



# *Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley*

## **Council Policy Number: CP/FIN-3201**

### **Significant Accounting Policies**

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

##### *Statement of intent*

To provide the basis for Council's accounting concepts and annual reporting guidelines. To maintain accounting reporting procedures that comply with statutory requirements and demonstrate Council's financial position.

#### **POLICY:**

##### **Significant Accounting Policies**

###### **(a) Basis of Accounting and Preparation**

The budget and financial report are general purpose financial reports which are to be prepared in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards (as they apply to local government and not-for-profit entities), other mandatory professional reporting requirements, the Local Government Act 1995 and accompanying regulations. The reports are also to be prepared on the accrual basis under the convention of historical cost accounting modified, where applicable by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and liabilities.

##### *Critical Accounting Estimates*

The preparation of a financial report in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that effect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses.

The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances; the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

###### **(b) The Local Government Reporting Entity**

All Funds through which the Council controls resources to carry on its functions have been included in the financial statements forming part of the financial reports.

In the process of reporting on the local government as a single unit, all transactions and balances between those Funds (for example, loans and transfers between Funds) have been eliminated.

All monies held in the Trust Fund are excluded from the financial statements, but a separate statement of those monies appears in the financial reports.

###### **(c) Actual Balances**

Balances shown in budget documentation as previous year Actual are as forecast at the time of budget preparation and are subject to final adjustments.

###### **(d) Rounding off Figures**

All figures shown in financial reports, other than a rate in the dollar, are rounded to the nearest dollar.

**(e) Rates, Grants, Donations and Other Contributions**

Rates, grants, donations and other contributions are recognised as revenues when the local government obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control over assets acquired from rates is obtained at the commencement of the rating period or, where earlier, upon receipt of the rates.

Where contributions recognised as revenues during the reporting period are obtained on the condition that they be expended in particular manner or used over a particular period, and those conditions were undischarged as at the reporting date, the nature of and amounts pertaining to those undischarged conditions are disclosed in the financial report. The disclosure also includes the amount of contributions recognised as revenues in a previous reporting period which were obtained in respect of the local government's operations for the current reporting period.

**(f) Goods and Services Tax**

In accordance with recommended practice, revenues, expenses and assets capitalised are stated net of any GST recoverable. Receivables and payables in the Statement of Financial Position are stated inclusive of applicable GST.

**(g) Superannuation**

The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley contributes to a number of Superannuation Funds on behalf of employees.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

**(h) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents in the statement of financial position comprise cash at bank and in hand and short-term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

For the purposes of the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and cash equivalents as defined above, net of outstanding bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are included as short-term borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

**(i) Trade and Other Receivables**

Collectability of trade receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts that are known to be uncollectible are written off when identified. An allowance for doubtful debts is raised when there is objective evidence that they will not be collectible.

**(j) Inventories**

*General*

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

*Land Held for Resale*

Land purchased for development and/or resale is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost includes the cost of acquisition, development and interest incurred on the financing of the land during its development. Interest and holding charges incurred after development is complete are recognised as expenses.

Revenue arising from the sale of property is recognised in the operating statement as at the time of signing a binding contract of sale.

Land held for resale is classified as current except where it is held as non-current based on Council's intentions to release for sale.

## **(k) Fixed Assets**

### *Initial Recognition*

All assets are initially recognised at cost. Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the Council includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overheads.

### *Revaluation*

Certain asset classes may be re-valued on a regular basis such that the carrying values are not materially different from fair value. For infrastructure and other asset classes where no active market exists, fair value is determined to be the current replacement cost of an asset less, where applicable, accumulated depreciation calculated on a basis of such cost to reflect the already consumed or expired future economic benefits of the asset.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of assets are credited to a revaluation surplus in equity. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same asset are charged against fair value reserves directly in equity; all other decreases are charged to the statement of comprehensive income.

Any accumulated depreciation at the date of revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

Those assets carried at a re-valued amount, being their fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses, are to be re-valued with sufficient regularity to ensure the carrying amount does not differ materially from that determined using fair value at reporting date.

### *Land Under Roads*

In Western Australia, all land under roads is Crown land, the responsibility for managing which, is vested in the local government.

Effective as at 1 July 2008, Council elected not to recognise any value for land under roads acquired on or before 30 June 2008. This accords with the treatment available in Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1051 Land Under Roads and the fact Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 16(a)(i) prohibits local governments from recognising such land as an asset.

