

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Council's 2023/2024 Budget has been developed in response to the significant economic challenges facing many in our community, including households, businesses, community groups and Council itself.

The cost of living is among the highest it has been in more than 20 years, placing pressure on households and at the same time driving up the cost of goods and services, making it more expensive for Council to deliver the wide range of services the community expects.

Council has taken significant steps in recent years to moderate the impacts of both CPI and unprecedented increases in land valuations by adjusting rate models in a way that smooths and lessens the impact for as many residents as possible.

We firmly believe this Budget is right for these times, ensuring we meet both our community and statutory obligations in a way that balances financial sustainability with the delivery of the range of services our fast-growing community needs.

This year, we have been able to keep the average general rate increase across all categories to 4.69 per cent. For owner-occupied residential properties and combined with increases in Waste Management charges, the average owner-occupied residential property will see an increase of around \$100 for the year, or around \$2 per week. Compared to the range of Council services residents have access to, this is a modest and responsible increase, to ensure our community continues to thrive for local families.

In a snapshot, the \$127.22M 2023/2024 Budget provides an operating expenditure of \$71.75M and \$55.47M in capital expenditure, which includes \$38.20M earmarked for road network projects. Overall, this will provide Council a small predicted operating surplus of \$0.26M for the year.

Council has demonstrated its financial management track record over the past eight years by consistently operating within its budget while keeping rate increases low. Over the past four years, the region's average increase was just 2.23 per cent for general residential rates, while the average CPI increase was almost double that at 4.15 per cent.

Council will continue paying off the loans from previous capital projects, including the Lockyer Valley Sports

and Aquatic Centre, Laidley Sports Complex, and ICT Systems, and by June 2025 expects to have reduced our total debt by approximately 50 per cent from 2021 levels to less than \$10M.

The largest portion of our Budget this year will go to flood restoration works conducted across the region. Council acknowledges the assistance of the Australian and Queensland Governments in providing \$30M in grants towards this works program and a further \$5.2M towards the Voluntary Buy Back program that assists highly vulnerable households to relocate to safer areas.

Council continues to support local community and sporting groups with almost \$0.6M in various assistance programs, in addition to the \$5.71M invested in a range of community facilities Council maintains for the community's use.

Waste management continues to be a high priority as we meet the rising requirements of other levels of government, and this year we are allocating \$11.05M across several capital and operating projects and functions that provide community health, safety, wellbeing and environmental outcomes.

The Environment, Resilient Rivers and Emergency Preparedness levies have remained the same, while residential Waste Collection Charges and Waste Management Charges have increased by \$39 for the year, (\$0.75 per week) due to the requirement on councils to apply full cost modelling. This \$0.75 is included in the \$2 per week overall average increase mentioned earlier.

Council has retained its rating concessions for pensioners and for ratepayers who pay their General Rates, Charges and Levies in full by the due date. As always, if anyone is having difficulties paying their bill, we encourage them to contact us early to discuss hardship options.

I extend my thanks to my fellow Councillors, the Executive Leadership Team and Council staff for their part in preparing this balanced Budget that sets the foundations for a bright, long-term future for the Lockyer Valley.



Cr Tanya Milligan
Mayor,
Lockyer Valley Regional Council

CEO'S MESSAGE

The annual Budget is one of our most important pieces of work each year and sits alongside our Corporate and Operational Plans as one of the key strategic documents that ensure we are allocating the funds to meet the operational priorities determined by Council within our regulatory obligations.

Preparing the Budget each year can be challenging especially given the rising cost of resources, the ever-increasing expectations of the community, and the need to minimise the financial impact to the community.

Our 2023-2024 Budget has been shaped by several factors and will support us in delivering a valuable mix of essential core services as well as several projects that will service the community in both the short and long term.

In summary, Council's total estimated operating revenue during the 2023/2024 financial year is \$72.02M, with estimated operating expenditure being \$71.75M. This will provide a small surplus of \$0.26M (rounded) for the year. In addition, Council is estimated to receive \$39.92M in grant and other revenue to assist directly with capital projects.

