# Annual Report 2024

Stanthorpe Regional Community Financial Services Limited

ABN 48 605 478 680

# OUR VISION

To be the most approchable, visible and customer connected bank in the Stanthorpe region

# OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To provide continued personalised, professional service by building on the existing client base, increasing the profitability of the Stanthorpe **Community Bank** branch for the benefit of the customers, shareholders and community projects.

# OBJECTIVES

To have a community working together to achieve common objectives;

To build a team within the community to coordinate major initivates and projects;

To be broadly representative and link to appropriate formal and informal community groups to assist and support initiatives;

To provide strong leadership by the community, in the community and for the community.

# Contents

# Chairman's Report

## For the year ending 30th June 2024

It is my pleasure to present this, the ninth Annual Report of Stanthorpe Regional Community Financial Services Limited, better known as, Community Bank Stanthorpe.

Our tenth year of operation is fast approaching and we can put behind us numerous roadblocks and impediments to our success. Despite the challenges of interest rate fluctuations, pandemics, staffing, increased cost of doing business and the myriad of unseen problems, we your Directors have overseen another successful year.

The support given to us from day one by our shareholders has been rewarded by way of dividend payments over the past years. This 2023/24 year we were again in a financial position enabling us to pay an increased unfranked dividend to those shareholders.

| Date Dividend Paid | Cents per Share | Franking level |
|---|---|---|
| 29/01/2021 | $0.01 | 0 |
| 28/02/2022 | $0.01 | 0 |
| 28/02/2023 | $0.01 | 0 |
| 29/02/2024 | $0.02 | 0 |

These dividends amount to $37770 over the past four financial years.

The financial success of our business does not happen by chance and we must acknowledge our dedicated and efficient staff. Kurt Empen is our Branch Manager and he is supported by Tania Cobon, as customer Relationship Officer, Danielle Andreatta, Marina Waterworth and Carmen Patane, as Customer Service Officers. On a regular basis I am asked to pass on compliments to the staff by members of the public as well as customers. Our point of differenced is the face to face service provided, and it makes so much of a difference when the staff member involved provides efficient and friendly service. It is becoming more and more evident that here in our regional town personalised service is still required, and very much appreciated in this digital age.

The direction and behind the scenes activity has a direct influence on how your business is efficiently run. Your Directors, Todd Sutherland as Treasurer and Deputy Chairman, Catherine Orford, as Company Secretary, Jim Barnes and Leeanne Gangemi, as Directors, and myself as Chairman/Director all contribute to the strategic direction and operation of the Company. The implementation of what is required under our Franchise Agreement with Bendigo Bank is extremely important and at times very time consuming. Thank you to my fellow Directors for your input and assistance over the past financial year.

We have continued with our Sponsorships and Donations to local Community organisations, and over the past 12 months have made thirteen of these totalling $19350, this includes two bursaries of $250 each. Our record of giving back to our local community since opening is a most impressive one with this amount, including grants provided by the Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise Foundation, fast approaching $500000. I am extremely proud to be able to disclose this to you. Every shareholder, account holder and supporter of our Community Bank Stanthorpe should also feel very proud to say that they have been a part of this. Without that support these contributions would not have been possible. What a difference this has made to our Community.

Whilst our business performance and our Community Contributions are impressive, we do not have time to rest on our laurels.  There are many other organisations out there which are keen to provide banking services to the same market as us. We need to be on the front foot and alert to opportunities all the time. Our personalised service, our products and our giving back to the Community are what stands us apart. The future of, and the way we do business is everchanging, but with the right Staff and the right Directors I believe that the success of our business looks pretty sound.

I am proud to be Chairman of this Company.

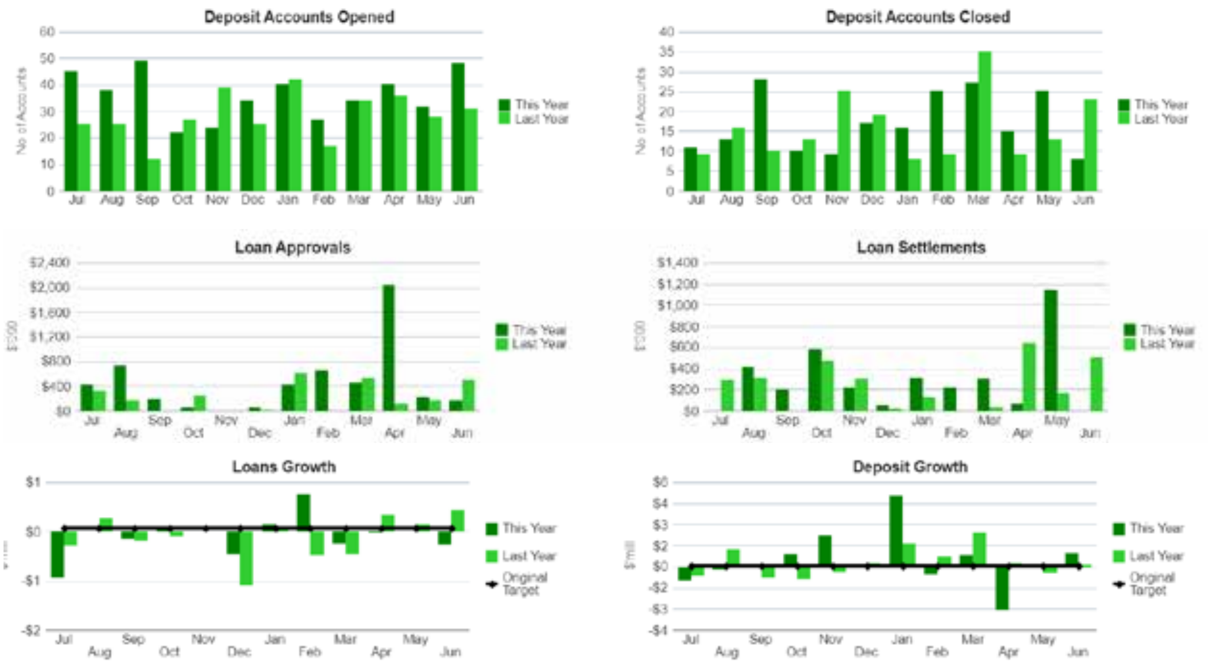
**Don Gaske**
**Chairman/Director**

Jim Barnes, Catherine Orford, Don Gaske, Leeanne Gangemi, Todd Sutherland.

# Branch Manager’s Report

For the year ending 30th June 2024

In financial year 2023/2024 with Interest rates stabilised; rental shortages and higher house values, tough cost of living, and scams continue to be the most talked about issues we face in this industry and this bank right now. Despite that gloomy backdrop we saw some solid gains for our bank.




**Performance**
The bank continues to grow strongly with community groups, individuals, couples & businesses choosing Community Bank Stanthorpe as their bank. Home Loan Refinances are also major factor in customers switching to us. We have a very competitive rate range and Bendigo Bank is keen to support homeowners and investors looking to build their assets and especially help 1st homeowners borrow to get them into a place to live.

**People**
It’s coming up to 3 years since I was appointed the Branch manager. We as finance professionals are here to assist our customers in protecting their assets and growing their wealth. The profits of the branch have been helped again by strong margins coming off record lows and careful expense management.

We are still seeing new Granite Belt residents making the big life change and moving here. Our business is growing.

Our Community Bank sports fresh branding colours and we have the same friendly service available to our customers.
We remain committed to Face to Face banking when it matters and digital banking for convenience for our customers.
Opening hours Mon-Thurs (9:30am-4:30pm) and Fridays (9:30am-5:00pm).
We remain ready to assist customers with setting up digital banking, explaining the convenience of it, cash & cheque transactions, larger transfers of money and travel, home & contents, vehicle

& business insurance, and investment decisions. We aim to grow bigger and better over the 12 months increase our customer numbers and grow with more customers /more of their banking. Bigger for You.

**Scams** are a seemingly everyday event and a great concern, so our friendly staff take every opportunity to inform and remind customers of the importance of safety when it comes to electronic banking. It is safe to use internet banking but there are a few things we can show our customers to safeguard themselves and their money.

**Staff**

Our Branch team remains highly skilled with many years of banking experience between Customer Relationship Officer Tania Cobon, Customer Service Officer Danielle Andreatta Customer Service Officer Marina Waterworth and Customer Service Officer Carmen Patane. I am very proud to lead this team and we are well supported and led by our Regional Manager Tony Iervese and South West Queensland Regional team.
Thanks go to our local Community Bank board of directors, Don and team, who ensure our staff are well supported and allow us to excel at our roles here at the bank.

