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Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation

DRAFT BUDGET 2025/2026

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1 Introduction

Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation (WMRLC) is a Library Corporation under Section 196 of the Local Government Act 1989. For clarity it should be noted that the impact of s330 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that those sections of the *Local Government Act 1989* that were applicable to an existing regional library corporation, continue to apply to that library as if all of those sections had not been repealed until 2031.

WMRLC provides a public library service to the municipalities of Whitehorse and Manningham (the member Councils), under a regional library agreement.

WMRLC is governed by a Board comprising two Councillor representatives from each of the member Councils, senior officers from the member Councils and two community representatives. The Corporation's Chief Executive Officer reports to the Board and is responsible for the management of WMRLC.

The 2025/26 Budget supports the delivery of core library services, while continuing to strengthen reading and life-long learning programs where possible.

The proposed 2025/26 Budget is presented in a format which demonstrates the proposed 2025/26 Budget and anticipated final results for the 2024/25 FY. A 5 year Financial Plan, Budgeted Income Statement, Budgeted Statement of Capital Works, Budgeted Balance Sheet and Budgeted Cash Flow Statement are provided.

2 Executive Summary

WMRLC's 2025/26 Budget continues to provide valuable library services that support the learning, recreation and social connection needs of our community.

WMRLC continues to operate within a challenging economic environment.

- Funding by our member Councils represents over 80% of our revenue. Annual increases in Council funding continues to be aligned with the council rate cap percentage.
- State Government Public Library funding represents 15% of WMRLC's annual revenue, there has been no increase to this funding since 2022/23.
- Operating revenue generated from user charges continues to contract as service trends change.
- The average annual increase in WMRLC's revenue between 2021/22 and 2024/25 (projected) was 2.6%.
- WMRLC continues to face cost escalations due to the current economic environment, with the average annual CPI over the past four years 2021/22 to December 2024/25 being 4.45%.
- Non-discretionary operating costs that have significantly increased over and above CPI since 2021/22 include Insurance 48% (\$37k), Workcover 167% (\$40k), Cleaning 20% (\$43k), and Software, systems and associated services 43% (\$110k).
- Expenditure in all areas has been reviewed to identify opportunities to contain costs. Savings have been achieved through the implementation of process efficiencies and new contracts including IT Communication costs a new ISP contract reducing costs by 22% (\$18k) compared to 2021/22.

The Corporation does not forecast any surplus to be carried forward to 2025/26 from the current financial year. This Budget forecasts a transfer from reserves will be required to bridge a shortfall in income.

2.1 Key Statistics

Total Income	\$12,922,896	2024/25 = \$12,581,761
Total Expenditure	\$12,984,517	2024/25 = \$12,386,528
Accounting Result*	\$(61,621)	2024/25 = \$195,235

*(Refer to Income Statement in Section 11.1)

Total Capital Works	\$2,125,371	2024/2025 = \$2,079,865
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3 Links to the Library Plan

This section describes how the Annual Budget links to the achievement of the Library Plan.

3.1 Planning and accountability framework

The Strategic Resource Plan is a rolling five year plan that outlines the financial and non-financial resources that the Corporation requires to achieve the strategic objectives described in the Library Plan. The Annual Budget is framed within the Strategic Resource Plan, considering the services and initiatives which contribute to achieving the strategic objectives specified in the Library Plan. The Annual Report includes a report on operations, financial statements and performance results.

The Library Plan, including the Strategic Resource Plan is required to be completed by 30 June following the general election of Councillors. The Strategic Resource Plan is reviewed each year in advance of the commencement of the Annual Budget process.

Budget Analysis

4 Budget principles

The preparation of the 2025/26 Budget is informed by the following overarching principles:

- Maintaining service delivery levels.
- Review of all areas of expenditure against anticipated service needs and market trends and containing expenditure where possible.
- Manningham Special Projects (Warrandyte Library and additional hours at Doncaster and The Pines Libraries) are funded by Manningham City Council outside of the Regional Library Agreement and are not reflected in this budget.

5 Budget Influences

The preparation of this budget is influenced by a number of internal and external factors including the following:

- 3% increase in contributions from member Councils
- No increase to the State government grant as received in FY24/25
- Decline in interest rates
- Anticipated Enterprise Agreement, Employer Super Guarantee and WorkCover increases
- Forecast increases in other operating expenses such as insurance, software and utilities

