

	COUNCIL POLICY ASSET ACCOUNTING POLICY	Version No:	6.0
		Issued:	20 May 2025
		Next Review:	June 2026

1. INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all Council owned assets are valued and depreciated in accordance with relevant Australian Accounting Standards ("the Standards") pursuant to Local Government Act 1999 under section 303(4).

2. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear direction to management, staff and Council in relation to the Asset Accounting function.

Council will only acquire assets after due consideration of the service needs of the community and the operating needs of the Council. Service levels will be determined in consultation with the community and in line with the Council's 'duty of care' to the community.

3. SCOPE:

The scope of this policy is to ensure:

- **Asset Life** - That Council makes a distinction between costs incurred on long-lived assets and costs incurred on goods and services for immediate consumption;
- **Depreciation** - All depreciation estimates are prepared and maintained in accordance with the Standards and reviewed annually; and
- **Revaluations** - Are performed at a sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from the fair value at the reporting date.

This Policy is applicable to all Council owned and controlled assets.

The scope of this policy includes 'right-of-use assets' as defined in AASB 16 Leases.

Specific exclusions from this Policy

- Library Books have been treated as an operating expense from the 2022/2023 financial year.
- Assets not considered under Council control
- Where an asset is owned as tenants in common or jointly, only the portion of ownership and control relative to Council is included.

4. DEFINITIONS:

Key Term - Acronym	Definition
Amortisation	The systematic allocation of the depreciable amount of an asset over its useful life (e.g. for an asset valued at \$500,000 and no residual value with a 5 year useful life the annual amount amortised would be \$100,000 per annum).
Asset	A resource with economic value that is owned or controlled by an entity with the expectation that it will provide a future benefit.

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Key Term - Acronym	Definition
Asset Class	A group of assets having a similar nature or function in the operations and for purpose.
Asset Consumption Ratio	Value of infrastructure assets/gross current replacement cost of infrastructure assets.
Asset Management	The combination of, financial, economic, engineering and other practices applied to physical assets with the objective of providing the required level of service in the most cost-effective manner.
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio	Capital expenditure on renewal or replacement of existing assets as a percentage of asset management plans allocation. Capital expenditure on renewal or replacement of existing assets / Asset Management Plan.
Asset Register	A register for reliably recording inventory type details of an asset and may incorporate other information such as condition, valuation and location.
Carrying Amount	The amount at which an asset is recognised after deducting any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.
Componentisation	The process of breaking down physical or non-physical asset into its individual components or parts for the purposes of accounting, valuation, and management.
Cost	The amount of cash or cash equivalents paid, or the fair value to acquire an asset at the time of its acquisition or construction.
Cost Model	After recognition as an asset, an item of property, plant and equipment shall be carried at its cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.
Depreciation	The monetary value of an asset decreases over time (useful life) due to use, wear and tear or obsolescence. This decrease is measured as depreciation. Depreciation is the measure of 'using up' or consumption of the asset, in providing that asset to the community and is measured on an annual basis.
Depreciable Amount	The cost of an asset or any other amount substituted for cost, less its residual value.

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Key Term - Acronym	Definition
Fair Value	Is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction.
Gifted Assets	Is an asset constructed or purchased by a party other than a Council (typically a developer) and transferred to Council to maintain.
Impairment Loss	Is the amount by which the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount.
Intangible Assets	Are identified as non-monetary assets without physical substance. Some examples of intangible assets include; licences, intellectual property and computer software.
Maintenance	Regular ongoing day-to-day work necessary to keep assets operating, and does not extend the asset's useful life e.g. road patching. This is an operating expense as this does not increase the value of the asset.
Materiality	Information is material if its omission, mis-statement or non-disclosure has the potential, individually or collectively, to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report or affect the discharge of accountability by the management or elected representatives of the Council.
New Asset	Is the creation of a new asset to meet additional service level requirements, e.g. a new building.
Non-current assets	Are assets that have an estimated life of greater than one year. They also include some financial assets that are not expected to be recovered within a year of the reporting date.
Operations	Regular activities of the council e.g. street sweeping, grass mowing, street lighting.
Right Of Use Asset	A right of use asset, or ROU, is a lessee's right to use an asset over the course of a lease.
Renewal or replacement	Of an asset is where a previously existing asset is replaced, or its service life extended, without enhancement of the service capability except where this is incidental and unavoidable. e.g. gravel re-sheeting, reseal, etc.
Residual value	Of an asset is the estimated amount that an entity would currently obtain from disposal of the asset, after deducting the estimated costs of disposal at the end of its useful life.