**Expertise**

Along with our full service branch for consumers; banking insurance and wealth we also offer Business and Agribusiness Lenders who regularly service the Granite Belt.
Mathew Cullen is the local Business Banker and is here regularly to support our business lending customers. The farming community remains a strong employer here and source of wealth for the area.
Our new Agribusiness Relationship Manager for Rural Bank is Louise Freytag servicing the Southern Downs & over the border and Louise is a regular visitor to our agri customers and Granite Belt Grower events.

**Community**

We like to “tell our story” of your Community Bank Stanthorpe, its history, its connection with Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Group and its growth since 1858. We are a little passionate about it.
We continue to co-promote and back the “Why Leave Town“ cards which is a successful local project proudly sponsored by our Community Bank and the local Chamber of Commerce. This Christmas consider supporting our local businesses - the “Why Leave Town“ cards is a great way to provide a gift to someone and help our community by spending that money on the Granite Belt its retail outlets and tourism - contributing to our community’s wealth.
Our naming rights sponsorship of the Stanthorpe Annual Show is a strong marker of our commitment & passion to the region. Of course we also supply other sponsorships & donations to many local groups and are very proud of that.

Community Bank Stanthorpe feeds into the prosperity of our customers and communities in which we operate, not off it.

Our customers get a great experience when they bank with Community Bank/Bendigo Bank Stanthorpe. They have a team of professionals to assist them. Thank you Granite Belt customers and community for your valued support of your local bank.

**Kurt Empen**
**Branch Manager**

*Branch team : Kurt Empen, Tania Cobon, Danielle Andreatta, Marina Waterworth, Carmen Patane*

**Community Bank network: celebrating 26 years of empowering communities**

This year our Community Bank network celebrated 26 years of providing grassroots support to metro, regional, rural and remote communities across Australia. It's a milestone that has been widely applauded by our customers and partners who recognise the significant role we play in the lives of everyday Australians. We're there when it matters – whether that be as second responders in times of natural disaster, crisis and need; or as community builders, providing resources and support; help and hope.

In the 2022-23 financial year, our Community Bank network gave back more than $32 million in grants, sponsorships and donations to local community projects and initiatives. Over 26 years, we have returned more than $324 million to local communities for emergency services; facilities and infrastructure; sport and recreation; education and research; health and wellbeing; art, culture and heritage as well as environment and animal welfare.

As a shareholder in your local Community Bank, you are part of this incredible social enterprise network that is playing an ever-important role in the Australian economy. With close working relationships with local, state and federal government, peak governing bodies, clubs and community organisations, we are integrally connected and in tune with the needs of everyday Australians.

Our Community Bank network is a first mover in Australia with our unique social enterprise model. The first Community Bank opened its doors in 1998, and since then, the network has grown to 305 Community Bank branches. Today we represent a diverse cross-section of Australia with more than 215 community enterprises, 70,000+ shareholders, 1500+ volunteer directors, 1700 staff and 950,000 customers.

Our Community Bank National Council (CBNC) plays a pivotal role in these relationships. The CBNC consists of both elected and appointed members from every state and territory. The role of council is to represent the network with its partners and to engage in strategic planning that delivers positive outcomes for our business and our communities.

The *2024 - 2026 Community Bank National Council Strategic Plan* has four key focus areas:

- Impact – a planned, deliberate approach with investments that enhance community prosperity.
- Leadership and advocacy – to ensure the long-term sustainability of our enterprises.
- Network alignment – enabling us to develop and nurture partnerships that align with our defined areas of social impact.
- Commercial prosperity – supporting the commercial success of our enterprises.

It is through this strategic plan, which has a foundation built on connection and collaboration, that we will deliver a strong, and secure future for our directors, shareholders, staff and the communities we serve.

Warm regards

Lauren Bean
General Manager
**Community Bank National Council**

# Community Bank Report 2024

BEN Message

This past year has been particularly significant for Bendigo Bank and the Community Bank network. After five years apart, we had the opportunity to come together in person and connect in Bendigo at our National Conference in September.

It was lovely to see so many familiar faces and to meet many directors who haven't attended previously. We feel proud to support such an amazing network.

We are committed to our strategy and the qualities that make Bendigo Bank unique, by staying true to our connection with communities, our regional roots, and our position as Australia's most trusted bank.

As Bendigo Bank adapts to the evolving digital landscape and changing customer expectations, the Community Bank Network is organically evolving in response.

Over the past 12 months, we have seen Community Bank companies seek to enhance their presence within their communities more than ever.

This has been through expanding or consolidating branch sites, collaborating with local, state, and national governments to support community initiatives, or by prioritising social value alongside financial performance through Social Trader accreditation.

The anniversary of the Community Bank model, along with changing environmental factors, provides an opportunity to reset and establish a clear pathway towards the next 25 years.

Bendigo Bank's purpose, to feed into the prosperity of communities, and our willingness to ensure our purpose is relevant to the needs of communities in which we are present, is a key contributor to our commercial success.

When we utilise our combined strengths, exercise our imaginations and have the courage to commit to creating our own opportunities, we will be the partner of choice for customers and communities regardless of location or cause.

Community, regional presence, and trust are the distinctive attributes of Bendigo Bank that we have maintained and plan to uphold in the future.

While Bendigo Bank emphasises commercial success, our foundation remains in community values. Our aim is to generate mutual value by providing solutions to local challenges.

On behalf of Bendigo Bank, thank you for being a shareholder in your local Community Bank. Your contribution helps foster economic growth, creates employment opportunities, and provides essential financial services to the members of your community.

Your dedication and support is making a positive impact on your community.

**Justine Minne**
**Head of Community Banking.**

## Stanthorpe Regional Community Financial Services Ltd
## Directors' report
## 30 June 2024

The directors present their report, together with the financial statements, on the company for the year ended 30 June 2024.

**Directors**
The following persons were directors of the company during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name: | Donald Charles Gaske |
| Title: | Non-executive director |
| Experience and expertise: | Don has spent 55 years in the banking, finance, insurance and financial planning industries. 21 years with a major Australian bank, roles included Branch Accountant and Branch Manager. Associate of the Financial Planning Association of Australia 1999-2013, Financial Planning PS 146, 2005. Previously owner/operator of the Bendigo Bank Agency in Stanthorpe, commenced 1992. Has spent 28 years as a prime lamb producer, 16 years as a lavender grower and retailer. Rotarian since 1985. He is a Commissioner for Declarations. |
| Special responsibilities: | Chairman of the Board, Human Resources, Property & Building, Business & Strategic Planning, Marketing and Finance Committees. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name: | Leeanne Josephine Gangemi |
| Title: | Non-executive director |
| Experience and expertise: | Leeanne is the Client Relations Manager in her family business, Ballandean Estate Wines and has held many positions on both National and State industry bodies including her current position as the Queensland Representative of the Winemakers Federation of Australia. Leeanne was on the Steering Committee for the formation of the Stanthorpe Community Bank and continues to help drive the growth of the organisation for the benefit if the community. |
| Special responsibilities: | Marketing Committee & South West Cluster Committee. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name: | Catherine Margaret Orford |
| Title: | Non-executive director |
| Experience and expertise: | Retired. Was an Educator; Teacher and Trainer. M.Phil (Tourism Mgt); M.Arts (Aust Studies); B.Ed. |
| Special responsibilities: | Secretary. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name: | James William Barnes |
| Title: | Non-executive director |
| Experience and expertise: | Retire. B.AppSc (Chem); B.App Sc (Wine). President - Stanthorpe Rotary Club; Board Member - Granite Belt Neighbourhood Centre and Apple and Grape Festival Committee. Management and Governance Skills. |
| Special responsibilities: | Marketing |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name: | Todd Cameron Sutherland |
| Title: | Non-executive director |
| Experience and expertise: | 38 years in retail management including store management, area supervision and Human resource roles with a major supermarket chain. Todd is also experienced in managing a field sales team and most recently a boutique independent mixed business. |
| Special responsibilities: | Human Resources Committee. |

**Company secretary**
The company secretary is Catherine Margaret Orford. Catherine was appointed to the position of secretary on 15 November 2017.

**Principal activity**
The principal activity of the company during the financial year was facilitating Community Bank services under management rights of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited (Bendigo Bank).

There have been no significant changes in the nature of this activity during the financial year.

# Stanthorpe Regional Community Financial Services Ltd
# Directors' report
# 30 June 2024

**Review of operations**
The profit for the company after providing for income tax amounted to $84,821 (30 June 2023: $125,421).

Operations have continued to perform in line with expectations.

