

2013-14 Annual Report

LIVERPOOL PLAINS
SHIRE COUNCIL



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MAYOR'S FOREWORD

Councillor Andrew Hope

As the recently elected new Mayor of Liverpool Plains Shire Council I am very pleased to present the 2013/14 Annual Report for Council which has been prepared under the Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements.

On behalf of all Councillors I would like to thank the former Mayor, Councillor Ian Lobsey OAM, for his past ten years of leading Council to where it is today. His list of achievements during his role as Mayor is impressive and too long to list here. I look forward to adding to these achievements during the 2014/15 year.

With regard to 2013/14 Council had a challenging but successful year making significant progress across all functional areas. Challenges faced included a NSW Treasury Corp report identifying Council as financially unsustainable, extensive flood repairs, a detailed planning proposal to amend the 2011 LEP, submissions were made on the Future of Local Government Reports prepared by the Independent Local Government Review Panel, submission of a Special Rate Variation Application to IPART which included completion of our annual and long term budgets some six months earlier than usual and identifying cost savings which included several positions in the organisational structure being made redundant. Council is aware that further hard decisions need to be made in the future to ensure Council becomes financially sustainable and meets the requirements of the State Government.

Council works hard to obtain grant and private sector funding to provide new infrastructure sought by our residents. Council and the community had great success in obtaining funding for the Quipolly Dam Recreation area, upstairs renovation, touch screen display and lift for the Australian Railway Museum expansion, creek clearing to minimise flood impacts, toilets and lift for the Quirindi Racecourse, Spring Ridge Hall Roof and numerous road construction grants including funds for roads such as the Gap Road, Werris Creek Road, Harrisons Plains Road and Bundella Road.



Council continues to work towards best practice in the delivery of services and the provision of infrastructure and gauges its success by benchmarking itself against other councils through independent community surveys and by entering projects into various awards. This year has seen another successful year with Council taking out a number of Awards for asbestos awareness, the Willow Tree Visitor Information Centre and the Tracer Mobile App which was developed in-house by staff.

Please take the time to read this document and provide Councillors with feedback to assist us to continue to provide cost effective services and infrastructure that strive to meet the needs of the community.

Andrew Hope
Mayor

YOUR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES



Cr Ken Cudmore



Cr Andrew Hope
Mayor



Cr Andrew Laurie



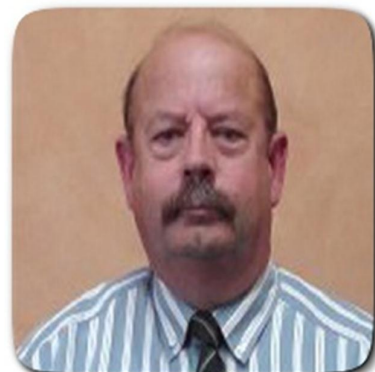
Cr Ian Lobsey OAM



Cr Mary Roberts



Cr Col Stewart



Cr Robert Webster
Deputy Mayor

SECTION 1 GENERAL REPORTING

ENGINEERING WORKS AND SERVICES

A significant program of work was undertaken by Council on road, drainage and recreation projects during the year at a combined cost of over \$2.55m. The following projects were completed on regional roads during the year including two additional segments on MR 130 that were not included in the original budget:

- MR 130 Werris Creek Road 8.4 – 9.4 North of Quirindi, Reconstruction \$465,765;
- MR 130 Werris Creek Road 9.4 -10.4 North of Quirindi, Reconstruction \$488,380;
- MR 130 Werris Creek Road 10.4 – 11.5 North of Quirindi, Reconstruction \$473,954;
- MR 579 Gap Road 0.00 - 1.2 km and 4.5 - 5.7 km east of Kamilaroi Highway \$569,992

A local rural road construction project was undertaken on SR 28 Harrisons Plains Road at a cost of \$331,610

The following project was not included in Council's original budget however it was commenced during the year with funding from successful grant applications:

- Quipolly Dam Recreation Area Stage 3 Jetty, picnic tables, barbeques, pathway extension, boat ramp extension \$240,000. Further funding of \$50,000 was also obtained for the construction of a casting wharf which will commence in the 2014/15 financial year.

Council undertook a \$523,580 gravel road re-sheeting program which included \$142,840 allocated from the "Special Rate Variation", \$ 246,750 from the Federal Assistance Grant, \$113,390 from the Roads to Recovery Program and \$20,600 from the Block Grant. In addition \$1.45m in Natural Disaster (Flood Damage) repairs on gravel roads and drainage infrastructure continued over a broad area of the Shire. The roads treated included:

- SR 67 Paynes Road,
- SR 28 Harrisons Plains Rd,
- SR 93 Cattle Lane,
- SR 80 Woodton Rd,
- SR 32 Swinging Ridges Rd
- SR 56 4D Rd,
- SR 74 Treloar Rd,
- SR 79 Inverkip Rd,
- SR 89 Brunskills Rd,
- SR 95 Colley Blue Island Rd,
- SR 103 Mooki Springs Rd
- SR 151 Bloomfields Rd
- SR 85 Windy Rd

ENGINEERING WORKS AND SERVICES (Continued)

Urban Resheeting

- Doyle Street,
- South Street,
- Duke Street
- Memorial Drive

The culvert and causeway construction and repair program continued with \$220,500 allocated towards the cost of upgrading or constructing culverts and causeways. Major projects funded under this budget included:

- SR 28 Harrisons Plains Rd
- SR 73 Wandobah Rd
- SR 89 Brunskills Rd
- SR 66 Merrilong Rd
- SR 95 Colley Blue Island Rd



Heavy patching using a pavement stabilizer to mix cement with the gravel

ENGINEERING WORKS AND SERVICES (Continued)

Work was completed on the collation of data and the development of the Quirindi storm water drainage study. The theoretical assessment of the drainage catchment around and within Quirindi has identified areas of the system for future augmentation or further development as the drainage system expands.

A significant bitumen resealing program was planned for the 2013/14 financial year however difficulties experienced in having the contractor return to correct deficient work, from the previous year's reseal program under warranty, resulted in delays. Ultimately a portion of the program was undertaken by an alternate contractor and some funds were re-directed into reseal preparation activities for the 2014/15 reseal program. A total of \$1,084,150 was allocated in Council's budget to this imperative maintenance treatment. This allocation included \$165,950 from the Special Rate Variation approved 5 years ago for road maintenance.

Overall Council's road assets are being consumed due to the funding gap between required and annual maintenance. The rate of consumption has been reduced through the development of Asset Management Plans and improved asset condition data which has enabled Council maintenance expenditure to be better targeted to areas of greatest value rather than the previous practice of perceived need. Council has continued to make representations to the other tiers of government for increased road maintenance funding through membership of the Australian Local Government Association and the Australian Rural Roads Group. These bodies are lobbying for an increase in State and Federal government funding for road maintenance to get road infrastructure to a satisfactory standard. Funding for the maintenance and replacement of other assets is also difficult with a future reduction in service levels or an increase in revenue required if existing assets are to be retained.

Water supplies generally remained at good levels despite the ongoing period of reduced rainfall over the last 3 years. Further progress in planning and implementing drought proofing strategies for individual supplies was achieved with the completion of the Regional Water Supply Strategy design project. A project grant of \$400,000 was obtained from the Federal Government together with \$165,000 in Council funds to further develop the Strategy to "Shovel Ready Status". This project places Council in a strong position to successfully apply for further State and Federal Government funding opportunities which are often constrained to projects that can be started with six (6) months of a funding offer.

Work also continued on the development of the Wallabadah alternate water supply in anticipation of funding for this project early in the 2014/15 financial year. Design of the delivery pipeline, delivery pump, power supply, telemetry and chlorine dosing plant were completed.

ENGINEERING WORKS AND SERVICES (Continued)

Works Administration

To meet Council's obligations under the Workplace Health and Safety Act staff continued to receive training in many key and hazardous work areas such as Confined Spaces, Traffic Control, Chainsaw Operation and Chemical Handling, First Aid, Pool Supervision and Life Saving. The Workplace Health and Safety Committee held a number of meetings and workplace inspections were undertaken at several Council worksites throughout the year.

Further development of Council's Asset Management System continued with the collection of additional asset data to improve and refine the asset specific management plans together with reconciliation of the asset register to the Asstetic asset management system. Comprehensive asset management plans have been developed for Water and Waste Water, Structures, Property, Roads, Drainage, Bridges, Footpaths, Airport and Plant and Fleet with each plan scheduled for review every 3 years.

Environmental monitoring at Warrah Ridge Quarry continued in accordance with Council's Department of Primary Industries extraction licence. The licence requires monitoring of the impact of activities at the site on noise, air and water quality in the surrounding environment. Implementation of the extraction and drainage plan for the site continued with the extension of storm water diversion drains, stabilization of steep batters and changes to gravel extraction and screening procedures. During the year Council purchased a mobile jaw crusher to improve both the quality and quantity of gravel produced at the quarries. The use of this machine allows almost 100% recovery of material won at the quarry with no material discarded as spoil due to oversize. It is estimated that up to 15% of bank material was unusable under the previous work method and the recovery of this material represents a substantial improvement in efficiency at the quarry.

Works Depots and Plant Administration

Several plant items were replaced and upgraded during the year including the replacement of two (2) medium rigid trucks, tractor and slasher. A fifth grader, retained from the 2011/12 plant replacement program, for the purpose of completion flood repairs was sold.

Returns on the sale of plant were generally slightly lower than estimated which was driven by the oversupply of secondhand equipment following the downturn in the mining and construction industries. Most items were disposed of through public auction however a number of items were also sold by public tender. The downturn in light vehicle prices reported over the last two (2) years continued this financial year with Council maintaining the Councils' light vehicle replacement policy. Light vehicles are now being held for approximately 5 years or 120,000km with the market regularly monitored by Council's plant and fleet staff to take advantage of market changes and to minimise fleet costs.

ENGINEERING WORKS AND SERVICES (Continued)

Parks & Reserves

Parks and Reserves operations were undertaken and a high standard of presentation was achieved. Landscaping work and recreation facilities such as additional picnic tables, shelters, barbeques and a Jetty were constructed at the Quipolly Dam Recreation area. Fence painting was completed at Longfield Park and funding was allocated for shelter and seat painting at the Spring Ridge Recreation Ground. The Spring Ridge Recreation Ground buildings were painted using volunteer labour.



Quipolly Dam Recreation Area

Public Cemeteries

New Columbarium brick walls were constructed at Wallabadah, Werris Creek and Quirindi Cemeteries. Cemetery maintenance was completed including topdressing of the lawn cemeteries and turf care. Shade shelters and seating were installed at Quirindi and Werris Creek Cemeteries. Council is appreciative of the volunteers who carry out maintenance at several cemeteries throughout the Shire.

Bollard posts were installed at Currabubula Cemetery to identify threatened flora species growing in the area and to reduce damage to these valuable plants by cars and machinery.

ENGINEERING WORKS AND SERVICES (Continued)

Swimming Pools

The management and operation of Council's Swimming Pools was contracted to the YMCA this year in the hope of improved service and reduced running cost over the traditional method of managing these centres with Council staff.

Airport

The usage agreement with BAE Systems in Tamworth continues to be successful and allows the airport to operate at minimal expense to ratepayers. Operation and management of the airport continues to meet CASA standards which was confirmed during an external audit. This allowed the airport to retain the status of a Registered Aerodrome during the year.

A program of heavy patching repairs was undertaken on the sealed runway 0624 to remove undulations in the runway surface. The undulations caused water to pond during periods of wet weather creating a hazardous situation for aircraft.

State Roads

Council's Road Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC) with the Roads and Maritime Services for maintenance and project work on the Kamilaroi Highway from the New England Highway at Willow Tree to the Shire boundary with Gunnedah Shire Council continued. The work involves routine maintenance, undertaken to meet service levels specified in the contract, and ordered work which is only undertaken at RTA direction. Council met the RTA specification requirements for the contract and received an overall contract performance rating of "satisfactory" for the work.

Regional Roads

A further 3 projects were completed on MR130 Werris Creek Road under the Roads and Maritime Services REPAIR Program. In total 3.1km of road was reconstructed between 8.4 and 11.5 km north of Quirindi. A further 1.2km of MR 579 Gap Rd west of Cana Road was also reconstructed at a total cost of \$1.998m. The work involved stabilization and gravel overlay of the existing pavements.

ENGINEERING WORKS AND SERVICES (Continued)

Shire Roads

The annual gravel re-sheeting program was undertaken and completed as scheduled. The bitumen resealing program was partially completed with additional funds directed to heavy patching and resealing preparation for the 2014/15 reseal works. Routine maintenance of both bitumen and gravel roads was undertaken. Maintenance grading of the gravel road network was completed with all roads receiving their grading requirements according to Council Policy during the year.

Work continued on the reconstruction of Harrisons Plains Road west of Inverkip Road with a further 1.2km of pavement work undertaken at a cost of approximately \$334,610.

Urban Streets

The following improvement project was undertaken in addition to routine urban maintenance of Council's town and village streets:

- É Funding allocated for an Urban Improvement Project was held in reserve to enable the completion of additional work on MR130. It is anticipated that the Urban Improvement Project will be undertaken in 2014/15
- É Bitumen Resealing Urban Roads \$87,460

Special Rate Variation

The Special Rate Variation approved for road maintenance projects totaled \$367,620 in 2013/2014. From these funds money was allocated to bitumen resealing \$165,950, gravel re-sheeting \$142,840 and longitudinal roadside drainage maintenance \$58,830.



ENGINEERING WORKS AND SERVICES (Continued)

Water Supplies

A return to drying conditions placed the focus back towards long term planning projects for the more drought vulnerable supplies as well as those with growth driven issues into the future. With the completion of the newly upgraded Quipolly Dam, now with a larger 8GL capacity, the follow up stage of designing the delivery and treatment system to utilize this capacity for Werris Creek, Quirindi and Willow Tree was undertaken in 2013/14. Concept designs and preliminary investigation work has been undertaken to position Council into a "shovel ready" status making it well prepared with accurate information to capitalize its funding strategies to deliver the scheme.

Further development of the passive recreation area on the southern foreshore of Quipolly Dam occurred with construction of pathways and a casting wharf to give anglers currently constrained from on water activities to get access to the well-stocked native fish population. Opportunistic construction to extend the boat ramp for future use was carried out whilst water levels remained low in the dam. Fencing of the foreshore of the dam to reflect the bigger area for inundation and to exclude stock for the protection of the drinking water supply from bacteriological contamination commenced during 2013/14.

Following the introduction of the requirement to prepare and maintain a Drinking Water Management System for all of its potable water supplies, Council undertook the compilation of the system during 2013/14. All aspects of the system utilised to supply water for the purpose of drinking has been risk assessed and measures (both tangible and intangible) have been listed and commenced for implementing based on priority. Council's elected members also contributed by adopting a policy of commitment to ensuring water quality.

Work to replace several water mains in Quirindi and Werris Creek was carried out with the aim of improving delivery capacity and isolation inconvenience during repairs to water consumers. Repairs to leaking reservoirs in village supplies were also completed during 2013/14.

ENGINEERING WORKS AND SERVICES (Continued)

Sewerage Systems

Extensive planning for upgrade options of the Werris Creek Sewerage Treatment Plant in preparation for the receipt of sewage out of the approved development for a worker's accommodation facility on the outskirts of the town has dominated sewerage scheme strategy work during 2013/14. Studied capacity of the existing plant and proposed upgrades and timings has been reported in a servicing strategy for the development with progression into the design phase planned for 2014/15.

Relining projects continued in the sewer main network for both systems (Quirindi and Werris Creek) with the completion of all mains in the CBD of Quirindi now achieved as part of a staged project. This now completes the current round of relining based on previous CCTV assessment with a new assessment process being organized for 2014/15 to enable further targeted relining projects to occur in the future.

Refurbishment of the Quirindi Sewerage Treatment Plant's extended aeration process facility was carried out by specialist contractors to renew aging fabricated structures which operate in a difficult environment during the treatment process. Replacement of the 2 mild steel aerator pontoon assemblies with stainless steel structures will give this critical component a better service life and greater reliability. Also the other critical component that operates the decant trough has been replaced for essential reliability in the treatment process. Improvements in operator access to the aerators were also completed during this project.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION AND OVERVIEW

Generally speaking the Environmental Services Department administers various aspects of environmental/building regulation legislation, attends to the maintenance, cleaning and improvement of Council's built assets, supervises waste handling and disposal practices, provides weed control services and regulates straying stock and companion animals. 2013/14 has again been an active year in all these program areas as outlined below.

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.

LAND-USE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS

STRATEGIC

Council's comprehensive Local Environmental Plan, known as the Liverpool Plains Local Environmental Plan 2011 (the LEP) has been in service for over three years. Similarly, a modern and user-friendly Development Control Plan (DCP) supports the LEP and has been in service for a slightly shorter time frame. The LEP gives the legislative framework for "where" particular land uses can occur and the DCP contains the relevant development standards or "how" land uses must be implemented.

Both are 'living' documents which need to reflect changing community needs and expectations. Reflecting this need is the third LEP housekeeping amendment which has been finalised in the past year. LEP Amendment No. 3 was prepared by Council to back zone various sites around Quirindi, but principally in Centre Street, for industrial purposes. The LEP amendment facilitated the rezoning of certain lands which were deemed to have sufficient strategic planning merit to proceed. This amendment process included the preparation and exhibition of a detailed Planning Proposal which was underpinned by an extensive program of community consultation. The Liverpool Plains Local Environmental Plan (Amendment No. 3) was gazetted (formally made as law) in early 2014.

Complementary Strategic Planning achievements this financial year have been:

- Preparation of additional Plain-English Fact Sheets in respect of a variety of common development types
- Reviewing and consolidating Council planning policy matters
- Advocacy and government liaison in respect of regional planning and policy matters

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (Continued)

LAND-USE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS (Cont)

- Implementation of a Shire wide Heritage Strategy with active participation in the financial assistance fund
- Progress with the Werris Creek Main Street Study
- Implementation of the findings from the Quirindi Flood Risk Management Plan in strategic decision making

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

Through the current system of development approvals, certification of developments and compliance inspections, all development applications (Das) have been checked so that they comply with the various applicable LEP, DCP, the Building Code of Australia, Planning for Bushfire Protection requirements and other related legislation.

Council has also 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).

Activities for the reporting period undertaken include:

- Approval of development valued at \$60,303,508 (2013/14)
- Council issued 279 section 149 zoning certificates (2013/14)

An annual review of Council's development assessment systems has also been undertaken with the view of improving efficiencies and achieving quality-based outcomes. A range of improvements have been progressively implemented/enhanced, including:

- The continued operation of a cross-organisational Development Assessment Panel comprising internal technical experts such as Engineers, Town Planners and Building Surveyors
- Process mapping of assessment systems and implementation of associated efficiency improvements
- File archiving and planning management project
- Implementation of an automation program for planning and development-allied certificates (e-planning) with inbuilt DA tracking
- Implementation of an Electronic Housing Code web based tool covering LPSC
- Updating of standard development conditions; and
- Updating the Shire wide Bushfire Prone Land Mapping

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (Continued)

BUILDING REGULATION

This area of Council's responsibilities has continued to grow in both scope and complexity this year. In short and over the period covered by this report extra effort has been applied in the following areas:

- Fire safety of public buildings both privately owned and in Council ownership. Places of accommodation such as hotels, motels, frail aged accommodation facilities and the like have been given priority attention
- Awnings over footpaths. The past removal of posts and replacement with cantilever mechanisms has now generated problems. Catastrophic failures being reported nationally has highlighted the need to implement this inspection program
- Private pool registration and safety fencing. Drowning statistics continue to drive the regulatory function with standards being raised in order to try to eliminate this type of ever-present risk. Certification has been linked to conveyancing activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

NOXIOUS WEEDS CONTROL

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

In summary, their activities (as modified by seasonal conditions) include:

- Providing current and reliable control information to the community
- Inspect private property in an endeavor to achieve compliance with the Noxious Weeds Act by land owners
- In negotiated partnerships, undertake environmental weed control projects particularly in riparian zones
- Undertake control work on Crown Land and land for which Council is responsible within capacity of funds provided
- Manage and control noxious weeds on public land and Council controlled road reserves
- To a limited extent and under contract, control noxious weeds on privately owned land.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (Continued)

GENERAL

The annual State of Environment (SoE) report prepared in 2012 is found in full later in this report and provides a "pressure, state, response" coverage of a vast array of environmental parameters. In short, the pressures on our 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.

Environmental 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 neighbouring 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 ground water 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.

The management and protection of the Grassy Whitebox Woodland remnants at Wallabadah and Currabubula cemeteries is an ongoing responsibility for Council. This is in addition to the maintenance of past riparian zone rehabilitation projects undertaken within the boundaries of the shire.

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (Continued)

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Council provides a range of programs to assist the community to dispose of their waste in an environmentally acceptable and safe manner. These include:

- 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

All landfill sites are supervised when they are open to the public as a means of providing greater public awareness of the many issues facing this crucial service. This initiative has had a waste reduction benefit 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 Environmental Protection Authority thresholds.

Landfill site rehabilitation work has been undertaken at all sites and is being formalized 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.

Council's 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 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, 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 harbourage situations.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (Continued)

PUBLIC HEALTH

This essential program aims to enhance public health and amenity standards by:

- Monitoring and regulating food shops including education of owners and food handlers. An on-line food handlers training course has been made available through Council's website
- Investigate public health complaints and monitor implementation solutions
- Regulation and inspection of on-site sewage management installations
- Providing a public toilet cleaning service to facilities under Council's control and to a standard that meets community expectations
- Community Sharps Bins, one in Werris Creek and one in Quirindi, for public use as a legitimate alternative to placing sharps into the general waste stream.

COMPLIANCE/RANGER SERVICES

Council administers the Companion Animals Act and Impounding Act in an attempt to minimize 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.

These personnel have been kept busy responding to:

- Smoke pollution complaints from backyard burning
- Dangerous and nuisance dog complaints
- Cat complaints
- Call-outs for stock straying on roads
- Abandoned vehicle incidents
- Littering enforcement
- Pollution 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

Annual Statistics 2013/14

Dogs Seized	149
Dogs Surrendered	75
Dogs Rehomed	24
Dogs Returned to Owner	67
Dogs Released to Owner	32
Dogs Euthanased	101
Dangerous Dog Orders	0
Nuisance Dog Orders	9

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (Continued)

Menacing Dog Orders	2
Stock Call-Outs	42
Stock Impounded	113
Cats Seized	45
Cats Euthanased	43

Council's formal leash free areas in Quirindi (3), Werris Creek, Currabubula, Willow Tree, Wallabadah and Premier continue to be well used. Promotional pamphlets and signage improvements have been carried out to promote the lawful use of these areas.

Design 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 in 2014/15.

BUILDING ASSET MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT

This ongoing program enhances facilities and maintains Council's existing public buildings in a state of good repair and condition.

Activities have included:

- Routine maintenance at individual sites
- New roof at Spring Ridge Hall
- New Amenities Building at the Quirindi Showground

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

This program provides support and assistance to:

- NSW Rural Fire Service
- NSW Fire Brigade
- NSW State Emergency Service
- Quirindi Volunteer Rescue Association

Council continues to be responsible for the Local Emergency Management Committee and Local Rescue Committee. These Committees meet quarterly. A Local Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) for Liverpool Plains Shire has been outfitted at the Quirindi Works Depot which provides a secondary back-up EOC, as well as a training facility, to support the existing EOC at the Council's office.

A desktop exercise and a review of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been undertaken this year in anticipation of the introduction of a new Local Emergency Plan (EmPlan) in 2014/15 to replace the current Local DisPlan.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (Continued)



Aerial photograph of Quirindi Creek Riverine Rehabilitation Project

COMMUNITY SERVICES

LIBRARY SERVICES

Council is a member of the Central Northern Regional Library, which is administered by Tamworth Regional Council. Members of the group are Tamworth Regional Council, Narrabri Shire, Uralla Shire, Walcha Shire, Gwydir Shire and Liverpool Plains Shire.

There are two branch libraries at Quirindi and Werris Creek and two public service outlets at Premer and Willow Tree.

Opening hours are:

Quirindi	Monday to Friday	10 am – 5 pm
	Saturday	10 am – 12 pm
Werris Creek	Tuesday to Friday	10am – 5pm
	Saturday	10 am – 12 pm
Premer	Monday	9 am – 10.30pm
	Saturday	9.30am -12pm
Willow Tree	Sunday to Saturday	9am – 5pm

Residents are encouraged to use their local library and to avail themselves of the extended services available from the Regional Library network. Public access computer bookings continue to grow showing the way forward for 21st Century libraries.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Council has continued to provide a number of services for children and the youth of the Shire.

These services are similar to those conducted over previous years due to their success.

Council sponsors the Life Education Program which provides a subsidy to all primary school children in the Shire to enable them to attend the program

A community based Committee that administers the Youth Scholarship Program on Council's behalf has continued to provide funding to assist local youth. Projects undertaken include school excursions, help with tuition and book fees for first year university students, attending conferences that promote youth leadership and helping students chosen to represent their school or region in sport.

COMMUNITY SERVICES (Continued)

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (Continued)

The shire's libraries provide activities during the school holidays which targets children aged between 5-12 years. Storytime is held at the Quirindi Library weekly and is a program especially for younger children under five.



A Creative and Practical Arts competition is held each year as part of Youth Week and a Youth Forum is held annually.

Council also provides financial support to the Koori Kids Program and merchandise is distributed to youth as part of the NAIDOC Week Celebrations:

- Higher School Certificate Youth Theatrical participation;
- NSW Youth Parliament participation
- NSW State Schools Constitutional Convention.

Council provides accommodation for the Beehive Playgroup at the Quirindi Pavilion and the Eastside Childcare Centre continued to be the Shire's major long day care provider.

COMMUNITY SERVICES (Continued)

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE

The Liverpool Plains HACC program assists clients who are frail and/or aged and people with disabilities to remain in their homes and within the general community for as long as is practical. HACC Centres are located at the corner of Station and Dalley Streets Quirindi, North Street Werris Creek and King George V Park Willow Tree. The frail, aged and disabled of Liverpool Plains Shire Council have excellent care available to them.

The Service is funded by the State and Federal Governments and sponsored locally by Council. Due to increases in funding and other small grants, the range of activities has increased over the past year. These new activities include craft days, extra transport services and exercise classes.

Further support is provided by:

- Oxley Community Transport Service,
- Gunnedah Oxley Community Options
- Home Care Service
- HACC Development Team
- Commonwealth Carer Respite Tamworth
- Community Nurses from Hunter New England Health
- HACC Development.

Anyone who is frail, aged or disabled can be assessed for HACC Services.

HACC Services are also available to carers. Carers are family members or friends who care for frail aged persons or those with a disability.

Services include:

- Shopping Access Bus
- Hydrotherapy Bus
- Tamworth Specialist Medical Bus
- Premier -Tamworth Bus
- Ladies RSL Club Luncheon Bus
- Men's Day Outings
- Carers' Meetings
- HACC Car
- Meals on Wheels
- Food Service

COMMUNITY SERVICES (Continued)

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE (Continued)

- Craft Day
- Monthly Carers' Meeting
- Social Support
- Seniors' Newsletter
- HACC Holiday
- Referral Service
- Shopping Service
- Transport
- Domestic Assistance (client shopping)
- Movement to Music Gentle Exercises
- Assessments
- Referral to Other Services
- Co-ordinator Seniors Week
- Tax Help

Council also received funding from the State Government for a new HACC Carpark, which has made accessing transport from the Quirindi Centre much easier for clients, volunteers, carers and staff.



Annual Holiday for HACC Clients

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Whilst agriculture remains the backbone of employment within the Liverpool Plains, mining has continued to be a critical new employment sector. BHP Billiton is currently finalising its Environmental Impact Statement for an underground mine at Caroona just on the shire boundary, whilst China Shenhua, China's largest producer of coal, is awaiting approval from the NSW Government for an open cut mine near Breeza in Gunnedah Shire. Both these sites are 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.

A Development Application for the construction of a 1500 room worker village on the Gap Road at Werris Creek was also approved by the Joint Regional Planning Panel and this will provide a significant boost to the economy of Werris Creek and surrounds.

Aurizon has signified its intention to establish a base in Quirindi following its contract to transport coal from the new Maules Creek mine to port. Some 25 jobs will be based in Quirindi in October 2014 with potentially another 75 should Aurizon be successful in contracts with BHP and China Shenhua when they commence mining. Whilst the economic activity is welcome, Council remains committed to the protection of the alluvial floodplains and underlying aquifers of the Shire.

A notable occurrence during the period was the mothballing of the McVicar sawmill due to the global economic building downturn. This resulted in the loss of some 50 jobs. It is understood various options are being discussed by the owners with third parties to have the sawmill operational once again.

Many other businesses and farmers also struggled due to the prevailing economic and climatic conditions and this prompted Council to establish a "Buy Local" program in conjunction with the local Chamber of Commerce in an attempt to boost flagging sales.

SECTION 2 STATUTORY REPORTING

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The audited Financial Statements for 2013/14 are attached as Appendix "A".

COUNCIL'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN IMPLEMENTING THE DELIVERY PROGRAM & THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES AT WHICH THOSE PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES ARE DIRECTED

Each of the Principal Activities and sub activities in Year 2 of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan has detailed actions and performance measures as indicated. Council's performance against these actions was assessed and a summary of these achievements follow.

POLICY, STRATEGY & FINANCE

STRATEGY 1.1 Ensure residents have the opportunity to have a say on important issues

Actions 2013/14		Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
1.1.1	Periodically review community engagement strategy	Community engagement strategy reviewed	Annually	Strategy contained in CSP and adopted in Feb 2014
		Percentage satisfaction in community survey	Bi-annually	Due in 2015
1.1.2	Councillors to be available for community members to raise issues	No reasonable complaints from members of the public about access	Ongoing	None received
1.1.3	Council to have a greater presence in outlying areas	At least two committee meetings held each year in other locations in the shire	Annually	Council determined only one meeting held in Willow Tree

STRATEGY 1.2 Foster and support community leadership and encourage innovation

	Actions 2013/14	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
1.2.1	Develop scholarships for young people to foster leadership.	Youth scholarships available and committee established.	Annually	Achieved
1.2.2	Promote volunteering and develop partnerships with community leaders Hold volunteer appreciation function	Volunteers sought for community purposes and supported by council. Meetings held with community representative groups	Ongoing Annually	Achieved Volunteers week held 2014
1.2.3	Improve the efficiency and transparency of council processes	Independent Internal Auditor engaged to review all council processes and report to Council	Annually	Ongoing in accordance with internal audit plan
1.2.4	Encourage staff to be innovative	Funds/efficiencies generated from staff innovation, eg Tr@ceR, quarry extraction	Ongoing	Two new councils have taken on Tr@ceR

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

STRATEGY 1.3

	Actions 2013/14	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
1.3.1	Council will advocate strongly for improved funding to Local Government by lobbying Local Members of Parliament, and supporting Namoi Councils and LGSA proposals	Quantum of additional resources allocated to Council as a result of lobbying	Ongoing	Additional grants received from State Govt for Showground, David Taylor Oval & Quipolly Dam Rec Area. Grant from Fed Govt for water strategy

STRATEGY 1.4 Seek Constitutional recognition of local government to enable direct funding from the Commonwealth

Actions 2013/14	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
1.41 Council will actively support constitutional recognition of local government via media campaigns in conjunction with the ALGA	Local Government is recognised in the constitution after the next Referendum	Ongoing to 2014	Referendum abandoned by Coalition Govt

STRATEGY 1.5 Demonstrate accountability, good customer service, transparency and ethical conduct

Actions 2013/14	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
1.5.1 Provide relevant staff training and offer competitive working conditions and remuneration	Council is seen as a leading employer	Ongoing	Survey conducted in July 2014
1.5.2 Ensure decision making processes are fair, open and equitable	Council recognised as a transparent, accountable and ethical organisation	Ongoing	Centre St zoning issue has damaged Council reputation but now back on track
1.5.3 Ensure staff respond to all forms of customer requests in a timely manner	Level of satisfaction in community survey for customer service	Ongoing	Survey to be held in 2015

STRATEGY 1.6 Increase the number of female councillors and management staff

Actions 2013/14	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
1.6.1 Promote the need for greater gender equity on councils via media outlets, newsletters and community forums	Female staff and councillors as a percentage of total staff and councillors	Every four years for councillors; ongoing for staff	Election in 2016 Percentage of female staff has increased

STRATEGY 1.7 Explore options for an enhanced local government sector as detailed in the NSW Government's Destination 2036 Action Plan

Actions 2013/14	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
1.7.1 Discuss resource-sharing opportunities with Namoi Councils	Discussions held 6 opportunities developed	By 30 June 2013	Water & sewer alliance, plant and Human Resource Committees set up with Namoi Councils
1.7.2 Contribute to Regional Action plans that link with the State Plan	Regional Plans contributed to	By 30 June 2013	Achieved

STRATEGY 1.8 Enhance the financial sustainability of Council

Actions 2013/14	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
1.8.1 Develop long term financial plans that improve council's financial position	LTFP developed and reviewed	Annually	Completed. IPART approved SRV application

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

STRATEGY 2.1 Support and develop programs which protect and enhance the Shire's natural environment and 'rural' character

Actions 2013/14	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
2.1.1 Undertake creek clearing projects.	Projects undertaken, health of rivers and creeks improved	Ongoing	Monitoring and maintenance of past projects undertaken
2.1.2 Seek grant funding opportunities.	Grants received	Ongoing	Two applications awaiting determination
2.1.3 Ensure LEP and DCP protects rural areas	LEP and DCP adequately protect the environment, rural character maintained	Ongoing	No deficiencies detected
2.1.4 Undertake statutory functions in weed control	People made aware of new and emerging weeds	Ongoing	Programmed activities completed

STRATEGY 2.2 Ensure that environmental and development standards satisfy community needs and aspirations

Actions 2013/14	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
2.2.1 A development control plan will be reviewed and implemented to provide guidance for the sustainable development of the Shire	DCP reviewed Level of community satisfaction in surveys for management of development	June 2014 Bi-annual	Progressively reviewed on a daily basis

STRATEGY 2.3 Assist in the provision of infrastructure and resources associated with the emergency services requirements of The Shire

Actions 2013/14	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
2.3.1 Provision of funding and accommodation in annual operational plans for RFS, VRA and SES	Level of community satisfaction in surveys for emergency services compared to benchmark	Bi-annual	Internal audit completed with areas to be improved identified
2.3.2 A comprehensive emergency management response and capacity Plan will be developed through the EmPlan	EmPlan developed and reviewed in conjunction with agencies such as NSW FB, NSW RFS, SES, VRA, Police and Department of Health.	By June 2014 and then ongoing	Template EmPlan not ready for use at this time

STRATEGY 2.4 Council uses its resources wisely to reduce its ecological footprint

Actions 2013/14	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
2.4.1 Implement results of water, waste and energy audits from Namoi towards a sustainable future project when funding permits	Council's ecological footprint is smaller.	Ongoing to 2016/17	Progressive implementation of lighting conversion at offices underway. Solar hot water grants obtained for Quirindi Showground and Pool

STRATEGY 2.5 Council will work for the retention, restoration and protection of the Shire's heritage

Actions 2012/13	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
2.5.1 Complete a community heritage plan	Heritage Plan completed	By June 2013	Completed

STRATEGY 2.6 Ensure the importance of the black soil Liverpool Plains to agricultural production and wealth of the Shire, Region and State will be recognised

Actions 2012/13	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
2.6.1 Advocate for protection of black soil plains from mining & gas extraction	Mining approvals do not allow encroachment on the black soil plains	Ongoing	Complies

STRATEGY 2.7 Ensure best practice principles are adopted for waste management and recycling

Actions 2012/13	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
2.7.1 Increase education to community on benefits of recycling.	Education program implemented Waste to Art Program implemented	By June 2013 and ongoing	Adopted annual education and Waste to Art programs on schedule

COMMUNITY SERVICES

STRATEGY 3.1 The community builds on its strengths and embraces its heritage and cultural diversity

Actions 2013/14	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
3.1.1 Promote and support cultural festivals and events within the Shire.	Festivals, events and promotions are celebrated.	Annually	All events listed on visitquirindi website and Facebook.

STRATEGY 3.2 The community has improved access to health services and facilities

	Actions 2013/14	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
3.2.1	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.	Current health services are at least maintained and/or improved and new health services are introduced to meet local demand	Ongoing	Attendance at QHS meetings.
3.2.2	Continue with the provision of subsidies to attract new GP's	Sufficient GP's to meet demand	Ongoing	Sufficient GPs
3.2.3	Advocate better services for people with special needs.	Better services provided as a result of advocacy	Ongoing	Ongoing
3.2.4	Advocate services to address mental health issues	Better services provided as a result of advocacy	Ongoing	No change advocacy continues

STRATEGY 3.3 The community has improved access to health services and facilities

	Actions 2013/14	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
3.3.1	Council will lobby the State Government to have a greater police presence in The Shire.	The number of police stationed in the Shire increased.	Ongoing	No change this quarter
3.3.2	Council will continue to install CCTV cameras at strategic crime hot spots	CCTV cameras installed	As required	No new installations

STRATEGY 3.4 Provide opportunities to facilitate utilisation of the skills and expertise of women in the community within the workforce

	Actions 2013/14	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
3.4.1	Provide adequate day care facilities through the Eastside CCC and the provision of assistance to pre-schools and play groups.	Number of women in the workforce as per the census statistics compared to last census.	Ongoing	No statistics released.

STRATEGY 3.5 Improve the health and wellbeing of residents and ensure residents play an active role in the community

Actions 2013/14	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
3.5.1 Encourage and develop vibrant and creative open space areas and public infrastructure for use by residents and youth in particular.	<p>Increase in people being active and using recreational facilities</p> <p>Level of satisfaction in the community survey for recreation facilities compared to benchmark</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Bi-annual</p>	<p>Rec Centre survey July 2014</p> <p>March 2013 Survey below benchmark for Youth services & Rec Centres but above benchmark in sporting grounds and parks</p>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY 4.1 Increase tourism infrastructure and visitation to The Shire

Actions 2013/14	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
4.1.1 Maintain local tourism committee and involvement with NENW Tourism, Inland Tourism and Kamilaroi Highway Promotion Committee and review tourism plan.	Level of satisfaction in the community survey with tourism services and facilities compared to benchmark.	Bi-annual	<p>Participated in Destination Management Plan process. Initiated LPSC DMP</p> <p>March 2013 survey above benchmark</p>
4.1.2 Implement strategies in the tourism plan.	Strategies implemented	Ongoing to 2016/17	Draft Destination Management plan being finalised

STRATEGY 4.2 Strengthen and grow the economic prospects of The Shire and create more sustainable job opportunities

Actions 2013/14		Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
4.2.1	Promote and market the area to attract businesses and new residents.	Increase in resident population as per ABS projections	Annually	Population growing between 1-2%
		Level of satisfaction in the community survey with tourism services and facilities compared to benchmark	Bi-annual	Survey below benchmark
4.2.2	Make industrial and commercial land available along with the provision of associated infrastructure	Net number of new businesses established in the Shire	Annually	No alteration
		Reduced number of vacant commercial premises in Quirindi and Werris Creek	Ongoing	Last annual survey showed Quirindi steady and Werris Creek slightly reduced

TECHNICAL SERVICES

STRATEGY 5.1 Maintain and develop a bicycle and/or footpath network that satisfies community needs

Actions 2012/13		Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
5.1.1	Undertake works as per the asset management plan and develop options for shared pathways in The Shire	Percentage of residents who express satisfaction in survey compared to benchmark	Bi- annual	<p>Works completed in accordance with construction program. Program modified to complete additional work on MR 130 after funding offer from RMS.</p> <p>Grant application lodged with RMS for funding to develop PAMP & Bike Plans plus extend existing shared pathways</p> <p>Last survey completed with mean of 3.2 and above benchmark</p>

STRATEGY 5.2 Maintain a road transport network that satisfies community needs

Actions 2012/13	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
5.2.1 Undertake biannual road surveys and works as per management plan and funding limits.	Percentage of residents who express satisfaction in survey compared to benchmark	Bi-annual	Works completed as per Management Plan. Road survey completed on sealed roads to coincide with RMS survey for next REPAIR program Last survey completed with Rural Roads below 3 Urban roads 3.06
5.2.2 Lobby for rail overpasses at key road/rail interfaces to reduce delays	Overpasses constructed	Ongoing	Ongoing – Issue of cumulative rail transport impacts on communities raised with Dept of Planning at a meeting in Gunnedah on 21/03/14 and included in IPWEA June Communiqué

STRATEGY 5.3 Ensure bridges and drains are well maintained and satisfy community expectations

Actions 2012/13	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
5.3.1 Undertake maintenance and new works as funding permits	Percentage of residents who express satisfaction in survey	Bi-annual	Capital works completed in accordance with construction program. Last survey completed with Bridges 3.7 Drainage 3.9

STRATEGY 5.4 **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**

Actions 2012/13	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
5.4.1 Undertake works as per Asset Management Plans 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	Percentage of residents who express satisfaction in survey for pools, cemeteries, parks, showgrounds and playing fields compared to benchmarks where available	Bi-annual	Funding obtained from RMS under the BBP to complete stage 3 of the Quipolly Dam Recreation Area in 2014 Last survey completed with Pub toilets 3.39 Cemeteries 3.66 Town centres 3.6 Parks 3.68 Sports ovals 3.85 Showground 3.81

STRATEGY 5.5 **Pursue best practice management of Water Supply and Sewerage Systems including resource sharing with other Councils**

Actions 2012/13	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.14
5.5.1 Implement Best Practice Water Supply and Sewerage principles.	Achievement of 100% compliance with best practice principles excluding best practice pricing Percentage of residents who express satisfaction in survey compared to benchmark	Ongoing to 2016/17 Bi-annual	Ongoing Last survey completed with Water 3.34 Sewer 4.08
5.5.2 Develop an alliance with Gunnedah Shire Council and/or Namoi Councils	Alliance implemented	By 2012/13	Completed with Namoi Councils. Joint projects include sewer re-lining contract & North West Water Conservation levels

STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Council's State of Environment Report is attached as Appendix "B".

REPORT ON THE CONDITION OF PUBLIC WORKS

Condition of Public Roads and Drainage

Item	Condition at end of 2013/14	Estimate of cost to bring to satisfactory standard [2013/14 Values]	Estimate of annual cost of maintaining satisfactory std. [2013/14 values]	Total Expenditure for 2013/14
Regional Roads	FAIR – Rehabilitation of some pavement failures on the poorer sections in the past year and an aggressive resealing program with a polymer binder over the last three years to prevent water ingress.	1,620,000	575,000	2,017,373
Rural Roads Sealed & Unsealed	FAIR - Numerous sections of sealed network badly in need of rehabilitation. Considerable effort was again made to gravel re-sheet sections of the unsealed road network and a determined program to improve drainage continued. Quality gravel is proving difficult to obtain in some areas of the shire and the poor friable gravels compound the drainage problems.	1,400,000	2,895,600	8,883,762
Urban Streets	FAIR – Council's focus on bitumen reseals over the last three years and again in the 2013/2014 year, is beginning to show dividends with reduced incidence of potholes and pavement failures in urban streets. There are a number of streets that will not benefit from resealing and reconstruction is the only option in these areas.	875,000	338,300	1,042,215

Supplementary Notes

REGIONAL ROADS

Capital works were undertaken on 3 sections of MR 130, Werris Creek Road south of Escott Road at a total cost of \$1,428,099. The work involved widening the road formation, chemically stabilizing the existing pavement, applying a 100mm stabilized gravel overlay and a two (2) coat hot bitumen seal.

RURAL SHIRE ROADS

Capital road works expenditure for the year totaled \$2,194,080. Work involved the reconstruction of a further 1.2 km of Harrisons Plains Road; the pavement was chemically stabilized and a new bitumen seal applied. The work also involved the construction of a new road culvert and concrete causeway. Further causeways were constructed on Colley Blue Island Road, Wandobah Road, Brunskills Road and Merrilong Road. Gravel re-sheeting was undertaken on numerous gravel roads including Paynes Road, Swinging Ridges Road, Woodton Road, Harrisons Plains Road, Cattle Lane, Inverkip Road, Brunskills Road Mooki Springs Road and Bloomfields Road. A reduced bitumen reseal program was undertaken with additional funds transferred to heavy patching in preparation for the 2014/15 resealing program.

URBAN STREETS

An assessment of the Quirindi town storm water drainage system was completed with the preparation of a draft strategy report. Work toward the development of a Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP) and Bike Plan for the major towns and villages in the shire continued with the submission of successful grant applications to fund the development of these plans in 2014/15. Such plans are required before the State Government will consider further applications for the expansion of the shared path network. However grant applications for the construction of shared pathways in Lenox Street Quirindi & Gap Road Werris Creek were approved on the strength of Council's intention to develop PAMP and Bike Plans.

Condition of Bridges

Item	Condition at end of 2013/14	Estimate of cost to bring to satisfactory standard [2013/14 Values]	Estimate of annual cost to keep at satisfactory std. [2013/14 values]	Total Expenditure for 2013/14
Concrete/ Steel	Satisfactory	0	178,920	336,301
Timber	Satisfactory	24,000	37,500	68,400

Supplementary Notes

BRIDGES

Bridge inspections and routine maintenance was completed on Council's bridges which overall are assessed as being in a satisfactory condition.

Condition of Water Supplies

Item	Condition at end of 2013/14	Estimate of cost to bring to satisfactory standard [2013/14 Values]	Estimate of annual cost to keep at satisfactory std. [2013/14 values]	Total Expenditure for 2013/14
Quirindi Supply	Satisfactory	150,000	563,000	652,701
Werris Creek Supply	Fair	50,000	780,000	0
Villages Supplies	Satisfactory	32,000	320,000	255,179

Supplementary Notes

WATER SUPPLIES

Expenditure in 2013/14 mostly related to water main replacements for capital works, with expenditure on a failed large pump in the Quirindi system a major maintenance item.

A delay in expenditure to replace the Caroona pump station was experienced to assess the impact of proposed mining in the vicinity.

Condition of Sewerage System

Item	Condition at end of 2013/14	Estimate of cost to bring to satisfactory standard [2013/14 Values]	Estimate of annual cost to keep at satisfactory std. [2013/14 values]	Total Expenditure for 2013/14
Quirindi System	Satisfactory	111,000	456,000	342,568
Werris Creek System	Satisfactory	120,000	125,590	181,519

Supplementary Notes

SEWERAGE SYSTEM

Ongoing pump station upgrades continue to require attention for capital expenditure to bring them up to new standards for electrical safety, performance reliability and outage storage requirements by the EPA.

PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN TO PROMOTE SERVICES AND ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DIVERSE CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC BACKGROUNDS

Persons of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island descent constitute 10.9% of the total Shire population, whilst persons from non-English speaking backgrounds make up a further 1.4% of the population.

Council maintains regular contact with the various local Aboriginal Lands Councils on indigenous issues. The joint venture project with the Quirindi Aboriginal Corporation for the provision of waste management and recycling services in Quirindi, Werris Creek and Willow Tree continues to operate.

Council has prepared a Disability Action Plan, Social Plan and Cultural Plan (Appendix "C").

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO DEVELOP AND PROMOTE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN

Council operates a 39 place Long Day Childcare Centre in East Street Quirindi.

Council provides a venue for Family Day Care to operate an outreach childcare service at the Quirindi Pavilion. The centre is also used to conduct a playgroup twice per week. Council advertises children's services and activities in its weekly newspaper column.

Council has engaged the YMCA to manage and operate the Quirindi Recreation Centre and the following are provided - basketball court, squash courts, gymnasium and instructors for fitness classes. School groups attend weekly.

Council participates in Youth Week activities and held several successful youth events in association with the local High School and the Quirindi Interagency group.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO DEVELOP AND PROMOTE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN

Council provides funds to the Youth Scholarship Committee, which is managed by local citizen and Councillors, and its purpose is to support young people to undertake activities that enable personal development. Sponsorship during the period included sending several students on training courses.

Council has provided support to the Life Education Van by underwriting the cost for every primary school student in the Shire to attend a session on drug education.

Council has engaged the YMCA to manage and operate the shire swimming pools which are provided during the warmer months for children, including "learn to swim" classes, at both Werris Creek and Quirindi. The many parks in the shire provide play equipment and shade covers are being progressively installed.

PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN TO PROMOTE SERVICES AND ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS AND OTHER USERS

Council, in association with the Quirindi Advocate and the Werris Creek Flyer, publishes a Weekly Update column which sets out activities being undertaken by Council and forthcoming events. This is also available on Council's website. A quarterly newsletter is also mailed to all residents.

Council's HACC Service publishes a monthly newsletter which is distributed to clients and placed at various public locations. Council's libraries also publish a weekly column on events in the Quirindi Advocate. The Royal Cinema provides fortnightly leaflets to various shopping outlets.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES TO IMPLEMENT COUNCIL'S EEO MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Management Committee comprises staff from across the organisation.

Key Equal Employment Strategies are:

- Identify, develop and publicise training and development opportunities.
- Encourage participation in training courses and education support schemes which allow staff to reach their full potential.
- Review staff training and education policies to ensure that course participation encompasses merit and EEO.
- Review and monitor conditions of service to ensure that they conform to EEO principles and demonstrate fair practice.
- Consult with relevant employer groups, unions and staff through meetings related to EEO.
- Ensure formal guidelines for appointment, promotion and internal transfers which encompass EEO guidelines are followed.
- Ongoing review of job and performance appraisals to ensure they are non-discriminatory and conform with EEO principles.
- Ensure grievance mechanisms are available to all staff
- Conduct regular EEO surveys of all staff – The next bi-annual employee survey is to be undertaken by an independent Company - Micromex Pty Ltd in May 2015.

Results of July 2014 Employee Survey

An Independent Employee Survey was conducted in July 2014 to examine employee attitudes and satisfaction on a broad range of Council services and facilities so that management can determine if there are any problems and if so implement measures to address those problems.

The Survey was conducted by Micromex Research Pty Ltd. The results were also benchmarked against other Councils.

The results of the survey were considered at a meeting of the EEO Committee held 11th September 2014.

There were 92 surveys received (75% response rate) with 67% being male and 33% female. 50% of respondents were aged between 35 and 54 with 23% under 35 and 27% over 55.

When asked what the best things were about working for Council the most frequent responses out of 224 and noting that some respondents gave more than one reply were;

	2014	2013
Working conditions/flexibility	45%	43%
People/Team	21%	22%
Type of work/work outcomes	16%	20%
Job security/stability	12%	8%
Community	7%	6%

When asked what areas could be improved the most frequent responses out of 171 were:

	2014	2013
Communication	22%	28%
Working conditions	13%	15%
Staff numbers/training	13%	6%
Morale/staff attitude	11%	5%
Management issues	9%	14%

Communication has reduced from 2013 but is still an area that could be improved upon. Working conditions has reduced by 2% from the previous survey. Staff numbers/training has increased from 6% to 13% and morale/staff attitude from 5% to 11% with the likely cause the recent redundancies placing extra pressure on remaining staff. Management issues have reduced from 14% to 9%.

Overall, 79% of employees were at least 'satisfied' with working for Council – this result has remained similar to previous years.

- There were no significant differences in satisfaction between indoor and outdoor workers or gender.
- 86% of indoor workers indicated that they were 'satisfied' to 'very satisfied', 9% were neutral and 4% were 'dissatisfied' to 'very dissatisfied' with working for Council.
- 73% of outdoor workers stated they were 'satisfied' to 'very satisfied', 20% were neutral and 6% were 'dissatisfied' with working for Council.

Comparison to LGA Benchmarks:

- **Indoor Workers:** Comparisons indicate that for indoor workers, LPSC has outperformed the average on 18 criteria, equalled them in 3 but underperformed the average on 3 criteria - That Council provides the necessary plant, equipment or other resources for you to do your position well, that you receive fair and accurate feedback on your performance and that your position description and associated job requirements are clear.
- **Outdoor Workers:** Comparisons indicate that for outdoor workers, LPSC has outperformed the average on 18 criteria, equalled them in 3 but underperformed the average on 3 criteria - That people in your team work well together, that Council is committed to WHS within the workplace and that Council is committed to EEO and individual differences are respected.

Regarding **overall** employee satisfaction both indoor and outdoor staff were above the benchmark.

In both 2010, 2011 and 2013 internal communication was seen as an issue and a question was again included in the 2014 survey on how this could be improved. The most frequent responses out of 68 suggestions were:

Face-to-face interaction with staff - more personal approach	10
Visitation of work sites - have meetings and take suggestions	9
More attendance at meetings	6
Frequent emails/newsletters to inform staff of current events, changes and other important/relevant information	5
Regular staff meetings - monthly/quarterly	5
Provide information to staff prior to public release/knowledge to prevent circulation of rumours	4

Management will continue to work towards addressing this issue in the year ahead.

It is proposed to continue with the following actions in 2014/15 to be completed by 30th June 2015:

- 1 The annual performance appraisal process clearly outlines the position description and duties of the position and these are agreed to by the employee.
- 2 Regular meetings of staff teams occur across all sections of Council with at least one meeting of all staff being held each year.
- 3 An annual review of available plant, equipment and other resources be undertaken to ensure staff can better perform their duties subject to cost benefit analysis.
- 4 Ongoing reviews of the Workforce Plan be undertaken to determine whether Council has the required skilled workforce to carry out the operational plan and delivery program at the service levels to be determined by Council.
- 5 EEO training be undertaken for all new staff.

