



SHIRE OF SANDSTONE
SERVE THE PEOPLE

+

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024



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PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

The Western Australian *Local Government Act 1995* requires every Local Government to produce an Annual Report by the 31 December each year. In addition, the annual report:

- Is an essential tool to inform the community and stakeholders about the achievements, challenges and future plans;
- Promotes greater community awareness of the Shire's programs and services which contribute to a high value of life for residents, visitors and stakeholders;
- Demonstrates the Shire's performance against the long-term vision of the Strategic Community Plan, projects and priorities detailed within the Shire's Corporate Business Plan;
- Provides information about the Shire's organisational performance; and
- Illustrates the Shire's commitment to accountable and transparent government.

ALTERNATIVE FORMATS

This Annual Report can also be viewed on the Shire's website:

www.sandstone.wa.gov.au

FEEDBACK OR QUESTIONS

Feedback or questions relating to the Annual Report are welcome.

Email: ceo@sandstone.wa.gov.au

Mail: Shire of Sandstone
Hack Street
Sandstone WA 6639

HOW TO READ THE ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report is divided into the following section.

- An overview of information about the Shire of Sandstone;
- An overview of the Council and the organisation;
- Reports against the activities within each key theme of the Strategic Community Plan;
- Corporate Business Plan Future Projects;
- Statutory Reporting;
- 2023/2024 Audited Annual Financial Statement.

This Annual Report shows how the Shire of Sandstone is delivering the vision outlines in its Strategic Community Plan 2021 – 2031, the Shires overarching guide for the future.

This Annual Report outlines achievements against key themes in the plan.

OUR VISION

A welcoming and friendly community, recognising our rich heritage and embracing economic opportunities, whilst nurturing our natural and built environment.

KEY FOCUS AREAS

Social

Economic

Environmental

Leadership

SOCIAL

A safe, welcoming, and resilient community

Strategies

- Support for community events and groups;
- Maintain and improve healthcare facilities;
- Maintain and promote a safe community.

ECONOMIC

A prosperous, diverse, and thriving community

Strategies

- Support local business and open to new start up initiatives;
- Explore opportunities to partner with industry for the development of the district;
- Maintain key stakeholder and industry relationships for the benefit of Sandstone;
- Enhance and maintain our transport network;
- Advocate for adequate road infrastructure;
- Provide quality tourism facilities, events, and information.

ENVIRONMENT

A natural and built environment, recognising our heritage for the benefit of present and future generations.

Strategies

- Maintain community and heritage infrastructure;
- Provide multi-purpose community facilities;
- Support environmental diversity and biosecurity of the district;
- Effective and efficient resource utilisation;
- Efficient and effective waste management.

LEADERSHIP

Strong governance and leadership.

Strategies

- Engage and communicate with the community;
- Strongly advocate for the Shire's interest;
- Provide appropriate services to the community in a professional and efficient manner.

OUR SERVICES

Local Government in Western Australia is established under the *Local Government Act 1995* and is the third sphere of government. Local Government is responsible for delivering a wide range of economic, human, recreational and property services as well as delivering and maintaining essential community infrastructure.

Local Government has legislative responsibility to perform many functions for the local community which are mandatory services. Examples include road maintenance, approvals for planning, building services, animal control, cemeteries, caravan parks and camping grounds, health, and swimming pool security fencing.

Local Government also delivers discretionary services to the community, such as libraries, programs and events, vehicle licencing, post office services, and the provision of recreational facilities and programs, which contribute to an improved quality of life for people within the community.

PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS

Community Buildings
Playgrounds
Library
Footpaths
Stormwater Drainage
Roads
Parks
Street Lighting
Car Parks
Streetscapes
Sports & Recreation Facilities
Fleet
Biosecurity
Emergency Management

DELIVERY OF DISCRETIONARY SERVICES

Shire Ranger
Civic Ceremonies
Community Development
Community Safety Programmes
Facilities Hire
Festivals & Events
Community Health Programs
Economic Development
Tourist Development
Cultural Programs
Post Office Service
Department of Transport
Gas Supply

PROVISION OF MANDATORY SERVICES – STATE LEGISLATION AND LOCAL LAWS

Animal Control
Litter
Public events compliance
Signage
Abandoned Vehicles
Bushfire Management
Building and Planning Compliance
Waste Services
Public Building Inspections
Swimming Pool Inspections
Food Inspections
Building Planning and Health Approvals
Environment Health Regulations

THE COUNCIL AND THE ORGANISATION

Local Government is one of Australia's three tiers of government (federal, state and local). Western Australia alone has 138 local governments covering vast areas of the State. This Shire does not have wards and has a total of six (6) elected Council members. The Council is responsible for making decisions on behalf of the local community.