**Dividends**
During the financial year, the following dividends were declared.

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| Unfranked dividend of 2 cents per share (2023: 1 cents) | 15,108 | 7,554 |

**Significant changes in the state of affairs**
On 1 July 2023, Bendigo Bank updated the Funds Transfer Pricing (FTP) base rate on certain deposits which has reduced the income earned on these products.

There were no other significant changes in the state of affairs of the company during the financial year.

**Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year**
No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2024 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the company's operations, the results of those operations, or the company's state of affairs in future financial years.

**Likely developments and expected results of operations**
No matter, circumstance or likely development in operations has arisen during or since the end of the financial year that has significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the company.

**Environmental regulation**
The company is not subject to any significant environmental regulation under Australian Commonwealth or State law.

**Meetings of directors**
The number of directors' meetings attended by each of the directors' of the company during the financial year were:

| | Board | |
|---|---|---|
| | Eligible | Attended |
| Donald Charles Gaske | 10 | 10 |
| Leeanne Josephine Gangemi | 10 | 8 |
| Catherine Margaret Orford | 10 | 10 |
| James William Barnes | 10 | 9 |
| Todd Cameron Sutherland | 10 | 9 |

**Directors' benefits**
No director has received or become entitled to receive, during or since the financial year, a benefit because of a contract made by the company, controlled entity or related body corporate with a director, a firm which a director is a member or an entity in which a director has a substantial financial interest.

**Directors' interests**
The interest in company shareholdings for each director are:

| | Balance at the start of the year | Changes | Balance at the end of the year |
|---|---|---|---|
| Donald Charles Gaske | 53,501 | - | 53,501 |
| Leeanne Josephine Gangemi | 3,001 | - | 3,001 |
| Catherine Margaret Orford | 10,000 | - | 10,000 |
| James William Barnes | 10,000 | - | 10,000 |
| Todd Cameron Sutherland | - | - | - |

**Shares under option**
There were no unissued ordinary shares of the company under option outstanding at the date of this report.

**Shares issued on the exercise of options**
There were no ordinary shares of the company issued on the exercise of options during the year ended 30 June 2024 and up to the date of this report.

**Indemnity and insurance of directors and officers**
The company has indemnified all directors and management in respect of liabilities to other persons (other than the company or related body corporate) that may arise from their position as directors or management of the company except where the liability arises out of conduct involving the lack of good faith.

Disclosure of the nature of the liability and the amount of the premium is prohibited by the confidentiality clause of the contract of insurance.

**Proceedings on behalf of the company**
No person has applied to the Court under section 237 of the *Corporations Act 2001* for leave to bring proceedings on behalf of the company, or to intervene in any proceedings to which the company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the company for all or part of those proceedings.

No proceedings have been brought or intervened in on behalf of the company with leave of the Court under section 237 of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

**Indemnity and insurance of auditor**
The company has not, during or since the end of the financial year, indemnified or agreed to indemnify the auditor of the company or any related entity against a liability incurred by the auditor.

During the financial year, the company has not paid a premium in respect of a contract to insure the auditor of the company or any related entity.

**Non-audit services**
The company may decide to employ the auditor on assignments additional to their statutory duties where the auditor's expertise and experience with the company are important. Details of the amounts paid or payable to the auditor (Andrew Frewin Stewart) for audit and non-audit services provided during the year are set out in note 26 to the accounts.

The board has considered the non-audit services provided during the year by the auditor and is satisfied that the provision of the non-audit services is compatible with, and did not compromise, the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* for the following reasons:

- all non-audit services have been reviewed by the board to ensure they do not impact on the impartiality, integrity and objectivity of the auditor
- the non-audit services provided do not undermine the general principles relating to auditor independence as set out in *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*, as they did not involve reviewing or auditing the auditor's own work, acting in a management or decision making capacity for the company, acting as an advocate for the company or jointly sharing risks and rewards.

**Stanthorpe Regional Community Financial Services Ltd**
**Directors' report**
**30 June 2024**

**Auditor's independence declaration**
A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is set out immediately after this directors' report.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of directors, pursuant to section 298(2)(a) of the *Corporations Act 2001.*

On behalf of the directors

Donald Charles Gaske
Chair

27 September 2024

Andrew Frewin Stewart
61 Bull Street Bendigo VIC 3550
ABN: 65 684 604 390
afs@afsbendigo.com.au
03 5443 0344

# Independent auditor's independence declaration under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* to the Directors of Stanthorpe Regional Community Financial Services Ltd

As lead auditor for the audit of Stanthorpe Regional Community Financial Services Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2024, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

**Andrew Frewin Stewart**
61 Bull Street, Bendigo, Vic, 3550
Dated: 27 September 2024

**Lachlan Tatt**
**Lead Auditor**

## Stanthorpe Regional Community Financial Services Ltd
## Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
## For the year ended 30 June 2024

| | Note | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Revenue from contracts with customers | 7 | 597,318 | 630,709 |
| Other revenue | | - | 25,000 |
| Finance revenue | | 11,987 | 2,586 |
| Total revenue | | 609,305 | 658,295 |
| Employee benefits expense | 8 | (326,697) | (303,748) |
| Advertising and marketing costs | | (1,433) | (3,210) |
| Occupancy and associated costs | | (15,849) | (14,502) |
| System costs | | (15,761) | (15,371) |
| Depreciation and amortisation expense | 8 | (57,564) | (66,092) |
| Finance costs | 8 | (11,543) | (12,852) |
| General administration expenses | | (48,049) | (55,983) |
| Total expenses before community contributions and income tax expense | | (476,896) | (471,758) |
| **Profit before community contributions and income tax expense** | | 132,409 | 186,537 |
| Charitable donations and sponsorships expense | | (18,509) | (13,787) |
| **Profit before income tax expense** | | 113,900 | 172,750 |
| Income tax expense | 9 | (29,079) | (47,329) |
| **Profit after income tax expense for the year** | | 84,821 | 125,421 |
| Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax | | - | - |
| **Total comprehensive income for the year** | | 84,821 | 125,421 |
| | | **Cents** | **Cents** |
| Basic earnings per share | 28 | 11.23 | 16.60 |
| Diluted earnings per share | 28 | 11.23 | 16.60 |

*The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes*

## Stanthorpe Regional Community Financial Services Ltd
## Statement of financial position
## As at 30 June 2024

| | Note | 2024 $ | 2023 $ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Assets** | | | |
| **Current assets** | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 10 | 132,148 | 138,602 |
| Trade and other receivables | 11 | 51,625 | 54,905 |
| Investments | 12 | 324,900 | 214,264 |
| Total current assets | | 508,673 | 407,771 |
| **Non-current assets** | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | 13 | 111,365 | 113,139 |
| Right-of-use assets | 14 | 142,421 | 162,103 |
| Intangible assets | 15 | 119,932 | 139,121 |
| Deferred tax assets | 9 | 13,043 | 36,649 |
| Total non-current assets | | 386,761 | 451,012 |
| **Total assets** | | 895,434 | 858,783 |
| **Liabilities** | | | |
| **Current liabilities** | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 16 | 40,838 | 45,221 |
| Lease liabilities | 17 | 31,797 | 20,867 |
| Current tax liabilities | 9 | 2,123 | - |
| Employee benefits | 18 | 14,505 | 15,687 |
| Total current liabilities | | 89,263 | 81,775 |
| **Non-current liabilities** | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 16 | - | 14,203 |
| Lease liabilities | 17 | 160,811 | 191,000 |
| Employee benefits | 18 | 9,573 | 6,797 |
| Provisions | 19 | 17,618 | 16,552 |
| Total non-current liabilities | | 188,002 | 228,552 |
| **Total liabilities** | | 277,265 | 310,327 |
| **Net assets** | | 618,169 | 548,456 |
| **Equity** | | | |
| Issued capital | 20 | 723,076 | 723,076 |
| Accumulated losses | | (104,907) | (174,620) |
| **Total equity** | | 618,169 | 548,456 |

*The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes*

## Stanthorpe Regional Community Financial Services Ltd
## Statement of changes in equity
## For the year ended 30 June 2024

| | Note | Issued capital $ | Accumulated losses $ | Total equity $ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Balance at 1 July 2022** | | 723,076 | (292,487) | 430,589 |
| Profit after income tax expense | | - | 125,421 | 125,421 |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax | | - | - | - |
| Total comprehensive income | | - | 125,421 | 125,421 |
| *Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:* | | | | |
| Dividends provided for or paid | 22 | - | (7,554) | (7,554) |
| **Balance at 30 June 2023** | | 723,076 | (174,620) | 548,456 |

| | Note | Issued capital $ | Accumulated losses $ | Total equity $ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Balance at 1 July 2023** | | 723,076 | (174,620) | 548,456 |
| Profit after income tax expense | | - | 84,821 | 84,821 |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax | | - | - | - |
| Total comprehensive income | | - | 84,821 | 84,821 |
| *Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:* | | | | |
| Dividends provided for or paid | 22 | - | (15,108) | (15,108) |
| **Balance at 30 June 2024** | | 723,076 | (104,907) | 618,169 |

