



POSITION TITLE	Financial Accountant
AWARD AND CLASSIFICATION	Wodonga City Council Enterprise Agreement 2024 to 2027 Band 7
DIRECTORATE	Corporate Services
BUSINESS UNIT	Finance
REPORTS TO	Team Leader Financial Accounting
SUPERVISES	Nil
EMPLOYMENT STATUS	Full time
DATE	
EMPLOYEE NAME	

ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

Wodonga Council’s vision for the city is to be seen as a ‘progressive, well-planned city that is affordable, offers an abundance of opportunities and is led by strong, empathetic stewardship’. This vision will support us to realise our mission ‘to strengthen the community in all that we do’.

POSITION OBJECTIVES

As the Financial Accountant, your primary objective is to collaborate with the Manager Finance, Team Leader Financial Accounting, and key stakeholders throughout the organisation to prepare monthly, quarterly, and annual financial reports on a timely basis that comply with the relevant legislation and standards. Your meticulous attention to detail will provide the organisation with up-to-date and precise financial reports, facilitating informed decision-making and certification of results by the Victorian Auditor General’s Office. Additionally, you work to improve the financial accounting processes and systems and will perform other accounting and finance duties as required.

our values

TRUST - RESPECT - INTEGRITY - LEARNING

our mission

WE WILL STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY IN ALL THAT WE DO

ACCOUNTABILITY AND EXTENT OF AUTHORITY, INCLUDING DUTIES

- Prepares, reviews and validates complex accounting worksheets and journal entries to ensure accurate recognition of assets, leasing arrangements, prepayments, accruals and depreciation in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Council policy.
- Performs and oversees complex balance sheet reconciliations (excluding AP, AR, banking and payroll ledgers) to maintain the integrity, completeness and accuracy of Council's general ledger and financial records.
- Coordinates and delivers monthly, quarterly and annual financial reporting processes to ensure timely compliance with legislative requirements, Australian Accounting Standards and internal governance frameworks.
- Prepares high-quality financial commentary, analysis and variance explanations to support informed decision-making by the Executive, Council and other key stakeholders.
- Leads financial year-end processes within area of responsibility and supports external audit requirements by liaising with the Victorian Auditor-General's Office, preparing working papers and providing technical responses to audit queries.
- Provides specialist financial advice and builds financial literacy across the organisation to improve understanding of accounting standards, financial controls and Council accounting policies.
- Reviews and improves financial accounting policies, internal controls, systems and business processes to strengthen compliance, enhance efficiency and reduce financial risk.
- Delivers specialist accounting support including grant acquittals, statutory reporting and performance reporting requirements to ensure accurate, transparent and accountable financial management.

OUR VALUES

You are expected to demonstrate the values in your everyday work and your interactions with colleagues and the community.

Trust Talk straight – Say what you mean and mean what you say
 Create transparency – Do not withhold information unnecessarily or inappropriately
 Right wrongs
 Practice accountability – Take responsibility for results without excuses
 Extend trust – Show a willingness to trust others, even when it involves a measure of risk

Respect Treat other people with courtesy, politeness and kindness, no matter what their position or opinion
 Listen first – Seek to understand others before trying to diagnose, influence or prescribe

Integrity Tell the truth in an appropriate and helpful manner that does not compromise the organisation's objectives and values
 Keep confidences
 Do what you say you will do to the best of your ability
 Be open about mistakes
 Speak of those that are absent only in a positive way

Learning Work together and learn from each other
 Continuously improve and innovate
 Be open to change
 There is a high degree of responsibility for results – delivery without excuses

PERSONAL COMPETENCIES

For details of personal and leadership competencies relating your role, please see Attachment 1.

JUDGEMENT AND DECISION-MAKING SKILLS

Ability to use judgement to make decisions on the selection of the best method, technology, process or equipment from a range of available alternatives to meet the objectives of the work, and resolve problems of a complex or technical nature that may not have been faced previously, requiring creativity and originality.

SPECIALIST KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

In addition to the required proficiency in accounting and finance (e.g., CA or CPA), you will possess specialist skills in the following areas:

Financial Accounting

- Preparing and critically analyzing multifaceted accounting and finance worksheets.
- Performing complex balance sheet reconciliations.
- Advanced knowledge and expertise in interpreting and applying Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and Australian Accounting Standards as well as preparing monthly, quarterly and annual financial statements, including General Purpose Financial Statements.
- Participating in external audits.

Communication

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, with the ability to articulate complex financial concepts to non-financial stakeholders.
- Strong interpersonal skills to build and maintain effective relationships with internal and external business partners.
- Demonstrated ability to translate financial data into meaningful insights for decision-making and strategic planning.
- Experience in presenting financial information to senior management and key stakeholders in a clear and concise manner.
- Skilled in negotiating and influencing outcomes through effective communication and persuasion.

MANAGEMENT SKILLS

You will possess the capability to effectively manage your time, prioritize tasks, and meticulously organize your workload to ensure the successful execution of the role's responsibilities. Moreover, the management skills crucial for this position encompass:

- Adaptability: Demonstrating flexibility in responding promptly and professionally to inquiries and work requests, while adeptly adjusting to shifting priorities or unforeseen circumstances.
- Confidentiality Maintenance: Upholding the highest standards of discretion and confidentiality in handling sensitive information, ensuring that all data and communications are safeguarded with integrity and professionalism.

