



# Liverpool Plains Shire Council

2015 – 2016  
ANNUAL REPORT

# Contact Details

In person  
60 Station Street  
Quirindi NSW 2343

By post  
PO Box 152  
Quirindi NSW 2343

Phone  
02 6746 1755

Fax  
02 6746 3255

Email  
[lpssc@lpssc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lpssc@lpssc.nsw.gov.au)

Website  
[www.lpssc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lpssc.nsw.gov.au)

General Correspondence  
All correspondence should  
be addressed to the  
General Manager,  
Mr Ron Van Katwyk



*Australian Caravan Club Muster  
February 2016*



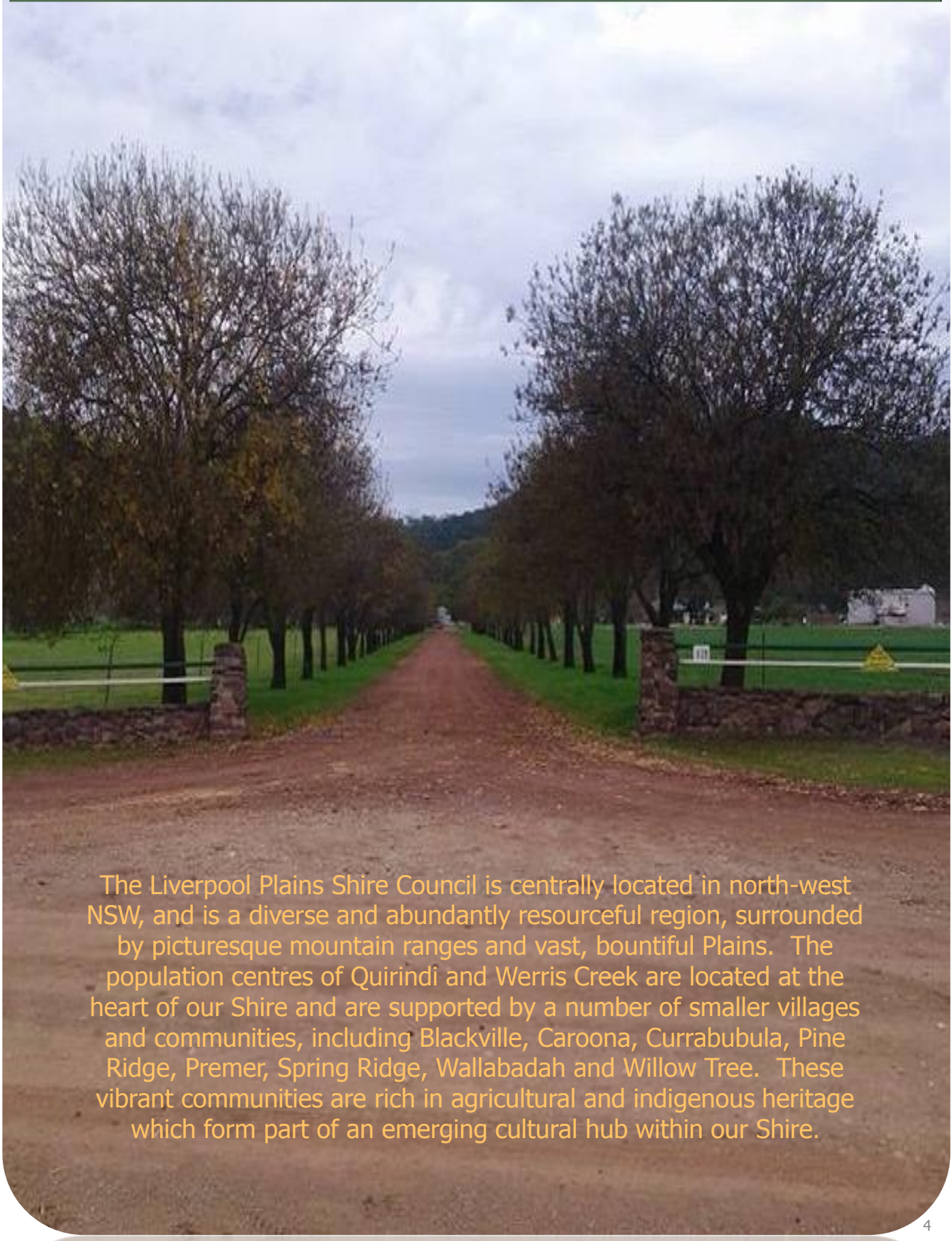
*Annual Quirindi Akubra Cup  
Family Raceday held by Quirindi Jockey Club*



# Index

	Page No.
<b>Section 1 – Our Shire</b>	<b>4</b>
Vision, Mission and Stakeholders	5
Mayor’s Foreword	6
Our General Manager	7
Council Representatives 2012 – 2020	8
LPSC – Management Team	10
What We Do	11
<b>Section 1 – Our Performance</b>	<b>12</b>
Operational Action Plans	
Social	13
Environmental	14
Economic	15
Governance	17
Economic Development	18
Achievement by Department	19
Executive	20
Business	23
Engineering	29
Environmental & Economic Development	36
<b>Section 1 – Statutory Reporting</b>	<b>43</b>
Rates & charges written off	
Overseas visits	
Mayoral & councillor fees	
Contracts awarded for amounts greater than \$150,000	
Summary of costs incurred relating to legal proceedings	
Summary of work carried out on private land	
Grants & contributions	44
Equal employment opportunity	
Remuneration to senior staff	
State of the environment report	
Compliance / Ranger services	
Government Information	45
Government Information Public Access (GIPA)	
Public Interest Disclosures (PID)	
<b>Appendix</b>	
Financial Statements – 2015/2016	
<i>(when Audit is complete           scheduled Dec 2016)</i>	

# Section 1 – Our Shire

A photograph of a long, straight dirt road stretching into the distance. The road is flanked on both sides by rows of trees, some with bare branches and others with green foliage. Stone walls with white tape are visible on either side of the road. In the background, there are hills and a cloudy sky.

The Liverpool Plains Shire Council is centrally located in north-west NSW, and is a diverse and abundantly resourceful region, surrounded by picturesque mountain ranges and vast, bountiful Plains. The population centres of Quirindi and Werris Creek are located at the heart of our Shire and are supported by a number of smaller villages and communities, including Blackville, Caroona, Currabubula, Pine Ridge, Premer, Spring Ridge, Wallabadah and Willow Tree. These vibrant communities are rich in agricultural and indigenous heritage which form part of an emerging cultural hub within our Shire.



# Vision

That the Liverpool Plains Shire area achieves higher levels of growth and generates improved quality of life through expanded opportunities for economic and social development being realised within an environmentally and financially sustainable framework.

# Mission

To achieve the vision through a proactive community focus, delivering best value and practice services that are recognised by the community for their quality and positive impact on development.

# Stakeholders

We work in partnership with our Community, including:

- Residents, ratepayers and visitors
- Businesses and investors
- Community groups, clubs and organisations
- Government agencies
- Other local government departments, and
- Regional organisations.

## Mayor's Foreword



It is with great pleasure I present this annual report on behalf of the Councillors, Management Team and Staff. This report shows the dedication and hard work achieved by all involved and our commitment to delivering our Fit For The Future (FFTF) strategy. My role as Mayor is made easier by a dedicated team of professional people delivering for our Shire and its Community. I would be remiss if I did not start this foreword with a heartfelt thank you to the Councillors, Managers and Staff for their hard work.

We are now well into the FFTF improvement program submitted to the State Government. The experience of working closely with the State Government and our surrounding Shires has been positive and rewarding, not only financially but also bringing regional results, that in turn assist us locally.

Our future development as a standalone Shire has never been more paramount. Council considers this with every decision it makes. The actioning of the FFTF reforms has put Council in a constant state of striving for improvement both in organisational culture and workplace efficiencies.

Council's growth and achievements through effective team work in this period have been outstanding, as exemplified by this brief list of examples:

- Securing Federal Government funding for the Shire wide water security strategy in partnership with the State Government. With the addition of our own resources, and proportional borrowings, we will achieve the realisation of this \$27 million (and final) stage of the project in the near future.
- We have now secured the \$4.5 million emergency services precinct and the build is underway with completion expected early next year. This has been achieved in partnership with our neighbouring Shires and the State Government.
- A new playground, Community and Rural Fire Service Brigade Shed upgrades and street beautification have been delivered in Werris Creek, along with other small projects around the Shire villages.

These have been achieved in collaboration with Government and private industry.

Many of our road projects, including bike paths, have been delivered and we are on track to deliver more across our entire Shire.

It has been a very busy year, however our achievements have been substantial and as the Mayor I am very proud of the work achieved by all. Not only have we delivered major priority projects, we have continued providing the many services to the Liverpool Plains Shire community have come to depend on.

We remain committed to continually improving our financial viability, the growth of our great Shire, improving our customer service and delivering outcomes for the Liverpool Plains Shire Council community.

I again would like to thank staff for their dedication and look forward to further growth in the future.

This annual report will outline many other initiatives and achievements of Council during 2015/2016.

**Councillor Andrew Hope**  
**Mayor**





## Our General Manager

2015/2016 was a challenging, though rewarding year for all involved with the Liverpool Plains Shire Council. Both staff and Council worked extremely hard in every aspect for the community.

Our Fit for the Future Plan was presented to the Office of Local Government in June 2015 and since this date, Council has worked determinedly to ensure that our Shire remains sustainable and we deliver on our strategies for the benefit of the wider community.