SUMMARY OF AMOUNTS INCURRED IN RELATION TO LEGAL PROCEEDINGS DURING 2013/14

Legal costs for 2013/2014 totalled \$134,667.51 and the following is a dissection by activity:

- Ongoing - A total of \$61,590.98 was incurred in relation to legal action against ratepayers for recovery of overdue rates.
- Complete – Sale of land Werris Creek \$3,410.00
- On-going – Sale of property George Street Quirindi \$3,278.11
- Complete – Sale of land Kamilaroi Highway Quirindi \$1,289.18
- Complete – Lease of land Recreation Road Willow Tree \$1,045.00
- Complete – Purchase of land Loder Street Quirindi \$2,009.40
- On-going – Compliance Issues \$1,229.01
- On-going – Legal advice Development matter Quirindi \$59,215.68
- On-going – Legal advice building work Werris Creek \$1,600.15

FEES, EXPENSES AND FACILITIES PROVIDED TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS DURING 2013/14

The following fees were expended during the year 2013/2014:

Mayoral Fees	=	\$ 18,327
Deputy Mayor Fee	=	\$ 2,973
Councillors Fees	=	\$ 69,790

POLICY IN RELATION TO THE PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO COUNCILLORS

Council has adopted an amended "Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors" policy in accordance with section 253 of the Local Government Act 1993. Council adopted the amended policy at its **26th November 2014** Ordinary Meeting after having given 28 days notice for public submissions.

Council will promote the policy on the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities to councillors to the community by placing the policy on their websites and making it readily accessible.

Council shall review the policy on an annual basis and submit this policy to the Chief Executive, Local Government, Division of the Department of Premier and Cabinet within 28 days of adoption by Council, even if it is proposed to adopt an unchanged policy.

Council reimburses all reasonable travelling expenses of Councillors while on Council business in accordance with the "Payment of Expenses and the Provision of Facilities to Councillors" policy. For details of expenses and facilities see Appendix "D".

The total cost associated with Councillor expenses for 2013/2014 was \$42,074. This comprised of:

Delegates' expenses for attendance at conferences/meetings, seminars and personal development. \$19,998

Meals and sustenance associated with meetings \$ 4,413

Expense	Mayor	Councillors	Total
Mobile phone – Net of contributions	\$2,171	NIL	\$2,171
Facsimile/Internet	\$158	NIL	\$158
Travel – meetings	NIL	\$1,816	\$1,816
Interstate travel	NIL	NIL	NIL
Overseas Travel	NIL	NIL	NIL
Child care	NIL	NIL	NIL
Spouse / Partner expenses (Shires Conference)	\$232	\$464	\$696
Mayoral Motor Vehicle – Net of Contributions	\$12,822	NIL	\$12,822
Computer (capital)	NIL	NIL	NIL

The Mayor and four (4) Councillors attended the 2013 Shires Conference in Sydney.

SENIOR STAFF EMPLOYED BY COUNCIL DURING 2013/14

At the 30th June, 2014 Council employed only one senior staff member in terms of the Local Government Act and that was the General Manager who is employed on a five year performance based contract.

The General Manager's total package of \$219,681.22 is made up of a salary component totalling \$190,858.30 with the remaining \$28,822.92 being made up as follows:

- Superannuation - \$18,642.67
- Motor Vehicle - \$ 8,180.24
- Purchase Gravel - \$2,000.00

Fringe benefits tax payable \$8,522.34

CONTRACTS IN EXCESS OF \$150,000 AWARDED BY COUNCIL DURING 2013/14

In 2013/2014 Council awarded three (3) contracts which exceeded \$150,000.

Contracts were awarded to:

Name	Amount	Purpose of contract
YMCA	\$ 253,192	Management and operation of LPSC Recreation Centre, Werris Creek & Quirindi Swimming pools
Wideland Trucks & Machinery	\$91,350.91	Purchase of 1 long body truck Hino FG1628
Fulton Hogan Industries	Schedule of Rates	Supply of Bitumen Emulsion

Schedule of Rates Contracts

During the year Council purchased Bitumen Emulsion from Hogan Fulton under a Schedule of Rates Contract. These goods and services were purchased at the contracted rate and the total value of this contract will exceed \$150,000 over the life of the contract.

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING WORK CARRIED OUT ON PRIVATE LAND AND ANY SUBSIDIES RELATED TO THIS WORK

Council undertook works on private land in 2013/2014 to the total of \$59,876.01.

Council's policy with regard to charging for these private rates is as follows:

Plant Hire Rates	Private Hire Rate
Additional Labour	Actual Cost + On Costs and Overheads
Stores and Materials	Cost + 9%

During 2013/2014 Council did not partly or fully subsidise any works carried out on private land.

GRANTS UNDER SECTION 356

During 2013/2014, Council made grants totalling \$17,172 to individuals and local community groups.

EXTERNAL BODIES EXERCISING FUNCTIONS DELEGATED BY COUNCIL DURING 2013/2014

Twenty Six (26) external bodies were delegated functions by Council during 2013/2014:

Body	Function
Mid North Weight of Loads	Control of Weight of Loads on Roads
Blackville Hall Committee	Management of Public Hall
Home & Community Care Committee	The provision of meal, transport and respite services for the aged and disabled
Premier Development Committee	Management of public Hall and Reserve
Sports Council	Advisory body providing support in the development of sport and recreational facilities
Central Northern Libraries	The provision of library services
Tourism & Promotion Committee	Assisting with the strategic planning of regional tourism
Australia Day Committee	Organisation of Australia Day Celebrations
Currabubula Hall & Reserve Committee	Management of Public Hall and reserve
Liverpool Plains Economic Development Committee	Advisory body providing support and advice in economic development
Sister City Committee	Management of Council's relations with its Sister City – Blacktown
Arts Council (Inc Wallaby Art Group)	Organisation of art functions.
Internal Audit Committee	Management of Council's internal audit function.
Mining Consultative Committee	Advisory body providing support and advice to Council on mining.
Quipolly Dam Recreation Area Committee	Management and development of the Quipolly Dam recreation area.
Royal Theatre Committee	Management of the Quirindi Royal Theatre.
Spring Ridge Development Committee	Management of Public Hall and reserve.
Youth Scholarship Committee	Advisory body providing support and advice on youth programs and activities.
Summerhill Lodge Management Committee	Management of residential units for low income earners
Wallabadah Development Committee	Management of Public Hall
Warrah Creek Hall Committee	Management of Public Hall
Werris Creek Horse & Rider Club	Management of recreational facility
Werris Creek Development Committee	Advisory body to Council for works and services in Werris Creek
Werris Creek Sporting Complex	Management of recreational facility
Werris Creek Railway Institute	Management of Public Hall
Willow Tree Harvesting for the Future Committee	Advisory body to Council for works and services in Willow Tree

HUMAN RESOURCES ACTIVITIES

AELERT Conference	1
Arts NSW Workshop	1
Asbestos Awareness and Management Training	5
Assetic Training Workshop	4
Biological Control Training	2
CAT Training	1
Central Northern Regional Libraries	4
Centrelink Training	1
Cert II in Horticulture	5
Cert III Water Operations	2
Cert IV Government Investigations	1
Chainsaw Training	1
Chemcert - Use of Chemicals	2
Community Services Expo	1
Country & Regional Living Expo	2
Debt Recovery	1
Dementia Awareness	2
Diploma of Management	7
Familiarity Day	4
Fringe Benefits Tax	1
First Aid Training	21
Government Information Public Access	4
HACC Forum	3
HC Driver Training	1
Health & Safety Representative Training	1
Heritage Office Seminar	1
Hino Truck Training	5
HR Driver Training	3
HR Sharing Work Group	1
ICAC Workshop	1
Illegal Dumping	2
IT Conference	1
LG NSW Tourism Conference	1
LGMA Awards & Conference	1
LGMA Communicate Forum	1
LGMA Managers Training	2
Library Conference	4
Library Training	1
Meals on Wheels Conference	2
NIRG Meeting	1
Northern Inland NSW Tourism Conference	1
Off Road 4WD Training	1
OHS Construction Induction - White Card	3
Ozwater Conference	1
Planning Workshop	3
POEO Act	2
Poultry Expansion Workshop	1
Professional IA Seminar	1
Rangers Conference	1
RTA Inspections	2
State Library Conference	3
StateCover Workshop	1
Tidy Towns Assessing	1
Traffic Control - Blue Ticket	12
Traffic Control - Yellow Ticket	15
United Services Union Meeting	1
Water & Public Health Workshop	1
Water Conference	2
Water Directorate Forum - Dam Safety Management	1
Weeds Conference	4

COMPANIES IN WHICH HELD A CONTROLLING INTEREST DURING 2013/14

Council did not hold a controlling interest in any companies during 2013/2014.

PARTNERSHIPS, CO-OPERATIVES OR OTHER JOINT VENTURES TO WHICH THE COUNCIL WAS A PARTY DURING 2013/14

Council was not a party to any partnerships, co-operatives or other joint ventures during 2013/2014.

AMOUNTS OR RATES AND CHARGES WRITTEN OFF DURING THE YEAR

Pensioner rates abandoned under S.575 LGA 1993	\$301,358
Ordinary rates and charges abandoned	\$37,760
Postponed rates and charges abandoned	\$67,414
Total	\$406,532

Notes

It is compulsory that Council write off rates in accordance with section 575 of the local Government Act, 1993. Other ordinary rates and charges may be written off in accordance with Council's Economic Development Incentives policy.

OVERSEAS VISITS FUNDED BY COUNCIL

No overseas visits funded by Council were taken by Council members or staff during 2013/2014.

ANNUAL REPORT OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION (PUBLIC ACCESS) FOR THE PERIOD 2013/2014

Total number of access applications received during the reporting year	0
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*During the reporting year NIL applications were received.

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
Media	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of Parliament	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private sector business	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not for profit organisations or community groups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (application by legal representative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**More than one decision can be made in respect of a particular access application. If so, a recording must be made in relation to each such decision. This also applies to Table B.*

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
Personal information applications *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access applications that are partly personal information applications and partly other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

A **personal information application is an access application for personal information (as defined in clause 4 of Schedule 4 to the Act) about the applicant (the applicant being an individual).*

PLEASE NOTE: The total number of decisions in Table B should be the same as Table A.

Table C: Invalid applications	
Reason for invalidity	Number of applications
Application does not comply with formal requirements (section 41 of the Act)	0
Application is for excluded information of the agency (section 43 of the Act)	0
Application contravenes restraint order (section 110 of the Act)	0
Total number of invalid applications received	0
Invalid applications that subsequently became valid applications	0

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

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

**More than one public interest consideration may apply in relation to a particular access application and, if so, each such consideration is to be recorded (but only once per application). This also applies in relation to Table E.*

Table E: Other public interest considerations against disclosure:
matters listed in table to section 14 of the Act

	Number of occasions when application not successful
Responsible and effective government	0
Law enforcement and security	0
Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice	0
Business interests of agencies and other persons	0
Environment, culture, economy and general matters	0
Secrecy provisions	0
Exempt documents under interstate Freedom of Information legislation	0

Table F: Timeliness

	Number of applications
Decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus any extensions)	0
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with applicant)	0
Not decided within time (deemed refusal)	0
Total	0

Table G: Number of applications reviewed under Part 5 of the Act (by type of review and outcome)

	Decision varied	Decision upheld	Total
Internal review	0	0	0
Review by Information Commissioner*	0	0	0
Internal review following recommendation under section 93 of Act	0	0	0
Review by ADT	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

**The Information Commissioner does not have the authority to vary decisions, but can make recommendation to the original decision-maker. The data in this case indicates that a recommendation to vary or uphold the original decision has been made.*

Table H: Applications for review under Part 5 of the Act (by type of applicant)

	Number of applications for review
Applications by access applicants	0
Applications by persons to whom information the subject of access application relates (see section 54 of the Act)	0

ADDITIONAL MATTERS

National Competition Policy

A key component of the Government's economic reform has been the application of National Competition Policy to the public sector.

Under National Competition Policy, the principle of competitive neutrality is applied to certain significant business activities of Council in order that their operational costs and charges are brought more into line with those applying in the commercial sector (the level playing field concept).

Under competitive neutrality, Council businesses are classified as either category 1 (revenue in excess of \$2m) or category 2 (revenue less than \$2m). Council has no category 1 businesses, with the following businesses having revenues of less than \$2m and defined as category 2 businesses under National Competition Policy:

- 1) **Water Services**
- 2) **Sewer Services**

The Office of Local Government's July 1999 guidelines "Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses: A Guide to Competitive Neutrality" outline the process for identifying and allocating costs to activities and provide a standard of disclosure requirements. These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents, Council subsidies, rate of return on investments in business units and dividends paid.

Council has adopted a Competitive Neutrality Complaints Policy which provides background to competitive neutrality procedures for lodging competitive neutrality complaints and other relevant information required for a complainant to effectively deal with this issue.

No competitive neutrality complaints were received during the 2013/2014 period.

(See the attached financial statements for Council's Category 2 businesses Appendix "A")

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (PPIA)

The PPIA came into force on 1st July, 2000 and has a substantial effect on what information is collected by Council and how that information is used.

Council is committed to the information protection principles contained in the Act and has adopted a Privacy Management Plan to assist with the administration of privacy issues.

Stormwater Management Services

Council did not levy an annual Stormwater Management charge in 2013/2014 and no provision was made for this charge in Council's Operational Plan.

Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 (Section 93 G (5))

Council, during the period, had no planning agreements in force.

APPENDIX A

Financial Statements 2013-2014



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2013–2014

Liverpool Plains Shire Council
60 Station Street
Quirindi NSW 2343

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

General Purpose Financial Reports for the year ended 30 June 2014

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LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

General Purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2014

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to Section 413(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended)

The attached General Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- The Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) and the Regulations made thereunder.
- The Australian Accounting Standards and professional pronouncements.
- The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these Statements:

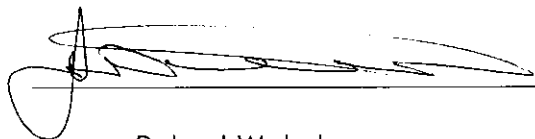
- presents fairly the operating result and financial position for the year, and
- accords with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render the reports false or misleading in any way.

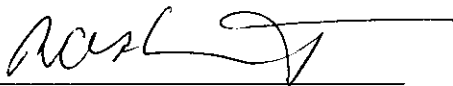
Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 29th October 2014.



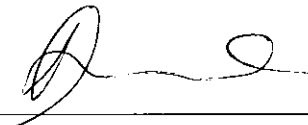
Andrew M Hope
Mayor



Robert Webster
Deputy Mayor



Robert C Hunt
General Manager



Ann Newsome
Responsible Accounting Officer

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

INCOME STATEMENT for the year ended 30 June 2014

Budget 2014 \$'000		Notes	Actual 2014 \$'000	Actual 2013 \$'000
INCOME				
Revenue:				
9,586	Rates & Annual Charges	3	9,645	9,275
3,583	User Charges & Fees	3	3,474	4,530
658	Investment Revenues	3	789	816
625	Other Revenues	3	943	619
5,958	Grants & Contributions - Operating	3	4,795	5,333
1,150	Grants & Contributions - Capital	3	3,202	5,889
Other Income:				
137	Gain from Disposal of Assets	5	138	171
-	Gain from interests in Joint Ventures & Associates	19	-	-
21,697	Total Income from Continuing Operations		22,986	26,633
EXPENSES				
8,328	Employee Benefits and oncosts	4	8,239	8,236
4,463	Materials & Contracts	4	3,983	5,056
302	Borrowing Costs	4	286	245
6,348	Depreciation & Amortisation	4	6,584	6,909
-	Impairment	4	-	-
1,845	Other Expenses	4	1,778	1,858
-	Interest and investment losses	3	-	-
-	Loss from Disposal of Assets	5	-	351
-	Loss from interests in Joint Ventures & Associates	19	-	-
21,286	Total expenses from continuing operations		20,870	22,655
411	OPERATING RESULT FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS		2,116	3,978
-	Operating result from discontinued operations	24	-	-
411	NET OPERATING RESULT FOR YEAR		2,116	3,978
Attributable to:				
411	LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL		2,116	3,978
-	Non-controlling Interests		-	-
411			2,116	3,978
(739)	Net operating result before capital grants and contributions		(1,086)	(1,911)

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the year ended 30 June 2014

	Notes	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Net operating result for year			
from Income Statement		2,116	3,978
Other comprehensive income			
<i>Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result</i>			
Revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment		-	3,634
Impairment (expense) / recoupments offset to asset revaluation reserve		(697)	(1,267)
Adjustment to correct prior period errors		-	10,101
Total other comprehensive income		<u>(697)</u>	<u>12,468</u>
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		<u><u>1,419</u></u>	<u><u>16,446</u></u>
Attributable to:			
LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL		1,419	16,446
Non-controlling Interests		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u><u>1,419</u></u>	<u><u>16,446</u></u>

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 30 June 2014

	Notes	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash & cash equivalents	6	6,173	5,271
Investments	6	3,750	7,500
Receivables	7	3,720	3,448
Inventories	8	1,229	1,191
Other	8	-	-
Non-current assets held for sale		-	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		14,872	17,410
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Investments	6	7,500	3,500
Receivables	7	1	-
Inventories	8	-	-
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	9	553,766	547,170
Equity accounted investments		-	-
Investment Property	14	-	-
Intangible Assets			
Other	8	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		561,267	550,670
TOTAL ASSETS		576,139	568,080
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	10	2,720	813
Borrowings	10	2,572	242
Provisions	10	2,628	2,639
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		7,920	3,694
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	10	-	-
Borrowings	10	2,828	5,400
Provisions	10	1,940	2,646
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		4,768	8,046
TOTAL LIABILITIES		12,688	11,740
NET ASSETS		563,451	556,340
EQUITY			
Retained Earnings	20	215,871	207,966
Revaluation Reserves	20	347,580	348,374
Council Equity Interest		563,451	556,340
Non-controlling Interest		-	-
TOTAL EQUITY		563,451	556,340

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY for the year ended 30 June 2014

2014

Retained Earnings	Asset Reval. Reserve	Other Reserves	Council Equity Interest	Minority Interest	Total
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Note \$'000

Balance at end of previous reporting period	207,966	348,374	-	556,340	-	556,340
Effect of correction of errors in previous years	5,789	(97)	-	5,692	-	5,692
Restated opening balance	213,755	348,277	-	562,032	-	562,032
Net Operating Result for the year	2,116	-	-	2,116	-	2,116
Other comprehensive income						
<i>Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result</i>						
Impairment (expense) / recoupments offset to asset revaluation reserve	-	(697)	-	(697)	-	(697)
Total other comprehensive income	-	(697)	-	(697)	-	(697)
Balance at end of the reporting period	215,871	347,580	-	563,451	-	563,451

2013

Retained Earnings	Asset Reval. Reserve	Other Reserves	Council Equity Interest	Minority Interest	Total
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Note \$'000

Balance at end of previous reporting period	203,988	335,906	-	539,894	-	539,894
Restated opening balance	203,988	335,906	-	539,894	-	539,894
Net Operating Result for the year	3,978	-	-	3,978	-	3,978
Other comprehensive income						
<i>Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result</i>						
Revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	20	3,634	-	3,634	-	3,634
Impairment (expense) / recoupments offset to asset revaluation reserve	-	(1,267)	-	(1,267)	-	(1,267)
Adjustment to correct prior period depreciation errors	-	10,101	-	10,101	-	10,101
Total other comprehensive income	-	12,468	-	12,468	-	12,468
Transactions with owners as owners						
Cash Contributions by Outside Equity Interests	19	-	-	-	-	-
Cash Distributions to Outside Equity Interests	19	-	-	-	-	-
Other Adjustments to Outside Equity Interest	19	-	-	-	-	-
Total transactions with owners as owners	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the reporting period	207,966	348,374	-	556,340	-	556,340

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Budget 2014 \$'000		Actual 2014 \$'000	Actual 2013 \$'000
	CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
	<u>Receipts</u>		
9,107	Rates & Annual Charges	9,662	9,181
3,439	User Charges & Fees	3,631	4,836
658	Investment Income	777	987
6,753	Grants & Contributions	7,977	12,035
-	Deposits and retentions received	-	-
601	Other operating receipts	933	1,740
	<u>Payments</u>		
(8,285)	Employee Benefits and oncosts	(7,915)	(8,167)
(4,359)	Materials & Contracts	(3,495)	(5,361)
(287)	Borrowing Costs	(302)	(163)
-	Deposits and retentions refunded	-	-
(1,753)	Other operating payments	(1,933)	(3,900)
5,874	Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	9,335	11,188
	CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
	<u>Receipts</u>		
844	Proceeds from sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	415	739
100	Proceeds from sale of Real Estate	-	-
-	Repayments from Deferred Debtors	1	24
-	Contributions to joint ventures by minority interests	-	-
	<u>Payments</u>		
(7,045)	Purchase of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	(8,124)	(12,570)
(100)	Purchase of Real Estate	-	-
	Purchase of Investment Securities	(483)	500
	Distributions from joint ventures to minority interests	-	-
(6,201)	Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities	(8,191)	(11,307)
	CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
	<u>Receipts</u>		
	Proceeds from Borrowings & Advances	-	2,355
	<u>Payments</u>		
(227)	Repayments of Borrowings & Advances	(242)	(276)
(227)	Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities	(242)	2,079
(554)	Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held	902	1,960
5,271	Cash Assets at beginning of reporting period	5,271	3,311
	Change in associated entities recognised	-	-
4,717	Cash Assets at end of reporting period	6,173	5,271

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Local Government Reporting Entity

Liverpool Plains Shire Council is incorporated under the NSW Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) and has its principal place of business at 60 Station Street, Quirindi. These financial statements include the consolidated fund and other entities through which the Council controls resources to carry on its functions. In the process of reporting on the Council as a single unit, all transactions and balances between activity areas and controlled entities have been eliminated.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Basis of Preparation

Compliance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRSs), as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Urgent Issues Group Interpretations, the NSW Local Government Act 1993 and regulations thereunder and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

Accordingly in preparing this Financial Report and Accompanying Notes, Council has been unable to comply fully with International Accounting Standards, but it has complied fully with Australian Accounting Standards. Under the Local Government Act, Regulations and Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting, it should be noted that Councils in NSW only have a requirement to comply with Australian Accounting Standards.

Historical cost convention

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets, financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss, certain classes of property, plant and equipment and investment property.

Critical accounting estimates

Critical accounting estimates and judgements AASB101(122),(125) The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Council's accounting policies. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on the entity and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions Liverpool Plains Shire Council makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are set out below.

- (i) Estimated fair values of investment properties.*
- (ii) Estimated fair values of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.*
- (iii) Estimated tip remediation provisions.*

Critical judgements in applying the entity's accounting policies

- (i) Impairment of Receivables*

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Council has made a significant judgement about the impairment of a number of its receivables in Note 7.

(ii) *Projected Section 94 Commitments*

Council has used significant judgement in determining future Section 94 income and expenditure in Note 17.

Financial statement presentation

The Council has applied the revised AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements which became effective on 1 January 2009. The revised standard requires the separate presentation of a statement of comprehensive income and a statement of changes in equity. All non-owner changes in equity must now be presented in the statement of comprehensive income. As a consequence, the Council had to change the presentation of its financial statements. Comparative information has been re-presented so that it is also in conformity with the revised standard.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(b) Revenue Recognition

Council recognises revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity and specific criteria have been met for each of the Council's activities as described below. Council bases its estimates on historical results, taking into consideration the type of customer, the type of transaction and the specifics of each arrangement.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Revenue is measured on major income categories as follows:

Rates, annual charges, grants and contributions

Rates, annual charges, grants and contributions (including developer contributions) are recognised as revenues when the Council obtains control over the assets comprising these receipts. Developer contributions may only be expended for the purposes for which the contributions were required but the Council may apply contributions according to the priorities established in work schedules.

Control over assets acquired from rates and annual charges is obtained at the commencement of the rating year as it is an enforceable debt linked to the rateable property or, where earlier, upon receipt of the rates.

Control over granted assets is normally obtained upon their receipt (or acquittal) or upon earlier notification that a grant has been secured, and is valued at their fair value at the date of transfer.

A provision for doubtful debts on rates established on unpaid rates represents the value at what is expected to be recovered when the property is next sold.

Revenue is recognised when the Council obtains control of the contribution or the right to receive the contribution, it is probable that the economic benefits comprising the contribution will flow to the Council and the amount of the contribution can be measured reliably.

Where grants, contributions and donations recognised as revenues during the financial year were obtained on condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period and those conditions were undischarged at balance date, the unused grant, contribution and donation are disclosed in these notes as restricted assets. Also disclosed is the amount of unused grant, contribution and donations from prior years that was expended on Council's operations for the current reporting period.

A liability is recognised in respect of revenue that is reciprocal in nature to the extent that the requisite service has not been provided at balance date.

User charges and fees

User charges and fees (including parking fees and fines) are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received, or when the penalty has been applied, whichever first occurs.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(b) Revenue Recognition (cont'd)

User charges and fees (cont'd)

A provision for doubtful debt is recognised when collection in full is no longer probable.

Sale of plant, property, infrastructure and equipment

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has irrevocably passed to the buyer.

Interest and rents

Interest and rents are recognised as revenue on a proportional basis when payment is due, the value of the payment is notified, or the payment is received, whichever first occurs.

(c) Principles of Consolidation

(i) The Consolidated Fund

In accordance with the provisions of Section 409(1) of the LGA 1993, all money and property received by Council is held in the Council's Consolidated Fund unless it is required to be held in the Council's Trust Fund. The consolidated fund and other entities through which the Council controls resources to carry on its functions have been included in the financial statements forming part of this report.

The following entities have been included as part of the Consolidated Fund:

- ☐ General Purpose Operations
- ☐ Quirindi Water Fund
- ☐ Werris Creek Water Fund
- ☐ Village Water Funds
- ☐ Quirindi Sewerage Fund
- ☐ Werris Creek Sewerage Fund
- ☐ Blackville Hall Committee
- ☐ Currabubula Hall & Reserve Committee
- ☐ Warrah Creek Hall Committee
- ☐ Werris Creek Sporting Complex Committee
- ☐ Wallabadah Hall Committee
- ☐ Werris Creek Festival Committee
- ☐ Werris Creek Railway Institute Committee
- ☐ Liverpool Plains Arts Council

The net assets held by Committees is as follows:

Total net assets (Equity) held	\$49,934
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Note: Where actual figures are not known, best estimates have been applied

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(c) Principles of consolidation (cont'd)

(ii) *The Trust Fund*

In accordance with the provisions of Section 411 of the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended), a separate and distinct Trust Fund is maintained to account for all monies and property received by the Council in trust which must be applied only for the purposes of or in accordance with the trusts relating to these monies. Trust monies and property subject to Council's control have been included in these reports.

Trust monies and property held by Council but subject to the control of other persons have been excluded from these reports. A separate statement of moneys held in the Trust Fund is available for inspection at the Council Office by any person free of charge.

(iii) *Joint venture entities*

Council is a partner in a regional library service - Central Northern Regional Library (CNRL) with four (4) other Councils. CNRL operates under a deed of agreement between the participating Councils for the purpose of providing library services.

Council acknowledges that non disclosure of the assets and liabilities of CNRL is a departure from AAS128 - Investments in Associates.

vi) *Additional Information*

Note 19 provides more information in relation to Joint Venture Entities, Associated Entities and Joint Venture Operations where applicable.

(d) Leases

Leases in which a significant portion of the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Payments made under operating leases (net of any incentives received from the lessor) are charged to the income statement on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

Lease income from operating leases is recognised in income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(e) Acquisition of assets

The purchase method of accounting is used to account for all acquisitions of assets. Cost is measured as the fair value of the assets given, plus costs directly attributable to the acquisition.

Where settlement of any part of cash consideration is deferred, the amounts payable in the future are discounted to their present value as at the date of exchange. The discount rate used is the Council's incremental borrowing rate, being the rate at which a similar borrowing could be obtained from an independent financier under comparable terms and conditions.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(f) Impairment of assets

Intangible assets that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to amortisation and are tested annually for impairment, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that they might be impaired. Assets that are subject to amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

For non-cash generating assets of the Council such as roads, drains, public buildings and the like-value in use is represented by the deprival value of the asset approximately by its written down replacement cost.

(g) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

(h) Receivables

Receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, less provision for doubtful debts. Receivables are due for settlement no more than 30 days from the date of recognition.

Collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts that are known to be uncollectible are written off. A provision for doubtful receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the Council will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate.

(i) Inventories

(i) Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods

Inventories in respect of stores have been valued by using the weighted average material costs after adjusting for any loss of service potential. Inventories have been valued at the lower of cost or 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.

(ii) Land held for resale/capitalisation of borrowing costs

Land held for resale is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is assigned by specific identification and includes the cost of acquisition, and development cost.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(j) Investments and other financial assets

Council classifies its investments in the following categories: financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, loans and receivables, held-to-maturity investments, and available-for-sale financial assets. The classification depends on the purpose for which the investments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition and re-evaluates this designation at each reporting date.

(i) Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are financial assets held for trading. A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term. Derivatives are classified as held for trading unless they are designated as hedges. Assets in this category are classified as current assets.

(ii) Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They arise when the Council provides money, goods or services directly to a debtor with no intention of selling the receivable. They are included in current assets, except for those with maturities greater than 12 months after the balance sheet date which are classified as non-current assets.

Loans and receivables are included in receivables in the balance sheet.

Loans and receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(iii) Held-to-maturity investments

Held-to-maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities that the Council's management has the positive intention and ability to hold to maturity. If Council were to sell other than an insignificant amount of held-to-maturity financial assets, the whole category would be tainted and reclassified as available-for-sale. Held-to-maturity financial assets are included in noncurrent assets, except for those with maturities less than 12 months from the reporting date, which are classified as current assets. Held to maturity investments are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(iv) Available-for-sale financial assets

Available-for-sale financial assets are non-derivatives that are either designated in this category or not classified in any of the other categories. They are included in non-current assets unless management intends to dispose of the investment within 12 months of the balance sheet date. Investments are designated as available-for-sale if they do not have fixed maturities and fixed or determinable payments and management intends to hold them for the medium to long term.

Purchases and sales of investments are recognised on trade-date - the date on which the Council commits to purchase or sell the asset. Investments are initially recognised at fair value plus transaction costs for all financial assets not carried at fair value through profit or loss. Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or have been transferred and the Council has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(j) Investments and other financial assets (cont'd)

(v) Subsequent measurement

Loans and receivables and held-to-maturity investments are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Available-for-sale financial assets and financial assets at fair value through profit and loss are subsequently carried at fair value. Realised and unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of the "financial assets at fair value through profit or loss" category are included in the income statement in the period in which they arise. Unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of non monetary securities classified as available-for-sale are recognised in equity in the available-for-sale investments revaluation reserve. When securities classified as available-for-sale are sold or impaired, the accumulated fair value adjustments are included in the income statement as gains and losses from investment securities.

The **fair values** of quoted investments are based on current bid prices. If the market for a financial asset is not active (and for unlisted securities), the Council establishes fair value by using valuation techniques. These include reference to the fair values of recent arm's length transactions, involving the same instruments or other instruments that are substantially the same, discounted cash flow analysis, and option pricing models refined to reflect the issuer's specific circumstances.

(i) Impairment

Council assesses at each balance date whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. In the case of equity securities classified as available-for-sale, a significant or prolonged decline in the fair value of a security below its cost is considered in determining whether the security is **impaired**. If any such evidence exists for available-for-sale financial assets, the cumulative loss - measured as the difference between the acquisition cost and the current fair value, less any impairment loss on that financial asset previously recognised in profit and loss - is removed from equity and recognised in the income statement. Impairment losses recognised in the income statement on equity instruments are not reversed through the income statement.

(ii) Investment Policy

Council has an approved investment policy complying with Section 625 of the Local Government Act. Investments are placed and managed in accordance with that policy and having particular regard to authorised investments prescribed under the Local Government Investment Order. Council maintains an investment policy that complies with the Act and ensures that it or its representatives exercise care, diligence and skill that a prudent person would exercise in investing Council funds.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(k) Fair value estimation

The fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities must be estimated for recognition and measurement or for disclosure purposes.

The fair value of financial instruments traded in active markets is based on quoted market prices at the at the statement of financial position date.

The fair value of financial instruments that are not traded in an active market is determined using valuation techniques. Council uses a variety of methods and makes assumptions that are based on market conditions existing at each balance date. Quoted market prices or dealer quotes for similar instruments are used for long-term debt instruments held. Other techniques, such as estimated discounted cash flows, are used to determine fair value for the remaining financial instruments.

The nominal value less estimated credit adjustments of trade receivables and payables are assumed to approximate their fair values. The fair value of financial liabilities for disclosure purposes is estimated by discounting the future contractual cash flows at the current market interest rate that is available to the Council for similar financial instruments.

(l) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

Council's assets are being progressively re-valued to fair value in accordance with a staged implementation advised by the Division of Local Government. At balance date, the following classes of IPPE were stated at their fair value:

- Investment Properties,
- Water and Sewerage Networks that are carried at Fair Value (generally based upon Depreciated Replacement Cost).
- Operational Land (External Valuation)
- Buildings - Specialised/Non Specialised (External Valuation)
- Plant and Equipment (as approximated by depreciated historical cost)
- Road assets – roads, bridges and footpaths (Internal Valuation)
- Drainage assets – (Internal Valuation)
- Bulk earthworks – (Internal Valuation)
- Community Land (VG Valuation), Land Improvements, Other Structures and Other Assets – (as approximated by depreciated historical cost).

Increases in the carrying amounts arising on revaluation are credited to the assets revaluation reserve. To the extent that the increase reverses a decrease previously recognising profit or loss, the increase is first recognised in profit or loss. Decrease that reverse previous increases of the same assets in the same class are first charged against revaluation reserves directly in equity to the extent of the remaining reserve attributable to the class, all other decreases are charged to the income statement.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(I) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (cont'd)

Water and sewerage network assets are indexed annually between full revaluations in accordance with the latest indices provided in the NSW Office of Water Rates Reference Manual.

Roads, Bridges, Footpaths and Drainage assets have been revalued within the 2009/10 Annual Financial Statements.

For all other assets, Council assesses at each reporting date whether there is any indication that a revalued asset's carrying amount may differ materially from that which would be determined if the asset were revalued at the reporting date. If any such indication exists, Council determines the asset's fair value and revalues the asset to that amount. Full revaluations are undertaken for all assets on a 5 year cycle.

Until these designated future reporting periods, the above remaining asset classes are stated at cost (or deemed cost) less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation

Land is not depreciated.

The fair values of water and sewer assets have been calculated using a depreciated method that reflects the pattern in which the asset's future economic benefits are expected to be consumed. For each class of water and sewer asset a prediction model (depreciation curve) was derived to best indicate how the asset was consumed over its useful life. Generally, each class of asset has an expected life and the way this asset decays throughout its lifecycle has been used to provide an estimate of its depreciation or its current depreciated value.

The depreciation curves for each asset class have been modified to better reflect the asset's economic life and assist with the identification of times when real replacement/ augmentation options are likely to ensue. Assets, in providing their function to the community, would not be fully consumed, but rather be augmented or replaced at some economic point in time to maintain a level of service that meets Liverpool Plains Shire Council's charter.

The prediction models are based on the straight line method and provide a more accurate approach to calculate the fair value.

Some asset classes do include components that may have very different lifecycles. For example, pumping stations have civil components that may last up to 70 years while their mechanical and electrical counterparts may have a shorter life of 20 years. Parts of these asset classes have been depreciated at different rates to best reflect their fair value.

Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives. Major asset depreciation periods and capitalisation thresholds are shown in the table below.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(I) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (cont'd)

Plant & Equipment, Office Equipment, Furniture & Fittings, Leased Plant & Equipment	Depreciation Period	Capitalisation Threshold
<i>Office Equipment</i>	5 to 10 years	1,000
<i>Office Furniture</i>	10 to 20 years	1,000
<i>Computer Equipment</i>	3 to 5 years	1,000
<i>Vehicles & Road-Making Equipment</i>	5 to 8 years	1,000
<i>Other Plant & Equipment</i>	5 to 15 years	1,000
Buildings	Depreciation Period	Capitalisation Threshold
<i>Buildings - Masonry</i>	50 to 100 years	10,000
<i>Buildings - Other Construction</i>	20 to 40 years	10,000
Land Improvements, Other Structures & Infrastructure	Depreciation Period	Capitalisation Threshold
<i>Park Structures - Masonry</i>	50 to 100 years	1,000
<i>Park Structures - Other Construction</i>	20 to 40 years	1,000
<i>Playground Equipment</i>	5 to 15 years	1,000
<i>Benches, Seats, etc</i>	10 to 20 years	1,000
Water, Sewer and Stormwater Drainage Infrastructure	Depreciation Period	Capitalisation Threshold
<i>Dams & Reservoirs</i>	80 to 100 years	1,000
<i>Bores</i>	20 to 40 years	1,000
<i>Reticulation Pipes - PVC</i>	70 to 80 years	1,000
<i>Reticulation Pipes - Other</i>	25 to 100 years	1,000
<i>Culverts</i>	50 to 80 years	1,000
<i>Pumps & Telemetry</i>	15 to 20 years	1,000
Transportation Assets	Depreciation Period	Capitalisation Threshold
<i>Sealed Roads - Surface</i>	20 to 50 years	10,000
<i>Sealed Roads - Structure</i>	30 to 60 years	10,000
<i>Unsealed Roads</i>	20 to 65 years	10,000
<i>Bridges - Concrete</i>	60 to 100 years	10,000
<i>Bulk Earthworks</i>	Infinite	

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date. 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 carrying amount. These are included in the income statement.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(m) Land under roads

Council has elected not to recognise land under roads acquired before 1 July 2008 in accordance with the deferral arrangements available under AASB 1051.

(n) Payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Council prior to the end of financial year which are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

(o) Borrowings

Borrowings are initially recognised at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred. Borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Any difference between the proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the redemption amount is recognised in the income statement over the period of the borrowings using the effective interest method.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the Council has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting date.

(p) Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are expensed when incurred.

(q) Provisions

Provisions for legal claims and service warranties are recognised when: the Council has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events; it is more likely than not that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and the amount has been reliably estimated. Provisions are not recognized for future operating losses.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

(r) Employee benefits

Liabilities for wages and salaries and compensated absences expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of reporting date are accrued at nominal amounts (including payroll based oncosts) measured in accordance with AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*. Liabilities for employee benefits not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows (including payroll based oncosts) to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Present values are calculated using government guaranteed securities rates with similar maturity terms. No accrual is made for sick leave as Council experience indicates that, on average, sick leave taken in each reporting period is less than the entitlement accruing in that period, and this experience is expected to recur in future reporting periods. Council does not make payment for untaken sick leave.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(r) Employee benefits (cont'd)

(i) Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Liabilities for non-accumulating sick leave are recognized when the leave is taken and measured at the rates paid or payable.

(ii) Long service leave

The liability for long service leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows. Where Council does not have the unconditional right to defer settlement beyond 12 months, the liability is recognised as a current liability.

(iii) Retirement benefit obligations and Superannuation

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Government Superannuation Scheme. The Scheme has two types of membership, each of which is funded differently.

Accumulation Fund Members

The accumulation fund receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings in accordance with Superannuation Guarantee Legislation (9% in 2010/2012). No further liability accrues to the employer as the superannuation benefits accruing to employees are represented by their share of the net assets of the Fund.

Defined Benefit Members

Council makes employer contributions to the defined benefits categories of the Scheme at rates determined by the Scheme's Trustee. The rate is currently 1.9 times members' contributions plus 2.5% of gross salary (3.8 times members' contributions in 2011/12). Employees also make member contributions to the Fund. As such, assets accumulate in the Fund to meet the member's benefits, as defined in the Trust Deed, as they accrue.

The Fund's Defined Benefit Plan is a multi-employer sponsored plan. As the Fund's assets and liabilities are pooled and are not allocated by employer, the Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers. As provided by AASB 119.32(b), Council does not use defined benefit accounting for these contributions.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(r) Employee benefits (cont'd)

Defined Benefit Members (cont'd)

The Trustees have advised that, as a result of the global financial crisis, an unrealised deficiency of assets over liabilities of some \$286 million exists at 30 June 2010 in relation to all Councils involved in the Fund. The Trustees have also required additional contributions to negate this deficiency (ie \$83,522 for 2012/2013).

(s) Construction Contracts

Construction works undertaken by Council for third parties (principally the Roads & Maritime Services for works on national and state highways) are generally on an agency basis where the third party reimburses Council for actual costs incurred, and usually do not extend beyond the reporting period. As there is no profit component, such works are treated as 100% completed. Reimbursements not received are recognised as receivables and reimbursements received in advance are recognised as "payments received in advance".

(t) Provisions for close down and restoration and for environmental clean up costs – Tips and Quarries

Close down and restoration costs include the dismantling and demolition of infrastructure and the removal of residual materials and remediation of disturbed areas. Estimated close down and restoration costs are provided for in the accounting period when the obligation arising from the related disturbance occurs, whether this occurs during the development or during the operation phase, based on the net present value of estimated future costs. Provisions for close down and restoration costs do not include any additional obligations which are expected to arise from future disturbance. The costs are estimated on the basis of a closure plan. The cost estimates are calculated annually during the life of the operation to reflect known developments, eg updated cost estimates and revisions to the estimated lives of operations, and are subject to formal review at regular intervals.

Close down and restoration costs are a normal consequence of tip and quarry operations, and the majority of close down and restoration expenditure is incurred at the end of the life of the operations. Although the ultimate cost to be incurred is uncertain, Council estimates the respective costs based on feasibility and engineering studies using current restoration standards and techniques.

The amortisation or 'unwinding' of the discount applied in establishing the net present value of provisions is charged to the income statement in each accounting period. The amortisation of the discount is shown as a borrowing cost.

Other movements in the provisions for close down and restoration costs, including those resulting from new disturbance, updated cost estimates, changes to the estimated lives of operations and revisions to discount rates are capitalised within property, plant and equipment. These costs are then depreciated over the lives of the assets to which they relate.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(t) Provisions for close down and restoration and for environmental clean up costs – Tips and Quarries (cont'd)

Where rehabilitation is conducted systematically over the life of the operation, rather than at the time of closure, provision is made for the estimated outstanding continuous rehabilitation work at each balance sheet date and the cost is charged to the income statement.

Provision is made for the estimated present value of the costs of environmental clean up obligations outstanding at the balance sheet date. These costs are charged to the income statement. Movements in the environmental clean up provisions are presented as an operating cost, except for the unwinding of the discount which is shown as a borrowing cost. Remediation procedures generally commence soon after the time the damage, remediation process and estimated remediation costs become known, but may continue for many years depending on the nature of the disturbance and the remediation techniques.

As noted above, the ultimate cost of environmental remediation is uncertain and cost estimates can vary in response to many factors including changes to the relevant legal requirements, the emergence of new restoration techniques or experience at other locations. The expected timing of expenditure can also change, for example in response to changes in quarry reserves or production rates. As a result there could be significant adjustments to the provision for close down and restoration and environmental clean up, which would affect future financial results.

(u) Allocation between current and non-current

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 Council's operational cycle. In the case of liabilities where 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.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(v) Pending Accounting Standards and Interpretations

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for 30 June 2014 reporting periods. NSW Council's assessment of the impact of these new standards and interpretations is set out below.

- (i) AASB 9 Financial Instruments, AASB 2009 11 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9, AASB 2010-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 9 and AASB 2012-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Mandatory Effective Date of AASB 9 and transitional disclosures and AASB 2013-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Conceptual Framework, Materiality and Financial Instruments (effective from 1 January 2017)

AASB 9 Financial Instruments addresses the classification, measurement and de-recognition of financial assets and financial liabilities. When adopted, the standard will affect in particular Council's accounting for its available-for-sale financial assets, since AASB 9 only permits the recognition of fair value gains and losses in other comprehensive income if they relate to equity investments that are not held for trading.

There will be no impact on Council's accounting for financial liabilities, as the new requirements only affect the accounting for financial liabilities that are designated at fair value through profit or loss and Council does not have any such liabilities. The de-recognition rules have been transferred from AASB 139 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement* and have not been changed.

The Council has not yet fully assessed the impact on the reporting financial position and performance on adoption of AASB 9.

- (iii) AASB 10 Consolidated Financial Statements, AASB 11 Joint Arrangements, AASB 12 Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities, revised AASB 127 Separate Financial Statements and AASB 128 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures and AASB 2011-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Consolidation and Joint Arrangements Standards (effective 1 January 2014 for not-for-profit entities)

AASB 10 replaces all of the guidance on control and consolidation in AASB 127 *Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements*, and Interpretation 12 *Consolidation – Special Purpose Entities*. The core principle that a consolidated entity presents a parent and its subsidiaries as if they are a single economic entity remains unchanged, as do the mechanics of consolidation. However, the standard introduces a single definition of control that applies to all entities. It focuses on the need to have both power and rights or exposure to variable returns. Power is the current ability to direct the activities that significantly influence returns. Returns must vary and can be positive, negative or both. Control exists when the investor can use its power to affect the amount of its returns. There is also new guidance on participating and protective rights and on agent/principal relationships. Council does not expect the new standard to have a significant impact on its composition.

AASB 11 introduces a principles based approach to accounting for joint arrangements. The focus is no longer on the legal structure of joint arrangements, but rather on how rights and obligations are shared by the parties to the joint arrangement. Based on the assessment of rights and obligations, a joint arrangement will be classified as either a joint operation or a joint venture. Joint ventures are accounted for using the equity method, and the choice to

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

proportionately consolidate will no longer be permitted. Parties to a joint operation will account their share of revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities in much the same way as under the previous standard. AASB 11 also provides guidance for parties that participate in joint arrangements but do not share joint control.

Council's investment in the joint venture partnership will be classified as a joint venture under the new rules. As Council already applies the equity method in accounting for this investment, AASB 11 will not have any impact on the amounts recognised in its financial statements.

AASB 12 sets out the required disclosures for entities reporting under the two new standards, AASB 10 and AASB 11, and replaces the disclosure requirements currently found in AASB 127 and AASB 128. Application of this standard by Council will not affect any of the amounts recognised in the financial statements, but will impact the type of information disclosed in relation to Council's investments.

Amendments to AASB 128 provide clarification that an entity continues to apply the equity method and does not re-measure its retained interest as part of ownership changes where a joint venture becomes an associate, and vice versa. The amendments also introduce a "partial disposal" concept. Council is still assessing the impact of these amendments.

There are no other standards that are not yet effective and that are expected to have a material impact on the entity in the current or future reporting periods and on foreseeable future transactions.

(w) Land

Land is classified as either operational or community in accordance with Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Local Government Act (1993). This is disclosed in Note 9(a).

(x) Crown reserves

Crown reserves under Council care and control are recognised as assets of the Council. While ownership of the reserves remains with the Crown, Council retains operational control of the reserves and is responsible for their maintenance and use in accordance with the specific purposes to which the reserves are dedicated.

Improvements on Crown Reserves are also recorded as assets, while maintenance costs incurred by Council and revenues relating the reserves are recognised within Councils Income Statement.

Representations from both State and Local Government are being sought to develop a consistent accounting treatment for Crown Reserves across both tiers of government.

(x) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognized net of the amount associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In the case it is recognized as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

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 taxation authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(y) Rural Fire Service Assets

Under section 119 of the Rural Fire Services Act 1997, all the fire fighting equipment purchased or constructed wholly or from money to the credit of the Fund is to be vested in the Council of the area for and on behalf of which the fire fighting equipment has been purchased or constructed. Until such time as discussions on this matter have concluded and the legislation changed, Councils will continue to account for these assets as they have been doing in previous years.

(z) Rounding of amounts

Unless otherwise indicated, amounts in the financial report have been rounded off to the nearest thousand dollars.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 2 - FUNCTIONS

REVENUES, EXPENSES AND ASSETS HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES													
Income from continuing operations			Expenses from continuing operations			Operating result from continuing operations			GRANTS INCLUDED IN INCOME		TOTAL ASSETS HELD (CURRENT & NON-CURRENT)		
ORIGINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ORIGINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ORIGINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL					
2014 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000	
GOVERNANCE	-	-	-	416	418	683	(416)	(418)	(683)	-	-	-	-
ADMINISTRATION	241	270	270	2,348	1,950	1,715	(2,107)	(1,680)	(1,445)	11	23	22,915	16,575
PUBLIC ORDER & SAFETY	429	705	855	898	1,076	765	(469)	(371)	90	671	833	2,411	2,647
HEALTH	11	-	-	10	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1,458	3,202
ENVIRONMENT	1,443	1,654	1,671	2,634	2,722	2,691	(1,191)	(1,068)	(1,020)	160	293	14,806	-
COMMUNITY SERVICES & EDUCATION	725	816	762	958	983	917	(233)	(167)	(155)	228	264	1,186	2,852
HOUSING & COMMUNITY AMENITIES	210	259	169	268	378	391	(58)	(119)	(222)	34	30	3,058	17,266
WATER SUPPLIES	2,192	3,182	4,438	2,235	2,612	2,219	(43)	570	2,219	400	1,909	42,894	49,276
SEWERAGE SERVICES	1,130	1,345	1,200	932	774	805	198	571	395	-	26	26,019	30,116
RECREATION & CULTURE	394	479	1,283	2,040	2,057	2,606	(1,646)	(1,578)	(1,323)	135	161	30,330	24,742
FUEL & ENERGY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MINING, MANUFACTURING & CONSTRUCTION	918	383	636	669	155	600	249	228	36	-	-	910	1,324
TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION	3,863	5,370	5,239	7,003	7,239	8,419	(3,140)	(1,869)	(3,180)	4,211	4,046	404,434	418,417
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS	439	507	582	875	506	844	(436)	1	(262)	-	-	3,345	1,663
TOTALS - FUNCTIONS	11,995	14,970	17,105	21,286	20,870	22,655	(9,291)	(5,900)	(5,550)	5,850	7,585	553,766	568,080
JOINT VENTURES & ASSOCIATES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUES	9,702	8,016	9,528	-	-	-	9,702	8,016	9,528	1,796	3,167	-	-
TOTALS	21,697	22,986	26,633	21,286	20,870	22,655	411	2,116	3,978	7,646	10,752	553,766	568,080

The above functions conform to those used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and provide a basis for comparison with other Councils.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 2 (cont) - COMPONENTS OF FUNCTIONS

The activities relating to Council functions are as follows:

Governance

Costs relating to Council's role as a component of democratic government, including elections, meetings and associated activities, area representation, and public disclosure and compliance, together with related administration costs.

Administration

Costs not otherwise attributed to functions.

Public Order & Safety

Fire protection, animal control, enforcement of local government regulations, emergency services, other.

Health

Administration and inspection, immunisations, food control, insect & vermin control, noxious plants, health centres, other.

Environment, Community Services & Education

Administration, family day care, child-care, youth services, other services to families and children, aged and disabled, migrant services, Aboriginal services, other community services, education.

Housing & Community Amenities

Housing, town planning, domestic waste management services, other waste management services, street cleaning, other sanitation and garbage, urban stormwater drainage, environmental protection, public cemeteries, public conveniences, other community amenities.

Water Supplies

Sewerage Services

Recreation & Culture

Public libraries, museums, art galleries, community centres, public halls, other cultural services, swimming pools, sporting grounds, parks and gardens, lakes, other sport and recreation.

Fuel & Energy - Gas Supplies.

Mining, Manufacturing & Construction

Building control, abattoirs, quarries and pits, other.

Transport & Communication

Roads and streets, bridges, footpaths, aerodromes, parking areas, bus shelters and services, water transport, works undertaken for Roads & Transport Authority, street lighting, other.