DEMOCRACY IN THE SHIRE OF SANDSTONE

The Local Government Act outlines the responsibilities of all local governments and provides for the constitution of the elected local governments in the state. It describes the functions of the Local Governments, providing for the conduct of elections and polls, and provides a framework for the administration and financial management of the local governments and the scrutiny of their affairs.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Local Government ordinary elections are held every two years, with the next ordinary election being held in October 2025. All persons registered on the state roll are eligible to vote for their local government. Non-resident owners and occupiers can also apply for eligibility to vote. Any eligible elector can stand to nominate for election, with no requirement for a candidate to belong to a political party or other organisation. Councillors are voted in for a four-year term, with the Council electing the offices of President and Deputy President every second year.

THE ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT, DEPUTY PRESIDENT, AND COUNCILLORS

Councillor Beth Walton is the serving President of the Shire of Sandstone.

The role of president is to:

- Preside at Council meetings in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995*;
- Provide leadership and guidance to the community;
- Carry out civic and ceremonial duties;
- Speak on behalf of the Local Government;
- Liaise with the Chief Executive Officer on the performance of the Shire's function.

Councillor Vickie McQuie is the serving Deputy President From October 2023 and performs the functions of President in the absence of the President.

Councillors make important decisions relating to the whole of the Shire, taking into account the views of the community. They work together with the community, the Chief Executive Officer and the Shire's administration to set the strategic direction of the Shire.

The specific role of councillors is to:

- Represent the interests of electors, ratepayers and residents of the Shire;
- Provide leadership and guidance to the community;
- Facilitate communication between the community and Council;
- Participate in the Shire's decision making process at Council meetings.

SHIRE OF SANDSTONE CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hours Monday to Friday
8:00AM to 5:00PM
Closed on Public Holidays.

Phone (08) 9963 5802

Email administration@sandstone.wa.gov.au

Web Page <https://www.sandstone.wa.gov.au>

Address 23 Hack Street,
Sandstone WA 6639

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings are generally held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 1:00PM and the public are welcome to attend. The dates do change from time to time due to unforeseen circumstances, any changes are advertised in accordance with the act and regulations.

WHERE TO VIEW COUNCIL AGENDA / MINUTES

AGENDAS

Copies of all non-confidential items are tabled at a Council meeting and are normally available the Friday prior to Council meeting. They can also be found on the shire's website.

<https://www.sandstone.wa.gov.au>

MINUTES

Minutes of all Council meetings are available free to the public online in PDF format on

<https://www.sandstone.wa.gov.au>

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Name	Position	Status
Cr Beth Walton	Shire President	To October 2027
Cr Vickie McQuie	Part Deputy Shire President	To October 2027
Cr James Allison	Councillor	To October 2027
Cr Carol Hodshon	Part Deputy Shire President	To October 2025
Cr David Lefroy	Councillor	To October 2025
Cr Mark Kevill	Councillor	To October 2027

COUNCIL STATISTICS

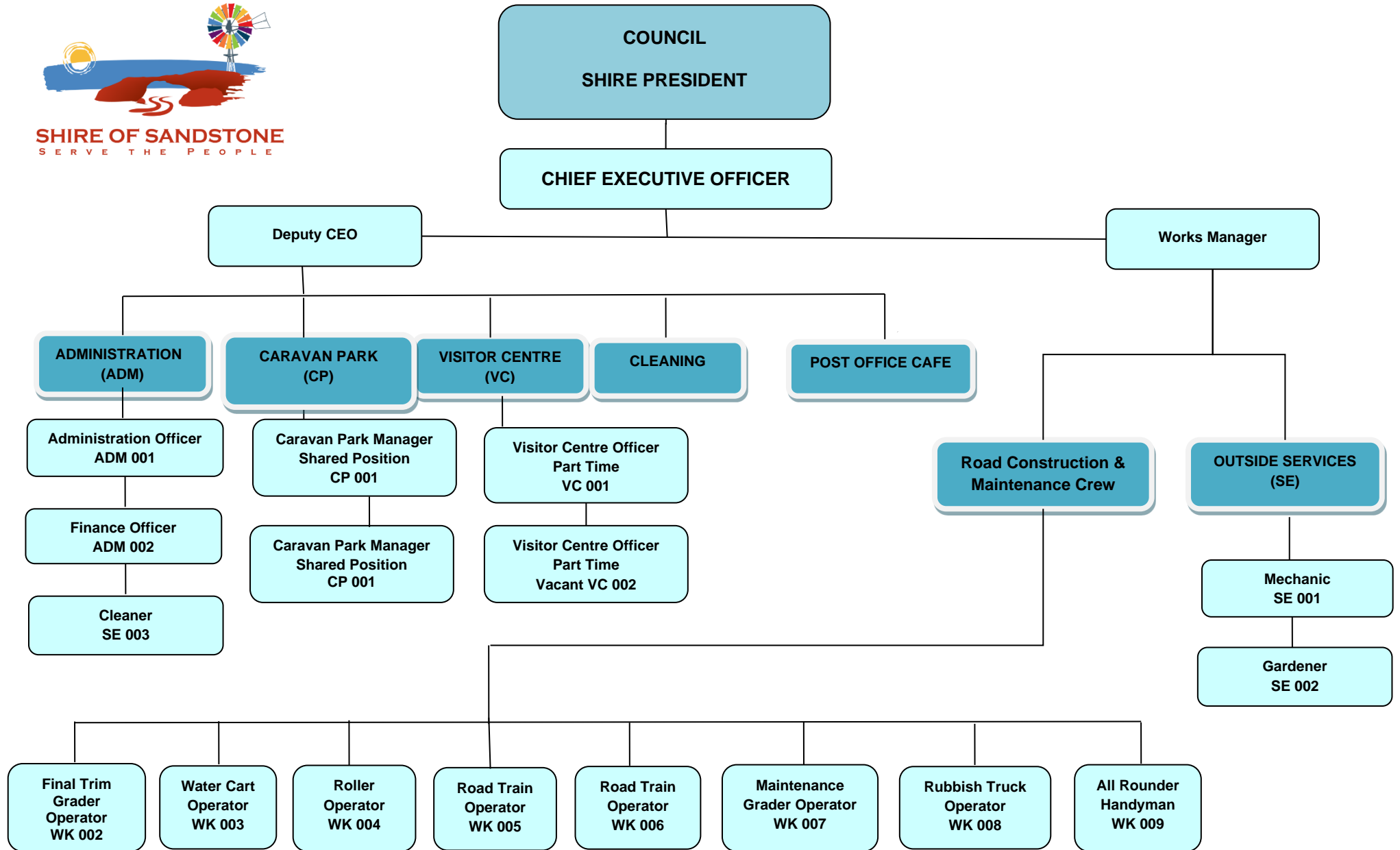
Name	Ordinary Council Meetings Attended	Committee Meetings Attended	Gender	Linguistic Background	Country of Birth
Cr Beth Walton	11/11	5/5	Female	English	Australia
Cr Carol Hodshon	9/11	7/7*	Female	English	England
Cr David Lefroy	11/11	7/7*	Male	English	Australia
Cr Vickie McQuie	10/11	5/5*	Female	English	Australia
Cr James Allison	10/11	1/1	Male	English	Australia
Cr Mark Kevill	8/11	0/0	Male	English	Australia

