

# ITEM 16 STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT - APRIL 2025

This report provides an overview of Council's investment portfolio performance for the reporting period April 2025.

Council had an average weighted return for April 2025 of 0.39% which was above the benchmark return of 0.35%. The result was primarily due to the positive valuations on the consolidated Floating Rate Notes and interest income recognised on the term deposits that were purchased at higher interest rates than currently offered in the market. 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 2025.

### REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Brian Jenkins, Chief Financial Officer

Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Statement of Investment April 2025
- 2 Investment Income Compared to Budget 2024-2025

#### ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT

Abbreviation	Meaning				
СВА	Commonwealth Bank of Australia				
Order	Ministerial Investment Order				
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia				

# **BACKGROUND**

Council staff monitor Council's cash flow on a daily basis and 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 and has remained in compliance with the Investment Policy. Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee provide oversight of Council's Investment Policy and Investment Management Strategy.

Council's Responsible Accounting Officer, the Chief Financial 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 24 April 2025 were \$176,311,963 (Statement of Investment attached) [26 April 2024 \$160,137,077] and includes Council's interest in CivicRisk Mutual Ltd recognised at fair value as at 30 June 2024.

Council had an average weighted return for April 2025 of 0.39% which was above the benchmark return of 0.35%. The result was primarily due to the positive valuations on the consolidated Floating Rate Notes and interest income recognised on the term deposits that were purchased at higher interest rates than currently offered in the market. The remainder of Council's portfolio continues to provide a high degree of credit quality and liquidity. The global markets are experiencing levels of volatility in interest rates driven primarily by the persistent inflation issues from geo-political trade tensions.



Australia's annual inflation rate is holding steady at 2.4% and inside the Reserve Bank's 2-3% target range, however, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) is expected to hold its current cautious approach to markets and closely monitoring inflation trends and economic conditions. The RBA Board will meet eight times each year effective from February 2024, in order to spread monetary policy decisions across fewer meetings and allow the Board to gather more information. At their April 2025 meeting, the RBA decided to hold the official cash rate at 4.10% with market expectation of a rate cut of 0.25% at their next meeting, with the cash rate remaining at 3.85% for the remainder of 2025. Rates available to Council on purchased investments are assessed regularly and across credit and maturity spread to maximise returns on committed capital.

At 24 April 2025, year to date interest and investment revenue of \$7,477,853 was recognised compared to the year to date proposed budget of \$7,812,581.

Council's 21 Floating Rate Notes had a net increase in value of \$97,362 for April 2025.

Council holds two Mortgaged Backed Securities that recorded a net increase in value of \$8,309 for April 2025. The market value of this security considers the extended term of the security with limited liquidity and the coupon margin reflects pre-Global Financial Crisis pricing. While the maturity dates are outside Council's control, the investment advisors had previously indicated capital is not at risk at this stage and recommended a hold strategy due to the illiquid nature of the investment.

Council holds two investments within the NSW TCorpIM Funds; Long-Term Growth Fund and Medium-Term Growth Fund. The Long-Term Growth Fund recorded a net decrease in value of \$36,798 and the Medium-Term Growth Fund recorded a net decrease in value of \$15,049 in April 2025. 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 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 of Australia (CBA), savings account which holds Council's operating cash balances. At the end of April 2025, the exposure to CBA was 20.96%, which is below the investment strategy target of 25%.

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 April 2025 recorded an average weighted return that was above the AusBondBank Bill Index Benchmark and performed unfavourably when compared to the year-to-date budget.



WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT
24 April 2025

DIRECT INVESTMENTS							
Investment Body	Rating	Purchase Price \$	Fair Value of Holding \$	Security	Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Interest / Coupon Rate
CBA Business Online Saver	A1+	-	31,693,041	BOS A/c	24/04/2025	24/04/2025	4.35%
CBA General Fund A/c	A1+	-	667,458	General A/c	24/04/2025	24/04/2025	4.35%
NAB General Fund A/c	A1+	-	5,461	General A/c	24/04/2025	24/04/2025	
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P ST A1	1,000,000	1,000,000	T/Deposit	26/08/2024	28/04/2025	4.88%
National Australia Bank Ltd	S&P ST A1+	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	28/08/2024	28/04/2025	5.00%
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	Moodys A3	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	9/06/2023	9/05/2025	5.45%
National Australia Bank Ltd	S&P ST A1+	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	28/08/2024	26/05/2025	5.00%
Summerland Bank	Unrated ST UR	250,000	250,000	T/Deposit	6/06/2024	6/06/2025	5.36%
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%
IMB Ltd	Moodys ST P-2	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	26/03/2025	3/07/2025	4.75%
Bank of Sydney Ltd	Unrated ST UR	250,000	250,000	T/Deposit	11/12/2024	9/07/2025	5.00%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	S&P ST A1	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	10/07/2024	10/07/2025	5.43%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	S&P A+	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	23/08/2024	25/08/2025	4.94%
National Australia Bank Ltd	S&P ST A1+	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	28/08/2024	28/08/2025	5.00%
Judo Bank	S&P ST A2	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	17/09/2024	17/09/2025	4.60%
National Australia Bank Ltd	S&P AA-	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	20/09/2024	22/09/2025	4.90%
Auswide Bank Limited	Moodys ST P-2	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	15/01/2025	15/10/2025	5.00%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	3,000,000	3,000,000	T/Deposit	25/11/2022	25/11/2025	4.59%
Bank of Queensland Ltd	S&P ST A2	4,000,000	4,000,000	T/Deposit	2/12/2024	2/12/2025	5.03%
Coastline Credit Union Ltd	Unrated ST UR	250,000	250,000	T/Deposit	5/12/2024	5/12/2025	5.15%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	20/09/2024	20/04/2026	4.62%
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P A	5,000,000	5,000,000	T/Deposit	13/03/2025	13/05/2026	4.69%
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	30/06/2023	30/06/2026	5.19%
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P A	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	20/09/2024	20/07/2026	4.46%
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P A	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	15/01/2025	15/12/2026	4.84%
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%
ING Bank Australia Limited	S&P A	4,000,000	4,000,000	T/Deposit	15/01/2025	15/01/2030	5.08%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	S&P A+	4,000,000	4,000,000	T/Deposit	12/02/2025	12/02/2030	5.10%
Rabobank Australia Ltd	S&P A+	2,000,000	2,000,000	T/Deposit	26/03/2025	26/03/2030	5.01%
Total			99,115,961				

# WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT 24 April 2025

#### **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	
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd	S&P A-	1,700,000	1,710,693	FRN	2/12/2020	2/12/2025	4.64%	
Macquarie Bank Ltd	S&P A+	6,500,000	6,536,920	FRN	11/03/2022	9/12/2025	4.59%	
Suncorp Bank (Norfina Ltd) - Subsidiary of ANZ	S&P AA-	2,100,000	2,113,062	FRN	24/02/2021	24/02/2026	4.58%	
Newcastle Greater Mutual Group Ltd	S&P BBB+	5,000,000	5,018,500	FRN	4/03/2021	4/03/2026	4.75%	
ANZ Banking Group Ltd	S&P AA-	2,500,000	2,517,375	FRN	31/03/2023	31/03/2026	4.96%	
Teachers Mutual Bank Ltd	Moodys Baa1	1,100,000	1,102,156	FRN	16/06/2021	16/06/2026	4.79%	
ANZ Banking Group Ltd	S&P AA-	2,500,000	2,522,400	FRN	11/09/2023	11/09/2026	4.86%	
Macquarie Bank Ltd	S&P A+	4,000,000	4,034,960	FRN	14/09/2023	14/09/2026	4.96%	
Suncorp Bank (Norfina Ltd) - Subsidiary of ANZ	S&P AA-	3,750,000	3,756,638	FRN	15/09/2021	15/09/2026	4.59%	
QPCU LTD t/a QBANK	S&P BBB-	2,000,000	2,029,100	FRN	18/09/2023	18/09/2026	5.76%	
Illawarra Credit Union Ltd	S&P BBB-	2,500,000	2,514,100	FRN	20/09/2023	21/09/2026	5.81%	
Suncorp Bank (Norfina Ltd) - Subsidiary of ANZ	S&P AA-	1,500,000	1,517,925	FRN	11/03/2022	25/01/2027	5.07%	
ANZ Banking Group Ltd	S&P AA-	3,500,000	3,556,665	FRN	12/05/2022	12/05/2027	5.17%	
Suncorp Bank (Norfina Ltd) - Subsidiary of ANZ	S&P AA-	3,000,000	3,043,440	FRN	24/11/2023	24/05/2027	5.23%	
Cooperatieve Rabobank U.A Australia Branch	S&P A+	2,500,000	2,529,925	FRN	19/01/2023	19/01/2028	5.13%	
ANZ Banking Group Ltd	S&P AA-	2,500,000	2,529,250	FRN	31/03/2023	31/03/2028	5.19%	
Emerald Reverse Mortgage Trust	Unrated UR	314,548	254,092	MBS	17/07/2006	30/06/2028	4.59%	
ANZ Banking Group Ltd	S&P AA-	2,100,000	2,120,328	FRN	11/09/2023	11/09/2028	5.04%	
Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	S&P AA-	3,500,000	3,531,430	FRN	19/09/2023	19/09/2028	5.04%	
National Australia Bank Ltd	S&P AA-	4,000,000	4,251,320	FRN	16/11/2023	16/11/2028	5.40%	
Cooperatieve Rabobank U.A Australia Branch	S&P A+	3,000,000	3,203,580	FRN	21/11/2023	21/11/2028	5.71%	
Beyond Bank Australia Ltd	Moodys Baa1	2,500,000	2,500,650	FRN	21/03/2025	21/03/2028	5.26%	
Emerald Reverse Mortgage Trust	Unrated UR	2,000,000	1,316,620	MBS	17/07/2006	21/08/2056	4.89%	
Total			64,211,128					

## Managed Funds & Other

MANAGED FUNDS						
Investment Body	Rating	Purchase Price \$	Fair Value of Holding \$	Purchase Date	Monthly	FYTD (Actual)
Tcorp Long Term Growth Facility Fund	N/A		4,430,871	13/06/2007	0.00%	7.03%
Tcorp Medium Term Growth Facility Fund	N/A		5,437,004	26/10/2021	0.45%	5.20%
Total			9,867,875		-	

Membership interest in Investment Body	Fair Value of Holding \$		
CivicRisk Mutual Limited	N/A		3,117,000

TOTAL INVESTMENTS 176,311,963

\* 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