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Key Term - Acronym	Definition
Revaluation Model	After initial recognition as an asset, an item of property, plant and equipment whose fair value can be measured reliably shall be carried at a revalued amount, being its fair value at the date of the revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses. Revaluations shall be made with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from that which would be determined using fair value at the reporting date.
Upgrade	Is the enhancement of an existing asset to provide a higher level of service, e.g. sealing an unsealed road.
Useful life	Is defined as the period over which an asset is expected to be available for use by the entity.

5. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

5.1 Council:

Council is responsible for adopting the policy, allocating budget, and providing high level oversight of the delivery of the Council's asset accounting policy. The Council is also responsible for ensuring that organisational resources are appropriately funded to guarantee adherence with this policy.

5.2 Chief Executive Officer:

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for resourcing the implementation of the asset accounting policy and supporting procedures.

5.3 General Managers and Management:

General Managers and Management are responsible for the application of the asset accounting policy and supporting procedures.

5.4 Employees:

Employees are responsible for adhering to the policy.

6. POLICY STATEMENTS:

6.1 This Policy applies the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act) Section 124 (Accounting Records to be Kept) regarding Council's Fixed Assets and how financial information pertaining to Fixed Asset transactions and reconciliations are undertaken across all Council operations.

6.2 This Policy underpins how Council treats various categories of transactions recorded on its fixed asset register and fixed asset transactions, culminating in their publication in the annual financial statements required under Section 127 (Financial Statements) of the Act.

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7. POLICY PRINCIPLES

7.1 Valuation:

Valuation of Assets:

Fair Value - The fair value of assets and liabilities must be estimated in accordance with various Accounting Standards for either recognition and measurement requirements or for disclosure purposes.

Fair Value Hierarchy - AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a "level" in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

- **Level 1:** Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.
- **Level 2:** Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
- **Level 3:** Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

7.2 Depreciation:

Recognition of Depreciation Expense:

- **Commencement** - Depreciation expense commences from the time the asset is first put into use or held ready for use. Work-in-progress will not be depreciated until the asset is first put into use or held available for use.
- **Cessation** - Depreciation of an asset ceases when the asset is fully depreciated, or if the asset is determined to be held for sale. Depreciation does not cease when the asset becomes idle or is retired from active use unless the asset is fully depreciated.
- **Calculation** - In calculating depreciation on assets, each component of the asset which has a cost that is significant in relation to the total cost of the asset and has a materially different useful life, is to be depreciated separately.
- **Leasehold Improvements** - Where improvements are made to a leasehold property, these improvements will be allocated progressively over the unexpired portion of the lease or the useful lives of the improvements, whichever is the shorter. The unexpired period of the lease should include any options to extend the lease term when the exercise of the option is reasonably certain.
- **Non-Recognition Of Depreciation** - Council does not recognise depreciation on the following:
 - **Inventories** - as they are current assets;
 - **Non-current assets held for sale** - whilst classified as held for sale;
 - **Bores** - Refer to the hole in the ground only and are not traditional water bores subject to normal failures due to the unique environment of the City of Mount Gambier. The expectation is that once a bore is constructed no further work is required. In the event a bore is no longer needed or there are changes to the underground water table, thereby rendering the bores obsolete, future treatment will be that the existing bore will be left in place and abandoned with a new bore hole drilled in a more appropriate location. For noting, bore casings are separately componentised, valued and depreciated.

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- **Other relevant assets** - Land, works of art, rare books, manuscripts, unique historical and cultural objects where their service potential is not expected to diminish with time or use.

7.3 Impairment:

- An asset is impaired if the amount at which it is recognised in the Council's financial records is greater than its fair value. Council will ensure that the amount at which an asset is capitalised does not exceed its fair value. This will be reviewed on an annual basis and all impairment losses are to be shown in the operating statement as expenditure.

7.4 Depreciation Methodology:

- **Asset Lives** - All assets with a useful life of more than one year (with the exception of the asset classes shown in the Non-Recognition of Depreciation section above), including intangible assets are depreciated over the useful life of the asset in accordance with Accounting Standards.

