

An aerial photograph of a river flowing through a dense forest. The river has a section of rapids with white water. A bridge crosses the river in the middle distance. The surrounding landscape is covered in lush green trees and vegetation.

# LAUNCESTON FLOOD AUTHORITY

## ANNUAL REPORT

**FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2024**



# LFA Annual Report 23/24

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## 2. Introduction

The Launceston Flood Authority (LFA) was established by the Launceston City Council as a single Authority pursuant to the provisions of Section 30 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The LFA performs independent high level monitoring of the strategies employed to minimise flood impacts in Launceston's Flood Prone Area.

The LFA has achieved good progress in ensuring that the Launceston Flood Protection System continues to be maintained to a high standard and meets legislative compliance.

This report describes the various activities and initiatives undertaken to support the Flood Protection System and associated emergency preparedness in FY23/24. These activities are completed with the financial and advisory support of the LFA, unless stated otherwise.

## 3. Launceston Flood Authority - Board of Directors



**Greg Preece - Chair**



**Robin McKendrick**



**Ed Henty**



**Michael Stretton**  
City of Launceston  
Chief Executive Officer  
1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024



**Shane Eberhardt**  
City of Launceston  
Acting Chief Executive  
Officer  
5 February - 30 June 2024

## 4. kanamaluka / River Tamar Estuary Governance

Since the establishment of the Launceston City Deal in 2017, the governance for the kanamaluka / River Tamar Estuary was altered with the creation of the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce (TEMT).

In 2020, the Launceston Flood Authority, along with the Launceston Chamber of Commerce, joined the Taskforce.

## 5. Chairman's Report

It is with pleasure that I present my annual Chairman's Report for the Launceston Flood Authority (Authority).

Regular quarterly meetings have been held throughout the year to conduct the business of the Authority and, from these meetings a quarterly report on the activities of the Authority have been provided to the Council.

At these meetings, the City of Launceston staff provide reports on the inspection and maintenance program of the flood protection infrastructure as well as the progress of the capital works program, to ensure works have been completed as programmed and on budget. Throughout the year the Authority has provided recommendations to Council regarding planning applications for developments in the flood inundation zone, and on occasions this activity has required out of session meetings and sharing of documents to meet the statutory timeframes for approval of applications by Council.

I have participated and attended all the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce (TEMT) meetings to ensure the Authority was kept informed of their projects and activities.

The Authority has continued to work with TEMT on sedimentation management by continuing to undertake bathymetry surveys at six monthly periods, with this information being used in the Wetland Restoration Trial on the North Esk River.

Some of the key projects completed or commenced during the year were:

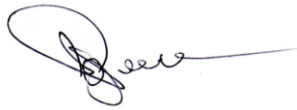
- Completed the railway floodgates upgrades for both East Launceston gates to improve response times and avoid the need to remove the lines and ballast,
- Completed the Invermay Levee Reinstatement works as programmed,
- Undertook the closure of the Charles Street Bridge floodgates as a training exercise,
- Undertook a site visit to inspect the Paterson Street Levee and the work being undertaken by TasWater on their new sewer pipeline project,
- Provided funding to undertake additional works on the repair of the City Levee,
- Supported training for the Evacuation Centre Team, Incident Management Team, and Flood Levee Patrollers.

There were no significant flood emergencies this year, however the Bureau of Meteorology did contact the Council on two occasions to advise of potential flooding that ultimately did not eventuate.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow directors Robin, Ed, Michael Stretton and Shane Eberhardt for their commitment and support throughout the year.

I would like to give a special mention to Michael Stretton for his time spent on the Authority and for his commitment to the work of the Authority given his huge workload.

A special thanks also to our Council support team of Shane Eberhardt, Erica Deegan, Nathan Williams and Debbie Pickett for their assistance during the year. I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing efforts of all Council staff, both in the office and the field in providing an effective and operational levee system.



Greg Preece  
**Chairman, Launceston Flood Authority**

## **6. Compliance Matters**

As part of the State's integrated resource management and planning system, the *Water Management Act 1999* requires dam owners to conduct mandatory comprehensive surveillance inspections every five years for 'significant and higher' consequence category dams. The report from these inspections must be submitted for review by the state dam regulating authority, being the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas).

