



# **Blackall-Tambo** Regional Council

## **Sewerage Asset Management Plan**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Asset Management plan was developed using data from the recent comprehensive valuation as at 30/6/25 and Council's future works programs.

### **Purpose of the Plan**

Council's Goal is:

*Waste services and facilities that meet the needs of the community and remain financially sustainable.*

Therefore, the purpose of this asset management plan is to assist Council in:

- Demonstrating responsible management.
- Clearly outlining the measurable service levels.
- Communicating and justify funding requirements for the future.
- Complying with regulatory requirements.

### **Asset Description**

Assets included within this Asset Management Plan are Passive Assets (underground) of 39,096 metres of gravity mains, 3094 metres of rising mains, 428 manholes and Active Assets of 7 pumping stations and one treatment plant (Blackall). Council has a total of 687 connections.

Sewer assets as at the 30/6/2025 have a gross replacement cost of \$25,417,367 and a fair value of \$18,993,308. This asset class makes up 5.00% of Councils total asset stock.

### **Levels of Service**

Blackall-Tambo Regional Council has adopted principles to take all reasonable actions to provide its customers with reliable and safe services. This plan addresses the required plan for maintenance and renewals to ensure that Council can deliver these standards in the most optimised way.

### **Future Demand**

Blackall, Tambo and the surrounding region has a population of 1905 in 2021 with a flat growth rate.

### **Lifecycle Management Plan**

The life cycle cost, comprising maintenance and renewal activities, represents the average annual expenditure required to sustain the asset over its useful life.

The projected average life cycle expenditure for sewer asset services is \$229,000 per year over the next 10 years. Council's planned budget allocation of \$250,000 per year over the next nine years results in a life cycle sustainability index of 1.09, exceeding the benchmark threshold of 0.9.

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This index indicates that Council is adequately funding renewal requirements for the forthcoming decade.

## BACKGROUND

### Physical Parameters

The assets included within this Asset Management Plan are:

CATEGORY	SUBCATEGORY2	Sum of Length	Sum of Quantity
Passive Asset	Access Chambers/manholes		428
Passive Asset	Gravity Mains (inc Jump-ups)	39,096	
Passive Asset	Rising Mains	3094	
Active Asset	Pump Stations		7
Active Asset	Treatment Plants		1

## LEVELS OF SERVICE

Council has adopted customer service standards for sewer infrastructure assets, as part of these standards Council will endeavour to ensure the following:

- Meet reasonable needs.
- Avoid odours, overflows and interruptions.
- Meet regulatory requirements.
- Take all reasonable action to provide its customers with reliable and continuous services.
- Council are committed to a major capital work program that will;
  - Aim to replace sewer mains that are reaching the end of their useful life.
  - Aim to minimise the number of breaks and blockages.
- System monitoring and planned maintenance programs are in place.
- For planned temporary service interruptions, such as maintenance of sewer mains, Council will provide affected customers with at least 24 hours' notice of the type and timing of the activities.
- Where Council is not able to provide prior notice, we will endeavour to restore services as quickly and efficiently as possible to minimise inconvenience to affected customers.



## Community and Technical Levels of Service

Key Performance Measure	Level of Service	Performance Measure Process	Performance Target	Current Performance
<b>COMMUNITY LEVELS OF SERVICE</b>				
Sewerage Incidents	Deliver affordable and quality sewerage services to our customers.	Customer request process	Attend to reported incidents within 2 hours of formal notification 95% of the time.	Response time has been between 0 – 2 hrs
Sewerage Incidents	Deliver affordable and quality sewerage services to our customers.	Customer request process	Maintain infrastructure to achieve less than: ~30 sewer main chokes or blockage incidents per year	2024/2025 has seen 31 reported incidents

## Statistics 2024-2025

SEWERAGE	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25
Number of interruptions to services	5	3	2	5	1	0	2	3	2	0	2	6
Number of customers impacted by the interruptions to services	5	3	2	5	1	0	2	3	2	0	2	6
Sewerage Treated total hours	639	0	496	289	289	263	252	0	0	0	0	0
Number of customer requests received	5	3	2	5	1	0	2	3	2	0	2	6
Number of customer requests actioned	5	3	2	5	1	0	2	3	2	2	2	6
Average response time to customer request - hrs.	0-2hrs											
Number of incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lost Time Injury (LTI) resulting from incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



## FUTURE DEMAND

Although population growth within the Blackall-Tambo region is projected to remain stable over the next 20 years, future service needs will be influenced by the condition and remaining useful life of existing sewerage infrastructure.

