TAMALA PARK REGIONAL COUNCIL

POLICY MANUAL

Financial Management – Significant Accounting Policies
(September 2018)

POLICY

Objective

To adopt Full Accrual Accounting and all other applicable Accounting Standards.

Local Government Reference

- *Local Government Act 1995*
- *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*
- Australian Accounting Standards

Significant Accounting Policies

The significant accounting policies which have been adopted by Council in the preparation of the financial report are:

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial report comprises general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (as they apply to local governments and not-for-profit entities and to the extent they are not in-consistent with the *Local Government Act 1995* and accompanying regulations), Australian Accounting Interpretations, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the *Local Government Act 1995* and accompanying regulations. Accounting policies which have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

Except for cash flow and rate setting information, the report has also been prepared on the accrual basis and is based on historical costs, modified where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of the selected non-current assets, financial assets and liabilities.

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

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

The Local Government Reporting Entity
All Funds through which the Regional Council controls resources to carry on its functions have been included in the financial statements forming part of this financial report.

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

Australian Accounting Standards – Inconsistency
Land under roads
In Western Australia, all land under roads is Crown Land, the responsibility for managing which, is vested in the local government.

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

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

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

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

2. REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Interest
Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method.

3. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, cash at bank, deposits available on demand with banks and other short term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are reported as short-term borrowings in current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

4. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Trade and other receivables include amounts due from third parties for goods sold and amounts due from third parties for goods sold and services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

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

Classification and subsequent measurement
Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in Profit or Loss.

Loans and receivables are included in current assets where they are expected to mature within 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

5. INVENTORIES

General
Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

Land held for sale
Land held for development and sale is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost includes the cost of acquisition, development, borrowing costs and holding costs until completion of development.

Finance costs and holding charges incurred after development is completed are expensed.

Gains and losses are recognised in profit and loss at the time of signing an unconditional contract of sale if significant risks and rewards, and effective control over the land, are passed on to the buyer at this point.

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

6. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Movements in Carrying Amounts
Movement in the carrying amounts of each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

Fair Value Measurements
Level 3 inputs are based on assumptions with regards to future values and patterns of consumption utilising current information. If the basis of these assumptions were varied, they have the potential to result in a significantly higher or lower fair value measurement.

During the period there were no changes in the valuation techniques used by the local government to determine the fair value of property, plant and equipment using level 3 inputs.

7. FIXED ASSETS

Each class of fixed assets within either property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value as indicated less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Initial recognition and measurement between mandatory revaluation dates
All assets are initially recognised at cost and subsequently revalued in accordance with the mandatory measurement framework.

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

Individual assets acquired between initial recognition and the next revaluation of the asset class in accordance with the mandatory measurement framework, are recognised at cost and disclosed as being at fair value as management believes cost approximates fair value. They are subject to subsequent revaluation at the next anniversary date in accordance with the mandatory measurement framework.

Revaluation
The fair value of fixed assets is determined at least every three years in accordance with the regulatory framework. At the end of each period the valuation is reviewed and where appropriate the fair value is updated to reflect current market conditions. This process is considered to be in accordance with *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 17A (2)* which requires property, plant and equipment to be shown at fair value.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of assets are credited to a revaluation surplus in equity. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same asset are recognised against revaluation surplus directly in equity. All other decreases are recognised in profit or loss.

Land under control
In accordance with *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 16(a)(ii)*, the Regional Council was required to includes as an asset (by June 30 2013), Crown Land operated by the local government as a golf course, showground, racecourse or other sporting or recreational facility of State or Regional significance.

Upon initial recognition, these assets were recorded at cost in accordance with AASB 116. They were then classified as Land and revalued along with other land in accordance with the other policies detailed in this Note.

Disposal of Assets
The Regional Council did not dispose of any assets during the year ended 30 June 2018.

Depreciation
The depreciable amount of all fixed assets including buildings but excluding freehold land, are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the individual asset's useful life from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the improvements.

When an item of property, plant and equipment is revalued, any accumulated depreciation at the date of the revaluation is treated in one of the following ways:

a) Restated proportionately with the change in the gross carrying amount of the asset so that the carrying amount of the asset after revaluation equals its revalued amount; or

b) Eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

Depreciation rates
Major depreciation periods used for each class of depreciable asset are:

Improvements to leasehold property	8 years
Furniture and Equipment	4 to 10 years
Plant and Equipment	5 to 12 years

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

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

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the statement of comprehensive income in the period in which they arise.

8. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

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

9. PROVISIONS

Employee Benefits
Short-term employee benefits
Provision is made for the Regional Council's obligations for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

The Regional Council's obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages, salaries and sick leave are recognised as a part of current trade and other payables in the statement of financial position. The Regional Council's obligations for employees' annual leave and long service leave entitlements are recognised as provisions in the statement of financial position.

Other long-term employee benefits
Provision is made for employees' long service leave and annual leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Other long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on government bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Any re-measurements for changes in assumptions of obligations for other long-term employee benefits are recognised in profit or loss in the periods in which the changes occur.

