

# Knox City Council

Group: metropolitan

This fact sheet uses graphs and data to examine this council's revenue, expenditure and financial sustainability over recent years. The information is intended to help readers understand the impacts of rate capping, which was introduced in 2016–17 to restrict the amount councils can increase their general rates and municipal charges each financial year.

You can compare this council's data against its 'group' by looking at the fact sheet for metropolitan councils. Further information is available at <http://www.esc.vic.gov.au/outcomes-reports>. You'll find an interactive version of this fact sheet, a reader's guide to help you understand key terms and information about the sector as a whole.



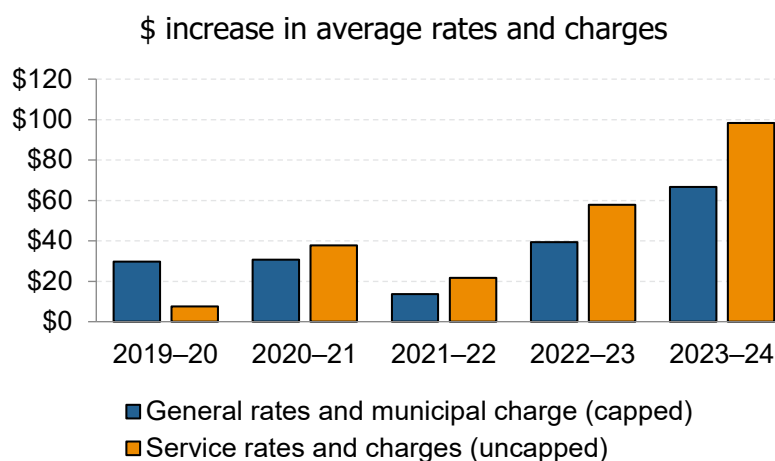
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## Key facts

Population (June 2023):	161,766
Size (km <sup>2</sup> ):	114
Length of local roads (km):	725
Population per km of roads:	223
Council employees (FTE, 2023–24):	725
Higher cap approved for any year between 2018–19 and 2023–24	No

## Rates

### What has happened to average rates and charges?



Year	Average rates and charges	Applicable rate cap
2018–19	\$1,681	2.25%
2019–20	\$1,718	2.50%
2020–21	\$1,787	2.00%
2021–22	\$1,822	1.50%
2022–23	\$1,920	1.75%
2023–24	\$2,085 <sup>a</sup>	3.50%

<sup>a</sup> Introduced a service charge.

## Rates (continued)



See the reader's guide for data sources and useful information. Where noted, the numbers in this fact sheet have been adjusted for inflation and are expressed in 2023–24 dollars.

### Have council's average rates complied with the applicable rate caps?

2022–23 (1.75%)	2023–24 (3.50%)	2024–25 (2.75%)
Yes	Yes	Yes

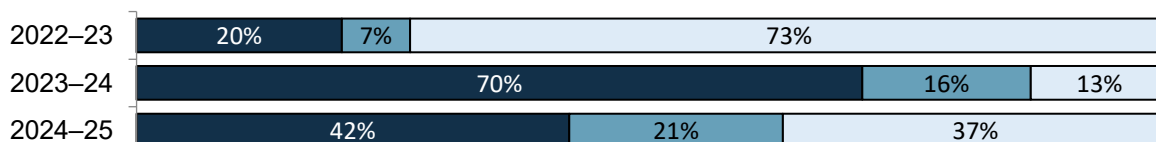
### How have rates changed for different ratepayers?

#### Council's rating strategy 2024–25

Council levies 5 differential rates for different types of property and uses service charges to recover the cost of waste services. More information about council's differential rate categories and charges can be found in council's adopted budget.

#### Distribution of rates increases and decreases

The applicable rate cap is applied to council's average rate, which means some individual rates increased by more and some increased by less than the applicable cap (or even decreased).