*Includes MRVC Meetings & MCZ Meetings

COUNCILLOR ANNUAL PAYMENTS

Name	President & Deputy President Allowance \$	Presidents Meeting Fee \$	Councillor Meeting Payments \$	ICT Allowance \$	Travelling Allowance \$
Cr Beth Walton	3,500.00	400	4,375	500	0
Cr Carol Hodshon	238.62		1,875	500	563
Cr David Lefroy			2,075	500	1,364
Cr Vickie McQuie	318.16		1,675	500	844
Cr James Allison			1,875	500	0
Cr Mark Kevill			800	166	0

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



SHIRE STATISTICS

Population	109 (ABS Census 2021)
Number of Electors	55
Number of Private Dwellings	94
Distance from Perth (km)	724
Area (sq km)	32,666
Suburbs and Localities	Sandstone
Library	Hack Street
Length of Sealed Roads (km)	11
Length of Unsealed Roads (km)	891
Rates Levied	\$1,485,340
Total Operating Revenue	\$5,470,435
Council Employees	21

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Heritage Trail including London Bridge, the Old Brewery, Old State Battery and Contradiction Well, wildflowers, gold prospecting, natural landscapes, flora and fauna, Peter Denny Lookout, Astro Dome and Telescope.

LOCAL INDUSTRIES

Tourism, pastoral stations, and mining.

SIGNIFICANT LOCAL EVENTS

Sandstone Art Show incorporating Wine and Cheese Night, Community Christmas Party, Australia Day, Anzac Day.



On behalf of Council, I am pleased to present the Shire of Sandstone's Annual Report to the Ratepayers and Community Members for the 2022/2023 financial year.

Some projects completed during 2022/2023 included the following:

- Trees around the bypass.
- Replacing and painting of ceiling in the town hall.
- Paving at ANZAC Park.
- Walls built at the entrances of town and ANZAC Park for Murals to be painted.
- Commissioned Mural Nomad artist Patrycja Hannagan to paint the murals.
- Restorations were carried out at the old Post and Telegraph Office including the attached residence.

Mural Artist Patrycja Hannagan transformed the Town Entry Statement walls into beautiful welcoming murals, depicting a day and night scene showcasing our iconic London Bridge in the background, with flora and fauna from our region, with the stars and milky way included in the night mural. The ANZAC Mural with vibrant poppies, light horseman, wartime nurse, and silhouette of a soldier kneeling at a cross of a fallen soldier is a wonderful tribute to all past and present service personnel.

These murals add vibrancy, tell stories, bring beauty to a location where there was none, to and install a sense of pride within the community. Patrycja also engaged talented local resident Tegan Brown to help paint these murals.

The Post and Telegraph Office opened in April as the "Post Office Café" giving new life to this lovely old iconic building for generations to come. The repurposing of historic buildings, gives us a glimpse into our past, and an opportunity to appreciate the significance of the workmanship that went into these amazing built structures. We have had lots of very positive feedback from locals, and visitors to town enjoying what the café has to offer and wonderful staff.

