

ITEM 14 STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT - APRIL 2024

This report provides an overview of Council's investment portfolio performance for the reporting period March 2024.

Council had an average weighted return for March 2024 of 0.55% which was above the benchmark return of 0.37%. The result was primarily driven by positive valuations of the Mortgage-Backed Securities and NSW TCorp investments. The remainder of Council's portfolio continues to provide a high degree of credit quality and liquidity.

RECOMMENDATION

Council receive the Statement of Investment for April 2024.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Brian Jenkins, Chief Financial Officer

Authorised by: Jeff Reilly, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City (Acting)

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Statement of Investment April 2024
- 2 Investment Income Compared to Budget 2023-2024

BACKGROUND

Council is mandated to invest surplus funds in accordance with the Ministerial Investment Order and Office of Local Government guidelines. The Order reflects a conservative investment approach and restricts investment types available to Council. In compliance with the Order and Office of Local Government guidelines Council adopted an Investment Policy on 12 December 2022. The Investment Policy provides a framework for Council to manage investment credit quality, institutional diversification and maturity constraints. Council's investment portfolio was controlled by Council's Finance Division during the period to ensure compliance with the Investment Policy. Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) provides oversight of the review of Council's Investment Policy and the Management Investment Strategy.

Council's Responsible Accounting Officer is required to sign the complying Statement of Investment contained within the report, certifying that all investments were made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government Regulation 2005.

Council's investment holdings at 29 March 2024 were \$178,890,565 (Statement of Investment attached) [31 March 2023 \$167,784,126] which includes Council's interest in CivicRisk Mutual Ltd recognised at fair value as at 30 June 2023.

Council had an average weighted return for March 2024 of 0.55% which was above the benchmark return of 0.37%. The result was primarily driven by positive valuations of the Mortgage-Backed Securities and NSW TCorp investments. The remainder of Council's portfolio continues to provide a high degree of credit quality and liquidity. The global markets are still experiencing levels of instability and volatility in interest rates, driven by the persistent inflation issues. Australia's inflation remains relatively higher than international comparisons however medium-term predictions indicate contractions in inflation and interest rates. Rates available to Council on purchased investments are assessed regularly and across credit and maturity spread to maximise return on committed capital.

At 29 March 2024, year to date interest and investment revenue of \$6,965,892 was recognised compared to the year to date budget of \$4,922,250.

Council's 23 floating rate notes had a net decrease in value of \$162,133 for March 2024.

Council holds two Mortgaged Backed Securities (MBS) that recorded a net increase in value of \$11,084 for March 2024. The market value of this security takes into account the extended term of the security along with the limited liquidity and the coupon margin reflects pre-Global Financial Crisis (GFC) pricing. While the maturity dates are outside Council's control, the investment advisors had previously indicated



capital is not at risk at that stage and recommended a hold strategy due to the illiquid nature of the investment.

Council holds two investments within the NSW TCorp Hour Glass Facility; Long-Term Growth Fund and Medium-Term Growth Fund. The Long-Term Growth recorded a net increase in value of \$110,927 and the Medium-Term Growth Fund recorded a net increase in value of \$83,175 in March 2024. The fluctuations in both the Long-Term Growth and Medium-Term Growth Funds are a reflection of the current share market volatility both domestically and internationally and is diversified across a number of different asset classes with differing risk and return characteristics.

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) Board will meet eight times each year from February 2024. At their March 2024 meeting the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) decided to hold the official cash rate at 4.35%. The RBA will continue to monitor uncertainties regarding the global economy, trends in demand, developments and adjust policy as needed as based on the data and evolving assessment of risks to return inflation to target of 2%–3%.

The current Investment Policy sets a 40% maximum exposure limit to individual institutions within the AAA category. This limit is currently considered to include funds held within the Commonwealth Bank (CBA), savings account which holds Council's operating cash balances. At the end of March 2024, the exposure to CBA was 19.87%, which is below the 25% target set in the Investment Strategy.

