

**Minutes of the Meeting of GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL held at
TEMORA OFFICE on 27 June 2024**

The meeting commenced at 10:00am

PRESENT

Cr A McAlister, Cr J Piper, Cr G Sinclair, Cr M Stadtmiller, Cr Alan White.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr G Veneris (Acting General Manager), Mr A Dahlenburg (Operations Manager), Mrs M Carr (Corporate Services Manager) Miss S Jung (Engineering Manager), Mr S Baldry (Acting Production and Services Manager), Miss A Burnett (Executive Assisant).

1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE/APOLOGIES

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/036 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Sinclair and White that a leave of absence be granted to Cr B Callow, Cr K Morris and Cr L McGlynn.

2. ATTENDANCE OF COUNCILLORS BY AUDIO VISUAL LINK

Nil

3. WEBCASTING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Attendees of this meeting are reminded that:

- a) The meeting is being recorded and made publicly available on Council's website, and
- b) Persons attending the meeting should refrain from making any defamatory statements.

4. STATEMENT OF ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS

Councillors are reminded of the oath or affirmation of office they have taken under section 233A of the Act.

The governing body of a county council is responsible for managing the affairs of the county council. Each Councillor as a member of the governing body has a responsibility to make considered and well-informed decisions to ensure that the exercise of the functions of Goldenfields Water are performed to benefit the whole of the area of operations of Goldenfields Water.

In addition Councillors are reminded of their obligations under council's code of conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land. I would also like to pay respect to their people both past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal Australians who are present.

6. PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil

8. DECLARATION OF NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil

9. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 2024,

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/037 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Piper and McAlister that the minutes of the meeting held on the 11 April 2024, having been circulated and read by members be confirmed.

10. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Nil

11. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

12. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil

13. NOTICES OF MOTION / RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

14. CHAIRPERSON'S MINUTE

Nil

15. MATTERS TO BE SUBMITTED TO OPEN COUNCIL

15.1. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER

15.1.1. COUNCIL CASH AND INVESTMENTS – APRIL 2024

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/038 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Sinclair and McAlister that the report detailing Council Cash and Investments at 30 April 2024 be received and noted

Report prepared by Corporate Services Manager

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COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the report detailing Council Cash and Investments at 30 April 2024 be received and noted.

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 1 High Quality, Secure and Efficient Water Supplies

BACKGROUND

A report on Council's Investments is required to be presented for Council's consideration in accordance with Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

REPORT

Council's cash and investment portfolio decreased by \$1,337,726.18 from \$32,160,478.18 at 31 March 2024 to \$30,822,752 at 30 April 2024.

Cash and Investment Portfolio

Type	LT Rating	ST Rating	Issuer	Frequency	Purchase	Maturity	Days	Rate	Percentage of Portfolio	Principal
TD	BBB+	A-2	Australian Unity Bank	Annually	9/02/2023	9/05/2024	455	4.80%	3%	\$1,000,000
TD	AA-	A-1+	NAB	At maturity	26/06/2023	25/06/2024	365	5.48%	3%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB-	A-3	Judo Bank	Annually	24/01/2023	25/07/2024	548	4.45%	3%	\$1,000,000
TD	AA-	A-1+	NAB	Annually	24/02/2023	16/08/2024	539	4.95%	6%	\$2,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	AMP Bank	Annually	2/08/2023	4/09/2024	399	5.45%	6%	\$2,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	AMP Bank	Annually	15/03/2023	19/09/2024	554	4.80%	3%	\$1,000,000
TD	A+	A-1	Macquarie Bank	At maturity	3/04/2024	2/10/2024	182	4.68%	5%	\$1,500,000
TD	BBB	A-2	Credit Union Australia	At maturity	17/04/2024	16/10/2024	182	5.13%	3%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	Defence Bank	Annually	1/12/2023	29/11/2024	364	5.50%	13%	\$4,000,000
TD	NR	NR	NT Treasury Corp	Annually	28/09/2020	15/12/2024	1539	1.10%	3%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	AMP Bank	Annually	12/01/2023	13/01/2025	732	4.55%	6%	\$2,000,000
TD	AA-	A-1+	NAB	Annually	24/02/2023	24/02/2025	731	4.93%	3%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	AMP Bank	Annually	1/09/2023	4/03/2025	550	5.05%	6%	\$2,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	Police Financial Svcs	Annually	1/03/2023	13/03/2025	743	5.15%	3%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	Defence Bank Summerland	Annually	8/03/2023	27/03/2025	750	4.90%	3%	\$1,000,000
TD	NR	NR	CU	Annually	22/03/2023	8/05/2025	778	4.80%	3%	\$1,000,000
CASH	AA-	A-1+	Commonwealth Bank	At Call Account		1/03/2024	1	4.20%	22%	\$6,796,552.30
CASH	AA-	A-1+	Commonwealth Bank	Cash Account		1/03/2024	1	1.00%	2%	\$526,199.70
TOTAL:										\$30,822,752

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Portfolio Performance

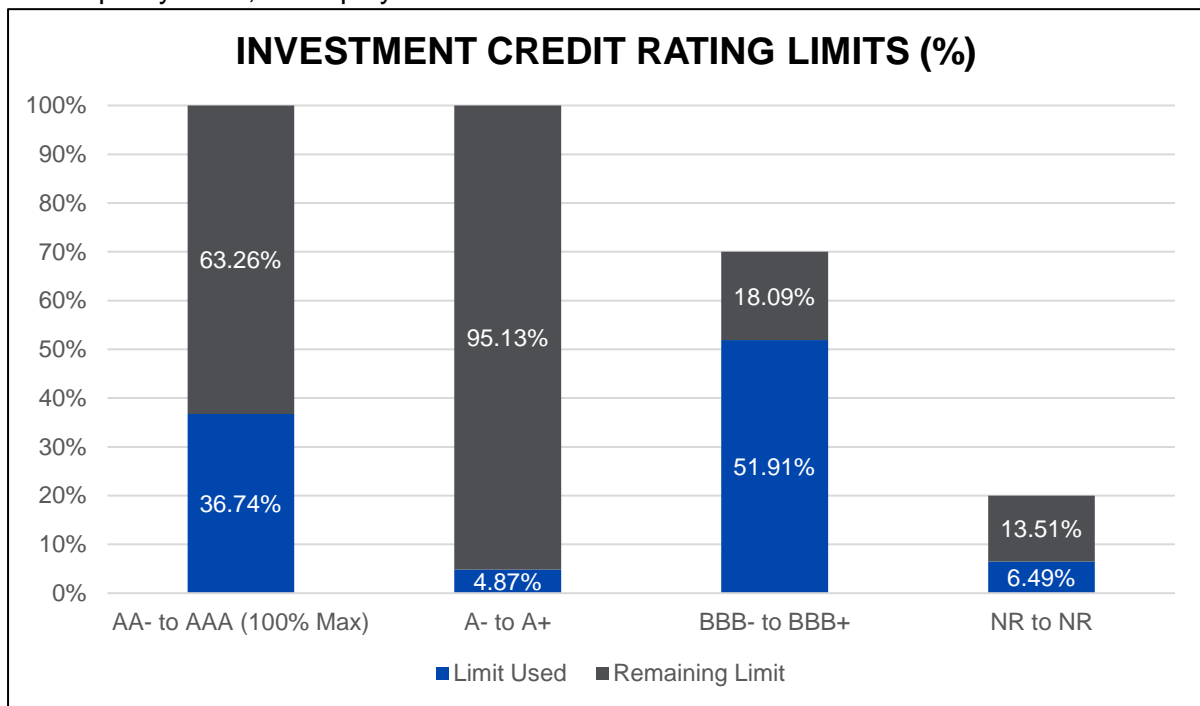
Goldenfields Water County Council's investment portfolio weighted average interest for April 2024 was 4.23%. Performance indicators for comparison are:

- BBSW 4.4086% RBA Cash Rate 4.35% AusBond Bank Bill 4.354%

Interest received in the period totalled \$77,915, with \$1,028,696 received for the year to date.

Credit Quality Compliance

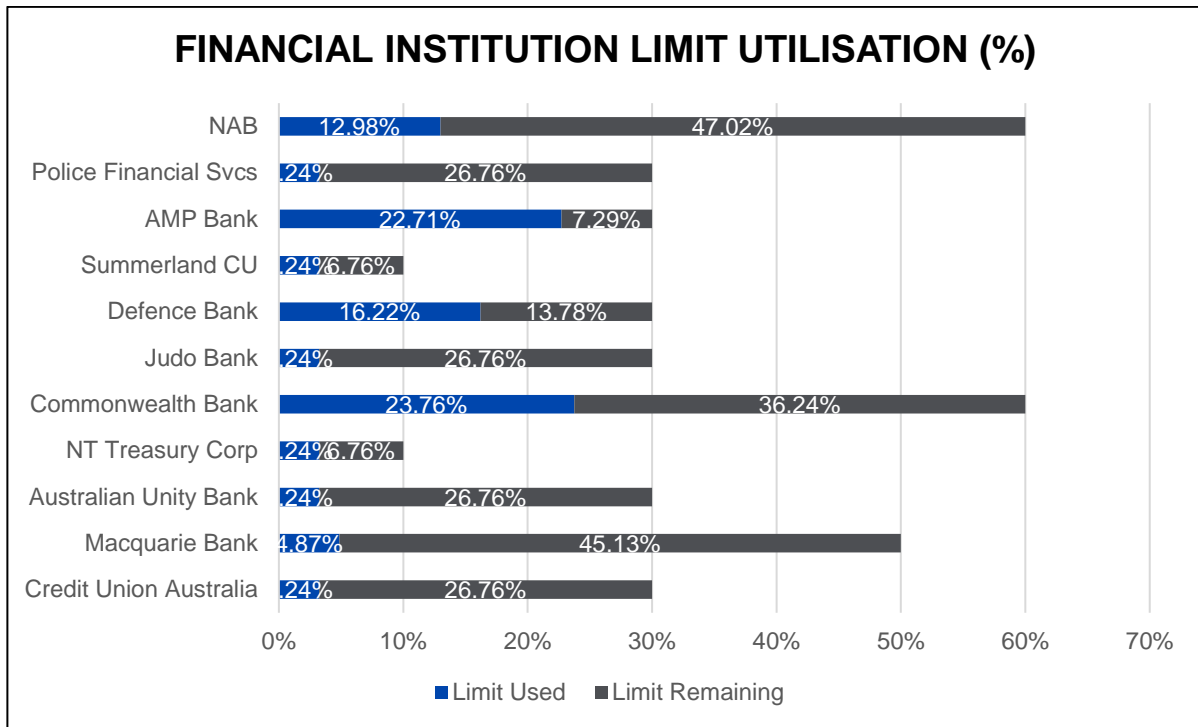
Council's investment portfolio was compliant with policy in terms of S&P long term rating credit quality limits, as displayed below.