These skills are essential for maintaining efficiency, professionalism, and trustworthiness in fulfilling the requirements of the role.

INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

You are expected to demonstrate the following essential qualities:

- Exceptional Negotiation Skills: Proficiency in navigating negotiations with finesse and efficacy, ensuring favorable outcomes for all parties involved.
- Proactive Approach and Self-Motivation: Demonstrating a proactive attitude, driving initiatives forward with self-motivation, and displaying acute attention to detail in all tasks undertaken.

- Exemplary Verbal Communication: Possessing highly effective verbal communication skills to engage with clients, the public, and colleagues. Skillful in resolving minor issues through clear and concise dialogue.
- Outstanding Written Communication: Exhibiting strong written communication abilities to correspond with clients, the public, and colleagues. Capable of preparing meticulous reports and routine correspondence.
- Collaborative Ability: Proficiency in fostering cooperation and soliciting assistance from clients, the public, counterparts in other organisations and colleagues to streamline administrative processes effectively.

In summary, the role necessitates a candidate who excels in negotiation, takes initiative with attention to detail, communicates effectively both verbally and in writing, and collaborates seamlessly to achieve shared goals.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

You are expected to have the following information technology skills:

- Proficiency in Financial Software: Advanced proficiency in utilizing financial software and tools to streamline budgeting processes, enhance accuracy, and facilitate financial analysis.
- Spreadsheet Mastery: Expertise in using spreadsheet software (e.g., Microsoft Excel) for financial modeling, data analysis, and reporting.
- Database Management: Familiarity with database management systems for organizing and retrieving financial data efficiently.
- Communication Platforms: Familiarity with communication platforms (e.g., Microsoft Teams) to facilitate collaboration and communication with cross-functional teams and stakeholders.
- Presentation Software: Proficiency in presentation software (e.g., Microsoft PowerPoint) to create clear and concise presentations of financial information for senior management and key stakeholders.
- Cybersecurity Awareness: Awareness of cybersecurity principles and best practices to ensure the security and integrity of financial data and IT systems.
- Continuous Learning: Willingness to stay updated with emerging technologies and IT trends relevant to finance and accounting.

These IT skills will complement your proficiency in accounting and finance and specialist skills, enabling you to fulfill the responsibilities of the Financial Accounting role effectively.

CUSTOMER CARE

Meet council's Customer Care expectations including:

- Being honest, ethical and professional;
- Being helpful and courteous;
- Listening with respect and understand the customer's issues;
- Meeting commitments made;
- Keeping the customer informed;
- Ensuring that the customer clearly understands what is being said;
- Apologising if a mistake is made and attempt to make it right; and,
- Assisting customers with physical, sensory or intellectual disabilities, to achieve equitable access to our services.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

You may be required to assist in dealing with any emergency situation which affects the operation of the council and/or wellbeing of the community.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY / RISK MANAGEMENT

Wodonga Council is committed to the highest level of health and safety and to ensuring effective risk

management across all areas of council. To contribute to upholding this commitment you must have the ability to:

- Comply with and adhere to Work, Health and Safety (WHS) and risk systems of management (i.e. policies, procedures, Safe Operating Procedures etc.) to ensure your safety and the safety of others;
- Assist with the identification, assessment, evaluation and monitoring of risks and hazards within your area;
- Report any incidents, hazards or near misses immediately; and
- Contribute to participative arrangements for effective WHS and risk management.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Tertiary qualifications in accounting and/or financial management. For example, Bachelor of Business with a major in accounting and/or finance.
- Membership or significant progress towards membership of a recognized professional body. For example, Chartered Accountant (CA), Certified Practising Accountant (CPA), or Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).
- A minimum of three years' experience in accounting and/or financial management.

LICENCES AND MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

- A current driver's licence and evidence of eligibility to work in Australia must be provided prior to commencement.
- National Police Check (required to be supplied by the employee or prospective employee prior to commencement)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

Wodonga Council is an equal opportunity employer. We ensure fair, equitable and non-discriminatory consideration is given to all applicants, regardless of age, sex, disability, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, race, religious beliefs or other irrelevant factor. We recognise our proactive duty to ensure compliance with equal opportunity and other workplace-related legislation, and to eliminate all forms of discrimination.

INHERENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE JOB

For details of the inherent requirements of the job, please see Attachment 2.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

1. **Relevant Tertiary Qualifications:** Possession of tertiary qualifications in accounting and/or financial management, exemplified by a Bachelor of Business with a specialization in accounting and/or finance, ensuring a strong foundation in financial principles and practices.
2. **Proven Experience in Accounting and Financial Management:** A minimum of three years' hands-on experience in accounting and/or financial management roles, showcasing practical expertise in financial analysis, reporting, and strategic decision-making.
3. **Expertise in Financial Accounting Standards:** Demonstrated mastery in financial accounting requirements, including a deep understanding of Australian Accounting Standards. Proven ability to apply complex accounting principles to various financial transactions and reporting requirements. Adept at ensuring compliance with regulatory frameworks and industry standards, providing accurate and reliable financial information for decision-making and external audits.
4. **Exceptional Communication Skills:** Outstanding verbal and written communication abilities, enabling effective articulation of complex financial concepts to non-financial stakeholders. Capable of distilling intricate financial information into clear and concise messages tailored to diverse audiences.
5. **Strong Interpersonal Abilities:** Proven track record of fostering and maintaining productive relationships with internal and external business partners. Skillful in interpersonal communication, facilitating collaboration, and driving mutually beneficial outcomes.

Staff member signature

People and performance framework

CUSTOMER SERVICE AND COMMUNICATION  Understanding and valuing our customer needs to make sure we provide quality customer service.		BUILD AND ENHANCE RELATIONSHIPS  Collaborating and working with our people and community.		PLAN, ORGANISE AND DELIVER  Performing work to the best of our ability to deliver successful outcomes for our people and community.	
FUTURE FOCUS  Identifying ways we can do better and anticipating future opportunities.		PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT  Looking after the personal and professional growth of our people.		MANAGE HEALTH AND WELLBEING  Recognising the importance of staff health and wellbeing.	
		SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT  Prioritising safe and ethical behaviour and decision-making in everything we do.			

Customer Service and Communication	
Demonstrates commitment to a high standard of service to customers and the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is helpful, shows respect, courtesy and fairness with staff and customers • Demonstrates empathy and a willingness to assist • Communicates information clearly • Listens and asks questions to understand customer needs and point of view • Proactively seeks solutions and keeps customers informed of progress • Operates within council procedures and policies • Writes in a way that is logical and easy to follow

Build and Enhance Relationships	
Works co-operatively and effectively with others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates clear, open and honest communication • Works constructively to resolve conflict • Shows enthusiasm to help others • Listens and respects the value of different views, ideas and ways of working • Builds and sustains positive relationships with staff and customers • Actively participates in team and other activities • Keeps others informed and seeks clarification when required

Plan, Organise, Deliver	
Organises and prioritises own work to meet work commitments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates effective use of time and resources to meet expectations and achieve outcomes • Understands what is required of the role and how this contributes to team priorities • Keeps appropriate people informed on progress of tasks and projects • Seeks information when required, demonstrates initiative • Undertakes to complete all tasks with a positive, can-do attitude

Future Focus	
Looks for improvements and is adaptable to change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands council vision and purpose and how their role fits in • Is willing to adapt to changing processes, systems, technology and environments • Looks for improvements and better ways of doing things • Seeks support and clarification when required

People Development	
<p>Welcomes opportunities for learning and self-development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displays council values • Reflects upon own performance • Seeks and acts upon feedback • Sets goals for personal and professional development • Finds ways to learn and improve in the completion of day-to-day tasks • Takes responsibility for own work and meeting job requirements
Manage Health and Wellbeing	
<p>Takes responsibility for self-care and managing work-life balance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates effective time management and prioritising of tasks • Is aware of, controls and expresses their own emotions appropriately • Recognises when support is needed • Accepts responsibility for their own actions and outcomes • Is aware of the importance of self-care
Safety and Risk Management	
<p>Takes responsibility for personal actions and reports safety and compliance concerns.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remains vigilant in ensuring a safe working environment for self and others • Is aware of risk and takes action to prevent problems • Reports hazards, incidents (including near misses) and compliance concerns in a timely way • Understands the importance of honesty and transparency • Avoids and discloses conflicts of interest and guards against the misuse of council resources and assets • Complies with policies and procedures

ATTACHMENT 2

INHERENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE JOB

Wodonga Council will provide reasonable adjustments to assist a person with a disability to perform these inherent requirements of the job.

FREQUENCY	% OF WORK DAY / TASK
Rare (R)	0-5%
Occasional (O)	6-33%
Frequent (F)	34-66%
Constant (C)	67-100%

TASK	DESCRIPTION	INHERENT REQUIREMENTS	DEMAND	FREQUENCY			
				R	O	F	C
Various duties relating to financial statutory reporting and accounting.	Providing financial accounting services to the organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaison with staff of all levels Liaison with external stakeholders and the general public Phone use Computer use Data entry and interpretation Use of multiple online systems Photocopier use Time management Handwriting notes Attending and facilitating meetings Policy development and review Driving company vehicles Supervision of others 	Sitting				X
			Standing		X		
			Walking			X	
			Lifting < 15kgs		X		
			Carrying		X		
			Pushing	X			
			Pulling	X			
			Climbing	X			
			Bending		X		
			Twisting	X			
			Squatting	X			
			Kneeling	X			
			Reaching		X		
			Fine motor				X
			Neck postures				X
			Accepting instructions			X	
			Providing instructions			X	
			Sustained concentration				X
			Decision making			X	
			Problem solving			X	
			Supervision of others	X			
			Interaction with others		X		
			Exposure to confrontation		X		
Respond to change			X				
Prioritisation				X			