*The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes*

**Stanthorpe Regional Community Financial Services Ltd**
**Statement of cash flows**
**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

| | Note | 2024 $ | 2023 $ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Cash flows from operating activities** | | | |
| Receipts from customers (inclusive of GST) | | 662,224 | 696,561 |
| Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST) | | (490,325) | (463,295) |
| Interest received | | 10,864 | 1,786 |
| Income taxes paid | | (3,350) | - |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 27 | 179,413 | 235,052 |
| **Cash flows from investing activities** | | | |
| Payments for investments | | (110,636) | (71,700) |
| Payments for property, plant and equipment | | (15,185) | (3,112) |
| Payments for intangible assets | | (13,156) | (13,403) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | | (138,977) | (88,215) |
| **Cash flows from financing activities** | | | |
| Interest and other finance costs paid | | (10,639) | (11,984) |
| Dividends paid | 22 | (15,108) | (7,554) |
| Repayment of lease liabilities | | (21,143) | (21,583) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | | (46,890) | (41,121) |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | | (6,454) | 105,716 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year | | 138,602 | 32,886 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year | 10 | 132,148 | 138,602 |

*The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes*

**Note 1. Reporting entity**

The financial statements cover Stanthorpe Regional Community Financial Services Ltd (the company) as an individual entity, which is a for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The company is an unlisted public company limited by shares, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Its registered office and principal place of business is 139 High Street, Stanthorpe QLD 4380.

A description of the nature of the company's operations and its principal activity is included in the directors' report, which is not part of the financial statements.

**Note 2. Basis of preparation and statement of compliance**

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the *Corporations Act 2001*. The financial statements comply with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual and historical cost basis and are presented in Australian dollars, which is the company's functional and presentation currency.

The directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to pay its debts as and when they fall due for the foreseeable future. For these reasons, the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

The financial statements were authorised for issue, in accordance with a resolution of directors, on 27 September 2024. The directors have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

**Note 3. Material accounting policy information**

The accounting policies that are material to the company are set out either in the respective notes or below. The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous financial year, unless otherwise stated.

**Adoption of new and revised accounting standards**
The company has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the AASB that are mandatory for the current financial year. A description of the impact of new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have had a material impact on the company during the current financial year is outlined below:

AASB 2021-2 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates* is mandatory for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023 and was adopted by the company in the preparation of the 30 June 2024 financial statements.

AASB 2021-2 includes amendments to AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, requiring the company to disclose material accounting policy information in its financial statements rather than significant accounting policies which was required in previous financial years. Accounting policy information is material if it, when considered with other information, could reasonably be expected to influence decisions of primary users based on the financial statements.

Adoption of AASB 2021-2 has had no impact on the numerical information disclosed in the company's financial statements. Rather, adoption has required the company to remove significant accounting policy information from the notes to the financial statements that is not considered material.

**Accounting standards issued but not yet effective**
An assessment of accounting standards and interpretations issued by the AASB that are not yet mandatorily applicable to the company has been performed. No new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not mandatory have been early adopted, nor are they expected to have a material impact on the company in future financial years.

**Current and non-current classification**
Assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and non-current classification.

**Note 3. Material accounting policy information (continued)**

**Investments**
Investments includes non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities where the company has the positive intention and ability to hold the financial asset to maturity. This category excludes financial assets that are held for an undefined period. Investments are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method adjusted for any principal repayments. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss when the asset is derecognised or impaired.

**Impairment of financial assets**
The company recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses on financial assets which are either measured at amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income. The measurement of the loss allowance depends upon the company's assessment at the end of each reporting period as to whether the financial instrument's credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition, based on reasonable and supportable information that is available, without undue cost or effort to obtain.

Where there has not been a significant increase in exposure to credit risk since initial recognition, a 12-month expected credit loss allowance is estimated. This represents a portion of the asset's lifetime expected credit losses that is attributable to a default event that is possible within the next 12 months. Where a financial asset has become credit impaired or where it is determined that credit risk has increased significantly, the loss allowance is based on the asset's lifetime expected credit losses. The amount of expected credit loss recognised is measured on the basis of the probability weighted present value of anticipated cash shortfalls over the life of the instrument discounted at the original effective interest rate.

For financial assets mandatorily measured at fair value through other comprehensive income, the loss allowance is recognised in other comprehensive income with a corresponding expense through profit or loss. In all other cases, the loss allowance reduces the asset's carrying value with a corresponding expense through profit or loss.

**Impairment of non-financial assets**
At each reporting date, the company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of any impairment loss.

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

Recoverable amount is the higher of an asset’s fair value less costs of disposal and value-in-use. The value-in-use is the present value of the estimated future cash flows relating to the asset using a pre-tax discount rate specific to the asset or cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. Assets that do not have independent cash flows are grouped together to form a cash-generating unit.

**Note 4. Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions**

The preparation of the financial statements requires the directors to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. The directors continually evaluate their judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses.

The directors base their judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events that it believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. Differences between the accounting judgements and estimates and actual results and outcomes are accounted for in future reporting periods. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed below.

**Judgements**
*Timing of revenue recognition associated with trail commission*
The company receives trailing commission from Bendigo Bank for products and services sold. Ongoing trailing commission payments are recognised on a monthly basis when earned as there is insufficient detail readily available to estimate the most likely amount of revenue without a high probability of significant reversal in a subsequent reporting period. The receipt of ongoing trailing commission revenue is outside the control of the company.

**Note 4. Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions (continued)**

*Allowance for expected credit losses on trade and other receivables*
The allowance for expected credit losses assessment requires a degree of estimation and judgement. It is based on the lifetime expected credit loss, grouped based on days overdue, and makes assumptions to allocate an overall expected credit loss rate for each group. These assumptions include recent sales experience and historical collection rates.

The company has not recognised an allowance for expected credit losses in relation to trade and other receivables for the following reasons:

- The company's trade receivables are limited to the monthly profit share distribution from Bendigo Bank, which is received 10 business days post month end.
- The credit risk (i.e. the risk that a customer will not make repayments) is for Bendigo Bank to bear as long as the company has complied with the appropriate procedures and relevant obligations and has not exercised a discretion in granting or extending credit. The directors are not aware of any such non-compliance at balance date.
- The company has reviewed credit ratings provided by Standard & Poors, Moody's and Fitch Ratings to determine the level of credit exposure to the company.
- The company has not experienced any instances of default in relation to receivables owed to the company from Bendigo Bank.

*Impairment of non-financial assets other than goodwill and other indefinite life intangible assets*
The company assesses impairment of non-financial assets other than goodwill and other indefinite life intangible assets at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the company and to the particular asset that may lead to impairment. If an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. This involves fair value less costs of disposal or value-in-use calculations, which incorporate a number of key estimates and assumptions. The directors did not identify any impairment indications during the financial year.

*Recovery of deferred tax assets*
Deferred tax assets are recognised for deductible temporary differences only if the company considers it is probable that future taxable amounts will be available to utilise those temporary differences and losses.

*Lease term*
The lease term is a significant component in the measurement of both the right-of-use asset and lease liability. Judgement is exercised in determining whether there is reasonable certainty that an option to extend the lease will be exercised, or an option to terminate the lease will not be exercised, when ascertaining the periods to be included in the lease term.

In determining the lease term, all facts and circumstances that create an economical incentive to exercise an extension option, or not to exercise a termination option, are considered at the lease commencement date. Factors considered may include the importance of the asset to the company's operations, comparison of terms and conditions to prevailing market rates, incurrence of significant penalties, existence of significant leasehold improvements and the costs and disruption to replace the asset. The reassesses whether it is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, or not exercise a termination option, if there is a significant event or significant change in circumstances.

The company includes extension options applicable to the lease of branch premises in its calculations of both the right-of-use asset and lease liability except where the company is reasonably certain it will not exercise the extension option. This is due to the significant disruption of relocating premises and the loss on disposal of leasehold improvements fitted out in the leased premises.