Our annual events of Australia Day, Anzac Day and our Art Show were all once again well attended. With the town hall ceiling being replaced the Art Show was able to be hosted back in the hall and, was the most successful since the Art Event started several years ago, with around 70 people enjoying the evening.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support and contributions over the past 12 months, and I take this opportunity sincerely thank staff members for their service to the shire in working towards the Shire achieving its objectives.

The Shire welcomes suggestions from the community or visitors that may be of benefit to the town, and we encourage you to contact myself, other Councillors or the CEO to discuss.

It is an honour to serve on council and I look forward to 2023/2024 to completing unfinished projects, progressing onto new ones and working towards keeping roads maintained to a good standard and ensuring our community is a safe, tidy, pleasant environment in which to reside, work and visit.

Beth Walton
Shire President

General

I was appointed to the role of CEO in December 2023 and so I make few comments on the activity prior to my appointment but focus most comments on works commenced or completed from December 2023 to June 2024. In late January 2024 the Works Manager commenced with the Shire after the position had been vacant for some time and a new Deputy CEO was appointed both of which greatly improved the management structure and enabled long awaited activities and projects to progress.

From January to June 2024, I am pleased to advise that there were several projects commenced and/or completed. I have listed the more substantial projects below and there were many minor improvements made that are too numerous to list.

It's been very rewarding working with an excellent team and a proactive, supportive Council and President. This cooperative relationship has enabled us to complete a good number of projects that benefit the community of Sandstone.

Like many remote smaller local governments, we struggle with acquiring experienced, permanent full time employees and so we need to rely on a number of part time employees. This situation is also exacerbated by the demographics of the Shire, having a small population and a population with a median age of 60 years. Not everyone wants full time employment. Though it's good to be able to employ local people the priority must be to match the right people to the right job. There is an obligation to our employer, the Council, to ensure the best possible efficiencies in outcomes of labour inputs. One of these outcomes is the provision of a professional, efficient and friendly customer service.

For the benefit of the employees, we adapt flexible approaches to work hours which led us to amend rosters and improve the work-life balance in consideration of the health and well-being of all employees. This has especially been applied to road works and associated employees and this also creates greater efficiencies while ensuring compliance with workplace health and safety considerations.

Sometimes it appears that local governments employ increasing numbers of administrative people. The answers are simple – there is an ever-increasing volume of compulsory state and federal government reporting and compliance, more commonly referred to as red tape. There's also industry wide objections to State Governments offloading more traditional State responsibilities onto local governments. Local government has undergone many changes in the past two years with changes to the Act and new Regulations that theoretically make local governments more accountable and more efficient.

Local Governments also have strategic planning obligations that require regular review and sometimes community consultation. These Plans are meant to form the basis of Council budgets and infrastructure building programs.

For these reasons residents are invited to discuss matters of concern with the administration and constructive ideas and suggestions for improvements or projects with their Councillors, who in turn may choose to refer these suggestions for budget considerations.

Projects

Under a 2023 grant, several projects had to be expedited and completed prior to June 30, 2024;

Purchase and placement of two accommodation units in the Caravan Park;

The tree pruning program;

Purchase of new trees and plants,

Purchase of new fridges,

Construction of whoa boys on the Wiluna Road.

Thankfully these were all achieved in time for compliance with the grant conditions.

A new Shire house was tendered and under construction and should be in situ by December 2024.'

A large vehicle shed purchased by the Shire in a previous year was erected in the Works Depot.

Under an earlier Grant the following was achieved:

Improvements were made to the Community Centre, Town Hall;

Numerous stock grids on various roads have been cleaned and others removed;

Various roads were repaired, upgraded and improvements made such as increased signage.

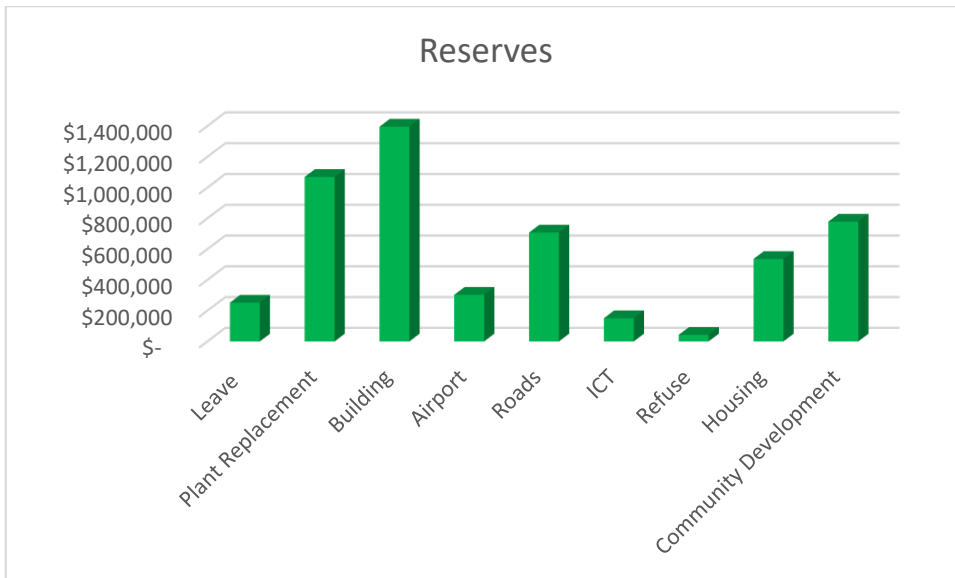
Road maintenance forms the bulk of rural local government's expenditure (on local government roads) and most of this funding comes from federal taxation income. It's estimated that Australian road preservation requires funding of \$1.166 billion dollars. However, the annual expenditure is only about \$154 million or 12.14% and for this reason local governments seek other funding to maintain road standards. It's also why local governments must operate at the high standards of efficiency in road maintenance and repairs.