6 Analysis of operating budget

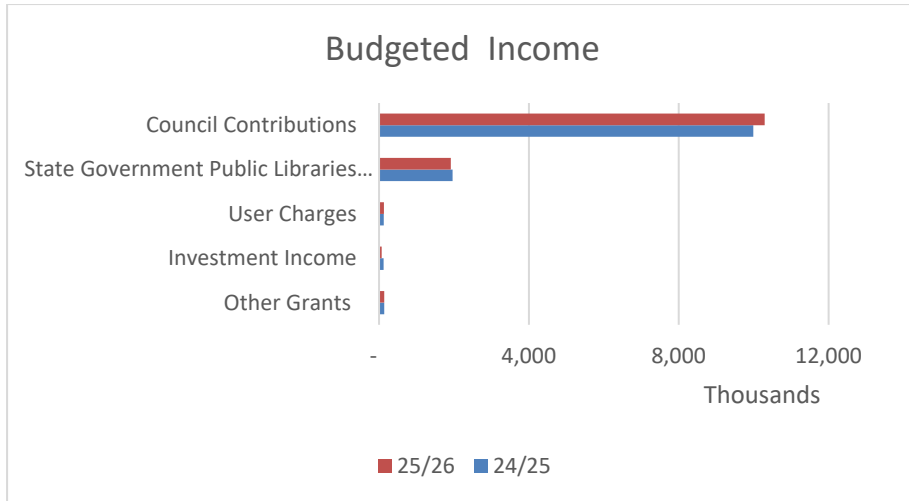
This section of the report analyses the operating budget including the expected income and expenses of the Corporation for the 2025/26 financial year.

The following notes are presented to demonstrate the key parameters and assumptions underpinning the budget and to provide additional explanatory information.

6.1 Income

The Corporation receives funds through member Council contributions and State Government funding. The Corporation generates a small amount of revenue through user charges and interest earned on investments.

Income type	Budget 2024/25 \$	Budget 2025/26 \$	Variance \$
Council Contributions	9,991,482	10,291,226	299,744
State Government Public Libraries Funding	1,961,879	1,914,028	(47,851)
Other Grants	139,451	136,925	(2,526)
Fees/Charges	124,140	129,999	5,859
Investment Interest	120,000	70,000	(50,000)
Transfer from Reserve	158,515	380,718	222,203
Cash Surplus(Deficit) c/fwd	86,296	0	(86,296)
Total Income	12,581,763	12,922,896	341,133



Council Contributions

Member Council contributions are in accordance with the agreed funding formula set out in the Regional Library Agreement. The increase in contributions for the 2024/25 financial year is 3%.

Member Council Contributions	Budget 2024/25 \$	Budget 2025/26 \$	Variance %
City of Whitehorse	6,003,341	6,183,441	3%
Manningham City Council	3,988,141	4,107,785	3%
Total contributions	9,991,482	10,291,266	3%

State Government Funding

The State Government recurrent core, local priorities and Premiers Reading Challenge grants are forecast to remain at the same amount as received in the 2024/25 financial year.

Other Grants

Income from other grants and donations is not included in the budget unless it is known at the time of the budget preparation.

Recurrent grants	Budget 2024/25 \$	Budget 2025/26 \$	Variance %
State Government Public Libraries - Core	1,961,879	1,914,028	-2.44%
State Government Local Priorities	103,552	101,026	-2.44%
Premiers Reading Challenge	35,899	35,899	
Total recurrent grants	2,101,330	2,050,953	-2.4%

User Charges (\$5,859 increase)

User charges includes income from lost and damaged item charges, printing and copying, meeting room hire and sale of products. User charges have been reviewed and benchmarked against those of other public library services. The proposed schedule of Fees and Charges is detailed at Appendix A.

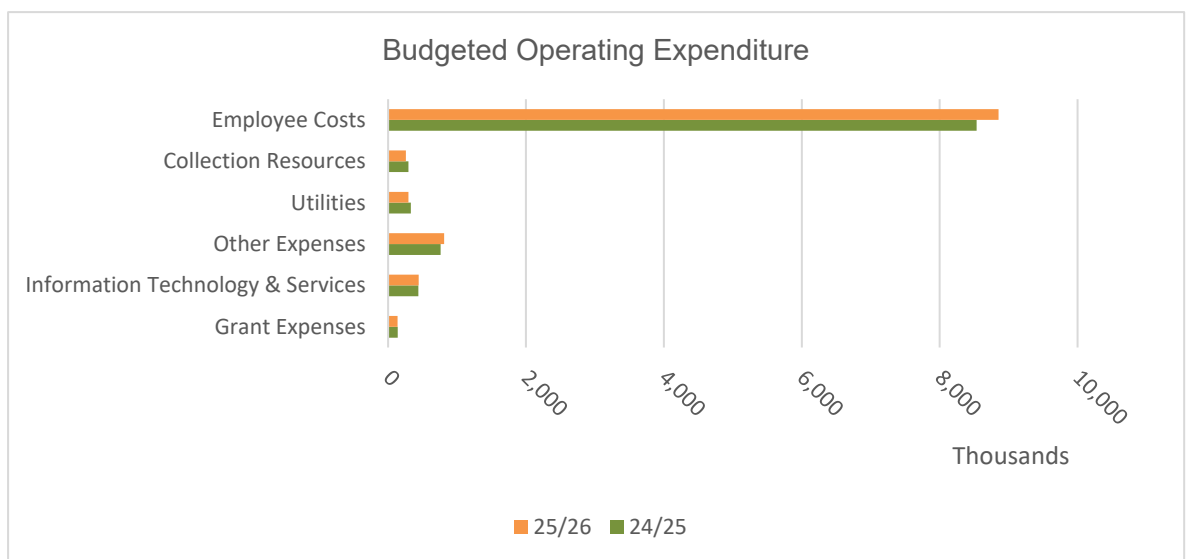
Interest from Investments (\$50,000 decrease)

Interest from investments includes interest earned on available cash throughout the year. Cash funds and cash requirements are reviewed on a daily basis to identify funds available and required to meet the Corporation’s obligations. Interest earned is forecast to decline due to a decrease in funds available to be invested and the expected decrease in interest rates.