Due to its High A Consequence dam category status, the Launceston Flood Protection System (the flood levee system) requires mandatory surveillance and reporting. As a dam owner, we are also required to inform NRE Tas of any dam works and submit Work-As-Executed Reports for all completed dam works. A dam safety Notice was issued by NRE Tas for the Invermay Levee Reinstatement, which granted authority to carry out works under Section 165L(1) direction for maintenance of dams. Due to the reactive nature and compromise to dam integrity, the City Levee Rectification works also required an issuing of a direction for maintenance of dams Notice. Works for both projects have been completed according to the Notices' requirements.

With the on-boarding of Council's Flood Asset Engineer in Q4, the comprehensive five yearly inspection regime of the levee system was initiated and inspections for the task completed in Q4. External engineering consultants were engaged to assist with the levee inspections. At the completion of the comprehensive inspections, a detailed report

which includes a list of observations and defects will be provided such that these defects can then be reviewed, triaged and actioned.

All quarterly inspections throughout the year were completed on time with the exception of Q3 when available resources were insufficient to undertake the routine inspection. This included the vacancy of a key leadership position within the water engineering space and the Flood Asset Engineer. Routine quarterly inspections were again completed in June (Q4) with identified defects currently being addressed.

## **7. Inspections, Monitoring and Minor Maintenance**

Quarterly and annual visual inspections, as well as testing of existing backflow prevention structures i.e. floodgates, penstocks and tide flaps, were completed in a timely manner, typically in accordance with our maintenance schedules. Following the inspections and testing, internal reporting and defect rectification were completed. These rectifications included:

- Weed infestation management of East Launceston Levee within TasRail rail corridor
- Charles Street Bridge floodgate closure exercise
- Repair of damaged pavers on levee walkways

Additionally, comprehensive five yearly inspections were completed in Q4 alongside external engineering experts, as discussed in Section 6. Minor defects are being actioned, with more significant defects being assessed for potential actions.

## **8. Completed Projects**

### **8.1. Railway Floodgate Upgrades (EG2/EG3)**

The railway floodgate upgrade project aimed to improve response time during flood events through the installation of Edilon Sedra slabtracks. The project was completed for both East Launceston Gate 2 (EG2) and 3 (EG3) with the slab tracks installed during March 2024. It was necessary to remove and modify the existing floodgates as part of these works, enabling additional refurbishment. One gate was replaced and tested in March with the other installed and tested in early April.

The new system creates superior outcomes for gate closure response time by removing the need to excavate ballast and rail lines. This enables Council to close the gates rather than external contractors. Additionally, it improves access for vegetation management on the earthen levee section between gates.





**Figure 1** - Edilon Sedra slabtrack in position beneath levee gate EG2.

## 8.2. Invermay Levee Reinstatement

The Invermay Levee Reinstatement project was completed on site in April 2024, restoring the levee's design height between the Charles St bridge and Tamar St bridge. Construction documentation was finalised and the final construction quality assurance (CQA) reporting is expected to be submitted to the regulator in Q1 24/25.

Re-establishment of grass cover on the levee has progressed well with the rainfall in recent months providing favourable conditions. The site fencing was removed in June 2024, opening the recreational trail for public use. Weed management will continue as required along with periodic monitoring for any defects during the contractor's 12 months defects period.