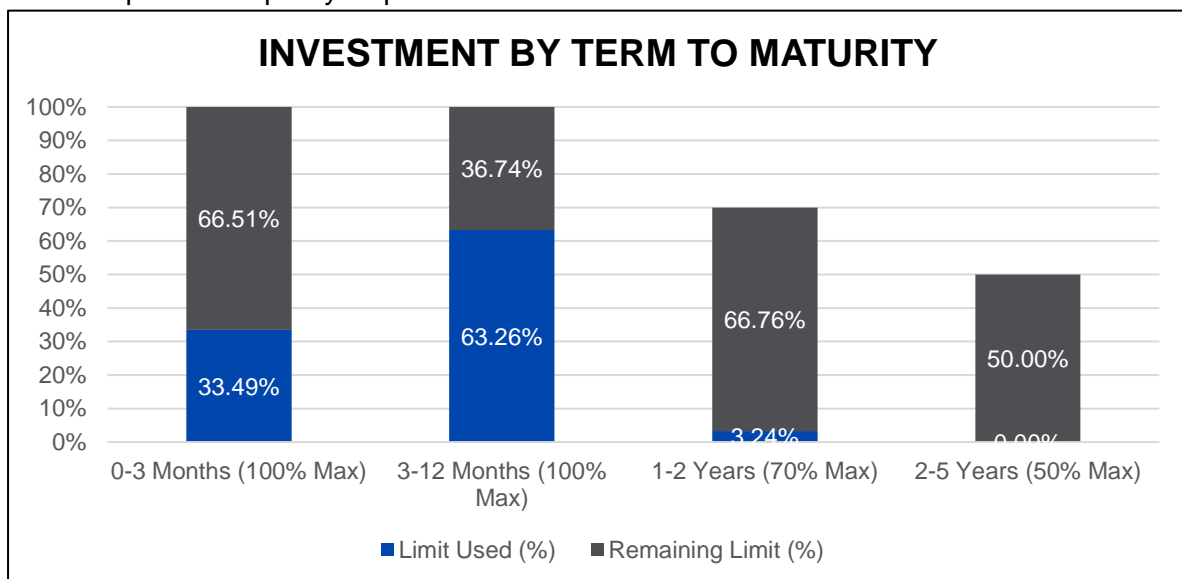
Financial Institution Compliance

As at the end of April, Council was compliant with policy in terms of individual financial institution capacity limits. It is worth noting that capacity limits are affected by changes in the on-call account balance compared to the total portfolio balance.

Overall, the portfolio is diversified across a variety of credit ratings, including some exposure to unrated authorised deposit-taking institutions (ADIs).



Term to Maturity Council's investment portfolio maturities shown graphically below were also compliant with policy requirements.



Application of Investment Funds

The table below details the allocation of cash balances in terms of restricted funds, noting restrictions are all internal rather than external.

Restricted Funds:	
Employee Leave Entitlements	\$2,551,897
Plant & Vehicle Replacement	\$1,462,793
Infrastructure Replacement	\$1,349,640
Section 64 Developer Contribution Reserve	\$5,000,000
Unrestricted Funds	\$20,458,422
TOTAL	\$30,822,752

Declaration

I hereby certify that investments listed in the report have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and Council's Investment Policy PP004.

Signed

Melody Carr

Corporate Services Manager

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Council's cash and investment portfolio decreased by \$1,337,726.18 from \$32,160,478.18 as at 31 March 2024 to \$30,822,752 as at 30 April 2024.

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

TABLED ITEMS: Nil.

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15.1.2. COUNCIL CASH AND INVESTMENTS – MAY 2024

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/039 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Sinclair and White that the report detailing Council Cash and Investments at 31 May 2024 be received and noted.

Report prepared by Corporate Services Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the report detailing Council Cash and Investments at 31 May 2024 be received and noted.

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 1 High Quality, Secure and Efficient Water Supplies

BACKGROUND

A report on Council's Investments is required to be presented for Council's consideration in accordance with Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

REPORT

Council's cash and investment portfolio decreased by \$2,356,815.31 from \$30,822,752 at 30 April 2024 to \$28,465,936.69 at 31 May 2024.

Cash and Investment Portfolio

Type	LT Rating	ST Rating	Issuer	Frequency	Purchase	Maturity	Days	Rate	Percentage of Portfolio	Principal
TD	AA-	A-1+	NAB	At maturity	26/06/2023	25/06/2024	365	5.48%	4%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB-	A-3	Judo Bank	Annually	24/01/2023	25/07/2024	548	4.45%	4%	\$1,000,000
TD	AA-	A-1+	NAB	Annually	24/02/2023	16/08/2024	539	4.95%	7%	\$2,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	AMP Bank	Annually	2/08/2023	4/09/2024	399	5.45%	7%	\$2,000,000
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TD	BBB-	A-3	Judo Bank	At maturity	9/05/2024	7/11/2024	182	5.20%	4%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	Defence Bank	Annually	1/12/2023	29/11/2024	364	5.50%	14%	\$4,000,000
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TD	AA-	A-1+	NAB	Annually	24/02/2023	24/02/2025	731	4.93%	4%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	AMP Bank	Annually	1/09/2023	4/03/2025	550	5.05%	7%	\$2,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	Police Financial Svcs	Annually	1/03/2023	13/03/2025	743	5.15%	4%	\$1,000,000
TD	BBB	A-2	Defence Bank	Annually	8/03/2023	27/03/2025	750	4.90%	4%	\$1,000,000
TD	NR	NR	Summerland CU	Annually	22/03/2023	8/05/2025	778	4.80%	4%	\$1,000,000
CASH	AA-	A-1+	Commonwealth Bank	At Call Account		1/03/2024	1	4.20%	15%	\$4,321,267.74
CASH	AA-	A-1+	Commonwealth Bank	Cash Account		1/03/2024	1	1.00%	2%	\$644,668.95
TOTAL:										\$28,465,937

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Portfolio Performance

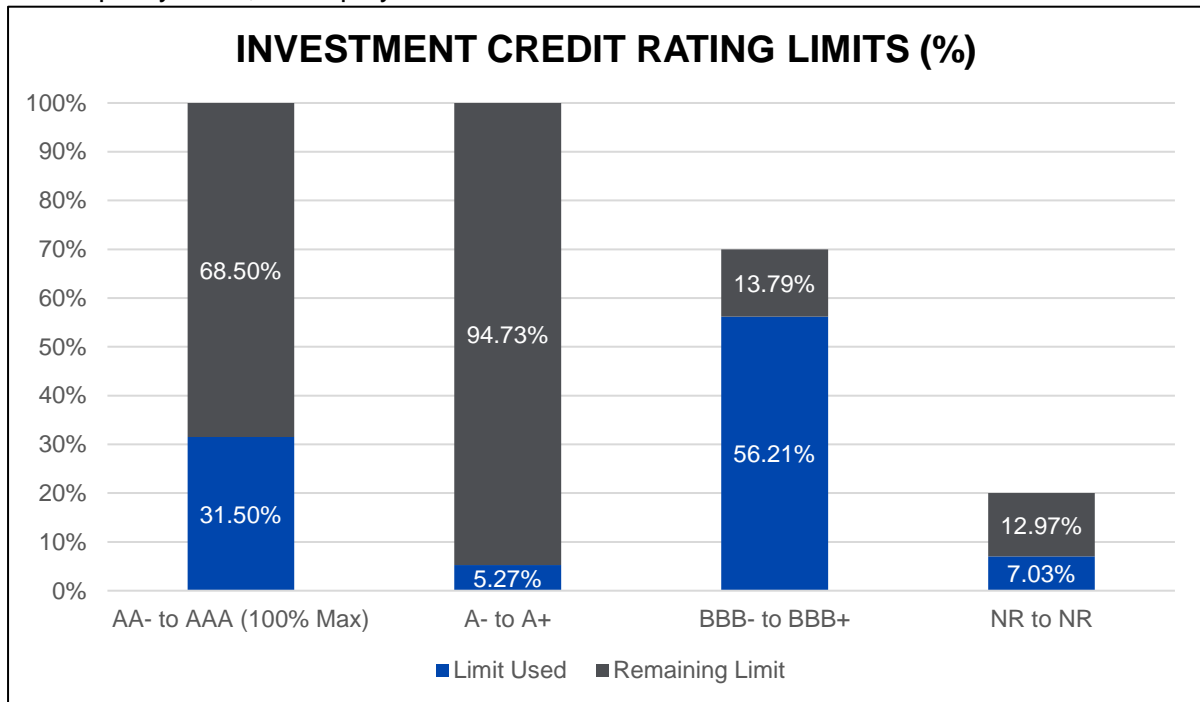
Goldenfields Water County Council's investment portfolio weighted average interest for May 2024 was 4.24%. Performance indicators for comparison are:

- BBSW 4.35% RBA Cash Rate 4.35% AusBond Bank Bill 4.322%

Interest received in the period totalled \$11,836, with \$1,040,532 received for the year to date.

Credit Quality Compliance

Council's investment portfolio was compliant with policy in terms of S&P long term rating credit quality limits, as displayed below.

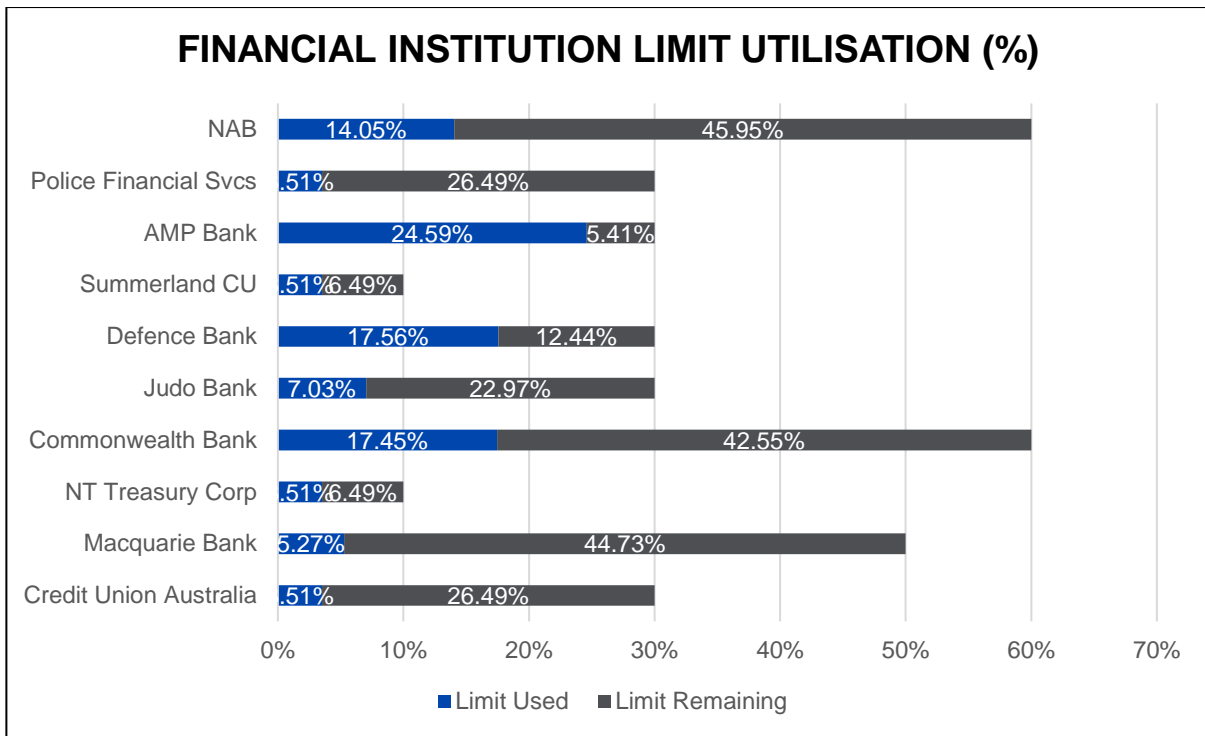


Financial Institution Compliance

As at the end of May, Council was compliant with policy in terms of individual financial institution capacity limits. It is worth noting that capacity limits are affected by changes in the on-call account balance compared to the total portfolio balance.