This past year has seen some major achievements across all areas of Council operations. Highlights include:

- Over \$5.4 million spent maintaining and upgrading our rural, regional and urban road networks
- Realisation of the \$4.85 million Willow Tree Water Supply Transfer System
- Completion of a joint project with Shenhua Watermark to enhance Quirindi Creek
- Project planning for the \$4.5 million Liverpool Range Emergency Services Precinct
- Upgrade of Hoamm Park at Werris Creek in a joint funding project with Whitehaven Coal and the NSW Government Community Building Partnership Program
- Upgrades at the Wallabadah First Fleet Gardens amenities block

Promotion and tourism of the Shire is a significant priority of Council. Our staff continue to encourage visitors to our district by hosting many a variety of events throughout the Shire including:

- Waste to Art Competition –2015
- Hosting participants in the Road Boss Rally –2016
- Caravan Muster –2016
- Shannon Noll Concert at the Royal Theatre – 2015
- Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow – 2016

Finally, an organisational review and subsequent restructure was undertaken throughout 2015/2016. While change such as this can be difficult at times, it was a necessary process to ensure we could position ourselves to be fit for the future and successful over the long term. I am very proud of the way the whole team has worked through this period and am confident of success in the future.

Although it has been a busy year, our focus still remains the same, to ensure the Liverpool Plains Shire area achieves higher levels of growth and generates improved quality of life through expanded opportunities for economic and social development, within an environmentally and financially sustainable framework.

I thank both staff and Council for all their efforts in 2015/2016 and look forward to achieving more over the coming years.

Ron Van Katwyk  
General Manager



## 2012 – 2016 Council Representatives



Cr Ken Cudmore



Cr Andrew Hope  
Mayor



Cr Andrew Laurie



Cr Ian Lobsey OAM



Cr Mary Roberts



Cr Col Stewart



Cr Robert Webster  
Deputy Mayor



# 2016 – 2020 Council Representatives



Cr Ken Cudmore



Cr Andrew Hope  
Mayor



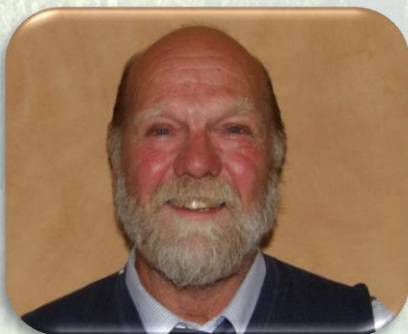
Cr Virginia Black



Cr Doug Hawkins  
Deputy Mayor



Cr Ian Lobsey OAM



Cr Paul Moules



Cr Robert Webster

## LPSC Management Team



**Donna Ausling**  
Director of Environmental and  
Economic Development Services

**Stephen Potts**  
Director of Business



**Greg Tory**  
Director of Engineering Services



## What Does the Council Do...?

The Liverpool Plains Shire Council (LPSC) is often asked "What does the Council do..?"

The Council covers such a vast and diverse demographic and geographical area including the pastoral plains around Blackville, Premer and Pine Ridge, the rolling hills at Willow Tree, Warrah and Wallabadah to the main town centres of Quirindi and Werris Creek.

There are many challenges delivering the necessary services across such a broad landscape, however the staff and management of LPSC work diligently to ensure that the expectations of the community are met.

Look around your local area and you will see your Council at work everywhere, including:

- town planning
- construction and maintenance of local roads, streets and bridges
- preservation of historic places
- food and public health services
- waste management and recycling
- supervision of building and development control
- maintenance of parks and sporting fields
- recreation centre and pool facilities
- provision and servicing of libraries, theatre and visitor information centre
- service nsw agency
- provision and servicing of commonwealth home support services
- pet registration and control
- tourism and economic development
- child care services
- community halls
- emergency services management
- the enforcement of a wide range of legislation and
- community advocacy

Community partnerships are encouraged and include:

- Residents, ratepayers and visitors,
- Businesses and investors
- Community groups, clubs and organisations
- Government agencies
- Other local government departments, and
- Regional organisations

The Liverpool Plains Shire Council is responsible for the construction and maintenance of over 668 kilometres of sealed roads, 775 kilometres of unsealed roads and additionally footpaths, drainage and kerb and guttering.

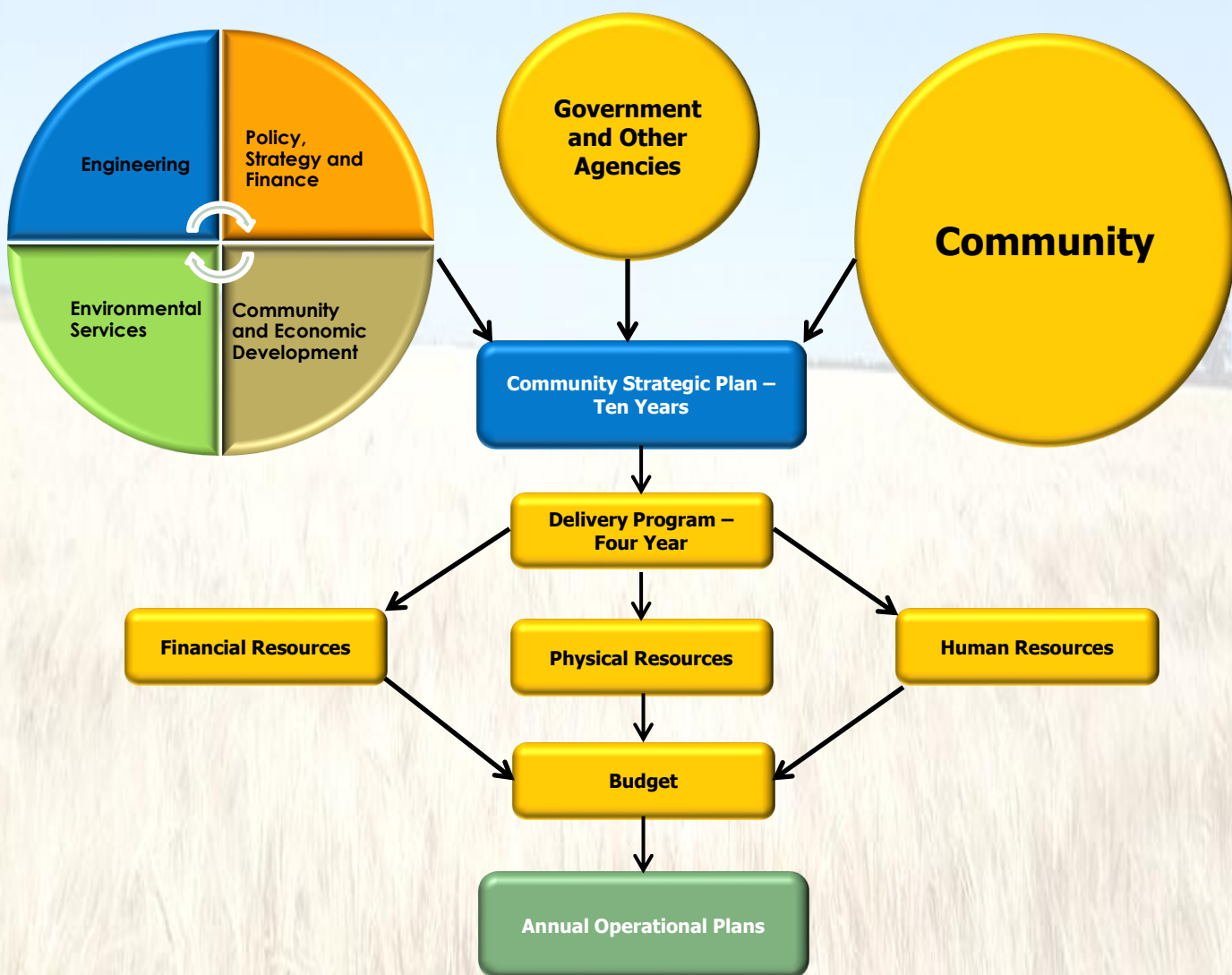
Further in-depth information in relation to these areas are found within this report or on our website at:

[www.lpsc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lpsc.nsw.gov.au)

# Section 2 – Our Performance

## Operational Action Plans

To ensure that the Liverpool Plains Shire Council identifies, plans and delivers the services expected from our Community, a Community Strategic Plan was developed. From this plan, operational action plans are produced and then monitored throughout the year. The activities and achievements outlined in this section provide evidence of our performance against the delivery program as set out in the Community Strategic Plan. The diagram below illustrates the planning delivery process of Council.



Full copies of Liverpool Plains Shire Council Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plans can be found at <http://www.lpsc.nsw.gov.au/index.php/my-council/council-plans-reports>








Through the creation of the Community Strategic Plan, five main themes have been identified through community consultation. These are Social, Environmental, Economic, Governance and Economic Development. The following sections demonstrate how the operational action plans tracked throughout the past 12 months. There were a total of 50 actions for the 2015/2016 period. Of these 50, 31 have been completed and a further 18 are on-target to be finalised within the next 6-12 months. There has only been one deferral, which relates to reviews that are set to be concluded by 30 June 2017.