**Figure 2** - View along levee crest toward Tamar Street



## 9. Projects Underway

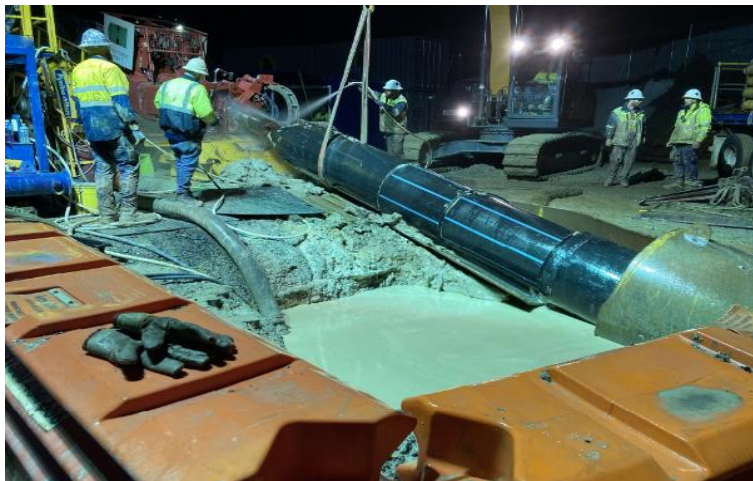
### 9.1. Tamar Estuary River Health Action Plan (TERHAP) - TasWater New Sewer Pipeline Project

The CoL has been working closely with TasWater regarding works as part of the Tamar Estuary River Health Action Plan (TERHAP) combined system improvements projects. The projects include the Western rising main (Margaret St to Ti-Tree Bend) pipeline, Margaret St Sewage Pump Station upgrade and construction of the new storage tank at Ti-Tree Bend. The work at the Margaret Street pump station and Western rising main are in close vicinity to the City's flood levee infrastructure, Paterson Levee.

During the FY23/24 period, Council staff also attended site visits at Ti-Tree Bend Sewage Treatment Plant to witness part of the construction phase of the 10ML covered storage tank and Margaret Street Pump Station to witness the Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) shot of the new pipeline.

Achievements over the past year include:

- Drilling and pull-through of the one kilometre southern river crossing (West Tamar silt ponds to Kings Park)
- Drilling and pull-through of the 650m northern river crossing (Ti-Tree Bend to Trevallyn)
- Installing a 200-metre Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) shot that spans softer ground at the northern end of the Silt Ponds area in Trevallyn and completion of the trenched West Tamar pipeline section
- Significant progress for the upgrades of the Margaret Street pump station including substantial completion of electrical upgrades and installation of the first two screens.
- Ground improvement works at the Ti-Tree Bend site for the installation of the large storage tank.



**Figure 3** - Final pull through of one kilometre section of pipeline to Margaret Street pump station.

(Photo courtesy TasWater)

## 9.2. Rectification Works - City Levee

A section of the City Levee in the vicinity of Willis and Boland Streets was damaged by works associated with the UTAS development at 80 Cimitiere St. The rectification works for the damaged section commenced on June 4, 2024. Local contractor Gradco was engaged by Fairbrother to undertake the works under the supervision of a team from pitt&sherry. Investigation revealed significant cracking in the clay and pockets of less stable clay with reduced bearing capacity. This prompted the contribution of LFA funds for further exploration and excavation, including CPTu/DPSH testing to increase understanding of bank stability and soil composition near the site.

Fortuitously, the works revealed a stronger clay base underneath, allowing refilling works to progress as expected. It is anticipated major works will finish in July 2024.



**Figure 4** - The fully excavated levee section, showing steps along the sides and changes in soil/ clay composition

## 10. Emergency Preparedness

### 10.1. Bridge Closure Exercise

The Charles Street flood gate closure training exercise was held on 24 August 2023 as per the 2-yearly inspection schedule. This exercise was used to train new staff on flood gate operations in the closure of IG1 and CG2 and complete routine maintenance. Completed in the evening, it was successfully planned and performed with no defects observed.





*Figure 5 - Charles Street Bridge Closure, August 2023*

## **10.2. Flood Levee Patroller Training**

Levee patrollers are utilised during flood events to help monitor the flood protection system. Training includes familiarisation with levee sections, awareness of current defects and areas of concern, what to look for in a flood (seepage, scour, slumping, observations of river levels) and how to appropriately communicate defects to the IMT. With staffing changes, training was reduced this year. However, this presented the opportunity to evaluate and update hazard and risk assessments for levee patrolling in Q4. This revealed a number of improvements including formalising and increasing the frequency of training, tracking patrollers experience and training, and selecting appropriate personal flotation devices (PFDs). Such opportunities will be actioned in 24/25 by CoL.

