

NORTH CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS REGIONAL LIBRARY
CORPORATION TRADING AS
GOLDFIELDS LIBRARY CORPORATION

2025 / 2026 BUDGET FINAL





Contents

- 1. Introduction
- 2. The Library Plan
- 3. Statistical Overview
- 4. Budget process
- 5. Budget Principles
- 6. Budgeted Comprehensive Income Statement
- 7. Analysis of Comprehensive Income Statement
- 8. Budgeted Balance Sheet
- 9. Statement of Changes in Equity
- 10. Statement of Cash Flows
- 11. Analysis of Budgeted Statement of Cash Flows
- 12. Analysis of Budgeted Capital Works Budget
- 13. Schedule of Fees and Charges
- 14. Public Notice of the Prepared Draft Budget

1: INTRODUCTION

The North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation (trading as Goldfields Library Corporation [GLC]), was established in January 1996 to provide library services for the City of Greater Bendigo (CoGB), Loddon Shire Council (LSC), Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC) and Mount Alexander Shire Council (MASC).

The GLC is a Library Corporation under section 196 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Based along the Calder Highway, the service covers an area of 12,979 square kilometres and is one of the largest library regions in the state of Victoria. GLC has approximately 54.6 EFT (including casuals) and reaches a population of approximately 200,000 people with around 60,000 members. There are almost 300,000 items in the collection including an increasing number of electronic resources. The Corporation's libraries support around 1.2-1.4 million visitors per year, 1.3 million collection utilisations, 50,000 public internet sessions, 80,000 wireless internet sessions and more than 100,000 information enquiries.



The GLC comprises nine library branches - Bendigo, Castlemaine, Eaglehawk, Gisborne, Heathcote, Kangaroo Flat, Kyneton, Romsey and Woodend. The Corporation also provides Library Agency services, working with partners in community hubs in; Axedale, Boort, Dingee, Elmore, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, Tarnagulla and Wedderburn. A Home Library Service for housebound patrons also operates across the region utilising staff and volunteers.

The Corporation is governed by a Board that establishes strategic direction. The four member Councils that make up the Board have two representatives each, one Councillor and one officer. The Chief Executive Officer reports to the Library Board and is responsible for the management of the Corporation.

The Corporation is funded by the four member Councils (approximately 75%), the State Government (approximately 20%) and other income sources (approximately 5%).

Council funding is based on an amount collectively agreed to as part of the Service and Funding Agreement. The State Government funding is calculated primarily on a per capita basis. The State Government specifies a number of conditions on the grant, including annual reporting requirements, free core library services and reciprocal membership of all other Victorian public libraries.

The Corporation explores alternative sources of funding and endeavours to make Governments aware of the importance of funding for libraries.

The budget is presented in a format which demonstrates the proposed 2025/26 Operating result and forecast Operating result for the 2024/25 Budget. A Budgeted Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, and Statement of Capital Works are provided, with explanation of key points.

2: THE LIBRARY PLAN

The Library Plan provides a series of key priorities that are based around the outcomes of our Member Council Plans and State Government Regional Partnership Priorities. They are also linked to Council Health and Wellbeing Frameworks, with the underlying principles of the Five Ways to Wellbeing utilised as a framework to support investment and resource allocation. The library plan is currently being reviewed, however many of the principles will remain in place over the next four years. The following pages provide key messages and priorities outlined in the plan. The complete Library Plan can be accessed at:

https://www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Library-Plan-2021-25-24-25-priorities-update-web.pdf



OUR FOCUS IS YOUR WELLBEING

The Five Ways to Wellbeing is an internationally recognised, yet simple approach that supports positive mental and physical health and is backed by extensive research.

Goldfields Libraries embraces this approach and has these five simple actions as a guide to our mission and commitment to you.

CONNECT with the people around you – family and friends, at home, at work, in the local community.

THE LIBRARY is a place where you can feel safe, relaxed, and welcomed with a warm smile and a chat. You can catch up with friends and family or with people who have similar interests. Book clubs, knitting groups or just hanging out after school– it's all good.

LEARN something new or reignite an old interest. Sign up for a course or attend a free seminar. Challenge yourself and don't worry about failing.

THE LIBRARY is all about being curious and learning, with accessible information and no tests at the endl. Learn at your pace, mistakes are welcomed. Read a book, attend a program, ask questions or access information on the intermet.

TAKE NOTICE of the world around you. Be curious, remark on the unusual and sayour the moment.

THE LIBRARY is a place where you can explore the world at your pace in your own way. We want to encourage creativity and curiosity and can help open doors to many worlds and ways of being and seeing.

BE ACTIVE by doing what you can, step outside, find joy in movement. Discover the activity you enjoy, that suits you, and make it a habit.

THE LIBRARY will help with information on health – healthy eating, physical activity, how to connect. We also run physical activity classes as part of our programs where you can come and just

GIVE by contributing to something or helping someone. Create connection with people around you by joining a community group. Thank someone.

THE LIBRARY hosts many community groups that make significant contribution for their communities. We foster creativity, contribution and connection and want to welcome you to the library as a safe and friendly place.

You can learn more about the five ways to wellbeing at 5waystowellbeing.org.au

3

As part of the Library Pan, we provide connection and alignment between library priorities and our member Council, and Regional Partnership priorities.

employment opportunities.

WE WORK ALONGSIDE OUR COUNCILS

Our Library Plan is informed by the priorities of our four member councils and of Regional Development Victoria's Loddon Campaspe Regional partnership, as they relate to libraries.

