classes were indexed. These valuations are highly dependent upon a range of assumptions and estimated unit rates.</p> <p>The calculation of depreciation requires estimation of asset useful lives, which involves a high degree of subjectivity. Changes in assumptions and depreciation policies can significantly impact the depreciation charged.</p> <p>Capital additions in 2021-22 totalled \$20.51m to a number of significant programs to upgrade and maintain assets. Capital projects can contain a combination of enhancement and maintenance activity which are not distinct and therefore the allocation of costs between capital and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the scope, expertise and independence of experts involved in the valuations. • Evaluating the appropriateness of the valuation methodology applied to determine fair values. • Testing, on a sample basis, the mathematical accuracy of the indexation calculations. • Evaluating management’s assessment of the useful lives. • Performing substantive detailed and analytical procedures on depreciation expenses. • Evaluating management’s assessment of the stage of completion for capital work in progress to ensure that active projects will result in usable assets and that assets commissioned are transferred in a timely manner. • Testing, on a sample basis, the allocation of costs between capital and operating expenditure, including costs capitalised to work in progress. • Reviewing the reconciliation of movements through capitalised work-in-progress for the year. • Testing a selection of significant completed capital work-in-progress

Why this matter is considered to be one of the most significant matters in the audit	Audit procedures to address the matter included
operating expenditure is inherently judgemental.	<p>projects to ensure commissioned assets are appropriately recorded in the fixed asset register.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing the adequacy of disclosures made in the financial report, including those regarding key assumptions used.

Responsibilities of the General Manager for the Financial Report

The General Manager is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1993* and for such internal control as determined necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the General Manager is responsible for assessing Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Council is to be dissolved by an Act of Parliament or the Councillors intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

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

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Council's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the General Manager.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the General Manager's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusion is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the General Manager regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

From the matters communicated with the General Manager, I determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial report of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. I describe these matters in my auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in my report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.



Jeff Tongs
Assistant Auditor-General - Audit
Delegate of the Auditor-General
Tasmanian Audit Office

25 October 2021
Hobart