Economic Affairs

Camping areas, caravan parks, tourism and area promotion, industrial development promotion, saleyards and markets, real estate development, commercial nurseries, private works, other business undertakings.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 3 - INCOME

RATES & ANNUAL CHARGES	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
<u>Ordinary Rates</u>		
Residential	1,634	1,493
Farmland	3,676	3,572
Mining	259	518
Business	489	239
	<u>6,058</u>	<u>5,822</u>
<u>Special Rates</u>		
Water Supplies	-	-
Sewerage Services	-	-
Environmental	-	-
Infrastructure	-	-
Drainage	-	-
Town improvement	-	-
Parking	-	-
Mainstreet	-	-
Tourism	-	-
Other	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>Annual Charges</u>		
Domestic Waste Management	858	770
Water Supply	1,401	1,370
Sewerage Services	1,006	994
Waste levy	322	319
Other	-	-
	<u>3,587</u>	<u>3,453</u>
Total Rates & Annual Charges	<u>9,645</u>	<u>9,275</u>
<i>Rates have been made and levied on the basis of valuations as at 1 July 2010 supplied by the Valuer-General.</i>		
USER CHARGES & FEES		
<u>User Charges</u>		
Domestic Waste Management	-	-
Water Supply	1,135	942
Sewerage Services	33	27
Drainage Services	-	-
Other Waste Management	81	81
Other	-	-
	<u>1,249</u>	<u>1,050</u>
<u>Fees</u>		
Private Works	150	150
RMS works - State Roads	685	697
Building services - other	53	61
Planning & Building - regulatory	150	134
Leaseback vehicles	49	45
Corporate	59	60
Septic Tanks	6	6
Sewer Connections	-	-
Water Connections	19	6
Halls	19	54
Child Care	488	407
Swimming Centres	30	56
Rent & Hire of Council Property	312	289
Quarries & Pits	4	584
Sporting and Recreation	86	760
Museum	-	-
Cemeteries	112	135
Other	3	36
	<u>2,225</u>	<u>3,480</u>
Total User Charges & Fees	<u>3,474</u>	<u>4,530</u>

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 3 - INCOME (cont)

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
INVESTMENT REVENUES		
Interest receivable		
- overdue rates & charges	39	109
- cash & investments	750	707
- other	-	-
Fair value adjustments - investments	-	-
- other	-	-
Impairment losses - investments	-	-
- other	-	-
Available for sale revaluation reserves realised	-	-
Premiums recognised on financial instruments	-	-
Amortisation of discounts and premiums	-	-
Gross Investment Revenues	789	816
Less: Interest deducted from capitalised borrowing costs	-	-
Total Investment Revenues	789	816
OTHER REVENUES		
Fair value adjustments - investment property	-	-
Reversal of Revaluation Decrements	234	-
Theatre	57	39
Other fines	5	8
Recycling Income (Non domestic)	-	-
Rental income - Investment Property	-	-
- Other property	-	-
Insurance Claims	52	22
Commissions & Agency Fees	149	129
Insurance Discounts	62	90
Miscellaneous sales	171	218
Miscellaneous charges - overdue rates & charges	53	113
Ex gratia payments in lieu of Rates	-	-
Adjust interest in associated entities	-	-
Income relating to the Clean Energy Future Scheme	-	-
Other	160	-
Total Other Revenues	943	619

Note 19

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 3 - INCOME (cont)

	OPERATING		CAPITAL	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
GRANTS				
General Purpose (Untied)				
Financial Assistance	1,630	3,056	-	-
Pensioner Rates Subsidies (General)	73	71	-	-
Specific Purpose				
Pensioner Rates Subsidies				
Water Supplies	32	34	-	-
Sewerage Services	25	26	-	-
Domestic Waste Management	35	40	-	-
Water Supplies	400	-	-	1,875
Sewerage Services	-	-	-	-
Community Centres	82	72	-	-
Street Lighting	21	21	-	-
Roads & Bridges	1,597	1,042	2,593	3,004
Employment & Training Programs	11	23	-	-
Heritage & Cultural Services	82	47	58	114
Community Care Services	228	264	-	-
NSW Rural Fire Services	342	390	329	436
Clean Energy Future grants	-	-	-	-
Other	108	237	-	-
Total Grants & Subsidies	4,666	5,323	2,980	5,429
Comprising:				
- Commonwealth funding	2,085	3,079	77	2,748
- State funding	2,571	2,244	2,903	2,681
- Other funding	10	-	-	-
	4,666	5,323	2,980	5,429
CONTRIBUTIONS & DONATIONS				
Developer Contributions				
Section 94	-	-	66	24
Section 94A levies	-	-	61	39
Planning agreements	-	-	-	-
RMS Contributions	-	-	-	30
Section 64				
Water	-	-	11	21
Sewer	-	-	2	5
Stormwater	-	-	-	-
Subdivider dedications	-	-	-	-
Community Care Services	5	-	-	-
Housing and Amenities	-	-	-	15
Recreation and Cultural	5	-	75	226
Other Councils - Joint Works	-	-	-	-
Other	119	10	7	100
Total Contributions & Donations	129	10	222	460
TOTAL GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS	4,795	5,333	3,202	5,889

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 3 - INCOME (cont)

CONDITIONS OVER GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Grants and contributions which were obtained on the condition that they be expended for specified purposes or in a future period, but which are not yet expended in accordance with those conditions, are as follows:

	2014 \$'000		2013 \$'000	
	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Contrib</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Contrib</u>
Unexpended at the close of the previous reporting period	2,625	722	2,124	605
Less: expended during the current period from revenues recognised in previous reporting periods				
Section 94/64 Developer Contributions	-	-	-	-
Roads Infrastructure	-	-	-	-
Heritage & Cultural Services	-	-	-	-
Community Care Services	-	-	-	-
Other	2,331	0	1,712	10
Subtotal	2,331	0	1,712	10
Plus: amounts recognised as revenues in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions				
Section 94/64 Developer Contributions	-	-	-	-
Roads Infrastructure	-	-	-	-
Heritage & Cultural Services	-	-	-	-
Community Care Services	-	-	-	-
Other	419	174	2,213	127
Subtotal	419	174	2,213	127
Unexpended at the close of this reporting period and held as restricted assets	713	896	2,625	722
Net increase (decrease) in restricted assets in the current reporting period	(1,912)	174	501	117

OPERATING LEASES providing revenue to the Council

Investment Property

Council did not hold any investment properties for the 2013 and 2014 financial years.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 4 - EXPENSES

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND ONCOSTS		
Salaries and Wages	6,424	7,095
Travelling	269	245
Employee Leave Entitlements	880	243
Superannuation - defined contribution plan contributions	606	574
Superannuation - defined benefit plan contributions	164	141
Workers' Compensation Insurance	194	182
Fringe Benefits Tax	51	53
Payroll Tax	-	-
Training Costs (excluding Salaries)	115	94
Other	-	-
Less: Capitalised and distributed costs	(464)	(391)
Total Operating Employee Costs	<u>8,239</u>	<u>8,236</u>
 Total Number of Employees	 120	 117
<i>(Full time equivalent at end of reporting period)</i>		
BORROWING COSTS		
Interest on Overdraft	-	-
Interest on Loans	286	245
Interest on Advances	-	-
Charges on Finance Leases	-	-
Interest on other debts	-	-
Discounts on financial instruments transactions	-	-
Unwinding of present value discounts & premiums	-	-
Gross Interest Charges	<u>286</u>	<u>245</u>
Less: Borrowing Costs capitalised	-	-
Total Interest Charges	<u>286</u>	<u>245</u>
 MATERIALS & CONTRACTS		
Raw materials & consumables	2,778	3,834
Contractor and consultancy costs	1,023	916
Auditor's Remuneration (see following page)	47	42
Legal Expenses		
- Planning & Development	3	70
- Other Legal Expenses	132	194
Operating Leases		
- Buildings	-	-
- Computers	-	-
- Motor vehicles	-	-
- Other	-	-
Other	-	-
Total Materials & Contracts	<u>3,983</u>	<u>5,056</u>

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 4 - EXPENSES (cont)	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
<u>Auditors Remuneration</u>		
During the year the following fees were paid or payable for services by Council's auditor:		
<i>Audit and other assurance services</i>		
Audit and review of financial statements	47	35
Other assurance services:		
- audit of regulatory returns	-	7
- due diligence services	-	-
	<u>47</u>	<u>42</u>
<i>Taxation services</i>		
Tax compliance services	-	-
<i>Other services</i>		
Remuneration services	-	-
Benchmarking services	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total remuneration	<u>47</u>	<u>42</u>

DEPRECIATION & AMORTISATION

Intangible Assets	-	-
Plant and Equipment	1,006	693
Office Equipment	22	259
Furniture & Fittings	22	67
Leased Property, Plant & Equipment	-	-
Land	-	-
Land Improvements	3	-
Buildings - non-specialised	147	81
Buildings - specialised	-	-
Other Structures	261	56
Infrastructure		
- roads	4,240	4,671
- bridges	-	-
- footpaths	-	-
- bulk earthworks	-	-
- stormwater drainage	192	175
- water supply network not elsewhere included	592	547
- sewerage network not elsewhere included	172	171
- swimming pools	-	-
- other open space / recreational	-	-
- other infrastructure	-	-
Other assets		
- heritage collections	-	-
- library books	-	-
- other	27	-
Future Reinstatement Costs		
- Tips	(48)	92
- Quarries	(52)	97
- Other remediation assets	-	-
Less: Capitalised and distributed costs	-	-
Total Depreciation & Amortisation	<u>6,584</u>	<u>6,909</u>

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 4 - EXPENSES (cont)	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
IMPAIRMENT		
Plant and Equipment	-	6
Office Equipment	-	3
Furniture & Fittings	-	6
Land	-	5
Buildings - non-specialised	1	891
Other Structures	-	32
Infrastructure		
- roads, bridges & footpaths	658	314
- water supply network not elsewhere included	38	4
- sewerage network not elsewhere included	-	6
Less: Offset to Asset Revaluation Reserve	<u>(697)</u>	<u>(1,267)</u>
Total Impairment	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 4 - EXPENSES (cont)	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
OTHER EXPENSES		
Revaluation Decrements expensed		
Bad and Doubtful Debts	27	18
Mayoral fee	20	20
Councillors' Fees & Allowances	75	71
Councillors' (incl. Mayor) Expenses	61	93
Insurances	349	307
Street Lighting	106	123
Light, Power & Heating	376	391
Telephone & Communications	174	198
Donations & Contributions to Local & Regional Bodies	33	19
Planning levy	-	-
Waste levy	-	-
Emergency services levy	296	319
Other levies	-	-
Carbon tax expense	-	-
Advertising	52	49
Bank charges	32	32
Printing and stationery	47	40
Promotions	34	35
Security Services	14	11
Valuation Fees	52	52
Subscriptions & Publications	30	44
Adjust interest in associated entities	-	-
Other	-	36
Total Other Expenses	1,778	1,858

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 5 - GAIN OR LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
DISPOSAL OF INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
Proceeds from disposal	369	346
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold	<u>231</u>	<u>175</u>
Gain (Loss) on disposal	<u>138</u>	<u>171</u>
DISPOSAL OF REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT ASSETS		
Proceeds from disposal	-	-
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Gain (Loss) on disposal	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
DISPOSAL OF INVESTMENT PROPERTY		
Proceeds from disposal	-	393
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold	<u>-</u>	<u>744</u>
Gain (Loss) on disposal	<u>-</u>	<u>(351)</u>
DISPOSAL OF FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Proceeds from disposal	-	-
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Gain (Loss) on disposal	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET GAIN (LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS	<u>138</u>	<u>(180)</u>

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 6 - CASH & INVESTMENT SECURITIES

	2014 \$'000		2013 \$'000	
	Current	Non-Current	Current	Non-Current
CASH ASSETS				
Cash on Hand and at Bank	2,416	-	5,271	-
Deposits at Call	3,757	-	-	-
Short Term Deposits & Bills, etc	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Total Cash Assets	6,173	-	5,271	-

Cash Assets comprise short-term, highly liquid investments readily convertible to known amounts of cash that are subject to insignificant risk of changes of value.

INVESTMENT SECURITIES

Summary

Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss - held for trading	-	-	-	-
Held to maturity investments	3,750	7,500	7,500	3,500
Available for sale financial assets	-	-	-	-
Loans and receivables	-	-	-	-
Total	3,750	7,500	7,500	3,500

Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss - held for trading

At beginning of year	-	-	-	-
Revaluation to Income Statement	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Reclassifications	-	-	-	-
Transfers Current/Non-current	-	-	-	-
At end of year	-	-	-	-

Held for trading:

- Managed Funds	-	-	-	-
- CDOs	-	-	-	-
- FRNs	-	-	-	-
- Equity linked notes	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

Fair values for financial assets at fair value through profit or loss - held for trading are determined by quoted prices in active markets for identical investments.

Held to Maturity Investments

At beginning of year	7,500	3,500	7,000	4,500
Amortisation of discounts and premiums	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	4,000	500	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(1,000)
Reclassifications	(3,750)	-	-	-
Transfers Current/Non-current	-	-	-	-
At end of year	3,750	7,500	7,500	3,500

Comprising:

- Government Bonds	-	-	-	-
- Term Deposits	3,750	7,500	7,500	3,500
- Bank Bills	-	-	-	-
- Other	-	-	-	-
	3,750	7,500	7,500	3,500

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 6 - CASH & INVESTMENT SECURITIES (cont)

RESTRICTED CASH & INVESTMENT SECURITIES

	2014 \$'000		2013 \$'000	
	Current	Non-Current	Current	Non-Current
Cash & Cash Equivalent Assets	6,173		5,271	
Investment Securities	3,750	7,500	7,500	3,500
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENT SECURITIES	9,923	7,500	12,771	3,500
External Restrictions	5,454	5,700	7,299	3,500
Internal Restrictions	2,024	1,800	4,753	-
Unrestricted	2,445	-	719	-
	9,923	7,500	12,771	3,500

DETAILS OF MOVEMENTS OF RESTRICTED CASH & INVESTMENT SECURITIES

Notes	Opening Balance 30 June 2013	Movements		Closing Balance 30 June 2014
		Transfers To Restriction	Transfers From Restriction	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
External Restrictions				
Included in liabilities				
Unexpended Loans	-	-	-	-
RTA Advances	-	-	-	-
Self Insurance Claims	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Other				
Developer Contributions	722	100	-	822
RTA Contributions	-	-	-	-
Unexpended Grants	2,625	-	1,932	693
Water Supply funds	3,659	1,194	-	4,853
Sewerage funds	3,793	899	-	4,692
Domestic Waste Management	-	-	-	-
Stormwater Management	-	-	-	-
Coastal Protection	-	-	-	-
Other	-	94	-	94
	10,799	2,287	1,932	11,154
Total External Restrictions	10,799	2,287	1,932	11,154

External Restrictions arise pursuant to section 409(3) of the Local Government Act, the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and other applicable legislation. Further information relating to Developer Contributions is provided in Note 17 and Unexpended Grants in Note 3. Amounts raised by special rates (eg. Water & Sewer) and certain annual charges may only be used for those purposes.

Internal Restrictions

Employee Leave Entitlements	963	92	-	1,055
Infrastructure Replacement	-	-	-	-
Plant replacement	291	-	291	-
Carry-over works	-	-	-	-
Sinking Funds	-	-	-	-
Office Equipment	134	-	31	103
Construction of Buildings	382	-	28	354
Environmental	973	258	-	1,231
Transport & Road Infrastructure	1,225	-	906	319
Economic Development & Tourism	84	175	-	259
Other	701	-	198	503
Total Internal Restrictions	4,753	525	1,454	3,824

Internal Restrictions arise pursuant to resolutions of Council to set aside reserves of cash resources either relating to liabilities recognised in these reports or to fund future expenditure for the stated purpose. Such reserves are not permitted to exceed the amounts of cash assets and cash investments not otherwise

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 7 - RECEIVABLES

	2014 \$'000		2013 \$'000	
	<u>Current</u>	<u>Non-Current</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Non-Current</u>
Rates & Annual Charges	725	-	742	-
Interest & Extra Charges	124	-	182	-
User Charges & Fees	1,296	-	1,300	-
Accrued Revenues	286	-	216	-
Deferred Debtors	29	1	31	-
Other levels of Government	1,336	-	1,038	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	3,796	1	3,509	-
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Debts				
Rates & Annual Charges	24	-	23	-
Interest & Extra Charges	-	-	-	-
User Charges & Fees	52	-	38	-
Other	-	-	-	-
	3,720	1	3,448	-

Total Receivables

Rates, Annual Charges, Interest & Extra Charges

Overdue rates and annual charges (being amounts not paid on or before the due date determined in accordance with the Local Government Act) are secured over the relevant land and are subject to simple interest at a rate of 9% (2013: 10%). Although Council is not materially exposed to any individual ratepayer, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council boundaries in the State of New South Wales.

Deferred Debtors

Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, and credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council boundaries in the State of New South Wales.

Other levels of Government

Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest. All amounts are due by Departments and Agencies of the Government of New South Wales and the Government of Australia.

Other Receivables

Amounts due (other than User Charges which are secured over the relevant land) are unsecured and do not bear interest. Although Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries in the State of New South Wales.

AGGREGATE ASSET ARISING FROM EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

RESTRICTED RECEIVABLES

Water Supply	590	-	687	-
Sewerage Services	135	-	188	-
Domestic Waste Management	139	-	166	-
Stormwater Management Services	-	-	-	-
Drainage	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Total Restrictions	864	-	1,041	-
Unrestricted Receivables	2,856	1	2,407	-
Total Receivables	3,720	1	3,448	-

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 8 - INVENTORIES & OTHER ASSETS

	2014 \$'000		2013 \$'000	
	<u>Current</u>	<u>Non-Current</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Non-Current</u>
INVENTORIES				
Stores & Materials	334	-	296	-
Trading Stock	-	-	-	-
Real Estate Developments	895	-	895	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Total Inventories	<u>1,229</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,191</u>	<u>-</u>

Inventories not expected to be realised within the next 12 months.

Aggregate write-downs and other losses recognised as an expense, and reversals of these, were not material in amount in either year. All such reversals occurred principally as a result of clerical

OTHER ASSETS

Prepayments	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Total Other Assets	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Real Estate Developments

(Valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value)

Residential	829	-	829	-
Industrial & Commercial	66	-	66	-
Other Properties surplus to requirements	-	-	-	-
Total Real Estate for Resale	<u>895</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>895</u>	<u>-</u>

Represented by:

Acquisition Costs	895	-	895	-
Development Costs	-	-	-	-
Borrowing Costs	-	-	-	-
Other Holding Costs	-	-	-	-
Other Properties - Book Value	-	-	-	-
	<u>895</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>895</u>	<u>-</u>

Less: Allowance for Under-Recovery

Total Real Estate for Resale	<u>895</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>895</u>	<u>-</u>
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RESTRICTIONS EXIST IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING:

Inventories

Water Supplies	-	-	-	-
Sewerage Services	-	-	-	-
Domestic Waste Management	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-

Other Assets

Water Supplies	-	-	-	-
Sewerage Services	-	-	-	-
Domestic Waste Management	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 9 - INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

	2013 \$'000				CARRYING AMOUNT MOVEMENTS DURING YEAR \$'000							2014 \$'000			
	AT COST	AT FAIR VALUE	ACCUM DEPN	CARRYING AMOUNT	Asset Purchases	Council Restructure	Asset Disposals	Depreciation	Impairment	Transfers, etc	Net Revaluation	AT COST	AT FAIR VALUE	ACCUM DEPN	CARRYING AMOUNT
Capital Work-in-progress	-	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	-	27
Plant & Equipment	-	9,687	(4,635)	5,052	1,553	-	(231)	(1,006)	-	1,888	-	-	12,830	(5,574)	7,256
Office Equipment	-	1,556	(1,470)	86	17	-	-	(22)	-	(3)	-	-	1,570	(1,492)	78
Furniture & Fittings	-	417	(277)	140	71	-	-	(22)	-	(16)	-	-	472	(299)	173
Leased Plant & Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Operational Land	-	4,859	-	4,859	242	-	-	-	-	3,328	-	-	8,429	-	8,429
- Community Land	-	2,065	-	2,065	-	-	-	-	-	825	-	-	2,891	-	2,891
Land under roads	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- pre 1 July 2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- post 1 July 2008	-	3	-	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	9
Land Improvements - non-depreciable	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	9
Land Improvements - depreciable	-	55	-	55	73	-	-	(3)	-	21	-	-	149	(3)	146
Buildings - non-specialised	-	37,344	(1,074)	36,270	143	-	-	(147)	(1)	(2,407)	-	-	39,034	(5,176)	33,858
Buildings - specialised	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Structures	-	7,942	(404)	7,538	84	-	-	(261)	-	(1,702)	-	-	6,071	(412)	5,659
Infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Roads	-	421,933	(10,659)	411,274	5,718	-	-	(4,240)	(658)	(75,876)	-	-	349,921	(13,703)	336,218
- Bridges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Footpaths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Bulk earthworks (non-deprec)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80,603	-	-	80,603	-	80,603
- Stormwater drainage	-	16,564	(3,350)	13,214	-	-	-	(192)	-	-	-	-	16,511	(3,489)	13,022
- Water Supply Network	-	52,827	(13,406)	39,421	508	-	-	(592)	(38)	(509)	-	-	52,772	(13,982)	38,790
- Sewerage Network	-	27,517	(1,749)	25,768	123	-	-	(172)	-	(68)	-	-	27,724	(2,073)	25,651
- Swimming Pools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Other open space / recreational	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Other Infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Heritage Collections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Library Books	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Other	-	58	(15)	43	15	-	-	(27)	-	(4)	-	-	69	(42)	27
Future Re-statement Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Tips	1,167	-	(217)	950	-	-	(364)	48	-	-	-	-	803	(169)	634
- Quarries	755	-	(323)	432	-	-	(198)	52	-	-	-	-	556	(270)	286
- Other remediation assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1,922	582,827	(37,579)	547,170	8,589	-	(793)	(6,584)	(697)	6,081	-	27	600,423	(46,684)	553,766
Asset acquisitions were apportioned between:															
Building & Infrastructure Renewals					6,279										
Building & Infrastructure New Assets					213										
Other Assets					2,097										

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 9 (cont) - RESTRICTED PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

	2014 \$'000				2013 \$'000			
	AT COST	AT VALUATION	ACCUM DEPN	CARRYING AMOUNT	AT COST	AT VALUATION	ACCUM DEPN	CARRYING AMOUNT
Water Supply								
Plant & Equipment	960	-	533	427	-	-	-	-
Office Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture & Fittings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leased Plant & Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Operational	-	2,074	-	2,074	142	268	-	410
- non depreciable land improv'	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land Improvements - depreciable	19	-	-	19	-	-	-	-
Buildings	-	562	25	537	5,367	1,143	211	6,299
Other Structures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Water Supply Infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Other	-	21,897	13,982	7,915	26,909	20,572	13,406	34,074
Total Water Supply	979	24,533	14,540	10,972	32,418	21,983	13,617	40,783
Sewerage Services								
Plant & Equipment	-	-	-	-	37	-	-	37
Office Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture & Fittings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leased Plant & Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Operational	-	368	-	368	-	299	-	299
- non depreciable land improv'	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land Improvements - depreciable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Structures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sewerage Infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Roads, bridges, footpaths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Other	-	27,724	2,073	25,651	344	27,177	1,749	25,772
Total Sewerage Services	-	28,092	2,073	26,019	381	27,476	1,749	26,108
Domestic Waste Management								
Plant & Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	-
Furniture & Fittings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leased Plant & Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Operational	-	565	-	565	-	637	-	637
- non depreciable land improv'	18	-	-	18	-	-	-	-
Land Improvements - depreciable	18	-	-	18	18	-	-	18
Buildings	-	274	53	221	-	70	2	68
Tip Assets	-	809	175	634	405	-	134	271
Other Structures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Other	-	10	1	9	-	10	-	10
Total Domestic Waste	36	1,658	229	1,465	423	723	142	1,004
Stormwater Drainage								
Plant & Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture & Fittings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leased Plant & Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Operational	-	69	-	69	355	-	-	355
- non depreciable land improv'	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land Improvements - depreciable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Structures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Other	-	16,564	3,489	13,075	1,135	15,429	3,350	13,214
Total Stormwater Drainage	-	16,633	3,489	13,144	1,490	15,429	3,350	13,569
Other (specify)								
Plant & Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture & Fittings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leased Plant & Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Council owned (freehold)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Council controlled	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- non depreciable land improv'	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land Improvements - depreciable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Structures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Heritage Collections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Library Books	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RESTRICTIONS	1,015	70,916	20,331	51,600	34,712	65,611	18,858	81,464

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 10 - LIABILITIES

	2014 \$'000		2013 \$'000	
	Current	Non-Current	Current	Non-Current
PAYABLES				
Goods & Services	2,164	-	669	-
Payments received in advance	-	-	35	-
Accrued salaries & wages	489	-	19	-
Accrued interest payable	66	-	82	-
Accrued expenses - other	1	-	8	-
Advances	-	-	-	-
Retirement Home Contributions	-	-	-	-
Deposits, Retentions & Bonds	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Total Payables	2,720	-	813	-

Current payables not expected to be settled within the next 12 months.

BORROWINGS

Bank Overdraft	-	-	-	-
Loans				
- Secured	2,572	2,828	242	5,400
- Unsecured	-	-	-	-
Government Advances	-	-	-	-
Ratepayer Advances	-	-	-	-
Finance Lease Liability	-	-	-	-
Deferred Payment Liabilities	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Total Borrowings	2,572	2,828	242	5,400

All interest bearing liabilities are secured over the future revenues of the Council.

PROVISIONS

Employee benefits - annual leave	743	-	831	-
- sick leave	15	-	14	-
- long service leave	1,535	66	1,400	69
- On-cost	275	9	334	9
Self insurance - workers compensation	-	-	-	-
- public liability	-	-	-	-
- other	-	-	-	-
Reinstatement, Remediation, etc. (see also Note 21)	60	1,865	60	2,568
Carbon tax	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Total Provisions	2,628	1,940	2,639	2,646

Current payables not expected to be settled within the next 12 months.

1,535

1,400

Movements in Provisions	Opening balance \$'000	Increases in provision \$'000	Payments \$'000	Remeasure-ment \$'000	Closing balance \$'000
Annual leave	831	-	(88)	-	743
Sick leave	14	1	-	-	15
Long service leave	1,469	132	-	-	1,601
Other employee benefits	343	-	(59)	-	284
Self insurance	-	-	-	-	-
Reinstatement, etc.	2,628	-	(703)	-	1,925
Carbon tax	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Closing Balance	5,285	133	(850)	-	4,568

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

NOTE 10 - LIABILITIES (cont)

Provision for Reinstatement, rehabilitation & restoration liabilities

Council is required by law to reinstate/ rehabilitate the areas of certain tips and quarries for roadmaking materials when it ceases to use each facility. Engineering estimates have been made based on current reinstatement standards and discounted to its present value over the estimated remaining life of each facility at the rates applicable to government securities.

	2014 \$'000		2013 \$'000	
	Current	Non-Current	Current	Non-Current
AGGREGATE LIABILITY ARISING FROM EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	3,057	75	2,598	78
LIABILITIES relating to RESTRICTED ASSETS				
<u>Water Supplies</u>				
Payables	167	-	81	-
Interest Bearing Liabilities	58	4,193	53	4,250
Provisions	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	225	4,193	134	4,250
<u>Sewerage Services</u>				
Payables	127	-	-	-
Interest Bearing Liabilities	-	-	-	-
Provisions	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	127	-	-	-
TOTAL	352	4,193	134	4,250

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 11 - RECONCILIATION TO CASH FLOW STATEMENT

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash Assets comprise short-term, highly liquid investments readily convertible to known amounts of cash that are subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Total Cash Assets (Note 6)	6,173	5,271
Less: Bank Overdraft (Note 10)	-	-
Balances per Statement of Cash Flows	<u>6,173</u>	<u>5,271</u>

(b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities

Net Operating Result from Income Statement	2,116	3,978
Add: Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	6,584	6,909
Unwinding of present value discounts & premiums	132	-
Investments - impairment & fair value adjustments	-	-
Increase in provision for doubtful debts	15	18
Increase in employee benefits provisions	-	247
Increase in other provisions	-	181
Decrease in receivables	-	298
Decrease in inventories	-	-
Decrease in other assets	-	30
Increase in trade creditors & other accruals	1,923	-
Increase in accrued interest payable	-	82
Increase in other payables	-	-
Loss on Sale of Assets	-	351
Equity share of loss in Associates	-	-
Equity adjustment in Associates (decrease)	-	-
Decrements from Revaluations	-	-
Loss on Council restructure	-	-
	<u>10,770</u>	<u>12,094</u>
Less: Decrease in provision for doubtful debts	-	-
Present value discounts & premiums recognised	-	-
Decrease in employee benefits provisions	146	-
Decrease in other provisions	703	-
Increase in receivables	289	-
Increase in inventories	38	107
Increase in other assets	-	-
Decrease in trade creditors & other accruals	-	144
Decrease in accrued interest payable	16	-
Decrease in other payables	-	-
Gain on Sale of Assets	138	171
Equity share of profit in Associates	-	-
Equity adjustment in Associates (increase)	-	-
Fair value adjustments as revenue items	-	-
Investment Revaluation Reserve realised	-	-
Reversal of previous Revaluation Decrements	234	-
Non-cash Capital Grants and Contributions	104	484
Gain on Council restructure	-	-
Net Cash provided by (or used in) operations	<u>9,102</u>	<u>11,188</u>

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 11 (cont) - RECONCILIATION TO CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
(c) Non-Cash Financing and Investing Activities		
Acquisition of assets by means of:		
- PWD Construction	-	-
- Bushfire Grants	337	484
- Developer Contributions received in kind	-	-
- Non-cash issues of Shares in Other Companies	-	-
- Estimated future reinstatement, etc costs	-	-
- Other	-	-
	<u>337</u>	<u>484</u>
- Finance Leases	-	-
- Land taken over for non-payment of Rates	-	-
	<u>337</u>	<u>484</u>

(d) Financing Arrangements

Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit:

Bank Overdrafts		
Total Facilities	250	150
Corporate Credit Cards	25	29

The bank overdraft facilities may be drawn at any time and may be terminated by the bank without notice. Interest rates on overdrafts are variable while the rates for loans are fixed for the period of the loan.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 12 - COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
(a) Capital Commitments		
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
Land	-	-
Construction of Investment Property	-	-
Buildings	-	-
Plant & Equipment	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Commitments for Capital Expenditures relating to Joint Ventures and Partnerships are set out in Note 19.

(b) Finance Lease Commitments

Commitments under finance leases at the reporting date are as follows:

Not later than one year	-	-
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	-	-
Later than 5 years	-	-
Minimum lease payments	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Less: future finance charges	-	-
Net Lease Liability	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 Representing lease liabilities:		
Current	-	-
Non-Current	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

No Joint Ventures or Partnerships have any finance lease arrangements.

(c) Operating Lease Commitments (Non-Cancellable)

Commitments under non-cancellable operating leases at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements are payable as follows:

<u>Total Future Minimum Lease Payments</u>		
Not later than one year	-	-
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	-	-
Later than 5 years	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Council has not entered into non-cancellable operating leases for various items of computer and other plant and equipment.

(d) Repairs & Maintenance - Investment Property

Contractual obligations for future repairs and maintenance	-	-
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LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 13 - STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

INDICATORS - CONSOLIDATED		2014	2013	2012
	<u>Amounts</u>	<u>Indicators</u>		
Operating Performance				
Total continuing operating revenue (less fair value adjustments) less capital grants & contributions less operating expenses	<u>(1,458)</u>	-0.08:1	-0.08:1	-0.03:1
Total continuing operating revenue (less fair value adjustments) less capital grants & contributions	\$19,412			
Own Source Operating Revenue				
Total continuing operating revenue (less fair value adjustments) less all grants & contributions	<u>\$14,617</u>			
Total continuing operating revenue (less fair value adjustments) including grants & contributions	\$22,614	0.65:1	0.58:1	1:1
Unrestricted Current Ratio				
<u>Unrestricted Current Assets*</u>	<u>\$8,554</u>	1.42:1	2.58:1	2.66:1
Current Liabilities not relating to Restricted Assets	\$6,033			
Debt Service Cover Ratio				
Operating results (excluding fair value adjustments) before capital, excluding interest, depreciation & amortisation	<u>\$5,412</u>	10.25:1	10.41:1	15.54:1
Principal repayments + borrowing interest costs	\$528			
Rates & Annual Charges				
Outstanding Percentage				
<u>Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding</u>	<u>\$825</u>	7.76%	8.85%	9.04%
Rates & Annual Charges Collectible	\$10,638			
Cash Expense Cover Ratio				
<u>Cash & equivalents including term deposits</u>	<u>\$6,173</u>	0.44 :1	0.3 :1	0.17 :1
Cash payments of operating and financing activities	\$13,887			

* Detailed methods of calculation of these indicators are defined in the Code.

INDICATORS - BY FUND

	Current Year Indicators		
	General	Water	Sewer
* Calculated as for the consolidated indicators shown above.			
Operating Performance	-0.17 :1	0.18 :1	0.42 :1
Own Source Operating Revenue	0.82 :1	1 :1	1 :1
Unrestricted Current Ratio	1.42:1	0:1	0:1
Debt Service Ratio	12.28 :1	5.28 :1	0 :1
Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding Percentage	8.24%	5.96%	8.81%
Cash Expense Cover Ratio	0.44 :1	0 :1	0 :1

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2014**

Note 14 - INVESTMENT PROPERTY

Council did not hold any investment properties for 2013 or 2014.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 15 - FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks including price risk, credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk. All financial instruments are denominated in Australian dollars, and hence currency risk does not apply.

Financial risk management is carried out by Finance section in accordance with policies approved by Council and in accordance with statutory requirements, and seeks to maximise revenue while protecting the corpus of the funds invested.

Council held the following financial instruments at balance date:

	Carrying Value		Fair Value	
	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Financial Assets				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	6,173	5,271	6,173	5,271
Receivables	3,721	3,448	3,721	3,448
Financial assets at fair value through profit & loss	-	-	-	-
Available-for-sale financial assets	-	-	-	-
Held-to-maturity investments	15,007	11,000	15,007	11,000
Investments categorised as loans and receivables	-	-	-	-
	<u>24,901</u>	<u>19,719</u>	<u>24,901</u>	<u>19,719</u>
Financial Liabilities				
Payables	2,720	813	2,720	813
Borrowings	5,400	5,642	5,400	5,642
	<u>8,120</u>	<u>6,455</u>	<u>8,120</u>	<u>6,455</u>

Cash and cash equivalents

Financial assets at fair value through profit & loss

Available-for-sale financial assets

Held-to-maturity investments

Council's objective is to maximise its return on cash and investments whilst maintaining an adequate level of liquidity and preserving capital.

The investment portfolio is managed in accordance with Council's policy (which complies with the *Local Government Act & Regulations*), and the Minister's Order. The investment policy is reviewed regularly, and a report in accordance with section 625 of the Act provided to Council monthly.

The investment portfolio is managed so as to provide adequate liquidity at all times, particularly during the periods between the quarterly receipt of rates instalments and grants. In addition, Council has access to overdraft facilities set out in Note 12.

The remainder of Council's investment portfolio consists of deposits at fixed and variable interest rates. Whilst these are subject to interest rate risk, this is minimised by the short term of the financial assets held.

Interest Sensitivity Analysis	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Impact of a 1% change in interest rates on cash & investments		
- Equity	163	137
- Income Statement	163	137

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 15 - FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (cont)

Receivables

Credit risk on receivables for rates, annual charges and service charges made under section 502 is minimised as these are secured over the subject land. The security extends to interest levied for late payment.

Other receivables are subject to a range of credit risk minimisation procedures as appropriate, varying from credit checks to specific security pledges. Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, and credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council boundaries in the State of New South Wales. There are no material receivables that have been subject to re-negotiation of repayment terms.

Council receives regular summary reports of receivables due, and detailed reports where appropriate.

At reporting date, all amounts receivable were reviewed, and adequate allowance made for amounts considered doubtful.

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Percentage of Rates & Annual Charges		
- Current	0%	0%
- Overdue	100%	100%

Payables

Borrowings

Payables and borrowings are subject to liquidity risk - the risk that insufficient funds may be on hand to meet payment obligations as they fall due. The investment portfolio is managed so as to provide adequate liquidity at all times, particularly during the periods between the quarterly receipt of rates instalments and grants.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 15 - FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (cont)

Liquidity Sensitivity Table

The contractual undiscounted cash flows of Council's payables and borrowings are shown below:

	2014 '000	Due			Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Value
		≤ 1 year	2 - 5 years	> 5 years		
Payables		2,720	-	-	2,720	2,720
Borrowings		245	2,676	2,479	5,400	5,400
		<u>2,965</u>	<u>2,676</u>	<u>2,479</u>	<u>8,120</u>	<u>8,120</u>

	2013 '000	Due			Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Value
		≤ 1 year	2 - 5 years	> 5 years		
Payables		813	-	-	813	813
Borrowings		242	3,760	1,640	5,642	5,642
		<u>1,055</u>	<u>3,760</u>	<u>1,640</u>	<u>6,455</u>	<u>6,455</u>

Borrowings are also subject to interest rate risk - the risk that changes in interest rates could adversely affect funding costs. Council manages this risk by generally borrowing long term, commonly at rates fixed for the duration of the loan. Bank overdraft and less than 10% of borrowings are at variable rates; the associated interest rate risk is not considered material.

The following interest rates were applicable to Council's borrowings at balance date:

	2014		2013	
	Wtd ave interest rate	Balance	Wtd ave interest rate	Balance
Overdraft	-	-	-	-
Loans - fixed interest rate	3.21%	2,549	3.32%	2,772
Loans - variable interest rate	2.67%	2,851	2.54%	2,870
		<u>5,400</u>		<u>5,642</u>

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 16 - SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS FROM ORIGINAL BUDGET

Council's original budget was adopted by the Council on 26th June 2013. The original projections on which the budget was based have been affected by a number of factors. These include State and Federal Government decisions including new grant programs, changing economic activity, the weather, and by decisions made by the Council. Material variations of more than 10% are explained below:

This Note sets out the principal variations between the original Budget and Actual results for the Income Statement. These variations do not take into account any re-votes from the previous year or any adjustments made through Council's quarterly budget reviews. Further information of the nature and amount of all variations is available from the Council office upon request.

INCOME STATEMENT

1 Investment Revenues – Variation favourable – 19.91% \$131,000

Council's investment strategy to maximise longer term investments coupled with increased invested funds has resulted in additional investment revenue.

2 Other Revenues – Variation favourable – 60.88% \$318,000

Council's original budget made no allocation for the reversal of tip remediation costs.

3 Grants & Contributions - Capital – Variation favourable – 178.43% \$2,052,000

Actual capital grants and contributions for the 2013/2014 exceeded the original budget estimates, as capital grants works for flood damage and Regional road repair programs was not known at the time of preparing the 2013-2014 budget.

4 Materials & Contracts - Variation favourable – 10.76% \$480,000

A number of rollover projects were not completed in 2013/14, therefore a saving of materials and contracts expenditure.

5 Investments Income – Variation favourable – 18.09% \$119,000

The Investments Income was up on original budget estimates due to an increase in interest rates coupled with increased invested funds.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 16 - SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS FROM ORIGINAL BUDGET (cont)

6 Grants & Contributions – Variation favourable – 18.13% \$1,224,000

Actual capital grants and contributions for the 2013/2014 exceeded the original budget estimates, as capital grants works for flood damage and Regional road repair were not expected to be paid in this financial year.

7 Other Operating Receipts – Variation favourable – 16.47% \$99,000

During the 2013/2014 financial year a large number of sundry debtor payments were received that were outstanding at the beginning of the year.

8 Other operating payments – Variation Unfavourable – 10.27% \$180,000

The sundry creditors at the end of year were reduced from the previous year with payments being finalised prior to the 30th June 2014.

9 Proceeds from sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment – Variation Unfavourable – 50.83% \$429,000

Sales of plant & equipment were less than original budget estimates as not all plant item changeovers were affected.

10 Proceeds from the sale of Real Estate – Variation Unfavourable – 100% \$100,000

Land sales for 2013/2014 were less than expected.

11 Repayments from Deferred Debtors – Variation Favourable – 100% \$1,000

Repayment of deferred debtors not provided for in original cash flow estimates.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 16 - SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS FROM ORIGINAL BUDGET (cont)

12 Purchase of Real Estate – Variation Favourable – 100% \$100,000

Budgeted land purchases and associated development were not carried out in 2013/2014.

13 Purchase of Investment Securities – Variation Un-favourable – 100% \$250,000

Original budget estimates did not make provision for the purchase of additional long-term investments, during the year.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 17 - STATEMENT OF DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS

PURPOSE	OPENING BALANCE	CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED DURING YEAR		INTEREST EARNED DURING YEAR	EXPENSE DURING YEAR	INTERNAL BORROW- INGS (to)/from	HELD AS RESTR- ICTED ASSET	EST. FUTURE CONTRIB S	EST. WORKS OUT- STANDIN	EST. OVER/ (UNDER) FUNDING	BALANCE INTERNAL BORROW- INGS
		CASH	NON-CASH								
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Drainage	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Roads	87	14	-	6	-	-	107	-	-	107	-
Traffic Facilities	10	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	10	-
Parking	16	-	-	1	-	-	17	-	-	17	-
Open Space	33	-	-	2	-	-	35	-	-	35	-
Community facilities	19	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	19	-
Other	93	37	-	6	-	-	136	-	-	136	-
Subtotal S94 under plans	259	51	-	15	-	-	325	-	-	325	-
Sec 94 not under plans	16	-	-	1	-	-	17	-	-	-	-
Sec 94A levies	182	50	-	11	(41)	-	202	-	-	-	-
Planning Agreements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sec 64 Contributions	265	-	-	13	-	-	278	-	-	-	-
Total Contributions	722	101	-	40	(41)	-	822	-	-	325	-

Note: The above summary of contribution plans represents the total of Council's individual contribution plans. Individual plan details are shown below.

CONTRIBUTION PLAN - Quirindi

PURPOSE	OPENING BALANCE	CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED DURING YEAR		INTEREST EARNED DURING YEAR	EXPENSE DURING YEAR	INTERNAL BORROW- INGS (to)/from	HELD AS RESTR- ICTED ASSET	EST. FUTURE CONTRIB S	EST. WORKS OUT- STANDIN	EST. OVER/ (UNDER) FUNDING	BALANCE INTERNAL BORROW- INGS
		CASH	NON-CASH								
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Drainage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Roads	22	-	-	1	-	-	23	-	-	23	-
Traffic Facilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Services	16	-	-	1	-	-	17	-	-	17	-
Open Space	22	-	-	1	-	-	23	-	-	23	-
Community facilities	19	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	19	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	79	-	-	3	-	-	82	-	-	82	-

CONTRIBUTION PLAN - Willow Tree

PURPOSE	OPENING BALANCE	CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED DURING YEAR		INTEREST EARNED DURING YEAR	EXPENSE DURING YEAR	INTERNAL BORROW- INGS (to)/from	HELD AS RESTR- ICTED ASSET	EST. FUTURE CONTRIB S	EST. WORKS OUT- STANDIN	EST. OVER/ (UNDER) FUNDING	BALANCE INTERNAL BORROW- INGS
		CASH	NON-CASH								
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Drainage	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Roads	65	14	-	5	-	-	84	-	-	84	-
Bushfire	10	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	10	-
Parking	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Open Space	11	-	-	1	-	-	12	-	-	12	-
Community facilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	87	14	-	6	-	-	107	-	-	107	-

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 17 - STATEMENT OF DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS (cont)

CONTRIBUTION PLAN - Werris Creek

PURPOSE	OPENING BALANCE \$'000	CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED DURING YEAR		INTEREST EARNED DURING YEAR \$'000	EXPENSE DURING YEAR \$'000	INTERNAL BORROW- INGS (to)/from \$'000	HELD AS RESTR- ICTED ASSET \$'000	EST. FUTURE CONTRIB S \$'000	EST. WORKS OUT- STANDIN \$'000	EST. OVER/ (UNDER) FUNDING \$'000	BALANCE INTERNAL BORROW- INGS \$'000
		CASH \$'000	NON-CASH \$'000								
Drainage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Roads	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Traffic Facilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parking	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Open Space	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community facilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	93	37	-	6	-	-	136	-	-	136	-
Total	93	37	-	6	-	-	136	-	-	136	-

CONTRIBUTIONS NOT UNDER PLANS

PURPOSE	OPENING BALANCE \$'000	CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED DURING YEAR		INTEREST EARNED DURING YEAR \$'000	EXPENSE DURING YEAR \$'000	INTERNAL BORROW- INGS (to)/from \$'000	HELD AS RESTR- ICTED ASSET \$'000	EST. FUTURE CONTRIB S \$'000	EST. WORKS OUT- STANDIN \$'000	EST. OVER/ (UNDER) FUNDING \$'000	BALANCE INTERNAL BORROW- INGS \$'000
		CASH \$'000	NON-CASH \$'000								
Drainage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Roads	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Traffic Facilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parking	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Open Space	16	-	-	1	-	-	17	-	-	17	-
Community facilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	16	-	-	1	-	-	17	-	-	17	-

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 18 - CONTINGENCIES, ASSETS & LIABILITIES NOT RECOGNISED IN THE BALANCE SHEET

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position but knowledge of those items is considered relevant to user of the financial report in making and evaluating decisions about the allocation of scarce resources.

1. DEFINED BENEFIT SUPERANNUATION PLAN

Council contributes to the Local Government Superannuation Scheme which has a closed section where a portion of member entitlements are defined as a multiple of salary. Member councils bear the responsibility of ensuring there are sufficient monies available to pay out benefits as these members cease employment.

The Scheme has a deficit of assets over liabilities and its administrators have advised all Councils that they will need to make significantly higher contributions to help reverse this deficit. However, the Trustees may also call upon Councils to make an immediate payment sufficient to offset all or part of this deficit at any time. There is no current indication that such action will be necessary.

As the Scheme is a mutual arrangement where assets and liabilities are pooled together for all member councils, the amount of such a payment is not able to be reliably quantified.

2. POTENTIAL INSURANCE LOSSES

Council is a multi-purpose organisation providing a large range of building, parks infrastructure, playgrounds and other facilities accessible to the public. At any time, it is likely that claims will have been made against Council that remain unsettled.

Council insures against all known insurable risks using a range of insurance policies, each of which is subject to a deductible "insurance excess", the amount of which varies according to the class of insurance.

Council has recognised the potential losses arising from claims known at reporting date based on average historical net cost (including insurance excess) of similar types of claims. Other potential claims not reported to Council may have existed at reporting date.

HIH Insurance

During the period 1995-1997 a portion of Council's public risk insurance cover was insured or re-insured with a member of the HIH Insurance group of companies.

At the reporting date there are no known claims from that period.

3. STATECOVER MUTUAL Ltd

Council has been a member of Statecover Mutual Ltd, a corporation formed for the purchase and management of certain insurances on behalf of its members. Council is liable to contribute its proportionate share of any shortfall arising through the scheme.

4. RURAL FIRE FIGHTING ASSETS

Council has title to, and is the registered owner of (number) rural fire appliances and associated rural fire fighting equipment. These assets are under the control of the Rural Fire Services to enable that Department to provide the bushfire protection defences set out in their Service Level Agreement with Council, and accordingly have not been recognised in these reports.

In accordance with normal Rural Fire Service funding arrangements, Council continues to contribute to the costs of maintenance of this equipment.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 18 - CONTINGENCIES, ASSETS & LIABILITIES NOT RECOGNISED IN THE BALANCE SHEET (cont)

5. "CARBON" TAX

From 1 July 2012 a tax on emissions of certain "greenhouse" gases commenced operation. Council has a number of garbage landfill facilities which emit, and will continue for many years to emit, gases of this type.

Using current calculation methods, emissions from Council's landfill facilities are substantially below current taxable thresholds. This situation is expected to continue while thresholds remain at current levels.

The "carbon tax" legislation has now been repealed with effect from 1 July 2014. Council does not expect to incur any liability in relation to landfill deposits made during the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2014.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 19 - INTERESTS IN JOINT VENTURES AND ASSOCIATES

Council is a partner in a regional library service - Central Northern Regional Library (CNRL) with four (4) other Councils. CNRL operates under a deed of agreement between the participating Councils for the purpose of providing library services. Council has not recognised its 9.5% CNRL joint venture interest in this financial report, however the service has advised that the total equity is \$1,075,606 of which Council's total equity as at the 30th June 2014 is \$102,182.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 20 - REVALUATION RESERVES & RETAINED EARNINGS

RETAINED EARNINGS	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at end of previous reporting period	207,966	203,988
Effect of correction of errors in previous years (see below)	5,789	
Effect of accounting policy changes	-	-
Change in associated entities recognised	-	-
Restated opening balance	<u>213,755</u>	<u>203,988</u>
Net operating result for the year	2,116	3,978
Other comprehensive income		
Share of other comprehensive income - joint ventures & associates	-	-
Transfer to retained earnings on sale of revalued infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	-	-
Land under roads recognised (de-recognised)	-	-
Adjustment to correct prior period depreciation errors	-	-
Balance at end of the reporting period	<u>215,871</u>	<u>207,966</u>
 REVALUATION RESERVES		
<i>Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment</i>		
Balance at end of previous reporting period	348,374	335,906
Revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	-	3,634
Correction of errors in previous years	(402)	10,101
Impairment (expense) / recoupments offset to asset revaluation reserve	(697)	(1,267)
Balance at end of reporting period	<u>347,275</u>	<u>348,374</u>
 At the end of the reporting period, the amount held in the reserve related to the following asset classes:		
- Property, plant and equipment	<u>347,275</u>	<u>348,374</u>
Balance at end of reporting period	<u>347,275</u>	<u>348,374</u>

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 20 - REVALUATION RESERVES & RETAINED EARNINGS (CONT)

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Available-for Sale Financial Assets		
Balance at end of previous reporting period	-	-
Revaluation of available-for-sale investments	-	-
Realised available-for-sale investments gains recognised in revenue	-	-
Balance at end of reporting period	-	-

Nature and purpose of reserves

Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment revaluation reserve

Used to record increments (net of decrements) on the revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment.

Available-for-sale investments revaluation reserve

Changes in fair value of investments categorised in this manner are held in this reserve pending sale. Amounts are recognised in profit and loss when the relevant investments are sold.

MOVEMENTS IN RETAINED EARNINGS

Correction of errors in previous years

- (i) Certain investments containing embedded derivatives were previously incorrectly categorised as *available-for-sale* instead of *fair value through profit & loss*. As fair value equalled carrying value there was no effect on the Income Statement, and the categorisation has been corrected on Note 6.

- (ii) In previous years Council had not consistently reviewed the estimates of useful lives of certain assets. In the course of the revaluations carried out in the current reporting period, it was found that the combined effect resulted in a significant reduction in the depreciation that had previously been charged.

It was found to be impracticable to calculate the distortion occurring in each of the previous years, and the adjustment has been made to current year balances.

5,789

10,101

- (iii) In the course of the revaluations carried out in the current reporting period, it was found that a number of buildings had not previously been recognised. An estimate has been made of the depreciation that should have been charged in the previous year had they been correctly recognised at the appropriate time, and the comparative amounts have been adjusted accordingly.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

NOTE 21 - RESULTS BY FUND

Monies raised pursuant to certain sections of the Local Government Act, and of certain other Acts, may not be used for the general purposes of the Council, or must be held as cash or authorised investments until expended for the purposes they were raised. This Note identifies the operating result and net assets of the general purposes operations of the Council, and of the principal special purpose operations.

Amounts are shown on a gross basis - before consolidation eliminations - and do NOT reconcile to the principal statements, and are shown for the current year only.

	GENERAL FUND \$'000	WATER SUPPLY \$'000	SEWER \$'000
INCOME STATEMENT			
INCOME			
Rates & Annual Charges	7,211	1,401	1,033
User Charges & Fees	2,320	1,154	-
Investment Revenues	416	195	178
Other Revenues	835	-	108
Grants & Contributions - Operating	4,338	432	25
Grants & Contributions - Capital	3,202	-	-
Profit from Disposal of Assets	138	-	-
Profit from interests in Joint Ventures & Associates	-	-	-
Total Income from Continuing Operations	18,460	3,182	1,344
EXPENSES			
Employee Costs	6,613	1,219	407
Materials & Contracts	3,196	590	197
Borrowing Costs	80	206	-
Depreciation & Amortisation	5,821	593	170
Impairment	-	-	-
Other Expenses	1,778	-	-
Interest and investment losses	-	-	-
Loss from Disposal of Assets	(5)	5	-
Loss from interests in Joint Ventures & Associates	-	-	-
Total expenses from Continuing Operations	17,483	2,613	774
OPERATING RESULT FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS	977	569	570
Operating result from discontinued operations	-	-	-
Gain (loss) on restructure	-	-	-
NET OPERATING RESULT FOR YEAR	977	569	570
Attributable to:			
Liverpool Plains Shire Council	977	569	570
Minority Interests	-	-	-
	977	569	570
<i>Net operating result before capital grants and contributions</i>	<i>(2,225)</i>	<i>569</i>	<i>570</i>

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 21 - Results by Fund (cont)

	GENERAL FUND \$'000	WATER SUPPLY \$'000	SEWER \$'000
BALANCE SHEET			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash & cash equivalents	2,634	1,974	1,565
Investments	3,750	-	-
Receivables	2,995	590	135
Inventories	1,229	-	-
Other	-	-	-
Non-current assets held for sale	-	-	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>10,608</u>	<u>2,564</u>	<u>1,700</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Investments	1,800	2,700	3,000
Receivables	1	-	-
Inventories	-	-	-
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	484,853	42,894	26,019
Equity accounted investments	-	-	-
Investment Property	-	-	-
Intangible Assets	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	<u>486,654</u>	<u>45,594</u>	<u>29,019</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>497,262</u>	<u>48,158</u>	<u>30,719</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	2,426	167	127
Borrowings	2,514	58	-
Provisions	2,628	-	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>7,568</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>127</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	-	-	-
Borrowings	(1,365)	4,193	-
Provisions	1,940	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>575</u>	<u>4,193</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>8,143</u>	<u>4,418</u>	<u>127</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>489,119</u>	<u>43,740</u>	<u>30,592</u>
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus	183,846	21,150	10,875
Revaluation Reserves	305,273	22,590	19,717
Council Equity Interest	489,119	43,740	30,592
Minority Equity Interest	-	-	-
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>489,119</u>	<u>43,740</u>	<u>30,592</u>

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2014**

Note 22 - NON-CURRENT ASSETS CLASSIFIED AS HELD FOR SALE

Council did not hold non-current assets classified as held for sale in 2013 or 2014.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 23 - EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER REPORTING DATE

Council did not have any events occurring after reporting date that require disclosure in 2013 or 2014.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2014**

Note 24 - DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS

Council did not have any discontinued operations in 2013 or 2014.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2014**

Note 25 - INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Council did not hold any intangible assets in 2013 or 2014.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 26 - Reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration liabilities

Note 26 - Reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration liabilities

Waste handling facilities

Council currently operates seven landfills and two transfer stations. All facilities are well below the licencing thresholds with the NSW EPA (the Regulator).