In respect of land under roads acquired on or after 1 July 2008, as detailed above, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 16(a)(i) prohibits local governments from recognising such land as an asset.

Whilst such treatment is inconsistent with requirements of AASB 1051, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 4(2) provides, in the event of such an inconsistency, the local government (Financial Management) Regulations prevail.

Consequently, any land under roads acquired on or after 1 July 2008 is not included as an asset of Council.

#### **(l) Depreciation of Non-Current Assets**

All non-current assets having a limited useful life are separately and systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner which reflects the consumption of the future economic benefits embodied in those assets.

Assets are depreciated from the date of acquisition or, in respect of internally constructed assets, from the time the asset is completed and held ready for use.

Depreciation is recognised on a straight-line basis, using rates which are reviewed each reporting period. Major depreciation periods and capitalisation threshold are as per Council adopted policy F20 Non Current Asset Capitalisation and Depreciation Control.

The assets residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the statement of comprehensive income. When re-valued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation surplus relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

#### **(m) Financial Instruments**

##### **Initial Recognition and Measurement**

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that the Council commits itself to either the purchase or sale of the asset (ie. trade date accounting is adopted).

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs, except where the instrument is classified 'at fair value through profit or loss', in which case transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss immediately.

##### **Classification and Subsequent Measurement**

Financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, amortised cost using the effective interest rate method or at cost.

Fair value represents the amount for which an asset could be exchanged or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted.

Amortised cost is calculated as:

- (a) the amount in which the financial asset or financial liability is measured at initial recognition;
- (b) less principal repayments;

- (c) plus or minus the cumulative amortisation of the difference, if any, between the amount initially recognised and the maturity amount calculated using the effective interest rate method; and
- (d) less any reduction for impairment.

The effective interest rate method is used to allocate interest income or interest expense over the relevant period and is equivalent to the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts (including fees, transaction costs and other premiums or discounts) through the expected life (or when this cannot be reliably predicted, the contractual term) of the financial instrument to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability. Revisions to expected future net cash flows will necessitate an adjustment to the carrying value with a consequential recognition of an income or expense in profit or loss.

(i) *Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss*

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are financial assets held for trading. A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term. Derivatives are classified as held for trading unless they are designated as hedges. Assets in this category are classified as current assets.

(ii) *Loans and receivables*

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are subsequently measured at amortised cost. They are included in current assets or liabilities, except for those with maturities greater than 12 months after the reporting date which are classified as non-current assets.

(iii) *Held-to-maturity investments*

Held-to-maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities that the Council's management has the positive intention and ability to hold to maturity. If Council were to sell other than an insignificant amount of held-to-maturity financial assets, the whole category would be tainted and reclassified as available-for-sale. Held-to-maturity financial assets are included in non-current assets, except for those with maturities less than 12 months from the reporting date, which are classified as current assets.

(iv) *Available-for-sale financial assets*

Available-for-sale financial assets are non-derivative financial assets that are either not suitable to be classified into other categories of financial assets due to their nature, or they are designated as such by management. They comprise investments in the equity of other entities where there is neither a fixed maturity nor fixed or determinable payments.

Available-for-sale financial assets are included in non-current assets, except for those which are expected to mature within 12 months of the end of the reporting period (classified as current assets).

(v) *Financial liabilities*

Non-derivative financial liabilities (excluding financial guarantees) are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

## **Impairment**

At the end of each reporting period, the Council assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale financial instruments, a prolonged decline in the value of the instrument is considered to

determine whether impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

**(n) Estimation of Fair Value**

The fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities must be estimated for recognition and measurement or for disclosure purposes.

The fair value of financial instruments traded in active markets is based on quoted market prices at the reporting date.

The fair value of financial instruments that are not traded in an active market is determined using valuation techniques. Council uses a variety of methods and makes assumptions that are based on market conditions existing at each balance date. These include the use of recent arm's length transactions, reference to other instruments that are substantially the same, discounted cash flow analysis, and option pricing models making maximum use of market inputs and relying as little as possible on entity-specific inputs.

Quoted market prices or dealer quotes for similar instruments are used for long-term debt instruments held. Other techniques, such as estimated discounted cash flows, are used to determine fair value for the remaining financial instruments.

The nominal value less estimated credit adjustments of trade receivables and payables are assumed to approximate their fair values. The fair value of financial liabilities for disclosure purposes is estimated by discounting the future contractual cash flows at the current market interest rate that is available to the Council for similar financial instruments.