Asset Useful Lives	
Asset Class	(Years)
<i>Infrastructure:</i>	
Sealed Roads - Surface	15 - 40
Sealed Roads - Road Pavement	40 - 80
Sealed Roads - Road Subbase	120 - 240
Unsealed Roads	12 - 75
Paving and Footpaths	10 - 40
Kerb & Gutter	60 - 80
Carparks	15 - 80
Public Lighting	20
Stormwater Drainage	50 -125 (indefinite for bore holes)
Retaining Walls	40-120
Guard Rails and Safety Barriers	30
<i>Buildings & Other Structures:</i>	
Buildings	15 - 250
Park Structures	20 - 30
Playground Equipment	20 - 40
Benches, seats, etc	10 - 30
Waste Management – Landfill Assets	Capacity in use
Recreation and Open Space	10 - 100
Plant & Equipment and IT	3 - 30
Artworks & Historical Collections	Indefinite
Land	Indefinite
Other	10 - 15
Right of Use Assets	Life of the lease

- **Depreciation** - All infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets are systematically depreciated over their useful lives on a straight-line basis which best reflects the consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets, excluding: land, footpath nature strips, art and historical collections, and landfill cells.
Landfill cell construction and capping assets are amortised on a consumption basis over the capacity to receive waste. Capping assets are amortised in line with the percentage of consumption of landfill cell's capacity in anyone year.
Land, footpath nature strips, art and historical collections are not depreciated.
- **Asset Additions** - Any expenditure that increases the value of the asset, are depreciated over the remaining useful life of the asset to which it relates.
- **Useful Life** - The useful life of an asset will be reviewed as required. Including at capitalisation of renewal of an asset where it is reasonable to expect that the renewal will increase the useful life of the asset in the interim period to a periodic revaluation.

7.5 Revaluations

Revaluation Methodology:

- **Asset Valuation** - Council treat the valuation of assets in two ways:
 - Firstly, where an asset is carried at cost and has some useful life after it has been fully depreciated, revaluation of the asset will not occur.
 - Secondly, assets that are carried at fair value will be revalued to ensure assets are not fully depreciated before the end of their useful life.
- **Current Replacement Costs** - Are calculated using Council's own current contract unit rates, industry benchmarks and information supplied by other Councils where available. These costs are independently assessed by an appropriately qualified professional.
- **Condition Audits** - Are undertaken to determine the consumption of the asset and hence its fair value in respect to the replacement cost.

Frequency of Revaluation:

- **Fair Value Assets** - All assets carried at fair value are reviewed annually. To achieve this Council review replacement costs and apply incremental adjustments where material and appropriate for each asset class.
- **Condition Audits** - Are performed as per the asset management plans or where there is a material movement between the carrying value and fair value of the assets.
- **Frequency of Revaluation** - Frequency of revaluation for each asset class is shown in the table below:

Asset Category	Valuer	Frequency	Incremental Revaluation*
Artworks and Historical Collections	External	Every 4 years	n/a

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Land	Office of the Valuer General (OVG)	Annually	Increased annually based on OVG
Buildings & Structures	External	Every 4 years	50% of CPI subsequent to further review reverting to CPI annually following year 1 and excluding year of valuation
Infrastructure	External	Every 4 years	50% of CPI subsequent to further review reverting to CPI annually following year 1 and excluding year of valuation
Storm Water Drainage	External	Every 4 years	50% of CPI subsequent to further review reverting to CPI annually following year 1 and excluding year of valuation
Landfill Cell construction and capping	Internal	Annually	n/a
Landfill future restoration	Internal	Every 4 years	n/a

* It is acknowledged that CPI provides a nominal indexation factor. Where alternative measures such as actual unit rate increases provide a proven alternate measure for applying indexation to CPI or cumulative CPI is considered more accurate, management may at it's discretion choose to apply the measure that has the least impact in an off-revaluation year.

It should be noted that revaluations may occur more frequently as required to incorporate changes to unit rates to ensure that the financial impact of valuations is minimised.

Revaluations and Accumulated Depreciation:

- **Accumulated Depreciation** - Following a revaluation the accumulated depreciation is restated proportionately to the gross carrying amount of the asset, so that the carrying amount of the asset after revaluation equals its revalued amount. This is a requirement to achieve a comparative in the calculation of the asset consumption ratio.
- **Assets Not Subject To Revaluation** - Plant and equipment, Public Lighting, Guard Rails/Safety Barriers and IT and Office Equipment are recognised at actual cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment. Council has one historical collection which is minor in the scheme of its total asset base and is not subject to revaluation.

- **Landfill cell construction and capping assets** – The construction of a landfill waste cell will not be subject to revaluation. The capping asset and associated liability provision will be reviewed annually to determine if the amounts provided for are reasonable. Where an adjustment is required to the value of a capping asset, this will be added/deducted to the value of the asset and offset by an increase/decrease to liability provision.
- **Landfill future restoration asset** – The recognition of a future restoration asset is similar in nature to a make good provision. The future restoration and associated liability provision will be reviewed every 4 years to determine if the amounts provided for are reasonable. Where an adjustment is required to the value of the restoration asset this will be added/deducted to the value of the asset and offset by an increase/decrease to the liability provision.