FINANCE

The Shire completed the year in a sound financial position as well as having reserve funds that finished with healthy balances. At the 30 June 2024 Council's reserve funds are as below.

CASH BACKED RESERVES

<u>Reserve name</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Leave reserve	\$ 251,607
Plant Replacement Reserve	\$ 1,068,986
Building Reserve	\$ 1,395,694
Airport Reserve	\$ 303,176
Road Reserve	\$ 707,816
ICT Reserve	\$ 150,914
Refuse Disposal Reserve	\$ 42,755
Housing Reserve	\$ 535,841
Community Development Reserve	\$ 778,596
	<hr/>
	\$5,235,387
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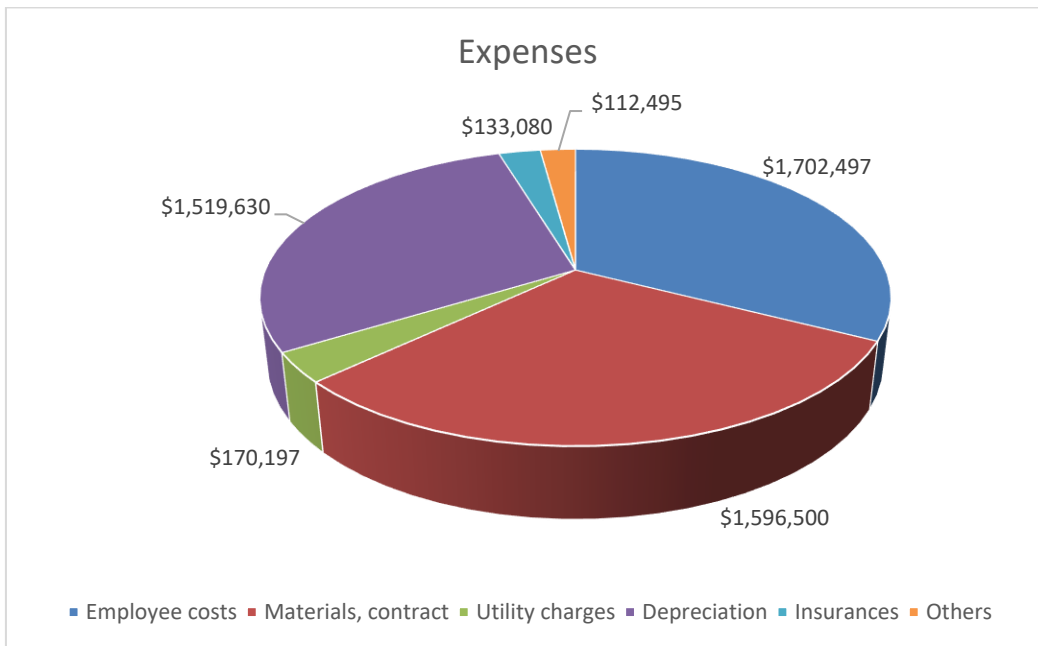
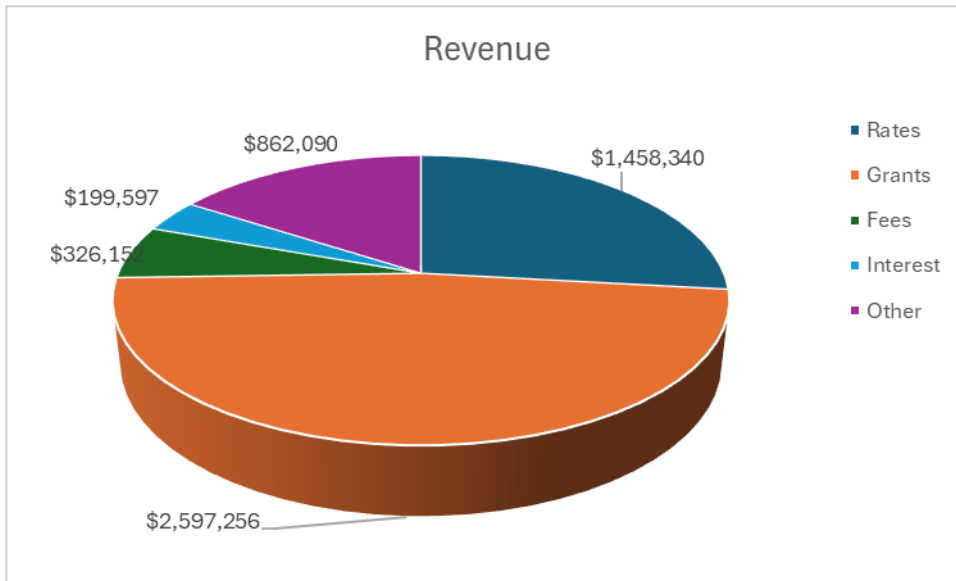