6.2 Operating Expenditure

Expense type	Budget 2024/25 \$	Budget 2025/26 \$	Variance \$
Employee costs	8,534,834	8,853,038	318,204
Grant expenditure	139,451	136,925	(2,526)
Other expenses	1,827,614	1,807,563	(20,051)
Total Operating Expenses	10,501,899	10,797,525	295,627

The total operating expenditure is forecast to increase by 2.81% in 2025/26 above the budgeted 2024/25 expenditure.



Employee costs (\$318,204 increase)

Employee costs comprise 82% of total operating expenditure. Employees costs include all labour related expenditure such as salaries and on costs including allowances, banding increments, leave entitlements, employer superannuation guarantee, Workcover, penalty payments for weekend work, staff development, Employee Assistance Program, relief staff to cover leave absences and engagement of external specialist resources where required.

Employee costs are forecast to increase by 3.50% or \$318,204 compared to budgeted cost for 2024/25. This increase relates to following key assumptions:

- Enterprise Agreement, WorkCover and Employer Super Guarantee increases
- Band increments
- Zero growth in FTE
- Small increase in staff development

Utilities (\$35,300 increase)

Water, Cleaning and Courier costs increased between 1% to 2% to meet anticipated rises. Increase in electricity costs, with a reduction in gas costs due to the removal of gas at Vermont South Library.

Insurance (\$24,332 increase)

The cost of insurance has increased significantly in the past year and further increases are anticipated.

Information Services (\$0 increase)

Included in this budget is the Library Management System, Debt Recovery and Libraries Australia costs.

Information Technology including Telephones (\$3,137 Increase)

Increases to ICT operating costs have been offset by savings in communication costs.

Collection resources (non- capital) (\$37,890 decrease)

Included in this budget are periodicals, newspapers and some electronic collection resources (e-magazines, online newspapers, databases). These types of resources are non-depreciable and therefore not regarded as assets. Three electronic information resources will be cancelled to contain costs.

All other expenses (\$25,670 increase)

Includes auditing, printing, office expenses, vehicle maintenance, programs and marketing. The increases above CPI relate to increased audit and postage costs.

7 Analysis of Budgeted Cash Position

This section of the report analyses the expected cash flows from the operating, investing and financing activities of the Corporation for the 2025/26 year. Budgeting cash flows for the Corporation is a key factor in ensuring it can meet its strategic and financial commitments, and provides a guide to the level of capital expenditure that can be sustained with or without using existing cash reserves.

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 \$	Budget 2025/26 \$	Variance \$
<i>Cash flows from operating activities</i>			
Contributions Received	9,991,482	10,291,227	299,745
Grants Received	1,914,028	1,914,028	0
Interest Received	124,782	69,310	(55,472)
Other Grants Received	136,925	136,925	0
User Fees and Charges	511,984	507,497	(4,487)
Payments to Employees / Suppliers	(10,595,775)	(10,729,314)	(133,539)
Net cash provided by operating activities	2,083,426	2,189,673	106,247
<i>Cash flows from Investing Activities</i>			
Payments for Collection Resources, Equipment and Furniture Proceeds from Sale of Equipment	(2,596,943)	(2,125,371)	471,572
Net cash provided by investing activities	(2,596,943)	(2,125,371)	471,572
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	(513,517)	64,300	577,819
Cash at the beginning of the year	2,843,517	2,330,000	(513,517)
Cash at the end of the year	2,330,000	2,394,300	

Cash flows from Operating Activities

- Operating activities refer to the cash generated by or used in the normal service delivery functions of the Corporation.

Payments from Operating Activities

- Employee costs comprise approximately 82% of the total cash expenditure.
- Increases in payments to suppliers based on the anticipated budget result for 2024/25.
- Overall decrease in Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities is anticipated.
- The income includes the forecast transfer from reserves.

Net Cash used in Investing Activities

- The main impact on Investing Activities is a decrease due to a reduction in funds available to invest.

Cash at End of Financial Year

- It is anticipated that at the end of the 2025/2026 FY the total cash will be \$64,300 more than previous year.

Restricted Funds and working Capital

The cash flow statements show that the Corporation is estimating at 30 June 2026 to have cash and cash investments of \$2,394,300 of which some investments are restricted:

Employee Benefits – current	\$1,854,583
Employee Benefits – non-current	\$ 156,258

The above current benefits include the Annual Leave provision as well as Long Service Leave(LSL), only LSL provision is restricted. These funds are separately identified as restricted to ensure there are sufficient funds to meet the Corporation’s obligations as set out in the Local Government (Long Service Leave) Regulations 2002.