## **10.3. Disaster Ready Fund - Flood intelligence and Early Warning Detection**

In the previous financial year, CoL successfully obtained \$200k of federal funding. This funding was co-matched by the LFA, resulting in a \$400k project. The aim of the project is to develop an early warning detection system that will provide live data and visual intelligence. This will address gaps identified during the 2022 floods and is expected to allow more time for critical operational decisions to be considered.

City of Launceston staff are progressing the Disaster Ready Fund project, specifically the installation of additional CCTV to monitor flood conditions across the floodplain and upgrades to the river level sensors minimise outages during a flood event. Three high end additional PTZ (Pan Tilt Zoom) cameras were installed: two cameras atop light poles at UTAS Stadium and an additional camera at West Tamar Highway Bridge. Two cameras at each location provide concurrent viewing angles and

redundancy. Additionally, by the end of the 2024 calendar year, two more PTZ cameras are planned to be installed at the Silos building on Lindsay Street as well as a 'still' time lapse camera on Henry Street. An installation team has been selected and they are currently fabricating the mounting brackets for the installation.

Upgrades to the sensors are currently underway. Whilst there are river level sensors in 4 locations - Henry Street, Hoblers Bridge Road, Riverbend Park Pedestrian bridge & Johnston Road - improvements have been made including batteries to provide power in the event of a power outage and a second sensor to utilise radar as an alternative mechanism alongside the original ultra-sonic sensors.

This project has also built on work undertaken by City of Launceston Engineering Cadet, Eliot Sotiriou, for his undergraduate honours program through Deakin University. Eliot's project is titled "Rainfall and streamflow of the North Esk catchment and the 2016/2022 Launceston Floods". Eliot has completed his project and presented findings to relevant staff members.

The focus for the coming months will be to undertake further consideration of the North Esk catchment response to inform additional gauge locations and emergency management plans.



*Figure 6 - Invermay Levee from UTAS Stadium Camera.*

#### **10.4. Hydro Tasmania - Trevallyn Dam Break Review**

City of Launceston staff participated in a dam safety exercise on 20 May as part of the review of the Trevallyn Dam Break study and associated review of Hydro Tasmania's Dam Safety Emergency Plan for the site. This exercise highlighted the cohesion and preparedness of City of Launceston, TasPol and the SES in a flood emergency.



In regard to the impact on Launceston and the flood protection system, the Probable Maximum Flood causing a dam crest flood with dam failure would have minimal impact as Invermay, areas of the City and Newstead would already be significantly impacted by the flood event.

## **10.5. Incident Management Planning**

In accordance with the Emergency Management Act 2006 (the Act), City of Launceston Municipal Emergency Management Committee (MEMC) is required to develop a Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP).

The purpose of this Plan is to identify the hazards and describe emergency management arrangements that reduce risks to the community and mitigate the impacts of an emergency on life and property in City of Launceston. This intersects with the LFA through the centrality of the Flood Protection System and emergency planning.

The objectives of this Plan are to:

- a) identify and document:
  - i. hazards most likely to impact the municipality
  - ii. the roles and responsibilities of Council in relation to each hazard
  - iii. the roles and responsibilities of agencies in relation to each hazard
  - iv. current arrangements for emergency management at municipal, regional and State level
  - v. opportunities to reduce risks to the community
- b) increase community awareness, preparedness and resilience to identified hazards.

The plan is reviewed every two years with the most recent version endorsed by the Acting State Emergency Management Controller on January 18 2024.

## **10.6. Evacuation Centre Team Training**

Over the course of the financial year nearly 35 internal Council staff have been recruited to undertake Evacuation Centre training, which the LFA were briefed on. This included all undergoing a one day workshop with Red Cross to understand Evacuation Centre Management and a further nine undertaking Evacuation Centre Manager training. The training by Red Cross was further enhanced by regular internal training.

The aim of the exercise will be to provide a safe environment where Evacuation Centre staff can practise the activation process and familiarise themselves with the physical set up of a centre. It will be a scenario-based exercise where teams are asked to open a centre within a restricted timeframe.

