

Accounting policies

Reporting entity

Mackenzie District Council (Council) is a territorial local authority established under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) and is domiciled and operates in New Zealand. The relevant legislation governing the Council's operations includes the LGA and the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

The principal activity of Mackenzie District Council is the provision of local authority services, including resource management, water, storm water, wastewater and roading services, hazard management, recreation and cultural services and building control to the community. The Council does not operate to make a financial return.

The Council has designated itself as a public benefit entity (PBE) for the purposes of complying with generally accepted accounting practice. The financial statements of the Council are for the periods ending 30 June 2021/31. The prospective financial statements were authorised for issue by Council on xxxx.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis, and the accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the Long-Term Plan.

The Council and management of Mackenzie District Council are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, including the appropriateness of the assumptions underlying the financial statements and other required disclosures.

Council, who are authorised to do so, believe the assumptions underlying the financial statements are appropriate.

Statement of Compliance

The financial statements of the Council have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the LGA and the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014 (LG(FRP)R), which include the requirement to comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand (NZ GAAP).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with and comply with PBE Standards RDR. The criteria under which Council is eligible to report in accordance with Tier 2 PBE Standards as total expenditure is below the \$30 million threshold.

Presentation currency and rounding

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$000) unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis, except for land and buildings classified as property, plant and equipment, certain infrastructure assets, investment property, some investments and forestry.

Basis of consolidation

Consolidated financial statements are prepared adding together like items of assets, liabilities, equity, revenue, and expenses on a line-by-line basis. All significant intragroup balances, transactions, revenue, and expenses are eliminated on consolidation.

Changes in accounting policies

Accounting policies have been changed to incorporate all necessary changes as required by the new Public Benefit Entity (PBE) Standards. No changes to recognition/measurement were required.

The current PBE Standard on financial instruments, PBE IPSAS 29 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement, is based on IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement issued by the IASB (International Accounting Standards Board). That standard has since been replaced by the IASB with IFRS 9 Financial Instruments.

In early 2017 the NZASB (NZ Accounting Standards Board) issued PBE IFRS 9 Financial Instruments based on IFRS 9 to give PBEs the opportunity to adopt a PBE Standard equivalent to IFRS 9 to reduce compliance costs that may arise on consolidation of mixed groups. Now that the IPSASB (International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board) has issued a revised standard on financial instruments, IPSAS 40 Financial Instruments (based on IFRS 9), the NZASB has incorporated that standard into the PBE Standards.

PBE IPSAS 41 Financial Instruments will replace both PBE IPSAS 29 and PBE IFRS 9.

IPSAS 41 is effective from 1 July 2022. The Council has early adopted this standard from 1 July 2020. The Council has assessed the changes have minimal impact on the prospective statements.

Summary of significant accounting policies

Joint Operation

A joint operation is a contractual agreement whereby two or more parties undertake an economic activity that is subject to joint control. Joint control exists when there is a binding agreement between the parties involved in the arrangement and this agreement requires the relevant activities of the arrangement to be decided by unanimous consent from all parties involved in the arrangement.

For joint arrangements, the Council recognises in its financial statements its assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses relating to its share in the arrangement.

The Council has a joint arrangement with the Timaru District Council and Waimate District Council for the Downlands Rural Water Scheme. The Downlands Rural Water Scheme is a joint operation rather than a joint venture because the three Councils jointly own their specified share of the whole scheme and have rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities relating to the arrangement, due to the structure of the arrangement not being through a separate vehicle. Council's share in this joint arrangement equates to 4%, with Timaru District Council's share being 82% and Waimate District Council's 14%.

Revenue Recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable.

Rates revenue

The following policies for rates have been applied:

- General rates, targeted rates (excluding water-by meter) and uniform annual general charges are recognised at the start of the financial year to which the rates resolution relates. They are recognised at the amounts due. The Council considers the effect of payment of rates by instalments is not sufficient to require discounting of rates receivables and subsequent recognition of interest revenue
- Revenue arising from late payment penalties is recognised as revenue when rates become overdue

- Rates collected on behalf of the Environmental Canterbury Regional Council (ECan) are not recognised in the financial statements, as the Council is acting as an agent for ECan.

New Zealand Transport Agency roading subsidies

Council receives government grants from the New Zealand Transport Agency, which subsidises part of the costs of maintaining the local roading infrastructure. The subsidies are recognised as revenue upon entitlement, as conditions pertaining to eligible expenditure have been fulfilled.

Other grants received

Other grants are recognised as revenue when they become receivable unless there is an obligation in substance to return the funds if conditions of the grant are not met. If there is such an obligation, the grants are initially recorded as grants received in advance and recognised as revenue when conditions are satisfied.

Building and resource consent revenue

Revenue from building consents is recognised when payment of the consent is received. Revenue from fees charged for resource consent processing is recognised in proportion to the stage of completion. Work performed is invoiced monthly until completion.

Entrance Fees

Entrance fees are fees charged to users of the Council's local facilities, such as the pools. Revenue from entrance fees is recognised upon entry to such facilities.

Provision of goods and services

Services provided to third parties on commercial terms are exchange transactions. Revenue from these services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction at balance date, based on the actual service provided as a percentage of the total services to be provided.

Contributions

Development and financial contributions are recognised as revenue when the Council provides, or is able to provide, the service for which the contribution was charged. Otherwise development and financial contributions are recognised as liabilities until such time as the Council provides, or is able to provide the service.

Vested or donated physical assets

For assets received for no or nominal consideration, the asset is recognised at its fair value when the Council obtains control of the asset. The fair value of the asset is recognised as revenue, unless there is a use or return condition attached to the asset. The fair value of vested or donated assets is usually determined by reference to the cost of constructing the asset. For assets received from property developments, the fair value is based on construction price information provided by the property developer. For long-lived assets that must be used for a specific use (e.g. land must be used as a recreation reserve), the Council immediately recognises the fair value of the asset as revenue. A liability is recognised only if the Council expects that it will need to return or pass the asset to another party.

Infringement fees and fines

Infringement fees and fines mostly relate to traffic and parking infringements and are recognised when the infringement notice is issued. The fair value of this revenue is determined based on the probability of collecting fines, which is estimated by considering the collection history of fines over the preceding 2-year period.

Landfill fees

Fees for disposing of waste are recognised as waste is disposed of by users.

Sale of Goods and Services

Revenue from the sale of goods and services is recognised when a product is sold or service provided to the customer.

Interest and dividends

Interest revenue is accrued on a time basis using the effective interest method, by reference to the principal outstanding and at the interest rate applicable. Interest revenue on an impaired financial asset is recognised using the original effective interest rate. Dividends are recognised when the right to receive payment has been established. When dividends are declared from pre-acquisition surpluses, the dividend is deducted from the cost of the investment.

Donated and bequeathed financial assets

Donated and bequeathed financial assets are recognised as revenue unless there are substantive use or return conditions. A liability is recorded if these are substantive use or return conditions and the liability released to revenue as the conditions are met. (e.g. as the funds are spent for the nominated purpose).

Expenditure

The specific accounting policies for significant expenditure items are explained below.

Borrowing costs

All borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

Grant expenditure

Non-discretionary grants are those grants that are awarded if the grant application meets the specified criteria and are recognised as expenditure when an application that meets the specified criteria for the grant has been received. Discretionary grants are those grants where the Council has no obligation to award on receipt of the grant application and are recognised as expenditure when approved by the Council and the approval has been communicated to the applicant. The Council's grants awarded have no substantive conditions attached.

Operating Leases

An operating lease is a lease that does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset. Lease payments under an operating lease are recognised as an expense on a straight line basis over the lease term. Lease incentive received are recognised in the surplus or deficit as a reduction of rental expense over the lease term.

Operating Leases as lessee

Council leases property, plant and equipment in the normal course of its business. The majority of these leases have non cancellable term of 36 months.

Leases can be renewed at the Council's option, with rents set by reference to current market rates for items of equivalent age and condition. The Council does not have the option to purchase the asset at the end of the lease term.

There are no restrictions placed on the Council by any of the leasing arrangements.

Contractual commitments

These are commitments for which a formal contract has been entered into at balance date. These commitments are based on the legal commitment outstanding under contracts. They do not take in account any additional work required due to emergency events or any adjustments to costs based on inflation.

Income tax

Income tax expense includes components relating to both current tax and deferred tax. Current tax is the amount of income tax payable based on the taxable profit for the current year, plus any adjustments to income tax payable in respect of prior years. Current tax is calculated using tax rates (and tax laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted at balance date. Deferred tax is the amount of income tax payable or recoverable in future periods in respect of temporary differences and unused tax losses. Temporary differences are differences between the carrying amount of assets and liabilities in the statement of financial position and the corresponding tax bases used in the computation of taxable profit. Deferred tax is measured at the tax rates that are expected to apply when the asset is realised or the liability is settled, based on tax rates (and tax laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted at balance date. The measurement of deferred tax reflects the tax consequences that would follow from the manner in which the entity expects to recover or settle the carrying amount of its assets and liabilities. Deferred tax liabilities are generally recognised for all taxable temporary differences. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that taxable profits will be available against which the deductible temporary differences or tax losses can be utilised. Deferred tax is not recognised if the temporary difference arises from the initial recognition of goodwill or from the initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction that is not a business combination and at the time of the transaction, affects neither accounting profit nor taxable profit. Current and deferred tax is recognised against the surplus or deficit for the period, except to the extent that it relates to a business combination, or to transactions recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense or directly in equity.

Balance Sheet

Equity & Reserves

Equity is the community's interest in the Council and is measured as the difference between total assets and total liabilities. Equity is disaggregated and classified into the following components:

- Operating reserves;
- Capital reserves;
- Asset revaluation reserves;
- Other reserves & special funds reserves; and
- Accumulated general funds.

Operating reserves

Operating reserves consist of surpluses earned over time, and funds set aside for special purposes. These reserves represent funds available for the use in trading and operation of Council for special purposes. All special purpose funds and assets are separately accounted for and balanced with the cash resources retained by Council for special purposes.

Capital reserves

Pursuant to the policy for funding of capital expenditure adopted by the Council as part of the Long-Term Plan, a Capital Reserve has been created for all activities of Council that involve assets. The movements within the capital reserves involve all capital revenue received for the activity and any capital expenditure incurred within that activity. The capital revenue includes depreciation funded from rates, financial contributions, upgrade contributions and grants. Depending on the movements in the capital reserve, the balance can be in funds or in deficit. An interest component is applied to the capital reserve depending on whether the reserve is in funds or deficit.

Asset revaluation reserves

This reserve comprises the cumulative net change in the fair value through other comprehensive revenue and expenditure of certain classes of Property, Plant and Equipment and Equity instruments such as shares and bonds held.

Other Reserves & Special Funds Reserves

Other reserves

Other reserves consist of funds which have been received over time by the Council, usually by way of a donation or bequest, the terms of which restrict the use of funds. Each amount has been set up as a trust fund to maintain a degree of independence from general Council funds. All such funds are separately accounted for and are not available for any other purpose.

Restricted reserves

Restricted reserves are those reserves subject to specific conditions accepted as binding by the Council and which may not be revised by the Council without reference to the Courts or a third party. Transfers from these reserves may be made only for certain specified purposes or when certain specified conditions are met.

Council-created reserves

Council-created reserves are reserves established by Council decision. The Council may alter them without reference to any third party or the Courts. Transfers to and from these reserves are at the discretion of the Council.

Accumulated General Funds

Accumulated General Funds consist of all other equity transactions not classified as operating reserves, capital reserves, asset revaluation reserves, other reserves or special reserves.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

Trade and Other Receivables

Trade and other receivables are recorded at the amount due, less an allowance for expected credit losses (ECL). The Council and group apply the simplified ECL model of recognising lifetime ECL for receivables. In measuring ECLs, receivables have been grouped into rates receivables, and other receivables, and assessed on a collective basis as they possess shared credit risk characteristics. They have then been grouped based on the days past due. A provision matrix is then established based on historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment.

Rates are "written-off":

- when remitted in accordance with the Council's rates remission policy; and
- in accordance with the write-off criteria of sections 90A (where rates cannot be reasonably recovered) and 90B (in relation to Māori freehold land) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

Other receivables are written-off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

All items in the financial statements are stated exclusive of GST. Where GST is not recoverable as input tax, it is recognised as part of the related asset or expense.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) is included as part of receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

The net GST paid to, or received from the IRD, including the GST relating to investing and financing activities, is classified as an operating cash flow in the prospective statement of cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed exclusive of GST.

Financial assets/financial liabilities

The Council shall recognise a financial asset or a financial liability in its statement of financial position when, and only when, the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

At initial recognition, the Council shall measure a financial asset or financial liability at its fair value plus or minus, in the case of a financial asset or financial liability not at fair value through surplus or deficit, transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or issue of the financial asset or financial liability.

Financial Assets are classified as either: (1) Amortised Cost, (2) Fair value through profit or loss, or (3) Fair Value through other comprehensive income.

A financial asset shall be measured at amortised cost if both of the following conditions are met:

- (a) the financial asset is held within a business model whose objective is to hold financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows and
- (b) the contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

A financial asset shall be measured at fair value through other comprehensive revenue or expense if both of the following conditions are met:

- (a) the financial asset is held within a business model whose objective is achieved by both collecting contractual cash flows and selling financial assets; and
- (b) the contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

A financial asset shall be measured at fair value through surplus or deficit unless it is measured at amortised cost or at fair value through other comprehensive revenue and expense. However an entity may make an irrevocable election at initial recognition for particular investments in equity instruments that would otherwise be measured at fair value through surplus or deficit to present subsequent changes in fair value in other comprehensive revenue and expense.

Subsequent measurement of financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets classified at amortised cost are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any expected credit losses. Where applicable, interest accrued is added to the investment balance. Instruments in this category include term deposits, community loans, and loans to subsidiaries and associates.

Subsequent measurement of financial assets at FVTOCRE

Financial assets in this category that are debt instruments are subsequently measured at fair value with fair value gains and losses recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense. There is no assessment for impairment when fair value falls below the cost of the investment. When sold, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense is transferred to accumulated funds with equity. The Council and group designate into this category all equity investments that are not included in its investment fund portfolio, and if they are intended to be held for the medium to long-term.

Expected credit loss allowance (ECL)

The Council and group recognise an allowance for ECLs for all debt instruments not classified as FVTSD. ECLs are the probability-weighted estimate of credit losses, measure at the present value of cash shortfalls, which is the difference between the cash flows due to Council and group in accordance with the contract and the cash flows it expect to receive. ECLs are discounted at the effective interest rate of the financial asset.

ECL's are recognised in two stages. ECLs are provided for credit losses that result from default events that are possible within the next 12 months (a 12-month ECL). However, if there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, the loss allowance is based on losses possible for the remaining life of the financial asset (Lifetime ECL).

When determining whether the credit risk of a financial asset has increased significantly since initial recognition, the Council and group considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on the Council and group's historical experience and informed credit assessment and included forward-looking information.

The Council and group consider a financial asset to be in default when the financial asset is more than 90 days past due. The Council and group may determine a default occurs prior to this if internal or external information indicates the entity is unlikely to pay its credit obligations in full.

Financial Liabilities are classified as either: (1) Amortised Cost, (2) Fair value through profit or loss.

Financial liabilities are generally classified and measured at amortised cost, unless they meet the criteria for classification at fair value through profit or loss.

A financial liability is classified as a financial liability at fair value through profit or loss if it meets one of the following conditions:

- It is held for trading, or
- It is designated by the entity as at fair value through profit or loss (note that such a designation is only permitted if specified conditions are met).

A financial liability is held for trading if it meets one of the following conditions:

- It is incurred principally for the purpose of repurchasing it in the near term
- On initial recognition it is part of a portfolio of identified financial instruments that are managed together and for which there is evidence of a recent actual pattern of short-term profit-taking, or
- It is a derivative (except for a derivative that is a financial guarantee contract or a designated and effective hedging instrument).

Inventories

Inventories are held for distribution or for use in the provision of goods and services. The measurement of inventories depends on whether the inventories are held for commercial or non-commercial (distribution at no charge or for a nominal charge) distribution or use. Inventories are measured as follows:

Commercial: measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Non-commercial: measured at cost, adjusted for any loss of service potential.

Cost is allocated using the first-in-first-out (FIFO) method, which assumes the inventories that were purchased first are distributed or used first.

Inventories acquired through non-exchange transactions are measured at fair value at the date of acquisition.

Any write-down from cost to net realisable value or for the loss of service potential is recognised in the surplus or deficit in the year of the write-down.

When land held for development and future resale is transferred from investment property/property, plant, and equipment to inventory, the fair value of the land at the date of the transfer is its deemed cost.

Costs directly attributable to the developed land are capitalised to inventory, with the exception of infrastructural asset costs which are capitalised to property, plant, and equipment.

Plantation Forestry

Standing forestry assets are independently revalued annually at fair value less estimated costs to sell for one growth cycle. Gains or losses arising on initial recognition of forestry assets at fair value less costs to sell and from a change in fair value less costs to sell are recognised in the surplus or deficit. Forestry maintenance costs are recognised in the surplus or deficit when incurred.

Property, plant and equipment

Operational assets

Operational assets are tangible assets that are able to be dealt with as part of the operating strategy. These include operational land, buildings and improvements, furniture and fittings, plant and equipment, computer hardware, motor vehicles, office equipment, resource recovery parks and heritage assets.

Restricted assets

Restricted assets are parks and reserves owned by Council, which provide a benefit or service to the community and cannot be disposed of because of legal or other restrictions. They include reserves vested under the Reserves Act, and endowments and other property held in trust for specific purposes.

Infrastructure assets

Infrastructure assets are the fixed utility systems owned by the Council and group. Each asset class includes all items that are required for the network to function. For example, sewer reticulation includes reticulation piping and sewer pump stations.

Unformed or paper roads

An unformed or paper road is a term for a road that is legally established and recorded in survey plans, but has not been formed, and that ownership of the land associated with the paper road resides with Council. Council does not recognise land under unformed paper roads in the financial statements because there is little or no service potential from the majority of these paper roads. Valuing these assets is also difficult. It is difficult to measure the service benefit to the public from having access to these routes. There is also limited market data detailing recent sales of such small individual areas arguably due to the high cost of disposal.

Additions

The cost of an item of property, plant, or equipment is recognised as an asset if and only if, it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council and group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

Work in progress is recognised at cost less impairment and is not depreciated.

In most instances, an item of property, plant and equipment is initially recognised at its cost. Where an asset is acquired through a non-exchange transaction, it is recognised at its fair value as at the date of acquisition.

Disposals

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the disposal proceeds with the carrying amount of the asset. Gains and losses on disposals are reported net in the surplus or deficit. When revalued assets are sold, the amounts included in asset revaluation reserves in respect of those assets are transferred to accumulated funds.

Subsequent costs

Costs incurred subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised only when it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. The costs of day-to-day servicing of property, plant and equipment are recognised in the surplus or deficit as they are incurred.

Revaluations

The carrying values of revalued items are assessed annually to ensure that their carrying amount does not differ materially from fair value and at least every three years. If there is a material difference, then the off-cycle asset classes are revalued. Revaluations of property, plant, and equipment are accounted for on a class-of-asset basis.

The net revaluation results are credited or debited to other comprehensive revenue and expense and are accumulated to an asset revaluation reserve in equity for that class-of-asset. Where this would result in a debit balance in the asset revaluation reserve, this balance is not

recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense but is recognised in the surplus or deficit. Any subsequent increase on revaluation that reverses a previous decrease in value recognised in the surplus or deficit will be recognised first in the surplus or deficit up to the amount previously expensed and then recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis on all property, plant and equipment, other than land, at rates that will write off the cost (or valuation) of the assets to their estimated residual values over their useful lives.

INTANGIBLES

Software acquisition and development

Acquired computer software is capitalised on the basis of costs incurred to acquire and bring to use the specific software.

Costs that are directly attributable with the development of software for internal use are recognised as an intangible asset. Direct costs include the software development employee costs and an appropriate portion of relevant overheads.

Staff training costs are recognised in the surplus or deficit when incurred.

Costs associated with maintaining computer software are recognised as an expense when incurred. Costs associated with development and maintenance of the Council's website are recognised as an expense when incurred.

Easements

Easements are not cash generating in nature, instead they give Council the right to access private property where infrastructural assets are located. Council has not valued and recognised easements as an intangible asset under PBE IPSAS 31 Intangible Assets. The work required identifying and developing a central register to record easements and paper roads would be considerable and difficult to ensure that it was comprehensive and complete. Council is also concerned that the cost to establish the register would be substantial with minimal benefits being achieved. Registered valuers would have difficulty determining a fair value for the easements due to their unique nature, and having no active market for this particular asset type. There is also no recognised valuation methodology. For these reasons, Council has opted not to recognise easements as an intangible asset because they cannot be quantified and the value of the easements cannot be measured reliably.

Carbon Credits

Purchased Carbon credits are recognised at cost on acquisition. Acquired Carbon Credits from the Crown are recognized at fair value on receipt. In the absence of an Active Market Carbon Credits are brought in at their cost to the Council. Carbon Credits are not amortised, but are instead tested for impairment annually. They are derecognised when they are used to satisfy carbon emission obligations.

Impairment

The carrying value of an intangible asset with a finite life is amortised on a straight line basis over its useful life. Amortisation begins when the asset is available for use and ceases at the date that the asset is derecognised. The amortisation charge for each period is recognised in the surplus or deficit.

Employee Entitlements

Short Term Employee Entitlements

Employee benefits expected to be settled within 12 months of balance date are measured at nominal values based on accrued entitlements at current rates of pay.

These include salaries and wages accrued up to balance date, annual leave earned to, but not yet taken at balance date, and sick leave.

Long Term employee entitlements

Employee benefits that are due to be settled beyond 12 months after the end of the period in which the employee renders the related service, such as long service leave and retirement gratuities, have been calculated on an actuarial basis.

The calculations are based on:

- Likely future entitlements accruing to staff, based on years of service, years to entitlement, the likelihood that staff will reach the point of entitlement; and contractual entitlement information ; and
- The present value of estimated future cash flows.

Presentation of employee entitlements

Sick leave, annual leave, and vested long service leave are classified as a current liability, Non-vested long service leave and retirement gratuities expected to be settled within 12 months of balance date are classified as a current liability. All other employee entitlements are classified as a non-current liability.

Provisions

A provision is recognised for future expenditure of uncertain amount or timing when: • there is a present obligation (either legal or constructive) as a result of a past event; • it is probable that an outflow of future economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; and • a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the obligation. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as an interest expense and is included in "finance costs".

Payables and deferred revenue

Short-term payables are recorded at the amount payable.

Budget Figures

The budget figures are those approved by the Council in its Long Term Plan 2021-31. The budget figures have been prepared in accordance with NZ GAAP, using accounting policies that are consistent with those adopted in preparing these financial statements.

Critical Accounting Estimates and Assumptions

In preparing these financial statements, estimates and assumptions have been made concerning the future.

These estimates and assumptions may differ from the subsequent actual results. Estimates and assumptions are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations or future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are:

- Estimating the fair value of land, buildings, and infrastructural assets – see Note 18: Property, plant and equipment.
- Estimating the retirement obligation – see Note 21: Employee entitlements.
- Estimating the landfill aftercare provision – see Note 22: Provisions.

Critical judgements in applying accounting policies

Management has exercised the following critical judgements in applying accounting policies:

- Classification of property – see Note 18: Property, plant and equipment.
- Accounting for suspensory loan from Housing New Zealand - see Note 4: Revenue.
- Accounting for donated or vested land and buildings with use or return conditions - see Note 4: Revenue.