# Social


## Action Plans

- 1 Maintain and develop a bicycle and/or footpath network that satisfies community needs
- 2 Maintain a road transport network that satisfies community needs
- 3 Ensure bridges and drains are well maintained and satisfy community expectations
- 4 Provide adequate and well maintained cemeteries, pools, parks, gardens, public toilets, showgrounds, playing fields and district facilities that are safe and developed to agreed standards
- 5 Pursue best practice management of Water Supply and Sewerage Systems including resource sharing with other Councils

	Action / Project	Department	Status at 30 June 2016
1	Undertake works as per the asset management plan and develop options for shared pathways in the Shire	Engineering	
2.1	Undertake biannual road surveys and works as per management plan and funding limits	Engineering	
2.2	Lobby for rail overpasses/by-passes at key road/rail interfaces to reduce delays	Engineering	
3	Undertake maintenance and new works as funding permits	Engineering	
4	Undertake works as per Asset Management Plan and available funding, ensuring that local parks, public open spaces, town centres, cemeteries, pools, showgrounds and playing fields continue to be enhanced to accommodate future needs	Engineering	
5.1	Implement best practice Water Supply and Sewerage principles	Water Services	
5.2	Develop alliances with Gunnedah Shire Council and/or Namoi Councils	Executive	

 Completed

 On target












 Delays

 Deferred

# Environmental

## Action Plans

- 1 Support and develop programs which protect and enhance the Shire's natural environment and "rural" character
- 2 Ensure that environmental and development standards satisfy community needs and aspirations
- 3 Assist in the provision of infrastructure and resources associated with the emergency services requirement of the Shire
- 4 Council uses its resources wisely to reduce its ecological footprint
- 5 Council will work for the retention, restoration and protection of the Shire's heritage
- 6 Ensure the importance of the black soil Liverpool Plains to agricultural production and wealth of the Shire, Region will be recognised
- 7 Ensure best practice principles are adopted for waste management and recycling

	Action / Project	Department	Status at 30 June 2016
1.1	Undertake creek clearing projects	Environmental	
1.2	Seek grant funding opportunities	Environmental	
1.3	Ensure LEP and DCP protects rural areas	Environmental	
1.4	Undertake statutory functions in weed control	Environmental	
2	A development control plan will be reviewed and implemented to provide guidance for the sustainable development of the Shire	Environmental	
3.1	Provision of funding and accommodation in annual operational plans for RFS, VRA and SES	Environmental	
3.2	A comprehensive emergency management response and capacity plan will be developed through EmPlan	Environmental	
4	Implement results of water, waste and energy audits from Namoi towards a sustainable future project when funding permits	Environmental	
5	Complete a community heritage plan	Environmental	
6	Advocate for protection of black soil plains from mining and gas extraction	Executive	
7	Increase education to the community on the benefits of recycling	Environmental	



# Economic

## Action Plans

- 1 Ensure residents have the opportunity to have a say on important issues
- 2 Foster and support community leadership and encourage innovation
- 3 Advocate for an increase in the resources committed by the Federal and State Governments to Local Government and Liverpool Plains Shire Council in particular for infrastructure
- 4 Seek Constitutional recognition of local government to enable direct funding from the Commonwealth
- 5 Demonstrate accountability, good customer service, transparency and ethical conduct
- 6 Increase the number of female councillors and management staff
- 7 Explore options for an enhanced local government sector as detailed in the NSW Government's Destination 2036 Action Plan
- 8 Enhance the financial sustainability of Council



# Economic

## Action Plans (cont'd)











	Action / Project	Department	Status at 30 June 2016
1.1	Periodically review community engagement strategy	Executive	
1.2	Councillors to be available for community members to raise issues	Councillors	
1.3	Council to have a great presence in outlying areas	Councillors	
2.1	Develop scholarships for young people to foster leadership	Council	
2.2	Promote volunteering and develop partnerships with community leaders and hold volunteer appreciation function	Executive	
2.3	Improve the efficiency and transparency of council processes	Council	
2.4	Encourage staff to be innovative	Executive	
3	Council will advocate strongly for improved funding to Local Government by lobbying Local Members of Parliament, and supporting Namoi Councils and LGSA Proposals	Council Executive	
4	Council will actively support constitutional recognition of local government via media campaigns in conjunction with the ALGA	Council Executive	
5.1	Provide relevant staff training and offer competitive working conditions and remuneration	Executive	
5.2	Ensure decision making processes are fair, open and equitable	Executive	
5.3	Ensure staff respond to all forms of customer requests in a timely manner	Executive	
6	Promote the need for greater gender equality on councils via media outlets, newsletters and community forums	Executive	
7.1	Discuss resource-sharing opportunities with Namoi Councils	Executive	
7.2	Contribute to Regional Action plans that link with the State Plan	Executive	
8.1	Develop long term financial plans that improve council's financial position	Finance	
8.2	Develop a long term financial and operational plan that aims to improve upon the OLG (FFTF) sustainability performance targets	Finance	
8.3	Conduct service level reviews to establish service relevance and long term financial sustainability	Executive	



# Governance

## Action Plans

- 1 The community builds on its strengths and embraces its heritage and cultural diversity
- 2 The community has improved access to health services and facilities
- 3 The council will advocate and encourage better safety in the community
- 4 Provide opportunities to facilitate utilisation of the skills and expertise of women in the community within the workforce
- 5 Improve the health and wellbeing of residents and ensure residents play an active role in the community

	Action / Project	Department	Status at 30 June 2016
1.1	Promote and support cultural festivals and events within the shire	Events	
1.2	Council shall advocate strongly for increased library funding	Business	
2.1	Council will monitor and advocate for the provision of health services to ensure residents have access to quality services and facilities that meet community expectations	Executive	
2.2	Continue with the provision of subsidies and lobbying to attract new GP's and dentists if necessary	Council Executive	
2.3	Advocate better services for people with special needs	Council Executive	
2.4	Advocate services to address mental health issues	Council Executive	
3.1	Council will lobby the State Government to have a greater police presence in the shire	Council Executive	
3.2	Council will continue to install CCTV cameras at strategic crime hot spots	Executive	
4.1	Provide adequate day care facilities through the Eastside CCC and the provision of assistance to pre-schools and play groups	Business	
5	Encourage and develop vibrant and creative open space areas and public infrastructure for use by residents and youth in particular	Business	

# Economic Development

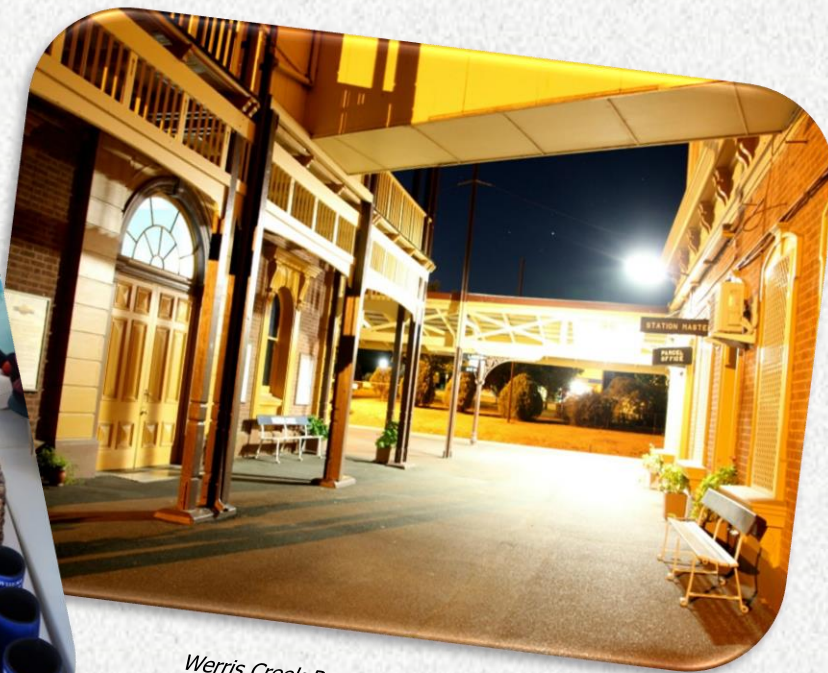
## Action Plans

- 1 Increase tourism infrastructure and visitation to the shire
- 2 Strengthen and grow the economic prospects of the shire and create more sustainable job opportunities

	Action / Project	Department	Status at 30 June 2016
1.1	Maintain local tourism committee and involvement with NENW Tourism, Inland Tourism and Kamilaroi Highway Promotion Committee and review tourism plan	Economic Development	●
1.2	Implement strategies in the Tourism Destination Plan	Economic Development	●
2.1	Promote and market the area to attract businesses and new residents	Economic Development	●
2.2	Make industrial and commercial land available along with the provision of associated infrastructure	Executive	●



*Tourism Display*



*Werris Creek Railway Station*



# Achievements by Department

To ensure Council can function as effectively and efficiently as possible, its operation has been structured into four operational areas, being the Executive Office, overseen by the General Manager and three (3) Directorates managed by the respective Directors.

The General Manager and three (3) Directors make up the Management Executive (MANEX) of Council.

- **Executive**

The Executive area targets the overall day to day operations of the Shire as well as providing support to the Councillors. The Executive Office is primarily concerned with the leadership and strategic management of Council, corporate governance, the management of Council business flowing from resolutions of Council and community advocacy.

- **Business**

The Business Directorate is generally responsible for corporate governance, finance, human resources, workplace, health & safety, records, customer service, IT, and Council's external business streams, which include Eastside Childcare Centre, Pools, Service NSW, Recreation Centre, Home Support Services and Libraries.

- **Engineering**

Engineering is one of the biggest employment areas of Council. This department is responsible for the management of the Shire's water services, parks and reserves, roads, infrastructure, assets and civil services.

- **Environmental and Economic Development**

There are two sections to this department, the Environmental section, which administers environmental and building regulation legislation, maintenance, cleaning, waste handling, disposal practices, weed control services and regulates stock and companion animals. The economic development section manages the Royal Theatre, Visitor Information Centre, section 355 committees and explores opportunities to promote economic growth in partnership with the Quirindi and District Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism.