## **10.7. Launceston Flood Response Evacuation Plan**

In conjunction with the State Emergency Service and Tasmania Police, the CoL has reviewed and updated the Launceston Flood Response Evacuation Plan which the LFA have been briefed on.

The objectives of the Flood Response Plan are:

- To ensure an appropriate level of preparedness of functional response structures to protect life and property
- To identify capabilities and support resources to assist in the response to a flooding event
- To enable a collaborative approach to existing operational and emergency management arrangements to ensure a planned and structured approach to response activities

The plan includes the formal adoption of Critical Decision Points for evacuation. When predicted levels reach the Critical Decision Points all available information will be assessed to inform if a voluntary or mandatory evacuation is required. This includes a risk assessment to guide the initiation of evacuation of the levee protected areas as forecast information of m<sup>3</sup>/s flow rates is received.

The plan was formally endorsed by the CoL Municipal Emergency Management Committee in September 2023, approved by the Northern Region Controller (Police Commander Chambers), and was approved by the Executive Director SES in February 2024.

The next step is the development of the publically available Levee Protected Areas Community Flood Guides.

## **10.8. Emergency Management Hub**

In January 2024, the Council launched its Emergency Management Hub with the support of support of a Tasmanian Government Lift Local (please refer to Section 10.8 below for further information). The Hub was developed to assist the community in understanding their personal risks and encouraging them to make a plan should a disaster occur. The Hub brings together information across all natural and manmade hazards into one easy location. The Hub is broken down into five easy to navigate steps:

1. Understand your Risk - what are the specific risks likely to affect you
2. Know your warnings and alerts - Warnings provide real time information on what is happening
3. Make a Plan - By preparing a plan this minimises the effects of disasters on you and your loved ones
4. Stay Safe During a Disaster - Find out where to get the latest information during an emergency



5. Recover after Disaster - Important information for the community to assist with recovery

To encourage the community to create a plan the hashtag #ReadyTogether has been developed to encourage the community to think about who else they should include in their emergency plans.



**Figure 7** The developed logo for the Emergency Management Hub

The Hub is located virtually as a page on the Council website as well as physical display in the Launceston Town Hall customer service centre.

Having both options available ensures that residents can access crucial information and support in various ways, catering to different preferences and needs. This integrated approach demonstrates a proactive commitment to public safety and community resilience.



**Figure 8** Emergency Management Hub - City of Launceston Customer Service Centre

## 10.9. CoL Guide to Emergency Preparedness

Another initiative to support the launch of the Emergency Management Hub was to review all public facing brochures with the aim of not overlapping with coordinating agency material. The CoL Emergency Preparedness Guide was launched to coincide with the Emergency Management Hub, with a DL version being mailed out with Waste Centre passes to all households and provided to LFA Board members.

## 10.10. Lift Local Grant - Supporting activities that strengthen planning for health and wellbeing

The CoL was awarded a \$20k Lift Local Grant by the Tasmanian Government. The Lift Local Health grant will help the CoL to develop to support participation in proactive measures to reduce individual and community impact at times of disaster and build longer term community connectedness.



The grant funding enabled the CoL to:

- Develop a set of key messages to distribute to the general population that will raise awareness of risk and support the community in preparing and recovering from disaster
- Implement a sustainable and longer term approach to supporting community preparedness and resilience through community messaging
- Update the CoL's digital assets to support consistent and timely messaging
- Develop an interactive, easy to navigate website that raises awareness of risk and supports the community in preparing and recovering from disaster

### **10.11. Resilience Canopy Practitioner Training**

In June, Resilience Canopy Practitioner Training was delivered by the Resilience Canopy in conjunction with the City of Launceston. The program was held over 4 sessions, with two full day in person sessions held in June.

The Resilience Canopy is a new nationwide program to build strong and challenge-ready communities, able to adapt to future shocks and stresses from natural hazards or other societal challenges. Nineteen community members and the CoL team came together to build their knowledge collaboratively on how to empower community resilience. The CoL is only the second Tasmanian LGA to offer the training in the state.