The Regional Council's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the Regional Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period, in which case the obligations are presented as current provisions.

Provisions
Provisions are recognised when the Regional Council has a present legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

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

10. NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Reconciliation of cash
For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash and cash equivalents, net of outstanding bank overdrafts. Cash at the end of the reporting period is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position.

11. CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS

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

Finance leases are capitalised recording an asset and a liability at the lower amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period. Leased assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or the lease term.

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

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

12. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Key Management Personnel (KMP)
Short-term employee benefits
These amounts include all salary, paid leave, fringe benefits and cash bonuses awarded to KMP except for details in respect of fees and benefits paid to elected members.

Post-employment benefits
These amounts are the current year's estimated cost of provided for the Regional Council superannuation contributions made during the year.

Other long-term benefits
These amounts represent long service benefits accruing during the year.

Transactions with related parties
Transactions between related parties, and the Regional Council are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

No outstanding balances or provisions for doubtful debts or guarantees exist in relation to related parties at year end.
The Regional Council's main related parties are as follows:

i. *Key Management Personnel*
Any person(s) having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any elected member, are considered key management personnel.

ii. *Entities subject to significant influence by the Regional Council.*
An entity that has the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of an entity, but does not have control over those policies, is an entity which holds significant influence. Significant influence may be gained by share ownership, statue or agreement.

13. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

The Regional Council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks including price risk, credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk. The Regional Council's overall risk management focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Regional Council.

The Regional Council does not engage in transactions expressed in foreign currencies and is therefore not subject to foreign currency risk.

Financial risk management is carried out by the finance area under policies approved by the Regional Council.

Cash and cash equivalents
The Regional Council's objective is to maximise its return on cash whilst maintaining an adequate level of liquidity and preserving capital. The finance area manages the cash portfolio.

The Regional Council has an Investment Policy and the policy is subject to review by Council. An Investment Report is provided to Council on a monthly basis setting out the make-up and performance of the portfolio.

The major risk associated with investments is price risk – the risk that the capital value of investments may fluctuate due to changes in market prices, whether these changes are caused by factors specific to individual financial instruments of their issuers or factors affecting similar instruments traded in a market.

Cash is subject to interest rate risk – the risk that movements in interest rates could affect returns.

Another risk associated with cash is credit risk – the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument resulting in a financial loss to the Regional Council.

The Regional Council manages these risks by diversifying its portfolio ad only investing in investments authorised by the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 19C*.

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Receivables
The Regional Council's major receivables comprise interest, goods and services tax and general debtors. The major risk associated with these receivables is credit risk – the risk that the debts may not be repaid. The Regional Council manages this risk by monitoring outstanding debt and employing debt recovery policies.

The level of outstanding receivables is reported to Council monthly and benchmarks are set and monitored for acceptable collection performance.

The Regional Council makes suitable provision for doubtful receivables as required and carries out credit checks on debtors.

There are no material receivables that have been subject to a re-negotiation of repayment terms.

Payables and borrowings
Payables and borrowings are both subject to liquidity risk – that is the risk that insufficient funds may be on hand to meet payment obligations as and when they fall due. The Regional Council manages this risk by monitoring its cash flow requirements and liquidity levels and maintaining an adequate cash buffer. Payment terms can be extended and overdraft facilities drawn upon if required.

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14. NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR APPLICATION IN FUTURE PERIODS

The AASB has issued a number of new and amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods, some of which are relevant to the Regional Council.

Management's assessment of the new and amended pronouncements that are relevant to the Regional Council, applicable to future reporting periods and which have not yet been adopted are set out as follows:

	Title	Issued / Compiled	Applicable (1)	Impact
(i)	AASB 9 Financial Instruments (incorporating AASB 2014-7 and AASB 2014-8)	December 2014	1 January 2018	Nil – The objective of this Standard is to improve and simplify the approach for classification and measurement of financial assets compared with the requirements of AASB 139. Given the nature of the financial assets of the Regional Council, it is not anticipated the Standard will have any material effect.
(ii)	AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers	December 2014	1 January 2019	This Standard establishes principles for entities to apply to report useful information to users of

				financial statements about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from a contract with a customer. The effect of this Standard will depend upon the nature of future transactions the Regional Council has with those third parties it has dealings with. It may or may not be significant.
(iii)	AASB 16 Leases	February 2016	1 January 2019	Under AASB 16 there is no longer a distinction between finance and operating leases. Lessees will now bring to account a right-to-use asset and lease liability onto their statement of financial position for all leases. Effectively this means the vast majority of operating leases as defined by the current AASB 117 Leases which currently do not impact the statement of financial position will be required to be capitalised on the statement of financial position once AASB 16 is adopted. Currently, operating lease payments are expensed as incurred. This will cease and will be

				replaced by both depreciation and interest charges. Based on the current number of operating leases held by the Regional Council, the impact is not expected to be significant.
(iv)	AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (incorporating AASB 2016-7 and AASB 2016-8) [AASB 1 & AASB 11]	December 2016	1 January 2019	These standards are likely to have a significant impact on the income recognition for NFP's. Key areas for consideration are: • Assets received below fair value; • Transfers received to acquire or construct non-financial assets; • Grants received; • Prepaid rates; • Leases entered into at below market rates; and • Volunteer services. Whilst it is not possible to quantify the financial impact (or if it is material) of these key areas until the details of future transactions are known, they

will all have application to the Regional Council's operations.