- % of rates notices decreasing
- % of rates notices increasing by less than the applicable cap
- % of rates notices increasing by more than the applicable cap

#### Ratepayers by property class

	Residential ratepayers	Commercial ratepayers	Industrial ratepayers	Rural ratepayers
	91% of ratepayers	4% of ratepayers	5% of ratepayers	0% of ratepayers
	\$109.7m (75%) of rates and charges revenue in 2023–24	\$13.8m (9%) of rates and charges revenue in 2023–24	\$22.7m (16%) of rates and charges revenue in 2023–24	\$0m (0%) of rates and charges revenue in 2023–24
	4.2% average annual increase between 2019–20 and 2023–24	–0.9% average annual increase between 2019–20 and 2023–24	7.1% average annual increase between 2019–20 and 2023–24	0.0% average annual increase between 2019–20 and 2023–24

**Source:** Victorian Local Government Grants Commission (unaudited data). Includes both capped and uncapped rates and charges. 'Other' category of property class has been omitted.

# Revenue



See the reader's guide for data sources and useful information.  
Where noted, the numbers in this fact sheet have been adjusted for inflation and are expressed in 2023–24 dollars.

## Where is council's money coming from?

**Revenue** (2023–24 \$m and % of total revenue)

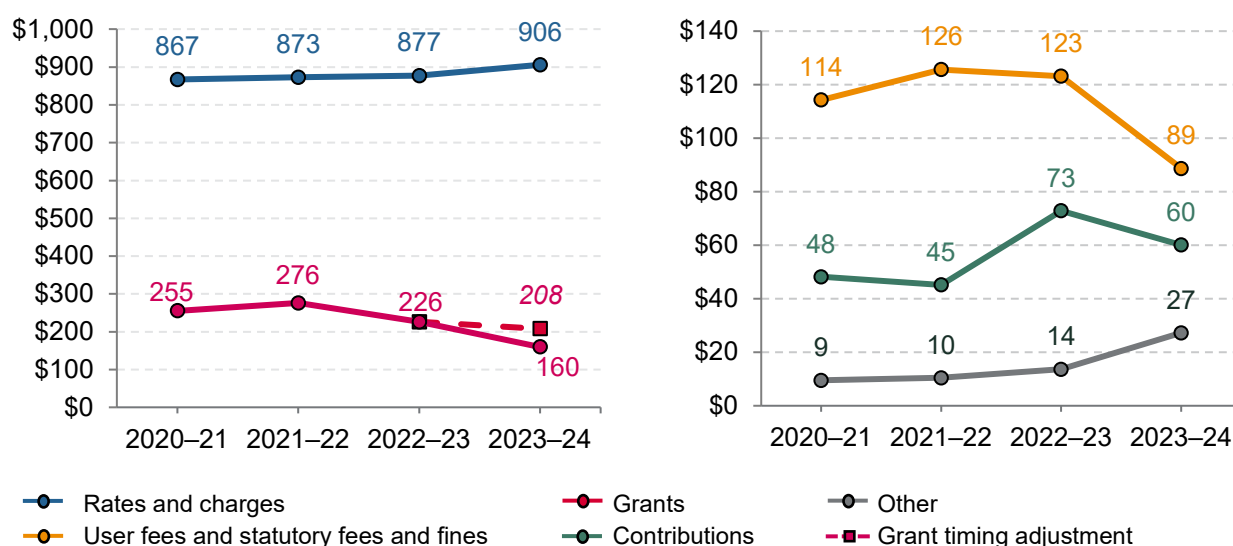
	2020–21		2021–22		2022–23		2023–24	
	\$m		\$m		\$m		\$m	
Rates and charges	141.5	(67%)	140.1	(66%)	140.0	(67%)	146.5	(73%)
User fees and statutory fees and fines	18.6	(9%)	20.2	(9%)	19.7	(9%)	14.3	(7%)
Grants	41.7	(20%)	44.3	(21%)	36.1	(17%)	25.9	(13%)
Contributions	7.9	(4%)	7.2	(3%)	11.6	(6%)	9.7	(5%)
Other	1.5	(1%)	1.7	(1%)	2.2	(1%)	4.4	(2%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>211.3</b>		<b>213.4</b>		<b>209.5</b>		<b>200.8</b>	

Knox City Council's total revenue decreased in real terms between 2020–21 and 2023–24, reflecting decreases in revenue from grants and user fees and statutory fees and fines.