**Estimates and assumptions**

*Estimation of useful lives of assets*
The company determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and finite life intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives or assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

**Note 4. Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions (continued)**

*Incremental borrowing rate*
Where the interest rate implicit in a lease cannot be readily determined, which is generally the case for the company's lease agreements, an incremental borrowing rate is estimated to discount future lease payments to measure the present value of the lease liability at the lease commencement date. This rate is based on what the company estimates it would have to pay a third party to borrow the funds necessary to obtain an asset of a similar value to the right-of-use asset, with similar terms, security and economic environment.

*Employee benefits provision*
The liability for employee benefits expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date are recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attrition rates and inflation have been taken into account.

The company uses historical employee attrition rates in determining the probability of an employee, at a given date, achieving continuous employment eligible for entitlement in accordance with long service leave legislation.

In the absence of sufficient historical employee attrition rates, the company applies a benchmark probability rate from across the Community Bank network to factor in estimating the probability of an employee, at a given date, achieving continuous employment eligible for entitlement in accordance with legislation.

*Lease make good provision*
A provision has been made for the present value of anticipated costs for future restoration of leased premises. The provision includes future cost estimates associated with closure of the premises. The calculation of this provision requires assumptions such as application of closure dates and cost estimates. The provision recognised for each site is periodically reviewed and updated based on the facts and circumstances available at the time. Changes to the estimated future costs for sites are recognised in the statement of financial position by adjusting the asset and the provision. Reductions in the provision that exceed the carrying amount of the asset will be recognised in profit or loss.

**Note 5. Economic dependency**

The company has entered into a franchise agreement with Bendigo Bank that governs the management of the Community Bank. The company is economically dependent on the ongoing receipt of income under the franchise agreement with Bendigo Bank. The directors have no reason to believe a new franchise arrangement under mutually acceptable terms will not be forthcoming following expiry in February 2026.

The company operates as a franchise of Bendigo Bank, using the name "Bendigo Bank" and the logo and system of operations of Bendigo Bank. The company manages the Community Bank on behalf of Bendigo Bank, however all transactions with customers conducted through the Community Bank are effectively conducted between the customers and Bendigo Bank.

All deposits are made with Bendigo Bank, and all personal and investment products are products of Bendigo Bank, with the company facilitating the provision of those products. All loans, leases or hire purchase transactions, issues of new credit or debit cards, temporary or bridging finance and any other transaction that involves creating a new debt, or increasing or changing the terms of an existing debt owed to Bendigo Bank, must be approved by Bendigo Bank. All credit transactions are made with Bendigo Bank, and all credit products are products of Bendigo Bank.

The company promotes and sells the products and services, but is not a party to the transaction.

The credit risk (i.e. the risk that a customer will not make repayments) is for Bendigo Bank to bear as long as the company has complied with the appropriate procedures and relevant obligations and has not exercised a discretion in granting or extending credit.

**Note 5. Economic dependency (continued)**

Bendigo Bank provides significant assistance in establishing and maintaining the Community Bank franchise operations. It also continues to provide ongoing management and operational support and other assistance and guidance in relation to all aspects of the franchise operation, including advice and assistance in relation to:

- the design, layout and fit out of the Community Bank premises
- training for the branch manager and other employees in banking, management systems and interface protocol
- methods and procedures for the sale of products and provision of services
- security and cash logistic controls
- calculation of company revenue and payment of many operating and administrative expenses
- the formulation and implementation of advertising and promotional programs
- sales techniques and proper customer relations
- providing payroll services.

**Note 6. Change to comparative figures**

*Classification of term deposits*
During the year the directors reviewed the requirements of AASB 107 *Statement of Cash Flows* and noted term deposits normally qualify as a cash and cash equivalent only when they have initial investment periods of three months or less. In previous financial years the company classified all term deposits as cash and cash equivalents in the preparation of the financial statements even if they had initial investment periods greater than three months.

In the preparation of the financial statements for the current financial year, the directors updated its accounting policy to align to the requirements of AASB 107, restating comparatives figures to reclassify term deposits with initial investment periods greater than three months as current investments instead of cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of financial position.

The change in classification had the following impacts on comparative figures:

- Cash and cash equivalents decreased and investments increased by $214,264 at 30 June 2023 as reported in the Statement of financial position.
- Opening and closing cash balances were reduced to exclude term deposits with initial investment periods greater than three months as reported in the Statement of cash flows.
- Investments in and redemptions of term deposits with initial investment periods greater than three months are now classified within investment activities as reported in the Statement of cash flows.

The change in classification had no impact on the company's net profit or net asset position.

*Calculation of right-of-use asset cost and accumulated depreciation*
On adoption of AASB 16 *Leases* on 1 July 2019, the company previously recognised the right-of-use asset cost and accumulated depreciation on a gross basis from the commencement of the lease as if AASB 16 had always been applied by the company.

During the financial year the company recorded a change in accounting policy, whereby it elected to recognise the right-of-use asset net of accumulated depreciation on initial adoption of AASB 16. The change in accounting policy had no impact on the company's net profit or net asset position, however it did reduce the company's right-of-use asset cost and accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023 by $72,134.

**Note 7. Revenue from contracts with customers**

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| Margin income | 483,661 | 527,134 |
| Fee income | 32,945 | 26,850 |
| Commission income | 80,712 | 76,725 |
| | 597,318 | 630,709 |

### Note 7. Revenue from contracts with customers (continued)

*Accounting policy for revenue from contracts with customers*
The company has entered into a franchise agreement with Bendigo Bank. The company delivers banking and financial services of Bendigo Bank to its community. The franchise agreement provides for a share of interest, fee, and commission revenue earned by the company. Interest margin share is based on a funds transfer pricing methodology which recognises that income is derived from deposits held, and that loans granted incur a funding cost. Fees are based on the company's current fee schedule and commissions are based on the agreements in place. All margin revenue is recorded as non-interest income when the company's right to receive the payment is established.

The company acts as an agent under the franchise agreement and revenue arises from the rendering of services through its franchise agreement.

Revenue is recognised on an accruals basis, at the fair value of consideration specified in the franchise agreement, as follows:

| Revenue stream | Includes | Performance obligation | Timing of recognition |
|---|---|---|---|
| Franchise agreement profit share | Margin, commission, and fee income | When the company satisfies its obligation to arrange for the services to be provided to the customer by the supplier (Bendigo Bank as franchisor). | On completion of the provision of the relevant service. Revenue is accrued monthly and paid within 10 business days after the end of each month. |

All revenue is stated net of the amount of GST. There was no revenue from contracts with customers recognised over time during the financial year.

*Revenue calculation*
The franchise agreement provides that three forms of revenue may be earned by the company which are margin, commission and fee income. Bendigo Bank decides the form of revenue the company earns on different types of products and services. The revenue earned by the company is dependent on the business that it generates, interest rates and funds transfer pricing and other factors, such as economic and local conditions.

*Margin income*
Margin on core banking products is arrived at through the following calculation:

| | |
|---|---|
| | Interest paid by customers on loans less interest paid to customers on deposits |
| **plus:** | any deposit returns i.e. interest return applied by Bendigo Bank for a deposit |
| **minus:** | any costs of funds i.e. interest applied by Bendigo Bank to fund a loan. |

The company is entitled to a share of the margin earned by Bendigo Bank. If this reflects a loss, the company incurs a share of that loss.

*Commission income*
Commission income is generated from the sale of products and services. This commission is recognised at a point in time which reflects when the company has fulfilled its performance obligation. Refer to Note 4 for further information regarding key judgements applied by the directors in relation to the timing of revenue recognition from trail commission.

*Fee income*
Fee income is a share of what is commonly referred to as 'bank fees and charges' charged to customers by Bendigo Bank including fees for loan applications and account transactions.

*Core banking products*
Bendigo Bank has identified some products and services as 'core banking products'. It may change the products and services which are identified as core banking products by giving the company at least 30 days notice. Core banking products currently include Bendigo Bank branded home loans, term deposits and at call deposits.

**Note 7. Revenue from contracts with customers (continued)**

*Ability to change financial return*
Under the franchise agreement, Bendigo Bank may change the form and amount of financial return the company receives. The reasons it may make a change include changes in industry or economic conditions or changes in the way Bendigo Bank earns revenue.

The change may be to the method of calculation of margin, the amount of margin, commission and fee income or a change of a margin to a commission or vice versa. This may affect the amount of revenue the company receives on a particular product or service.

Bendigo Bank must not reduce the margin and commission the company receives on core banking products and services to less than 50% (on an aggregate basis) of Bendigo Bank's margin at that time. For other products and services, there is no restriction on the change Bendigo Bank may make.