**(o) Impairment**

In accordance with Australian Accounting Standards the Council's assets, other than inventories, are assessed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication they may be impaired.

Where such an indication exists, an estimate of the recoverable amount of the asset is made in accordance with AASB 136 "Impairment of Assets" and appropriate adjustments made.

An impairment loss is recognised whenever the carrying amount of an asset or its cash-generating unit exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

For non-cash generating assets such as roads, drains, public buildings and the like, value in use is represented by the depreciated replacement cost of the asset.

At the time of adopting a budget, it is not possible to estimate the amount of impairment losses (if any) as at 30 June of that year.

In any event, an impairment loss is a non-cash transaction and consequently, has no impact on a budget document.

**(p) Trade and Other Payables**

Trade and other payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Council prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid and arise when the Council becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of these goods and services. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

**(q) Employee Benefits**

The provision for employee benefits relates to amounts expected to be paid for long service leave, annual leave, wages, salaries and are calculated as follows:

- (i) *Wages, Salaries, Annual Leave and Long Service Leave (Short-term benefits)*  
The provision for employees' benefits to wages, salaries, annual leave and long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months represents the amount that the Council has a present obligation to pay resulting from employees' services provided to balance date. The provision has been calculated at nominal amounts based on remuneration rates the Council expects to pay and includes related on-costs.
- (ii) *Long Service Leave (Long-term benefits)*  
The liability for long service leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows. Where Council does not have the unconditional right to defer settlement beyond 12 months, the liability is recognised as a current liability.

**(r) Borrowing Costs**

Borrowing costs are recognised as an expense when incurred except where they are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset. Where this is the case, they are capitalised as part of the cost of the particular asset.

**(s) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when:

- (a) The Council has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events;
- (b) for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefit will result to settle the obligation; and
- (c) the outflow can be reliably measured.

Provisions are measured using the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses.

**(t) Leases**

Leases of fixed assets where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, but not legal ownership, are transferred to the company are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised recording an asset and a liability at the lower amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period.

Leased assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or the lease term.

Lease payments under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Lease incentives under operating leases are recognised as a liability and amortised on a straight line basis over the life of the lease term.

**(u) Joint Venture**

The Council's interest in a joint venture is to be recognised in the financial statements by including its share of any assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of the joint venture within the relevant items reported in the statement of financial position and statement of comprehensive income.

**(v) Comparative Figures**

Where required, comparative figures are to be adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

When the Council applies an accounting policy retrospectively, make a retrospective restatement or reclassifies items in its financial statement, a statement of financial position as at the beginning of the earliest period will be disclosed.

**(w) Budget Comparative Figures**

Unless otherwise stated, the budget comparative figures shown in the budget/annual financial report relate to the amended budget estimate for the relevant item of disclosure.

**(x) Current and Non-Current Classification**

In the determination of whether an asset or liability is current or non-current, consideration is given to the time when each asset or liability is expected to be settled. The asset or liability is classified as current if it is expected to be settled within the next 12 months, being the Council's operational cycle. In the case of liabilities where Council does not have the unconditional right to defer settlement beyond 12 months, such as vested long service leave, the liability is classified as current even if not expected to be settled within the next 12 months. Inventories held for trading are classified as current even if not expected to be realised in the next 12 months except for land held for resale where it is held as non-current based on Council's intentions to release for sale.

**(y) New Accounting Standards and Interpretations for Application in Future Periods**

Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have recently been issued or amended but are not yet effective have not been adopted by the Council for the annual reporting period ending 30 June 2011.

Council's assessment of these new standards and interpretations is set out below:

	Title and Topic	Issued	Applicable (*)	Impact
(i)	AASB 9– Financial Instruments	December 2009	1 January 2013	Nil – The objective of this Standard is to improve and simplify the approach for classification and measurement of financial assets compared with the requirements of AASB 139. Given the nature of the financial assets of the Council, it is not