Library Priorities

Children and Young People – supporting childhood and adolescent development

Lifelong Learning – encouraging learning at any age or stage

Safety and Inclusion – a safe, welcoming and accessible service

A Sustainable Future – playing our part in action against climate change

An Informed Community – an engaged, creative, informed community

Connecting People – providing opportunity for connection both digital and physical

Respecting First Nations Peoples and Culture – celebrating our nation's first culture

A Learning Organisation – learning and growing with our community

Regional Partnership Priorities

A Growing Economy – A strong, diverse economy that enables people to actively contribute to their community

Healthy Heart of Victoria – Active communities, healthy settings and productive lives at all stages

Create the Best Start for Every Child – Families and communities that give children the best start in life

Youth Our Critical Asset – Safe, supported and engaged young people

A Great Environment to Live – Our culture, heritage and environment is protected and enjoyed

A Connected Region – All people in the Loddon Campaspe Region benefit from economic activity and access to services

COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES MACEDON RANGES MOUNT ALEXANDER LODDON GREATER BENDIGO Connecting communities: Community is connected Healthy, liveable spaces Liveability: Develop Council will maintain to each other. and places. attractive, vibrant and well buildings and open served communities. Inclusive community Aboriginal reconciliation. spaces in our built where everybody has environment in a financially, Economic Prosperity: A climate resilient built access to services. environmentally and Support the development and natural environment. socially sustainable way. of a prosperous and Preserving natural A vibrant, creative environment means living diverse economy. Healthy environment, community. sustainably and caring for healthy people: Council High Performance country. A safe welcoming and fair aims to support mental Organisation: Frameworks community. health, prevent violence A vibrant place that draws which enable sound against women, and upon its creative spirit. decision making. improve healthy lifestyles. social connection and Population: Grow inclusion, community and invigorate Loddon safety, and arts and population culture. Business and tourism: Council will provide an economic environment that promotes information technology and communications, and

3: STATISTICAL OVERVIEW AND BEST VALUE

The three year statistical overview covering the last three financial years of operating results continues to reflect the recovery from closures and limited opening during the pandemic. Recovery began as libraries fully re-opened in the second half of the 21/22 financial year and usage rates have continued to steadily increase across key areas. Visits, computer access, Wi-Fi usage and program attendance all continued to trend upwards toward pre-pandemic levels.

Indicator	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	% change since last year	% change over last 3 years
Population - regional (ABS ERP)	200,662	202,704	205,417	2%	2%
Library opening hours weekly	344	344	344	0%	0%
Agency opening hours weekly	120	128.5	128.5	7%	7%
Library floor space* (m²)	6,176	6,176	6,176	0%	0%
Staff EFT	50.2	52.0	54.0	8%	8%
Collection items	222,931	223,199	241,833	8%	8%
Public access internet computers	137	138	138	1%	196
Activity					
Visits	737,852	997,145	1,202,929	21%	63%
Members	65,062	61,781	61,432	-196	-6%
Collection utilisation	1,229,187	1,240,404	1,295,206	4%	5%
Computer bookings	28,406	36,672	38,289	496	35%
Wireless internet access	50,147	64,746	78,925	22%	57%
Program attendance	45,364	69,781	69,707	096	54%
Number of programs	1,662	2,223	2,232	0%	34%
Expenditure					
Total operating expenditure	\$5,543,393	\$6,033,707	\$6,518,441	8%	18%
Total capital expenditure	\$1,019,144	\$684,334	\$650,647	-5%	-36%
Capital expenditure on collections	\$525,228	\$528,529	\$539,112	2%	3%
Total collections expenditure	\$939,038	\$935,010	\$932,240	0%	-1%
Total expenditure (excludes depreciation)	\$6,562,537	\$6,718,041	\$7,169,088	7%	9%
Cost of Service					
Cost per loan	\$5.34	\$5.42	\$5.54	2%	496
Cost per visit	\$8.89	\$6.74	\$5.96	-12%	-33%
Activity per Capita					
Loans per capita	6.1	6.1	6.3	3%	3%
Visits per capita	3.7	4.9	5.9	19%	59%
Activity per Staff Member					
Loans per EFT staff member	24,486	23,854	23,985	196	-2%
Visits per EFT staff member	14,698	19,176	22,276	16%	52%
Activity per Opening Hour					
Loans per operating hour*	69	69	72	4%	5%
Visits per operating hour*	41	56	67	21%	63%

Goldfields Libraries is regularly ranked as one of the most efficient and best value public library services in Victoria. Each year, Goldfields Libraries is benchmarked relative to all 50 library services in areas including service provision, volume of core activities, productivity and financial efficiency. The rankings for 2023/24 are summarised below:

	Goldfields	Ranking			
	2023-24	23-24	22-23	21-22	
Indicator		of 50	of 50	of 50	
Service setting					
Population	205,417	11	10	10	
Area serviced (sq. km)	12,974	6	6	6	
Static branches (mobiles)	9	5	6	6	

Delivering services across a diverse range of settings in communities varying from small, rural townships through to major regional centres provides opportunity to benefit Councils by providing a service scale that ranks as 11th largest by population and 5th largest by staff service points in the state.

This generally provides an economically efficient approach through scaling services, e.g. providing access to a collection of around 250,000 items (7th largest collection in the state) along with a fully funded and twice weekly courier service to move collection between any location- a service level that would not be achievable without the combined resourcing and savings that can occur from a collective approach.