**Figure 9** Resilience Canopy Practitioner Training participants, many from the City of Launceston

## **11. Emergency Response**

There were no significant flood emergencies this financial year. On two separate occasions, the Bureau of Meteorology initiated contact with City of Launceston engineers regarding potential flooding that ultimately did not eventuate to a level that required response.

## **12. Sediment Management**

The Authority continues to work with the Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce (TEMT) to consider long term planning for the estuary and realise the vision and implementation plan for the estuary.

The LFA continues to undertake regular bathymetry surveys of the upper estuary at six monthly intervals (autumn and spring) to monitor sediment volume and distribution. The next bathymetry assessment is planned to be delivered in October 2024.

## **13. Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statements as at 30 June 2024**



18 September 2024

Mr G Preece  
Chairman  
Launceston Flood Authority  
PO Box 396  
**LAUNCESTON TAS 7250**

**Issued by email only**

Dear Mr Preece

**Launceston Flood Authority– Audit opinion - Audit of Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

The audit of the financial report for Launceston Flood Authority (the Authority) has been completed in accordance with the agreed financial audit strategy. I have issued my audit report on the financial report, a copy of which is enclosed.

I have prepared this letter solely for the use of the Launceston Flood Authority. As you know, this letter forms part of a continuing dialogue between the Authority and the Auditor-General and, therefore, it is not intended to include every matter, whether large or small, that has come to my attention. For this reason I believe that it would be inappropriate for this letter to be made available to third parties and, if such a third party were to obtain a copy without my prior written consent, I would not accept any responsibility for any reliance that they might place on it.

**Audit findings**

The audit was completed with no significant findings.

You will appreciate that my normal audit procedures are designed primarily to enable me to form an opinion on the financial report as a whole and therefore do not necessarily bring to light at each audit all the weaknesses in internal control or accounting practice which a special investigation might do.

**Review of the annual report**

Please will you forward to me a copy of the final draft of the Authority's annual report for review by my staff prior to its publication. This review will be conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 720 *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information in Documents Containing Audited Financial Report* to identify any material inconsistencies between the financial report and other information disclosed in the annual report.

### Appreciation for assistance and co-operation

Appreciation is expressed for the assistance and co-operation provided to my staff during the course of the audit.

Please note that a copy of this letter together with the auditor's report will be provided to the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. R Jaensch, MP in accordance with section 19(2) of the *Audit Act 2008*.

If you have any queries regarding the audit or any other matters, please contact myself or Chloe Bellchambers on (03) 6173 0900.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DBond', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Bond  
**Assistant Auditor-General**

Encl.

Copy for:

Mr S Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Mr N Williams, Chief Financial Officer

## **Independent Auditor's Report**

### **To the Directors of the Launceston Flood Authority**

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

#### **Opinion**

I have audited the accompanying financial report of the Launceston Flood Authority (the Authority), which comprises a statement of comprehensive income for the year ended year ended 30 June 2024, other explanatory notes and the statement of certification signed by the Chairman.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2024 in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Section 36A of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the Authority's Rules.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

I conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement* section of my report. I am independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

My audit is not designed to provide assurance on the accuracy and appropriateness of the budget information included in the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### **Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report**

The directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Section 36A of the *Local Government Act 1993* and for such internal control as directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intends to liquidate the Authority or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.



## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusion is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause Authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DB' with a flourish at the end.

David Bond  
**Assistant Auditor-General**  
**Delegate of the Auditor-General**  
Tasmanian Audit Office

18 September 2024  
Hobart

**Launceston Flood Authority**

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**  
***For the Year Ended 30 June 2024***



# Statement of Comprehensive Income

## For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	Budget 2024 \$	Actual 2024 \$	Actual 2023 \$
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>				
<b>Recurrent income</b>				
State Government Grants	2.1	605,509	643,403	613,310
Launceston City Council Contributions	2.2	181,805	181,805	181,805
Interest	2.3	2,588	-	-
Other Income	2.4	-	45,466	16,500
<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>		<b>789,902</b>	<b>870,673</b>	<b>811,615</b>
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>				
Employee Benefits	3.1	39,257	27,201	11,938
Materials and Services	3.2	561,269	313,760	278,922
Depreciation and Amortisation	3.3	643,846	621,787	593,568
Other Expenses	3.4	40,954	23,054	17,659
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>		<b>1,285,326</b>	<b>985,801</b>	<b>902,086</b>
<b>Result from continuing operations</b>		<b>(495,424)</b>	<b>(115,128)</b>	<b>(90,471)</b>
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	3.5	-	674,867	21,132
<b>Net result for the year</b>		<b>(495,424)</b>	<b>(789,994)</b>	<b>(111,603)</b>