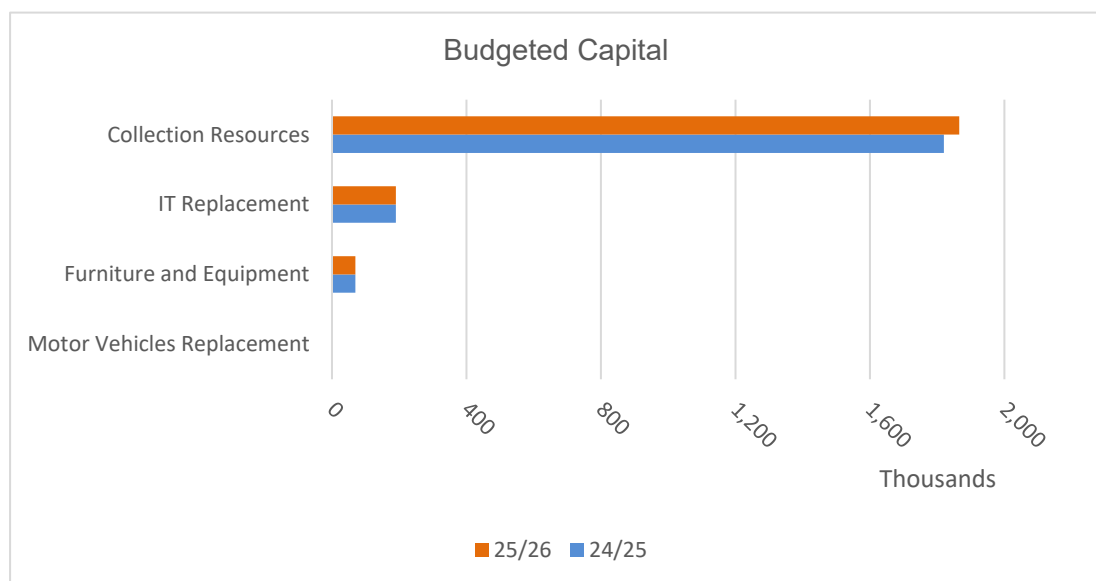
The Corporation also has \$321,908 set aside in a reserve account to assist with major IT capital projects.

8 Budgeted Capital Works

This section of the report analyses the planned capital expenditure budget for the 2025/26 FY and the sources of funding for the capital budget.

Budgeted Statement of Capital Works

	2024/25 \$	2025/26 \$	Variance \$
Capital Works			
Collection Resources	1,820,250	1,865,756	45,506
Furniture and Equipment	69,615	69,615	0
Motor Vehicle Replacement	0	0	0
IT Replacement	190,000	190,000	0
Total Capital Works	2,079,865	2,125,371	45,506
Represented by:			
Asset renewal expenditure	2,079,865	2,125,371	45,506
Total capital works expenditure	2,079,865	2,125,371	
	2024/25 \$	2025/26 \$	Variance \$
Sources of Funding			
Council Contributions	2,079,865	1,935,371	(144,494)
Transfer from IT Reserve	0	190,000	190,000
Total	2,079,865	2,125,371	45,506



Collection Resources (2.19% increase)

Collection Resources includes capital items such as physical books, audio-visual resources, e-books, e-audiobooks and end processing costs. Collection resources are the Corporation's major asset. The Corporation continues to focus on improving the relevance and quality of the collection by regularly evaluating collection borrowing trends, collection condition and content and replacement rates inline the Local Government Performance Reporting measures.

Furniture and Equipment (No increase)

This assists the replacement of limited amounts of damaged furniture in branch library public areas and to meet current ergonomic and OH&S standards. Smaller items of equipment are covered in the operating budget under equipment maintenance and replacement.

Information Technology Replacement (No increase)

Information Technology capital expenditure covers the upgrade and replacement of computer hardware, servers, network hardware, printers and other minor hardware items and the purchase of new software.

Motor Vehicles (No increase)

The Corporation has three vehicles that are used by library staff when moving between branches or attending meetings. The vehicles are also used on a daily basis for Outreach and Makerspace program delivery and for IT support services to libraries. The scheduled replacement will be delayed for a year due to funding constraints.

9 Analysis of Budgeted Financial position

This section of the budget report analyses the movements in assets, liabilities and equity between 2024/25 and 2025/26.

Budgeted Balance Sheet

	2024/25 \$	2025/26 \$	Variance \$
Current assets			
Cash Assets			
	2,920,679	2,394,300	(526,379)
Receivables	70,619	131,931	61,312
Prepayments	156,959	79,427	(77,532)
Accrued Income	22,171	28,347	6,176
Total current assets	3,170,427	2,634,005	(536,422)
Non-current assets			
Collection Resources	7,569,874	7,813,113	243,239
IT Equipment, Furniture and Equipment	923,410	825,338	(98,072)
Total non-current assets	8,493,284	8,638,451	145,167
Total assets	11,663,711	11,272,456	(391,255)
Current liabilities			
Payables			
	571,478	506,460	(65,018)
Employee benefits	1,824,481	1,854,583	30,102
Total current liabilities	2,395,959	2,360,043	(35,916)
Non-current liabilities			
Employee benefits	108,451	156,258	(47,807)
Total non-current liabilities	108,451	156,258	(47,807)
Total liabilities	2,504,410	2,516,301	11,890
Net assets	9,159,301	8,756,155	(403,146)
Equity			
Accumulated surplus	5,237,258	4,824,112	(403,146)
Members Contribution	3,922,043	3,922,043	0
Total equity	9,159,301	8,756,155	(403,146)

- Cash assets in line with contributions.
- Collection Resources variance from previous year as a result of depreciation and write off of items that have been less than anticipated.
- Employee Benefits increase in line with expected wage increase.