The decrease in user fees and statutory fees and fines reflects council's decision to transition the cost recovery of certain waste services from user fees to service charges (as shown in the rates section). The decrease in grant revenue in 2023–24 partially reflects the financial assistance grants being received later than usual.

Rates and charges was the largest source of council's revenue, accounting for 68 per cent of total revenue in real terms between 2020–21 and 2023–24.

## Revenue per person (2023–24 dollars)



In terms of revenue per person (which adjusts for population growth), council's revenue from user fees and statutory fees and fines, and grants decreased in real terms between 2020–21 and 2023–24, while revenue from rates and charges increased.

# Expenditure



See the reader's guide for data sources and useful information.  
Where noted, the numbers in this fact sheet have been adjusted for inflation and are expressed in 2023–24 dollars.

## How much money is council spending?

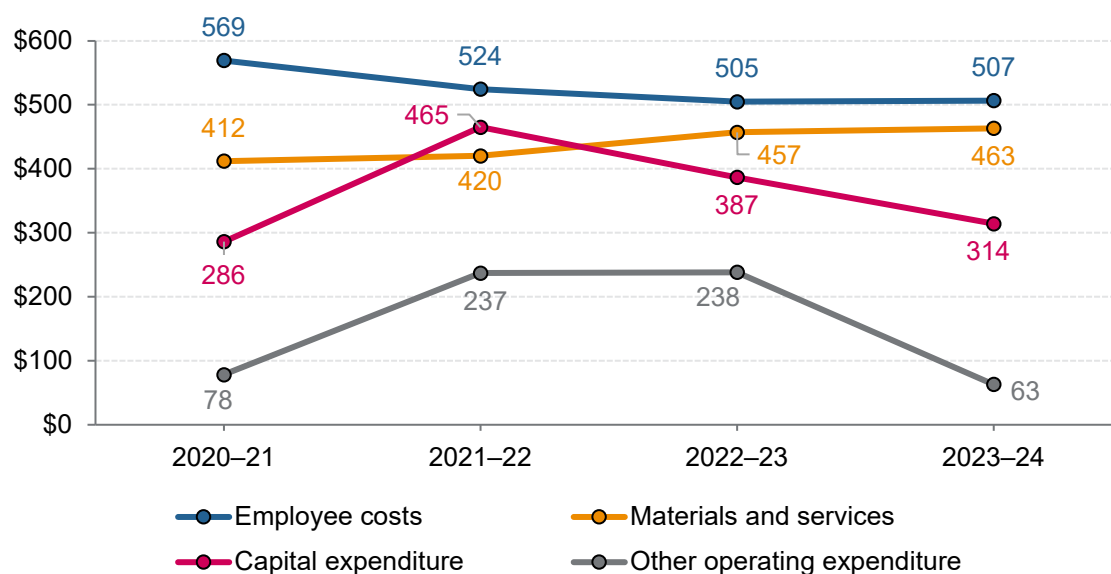
### Expenditure (2023–24 \$m and % of total expenditure)

	2020–21		2021–22		2022–23		2023–24	
	\$m		\$m		\$m		\$m	
Operating expenditure	173.0	(79%)	189.6	(72%)	191.5	(76%)	167.1	(77%)
Employee costs	92.9	(42%)	84.2	(32%)	80.5	(32%)	81.9	(38%)
Materials and services	67.2	(31%)	67.4	(26%)	72.9	(29%)	74.9	(34%)
Other operating expenditure	12.8	(6%)	38.0	(14%)	38.0	(15%)	10.2	(5%)
Capital expenditure	46.7	(21%)	74.6	(28%)	61.7	(24%)	50.8	(23%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>219.7</b>		<b>264.2</b>		<b>253.1</b>		<b>217.9</b>	

Knox City Council's total expenditure fluctuated in real terms between 2020–21 and 2023–24, reflecting changes in capital expenditure and 'other operating expenditure'.