7.6 Liability provisions for asset recognition

Liability provisions associated with the recognition of landfill capping and future restoration assets will be unwound annually based best estimate for interest rate without adjustment to the asset.

7.7 Capitalisation:

Recognition and Thresholds:

- An item of property, plant and equipment that qualifies for recognition as an asset shall be measured at its cost.
- AASB 116 states:

'The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment shall be recognised as an asset if, and only if:

(a) it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the entity;

and

(b) the cost of the item can be measured reliably.'

- Council transfer assets to the asset register only when complete.
- Council recognises the capital cost of an asset comprises of:
 - **Purchase Price** - Its purchase price, including import duties and non-refundable purchase taxes, after deducting trade discounts and rebates;
 - **Directly Attributable Costs** - Any costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary (for example costs of site preparation, installation and assembly) for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by Council;
 - **Employee Benefits** - Costs of employee benefits arising directly from the construction or acquisition of the item of property, plant equipment e.g. project management costs;
 - **Testing** - Costs of testing whether the asset is functioning properly, after deducting net proceeds from selling any items needed to bring the asset to that location and/or condition;
 - **Demolition/Removal** - Costs associated with the dismantling and/or removal of the asset and restoration or rehabilitation of the site on which it was located; and

- **Gifted Assets** - AASB 116 provides for a specific example relating to Local Government entities where an asset may be gifted to Council at no or nominal measurable cost. When this occurs, Council's administration is obliged to recognise the asset at fair value.
- **Borrowing Costs** - In relation to qualifying assets (net of offsetting investment revenue i.e. interest) have been capitalised in accordance with AASB 123 "Borrowing Costs". The amounts of borrowing costs recognised as an expense or as part of the carrying amount of qualifying assets are disclosed in the annual financial statements and the amount (if any) of interest revenue offset against borrowing costs.
- **Landfill capping assets** – recognised based on best estimate of present value of cost of capping a newly constructed cell.
- Council will classify all capital expenditure into the following categories:
 - New / Upgrade; and
 - Renewal.
- **Threshold** - The following principles will apply:
 - **Materiality** - A capitalisation recognition threshold is applied to each asset type using the concept of materiality. Costs below these thresholds are accordingly treated as an operating expense.
 - **Aggregation** - Where a number of the same assets for the same purpose are purchased at the same time and the cumulative value is greater than the threshold, the cumulative value can be capitalised.
 - **Excluded Classes** - No capitalisation threshold will be applied to the acquisition of land, interest in land, works of art, rare books, manuscripts, unique historical and cultural objects.

Asset Class:	Capital Threshold
<i>Infrastructure:</i>	
Road construction and reconstruction	\$10,000
Paving & Footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	\$10,000
Carparks	\$10,000
Stormwater Drainage	\$10,000
Buildings & Structures	\$10,000
Waste Management - Landfill Assets	\$10,000
Park & Playground Furniture & Equipment	\$5,000
Other (including IT)	\$5,000
Plant & Equipment	\$5,000
Right of Use Asset	\$5,000

7.8 Disposal Of Assets:

- **Gain Or Loss** - The difference between any net proceeds from disposal (after deducting selling costs) and the remaining carrying value of an asset will be treated as either a gain or loss in the year the asset is retired or disposed of.

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- **Renewal** - Where existing assets are renewed the value of the component of the asset that has been renewed is to be disposed and a new asset created. If the part of the asset disposed of has been retained, its value needs to be recognised in the new asset or separated into a new asset component if its useful life differs materially to the new asset.
- **Further Guidance** - Further guidance and controls over the disposal of assets is provided under Council Policy 'P420 Procurement and Disposal of Land and Assets Policy'.

8. TRAINING / EDUCATION

Relevant staff will be adequately trained and qualified to implement and comply with this policy.

9. REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed annually; or

- The frequency dictated in legislation; or
- Earlier in the event of changes to legislation or related policies and procedures; or
- If deemed necessary by the General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services.

10. ACCESS TO THE POLICY

This Policy will be available for inspection at Council's principal office during ordinary business hours and on the Council's website www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au. Copies will also be provided to interested members of the community upon request, and upon payment of a fee in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

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File Reference:	AF18/48
Applicable Legislation:	Local Government Act 1999 Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011
Reference: Strategic Plan – Beyond 2015	Goal 3, Strategic Objective Our Diverse Economy
Related Policies:	A900 Asset Management Policy Procurement Policy Disposal of Land and Assets Policy B300 Budget Framework Policy
Related Procedures:	

DOCUMENT DETAILS

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