Indicator	Goldfields	Ranking		
	2023-24	23-24	22-23	21-22
Service provision				
Opening hours per week (brnch+mob)	336	12	6	6
Staffed opening hours per week	336	9	8	10

Staffed opening hours per week across all branches ranks highly in the state, again because of the efficiency of scale allowing for a mobile workforce that can move between branches and maximise opening hours across a high number of sites.

Indicator	Goldfields	Ranking		
	2023-24	23-24	22-23	21-22
Volume measures (number of/total)				
Total downloads of digital items	539,651	6	4	3
Children /adults at EY programs per week	1,254	6	5	3
Total number of collection items	272,247	7	13	8
Total number of physical items	241,833	7	11	8
Number of program attendees	69,707	7	6	10
Active borrowers (2023-24)	34,267	8	8	5
Hours of Early Years programming per week	20	8	12	11
Total library visits (branch/mobile)	808,311	10	9	7
Website visitors	241,452	10	12	9
Website visits	394,618	11	12	11
Total number of loans and downloads	1,295,206	11	9	9
Downloads (digital items) per capita	2.6	4	4	1
Total members (3 years of members having used card)	61,432	12	11	10

Indicator	Goldfields	Ranking		
Total number of actual staff	100	13	New	New
Total number of actual staff	100		data	data
Total staff FTE	54.0	23	16	16
Items for loan in a Library of Things	47	14	New	New
items for loan in a Library of Things	47	14	data	data
Total income \$M	\$7.75	14	13	12
Income from Council \$M	\$5.64	16	14	17
Staff expenditure \$M	\$5.44	17	18	16

In terms of volume of activity, Goldfields Libraries generally meets or exceeds the ranking based on being the 11th largest population in the state.

Use of digital items (downloadable eBooks or audiobooks, online magazines etc.) ranks the service as the sixth highest level of loans or downloads in the state and the fourth highest level on a per capita basis.

With 34,267 "active" borrowers (a borrower who has used their card in the last 12 months), the service ranks eighth in terms of number of patrons who regularly use library services.

Given the combined scale of the service, Goldfields Libraries holds the seventh largest collection in the state and has the seventh largest attendance at programs.

Total income and staffing levels are an area that rank *lower* than 11th position, an indication that income from Council (16th highest) and staffing (23rd highest level) are at lower levels because of the efficiencies created through delivering a large, coordinated and efficient service across the four member Councils.

To shift from 16th position in Council funding to 11th position (commensurate with population level) would, on average, cost Councils a further \$200,000 per ranking position or \$1,000,000 additional funding in total.

In general, these volume measures show the benefits of a collective approach- a highly active public library providing excellent service levels to a high number of engaged patrons, delivered at a relative cost saving to member Councils.

Indicator	Goldfields	Ranking		
	2023-24	23-24	22-23	21-22
Efficiency / Productivity				
Turnover rate (physical items)	3.1	31	30	30
Turnover rate (digital items)	17.7	2	2	2
Library visits per staff EFT	14,969	4	4	4
Library visits per staffed opening hour	48	11	12	7

Worth noting here is the optimal usage level and turnover rate of the digital collection (eBooks, downloadable audiobooks etc.) that ranks Goldfields Libraries second highest in the state.

Conversely, turnover rates on physical items is much lower given the scale of this collection (7th largest in the state) offering a massive range and choice for patrons.

The aim with the library collection is to provide a large, accessible and varied range of materials in a variety of formats that reflects community need. The service also provides opportunity for direct requests for collection purchases by patrons. Visits per staff member also rank as one of the highest (4th highest) in the state.

Indicator	Goldfields	Ranking		
	2023-24	23-24	22-23	21-22
Financial efficiency				
Income from Council per capita	\$28.08	35	33	33
Council income as % of total income	73%	38	32	38
Income from State Govt per capita	\$7.39	21	26	23
Other income per capita	\$1.06	5	5	4
Collections expenditure per capita	\$4.03	46	47	46

Income from Council on a per capita basis, ranks as the 35th lowest but GLC is well equipped to attract funding from other sources and has the 5th highest level of "other" sources of income per capita in the state whilst having the 38th lowest level of Council income as a percentage of total income in the state.

In summary, Goldfields Libraries is able to offer good value for money to member Councils by resourcing grant applications and generating interest on savings that helps meet the gap in delivering appropriate service levels. Overall, the Corporation is in excellent financial health and continues to successfully attract funds outside of direct local or state funding to support library improvements, programming and other projects.

The service works hard to ensure member Councils realise the savings that come with a collective service whilst also wanting to work closely with each member Council as a partner in delivering health and wellbeing outcomes across the region.

4. BUDGET PROCESS

This section describes the budget processes undertaken in order to adopt the Budget in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* (the Regulations).

Under the Act, the Corporation is required to prepare and adopt an annual budget for each financial year. The budget is required to include certain information about the fees and charges that the Corporation intends to levy as well as a range of other information required by the Regulation which support the Act.

The 2025/26 Budget is for the year 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 and is prepared in accordance with the Act and Regulations. The budget includes the Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Human Resources and Statement of Capital Works.

These statements have been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act and Regulations, and consistent with the annual financial statements which are prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. The budget also includes information about the fees and charges, the capital works program to be undertaken, the human resources required, and other financial information the Corporation requires in order to make an informed decision about the adoption of the budget.

In advance of preparing the budget, there is a review and update to the Corporation's long term financial projections. Financial projections for at least four years are ultimately included in the Corporations Strategic Ten Year Financial Plan, which is the key medium-term financial plan produced by the Corporation on an annual basis.

The draft budget is placed on public exhibition seeking submissions from the community. Any person has a right to make a submission on any proposal contained in the Budget under Section 223 of the Act.