Overall capital expenditure of \$55.47M constitutes our largest program of works for a decade. Key projects include more than \$40M in road network upgrades with the majority of that (\$33.03M) being reconstruction works from the 2022 floods. We also need to replace vehicles and plant to maximise both operational and trade-in values and have set aside \$2.38M for this.

Waste Management is a continued priority with \$3.77M earmarked to complete construction of Cell 5 at the Gatton Landfill, our last remaining landfill site as we continue to move towards a circular economy of responsible waste management.

The Australian and Queensland Governments have funded the \$5.2M Voluntary Home Buy Back which will require considerable resources to finalise and maintain.

It's not all about the large projects though, as Council has a wide range of smaller improvement projects across various cemeteries, parks and halls to ensure improvements occur throughout the region. We remain invested in environmental management, disaster preparedness and resilience, flood mitigation and attracting tourists to support local businesses.

I encourage readers to look at the detail in the Budget papers to see what might be in there for our community.

Council has been diligently paying down its loans over recent years and by June 2025 we expect to have reduced our total debt by approximately 50 per cent from 2021 levels to less than \$10M.

Council continues to support local community and sporting groups with almost \$0.6M in various assistance programs, in addition to the \$5.71M invested in a range of community facilities Council maintains for the community's use.

As stated by the Mayor, this is a responsible and balanced budget that recognises the economic challenges faced by many in the community and the opportunities that lie ahead.

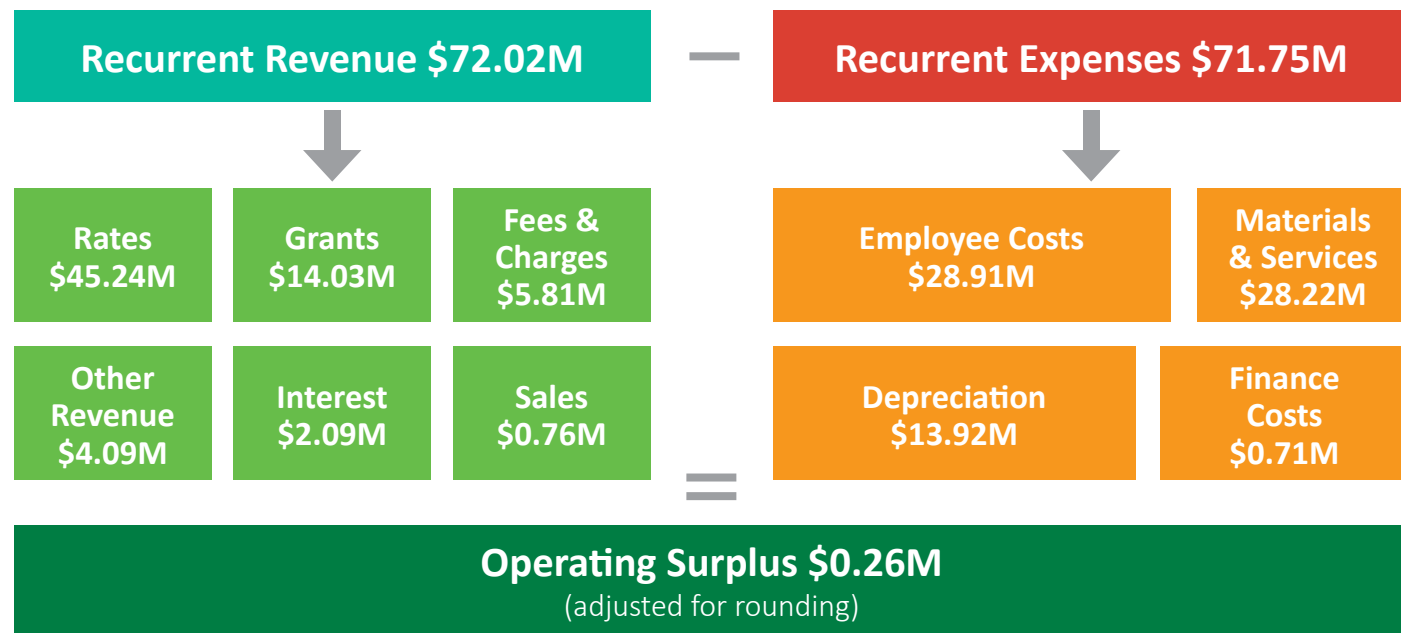
I extend my thanks to the Mayor and Councillors, the Executive Leadership Team, Managers and staff for working together to prepare a responsible budget that shapes the future for our community.



