

# Financial Prudence Benchmarks

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Long Term Plan disclosure statement for period commencing 1 July 2024

## **What is the purpose of this statement?**

The purpose of this statement is to disclose the Council's planned financial performance in relation to various benchmarks to enable the assessment of whether the Council is prudently managing its revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and general financial dealings.

The Council is required to include this statement in its Long-Term Plan in accordance with the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014 (the regulations). Refer to the regulations for more information, including definitions of some of the terms used in this statement.

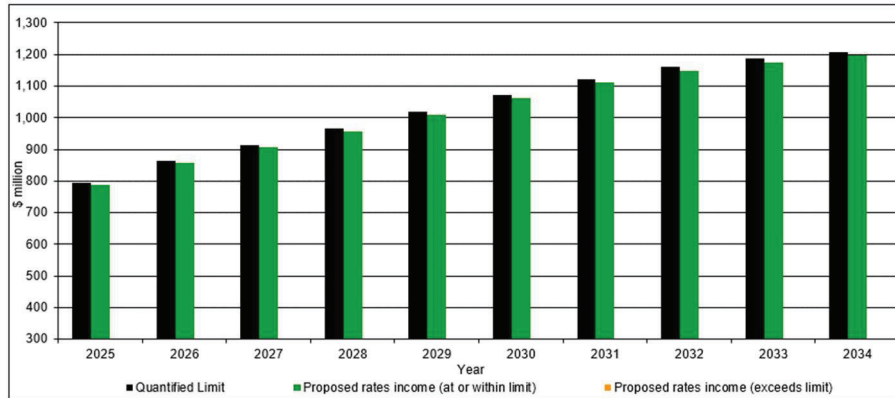
### Rates affordability benchmark

The Council meets the rates affordability benchmark if—

- its planned rates increases equal or are less than each quantified limit on rates increases.

This graph compares the Council’s planned rates increases with the quantified limit on rates increases contained within the financial strategy and included in this long-term plan.

The quantified limit is set at 1% above the nominal year on year increase in rates income contained in the plan’s financial strategy.

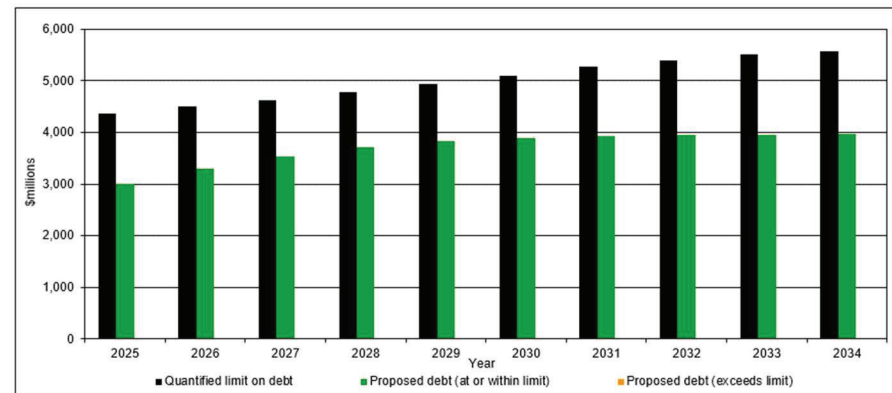


### Debt affordability benchmark

The Council meets the debt affordability benchmark if its planned borrowing is within each quantified limit on borrowing. The Council has six measures for debt affordability and these are set out below.