Employee costs was the largest area of expenditure, which accounted for 36 per cent of total expenditure between 2020–21 and 2023–24.

### Expenditure per person (2023–24 dollars)



In terms of expenditure per person (which adjusts for population growth), council's employee costs decreased in real terms between 2020–21 and 2023–24, while spending on capital expenditure and 'other operating expenditure' fluctuated.

## Has council's capital expenditure pattern changed?

### Capital expenditure (2023–24 \$m and % of total capital expenditure)

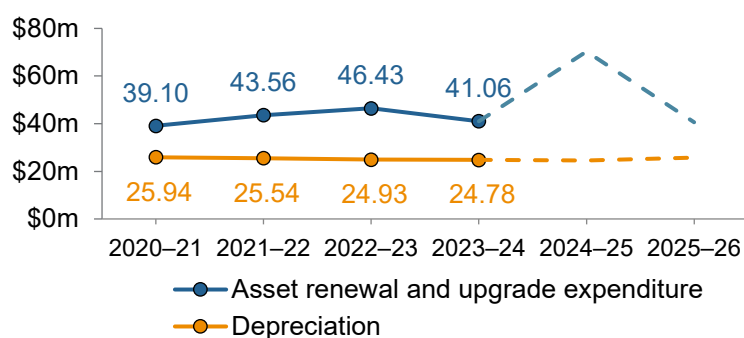
	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Renewal	28.6 (61%)	25.7 (34%)	28.7 (47%)	29.2 (57%)
Upgrade	10.5 (23%)	17.9 (24%)	17.7 (29%)	11.8 (23%)
Expansion	1.6 (4%)	4.3 (6%)	5.7 (9%)	3.7 (7%)
New	6.0 (13%)	26.7 (36%)	9.6 (15%)	6.1 (12%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>74.6</b>	<b>61.7</b>	<b>50.8</b>

Knox City Council's spending on asset renewal trended upwards in real terms between 2020–21 and 2023–24. Asset renewal accounted for the highest share of capital expenditure over this period (48 per cent).

Council's spending on asset upgrades and asset expansion increased in real terms between 2020–21 and 2023–24, while spending on new assets fluctuated.

## Is council renewing its assets (such as roads, parks and buildings)?

Council assets: comparing renewal and upgrade expenditure with depreciation (2023–24 dollars)



### Renewal & upgrade expenditure as a percentage of depreciation

2020–21	151%
2021–22	171%
2022–23	186%
2023–24	166%
2024–25	285% (forecast data)
2025–26	158% (forecast data)

Council's spending on the renewal and upgrade of its assets trended upwards in real terms between 2020–21 and 2022–23, before decreasing in 2023–24.

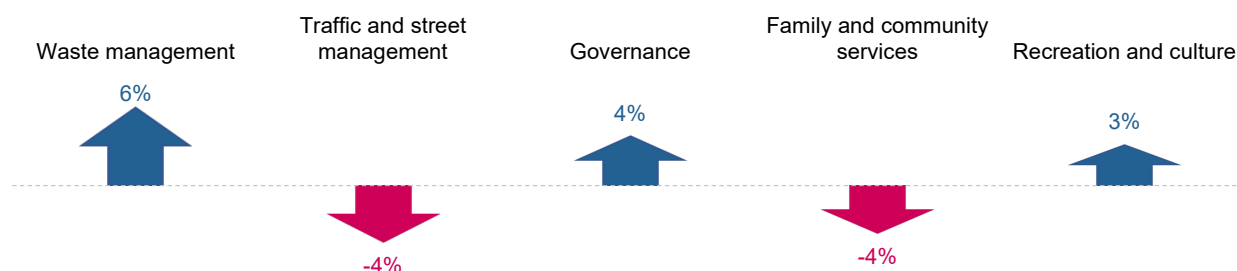
Renewal and upgrade expenditure remained above the amount of depreciation (the decline in value of council's assets caused by age and use) between 2020–21 and 2023–24. This spending was forecast to remain above the amount of depreciation in 2024–25 and 2025–26.