ROADWORKS

Road's Reconstruction was carried out on the following roads during 2023/2024:

Council Funded		
C0002 & 2E	Sandstone – Paynes Find Road (Council)	\$483,850
C0004A	Sandstone – Meekatharra Road (Council)	\$230,563
Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Program		
LRC3WB	Sandstone Wubin Road	\$260,100
Regional Road Group (MRWA)		
RG0002	Sandstone Paynes Find Road	\$1,090,469
Roads to Recovery		
CR0004	Sandstone Meekatharra Road (R2R)	\$206,349
Internal Funding Rural Road Maintenance		
12203	Various Rural Roads Maintenance	\$986,826
TOTAL		\$3,258,157

Revenue & Expenses 2023 - 2024



Peter Money

Peter Money
Chief Executive Officer

STATUTORY REPORTING

STRATEGIC PLANS

Council adopted its Plan for the Future incorporating the Corporate Business Plan, Strategic Plan, Workforce Plan, and Strategic Resource Plan, incorporating the Long-Term Financial Plan and Workforce Plan.

The Community Strategic Plan and Corporate Business plans are to be fully reviewed in 2030/2031 and the Workforce Plan fully reviewed in 2025/2026.

However, these plans are considered for review annually and form the basis of the Shire budget deliberations. These Plans are all part of the legislative requirements for local governments to enter an Integrated Planning Process.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1992

The Shire of Sandstone has a requirement to comply with the Freedom of Information Act.

During the 2023/2024 financial year, no applications were received for information under the terms of this legislation.

STATE RECORDS ACT 2000

The State Records Act 2000 requires that the Shire of Sandstone maintains and disposes of all records in the prescribed manner. During 2019/2020 a revised Record Keeping Plan was adopted by Council and submitted to the State Records Commission for approval. The plan was subsequently approved by the State Records Office.

Council is continuing to utilise an electronic record keeping system and formally archiving old records. A new Record Keeping Plan has been prepared and approved by the State Records Office.

In accordance with State Records Commission Standard 2 – Principle 6 compliance with the Record Keeping Plan the following is reported:

RATIONALE

An organisation and its employees must comply with the organisation's Record Keeping Plan. Organisations should develop and implement strategies for ensuring that each employee is aware of the compliance responsibilities.

Minimum Compliance Requirements:

The Record Keeping Plan is to provide evidence to adduce that:

1. The efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation's Record Keeping System is evaluated not less than once every 5 years.
2. The organisation conducts a Record Keeping Training Program.
3. The efficiency and effectiveness of the Record Keeping Training Program is reviewed from time to time.
4. The organisation's induction program addresses employee roles and responsibilities regarding their compliance with the organisation's Record Keeping Plan.

The Shire has complied with items 1 to 4.

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES

The Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003 facilitates the disclosure of public interest information and provides protection for those making such disclosure and those who are the subject of disclosures.

The Act provides a system for the matters disclosed to be investigated and for appropriate action to be taken.

Council has complied with all obligations under the Act including:

- a) appointing the Chief Executive Officer as the PID Officer for the organisation and publishing an internal procedure relating to the Shire's obligations.
- b) providing protection from detrimental action or the threat of detrimental action for any employee of the Shire who makes an appropriate disclosure of public interest information.

There were no matters raised or reported during the year under review.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

All Local Governments are required to assess which of their Local Laws might impact on competition and conduct a review of each to determine how any restrictive practices might be overcome.

The Annual Report is to include a statement of which Local Laws have been reviewed, the conclusions of those reviews, and a forward strategy for all Local Laws. It is a legislative requirement that a Local Law be reviewed within 8 years of implementation to determine whether or not the local government considers that it should be repealed or amended.

A review of all local laws concluded in 2016/2017

DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN

The Disability Services Act 1993 was amended in December 2004, creating a requirement for public authorities to develop and implement Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs).

These plans had to be fully developed by July 2007 and replaced and built on the achievements of Disability Service Plans (DSPs).

Council adopted a revised DAIP in October 2016 covering the period 2016 – 2020 which ensures:

- a) Council is continually adapting its existing services to give people with disabilities the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by the Shire.