#### Total borrowing

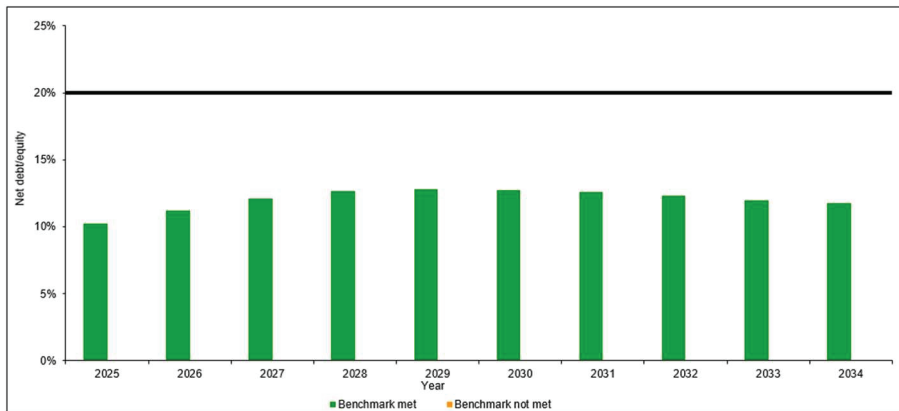
The following graph compares the Council’s planned borrowing with a quantified limit on borrowing contained within the financial strategy and included in this long-term plan. The quantified limit on borrowing has been set at 285% of the net debt to revenue ratio for the first year of the long-term plan), then reducing to 280% for the remaining long-term plan years.



### Net debt as a percentage of equity

The following graph compares the Council's planned net borrowing with a quantified limit stated in the liability management policy and included in this long-term plan.

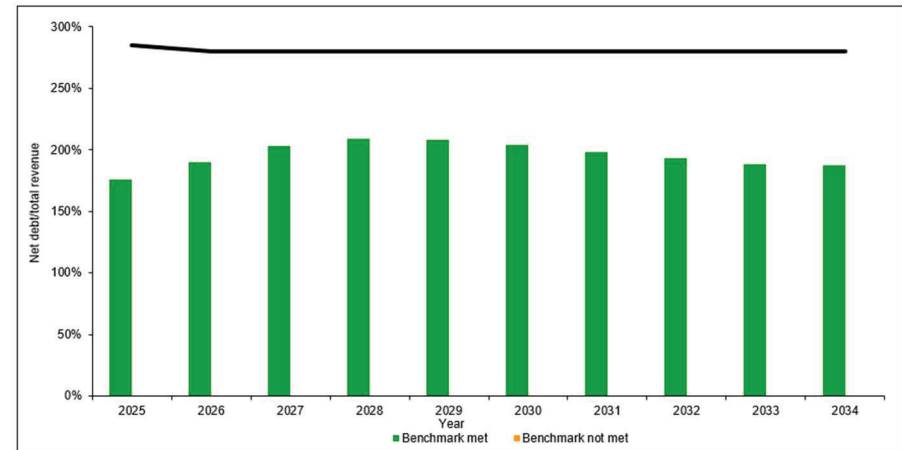
The quantified limit is net debt (comprised of total borrowings less liquid assets and investments) as a percentage of equity being less than or equal to 20%.



### Net debt as a percentage of total revenue

The following graph compares the Council's planned net borrowing with a quantified limit on borrowing stated in the financial strategy and included in this long-term plan.

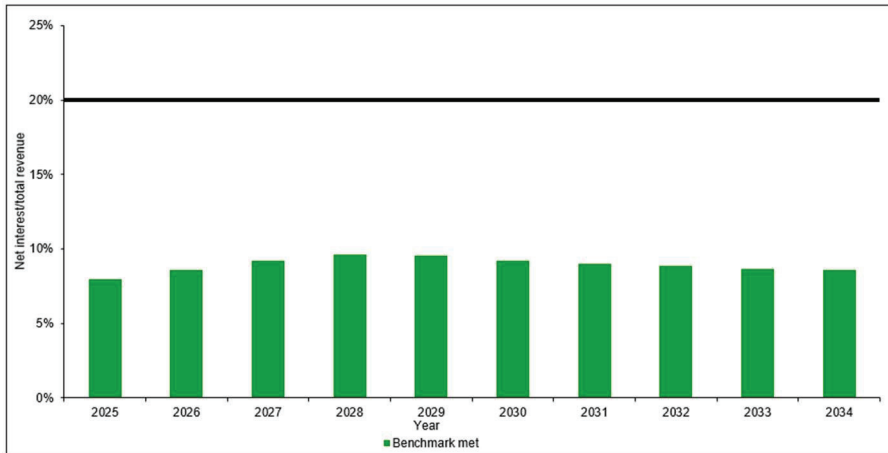
The quantified limit is net debt as a percentage of total revenue being less than or equal to 285% for the first year of the long-term plan, then reducing to 280% for the remaining long-term plan years.