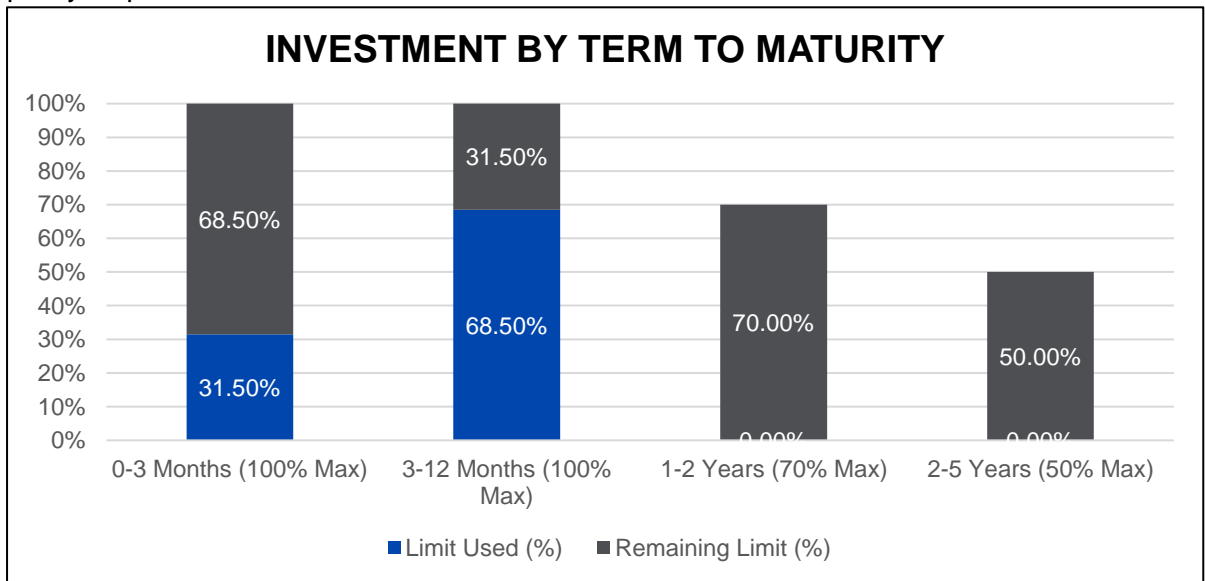
Overall, the portfolio is diversified across a variety of credit ratings, including some exposure to unrated authorised deposit-taking institutions (ADIs).

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Term to Maturity

Council's investment portfolio maturities shown graphically below were also compliant with policy requirements.



Application of Investment Funds

The table below details the allocation of cash balances in terms of restricted funds, noting restrictions are all internal rather than external.

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Restricted Funds:	
Employee Leave Entitlements	\$2,551,897
Plant & Vehicle Replacement	\$1,462,793
Infrastructure Replacement	\$1,349,640
Section 64 Developer Contribution Reserve	\$5,000,000
Unrestricted Funds	\$18,101,607
TOTAL	\$28,465,937

Declaration

I hereby certify that investments listed in the report have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and Council's Investment Policy PP004.

Signed

Melody Carr

Corporate Services Manager

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Council's cash and investment portfolio decreased by \$2,356,815.31 from \$30,822,752 at 30 April 2024 to \$28,465,936.69 at 31 May 2024.

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

TABLED ITEMS: Nil.

15.1.3. PROGRESS REPORT – CAPITAL WORKS EXPENDITURE

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/040 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs White and McAlister that the Capital Works Progress Report as at 17 June 2024 be received and noted.

Report prepared by Corporate Services Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Capital Works Progress Report as at 17 June 2024 be received and noted.

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 1 High Quality, Secure and Efficient Water Supplies

BACKGROUND

Capital Works represents an important part of Council's activities and expenditure. This report details expenditure and progress for the year to date on programmed and emergent capital works.

REPORT

The Capital Works financial report provides a "snapshot" of Council's Capital Works Program on 17 June 2024. Capital Works expenditure is reviewed on a weekly basis and discussed with relevant managers and by the Management team.

The Capital Works Report **Attachment A** includes the budget variations previously approved throughout the quarterly budget review process.

A detailed report on Council's Major Projects over multiple years is included in this report as **Attachment B** for your information.

A commentary report on Council's Major Projects with the expected completion dates for the current financial year is included in **Attachment C** for your information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation does not impact on Council's financial position.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: Capital Works Progress Report as at June 2024.

ATTACHMENT B: Commentary on Major Capital Works on projects over multiple years as at 17 June 2024

ATTACHMENT C: Commentary on Major Capital Works commentary – current year

TABLED ITEMS: Nil.

15.1.4. AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/041 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Sinclair and Piper that the Board receives and notes the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 3 June 2024.

Report prepared by Corporate Services Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Board receives and notes the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 3 June 2024.

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 2 Customer Service Focus

BACKGROUND

Goldenfields Water County Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee is an advisory committee in accordance with section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993, and the Local Government Regulations 2012.

The Committee was established by Council Res 17/008 on 23 February 2017. In accordance with the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Charter, the Committee will report regularly to Council.

REPORT

The Goldenfields Water County Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee met on 3 June 2024. Minutes of the meeting are attached for the information of the Board.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation does not impact on Council's financial position.

ATTACHMENTS: Minutes of ARIC Meeting 3 June 2024.

TABLED ITEMS: Nil.

15.1.5. COUNCILLORS AND CHAIRPERSON FEES FOR 2024/2025

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/042 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs White and McAlister that:

- 1. Councillors and Chairpersons Fees be increased by 3.75% for the 2024/2025 financial year as per the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal Determination dated 29 April 2024.**
- 2. The annual remuneration for 2024/2025 is: Councillor \$10,997 and Chairperson \$18,062.80.**

Report prepared by Corporate Services Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Councillors and Chairpersons Fees be increased by 3.75% for the 2024/2025 financial year as per the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal Determination dated 29 April 2024.
2. The annual remuneration for 2024/2025 is: Councillor \$10,997 and Chairperson \$18,062.80

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 2 Customer Service Focus

BACKGROUND

Section 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993* states that annual fees are to be paid to councillors and chairpersons in accordance with categories determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal), while the setting of the fees is contained within sections 248 and 249 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

REPORT

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal Annual Report and Determination dated 29 April 2024 determined an increase of 3.75% to mayoral and councillor fees for the 2024/2025 financial year, with effect from 1 July 2024.

For **Table 4: County Councils – Water** the fees are as follows:

	Minimum	Maximum
Councillor	\$2,030	\$11,280
Chairperson – additional	\$4,360	\$18,520

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation does not impact on Council's financial position.

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

TABLED ITEMS: Nil.

15.1.6. WATER BILLING & DEBT RECOVERY REPORT

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/043 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Sinclair and White that receives and notes the update on Water Billing, Developer Contributions and Debt Recovery.

Report prepared by Corporate Services Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Board receives and notes the update on Water Billing, Developer Contributions and Debt Recovery.

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 1 High Quality, Secure and Efficient Water Supplies

BACKGROUND

Water Billing

Water billing occurs on a quarterly basis for the majority of Goldenfields Water customers however there are some customers that are billed monthly. This includes automatic meter reads along with some manual re-reads due to several anomalies.

WATER BILLING REPORT

We engaged specialised consultancy for our utility billing module and meter reading for both Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 programs for the financial year 2023-24 as a result of a significant demand of utility billing maintenance required. The Quarter 3 bills were delayed as a result but we are now on track.

The Quarter 3 water billing for the 2023-2024 financial year was delayed due the level of required utility billing maintenance. 11,616 accounts were levied for a total amount of \$4.598m.

Whilst there are still a number of maintenance issues to address prior to Quarter 4 water billing we are on track to levy the third week in July.

DEBT RECOVERY REPORT

Debt recovery action figures for 31 May:

NOTICES ISSUED	No. Customers	Outstanding Account (\$)
Final Notice (Bill period 2023 Q3)	2925	\$2,198,499.74

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Debt Recovery Action:		
Pending Restriction Notice	300	\$533,863.47
Restriction Warning Card	5	\$70,860.65
Physical Restriction / Disconnection	5	\$70,860.65
Total Payments Received (Following Debt Recovery Action)		\$281,818.54
RESTRICTION DETAILS		
Properties paid prior to restriction	147	\$217,706.15
Properties Unrestricted	0	\$0.00
Properties Remaining Restricted	5	\$40,412.18
Properties Referred to Debt Recovery Agent	21	\$193,813.33

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

TABLED ITEMS: Nil

15.1.7. ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/044 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McAlister and Sinclair that the Board adopts the revised PP022 Enterprise Risk Management Policy.

Report prepared by Corporate Services Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Board adopts the revised PP022 Enterprise Risk Management Policy.

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 2 Customer Service Focus

BACKGROUND

Council adopted PP022 Enterprise Risk Management Policy in June 2021. The policy review schedule has been brought forward to align with updated requirements legislated via amendments to the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, effective 1 July 2024.

REPORT

PP022 Enterprise Risk Management Policy has been reviewed and re-written to provide greater alignment to the NSW Office of Local Government guidelines in support of Goldenfields Water's enterprise risk management functions.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation does not impact on Council's financial position.

ATTACHMENTS: PP022 Enterprise Risk Management Policy.

TABLED ITEMS: Nil.

15.2. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY PRODUCTION AND SERVICES MANAGER

15.2.1. WATER PRODUCTION REPORT

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/045 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Sinclair and White that the Water Production Report be received and noted.

Report prepared by Production and Services Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Water Production Report be received and noted.

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 3 A Healthy Natural Environment

BACKGROUND

Goldenfields Water provides the essential water requirements of about 40,000 people spread over an area in excess of 20,000 square kilometres between the Lachlan & Murrumbidgee Rivers in the South West of NSW.