The following pages will explain each Department further and highlight the achievements made by each of these departments, ultimately benefiting our Shire as a whole.



*Anzac Memorial Service  
Quirindi*



*Gap Road Spillway  
Werris Creek*



*Quirindi Spring Show*



Executive



# Executive

Council  
Support

Council  
& Operational  
Governance

Leadership,  
Advice &  
Advocacy

Disputes  
&  
Grievances

Monitor &  
Review  
Management  
Systems

Strategic, Policy  
& Systems  
Planning

Implement  
Council  
Resolutions

## Executive

One of the many functions of the Executive office is the continuing provision of quality leadership to the overall Council and its residents, as well as providing customer focused, quality advice, representation and services in governance, internal legal, council services, access to information and business improvement programming.

Other achievements in the Executive area include the co-ordination of Council meeting processes including compiling agendas, corporate diary, co-ordination of business papers, chamber management and production of minutes. The past 12 months has seen excellent service in this area.

The implementation of Council resolutions has always been a major function of the General Manager and this continues to be of a high standard, ensuring that Council decisions are implemented as soon as practicable.



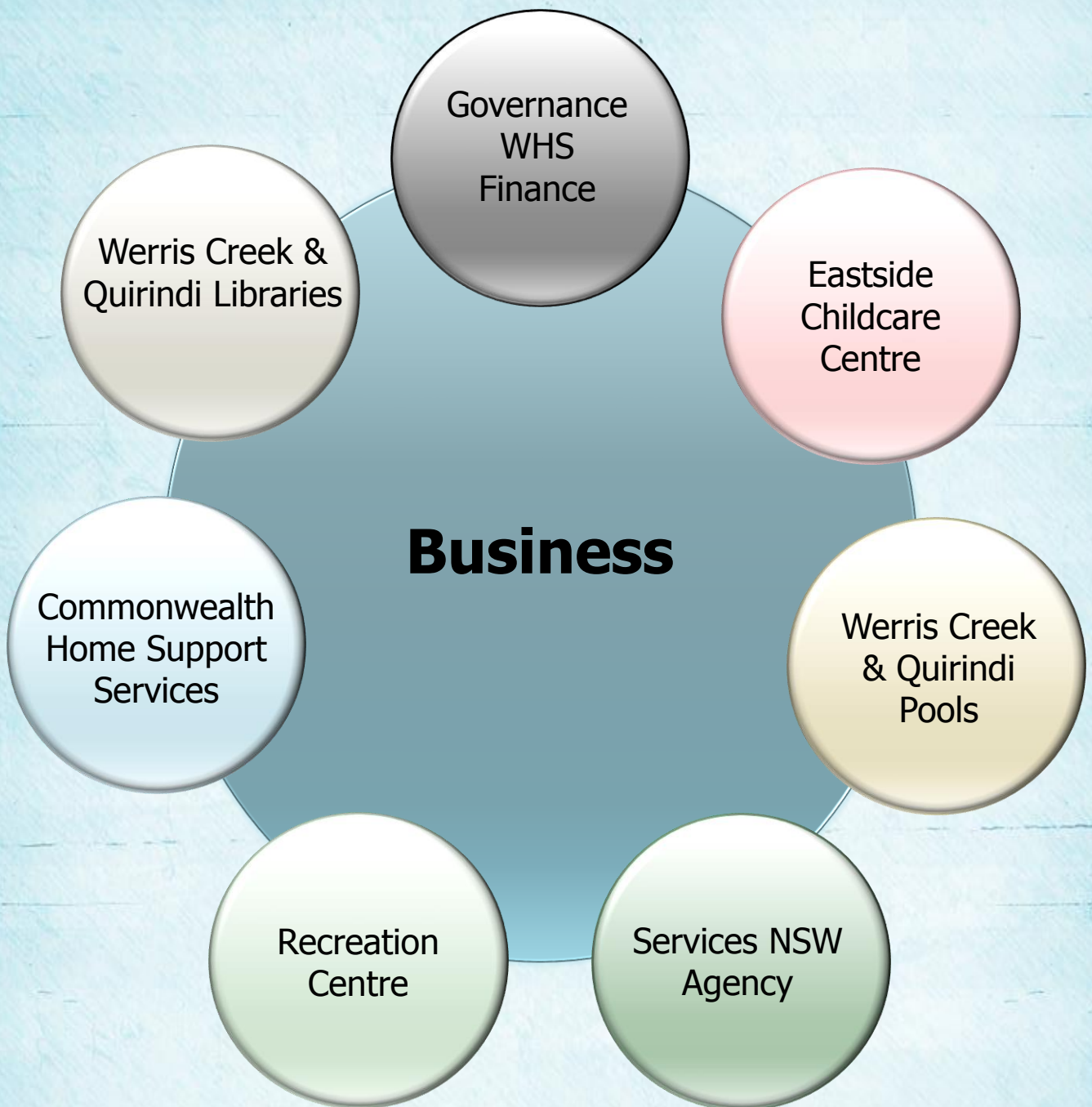
*Photos:  
Local Government Week BBQ at Council Chambers  
Opening of Willow Tree Water Supply Pipeline*



# Business









# Business

The Business Directorate is responsible for delivering a broad range of services across the general administrative function of Council, including corporate governance, finance, human resources, workplace health & safety, records, customer service, information technology and Business Services. The Business Services arm of the Directorate delivers a number of Council's external business and service streams to the community, including Eastside Childcare Centre, Quirindi and Werris Creek Pools, Service NSW, Recreation Centre, Home Support Services and Libraries.

A number of initiatives that will have a significant and positive impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of Council into the future were undertaken in 2015-2016 as part of Council's overall change process. Of particular focus was the restructure of the finance system, staffing restructure and identification of process improvement opportunities, including a renewed focus on workplace health and safety initiatives to ensure our staff go home safe everyday and the community is appropriately protected.

While there has been significant change across the Directorate the team has worked extremely well and these initiatives are now in the process of being delivered for the benefit of Council and therefore the broader community.

## **Service NSW Agency**

Service NSW not only provides a great many services for our local community, but also attracts a number of customers from outside our region. The agency is operational five (5) days per week, and has one of the highest transaction numbers in regional NSW. There are three (3) staff members currently trained in Service NSW, with a fourth to be trained within 2016/2017.

In June 2016 the Service NSW agency office relocated to new premises. The project was completed within a two month timeframe, with only one (1) day of planned closure.

## **Quirindi Recreation Centre , Quirindi Pool and Werris Creek Pool**

As of October 2015, the Liverpool Plains Shire Council regained management of the Recreation Centre (Rec) and both Quirindi and Werris Creek Pools, after being handed back from the YMCA.

The Rec Centre is being run by confident, highly trained and motivated staff, who are working hard to increase services, customer satisfaction and membership. Many different age groups are now attending the Rec Centre, as well as a broad area of the community as a whole. In 2016/2017 a thorough review of facilities and services is programmed to drive service levels and grow memberships with the aim of becoming a sustainable business unit of Council.

The pools at Werris Creek and Quirindi continue to operate on similar levels as previous years. There has been a change in the staffing of these pools, with some young well-trained staff taking a more active role in the maintenance of both the pools and its administration. Council is fortunate to have such enthused young community members.

Since regaining management, the LPSC has completed some major maintenance, at both pools, during the off-season. Notable improvements completed during 2015/2016 included painting of the small pools at Quirindi and Werris Creek, and the non-slip painting of the ablution blocks at Quirindi.



*Quirindi &  
Werris Creek  
Pools*



*Quirindi  
Recreation  
Centre*



## **Library Services**

Library Services are provided at Quirindi and Werris Creek, with an outreach library available at Premer. These services are assisted by the Central Northern Regional Library (CNRL), which enables better supply of updated library needs. Not only do our Libraries provide the usual library services, they try to branch out into areas of need within our communities. Some of these areas and highlights from our Libraries include:

- Membership of LPSC libraries totalled 4808, accounting for over 60% of the Shire population. This is a massive achievement for our region.
- LPSC libraries recorded the highest number at loans per capita within the CNRL network. This is the second consecutive year this has been achieved.
- LPSC libraries delivered 387 programs over 2015/2016 that were attended by over 2,300 people.
- Participated in "One Book, One Region" – a promotion initiated by CNRL and supported by both libraries.
- A weekly knitting group is well attended at Werris Creek Library.
- Children's Storytime is held each week at both Quirindi and Werris Creek Libraries.
- Special functions for Local Government Week, including BBQ's and information tables.
- Challenge Quirindi and Challenge Tamworth are regular users of the Libraries, utilising compouters and other resources.
- Werris Creek Library has initiated a new weekly program called "Storytime for Grown Ups".
- "Friends of the Library" groups are very active within both libraries.
- Harmony Day events were held at Quirindi and Werris Creek Libraries.
- Werris Creek Library is also an agency for the Department of Human Services, primarily conducting Centrelink services.



*Various activities from Quirindi and Werris Creek Libraries*



## **Commonwealth Home Support Program**

The Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) is funded by the Commonwealth Government and caters for people over 65 (or over 50 if of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background). The program funds are used to provide access to basic home support services including shopping, home modification, home maintenance, cleaning, safety and security, day care, disability aids, social support, personal care, nursing care, respite care, meals and transport.

Currently the Liverpool Plains Shire Council has three (3) home support service offices within our boundaries, Werris Creek, Quirindi and Willow Tree. In 2015/2016 over 300 clients received services or attended organised activities by the CHSP organisations. Staff at each of these locations continue to provide exceptional community support and work endlessly to ensure our client's needs are met.