				anticipated the standard will have any material effect.
(ii)	AASB 124– Related Party Disclosures	December 2009	1 January 2011	Nil – It is not anticipated the Council will have any related parties as defined by the Standard.
(iii)	AASB 1053 - Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards	June 2010	01 July 2013	Nil - Due to its nature and statutory requirements the Council will be deemed a Tier 1 entity and will continue to prepare general purpose financial statements.
(iv)	AASB 2009 -12 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 5, 8, 108, 110, 112, 119, 133, 137, 139, 1023 & 1031 and Interpretations 2, 4, 16, 1039 & 1052]	December 2009	01 January 2011	Nil – The revisions embodied in this standard relate to standards which do not apply to local government (ie AASB8) or are largely editorial in nature and will have minimal effect (if any) on the accounting practices of the Council.
(v)	AASB 2009– 11 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9  [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 139, 1023 & 1038 and Interpretations 10 & 12)	December 2009	01 January 2013	Nil – The revisions embodied in this standard give effect to the consequential changes arising from the issuance of AASB 9 which is not anticipated to have any material effect on the Council (refer (i) above).
(vi)	AASB 2010 - 2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 101, 102, 107, 108, 110, 111, 112, 116, 117, 119, 121, 123, 124, 127, 128, 131, 133, 134, 136, 137,	June 2010	01 July 2013	Nil - None of these amendments will have any effect on the financial report as the standard does not apply in the case of general purpose financial statements.

	138, 140, 141, 1050, & 1052 and Interpretations 2, 4, 5, 15, 17, 127, 129 & 1052]			
(vii)	AASB 2010 - 4 Further Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project [AASB 1, 7, 101, 134, and Interpretation 13]	June 2010	01 January 2011	Nil - The revisions are part of the AASB's annual improvement project to help ensure consistency with presentation, recognition and measurement criteria of IFRSs. It is not anticipated these will have any effect on the Council.
(viii)	AASB 2010 - 5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 101, 107, 112, 118, 119, 121, 132, 133, 134, 137, 139, 140, 1023 & 1038 and Interpretations 112, 115, 127, 132 & 1042]	October 2010	01 January 2011	Nil - The revisions embodied in this standard are largely editorial in nature or relate to standards not applicable to the Council and will have minimal effect (if any) on the accounting practices of the Council.
(ix)	AASB 2010 - 6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Disclosures on Transfers of Financial Assets [AASB 1 & 7]	November 2010	01 July 2011	Nil - The revisions embodied in this standard amend disclosures required on transfers of financial assets. The Council is not expected to have any qualifying transfers.
(x)	AASB 2010 – 7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2010)  [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 139, 1023 & 1038 and Interpretations 10 & 12)	December 2010	01 January 2013	Nil – The revisions embodied in this standard give effect to the consequential changes arising from the issuance of AASB 9 which is not anticipated to have any material effect on the Council (refer (i) above).
(xi)	AASB 2010 - 8 Amendments to	December 2010	01 July 2011	Nil - None of these amendments will have

	<p>Australian Accounting Standards - Deferred Tax: Recovery of Underlying Assets [AASB 1 &amp; 7]</p> <p>AASB 2010 - 9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Severe Hyperinflation and Removal of Fixed Dates for First-time Adopters [AASB 1]</p> <p>AASB 2009– 14 Amendments to Australian Interpretations – Prepayments of a Minimum Funding Requirement [AASB Interpretation 14]</p> <p>AASB 2010 - 10 Further Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Removal of Fixed Dates for First-time Adopters [AASB 2009 - 11 &amp; 2010 - 7]</p>	<p>December 2009</p> <p>December 2010</p>	<p>01 January 2011</p> <p>01 January 2013</p>	<p>any effect on the financial report as none of the topics are relevant to the operations of the Council.</p>

Notes:

(\*) Applicable to reporting periods commencing on or after the given date.

**(z) Adoption of New and Revised Accounting Standards**

During the current year, the Council adopted all of the new and revised Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations which became mandatory and which were applicable to its operations.

These new and revised standards were:

- AASB 2009 – 5
- AASB 2009 – 8
- AASB 2009 – 10
- AASB 2009 – 13
- AASB 2010 – 1

Interpretation 19

The standards adopted had a minimal effect on the accounting and reporting practices of the Council as they were either largely editorial in nature, were revisions to help ensure consistency with presentation, recognition and measurement criteria of IFRSs or related to topics not relevant to operations.

**POLICY ADMINISTRATION**

Directorate		Officer Title			
Corporate Services		Director Corporate Services			
Date Effective	10/08/2010				
Date Adopted	10/08/2010	Last Reviewed		19/07/2011	
Risk Rating	Low	Review Cycle	Annual	Next Due	MM/YYYY
Organisational Compliance	Annual Financial Report Annual Adopted Budget				
Process Links	Financial Management Polices, Procedures and Practices.				