Goldenfields Waters' supply system consists of five separate water schemes, Jugiong, Oura, Mt Arthur, Mt Daylight and Hylands Bridge. Goldenfields Water carries out water supply functions within the Local Government areas of Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra, Hilltops, Junee, Temora, and parts of Narrandera and Wagga Wagga.

Hilltops Shire Council, Cootamundra Gundagai Shire Council and Riverina Water County Council are retailers, who purchase bulk water from Goldenfields and supply the water to retail customers in their respective local government areas.

REPORT

Jugiong drinking Water Scheme

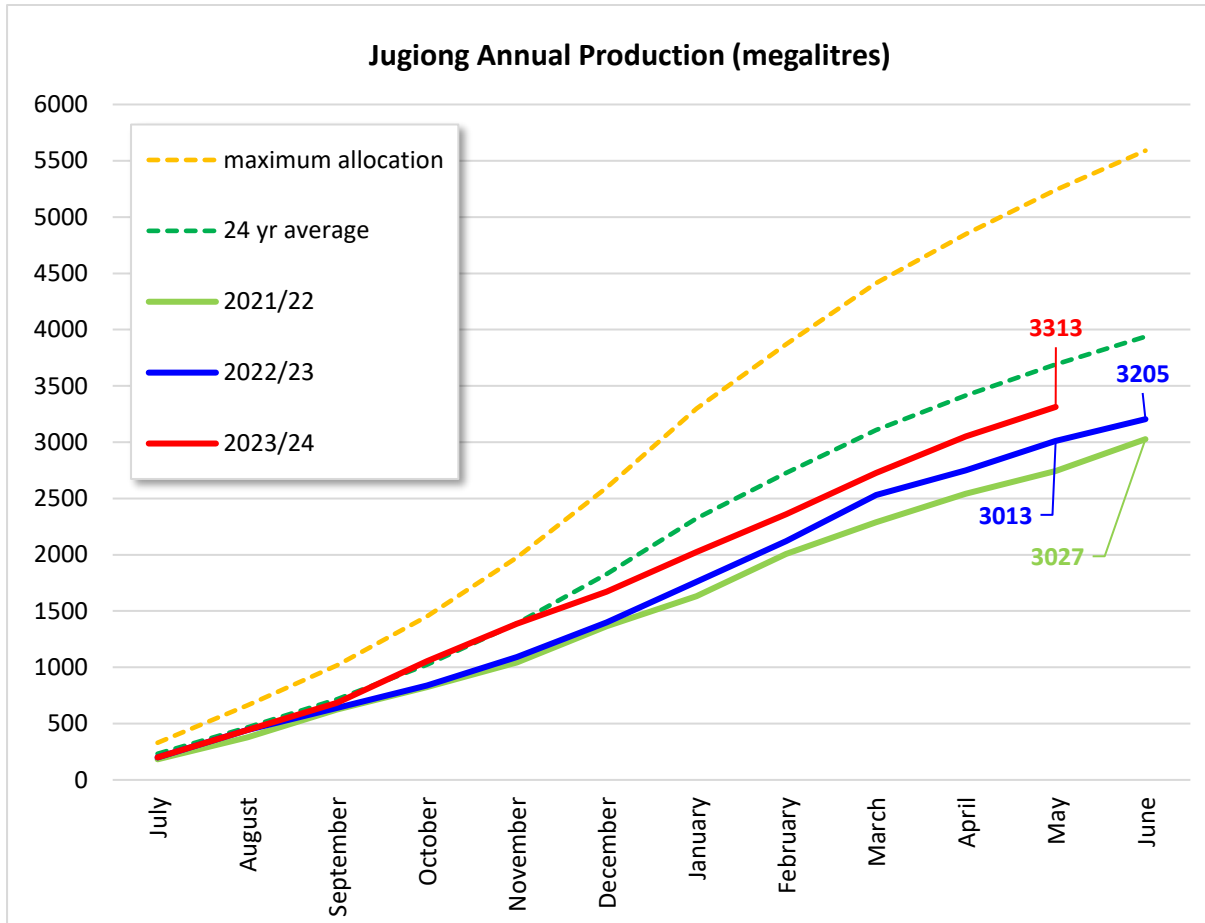
The Jugiong drinking water scheme sources water from the Murrumbidgee River and has an extraction licence entitlement of 5590ML per annum. Water from the Murrumbidgee River is treated through a 40ML/day, conventional Water Treatment Plant that consists of: Coagulation, Flocculation, Clarification, Filtration, Disinfection and Fluoridation.

The Jugiong Scheme has 14 sets of reservoirs and 8 pumping stations. The Jugiong Scheme supplies bulk water to the Hilltops and Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Councils for supply to the townships of Cootamundra, Harden and Young with a population of approximately 6800, 2200 and 8000 respectively.

Goldenfields Water also provides additional retail supply to approximately 600 customers in the villages of Stockinbingal, Wallendbeen and Springdale.

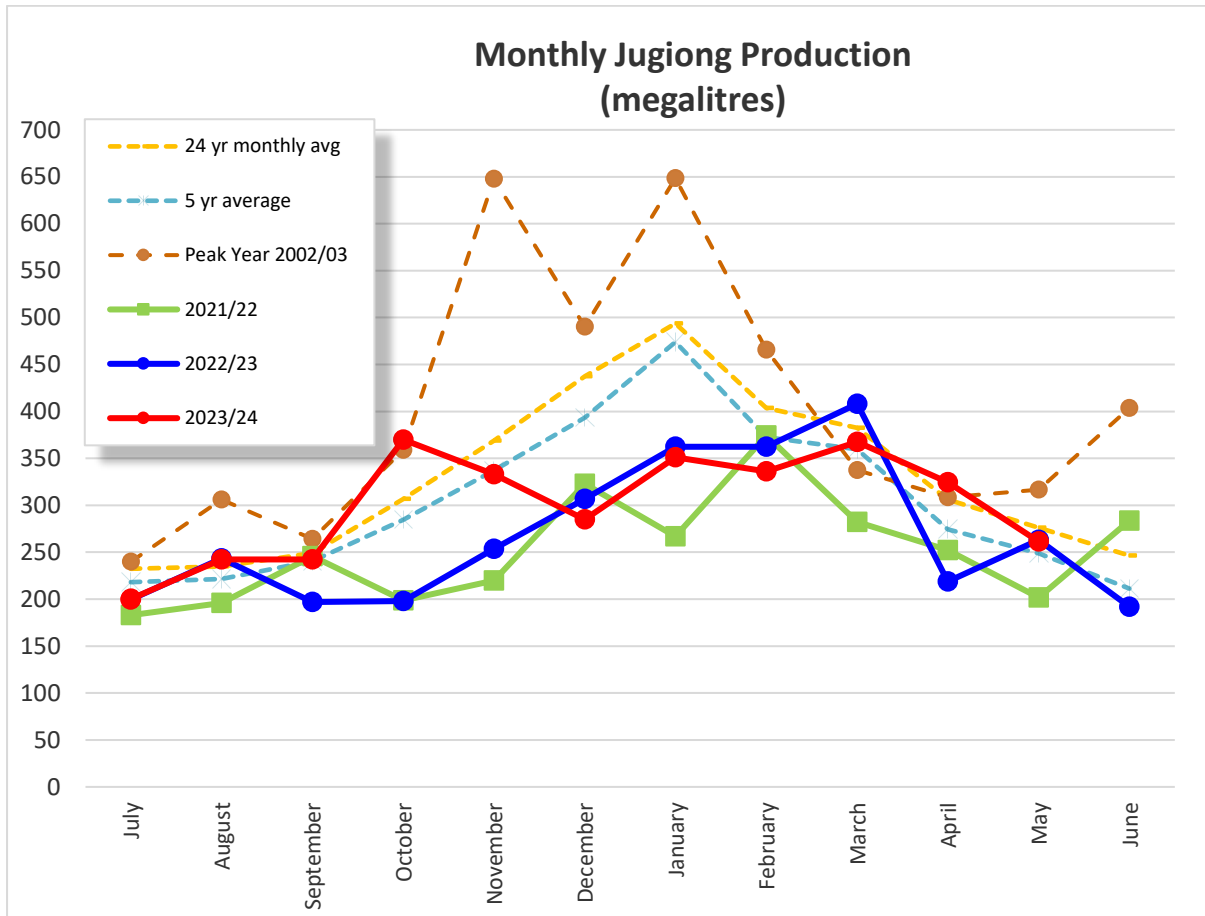
Minutes of the Meeting of GOLDENFIELDS WATER COUNTY COUNCIL held at TEMORA OFFICE on 27 June 2024

For the 11 months of the 2023/24 financial year, 3313ML of water had been extracted from the Murrumbidgee River and processed at the Jugiong Water Treatment plant. This is slightly higher than for the 2022/23 FY where 3013ML was extracted. An increase of 300ML. This is illustrated in the graph below.



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Jugiong monthly production started slightly higher in July with 200ML extracted and treated for the month. August saw a further increase in production with 242ML and September was like August with 242ML extracted and treated. Some warm dry weather saw 370ML extracted in October before some stormy wet periods saw a decrease for the month of November with 333ML extracted and treated. December also saw a decrease in production with 294ML extracted before an increase in January with 356ML extracted and treated. A slight decrease in production for February with 336ML extracted before an increase in Production in March saw 368ML extracted and treated. As we move into the cooler months water production has decreased in the months of April and May with 325ML and 261ML respectively extracted and treated through the Jugiong Water Treatment Plant.