Meals on Wheels is a further service delivered by the CHSP's and their volunteers, with over 4,500 meals delivered to Currabubula, Werris Creek, Quirindi and Willow Tree. These meals are supplied by Werris Creek Multi Purpose Service (Hospital) and the Quirindi Hospital and are delivered 5 days per week. This service is an invaluable asset to our Community.



*Weekly trip to Tamworth Hydrotherapy Pool*



Kay Wheeler – Quirindi CHSP  
Carole Taylor – Willow Tree CHSP  
Clare Stewart – Werris Creek CHSP



*Willow Tree CHSP' Oldest Client  
Cyril Barwick (99)*



*Carer's Trips are organised and  
well attended*



*Willow Tree CHSP Chaffey Dam Trip*



*Volunteer's Thank You BBQ Lunch*



*Men's Days are very popular with  
Clients*



*Willow Tree CHSP  
Volunteers*



*Christmas lunch for Craft  
Clients*



*Werris Creek CHSP Volunteers*



*Werris Creek "high intensity"  
morning tea*



## **Eastside Childcare Centre**

Councils owned child care centre, Eastside, has been well utilised over the past 12 months as a multi-purpose service catering for children from birth to 12 years of age. The centre offers long day care, preschool, occasional care, afterschool care, vacation care and 2016 has seen the reintroduction of before school care.

In mid-2016 Council's Eastside Childcare Centre Manager, Carmel Jones, was successful in obtaining Teacher Accreditation as a proficient teacher with the Accreditation 2016 Professional Recognition for NSW Early Childhood Teachers from the Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards NSW.

The staff at Eastside use the National Early Years Framework (EYLF) to develop learning programs, where children are offered a full educational early childhood program developed around each child's developmental needs, interests and abilities. The EYLF is centered around five play based learning outcomes which educators plan and evaluate, reflecting on practices and procedures to provide the best possible outcomes and learning environment for the children attending Eastside. Staff believe that PLAY interactions are a young child's way of developing an understanding of the world.

In 2014/2015, land was purchased surrounding the centre and during 2015/2016 extensions to the playground area were completed. The service was successful in obtaining a "Farming for Kids Grant" that was directed towards the development of an interactive learning pathway in this area which is still in the construction stage.

Twelve new shade trees have been planted in the playground area to provide, when established, a park like atmosphere and natural shade to the playground area.

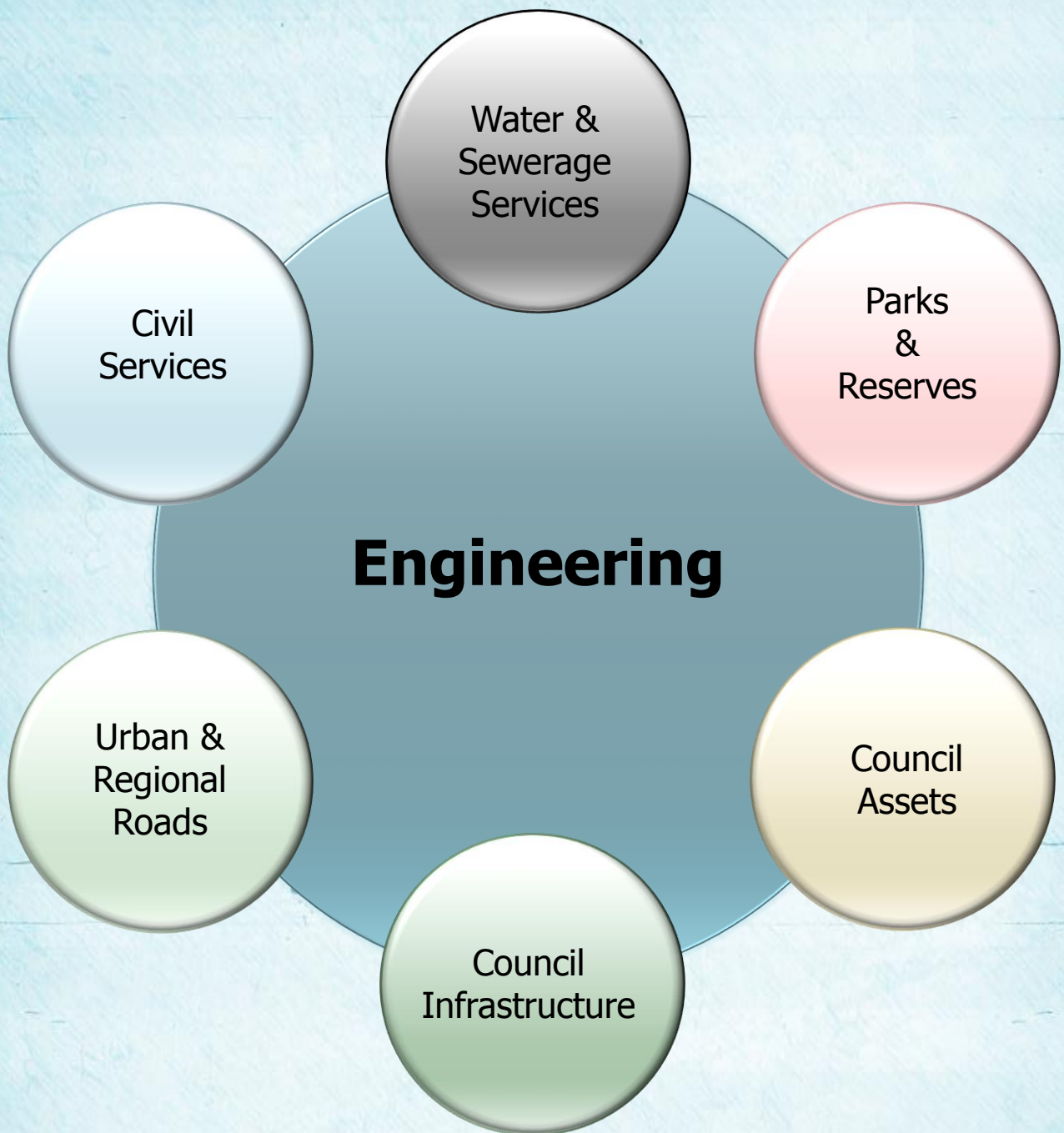
The centre has also obtained grants to develop resources for numeracy and literacy in early childhood programs and additional funds towards professional development and training of staff which has been targeted towards upgrading staff qualifications and the development of a professional staff reference book library.







Engineering





# Engineering

The \$4.85 million Willow Tree water supply transfer system was completed in 2015/2016 with water being supplied to Willow Tree since January 2016. This drought proofing project was fully funded by the NSW Government through its Restart NSW fund. The project comprised 15km of pipeline, a pump station located at Quirindi and a 200kL concrete reservoir at Willow Tree.

Water supplies were significantly affected by the less than favourable climatic conditions throughout 2015/2016. Quipolly Dam levels reached historic lows for Council's 12 year record of operation. The groundwater systems also saw declines, but not to the extent of surface water levels.

Throughout 2015/2016 significant funding was utilised on road reconstruction, rehabilitation and realignments. Over \$5.4 million has been spent on upgrading, re-sheeting, maintenance and construction of regional, rural and urban roads. Over \$459,000 was spent on natural disaster repairs (flood damage) over a very broad area of the Shire. All planned sealing and re-sheeting programs were completed for 2015/2016.

A direct saving of over \$3,000 was realised when the LPSC participated in a resource sharing opportunity with a joint tender project carried out with Tamworth Regional Council (TRC) to undertake sewer pipeline cleaning and CCTV inspection work. Approximately 5kms in Quirindi and 2kms in Werris Creek were cleaned and inspected by specialist contractors, along with a larger work package generated by TRC.

Construction planning of a new replacement bore and upgraded pump equipment at the Caroon Water Supply was undertaken in 2015/2016 and it is anticipated that this will commence in 2016/2017.

Implementation of components of the Drinking Water Management System were carried out with some key instrumentation being installed to monitor disinfection levels online in some water supplies.

Minor changes to the method of treating water at the Werris Creek Water Treatment Plant to remove the increased presence of Manganese from the Quipolly Dam raw water source, due to its low storage levels, was undertaken during 2015/2016 to improve water quality.

Continued stages of planning for future upgrades to the Quirindi Sewerage Treatment Plant occurred with the completion of Condition and Capacity Assessment reports.



*Drinking Water Management System*



*Sewer pipeline cleaning and  
CCTV inspection work*



The Liverpool Plains Shire Council Engineering Department has continued to make representations to other tiers of Government for increased road maintenance funding, as there is a funding gap between what is required and what is provided for ongoing maintenance.

Comprehensive asset management plans have been developed for water and waste water, structures, property, roads, drainage, bridges, footpaths, airport, plant and fleet. These plans are set for review in 2016/2017. Copies can be found on the LPSC website:

<http://www.lpsc.nsw.gov.au/index.php/my-council/council-plans-reports>

Drought has had a considerable impact on our local roads during this past year. Council is putting programs in place to assist with gravel road maintenance during extended periods of dry weather, which includes the purchase of a water tanker during the 2016/2017 financial year.

Work has continued in the expansion of the shared pathway network in Quirindi in a joint project with the Roads and Maritime Services.

Training is a constant obligation within Council under the Workplace Health & Safety Act. Over eight (8) training workshops were held for Engineering staff in 2015/2016, which included Traffic Control, Chemical Handling, First Aid, Working Near Power Lines and Confined Spaces.

Parks and Reserves have delivered a high standard of operation and presentation throughout the year. The Hoamm Park upgrade at Werris Creek, the amenities upgrade at Wallabadah First Fleet Gardens and the installation of an irrigation system to the First Fleet Gardens were among the highlights for 2015/2016.

