

ITEM 13 STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT - MARCH 2021

This report provides an overview of Council's investment portfolio performance for the month of March 2021.

Council's average weighted return for March 2021 was 0.08% which was above the benchmark return of 0.00%. This result was primarily due to the higher fixed interest rates on term deposits purchased prior to the COVID-19 impact on the financial market and the positive marked to market valuation of the NSW TCorp Hourglass facilities. The remainder of Council's portfolio continues to provide a high level of consistency in income and a high degree of credit quality and liquidity.

RECOMMENDATION

Council receive the Statement of Investment for March 2021.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Brian Jenkins, Chief Financial Officer
Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Statement of Investment - March 2021
- 2 Investment Income Compared to Budget 2020-2021

BACKGROUND

Council is required to invest its surplus funds in accordance with the Ministerial Investment Order and Division of Local Government guidelines. The Order reflects a conservative approach and restricts the investment types available to Council. In compliance with the Order and Division of Local Government guidelines, Council adopted an Investment Policy on 10 December 2018. The Investment Policy provides a framework for the credit quality, institutional diversification and maturity constraints that Council's portfolio can be exposed to. 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's (ARIC) role of overseer provides for 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 as at 26 March 2021 were \$165,687,715 (Statement of Investment attached) [27 March 2020 \$157,519,977].

Council's average weighted return for March 2021 was 0.08% which was above the benchmark return of 0.00%. This result was primarily due to the higher fixed interest rates on term deposits purchased prior to the COVID-19 impact on the financial market and the positive marked to market valuation of the NSW TCorp Hourglass facilities. The remainder of Council's portfolio continues to provide a high level of consistency in income and a high degree of credit quality and liquidity. The global markets are still experiencing unprecedented turmoil and volatility in the wake of COVID-19 and may still provide uncertainty for the foreseeable future.

At 26 March 2021, year to date interest and investment revenue of \$1,469,316 was recognised compared to the year to date budget of \$1,495,449.

Council's 22 floating rate notes had a net decrease in value of \$24,908 for March 2021.

Council holds two Mortgaged Backed Securities (MBS) that recorded a net increase in value of \$1,769 for March 2021. The coupon margins on these investments reflect pre-Global Financial Crisis (GFC) pricing. For example, the Emerald A is paying 45 basis points over the BBSW where a comparative

investment is now paying 100 basis points over the BBSW. This is reflected in the coupon rates on both these investments. While the maturity dates are outside Council’s control, the investment advisors had previously indicated that capital is not at risk at that stage and recommended a hold strategy due to the illiquid nature of the investment.

Council has two investment holdings under the NSW TCorp Hour Glass Facility: the Long-Term Growth Facility and the NSW TCorpIM Cash Fund. The Long-Term Growth recorded a net increase in value of \$49,392 and the Cash Fund recorded a net increase in value of \$593 in March 2021. The fluctuation in the Long-Term Growth Facility is a reflection of the current share market volatility both domestically and internationally and is diversified across a number of different asset classes that have differing risk and return characteristics. The TCorp Cash Fund generally provides relatively stable returns over extended time periods with low potential for capital loss while maintaining high levels of liquidity, similar to an at call account, and only invests in Australian cash and fixed interests. The current environment of historically low interest rates and credit spreads mean that the future returns for the funds will, as a result, be lower.

At their April 2021 meeting, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) maintained the official cash rate at the record low of 0.10%. The RBA will continue to assess the outlook and adjust policy as needed to foster sustainable growth in demand and inflation outcomes consistent with the inflation target over time.

The current investment portfolio complies with Council’s Investment Policy which was endorsed by Council on 10 December 2018. Council’s Responsible Accounting Officer has signed the 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.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Wollongong 2022 goal ‘*We are a connected and engaged community*’. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan Strategy	Delivery Program 2018-2022 4 Year Action	Operational Plan 2020-2021 Operational Plan Actions
4.3.2 Resources (finance, technology, assets and people) are effectively managed to ensure long term financial sustainability	4.3.2.1 Effective and transparent financial management systems are in place	Monitor and review achievement of Financial Strategy
		Continuous budget management is in place, controlled and reported
		Provide accurate and timely financial reports monthly, quarterly and via the annual statement
		Manage and further develop a compliance program to promote awareness and compliance with Council’s procurement policies and procedures and other related policies

CONCLUSION

The investments for March 2021 recorded an average weighted return above the annualised Bloomberg Bank Bill Index Benchmark and performed unfavourably when compared to the year to date budget.

WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT 26 March 2021							
DIRECT INVESTMENTS							
Investment Body	Rating	Purchase Price \$	Fair Value of Holding \$	Security	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Interest / Coupon Rate
NAB General Fund	A1+	-	1,101,211	General A/c	26/03/2021	26/03/2021	
NAB Professional Maximiser	A1+	-	15,278,119	ProfFund A/c	26/03/2021	26/03/2021	0.50%
IMB Ltd	Moodys STP-2	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	26/11/2020	28/04/2021	0.45%
IMB Ltd	Moodys STP-2	4,000,000	4,000,000	T/Deposit	26/11/2020	25/05/2021	0.45%
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	Moodys A3	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	28/11/2019	25/06/2021	1.55%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	S&P STA1+	4,000,000	4,000,000	T/Deposit	25/09/2020	22/07/2021	0.66%
Bank of Queensland Ltd	Moodys STP-2	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	26/11/2020	30/07/2021	0.55%
Bank of Queensland Ltd	Moodys STP-2	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	14/12/2020	16/08/2021	0.55%
Members Equity Bank Ltd	S&P STA2	5,000,000	5,000,000	T/Deposit	25/03/2021	21/09/2021	0.45%
Members Equity Bank Ltd	S&P STA2	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	23/12/2020	19/10/2021	0.50%
Bank of Queensland Ltd	Moodys A3	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	25/09/2020	25/11/2021	0.80%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	S&P STA1+	4,000,000	4,000,000	T/Deposit	26/11/2020	26/11/2021	0.54%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	2/12/2019	2/12/2021	0.91%
Bank of Queensland Ltd	Moodys STP-2	5,000,000	5,000,000	T/Deposit	25/03/2021	20/12/2021	0.40%
Members Equity Bank Ltd	S&P STA2	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	31/12/2020	31/12/2021	0.50%
Bank of Queensland Ltd	Moodys A3	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	25/09/2020	25/01/2022	0.80%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	S&P AA-	4,000,000	4,000,000	T/Deposit	26/11/2020	25/01/2022	0.55%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	S&P STA1+	5,000,000	5,000,000	T/Deposit	25/03/2021	18/02/2022	0.40%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	S&P AA-	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	23/12/2020	22/04/2022	0.50%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	26/11/2020	25/11/2022	0.56%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd	S&P AA-	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	23/12/2020	23/12/2022	0.52%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	5,000,000	5,000,000	T/Deposit	23/12/2020	22/12/2023	0.60%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	6/03/2019	6/03/2024	1.04%
Total			82,379,330				

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STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT
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Bond and Floating Rate Note Securities

DIRECT INVESTMENTS							
Investment Body	Rating	Purchase Price \$	Fair Value of Holding \$	Security	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Interest / Coupon Rate
Suncorp Bank	S&P A+	2,000,000	2,006,780	FRN	12/04/2016	12/04/2021	1.39%
AMP Bank Ltd	S&P BBB	2,000,000	2,004,280	FRN	24/05/2016	24/05/2021	1.36%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	3,000,000	3,008,670	FRN	3/06/2016	3/06/2021	1.20%
ANZ Banking Group Ltd	S&P AA-	2,000,000	2,010,680	FRN	16/08/2016	16/08/2021	1.14%
Credit Union Australia Ltd	S&P BBB	1,200,000	1,206,732	FRN	6/09/2018	6/09/2021	1.29%
AMP Bank Ltd	S&P BBB	1,500,000	1,502,760	FRN	10/09/2018	10/09/2021	1.12%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	1,500,000	1,507,620	FRN	16/11/2018	25/10/2021	0.74%
Credit Union Australia Ltd	Moodys Baa1	1,000,000	1,010,190	FRN	4/03/2019	4/03/2022	1.26%
AMP Bank Ltd	S&P BBB	3,000,000	3,007,500	FRN	30/03/2017	30/03/2022	1.06%
Suncorp Bank	S&P A+	1,500,000	1,517,775	FRN	30/08/2017	16/08/2022	0.98%
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	Moodys A3	3,000,000	3,027,540	FRN	12/12/2019	12/09/2022	0.89%
Bank Australia Limited	S&P BBB	4,000,000	4,017,240	FRN	2/12/2019	2/12/2022	0.93%
ANZ Banking Group Ltd	S&P AA-	1,000,000	1,016,560	FRN	9/05/2018	9/05/2023	0.91%
National Australia Bank Ltd	S&P AA-	3,000,000	3,054,630	FRN	26/09/2018	26/09/2023	0.96%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	1,500,000	1,531,050	FRN	16/11/2018	16/11/2023	0.96%
ANZ Banking Group Ltd	S&P AA-	2,000,000	2,045,120	FRN	6/12/2018	6/12/2023	1.07%
National Australia Bank Ltd	S&P AA-	2,000,000	2,042,700	FRN	19/06/2019	19/06/2024	0.95%
Macquarie Bank	Moodys A2	2,000,000	2,028,580	FRN	12/02/2020	12/02/2025	0.85%
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	Moodys A3	1,700,000	1,698,334	FRN	2/12/2020	2/12/2025	0.55%
Macquarie Bank	S&P A+	5,000,000	4,987,650	FRN	9/12/2020	9/12/2025	0.52%
Suncorp Bank	S&P A+	2,100,000	2,096,766	FRN	24/02/2021	24/02/2026	0.46%
Newcastle Permanent Building Society Ltd	S&P BBB	5,000,000	5,002,100	FRN	4/03/2021	4/03/2026	0.66%
Emerald Reverse Mortgage Trust	Fitch AAA	516,521	413,831	MBS	17/07/2006	21/08/2051	1.36%
Emerald Reverse Mortgage Trust	S&P A	2,000,000	1,301,340	MBS	17/07/2006	21/08/2056	0.76%
Total			53,046,428				

Managed Funds

MANAGED FUNDS						
Investment Body	Rating	Purchase Price \$	Fair Value of Holding \$	Purchase Date	Monthly	FYTD (Actual)
TcorpIM Cash Fund Facility	N/A	27,703,932	27,703,932	28/06/2019	0.00%	0.30%
Tcorp Long Term Growth Facility Trust	N/A	1,773,197	2,558,024	13/06/2007	2.28%	11.21%
Total			30,261,956			

TOTAL INVESTMENTS \$ 165,687,715

* 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.

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