Council is currently utilising reserves to project manage all these sites with a view to minimising long term reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration costs. All facilities are located in rural areas without imminent threat of encroaching urban development.

Council undertakes annual volumetric surveys at the three larger facilities (Quirindi, Werris Creek and Willow Tree) which has revealed minimal deposition rates and conservative life expectancies of in excess of 40 years.

By adopting a rehabilitate "as you go" methodology and actively pursuing reuse and

	Actual 2014 \$'000	Actual 2013 \$'000
Waste Handling Facilities		
At beginning of year	1,596	666
Amounts capitalised to Tip asset		749
- New disturbance		
- Revised costs		
- Revised life		89
- Revised discount rate	(364)	
Amortisation of discount - expensed to borrowing costs	(52)	92
Amounts Used		
At end of year	<u>1,180</u>	<u>1596</u>

Provisions for close down and restoration and for environmental clean up costs –

Tips and quarries

Restoration

Close down and restoration costs include the dismantling and demolition of infrastructure and the removal of residual materials and remediation of disturbed areas. Estimated close down and restoration costs are provided for in the accounting period when the obligation arising from the related disturbance occurs, whether this occurs during the development or during the operation phase, based on the net present value of estimated future costs. Provisions for close down and restoration costs do not include any additional obligations which are expected to arise from future disturbance. The costs are estimated on the basis of a closure plan. The cost estimates are calculated annually during the life of the operation to reflect known developments, e.g. updated cost estimates and revisions to the estimated lives of operations, and are subject to formal review at regular intervals.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 26 (cont) - Reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration liabilities

Close down and restoration costs are a normal consequence of tip and quarry operations, and the majority of close down and restoration expenditure is incurred at the end of the life of the operations. Although the ultimate cost to be incurred is uncertain, Council estimates the respective costs based on feasibility and engineering studies using current restoration standards and techniques.

Other movements in the provisions for close down and restoration costs, including those resulting from new disturbance, updated cost estimates, changes to the estimated lives of operations and revisions to discount rates are capitalised within property, plant and equipment. These costs are then depreciated over the lives of the assets to which they relate.

Rehabilitation

Where rehabilitation is conducted systematically over the life of the operation, rather than at the time of closure, provision is made for the estimated outstanding continuous rehabilitation work at each reporting date and the cost is charged to the income statement.

Provision is made for the estimated present value of the costs of environmental clean up obligations outstanding at the reporting date. These costs are charged to the income statement. Movements in the environmental clean up provisions are presented as an operating cost, except for the unwinding of the discount which is shown as a borrowing cost. Remediation procedures generally commence soon after the time the damage, remediation process and estimated remediation costs become known, but may continue for many years depending on the nature of the disturbance and the remediation techniques.

As noted above, the ultimate cost of environmental remediation is uncertain and cost estimates can vary in response to many factors including changes to the relevant legal requirements, the emergence of new restoration techniques or experience at other locations. The expected timing of expenditure can also change, for example in response to changes in quarry reserves or production rates. As a result there could be significant adjustments to the provision for close down and restoration and environmental clean up, which would affect future financial results.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 27 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT

Council measures the following assets at fair value on a recurring basis:

Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment - *see also Note 9.*

Investment Property - *see also Note 14.*

Financial assets - *see also Note 15.*

Council measured the following assets at fair value during the reporting period:

Non-current assets held for sale - *see also Note 22.*

Discontinued operations - *see also Note 24.*

Fair value hierarchy

The fair values of financial instruments carried at fair value have been classified using a fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in making the measurements.

The levels of the hierarchy are as follows:

Level 1 – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly

Level 3 – inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

Financial Assets

	Level 2 inputs \$'000	Level 3 inputs \$'000	Total \$'000
2014			
- financial assets at fair value through profit and loss - held for trading		-	-
- held to maturity investments	15,007	(3,757)	11,250
- available for sale financial assets		-	-
Financial assets carried at fair value	<u>15,007</u>	<u>(3,757)</u>	<u>11,250</u>
Financial assets carried at cost / amortised cost			<u>13,651</u>
Total financial assets (per Note 15)			<u>24,901</u>
2013	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
- financial assets at fair value through profit and loss - held for trading		-	-
- held to maturity investments	11,000	-	11,000
- available for sale financial assets		-	-
Financial assets carried at fair value	<u>11,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,000</u>
Financial assets carried at cost / amortised cost			<u>8,719</u>
Total financial assets (per Note 15)			<u>19,719</u>
	2014		2013
	\$'000		\$'000
Reconciliation of movement in level 3 financial assets			
Balance at 1 July	11,000		11,500
Gains or losses for the period	-		-
Recognised in profit and loss	-		-
Recognised in other comprehensive income	-		-
Purchases	4,007		-
Sales	-		-
Settlements	-		(500)
Issues	-		-
Transfers into level 3	-		-
Transfers from level 3	-		-
Balance 30th June	<u>15,007</u>		<u>11,000</u>

Level 3 valuations relate to CDOs for which the market is currently inactive. Council does not hold any Level 3 Financial Assets.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 27 (cont) - Fair Value Measurement

Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

The requirements of AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement have been applied to all valuations undertaken since 1 July 2013 as shown by the valuation dates by individual asset classes in Note 9 above.

Highest and best use - For *land* which Council has an unfettered right to sell, the "highest and best use" recognises the possibility of the demolition or substantial modification of some or all of the existing buildings and structures affixed to the land.

Much of the land under Council's care and control is Crown land or has been declared as *community land* under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*. Other types of restrictions also exist.

For *land* subject to these restrictions, the highest and best use is taken to be the "highest and best use" available to Council, with a rebuttable presumption that the current use is the "highest and best use". The reason for the current use of a large proportion of Council's assets being other than the "highest and best use" relates to Council's principal role as the provider of services to the community, rather than the use of those assets for the generation of revenue.

For *buildings* and *other* structures on and in the land, including infrastructure, "highest and best use" is determined in accordance with the land on and in which they are situated.

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Level 2 inputs</u>		
Plant & Equipment	7,256	5,052
Office Equipment	78	86
Furniture & Fittings	173	140
Leased Plant & Equipment	-	-
Land - Operational land	8,429	4,859
Buildings - non-specialised	33,858	36,270
Other assets - Library Books	-	-
Total level 2 inputs	49,794	46,407
Total level 3 inputs (<i>from below</i>)	503,025	499,381
	<u>552,819</u>	<u>545,788</u>

Fair value hierarchy level 2 valuations - Certain land, and the buildings and structures thereon, are shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 2 valuation inputs. They are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, with directly or indirectly observable adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset.

Other asset classes shown as hierarchy level 2 inputs on the basis prescribed by the Code that "depreciated cost approximates fair value".

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 27 (cont) - Fair Value Measurement - Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

	Opening Balance	Purch- ases	Sales Proceeds	Gain/Loss on Sale	Dep'n, Impair't	Transfers to (from)	Net Reval'ns	Closing Balance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Level 3 inputs								
- Operational land	-	-	(7)	7	-	-	-	-
- Community land	2,065	-	-	-	-	826	-	2,891
Land under roads								
- pre 1 July 2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- post 1 July 2008	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	9
Land Imp's - non-deprec	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	9
Land Imp's - deprec	55	73	-	-	(3)	21	-	146
Buildings - non-specialised	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- specialised	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Structures	7,538	84	-	-	(261)	(1,702)	-	5,659
Infrastructure								
- Roads	411,274	5,718	-	-	(4,898)	(75,876)	-	336,218
- Bridges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Footpaths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Bulk Earthworks (non-deprec)	-	-	-	-	-	80,603	-	80,603
- Stormwater drainage	13,214	-	-	-	(192)	-	-	13,022
- Water Supply Network	39,421	508	-	-	(630)	(509)	-	38,790
- Sewerage Network	25,768	123	-	-	(172)	(68)	-	25,651
- Swimming Pools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Other open space / recreational	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Other Infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Assets								
- Heritage Collections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Other	43	15	-	-	(27)	(4)	-	27
	499,381	6,536	(7)	7	(6,183)	3,291	-	503,025

Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of land - Valuations of Crown land, community land and land subject to other restrictions on use or disposal, shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 3 valuation inputs, are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, but include adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset that are not directly or indirectly observable in that market, or the number and / or amount of observable adjustments of which are so great that the valuation is more fairly described as being based on level 3 valuation inputs.

Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of buildings, infrastructure and other assets - There is no known market for these assets and they are valued at depreciated current replacement cost. This method involves:

The determination of the cost to construct the asset (or its modern engineering equivalent) using current prices for materials and labour, the quantities of each being estimated based on recent experience of this or similar Councils, or on industry construction guides where these are more appropriate.

The calculation of the depreciation that would have accumulated since original construction using current estimates of residual value and useful life under the prime cost depreciation method adopted by Council.

This method has significant inherent uncertainties, relying on estimates of quantities of materials and labour, residual values and useful lives, and the possibility of changes in prices for materials and labour, and the potential for development of more efficient construction techniques.

Transfers between hierarchy levels - Amounts shown above as "transfers" relate to the reclassification of assets between classes rather than transfers between fair value hierarchy levels.

Investment Property

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Level 2 inputs		
Land	-	-
Buildings	-	-
Total	-	-

Investment property valuations are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, with directly or indirectly



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Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Independent auditor's report to the Council – s417(2)

Report on the general purpose financial statements

Report on the financial statements

We were engaged to audit the accompanying financial statements of Liverpool Plains Shire Council (the Council), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2014, and the income statement, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, accompanying notes to the financial statements, and the Statement by Councillors and Management in the approved form as required by Section 413 (2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Councillor's responsibility for the financial statements

The councillors of the Council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Local Government Act 1993. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. However, because of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph below, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion.

When this audit report is included in an Annual Report, our procedures include reading the other information in the Annual Report to determine whether it contains any material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

Our audit did not involve an analysis of the prudence of business decisions made by Councillors or management.

Our audit responsibility does not extend to the Original Budget Figures included in the Income Statement, Statement of Cash Flows and the Original Budget disclosures in Notes 2(a) and 16 and the Projections disclosed in Note 17 to the financial statements, nor the attached Special Schedules (1,2,7 &8) and accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion

The introduction of a new fixed asset register system in the prior year resulted in numerous errors in infrastructure, property, plant and equipment. As at the date of our report, management was still in the process of rectifying the system deficiencies and correcting the errors. We were unable to confirm or verify by alternative means infrastructure, property, plant and equipment included in the statement of financial position at a total amount of \$553,706,000 at 30 June 2014 which represents over 98% of the councils net assets at 30 June 2014. As a result of these matters we were unable to determine whether any adjustments might have been found in respect of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment and the elements impacting the income statement, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows.

Disclaimer of Opinion

Because of the significance of the matters described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the financial report and the other matters required under the Local Government Act 1993, Chapter 13 Part 3 Division 2. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the financial report and the other matters required under the Local Government Act 1993, Chapter 13 Part 3 Division 2.



Pitcher Partners Newcastle & Hunter



Wayne Russell
Partner

Newcastle
7 November 2014



PITCHER PARTNERS
ACCOUNTANTS • AUDITORS • ADVISORS

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

**Independent Audit Report
S417(3) - Report on the conduct of the audit**

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REPORT ON THE CONDUCT OF THE AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014 - SECTION 417(3)

We were engaged to audit the financial statements of Liverpool Plains Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2014, in accordance with Section 415 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act). Our audit report under Section 417(2) has been issued to Council.

The Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial statements.

We were engaged to express an opinion of the financial report. Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our audit responsibility does not extend to the Original Budget figures included in the Income Statement, Statement of Cash Flows and the Original Budget disclosures in Notes 2(a) and 16 and the Projections disclosed in Note 17 to the financial statements, nor the attached Special Schedules (1,2,7&8) and accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

Because of the matter described in our audit report issued under Section 417(2) of the Act we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an opinion. In this regard the introduction of a new fixed asset register system during the prior year resulted in numerous errors in infrastructure, property, plant and equipment. We were unable to confirm or verify by alternative means infrastructure, property, plant and equipment included in the Statement of Financial Position and we were unable to determine whether any adjustments might have been found necessary in respect of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment and the elements impacting on the Income Statement and making up the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows.

While we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our procedures were not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

Our engagement did not involve an analysis of the prudence of business decisions made by Councillors or management.

We formed our audit opinion on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report, and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Council.

When this audit report is included in an Annual Report, our procedures also include reading the other information in the Annual Report to determine whether it contains any material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

As a result of our audit and the matters described above there are a number of comments we wish to raise concerning aspect of the Councils financial report. These comments are set out below.

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

During the prior year Council introduced a new fixed asset register system based essentially on engineering data (the Assetic fixed asset register). The introduction of the Assetic fixed asset register resulted in numerous discrepancies between it and Council's financial general ledger and the existing fixed asset register.

As at the date of our report, while management has made progress they are still in the process of identifying and rectifying the discrepancies identified in the prior year. Given this, we were unable to confirm or verify by alternative means, infrastructure, property, plant and equipment included in the statement of financial position at a total amount of \$553,706,000 which represents over 98% of the Council's net assets at 30 June 2014. As a result of these matters we were unable to determine whether any adjustments might have been found necessary in respect of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

Because of the significance of the matters outlined above, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an opinion on the financial report.

Notwithstanding this position we make the following comments, observations and recommendations which may assist Council in rectifying the various discrepancies with its financial records.

The introduction of the Assetic fixed asset register did not include a "one-for-one" check of assets listed on the Assetic system to the existing asset register supporting the general ledger. The absence of this process was compounded by the fact that the Assetic and existing fixed asset register have different classifications of assets.

Discrepancies between the existing fixed asset register and the Assetic system were further compounded as a consequence of the revaluation of operational land and buildings in the prior year. In this regard, while not material to the financial statements overall, some assets which were included in the Assetic asset register were identified by the independent valuer used by Council as not being owned or controlled by Council and therefore should not be recorded in the Council asset register. Further discrepancies were identified where the Assetic asset register did not reflect the independent valuer's valuations.

In addition to the above, the Assetic asset register did not reconcile to the Councils general ledger in both the current and prior years.

The nature of the discrepancies noted above and other classification issues also impacted on our ability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence in relation to depreciation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment, revaluation movements, gain or loss on disposal of assets presented in the income statement and the correction of errors and revaluation amounts presented in the statement of comprehensive income. We were also not able to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence on amounts presented in the statement of cash flows relating to proceeds from the sale of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment and payments for the purchase of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

We acknowledge Council is continuing its process to identify and rectify discrepancies and errors and has taken significant steps to improve the overall financial reporting process going forward with the appointment of a new Chief Financial Officer to co-ordinate and oversee the Finance department. In addition Council has undertaken to implement other initiatives to strengthen the financial reporting process such as changes in current procedures and processes and investment in new financial reporting software and packages. Notwithstanding the above, we recommend that Council consider the following to expedite the initiatives taken to date. These are consistent with those we recommended in the prior year.

- Perform a “one for one” check of assets in the Assetic fixed asset register with the former “finance department” fixed asset register. In this regard Council should ensure that the elements of the carrying value of each asset (i.e. cost or revalued amounts and accumulated depreciation) agree and note and investigate any differences.
- Council should also ensure that the asset classifications are consistent between the Assetic fixed asset register and existing “finance department” fixed asset register. In this regard Council may also wish to refer to the classification of assets within Note 9 to the financial statements. In addition Council should ensure the composition of assets within the various asset classifications are consistent. Where Council identifies a need to change classifications or compositions of assets within those classifications explanations for the change should also be recorded.
- Any assets identified as being recorded on one asset register and not the other should be investigated. In this regard the nature of the investigation should be to identify whether Council does in fact own or control the asset and in this regard invoices, works orders, certificates of title etc. may be appropriate or useful. Council should also keep any available documentation to support any adjustments that may be necessary.
- In our view the above process should commence with the 1 July 2012 financial statement balances and asset register. This is because these were the last audited figures where the general ledger and fixed asset register agreed at that point in time.
- In addition to the processes above, Council will need to ensure that all asset additions, disposals and revaluations for the 2013, 2014 and subsequent years are completely and accurately recorded in the Assetic fixed asset register. With respect to revaluations, any independent valuer’s valuation of a particular asset should be reflected in the Assetic fixed asset register.
- On completion of the above steps, ensure the Assetic fixed asset register reconciles to the General Ledger.
- Lastly, we would also like to remind Council that under the revaluation programme determined by the Office of Local Government and as set out in the Code of Accounting Practice, roads, bridges, footpaths and drainage are required to be revalued in the year ended 30 June 2015 using the fair value method which is based on the concept of written down replacement cost.

Income Statement and Balance Sheet

Notwithstanding the disclaimer of opinion issued with respect to the financial report issued under s417 (2), audit procedures were performed in connection with other items in the Income Statement and Balance Sheet. In this regard we make the following comments.

Income Statement

a) Rates & Annual Charges

Auditing procedures were performed over rates and annual charges income. Our work indicated that the rates and annual charges revenue balance of \$9,645,000 was not materially misstated.

b) User Charges & Fees

Auditing procedures were performed over user charges & fees revenue. Our testing of quarry and pit fee revenue revealed an overstatement existed in both materials & contracts expense and infrastructure assets. This resulted in the following adjustment which has been reflected by management in the financial statements.

Dr User charges & fees	\$1,012,000
Cr Materials & contracts	\$ 863,000
Cr Infrastructure	\$ 149,000

No other material issues were noted in relation to the user charges & fees revenue of \$3,472,000.

c) Investment Revenue

Audit procedures were performed on investment revenue. As a result of procedures performed it was noted that accrued interest had been recorded twice. The following adjustment has been reflected by management in the financial statements.

Dr Investment Revenue	\$54,000
Cr Receivables (Interest)	\$54,000

No other material issues were noted in relation to investment revenue of \$789,000.

d) Grants & Contributions

Audit procedures were performed in relation to grants & contributions revenue. No material issues were noted in relation to grants and contributions revenue of \$7,997,000.

e) Other revenues

Audit procedures were performed in relation to other revenue. No material issues were noted in relation to other revenue of \$709,000.

f) Employee Benefits & On-costs and Materials & Contracts

Audit procedures revealed a number of inconsistencies between accounts and transactions mapped between the general ledger and the financial statements for employee benefits & on-costs and materials & contracts. For example wages and salaries including on-costs are posted to the general ledger at the transactional level but are then manually reallocated/ journaled out to materials & contracts or infrastructure, property, plant and equipment. While we have no reason to believe the amounts reported in the financial statements were not incurred by council, we have been unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence on the classification of the amounts between the categories presented in the financial statements.

g) Borrowing costs

Audit procedures were performed over borrowing costs. No material issues were noted in relation to borrowing costs of \$286,000.

h) Other Expenses

Audit procedures were performed over other expenses. No material issues were noted in relation to the other expenses balance of \$1,778,000.

Balance Sheet

a) Cash & Cash Equivalents

Audit procedures were performed on cash & cash equivalents. Our procedures revealed that a number of cheques were drawn on June 30 but not released until post year end to the value of \$1,128,000. The following journal was raised and subsequently reflected by management in the financial statements.

Dr Cash	\$1,128,000
Cr Payables	\$1,128,000

Additionally a re-classification between investments and cash & cash equivalents was required as a result of term deposits maturing within 3 months of 30 June 2014. This resulted in the following difference which was subsequently reflected by management in the financial statements.

Dr Cash	\$3,757,000
Cr Investments	\$3,757,000

No other material issues were noted in relation to the cash & cash equivalents balance of \$6,173,000.

b) Investments

Audit procedures were performed over investment balances totalling \$11,250,000. No material issues were noted in relation to investments other than the above noted reclassification between investments and cash for those term deposits maturing within 3 months of reporting date.

c) Receivables

Audit procedures were performed over receivables. Testing identified that user charges & fees receivables of \$1,296,000 contained a number of receivables that had not been subsequently received post year end. Upon discussion with management it was identified that a number of systemic issues exist in that the system allocates payments received against the most recently raised invoice instead of the invoice to which it actually relates. Additionally payments received remain unapplied and sit in the sub-ledger as an offsetting credit balance. As a result of this, the ageing profile is distorted and we have been unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence over the recoverability or valuation of user charges & fees receivables. It was also noted that a refund was issued to Council post 30 June 2014 for workers compensation adjustments for \$44,000. This was subsequently reflected by management in the financial statements.

Dr Receivables	\$44,000
Cr Other Revenue	\$44,000

In relation to the other receivable balances per note 7 of the financial statements, no material issues were noted.

d) Payables

Audit procedures were performed on payables (goods & services). As a result of the procedures performed the following adjustments were noted and subsequently reflected by management in the financial statements.

Dr Materials & Contracts Expense	\$31,000
Cr Payables (Goods & Services)	\$31,000

A listing was not able to be obtained for goods received not invoiced that agreed to the general ledger. An attempt was made by management to generate the listing however the listing produced displayed a debit balance of \$130,000. This amount was not able to be explained by management. As such we have been unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence over payables balances.

e) Borrowings

Audit procedures were performed on borrowings which include bank loans. Our procedures revealed a covenant existed on the Commonwealth Bank loan whereby Council is required to provide audited financial statements to the bank within 120 days of balance date. Financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013 and 30 June 2014 were not provided to the bank within the specified timeframe. As a consequence this requires the loan to be classified as a current liability. An adjustment was raised and subsequently reflected by management in the financial statements. The amount of the loan reclassified was \$2,327,000. No other issues were noted in relation to the borrowings balance of \$5,400,000.

f) Provisions

Provisions consist of both employee provisions (Annual leave, Long service leave and Sick leave) and remediation provisions.

Audit procedures were performed over provisions. Our procedures identified that the balance per the supporting reconciliation of annual leave and on-costs did not agree to the general ledger. The following adjustment was reflected by management in the financial statements.

Dr Employee benefits expense	\$43,000
Cr Provisions	\$43,000

Our procedures also identified an employee was made redundant post 30 June 2014. As the redundancy was communicated pre 30 June 2014 a provision for the redundancy payment is required to be taken up at year end. The following adjustment was subsequently reflected by management in the financial statements.

Dr Employee benefits expense	\$84,000
Cr Provisions	\$84,000

In relation to the tip and quarry provision, we have been unable to obtain timely and sufficient appropriate audit evidence to support the balance.

Financial Statement Disclosures

The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting "Code 22" requires the presentation and classification of items in the financial statements to be consistent with this Code and from one period to another.

An exercise has been performed by management in the current year to map the general ledger to the financial statements. This process resulted in a number of changes to the mapping and this has not been applied to comparative (2013) balances.

We also note the following notes to the financial statements which are incomplete, contain known errors or we have been unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence in relation to the balances or disclosures:

- Statement of Cash Flows
- Statement of Changes in Equity
- Statement of Comprehensive Income
- Note 1 Significant Accounting Policies
- Note 2 Functions
- Note 11 Reconciliation to Statement of Cash Flows
- Note 12 Commitments for Expenditure
- Note 13 Statement of Performance Measures

- Note 15 Financial Risk Management
- Note 16 Material Budget Variations
- Note 17 Statement of Developer Contributions
- Note 18 Contingencies & Assets & Liabilities not Recognised
- Note 19 Interests in Joint Ventures and Associates
- Note 21 Results by Fund
- Note 22 Reinstatement, rehabilitation & restoration
- Note 23 Fair value measurement

General

A management letter highlighting other matters arising from our audit covering internal controls, other accounting matters and financial statement disclosures will be prepared and issued the Chief Financial Officer and General Manager in due course. We will follow up these matters with management at our next audit visit.

We thank the General Manager, Chief Financial Officer and their staff for the co-operation and courtesy extended to us during the course of our visit to Council's office.



Pitcher Partners Newcastle & Hunter



Wayne Russell
Partner

Newcastle
7 November 2014

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

Special Purpose Financial Reports

for the year ended 30 June 2014

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LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

Special Purpose Financial Reports for the year ended 30 June 2014

Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

The attached Special Purpose Financial Reports have been prepared in accordance with:

- NSW Government Policy Statement "Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government."
- Department of Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.
- The Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these Reports:

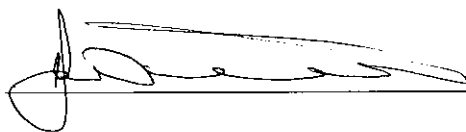
- present fairly the operating result and financial position for each of Council's declared business activities for the year; and
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render the reports false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 29th October 2014.




Andrew M Hope
Mayor



Robert Webster
Deputy Mayor



Robert C Hunt
General Manager



Ann Newsome
Responsible Accounting Officer

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

INCOME STATEMENT
WATER SUPPLY BUSINESS ACTIVITY
for the year ended 30 June 2014

	Notes	2014 '000	2013 '000
INCOME FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS			
Access Charges	A4	1,401	1,370
User Charges	A4	1,115	942
Fees	A4	39	-
Interest Received	A4	195	202
Grants & Contributions - Operating	A4	432	34
Gain on Disposal of Assets	A5	-	-
Other Operating Revenues	A4	-	-
TOTAL		3,182	2,548
EXPENSES FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS			
Employee Costs	A3	1,219	842
Materials & Contracts	A3	590	517
Borrowing Costs	A3	206	146
Depreciation & Amortisation	A3	593	547
Water Purchase Charges		-	-
Loss on Disposal of Assets	A5	5	-
NCP Tax Equivalents	1	-	-
Debt Guarantee Fee		-	-
Other Operating Expenses	A3	-	-
TOTAL		2,613	2,052
CONTINUING OPERATIONS RESULT BEFORE CAPITAL AMOUNTS		569	496
Grants & Contributions - Capital	A4	-	1,890
RESULT FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS		569	2,386
Discontinued Operations		-	-
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) BEFORE TAX		569	2,386
Corporate Taxation Equivalent	1	-	-
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR		569	2,386
Add: Accumulated Surplus brought forward		20,581	18,195
<i>Adjustments for amounts unpaid</i>			
NCP Tax Equivalents retained	1	-	-
Debt Guarantee Fee retained	1	-	-
Corporate Tax Equivalent retained	1	-	-
Less: Dividends Paid	1	-	-
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		21,150	20,581
RATE OF RETURN ON CAPITAL	1	0	0
NOTIONAL SUBSIDY FROM COUNCIL	1	N/A	N/A
<i>Calculation of Dividend Payable during next financial year</i>			
Surplus after tax		569	2,386
Less: Capital grants & contribs from LWUs		432	1,908
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes		137	478
Dividend calculated from surplus		69	239

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

INCOME STATEMENT
SEWERAGE BUSINESS ACTIVITY
for the year ended 30 June 2014

	Notes	2014 '000	2013 '000
INCOME FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS			
Access Charges	A4	1,033	1,021
User Charges	A4	-	-
Liquid Trade Waste Charges	A4	-	-
Fees	A4	-	-
Interest Received	A4	178	149
Grants & Contributions - Operating	A4	25	30
Gain on Disposal of Assets	A5	-	-
Other Operating Revenues	A4	108	-
TOTAL		1,344	1,200
EXPENSES FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS			
Employee Costs	A3	407	314
Materials & Contracts	A3	197	193
Borrowing Costs	A3	-	-
Depreciation & Amortisation	A3	170	171
Loss on Disposal of Assets	A5	-	-
NCP Tax Equivalents	1	-	-
Debt Guarantee Fee		-	-
Other Operating Expenses	A3	-	-
TOTAL		774	678
CONTINUING OPERATIONS RESULT BEFORE CAPITAL AMOUNTS		570	522
Grants & Contributions - Capital	A4	-	-
RESULT FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS		570	522
Discontinued Operations		-	-
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) BEFORE TAX		570	522
Corporate Taxation Equivalent	1	-	-
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR		570	522
Add: Accumulated Profits brought forward		10,305	5,120
Adjustments for amounts unpaid		-	4,663
NCP Tax Equivalents retained	1	-	-
Debt Guarantee Fee retained		-	-
Corporate Tax Equivalent retained		-	-
Less: Dividends Paid	1	-	-
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		10,875	10,305
RATE OF RETURN ON CAPITAL	1	0	0
NOTIONAL SUBSIDY FROM COUNCIL	1	N/A	N/A
<i>Calculation of Dividend Payable during next financial year</i>			
Surplus after tax		570	522
Less: Capital grants & contribs from LWUs		25	26
Surplus for dividend calculation purposes		545	496
<i>Dividend calculated from surplus</i>		273	248

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

INCOME STATEMENT BY BUSINESS ACTIVITIES
 for the year ended 30 June 2014

		BUSINESS ACTIVITIES			
		Water '000		Sewer '000	
		2014	2013	2014	2013
REVENUE FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS	Notes				
Rates & Annual Charges	A4	1,401	1,370	1,034	1,021
User Charges & Fees	A4	962	945		
Interest Received	A4	195	205	177	149
Grants & Contributions - Operating	A4	32	34	32	30
Gain on Disposal of Assets	A5				
Other Operating Revenues	A4				
TOTAL		2,590	2,554	1,243	1,200
EXPENSES FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS					
Employee Costs	A3		758		283
Materials & Contracts	A3		601		224
Borrowing Costs	A3	206	146		
Depreciation & Amortisation	A3	593	547	170	171
Other Operating Expenses	A3				
Loss on Disposal of Assets	A5	6			
NCP Imputation Payments	2				
TOTAL		804	2,052	170	678
CONTINUING OPERATIONS RESULT BEFORE CAPITAL AMOUNTS		1,786	502	1,073	522
Grants & Contributions - Capital	A4	-	1,884		
RESULT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		1,786	2,386	1,073	522
Discontinued Operations					
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) BEFORE TAX		1,786	2,386	1,073	522
Corporate Taxation Equivalent	2	-	-	-	-
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR		1,786	2,386	1,073	522
Add: Accumulated Profits brought forward		21,186	18,195	10,304	9,783
NCP Imputation Payments retained	1				
Less: Dividends Paid - TER					
- Surplus Dividend	2				
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		22,972	20,581	11,377	10,305
RATE OF RETURN ON CAPITAL	2	4.65%	1.62%	4.12%	2.00%
NOTIONAL SUBSIDY FROM COUNCIL	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
WATER SUPPLY BUSINESS ACTIVITY**

for the year ended 30 June 2014

	Notes	2014 '000	2013 '000
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash & cash equivalents	A6	1,974	1,973
Investments	A6		
Receivables	A7	590	687
Inventories	A8		
Other	A8		
Non-current assets held for sale			
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		2,564	2,660
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Investments	A6	2,700	
Receivables	A7		2,000
Inventories	A8		
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	A9	42,894	39,955
Investment Property			
Other	A8		
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		45,594	41,955
TOTAL ASSETS		48,158	44,615
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	A10	167	81
Interest bearing liabilities	A10	58	53
Provisions	A10		
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		225	134
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	A10		
Interest bearing liabilities	A10	4,193	4,250
Provisions	A10		
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		4,193	4,250
TOTAL LIABILITIES		4,418	4,384
NET ASSETS		\$ 43,740	40,231
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus		21,150	20,581
Asset Revaluation Reserve		22,590	19,650
TOTAL EQUITY		\$ 43,740	40,231

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
SEWERAGE BUSINESS ACTIVITY
for the year ended 30 June 2014**

	Notes	2014 '000	2013 '000
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash & cash equivalents	A6	1,565	2,324
Investments	A6		
Receivables	A7	135	188
Inventories	A8		
Other	A8		
Non-current assets held for sale			
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,700	2,512
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Investments	A6	3,000	1,500
Receivables	A7		
Inventories	A8		
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	A9	26,019	26,103
Investment Property			
Other	A8		
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		29,019	27,603
TOTAL ASSETS		30,719	30,115
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	A10	127	
Interest bearing liabilities	A10		
Provisions	A10		
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		127	
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	A10		
Interest bearing liabilities	A10		
Provisions	A10		
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
TOTAL LIABILITIES		127	
NET ASSETS		\$ 30,592	30,115
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus		10,875	10,305
Asset Revaluation Reserve		19,717	19,810
TOTAL EQUITY		\$ 30,592	30,115

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION by BUSINESS ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 30 June 2014

		BUSINESS ACTIVITIES			
		Water '000		Sewer '000	
	Notes	2014	2013	2014	2013
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash & cash equivalents	A6	4,853	1,973	1,692	2,324
Investments	A6				
Receivables	A7	439	687	135	188
Inventories	A8				
Other	A8	13			
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		5,305	2,660	1,827	2,512
NON-CURRENT ASSETS					
Investments	A6		2,000	3000	1,500
Receivables	A7				
Inventories	A8				
Property, Plant & Equipment	A9	42,846	39,955	26,020	26,103
Equity accounted investments	A19				
Investment Property					
Other	A8				
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		42,846	41,955	29,020	27,603
TOTAL ASSETS		48,151	44,615	30,847	30,115
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Payables	A10	167	81	127	
Interest bearing liabilities	A10	58	53		
Provisions	A10				
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		225	134	127	
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Payables	A10				
Interest bearing liabilities	A10	4,193	4,250		
Provisions	A10				
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		4,193	4,250		
TOTAL LIABILITIES		4,418	4,384	127	
NET ASSETS		\$ 43,733	40,231	30,720	30,115
EQUITY					
Accumulated Surplus		21,161	20,581	11,003	10,305
Asset Revaluation Reserve		22,572	19,650	19,717	19,810
TOTAL EQUITY		\$ 43,733	40,231	30,720	30,115

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE SPECIAL PURPOSE STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 2 - BEST PRACTICE MANAGEMENT DISCLOSURES - WATER SUPPLY

2014

\$

Values shown in this Note are expressed in WHOLE DOLLARS

Calculation and Payment of Tax-Equivalents

(i)	Calculated Tax Equivalents	0
(ii)	No of assessments multiplied by \$3/assessment	8,544
(iii)	Amounts payable for Tax Equivalents	0
(iv)	Tax Equivalents paid	0

Dividend from Surplus

(i)	50% of Surplus before Dividends (Calculated in accordance with Best Practice Management for Water Supply and Sewerage guidelines.)	42,390
(ii)	No of assessments multiplied by \$30/assessment, less tax equivalent charges/assessment	85,440
(iii)	Cumulative Surplus before Dividends for 3 years to 30 June 2010, less cumulative dividends paid for 2 years to 30 June 2009	
(iv)	Maximum Dividend from Surplus (least of (i), (ii) and (iii))	42,390
(v)	Dividend paid from Surplus	

Required Outcomes for 6 Criteria

(i)	Completion of Strategic Business Plan (including Financial Plan)	Yes
(ii)	Pricing with full cost-recovery, without significant cross subsidies (Item 2(a) in Table 1 on page 22 of Best Practice guidelines)	Yes
	Complying charges (Item 2(b) in Table 1)	Yes
	DSP with Commercial Developer Charges (Item 2(e) in Table 1)	Yes
	If Dual Water Supplies, Complying Charges (Item 2(g) in Table 1)	Yes
(iii)	Sound Water Conservation & Demand Management Implemented	Yes
(iv)	Sound Drought Management implemented	Yes
(v)	Complete Performance Reporting Form (by 15 September each year)	Yes
(vi)	Complete Integrated Water Cycle Management Evaluation	Yes
(vii)	Complete and implement Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy	No

National Water Initiative (NWI) Financial Performance Indicators

NWI F1	Total Revenue (Water)	\$'000	2,987
NWI F4	Residential Revenue from Usage Charges (Water)	%	44.07
NWI F9	Written Down Replacement Cost of Fixed Assets (Water)	\$'000	42,894
NWI F11	Operating Cost (OMA) (Water)	\$'000	1,809
NWI F14	Capital Expenditure (Water)	\$'000	570
NWI F17	Economic Real Rate of Return (Water)	%	1.32
NWI F20	Capital Works Grants (Water)	\$'000	

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE SPECIAL PURPOSE STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2014

Note 3 - BEST PRACTICE MANAGEMENT DISCLOSURES - SEWERAGE

2014
\$

Values shown in this Note are expressed in WHOLE DOLLARS

Calculation and Payment of Tax-Equivalents

(i)	Calculated Tax Equivalents	0
(ii)	No of assessments multiplied by \$3/assessment	6,243
(iii)	Amounts payable for Tax Equivalents	0
	(lesser of (i) and (ii))	
(iv)	Tax Equivalents paid	0

Dividend from Surplus

(i)	50% of Surplus before Dividends (Calculated in accordance with Best Practice Management for Water Supply and Sewerage guidelines.)	0
(ii)	No of assessments multiplied by \$30/assessment, less tax equivalent charges/assessment	62,430
(iii)	Cumulative Surplus before Dividends for 3 years to 30 June 2010, less cumulative dividends paid for 2 years to 30 June 2009	
(iv)	Maximum Dividend from Surplus	0
	(least of (i), (ii) and (iii))	
(v)	Dividend paid from Surplus	

Required Outcomes for 4 Criteria

(i)	Complete current Strategic Business Plan (including Financial Plan)	Yes
(ii)	Pricing with full cost-recovery, without significant cross subsidies (Item 2(a) in Table 1 on page 18 of Best practice guidelines)	Yes
	Complying charges (a) Residential (Item 2(c) in Table 1)	Yes
	(b) Non-Residential (Item 2(c) in Table 1)	Yes
	(c) Trade Waste (Item 2(d) in Table 1)	Yes
	DSP with Commercial Developer Charges (Item 2(e) in Table 1)	Yes
	Liquid Trade Waste Approvals & Policy (Item 2(f) in Table 1)	Yes
(iii)	Complete Performance Reporting Form (by 15 September each year)	Yes
(iv) a.	Complete Integrated Water Cycle Management Evaluation	Yes
(iv) b.	Complete and implement Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy	No

National Water Initiative (NWI) Financial Performance Indicators

NWI F2 Total Revenue (Sewerage)	\$'000	1,064
NWI F10 Written Down Replacement Cost of Fixed Assets (Sewerage)	\$'000	26,019
NWI F12 Operating Cost (Sewerage)	\$'000	518
NWI F15 Capital Expenditure (Sewerage)	\$'000	179
NWI F18 Economic Real Rate of Return (Sewerage)	%	2
NWI F27 Capital Works Grants (Sewer)	\$'000	0
NWI F3 Total Income (Water & Sewerage)	\$'000	4,148
NWI F8 Revenue from Community Service Obligations (Water & Sewerage)	%	1
NWI F16 Capital Expenditure (Water & Sewerage)	\$'000	749
NWI F19 Economic Real Rate of Return (Water & Sewerage)	%	2
NWI F20 Dividend (Water & Sewerage)	\$'000	0
NWI F21 Dividend Payout Ratio (Water & Sewerage)	%	0
NWI F22 Net Debt to Equity (Water & Sewerage)	%	-7
NWI F23 Interest Cover (Water & Sewerage)	times	>100
NWI F24 Net Profit after Tax (Water & Sewerage)	\$'000	1,139
NWI F25 Community Service Obligations (Water & Sewerage)	\$'000	57

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

Special Schedules

for the year ended 30 June 2014

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LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL SCHEDULE NO 1 NET COST OF SERVICES for the year ended 30 June 2014

\$'000

Function or Activity	Expenses from continuing operations	Income from continuing operations (non-capital)	Income from continuing operations (capital)	NET COST OF SERVICES
GOVERNANCE	418			418
ADMINISTRATION	1,950	270		1,680
PUBLIC ORDER & SAFETY				
Fire Service Levy, Fire Protection, Emergency Services	813	343	329	141
Beach Control		-	-	-
Enforcement of Regulations	129	21	-	108
Animal Control	134	12	-	122
Other				-
Total Public Order & Safety	1,076	376	329	371
HEALTH				-
ENVIRONMENT				
Noxious Plants and Insect / Vermin Control	313	98		215
Other Environmental Protection	1,025	171	89	765
Solid Waste Management	971	1,296		(325)
Street Cleaning	141			141
Drainage				-
Stormwater Management	272			272
Total Environment	2,722	1,565	89	1,068
COMMUNITY SERVICES & EDUCATION				
Administration & Education	102			102
Social Protection (welfare)				-
Aged Persons & Disabled	391	326		65
Childrens Services	490	490		-
Total Community Services & Education	983	816	-	167
HOUSING & COMMUNITY AMENITIES				
Public Cemeteries	81	112		(31)
Public Conveniences	127			127
Street Lighting				-
Town Planning	155	104		51
Other Community Amenities	15	43		(28)
Total Housing & Community Amenities	378	259	-	119
WATER SUPPLIES	2,612	3,171	11	(570)
SEWERAGE SERVICES	774	1,343	2	(571)

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL SCHEDULE NO 1 - NET COST OF SERVICES (cont) for the year ended 30 June 2014

\$'000

Function or Activity	Expenses from continuing operations	Income from continuing operations (non-capital)	Income from continuing operations (capital)	NET COST OF SERVICES
RECREATION & CULTURE				
Public Libraries	401	53	7	341
Museums	97			97
Art Galleries				-
Community Centres and Halls	238	20	5	213
Performing Arts Venues		57		(57)
Other Performing Arts				-
Other Cultural Services	20	28		(8)
Sporting Grounds	443	52	42	349
Swimming Pools	198	30		168
Parks & Gardens, Lakes	551			551
Other Sport & Recreation	109	120	65	(76)
Total Recreation & Culture	2,057	360	119	1,578
FUEL & ENERGY				-
AGRICULTURE				-
MINING, MANUFACTURING & CONSTRUCTION				
Building Control	49	43		6
Other Mining Manufacturing & Construction	106	340		(234)
Total Mining Manufacturing & Construction	155	383	-	(228)
TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION				
Urban Roads: Local	888	7		881
Urban Roads: Regional				-
Sealed Rural Roads: Local	1,472			1,472
Sealed Rural Roads: Regional	1,014	2,632	-	(1,618)
Unsealed Rural Roads: Local	2,705	1,654	114	937
Unsealed Rural Roads: Regional	-			-
Bridges - Urban Roads: Local				-
Bridges - Sealed Rural Roads: Local	376			376
Bridges - Unsealed Rural Roads: Local				-
Bridges on Regional Roads				-
Parking Areas	1			1
Footpaths	14		16	(2)
Aerodromes	55	99		(44)
Other Transport & Communication	714	848		(134)
Total Transport & Communication	7,239	5,240	130	1,869
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS				
Camping Areas & Caravan Parks	11	8		3
Other Economic Affairs	495	474	25	(4)
Total Economic Affairs	506	482	25	(1)
TOTALS - FUNCTIONS	20,870	14,265	705	5,900
General Purpose Revenues				8,016
Equity accounted income (loss)				8,016
NET OPERATING RESULT FOR YEAR				2,116

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL SCHEDULE NO 2 (1) STATEMENT OF LONG TERM DEBT (ALL PURPOSE) for the year ended 30 June 2014

\$'000

Classification of Debt	Principal Outstanding at beginning of year		New Loans Raised	Debt Redemption		Tfrs to Sinking Funds	Interest applicable for year	Principal outstanding at end of year	
	Current	Non-Current		From Revenue	Sinking Funds			Current	Non-Current
LOANS (by source)									
Commonwealth Government		-							
Treasury Corporation		-							
Other State Government		-							
Public Subscription	227	5,400		227			286	246	5,154
Financial Institutions	15	15		15					
Other									
Total Loans	242	5,400	-	242	-	-	286	246	5,154
OTHER LONG TERM DEBT									
Ratepayers' Advances									
Government Advances									
Finance Leases									
Deferred Payment									
Other									
Total Other Long Term Debt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL LONG TERM DEBT	242	5,400	-	242	-	-	286	246	5,154

This Schedule excludes refinancing of existing borrowings (except for any additional borrowings) and internal loans.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL SCHEDULE NO 2 (2) STATEMENT OF INTERNAL LOANS for the year ended 30 June 2014

\$'000

SUMMARY OF INTERNAL LOANS

Borrower (by purpose)	Amount Originally Raised	Total Repaid During Year Principal & Interest	Principal Outstanding at end of year
General Water Sewerage Domestic Waste Management Gas Other			
Totals	-	-	-

The above summary of internal loans represents the total of Council's internal loans categorised according to the purpose of the borrower.
Details of individual internal loans are set out below.

Borrower (by purpose)	Lender (by purpose)	Date of Minister's Approval	Date Raised	Term (years)	Maturity Date	Rate of Interest	Amount Originally Raised	Paid During Year - Princ and Interest	Principal Outstanding End of Year
Totals							-	-	-

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL SCHEDULE NO 3 WATER SUPPLY OPERATIONS (Gross including Internal Transactions) for the year ended 30 June 2014

A. EXPENSES & REVENUES	2014	2013
EXPENSES	\$'000	\$'000
1.a. Management - Administration	983	558
b. - Engineering & Supervision	9	18
2 Operations		
a. - Dams & Weirs - Operation Expenses	18	24
b. - Maintenance Expenses	37	40
c. - Mains - Operation Expenses	1	64
d. -Maintenance Expenses	118	66
e. - Reservoirs - Operation Expenses	-	-
f. - Maintenance Expenses	26	65
g. - Pumping Stations - Operation Expenses	6	5
h. - Energy Costs	131	139
i. - Maintenance Expenses	159	98
j. - Treatment - Operation Expenses	16	12
k. - Chemical Costs	29	20
l. - Maintenance Expenses	135	139
m. - Other - Operation Expenses	7	3
n. - Maintenance Expenses	134	108
o. - Purchase of Water	-	-
3.a. Depreciation - System Assets	543	274
b. - Plant & Equipment	50	273
4.a. Miscellaneous - Interest expenses	206	146
b. - Revaluation decrements	-	-
c. - Other	-	-
c. - NCP Tax & Other Equivalents	-	-
d. - Impairment system assets	-	-
e. - Impairment plant and equipment	-	-
f. - Aboriginal Communities Water & Sewerage Program	-	-
5 Total Expenses	2,608	2,052
REVENUE		
6 Residential Charges		
a. - Access (including rates)	1,401	1,370
b. - User Charges	1,104	930
7 Non-Residential Charges		
a. - Access (including rates)	-	-
b. - User Charges	11	12
8 Extra Charges	-	-
9 Interest income	195	202
10 Other Income	39	-
10a. - Aboriginal Communities Water & Sewerage Program	-	-
11.a. Grants - Acquisition of Assets	-	1,874
b. - Pensioner Rebates	32	34
c. - Other	400	-
12.a. Contributions - Developer Charges	-	16
b. - Developer Provided Assets	-	-
c. - Other Contributions	-	-
13 Total Revenues	3,182	4,438
14 Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Assets	(5)	-
15 OPERATING RESULT	569	2,386
15a. Operating Result before Grants for Acquisition of Assets	569	512

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL SCHEDULE NO 3 - WATER SUPPLY OPERATIONS (cont)

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
B. CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS		
<u>Non - Operating Expenditure</u>		
16 Acquisition of Fixed Assets		
a. - New assets for improved standards	138	-
b. - New assets for growth	113	5,393
c. - Renewals	271	164
d. - Plant & Equipment	48	-
17 Repayment of Debt		
a. - Loans	53	63
b. - Advances	-	-
c. - Finance Leases	-	-
18 Transfers to Sinking Funds	-	-
19 Total Non-Operating Expenditure	623	5,620
<u>Non-Operating Funds Employed</u>		
20 Proceeds from Disposal of Assets	-	-
21 Borrowings Utilised		
a. - Loans	-	2,355
b. - Advances	-	-
c. - Finance Leases	-	-
22 Transfers from Sinking Funds	-	-
23 Total Non-Operating Funds Employed	-	2,355
C. RATES & CHARGES		
24 Number of Assessments		
a. - Residential (occupied)	2669	
b. - Residential (unoccupied - vacant land)	28	
c. - Non-Residential (occupied)	129	
d. - Non -Residential (unoccupied - vacant land)	22	
25 Number of ETs for which Developer Charges were received	ET	
26 Total Amount of Pensioner Rebates	58 \$'000	
D. BEST PRACTICE ANNUAL CHARGES & DEVELOPER CHARGES		
27 Annual Charges		
a. Does Council have best-practice water supply annual charges and usage charges?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
If Yes, go to 28a.		
If No, has Council removed <u>land value</u> from access charges (i.e. rates)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. Cross subsidy <u>from</u> residential customers using less than allowance		-
c. Cross subsidy <u>to</u> non-residential customers		-
d. Cross subsidy <u>to</u> large connections in unmetered supplies		-
28 Developer Charges		
a. Has Council completed a water supply Development Servicing Plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
b. Total cross-subsidy in water supply developer charges		-
29 TOTAL OF CROSS SUBSIDIES		-

Councils which have not yet implemented best practice water supply pricing should disclose cross subsidies in items 27b, 27c and 27d above. However, disclosure of cross-subsidies is NOT required where a Council has implemented best practice pricing and is phasing in such pricing over a period of 3 years.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL SCHEDULE NO 4 WATER SUPPLY - STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (Gross including Internal Transactions) for the year ended 30 June 2014

	<u>Current</u> \$'000	<u>Non-Current</u> \$'000	<u>Total</u> \$'000
ASSETS			
30 Cash and Investments			
a. - Developer Charges	-	-	-
b. - Specific Purpose Grants	-	-	-
c. - Accrued Leave	-	-	-
d. - Unexpended Loans	-	-	-
e. - Sinking Funds	-	-	-
f. - Other	1,974	2,700	4,674
31 Receivables			
a. - Specific Purpose Grants			-
b. - Rates & Availability Charges	150	-	150
c. - User charges	430	-	430
d. - Other	10	-	10
32 Inventories	-	-	-
33 Property, Plant & Equipment			
a. - System Assets		41,426	41,426
b. - Plant & Equipment		1,468	1,468
34 Other	-	-	-
35 Total Assets	<u>2,564</u>	<u>45,594</u>	<u>48,158</u>
LIABILITIES			
36 Bank Overdraft			-
37 Creditors	167	-	167
38 Borrowings			
a. - Loans	58	4,193	4,251
b. - Advances	-	-	-
c. - Finance Leases	-	-	-
39 Provisions			
- Tax Equivalents	-	-	-
a. - Dividend	-	-	-
b. - Other	-	-	-
40 Total Liabilities	<u>225</u>	<u>4,193</u>	<u>4,418</u>
41 NET ASSETS COMMITTED	<u>2,339</u>	<u>41,401</u>	<u>43,740</u>
EQUITY			
42 Accumulated Surplus			21,150
43 Asset Revaluation Reserve			22,590
44 Total Equity			<u>43,740</u>
45 Current Replacement Cost of System Assets			57,435
46 Accumulated Current Cost Depreciation of System Assets			14,541
47 Written Down Current Cost of System Assets			<u>42,894</u>

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL SCHEDULE NO 5 SEWERAGE SERVICE OPERATIONS (Gross including Internal Transactions) for the year ended 30 June 2014

A. EXPENSES & REVENUES	2014	2013
EXPENSES	\$'000	\$'000
1.a. Management - Administration	214	182
b. - Engineering & Supervision	7	11
2 Operations & Maintenance Expenses		
a. -Mains - Operation Expenses	3	-
b. -Maintenance Expenses	12	7
c. - Pumping Stations - Operation Expenses	2	1
d. - Energy Costs	8	8
e. - Maintenance Expenses	26	55
f. - Treatment - Operation Expenses	12	7
g. - Chemical Costs	-	-
h. - Energy Costs	17	21
i. - Effluent Management	-	-
j. - Biosolids Management	-	-
k. - Maintenance Expenses	200	205
l. - Other - Operation Expenses	12	1
m. - Maintenance Expenses	5	9
3.a. Depreciation - System Assets	170	117
b. - Plant & Equipment	-	54
4.a. Miscellaneous - Interest expense	-	-
b. - Revaluation decrements	-	-
c. - Other	-	-
c. - NCP Tax & Other Equivalents	-	-
d. - Impairment system assets	-	-
e. - Impairment plant and equipment	-	-
f. - Aboriginal Communities Water & Sewerage Program	86	-
5 Total Expenses	774	678
REVENUE		
6 Residential Charges (including rates)	903	874
7 Non-Residential Charges		
a Access (including rates)	103	120
b User Charges	-	-
8 Trade Waste Charges		
a Annual Fees	27	27
b User Charges	-	-
c. Excess Mass Charges	-	-
Re-inspection charges	-	-
9 Extra Charges	-	-
10 Interest income	178	149
11 Other Income	6	-
11a. Aboriginal Communities Water & Sewerage Program	102	-
12.a. Grants - Acquisition of Assets	-	-
b. - Pensioner Rebates	25	26
c. - Other	-	-
13.a Contributions - Developer Charges	-	-
b. - Developer Provided Assets	-	-
c. - Other Contributions	-	4
14 Total Revenues	1,344	1,200
15 Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Assets	-	-
16 OPERATING RESULT	570	522
16.a. Operating Result before Grants for Acquisition of Assets	570	522

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL SCHEDULE NO 5 - SEWERAGE SERVICE OPERATIONS (cont)

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
B. CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS		
<u>Non - Operating Expenditure</u>		
17 Acquisition of Fixed Assets		
a. - New assets for improved standards	-	-
b. - New assets for growth	58	-
c. - Renewals	121	37
d. - Plant & Equipment	-	2
18 Repayment of Debt		
a. - Loans	-	-
b. - Advances	-	-
c. - Finance Leases	-	-
19 Transfers to Sinking Funds	-	-
20 Total Non-Operating Expenditure	<u>179</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>Non-Operating Funds Employed</u>		
21 Proceeds of Disposal of Assets	-	-
22 Borrowings Utilised		
a. - Loans	-	-
b. - Advances	-	-
c. - Finance Leases	-	-
23 Transfers from Sinking Funds	-	-
24 Total Non-Operating Funds Employed	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
C. RATES AND CHARGES		
25 Number of Assessments		
a. - Residential (occupied)	1873	
b. - Residential (unoccupied - vacant land)	8	
c. - Non-Residential (occupied)	184	
d. - Non-Residential (unoccupied - vacant land)	16	
26 Number of ETs for which Developer Charges were	ET	
27 Total Amount of Pensioner Rebates	45 \$'000	
D. BEST PRACTICE ANNUAL CHARGES & DEVELOPER CHARGES		
28 Annual Charges		
Does Council have best-practice sewerage annual charges, usage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
a. charges and trade waste fees and charges?		
If Yes, go to 29a.		
If No, has Council removed land value from access charges (i.e. rates)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. Cross subsidy <u>to</u> non-residential customers		-
c. Cross subsidy <u>to</u> trade waste dischargers		-
29 Developer Charges		
a. Has Council completed a sewerage Development Servicing Plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
b. Total cross-subsidy in sewerage developer charges		-
30 TOTAL OF CROSS SUBSIDIES		-

Councils which have not yet implemented best practice sewerage pricing and trade waste pricing should disclose cross subsidies in items 28b and 28c above. However, disclosure of cross-subsidies is **NOT** required where a Council has implemented best practice sewerage and liquid trade waste pricing and is phasing in such pricing over

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL SCHEDULE NO 6 SEWERAGE SERVICES - STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (Gross including Internal Transactions) for the year ended 30 June 2014

	<u>Current</u> \$'000	<u>Non-Current</u> \$'000	<u>Total</u> \$'000
ASSETS			
31 Cash and Investments			
a. - Developer Charges	-	-	-
b. - Specific Purpose Grants	-	-	-
c. - Accrued Leave	-	-	-
d. - Unexpended Loans	-	-	-
e. - Sinking Funds	-	-	-
f. - Other	1,565	3,000	4,565
32 Receivables			
a. - Specific Purpose Grants	-	-	-
b. - Rates & Availability Charges	91	-	91
c. - User charges	44	-	44
d. - Other	-	-	-
33 Inventories	-	-	-
34 Property, Plant & Equipment			
a. - System Assets	-	26,019	26,019
b. - Plant & Equipment	-	-	-
35 Other	-	-	-
36 Total Assets	<u>1,700</u>	<u>29,019</u>	<u>30,719</u>
LIABILITIES			
37 Bank Overdraft	-	-	-
38 Creditors	127	-	127
39 Borrowings			
a. - Loans	-	-	-
b. - Advances	-	-	-
c. - Finance Leases	-	-	-
40 Provisions			
- Tax Equivalents	-	-	-
a. - Dividend	-	-	-
b. - Other	-	-	-
41 Total Liabilities	<u>127</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>127</u>
42 NET ASSETS COMMITTED	<u>1,573</u>	<u>29,019</u>	<u>30,592</u>
EQUITY			
43 Accumulated Surplus			10,875
44 Asset Revaluation Reserve			19,717
45 Total Equity			<u>30,592</u>
46 Current Replacement Cost of System Assets			28,092
47 Accumulated Current Cost Depreciation of System Assets			2,073
48 Written Down Current Cost of System Assets			<u>26,019</u>

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL SCHEDULE NO 7
CONDITION OF PUBLIC WORKS
as at 30 June 2014

Asset Class	Asset Category	Estimated Cost to bring to a Satisfactory Standard '000	Required Annual Maintenance '000	2013/14 Actual Maintenance '000	Carrying Value '000	Assets in condition # as % of Carrying Value				
						1	2	3	4	5
Public Buildings	Council Offices	25	15	13	2,167	22%	46%	32%	0%	0%
	Works Depot	45	10	8	2,383	16%	32%	27%	25%	0%
	Halls	42	23	12	5,881	22%	16%	34%	21%	7%
	Houses	12	13	1	2,047	60%	40%	0%	0%	0%
	Museum	-	11	29	2,731	90%	10%	0%	0%	0%
	Library	-	6	7	2,539	80%	20%	0%	0%	0%
	Childcare Centres	-	5	5	579	90%	10%	0%	0%	0%
	Art Gallery	-	5	3	1,318	80%	20%	0%	0%	0%
	Amenities/Toilets	50	4	211	14,213	19%	32%	25%	10%	14%
	Subtotal	174	92	289	33,858	36%	27%	20%	10%	7%

Other Structures	Structures not included in buildings	60	30	5	5,659	17%	25%	32%	23%	3%
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Public Roads	Sealed Roads	6,027	4,089	4,738	336,218	43%	35%	17%	4%	1%
	Subtotal	6,027	4,089	4,738	336,218	43%	35%	17%	4%	1%

Water	Dams / Weirs		40	37	13,686	90%	10%	0%	0%	0%
	Mains	550	103	118	13,150	36%	25%	29%	10%	0%
	Reservoirs		12	26	7,630	45%	35%	10%	10%	0%
	Pumping Stations		40	159	920	43%	32%	16%	9%	0%
	Treatment Works			135	2,864	25%	43%	17%	15%	0%
	Subtotal	550	224	480	38,790	56%	23%	13%	7%	0%

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL
SPECIAL SCHEDULE NO 7 - CONDITION OF PUBLIC WORKS (cont)
as at 30 June 2014

Asset Class	Asset Category	Estimated Cost to bring to a Satisfactory Standard '000	Estimated Annual Maintenance Expense '000	2013/14 Actual Maintenance '000	Carrying Value '000	Assets in condition # as % of Carrying Value				
						1	2	3	4	5
Sewerage	Mains	360	13	12	15,666	22%	34%	16%	18%	10%
	Pumping Stations	16	40	26	2,172	32%	19%	22%	24%	3%
	Treatment	25	130	200	6,265	62%	25%	13%	0%	0%
	Other			13	1,548	45%	30%	15%	10%	0%
Subtotal		401	183	251	25,651	34%	30%	16%	14%	6%
Stormwater Drainage	Conduits	120	50	16	10,506	22%	16%	32%	15%	15%
	Inlet & Junction Pits	120	20	2	2,516	22%	16%	32%	15%	15%
	Subtotal	240	70	18	13,022	22%	16%	32%	15%	15%
Total Classes - All Assets		7,452	4,688	5,781	453,198	22%	16%	32%	15%	15%

Infrastructure Asset Condition Assessment

Level	Condition	Description
1	Excellent	No work required (normal maintenance)
2	Good	Only minor maintenance work required
3	Average	Maintenance work required
4	Poor	Renewal required
5	Very poor	Urgent renewal / upgrading required

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

Special Schedule 7 (cont)

REPORT ON INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS as at 30 June 2014

Infrastructure Asset Performance Indicators - Consolidated

	Amounts	2014 Indicators	2013	2012
Building & infrastructure renewals ratio				
Asset renewals (buildings & infrastructure)	<u>6,281</u>			
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment (buildings & infrastructure)	<u>6,301</u>	1:1	0:1	#DIV/0!
Infrastructure backlog				
Estimated cost to bring assets to satisfactory condition	<u>7,452</u>			
Carrying value of infrastructure, building, other structures & depreciable land improvements	<u>453,344</u>	0.02: 1	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Asset maintenance ratio				
Actual asset maintenance	<u>5,781</u>			
Required asset maintenance	<u>4,688</u>	1.23: 1	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Capital expenditure ratio				
Actual capital expenditure	<u>7,796</u>			
Annual depreciation	<u>6,584</u>	1.18: 1	0: 1	#DIV/0!