*Net interest as a percentage of total revenue*

The following graph compares the Council's planned net interest with a quantified limit stated in the liability management policy included in this long-term plan.

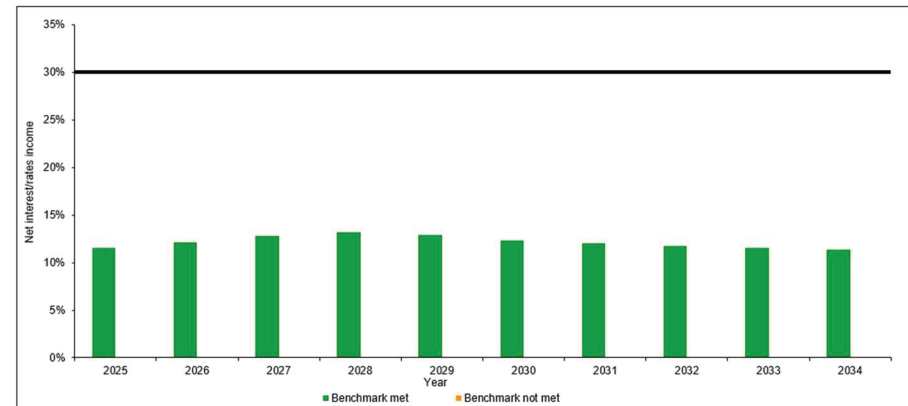
The quantified limit is net interest as a percentage of total operating revenue being less than or equal to 20%.



*Net interest as a percentage of annual rates income*

The following graph compares the Council's planned net interest with a quantified limit stated in the liability management policy included in this long-term plan.

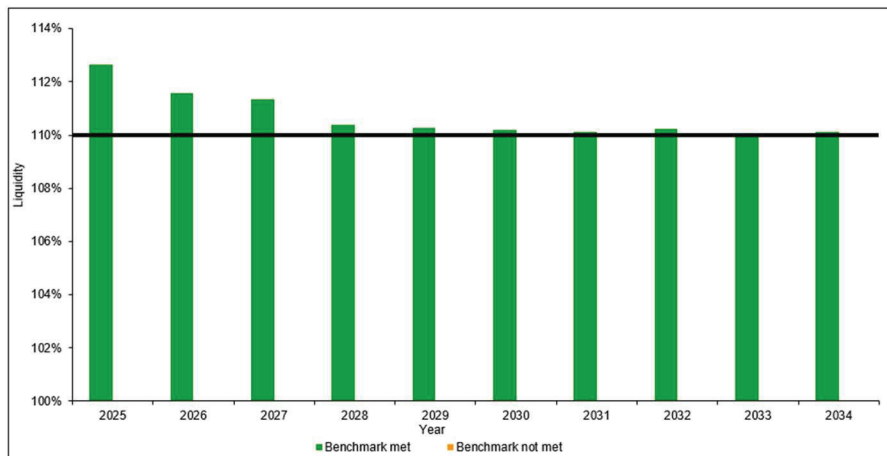
The quantified limit is net interest as a percentage of annual rates income being less than or equal to 30%.



### Liquidity

The following graph compares the Council’s planned net borrowing with a quantified limit stated in the liability management policy included in this long-term plan.

The quantified limit is liquidity being equal to or greater than 110%. For debt affordability, liquidity is calculated as total borrowings including committed but undrawn facilities plus liquid assets and investments compared to total term borrowings.