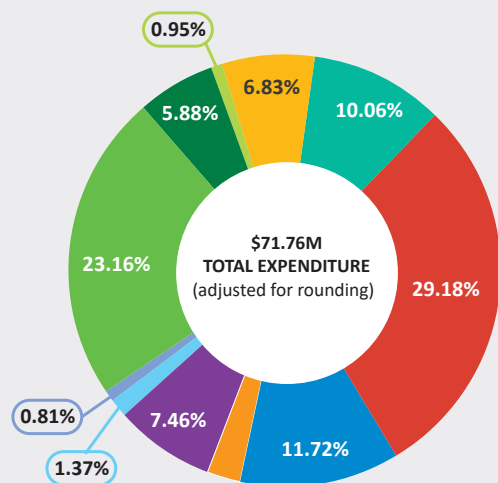
Ian Church
Chief Executive Officer
Lockyer Valley Regional Council

DELIVERING ON THE COMMUNITY PLAN 2017-2027 AND THE CORPORATE PLAN 2022 - 2027

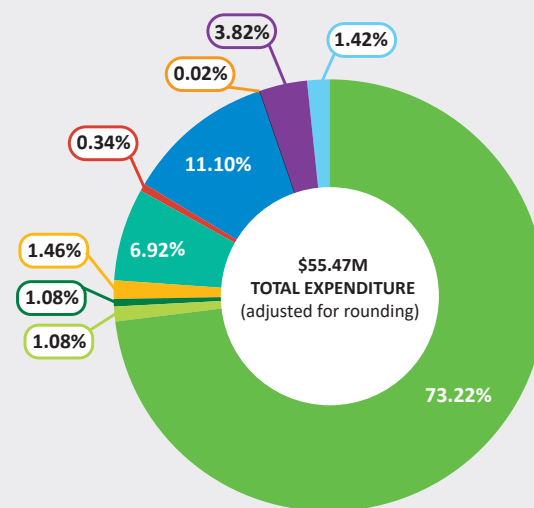
These plans describe the type of region the community aspires to live in and the priority actions required to move towards those aspirations.