Infrastructure Asset Performance Indicators - General, Water & Sewer Funds

	Current Year Indicators		
	General	Water	Sewer
* Calculated as for the consolidated indicators shown above.			
Building & infrastructure renewals ratio	1.09: 1	0: 1	#DIV/0!
Infrastructure backlog	0.02: 1	0.01: 1	0.02: 1
Asset maintenance ratio	1.18: 1	2.14: 1	1.37: 1
Capital expenditure ratio	1.23: 1	0.86: 1	0.72: 1

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL SCHEDULE NO 8 - FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS as at 30 June 2014

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m	\$'m
Recurrent Budget											
Income from continuing operations	23	23	27	28	25	26	26	27	28	29	30
Expenses from continuing operations	21	21	22	22	23	23	24	25	25	26	26
Operating result from continuing operations	2	2	5	6	2	3	2	2	3	3	4
Capital Budget											
New Works	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4
Replacement of existing assets	5	11	11	8	6	6	6	6	5	5	5
	-	7	14	11	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Funded by											
- Loans	-	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Asset Sales	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
- Reserves	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
- Grants/Contributions	2	5	5	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
- Recurrent revenue	3	6	6	3	6	5	5	5	5	5	5
- Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	7	14	11	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

Financial projections are in accordance with Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting framework.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL SCHEDULE NO 9 - PERMISSIBLE INCOME for GENERAL RATES as at 30 June 2014

This Schedule is used to confirm Council's compliance with rate-pegging legislation for the "rating years" shown.

The amounts shown here will not reconcile to Note 3 of the Annual Financial Statements as Note 3 includes all rates raised during the reporting period irrespective of the "rating years" to which they relate.

	2013/14 "Rating \$'000	2014/15 "Rating \$'000
Notional General Income Calculation		
Last Year Notional General Income Yield	6,051	6,266
+/- Yield changes arising from valuation adjustments ⁽¹⁾	12	5
Notional General Income	6,063	6,271
Permissible Income Calculation		
Less: expiring special variation amount		(368)
Plus: special variation amount ⁽²⁾		738
or rate peg amount	3.40%	2.30%
or crown land adjustment and rate peg amount	206	
Sub-total	6,269	6,641
Previous year carry forward total	3	3
Less: Income lost due to valuation objections ⁽³⁾ (claimed in the previous year)		
Sub-total	3	3
Total Permissible income	6,272	6,644
Calculation of catch up / excess amount		
Total permissible income	6,272	6,644
General income yield	6,266	6,616
Catch-up or (excess) result ⁽³⁾	6	28
Plus: Income lost due to valuation objections claimed ⁽⁴⁾		
Less: Unused catch-up ⁽³⁾	(3)	-
Carry forward to next year	3	28

Notes

- (1) Changes in valuations are advised as *supplementary valuations* in accordance with the *Valuation of Land Act 1916*.
- (2) A special variation amount includes any crown land adjustment applicable.
- (3) Catch-up amounts may be offset against excess amounts in the next 2 years, after which the entitlement is lost and unused amounts are deducted.
- (4) Successful objections to valuations by landowners usually result in a loss of income to Council, which may relate to multiple "rating years". Council can recoup the lost income irrespective of "rating year" as a one-off adjustment.



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Liverpool Plains Shire City Council

Independent auditor's report to the Council Report on the special purpose financial statements

Report on the financial statement

We were engaged to audit the accompanying financial statements, being special purpose financial statements, of Liverpool Plains Shire Council (the Council), which comprises the Statement of Financial Position by Business Activity for the year ended 30 June 2014, the Income Statements by Business Activity for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements of the business activities identified by Council and the Statement by Councillors and Management for Council for the year ended 30 June 2014.

Councillor's responsibility for the financial statements

The councillors of the Council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. The Councillor's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. However, because of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph below, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an opinion.

Our audit did not involve an analysis of the prudence of business decisions made by Councillors or management.

Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion

The introduction of a new fixed asset register system in the prior year resulted in numerous errors in infrastructure, property, plant and equipment. As at the date of our report, management was still in the process of rectifying the system deficiencies and correcting the errors. We were unable to confirm or verify by alternative means infrastructure, property, plant and equipment included in the statement of financial position at a total amount of \$553,706,000 at 30 June 2014 which represents over 98% of the councils net assets at 30 June 2014. As a result of these matters we were unable to determine whether any adjustments might have been found in respect of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment and the elements impacting the income statement, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows.

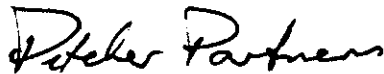


Auditor's opinion

Because of the significance of the matters described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the special purpose financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the special purpose financial statements.

Basis of accounting and restriction on distribution and use

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describe the basis of accounting. The financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's financial reporting responsibilities under the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. As a result, the special purpose financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Council.



Pitcher Partners Newcastle & Hunter



Wayne Russell
Partner

Newcastle
7 November 2014

APPENDIX B

State of Environment Report



State of the Environment Report

2012/2013

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1 Introduction

The State of the Environment (SoE) report is a useful document for informing planning and decision making processes, educating council staff and the community, and as a way of demonstrating accountability to the community. Since the inception of SoE reporting with the introduction of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), the SoE report has become a cornerstone of local government's management and reporting of its natural environment. Recent amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993*, in addition to the implementation of the NSW Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, have necessitated changes to the reporting requirements of the SoE report. As part of this new regime, under Section 428A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, a SoE report is to be included in the annual report of a council in the year of an ordinary election of councillors. This last occurred in September 2012 for the Liverpool Plains Local Government Area (LGA). Furthermore, the SoE report is now required to report on environmental issues that are relevant to the environmental objectives in the Community Strategic Plan (CSP).

The Liverpool Plains Shire Council (LPSC) SoE report considers the vision and commitments undertaken by the council in partnership with the Liverpool Plains community. Accordingly, this report will also assess council's progress in achieving the environmental objectives from the LPSC CSP. The vision and commitments, and environmental goals from the LPSC CSP, are presented below:



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.

Objectives for the Environment (LPSC CSP)

- 1 *to develop strategies that facilitates growth and guides Council towards ecologically sustainability through responsible management of both the natural and built environments*
- 2 *to be recognised as a leader in environmental management*

In accordance with the overarching reporting requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, this report aims to:

- Identify relevant environmental issues in relation to the environmental objectives of the LPSC CSP;
- Establish relevant environmental indicators for each environmental objective, and
- Report on, and update trends in each of the identified environmental indicators, and
- Identify significant activities and events that have a major impact on the environmental objectives from the LPSC CSP.

2 Methodology




In the preparation of this report, six (6) priority environmental themes of biodiversity, land, energy, waste, heritage and natural disasters were selected after a review of the objectives of the LPSC CSP and the strategies from the LPSC Delivery Program (DP). These themes also link with the suggested environmental themes for environmental management from the *State of the Environment Report 2012/2013* (NSW Division of Local Government, 2012).

For each environmental theme, relevant environmental issues have been identified using the Pressure-State-Response Model (OCED, 1993). These environmental issues encompass, for example, the increasing number of threatened and exotic species. Therefore, the Pressure-State-Response Model helps to facilitate consistency in terms of environmental reporting with previous SoE reports and the use of data to update environmental trends.

The Pressure-State-Response Model involves consideration of the following :-

1. **Pressure** – human induced impacts (negative and positive) on the environment ascertained from socio economic and environmental indicators.
2. **State** – reflect the impact of the above pressures by quantifying the condition of the environment of effects on the environment whilst measuring outcomes of strategies and responses.
3. **Response** – specifically highlights planned, collective or individual action in response to indicator outcomes. These responses have been reviewed against the LPSC CSP and Delivery Program.

Furthermore, environmental indicators for each of the environmental objectives in the LPSC CSP have been established in relation to the strategies in the LPSC DP and associated actions in the Operational Plan (OP). Council's performance against the DP and OP for the 2012/2013 financial year is illustrated through the following symbols:

	Completed/on track
	Commenced/progressing
	Not completed

3 Our Shire

The Liverpool Plains Shire is located in the northwest of NSW approximately halfway between Sydney and Brisbane. The Liverpool Plains is home to the Kamilaroi people. Many small towns are spread throughout the Shire including; Premer, Spring Ridge, Currabubula, Wallabadah, Pine Ridge, Mount Parry, Ardglen, Caroona, Walhallow, Tamarang, Colly Blue, Bundella, Yarraman, Blackville, Old Warrah and Piallaway. Quirindi is the largest population centre providing the majority of the region's administrative, commercial, industrial and retail functions. Werris Creek and Willow Tree are smaller settlements, providing for the basic needs of local and surrounding populations.

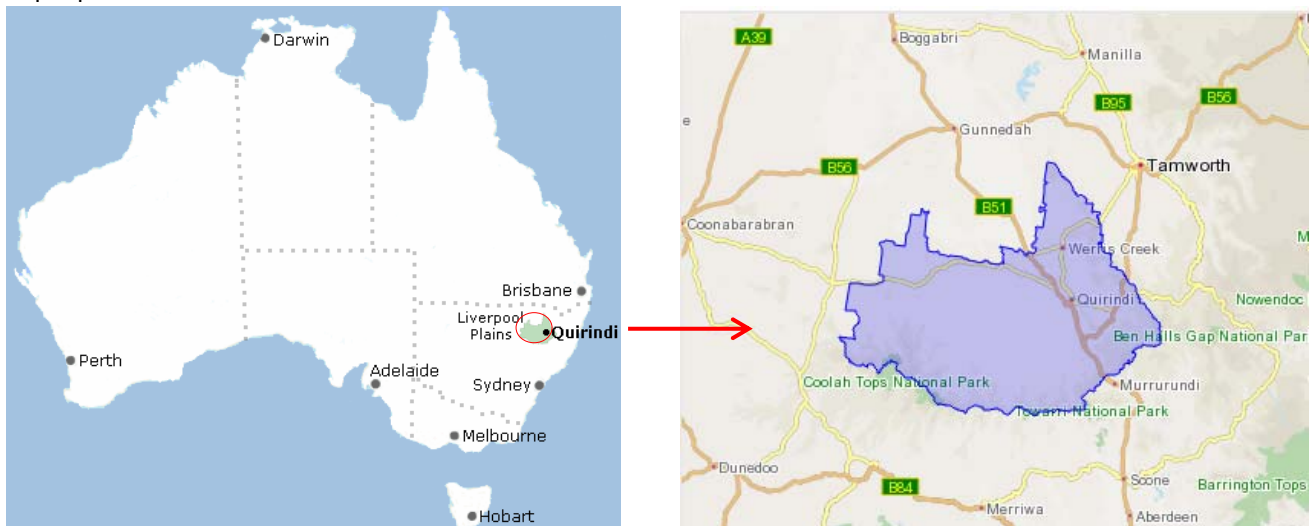


Figure 1. Location of the Liverpool Plains LGA.

The Shire is located within the foothills of the Great Dividing Range and features a varied topography. The LGA is one of the most productive agricultural regions in Australia due to the prevalence of rich volcanic soils throughout the plains. These valuable agricultural lands support seasonal rotations of sunflowers, sorghum, canola, corn, lucerne, barley and wheat. Portions of the region are also located within the Sydney-Gunnedah coal basin, which is currently NSW's largest coal resource.

To find out more about the Liverpool Plains visit Council's website
www.lpsc.nsw.gov.au

3.1 Population

Liverpool Plains Shire features three major urban settlements, Quirindi, Werris Creek and Willow Tree with an estimated total regional population of 7,480 (ABS Census of Population, 2011). This estimate is a reduction on the previous year's estimate of 7,540 indicating a small reduction in population numbers. However, with recent developments in the mining industry, it is anticipated that population levels will be maintained and a modest population increase will be experienced in the short to medium term (5 to 10 years). Furthermore, it is anticipated that increased mining resource activity will facilitate the demand for temporary or permanent accommodation, mining-related goods and services, and encourage new development. However, as outlined in the *Environmental Management Strategy for the Liverpool Plains* (NSW Government, 2012), the expected development associated with the rapid growth of the mining resource industry in the region will be constrained by issues such as accommodation availability, and land and water supply.

3.2 Geology

The Liverpool Plains Shire is composed of various landforms. These range from rugged country on the ranges to rolling hills, sedimentary slopes and open flood plains. Each aspect of the landform supports a unique ecosystem. These include, for example, the grassland ecosystem associated with the major lava field of the Liverpool Range. Weathering of the Tertiary Basalt forming the ranges has created the highly fertile black cracking clays of the Liverpool Plains. These soils support valuable dry land and irrigation cropping, pasture grazing, and intensive livestock industries.

4 Environmental Themes

4.1 Biodiversity

4.1.1 Pressure

The Liverpool Plains LGA encompasses flat open plains to the north and west that extend into steep and undulating foothills to the east and south. As a result, there are a wide range of landscapes, soil types, geological formations and habitats present throughout the region. These ecosystems are under constant threat from activities, such as farming and development. For example, there are currently no plans to allow powerboat access to the Quipolly Dam for recreational purposes. However, should this occur the current prevalence of bird life (both temporary and permanent,) may be

Threatened habitat is also increasingly under pressure from pest and weed invasion as well as damage from exotic species and feral animals.

4.1.2 State

The Liverpool Plains Biodiversity Strategy, which was prepared by Eco Logical Pty Ltd in 2010, outlines the biodiversity assets in the Liverpool Plains region. The following table provides a summary of key biodiversity assets:

Table 1. Summary of Flora and Fauna in the Liverpool Plains region.

Ecosystems	There is a variety of ecosystems within the Liverpool Plains LGA ranging from river floodplain and aquatic ecosystems to the forested foothills of the Great Dividing Range.
Vegetation Communities	25 distinct vegetation communities have been classified, 8 of which are classified as endangered under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act).
Flora	Two species of vascular plants are present in the Liverpool Plains LGA are listed under the NSW Legislation (TSC Act). There are three species that are matters of National Environmental Significance under Commonwealth legislation along with 7 other threatened species that may or are likely to occur in the LGA.

Fauna	<p>Nineteen NSW-listed threatened bird species have been recorded in Liverpool Plains, one of which is also listed as Threatened and one listed as Migratory under Commonwealth legislation (EPBC Act).</p> <p>There have been 20 NSW-listed mammal species recorded in the Liverpool Plains LGA; three of these are listed as Threatened under the EPBC Act. Three other nationally Threatened mammal species may or are also likely to occur in the area.</p> <p>Under the EPBC Act there is also 1 threatened frog, 1 threatened fish and 2 threatened reptile species that may or are likely to occur in the Liverpool Plains LGA. One of the reptile species has been recorded and is also listed as threatened under NSW legislation.</p>
-------	---




(Source: Eco Logical Pty Ltd).

Furthermore, the African Boxthorn was listed as a Weed of National Significance during the reporting period. A notable infestation of Alligator Weed also occurred along the Peel River and was monitored appropriately.

4.1.3. Response

In accordance with the goals of the CSP, the listed strategies in the DP and the actions in the OP, the LPSC has undertaken the following activities as outlined in Table 2. Furthermore, LPSC Weed Officers continue to provide an essential service under the *Local Government Act 1993*. As a part of this service, a general environmental weed awareness campaign that is underpinned by support from the NSW Department of Primary Industries. The LPSC is the nominated Local Control Authority (LCA), which oversees the control of noxious weeds for the Liverpool Plains LGA. Council employs two (2) full time weeds officers who undertake property inspections, control work on Crown Land and the land for which Council has responsibility.

Table 2. Council's Performance against Strategy 2.1 of the DP.

Delivery Program Strategy 2.1		Support and develop programs which protect and enhance the Shire's natural environment and 'rural' character	
Operational Plan Actions 2013/14 – 2016/17	Environmental Indicator	Comments:	Status
2.1.1 Undertake creek clearing projects	Projects undertaken, health of rivers and creeks improved	Eight creek riparian zone rehabilitation projects, such as Henry Street Bridge, have been successfully undertaken by Council in the 2012 to 2013 financial year. These projects were achieved through a two stage process. Physical and spatial connectivity has been facilitated between sites to achieve a satisfactory standard of rehabilitation that enabled easy maintenance and encouraged the propagation of native species for future rehabilitation.	
2.1.2 Seek grant funding opportunities	Grants received	Council has prepared two grant funding applications from mining resource companies under their community enhancement funding programs. In total, these applications are seeking approximately \$300,000 to finance the rehabilitation of three urban riparian zones in Quirindi, Wallabadah and Werris Creek.	
2.1.4 Undertake statutory functions in weed control	People made aware of new and emerging weeds	An African Boxthorn awareness media campaign was launched to draw attention to the inclusion of the species as a Weeds of National Significance (WoNS).	

4.2 Land

4.2.1 Pressure

Land management is considered to be one of the most important issues currently concerning the Liverpool Plains LGA. The key issues impacting on land resources in the Shire are associated with:

- The development and extraction of coal resources in the Liverpool Plains and Gunnedah LGA's;
- Competition between agricultural activities and the development of coal resources on the fringes of the fertile Liverpool Plains;
- Soil degradation, erosion and salinity because of unsustainable farming practices and environmental factors;
- Soil contamination from competing land uses; and
- Supply of land for various purposes, such as residential, agriculture, commercial and industrial

4.2.2 State

4.2.2.1 Salinity

The economic and environmental impacts of salinity predominantly occur on agricultural land. However, salinity also affects infrastructure, such as roads and buildings. Salinity in rivers and creeks can also potentially have an adverse impact on ecological systems and reduce biodiversity.

According to the Namoi CMA, the Liverpool Plains region is somewhat exposed to issues arising from salinity; however, they are not considered to be significant at this time. Recent developments to agricultural land management practices, including the introduction of drip irrigation systems, have greatly improved soil condition in the region. The long term impacts of salinity have also been reduced with the ongoing monitoring of groundwater tables.

4.2.2.2 Erosion

The impacts of erosion, which occurs when land has been disturbed or where water has concentrated over time, can be far reaching. If left unchecked, decreased water quality, biodiversity decline and reduced land use potential are just some of the potential negative effects.

4.2.2.3 Land supply

The Liverpool Plains Local Environmental Plan 2011 (LPLEP2011) and the Liverpool Plains Development Control Plan 2012 (LPDCP2012) are the primary planning instruments to guide development in the region. Both of these planning instruments help to protect and enhance the Shire's natural environment and rural character. Residential, commercial and industrial land monitoring has been recently completed by the LPSC in conjunction with the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

4.2.2.4 Mining

In 2006, the State Government awarded BHP Billiton a 5 year exploration license to explore coal resources over ELA 6505. This exploration licence embraces an area of approximately 344 square kilometres surrounding the township of Caroonah. The ELA site also transverses the boundary of the Gunnedah and Liverpool Plains shires. This exploration license was renewed, with conditions, in 2011.

Residents and landholders within the ELA have raised various social and environmental concerns. These include:

- Impacts on aquifers
- Impacts on flooding
- Loss of prime agricultural land
- Social impacts
- Impacts on infrastructure
- Climate change
- The sustainability of mining
- Mining on a floodplain; and
- Impact of any mining substance

The Minister for Primary Industries has established the Caroonah Coal Consultative Committee (www.caroonacoalcc.com.au) whose purpose is to provide a forum for open discussion between BHP Billiton (www.bhpbilliton.com.au), the appointed community representatives, other interested stakeholders and relevant Government stakeholders.

Furthermore, the shire's natural environment and 'rural' character is also protected through the development assessment process. Any application for

development must be subject to a comprehensive and rigorous Environmental Assessment process that identifies impacts so as to achieve the Namoi Catchment Management Plan Target “*Environmentally Sustainable Land Use for the Future*”, being:

- A healthy resource base capable of providing ecological sustainability and productive outcomes
- A viable community sharing growth and access to services; and
- Socially satisfied communities with minimal conflict and providing opportunities for people of all backgrounds
- Consultation is continuing via the Caroona Coal Consultative Committee and recent updates of new developments and information release can be obtained from (www.caroonacoalcc.com.au)

4.2.3 Response

Tables 3 -5 report on the progress of the LPSC in achieving the environmental objectives in the CSP through implementation of the DP and OP for the 2012/2013 reporting period. In addition to this information, the LPSC undertakes erosion mitigation activities at gully heads and roadside areas as required for managing and reducing potential erosion impacts.

Table 3. Council's Performance against the Strategy 2.1 of the DP.


Delivery Program Strategy 2.1 Support and develop programs which protect and enhance the Shire's natural environment and 'rural' character			
Operational Plan Actions 2013/14 – 2016/17	Environmental Indicator	Comments:	Status
2.1.1 Ensure LEP and DCP protect rural areas	LEP and DCP adequately protect the environment, rural character maintained	Both the Liverpool Plains Local Environmental Plan 2011 (LPLEP 2011) and the Liverpool Plains Development Control Plan 2012 (LPDCP 2012) contain provisions that help to protect and enhance the Shire's natural environment and rural character. For example, Clause 4.2A in the LPLEP 2011 regulates the construction of dwellings in certain rural, residential and environmental protection zones. Clause 4.2A aims to minimise unplanned rural residential development and to enable the replacement of lawfully erected dwelling houses within specified zones. Together with State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPP), such as the SEPP Rural Lands (2008), the LPLEP 2011 and LPDCP 2012 are effectively protecting rural areas.	

Table 4. Council's Performance against Strategy 2.6 of the DP.





Delivery Program Strategy 2.6		Ensure the importance of the black soil Liverpool Plains to agricultural production and wealth of the Shire, Region and State will be recognised	
Operational Plan Actions 2013/14 – 2016/17	Environmental Indicator	Comments:	Status
2.6.1 Advocate for greater protection of black soil plains and water aquifer from mining and gas extraction Encourage sustainable farming and technologies	Mining and gas approvals do not allow encroachment on the black soil plains Aquifers protected	Council has advocated for the protection of vital agricultural and existing natural resources throughout the reporting period. Various submissions to the NSW State Government in respect of a broad range of policy matters. These include an Aquifer Interference Policy, New England and North West Strategic Land Use Plan, and amendments to State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007. Submissions have also been made on the Watermark EIS.	

Table 5. Council's Performance against Strategy 2.2 of the DP.

Delivery Program Strategy 2.2		Ensure that environmental and development standards satisfy community needs and aspirations	
Operational Plan Actions 2013/14 – 2016/17	Environmental Indicator	Comments:	Status
2.2.2 Council will review its LEP every 5 years	LEP reviewed every 5 years	Scheduled review of the LPLEP 2011 is midway through available five year operation period. Specific areas of the LPLEP 2011 have been identified for closer scrutiny in 2015. This process is also largely dependent on progress with the NSW planning reform program being delivered by the NSW State Government.	
2.2.2 The development control plan will be reviewed and implemented to provide guidance for the sustainable development of the Shire	DCP reviewed	The LPDCP 2012 was introduced in May 2012 and complements the LPLEP 2011. Progressive review of the adequacy and suitability of planning controls, and associated standards, of the DCP is being undertaken.	
	Level of community satisfaction in surveys for management of development	Community education activities, such as post meeting press releases, have been undertaken in order to assist community understanding of the purpose and role of the LPDCP 2012. The biannual community surveys are beginning to reflect this improved level of community knowledge.	

4.3 Natural disasters

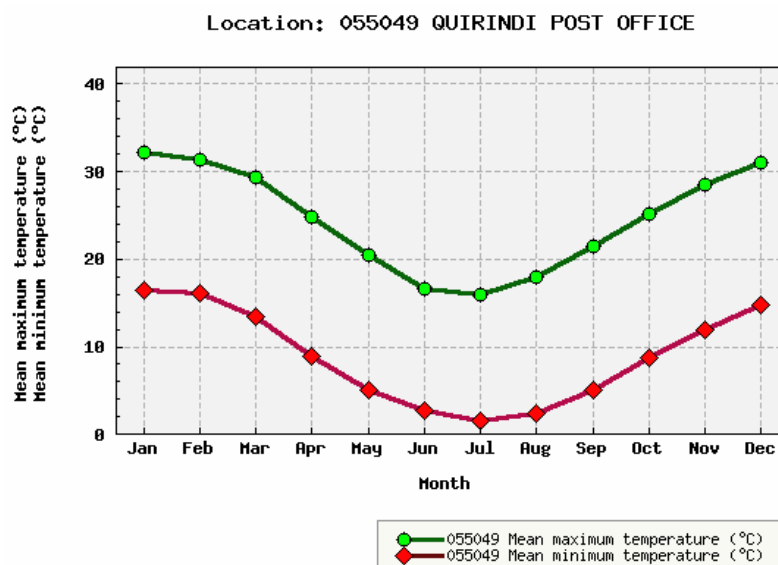
4.3.1 Pressure

Natural disasters can include floods, severe storms, bushfires, droughts, heat waves, earthquakes and tsunamis. With a sizeable area of the Liverpool Plains LGA being prone to bushfires or flooding, natural disasters are an important issue concerning the safety of residents and viability of industries in the region. Moreover, academic literature is increasingly suggesting that the incidence and intensity of extreme weather events is likely to increase if global warming induced climate change continues into the future (IPCC, 2007).

4.3.2 State

4.3.2.1 Climate

The Liverpool Plains Shire experiences a temperate climate with summer dominant rainfall. The annual rainfall recorded for 2012 was 612mm with significant falls over the summer months (Bureau of Meteorology, 2013). The average daily maximum temperature is 24.6 C. The average daily minimum temperature is 8.9 C. In addition, the region is prone to drought, bushfire and flooding; however, losses to life, property and/or livestock are relatively rare.



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Figure 2. Mean maximum and minimum temperatures for Quirindi.

4.3.2.2 Drought and Floods

The NSW Department of Industry and Investment produces monthly drought maps based on information provided by 14 Livestock Health and Pest Authorities around the state, rainfall data from the Bureau of Meteorology and reports from the Department of Primary Industries.

Drought classification of an area takes into account the following factors:

- Pasture availability
- Climate events, such as frosts; and
- Seasonal factors such as pasture growing seasons

The drought maps presented below (refer to Figures 3 and 4) illustrate notable drying across the northern half of NSW from June 2012 to December 2012. The Central North area was drought declared in November 2009 but has gradually fluctuated between satisfactory/marginal conditions until December 2012.

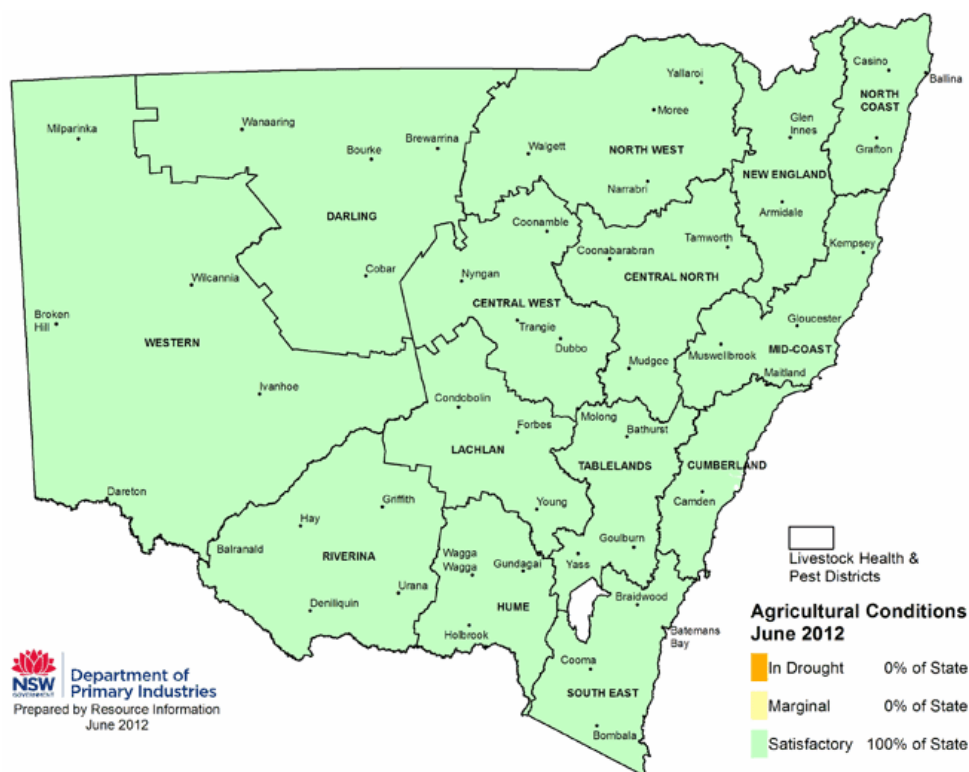


Figure 3. Drought Map June 2012.

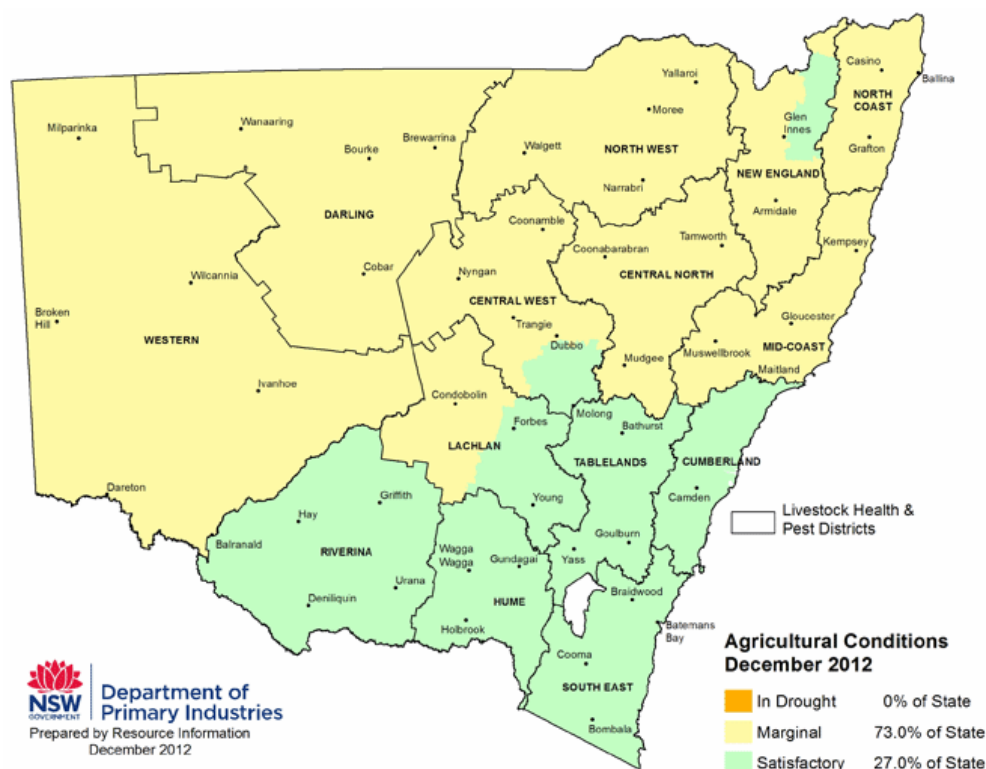




Figure 4. Drought Map December 2012.

4.3.3 Response

As Table 6 illustrates, emergency services in the Liverpool Plains LGA continue to receive annual operational support from the LPSC. Some key upcoming priorities will be the development and review of a modern EMPlan, and the completion of community surveys.

In accordance with recommendations by Council's insurer, Statewide Pty Ltd, additional review and analysis tools have been incorporated into Council's development assessment and planning systems. The application of industry best practice, commensurate with community education in respect of the implications of climate change, will go some way to ensuring that the Liverpool Plains community is in a better position to cope with the unpredictable effects and implications of climate change.

Table. 6 Council's performance against Strategy 2.3 of the DP.

Delivery Program Strategy 2.3 Assist in the provision of infrastructure and resources associated with the emergency services requirements of The Shire			
Operational Plan Actions 2013/14 – 2016/17	Environmental Indicator	Comments:	Status
2.3.1 Provision of funding and accommodation in annual operational plans for the RFS, VRA and SES	Level of community satisfaction in surveys for emergency services compared to benchmark	Identified community services organisations, such as the Rural Fire Service (RFS), continue to receive annual operational support from Council. Community satisfaction indicators continue to show positive trends and inter-organisational corporation level are high.	
2.3.2 A comprehensive emergency management response and capacity plan will be developed through the EMPlan	EMPlan developed and reviewed in conjunction with agencies, such as NSW FB, NSW RFS, SES, VRA, Police and Department of Health.	The current DISPlan is still operational and will be converted to a modern EMPlan by June 2014 when the template framework model is released for use by the LPSC Local Emergency Management Committee.	

4.5 Energy


4.5.1 Pressure

The consumption of non-renewable energy resources places significant pressure on the environment, not only from the manufacturing and distribution of goods, but throughout the life-cycle of a product. Pressure on the environment occurs throughout the production, use and disposal of resources. Population growth has also substantially increased the environmental impacts associated with the use of non-renewable energy resources, and often significantly influences the cost and supply of products.

4.5.2 Response

Table 7 outlines Council's achievements in using resources wisely to reduce its ecological footprint.

Table. 7 Council's performance against Strategy 2.4 of the DP.

Delivery Program Strategy 2.4 Council uses its resources wisely to reduce its ecological footprint			
Operational Plan Actions 2013/14 – 2016/17	Environmental Indicator	Comments:	Status
2.4.1 Implement results of water, waste and energy audits from Namoi towards a sustainable future project when funding permits	Council's ecological footprint	The sustainable future project was reduced in its areas of investigation and practical implementation due to insufficient funding. Areas of water, waste and energy efficiency that were identified in the project have been progressively applied to Council's built assets. For example, solar hot water systems have been installed at the Werris Creek and Quirindi swimming pools, and the Quirindi showground.	

4.6 Waste

4.6.1 Pressure

LPSC measured approximately 465 tonnes of recyclable waste in 2012/2013. This statistic is expected to increase commensurate with population growth driven from the mining resource sector across the region. With this projected increase in the supply and demand of goods and services, Council has implemented strategies, contracts and actions to ensure public amenity is maintained to a high level, as demand on all resources inevitably increases across the region.

Illegal dumping has also been a recurrent and problematic issue across the Liverpool Plains LGA during the reporting period.

4.6.2 State

LPSC promotes recycling and waste minimisation. Council encourages residents to compost food scraps and other decomposable materials for use in their own garden via an ongoing community education campaign.

Council operates a contract agreement with JR Richard's & Sons for kerb side waste collection and recycling services throughout the region. The Quirindi Aboriginal Corporation also undertakes site management at the Quirindi landfill and operates a recycling business.

Council's waste management activities and programs for the 2012/2013 financial year are listed in Table 8.

Table 8. Waste generation LPSC.

Waste Category	Total Waste (tonnes)
Municipal solid waste (MSW)	2895.58
Commercial and industrial waste	23
Construction and demolition waste	815
TOTAL	3733.59

Table. 9 Waste reduction programs for LPSC.

Details of Program	Household/Persons
Kerbside collection of co-mingled recyclables	2723
Annual bulky waste collection	2609
Drum MUSTER (chemical storage recycling)	Shire-wide
Chemical collection	Shire-wide
Used oil collection	Shire-wide

4.6.3 Response

Within the CSP, the LPSC has identified three key actions to help to ensure that best practice principles are adopted for waste management and recycling. Council's progress in achieving the environmental objectives of the CSP are summarised in Table 8.

In addition, the LPSC has undertaken a pilot program within the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) Contaminated Land Management Program to address contamination from derelict Underground Petroleum Storage System (UPSS) sites. A UPSS site in Wallabadah was selected for the pilot program with remediation works commencing during the reporting period.

Table. 10 Council's performance against Strategy 2.7 of the Delivery Program.

Delivery Program Strategy 2.7 Ensure best practice principles are adopted for waste management and recycling			
Operational Plan Actions 2013/14 – 2016/17	Environmental Indicator	Comments:	Status
2.7.1 Expand waste resource services and facilities	Consider and determine the introduction of green waste bins	Results from the March 2013 LPSC Community Research Report revealed that only 28% of residents in the Liverpool Plains Local Government Area were interested in an additional fortnightly green waste bin at an annual cost of \$110.	✓
	Level of community satisfaction in surveys and compared to benchmarks		✗
2.7.2 Increase education to community on benefit of recycling	Education program implemented	A Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery School Education program held during 17 th – 21 st September 2012. All schools in the Shire were invited to participate. Presentations were held at Blackville Public, St Joseph's Primary, Walhallow Public, Premer Public, Quirindi Public and Werris Creek Public. The presentations were well received and will become an annual component of the Waste Education program.	✓

	Waste to Art (Waste Art) Program Implemented	The Waste Art competition resulted in a well-supported and publicised awards presentation. The focus of the education program through our waste contractors continues to be implemented in local primary and secondary schools.	✓
2.7.3 Develop a waste management strategy	Waste management strategy developed	Necessary components of the waste management strategy are well advanced with individual management plans being prepared for both smaller rural landfill sites and the three major urban landfill sites. The overall strategy showing interactions between those sites and the two transfer stations are scheduled for completion by 2014.	↻

4.7 Heritage

4.7.1. Indigenous and Historic (European Cultural) Heritage – Pressure

Both Indigenous and historic heritage may be threatened by development and/or a lack of appropriate management and awareness. The key threats to historic heritage in the Liverpool Plains Shire include:

- Land use conflict
- Development
- Road and other infrastructure upgrades; and
- Community awareness

Under Section 86(4) of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1981*, it is an offence to harm or desecrate a designated Aboriginal place or Aboriginal artefact. Harm includes destroying, defacing or damaging an Indigenous heritage item or place.

4.7.2 Indigenous and historic Heritage – State

Development on sites of Indigenous and historic heritage significance has the potential to be permanently harmed and contribute to the deterioration of the heritage in the region. In 2009, 65 artefacts and/or significant places of Indigenous heritage were recorded throughout the Liverpool Plains LGA. In comparison, 104 historic heritage items were recorded in the Shire.

4.7.3 Response

Table 9 outlines Council's progress towards retaining, restoring and protecting features of the Shire's heritage. In addition to the listed actions in Table 9, the LPSC strives to protect the Shire's heritage through:

- Mapping heritage items and sites as part of the LPLEP2011 process;
- Local heritage funding as an incentive to maintain buildings with historical, cultural and heritage value that adds to the ambience, character and amenity of our built environment;

Table. 11 Council's performance against Strategy 2.5 of the DP.

Delivery Program Strategy 2.5 Council will work for the retention, restoration and protection of the Shire's heritage			
Operational Plan Actions 2013/14 – 2016/17	Environmental Indicator	Comments:	Status
2.5.1 Complete a community heritage plan	Heritage Plan completed	The Heritage Plan has been completed, adopted and advertised accordingly by Council. The Werris Creek Main Street Study has also been completed.	✓
	Obtain funding for a shire wide Aboriginal Heritage Study	Preliminary investigations undertaken; however, project constrained due to resource constraints	✗

5 Summary of Environmental Trends

Table 12. Environmental Trend Summary

Environmental Issue	Trend	Comments
Biodiversity	Increasing	Continuing pressures from development, exotic species and environmental conditions
Land	Increasing	Continuing pressures on demand and supply of resources as development continues across the region
Natural disasters	Increasing	Continuing threats from bushfires and flooding
Energy	Increasing	Reducing Council's ecological footprint is an important concern for sustainability
Waste	Increasing	Waste recycling is paramount to sustainability and population pressures
Heritage	Steady	Increasing vigilance and recognition of heritage items through planning instruments is helping their long term protection and management

6 Conclusion

To a large extent, the LPSC has commenced the specified DP strategies and OP actions to achieve the environmental objectives from the LPSC CSP. However, due to the limited resources, LPSC has prepared this SoE report with information and data available at the time. Absent data has been noted for inclusion in future SoE Reports, enabling Council to detail environmental trends occurring within the Shire through various environmental indicators and to measure Council's achievements in addressing the environmental

objectives of the CSP.

7 Where to from here

An environmental monitoring program on key performance indicators should be continued in coming years. This will help to demonstrate Council's accountability to the community as a leader of environmental management, and make the compiling of data for the next End of Term and SoE report easier.

The opportunity also exists to for Council to engage with other relevant organisations in the region to develop a system of monitoring, evaluation and reporting that involves collaboration across various levels (local/regional/state). For example, the LPSC participated in the 2007/08 Namoi Regional State of the Environment Report. Therefore, it is recommended that Council investigates the option of participating in another regional state of the environment-type review to help inform the CSP.

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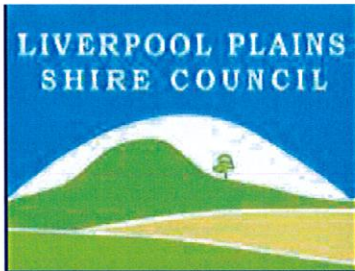
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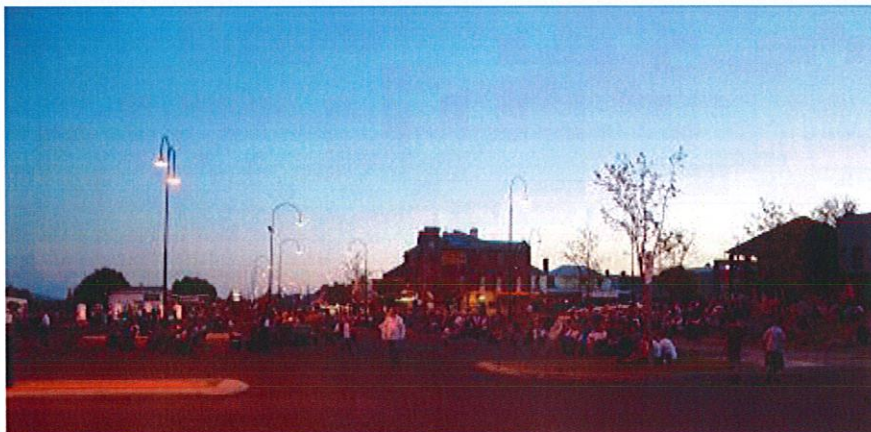
APPENDIX C

Social Plan, Cultural Plan and Disability Action Plan



Liverpool Plains Shire Council Social Plan

2010-15



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

HOW WELL ARE THE SOCIAL NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY BEING MET?

The social needs of people living in the Liverpool Plains Shire are being well met. Long-term residents are generally happy with the services and facilities available across the Shire. People are positive about the towns and villages and believe in their future. Families are being drawn to the Shire because it offers an affordable alternative to city living. Many self funded retirees are making the area their home, bypassing the lure of the more expensive coastal regions. The prospect of new industry and jobs is also expected to bring workers and their families to the area. The Shires proximity to the major regional centre of Tamworth, and access to specialist medical services, schools, shopping centres and employment are providing further incentives for people to locate to the Shire. Overall, existing and new residents are recognizing the benefits of living in the Liverpool Plains Local Government Area.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council and the local community need to plan for the future. The people of the Shire must continue to strive towards achieving their vision of higher levels of growth, quality of life and expanded opportunities for economic and social development within the framework of ecological sustainability. Access, equity and social issues are integral to this vision.

PRIORITY NEEDS

Many of the needs identified in this plan are not strictly social issues. Rural communities have many economic and environmental challenges to overcome. It would be short sighted and counter productive to isolate any one of these issues from the other.

Similarly, some of the actions and needs identified in this report are not strictly a Council responsibility. However, Council is committed to act as a facilitator for the provision of new and expanded services. This will involve exploring new funding opportunities, lobbying for appropriate legislation, developing new networks, and stimulating economic growth and prosperity in the Shire.

The action plans in Section 5 of this report details the role Council can take and highlights the respective community and government partnerships required to facilitate change.

KEY STRATEGIES

Provide Recreational Opportunities

Meeting the needs of younger people is a high priority. Council is aware that keeping younger people engaged and involved in the community can help them to develop into caring and responsible adults.

Opportunities afforded from facilities such as the Quirindi Recreation Centre continue to provide new social and recreational activities for younger people, particularly those less than 18 years of age.

Council is committed to developing sporting/recreational facilities across the Shire. The development of a walking path, cycleway and skate park are all initiatives that will improve the amenities available for youth to pursue leisure activities. Council is endeavouring to construct shade sails in all parks and sporting ovals throughout the Shire.

Indigenous Access to the Community

The Aboriginal community must have access to the economic resources and services essential to meeting their basic needs and improving quality of life. The employment of a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) is one way the Aboriginal Community can increase opportunities for participation and consultation on local issues. This will ensure that cultural considerations are integrated into the broader community. Walhallow's inclusion into the Liverpool Plains Local Government Area as a result of amalgamation has magnified the need for this role.

Council can facilitate the employment of a Community Liaison Officer by the Aboriginal Community.

Community Development & Participation

Community development requires the engagement and participation of all sectors of the population. Liverpool Plains Shire Council has continued to engage the community through facilitation and the provision of scholarships, grants, information resources and various employment opportunities.

There is a need for stronger volunteer participation within the community. Too few individuals currently maintain the many voluntary roles that are available. The majority of volunteers within the community generally belong to the 'older persons' demographic and very little recruitment of younger people is occurring.

Stronger community-driven leadership will encourage participation from organisations and individuals to contribute to the Shire in a more positive and productive way.

Maintain Health Care Services at current levels

Liverpool Plains Shire has continued to maintain a high level of Health Care Services, whilst many other communities throughout the State have experienced a gradual decline. Quirindi is well served by three (3) Doctors and three (3) Dentists.. The hospital has a 24-hour Emergency Department.

The Community is continuing to build on the current level of services whilst building partnerships with Hunter New England Health and other health agencies, to provide opportunities for improved Health Care. Construction of HealthOne in Quirindi will commence in February 2010.

The construction of the Werris Creeks Multi Purpose Centre has been initiated and this will have very positive benefits to Werris Creek people.