The current investment portfolio complies with Council's Investment Policy which was endorsed by Council on 12 December 2022. Council's Responsible Accounting Officer has signed the Statement of Investment contained within the report, certifying all investments were made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government Regulation 2005.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 Goal 4 "We are a connected and engaged community". It specifically delivers on the following:

	Community Strategic Plan 2032	Delivery Program 2022-2026			
	Strategy	Service			
4.8	Council's resources are managed effectively to ensure long term financial sustainability.	Financial Services			

CONCLUSION

The investments for March 2024 recorded an average weighted return that was above the AusBondBank Bill Index Benchmark and performed favourably when compared to the year-to-date budget.



WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT 26 April 2024									
DIRECT INVESTMENTS									
Investment Body	Rating	Purchase Price \$	Fair Value of Holding \$	Security	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Interest / Coupon Rate		
CBA Business Online Saver	A1+	-	18,948,490	BOS A/c	26/04/2024	26/04/2024	4.60%		
CBA General Fund A/c	A1+	-	1,037,440	General A/c	26/04/2024	26/04/2024	4.60%		
NAB General Fund A/c	A1+	-	4,567	General A/c	26/04/2024	26/04/2024			
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P ST A1+	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	4/12/2023	6/05/2024	5.20%		
Bank of Queensland Ltd	Moodys A3	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	23/05/2023	24/06/2024	5.11%		
Australian Unity Bank (BPSS20)	S&P ST A2	750,000	750,000	T/Deposit	10/07/2023	9/07/2024	5.75%		
Bank of Queensland Ltd	Moodys A3	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	16/08/2023	16/08/2024	5.05%		
Judo Bank	S&P BBB-	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	17/09/2021	17/09/2024	1.20%		
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P ST A1+	1,000,000	1,000,000	T/Deposit	4/12/2023	4/10/2024	5.24%		
Auswide Bank Limited	Moodys ST P-2	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	9/11/2023	8/11/2024	5.50%		
Bank of Queensland Ltd	Moodys A3	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	9/06/2023	11/11/2024	5.50%		
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	2/12/2021	2/12/2024	1.63%		
Bank of Queensland Ltd	Moodys A3	4,000,000	4,000,000	T/Deposit	2/06/2023	2/12/2024	5.25%		
Coastline Credit Union Ltd	Moodys Baa3	250,000	250,000	T/Deposit	5/06/2023	5/12/2024	5.25%		
Bank of Sydney Ltd	Unrated UR	250,000	250,000	T/Deposit	11/12/2023	11/12/2024	5.40%		
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	Moodys ST P-2	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	16/01/2024	20/12/2024	5.06%		
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P ST A1	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	21/02/2024	21/01/2025	5.11%		
Bank of Queensland Ltd	Moodys A3	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	27/11/2023	28/01/2025	5.40%		
Judo Bank	S&P BBB-	2,200,000	2,200,000	T/Deposit	7/03/2022	11/03/2025	2.30%		
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	5,000,000	5,000,000	T/Deposit	7/03/2022	13/03/2025	2.03%		
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	4/12/2023	4/04/2025	5.32%		
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	Moodys A3	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	9/06/2023	9/05/2025	5.45%		
Bank of Queensland Ltd	Moodys A3	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	30/06/2023	30/06/2025	5.50%		
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	30/06/2023	30/06/2025	5.35%		
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	25/11/2022	25/11/2025	4.59%		
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	30/06/2023	30/06/2026	5.19%		
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	30/06/2023	30/06/2027	5.09%		
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	5,000,000	5,000,000	T/Deposit	22/12/2023	22/12/2028	4.90%		
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P A	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	21/02/2024	21/02/2029	5.19%		
Total	Total 79,440,497								