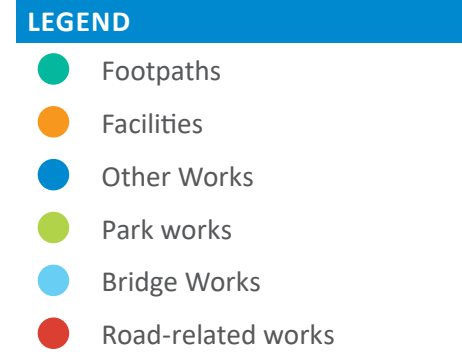
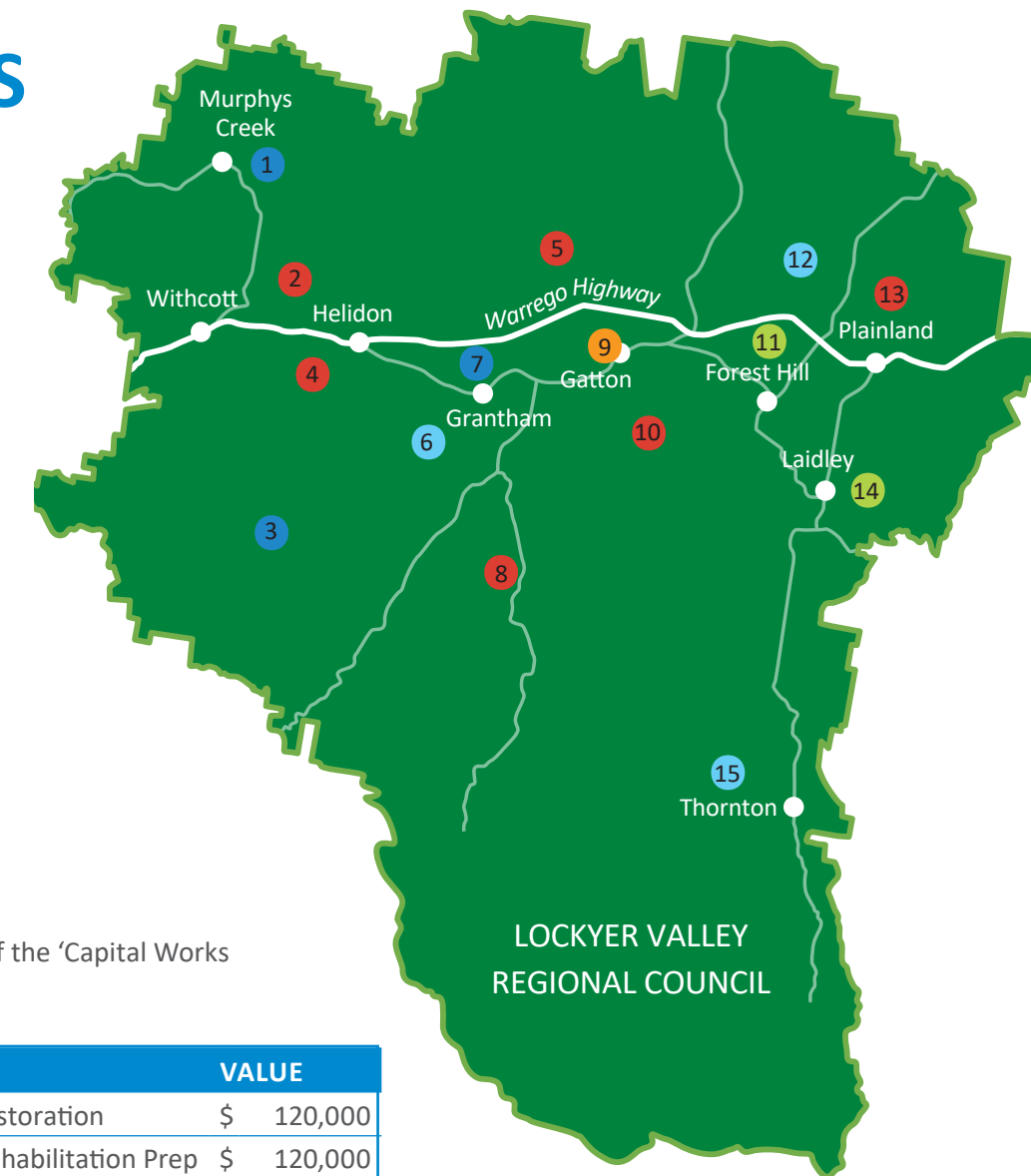
2023-2024 RECURRENT EXPENSES