- b) Council also continues with improvement to buildings and footpath infrastructure to assist both wheelchair and gopher access.
- c) Wherever possible, people with disability can receive information from the Shire in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it. This includes a comprehensive website and the ability to change documents to a larger font size.
- d) The Staff are always encouraged to be aware of the needs of people with disability to ensure they receive the same level and quality of service as other people. We are also working with our contractors to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities.
- e) People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the Staff, this can be via written letters, email, SMS or verbally.
- f) Council provides many ways for people to participate in public consultation and we are more than happy to discuss any grievances community members may have regarding the services available to the disabled.
- g) People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to obtain and maintain employment with the Shire of Sandstone.

The Shire of Sandstone has adopted a revised **Disability Access and Inclusion Plan** that meets the requirements of the Disability Services Act. The Plan assists in the provision and allocation of resources to improve access and delivery of services for people with disabilities. Existing facilities in the Shire are reviewed and assessed continually to allow for improved access for all persons in the Community.

NB: This plan was reviewed and updated in October 2022

EMPLOYEE RENUMERATION

Set out below in bands of \$10,000 is the number of Shire of Sandstone employees entitled to an annual salary of \$100,000 or more.

Salary Range \$	2024
140,000 – 149,999	2
100,000 – 110,000	1

NB: these figures relate to the cash component of the CEO and DCEO salaries.

Under regulation 19B (9) of the *Local Government (Administration) regulation 1996* requires that the CEO's Total Remuneration Package be reported. During the 2023/2024 financial period the CEO until November 2023 was Mr Charles Brown and from December 2023 to June 2024 the Acting CEO was Mr Peter Money.

The total rewards package's are restricted by Regulations and are administered by the Salaries and Wages Tribunal (SAT):

Charles Brown:

Total Rewards Package \$184,020

Peter Money

Total Rewards Package \$218,000

COMPLAINTS

There were no entries made that required recording in the complaints register under section 5.121 of the *Local Government Act 1996*.

NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN (NSP) FOR ASBESTOS AWARENESS AND MANAGEMENT 2019 - 2023

The NSP 2019-2023 is consistent with the Western Australian Government policy on occupational safety and health.

In November 2020, the Western Australian Government endorsed targets one to seven (targets eight and nine are federal targets) of the NSP 2019 -2023 which aims to eliminate asbestos-related diseases in Australia by preventing exposure to asbestos fibres. Each State and Western Australian local government

department, agency, authority, and government enterprise is required to report on its progress in achieving the relevant targets of the NSP 2019 – 2023. During the year the Shire:

- Made provisions for a review of its Asbestos Register to identify and assess the risk associated with asbestos containing material within local government owned or controlled buildings, land, and infrastructure.
- Made provision to undertake staff awareness, including training, publication, and guidance material.

REPORTING TO THE STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

Integrated Planning was introduced in the Shire of Sandstone in 2012/2013 and comprises,

- Strategic Community Plan;
- Corporate Business Plan;
- Long Term Financial Plan;
- Asset Management Plan;
- Workforce Plan.

As part of the Integrated Planning process a full review of the Community Strategic Plan and associated plans was undertaken during the year. This has provided the opportunity for the broader community to review the previous document and make any changes that reflect the current time period.

Council works are based on the following strategic objectives:

SOCIAL

OBJECTIVE

A safe, welcoming, and resilient community.

1.1.1 SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS AND GROUPS

Council has continued to support community events and groups throughout the year.

Council staff are constantly on the lookout for events that could be attracted to Sandstone.

1.2.1 MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Council has advocated for a tele-health service in the town of Sandstone.

Our latest talks proved hopeful with Council agreeing to supply a building and internet.

1.2.2 MAINTAIN AND PROMOTE A SAFE COMMUNITY

1.2.3 SUPPORT AND PLAN FOR A HEALTHY, ACTIVE COMMUNITY

Council recently adopted a Public Health & Wellbeing plan.

ECONOMIC

OBJECTIVE

A prosperous and thriving economy.

2.1.1 PROVIDE QUALITY TOURISM FACILITIES, EVENTS, AND INFORMATION

Council maintains quality tourism facilities in the form of the Visitor's Centre, Caravan Park, also the heritage trail featuring the Old Brewery, London Bridge and the State Battery, along with numerous other tourist attraction, maintained by Council.

Recently Sandstone was the subject of a spot on the Channel 10 network, the Project, which was positive advertising for Sandstone.

2.2.1 SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS AND OPEN TO NEW LOCAL START UP INITIATIVES.

Many smaller communities struggle to attract new businesses as travel and internet make remote services more economically feasible.

However Council always seeks new opportunities and encourages business developments that will benefit the community socially and economically.

2.2.2 EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTNER WITH INDUSTRY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISTRICT

Council is open to any new development within the shire that is beneficial to the town and paints Sandstone in a positive light.

2.2.3 MAINTAIN KEY STAKEHOLDER AND INDUSTRY RELATIONSHIPS FOR THE BENEFIT OF SANDSTONE

This is done in conjunction with item 2.2.2

2.3.1 ENHANCE AND MAINTAIN OUR TRANSPORT NETWORK

Over the last 5 years Council has spent an average of \$2.033M on Roads Construction and Maintenance.

Council maintains a modern fleet of plant to assist with this.

