



**Memo to:** Mayor Watton

**Copy to:** All Councillors, General Manager, Directors, Senior Leadership Group and Communications & Engagement Team

**From:** Robert Maginnity, Director Corporate and Community Services

**Subject:** Costs of Councils Utilities

**Date:** 4 February 2026

**Reference:** CRM 1852/2026

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Mayor Watton

I refer to your request for information dated 25 January 2026 in relation to Councils utility costs as follows;

*Could you please advise me how much per month / quarter / annum councils electricity expenditure is? Could you please also advise the same with gas?  
Could council also please confirm if these costs have risen over the last 1 / 3 / 5 years?*

Electricity and Heating plus Street Lighting costs are reported in Council's Annual Financial Statements in Note B3-2 Materials and Services.

The table below outlines the total cost to Council for the period 2020 to 2025, rounded to \$'000.

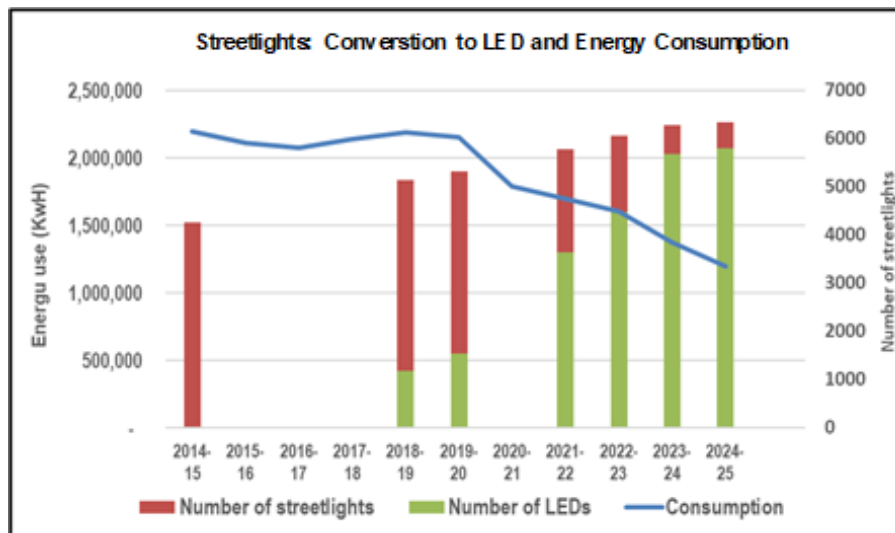
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Electricity and Heating	522	530	518	408	467	473
Street Lighting	869	979	1,135	861	779	958
Total	1,391	1,509	1,653	1,269	1,246	1,431

Overall the total cost has fallen on the back of improvements from the street lighting LED upgrades and general solar upgrades. It should be noted that general Electricity and Heating continue to trend upwards and with the ending of the LED upgrade for street lighting you would also assume an increasing trend will likely occur here as well.

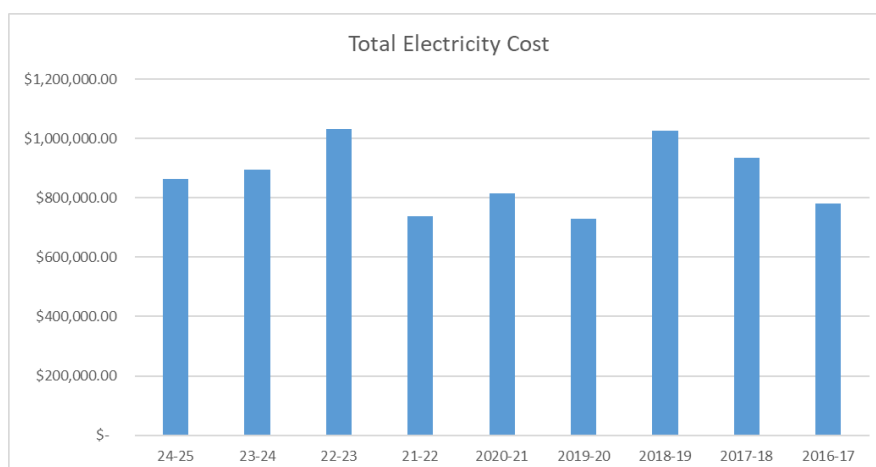
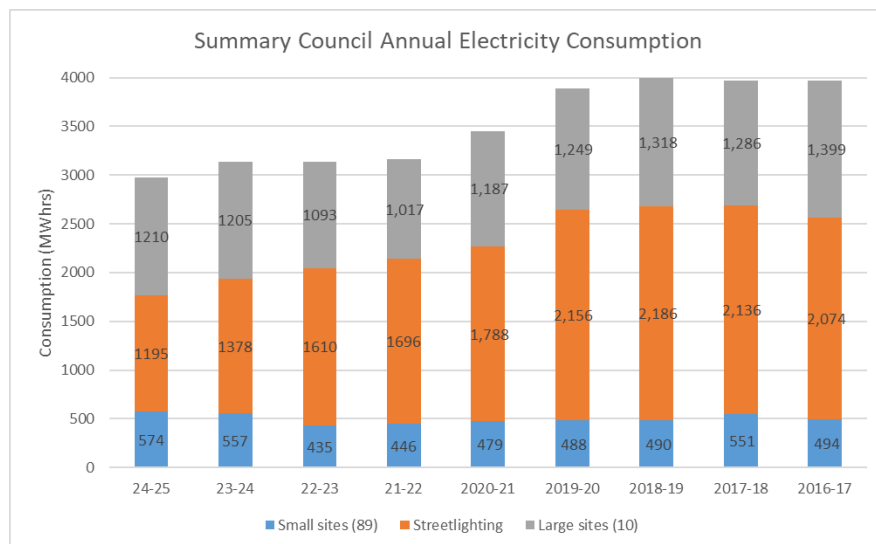
For information, Council's tenders for its electricity supply with long term agreements. The substantial cost increase from 2022 to 2023 reflective of that new agreement. The next contract may likely have the same effect, however for the moment this cost risk remains mitigated by contracted prices.

Gas used for heating is fairly volatile in use as weather dependent. The cost per joule is fairly standard. Broadly, electricity is the dominant cost of the Electricity and Heating expenditure.

The below graphs highlight the change in energy consumption and cost over the preceding years.



The energy use from streetlighting has decreased from 2.2m kwh in 2014/15 to 1.2m kwh in 2025/25, a 45% reduction in energy consumption. This is despite the number of streetlights increasing 4,259 to 6,343 (a 49% increase in streetlights over the 10 years)



Further information will be provided to Councillors at a workshop as part of the adopted resolution of Report RM1/2026 for ongoing sustainability initiatives in this area.

Please note a copy of this memo will be uploaded to Council's website.