Council is progressing plans for a new Blackall Sewerage Treatment Plant, which will replace ageing treatment assets that are approaching end of life and no longer meet contemporary operational or environmental standards. This project will be partially funded through a \$4.5 million Local Government Sector Sustainability Program (LGSSP) grant, supporting the delivery of modernised treatment facilities designed to improve service reliability, treatment efficiency, and environmental compliance. The new plant will enhance long-term operational capacity, reduce maintenance risks associated with deteriorating assets, and ensure continued service sustainability without reliance on population-driven expansion.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

### Risk Categorisation and Assessment

- An assessment of risks associated with service delivery from infrastructure assets has identified critical risks that will result in loss or reduction in service from infrastructure assets or a ‘financial shock’ to the organisation. The risk assessment process identifies credible risks, the likelihood of the risk event occurring, the consequences should the event occur, develops a risk rating, evaluates the risk and develops a risk treatment plan for nonacceptable risks. Risks associated with asset and services management are categorised as:
  - Natural events – Council has virtually no control over the timing or extent of the event, however the probabilities may be understood;
  - External impacts – Council has some control over these risks, associated with other organisations providing goods and services to Council;
  - Physical Failure Risk – where conditions or performance of an asset could lead to failure or unacceptable service. Council can control these risks through maintenance and renewal funding levels;
  - Operational Risk – Where management of the asset or service, or asset management or service management activities might impact on an asset or service. Council can control these risks through management practices and funding levels.
  - Financial risks – from lack of due diligence in the provision of funding for the renewal, maintenance and operation of the assets to provide agreed Levels of Service.
  - Physical risks – where data and information are not improved and the ‘whole of organisation’ approach to the effective planning and management of assets and services; and
  - Operations risks – the failure of an asset or network due to inappropriate asset management.
  
- Critical risks, being those assessed as ‘Very High’ – requiring immediate corrective action and ‘High’ – requiring prioritised corrective action identified in the infrastructure Risk Management Plan are summarised in the table below.

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**Risk Treatment Strategies**

Service or Asset at Risk	What Can Happen	Cause	Likelihood	(VH, H)	Risk Treatment Plan
Sewerage Mains	Blockage & or breakage in mains, which can also become a health hazard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maybe be various causes eg. – foreign object causing blockage of line, or break in line</li> <li>• Contractor/staff error, heavy vehicles</li> </ul>	Likely	VH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On call staff to repair</li> <li>• Capital works &amp; maintenance program in place</li> </ul>

**ASSET RATIONALISATION AND DISPOSAL**

Demolish/Recycle/Decommission	Depending on the condition and usability of the asset, the value of the asset may be written off and the asset disposed of if the asset is beyond repair.
Accounting write off resulting from replacement/renewal	Write off old segment/components- applies to water, sewerage and road infrastructure assets being renewed at book value.

**RECORDS**

When completed and approved, the original signed hard copy of the policy is filed in the Master File. Electronic copies are saved in the appropriately labelled folder in Magiq.



**LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	2030/2031	2031/2032
<b>Renewal (Forward Works Program) FWP Existing assets only</b>	600,000	400,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000