## **Note 1 Overview**

### **1.1 Reporting Entity**

(a) The Launceston Flood Authority (the Authority) is wholly owned by the Launceston City Council. The Authority is a Single Authority set up under section 30 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, It was formed by Council resolution on 1 September 2008 and was established by gazettal on 10 September 2008.

(b) The function of the Authority is to:

“...perform all tasks necessary for the construction and maintenance of flood levees, to initiate and manage effective emergency management procedures and to take all necessary measures, so as to address the flood risk to the ‘flood risk’ area”.

### **1.2 Basis of Accounting**

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Statement of Comprehensive Income and notes accompanying the financial statement.

The general purpose financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and the *Local Government Act 1993 (LGA1993) (as amended)*. The Authority has determined that it does not have profit generation as a prime objective.

Consequently, where appropriate, the Authority has elected to apply options and exemptions within accounting standards that are applicable to not-for-profit entities.

This financial report has been prepared on the accrual and going concern basis.

All amounts are presented in Australian dollars and unless stated, have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

This financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

### **1.3 Use of Judgements and Estimates**

#### *Judgements and Assumptions*

As an Authority of Launceston City Council the Authority does not own any assets, incur any liabilities or employ any staff in its own name.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Note 2 Revenue</b>		
<b>Note 2.1 State Government Grants</b>		
State Government Grant	643,403	613,310
<b>Total State Grants</b>	<b>643,403</b>	<b>613,310</b>

**Accounting policy**

The Authority recognises untied grant revenue and those without performance obligations when received. In cases where there is an enforceable agreement which contains sufficiently specific performance obligations, revenue is recognised as or when control of each performance obligations is satisfied. (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or provides a service.)

Each performance obligation is considered to ensure that the revenue recognition reflects the transfer of control. Within grant agreements there may be some performance obligations where control transfers at a point in time and others which have a continuous transfer of control over the life of the contract. Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods being either costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

**Note 2.2 Launceston City Council Contributions**

Council Contributions	181,805	181,805
<b>Total Council Contributions</b>	<b>181,805</b>	<b>181,805</b>

**Accounting policy**

The Authority recognises contributions without performance obligations when received.

**Note 2.3 Interest Income**

Interest Attributed	-	-
<b>Total Interest</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Accounting policy**

The Authority does not own any cash assets and as such does not earn interest in it's own right. Interest is calculated on the running balance of income less expenses and attributed at the Launceston City Council annualised monthly portfolio earnings.

**Note 2.4 Other Income**

External Services	45,466	16,500
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>45,466</b>	<b>16,500</b>

**Accounting policy**

The Authority recognises external income when an invoice is raised.



**Note 3 Expenses**

**Note 3.1 Employee Benefits**

Wages and Salaries	26,639	11,450
Payroll Tax	562	488
<b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	<b>27,201</b>	<b>11,938</b>

**Accounting policy**

The Authority does not have any employees in it's own right. Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when an employee of the Launceston City Council performs work specifically on Launceston Flood Authority activities.

Employee benefits include, where applicable, entitlements to wages and salaries, annual leave, sick leave, long service leave, superannuation and any other post-employment benefits.

**Note 3.2 Materials and Services**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Contract Services	299,460	264,679
Insurance	11,300	11,300
Administration	3,000	2,942
<b>Total Materials and Services</b>	<b>313,760</b>	<b>278,922</b>

**Accounting policy**

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when incurred and can be measured reliably.