Notes:
(1) Applicable to reporting periods commencing on or after the given date.

Adoption of New and Revised Accounting Standards

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

Whilst many reflected consequential changes associate with the amendment of existing standards, the only new standard with material application is as follows:

(i)	AASB 2016-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Recoverable Amount of Non-Cash-Generating Specialised Assets of Not-for-Profit Entities	1 January 2017
(ii)	AASB 2016-7 Amendments to Accounting Standards – Deferral of AASB 15 for Not-for-Profit Entities	1 January 2017

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15. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) **Goods and services tax (GST)**
Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows.

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

c) **Rounding off figures**
All figures shown in the annual financial report, other than a rate in the dollar, are rounded to the nearest dollar. Amounts are presented in Australian dollars.

d) **Comparative figures**
Where required, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

When the Regional Council applies an accounting policy retrospectively, makes a retrospective restatement or reclassifies items in its financial statement, an additional (third) statement of financial position as at the beginning of the preceding period in addition to the minimum comparative financial statements is presented.

e) **Budget comparative figures**
Unless otherwise stated, the budget comparative figures shown in this annual financial report relate to the original budget estimate for the relevant item of disclosure.

f) **Superannuation**
The Regional Council contributes to a number of Superannuation Funds on behalf of employees. All funds to which the Regional Council contributes are defined contribution plans.

g) **Fair value of assets and liabilities**
Fair Value is the price that the Regional Council would receive to sell the asset or would have to pay to transfer a liability, in an orderly (i.e. unforced) transaction between independent, knowledgeable and willing market participants at the measurement date.

As fair value is a market-based measure, the closest equivalent observable market pricing information is used to determine fair value. Adjustments to market values may be made having regard to the characteristics of the specific asset or liability. The fair values of assets that are not traded in an active market are determined using one or more valuation techniques. These valuation techniques maximise, to the extent possible, the use of observable market data.

To the extent possible, market information is extracted from either the principal market for the asset or liability (i.e. the market with the greatest volume and level of activity for the asset or liability) or, in the absence of such a market, the most advantageous market available to the entity at the end of the reporting period (i.e. the market that maximises the receipts from the sale of the asset after taking into account transaction costs and transport costs).

For non-financial assets, the fair value measurement also takes into account a market participant's ability to use the asset in its highest and best use or to sell it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

h) **Fair value hierarchy**
AASB 13 requires the disclosure of fair value information by level of the fair value hierarchy, which categorises fair value measurement into one of three possible levels based on the lowest level that an input that is significant to the measurement can be categorised into as follows:

Level 1
Measurements based on quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

Level 2
Measurements based on inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3
Measurements based on unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

The fair values of assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market are determined using one or more valuation techniques. These valuation techniques maximise, to the extent possible, the use of observable market data. If all significant inputs required to measure fair value are observable, the asset or liability is included in Level 2. If one or more significant inputs are not based on observable market data, the asset or liability is included in Level 3.

Valuation techniques
The Regional Council selects a valuation technique that is appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available to measure fair value. The availability of sufficient and relevant data primarily depends on the specific characteristics of the asset or liability being measured. The valuation techniques selected by the Regional Council are consistent with one or more of the following valuation approaches:

Market approach
Valuation techniques that use prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions for identical or similar assets or liabilities.

Income approach
Valuation techniques that convert estimated future cash flows or income and expenses into a single discounted present value.

Cost approach
Valuation techniques that reflect the current replacement cost of an asset at its current service capacity.

Each valuation technique requires inputs that reflect the assumptions that buyers and sellers would use when pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risks. When selecting a valuation technique, the Regional Council gives priority to those techniques that maximise the use of observable inputs and minimise the use of unobservable inputs. Inputs that are developed using market data (such as publicly available information on actual transactions) and reflect the assumptions that buyers and sellers would generally use when pricing the asset or liability are considered observable, whereas inputs for which market data is not available and therefore are developed using the best information available about such assumptions are considered unobservable.

i) Impairment of assets

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

Where such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount.

Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount in accordance with another standard (e.g. AASB 116) whereby any impairment loss of a revalued asset is treated as a revaluation decrease in accordance with that other standard.

For non-cash generating specialised assets such as roads, drains, public buildings and the like, no annual assessment is required. Rather AASB 116.31 applies and revaluations need only be made with sufficient regulatory to ensure the carrying value does not differ materially from that which would be determined using fair value at the ends of the reporting period.

This Financial Management – Significant Accounting Policies is authorised by the Chief Executive Officer on 18 October 2018.

Signature: Tony Arias

Name: JOHN ANTHONY ARIAS

Date: 18 October 2018