**Note 8. Expenses**

**Employee benefits expense**

| | 2024 $ | 2023 $ |
|---|---|---|
| Wages and salaries | 272,388 | 261,188 |
| Superannuation contributions | 29,222 | 27,149 |
| Expenses related to long service leave | 5,772 | 4,746 |
| Other expenses | 19,315 | 10,665 |
| | 326,697 | 303,748 |

**Leases recognition exemption**

| | 2024 $ | 2023 $ |
|---|---|---|
| Expenses relating to low-value leases | 4,786 | 5,363 |

**Depreciation and amortisation expense**

| | 2024 $ | 2023 $ |
|---|---|---|
| *Depreciation of non-current assets* | | |
| Leasehold improvements | 15,984 | 14,452 |
| Plant and equipment | 975 | 1,619 |
| | 16,959 | 16,071 |
| *Depreciation of right-of-use assets* | | |
| Leased land and buildings | 21,416 | 21,144 |
| *Amortisation of intangible assets* | | |
| Franchise fee | 2,414 | 2,414 |
| Franchise renewal fee | 10,720 | 10,720 |
| Rights to revenue share | 6,055 | 15,743 |
| | 19,189 | 28,877 |
| | 57,564 | 66,092 |

### Note 8. Expenses (continued)

**Finance costs**

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| Lease interest expense | 10,639 | 11,984 |
| Unwinding of make-good provision | 904 | 868 |
| | 11,543 | 12,852 |

Finance costs are recognised as expenses when incurred using the effective interest rate.

### Note 9. Income tax

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| *Income tax expense* | | |
| Current tax | 5,473 | - |
| Movement in deferred tax | 389 | 9,471 |
| Under/over adjustment | (998) | - |
| Recoupment of prior year tax losses | 24,215 | 37,858 |
| Aggregate income tax expense | 29,079 | 47,329 |
| *Prima facie income tax reconciliation* | | |
| Profit before income tax expense | 113,900 | 172,750 |
| Tax at the statutory tax rate of 25% | 28,475 | 43,188 |
| Tax effect of: | | |
| Non-deductible expenses | 1,602 | 4,141 |
| | 30,077 | 47,329 |
| Under/over adjustment | (998) | - |
| Income tax expense | 29,079 | 47,329 |

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| *Deferred tax assets/(liabilities)* | | |
| Tax losses | - | 23,217 |
| Property, plant and equipment | (10,289) | (10,162) |
| Employee benefits | 6,020 | 5,621 |
| Provision for lease make good | 4,405 | 4,138 |
| Accrued expenses | 874 | 1,627 |
| Income accruals | (514) | (233) |
| Lease liabilities | 48,152 | 52,967 |
| Right-of-use assets | (35,605) | (40,526) |
| Deferred tax asset | 13,043 | 36,649 |

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|

**Note 9. Income tax (continued)**

*Accounting policy for income tax*
The income tax expense or benefit for the period is the tax payable on that period's taxable income based on the applicable income tax rate adjusted by the changes in deferred tax assets and liabilities attributable to temporary differences, unused tax losses and the adjustment recognised for prior periods, where applicable.

*Accounting policy for current tax*
Current tax assets and liabilities are measured at amounts expected to be recovered from or paid to the taxation authorities. It is calculated using tax rates and tax laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date.

*Accounting policy for deferred tax*
The carrying amount of deferred tax assets is reviewed at each reporting date and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profit will be available to allow all or part of the deferred tax asset to be utilised.

**Note 10. Cash and cash equivalents**

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| Cash at bank and on hand | 132,148 | 138,602 |

**Note 11. Trade and other receivables**

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| Trade receivables | 41,579 | 46,753 |
| | | |
| Accrued income | 2,056 | 933 |
| Prepayments | 7,990 | 7,219 |
| | 10,046 | 8,152 |
| | | |
| | 51,625 | 54,905 |

*Accounting policy for trade and other receivables*
Trade receivables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any allowance for expected credit losses. The company's trade receivables are limited to the monthly profit share distribution from Bendigo Bank, which is received 10 business days post month end.

**Note 12. Investments**

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| *Current assets* | | |
| Term deposits | 324,900 | 214,264 |

### Note 13. Property, plant and equipment

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| Leasehold improvements - at cost | 220,641 | 205,456 |
| Less: Accumulated depreciation | (111,185) | (95,201) |
| | 109,456 | 110,255 |
| Plant and equipment - at cost | 35,650 | 35,650 |
| Less: Accumulated depreciation | (33,741) | (32,766) |
| | 1,909 | 2,884 |
| | 111,365 | 113,139 |

Reconciliations of the carrying values at the beginning and end of the current and previous financial year are set out below:

| | Leasehold improvements<br>$ | Plant and equipment<br>$ | Total<br>$ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Balance at 1 July 2022 | 123,877 | 2,221 | 126,098 |
| Additions | 830 | 2,282 | 3,112 |
| Depreciation | (14,452) | (1,619) | (16,071) |
| Balance at 30 June 2023 | 110,255 | 2,884 | 113,139 |
| Additions | 15,185 | - | 15,185 |
| Depreciation | (15,984) | (975) | (16,959) |
| Balance at 30 June 2024 | 109,456 | 1,909 | 111,365 |

*Accounting policy for property, plant and equipment*
Property, plant and equipment are measured at cost or fair value as applicable, less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis to write off the net cost of each item of property, plant and equipment over their expected useful lives as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Leasehold improvements | 6 to 29 years |
| Plant and equipment | 2 to 10 years |

The residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the assets.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when there is no future economic benefit to the company. Gains and losses between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds are taken to profit or loss.

### Note 14. Right-of-use assets

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| Land and buildings - right-of-use | 251,416 | 249,682 |
| Less: Accumulated depreciation | (108,995) | (87,579) |
| | 142,421 | 162,103 |

### Note 14. Right-of-use assets (continued)

Reconciliations of the carrying values at the beginning and end of the current and previous financial year are set out below:

| | Land and buildings $ |
|---|---|
| Balance at 1 July 2022 | 183,247 |
| Depreciation expense | (21,144) |
| | |
| Balance at 30 June 2023 | 162,103 |
| Remeasurement adjustments | 1,734 |
| Depreciation expense | (21,416) |
| | |
| Balance at 30 June 2024 | 142,421 |

*Accounting policy for right-of-use assets*
Right-of-use assets are initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located, less any lease incentives received.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the unexpired period of the lease. Right-of-use assets are subject to impairment and are adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities.

Refer to note 17 for more information on lease arrangements.

### Note 15. Intangible assets

| | **2024 $** | **2023 $** |
|---|---|---|
| Rights to revenue share | 121,101 | 121,101 |
| Less: Accumulated amortisation | (21,798) | (15,743) |
| | 99,303 | 105,358 |
| | | |
| Franchise fee | 20,720 | 20,720 |
| Less: Accumulated amortisation | (17,957) | (15,543) |
| | 2,763 | 5,177 |
| | | |
| Franchise renewal fee | 53,598 | 53,598 |
| Less: Accumulated amortisation | (35,732) | (25,012) |
| | 17,866 | 28,586 |
| | | |
| | 119,932 | 139,121 |

**Note 15. Intangible assets (continued)**

Reconciliations of the carrying values at the beginning and end of the current and previous financial year are set out below:

| | Rights to revenue share $ | Franchise fee $ | Franchise renewal fee $ | Total $ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Balance at 1 July 2022 | 121,101 | 7,591 | 39,306 | 167,998 |
| Amortisation expense | (15,743) | (2,414) | (10,720) | (28,877) |
| Balance at 30 June 2023 | 105,358 | 5,177 | 28,586 | 139,121 |
| Amortisation expense | (6,055) | (2,414) | (10,720) | (19,189) |
| Balance at 30 June 2024 | 99,303 | 2,763 | 17,866 | 119,932 |

*Accounting policy for intangible assets*
Intangible assets of the company relate to the franchise fees paid to Bendigo Bank which conveys the right to operate the Community Bank franchise. The company has also acquired rights to revenue share from another Community Bank.

Intangible assets are measured on initial recognition at cost. Subsequent expenditure is capitalised only when it increases the future economic benefits embodied in the specific asset to which it relates.

The franchise fees paid by the company and rights to revenue share acquired are amortised over their useful life and assessed for impairment whenever impairment indicators are present.

The estimated useful life and amortisation method for the current and comparative periods are as follows:

| Asset class | Method | Useful life | Expiry/renewal date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Franchise fee | Straight-line | Over the franchise term (5 years) | February 2026 |
| Franchise renewal fee | Straight-line | Over the franchise term (5 years) | February 2026 |
| Rights to revenue share | Straight-line | Customer lifecycle | December 2040 |

Amortisation methods, useful life, and residual values are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at each reporting date.