10 Strategic Resource Plan and Key Financial Indicators

10.1 Plan Development

A five year strategic resource plan is developed and adopted in conjunction with the annual budget. This strategic resource plan is fundamentally premised on maintaining the Corporation's operations at the current level while restricting increases in Council contributions to the anticipated rate cap percentage.

Underpinning this commitment are the following objectives:

- Containing salary increases to industry standard Enterprise Agreement increases and corresponding increases in statutory on-costs.
- Continuous pursuit of innovation, efficiency and other measures to reduce expenditure.
- Advocating for increased government funding.
- Maintaining existing service levels.
- Maintaining information communication technology systems within the parameters of affordability.
- Maintaining a capital expenditure on Collection Resources that meets the objectives of the Collection Management Strategy and industry standards.
- Prudently managing financial risks relating to assets and liabilities.
- Providing full, accurate and timely disclosure of financial information.

10.2 Funding Strategies

The current Strategic Resource Plan is presented on an accrual basis. It reflects projected income and expenditure in both capital and operational areas.

The plan is currently premised on the following key parameters:

- Indexation of Council contributions by 3%, 2.5%, 2.5%, 2.5% and 2.5% respectively.
- Indexation of State Government core and local priorities grants by 0% in the first year, then 2.% growth in the following years.
- No increases to the Premier's Reading Challenge grant.
- Interest on investments to decline due to lowering of rates and reduction in cash reserves.
- Operating income continues to decline in each year.
- Total operating expenditure to increase by 2.88% in the first year and average of 2.5% each year following.

- Employee costs to increase over and above any wage increase to allow for the 0.5% increase in Superannuation Guarantee each year until it reaches 12% in July 2025.
- Increases in Collection Resources, Information Technology, Furniture and Equipment and Motor Vehicles as follows:

2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
2.19%	3.38%	1.07%	1.45%	1.13%

Motor Vehicle Replacement is budgeted for every second year, 26/27 and 28/29.

The Corporation reviews these financial parameters each year as part of the annual budget process and adjusts the financial plan accordingly wherever parameters have changed.

The Corporation has an extremely tight financial position and limited opportunity to identify further compensatory discretionary cost items within the operating expenditure budget to continue to offset the revenue shortfall. While the Corporation is continually reviewing ways to identify savings, the constrained funding environment presents ongoing challenges when looking to maintain service levels within current budgets.

10.3 Five Year Financial Plan

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	Budget	Financial Plan	Financial Plan	Financial Plan	Financial Plan
INCOME	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Council Contributions					
Whitehorse	6,183,441	6,338,027	6,496,478	6,658,890	6,825,362
Manningham	4,107,785	4,210,480	4,315,742	4,423,635	4,534,226
Total	10,291,226	10,548,507	10,812,220	11,082,525	11,359,588
Public Libraries Grant	1,914,028	1,952,309	1,991,355	2,031,182	2,071,805
Operating Income	199,999	204,924	209,972	215,146	220,450
Transfer from Reserves	380,718	0	0	0	0
Grants					
Local Priorities Funding	101,026	103,047	105,107	107,210	109,354
Premiers Reading Challenge	35,899	35,899	35,899	35,899	35,899
TOTAL INCOME	12,922,896	12,844,686	13,154,553	13,471,962	13,797,096
EXPENDITURE					
Operational	10,660,600	10,975,737	11,300,068	11,633,862	11,977,398
Depreciation/Disposal	2,186,992	2,269,017	2,105,546	2,163,815	2,238,901
Grants Local Priorities Funding	101,026	103,047	105,107	107,210	109,354
Premiers Reading Challenge	35,899	35,899	35,899	35,899	35,899
Total Expenditure	12,984,517	13,383,700	13,546,620	13,940,786	14,361,552
Adjustments to AAS27 Budget					
Depreciation/Disposal	2,186,992	2,269,017	2,105,546	2,163,815	2,238,901
Total less depreciation	10,797,525	11,114,683	11,441,074	11,776,971	12,122,651
Collection Resources	1,865,756	1,912,400	1,960,210	2,009,215	2,059,446
Furniture & Fittings	69,615	71,355	73,139	74,968	76,842
IT Replacement	190,000	190,000	190,000	190,000	190,000
Motor Vehicle Replacement	-	26,000	-	26,000	-
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	(469,751)	(509,870)	(605,192)	(651,643)

10.4 Financial Resources

Strategic Plan Projections

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Operating result	0	(469,751)	(509,870)	(605,192)	(651,643)	-
Cash & Cash Investments	2,394,300	2,034,690	1,681,036	1,214,657	685,584	-
Cash Flow from Operations	2,189,673	1,840,145	1,869,696	1,833,803	1,797,214	-
Capital Works	2,125,371	2,199,755	2,223,349	2,300,183	2,326,287	+

Key to Forecast Trend:

- + Forecasts improvement in the Corporation's financial performance/financial position indicator
- o Forecasts that the Corporation's financial performance/financial position indicator will be steady
- Forecasts deterioration in the Corporation's financial performance/financial position indicator

The key assumptions of the Plan are as follows:

Financial Sustainability

Cash and investments are forecast to reduce over the five year period to fund library materials and technology.