2.3.2 ADVOCATE FOR ADEQUATE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Council maintains a strong voice on the Regional Road Group for the Mid West and have used forums such as the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA to advocate for various matters.

ENVIRONMENT

OBJECTIVE

A natural and built environment, recognising our heritage for the benefit of present and future generations.

3.1.1 SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL DIVERSITY AND BIOSECURITY OF THE DISTRICT

Council is an active member of the Murchison Region Vermin Council, and our Pastoral elected members are active in the control of “Pest Plants” etc.

3.1.2 EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT RESOURCE UTILISATION

Council sees the necessity of best utilisation of its built and natural resources, always open to workable partnerships and cooperation with external organisations.

3.1.3 EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Council maintains a landfill site. We are the only Council (to our knowledge) that line the domestic and commercial mobile bins with a plastic bag that contains refuse in the bin and the landfill site and alleviates the problem of the foul-smelling bins over the summer periods.

3.2.1 MAINTAIN COMMUNITY AND HERITAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

As discussed in 2.1.1 Council maintains several heritage sites.

3.2.2 PROVIDE MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Council is constantly looking at resources required in and around Sandstone and if any facilities Council be multi-purpose or co-habitated.

LEADERSHIP

OBJECTIVE

Strong governance and leadership

4.1.1 ENGAGE AND COMMUNICATE WITH THE ECONOMY.

Engagement takes place on an as needed basis. Council's monthly publication also has a precise of the Council meeting and the Chief Executive Officer has an open-door policy.

4.1.2 STRONGLY ADVOCATE FOR THE SHIRE'S INTEREST.

Council always, whenever the chance arises advocates for issues in the Shire's interest. There are several forums that this can be done as well as using our State and Federal Politicians.

4.2.1 PROVIDE APPROPRIATE SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY IN A PROFESSIONAL AND EFFICIENT MANNER.

Council will always, whenever requested provide the appropriate service to the community as long as it is within legislation or Council's policy.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH / BUILDING

This annual report provides a summary of the main activities and duties carried out by the Councils Environmental Health /Building officer (EHO/BS) Mr Dave Hadden for the 2023/2024 financial year.

BUILDING WORKS WITHIN THE SHIRE OF SANDSTONE

Building permits have been issued to date being 2 accommodation units in the Caravan Park, 3 x 2 house in Griffith Street and accommodation units in Payne Street.

Approval was granted for an extended septic system in the Caravan Park in Irvine Street.

DEMOLITION LICENCES

There were Nil (0) demolition permit issued.

REPORTING OF BUILDING PERMITS TO ABS

ABS reporting is now carried out by the Western Australian Building Commission on Councils behalf. The Building Commission have created a building data portal that local governments now use to record building permit data annually.

The building permit data system is now the central record keeper for building data state wide with other government agencies accessing their data requirement directly from the new BPD system which reduces the Shires responsibility to provide this data independently.

PRIVATE SWIMMING POOL INSPECTIONS

Local Government is required under the Building Regulations 2012 to carry out compliance inspections of swimming pool barriers within each shire every four years. Currently there are four private swimming pools that the shire is aware of that have been inspected to date. Three swimming pool barriers were eventually approved as compliant. The next inspection period will be carried out in the 2025/2026 financial year.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

FOOD BUSINESSES

- Food premises within the shire are being monitored in accordance with the Food Act 2002.
- All are registered under the Food Act with the Community Kitchen and Hotel making up the 5 Registered Food Premises under the Food Act.

FOOD RECALLS

- Food recalls are many and varied annually but rarely affect food premises in the Shire of Sandstone. If a recall notice relates to products sold locally the recall advice is forwarded to relevant premises for advice.

WASTE MANAGEMENT/RECYCLING PROGRAMMES

- Waste metal collection is still being collected at the landfill site.
- The tip continues to be maintained at a good level.
- The Bio-remediation Facility has been closed and the license allowed to lapse as it has not received any recent disposals in the last couple of years while the management and administrative cost associated with compliance with the license conditions was increasing annually.
- Most small local authorities operate ponds under the 100 tonne threshold by restricting disposals at the ponds to shire or townsite only. If Council breaches the 100 tonne threshold DWER will require an environmental assessment of the facility through the license application process which will increase costs significantly.

NEW PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 2016

The new Public Health Act 2016 has come into force, but certain sections are yet to be activated. In the meantime, we now work with the new Act and specific sections of the old Public Health Act which is now referred to as the Heath (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911 as amended.

The main sections we work with are contained within the Heath (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911 such as Nuisance provisions and housing. Council engaged Mr. Llew Withers to prepare Councils Health Plan which has been completed and approved by Council. The Public Health Plan has since been forwarded to the Health Department of WA for lodgment and assessment and is now listed on the Departments website as an approved health plan.

The State Government has determined that each local government will develop a local health plan which will incorporate previous State Government obligations. Local governments will be required to use their own resources to develop the plan, monitor the plan, maintain the plan and implement obligations within the plan. The extent of these obligations is yet to be determined by the State Government.