## Which service areas is council spending its money in?

### Expenditure by function (2023–24 \$m and % of total services expenditure)

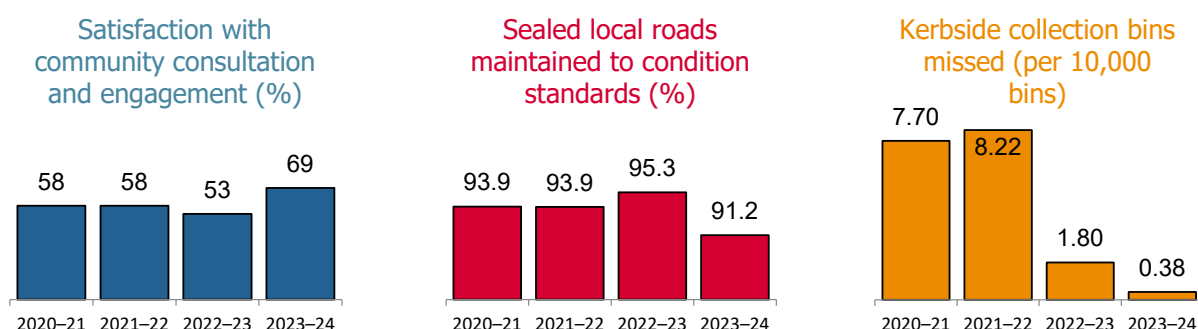
	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Aged and disabled services	12.9 (7%)	6.2 (3%)	5.5 (3%)	5.8 (3%)
Business and economic services	12.6 (6%)	12.7 (6%)	11.3 (6%)	11.5 (6%)
Environment	12.6 (6%)	12.9 (6%)	12.8 (7%)	11.7 (6%)
Family and community services	32.9 (17%)	32.6 (15%)	29.9 (16%)	29.5 (15%)
Governance	46.0 (23%)	43.4 (20%)	46.7 (25%)	51.4 (27%)
Local roads and bridges	9.1 (5%)	8.7 (4%)	9.4 (5%)	9.3 (5%)
Recreation and culture	26.8 (14%)	56.0 (26%)	28.4 (15%)	29.3 (15%)
Traffic and street management	20.2 (10%)	19.0 (9%)	18.1 (10%)	17.7 (9%)
Waste management	22.9 (12%)	23.5 (11%)	28.1 (15%)	27.3 (14%)
Other	0.0 (0%)	0.0 (0%)	0.0 (0%)	0.0 (0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>196.1</b>	<b>215.0</b>	<b>190.3</b>	<b>193.6</b>

## Which service areas have experienced the biggest changes in spending?



**Source:** Victorian Local Government Grants Commission (unaudited). Average annual change between 2020–21 and 2023–24. Excludes small service areas (<5% of expenditure). Council Annual Reports may provide further explanation of these changes.