The final step is for the Board to adopt the budget after receiving and considering any submissions from interested parties. The budget is required to be adopted and a copy submitted to the Minister by 30 June 2025.

The key dates for the budget process are summarised in the table below.

Budget process	Timeline
Budget and 10-year forecast presented to Finance Subcommittee	26 February 2025
Budget and 10-year forecasts presented to Finance Subcommittee	7 March 2025
Draft Budget for advertising presented to Library Board	14 March 2025
Draft Budget Advertised for Public Comment / Submissions	1 April 2025
Submissions Received in 28-day period from date of advertising	3 May 2025
Submissions Considered/ Heard (Special Board meeting if required)	16 May 2025
Board meeting to consider submissions and to adopt budget	30 May 2025
Adopted budget submitted to the Minister for Local Government	3 June 2025

5: BUDGET PRINCIPLES

The 2025/26 budget has been prepared incorporating the following principles:

- A budget that maintains service levels in spite of difficult economic conditions but draws on accumulated reserve funds and Council contributions to ensure a quality service for community.
- All expenditure has been thoroughly reviewed based on previous budgets and forecasts.
- An increase in employee costs associated with the negotiated Enterprise Agreement and normal movements within banding.
- State Government has frozen funding to libraries over the past three year and the
 impact of this has been considerable over several financial years. Advocacy across
 the sector for fair and reasonable increases in funding to match inflation are
 underway.
- Review of service levels to achieve a financially sustainable service has been undertaken with a conscious decision to maintain service levels currently in an environment where funding from state Government has not met budget expectations.
- Operating income has been reviewed to ensure accuracy in relation to fees and charges.
- The budget is a statement of intent and, based on volatility in social and economic sectors expected in the 25/26 Financial Year, resources may need to be redistributed.
- The budget has been developed through the equity lens of the GLC, keeping in mind principles of supporting and encouraging sustainability.
- Cash held by the Corporation has been allocated to reserve funds in order to ensure
 the organisation holds appropriate reserves to meet staff entitlements, mitigate
 possible risks, meet requirements of bequest funds left to the Corporation, replace
 capital fleet and plant items and provide an amount for development initiatives that
 may involve investment in technology to maintain or improve service levels or
 increase efficiency.
- The budget is developed in order to implement the library plan priorities, with a focus on investment that delivers on these key areas:

Children and Young People

Supporting children, their curiosity, and their joy of reading. So much development happens in the early years of life and we will apply best practice through library services specifically tailored for our youngest citizens. We will welcome and present opportunities for young people to have a voice, as they move toward adulthood.

Lifelong Learning

Engaging with people on their learning journey. We will support those involved in school-based or self-directed learning. We will encourage different ways to learn and create at any age or ability level.

Safety and Inclusion

Offering safe spaces and resources that let people know they are important and at the centre of our service. We encourage a sense of library community and facilitate respectful interactions in our shared spaces – people relax in our libraries. We want to keep improving functional access to our libraries for people of all ages, abilities, cultural backgrounds and identities.

An Informed Community

Offering information that enhances literacy beyond reading that includes health, financial, digital, environmental and cultural.

We will help connect people with information in a variety of ways – inside our libraries, reaching outside our libraries through other services and places, and through our digitally based resources.

Connecting People

Creating opportunities for people to socialise and share ideas, culture and stories. We will provide avenues for both personal and virtual connection through our programs, spaces and technology. We offer an antidote to isolation and loneliness.

Respecting First Nations Peoples and Culture

Building knowledge of and relationships with First Nations Peoples and culture. We will introduce appropriate signage and cultural references into our spaces as well as deliver programs and collections that celebrate the stories and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

A Learning Organisation

Learning from and with our communities to develop skills, innovation and new approaches. Our team are high performing professionals and continue challenging themselves to extend knowledge and experiences. We will focus on being transformative and significant to our communities.

A Sustainable Future

Working toward a positive and sustainable future with our communities. We will provide opportunities to understand the local and global environment, learn about sustainability innovations and empower community to take action to mitigate climate change. And protect our natural environment We commit to sustainable use of resources for our operations.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6. COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT



Comprehensive Income Statement For the four years ending 30 June 2029

/					
	Forecast	Budget	Strate	egic Resource Pla	n
	Actual		Projections		
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	\$	Ś	Ś	\$	Ś
		·		•	•
Income					
Member Contributions	5,800,224	5,974,230	6,138,521	6,304,261	6,474,476
Grants - Operating	1,478,364	1,478,364	1,478,364	1,478,364	1,507,931
Grants - Capital	255,703	54,390	54,784	55,580	56,391
User Fees and Charges	227,205	162,552	165,803	169,948	174,197
Interest	230,000	158,400	156,816	148,975	141,526
Other Income	26,460	26,989	27,529	28,217	28,922
Assets Received Free of Charge	2,040	2,081	2,122	2,175	2,230
Net Gain / (Loss) on Disposal of Assets	17,509	5,000	-	25,000	5,000
Total Income	8,037,505	7,862,006	8,023,939	8,212,520	8,390,673
Expenses					
Employee Costs	5,714,343	5,828,426	6,005,234	6,112,495	6,252,214
Plant and Equipment Costs	397,804	363,306	370,232	378,520	387,005
Depreciation	836,000	963,105	980,200	997,358	1,014,835
Amortisation Leases	29,106	26,438	26,438	26,438	26,438
Administration and Maintenance Charges	675,232	532,499	546,765	560,190	573,962
Lease Expense	9,497	7,197	6,484	5,751	4,998
Other Expenses	479,418	437,182	446,956	452,016	457,146
Total Expenses	8,141,400	8,158,153	8,382,309	8,532,768	8,716,598
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(103,895)	(296,147)	(358,370)	(320,248)	(325,925)
Total Comprehensive Result	(103,895)	(296,147)	(358,370)	(320,248)	(325,925)

7. ANALYSIS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT

This section of the budget analyses the expected revenue and operating expenditure of the Corporation for the 2025/26 year.