Maintain Home & Community Care Services (HACC)

Liverpool Plains Shire Council has proudly supported the HACC program over a number of years, a service that provides social support for the less independent within the community. The HACC Program is a joint Commonwealth/State program that provides help to frail aged people, younger people with disabilities and their carers so they can remain at home and avoid inappropriate or premature admission to residential care. Council will continue to promote, maintain and build on the services currently provided by HACC. Council's commitment to the expansion of HACC services has resulted in the opening of the Willow Tree HACC Outreach Centre three days per week. Willow Tree HACC will eventually be housed in the new Interpretive Centre which will be in operation early in 2010. It is hoped that the Community of Currabubula will be the next centre to benefit from the presence of a HACC service in their community. Council has also purchased the former ambulance house which will be refurbished and converted to the new HACC office for the residents of Quirindi.

Increase cultural opportunities

While the Shires sporting needs are extremely well met and various cultural activities exist, there is room for improvement. Two specific examples include:

- (1) The Royal Theatre is currently undergoing extensive renovation and will be an important cultural centre for the community. This will be the major venue for community celebrations, presentations, live performance as well as a cinema.
- (2) Promoting multicultural events and multiculturalism in the community. Council will carefully monitor new settlers to identify any emerging population sub-groups requiring particular recognition.

Promote natural resource management and build on the Shire's environmental record

Liverpool Plains Shire Council has implemented progressive natural resource management projects, standing up as a regional leader in the promotion of Landcare and river restoration projects. Given the rural nature of the shire, and the close links between the natural environment, economic prosperity and social well being, Council will continue to strengthen these existing initiatives, through ongoing and active partnerships with the Namoi Catchment Management Authority.

Regenesis is a joint initiative of Sister Cities, Blacktown City Council and Liverpool Plains Shire Council. The NSW Environmental trust has granted this alliance \$2 million to establish the Regenesis project. The partnership will allow for large tracts of public and privately owned land to be utilized for biodiversity plantings and carbon storage. Regenesis revegetation projects are planted in accordance with accredited carbon trading requirements. Through the Regenesis project, those with the carbon sequestration rights on the planted land will receive carbon certificates that have a dollar value and are tradable. Regenesis will operate through the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme once that scheme is operational. Regenesis funding has also allowed Liverpool Plains Shire Council to develop a biodiversity strategy to assist Council's planning functions.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council will work closely with BHP, landholders and relevant Government bodies to ensure that all mining exploration is carried out without any disruption to farming practices or to the detriment of the land or the water tables beneath the land.

BHP is currently contributing towards a water study to look at the interconnectivity of the aquifers. Landholders and community members are also concerned about mining effects on dust levels and subsidence.

Chinese mining company Shenhua will also have an impact on the Liverpool Plains although it is not within the shire. Shenhua has been granted an exploration licence to search for coal however the company will be dealing with Gunnedah Shire Council.

Santos has commenced coal seam gas exploration in the Shire.

The Green is the New Black project will engage auditors for waste water and electricity and then implement measures to reduce the amounts generated

Maintain 'Aged Care' facilities and Services

Quirindi Retirement Homes Ltd has constructed the "Eloura" Aged Care facility. This is a 90 bed retirement home with a dedicated dementia wing. The home is constructed in the Quirindi Hospital grounds.

The community must ensure that a range of Aged Care facilities and services are provided for the aging population, particularly a choice of residential living opportunities.

Home & Community Care (HACC) will continue to provide a range of services to the aged population including:

- Transport services via a car to Tamworth or Newcastle for medical appointments;
- Medical bus to Tamworth;
- Bus to Tamworth Hydrotherapy pool;
- Shopping access transport; and
- Monthly shopping/medical access bus from Premer to Tamworth.
- Respite to carers.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Release new land to meet future demands associated with the town's growth

Quirindi and Werris Creek, like many other regional centres, are experiencing a boom with demand far outweighing supply. There is a critical shortage of rental accommodation and this is an issue for potential new residents. Council is reviewing the Liverpool Plains Shire Local Environmental Plan (LEP) which will allow for the release of new land for residential and industrial expansion however this is possibly two years away. The residential streetscape in Quirindi and Werris Creek are both important initiatives that will continue over the next five years.

Commercial accommodation within the Shire is particularly limited and there is a pressing need for the development of at least one new motel.

Promotion of local produce

Quirindi has had a marked increase in the number of restaurants opening. A new café and pizzeria has recently opened and several of the hotels have engaged chefs who are providing good quality meals at a reasonable price. Council encourages all new enterprises and hopes that locals support these new businesses.

Promote Quirindi as a centre of equine sporting excellence

The Liverpool Plains Shire is recognised as a place of sporting excellence, offering a range of high quality sporting grounds and facilities. The Shire is in a good position to market the regions sporting lifestyle opportunities. For example, many of the traditional horse areas of the Upper Hunter have increased in popularity, making it difficult for newcomers to purchase land due to inflated real estate prices. Quirindi's close proximity to the Hunter, its sensible real estate prices, and the Shires generous provision of equine facilities, make it a sound alternative to the latter.

The Shires' reputation for equine and sporting excellence has the potential to attract new people with new skills, ideas, professions and social interests.

Maintain position of Community Services Coordinator

A Community Services Coordinator (CSO) is required by LPSC to facilitate the further expansion of services in the Shire.

The CSO is involved in ensuring issues of Access & Equity, coordinating the HACC program and working with other agencies to manage and coordinate Council's community initiatives.

Promote local shopping opportunities

Economic growth will drive local demand for goods and services. Currently many consumers within the community are purchasing goods and services from Tamworth and other centres. Council's role in promoting retail and service delivery in Quirindi will strengthen consumer demand for 'home' product, and encourage the community to shop locally. The opening of Carlo's IGA has given Quirindi a much needed retail boost. The store has given customers a much wider variety of goods at reasonably competitive prices.

Additionally, the opportunities associated with local shopping will be enhanced through increased competition and a broadening of the range of goods and services available to the consumer. Council is aware of the need for improved visual amenity and retail ambience within the Central Business District, and has continued to improve town facilities through the Streetscape initiative.

Insulate the Community from agricultural downturn

Council is continuing to promote new industry and investment within the Shire, not aligned to the regional rural economy. The agricultural sector will continue to be an integral part of the Shires cultural, social and economic future. However, Council is aware that by supporting non-agricultural investment, the Shire will be buffered from rural downturns brought about by variable climatic conditions and/or rural commodity fluctuations. The opening of McVicar's sawmill and possible expansion of Coalmines in the region are examples of economic diversification to protect existing businesses from fluctuations.

REVIEW OF ISSUES BY TARGET GROUPS

	TRANSPORT	EMPLOYMENT	COMMUNITY FACILITIES	SAFETY/CRIME PREVENTION	HEALTH	EDUCATION	RECREATION	CULTURE	ENVIRONMENT
Children 0-11 years	<p>Affordable access to pre-school.</p> <p>It is expensive for volunteers to obtain a bus licence.</p> <p>To provide for Walhallow children to access services</p> <p>Access to Quirindi Services from outlying areas</p>		<p>Many of the volunteer groups have limited support and funding</p> <p>Interagency support for children's community groups, eg Birth to Beyond-voluntary groups with limited funding and support, eg inability to use main street for Book Parade.</p> <p>There is no group to help young mothers connect to gain support. Those that are new to town have difficulty finding out about available services as they have no extended networks.</p>		<p>Access to health services.</p> <p>There is no local breastfeeding support group eg ABA.</p> <p>No public funded dental services locally. As referrals are prioritised and needs based the waiting list is very long.</p>	<p>There is a shortage of after school care in Werris Creek, Willow Tree, Wallabadah, Spring Ridge.</p> <p>Continue NW Life Education</p> <p>Affordable access to Preschool-not eligible for childcare benefit subsidy</p> <p>Assist preschool to maintain services</p>	<p>Sun protection on play equipment</p>		

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Young People 12-25 years	<p>Transport to access holiday activities & promote paths and cycleways</p> <p>Access to Quirindi services from outlying areas- limited transport options, limited options on weekends, after hours transport, limited footpaths.</p> <p>Outlying villages such as Willow Tree, Wallabadah, Werris Creek and Spring Ridge find it difficult to access entertainment if parents are unable to help out.</p> <p>Representative sport is hard to attend as travelling costs are so expensive.</p>	<p>Apprenticeships are very hard to come by.</p> <p>Increase the number of school based traineeships.</p> <p>There needs to be more liaison between High Schools and large employers like BHP so that students are choosing electives that will be beneficial in obtaining employment.</p>	<p>There is no forum for youth to have their say and the formation of a Youth Council would be advantageous.</p> <p>There is no Youth Officer available to represent youth and their concerns.</p>	<p>Street lights are not sufficient in some areas.</p> <p>Counselling services and Social Workers need to be available and courses on anger management need to be accessible.</p>	<p>Access to health services - limited advertising of services in the places that people attend.</p> <p>Poor access to sexual health and lifestyle health services eg quit smoking.</p> <p>Young people need to be better informed about what services are available and there is often a lack of knowledge about health issues.</p> <p>There is no way for youth to access information on sexual health.</p> <p>There is no female doctor in town and they need incentives to stay.</p> <p>The ambulance service is very expensive and therefore not always accessible to all.</p>	<p>Continue to provide scholarships.</p> <p>Council Youth Committee formed & provides programs for youth development.</p> <p>There needs to be more access to computers and tutoring available to those who cannot afford it.</p> <p>The local High School has a high staff turnover making it difficult for students to develop successful study habits especially in Year 11 and 12.</p> <p>School uniforms are outdated and a strict uniform policy is not enforced.</p> <p>There are very few national or international excursions.</p>	<p>Recreational facilities at Recreational Centre. Increase activities ie Big Day In</p> <p>Sporting facilities to promote general exercise- walking/cycling track, pool hours earlier/later, cover pool to allow full year access.</p> <p>Exorbitant cost of sporting activities/groups preclude the disadvantaged</p> <p>There are not many activities for youth later at night.</p> <p>Facilities such as the Recreation Centre and the picture theatre are not being fully utilised for youth activities.</p>	<p>There is no recognition of different culture within schools or Council.</p> <p>Visitors from overseas need to be encouraged and initiatives like an International Sister City need to be encouraged.</p> <p>There has been a lack of community consultation for and against the development of coal mining in the shire.</p>
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Women	Limited transport options		Dept of Women visits.	Active campaign against domestic violence & support women's programs	Limited advertising of services in the places that people attend.		Poor access to social activities ie limited availability of restaurants, entertainment options after hours	Explore new cultural opportunities
	<p>Limited options on the weekends and after hours transport.</p> <p>People are not always fully aware of transport options eg taxi vouchers, community transport, transport for Health.</p> <p>Access to Quirindi Services from outlying areas</p>		<p>Encourage participation on boards & committees.</p> <p>There are limited options for short term childcare especially High School aged children with special needs.</p> <p>There is only one baby shopping=trolley at Carlo's IGA.</p> <p>Any parent with twins or several toddlers and a baby would find shopping difficult.</p> <p>Many young women are socially isolated</p> <p>The close proximity of Tamworth means there is no full time Family Support office, Centre Care or access to the women's refuge.</p> <p>Provide increased access to child care</p>	<p>Increased levels of domestic violence.</p> <p>Under reporting of domestic violence.</p> <p>Access to services, eg Women's Refuge, support services, Police, 'Safe Home'</p> <p>Oxley area command are concerned that Liverpool Plains Shire has been poorly funded in the area of Family Services.</p>	<p>Sexual health and mental health.</p> <p>There are no female doctors in the district and the women's Health Nurse position at Community Health is vacant.</p>			

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<p>Older People</p>	<p>Maintain community transport options.</p> <p>Transport is limited on weekends.</p> <p>Footpaths are not always present.</p> <p>Target group needs to be made more aware of transport options.</p> <p>The only community bus is the Community Health bus which is often not available and its size limits the number of people that can attend activities.</p>	<p>Promote HACC Services</p> <p>Recruit volunteers for HACC Services</p> <p>Expand HACC Services into Currabubula.</p> <p>There needs to be more support for carers when client transitioning to residential aged care services.</p> <p>Older people are continuing to drive when they are not always safe to do so.</p> <p>Aged Care services are not communicating with each other and they are missing opportunities where referrals could be made to better meet the needs of clients.</p> <p>The cost of residential care is immense so it is important that people be made aware of services that will allow them to remain in their homes for longer periods.</p>		<p>There are no counselling/grief services for clients and or carers at aged care facilities.</p> <p>Clients need to be more aware services that are available through the Anglican Counselling services and Hunter New England Health.</p> <p>There is limited utilisation of Health Services by clients in residential aged care services.</p>		<p>Clients are not aware of the HACC shopping bus, taxi vouchers and transport for Health. The private town bus does not pick up or drop off in the main street or near Shaw's or Carlos.</p> <p>There is a certain stigma attached to attending Day Centres with both carers and clients. Clients in the general community need to be encouraged to use these services as well as clients from the Aged Care facilities as they are an excellent opportunity for social interaction.</p> <p>A lot of clients are not accessing trips because of lack of facilities at a lot of the venues.</p>	<p>Support Seniors Week & continue to support services of HACC in the community</p> <p>Support given</p>	
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Liverpool Plains Shire Council - Social/Community Plan 2010

<p>People with disabilities</p>	<p>Declining numbers of volunteers are making it more difficult for people with disabilities to remain in their home.</p> <p>Maintain and expand disabled parking services.</p> <p>Access to the Florist, NAB, Paper Shop, Hotels, Courthouse and Police Station.</p> <p>There is no designated Disabled parking between the Courthouse and IGA. Motorists are often parked in front of ramps. Even small steps are difficult to negotiate for people using a powered wheelchair.</p> <p>There is no disabled symbol on the road at disabled parking spaces.</p> <p>At present disabled passengers are forced to go in front of their vehicles and into the line of traffic to access the disabled ramp.</p>		<p>The Quirindi Library disabled toilets are unable to be accessed by someone in a powered wheelchair.</p> <p>There are a lack of disabled facilities at Bell Park and Golland Fields. There are not enough picnic tables at Golland Fields and Bell Park. Both of these sites are flat and ideal for activities for people with a disability.</p> <p>There is no after school or respite centres for carers of children over the age of 12 years who have a disability.</p> <p>Some form of respite is needed urgently within the Shire.</p>	<p>Provide opportunities for short term respite care and carers for disabled</p>	<p>Community Health, HACC, Transport for Health and similar need to promote services they have available to ensure that as many residents as possible have access.</p> <p>There is a large gap in service from independent living to Low Care facilities.</p>	<p>There is no after school or holiday funding for children with a disability over 12 years.</p> <p>Long Day Care and Family Day Care can only manage children up to 12 years as the safety of younger children must be considered especially when behavioural problems are indicated.</p> <p>Funding and facilities are geared more towards community members with intellectual disabilities rather than physical disabilities and their carers are left in the mainstream.</p>	<p>There are no recreational activities that can be accessed at present especially for youth. Clients are too young to even want to attend Day Centres and too severely physically disabled to access HACC services easily.</p>	<p>Support access issues through LPSC Disability Access Committee</p>
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Aboriginal & Torres Strait Is.	<p>Improve and provide a range of transport options</p> <p>Access to Quirindi services from outlying areas- Limited transport options, limited options on weekends, after hours transport, limited footpaths (Walhallow to Caroon shops)</p> <p>Access to driver training.</p> <p>There needs to be provision made for a check in station for child restraints.</p>	<p>The CDEP local apprenticeship initiative has been discontinued.</p> <p>An indigenous administered housing initiative could include builders, plumbers etc.</p> <p>There is not enough focus on female employment.</p>	<p>Include in Community Directory</p> <p>Develop partnership agreement</p> <p>Poor access/visibility to Social & Wellbeing Centre-flights of steps precludes disabled access</p> <p>Acknowledgement to traditional people of the land eg plaque in council reception and other significant public areas-self determination of local Aboriginal population.</p> <p>There is no community Shop at Walhallow any more. Shop needs to reopen so that residents can have more healthy choices.</p>	<p>Employ Indigenous Liaison Officer.</p> <p>It is very difficult to access the Women's Refuge and there is no Safe house in the Shire.</p>	<p>Investigate Outreach Services</p> <p>Access to services- limited advertising of services in the places that people attend.</p> <p>Limited access to sexual health and lifestyle health services, eg Quit Smoking-no local services for these issues.</p> <p>Oral Health Services-no public funded dental services locally.</p>	<p>Promote pre school participation & occasional care</p>	<p>There are not enough subsidies available for sporting groups making membership expensive and difficult to access for many families.</p>	<p>Need to establish a Keeping Place and mentoring program.</p> <p>There is no suitable venue for meetings of parenting groups . Funding for these groups is limited and they cannot always afford Council's fees and charges.</p> <p>Investigate opportunity for Aboriginal Cultural Centre</p> <p>Aboriginal craft gallery and activity centre- limited access to services that promote self esteem, cultural awareness</p>	
Cultural & linguistically diverse							<p>Instigate a multicultural festival or celebration</p>	<p>Recognise in Community Directory</p>	
General	<p>Provide appropriate community transport</p>		<p>Info package for new residents</p> <p>Update community directory</p> <p>Facilitate communication between service providers</p>		<p>Promote the role of HNEHS & provision of services at local level</p>	<p>Provide leadership training</p>		<p>Explore new cultural activities</p>	

CHAPTER 1: Introduction

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Liverpool Plains Shire has a long and productive agricultural history in the Namoi Valley catchment and it is experiencing a new era of industrial expansion and population growth.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council's proactive approach to local economic development, lifestyle migration away from Sydney and the coastal areas, coupled with the regional real estate investment market, is already realising the potential for population increase in the Shire.

Quirindi and Werris Creek's convenient proximity and strong agricultural sector is providing opportunities for commercial investment and lifestyle in the Shire. Situated between the New England and Kamilaroi Highways, and on a main railway corridor, the Shire is central to both Sydney and Brisbane. The regional city of Tamworth is located 65 kilometres north of the township of Quirindi.

The Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, has given Liverpool Plains Shire Council the opportunity to formally develop this Social/Community Plan.

Social plans aim to:

- a) Identify the community's social needs;
- b) Assess how those needs are being met; and
- c) Identify strategies to ensure that those needs are met.

These plans and recommendations must then be incorporated into other Council planning (i.e. management plans), budgeted for and reported on annually.

The rural settlement patterns of the area have a major influence on how Local Government Areas such as the Liverpool Plains Shire addresses its social issues. Quirindi is a sub-regional service centre servicing Willow Tree, Werris Creek, Currabubula, Wallabadah, Blackville, Pine Ridge, Premer, Spring Ridge, Carroona and Walhallow. The Shire caters for many people who, technically, live outside the Liverpool Plains Local Government Area, but socially, consider themselves to be part of the Shire.

This plan considers social needs under the following broad categories:

- Transport
- Housing
- Employment
- Safety/Crime prevention
- Recreation
- Education
- Culture

- Community Facilities
- Economy
- Families
- Communication
- Environment

1.2 What is a social plan?

Under the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 all councils in NSW must develop a social plan and report on identified access and equity activities annually.

A social plan examines the needs of the local community, including groups that may be disadvantaged, and develops activities that council and/or other agencies could implement to address these needs.

Access and equity activities aim to promote social justice and enhance community well being. They include: a council's social/community welfare, health, cultural and recreation activities as well as aspects of council activities such as providing infrastructure/services, planning/regulation and providing information.

1.3 How is it developed?

The Department of Local Government has prepared Social/Community Planning and Reporting Guidelines to help councils meet their compulsory requirements. These guidelines were a valuable resource in preparing this plan.

1.4 How does the social plan fit in?

This plan will become part of the Liverpool Plains Shire Council annual Management Plan. The Management Plan is the main planning document for Council – it provides the budget, and sets service delivery levels for activities across all areas of operation. The social plan will be attached to the Management Plan and council will need to consider it together with other plans. The plan is updated each year to reflect Council's Management Plan and community trends.

1.5 Who will use the plan and how?

Liverpool Plains Shire Council has a legal responsibility to develop and report on this plan, however, they will not be responsible for implementing all the recommendations. Council can use this plan to influence the activities and initiatives of government and non-government agencies to ensure that community needs are best met. The plan is based on community input through public consultation and therefore is a valuable reference for council, providing insight into community concerns.

Similarly, the community can use this plan as a bargaining tool. By being familiar with what this plan is trying to achieve, the community can work with council to ensure that resources are fairly distributed, rights are recognised and promoted and that people have fair access to resources and services to meet their basic needs and improve their quality of life. The planning process also gives people opportunities for genuine participation and consultation about decisions that affect their lives.

1.6 How often will the plan be reviewed?

Local government must submit new social plans by 30 November, every five years, from November 2004. Each year, Councils must also review and update their social plans as part of the annual review of their management plans. This includes comparing what they said they would do with what they actually achieved. This process means that councils are accountable and gives them an opportunity to improve how they address social needs.

CHAPTER 2: Liverpool Plains Shire Council

About the Social Plan

The Social Plan fits under the umbrella of the Liverpool Plains Shire Management Plan. That means that both plans should work towards a common direction. The information in this section is taken directly from the Quirindi Shire Council 2009/10-2019/20 Community Strategic Plan. It gives an overview of Council's values and what they are trying to achieve for everyone who lives in the Shire.

2.1 Council's 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.

2.2 Council's Mission

To achieve the Liverpool Plains Shire vision through a pro-active community focus delivering best value and practice services that are recognised by the community and our peers for their quality and positive impact on development.

2.3 Council's Values

The elected members, management and staff of Liverpool Plains Shire Council are committed to Council's vision and mission and through mutual trust and respect will strive:

2.4 For our Residents

- To provide professional, friendly and innovative service;
- To apply principles of access and equity with facilities and services; and
- To encourage and promote a strong sense of Community.

2.5 For our Community

- To maintain principles of democracy, public participation and fairness in decision making;
- To have a positive influence on community attitudes;
- To promote, provide and plan for the needs of all ages;
- To encourage and stimulate economic growth and prosperity in the Shire;
- To establish a safe, caring and clean community environment;

- To create a dynamic area sustaining its agricultural and natural heritage.

2.6 For our Staff and Volunteers

- To promote a working environment that fosters innovation, equal opportunity, job satisfaction and performance;
- To encourage strong community partnership in the provision of services and facilities;
- To seek continuous improvement in the way that Council does business;
- To encourage and appreciate the contribution of community volunteers.

2.7 For our Environment

- To maintain and enhance the reputation of the built environment;
- To protect and enjoy the natural, built and cultural environment;
- To promote economic sustainability and technological advantage for agriculture and industry;
- To develop effective road, transport and infrastructure networks.

2.8 For our Customers and Suppliers

- To conduct business with integrity and respect;
- To ensure consistency and accountability in Service relationships;
- To communicate requirements accurately and precisely;
- To exercise and expect honesty in business dealings.

2.9 Principal objective for Community Services

To provide a fair and equitable distribution of social and community services that are developed in consultation with the stakeholders and to act as a facilitator in the provision of new and expanded service.

To facilitate, support and provide opportunities for our community to participate in activities that will assist in maintaining and improving their well-being.

2.10 Role of Council

The Local Government Act 1993 defines the role of Council under Section 8(1). This role is explained through a set of principles to guide Council in carrying out its functions:

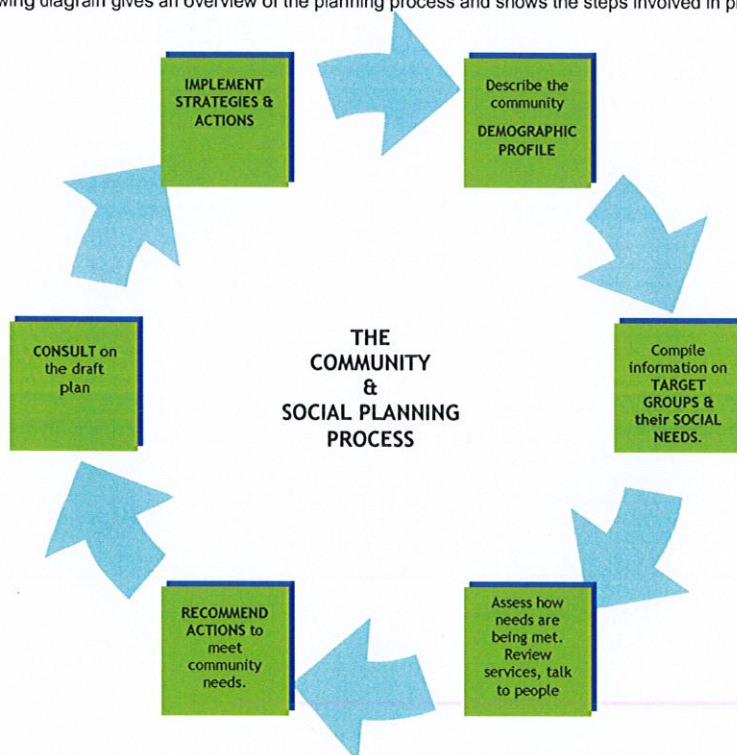
- To provide directly or on behalf of other levels of government, after due consultation, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively;
- To exercise community leadership;
- To exercise its function in a manner that is consistent with and actively promotes the principles of multiculturalism;
- To promote and provide and plan for the needs of children;

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- To properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development;
- To have regard to the long term and cumulative effects of its decisions;
- To bear in mind that it is the custodian and trustee of public assets and to effectively account for and manage the assets for which it is responsible;
- To facilitate the involvement of Councillors, members of the public, users of facilities and services and Council staff in the development, improvement and co-ordination of local government;
- To raise funds for local purposes by the fair imposition of rates, charges and fees, by income earned from investments and, when appropriate, by borrowing and grants;
- To keep the local community and the State Government (and through it, the wider community) informed about its activities;
- To ensure that, in the exercise of its regulatory functions, it is consistent and without bias, particularly where an activity of the Council is affected; and
- To be a responsible employer.
- To engage in long-term strategic planning on behalf of the local community.
- To exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and promotes social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights.

CHAPTER 3: The Planning Process

The following diagram gives an overview of the planning process and shows the steps involved in preparing a community social plan:



3.1 What is a target group?

A target group is a discrete and definable section of the community that has special needs. For the purpose of this plan there are two types of target groups – mandatory and optional.

A social plan must include information about the needs of the 7 mandatory target groups. These groups are: children (aged between 0 and 11 years), young people (between 12 and 24 years of age), women, older people, people with disabilities, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. These groups, however, are not homogenous i.e. people may belong to more than one group.

3.2 Developing the demographic profile

The demographic profile shows the current makeup of the community in Liverpool Plains Shire, including changes in population over time. This information is based on figures from the 2006 Census and other relevant documents from the State and Federal government and Liverpool Plains Shire Council.

3.3 Identifying social needs

The needs of the various target groups were identified by:

- A discussion paper was sent to community groups throughout the shire informing them of the Social planning process and asking them what their perception of social needs in the Shire were. Groups were given a table to complete and return to council.
- Focus group meetings were organised with representatives from each of the target groups. At these meetings issues were identified and appropriate strategies to help solve these issues were put forward.
- Reviewing various local and regional plans to help understand issues commonly experienced by members of the community or the target group, that could negatively impact on quality of life. Some issues from the 2006 Social Plan were also included in the issues section of this document. These plans are listed under references:

3.4 How did we assess how well the needs were being met?

Target groups identified existing services available in the shire and successful programs and initiatives that are currently available.

The Community Plan prepared for Liverpool Plains Shire Council in 2006 was also reviewed to determine if recommendations from that plan were adopted.

3.5 Who recommended actions and how?

Recommendations in this plan were based on discussions with various stakeholders/target groups and an assessment of the 2006 Social Plan. Any recommendations from the previous plan that were not implemented are carried forward to this document.

3.6 Who will implement actions?

While this plan is mainly aimed at Liverpool Plains Shire Council, they are not necessarily responsible for implementing all the recommendations in the plan. The primary role of the Liverpool Plains Shire Council is to act as a facilitator, providing an impetus for community leadership and participation. Further,

some recommendations will require action by State and Federal governments, community groups, service providers and/or individuals. The action plan section of this plan identifies who should be responsible for specific activities and initiatives.

CHAPTER 4: Understanding the Community – A Demographic Profile

WHAT IS A DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE AND WHY IS IT PART OF A SOCIAL PLAN?

A demographic profile is a set of statistics that shows the characteristics of the community – in this case, a local government area. This information can help to better understand the features and needs of the general community and specific groups.

4.1 Population profile

	Males	Females	TOTALS
Total persons	3761	3799	7540
Aged 15 years and over			6066
Aged 65 years and over			1430
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander			715
Born in Australia			7224
Born overseas			316
Speaks English only			6976
Speaks other languages			34
Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over	200	222	422
Australia citizen			6827
Employed	1715	1309	3024
Unemployed	116	74	190
Unemployment rate			5.9%

Table1: Overview of the Liverpool Plains Shire community.

Source: AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

How has the LPSC community changed since 2001?

- Despite the impacts of drought, traditional industries of agriculture, forestry and fisheries still account for the majority of employment but has declined from 935 jobs to 814;
- The total number of people unemployed in 2006 was at an all time low (5.9% of labour force). Total unemployed peaked in 1991 at 9.8% of the labour force;
- Growing employment sectors include mining, manufacturing, retail and health services
- The median age of the population has risen from 41 to 43
- The overall population has risen by 9%

4.2 What does the future hold for the Shire and what are the social implications?

Rural communities in NSW are struggling under the combined impacts of drought, varying commodity prices and a loss of services. However, the future for the Shire is extremely positive compared to some rural communities.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council has been actively implementing economic development initiatives to strengthen and promote a positive future for the town and community. This includes employing an Economic Development Director and a Community Economic Development Officer and commissioning an 'Economic Development Strategy', Business Retention and Expansion Programme, 'Economic / Social Impact Study on the Retail Sector' and actively promoting new industry in the Shire.

A plantation softwood processing plant valued at \$10 million has been established in the town's industrial area and currently employs up to 50 people, and other new businesses will provide further employment. Council has upgraded the Main Street of Quirindi including infrastructure streetscape/landscaping works and in 2008 Council issued a final occupation certificate for a new supermarket which has given our community a much wider variety and selection of goods making it unnecessary for residents to travel to larger regional centres to shop. The development is worth over \$5.7 million.

Werris Creek Coal Pty Ltd commenced operations of a two Mt per annum open cut mine, which employs approximately 50 persons.

The NSW Government announced the awarding of an Exploration Licence to BHP Billiton to explore for coal about the Caroona area. Preliminary estimates suggest a world-class underground mine of 10Mt/annum with a life expectancy of 30 years and employment in the order of 300 persons. BHP is coming towards the end of this exploration period. BHP is currently contributing towards a water study to look at the inter-connectiveness of the underground water. The presence of BHP has caused a lot of concern and trepidation among landholders and some community members who feel that mining will have a negative impact on the environment and will affect the social and economic development of the community. There is also a group who feel that the mining industry will bring economic growth and prosperity to Quirindi and outlying villages.

Although the town is closely linked to the agricultural sector, it is expected that the introduction of new industry and non-agricultural services will provide an economic buffer in times of rural and climatic difficulty.

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While some of these new businesses may employ current residents from within the shire, they could also attract new employees and their families to the area. Irrespective of where these new people fit into the demographic profile, they will have social needs which could include child care, school facilities, recreation or any number of health services.

The Shire's geographic situation offers a number of advantages yet to be fully realised. The town's relatively close proximity to the eastern seaboard and to major population growth areas such as Newcastle and Tamworth, offers a unique opportunity for trade, tourism and housing. The town's location between two major highways and its access to major inland rail corridors further highlight these opportunities.

The Shire is also situated within two hours of major regional universities, namely Newcastle and the University of New England in Armidale. A public hospital, affordable housing, a retirement village, nursing home, three doctors and three dentists make Quirindi an attractive proposition to many retirees looking for a 'tree change' to regional NSW. The real estate market in Sydney and along the coastal fringe is making towns like Quirindi an attractive prospect for many people. These people will also have certain social expectations and needs.

These new residents in the community will inject new skills and social interests - this can only help in making the Shire a more vibrant and progressive community in which to live.

4.3 Some questions to consider:

- WHAT IS THE LIKELY IMPACT OF THE AGEING POPULATION?
- WHAT WILL BE THE FUTURE EDUCATION NEEDS?
- HOW WILL FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTICULARLY MINING IMPACT ON SOCIAL ISSUES?

CHAPTER 5: Target Group Descriptions and Strategies

CHILDREN: THIS GROUP INCLUDES BOYS AND GIRLS LESS THAN 12 YEARS OF AGE

Children and young people participate in society in many different ways. They live in families, go to school, play sport and belong to organisations. Children and young people who develop strong, caring relationships in their communities are more likely to grow up safe and healthy, participate in education, culture and employment and not become involved in violence and crime. Strong communities encourage and value the participation of children and young people.

5.1

Target group Children



Characteristics:

- In 2006, 1513 children under the age of 14 years were living in Liverpool Plains Shire. This is just over 19% of the population;
- The number of children under 14, as a % of the population, is returning to levels experienced in the mid 90's;

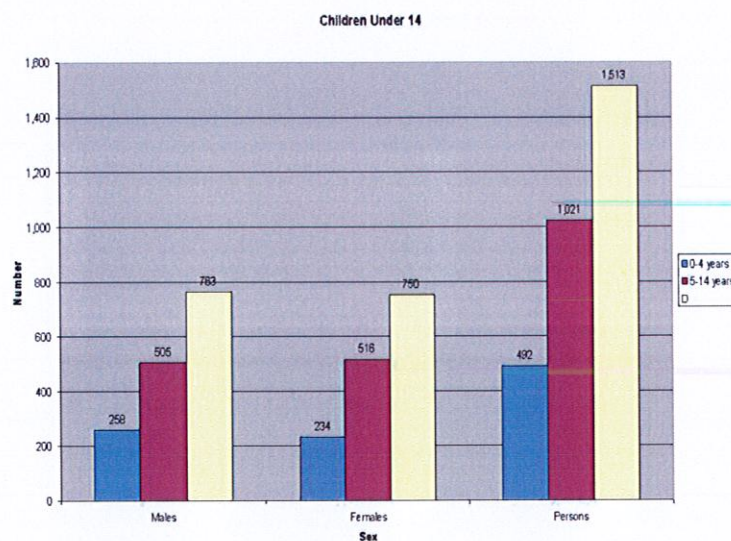


FIGURE 1: Number of males and females under 14 years of age.

Source: AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

What are the main SOCIAL NEEDS of this age group?

NEED	INCLUDING
TRANSPORT	Outlying areas may require transport to facilities.
COMMUNITY FACILITIES	Mainly recreational, including sporting groups and library services.
HEALTH	Early intervention to identify existing and potential health problems
EDUCATION	Mental stimulation and development of social skills prior to formal schooling.
RECREATION	Young children need opportunities to participate in sport and other recreational activities.
FAMILY	Adult support for youth and children's sporting and community organisations.

The needs of this group vary considerably and need to be viewed in light of babies and toddlers (under 2 years), pre school (aged 3 to 4 years) and school aged children (5 to 12 years).

How well are these needs being met?

EDUCATION – Under 5 years

The Quirindi Pre School operates 5 days per week and is licensed for 30 children/day.

The Werris Creek District Pre-School is opened weekdays and is licensed for 20 children/day.

Willow Tree Pre-School is opened Monday to Wednesday and is licensed for 14 children/day.

Currabubula Pre-School is opened Fridays and is licensed for 10 children/day.

Pre School plays a very important role in the community. It helps children to develop social skills and is the first opportunity for many in a structured environment. This is important preparation for school, smoothing the transition from home to school.

In many cases, Pre School is also the first formal setting for parents. It is a place to meet other parents and many friendships established through this first contact are carried through life. It is also the first place that many parents are on committees and many then become involved in other community organisations.

The pre school environment is also important from a health perspective as it provides a forum for all the specialists who come together to "case manage" children with special needs.

Beehive Occasional Day Care Centre also provides a 2-day per week occasional care service. Liverpool Plains Shire Council has developed and licensed a 45 place Long Day Care Centre which is operating at capacity.

PRE SCHOOL – ABORIGINAL STUDENTS

The % of Aboriginal children attending Quirindi Pre School are at low rates. A recent survey showed that cost and transport are the major issues preventing more aboriginal children from attending the Pre School (pers. comm. Alison Thompson). Children are not using the community bus to access play group and preschool even though it is available. A possible solution to this could be that community workers and family services may need to go to Walhallow. A discussion with the parents of preschool aged children at Walhallow may reveal why the Community Bus is not being used.

EDUCATION – SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

There are several Public schools in the Shire catering for Infants and Primary age children. These include: Quirindi, Willow Tree, Werris Creek, Walhallow, Currabubula, Spring Ridge, Wallabadah, Blackville and Premer Public School and St Joseph's Quirindi. Tamworth bus lines also provide a service to transport children to schools in Tamworth.

HEALTH

Health Services are provided by Hunter New England Area Health Service, operating from the Quirindi Hospital, Werris Creek Hospital and the Community Health Centre. The Medical Liaison Committee generally considers current services adequate. A Nurse Practitioner is operating at Premer.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council facilitated the recruitment of two new doctors who have established practices in the refurbished offices of the CWA Hall and the George Street Surgery in Quirindi. Council continues to work with Hunter New England Area Health Service and local GPs to establish a HealthOne Medical Centre in Quirindi. Council is also involved in establishing a Multi Purpose Health Centre in Werris Creek.

RECREATION

The sporting needs of children in Quirindi are reasonably well met through a huge range of sporting organisations.

While there are many recreational activities available, participation could potentially be limited if overheads are increased because of the rising cost of public liability insurance. This could mean that lower socio economic groups miss out.

The Quirindi Recreation Centre has the services of a full-time fitness instructor and is being well utilized by the squash and basketball clubs. School groups are also using the facility for sporting activities.

Council has obtained access to the Railway Institute Building in Werris Creek and is working with an active local Committee to develop this facility so that it may provide a range of community activities. S.94 funding from the Werris Creek Coal Mine has been used to undertake works and provide equipment.

The Liverpool Plains Shire Library at Quirindi is open 5.5 days a week with story time, for younger children, once a week. The Library also has public access computers for e-mail, internet and other computer based applications. All libraries in the Central Northern Libraries network are now on line. This

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will improve access, particularly for outlying areas. Liverpool Plains Shire Council has also established a Library branch at Premer and monthly exchanges are taking place.

In 2009 Council completed construction of the new Werris Creek Library building. The main street location and modern and inviting interior have seen large increases in library usage in Werris Creek. The Library is also used for community promotions and events and is a welcoming place for the community to meet.

The International School of Music caters for children from pre school age upwards and there is a Youth Band in Quirindi.

The Holiday Fun Centre, coordinated by Liverpool Plains Shire Council, offers children a safe, fun and educational environment for youth during the September/October and Christmas school holidays. This facility gives working parents access to affordable child care during these times.

Strategies including those carried forward from the 2006/07 Social Plan.

Issue	Why?	Strategy to overcome Issue.	Who is responsible?	Time Frame
Transport Access to local Pre-Schools	<p>Pre-School is very expensive to access. It is very expensive for volunteers to obtain a bus licence making it difficult for children in outlying villages to access services.</p> <p>Many families are ineligible for the Child Care subsidy and Pre-Schools are only partially funded. Declining numbers attending mean that smaller Pre-Schools may lose funding and are at risk of closing.</p>	<p>-Pre-Schools may have to look at increasing fees and boost fundraising efforts.</p> <p>-Arrange transport between towns so that spaces in the smaller Preschool can be filled.</p> <p>-Purchase a community bus to be used to pick up children around the district.</p> <p>-Lobby local MP's for further funding.</p>	Community groups, Pre-School Directors and Local Council.	<p>This is something that needs to be addressed within the next five years as Werris Creek pre-School is at risk of closing.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Health				

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Support for breastfeeding mothers	There is no local breastfeeding support group eg ABA.	-Approach Tamworth ABA to see if they are happy to organise a branch in Liverpool Plains Shire.	Child and Family Health nurse.	
Sun protection on play equipment.	Many of the parks in the shire have little or know shade protection. Equipment becomes too hot to use in summer months.	-Continue to apply for funding from the department of Sport and Recreation. -Develop Council Policy to eventually cover all playground equipment throughout the shire. Possible use of village funds to do this.	Community groups and Liverpool Plains Shire Council.	Ongoing
Oral Health Services	There are no public funded dental services locally.	This service is accessible through the Tamworth service, however referrals are prioritised and needs based making the waiting list very long.	Child and Family Health Nurse need to ensure clients are aware of the available services and make sure that they have appropriate information re accessing these services.	Ongoing
Education				
Interagency support for children's groups such as Birth to	Many voluntary groups are working with limited funding and support and this makes it difficult to organise	More support from Council with cheaper hire fees and funding more available.	Community Service Coordinator	Ongoing

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Beyond.	fundraising and promotional events.		-Business holders need to be more flexible regarding street closures.	
After School Care and Family Day Care.	Shortage of after school care in Werris Creek, Willow Tree, Wallabadah and Spring Ridge. There is no Family Day Care in all of these areas except Spring Ridge which has one carer.	-Encourage and advertise for more carers in the community. -Expand Long Day Care services. Make sure that newcomers are aware of after school care at local primary schools.-		
Recreation				
Social Isolation of young families with no extended networks	-Young mothers that are new to the area find socializing difficult as there is no family support. It can also be hard to find out about available services.	-Establish a "New mums" group which could meet on the first day of each month. -Promote all services available on Council website. -Develop a children's services webpage. -Establish a family support office in Quirindi, Werris Creek, Willow Tree, Spring Ridge and Wallabadah.	Child and Family Health Nurse to help promote services to new mums. Councils IT staff and Councils Community Services Coordinator	This is something that needs immediate action.

YOUNG PEOPLE – THIS GROUP INCLUDES MALES AND FEMALES 12 TO 24 YEARS OF AGE

It is important that young people are valued in society and the community as a whole can benefit from their contribution, ideas and energies (AYF, 1995). Involving younger people is essential for youth development and social change – younger people provide the future social fabric of rural communities.



Characteristics:

- In 2006, 736 young people aged 15-24 were living in Liverpool Plains Shire. This is 9% of the total population.
- This group is underrepresented compared to the NSW and Australian averages

What are some of the SOCIAL ISSUES for this group?

- Employment – what do they do after school? Are there enough jobs if they want to stay in the local area?
- Recreation – some not old enough to go to hotels but want entertainment – under age drinking;
- Changes of going from Primary School to High School – loss of friends and support network;
- Boredom;
- Unrealistic expectations from parents and unhappy home environment; and
- Lack of self esteem.

What are the main SOCIAL NEEDS of this group?

NEED	INCLUDING
TRANSPORT	To have access to safe reliable transport to attend social, cultural and recreational activities around the shire.
EMPLOYMENT	To have the opportunity to obtain work locally through apprenticeship schemes and the development of new businesses in the community.
COMMUNITY FACILITIES	To participate in the community and be involved in decisions that affects their lives. To have a variety of facilities available to enjoy a happier and more worthwhile life.
SAFETY/CRIME PREVENTION	Including appropriate support to prevent social problems from developing.
HEALTH	Information and advice to help them to lead healthy lives. This might include issues

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	such as suicide, contraception, alcohol, illicit drugs and sexual health.
EDUCATION	Information, advice and support to achieve education and employment goals.
RECREATION	Opportunities to participate in sport, recreation and developmental activities.
ENVIRONMENT	The desire for a healthy and sustainable environment that can be enjoyed by future generations.

HOW WELL ARE THESE NEEDS BEING MET?

EDUCATIONAL

Secondary educational needs are met through Quirindi High School and other private and public schools in Tamworth. A number of young people attend private boarding schools in the Sydney and New England regions.

The Quirindi TAFE also offers an extensive range of vocational education and training courses to diploma level while Adult and Community Education provides courses of community interest. The University of New England Access Centre, on the Quirindi TAFE campus, provides a direct link to University level education.

QUIRINDI RECREATIONAL CENTRE

Young people are well catered for with numerous sporting and cultural activities. The Quirindi Recreational Centre building provides an important recreation facility for the entire community. Many people travel to Tamworth for more extensive sporting opportunities and stronger competition.

Younger people that are not sport oriented can become involved with the Quirindi Youth Band.

SUPPORT AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Discussions with students from the Quirindi High School at the Liverpool Plains Shire Council Youth Forum revealed that some young people don't feel that they are valued in the community. There were examples of High School students that have done particularly well in sporting and academic pursuits but received little community recognition. Liverpool Plains Shire Council is aware of these issues and is endeavoring to facilitate promotion of individual excellence within the community. The participants felt that they did not have the opportunity to vocalize their concerns or issues they felt needed attention. It was suggested a Youth Council be formed as a means of getting their message across.

OPPORTUNITY

Council and community groups offer several youth scholarships. Council funds the Shire Youth Scholarship scheme to help young people pursue educational and training opportunities as well as interests in art, music, the sciences, sport and similar fields. The scholarship is available to people between 16 and 23 years of age.

The Local Rotary Club supports the Rotary Youth Leadership Award, a week long, intense personal development program which is committed to developing the interpersonal and professional skills of young adults. Participants have the opportunity to improve various communication skills and to practice decision making and leadership in practical situations.

AIM: Ensure that the younger people in the community have access and opportunities to enhance their social well being, and pursue their interests related to career, education, health, accommodation and recreational activities.

NEW STRATEGIES – These strategies have been identified through community consultation

Issue	Why?	Strategy to overcome issue.	Who is responsible?	Time Frame
Transport Outlying villages such as Willow Tree, Wallabadah, Werri Creek and Spring Ridge find it difficult to access entertainment.	-Unless parents are able to transport children there is no other way for youth to attend functions as travelling costs are expensive. -The bus to Tamworth for school and work is very crowded.	-Council provide a subsidised bus service on weekends and school holidays. Approach Tamworth Bus Companies to provide subsidised bus service. -Council purchase a community bus. -Make information more widely known regarding Youth Scholarships or subsidised transport costs	-Council and community groups.	-This is an immediate concern.
Recreation Lack of Recreational facilities.	Youth do not have anywhere to go in after school hours or on the weekend. This is especially the case for the 18-25 year demographic.	Reopening of the Royal Picture Theatre for general viewing-or at least Saturday and Sunday afternoons. -Introduce self defence classes at the Quirindi	Community groups, parent volunteers, Liverpool Plains Shire	These are all things that need to be started immediately or within the next 12 months.

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		<p>Recreation Centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Hold socials at the Recreation Centre at least once a term. -Form a Liverpool Plains Shire Youth Council. A public meeting would be held regarding this to discuss the format the Council would take. -Start a girl's Rugby Union Club. A delegation could approach Quirindi Lions to help organise this with the comp to be run alongside the existing competition. -Open the Quipolly Dam for recreational use. -Longer pool opening hours as the pool is currently used between 4.00 and 6.00pm making it inaccessible to the general public. Opening the pool until 7.00pm, an extra hour per day would make a difference. 		
<p>Education</p> <p>High staff turnover.</p>	<p>Large staff turnover at the High School make it difficult for students to</p>	<p>-P&F to raise concerns with the school community. Lobby state and Federal MPs to change</p>	<p>P&F, Staff and students</p>	<p>A uniform change can be phased in over the next five</p>

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<p>Affordability of tutoring and access to computers.</p> <p>Uniforms are out dated and do not look neat and tidy.</p> <p>School excursions are limited and expensive for a lot of children.</p>	<p>develop successful study habits especially in Year 11 and 12.</p> <p>Why are staff leaving? Are enough full-time placements being offered?</p> <p>Uniforms are outdated.</p>	<p>Department policy re regional placements.</p> <p>Students can lobby P&F and staff to make this a priority.</p> <p>Schools need to organise fund raisers for particular excursions.</p>		<p>years.</p>
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WOMEN – THIS GROUP INCLUDES WOMEN OF ALL AGES. THIS GROUP ALSO OVERLAPS WITH MANY OTHER TARGET GROUPS. FOR EXAMPLE, SOME WOMEN ALSO FIT INTO THE CATEGORIES OF OLDER PEOPLE , INDIGENOUS AND/OR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Women make an important social, cultural and economic contribution to society. They are mothers, business leaders, wives, friends and community members. Age, ethnicity, location and social and economic circumstances affect their needs and opinions.



5.3 Target Group Women

CHARACTERISTICS

- In 2006, 3,799 women were living in Liverpool Plains.
- 984 (26%) were 60 years of age or older.
- The % of females employed in part time work has gradually increased since 2001;
- The % of females employed full time (as a % of the labour force) has increased by 8% since 2001;
- 344 women identified themselves as Indigenous.
- The majority of females were born in Australia with only 175 born overseas; and
- The majority of females speak English only with a small minority speaking a language other than English.

Figure 3 below shows the break up of the female population by age. The number on each column refers to the number of women in that age group.

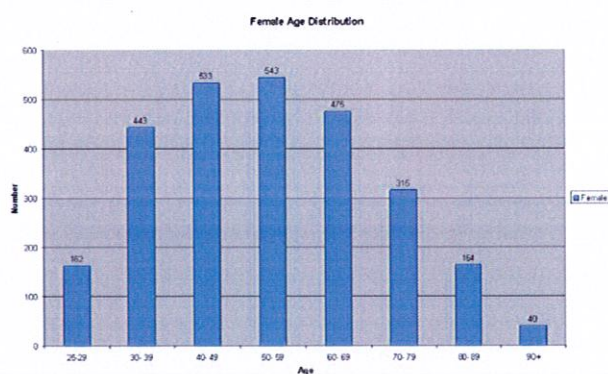


Figure 3: – Women living in Quirindi by age group

What are the SOCIAL ISSUES for this group?

- Motherhood and raising a family;
- Balancing work and family;
- Geographic isolation from being part of a rural shire;
- Women's health issues – including depression and self esteem;
- Domestic violence;
- Mental stimulation and
- Lack of extended family for new families moving to the shire.

What are the SOCIAL NEEDS of this target group?

NEED	INCLUDING
HEALTH	Initiatives that improve their health and quality of life by providing appropriate housing, sanitation, physical activity and nutrition, media and body image message.
TRANSPORT	Safe and reasonably priced transport.
COMMUNITY FACILITIES	Safe streets and shopping areas, accessible buildings, transport and recreational areas. Women at risk from domestic violence may need refuge to reduce violence against them. Supportive social networks and social contact with other women in similar situations. Effective and responsive services to help families and individuals including the provision of childcare services
CRIME/PERSONAL SAFETY	Recognising that Domestic Violence is occurring especially in the case of verbal and psychological abuse.
EDUCATION	Information on education and training opportunities.
RECREATION	Opportunities to participate in sport, recreation and developmental activities.

Reference: Issues of Importance for Women in NSW – a document produced by the Department for Women based on the NSW Government Action Plan for Women.

HOW WELL ARE THESE NEEDS BEING MET?

FAMILY SERVICES

Family services and support are provided by various organisations including Home and Community Care (HACC), HNEAHS, Tamworth Family Support and State Government Departments.

Council has built the Eastside Long Day Care Centre. Part of the motivation for building this facility was to support the younger, single mothers in the community by providing them with short term care so they could pursue further education through the local College of TAFE.

The Community Health Centre also provides early childhood clinics and immunisation. However, there is no breast feeding support group and this has been identified as an area of need.

HEALTH

Women's health needs are reasonably well met through Hunter New England Area Health Service. The hospital provides obstetrics, pediatrics – a major advantage for women who wish to have a family. The town does not have a female doctor and the Women's Health Nurse position at Community Health is currently vacant.

Under the DoCs Family First program every new mother is visited by the Family and Child Nurse within 2 weeks of birth.

EDUCATION

Education is available through the TAFE and Adult Education. The availability of child care is a limiting factor for some women wishing to pursue further education.

RECREATION

As with all age groups, there is a huge range of sporting and recreation facilities for women.

SAFETY/CRIME PREVENTION

Domestic violence is an issue in just about any community and Quirindi is no exception. The Regional Violence Prevention Specialist (RVPS) says that many of these issues are compounded in rural areas.

While the NEAHS provided sexual assault services, unfortunately, the nearest women's refuge is in Tamworth. The RVPS identifies poor access to counseling services for women in smaller communities as a major issue.

Tamworth Women's Refuge says that transport is a major problem for women trying to escape domestic violence, especially outside of working hours. They provide Outreach services, including a group for women experiencing domestic violence. The Butterflies group (established for women victims of domestic

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violence) runs a course over a 6-week period addressing issues such as self-esteem and confidence. HNEAHS and the RVPS recently joined forces to conduct education on this issue.

Council, in 2006, in conjunction with Quirindi Police launched a Domestic Violence Information Kit which the Police can distribute to victims.

The emotional needs of young mothers is also considered a huge issue and getting mothers to feel good about themselves is critical for the development of their children. Addressing these needs is also a key focus for Family First.

OPPORTUNITY

One of the groups at most risk from accessing opportunities is women from lower socio economic backgrounds, particularly those who don't work. The HNEAHS Family and Child Care Nurse believes that this may be the greatest area of need.