## Has there been a change in service quality and community satisfaction?

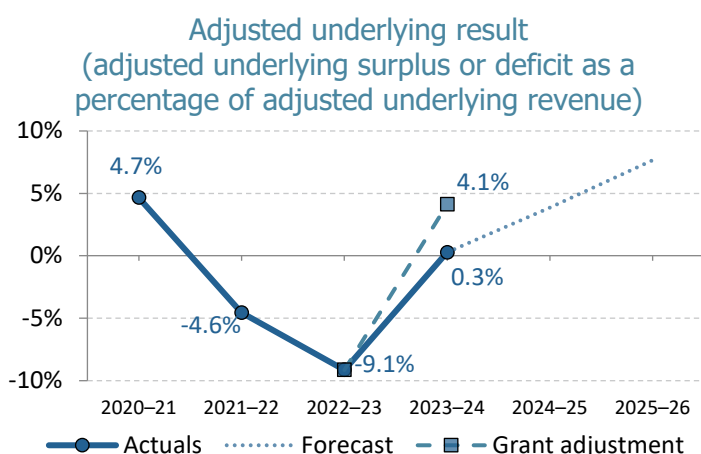


# Financial position



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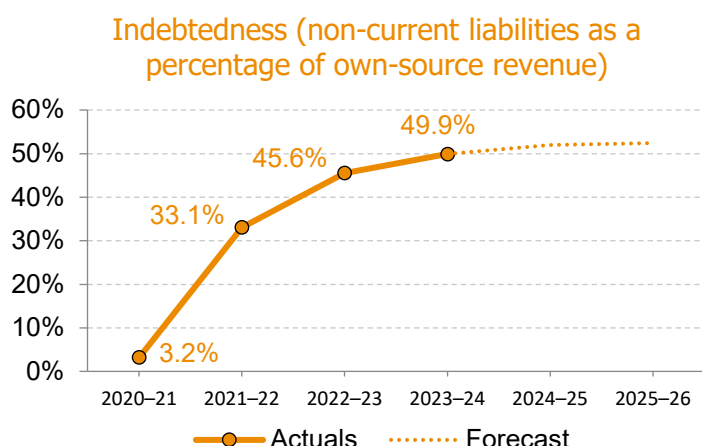
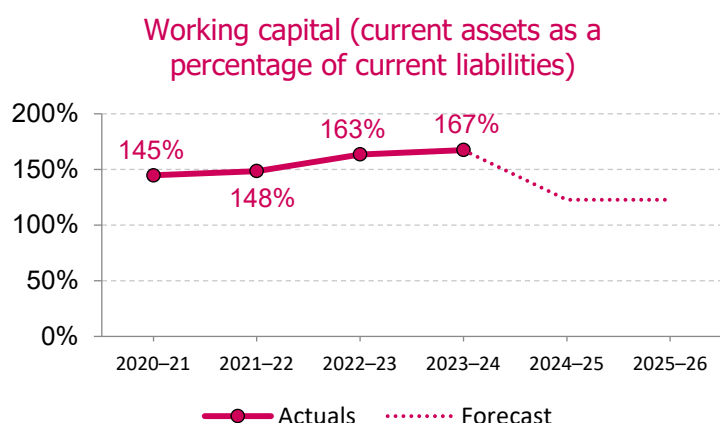
## Is council operating sustainably?



Between 2020–21 and 2023–24, Knox City Council reported an average **adjusted underlying result** of **-2.2 per cent**. The average result would have been **-1.2 per cent**, if the timing of the financial assistance grants payment in 2023–24 was consistent with previous years.

An ongoing negative result, or deficit, suggests that, without the receipt of one-off grants or an increase in ongoing revenue, the council may not have sufficient revenue to fund the range and level of services it has been providing.

Council could meet its current financial obligations with a reported average **working capital ratio** of **156 per cent** between 2020–21 and 2023–24.



Between 2020–21 and 2023–24, council reported an average **indebtedness ratio** of **33 per cent**. The lower the percentage, the greater a council's ability to repay debt from revenue it controls.

**Note:** The year-on-year changes in the financial indicators can be affected by the timing of financial assistance grant payments. We have estimated the impact of a change in the timing of these payments for the 2023–24 adjusted underlying result. Please see the reader's guide for more information.