Quirindi Airport has maintained the status of a registered Aerodrome as it continues to meet CASA standards. The usage agreement with BAE Systems allows the airport to operate at minimal expense to ratepayers.

The Liverpool Plains Shire Council is very proud and appreciative of the outstanding effort by volunteers of all the cemeteries within our Shire. The Werris Creek and the newly formed Quirindi Cemetery Volunteers have ensured that our cemetery maintenance is of an exceptional standard, and as a result our public cemeteries look wonderful.



*Quirindi Cemetery Volunteers*



*Resident Les Howard & Mayor Andrew Hope  
at Opening of Willow Tree Pipeline*



*Roadworks are a continual sight  
within the Liverpool Plains Shire*





*\$ 3,357,596 spent on Regional Roads*



*\$ 1,026,544 spent on Rural Roads*



*\$ 1,074,302 spent on Urban Roads*



*\$ 68,000 on Upgrade at First Fleet Gardens Amenities, Wallabadah*



*\$ 265,000 on Upgrade at Hoamm Park, Werris Creek*



*\$ 4,850,000 project realised – Willow Tree Water Supply Transfer System*

# Report on the Condition of Public Works

The following tables represent information relating to the condition of public works and the actual amounts expended in the 2015/2016 financial year. The figures include both capital and operational expenditure.

## Roads – Regional, Rural and Urban (Sealed & Unsealed)

Item	Condition at 30.06.2016	Estimate Cost for Satisfactory Standard	Estimate of Annual Cost of Maintaining	Total Expenditure for 2015/2016
Regional Roads	FAIR – Rehabilitation of some pavement failures on the poorer section in the past year and an aggressive resealing program with a polymer binder over the last 3 years to prevent water ingress	\$ 2,158,573	\$ 575,000	\$ 3,357,596
Rural Roads - Sealed & Unsealed	FAIR – Numerous sections of sealed network badly in need of rehabilitation. During the year continued dry weather hindered Councils resealing and gravel road maintenance program. Quality gravel is proving difficult to obtain in some areas of the Shire and the poor friable gravels compound the drainage problems	\$ 1,893,467	\$ 2,679,700	\$ 1,026,544
Urban Streets	FAIR – Focus on bitumen reseals over recent years is showing dividends with reduced incidents of potholes and pavement failures in urban streets. A number of streets will not benefit from resealing and reconstruction is the only option in these areas.	\$ 1,572,960	\$ 338,300	\$ 1,074,302
	<b>Total Costs</b>			<b>\$ 5,458,442</b>
	<b>Less External Funding Received</b>			<b>\$ 3,547,173</b>
	<b>Total Cost for 2015/2016 (to Council)</b>			<b>\$ 1,911,269</b>



# Report on the Condition of Public Works

## Bridges

Item	Condition at 30.06.2016	Estimate Cost for Satisfactory Standard	Estimate of Annual Cost of Maintaining	Total Expenditure for 2015/2016
Concrete/ Steel	Satisfactory	\$ 381,000	\$ 180,500	\$ 51,833
Timber	Satisfactory	\$ 24,000	\$ 37,500	\$ 0

## Water Supplies

Item	Condition at 30.06.2016	Estimate Cost for Satisfactory Standard	Estimate of Annual Cost of Maintaining	Total Expenditure for 2015/2016
Quirindi Supply	Satisfactory	\$ 649,086	\$ 632,732	\$ 401,637
Werris Creek Supply	Fair	\$ 246,362	\$ 920,509	\$ 349,898
Village Supplies	Satisfactory	\$ 286,451	\$ 432,743	\$ 911,918

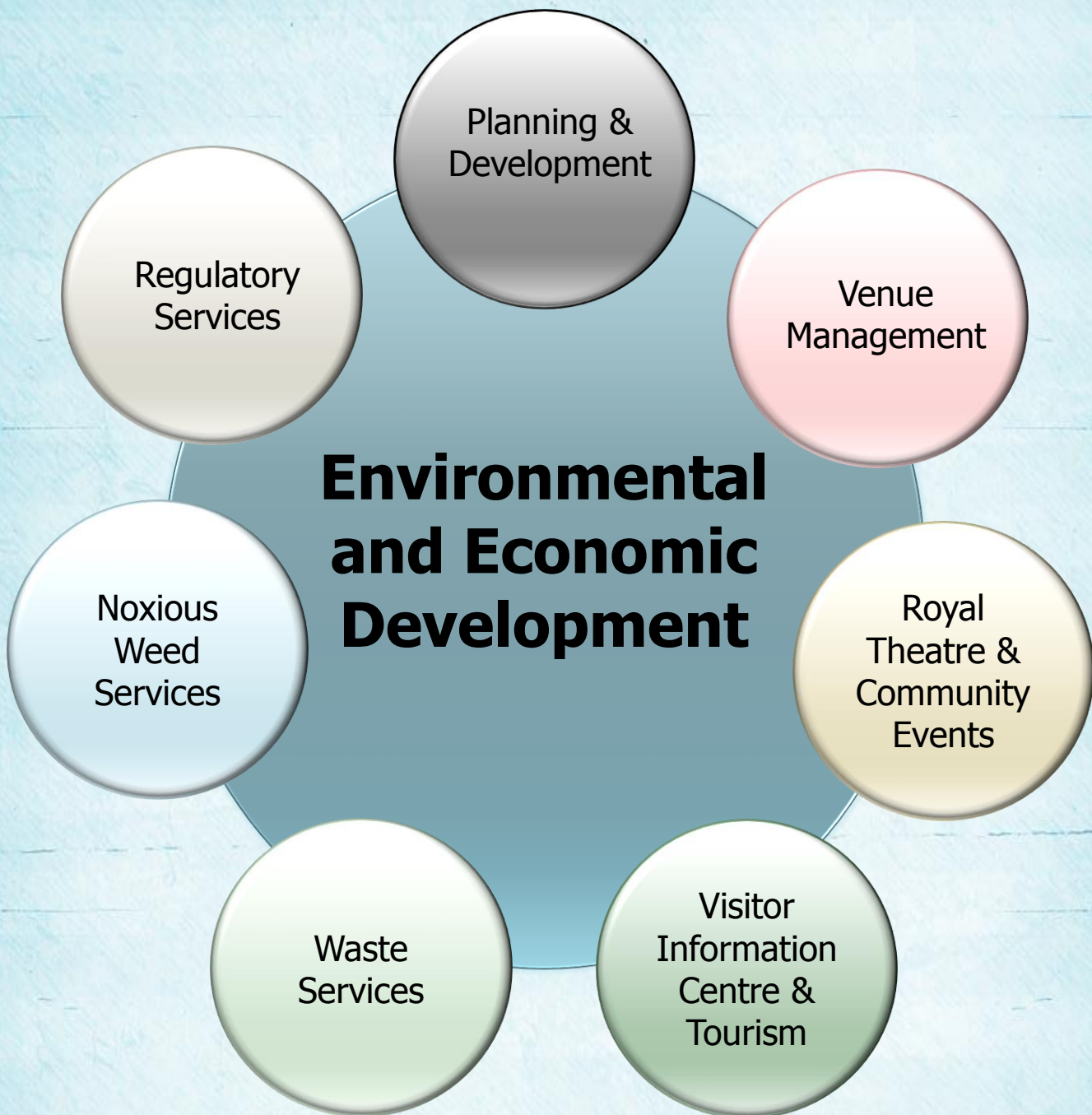
## Sewerage Supplies

Item	Condition at 30.06.2016	Estimate Cost for Satisfactory Standard	Estimate of Annual Cost of Maintaining	Total Expenditure for 2015/2016
Quirindi System	Satisfactory	\$ 255,000	\$ 148,176	\$ 401,637
Werris Creek System	Satisfactory	\$276,000	\$ 40,805	\$ 105,147

A photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there are tall, golden-brown grain crops, possibly sorghum, with dark red seed heads. A dirt road or path runs through the middle ground. In the background, there is a utility pole with cross-arms, and a line of trees and hills under a clear sky.

# Environmental and Economic Development Services





# Environmental and Economic Development

## Administration and Overview

2015/16 was again an active year in all program areas for the Environmental and Economic Development services area, but the key to the successful implementation of these programs is the energy and enthusiasm of departmental staff who have demonstrated a commitment to their individual roles with active participation in both the departmental training plan and their workplace health and safety responsibilities.

## Strategic

A review of Council's Development Control Plan (DCP) was undertaken during the reporting period to ensure that this document continues to be a responsive and flexible contemporary planning policy that keeps pace with change. The DCP is a modern and user-friendly document which supports the LPSC Local Environmental Plan 2011 (LEP). The LEP has been in service for over five years and gives the legislative framework for "where" particular land uses can occur. The LPSC DCP has been in service for a slightly shorter time frame and contains relevant development standards or "how" land uses must be implemented.

Copies of the LEP and DCP can be found at : <http://www.lpsc.nsw.gov.au/index.php/planning-building/lep-dcp>

## Development Control

All development applications, certification of developments and compliance inspections are checked to comply with applicable Acts, Codes and Legislation.

Council has fulfilled its other statutory obligations by issuing various certificates under the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 such as s149 (Planning Certificates) and s149 (D) (Building Certificates).

An annual review of Council's development assessment systems has been undertaken to improve efficiencies and achieve quality-based outcomes. Improvements have been identified and will be implemented in 2016/2017.