STRATEGIES – Including those carried forward from the 2006/07 Social Plan

Issue	Why?	Strategy to Overcome Issue	Who is responsible?	Time Frame
Health	There are no female doctors in the district & Women's Health Nurse position at Community Health is vacant.	Hunter New England Health need to advertise and actively recruit women for these positions. Council could offer incentives in the form of rent assistance.	Health Service Manager, Liverpool Plains Shire Council.	This is an issue that needs s addressing.
Sexual Health, Drug harm minimization and mental health.	Chlamydia and syphilis are becoming more common in communities as are mental health issues.	Investigate education programs focusing on safe sex and ensure there are adequate needle dispensers in public toilets and hospitals. Start the process of establishing a satellite service accessing staff and expertise from the Bligh Street clinic.		Although there is some mental health support available through community health there are a lot of community members that do not have access to this.
Transport	. It is often difficult accessing services from outlying areas.	Ensure that target group is made aware of transport	Community nurse, Community Services	This sort of information can be passed on immediately

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	There are limited transport options on weekends and after hours. Limited advertising of health services available	options eg taxi vouchers, Community Transport and Transport for Health.	Coordinator, HACC Services from Willow Tree, Werris Creek and Quirindi.	
Community Facilities	Shortage of shopping trolleys at IGA. Poor hygiene of trolleys that are available.	Approach IGA management to install new trolleys and make them aware of the state of the existing ones.	IGA management	As soon as possible. Customers could start lobbying immediately.
There is a lack of family based services in the Shire.	<p>There are limited options for short term childcare especially High School aged and children with special needs. The close proximity of Tamworth means there is no full time Family Support Office, Centre Care or access to the Women's Refuge.</p> <p>There is no safe house for women who are victims of domestic violence to go to in an emergency. The nearest Women's Refuge is in Tamworth which means long waits for victims until transport can be organised.</p>	<p>Local Government, Community groups and individuals need to lobby Government agencies to try to establish these services in our community.</p> <p>Education is an important solution and identifying high risk areas and times would be beneficial. The perpetrators needed to be part of the solution and programs such as the "Men's Shed", parenting groups, behaviour management and mentoring could help to implement appropriate behaviour. Advertise available services in places where women are more likely to frequent eg Doctors Surgery, supermarket and chemist.</p>	Community groups, members of the community, Community Health Nurse and Liverpool Plains Shire Council	This is an issue that is of immediate concern and needs to be looked at urgently.

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Crime/ Personal Safety	<p>There has been an increase in the incidence of domestic violence being reported. As domestic violence is more likely to be reported to family and friends it is highly unlikely that these are the only instances occurring.</p> <p>With the birth of a child young mothers find themselves socially isolated, there is sleep deprivation and dealing with the change in status of relationships can trigger an incidence of domestic violence.</p>	<p>Establish an adopt-a-grandparent program so that families with no connections can have some chance of social interaction. There needs to be strategies in place to ensure that new comers to town are made aware of the different services available.</p>	<p>Friends, family and community groups play a vital role in encouraging a victim to come forward and report Domestic Violence. Recently changed laws mean that if police do not report an instance they must explain why the incident was not reported</p>	<p>This is an ongoing issue that is often culturally based making it very difficult to have an impact on occurrences.</p>
Recreation	<p>There is limited availability of restaurants and after hour's entertainment.</p> <p>Young mothers who are new to the district do not have extended networks of support and often no family members to call on to help with child minding.</p>		<p>Community Nurse, Liverpool Plains Shire Council Community Service Coordinator. Community groups that may have volunteers available to do this.</p>	

OLDER PEOPLE - THIS GROUP INCLUDES INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OVER 45 YEARS OF AGE AND NON - INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OVER 60 YEARS OF AGE.

Older people make a great contribution to society. They offer skills, knowledge and wisdom that come with maturity and contribute to the social capital of a community by volunteering their time and experience. By 2021, nearly 18% of people in NSW will be over the age of 65.



CHARACTERISTICS

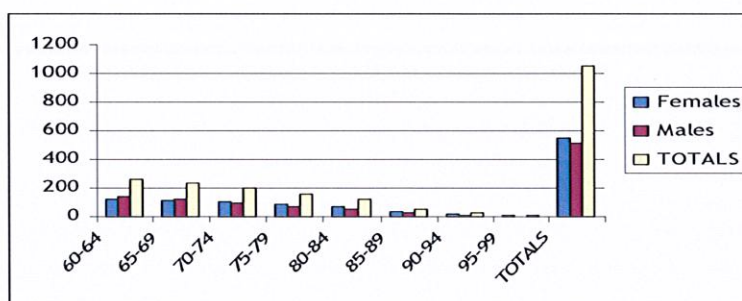


Figure4 : Number of older people living in the Liverpool Plains Shire by age and sex.

What are the potential SOCIAL ISSUES for this group?

- Loneliness & depression – particularly for those with no family and/or family who may live elsewhere;
- Failing health – including eyesight and hearing which limits their mobility and ability to look after themselves;
- Loss of basis skills such as being able to drive motor vehicles; and
- Discrimination because of their age.
- Inability to access services
- Early or unnecessary admittance into a medium to high level care facility.

What are the main social NEEDS of this group?

NEED	INCLUDING
HEALTH	Health, accommodation, care and support to promote independence, well being and health.
TRANSPORT	Public transport, often to larger centres that can provide specialist needs e.g. medical
COMMUNITY	Accessible and supportive living environments that allow them to live as independently as

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FACILITIES	possible. Depending on physical and mental health, this might involve various options.
SAFETY/CRIME PREVENTION	Feeling safe and supported in their homes especially the elderly that are living on their own.
RECREATION	Social interaction and friendly support, opportunities to participate in leisure and volunteering.

References: NSW Healthy Ageing Framework 1998-2003 Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care.

HOW WELL ARE THESE NEEDS BEING MET?

Older people basically fall into three key groups. Firstly, there are older people who still retain their independence and may be working or are self-funded retirees. A second group relies on some support in the form of Day Care or home assistance. This group may suffer from some type of disability. The third group includes older people who need a higher level of outside care. Some of these people live in the Retirement Home.

Many of the needs of the elderly are met through the time given by volunteers. Unfortunately many of the volunteers are aging and probably only have a few years of active volunteering left. The future of services provided by HACC such as Meals on Wheels and Community Transport are in jeopardy of disappearing or being greatly reduced as the number of able bodied volunteers declines. It is up to community groups to actively recruit volunteers and continually try to attract new members.

Social support and services for the less independent are largely provided through the Home and Community Care (HACC). The HACC Program is a joint Commonwealth/State program that provides support to frail aged people, younger people with disabilities and their carers so they can remain at home and avoid inappropriate or premature admission to residential care. Quirindi, Willow Tree and Werris Creek HACC offers an enormous range of services including:

- Transport services via a car to Tamworth or Newcastle for medical appointments.
- Medical bus to Tamworth (once/month);
- Bus to Tamworth Hydrotherapy pool (once/week);
- Shopping access transport (once/week); and
- Monthly shopping/medical access bus from Premier to Tamworth

HEALTH

Community Health supplies a number of services that are accessed by the elderly of the community. These services include podiatrist, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, mental health worker, community nurse and dietician.

The HACC Centre serves as a drop-in for people, 5 days a week and plays a huge role in overcoming loneliness and depression. The centre provides services for about 100 clients, with the use of the various services being sporadic. HACC provides transport for clients to attend medical appointments in Quirindi, Tamworth and beyond.

TRANSPORT

Transport is a major issue for older people and more is required. There is also a shortage of volunteers for meals on wheels and community transport. The increased emphasis on public liability has also had a huge impact on volunteer organisations. It is also becoming increasingly difficult for volunteers to obtain their bus licence due to the large number of driving hours that are needed before a licence is issued.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Liverpool Plains Shire Council has a wide range of Aged Care facilities ranging from in home care to a high care facility. After an enormous fundraising effort the local community has raised the funds to build a new aged care facility that caters for medium to high care residents. Werris Creek and Quirindi hospitals both host day centres where the elderly from the aged care facilities and the general public can come together for social interaction and activities such as craft, bingo and social outings.

CRIME/PERSONAL SAFETY

Quirindi has a very low crime rate and home invasion and assault is rare however older people would not go out at night alone or not secure their homes when they leave it.

RECREATION

- Men's Day (once/month) – this involves a day trip somewhere;
- Ladies' lunch at the local RSL Club (once/month);
- Craft day at the Ingall Centre and HACC Centre(once/month);
- Carer's meetings for spouses and partners of aged and disabled within the community;
- 4 day holiday for carers (annually);
- Seniors Week – held over 4 days; and

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- Weekly gentle exercise – to help balance and prevent falls.
- Older people in the community are very active in various community service groups including CWA, Quota, Lions, Rotary, Probus (a social group only) and Red Cross. These groups provide the more active seniors with a rich social life.

STRATEGIES - Including those carried forward from the 2006/07 Social Plan

ISSUE	WHY?	STRATEGIES	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME
Transport Access to Quirindi from outlying areas.	There are limited transport options, limited options on weekends and after hours. Many older people are choosing to retire in Quirindi and it is often difficult to access information on services on first arriving in town. There is limited advertising of services in the places people attend. A full time podiatrist is a major need for the elderly and adequate foot health is a major factor in fall prevention.	Target group needs to be made more aware of available transport options.	HACC, LPSC, Hunter New England Area Health.	This is an ongoing concern.
Access to services.	It is often a very difficult time for family members and carers when an elderly person makes the transition to residential aged care services e.g. Nursing Home. Clients are often aware of services and what are funding arrangements for high level care. The various aged care groups are not communicating and there are opportunities where referrals could	Advertise in HACC newsletter and community services article in the Advocate. Hunter New England Health needs to update their brochures and distribute to HACC offices Library, St Vincent De Paul and Doctors surgeries.	HACC, Hunter New England Area Health, LPSC, Community Services Coordinator.	ASAP
Support for Carers.		Letting clients know	Liaise with Retirement	ASAP

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<p>Quirindi Retirement Homes do not have grief counseling services for clients and or carers.</p> <p>Limited utilisation of health services by clients in residential aged care services.</p> <p>All aged services need to work together</p>	<p>be made by one group for another.</p>	<p>what services are available and at least giving them a choice. Access Anglican Counseling Service or refer client to Hunter New England Area Health Social Worker and Mental Health Worker.</p> <p>When first entering care carers and clients could be given a brief description of available services, how to access these services and a contact list.</p> <p>Organise an aged care forum to inform services of other services available.</p>	<p>Homes staff to ensure choices are known to carers or if necessary referrals made.</p> <p>Staff at Quirindi Retirement Homes</p> <p>Community Services Coordinator.</p>	<p>ASAP</p> <p>Every two years</p>
<p>Transport Access to main street shopping and social facilities.</p>	<p>Clients are often not aware of the HACC shopping bus, taxi vouchers and Transport for Health. The private town bus does not pick up/drop off in the main street or near Shaws/IGA.</p>	<p>Service flyer to include contact details for all services. Disabled area at Carlo's IGA is in a difficult spot for people traveling by bus to access and special arrangements must be made for the HACC shopping bus.</p>	<p>All service providers, LPSC.</p>	<p>ASAP</p>

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<p>Older people continuing to drive when not functionally able.</p>	<p>Increase local awareness of RTA processes for older drivers. GP accountability to initiate driving assessments.</p>	<p>Road safety lessons for Gofer Drivers possibly participate in an annual road safety event.</p>	<p>RTA, LPSSC, community groups such as CWA and Quota.</p>	<p>ASAP Annually</p>
<p>No access to publicly funded transport. This type of transport needs volunteers and carers to have the necessary training in handling clients and their aids. Volunteers must be able to correctly lift a client and have expertise in managing mental illness and physical disabilities.</p>	<p>Although the Community Health Bus provides a wonderful service it is not always available and limits the number of people that can attend an outing. This is a major concern for HACC clients especially. With this type of transport</p>	<p>If Council is unable to purchase a bus due to funding restrictions groups could possibly come to some arrangement with Howard's Bus Service in conjunction with Oxley Transport. There is a growing need for this service and at present not all clients are able to access day trips due to the constrictions of a small bus that needs a wheel chair ramp.</p>	<p>LPSC, HACC</p>	<p>The bus could be something that community groups can fundraise for over the next five years. There does need to be provision made by Council for depreciation and ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the vehicle.</p>
<p>Recreation Making full use of Day Centres</p>	<p>Older people in the community are not attending Day Centre activities. There seems to be a stigma attached to these places and clients feel the service is not appropriate even when their years are quite advanced.</p>	<p>Clients need to be encouraged to attend these centres on a couple of occasions. Clients are giving up after just one visit and often this is not giving the service a chance. Clients need to be informed of the days the</p>	<p>LPSC, Quirindi Retirement Homes need to promote their services in the wider community.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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		centre is opened and the activities available. Clients from the general community need to be encouraged to use these services as well as clients from Elmswood and the Retirement Homes.		
Community Facilities	The cost of residential care is so immense it is important that people be made aware of services that will allow them to remain in their homes for longer periods.	Council, Health and community organizations need to constantly lobby Government Organisations to increase HACC funding to keep people in their homes. Volunteers need to be encouraged and recruited to enable services to continue.	Hunter New England Area Health, LPSC, HACC Services, Community groups.	Ongoing

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES - COVERING ALL DISABILITIES INCLUDING PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS

Councils are encouraged to understand and analyse disability using a social model, rather than a medical one. This approach values the abilities and skills of people with disabilities and focuses on social, political or economic barriers that limit or prevent the person with a disability from taking part in community life.

5.5

Target Group

PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES



Characteristics

No detailed information was available for people with a disability in Liverpool Plains Shire.

What are the main SOCIAL NEEDS of this target group?

NEED	INCLUDING
HEALTH	Access to health services and advice specifically relating to their disability. This may include a range of options from in-home care to occasional day care. On council and local services that are accessible to people with disabilities.
COMMUNITY FACILITIES	Access to buildings used to provide services, including communication.
TRANSPORT	Specifically designed to meet their needs. Parking for disabled passengers is a major problem.
EDUCATION	Access to educational opportunities.
RECREATION	Access to recreational opportunities. To participate in community events and access services and facilities that is available to able bodied people.

HOW ARE THESE NEEDS BEING MET?

The needs of disabled people in Liverpool Plains Shire are largely met through the Home and Community Care (HACC) Day Options Program, Oxley Community Transport and Day Care.

The Carer Respite Service is based in Tamworth and operates as a brokerage service. They have 29 clients in Quirindi, including aged and/or people with a disability. The Northern Carer's Respite Service, based in Glen Innes, offers a similar service and is often the first port of call before being referred to other local services. At present the nearest respite that is offered is in Armidale which means a considerable amount of traveling to access the service for our Shire residents.

Respite care demands are not being fully met - Community Options have limited funding for home based respite.

Some disabled people participate in HACC activities organised for older people. This type of service is not appropriate for younger people with a disability as they are not interacting with people of their own age and many of the activities they are taking part in are not suitable or of interest to them. There is no post School Options Program in Liverpool Plains Shire.

Kalorama Farm and Quirindi Day Options have been taken over by the Challenge Foundation which is based in Tamworth. The service still provides living skills and community access programs for people with intellectual disabilities.

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Similarly, "Milpara" is a group home catering for 5 residents. Group homes provide quality, small-group supported accommodation in a community setting. They support and assist people with intellectual disabilities who cannot live independently or with their family, even with support. People wishing to use "Milpara" must join a waiting list.

Group Home staff helps clients to access day programs, holidays and recreation programs. However, there is an urgent need for short-term respite for carers of disabled people in Liverpool Plains Shire. This is important to provide planned short-term and time-limited breaks for families and other unpaid carers of children with a developmental delay and adults with an intellectual disability.

Short term, affordable respite care for disabled people is a huge issue Australia wide. Although this may not be realistic in the short term this should be flagged as a long-term goal for the Shire.

Council also has a strong commitment to improving access for disabled people and is increasing disabled parking, upgrading toilets for wheel chair access and providing ramps. They also investigate all reports relating to footpath access and address problems whenever possible.

STRATEGIES – Including those carried forward from the 2006/07 Social Plan

Issue	Why?	Strategy to overcome issue	Who is responsible	Time frame
Health Gap from independent to low care facility.	With the decline in volunteers people with disabilities who wish to remain in their home will find services more difficult to access.	Promoting volunteering and encourage new volunteers. Services will become increasingly dependent on paid staff performing duties once done by volunteers. Community Health, HACC, Transport for Health and similar need to promote the services they have available and ensure that as many residents as possible have access.	Council, Community Health and HACC.	Ongoing
Recreation	Disabled youth of the district do not have access to recreational facilities. It was noted that lack of recreational facilities was also an issue for non disabled youth as well. Some clients are too young	This is a serious issue for disabled residents especially the younger age groups. Tenpin Bowling is an option however Tamworth is a considerable distance away. The Royal Picture Theatre will be accessible to the	Council	Ongoing

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	or so severely handicapped to access Day Centres and HACC Services.	disabled of our community and was appreciated by all present at the group meeting.		
Community Facilities	The Quirindi Library disabled toilets are unable to be accessed by someone in a powered wheelchair.	Disabled toilets at the library will need to be upgraded in the future. The Mothers change room is being used at present and is a satisfactory solution in the short term.	Council.	Long term
Lack of picnic facilities at Bell Park and Golland Fields.	Quirindi Day Options has recently been taken over by the Challenge Foundation and intertown visits will be a regular occurrence. As there will be up to 20 visitors at present there are not enough tables available. It is extremely difficult for a person with a disability to eat off their lap. Golland Fields and Bell Park are ideal locations to hold functions as they are both quite level and the toilets have disabled access.	Community groups will be approached for donations and fundraising opportunities. Various community grants i.e. "Healthy Communities" will also be accessed.	Challenge Foundation, Council and all community groups.	This is something that needs looking into in the short term.

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<p>Access to respite/after school care.</p>	<p>There is no after school care or holiday funding for children with a disability over 12 years. Long Day Care and Family day Care can only manage children up to 12 years as the safety of the younger children must be considered especially when behavioural problems are indicated. Funding and facilities are geared more towards community members with intellectual disabilities rather than physical disabilities. People with physical disabilities are left in the mainstream,</p>	<p>With Challenge Foundation taking over Day Options clients may be able to approach them regarding after school care as this service is available in Tamworth. A respite centre is desperately needed in the Shire.</p>	<p>Challenge Foundation, Council and all community groups.</p>	<p>This is a high priority need and needs looking into urgently especially during school holidays.</p>
<p>Access to shops and parking</p>	<p>It was noted that access to the following shops was difficult: Florist, NAB, Newsagent, all hotels the Courthouse and the Police Station.</p> <p>The disabled car park near Rowntrees is difficult for disabled passengers to use as they must get out of the car on the other side of the ramp. If the passenger is unable to use steps they must walk out into the line of</p>	<p>There is no designated Disabled parking between the Courthouse and IGA. Fonzie's ramp is not easy to access and people are often parked in front of ramps. Even very small steps are difficult to access by people</p>	<p>Liverpool Plains Shire Council.</p>	<p>This is something that needs immediate attention and would be quite simple to fix.</p>

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	<p>traffic and walk to the ramp. This is potentially very dangerous and requires traffic to be stopped at times.</p>	<p>using a powered wheelchair. There is no disabled symbol on the road at any of the disabled car parks and there are places where it is difficult to see the signs due to overhanging branches.</p>		
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ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE- INCLUDING PEOPLE OF ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER DESCENT, WHO IDENTIFY AS SUCH, AND ARE ACCEPTED BY THE RESPECTIVE ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITY.



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Characteristics

- In 2006, 716 Aboriginal people were living in Liverpool Plains Shire.
- The large majority of Indigenous people were Aboriginal with the minority being Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander;
- 406 or 57% were over the age of 20; and
- The % of Indigenous people living in Liverpool Plains is relatively high compared to the NSW average of 1.9%.

What are the SOCIAL ISSUES for this group?

- Basic education and training – this limits employment opportunities;
- Cultural differences; and
- Transport- many Aboriginal people don't have driver's licenses and, therefore, find it difficult to travel to access services, attend interviews and participate in community events.

What are the main SOCIAL NEEDS of this group?

NEED	INCLUDING
HEALTH	Improved health facilities.
CRIME/PERSONAL SAFETY	For a more responsive justice system. To empower Aboriginal communities and individuals to achieve economic self sufficiency.
COMMUNITY FACILITIES	Housing, infrastructure, family and support services.
TRANSPORT	From Walhallow to pre schools and recreation facilities.
EDUCATION	Education and training specifically for Aboriginal students.
RECREATION	Quirindi Recreation Centre and sporting facilities.
CULTURE	For the work of Aboriginal artists, to encourage greater respect for Aboriginal people's relationship with the land, the sea and the rivers.

References: NSW Government's Statement of Commitment – Premier's Department

HOW WELL ARE THESE NEEDS BEING MET?

HEALTH

Mainstream health services for the indigenous community are provided through the Quirindi Community Health Centre with regular visits from Hunter New England Area Health Services workers.

An Aboriginal Maternity Health Service was introduced in the late 1990s but has waned recently. The service previously visited Quirindi fortnightly but now visits as required to provide antenatal, post natal care and women's health information in homes, hospital or at the Community Health Centre. Aboriginal Health workers from Tamworth and Walhallow provide a weekly service from the Community Health Centre and Nungaroo Land Council.

Walhallow Aboriginal Corporation also employs a Health Care Worker and has received funding to employ a doctor 1 day/week for 12 months. While this is a boost, there are concerns about what will happen after the 12 months has elapsed.

EMPLOYMENT

The Quirindi Aboriginal Corporation has a contract with Council to sort recyclable materials and manage the Quirindi and Werris Creek landfills.

The Walhallow Aboriginal Corporation is also very strong.

The abolition of the CDEP programme has caused consternation in the Aboriginal community and has resulted in the shutting down of a number of enterprises however the community is highly integrated into the general workforce.

HOUSING

Aboriginal housing is available through NSW Department of Housing, Quirindi Aboriginal Corporation and Nungaroo Lands Council. Both local organisations have rental properties available and Nungaroo leases and manages three properties from NSW DoH.

According to the Nungaroo Lands Council, housing demands are not fully met, particularly for flats for young singles and couples and three bedroom houses for families. There is a three year waiting list for properties and, ironically, they have 20 vacant blocks that they cannot afford to develop.

INFORMATION

Nungaroo Lands Council acts as a referral service for the Aboriginal community, directing people to other services to meet individual needs.

SERVICES

Isolation is a major issue, particularly for Aboriginal youth, and transport is seen as the biggest barrier to indigenous people participating in the community and accessing resources.

Aboriginal health workers believe that transport needs to be available specifically for younger and older people. Although two buses are available, none are solely dedicated to meeting health needs and consequently, it is often difficult to plan events. Similarly, HACC transport is difficult to access because of the demand.

STRATEGIES-Including those carried forward from the 2006/7 Social Plan.

Issue	Why?	Strategy to overcome the Issue.	Who is responsible?	Time Frame
Health Access to dental, mental health and women's health services.	Since the closure of the Public Dental Service at the Walhallow Outpost these services are now only available at Tamworth and Gunnedah making them much more difficult to access. Counseling services are also difficult to access and the Social and Emotional well being Centre is dealing with a lot of the mental health issues. There is very little support for children with parents who have drug and alcohol related issues.	Services at the Walhallow Outpost need to be reestablished to enable access for people needing treatment. North West Slopes Life Solutions will be possibly offering a full time service to help reduce the number of people on their waiting lists in the Liverpool Plains Shire. Life solutions are receiving up to 30 referrals per month and patients are waiting up to four months to receive treatment.	Walhallow and Nungarook Land Councils in conjunction with Liverpool Plains Shire Council and Hunter New England Health.	Over the next 12 months.

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<p>Youth making poor healthy lifestyle choices.</p> <p>Better understand the needs of the local Aboriginal community and facilitate communication between Council and indigenous residents.</p>	<p>Young people are often making poor choices with their food and eating a lot of take away meals.</p> <p>Employ an Aboriginal Liaison officer</p>	<p>A Healthy Choices Program for youth needs to be established so that they can be educated.</p> <p>Work in conjunction with local Land Councils so that the most suitable person for the job is recruited.</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Transport</p>	<p>Community members need greater access to driver training.</p> <p>There is no provision for check in stations for child restraints.</p>	<p>Access funding to run driver training courses or organise with RTA or Driver Training facility to do the same.</p>		<p>This is an ongoing concern.</p>

CULTURALLY DIVERSE - THIS GROUP INCLUDES PEOPLE OF VARIOUS NATIONAL, ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS & SOCIAL BACKGROUNDS.

Australia has benefited economically and socially through its acceptance of culturally diverse peoples. Persons of ethnic and culturally diverse backgrounds have much to offer the local community



5.7 Target Group Culturally Diverse

Characteristics:

- In 2006, there were 321 people living in the Liverpool Plains who were born overseas. This represented 4% of the total population
- More than half (55%) of the citizens born overseas were female
- The UK was the most frequent country of origin, followed by New Zealand and the Netherlands
- The language most spoken at home after English, was Chinese, followed by Dutch, and Italian.

What are the SOCIAL ISSUES for this group?

- Basic education and training
- Access to information;
- Cultural differences; and
- Community acceptance and non-vilification

What are the main SOCIAL NEEDS of this group?

NEED	INCLUDING
HEALTH	Access to health facilities that provide for cultural sensitivities. Access to legal and Community Service information.
COMMUNITY FACILITIES	Participate in community events and access services, facilities that are available to the rest of the community. Employment prospects and multi-lingual Library Services. Access to adequate housing, family and support services and interpretive services.
TRANSPORT	Opportunities for driver training and licensing
EDUCATION	English language courses and basic educational needs
RECREATION	Quirindi Recreation Centre and sporting facilities.
CULTURE	To have access to a range of culturally diverse activities.

HOW WELL ARE THESE NEEDS BEING MET?

Liverpool Plains Shire Council operates as a self-governing body within the legislative framework set out by the State Government. A key role of the NSW Government Division of Local Government is to assist councils in carrying out their activities in accord with this framework. Under both the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 and the NSW Local Government Act 1993, councils are required to carry out their functions in a manner that actively promotes the principles of multiculturalism. The Liverpool Plains Shire Council will identify and address the needs of people from culturally and linguistically diverse background in their management planning process.

HEALTH

The Quirindi Health Centre and Hunter New England Area Health provide excellent mainstream health services. Staff are aware of cultural sensitivities and are trained in handling such matters. NSW Health State policy requires that discretion and discernment is exercised when dealing with issues that may arise from cultural beliefs, practices and customs.

NSW Health provides through Hunter New England Area Health a number of interpretation services and Telephone interpreting services for public patients. The service is available 24 hours a day, seven day a week.

Hunter New England Area Health provides a counselling service accessible to all cultural groups.

Access to gender specific doctors can be arranged through the Hospital or doctor consultation process.

EMPLOYMENT

Liverpool Plains Shire Council has endeavoured to promote new industry and services within the Shire, generating job opportunities for both professional and blue-collar workers. It is expected that employment opportunities will increase dramatically throughout the Shire over the next decade. This will provide opportunities for people of culturally diverse backgrounds to find employment in a range of fields.

Opportunities for career training are available through the Quirindi TAFE and other regional educational institutions.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Access to foreign language reading material can be sourced through the State Library of NSW Multicultural Services. This service can be facilitated through the Liverpool Plains Shire Council Library Services, or through the Central Northern Library Services.

Government Language Service providers are the responsibility of the NSW Interdepartmental Committee on Migrant Settlement. These services have been made available for regional and rural NSW. It is NSW government policy to provide interpreters for clients who do not speak English and who are dealing with government agencies. In NSW all service providers can access the translating and interpreting services provided by the Community Relations Commission for a multicultural NSW (CRC) and the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA). In addition to these services, NSW Health and Centrelink also provide interpreter services.

EDUCATION

Educational needs are met through Quirindi High School and other private and public schools in Tamworth. A number of young people attend private boarding schools in the Sydney and New England regions.

The Quirindi TAFE also offers an extensive range of vocational education and training courses to diploma level, while Adult and Community Education provides courses of community interest. The University of New England Access Centre, on the Quirindi TAFE campus, provides a direct link to University level education.

English language tutorship can be accessed through the NSW TAFE, or the Department of Education and Training in Tamworth which has a dedicated unit, Multicultural Programs Unit (MPU). Its role is to ensure the delivery of quality multicultural education and training programs and services. MPU coordinates and implements a range of statewide programs and initiatives aimed at improving the outcomes for learners from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Further, the University of New England' offers the, Language Training Centre (LTC) to provide English language training for overseas students of non- English speaking backgrounds.

CULTURE

STRATEGIES –Including those carried forward from the 2006/2007 Social Plan

Issue	Why?	Strategy to overcome issue.	Who is responsible?	Time Frame
Health English as a second language.	Language difficulties can make it difficult for people from another culture to be understood.	Ensure that interpretive services are available.	Hunter New England Area Health	Ongoing
No female doctor in the town.	Some cultures do not like discussing health issues with members of the opposite gender.	Keep trying to entice a female doctor to the area.	Hunter New England Area Health, Liverpool Plains Shire Council	Ongoing
Community Facilities	Language and cultural differences may make it difficult to access some community facilities such as TAFE, Community	Establish English as a second language class either at TAFE or the local High School. Provide access to foreign language reading materials through State	New England TAFE, Quirindi High School and Liverpool Plains Shire Council.	Ongoing

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	Health and mainstream education.	Library of NSW Multicultural Services.		
Education Students may not know how to access ESL classes.	In order to gain employment potential applicants need to have a certain standard of English.	Lobby local High School to include these classes if they are not already available. Provide access to legal and community information pamphlets in a variety of languages in LPSC Library.	Quirindi High School.	Ongoing
Culture	Residents do not have access to artworks from different cultures.	Promote multicultural art exhibitions.	Arts Council	Ongoing

This section addresses the needs of all residents of Liverpool Plains Shire. This includes Quirindi itself and the outlying areas including Premer to the west, Wallabadah to the east, Werris Creek & Currabubula to the north and Willow Tree to the south.



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Characteristics:

- In 2006 there were 7950 people living in Liverpool Plains Shire;
- 39% of the population were aged 15 years and over;
- 18% of the population were aged 65 years and over
- 90% of people living in Quirindi in 2001 were born in Australia; and
- 95% of people speak English only.

How well are SOCIAL NEEDS being met?

A survey conducted in March 2009 throws some light on what the community likes about the Liverpool Plains.

Lifestyle			162
Peace and quiet	55	Laid back lifestyle	1
Lifestyle	40	Landscape	1
Country lifestyle	23	Living in our own home	1
It's a nice place to live	11	Love living in the area	1
Small town atmosphere	11	Not overcrowded	1
Beautiful area	5	Parks	1
Good schools	2	Scenic outlook	1
It's very friendly	2	Quality of life	1
A good spot	1	Very relaxed	1
Clean, healthy environment	1	Werris Creek is a great town to live in	1
Home	1		
Community			66
		Close relationship with indigenous	
The people	28	people	1
Sense of community	23	Community support	1
Good town to live in	7	Privacy	1
Countryside	3	Supportive community	1
Support from Council for children's sporting events	1		
Location			23
Well maintained area	7	Best district in the country	1

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Close to Tamworth	3	Close to town	1
Born and raised here	2	Livelihood from the area	1
Great place	2	Living in Werris Creek	1
Location	2	Position	1
Pretty town	2		
Services/facilities			14
Broad range of services/facilities	10	Central to major services	1
Convenient for services, e.g. medical	2	The hospital	1
Environment			13
Clean air	4	Natural environment	1
Climate	4	Soil	1
Dry weather	1	Water	1
Good water supply	1		
Family and friends			8
Family	5	Friendly elderly people	1
Family friendly	1	Friendly community	1
Other			35
Safety	9	No neighbours	1
Low crime rates	6	No traffic lights	1
Economically healthy area	2	Safe place for children	1
Freedom	2	Safe town	1
Security	2	Sports grounds	1
Affordable	1	Strong economy	1
Business opportunity	1	Very clean	1
Crime free	1	Very pretty, main town gardens	1
Everything for everybody	1	Work	1
No congestion	1		

WHAT OTHER STRATEGIES NEED TO BE IMPLEMENTED?

The community was also asked what the highest priority issues were over the next ten years and the results are as follows:

Services/Facilities			70
Aged care services and facilities	22	Youth opportunities	2
Youth facilities, e.g. skate park	10	Disability access	1
Hospitals	7	Keeping the doctors in the area	1
Tourism	7	Lack of hospital services	1
Medical services and facilities	3	Lack of police	1
Schools	3	Law and order	1
Child care services	2	MPS Unit at Werris Creek	1
Community services and facilities	2	Natural gas services to residential areas	1
Lack of doctors	2	Upgrade of the hospital	1
More youth services	2		
Roads/Footpaths			59
Roads	40	Footpaths at Werris Creek	1
Footpaths	5	Kerb and guttering	1
Country roads	2	Kerb and guttering between Fitzroy St and the racecourse	1
		Maintenance of roads between Werris Creek and	
Maintenance of footpaths	2	Tamworth	1
Street lighting	2	More pedestrian crossings	1
Tarring unsealed roads	2	Roads out of town	1
Mining			46
Coal mine issues	22	Coal mines wrecking the underground aquifer	1
Balance farming and mining	5	Coalmines, are they going to back the farmers	1
Control of coal mines	3	Development due to coal mining	1
No coal mining	3	Impact of the coal mining industry	1
Effect of coal mining on water supplies	2	Mining effects on the community	1
Limit mining	2	Pollution caused by the coal mines	1
Addressing the impact of coal mines on the local environment	1	Threat of mining	1
Balancing the needs of the community and mining	1		
Environment			37

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Water	12	Bore water access	1
Water management	8	Cleaning of creeks	1
Water conservation	6	Maintaining the good water in aquifers	1
Environment	3	Protecting environment, e.g. bushland	1
Influence of the Greens	2	Soil quality	1
Agriculture	1		
Development			27
Infrastructure	5	Keeping small towns in the LGA maintained	1
More development	3	Land development	1
Encourage new businesses to the area	4	Landfill	1
Affordable housing	1	Main street	1
Beautifying the town centre	1	Promoting the town	1
Development of tourism	1	The growth of the town	1
Export markets	1	Tourism for the goldmine	1
Industry growth	1	Upkeep of town	1
Irrigation	1	Youth centre upgrades	1
Other			45
Employment	10	Harmonious Shire	1
Housing	4	Kerbside recycle bins	1
Economic development	2	Less dictatorial attitude to local communities	1
Economic management	2	Look after constituents	1
Lowering the rates	2	Permanent residents	1
Management of the railways	2	Pool needs to be opened more often	1
Providing job opportunities for younger people to retain the population	2	Public transport	1
Transport	2	Recession	1
Better management of general duties in the town	1	Rubbish dumping	1
Control of youth behaviour in local ovals/parks	1	Socio/economic impact	1
Drainage	1	Sustainability	1
Financial management by Council	1	The swinging bridges should be fixed for historical effect and general use	1
Good living	1	Town sewerage for Willow Tree	1

5.9 CRIME STATISTICS

The Liverpool Plains Shire has a low crime rate ranking relative to most LGA's:

LIVERPOOL PLAINS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

	2003			2004			2005			2006			2007			2008		
	Total	Rate per 100,000 population	Rank	Total	Rate per 100,000 population	Rank	Total	Rate per 100,000 population	Rank	Total	Rate per 100,000 population	Rank	Total	Rate per 100,000 population	Rank	Total	Rate per 100,000 population	Rank
Murder	-	-	nc	-	-	nc	-	-	nc	-	-	nc	-	-	nc	-	-	nc
Non DV Assault	31	391.0	110	37	470.0	91	53	676.6	60	51	649.8	62	76	968.3	19	28	356.7	113
DV Assault	31	391.0	72	21	266.7	105	39	497.9	41	42	535.1	37	48	611.5	26	28	356.7	75
Sexual Assault	6	75.7	53	3	38.1	114	3	38.3	108	6	76.4	60	6	76.4	62	6	76.4	65
Other Sex Offences	14	176.6	10	3	38.1	137	4	51.1	112	7	89.2	65	11	140.1	25	6	76.4	79
Robbery w.o weapons	-	-	nc	2	25.4	69	1	12.8	99	-	-	nc	2	25.5	66	-	-	nc
Robbery w. firearm	-	-	nc	-	-	nc	-	-	nc	-	-	nc	-	-	nc	-	-	nc
Robbery w weapon	-	-	nc	-	-	nc	-	-	nc	-	-	nc	-	-	nc	-	-	nc
Break & Enter	16	201.8	139	22	279.4	128	24	306.4	124	19	242.1	130	12	152.9	140	20	254.8	127
B&E Non dwelling	22	277.5	134	19	241.3	121	37	472.4	50	38	484.1	49	28	356.7	70	16	203.8	117
Motor Vehicle Theft	6	75.7	139	4	50.8	138	6	76.6	127	6	76.4	135	2	25.5	140	8	101.9	126

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Steal from MV	9	113.5	141	13	165.1	139	18	229.8	130	16	203.8	130	12	152.9	134	16	203.8	136
Steal retail store	5	63.1	126	4	50.8	126	3	38.3	130	8	101.9	102	9	114.7	94	6	76.4	113
Steal from dwelling	26	327.9	107	14	177.8	136	16	204.3	123	22	280.3	103	20	254.8	107	9	114.7	140
Steal from person	-	-	nc	1	12.7	126	-	-	nc	1	12.7	123	1	12.7	126	-	-	nc
Fraud	5	63.1	139	9	114.3	128	7	89.4	133	14	178.4	117	9	114.7	131	7	89.2	136
Malicious Damage	78	983.7	117	49	622.4	140	60	766.0	135	99	1,261.3	97	99	1,261.3	93	50	637.0	139

Source: Bureau of Crime Statistics

Ranking fluctuates over time however across most areas Liverpool Plains is a relatively safe environment in which to live.

The role of natural resource management in Liverpool Plains Shire

Landcare and Landcare groups contribute to the social nature of rural Shires such as Liverpool Plains. The social spins offs of Landcare have been well documented. Apart from providing a focus for joint community effort on environmental projects, Landcare also fills an important social role. It brings people together to share a common goal of improving the environment and, in the process, exposes participants to an invaluable social support system.

Council also worked with the community to establish the 'Quirindi Community Nursery'. The nursery is managed by volunteers and supplies native plants for local and regional natural resource management activities. Profits generated by the nursery are channeled into community projects.

The Liverpool Plains Shire Council had also been active in working with regional ornithological groups to identify bird routes throughout the shire. A bird route brochure has been produced and a bird hide constructed on the shores of the old Quipolly Dam.

The role of the Churches

Quirindi is home to a number of churches including the Anglican, Catholic, Uniting, Harvest Christian, Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah Witnesses and 'Christian Home Fellowship' group.

The churches contribute significantly to the moral, economic and social needs of the Shire. For example, the churches are instrumental in assisting the community through charitable activities such as St Vincent de Paul's, the Red Shield Appeal and a number of discreet benevolent charitable services. Church volunteers are often involved in activities such as meals on wheels, and unpaid aged care and home support services. The local youth are catered for with youth groups, coffee drop in centres, and counseling services. The Uniting church operates a bookshop, providing residents access to Christian literature, music and gifts.

The role of the church in maintaining and supporting 'Social Services' can not be sufficiently measured, however it is certain that it plays an important role in contributing to the social needs of the Liverpool Plains Shire.

The role of aged care facilities

The development of aged care facilities in the Shire has advanced greatly since the early 1980,s when three separate committees merged to form 'Quirindi Retirement Homes Ltd'. The 'QRH Ltd' is responsible for a number of aged care lodgings including the:

- 'Quirindi & District Nursing Home', a 36 resident home situated on the grounds of the Quirindi Hospital;
- 'Eloura a brand new facility; and
- 2 x independent living units, 'The Gables' a 12 unit accommodation complex on George Street, and 'The Villas' a 6 unit complex on the corner of Hill and Abbott Streets.

Apart from the permanent employees, aged care facilities in the Shire are well supported by a strong network of volunteers who assist in providing palliative care, respite, entertainment, religious instruction, and companionship. The aged are also supported through programs implemented by HNEAHS and HACC. Volunteers, recreational opportunities and entertainment programs are coordinated by two 'Recreational Activities Officers' employed by QRH LTD.

Liverpool Plains Shire also operates Summerhill Lodge at Werris Creek, which provides low cost self-care accommodation for elderly citizens and other disadvantaged persons.

The role of Service Clubs

Service clubs provide a large contribution to communities. There are many active service clubs in LPSC including Country Women's Association (CWA), Lions, Quota, Rotary and Toastmasters. The combined Services clubs support a number of the local charities including the Salvation Army, Smith Family, and the St Vincent de Paul Society. The service clubs also provide funding for a broad range of community programs. For example, the Lions Club supports many local initiatives including catering for Australia Day celebrations. It also supports youth with various opportunities such as Lions Youth of the Year quest, Kids to the Coast (for the disadvantaged), International Peace Poster competitions, and prizes for school speech days. The refurbished Royal Theatre will provide residents with a new entertainment venue.

The Lions club is often called upon to contribute barbecue cooks for numerous sales and catering ventures and conducts the annual Lions Club Auction with all proceeds going to various charities.

The Quirindi RSL Club provides residents with a venue for musical and other stage entertainment, and the building is often utilized as the 'unofficial' Quirindi conference centre. The lack of a designated Entertainment Centre in the Shire has meant that facilities such as the RSL Club, Werris Creek Bowls and Tennis Club and the Quirindi Bowling Club provide an important entertainment venue for residents. The refurbished Royal Theatre will provide residents with a new entertainment venue.

Quirindi Rural Heritage Village

The 'Quirindi Rural Heritage Village' was founded in 1998 to promote 'Australia's cultural heritage through the preservation of its rural antiquities'. The village is situated on the grounds of Captain Cook Bicentennial Park, five kilometres north west of the Quirindi Township. The Shire Council transferred tenureship of the park lease to the 'Rural Heritage Village Committee' in 1998.

The QRHV holds the annual 'Rural Heritage Rally and Swap Meet', which draws interest from around the country.

The Role of Volunteer Groups

Communities continue to provide "volunteers" with a range of activities such as SES, NSW Rural Fire Service, Volunteer Rescue Association and other community clubs that plan and stage events.

Without these volunteers, communities would not benefit from many activities and services. Among the most significant group of volunteers is those responsible for the Rail Journeys Museum in Werris Creek whose activities have won many prestigious awards in recent times.

CHAPTER 6: Issue-Based Specific Strategies

6.1 HEALTH

Typically, rural areas in Australia have lower health standards than their city counterparts, with a higher overall death rate, hospitalisation rates and a tendency to consult with health professionals only when the problem is urgent. They are also more likely to be at risk of a major disease.

(Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care's Regional Health Strategy', 1999)

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR HEALTH ISSUES?

The major health issues are:

ISSUE	INCLUDING
Drug addiction	
Alcohol addiction	
Mental health	Issues such as anxiety, depression and social phobias are huge ongoing issues. Lack of referrals and inappropriate referrals.

In a rural shire such as Liverpool Plains, geographic and economic factors are intrinsically linked to health. The seasonal fluctuations that characterise the rural sector can have a significant effect on mental health.

HOW ARE THESE NEEDS MET?

Quirindi has a Community Acute Health Service and currently provides acute care, medical services, obstetrics and pediatrics. The hospital has a 24-hour Emergency Department. The Community Health Service shares the same "campus" as the hospital and provides various services including an Aboriginal health clinic, day care centre, diabetes education, early childhood clinics, immunisation, sexual assault services, cardiac rehabilitation program and speech pathology.

Quirindi Health Service also supports community based health services at Nundle and Premer.

A number of health related groups also operate in Liverpool Plains Shire. These are listed in the community directory.

6.2 INFORMATION

Information is a basic need in any community and helps to involve, empower and build rural and regional communities. Technological advances in recent years have changed the way that people access and use information and this has social implications, especially in rural communities.

New resident kits have been developed.

All Libraries in the Central Northern Libraries network are on-line and this has improved access, particularly for outlying areas.

The strategies in this section are cross-referenced with other sections of this plan.

6.3 EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

HOW ARE EDUCATION NEEDS MET?

Quirindi, as the main service centre of the Shire, has two primary schools and one high school. There are also public schools at Blackville, Premer, Spring Ridge, Wallabadah, Walhallow, Werris Creek, Currabubula, and Willow Tree. All of these schools feed into Quirindi High School.

The Quirindi Campus of the New England Institute of TAFE is a modern, integrated facility. The campus provides access to an extensive range of vocational education and training courses to diploma level offered through TAFE NSW. These courses are delivered using a number of delivery modes and modern technologies.

The TAFE Campus is also home to Quirindi Adult and Community Education (ACE), which provides courses of community interest. The University of New England Access Centre, situated on the campus, provides a direct link to University level education. The Liverpool Plains Shire Council Long Day Care Centre, located next to the TAFE Campus, complements educational opportunities by allowing family members to participate in further education and training.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT IN QUIRINDI?

The majority of people employed in Liverpool Plains Shire are involved in agriculture, forestry and fishing. The other dominant industries are health and community services and retail trade. Even still the number employed in the agriculture sector has decreased significantly in the last 15 years from 935 to 814 people.

6.4 CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

WHY IS CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INCLUDED IN A SOCIAL PLAN?

Cultural development adds richness and diversity to communities and cultural amenities are fundamental to people's needs and the business of local government.

For the purpose of this plan the word "cultural" includes the performing and visual arts, craft, museums, historical societies and heritage, libraries, built environment and heritage, festivals, events and organised leisure activities. The term "cultural development" includes conducting, participating in and promoting cultural activities and opportunities throughout the Shire.

How well are cultural needs met?

The Arts in the Liverpool Plains Shire are extremely important in terms of their social contribution to the Shire's culture, but also to its education, economy and society. The Liverpool Plains Arts Council (LPAC) has been formed to coordinate and develop the various arts activities in the Shire, in an effort to positively increase the contribution that art and culture make to the community.

The Liverpool Plains Shire Arts Council operates as a section 355 Management Committee under the Local Government Act. They must report on their activities and adhere to detailed guidelines relating to appointment of members, membership and financial management.

Apart from the Arts Council, other cultural activities and organisations include:

- Quirindi Art Society;
- Quirindi Arts and Craft Shop;
- Royal Theatre;
- Historical Cottage and Museum.
- Rail Journeys Museum
- Rural Heritage Village
- Wallabadah Cultural Centre
- Liverpool Plains Shire Council Arts Council

Cultural planning

Liverpool Plains Shire Council has prepared a cultural plan. This plan contains a detailed inventory and description of local cultural assets, resources and infrastructure.

As with Social/Community Plans, Cultural Plans are submitted to the NSW Minister for Local Government for endorsement.

CHAPTER 7: Acknowledgements and References

7.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the following people for contributing to this Social Plan:

Name	Position/title	Organisation	Interests
Belinda Eykamp	Community Services Coordinator	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	Youth/Social
Neil McGarry	Director Economic & Community Development	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	Aged/Cultural
Carmel Jones	Manager – Eastside Childcare Centre	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	Children
Fay Dart	Early Childhood Nurse	Hunter New England Area Health	Children, Women, Elderly
Colleen Wills	Councillor	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	Children, Youth, Women
Liverpool Plains Shire Council HACC Service			Elderly, Disabled

7.2 REFERENCES

- Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (1999) Regional Health Strategy.
- Department of Local Government (October 2000). Cultural Planning – a Handbook for Local Government. Revised third draft.
- NSW Department of Local Government (December 2002) Social and Community Planning and Reporting Manual.
- NSW Department of Local Government (December 2002) Social and Community Planning and Reporting Guidelines.
- Liverpool Plains Shire Council Terms of Reference, Liverpool Plains Shire Arts Council.
- Liverpool Plains Shire Council 2009/2010 Management Plan.
- Liverpool Plains Shire Council Community/Social Plan 2006/2010.

7.3 ACRONYMS

Acronym	Term	Relevant sections
ACE	Adult and Community Education	Employment, education
ANW	Arts North West	Cultural development
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission	Indigenous
AYF	Australian Youth Foundation	Young people
BODC	Beehive Occasional Day Care	Children
CDEP	Community Development and Employment Program	Indigenous
CNL	Central Northern Libraries	Cultural development
DADHC	Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care	Older people
DAP	Disability Action Plan	People with a disability
DoCS	Department of Community Services	
DoH	NSW Department of Housing	
DIPNR	Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Natural Resources	General Community
DLG	Department of Local Government	All
HACC	Home and Community Care	Older people, people with a disability
EDO	Economic Development Officer (Liverpool Plains Shire)	All
LPSC	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	All
LDCC	Long Day Care Centre	Children
HNEAHS	Hunter New England Area Health Service	All

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NLC	Nungaroo Lands Council	Indigenous
OCT	Oxley Community Transport	Older people, people with a disability
PCYC	Police Citizens Youth Club	Youth and general community
QAC	Quirindi Arts Council	Cultural development
QHS	Quirindi High School	Youth
QPS	Quirindi Pre School	Children
QRC	Quirindi Recreation Centre	Youth, general community
QRH LTD	Quirindi Retirement Homes Limited	Aged Care
QRHV	Quirindi Rural Heritage Village	Cultural Heritage
QSC	Quirindi Shire Council	All – Previous LGA
QSC	Quirindi Sports Council	Youth, general community
RCMC	Recreation Centre Management Committee	Youth, general community
RTC	Rural Transaction Centre	
SRC	Student Representative Council	Young people
TAFE	College of Technical and Further Education	Employment, education
TFS	Tamworth Family Support	Children, women
TWR	Tamworth Women's Refuge	Women
UNE	University of New England	Employment, education
WAC	Walihallow Aboriginal Corporation	Indigenous
WLC	Walihallow Lands Council	Indigenous

APPENDICES

LIVERPOOL SHIRE COUNCIL MANAGEMENT PLAN – 2009/2010

APPENDIX 1: Statement of Access and Equity

Following the introduction of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, Council must include information about access and equity activities in its management plan.

An access and equity activity is described as one that benefits both the general community and/or particular target groups and helps Council to:

- Promote fairness in the distribution of resources;
- Recognise and promote people's rights and improve the accountability of decision makers;
- Ensure that people have fairer access to the economic resources and services essential to meeting their basic needs and improving quality of life; and/or
- Give people better opportunities for genuine participation and consultation about decisions affecting their lives.

When determining Council strategies regarding social and community planning issues, Council needs to take into consideration identified levels of need, Council's financial situation and local demography. The following activities are planned to be undertaken as part of Council's response to its Community Social Plan:

- Continue implementation of Council's Disability Action Plan;
- Continue to identify issues of concern for aged and disabled residents and visitors;
- Actively involve the local community, commercial and social groups and other non-government agencies in the planning process;
- Respect cultural diversity;
- Promote fair, open and participatory decision making;
- Consider the equity implications of all proposals;
- Construct public disabled toilet facilities as budget s permit across the shire;
- Develop an aging strategy;
- Construct disabled facilities and disabled access at the Royal Theatre.

APPENDIX 2: Review of 2006/2010 Social Plan

CHILDREN

Description	Recommendation	Date	What's happened?
North West Life Education	Maintain Council support for North West Life Education	Ongoing	Council funds each Primary School student in the Shire to attend North West Life Education. This includes students from Walhallow.
Family Day Care	Request that Family Day Care keep council informed regarding the supply and demand for carers.	Ongoing	Ongoing contact with HACC Services
Quirindi Toy Library	Assist the Toy Library to optimise funding opportunities		Toy Library closed. Toys distributed to the Play Groups.
Extension of Holiday fun program	Consider extending the Holiday fun program with a trial extension during Mar/April 2000	Ongoing	The Centre is operated during Christmas and September School Holidays.
Aboriginal access to pre school education	Assess, with NEAHS, Quirindi Pre School and Nungaroo Lands Council Aboriginal access to pre school facilities and if additional outreach services are required.		Program has commenced. Aboriginal Playgroup established.
Community leadership	Initiate, in conjunction with appropriate community organisations, leadership training programs to encourage community participation.	Ongoing	A workshop has been held on grant application writing and Community Development Workshops held by Economic Development Officer in all Shire villages.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Description	Recommendation	Target Date	What's happened?
Sport and recreation facilities	Maintain ongoing commitment to provide facilities for sport and recreational activity	Ongoing	The Quirindi Recreation Centre has been refurbished. Improved facilities for No. 1 Oval, Qdi
Youth Scholarship Scheme	Continue and develop the Youth Scholarship Scheme	Ongoing	A committee is in place.
Leadership training	In conjunction with appropriate community organisations, initiate leadership training programs to encourage community participation.	Ongoing	This is part of the Youth Scholarship Scheme.

WOMEN

Description	Recommendation	Target Date	What's happened?
Domestic violence	Recognise that domestic violence is a community issue and acknowledge the work being undertaken under the Regional Violence Protection Strategy.	Ongoing	Domestic violence is still an issue. Release of Domestic Violence Information Kit.
Women's health	Continue to support the women's health initiative of the Hunter New England Area Health Service and encourage development of outreach services.	Ongoing	The Women's Health Services provides a range of services, specifically targeting women.

OLDER PEOPLE

Description	Recommendation	Target Date	What's happened?
HACC volunteer recruitment	Support a program to recruit more volunteers to the HACC program, or change volunteer structure to incorporate community organisations to the HACC program and regularly review the level of support required to meet the growing demand for services to older people.	As required	This service relies heavily on volunteers. The dilemma is that many volunteers are getting older and despite efforts to attract new people, they are not volunteering. Volunteer Day held in Railway Square, Quirindi
Advocacy for respite services	Extend the role of the Committee which initiated the disabled mobility map (referred to in Strategy for Disabled People), extend its role to include advocacy for respite services for older people and their carers.	Ongoing	The Disability Access plan has been implemented. Recreation Centre, RFS and SES building access provided for disabled. Council paving works provided disabled standard access points. Werris Creek Public Toilets rekeyed for 24hr disabled access. Rose Lee Park toilets constructed with disabled access.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Description	Recommendation	Target Date	What's happened?
HACC volunteer recruitment	Support a program to recruit more volunteers to the HACC program, or change volunteer structure to incorporate community organisations to the HACC program and regularly review the level of support required to meet the growing demand for services to older people.	As required	This service relies heavily on volunteers. Unfortunately, many volunteers are getting older and despite efforts to attract new people, younger people are not volunteering.
Advocacy for respite services	Extend the role of the Committee which initiated the disabled mobility map (referred to in Strategy for Disabled People), extend its role to include advocacy for respite services for older people and their carers.	Ongoing	The Disability Access plan has been implemented. Council lobbied for expansion of and funding for HACC Services to Willow Tree.