*Changes in estimates*
During the financial year, the company assessed estimates used for intangible assets including useful lives, residual values, and amortisation methods. There were no changes in estimates for the current reporting period

**Note 16. Trade and other payables**

| | **2024 $** | **2023 $** |
|---|---|---|
| *Current liabilities* | | |
| Other payables and accruals | 40,838 | 45,221 |
| *Non-current liabilities* | | |
| Other payables and accruals | - | 14,203 |

| | **2024 $** | **2023 $** |
|---|---|---|
| *Financial liabilities at amortised cost classified as trade and other payables* | | |
| Total trade and other payables | 40,838 | 59,424 |
| Less: other payables and accruals (net GST payable to the ATO) | (9,046) | (11,904) |
| | 31,792 | 47,520 |

## Note 17. Lease liabilities

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| *Current liabilities* | | |
| Land and buildings lease liabilities | 31,797 | 20,867 |
| | | |
| *Non-current liabilities* | | |
| Land and buildings lease liabilities | 160,811 | 191,000 |

*Reconciliation of lease liabilities*

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| Opening balance | 211,867 | 233,450 |
| Remeasurement adjustments | 1,884 | - |
| Lease interest expense | 10,639 | 11,984 |
| Lease payments - total cash outflow | (31,782) | (33,567) |
| | 192,608 | 211,867 |

*Accounting policy for lease liabilities*
A lease liability is recognised at the commencement date of a lease. The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments to be made over the term of the lease, including renewal options if the company is reasonably certain to exercise such options, discounted using the company's incremental borrowing rate.

The company has applied the following accounting policy choices in relation to lease liabilities:

- The company has elected not to separate lease and non-lease components when calculating the lease liability for property leases.
- The company has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases and low-value assets, which include the company's lease of information technology equipment. The company recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

The company's lease portfolio includes:

| Lease | Discount rate | Non-cancellable term | Renewal options available | Reasonably certain to exercise options | Lease term end date used in calculations |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stanthorpe Branch | 5.39% | 5 years | 1 x 5 years | Yes | February 2031 |

## Note 18. Employee benefits

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| *Current liabilities* | | |
| Annual leave | 14,505 | 15,687 |
| | | |
| *Non-current liabilities* | | |
| Long service leave | 9,573 | 6,797 |

*Accounting policy for short-term employee benefits*
Liabilities for annual leave and long service leave expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the reporting date are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Non-accumulating non-vesting sick leave is expensed when the leave is taken and is measured at the rates paid or payable.

**Note 18. Employee benefits (continued)**

*Accounting policy for other long-term employee benefits*
The liability for annual leave and long service leave not expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are measured at the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. 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 corporate bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

**Note 19. Provisions**

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| Lease make good provision | 17,618 | 16,552 |

*Lease make good provision*
In accordance with the branch lease agreement, the company must restore the leased premises to the original condition before the expiry of the lease term. The company has estimated the provision to be $25,000 for the Stanthorpe Branch lease, based on experience and consideration of the expected future costs to remove all fittings and the ATM as well as the cost to remedy any damages caused during the removal process. The lease is due to expire February 2031 at which time it is expected the face-value costs to restore the premises will fall due.

**Note 20. Issued capital**

| | 2024<br>Shares | 2023<br>Shares | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ordinary shares - fully paid | 755,360 | 755,360 | 755,360 | 755,360 |
| Less: Equity raising costs | - | - | (32,284) | (32,284) |
| | 755,360 | 755,360 | 723,076 | 723,076 |

*Accounting policy for issued capital*
Ordinary shares are recognised at the fair value of the consideration received by the company being $1 per share. Any transaction costs arising on the issue of ordinary shares are recognised directly in equity as a reduction of the share proceeds received.

***Rights attached to issued capital***

*Ordinary shares*
Voting rights
Subject to some limited exceptions, each member has the right to vote at a general meeting.

On a show of hands or a poll, each member attending the meeting (whether they are attending the meeting in person or by attorney, corporate representative or proxy) has one vote, regardless of the number of shares held. However, where a person attends a meeting in person and is entitled to vote in more than one capacity (for example, the person is a member and has also been appointed as proxy for another member) that person may only exercise one vote on a show of hands. On a poll, that person may exercise one vote as a member and one vote for each other member that person represents as duly appointed attorney, corporate representative or proxy.

The purpose of giving each member only one vote, regardless of the number of shares held, is to reflect the nature of the company as a community based company, by providing that all members of the community who have contributed to the establishment and ongoing operation of the Community Bank branch have the same ability to influence the operation of the company.

**Note 20. Issued capital (continued)**

<u>Dividends</u>
Generally, dividends are payable to members in proportion to the amount of the share capital paid up on the shares held by them, subject to any special rights and restrictions for the time being attaching to shares. The franchise agreement with Bendigo Bank contains a limit on the level of profits or funds that may be distributed to shareholders. There is also a restriction on the payment of dividends to certain shareholders if they have a prohibited shareholding interest (see below).

<u>Transfer</u>
Generally, ordinary shares are freely transferable. However, the directors have a discretion to refuse to register a transfer of shares.

Subject to the foregoing, shareholders may transfer shares by a proper transfer effected in accordance with the company's constitution and the *Corporations Act 2001*.

*Prohibited shareholding interest*
A person must not have a prohibited shareholding interest in the company.

In summary, a person has a prohibited shareholding interest if any of the following applies:

- They control or own 10% or more of the shares in the company (the "10% limit").
- In the opinion of the board they do not have a close connection to the community or communities in which the company predominantly carries on business (the "close connection test").
- Where the person is a shareholder, after the transfer of shares in the company to that person the number of shareholders in the company is (or would be) lower than the base number (the "base number test"). The base number is 190. As at the date of this report, the company had 240 shareholders (2023: 241 shareholders).

As with voting rights, the purpose of this prohibited shareholding provision is to reflect the community-based nature of the company.

Where a person has a prohibited shareholding interest, the voting and dividend rights attaching to the shares in which the person (and their associates) has a prohibited shareholding interest in are suspended.

The board has the power to request information from a person who has (or is suspected by the board of having) a legal or beneficial interest in any shares in the company or any voting power in the company, for the purpose of determining whether a person has a prohibited shareholding interest. If the board becomes aware that a member has a prohibited shareholding interest, it must serve a notice requiring the member (or the member's associate) to dispose of the number of shares the board considers necessary to remedy the breach. If a person fails to comply with such a notice within a specified period (that must be between three and six months), the board is authorised to sell the specified shares on behalf of that person. The holder will be entitled to the consideration from the sale of the shares, less any expenses incurred by the board in selling or otherwise dealing with those shares.

In the constitution, members acknowledge and recognise that the exercise of the powers given to the board may cause considerable disadvantage to individual members, but that such a result may be necessary to enforce the prohibition.

**Note 21. Capital management**

The board's policy is to maintain a strong capital base so as to sustain future development of the company. The board monitor the return on capital and the level of distributions to shareholders. Capital is represented by total equity as recorded in the statement of financial position.

In accordance with the franchise agreement, in any 12 month period the funds distributed to shareholders shall not exceed the distribution limit.

**Note 21. Capital management (continued)**

The distribution limit is the greater of:

- 20% of the profit or funds of the company otherwise available for distribution to shareholders in that 12 month period; and
- subject to the availability of distributable profits, the relevant rate of return multiplied by the average level of share capital of the company over that 12 month period where the relevant rate of return is equal to the weighted average interest rate on 90 day bank bills over that 12 month period plus 5%.

The board is managing the growth of the business in line with this requirement. There are no other externally imposed capital requirements, although the nature of the company is such that amounts will be paid in the form of charitable donations and sponsorship. Charitable donations and sponsorship paid for the financial year can be seen in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive Income.

There were no changes in the company's approach to capital management during the year.

**Note 22. Dividends**

The following dividends were provided for and paid to shareholders during the financial year as presented in the Statement of changes in equity and Statement of cash flows.

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| Unfranked dividend of 2 cents per share (2023: 1 cents) | 15,108 | 7,554 |

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| Franking credits (debits) arising from income taxes paid (refunded) | 3,350 | - |
| *Franking transactions that will arise subsequent to the financial year end:* | | |
| Balance at the end of the financial year | 3,350 | - |
| Franking credits (debits) that will arise from payment (refund) of income tax | 2,123 | - |
| Franking credits available for future reporting periods | 5,473 | - |

*Accounting policy for dividends*
Dividends are recognised when declared during the financial year.

**Note 23. Financial risk management**

The company's financial instruments include trade receivables and payables, cash and cash equivalents, investments and lease liabilities. The company does not have any derivatives.