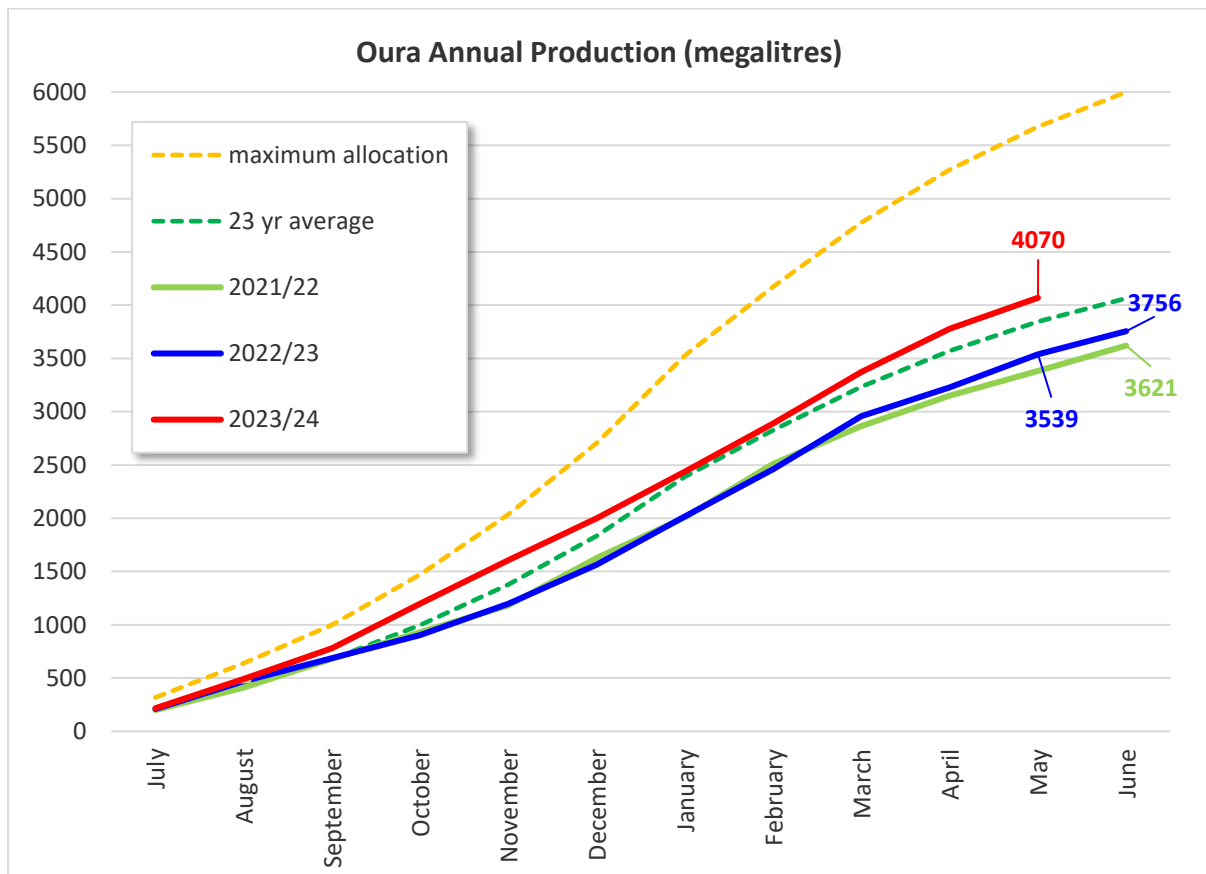
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Oura Drinking Water Scheme

The water source at Oura is the Murrumbidgee inland alluvial aquifer, this water is extracted from 4 bores namely: Bores 2, 3, 4 and 6. The raw water then goes through a treatment process at the Oura Water Treatment Plant that includes Aeration, Disinfection and Fluoridation.

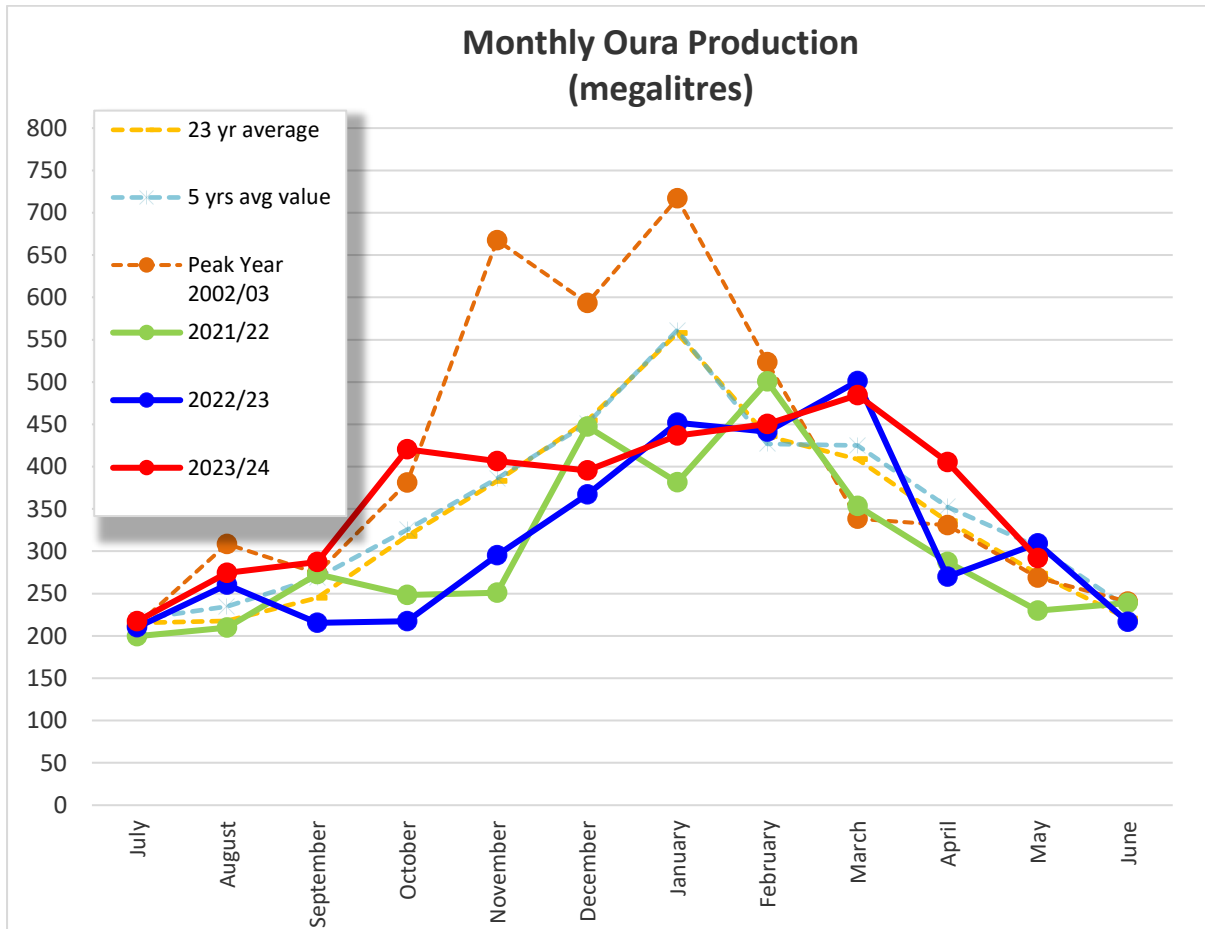
The Oura scheme has 33 sets of reservoirs, and 19 pumping stations, produces drinking water for approximately 14,600 people in the Bland, Coolamon, Junee, Narrandera and Temora Shires. The Oura scheme can also supply water to the Northern side of the rural area of Wagga Wagga City when required.

For the first 11 months of the 2023/24 financial year, 4070ML of water has been extracted from the Oura Borefield and processed at the Oura Water Treatment Plant. This is an increase in production compared to 2022/23 FY where 3539ML of water was extracted for the same period. An increase in production of 531ML. This is depicted in the graph below.



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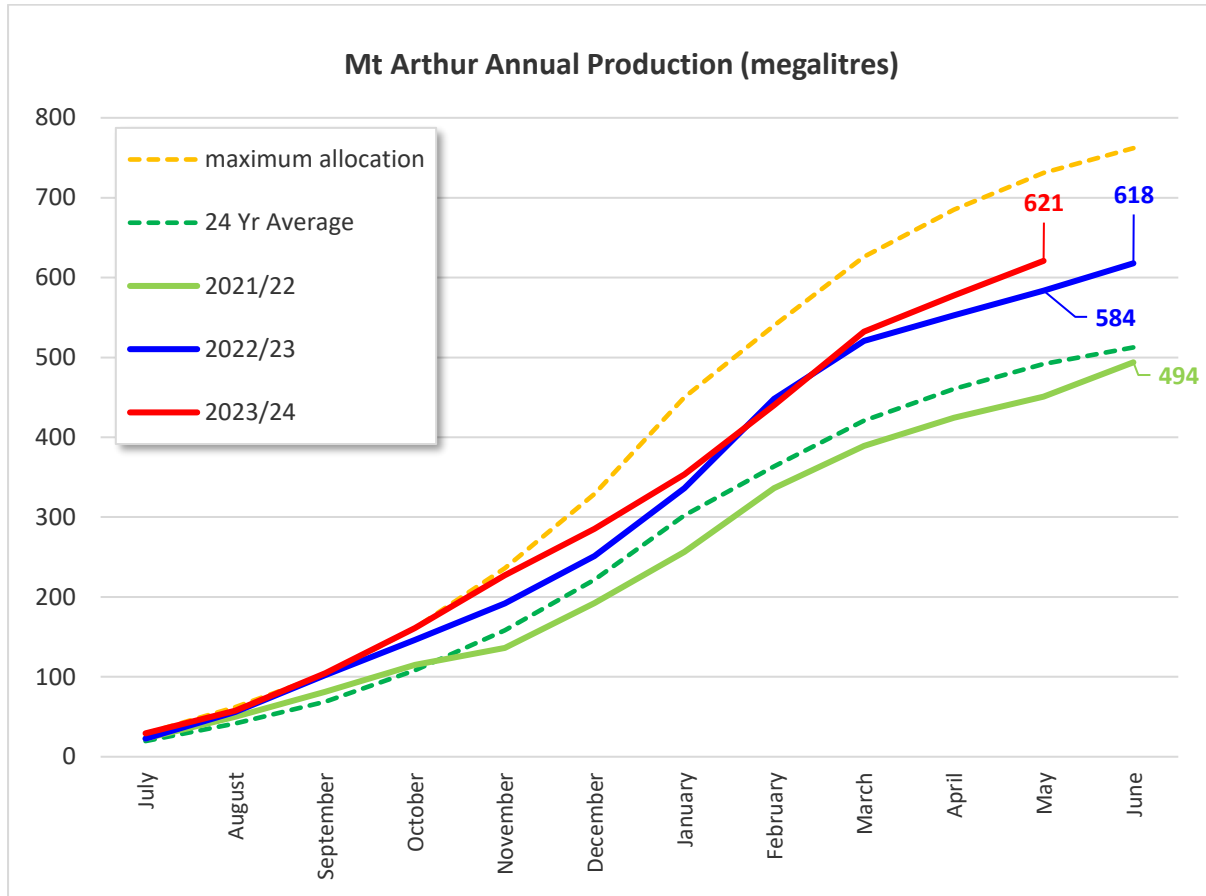
Oura monthly water production has started slightly higher in July where 217ML was extracted from the Oura bores. August saw an increase in production where 274ML was extracted, a further increase in production for September saw 287ML extracted. As with Jugiong a warm dry period saw a further increase in production for October 420ML before some stormy wet periods in November saw a slight decrease in production for the month with 406ML extracted in November. December saw a slight decrease to 395ML before an increase in production in January 437ML, further increases in production have been observed for February 450ML and March 484ML. As we move into the cooler months water production has decreased in the months of April and May with 405ML and 292ML respectively extracted and treated through the Oura Water Treatment Plant.