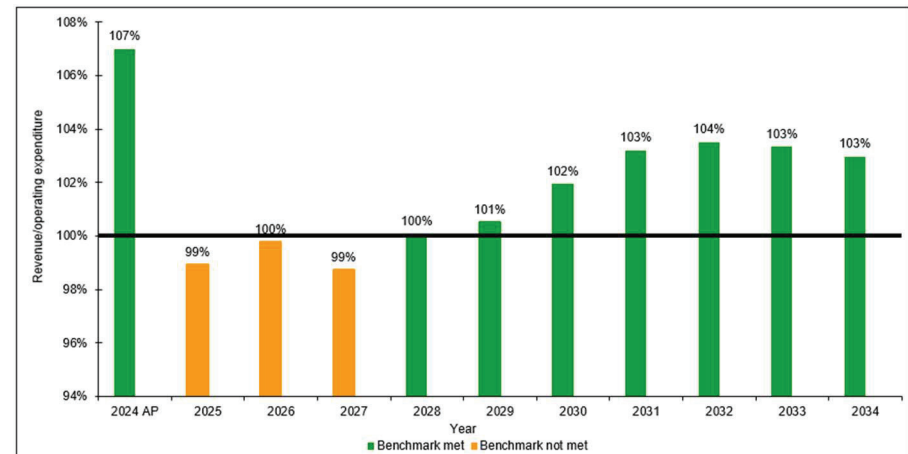


### Balanced budget benchmark

The following graph displays the Council’s planned revenue (excluding development contributions, financial contributions, vested assets, gains on derivative financial instruments, and revaluations of property, plant, and equipment) as a proportion of planned operating expenses (excluding losses on derivative financial instruments and revaluations of property, plant, and equipment).

The Council meets the balanced budget benchmark if its planned revenue equals or is greater than its planned operating expenses, including depreciation.

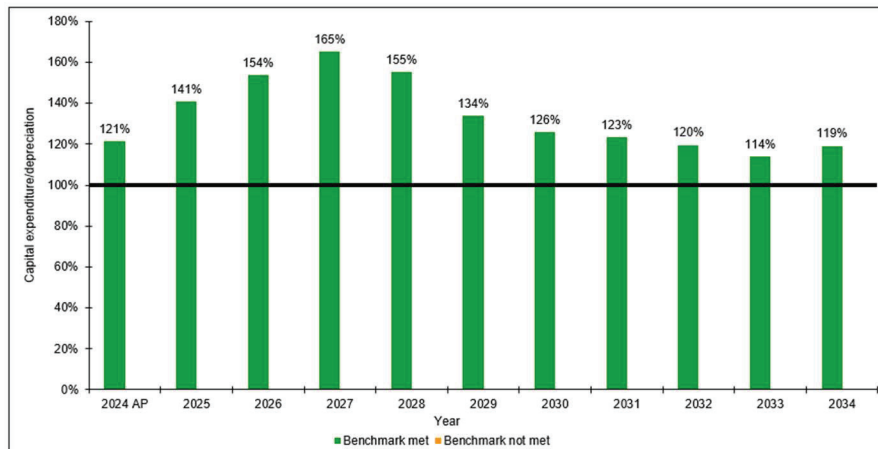
Council’s policy is to rate for renewals rather than depreciation. Council is increasing its rating for renewals over the period of the long-term plan to better match long run renewal projections.



## Essential services benchmark

The following graph displays the Council's planned capital expenditure on network services as a proportion of expected depreciation on network services.

The Council meets the essential services benchmark if its planned capital expenditure on network services equals or is greater than expected depreciation on network services.



## Debt servicing benchmark

The following graph displays the Council's planned borrowing costs as a proportion of planned revenue (excluding development contributions, financial contributions, vested assets, gains on derivative financial instruments, and revaluations of property, plant, and equipment).

Higher interest rates following the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in the Council exceeding the benchmark through the entire LTP period.

While Council has significant debt, there is no concern around Council's ability to service the debt.