The directors are responsible for monitoring and managing the financial risk exposure of the company, to which end it monitors the financial risk management policies and exposures and approves financial transactions within the scope of its authority.

The directors have identified that the only significant financial risk exposures of the company are liquidity and market (price) risk. Other financial risks are not significant to the company due to the following factors:

- The company has no foreign exchange risk as all of its account balances and transactions are in Australian Dollars.
- The company's franchise agreement limits the company's credit exposure to one financial institution, being Bendigo Bank. The company monitors credit worthiness through review of credit ratings, Bendigo Bank is rated A- on Standard & Poor's credit ratings.
- The company has no direct exposure to movements in commodity prices.
- The company’s interest-bearing instruments are held at amortised cost which have fair values that approximate their carrying value since all cash and payables have maturity dates within 12 months.
- The company has no borrowings.

**Note 23. Financial risk management (continued)**

Further details regarding the categories of financial instruments held by the company that hold such exposure are detailed below.

| | 2024 $ | 2023 $ |
|---|---|---|
| **Financial assets at amortised cost** | | |
| Trade and other receivables (note 11) | 43,635 | 47,686 |
| Cash and cash equivalents (note 10) | 132,148 | 138,602 |
| Term deposits (note 12) | 324,900 | 214,264 |
| | 500,683 | 400,552 |
| **Financial liabilities** | | |
| Trade and other payables (note 16) | 31,792 | 47,520 |
| Lease liabilities (note 17) | 192,608 | 211,867 |
| | 224,400 | 259,387 |

*Accounting policy for financial instruments*

***Financial assets***

*Classification*
The company classifies its financial assets at amortised cost.

Financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial asset.

The company's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other receivables, cash and cash equivalents and investments in term deposits.

*Derecognition*
A financial asset is derecognised when the company's contractual right to its cash flows expires, or the asset is transferred in such a way that all the risks and rewards of ownership are substantially transferred.

*Impairment of trade and other receivables*
Impairment of trade receivables is determined using the simplified approach which uses an estimation of lifetime expected credit losses. The company has not recognised an allowance for expected credit losses in relation to trade and other receivables. Refer to note 4 for further information.

***Financial liabilities***

*Classification*
The company classifies its financial liabilities at amortised cost.

*Derecognition*
A financial liability is derecognised when it is extinguished, cancelled or expires.

***Market risk***
Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices - e.g. foreign exchange rates, interest rates, and equity prices - will affect the company's income or the value of its holdings in financial instruments.

Interest-bearing assets and liabilities are held with Bendigo Bank and earnings on those are subject to movements in market interest rates. The company held cash and cash equivalents of $132,148 and term deposits of $324,900 at 30 June 2024 (2023: cash and cash equivalents of $138,602 and term deposits of $214,264).

**Note 23. Financial risk management (continued)**

***Price risk***
The company is not exposed to equity securities price risk as it does not hold investments for sale or at fair value. The company is not exposed to commodity price risk.

***Liquidity risk***
Liquidity risk is the risk that the company will encounter difficulty in meeting the obligations associated with its financial liabilities that are settled by delivering cash or another financial asset. The company's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure, as far as possible, that it will have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they are due, under both normal and stressed conditions, without incurring unacceptable losses or risking damage to the company's reputation.

The following are the company's remaining contractual maturities of financial liabilities. The contractual cash flow amounts are gross and undiscounted and therefore may differ from their carrying amount in the statement of financial position.

| **2024** | 1 year or less $ | Between 1 and 5 years $ | Over 5 years $ | Remaining contractual maturities $ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Non-derivatives** | | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 31,792 | - | - | 31,792 |
| Lease liabilities | 32,576 | 135,812 | 60,326 | 228,714 |
| Total non-derivatives | 64,368 | 135,812 | 60,326 | 260,506 |

| **2023** | 1 year or less $ | Between 1 and 5 years $ | Over 5 years $ | Remaining contractual maturities $ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Non-derivatives** | | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 33,317 | 14,203 | - | 47,520 |
| Lease liabilities | 31,781 | 133,306 | 95,406 | 260,493 |
| Total non-derivatives | 65,098 | 147,509 | 95,406 | 308,013 |

**Note 24. Key management personnel disclosures**

The following persons were directors of Stanthorpe Regional Community Financial Services Ltd during the financial year and/or up to the date of signing of these Financial Statements.

Donald Charles Gaske
Leeanne Josephine Gangemi
Catherine Margaret Orford
Todd Cameron Sutherland
James William Barnes

No director of the company receives remuneration for services as a company director or committee member.

There are no executives within the company whose remuneration is required to be disclosed.

**Note 25. Related party transactions**

*Key management personnel*
Disclosures relating to key management personnel are set out in note 24.

*Receivable from and payable to related parties*
There were no trade receivables from or trade payables to related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

*Terms and conditions of transactions with related parties*
Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

### Note 25. Related party transactions (continued)

*Transactions with related parties*
There were no transactions with related parties during the current and previous financial year.

### Note 26. Remuneration of auditors

During the financial year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by Andrew Frewin Stewart, the auditor of the company:

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| *Audit services* | | |
| Audit or review of the financial statements | 6,450 | 5,400 |
| *Other services* | | |
| Taxation advice and tax compliance services | 700 | 660 |
| General advisory services | 3,560 | 3,480 |
| Share registry services | 4,441 | 3,809 |
| | 8,701 | 7,949 |
| | 15,151 | 13,349 |

### Note 27. Reconciliation of profit after income tax to net cash provided by operating activities

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| Profit after income tax expense for the year | 84,821 | 125,421 |
| Adjustments for: | | |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 57,564 | 66,092 |
| Lease liabilities interest | 10,639 | 11,984 |
| Change in operating assets and liabilities: | | |
| Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables | 3,280 | (30,759) |
| Decrease in deferred tax assets | 23,606 | 47,329 |
| Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables | (5,117) | 11,152 |
| Increase in provision for income tax | 2,123 | - |
| Increase in employee benefits | 1,594 | 2,966 |
| Increase in other provisions | 903 | 867 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 179,413 | 235,052 |

### Note 28. Earnings per share

| | 2024<br>$ | 2023<br>$ |
|---|---|---|
| Profit after income tax | 84,821 | 125,421 |
| | **Number** | **Number** |
| Weighted average number of ordinary shares used in calculating basic earnings per share | 755,360 | 755,360 |
| Weighted average number of ordinary shares used in calculating diluted earnings per share | 755,360 | 755,360 |

**Note 28. Earnings per share (continued)**

| | Cents | Cents |
|---|---|---|
| Basic earnings per share | 11.23 | 16.60 |
| Diluted earnings per share | 11.23 | 16.60 |

*Accounting policy for earnings per share*
Basic and diluted earnings per share is calculated by dividing the profit attributable to the owners of Stanthorpe Regional Community Financial Services Ltd, by the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the financial year.

**Note 29. Commitments**

The company has no commitments contracted for which would be provided for in future reporting periods.

**Note 30. Contingencies**

There were no contingent liabilities or contingent assets at the date of this report.

**Note 31. Events after the reporting period**

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2024 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the company's operations, the results of those operations, or the company's state of affairs in future financial years.

**Stanthorpe Regional Community Financial Services Ltd**
**Directors' declaration**
**30 June 2024**

In the directors' opinion:

- the attached financial statements and notes comply with the *Corporations Act 2001*, the Accounting Standards, the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements;

- the attached financial statements and notes comply with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board as described in the notes to the financial statements;

- the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date;

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable; and

- the company does not have any controlled entities and is not required by the Accounting Standards to prepare consolidated financial statements. Therefore, a consolidated entity disclosure statement has not been included as section 295(3A)(a) of *the Corporations Act 2001* does not apply to the entity.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of directors made pursuant to section 295(5)(a) of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

On behalf of the directors

Donald Charles Gaske
Chair

27 September 2024

Andrew Frewin Stewart
61 Bull Street Bendigo VIC 3550
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03 5443 0344

# Independent auditor's report to the Directors of Stanthorpe Regional Community Financial Services Ltd

## Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

## Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Stanthorpe Regional Community Financial Services Ltd (the company), which comprises:

- Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024
- Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended
- Statement of changes in equity for the year then ended
- Statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- Notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policies
- The directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Stanthorpe Regional Community Financial Services Ltd, is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

i. giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

## Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We are independent of the company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

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## Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the company's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that it gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Auditor's responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatement can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

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As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

**Andrew Frewin Stewart**
61 Bull Street, Bendigo, Vic, 3550
Dated: 27 September 2024

**Lachlan Tatt**
**Lead Auditor**

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