Mount Arthur Drinking Water Scheme

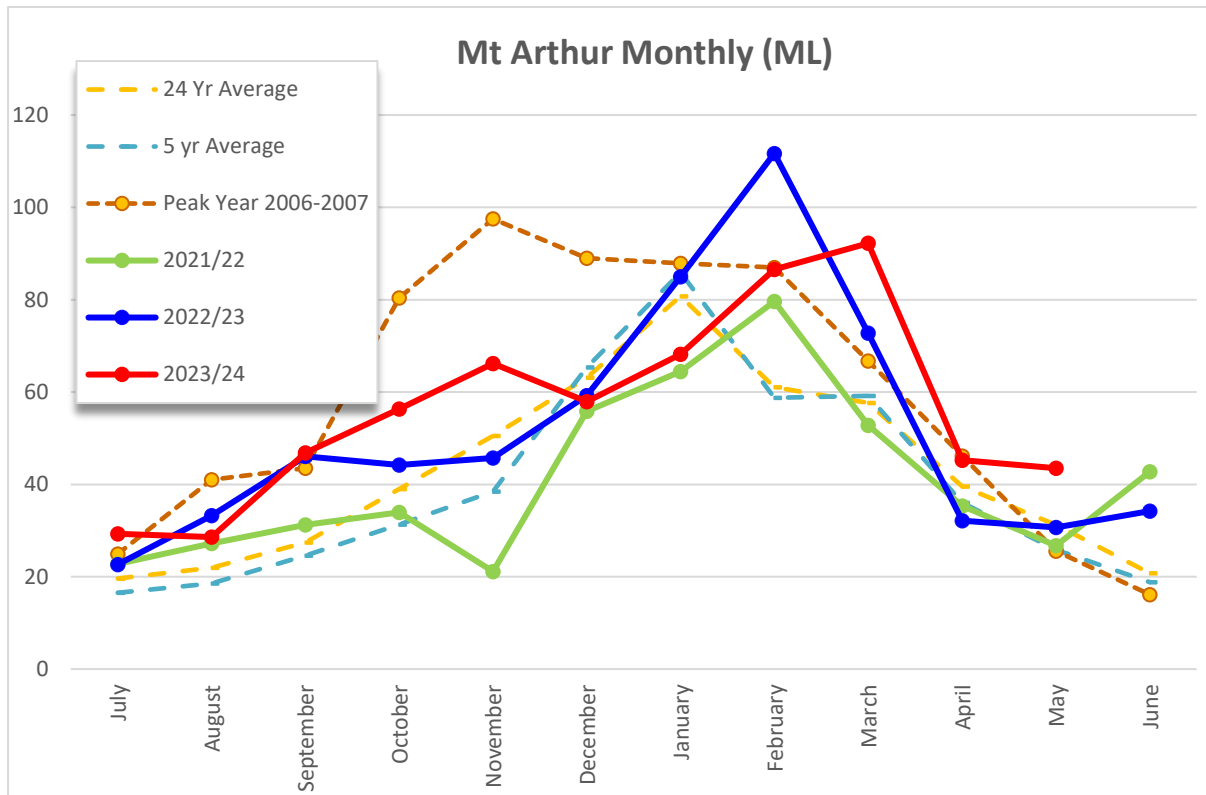
The Mount Arthur Water Source is from the Lachlan Fold belt Aquifer System. The water is extracted via two bores, bores 1 and 2 located in the Wagga Wagga City Council area South of Matong. The water is disinfected before distribution through 9 sets of reservoirs supplying approximately 2400 people with water in the Coolamon shire.

For the first 11 months of the 2023/24 financial year, 621ML of water has been extracted from the Mt Arthur Borefield. This is an increase compared to the 2022/23 FY where 584ML was extracted from the Mt Arthur bores for the same period. An increase of 37ML. As can be seen in the graph below, production is trending slightly higher to previous years.



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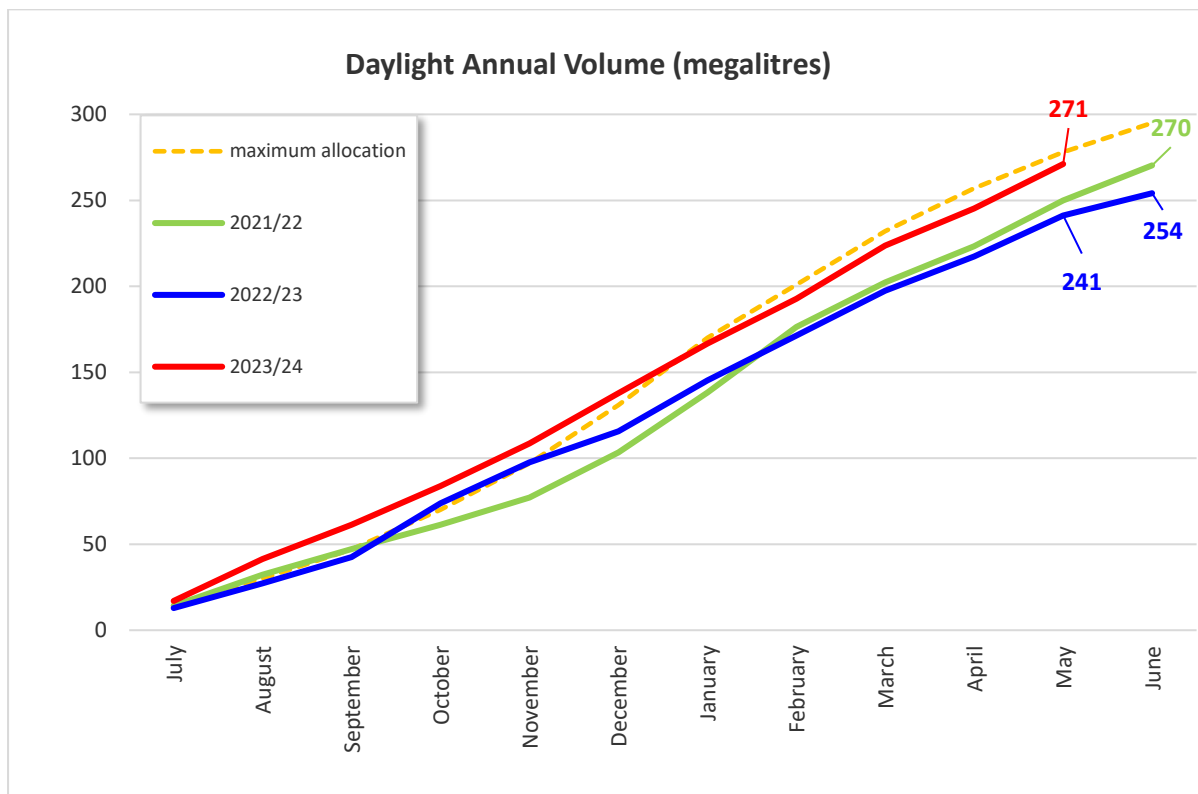
Mt Arthur monthly water production started slightly higher to previous years with 29ML of water extracted from the bores in July. August saw a slight decrease to 28ML extracted and September a further increase to 47ML extracted. Production for the period of September through to November has been steadily increasing every month with September 47ML, October 56ML and November 66ML extracted. December saw a decrease in Production to 68ML for the month. January 68ML, February 87ML and March 92ML have all recorded steady increases in production. As we move into the cooler months water production has decreased in the months of April and May with 45ML and 44ML respectively extracted and treated through the Mt Arthur Scheme.



Mount Daylight Drinking Water Scheme

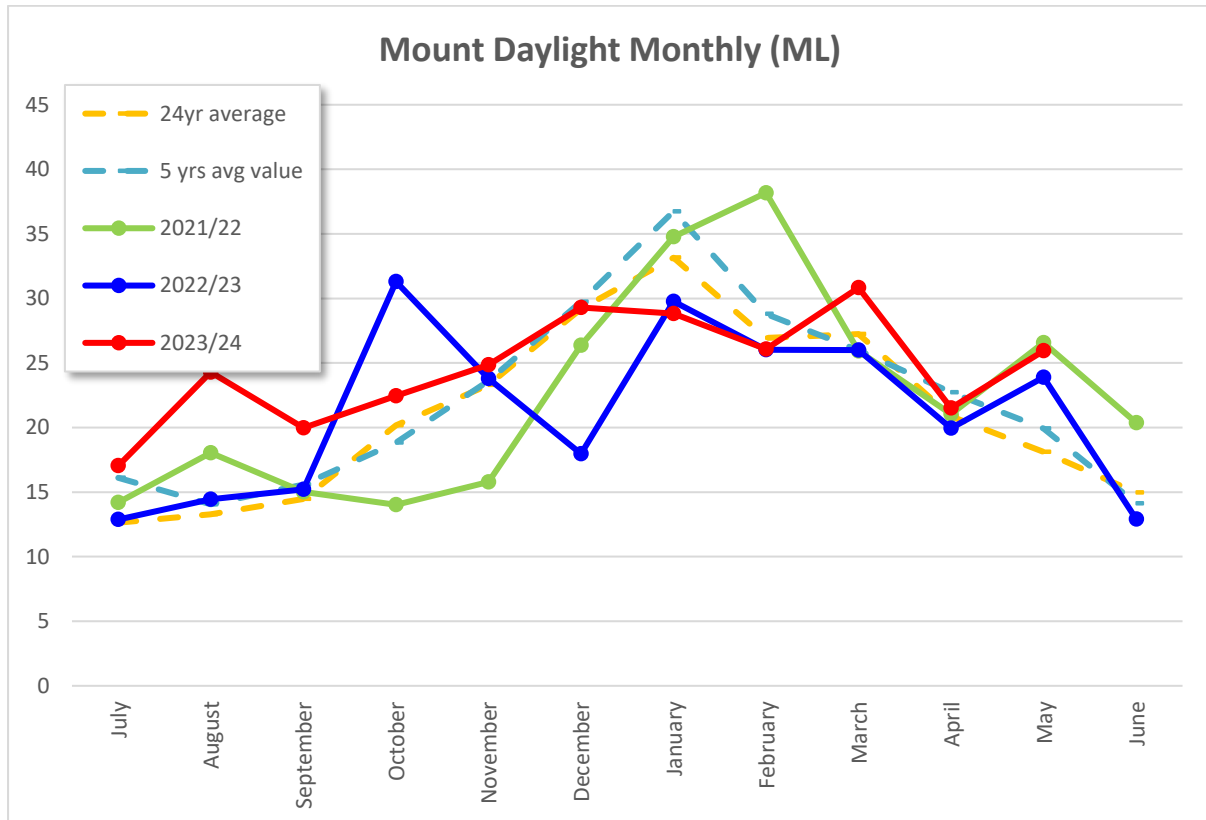
The Mount Daylight water source is from the Lower Lachlan alluvium aquifer. The Mount Daylight bores are jointly operated with Carathool Shire Council. Carathool Shire Council is responsible for bore management. There are 7 sets of reservoirs in the Mt Daylight scheme. Mt Daylight supplies water to approximately 125 people in the villages of Naradhan, Weethalle and Tallimba which is located within the Bland Shire.

For the first 11 months of the 2023/24 financial year 271ML of water has been extracted from the Mt Daylight Borefield. This is an increase in volume of 30ML compared to the 2022/23 FY where 241ML was produced over the same period.