Routine maintenance, repair costs, and minor renewal costs are expensed as incurred. Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised by the Launceston City Council and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

**Note 3.3 Depreciation**

Flood Assets	551,663	515,768
Other Assets	70,124	77,800
<b>Total Depreciation</b>	<b>621,787</b>	<b>593,568</b>

**Assets Managed on behalf of Launceston City Council**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$,000</b>	<b>\$,000</b>
<b>Assets at Written down Value</b>		
Equipment	245	221
Flood Gate Aluminium	1,734	1,732
Flood Gate Steel	6,854	6,154
Levee Concrete	18,643	18,609
Levee Earth	27,753	26,636
Node	2	2
Penstock Chamber	294	287
Penstock Gates	157	179
	<b>55,682</b>	<b>53,820</b>

**Note 3.3 Depreciation Cont.**

**Accounting policy**

The Launceston Flood Authority does not own any assets in its own right. The deprecation expense on assets owned by the Launceston City Council and used in the construction and maintenance of flood mitigation assets is attributed to the Authority.

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when incurred and can be measured reliably.

Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Launceston City Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets.

Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and remaining values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Land assets are not depreciated on the basis that they are assessed as not having a limited useful life.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Major depreciation periods used are listed below and are consistent with the prior year unless stated:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Period</b>	<b>Period</b>
Flood Levees	100 - 200	100 - 200
Flood Gates	30 - 100	30 - 100
Other Assets	10 - 100	10 - 100

**Note 3.4 Other Expenses**

External Auditors (Tasmanian Audit Office)

Full Cost Attribution

**Total Other Expenses**

<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
9,000	4,080
14,054	13,579
<b>23,054</b>	<b>17,659</b>

**Accounting policy**

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when incurred and can be measured reliably.

**Note 3.5 Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets**

Loss on Disposal

674,867	21,132
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**Note 4 Events after balance date**

There were no events after the balance date that would materially effect the disclosures in these accounts.

## Note 5 Related Party Transactions

### AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures

AASB 124 requires the disclosure of related party relationships, transactions and outstanding balances, including commitments.

#### Related Parties

The Authorities Related Parties would be those that it controls or can exert significant influence over.

For the reporting year the Authority has no Related Parties that it controls or can exert significant influence over.

#### Key Management Personnel

As the Authority does not directly employ any staff the Key Management Personnel are determined as the board members.

The Launceston City Council General Manger, is also a board member of the Authority. He is remunerated by the Launceston City Council and any remuneration he receives is disclosed in the Council's accounts.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Key Management Personnel Compensation</b>		
Board Members		
Short Term Benefits (Honorariums and Sitting Fees)	9,211	8,000

## Note 6 Other Significant Accounting Policies and Pending Accounting Standards

### (a) Taxation

The Launceston City Council, and therefore the Launceston Flood Authority, is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax, Payroll Tax. Land Tax and the Goods and Services Tax.

#### *Goods and services tax (GST)*

Revenue and expenses are recognised net of goods and services tax.

### (b) Budget

The estimated revenue and expense amounts in the Statement of Comprehensive Income represent revised budget amounts and are not audited.

### (c) Adoption of new and amended accounting standards

In the current year, The Authority has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current annual reporting period.

### (d) Pending Accounting Standards

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for 30 June 2024 reporting periods. The Authority's assessment of the impact of the relevant new standards and interpretations is set out below.

### Accounting Standard AASB 18

#### Presentation and Disclosure of Financial Statements (Appendix D)

This Standard sets out general and specific requirements for the presentation of information in the statement(s) of financial performance, the statement of financial position and the statement of changes in equity.

There are no material effects expected from the adoption of this standard



## Certification of the Financial Report

The accompanying financial statements of the Launceston Flood Authority are in agreement with the relevant accounts and records and have been prepared in compliance with:

- Australian Accounting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements
- the *Local Government Act 1993*

We certify that in all material respects, the financial statement presents a view which is consistent with our understanding of Authorities operations for the year ended 30 June 2024.

At the date of signing this certification, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



**Greg Preece**  
**Chairman**  
**Launceston Flood Authority**



**Nathan Williams**  
**Chief Financial Officer**  
**City of Launceston**