Council Contributions Strategy

Indexation of member Council contributions is based on the annual rate cap percentage amount set by the State Government.

Capital Works Strategy

Capital expenditure over the five-year period will total \$11 million with \$9.8 million being spent on library collection materials and \$950,000 on Information Technology. This allows for continued renewal of the collection resources and IT equipment.

Service Delivery Strategy

All existing service levels are maintained throughout the five year period.

10.5 Non-Financial Resources

Salary expenses and on-costs represent approximately 82% of the Corporation's total operating expenditure (excluding depreciation).

Statement of Human Services

For the years ending 30 June 2025 - 30 June 2030

	2024/25 Forecast \$	2025/26 Budget \$	2026/27 Financial Plan \$	2027/28 Financial Plan \$	2028/29 Financial Plan \$	2029/30 Financial Plan \$
Staff expenditure						
Employee costs – operating	8,853,038	9,118,235	9,391,378	9,672,706	9,962,463	8,853,038
Employee costs – capital						
Total staff expenditure	8,853,038	9,118,235	9,391,378	9,672,706	9,962,463	8,853,038
Staff numbers						
Employees	77.15	77.15	77.15	77.15	77.15	77.15
Total staff numbers	77.15	77.15	77.15	77.15	77.15	77.15

11 Financial Statements

This section presents information in regard to the Financial Statements. The budget information for the years 2025/26 to 2029/30 has been extracted from the Strategic Resource Plan.

This section includes the following financial statements and the following budgeted information:

- Budgeted Comprehensive Income Statement
- Budgeted Balance Sheet
- Statement of Changes in Equity
- Budgeted Statement of Cash Flows
- Budgeted Statement of Capital Works

11.1 Budgeted Comprehensive Income Statement

For the years ending 30 June 2026 – 30 June 2030

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	Budget	Financial	Financial	Financial	Financial
	\$	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Income					
Council Contributions	10,291,226	10,548,507	10,812,220	11,082,525	11,359,588
State Government Grant	1,914,028	1,952,309	1,991,355	2,031,182	2,071,805
Fees and charges	136,925	138,946	141,006	143,109	145,253
Other Grants	129,999	133,174	136,428	139,764	143,183
Investment Interest	70,000	71,750	73,544	75,382	77,267
Transfer from Reserve	380,718	0	0	0	0
Proceeds from sale of assets	0	0	0	0	0
Total Revenue	12,922,896	12,844,686	13,154,553	13,471,962	13,797,097
Expenses					
Employee costs	8,853,038	9,118,235	9,391,378	9,672,706	9,962,463
Financial Expenses	47,700	48,893	50,115	51,368	52,652
Utilities	294,924	302,297	309,854	317,601	325,541
Office Expenses	551,964	565,763	579,907	594,405	609,265
Collection Resources	258,000	264,450	271,061	277,838	284,784
Information Services	144,000	147,600	151,290	155,072	158,949
Information Technology	298,501	310,714	323,231	336,062	349,214
Marketing and Programs	137,474	140,911	144,434	148,044	151,746
Headquarters Costs	75,000	76,875	78,797	80,767	82,786
Grant Expenditure	136,925	138,946	141,006	143,109	145,253
Depreciation	1,669,912	1,799,958	1,648,171	1,710,265	1,801,324
Collection Withdrawal	517,080	469,059	457,375	453,550	437,577
Total Expenses	12,984,517	13,383,700	13,546,620	13,940,786	14,361,552
Net Gain (Loss) on disposal of property, plant and equipment					
PROFIT/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD	(61,621)	(539,014)	(392,067)	(468,824)	(564,456)

11.2 Budgeted Balance Sheet

For the years ending 30 June 2026 – 30 June 2030

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	Budget	Financial	Financial	Financial	Financial
	\$	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Current Assets					
Cash assets	2,394,300	2,034,690	1,681,036	1,214,657	685,582
Receivables	131,931	135,229	138,610	142,075	145,627
Prepayments	79,427	81,413	83,448	85,534	87,673
Accrued Income	28,347	29,056	29,782	30,527	31,290
Total Current Assets	2,634,005	2,280,388	1,932,876	1,472,793	950,171
Non-Current Assets					
Collection Resources	7,813,113	7,795,853	7,996,661	8,195,128	8,375,801
IT Equipment, Furniture and Equipment	825,338	773,336	690,331	628,232	534,946
Total Non-Current assets	8,638,451	8,569,189	8,686,992	8,823,360	8,910,747
Total Assets	11,272,456	10,849,577	10,619,868	10,296,153	9,860,918
Current Liabilities					
Payables	505,460	561,269	671,848	763,883	838,703
Provisions	1,854,583	1,910,220	1,957,976	2,006,925	2,057,099
Total Current Liabilities	2,360,043	2,471,490	2,629,824	2,770,809	2,895,802
Non-Current Liabilities					
Provisions	156,258	160,946	164,970	169,094	173,321
Total Non-Current Liabilities	156,258	160,946	164,970	169,094	173,321
Total Liabilities	2,516,301	2,632,436	2,794,794	2,939,903	3,069,123
Net Assets	8,756,155	8,217,141	7,825,074	7,356,250	6,791,795
Equity					
Accumulated surplus	3,922,043	3,922,043	3,922,043	3,922,043	3,922,043
Members Contribution on Formation	4,834,112	4,295,098	3,903,031	3,434,207	2,869,752
Total Equity	8,756,155	8,217,141	7,825,074	7,356,250	6,791,795

11.3 Statement of Changes in Equity

For the years ending 30 June 2026 – 30 June 2030

	Total	Accumulated Surplus	Members Contribution
	\$	\$	\$
Budget 2026			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	8,817,776	4,895,733	3,922,043
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(61,621)	(61,621)	0
Balance at end of the financial year	8,756,155	4,834,112	3,922,043
2027 - SRP			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	8,756,155	4,834,112	3,922,043
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(539,014)	(539,014)	0
Balance at end of the financial year	8,217,141	4,295,098	3,922,043
2028 - SRP			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	8,217,141	4,295,098	3,922,043
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(392,067)	(392,067)	0
Balance at end of the financial year	7,825,074	3,903,031	3,922,043
2029 - SRP			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	7,825,074	3,903,031	3,922,043
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(468,824)	(468,824)	0
Balance at end of the financial year	7,356,250	3,434,207	3,922,043
2030 - SRP			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	7,356,250	3,434,207	3,922,043
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(564,456)	(564,456)	0
Balance at end of the financial year	6,791,794	2,869,751	3,922,043

11.4 Budgeted Statement of Cash Flows

For the years ending 30 June 2026 – 30 June 2030

	2025/26 Budget \$	2026/27 Financial Plan \$	2027/28 Financial Plan \$	2028/29 Financial Plan \$	2029/30 Financial Plan \$
<i>Cash flows from Operating Activities</i>					
Contributions Received	10,291,227	10,548,507	10,812,220	11,082,525	11,359,588
Grants Received	1,914,028	1,952,309	1,991,355	2,031,182	2,071,805
Interest received	69,310	71,041	72,818	74,637	76,504
Fees/user charges/other	136,925	138,946	141,006	143,109	145,253
Other Grants	507,497	129,876	133,047	136,300	139,632
Payments to Employees/Supplies	(10,729,314)	(11,000,534)	(11,280,750)	(11,633,950)	(11,995,568)
Net cash provided by operating activities	2,189,673	1,840,145	1,869,696	1,833,803	1,797,214
<i>Cash flows from Investing Activities</i>					
Payments for library collection, furniture and IT equipment	(2,125,371)	(2,199,755)	(2,223,349)	(2,300,183)	(2,326,287)
Net cash from Investing Activities	(2,125,371)	(2,199,755)	(2,223,349)	(2,300,183)	(2,326,287)
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	64,300	(359,610)	(353,654)	(466,379)	(529,073)
Cash at the beginning of the year	2,330,000	2,394,300	2,034,690	1,681,036	1,214,657
Cash at the end of the year	2,394,300	2,034,690	1,681,036	1,214,657	685,584
<i>For the year ending 30 June</i>					
Net surplus (deficit) from operations	(61,621)	(539,014)	(392,067)	(468,824)	(564,456)
Depreciation	1,403,393	1,312,253	1,494,185	1,644,547	1,814,796
(Profit) Loss on sale of Library Collection, Furniture and IT Equipment	498,200	510,803	503,063	544,472	548,532
Net movement in current assets and liabilities	92,579	28,393	36,900	44,056	225,158
Net cash inflow (outflow) from operating activities	2,142,898	1,958,138	1,962,915	2,069,406	2,322,196
<i>Cash Resourcing</i>					
Cash Assets	2,885,650	2,788,972	2,650,113	2,660,810	2,644,896
Less Bank Overdraft at the end of the year	0	0	0	0	0
	2,885,650	2,788,972	2,650,113	2,660,810	2,644,896

11.5 Budgeted Statement of Capital Works

For the years ending 30 June 2026 – 30 June 2030

	2025/26 Budget \$	2026/27 Financial Plan \$	2027/28 Financial Plan \$	2028/29 Financial Plan \$	2029/30 Financial Plan \$
Collection Resources	1,865,756	1,912,400	1,960,210	2,009,215	2,059,446
Furniture and Equipment	69,615	71,355	73,139	74,968	76,842
IT Replacement	190,000	190,000	190,000	190,000	190,000
Motor Vehicles Replacement	-	26,000	-	26,000	-
Total capital works	2,125,371	2,199,755	2,223,349	2,300,183	2,326,287
Represented by:					
Renewal	2,125,371	2,199,755	2,223,349	2,300,183	2,326,287
Total capital works	2,125,371	2,199,755	2,223,349	2,300,183	2,326,287

The movement between the previous year and the current year in Library Collections;
Furniture and IT Equipment as shown in the Balance Sheet links to the following items;

Total capital works	2,125,371	2,199,755	2,223,349	2,300,183	2,326,287
Asset revaluation movement	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation	(1,669,912)	(1,799,958)	(1,648,171)	(1,710,265)	(1,801,324)
Collection withdrawn	(517,080)	(469,059)	(457,375)	(453,550)	(437,577)
Net movement in Library Collection, Furniture and IT Equipment	(61,621)	(69,262)	117,803	136,368	87,386

Appendix A: Fees and Charges

User Charges	2024/2025	2025/2026
Lost/totally damaged items	Item cost plus \$16.35 processing charge	Item cost plus \$16.80 processing charge
Damaged Items (minor repairs / RFID tag replacement)	\$6.00	\$6.20
Debt Collection Charge (plus debt)	\$19.30	\$19.90
Replacement Membership Card	\$3.90	\$4.00
Inter Library Loans – standard fee	\$12.10	\$12.45
Inter Library Loans from State, University or Special Libraries	Standard charge + lending institutions charge	Standard charge + lending institutions charge
Photocopying/Printing - Black & White	A4 30c A3 50c	A4 30c A3 50c
Photocopying/Printing - Colour	A4 \$1.30 A3 \$2.15	A4 \$1.30 A3 \$2.15
Scanning (to email)	20c	20c
Library Bags	\$2.15	\$2.20
Earbuds	\$3.60	\$3.70
USB 8G	\$8.60	\$8.90
Meeting room rates	2.75% on previous rates	3% on previous rates
Meeting Rooms Set Up fees	\$57.00 per session	\$58.70 per session
Training Room PC Setup	\$180.30 per hour	\$185.70 per hour
Administration fee for room bookings	\$28.50	\$29.35
Booking Fees: Children’s Holiday Programs Makerspace programs Adult Programs	Up to \$5.45 per child Up to \$11.00 per person Up to \$16.30 per person	Up to \$5.60 per child Up to \$11.30 per person Up to \$16.80 per person

Appendix B: Budget Process

This section lists the budget processes to be undertaken in order to adopt the Budget in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* (the Regulations). To avoid confusion, it should be noted that the impact of s330 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that those sections of the Local Government Act 1989 that were applicable to an existing regional library corporation, continue to apply to that library as if all of those sections had not been repealed.

Under the Act, the Corporation is required to prepare and adopt an annual budget for each financial year. The budget is required to include certain information about the fees and charges that the Corporation intends to levy as well as a range of other information required by the Regulations which support the Act.

The 2025/26 Budget, which is included in this report, is for the year 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 and is prepared in accordance with the Act and Regulations. The Budget includes financial statements being a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows and Statement of Capital Works. These statements have been prepared for the year ending 30 June 2026 in accordance with the Act and Regulations, and consistent with the annual financial statements which are prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. The Budget also includes information about the fees and charges to be levied, the capital works program to be undertaken, the human resources required, and other financial information the Board requires in order to make an informed decision about the adoption of the Budget.

In advance of preparing the budget, officers first review and update the Corporation's long term financial projections. Financial projections for at least four years are ultimately included in the Corporation's Strategic Resource Plan, which is the key medium-term financial plan produced by the Corporation on a rolling basis. The preparation of the Budget, within this broader context, begins with officers preparing the operating and capital components of the annual budget during December to February.

With the introduction of the State Government Rate Capping legislation in 2015, the annual gazetted rate cap percentage amount typically forms the basis of the indexation of the member Councils annual contributions to the regional library corporation.

A 'proposed' Budget is prepared in accordance with the Act and submitted to the Board meeting in February whereby the Board approves the draft Budget, in principle, which is then advertised publicly.

The draft Budget is placed on public exhibition seeking submissions from the community. Any person has a right to make a submission on any proposal contained in the budget under Section 221 of the Act.

The final step is for the Board to adopt the Budget after receiving and considering any submissions from interested parties. The Budget is required to be adopted by 30 June and a copy submitted to the Minister within 28 days after adoption.

The key dates for the WMRLC budget process are summarised below:

Minister of Local Government announces maximum rate percentage increase.	Dec 2024
Budget preparation by Corporation officers	Nov 2024 – Mar 2025
Proposed budget presented to the Board for approval to advertise	12 March 2025
Public notice advising intention to adopt budget	April/May 2025
Budget available for public inspection and comment	April/May 2025
Submission period closes (28 days)	May 2025
Budget and submissions presented to the Board for adoption	21 May 2025
Copy of adopted budget submitted to the Minister Local Government	June 2025