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The monthly extraction totals for the Mt Daylight bores started very consistently with July seeing 17ML extracted with slight increases in August 24ML, September was slightly lower in production with 20ML extracted, the period September through to November seen consistent increases in production every month with September 20ML, October 22ML and November 25ML extracted from the Mt Daylight Bores. December saw a further decrease in production to 29ML, January was similar with just under 29ML extracted for the month. February 26ML saw a decrease in production before an increase in March where 31ML was extracted. As we move into the cooler months water production has decreased in April (22ML) before a slight increase in May (26ML). This is a similar trend to the last 2 years as can be seen in the graph below.

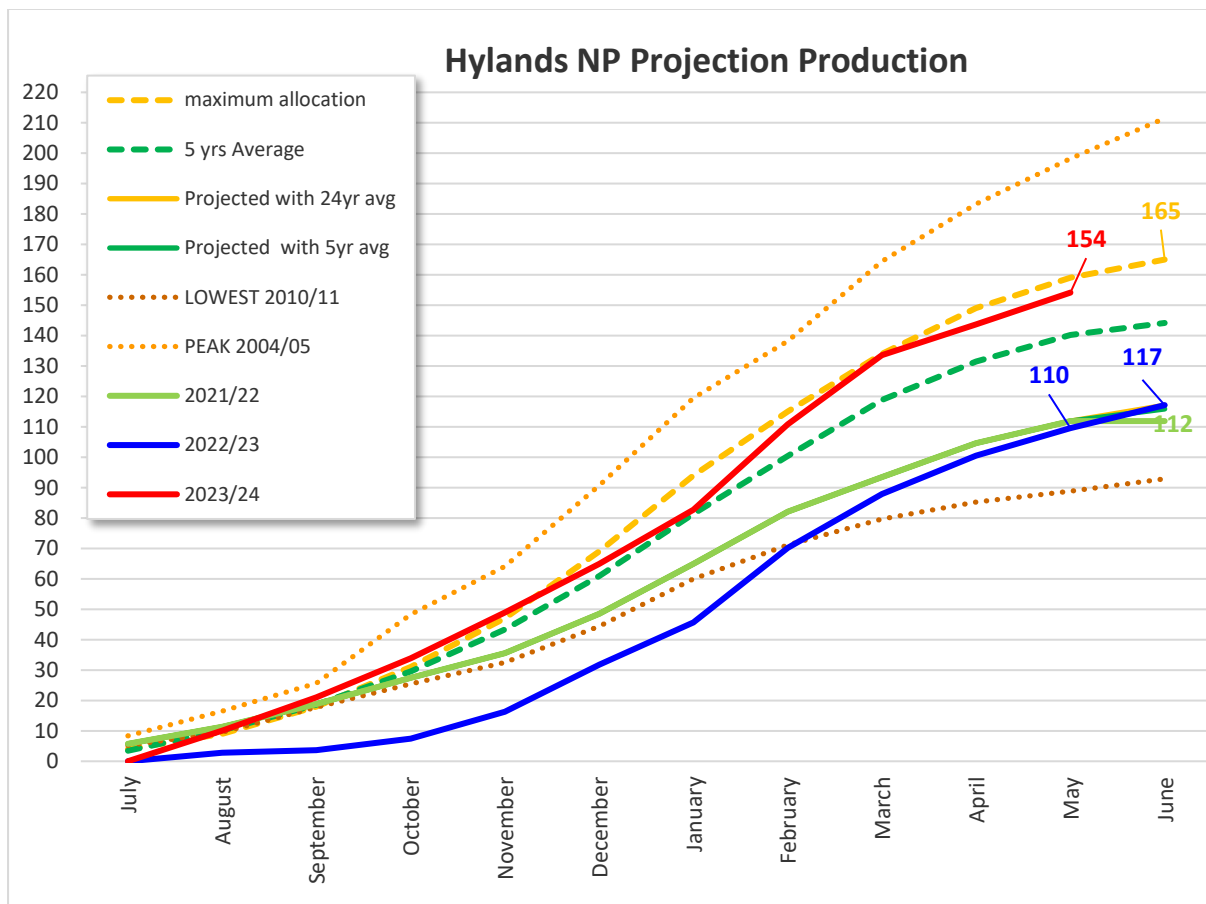


Hylands Bridge - Non-Potable

Hylands Bridge supplies Non-Potable water to Barellan and Binya. The water is sourced through the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area where Goldenfields Water holds 165ML shareholding for water entitlement.

For the first 11 months of the 2023/24 financial year 154ML of water has been extracted from the Hylands Bridge Raw Water Scheme. This is a large increase compared to the same period last year where only 110ML had been extracted. Currently projecting to exceed our maximum allocation.

Note: A comparison between GWCC Production meter and Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) Production meter has indicated that there is a discrepancy between the two meters. GWCC will replace our old meter with a new meter as soon as one becomes available. GWCCs meter is reading between 30-35% higher than MI meter.



FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation does not impact on Council's financial position.

LOCAL PREFERENCE

N/A

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

TABLED ITEMS: Nil

15.3. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY ENGINEERING MANAGER

15.3.1. PP039 HYDRANTS CONDITIONS OF USE POLICY

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/046 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs White and Piper that the Board adopt the draft policy.

Report prepared by Engineering Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Board adopt the draft policy

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 1 High Quality, Secure and Efficient Water Supplies

BACKGROUND

As a County Council, Goldenfields Water is required to install hydrants in its urban water mains as may be necessary for the ready supply of water to extinguish fires, and to maintain the hydrants in effective working order as per the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

Goldenfields Water has hydrants located at approximately 60 metre interval spacing within their urban townships.

REPORT

The attached policy provides Goldenfields Water and the public with information regarding the purpose of hydrants, approval to access hydrants, illegal use and the available alternatives Goldenfields Water provides for water access.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation does not impact on Council's financial position.

ATTACHMENTS: Draft PP039 Hydrants – Conditions of Use Policy

TABLED ITEMS: Nil

15.3.2. PP001 PROCUREMENT AND DISPOSAL OF GOODS, SERVICES AND MATERIALS POLICY

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/047 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McAlister and Sinclair that the Board adopt the draft policy.

Report prepared by Engineering Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Board adopt the draft policy

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 1 High Quality, Secure and Efficient Water Supplies

BACKGROUND

Goldenfields Water maintains a public policy regarding the procurement of disposal of goods, services and materials.

REPORT

PP001 Procurement and Disposal of Goods, Services and Materials Policy is due for review. The following updates have been made:

- Review timeframe changed to 4 yearly to align with other policies
- Clarification of the Goldenfields Water area of operation
- Additional definition of a contract
- Update to the Prescribed Agencies
- Update to the quotation threshold

The quotation thresholds were reviewed and a comparison to a random selection of NSW Councils is provided below. The proposed changes are in line with other Councils and enable staff to undertake procurement of goods, services and materials in an efficient manner, particularly in a regional setting where there are lower volumes of contractors and suppliers available.

	Verbal	1 Quote	2 Quotes	3 Quotes	Formal Quotation
Inner West Council				10k and above	
Wollongong Council		Up to \$10k	\$10-\$50k	\$50k-\$150k	\$150k-\$250k
Lake Macquarie Council		Up to \$10k	\$10-50k	\$50-\$250k	
Hills Shire Council		Up to \$25k		\$25-227k tender over \$227k	
Ballina Council		Up to \$2k	\$10-\$50k	\$50k-\$250k	
Shellharbour Council		Up to \$5k	\$5k-\$25k	\$25k-\$100k	\$100k-\$250k
Hilltops SC	Up to \$1k	\$1k-\$5k	\$5k-\$20k	\$20k to \$50k	\$50k-\$250k

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Temora CS	Up to \$5k	\$5-10k	\$10-50k	\$50-\$150k	\$150-\$250k
Riverina Water	Up to \$2k	\$2k-\$10k	\$10k-\$20k	\$20k-\$250k	
Goldenfields Water existing	Up to \$1k	\$1k-\$5k	\$5k-\$25k	\$25k-\$250k	
Goldenfields Water proposed	Up to \$2k	\$1k-\$10k	\$10k-\$50k	\$50k-\$250k	

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation does not impact on Council's financial position.

ATTACHMENTS: PP001 Procurement and Disposal of Goods, Services and Materials Policy

TABLED ITEMS: Nil

15.4. MATTERS SUBMITTED BY GENERAL MANAGER

15.4.1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/048 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McAlister and Sinclair that the Board approve the attendance of the General Manager, Chair and Deputy Chair.

Report prepared by Acting General Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the attendance of the General Manager, Chair and Deputy Chair.

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 1 High Quality, Secure and Efficient Water Supplies

BACKGROUND

The annual Local Government NSW Water Management Conference presents a broad range of information from a local government perspective on water management, issues associated with water supply and sewerage services provided by water utilities.

REPORT

The Local Government NSW Water Management Conference will be held in Goulburn from Tuesday 23 July to Thursday 25 July 2024.

Nominations for attendance are sought from the Board to allow registration and booking arrangements to be made.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation does not impact on Council's financial position.

ATTACHMENTS: 2024 LGNSW Water Management Conference Draft Program

TABLED ITEMS: Nil

15.4.2. ADOPTION OF 2024/2025 OPERATIONAL PLAN

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/049 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs White and Sinclair that:

- 1. Council adopts the 2024-2025 Operational Plan, as exhibited on public display.**
- 2. Council notes and adopts the minor adjustments as detailed in this report and reflected in the attached Draft 2024/2025 Operational Plan.**
- 3. The fees and charges be made for the 2024-2025 financial year, as detailed in the adopted 2024-2025 Operational Plan Fees and Charges Schedule.**

Report prepared by Acting General Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council adopts the 2024-2025 Operational Plan, as exhibited on public display.
2. Council notes and adopts the minor adjustments as detailed in this report and reflected in the attached Draft 2024/2025 Operational Plan.
3. The fees and charges be made for the 2024-2025 financial year, as detailed in the adopted 2024-2025 Operational Plan Fees and Charges Schedule.

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 1 High Quality, Secure & Efficient Water Supplies

BACKGROUND

The 2022-2026 Delivery Program was adopted by Council in June 2022 in accordance with Chapter 13, part 2 of the Local Government Act 1993, and Section 196A of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

Section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires an Operational Plan including an annual budget and annual fees and charges to be adopted before the beginning of each financial year and for the draft documents to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

REPORT

In accordance with legislative requirements the Draft 2024/2025 Operational Plan incorporating the 2024/2025 budget and annual fees and charges has been on public exhibition for 28 days. No public submissions have been received.

Minor amendments to the exhibited document are required to cover a recent circular release by the Office of Local Government, incorrect quarterly and monthly tabulations within the document and the rounding of fees and charges. The amendments are as follows:

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- As per attached Office of Local Government (OLG) Circular, Circular 24-05 / 19 April 2024 / A894200, Councils Interest rate will increase from 9% to 10.5% and the s603 application costs will go from a charge of \$95 to \$100 for 2024-25.
- Updated the quarterly and monthly tabulated columns within the document to reflect the 2024-25 annual rates.
- Amended the non-residential high volume 20mm connection to \$354 from \$353 so the monthly charge is a round number of \$29.50.
- Amended the non-residential high volume 25mm connection to \$546 from \$548 so the monthly charge is a round number of \$45.50.
- Amended the vacant unconnected properties 25mm connection to \$366 from \$365 to match the residential 25mm connection charge.