Income / Revenue

Income is made up of the following; Member Council Contributions, grants – operating (state government), grants – capital (state government), user fees, charges, interest, other income and assets received free of charge.

I. Member Council Contributions

The Budget is prepared on a base contribution of \$27.87 per capita from the four member Councils for the provision of library services. This is approximately \$5.00 less per capita than the average service contribution (based on 23-24 figures collated by Public Libraries Victoria). Member Councils also cover maintenance and utility costs directly associated with operating the library buildings. Population figures are based on ABS statistics and estimated resident population at June 2024. The requested increase in funding is matched to the rate cap of 3.0 percent.

Council Contribution @ \$27.87 per person 2025-26					
	Population	Contribution			
Greater Bendigo	129,491	\$3,609,059			
Loddon	7,747	\$215,918			
Macedon Ranges	56,073	\$1,562,817			
Mount Alexander	21,041	\$586,436			
Total	214,352	\$5,974,230			

II. Grants - State Government

The State Government grant estimate is based on ABS estimated population figures, with minor adjustments for areas with a growing or declining population. State Government funding is distributed based on population percentages throughout the member Councils. The 23/24 and 24/25 financial years saw no rise in funding from State Government for the first time in recent history. Funding for 2025/26 has been calculated based on the actual funding received from the State Government in 24/25, with the expectation that State Government will continue to freeze funding levels. Ultimately this means the Corporation and member Councils pick up the 'gap' in funding to maintain the service to community and this is not sustainable.

The State Government grant is allocated across all library services.

Grant - State Government (estimate based on previous years)	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
	Actual	Actual	Budget
Core funding & Local Priorities	\$1,478,364	\$1,478,364	\$1,478,364

III. User Fees and Charges:

Forecast income of \$162,552 which includes; charges for printing, photocopying, book recovery (lost and damaged collection items), Room Bookings at the Bendigo Library and interlibrary loans. It also includes \$97,413 from the City of Greater Bendigo for the operation of the Bendigo Regional Archives Centre at the Bendigo Library.

The Bendigo Regional Archives Centre (BRAC) is located within the Bendigo Library and the Nolan street repository and commenced operation in 2009. The Corporation manages and operates the BRAC through funding provided by the City of Greater Bendigo and services provided by the Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV).

IV. Interest

Forecast income of \$158,400 in interest on investments including interest on available cash throughout the year and interest on bequests. Interest on bequests build the funds available for specified operational items only and is not available as general library revenue. Cash funds and cash requirements are reviewed on a regular basis to identify funds available and required to meet the Corporation's obligations and surplus cash funds are identified for investment availability.

V. Other Income

Forecast income of \$26,989 from sundry charges and materials

VI. Assets Received Free of Charge

Forecast income of \$2,089 from donated collection items / resources.

Operating Expenditure

Operating expenses are made up of the following; Employee Related Costs, Plant and Equipment Costs, Depreciation, Administration and Maintenance and Other Expenses.

I. Employee Related Costs

\$ **5,828,426** - Covers salaries, leave loading, sick leave, public holidays, employer superannuation contributions, Long Service Leave, WorkCover premium, Fringe Benefit Taxes and staff training and travel allowances.

The total staffing costs include Enterprise Agreement (EA) increments and the movement of staff within their Bands.

The staffing allotment allows for the delivery of library services and corporate services such as; information technology support for the extensive network of computers etc., collection acquisition and management, community engagement and programming, communications and promotion, governance and human resource support.

II. Plant and Equipment Cost

\$ **363,306** includes; vehicle operating expenses, automated systems maintenance, general equipment purchases, ABN cataloguing, general maintenance, photocopier lease and other plant operating expenses.

III. Depreciation

\$ 963,105 includes; the depreciation of collection resources, plant and vehicles, information technology equipment and furniture and equipment. Depreciation is a non-cash item which is included in operating expenditure and then removed from the budget to obtain the cash result. Depreciation has no cash impact on the budget but is a measure of ongoing renewal and replacement costs for assets over time.

IV. Administration and Maintenance Charges

\$ **532,499** includes; finance and administration charges, insurances, headquarters lease, eResources, consultant fees and human resources. eResources have historically been included in this budget as per accounting practices. Additional funds have been set aside in

the 25/26 financial year to continue legal and consulting costs related to the Corporations need to transition to a new governance framework.

eResources costs have increased and now include the purchase of all electronic resources including eMagazines, eAudio and eBooks. Demand for these resources is growing in conjunction with internet use and improvements to the eLibrary. eResources are funded from the allocation received from the State Government. Insurance costs have also continued to escalate at higher than general inflation levels.

V. Lease Expense

\$7,197 covers costs of leasing facilities for corporate services and regional coordination staff.

VI. Other Expenses

\$ 437,182 includes; postage, advertising, marketing and promotions, children's and adults programs, printing and stationary, newspapers and magazines, internet expenses, processing supplies, freight, travelling, library agency leases, inter library loans, audit fees, bank charges, cleaning, first aid and recycling.