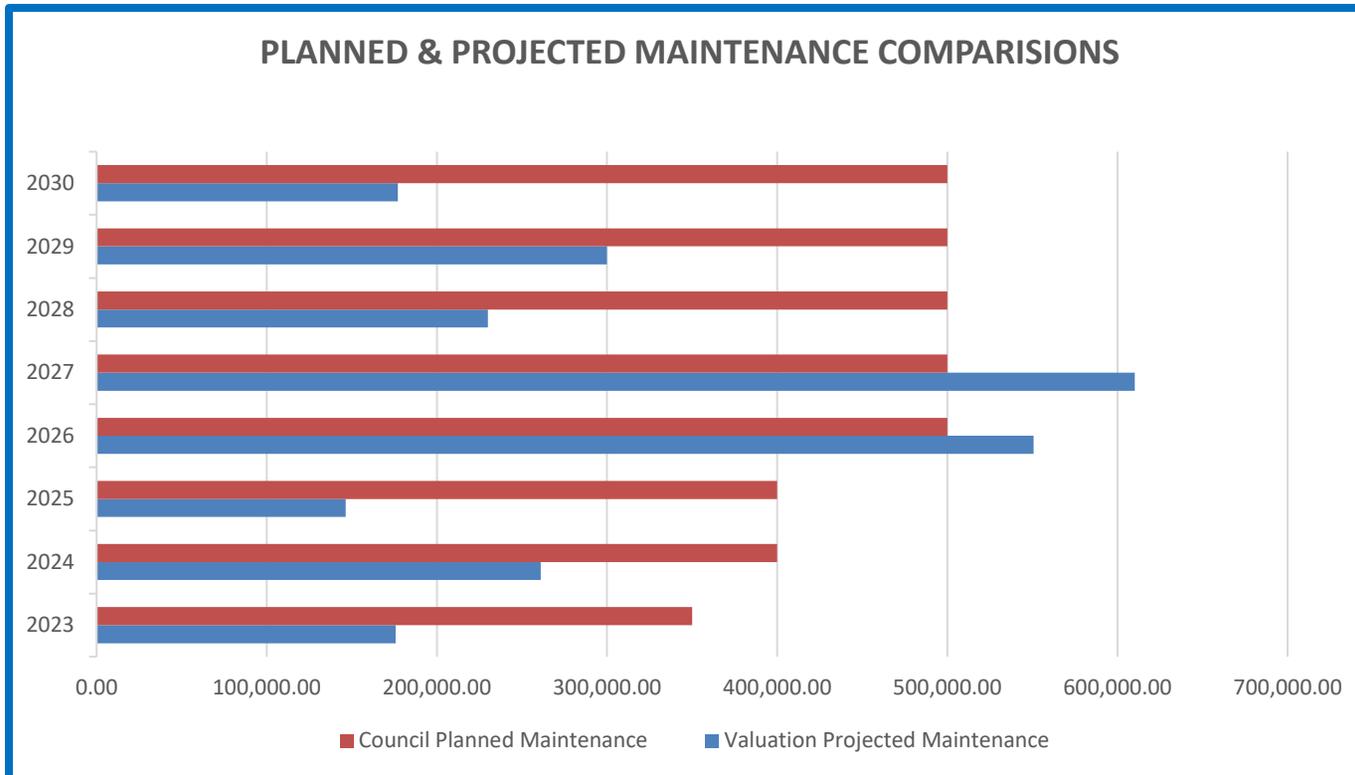
Summary of the next 9 years of lifecycle costings are shown in the table below

**Capital Budget**

The capital budget for sewerage infrastructure is primarily focused on the renewal of ageing assets and the delivery of critical upgrades required to maintain service reliability and regulatory compliance. Over the next nine years, Council has committed to a forward works program that prioritises the replacement of sewer mains, pumping assets and treatment components that have reached or are nearing the end of their useful life. This ensures the network continues to operate efficiently and mitigates the risk of service interruptions, blockages and environmental impacts.

In addition to planned renewals, Council is progressing a major capital initiative — the construction of a new Blackall Sewerage Treatment Plant. This project will replace existing treatment assets that no longer meet contemporary operational standards and are approaching end of life. The new facility will modernise treatment processes, increase operational capacity, improve environmental compliance, and reduce long-term maintenance costs. The project is supported by a \$4.5 million Local Government Sector Sustainability Program (LGSSP) grant, significantly offsetting the financial burden on Council and ensuring the long-term sustainability of sewerage services.

Capital expenditure will continue to be guided by asset condition data, risk assessments and lifecycle planning, ensuring investment is targeted to areas of highest priority and best value. This approach supports responsible financial management and maintains an effective, reliable and sustainable sewerage network.