The Draft 2024-2025 Operational Plan, incorporating 2024-2025 Fees and Charges and 2024-2025 Budget Summaries is now re-presented to Council for adoption.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation does not impact on Council's financial position.

ATTACHMENTS: Draft 2024/2025 Operational Plan
Circular 24-05 / 19 April 2024 / A894200

TABLED ITEMS: Nil

15.4.3. PP020 COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT POLICY

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/050 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Piper and McAlister that the Board adopts the revised PP020 Complaints Management Policy.

Report prepared by Acting General Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Board adopts the revised PP020 Complaints Management Policy.

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 2 Customer Service Focus

BACKGROUND

PP020 Complaints Management Policy establishes an effective complaints management system in accordance with the best practice model as provided by the NSW Ombudsman.

REPORT

PP020 Complaints Management Policy sets a complaints management system which ensures complaints regarding Goldenfields Water County Council are received, recorded and resolved in a timely and appropriate manner and dealt with fairly and impartially.

This document has been revised in accordance with its review schedule and no changes have been made.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation does not impact on Council's financial position.

ATTACHMENTS: PP020 Complaints Management Policy.

TABLED ITEMS: Nil.

15.4.4. AUGUST EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/051 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Sinclair and White that the Board consider holding an Extra Ordinary Council Meeting on 14 August 2024.

Report prepared by Acting General Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Board consider holding an Extra Ordinary Council Meeting on 14 August 2024.

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 1 High Quality, Secure and Efficient Water Supplies

BACKGROUND

Goldenfields Water County Council meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every second month at the Temora Office, commencing at 10.00am. The August Ordinary Council Meeting has been resolved to be held 22 August 2024.

With anticipated acceptance for the Oura Pump Station and Dosing Design and Construct Tender in August and the caretaker period commencing 16 August, staff are seeking approval to host an Extraordinary Council Meeting, to be held on 14 August to facilitate the approval of this Tender.

REPORT

Oura Pump Station and Dosing Design and Construct Tender (RFT 01/2024) was released on 28 May 2024 with a closing date for tender submissions of 10 July 2024. As such, acceptance of a successful tender will require approval at the August 2024 Council Meeting.

Due to caretaker period commencing 16 August 2024, it is Council officers' recommendation that the Board consider an Extraordinary Council Meeting, to be held on 14 August 2024.

Failing to resolve a successful tender prior to the caretaker period, via an Extraordinary Council Meeting, may risk the price submissions to be null and void, as contractors may not be able to hold their prices firm by the next available council meeting outside of the caretaker period. In addition to this, the project will be delayed for a period of at least two months

Staff are seeking Board approval to assist with the timely delivery of this contract via the attendance of an Extraordinary Council Meeting, which is recommended to be held on the 14 August, or the consideration of an alternate date that may achieve a Quorum.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation does not impact on Council's financial position.

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

TABLED ITEMS: Nil

15.4.5. ENERGY MARKET UPDATE

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/052 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McAlister and White that the Board:

- 1. Pursuant to s55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993, the Board considers that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders before entering into a contract for the purchase of energy, due to extenuating circumstances, being:
 - a. current energy market volatility and significant risk in entering into a fixed agreement**
 - b. flexibility in purchasing processes is required for speed of acting on low price demands within the National Energy Market (NEM)****
- 2. provide the General Manager or their delegate the delegation to negotiate the purchase of energy and enter into any such Agreements necessary to continue the efficient operations of Goldenfields Waters supply network.**
- 3. Note that staff will report back to the Board if any negative variation to the 2024/25 budgetary provisions will be expected.**

Report prepared by Acting General Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:

1. Pursuant to s55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993, the Board considers that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders before entering into a contract for the purchase of energy, due to extenuating circumstances, being:
 - a. current energy market volatility and significant risk in entering into a fixed agreement
 - b. flexibility in purchasing processes is required for speed of acting on low price demands within the National Energy Market (NEM)

2. provide the General Manager or their delegate the delegation to negotiate the purchase of energy and enter into any such Agreements necessary to continue the efficient operations of Goldenfields Waters supply network.
3. Note that staff will report back to the Board if any negative variation to the 2024/25 budgetary provisions will be expected.

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 1 High Quality, Secure and Efficient Water Supplies

BACKGROUND

Council has historically undertaken the purchase of energy contracts via the Local Government Procurement panel process; however, in 2022 Council sort to engage the market in conjunction with Riverina Water. Council has two current energy contracts relating to around 53 small sites and 17 large sites. Both contracts are currently awarded to Shell Energy since 1st January 2023. Expiry of existing contracts are set for 1st January 2025.

Council at its September 2022 meeting resolved:

BOARD RESOLUTION

22/085 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs McAlister and McGlynn that the Board

1. *Pursuant to s55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993, the Board considers that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders before entering into a contract for the purchase of energy, due to extenuating circumstances, being:
 - a. *current energy market volatility and significant risk in entering into a fixed agreement*
 - b. *multiple options for purchasing energy, such as wholesale purchasing*
 - c. *flexibility in purchasing processes is required for speed of acting on low price demands within the National Energy Market (NEM)**
2. *authorise the General Manager or their delegate the delegation to negotiate the purchase of energy and enter into any such Agreements necessary to continue the efficient operations of Goldenfields Waters supply network.*

REPORT

Goldenfields staff were successful in entering a value for money contract through the last energy market approach which provided the best rate on offer that had been seen over the previous 3 year period.

It is hopeful that staff will be able to achieve similar success to the contracts entered into in 2022.

The existing two Shell energy contracts expire in December 2024 and staff will be looking to negotiate with the market to achieve the best value for money result possible. Current energy market and futures are showing higher costs at the moment; however, staff are hoping these highs start to trend down prior to the end of year before our contracts look to expire.

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Staff are using the current contract price level as our basis for target. Staff are seeking to achieve better than this rate if possible; however, will look to negotiate a rate similar to the existing if the market remains volatile.

This report is seeking approval to proceed with the same process entered into in 2022 where a successful energy price was sort. This request is for an exemption of tendering pursuant to s55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993, where the Board considers that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders before entering into a contract for the purchase of energy, due to extenuating circumstances. Those being:

- a. current energy market volatility and significant risk in entering into a fixed agreement
- b. flexibility in purchasing processes is required for speed of acting on low price demands within the National Energy Market (NEM)

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Energy prices are volatile at present and results of negative or positive financial impacts will not be known until negotiations within the market have been completed. If a higher cost will be expected, staff will report back to the Board with estimated costs compared to the 2024/25 budgetary provisions.

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

TABLED ITEMS: Nil

**15.4.6. OURA RESERVOIRS AND AERATOR DESIGN & CONSTRUCT PROJECT
UPDATE – JUNE**

BOARD RESOLUTION

24/053 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Sinclair and McAlister that the report be received and noted.

Report prepared by Acting General Manager

COUNCIL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and noted.

ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Priority 1 High Quality, Secure and Efficient Water Supplies

BACKGROUND

Council at its April 2023 meeting, 23/015 – RESOLVED, on the motion of Crs Callow and McGlynn that the Board approve:

- a. To award the Design & Construction lump sum contract for the Oura Reservoirs and Aerator Tender to Quay Civil Pty Ltd for \$10,536,418.92 ex GST*
- b. Authorise the General Manager or their delegate to enter into a contract with Quay Civil Pty Ltd

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- c. Approve an updated budget allocation of \$12,643,702.70 noting an allowance of 20% contingency as detailed in the report.

A further report was provided at the February 2024 providing an update on the contract and some additional variations to contract. Specifically the provision of council procuring pipeline materials and insurance. The report noted that Council had directly engaged the pipe supplier through a local government panel contract after a request for quotation was carried out and that extensive negotiations had been occurring regarding the supply and manufacture of the aeration system to ensure that the manufacture of the aerator component is completed locally to guarantee quality requirements.

The Oura reservoirs and aerator are components of the Oura Water Treatment Plant (WTP) which supplies approximately half of all Goldenfields Water's network, including the townships of Junee, Temora and West Wyalong. This project will address the concerns of assets at end of life, redundancy and growth.

REPORT

At the February 2024 meeting, the progress reported to Council was:

- Earthworks for new reservoirs and geotechnical investigations completed;
- Overland flood assessment completed;
- Over 100 metres of DICL DN750 and DN600 pipe laid for the inlet and outlet pipework;
- Reservoir concrete slabs poured and fully tensioned;
- 5 reservoir concrete wall slabs poured.

Since the February meeting, the project has continued to progress with all 48 wall panels having been poured and vertically tensioned, another 50 metres of DN600 DICL pipe has been laid and the milestone of lifting the wall panels was completed across two separate weeks. The next stages of construction involve pouring concrete between the wall panels, horizontally tensioning the reservoir and completing piling for the aerator works.

The engagement that Council took on for the supply of pipework required for the project is completed, with final delivery having been received 31st May, 2024. The total spend for all pipework has come in under the engaged contract amount following the negotiation of variations.

Following discussions with Council staff, Quay Civil have secured a local manufacturer for the aerator system with fabrication expected to commence imminently. Piling for the aerator and tower is to commence in the near future to support the structure.

Quay Civil have proposed to use an unconventional methodology for pouring the concrete infills between panels whereby the concrete is filling from the bottom up, which has resulted in delays to completing the infills while the design of the formwork was confirmed to be fit for purpose. Despite this, no change is anticipated to the program and the project is still programmed for completion by the end of 2024.

The overall project has been budgeted at a total cost of \$12.6 million. As it stands, \$6.1 million has been expensed to this project with a further \$5.6 million committed to contractors. At the April Board meeting, the March QBR increased the FY23/24 budget to \$7.2 million based off forecasting of where the project would be at by the end of the financial year. Due to design hold ups, fabrication of the aerator and associated tower has not commenced and construction of the piles to support the structure has also been delayed. This has resulted in the cashflow shortfall of \$1.1 million.

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With the Principal Contractor, Council have only executed four (4) variations to date, in the form of both positive and negative variations resulting in a net zero difference. The project, despite some contractual changes/negotiations and design hold ups, is progressing well.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation does not impact on Council's financial position.

For FY23/24, a total \$6.2 million is anticipated to be expensed to the project compared to the expected \$7.2 million accepted at the last QBR.

For FY 24/25, a total of \$5.4 million is allowed. The project is expected to be fully expensed by the end of FY 24/25

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

TABLED ITEMS: Nil

16. NEXT MEETING

The next extra ordinary meeting of Council is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 14 August 2024 at 10:00am

The next ordinary meeting of Council is scheduled to be held on Thursday 22 August 2024 at 10:00am.

17. CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business requiring the attention of Council the meeting was declared closed at 10:55am