2023-2024 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE



2023-2024 Capital Works HIGHLIGHTS

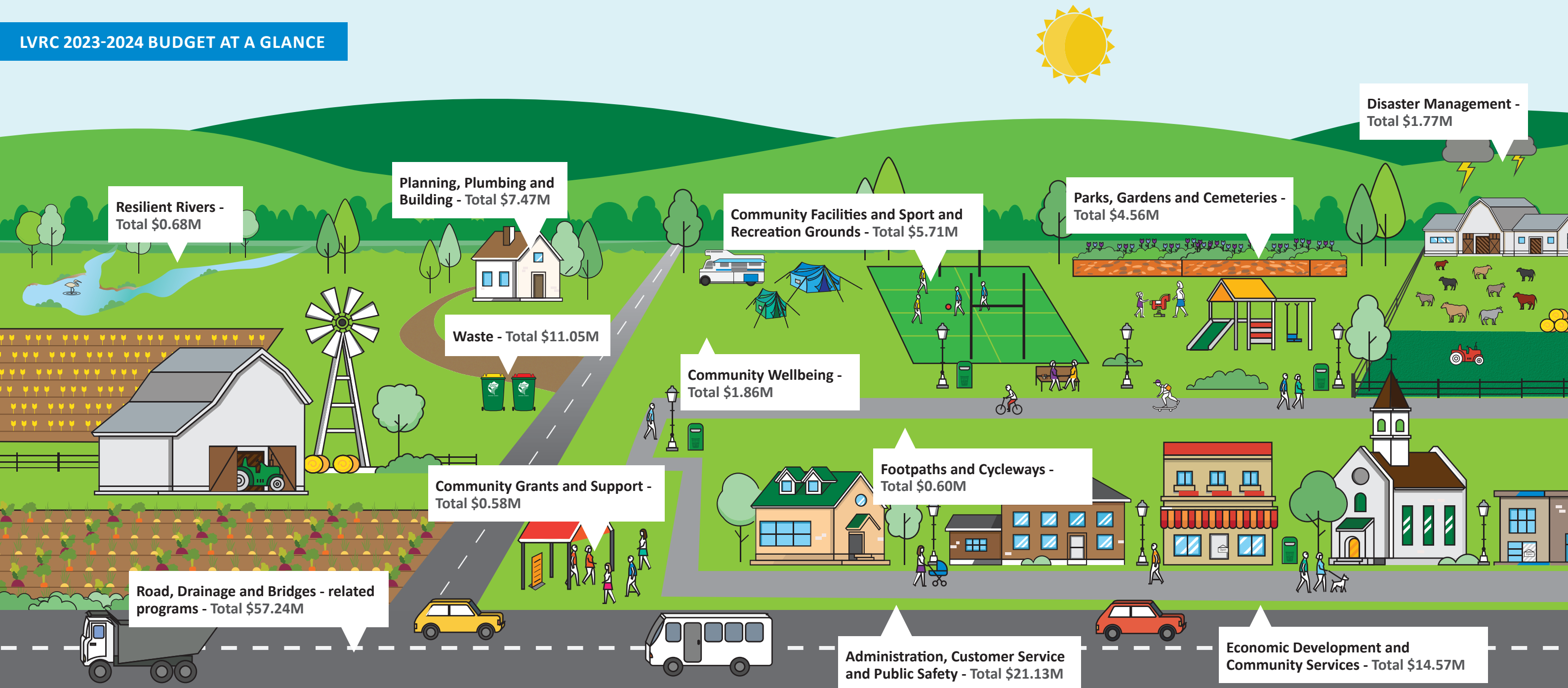


The table below and map show some of the 'Capital Works Highlights' planned across the region.

LOCATION	WORKS TYPE	VALUE
1. UPPER LOCKYER	- Floodway Restoration	\$ 120,000
2. HELIDON SPA	- Pavement Rehabilitation Prep	\$ 120,000
3. EGYPT	- Land Slip Remediation	\$ 3,000,000
4. HELIDON	- Pavement Rehabilitation	\$ 120,000
5. ADARE	- MRF Asphalt Extension	\$ 70,000
6. CARPENDALE	- Bridge Upgrade	\$ 1,000,000
7. GRANTHAM	- Sub-division	\$ 194,420
8. UPPER TENTHILL	- Pavement Rehabilitation	\$ 80,000
9. GATTON	- Equestrian Centre Compliance Designs	\$ 291,893
10. WOODLANDS	- Road Upgrade	\$ 1,500,000
11. FOREST HILL	- Silo Mural Viewing Precinct	\$ 250,000
12. LAKE CLARENDON	- Bridge Works	\$ 100,000
13. PLAINLAND	- Pavement Rehabilitation	\$ 120,000
14. LAIDLEY	- Lake Dyer Amenities	\$ 245,000
15. THORNTON	- Bridge Works	\$ 242,000

REGION-WIDE PROJECTS

Flood Recovery Works (REPA)	\$33,026,268
New Landfill Cell	\$3,766,682
Strategic Land Acquisition	\$2,000,000
Bitumen Reseal	\$1,700,000
Saturated Pavement Repairs	\$400,800
Park Upgrades	\$274,050
Cemetery Upgrades	\$134,000
CCTV and Public Safety Systems	\$67,000



LOCKYER COMMUNITY | LOCKYER LEADERSHIP | LOCKYER FARMING | LOCKYER BUSINESS | LOCKYER LIVELIHOOD | LOCKYER PLANNED | LOCKYER NATURE

HOW EVERY
\$100
 IN EXPENDITURE
 IS ALLOCATED