## Building Regulation

This area has continued to grow in both scope and complexity. In 2015/2016 extra effort has been applied in the following areas:

- Fire safety of all public buildings. Priority attention was given to places of accommodation and frail aged accommodation facilities.
- Awnings over footpaths. Past removal of posts and replacement with cantilever mechanisms has generated problems. Catastrophic failures reported nationally has highlighted the need to implement this inspection program.
- Private pool registration and safety fencing. Drowning statistics continue to drive a rise of standards in order to try to eliminate this type of ever-present risk.

## Building Asset Maintenance and Improvement

This ongoing program enhances facilities and maintains Council's existing public buildings in a state of good repair and condition. Strategic maintenance work has been carried out on many of Council's built assets in both an ongoing and proactive nature. Maintenance schedules are being updated and further developed to better cover the required works into the future.



## Noxious Weeds Control

Council employs two (2) full-time inspectors and one (1) casual, part-time spray operator.

In summary, while their activities are modified by seasonal conditions, operational focus includes:

- Provide current and reliable control information to the community
- Inspection of private property to achieve compliance, by land owners, with the Noxious Weeds Act
- Negotiate partnerships and undertake environmental weed control projects
- Report to Government Authorities the control work required for noxious weeds
- Manage and control noxious weeds on public land for which Council is responsible
- Control noxious weeds on privately owned land under Private Works contracts
- Participate in cooperative joint organisational and regional projects

As a natural resource management initiative, the Noxious Weeds Officers of LPSC completed a \$165,000 joint venture with the Shenhua Watermark Community Enhancement Fund (2013), which has led to the successful completion of the Riverine project: Quirindi Creek rehabilitation. The results can be seen below:



Before

### Quirindi Riverine Project



After

## Waste Management

All landfill sites are supervised when open to the public to provide greater public awareness of the issues facing this crucial service. This initiative has had good waste reduction benefits, with greater volumes of recyclable items being collected and removed from the waste stream. This has the additional benefit of limiting the consumption of landfill space. To date all Council Landfills are operated below designated Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) licensing thresholds.

Landfill site rehabilitation work has been undertaken at all sites and is being formalised into site management plans. All sites are being assessed for improved management opportunities to create extended lifespans and managed with a view to minimizing the existence of bushfire hazards. Activities in this regard relate to; expanding the types of products being recycled e.g. batteries and cooking oil, and attempting to resolve the ongoing illegal dumping issues with rubber tyres and Asbestos materials.

Council has completed another year of the collection contract with JR Richards & Sons for kerbside collection of general refuse and recycling co-mingles (which is by way of a 240L mobile bin for each service). This upgraded service commenced in October 2009. At the same time, Merinda Recycling (also known as Quirindi Aboriginal Corporation) accepted the contract to undertake site management services and provide a modern separation and resale of recyclables business undertaking. This contractor has exercised the option to extend the contract for a further five years.

As part of Council's contract for kerbside waste and recycling collection, the contractor conducts two annual kerbside collections – one of green waste and one for bulky goods waste. These collections are programmed to continue annually and assist to keep town areas tidy and free of potential vermin harborage situations



## General

Environmental and Economic Development Services staff have continued to actively participate in formal interactions with mining companies holding exploration licences and planning approvals for mining activities within LPSC and in neighboring Local Government Areas where there is a clear and present impact. Of paramount importance in these interactions is the protection of prime agricultural land and groundwater supplies, the protection of Council's road infrastructure and an ongoing advocacy role in economic development and social impact matters.

Council has fulfilled its role as a regulatory authority under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act and during the year has undertaken investigations into complaints with regard to pollution incidents.

Roadside dumping of hazardous materials such as Asbestos materials and truck/car tyres continues to pose a significant risk to the environment and consume both financial and staff resources. A program of 'trouble spot' security monitoring has been implemented.

Council has an adopted strategic objective of completing the re-instatement of creek frontage areas in urban settings with the multiple benefits of environmental improvement, return to safer public access and reduction of flood flow impediments. Securing funding opportunities and demonstrated project outcomes has been successful over the year and prospects are good for the completion of the work before the end of the next financial year.

## Emergency Management

This program provides support and assistance to:

NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS)  
NSW Fire and Rescue  
NSW State Emergency Service (SES)  
Quirindi Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA)

Work commenced on the preparation of a new EmPlan. This document will replace the current local DisPlan.

The Master Planning for the innovative Liverpool Range Emergency Services Precinct commenced in 2015. The project will entail the construction of a new Fire Control Centre (FCC), a local RFS Braefield/Dury Brigade shed, VRA shed at the former Quirindi Saleyards site at Pryor Street, Quirindi. The facility will also feature a training area to accommodate all emergency service organisations, including the SES which is already located within the proposed precinct.



(L to R) – Michael Johnsen MP, Mayor Andrew Hope, Ross Dalton, Ctr Col Stewart, LPSC GM Ron Van Katwyk, Jim White (welcome to country), Trent Owen (Westpac helicopter), RFS Inspector Mark Murphy, Craig Barlow (Director VRA), RFS Senior Assistant Commissioner Bruce Macdonald, Frank Turner (SES) & RFS Chief Supt Brett Condie



MP Michael Johnsen turns the first sod for the Liverpool Plains Emergency Services Precinct



## Promotion and Tourism

The Liverpool Plains Shire Council has implemented a small number of new ways that residents can access information in regards to events, services and general updates on the Shire via our website and Facebook pages.

A Visitor Information Centre (VIC) is located in Willow Tree, which is a vital promotion tool for the area. The VIC provides various information to visitors, but also ensures that local residents are informed of local events and services.

## Economic Development

Whilst agriculture remains the backbone of employment within the Liverpool Plains, mining has continued to be a critical new employment sector. Shenhua Watermark, China's largest producer of coal, is awaiting the final approval from the Federal Government for an open cut mine near Breeza in the Gunnedah Shire. This site is geographically closer to Quirindi and Werris Creek than any other major population centre. The prospect of further mines in the Gunnedah Basin has also resulted in teams of workers subcontracted to the ARTC utilising available accommodation within the Shire.

The retail sector continues to struggle given the prevailing climatic and economic conditions and changes in the consumer spending patterns. In an attempt to address these trends, Council continues to explore opportunities to promote economic growth and continues to work in partnership with the Quirindi and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Initiatives such as "Come On Shopping", digital marketing and e-Commerce have also been supported by Council



*Royal Theatre  
Patrons enjoying an event at the Royal Theatre*

*Liverpool Plains Recreational Vehicle Strategy*  
*Planning phase has been completed.  
Implementation will begin in 2016/17.*



*Visitor Information Centre  
Regional Tourism Award Winner (Highly  
Commended)*

# Achievements

## Strategic Planning

- Production of “plain english” fact sheets for common development types
- Review and consolidate Council planning policy matters
- Advocacy and government liaison in respect of regional planning and policy matters
- Ongoing implementation of Heritage Strategy
- Good progress with the Werris Creek Main Street Study
- Implement strategic decision making findings from the Quirindi Flood Risk Management Plan

## Development Control

- Approval of Developments valued at \$15,229,233
- 279 Section 149 Zoning Certificates issued
- Participation in e-Planning initiative, including an online Development Application tracking system
- Implementation of an Electronic Housing Code web based tool
- Update Shire wide Bushfire Prone Land Mapping

## Public Health

- Monitor and regulate food shops, incl education for owners and food handlers.
- An on-line food handlers training course has been made available through Council’s website <http://www.imalert.com.au/foodsafety/training/user-info.php>
- Investigate public health complaints and monitor implementation solutions
- Regulation and inspection of on-site sewage management installations
- Provide public toilet cleaning service to facilities under Council’s control
- Community Sharps Bins available in Werris Creek and Quirindi, for public use

## Visitor Information Centre

- Promotion of the LPSC through Sister City events - New Residents Packs to potential new residents
- Create and update tourism brochure
- Update and maintain website and listings on Destination NSW
- Liaise, create, update and distribute Local Events Calendar - Maintain presence on Social Media
- Free Wi-Fi for people over 50 years of age - Provision of Meeting Room
- Retail Shop – Local Produce, Local Arts & Crafts, Books, Souvenirs, etc.

## Community Events

- Seniors Week – Computer Courses, Dinners & Day Excursions
- Carers Week – Outing for Carers
- Local Government Week – Visits from School Students, BBQ and Community Consultation
- Volunteers Week – Morning Tea and Movie
- International Womens Day - Dinner and Guest Speaker
- Australia Day – Community Events at Warrah and Werris Creek, Awards Ceremony, Lunch, Tour of First Fleet Gardens, Wallabadah

## Waste Management

- Participation in drumMUSTER and Chemcollect programs
- Recycling drop-off centres at Council landfills
- Weekly domestic waste pick-up and fortnightly recycling kerbside collection service to nominated areas
- Bi-annual bulky waste pickups



# Section 3 – Statutory Reporting

This section of the Annual Report contains legislative information that the Liverpool Plains Shire Council is required to provide under Part 4, section 428 of the *Local Government Act, 1993* and Division 7, Regulation 217 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations, 2005*.

## Achievements – Delivery Program

Please refer to pages 12-18 of the Annual Report

## Rates and Charges Written Off

No Rates or Charges were written off during the 2015/2016 financial year.

## Overseas Visits

In October 2015, Mayor Andrew Hope and General Manager Ron Van Katwyk travelled to China to investigate opportunities for engagement, export development, trade, investment and tourism. As well as reinforcing the friendly cooperative cities agreement with Jimo Qingdao in Shandong Province.

## Mayoral and Councillor Fees

The total amount expended during 2015/2016 for expenses relating to Councillors was \$159,888.