8. BALANCE SHEET



Balance Sheet For the four years ending 30 June 2029

<u> </u>	_		t Strategic Resource Plan			
	Forecast	Budget	_		e Plan	
	Actual			Projections		
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Assets						
Current Assets						
Cash & Cash Equivalents	4,470,664	4,037,478	3,834,449	3,674,257	3,526,867	
Trade and Other Receivables	73,171	74,635	89,562	91,352	127,894	
Other Assets	126,421	127,685	136,623	163,948	167,227	
Total Current Assets	4,670,256	4,239,797	4,060,634	3,929,557	3,821,988	
Non-Current Assets						
Plant, Resources and Equipment	3,226,356	3,185,419	3,092,676	3,285,179	3,284,162	
Right of Use Assets	264,384	237,945	211,507	185,069	158,630	
Total Non-Current Assets	3,490,740	3,423,364	3,304,183	3,470,248	3,442,793	
	-,,-		-,			
Total Assets	8,160,996	7,663,161	7,364,817	7,399,805	7,264,781	
1.1.4						
Liabilities						
Current Liabilities Trade and Other Payables	238,896	243,674	248,548	310,683	372,820	
Trust Funds	230,030	243,014	240,340	310,003	312,020	
Provisions	1,329,305	1,147,141	1,220,842	1,526,052	1,670,037	
Lease Liabilities	25,905	26,646	27,408	28,192	28,998	
Total Current Liabilities	1,594,106	1,417,461	1,496,799	1,864,927	2,071,855	
Non-Current Liabilities	400.000	404.000	400.005	405.004	400.054	
Provisions Lease Liabilities	160,288	161,890	169,985	185,284	198,254	
Total Non-Current liabilities	269,157 429,445	242,512 404,402	215,104 385,089	186,912 372,196	157,914 356,167	
Total Non-Current habilities	420,440	404,402	303,003	312,130	330,101	
Total Liabilities	2,023,551	1,821,862	1,881,888	2,237,123	2,428,023	
Net Assets	6,137,446	5,841,299	5,482,929	5,162,682	4,836,757	
Equity						
Member Contributions	2,466,638	2,466,638	2,466,638	2,466,638	2,466,638	
Asset Revaluation Reserve	-	-	_,,,,,,,,,,	_, .00,000	-	
Plant & Equipment Reserve	157,918	462,918	462,918	372,918	327,918	
Bendigo Local History Bequest Reserve	382,284	344,094	305,934	267,814	229,735	
Castlemaine Art Book Bequest Reserve	88,057	88,057	88,057	88,057	88,057	
Development Inititiave Reserve	-	750,000	1,050,000	250,000	180,000	
Defined Benefits	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	
Accumulated (Deficit) / Surplus	2,542,549	1,229,592	609,382	1,217,254	1,044,409	
Total Equity	6,137,446	5,841,299	5,482,929	5,162,681	4,836,758	

9. STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY



Statement of Changes in Equity For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	Total	Member Contributions	Accumulated Surplus (deficit)	Revaluation Reserve	Other Reserves
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2024/2025 Forecast Actual					
Balance at beginning of the financial year Surplus/(deficit) for the year	6,241,341 (103,895)	2,466,638 -	2,588,074 (103,895)	-	1,186,629 -
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to other reserves Transfer from other reserves	-	-	17,370	-	(17,370)
Balance at end of the financial year	6,137,446	2,466,638	41,000 2,542,549	<u> </u>	(41,000) 1,128,259
, <u> </u>					· ·
2025/2026 Budget					
Balance at beginning of the financial year	6,137,446	2,466,638	2,542,549	-	1,128,259
Surplus/(deficit) for the year Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	(296,147)	-	(296,147)	-	-
Transfer to other reserves	<u>-</u>	- -	(1,057,810)	_	0 1,057,810
Transfer from other reserves	-	-	41,000	_	(41,000)
Balance at end of the financial year	5,841,299	2,466,638	1,229,592	-	2,145,069
2025/2027					
2026/2027 Balance at beginning of the financial year	5,841,299	2,466,638	1,229,592	_	2,145,069
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(358,370)	-	(358,370)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to other reserves	-	-	(302,840)	-	302,840
Transfer from other reserves	-	-	41,000	-	(41,000)
Balance at end of the financial year	5,482,929	2,466,638	609,382	-	2,406,909
2027/2028					
Balance at beginning of the financial year	5,482,929	2,466,638	609,382	-	2,406,909
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(320,248)	-	(320,248)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to other reserves	-	-	(2,880)	-	2,880
Transfer from other reserves	-	-	331,000	-	(331,000)
Balance at end of the financial year	5,162,681	2,466,638	617,254		2,078,789
2028/2029					
Balance at beginning of the financial year	5,162,681	2,466,638	617,254	-	2,078,789
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(325,925)	-	(325,925)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to other reserves	-	-	(2,920)	-	2,920
Transfer from other reserves	-	-	156,000	-	(156,000)
Balance at end of the financial year	4,836,758	2,466,638	444,408	-	1,925,709

10. STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS



Statement of Cash Flows For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	Forecast	Budget	Strat	egic Resource P	lan
	Actual			Projections	
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	Inflows/ (Outflows)	Inflows/ (Outflows)	Inflows/ (Outflows)	Inflows/ (Outflows)	Inflows/ (Outflows)
	(Outliows)	(Outriows)	(Outhows)	(Outliows)	(Outriows)
Cash Flows from Operating Activities					
Employee Related Costs	(5,697,171)	(6,008,987)	(5,923,438)	(5,729,850)	(6,064,191)
Plant and Equipment Costs	(437,585)	(401,027)	(417,087)	(446,429)	(429,312)
Administration and Maintenance Charges	(741,113)	(584,934)	(600,603)	(615,347)	(631,359)
Lease Interest	(26,346)	(33,843)	(33,892)	(33,943)	(33,996)
Other Expenses	(524,155)	(475,644)	(486,291)	(497,218)	(467,798)
GST paid on Investing Activities	(112,743)	(92,008.54)	(88,533)	(118,769)	(101,158)
GST submitted to the ATO	(780,403)	(770,006.16)	(785,007)	(805,958)	(820,538)
Member Contributions	6,380,246	6,571,653	6,752,373	6,934,687	7,121,923
Grants - Operating	1,626,200	1,626,200	1,626,200	1,626,200	1,658,724
Grants - Capital	281,273	59,829	60,262	61,138	62,030
User Fees, Charges and Fines	248,347	177,197	165,963	184,972	151,421
Interest	230,000	158,400	156,816	148,974	141,526
Other Revenue	29,106	29,688	30,282	31,039	31,815
GST Received from Investing Activities	1,751	500	-	2,500	-
GST received from the ATO	267,548	224,881.78	225,259	260,495	240,111
Net cash provided by/(used in) Operating Activities	744,956	481,899	682,303	1,002,494	859,198
Cash Flows from Investing Activities					
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	17,509	5,000	-	25,000	5,000
Payment for Plant, Resources and Equipment	(1,127,430)	(920,085)	(885,332)	(1,187,688)	(1,011,588)
Net cash provided by/(used in) Investing Activities	(1,109,921)	(915,085)	(885,332)	(1,162,688)	(1,006,588)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in cash & cash equivalents	(364,965)	(433,186)	(203,028)	(160,194)	(147,390)
Cash & cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	4,835,628	4,470,664	4,037,478	3,834,449	3,674,256
Cash & cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	4,470,663	4,037,478	3,834,450	3,674,255	3,526,866
•					

Note: the statement of cash flows includes GST, the other statements do not.

ANALYSIS OF BUDGETED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

This section of the budget analyses the expected cash flows from the operating, investing and financing activities for the 2025/26 year, that constitute the budgeted cash flow position. Budgeted cash flows is a key factor in ensuring the Corporation can meet its strategic and financial commitments and provides a guide to the level of capital expenditure that can be sustained with or without using existing cash reserves.

Cash Flows from Operating Activities refers to the cash generated by or used in the normal service delivery functions of the Corporation. It excludes capital purchases.

Net Cash provided by (Used In) Investing Activities is the attribution of capital purchases (i.e. non-operational) and the sale of capital items, if any.

Cash and Equivalents at the End of the Year is the anticipated cash held at the end of the 2025/26 year.

Restricted Funds and Working Capital in relation to the cash flow statements show that the Corporation is estimating at 30 June 2026 it will have restricted cash and cash equivalents of \$ 3,085,823 which are restricted as follows:

Employee benefits and Long Service Leave: \$940,753.

These funds are separately identified as restricted to ensure there are sufficient funds to meet the Corporation's obligations as set out in the former Local Government (Long Service Leave) Regulations 2002 as determined by the Library Board.

Bequests:

Restricted cash includes monies received from two bequests as follows;

- \$ 88,057: Castlemaine Art Books bequest which includes interest on the original bequest
- \$ 344,094 Bendigo Library Local History bequest which includes interest on the original bequest

Plant replacement: \$462,918

Restricted cash includes monies set aside in a reserve account to assist with the purchase (replacement) of capital items such as vehicles and other major plant and equipment. It is estimated that, over the following ten years, approximately \$405,000 will be invested in updating fleet and plant.

Defined Benefits: \$ 500,000

The Corporation has set aside \$500,000 for future Defined Benefits payment as previously determined by the Library Board. A call for payment was made during the Global Financial Crisis and the Corporation was required to pay approximately \$750,000. A further call may be required based on economic implications and this amount allows the Corporation to mitigate future risk.

Development Initiative Reserve: \$750,000

This reserve provides for either known replacement of technology or opportunities to invest in future projects of a capital development nature. Known developments include replacement of self-loan kiosks, which represents an estimated investment of \$490,000 with other projects such as Wi-Fi enabled book lockers, security systems to allow for extended, unsupervised hours of access and library facility upgrades and extensions allowing for investment of the remaining \$260,000 allocated to this fund.

After restricted cash amounts are removed, the Corporation remains in a financially favourable position with an expected unrestricted cash position of **\$951,656**, which can continue to be allocated to restricted reserves to fund future projects as required.

11. STATEMENT OF CAPITAL WORKS



Statement of Capital Works For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	Forecast	Budget	Strate	egic Resource	Plan	
	Actual			Projections		
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Resources	701,483	698,690	698,024	698,724	693,703	
Plant and Vehicles	98,149	45,000	-	90,000	45,000	
Information Technology	191,300	137,865	144,758	351,996	223,516	
Furniture and Equipment	130,000	40,613	44,674	49,142	51,599	
Total Capital Works Expenditure	1,120,932	922,168	887,456	1,189,862	1,013,818	
Expenditure types represented by:						
Renewal	1,120,932	922,168	887,456	1,189,862	1,013,818	
New Assets		-	-	-	-	
Total Capital Works Expenditure	1,120,932	922,168	887,456	1,189,862	1,013,818	

12. ANALYSIS OF STATEMENT OF CAPITAL WORKS

This section of the budget analyses the expected capital expenditure of the Corporation for the 2024/25 year.