## FINANCIAL SUMMARY – ASSET VALUES AS AT 30/06/2025

Financial Reconciliation Report: 30/06/2025

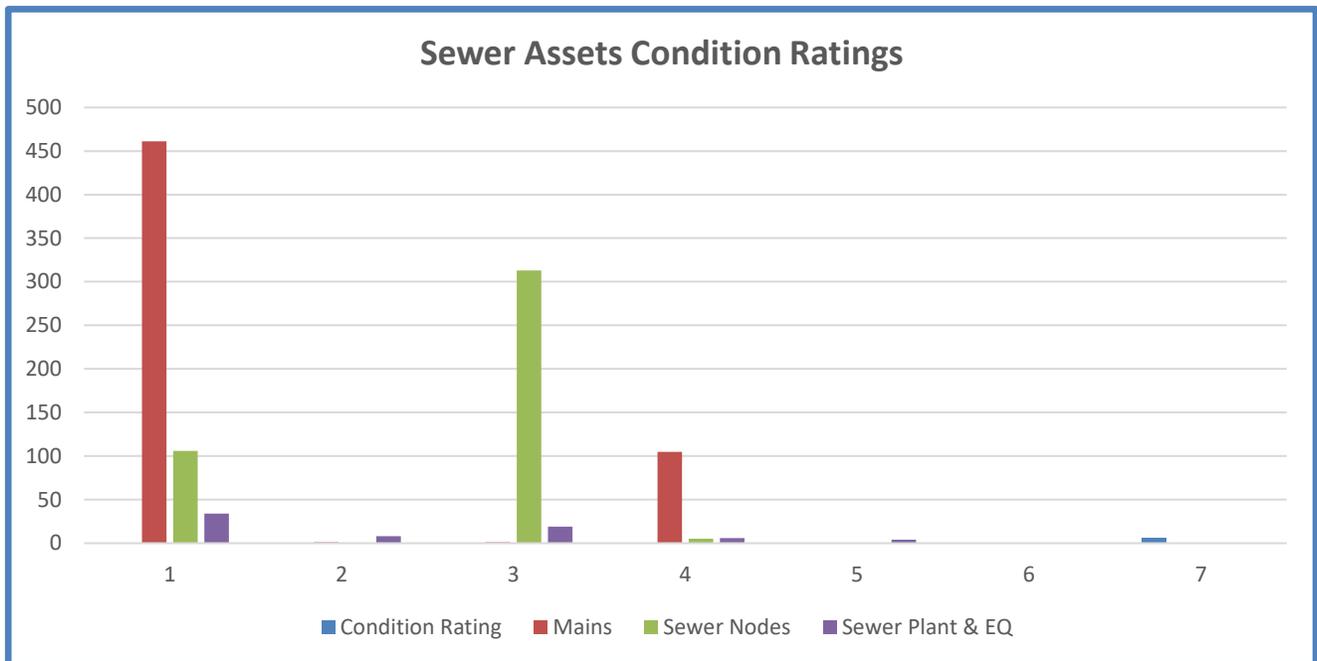
Asset Category	Cost	Acc Dep	WDV
Sewer Plant and Equipment	7,281,525.77	2,165,424.28	5,116,101.49
Sewer Nodes	2,345,595.31	1,027,235.67	1,318,359.64
Sewer Mains	15,790,246.85	3,231,399.22	12,558,847.63
	<b>25,417,367.93</b>	<b>6,424,059.17</b>	<b>18,993,308.76</b>



## CONDITION DATA

Below is a summary of the condition data on the current list.

### Condition Rating Table



## PLAN IMPROVEMENT AND MONITORING

This section provides details on planning for monitoring the performance of the AM plan and any improvements to AM systems that will improve the level of confidence in the AM plan.



## Improvement Programme

The Asset Management Plan can be improved in the following ways.

Task	Timeframe	Responsibility	Resources Required
The plan will be reviewed annually during budget preparations and amended in need to recognise any changes in levels of service and resources as a result of the budget decision process	Every 12 months	Finance Manager/Asset Manager	Budget documents and asset data

## RECORDS

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