A breakdown of these payments are listed below:

Mayoral Allowance (Inc Councillor Fees)	\$ 20,750
Councillor Fees	\$ 77,070
Mayoral Expenses	\$ 1,198
Deputy Mayor Expenses	\$ 3,280
Councillor Development	\$ 1,995
Councillor Expenses	\$ 11,767
Travel Expenses	\$ 13,912
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 129,972</b>
Telephone	\$ 4,102
Conference Expenses	\$ 15,494
Overseas Visits	\$ 10,320
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 29,916</b>

Payments were made in accordance with Council's Policy for the *Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for Councillors* which was adopted on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014, pursuant to Section 252 of the *Local Government Act, 1993*. A copy of this Policy is available at

<http://www.lpsc.nsw.gov.au/index.php/my-council/council-policies>

## Contracts awarded for amounts greater than \$150,000

There were 3 contracts awarded in the 2015/2016 financial year. Details are listed below:

Name	Amount	Purpose
Fulton Hogan	Schedule of Rates	Supply of Bitumen Sealing Services
Fulton Hogan	Schedule of Rates	Supply of Bitumen Emulsion
Boulus Constructions	\$ 4.5 M	Construction of Liverpool Plains Emergency Services Precinct

## Summary of costs incurred relating to legal proceedings

A summary of the costs incurred by Liverpool Plains Shire Council in relation to Debt Recovery, Environmental Proceedings and Industrial Disputes are listed below:

<u>Debt Recovery</u> Action against ratepayers for recovery of overdue rates	\$ 149,679	Ongoing
<u>Environmental</u> Legal proceeding for and against Council in relation to environmental action orders	\$ 87,362	Ongoing
<u>Industrial</u> Legal proceedings for Council in relation to industrial action orders	\$ 1,839	Ongoing

## Summary of Work carried out on Private Land

Liverpool Plains Shire Council undertook works on private land in 2015/2016 to the total of \$140,798. How these charges are costed is summarised below:

Plant Hire Rates	Private Rate Hire
Additional Labour	Actual Cost + On Costs + Overheads
Stores and Material	Cost + 20% + GST

## Grants and Contributions

During 2015/2016 Council made grants and contributions for the amount of \$ 6,966. These were made under Section 356 of the *NSW Local Government Act, 1993*.

## Delegated Functions

There were no external bodies that exercised functions delegated by Liverpool Plains Shire Council during 2015/2016

## Controlling Interest

The Liverpool Plains Shire Council did not hold a controlling interest in any corporation, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicated or other bodies during 2015/2016.

## Council Participation

The Liverpool Plains Shire Council did not participate in any corporation, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicated or other bodies during 2015/2016.

## Equal Employment Opportunity

As part of an Employee Induction Program, the Liverpool Plains Shire Council's Equal Employment Policy is emphasised and reaffirms the importance of staff and customer treatment, emphasises the zero tolerance of discrimination in the workplace and that all demonstrated behaviours will be in accordance with EEO values.

## Remuneration to Senior Staff

As at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 only one senior staff member, in terms of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, was employed by Council. This position is the General Manager's. The total remuneration package was \$ 243,590 which is summarised below:

Salary Component	\$ 215,118
Superannuation	\$ 23,141
Motor Vehicle	\$ 5,331
Fringe Benefits Tax	\$ 20,117

## State of Environment Report

The annual State of Environment (SoE) report prepared in 2012 provides "pressure, state, response" coverage of a vast array of environmental parameters. In short, the pressures on the local environment are identified, the current status of the environmental aspect is described and Council's proposed (or ongoing) response is documented. Under Section 428A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and in accordance with the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, the comprehensive SoE report is due every four years which is the year in which the ordinary election of councilors is held. The next comprehensive SoE report under the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework is due 30 November 2016. In the interim years, the only environmental reporting required in the annual report are the actions in the Delivery Program that address the environmental goals in the Community Strategic Plan. See Section Two of this report for further information

## Report on Capital Works Projects

During the 2015/2016 financial year, there was only one capital works project completed, which was the Willow Tree water supply transfer system. For further details please see page 31

## Compliance / Ranger services

Council administers the Companion Animals Act and Impounding Act in an attempt to minimise problems with straying stock and dog attacks. A Compliance Officer and one full-time Ranger undertake regular patrols across the Shire and have promoted animal owner responsibilities at various community venues.

Council has not received any external funding for companion animal management and associated activities.

Community education and the promotion of de-sexing of dogs and cats has been delivered through attending local events such as the Spring Show, Local Government Week along with ongoing information being provided through various social media platforms and Council's webpage.

Council's Ranger has worked extremely effectively with pet rescue groups to dramatically reverse the euthanasia/rehoming rates for the LGA.

LPSC personnel have been kept busy responding to:

- Dangerous and nuisance dog complaints
- Cat complaints
- Call-outs for stock straying on roads
- Littering enforcement
- Pollution incidents
- Illegal dumping incidents
- Overgrown allotment complaints
- Unfenced private swimming pool issues
- On-site Sewage Management System (OSMS) approvals and inspections
- Adherence to signposted restrictions at the Quipolly Dam Recreation Area
- Alcohol Free Area signage and Liquor Accord interests

Council's formal leash free areas in Quirindi (3), Werris Creek, Currabubula, Willow Tree, Wallabadah and Premer continue to be well used. These leash free areas will be reviewed in 2016 in conjunction with the LPSC RV Strategy. Promotional pamphlets and signage improvements have been carried out to promote the lawful use of these areas.

Redesign and documentation work for Council's new Animal Welfare Facility to be located near the Quirindi Landfill have been revamped this year in line with budget limitations and in anticipation of building commencement.

### Annual Statistics 2015/16

Dogs Seized	147
(65 surrendered)	
Dogs Rehomed	61
Dogs Returned to Owner	45
Dogs Euthanased	41
Dog Attacks	7
(No orders issued)	
Dangerous Dog Orders	3
No Nuisance or Menacing Dog Orders took place in 2015/2016	

Stock Call-Outs	22
Stock Impounded	0

Cats Seized	73
Return to Owner or Rehomed	24
Cats Euthanased	49



## Government Information

The Liverpool Plains Shire Council is required to report on activities in relation to access to public information during the financial year, *Government Information Public Access* (GIPA). The GIPA report is provided to the Minister for Local Government and is available for download from our website.

Total number of access applications received by the agency during the reporting year (including withdrawn) - 2

Total number of access applications received by the agency during the reporting year that the agency refused either wholly or partly, because the application was for the disclosure of information referred to in Schedule 1 to the Act - 2

Table A: Number of applications by type of applicant and outcome

	Access Granted in Full	Access Granted in Part	Access Refused in Full	Information not Held	Information Already Available	Refuse to Deal with Application	Refuse to Confirm/Deny whether information is held	Application Withdrawn	Total	% of Total
Media	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Members of Parliament	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Private sector business	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Not for profit organisations or community groups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Members of the public (by legal representative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Members of the public (other)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	100%
Total	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	
% of Total	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		

Table B: Number of applications by type of application and outcome\*

	Access Granted in Full	Access Granted in Part	Access Refused in Full	Information not Held	Information Already Available	Refuse to Deal with Application	Refuse to Confirm/Deny whether information is held	Application Withdrawn	Total	% of Total
Personal information applications*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Access applications that are partly personal information applications and partly other	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	100%
Total	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	
% of Total	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		

Table C: Invalid applications

Reason for invalidity	No of applications	% of Total
Application does not comply with formal requirements (section 41 of the Act)	0	0%
Application is for excluded information of the agency (section 43 of the Act)	0	0%
Application contravenes restraint order (section 110 of the Act)	0	0%
Total number of invalid applications received	0	0%
Invalid applications that subsequently became valid applications	0	0%

Table D: Conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure: matters listed in Schedule 1 of Act

	Number of times consideration used*	% of Total
Overriding secrecy laws	0	0%
Cabinet information	0	0%
Executive Council information	0	0%
Contempt	0	0%
Legal professional privilege	0	0%
Excluded information	2	100%
Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety	0	0%
Transport safety	0	0%
Adoption	0	0%
Care and protection of children	0	0%
Ministerial code of conduct	0	0%
Aboriginal and environmental heritage	0	0%
Total	2	

## Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979

Under section 93G(5) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, the Liverpool Plains Shire Council had no planning agreements in force.

## Public Interest Disclosures

Liverpool Plains Shire Council has a Public Interest Disclosures Policy as required under Section 6D of the *Public Disclosures Act*, (PID). This policy can be found on Council's website.

The intention of the PID Act is "to facilitate disclosure and investigation of wrongdoing and maladministration in the Commonwealth public sector, and for other purposes"  
Below is the 2015/2016 report:

	Made by public officials performing their day to day functions	Under a statutory or other legal obligation	All other PIDs
No of public officials who made public interest disclosures to your public authority	0	0	0
No of public interest disclosure received by your public authority	0	0	0
Of public interest disclosures received, how many were primarily about:	0	0	0
Corrupt conduct	0	0	0
Maladministration	0	0	0
Serious and substantial waste	0	0	0
Government information contravention	0	0	0
Local government pecuniary interest contravention	0	0	0
No of public interest disclosures (received since 1 Jan 2012) that have been finalised in this reporting period		1	
Have you established an internal reporting policy?			Yes
Has the head of your public authority taken action to meet their staff awareness obligations?			Yes
If so, please select how staff have been made aware			
Policy briefing from senior managers, Staff undertaking that they have read and understood your organisation's internal reporting policy			

## 2015 / 2016 Financial Statements

Each year, NSW Local Governments are required to present a set of audited Financial Statements to both their Community and Council.

The Liverpool Plains Shire Council's 2015/2016 audited financial statements will be attached to this report in the following pages, when the audit has been completed, which is scheduled for December 2016.

A copy will also available on our website.