Expenditure Capital

I. Capital Resources: \$698,690

Expenditure under this item relate specifically to the library collection resources component of the budget. Loan and non-loan materials that are subject to depreciation are included in this area. In addition to Capital Expenditure, the Corporation expects to receive resources valued at \$2,000 free of charge from public donations.

New, current and popular titles have a significant impact in all the Goldfields Libraries, and GLC has worked hard to improve turnover rates and reduce wait times for borrowers over the last two years.

Capital Resources include books, audio-visual resources and devices and DVDs. Excluded are non-capital items such as newspapers, periodicals and e-resources. The Corporation continues to focus on improving the collection via regular evaluation and upgrading whilst maintaining the collections unique to the Goldfields area. The amount allocated for Capital Resources is funded from the specific allocation received from the State Government but is now requiring supplementation by Councils in order to maintain service levels based on reduced funding from State Government.

II. Plant and Vehicles: \$45,000

One vehicle is due for replacement in the 25/26 financial year, with the aim to continue the purchase of electric or hybrid electric vehicles.

III. I.T. Capital Expenditure: \$ 137,865

Information Technology capital expenditure includes; network infrastructure, major computer hardware, servers and replacement PC's for staff and public.

The wide area network consists of over 160 computers and a complex array of associated equipment. The replacements this year will continue the rollout of solid-state hard drives and the replacement of servers to improve security and business continuity measures.

IV. Furniture and Equipment: \$ 40,613

This is an annually allocated amount for replacement of furniture and fittings to all sites.

13: SCHEDULE OF FEES & CHARGES

Schedule of Fees & Charges inclusive of GST, as it applies.				
Products and Services	2024/25			
Overdue material Per Item Per Day	Nil			
Lost Items (after 56 days overdue)	Replacement cost plus \$6 administration & processing			
Replacement Cards	\$3.00			
Printing Per Page	\$0.20			
Photocopying - Colour (A4) and (A3) - B&W (A4) and (A3)	\$0.50 and \$1.00 \$0.20 and \$0.50			
Inter Library Loan (per item) Items ordered but not collected will still be charged the ILL fee.	ILLs from Victorian Public Libraries cost \$2.00 ILLs from the Victorian State Library cost \$2.00 and must be read in the library ILLs from NSW Public Libraries cost \$15.00, including postage ILLs from University and Special Libraries including The National Library of Australia start at \$18.50, plus \$20.00 postage Items returned after the due date incurs a fine.			
Bendigo Library Room Hire Community Rate Activity Room 1 Activity Room 2 Activity Area 1 & 2 Meeting Room 1 Meeting Room 2 Meeting Room 3 Video/ Teleconference Setup Performance Space Meeting Room 4	Full Day (9am – 6pm) \$150.00 \$120.00 \$240.00 \$120.00 \$100.00 \$100.00 Flat Rate \$200.00 Variable	Session Rate (2 hour) \$52.00 \$40.00 \$64.00 \$48.00 \$40.00 \$40.00 Flat Rate \$200.00 Variable Variable		
Commercial Rate Activity Room 1 Activity Room 2 Activity Area 1 & 2 Meeting Room 1 Meeting Room 2 Meeting Room 3	\$250.00 \$200.00 \$400.00 \$220.00 \$200.00 \$200.00	\$70.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 \$60.00 \$50.00 \$50.00		

15: PUBLIC NOTICE IN RELATION TO BUDGET PROCESSES

In accordance with Section 127 (1) of the Local Government Act 1989 the Corporation must prepare a budget for each financial year commencing 1st July.

As soon as practicable after the Corporation has prepared its Budget, the Corporation must advertise via a public notice that the budget has been prepared. The notice must:

- (a) contain the prescribed particulars.
- (b) advise that copies of the budget are available for inspection on the library website and at the Corporation's libraries during normal business hours for at least twenty-eight days after the publication of the public notice;

The public notice will also include the date on which the Board will meet to adopt its Budget. A person may make a written submission on any proposal contained in the Budget, not more than twenty-eight days after the date on which the public notice is published.

After the Corporation has complied with this procedure under the Act, the Corporation may adopt the Budget. The Corporation must then give public notice that it has adopted the Budget. The Budget must be adopted by 30th June, 2025.

Proposed Public Notice of Preparation of Budget.

Notice of intention to adopt a budget pursuant to Section 127 (1) of the Local Government Act 1989. Copies of the Draft 2025-2026 Budget are available for inspection on the library website and at the libraries in; Bendigo, Castlemaine, Eaglehawk, Gisborne, Heathcote, Kangaroo Flat, Kyneton, Romsey and Woodend. Any person may make a written submission to the Board on any proposal contained in the Budget by 5 p.m. on Friday, 2 May 2025 and send to the address below. Submitters may request to be present at the meeting of the Board to be held on Friday, 30th May 2025, at 10.30 a.m.

Mark Hands

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation,
PO Box 887,
Bendigo, 3552.

Proposed Notice of Motion to Adopt the Corporation Budget

That the 2025-2026 Budget be adopted by the Corporation and the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to give public notice of this decision to adopt such Budget, in accordance with Section 130(2) & (3) of the Local Government Act 1989.

Proposed Public Notice of Adoption of Budget

In accordance with Section 130(9) of the Local Government Act 1989 notice is given that the Goldfields Library Corporation at its meeting held on Friday, 30th May 2025 at 10.30 am adopted its Budget for the year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Mark Hands

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Goldfields Library Corporation