Bond and Floating Rate Note Securities

Investment Body Rating Purchase Price \$ Fair Value of Holding \$ **Maturity Date** Security Date S&P AA-Moodys Baa2 2,000,000 3,000,000 19/06/2019 22/08/2023 19/06/2024 23/08/2024 ational Australia Bank Ltd 2,013,000 FRN FRN Macquarie Bank Ltd S&P A+ 2.000.000 2.027.520 FRN 12/02/2020 12/02/2025 5.19 S&P A-1,700,000 2/12/2025 Macquarie Bank Ltd S&P A+ 6,500,000 6,529,315 FRN 11/03/2022 9/12/2025 4.839 2,100,000 5,000,000 2,110,290 4,985,150 FRN FRN 24/02/2026 4/03/2026 4.799 4.979 uncorp-Metway Ltd 5&P A+ 24/02/2021 4/03/2021 S&P BBB+ castle Greater Mutual Group Ltd ANZ Banking Group Ltd Teachers Mutual Bank Ltd ANZ Banking Group Ltd Moodys Aa2 2,500,000 2,523,375 FRN 31/03/2023 31/03/2026 5.179 1,100,000 2,500,000 1,093,983 2,523,800 16/06/2021 11/09/2023 16/06/2026 11/09/2026 5.03 Macquarie Bank Ltd S&P A+ 4.000.000 4.037.760 FRN 14/09/2023 14/09/2026 5.199 S&P A+ 3,750,000 2,000,000 3,752,213 FRN 15/09/2021 15/09/2026 18/09/2026 QPCU LTD t/a QBANK S&P BBB 18/09/2023 2,027,000 6.009 2,514,825 1,500,765 FRN FRN lawarra Credit Union Ltd S&P BBB-2,500,000 20/09/2023 21/09/2026 6.05 1,500,000 11/03/2022 25/01/2027 5.13 S&P A+ incorp-Metway Ltd ANZ Banking Group Ltd Suncorp-Metway Ltd Cooperatieve Rabobank U.A Australia Branch 3,564,190 3,053,070 2,529,350 FRN FRN FRN Moodys Aa2 3,500,000 12/05/2022 12/05/2027 5.329 58.P A+ 3,000,000 2,500,000 24/11/2023 24/05/2027 5 44 S&P A+ 19/01/2023 19/01/2028 5.52 ANZ Banking Group Ltd Moodys Aa2 2,500,000 2,534,375 FRN 31/03/2023 31/03/2028 5.409 S&P AA-FRN FRN 11/09/2023 19/09/2023 11/09/2028 19/09/2028 2,100,000 2,122,890 5.28 3,500,000 3,532,795 Westpac Banking Corpor 5.289 ational Australia Bank Ltd S&P AA-4.000.000 4.137.080 FRN 16/11/2023 16/11/2028 5.409 eve Rabobank U.A Australia Branch S&P A+ 3,000,000 3,125,640 FRN 21/11/2023 21/11/2028 5.71% nerald Reverse Mortgage Trust Unrated UR 364,167 294,437 MBS 17/07/2006 21/08/2051 4.78 nerald Reverse Mortgage Trust Unrated UR 2,000,000 1,318,100 17/07/2006 21/08/2056 5.089 68,584,742

Managed Funds & Other

MANAGED FUNDS						
Investment Body	Rating	Purchase Price \$	Fair Value of Holding \$	Purchase Date	Monthly Return (Actual)	FYTD (Actual)
Tcorp Long Term Growth Facility Fund	N/A		4,099,599	13/06/2007	-2.67%	8.11%
Tcorp Medium Term Growth Facility Fund	N/A		5,150,238	26/10/2021	-1.61%	5.39%
Total			9,249,837			•

Membership interest in Investment Body	Fair Value of Holding \$		
CivicRisk Mutual Limited	N/A		2,862,000
			•

^{*} The maturity date provided is the weighted-average life of the security. This is the average amount of time that will elapse from the date of security's issuance until each dollar is repaid based on an actuarial assessment. Assessments are carried out on a regular basis which can potentially extend the life of the investment. Current assessments anticipate an extension of life of the investment.

\$

160,137,077

This is to certify that all of the above investments have been placed in accordance with the Act, the regulations and Council's Investment Policies.

Brian Jenkins

RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER