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ABORIGINAL

Description	Recommendation	Date	What's happened?
Identification of needs of the indigenous community	Utilise the Nungaroo Lands Council planning document as the principal source to identify community needs for the formation of strategies in future Community Plans		Council maintains Waste Contract with Quirindi Aboriginal Corporation to manage Quirindi, Werris Creek and Willow Tree tips. Entered contract to sort recyclables.
Community directory	Include Aboriginal organisations in Council's community directory	Ongoing	Indigenous organisations have been included in the current directory.
Centrelink services for Liverpool Plains Shire through Nungaroo Lands Council	Encourage and assist Nungaroo Lands Council to improve Centrelink services in Quirindi through the provision of touch screen computer terminals, as technological advances follow.	Ongoing	Walhallow Aboriginal corporation was the successful tender to provide Centrelink Services in Quirindi.

HEALTH

Description	Recommendation	Target Date	What's happened?
Psychotherapy services	Assist Premier Clinic, in kind or financially, in its efforts to provide psychotherapy to local residents	Ongoing	Council funds building maintenance works on Centre.
North West Division of General Practice Forum	Support Division	Ongoing	Regular contact by Council, Senior Staff with Doctors
Community transport	Continue role with Oxley Community Transport		Link maintained
Medical Liaison Committee	Strengthen the Medical Liaison Committee role in continuing to address health planning issues for Liverpool Plains Shire residents	Ongoing	Regular meetings to facilitate development of a new Medical Centre for Quirindi. HealthOne to commence construction in 2010.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council - Social/Community Plan 2010-15

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Description	Recommendation	Target Date	What's happened?
Liverpool Plains Shire library opening hours	Review current opening hours with a view to altering or extending according to user demand	Ongoing	Library hours have been extended at Werris Creek.
Internet access at Premier	Investigate the provision of Internet access to make it available as a community resource through NEHS, CNL, Liverpool Plains Shire Council and the Department of Education and Training.	Ongoing	Premier now has a CTC
Distribute new residents information package	Package for new residents, make available through Tourist Centre, Library, Real estate Agents, Taxis and commercial outlets.	Ongoing	Information available and distributed.
Liverpool Plains Shire Council website	Continue to include and update information about the town/district, Council's operations, activities and other information relevant to new residents on the Council's website.	Ongoing	Council has a website available for public to read information.

CULTURAL

Description	Recommendation	Target Date	What's happened?
Arts North West	Continue membership of Arts North West and encourage community groups and individual artists to use its services.	Ongoing	Ongoing Membership retained
Use of the Internet to promote events	Promote cultural activities in the shire through the Council's website.	Review regularly	Events listed

SPORT AND RECREATION

Description	Recommendation	Target Date	What's happened
Swimming pool hours	Review the hours of opening and adjust to maximize public use	Annual	Hours reviewed-earlier opening hours in Quirindi are now in place.
Playground plantings	Consider planting shade trees and gardens in parks with existing playground equipment and involve the community in planting and maintenance.	Ongoing	All new playground equipment areas to incorporate shade shelters

EDUCATION

Description	Recommendation	Target Date	What's happened?
TAFE	Support the TAFE campus, citing the positive effect on the community in increasing the level of training and employability of the young people and the long-term possibilities for a community to offer school leavers an opportunity to stay in town.	Ongoing	Attend public meeting on training activities
Traineeships	Develop a training strategy for young people.	Ongoing	Discuss with Mining Companies
Promotion of TAFE	Promote TAFE open learning programs to increase youth participation in education opportunities	Ongoing	Meetings have been held with TAFE.



Cultural Plan 2009- 2014

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1. Background

Legislative requirements

The Local Government (General) Amendment (Community and Social Plans) Regulation 1999 requires that Councils develop a social or community plan in accordance with Departmental guidelines, and report on identified access and equity activities in their annual reports.

The State Government has identified that there is a need for a more formalised cultural planning process as a means of ensuring that councils consider cultural aspects of community life as a strategic component of corporate planning.

As a consequence, councils must submit a Cultural Plan to the Department of Local Government every five years.

Purpose

Cultural planning is a "purposeful, strategic approach to cultural development" (Australia Council, 1997). In the case of this Plan, its purpose is to provide a framework for the Shire's role in cultural development through identifying:

- A cultural vision for the Shire
- Aims
- Key result areas
- Suggested strategies/means to achieve the identified aims and key result areas

Scope

This Plan seeks to identify the various cultural needs of the Liverpool Plains community, determine whether it is Council's responsibility to take action upon

them, and recommend action plans to meet those needs.

The Plan defines "culture" as "the cumulative expression of community identity through the natural and built environment; heritage and shared languages; through the arts and crafts; recreation and leisure activities and the many other ways by which creative identity is expressed, interpreted and acknowledged".

The Planning Process

The following process has been used in the preparation of this Plan:

- Develop a workable definition of "culture"
- Prepare a community profile
- Develop a database of cultural assets and resources
- Develop a Cultural Map
- Review the vision and set of aims
- Review Council's policies on major subjects affecting several strategies (eg. access and equity, culture, community management, urban design)
- Develop a list of key result areas
- Prepare a set of strategies/means covering the key result areas
- Integrate the Action Plans and proposed projects into Council's future management plans.

Target Groups

Although this Plan is essentially a whole of community plan, it does recognise that there are a number of groups within the community that require special consideration either because of past and present disadvantage or because of the particular benefits they can obtain from cultural activities.



The following target groups are given special consideration in this Plan:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Children Young people
- People with Disabilities
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

Key Result Areas

The following six Key Result Areas are addressed in the Cultural Plan:

1. Cultural Spaces

To provide and maintain well-located, adaptable spaces for activities to which access is easy for all community members.

2. Cultural Diversity

To identify and celebrate our differences in ways appropriate to the needs of the different groups.

3. Cultural Education

To inform people about our diverse cultures and how we encourage them to learn about each other.

4. Cultural Heritage

To preserve our unique character, recognizing all its differences.

5. Cultural Events

To involve as many people as possible in planning, running and attending community cultural events.

6. Cultural Links

To form cultural links with other communities, other regions and other cultures thereby recognising that Liverpool Plains is part of a wider society with broader cultural traditions

Action Plans

For each of the six Key Result Areas there is a set of action plans. These action plans have a standard layout as follows:

- Objectives – these are related to the Cultural Vision and to Council's Vision and Objectives.
- Goals – these set out the individual actions by which the key result area objective will be achieved.
- Means – these indicate how the Goals will be achieved.
- Year – this represents the operating year in which it is planned to commence a strategy.
- Plan Ref. – this is the individual budget number allocated in the Management Plan that is responsible for carrying out the actions.

Performance indicators that measure the achievements of the goals in each of the Key Result Areas are set out in the Management Plan and reported in Council's Annual Report.

2. Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Council's 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.

Council's Commitment to Cultural Needs

Council is committed to the following principles:

(a) Identity and Sense of Place

Liverpool Plains will be a community which recognises that places have cultural meanings for people that contribute to their sense of identity and belonging;



(b) Creativity and Innovation

Liverpool Plains will be a community that values and encourages creativity and innovation.

(c) Acceptance and Diversity

Liverpool Plains will be a community that promotes acceptance and diversity.

(d) Access and Opportunity

Liverpool Plains will be a community that provides access and opportunity to all individuals and groups.

(e) Conservation and Sustainability

Liverpool Plains will be a community that values its heritage and that actively promotes its preservation and conservation.

(f) Co-operation and Participation

Liverpool Plains will be a community where people can give support and encouragement to each other to participate in the cultural life of the community.

Council's Cultural Vision

That the Liverpool Plains community maintains and develops art and cultural opportunities, which have an emphasis on lifestyle enhancement and participation from all segments of the community.

Programs

Council operates a varied range of activities and services generally described as programs or budget subject areas. It is Council's plan to continue to operate all these programs in 2009/10 at existing service levels. However, all programs and service levels are subject to regular review and some changes may occur during the year.

Programs**Community Leadership & Governance**

100-120 Members Facilities & Expenses

100-130 Senior Administration

100-140 Finance & Administration

Safe & Sustainable Environment

300-110 Environmental Serv Admin

300-120 Public Health

300-130 Built Environment

300-140 Natural Resources

300-150 Waste Management

300-160 Emergency Services

300-170 Ordinance Control

300-180 Buildings

Vibrant Lifestyle

200-110 Tourism & Economic Development

200-120 Rail Journeys Museum

300-190 Library Services

300-190 Aged & Disabled Services

300-200 Youth & Children's Services

300-190 Cultural & Community Services

300-200 Child Care Services

Well-maintained Infrastructure

400-110 Works Administration

400-120 Works Depot

400-150 Parks & Reserves

400-180 Sewer Services

400-130 Infrastructure Maintenance

400-160 Infrastructure Construction

400-170 Water Services



3. The Liverpool Plains Community

Overview

Liverpool Plains Shire is a progressive multipurpose rural Council, located on the rich agricultural lands of the Liverpool Plains.

The Shire has a population of around 7,540 people with the major urban centres being Quirindi and Werris Creek – the first and last railway town.

Situated on the North/West Slopes and Plains, the main town of Quirindi is 66kms south of Tamworth and 410kms north of Sydney. The major road link is the New England Highway which traverses the country side 12kms east of Quirindi.

The Shire currently has an economic base focused on agricultural pursuits. These include cropping of maize, sorghum, Lucerne, Soya beans, chick peas, sunflowers, wheat, corn, oats, canola and vegetables. Two (2) major intensive cattle feedlots operate in the Shire as well as a number of poultry farms. Cattle and sheep grazing are also undertaken.

However the shire is experiencing significant growth through timber processing and gas and coal exploration currently taking place.

The shire also has strong sporting and cultural traditions and has many clubs and societies contributing to society. Among the more well-known cultural organisations are the Wallaby Art Group, the Quirindi and District Historical Society, the Liverpool Plains Arts Council, the Rural Heritage Village, Blackville Art Show, Currabubula Red Cross Art Show, Quirindi Arts & Crafts Group and the ARM Management Inc.

Population Profile

The following profile of the Liverpool Plains Shire is based on data obtained from the 2006 Census.

Table 1: Selected Averages (2001 Census)

	Liverpool Plains	Australia
Median age	43	37
Median monthly housing loan repayments	\$758	\$1,300
Median weekly rent	\$100	\$190
Median weekly individual income	\$351	\$466
Median weekly family income	\$857	\$1,171
Median weekly household income	\$666	\$1,027
Mean household size	2.4	2.6
Dwellings fully owned	44.2%	32.6%
Dwellings being purchased	21.5%	32.2%
Dwellings being rented	25.1%	27.2%

Table 2: Selected Characteristics (2006 Census)

	Males	Females	Persons
Total persons	3761	3779	7540
Aged 15 yrs and over	3000	3026	6026
Aged 65 yrs and over	680	712	1392
Indigenous persons			715
Born in Australia			6,638
Born overseas			316
Speaks English only			6976
Australian citizen			6827
Employed full-time			1,875
Employed part-time			908
Unemployed			192
Unemployment rate			6%



Changes in Liverpool Plains Shire's Population

The main changes since 1986 have been in the size and composition of the population, and aspects of the economic life of the shire such as employment, industry and income.

In summary, the following changes have occurred:

- The Shire's population has declined by nearly 9%;
- Most of the loss in population is attributable to decline in agricultural and rail employment;
- The number of indigenous people in the population has increased from 582 in 1986 to 715 in 2006;
- The population is older than it was in 1986 ie. median age is 43 as opposed to 32 in 1986;
- Family and household sizes have become smaller from 3.15 persons to 2.4 persons;
- Traditional industries such as agriculture continue to decline but are still the major employment sector for the Shire.

Most of these changes reflect changes in the broader Australian population, which is now feeling the effects of the post World War Two "baby boom". The trend downwards in population numbers is one area where Liverpool Plains differs from the broader population, which has grown during the period. However, the decline in population has slowed markedly and in centres such as Quirindi and Werris Creek has grown substantially.

The Future

On the basis of data obtained from the 2006 Census, the trends set out above appear negative in many aspects. However recent economic development within the Shire suggests that the following may occur:

- The population is likely to increase by about 4% per year and a best case of about 6 %;
- The number of older people in the population is likely to continue to increase;
- The number of younger people in the population is likely to increase with increased employment opportunities;
- Female numbers will be similar to male numbers;
- Household sizes will stabilise with the ageing of the population and preferences for smaller families;
- Median income will remain static or rise slightly as higher incomes in for example mine employment are offset by the increasing number of people on aged pensions and other social security benefits;
- Full-time employment will continue to grow due to restructuring of the economy from a largely agricultural base to one that includes mining, tourism, manufacturing and service industries base.



4. Action Plans

Key Result Area 1:

Cultural Spaces

Objective: To provide and maintain well-located, adaptable cultural spaces for activities to which access is easy for all community members.

Goal	Means	Year	Plan Ref
Continue to grow and develop the Australian Railway Monument & Rail Journeys Museum at Werris Creek offering the wider community an educational and recreational resource associated with the history of rail.	Operate a national museum and provide a range of public programs and exhibitions. Utilise the Railway monument amphitheatre for performances and events.	ongoing	200-120
	Investigate the possibilities of extending the Museum into the top floor space of the Railway Station.	2009/10	200-120
	Seek funding for the construction of exhibits from private and public sources.	ongoing	200-120
To provide the community with public libraries that are functional, accessible and attractive.	Operate public libraries that provide a range of facilities, resources and services and which are accessible physically and electronically.	Ongoing	300-190
To provide a quality, functional and accessible cultural space at the Royal Theatre primarily devoted to the holding of drama and music events, film and live theatre.	Seek funding to refurbish the Royal Theatre for use as an events area.	2009/10	300-190
	Develop a plan for marketing the Royal Theatre to various cultural groups.	2009/10	300-190
	Develop subcommittees to manage and market the Royal Theatre	2009/10	
To promote and manage the use of streets and public open spaces as performance and event venues.	Maintain Busker's policy which clearly sets out the requirements placed by Council on individuals or organisations that seek to use the shire's streets or public spaces for their activities.	Ongoing	200-110
	Promote the use of the Railway Town Square and Library Courtyard as public performance venues.	Ongoing	200-110
To provide venues for meetings, performing arts events and social functions.	Maintain and promote the Quirindi Pavilion as a venue for events and set fees and charges that balance financial return against affordability.	Ongoing	300-180
	Develop a plan for refurbishing the Pavilion to include air conditioning.	2010/11	300-180
	Establish a Committee or Association to operate and develop the Royal Theatre as a place of public entertainment for the benefit of the local community.	2009/10	200-110

Goal	Means	Year	Plan Ref
To provide the community with suitable exhibition spaces in which to express their artistic endeavours or issues of cultural importance to them.	Provide an exhibition venue at the Currabubula Hall to maintain the Annual Red Cross Art Show.	Ongoing	200-110
	Provide a venue at the Pavilion and Railway Institute Building for the display and promotion of local artists and their artwork	Ongoing	200-110
	Provide space in the shire libraries for small exhibitions by community groups.	Ongoing	300-190
	Provide space at Royal Theatre for small exhibitions	2010/11	200-110
	Provide assistance in promoting Quirindi Rural Heritage Village as a suitable exhibition space	Ongoing	200-110
	Promote The Basement as a suitable exhibition space	Ongoing	300-190
	Develop a Cultural Centre for Liverpool Plains Shire Council to promote local artists and bring art exhibitions to the Shire. A Cultural Centre will also provide a space to host workshops regularly throughout the year.	2010/11	300-190



Key Result Area 2:**Cultural Diversity**

Objective: To identify and celebrate our differences in ways appropriate to the needs of the different groups in our community.

Goal	Means	Year	Plan Ref
To utilise the arts as a way of exploring and expressing the various Liverpool Plains cultures.	Ensure that any art exhibitions programs encourage a diversity of media and subjects from a range of individuals and groups.	Ongoing	200-110
To celebrate the differences in ways appropriate to the needs of the different groups in our community.	Encourage cross-generational cultural interaction by developing a program in which young people record oral histories of older members of the community. Funding required to be sought.	2010/11	300-190
To promote harmonious relations between the various groups that comprise the Liverpool Plains Shire community.	Plan and conduct Australia Day celebrations.	Ongoing	300-190
	Support NAIDOC Week and Harmony Day activities.	Ongoing	300-190
	Support the Rural Heritage Village in its further development	Ongoing	300-190
	Support the Quirindi and District Historical Society Inc in its activities	Ongoing	300-190
	Provide funding for cultural activities through the Community Initiative Program and Youth Scholarship Program	Ongoing	300-200
To provide opportunities for different groups in the community to provide information about their beliefs and activities.	Provide public noticeboards in the Town Square and the Library for community groups to advertise their activities at no cost.	Ongoing	300-190
	Provide space in the Libraries for small exhibitions by community groups.	Ongoing	300-190
	Provide space at the Railway Institute and Pavilion for exhibitions and events	Ongoing	300-190
To promote the artistic endeavours of the local Indigenous community.	Seek an appropriate location and establish a permanent exhibition space in which local Indigenous artists can display their work.	2010/11	300-190



Key Result Area 3:**Cultural Education**

Objective: To inform people about the diverse aspects of culture generally and the Liverpool Plains Shire culture specifically.

Goals	Means	Year	Plan Ref
To promote the development of art works through an acquisitive art exhibition.	Council to acquire art works at the Currabubula Art Show annually and ensure that it continues to be recognized as a professionally run exhibition.	Ongoing	200-110
To promote an interest in and improve technical expertise in a wide range of literary activities.	Encourage local writers groups and activities.	Ongoing	300-190
To educate the community on the heritage of Australia and the Liverpool Plains and promote its conservation.	Promote Heritage Week and maintain and construct new interpretive signage in towns and villages.	Ongoing	200-110
	Promote the First & Second Fleet Memorial Gardens, Quirindi Rural Heritage Village and Australian Railway Monument & Rail Journeys Museum	Ongoing	200-110
	Develop an Interpretive Centre at Willow Tree.	2009/10	200-110
	Support the Rural Heritage Village.	Ongoing	200-110
	Support the Quirindi and District Historical Society Inc	Ongoing	200-110



Key Result Area 4:**Cultural Heritage**

Objective: To promote and preserve the distinctive character of the Liverpool Plains both past and present.

Goals	Means	Year	Plan Ref
To encourage research into the history and culture of the Liverpool Plains.	Offer assistance to historical and genealogical researchers at the various libraries and Historical Society.	Ongoing	300-190
	Support the Quirindi and District Historical Society Inc.	Ongoing	300-190
	Provide a comprehensive local study collection for students and visitors in conjunction with the libraries and Quirindi and District Historical Society.	Ongoing	300-190
To encourage the preservation of the historical aspect of the Liverpool Plains' industrial, commercial and residential structures.	Employ a Heritage Consultant for implementation of heritage controls and community education.	Ongoing	300-110
	Implement the provisions of the Liverpool Plains Local Environmental Plan that relate to heritage matters.	Ongoing	300-110
	Maintain and install new interpretative signs at Werris Creek, Willow Tree and Wallabadah.	2010/11	200-110
To promote the preservation of public art works	Develop a Public Art Policy.	2011/12	200-110
	Maintain a register of all public art works and memorials in the Liverpool Plains.	Ongoing	200-110
To assist the National Railway Museum to develop its collection and to raise standards through training and advice.	Seek funding for the employment of a Museum Director.	2011/12	200-120
To encourage the preservation of Indigenous heritage in the Liverpool Plains	Maintain an Indigenous Local History Collection.	Ongoing	300-190



Key Result Area 5:**Cultural Events**

Objective: To involve as many people as possible in community cultural events including organisation and participation.

Goals	Means	Year	Plan Ref
To assist in the successful conduct of community-based cultural and social events in the Liverpool Plains.	Provide local support for event organisers including liaison with local suppliers.	Ongoing	200-110
	Develop a Special Events Policy to provide guidance to event organisers on Council and other legal requirements.	Ongoing	200-110
	Provide financial assistance to organisations seeking to conduct small community cultural and social events through the Community Initiative Program.	Ongoing	300-190
To provide a quality venue at the Pavilion to attract financially viable performing arts events.	Set aside funding to upgrade the pavilion and then market the venue to local and other groups.	Ongoing	200-110
Organise and conduct a number of community cultural and social events each year.	Organise and conduct Australia Day celebrations.	Ongoing	300-190
	Assist with the annual Quirindi Eisteddfod by providing support funding.	Ongoing	300-190
	Assist the Liverpool Plains Arts Council to grow the annual cultural festival Art & all that Jazz.	Ongoing	200-110
	Assist in the promotion of the Red Cross Currabubula Art Show.	Ongoing	200-110
	Continue to undertake a Christmas Lights Competition in conjunction with Country Energy.	Ongoing	300-190
	Assist with the staging of street parades in towns and villages.	Ongoing	400-130
	Assist the Blackville Art Show	Ongoing	200-110



Key Result Area 6:**Cultural Links**

Objective: To form cultural links with other communities, other regions and other cultures thereby recognising that Liverpool Plains is part of a wider society with broader cultural traditions.

Goals	Means	Year	Plan Ref
To be involved in wider cultural planning and coordination activities	Continue membership of Arts North West and lobby for new projects through the regional arts development officer.	Ongoing	200-110
	Commence membership of the Museums & Galleries Foundation to enhance the Railway Museum.	Ongoing	200-110
	Maintain membership of the NSW Country Public Libraries Association and participate in the Association's regional activities.	Ongoing	300-190
To operate a library service that shares its resources for the benefit of other communities and for itself	Participate in an interlibrary loans service with Tamworth Regional Council library	Ongoing	300-190
	Provide access to the Internet and to a range of online information sources through participation in NSW.Net.	Ongoing	300-190
To maintain cultural and sporting contacts with other communities in Australia and overseas.	Maintain existing Blacktown Sister City relationship and explore new opportunities	Ongoing	200-110
	Commence sporting and cultural exchange with Blacktown	Ongoing	200-110
	Join the Australian Sister Cities Association.	Ongoing	200-110





DISABILITY ACTION PLAN 2013/14





FOREWORD

Liverpool Plains Shire Council is strong in its commitment to provide opportunities for all community members. It proposes to build on the infrastructure that already exists, resulting in a shire that is fair and equitable in terms of physical and attitudinal access for all people regardless of any disabling condition.

This plan aims to identify any inequities that may exist by pinpointing areas of concern upon which Council can work with the community with a view to achieving best practice in the delivery of all services.

Subject to budget constraints, Council will attempt to improve in the provision of physical access enabling all community members to participate in and utilize public facilities within the Community.

As a Local Government Authority Council is committed to the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, by observing the following Principles;

- Residents with a disability have the same rights and responsibilities as those residents who do not have a disability;
- All facilities, public space, services, information, programs and areas under Council's control should be accessible to all residents; and
- Promotion of the needs of residents with disabilities.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The majority of the information in this plan comes from consultation with community members, ie. people with all types of disabilities including those with sensory difficulties.

People who have expertise in the areas of access and safety, Vis -a- Vis Police and RMS members and Council staff members were also consulted.

The preparation of this plan would not have been possible without the following reference sources:

- The Disability Services Act, Federal (1986) and State (1991) respectively.
- The Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- The Local Government (General) Regulation 1993 and its Social/Community Plan Amendment.
- Members of the Liverpool Plains Shire Council Access Committee.



LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL'S ACCESS PLAN DEVELOPMENT FLOWCHART

Gain active participation from General Manager and council staff in the planning and implementation of this Access Plan.



Report to Council on requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act



Form an Access Committee with objectives to consult consumers, educate and evaluate 'consumers' and community members alike



In conjunction with Council staff, compile a list of access 'Black Spots'.



Establish a draft plan, consult staff and seek public comments and those of Service Providers in the caring field. Advertise draft plan and invite public submissions.



Review submissions and amend plan.



Access Committee to review plan and then present to Council for adoption



Present Final Plan to Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission and the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care



Compile directories, pamphlets, guides and maps with a view to assisting people to access their communities.



Liverpool Plains Shire Council's disABILITY Access Committee Monitor/Review Plan through Community Survey and provide recommendation to Council.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1992 is underpinned by the fact that all people regardless of age or disability should have equity of access to all services that are enjoyed by people without a (perceived) disability.

The concept of "Access" comes in many forms. It is about people with mobility restrictions being able to get themselves safely to and into buildings and other facilities, be able to do their own shopping thus fostering integration, and not 'special treatment' which still draws attention to people typically seen as apart from mainstream communities. The Plan, once implemented will also make it more achievable for people with challenges to pursue and enjoy recreational and other activities.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council welcomes the opportunity to develop and implement an Access Plan for its local government area (LGA). While it is true that the impetus for formulating this plan originates from a requirement of the DDA, Council has been aware for some time now of the need to formulate and endeavor to implement such a plan.

The Community, Council and Staff members understand the rights and responsibilities of all people to be able to **choose** to live as fully an integrated and 'typical' life as they wish. This is of course dependent on the abilities of the individual people involved and ubiquitously, council resources.

This Disability Action Plan outlines what Liverpool Plains Shire is currently undertaking to ensure that its services and activities are accessible to all residents of the Shire.

Council seeks the following outcomes through this Plan:

- **ACCESSIBLE FACILITIES:**

To provide access to all people in the community to Council services, facilities, and public buildings.

- **CUSTOMER SERVICE:**

To continue to provide quality service to all community members.

- **EMPLOYMENT:**

That no discriminatory practices will be engaged in by Council and its staff members be this conscious or unconscious.

- **IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW:**

That this plan will be implemented under Council's banner of implementation, monitoring, and review.



THE DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT

The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 makes it unlawful to discriminate in the provision of goods, facilities or services, against people on the basis that they have or may have a disability. The Act also makes it unlawful to discriminate in any way, conscious or unconscious, on the basis that an associate of a person with a disability, may have, or has, a disability.

The Act states that an Action Plan may be developed within an organisation with a view to eliminating any discriminatory practices. The Act seeks to have the Action Plan lodged with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HEROC).

For the purpose of the plan disability, in no order of prominence is defined as:

- Psychiatric
- Physical
- Intellectual
- Sensory
- Neurological
- Learning (slow)
- Physical disfigurement
- The presence in the body of disease causing organisms

The definition includes a disability that:

- presently exists
- previously existed but no longer exists, (eg, a person who has had a heart attack, an episode of mental illness or a back injury);
- may exist in the future, (eg, a person with a genetic predisposition to Huntingtons disease or a person who is HIV positive or who carries the AIDS virus)
- is imputed to a person, (eg, assuming that a person living with someone who has an infectious disease, also has the disease and it is thought that the second person may infect others. Thus attitudes and assumptions can also underpin discrimination.
- **DISABILITY:** is a reduction or loss of typical functional ability that results from impairment/s.
- **IMPAIRMENT:** a functional or anatomical abnormality, that may or may not manifest as a disability.



- **HANDICAP:** the resultant disadvantage caused by a disability and or negative or un-accepting attitudes to a person who happens to have a disability.

Impairments can result in disability of a physical kind, sensory, intellectual, and psychiatric or an acquired impairment (e.g. brain damage from an accident)

- **DISCRIMINATION:** briefly this means any treatment directly with, or negative talk or actions about, a person with a disability that results in him or her being treated less favourably than people without a disability under the same circumstances.

Discrimination also occurs when people with a disability are excluded from accessing employment, education or goods and services by an imposed requirement. This requirement may be the same for everyone but if it results in exclusion for people with a disability it is a discriminatory practice.

Treatment that is different for people with a disability is NOT unlawful if it can be proved that it was reasonably intended to try to ensure that they have equal opportunities and that their support needs, be they low or high, are being met.

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS PLAN

A/C	Access Committee
CMP	Council's Management Plan
DAC	Disability Action Committee
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DSA	Disability Services Acts
GM	General Manager
DECD	Director - Economic & Community Development
DES	Director - Environmental Services
DCS	Director -Corporate Services
DW	Director - Works
HRO	Human Resource Officer
HACC	Home & Community Care
RMS	Roads & Maritime Services



COMMUNITY INCLUSION STATEMENT

In 1992 as an offshoot from the Disability Services Acts (Federal 1986) and (State/NSW 1991) the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 was implemented. This Act makes it unlawful to engage in any discriminatory practices to people with a disability.

By preparing this plan Liverpool Plains Shire Council demonstrates support for the above legislation. This support is reflected in Council's Management Plan, Equal Employment Opportunity Policy, Council's Vision Statement and now with this Access and Equity Plan.

The Liverpool Plains Shire Council will continue to promote and facilitate effective integration for all community members by:

- Education of all staff on the rights and responsibilities of people who because of physical impairment/s are most affected by these Acts of Parliament.
- Consultation with the wider community be they people with mobility or sensory challenges or health professionals.
- Ensuring adequate access to service facilities within Council for people with a disability.
- Responding to the needs of people with a disability Council by continually monitoring their needs and the needs of their carers. Council will make every attempt to respond to those needs in a positive manner where possible.
- Proactively taking the lead in promoting 'inclusion for all' community values and actively seeking to provide solutions in the community and local government.



COUNCIL'S PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

Council's principal activities are set out in the table below:

GOVERNANCE

- Members Facilities and Expenses
- Public Relations
- Human Resources
- Administration Support

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE:

- Information Technology
- Insurance and Risk Management
- Customer Services
- Records Management
- Financial Services
- RMS Agency

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

- Library
- Cultural
- Youth & Children
- Aged Care
- Disability Services
- Recreation Centre

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

- Community Protection
- Landuse Planning
- Public Health
- Natural Resource Management
- Built Environment
- Waste Management

ENGINEERING SERVICES

- Infrastructure Planning
- Plant Services
- Depot Services
- State Roads
- Rural Roads
- Survey and Design
- Engineering Administration
- Urban Streets
- Ancillary Services
- Public Recreation

TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Tourism
- Economic Development
- Visitor Information Centre
- Caravan Park
- Residential & Industrial Subdivisions

BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

- Airport
- Private works
- Gravel Pits
- Swimming Pool
- Property Rental
- Cemeteries
- Water Supplies
- Sewer Services
- Showground / Racecourse



COUNCIL SERVICES & FACILITIES BEING UTILISED

The following is a list of community services currently being used by, and being assessed for people with disabilities and their service providers and/or carers.

- Rate Payments
- Airport
- Waste Removal/Recycling
- Cemetery
- Street Lighting
- Traffic Management and Control
- Community Information
- Health Inspections
- Community Information
- Caravan park (under lease)
- Street Signs
- Community Halls & Centres
- Library
- Public Seating
- Visitor Information Centre
- Control of Stray Animals
- Parks Furniture and Equipment
- Footpaths
- Building Control
- Companion Animals Licensing
- Town Planning & Development Control
- Administration Centre & Council Chambers
- Home and Community Care Centres
- Parks and Reserves
- Waste Depots
- Accessible Parking Spaces
- Swimming Pool
- Public Toilets
- Roads and Traffic Authority Agency



THE ACTION PLAN

This action plan has been developed:

- To eliminate discrimination
- As a sound and equitable business practice as the development of such a plan can only improve council's performance as it sets about fulfilling its responsibilities to the community, a large proportion of which is made up of people with disabilities and their families.
- To reduce the likelihood of complaints lodged against council via The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC-Federal)

Senior Managers within council will be responsible for action strategies contained within Council's Management that flow from this plan.

Private businesses, commercial ventures and industry in the Shire are responsible for their individual liability under the Disability Discrimination Act.

Areas of concern raised by community members are sometimes not under control of Council; eg privately owned and operated retail outlets. When this occurs Council will write to the owners of services and retail outlets and advise them of the concern/s raised.

In case of a concern about a government service that is outside the jurisdiction of Council, that concern will be referred to the appropriate level of government.

The Action Plan is appended as Appendix 1

Council will initiate Community Consultations with the Shire community, regarding the contents of the draft Action Plan.

Council will also advertise for community comment on the Draft Plan and place it on public exhibition seeking further community-based comments prior to the Plan's consideration for adoption by Council.



APPENDIX 1





"ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL"

DISABILITY ACTION PLAN





ACTIONS AND STRATEGIES

This is a strategic plan that covers all of Council's services, facilities, buildings and functions and Council's role as an employer.



The Plan contains Goals being:

1. Organisation Culture - Ensure that all council staff are aware of the needs of people with disabilities.
2. Participation - ensure that all people with disabilities, along side other community members are able to participate in Council activities, including representation on Council and Council Advisory Committees, etc.
3. Employment Opportunities - Ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to employment opportunities within Council and are afforded access to facilities, services and opportunities to meet their specific needs.
4. Community Development - Ensure that Council continues to provide quality services to people with disability. That it continues to support positive change with in the community services sector and that it continues to resource and support local organisations and services.
5. Direct Service Provision - Ensure that all services provided by Council reflect the needs of the community and that services endeavour to continue to be responsive towards those needs.
6. Education and Promotion.
7. Waste Management - Ensure all sections of the community are able to use and take maximum advantage of, all services provided by Council in the disposal of household garbage and recyclables.
8. Asset Management - ensure ease of access to all Council owned and leased assets.
9. Urban Development - to encourage the design for urban spaces that reflect best practice for everyday life within the Liverpool Plains Shire area. Ensure that there is no reason to give rise to discrimination claims on the grounds of disability.
10. Lobbying - Council will lobby Federal and State Governments to provide services and facilities that are their responsibility.

These issues have been addressed by the goal that states, "Council will lobby Federal and State Governments to provide services and facilities beyond its responsibility." See the relevant action strategies for this goal.



OBJECTIVE 1

Systemic organisational change - Ensure that all Council staff are aware of the needs of people with disabilities.

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
Council as Leader Council has a responsibility to act as a role model on all access issues and can influence other Councils and organisations in this regard	Lead by example through all Council activities/functions	Immediate	GM	Ongoing
Councillor's Briefing Articulate this Plan & the D.D.A to all old and new Councillors	Report to Council	Immediate	GM	Ongoing
Briefing of Senior Management- Articulate this Action Plan & the articles and principles of the D.D.A to old and new Senior Managers	Arrange briefing for General Manager, Directors Senior Management and other relevant staff	Immediate	GM	Ongoing
Training Training of staff on the principles of the DDA and on concepts within this plan	Provide training	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Directors - HRO 	Ongoing



OBJECTIVE 2

Participation - Ensure that all people with disabilities, along side other community members are able to participate in Council activities, including representation on Council and Council Advisory Committees, etc.

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
General Information In the community in a range of formats widely distribute information regarding Council meetings, committees and other activities.	As outlined in Education and Promotion develop strategies to ensure wider links with the community on Council activities	Short term	DECD/HACC Services	Ongoing
Customer Service Receive feedback from Council Customers	Monitor requests for specific services from people with disabilities	Immediate	DECD	Ongoing



OBJECTIVE 3

Ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to employment opportunities within Council and are afforded access to facilities, services and opportunities to meet their specific needs.

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
Affirmative Action & EEO Policy Implementation of above principles to be current and utilised for employment of people with disability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop strategies that focus on encouraging people with disability to apply for and participate in employment and training opportunities within Council.• Consult with local employment services	Immediate	HRO/Directors	Ongoing



OBJECTIVE 4

Community Development - Ensure that Council continues to provide quality services to people with disability. That it continues to support positive change within the community services sector and that it continues to resource and support local organisations and services

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
Feedback from and to Community	Distribute plain English surveys to clients regarding the service provided Utilise the local press, Council and community notice boards, in and out [of] house newsletters to do so	Mid term Immediate	Manager HACC	yearly



OBJECTIVE 5

Direct Service Provision - ensure that all services provided by Council reflect the needs of the community and that services endeavour to continue to be responsive towards those needs.

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
Accessible Toilets Provide accessible toilets that are able to be used 24hrs a day both in the community and at major community functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major community events should be held in locations where fully accessible toilets are provided. Werris Creek Toilet - keyed for 24hr access 	Short term	DES	Council facilities are continually being monitored and upgraded when funds become available.
Sports and Recreation Coordination of sport and recreation activities for people with disability.	Lobby local sporting organisations to improve access to services and facilities. Access funding for upgrade of Quipolly Dam Recreation facilities- disabled access to toilets and foreshore. Encourage and support people with disabilities to participate in sporting and recreational activities.	Short term Short term	DECD	Ongoing
Car Parking Increase number and policing of designated parks for pwd especially in front of high use areas such as doctors surgeries.	Liaise with Council's Traffic Engineer	Long term	DW	Improved carparking space Quirindi/Werris Creek/Willow Tree



OBJECTIVE 5 (Cont.)

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
<p>Adult Fiction Section</p> <p>Provide large print books for people with literacy problems. As well as Talking and Braille books for people with sight impairments.</p>	<p>Ensure Adult Fiction section is updated regularly according to the ongoing needs of the people who use it.</p>	<p>Mid term</p>	<p>Librarians</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>



OBJECTIVE 6

Education and Promotion - In the spirit of “Quirindi Inclusive for All” ensure that all information provided by Council is accessible to all residents, that it is user friendly and allows people with disability to show that they actively develop to our community

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
Community Education Council to pro-actively lead in terms of education on disability issues.	Devise strategy to more effectively advertise Council initiated/run Community events	Yearly Immediate	DECD GM / DECD	Ongoing
Car Parking Continue education re who can use designated parking spaces	Include education in Council and non-council newsletters that not only people in wheelchairs have the right to use parks. Educate re. Eligibility Sticker Educate people with a disability that they need a permanent or temporary-parking sticker from the R.M.S before being eligible to use parks.	Immediate Immediate	GM / DECD / DW DECD	Ongoing Ongoing
Communication Education of staff on effectively communicating with people with disability.	Include in Staff Induction Process	Immediate	GM / HRO	Ongoing



OBJECTIVE 6 (Cont.)

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
<p>Consultation</p> <p>Effective consultation between Council and the Disability Action Committee to occur regularly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Literature Greater distribution, -more accessible, in appropriate format <p>Access issues to be included in Council Agendas.</p> <p>Increase use of local media</p>	<p>Ensure effective consultation occurs between DAC and all appropriate players.</p> <p>Ensure relevant Council literature is prepared in an appropriate format that is easy to attain.</p>	<p>Immediate</p> <p>Mid term</p> <p>Immediate</p>	<p>DECD</p> <p>GM</p> <p>Appropriate Directors</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Public Information</p> <p>To be available in formats that meet the needs of people with disability from English & non-English speaking background (NESB)</p>	As Above	Long term	GM	Ongoing
<p>Information</p> <p>Information to be user friendly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased information regarding access issues. Further Develop database with peak organisations, networks including plain English & NESB 	<p>As above- adapt all correspondence/publications to include messages indicating opportunities for people who need large type or taped information.</p> <p>Investigate feasibility of Disability Access Newsletter</p>	<p>Long term</p> <p>Mid term</p>	GM	Ongoing



OBJECTIVE 7

Waste Management - ensure all sections of the community are able to use and take maximum advantage of all services provided by council in the disposal of household garbage and recyclables.

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
Heavy Items Heavy item movement to be made available to those people who cannot manage to place these items on footpath.	Review current practice Investigate further options.	Long term	DES DES	No Action
Garbage Bins Give assistance with handling of these bins as required.	Review Current Practice Assess community needs	Long term	DES DES	No Action



OBJECTIVE 8

Asset Management- ensure ease of access to all new Council owned and leased assets.
Review current assets to ensure they are upgraded to at least required standards.
Endeavour to incorporate objectives of the DDA as per current legislation, codes and standards in all future developments.

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
Access- Review the existing Council building to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Building Code Australia (BCA).	Report on compliance with BCA to Council Chambers.	Mid term	DES	Council has allocated funds on the 2012-13 for Chamber refurbishment
	Utilise optimum standards for disability access taking into account cost of renovations to Council building.	Immediate	DES	
Access- Existing Council Buildings may not provide access/required aids for people with disabilities	Develop priority listing for upgrading of Council facilities.	Mid term	DES / DW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFS Zone Headquarters access provided Quirindi Rec Centre - access provided Ongoing
	Endeavour to ensure optimum access for people with disabilities. Review this list regularly, or in response to new information	Immediate	DES / DW	
Lighting in Parks	Review, check if they meet required standards. It is required that all pathways have lighting.	Long term	DW	Ongoing



OBJECTIVE 8 (Cont.)

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
Paving/Pathways Surface treatment	Ensure these meet all required standards	Immediate	DW	Ongoing
	Investigate the feasibility of non slip paving/pathways within CBD.	Ongoing		
Toilets Accessibility	Ensure that at least two public toilets are fully accessible by all people with disabilities 24hours a day.	Immediately	DES	Council has met standards at Quirindi and Werris Creek
	Investigate feasibility of updating Council's toilets to meet required standards.	Mid term	DES	
Swimming Pools Accessibility	Update/rebuild to meet required standards.	Long term	DW	Portable access steps have been installed at Quirindi and Werris Creek Pools
	Ramps into the building & into the pools, or a hoist provided to enable people with disabilities access to the pool.	Long term		
	Ramping/non-slip pathways provided outside the pool from parking area.	Long term		
	Designated sites to be made available in front of the pool for people with the appropriate RMA sticker.	Long term		
Road Markings	Ensure road markings are maintained so that they are visible to people with visual impairment.	Long Term	DW	



OBJECTIVE 8 (Cont.)

Issue/Barrier	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
Swimming pools Continued- Signage Toilets	Provide signage in pictorial manner. Raised signage for people with sight impairments.	Mid term Long term	DW	To be reviewed
All Entertainment venues Access	Access to be provided to all of these venues by way of ramps or lifts. Appropriate signage.-Pictorial and raised Accessible toilets	Short term Short term	DES DES	Provided - Qdi Rec Centre Provided Royal Theatre Provided - Qdi Rec Centre Grant currently submitted for disabled access to Quipolly Dam Recreation Area.
HACC Centre- Access	Ensure that venue is fully accessible to meet the needs of all people with disabilities. Maintain footpaths and kerbs in an appropriate manner.	Mid term Short term	DECD DW	Ongoing as budget allocation within Works Program
Library- Access Signage-	Review front door access Investigate feasibility of another designated parking space in front of library. Ensure paving to Library remains in good condition. Signage to meet all standards	Mid term Short term Short term Mid term	DES DW DW DECD	Done Done Ongoing



OBJECTIVE 8 (Cont.)

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
<p>Council Chambers- Access</p> <p>Mobility Work Aids-</p> <p>Maintenance</p>	Allocation of Designated Parking in front of Council building. Appropriate ramping from gutter to footpath. Ensure footpath is smooth as it leads up to the ramp.	Mid term	DW	Done
	Keep vegetation from hanging over ramp and blocking access.	Short term	DES	
	Access provided to toilets and tea room facilities.	Long term	DW	Done
	Requisition/Installation of a hearing loop in council chamber.	Long term	DES	To be reviewed
	Appropriate signage. Large light switches to be installed.			To be reviewed
	Re-paint all step endings with white paint	Long term	DES	To be reviewed
		Short term	DES	
<p>Visitor Information Centre, Royal Theatre & RMA- Access</p>	Designed to meet all required standards.	Short term	DECD	Completed



OBJECTIVE 8 (Cont.)

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
Trees Keep trimmed for ease of access and for appropriate vision for pedestrians and drivers of vehicles	Council Officers to identify such vegetation with a view to limiting impediment of access, or which pose a hazard to the public.	Long term	DW	Ongoing
Pathways and Surfaces	Design and maintain to meet all relevant standards.	Long term	DW	Ongoing
Pedestrian Crossings	Ensure appropriate gradients, surfaces and Keri ramps meet relevant standards.	Long term	DW	Ongoing
Lighting Roads, park, pathways	Provide and maintain adequate lighting along all streets and intersections that meet required standards	Long term	DW	Ongoing
General Signage	Ensure appropriate signage at all intersections Signage provided to indicate disability services/ facilities/parking/toilets	Long term	DW	Ongoing
Aids to assist hearing and sight impediments Pedestrian crossings/footpaths/ramps	Provide appropriate devices to assist people with hearing and/or sight loss to safely access pedestrian crossings and Council facilities.	Long term	DW	Ongoing
Parking	Provide adequate Designated Parking at all public facilities.	Long term	DW	Ongoing



OBJECTIVE 9

Urban Development- to encourage the design of urban spaces that reflect best practice for everyday life within the town of Quirindi and the Local Government Area. Ensure that there is no reason to give rise to discrimination claims on the grounds of disability

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
Awareness Developer may not be aware of and/or design infrastructure that meets requirements of the DDA.	Council to make developers aware of Council's commitment of ensuring access to all new buildings/facilities is available and appropriate for people with disabilities.	Immediate	DES	Ongoing
Access- Historically, urban design has not always accommodated the needs of people with disabilities	Council, as a matter of course, to include standard note referencing DDA requirements at level of planning approval.	Immediate	DES	Ongoing
Contractors and Agents It is the responsibility of Council to ensure that works and activities undertaken by contractors and other agents adhere to the requirements of the DDA.	Incorporate practically enforceable clauses into contracts and specifications for works to be undertaken by Council that ensure that the principles and requirements of the DDA are followed at all times.	Immediate	GM / All Directors	Ongoing
Information and Education Availability of material relating to requirements of the DDA.	Council's building and planning department to readily have information regarding DDA's requirements.	Immediate	DES	Ongoing



OBJECTIVE 10

Lobbying - council will lobby Federal and State Governments to provide services and facilities that are their responsibility.

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
Community Transport Limited access to community transport if not a HACC client. (this is Oxley Community Transports responsibility)	Investigate available options.	Immediate	DECD	Ongoing
Maintenance Services Provide home maintenance/gardening services that offer assistance with the removal of unwanted goods and heavy items (this is provided by Home Care through Hunter New England Area Health).	Lobby state government for existing Home Maintenance and Modification Service	Immediate	DES	Ongoing
Carer's Financial Support Increased financial support needed for Carers	Lobby Commonwealth Departments on this issue.	Immediate	DECD	Ongoing
Service Access	Identify gaps in or issues for existing service.	Immediate	DECD	Ongoing
	Representation of local issues at regional meetings.	Immediate	DECD	Ongoing
	Lobby appropriate government Departments for continued and expansion of, funding.	Immediate	Council	Ongoing



OBJECTIVE 10 (Cont.)

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
Advocacy Council to lead as an advocate on behalf of people with disabilities with service providers in the disability field.	Lobby as appropriate	Immediate	Council / GM / Directors	Ongoing
Accommodation Appropriate accommodation needed for people with disabilities.	Lobby state government for appropriate residences to accommodate the housing needs of people with disabilities.	Immediate	Council / GM / Directors	Ongoing
Social Activities Availability of recreational/social activities for people with disabilities.	Lobby Government Departments for increased funding of existing services. Continue to support Liverpool Plains Shire Council HACC	Immediate	Council / GM / Directors	Ongoing



APPENDIX D

Policy – Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY REGISTER

Policy No. 1.24

POLICY TITLE: PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO COUNCILLORS

File Reference No.: C.50
Date Adopted 12th July 2004
Minute No: 9102
Last Updated: 27th August 2014

History of Policy Review

Version	Adoption Date	Minute No	Details of Review
1	12th July 2004	9102	
2	16th February 2005	9468	
3	15th November 2006	10675	
4	27th June 2007	11059	
5	23rd April 2008	11641	DLG review of policies
6	22nd October 2008	11988	New Council
7	16th December 2009	12794	Compliance with DLG guidelines
8	24th November 2010	13317	Annual Review Changes of Facilities for the Mayor
9	24th November 2011	13878	Annual Review Changes of Facilities for the Mayor
10	28th November 2012	104	Changes to name of Conference
11	26th November 2013		Annual Review
12	26th February 2014	778	Inclusion of iPad Printer
13	27th August 2014	1081	Annual Review

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that there is accountability and transparency in the reimbursement of expenses incurred or to be incurred by Councillors. The policy also ensures that the facilities provided to assist Councillors to carry out their civic duties are reasonable.

POLICY TITLE: PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND Policy No. 1.24
PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO
COUNCILLORS

INTRODUCTION

OBJECTIVES

To detail the circumstances whereby the payment of expenses incurred by or to be incurred by, and the provision of facilities to, the Mayor and Councillors in discharging the functions of Civic Office.

MAKING AND ADOPTION OF THE POLICY

Council implements this policy in accordance with section 253 of the Local Government Act 1993 by giving public notice of its intention to adopt or amend the policy and shall allow at least 28 days for public submissions.

Public notice is not needed if a proposed amendment is not substantial and this means minor changes to wording, the standard of equipment of facilities provided or changes in the monetary provisions that are less than 5%.

Council will promote the policy on the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities to councillors to the community by placing the policy on its website and making it readily accessible.

Council shall review the policy on an annual basis and submit this policy to the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Local Government within 28 days of adoption by Council, even if it is proposed to adopt an unchanged policy. Current policies must be submitted to the Office of Local Government by 30 November each year.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with section 428 of the *Local Government Act 1993* Council shall report on the following in its annual report.

- (a) details (including the purpose) of overseas visits undertaken during the year by councillors, council staff or other persons while representing the council (including visits sponsored by other organisations),*
- (a1) details of the total cost during the year of the payment of the expenses of, and the provision of facilities to, councillors in relation to their civic functions (as paid by the council, reimbursed to the councillor or reconciled with the councillor), including separate details on the total cost of each of the following:*
 - (i) the provision during the year of dedicated office equipment allocated to councillors on a personal basis, such as Ipads, laptop computers, mobile telephones and landline telephones installed in councillors' homes (including equipment and line rental costs and internet access costs but not including call costs),*
 - (ii) telephone calls made by councillors, including calls made from mobile telephones provided by the council and from landline telephones installed in councillors' homes,*
 - (iii) the attendance of councillors at conferences and seminars,*
 - (iv) the training of councillors and the provision of skill development for councillors,*

POLICY TITLE: PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND Policy No. 1.24
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- (v) *interstate visits undertaken during the year by councillors while representing the council, including the cost of transport, the cost of accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses,*
- (vi) *overseas visits undertaken during the year by councillors while representing the council, including the cost of transport, the cost of accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses,*
- (vii) *the expenses of any spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a councillor in the performance of his or her civic functions, being expenses payable in accordance with the Guidelines for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for Mayors and Councillors for Local Councils in NSW prepared by the Office of Local Government from time to time.*

Expenses

- the cost of phone calls including mobiles, home located landlines and internet services
- spouse/ partner/ accompanying person expenses
- conference and seminar expenses
- training and skill development expenses
- interstate travel expenses
- overseas travel expenses
- carer and other related expenses

Provision of facilities

In addition to the statutory reporting requirements, council shall report other costs where these are significant. For example, councils should report the cost of the provision of facilities and equipment where such provision is above what would **normally** be required for the day-to-day running of the council.

OTHER GOVERNMENT POLICY PROVISIONS

Local Government Act 1993 & Regulations

Office of Local Government Guidelines for the Payment of Expenses & Provision of Facilities to Councillors.

Office of Local Government Circulars to Councils

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PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO
COUNCILLORS

APPROVAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Mayor and Councillors may attend local meetings within the Shire without approval. Attendance at conferences or seminars outside the Shire requires the following approval:

- Discretionary conferences and trips are to be approved by a full meeting of Council
- Non-discretionary conferences or trips for Councillors are to be approved by the Mayor and General Manager
- Non-discretionary conferences or trips for the Mayor are to be approved by the Deputy Mayor, one other Councillor and the General Manager

When travel involves overnight accommodation, an “Authority to Travel” form must be completed at least one week prior to the event and forwarded to the General Manager (see attached form).

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES GENERALLY

The Mayor and Councillors must have authorisation to travel outside the Shire (see approval arrangements).

Payment of expenses to Councillors shall be limited to:

- (a) Payment of travelling expenses for private vehicle use.
- (b) Payment of accommodation, travelling, sustenance, telephone and car parking expenses whilst attending conferences and seminars.
- (c) Payment of training/development expenses**
- (d) Reimbursement of costs paid by the Councillors for which Council is liable under this policy, **including carer expenses.**

Travel

Councillors will be entitled to travel by the most practical conveyance to the following:

- (a) Attendance at Ordinary, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings of an organisation where the Councillor has, by Council resolution, been duly elected as a Council delegate.
- (b) Attendance at conferences and seminars when such attendance by Councillors has been approved by Council resolution or by the Mayor under delegated authority.

POLICY TITLE: PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND Policy No. 1.24
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COUNCILLORS

- (c) Attendance at inspections, within or outside the area as authorised by Council resolution or by the Mayor under delegated authority.
- (d) Attendance at official Council functions authorised as Council business by a resolution of Council or by the Mayor under delegated authority.

When suitable, Council will provide Councillors with a motor vehicle to attend any of the above.

An allowance will be payable to Councillors for the use of their own private vehicles and is the maximum as advised by the Local Government NSW from time to time.

Accommodation

Council will pay actual reasonable costs of overnight accommodation for stays outside the Shire. Reimbursement shall be limited to accommodation for the nights of the meeting conference, night before and night after where necessary.

Telephone Expenses

When a Councillor is attending an approved conference/seminar/meeting or other official engagement outside the Shire, Council will pay/reimburse telephone calls from Councillors to their family or place of work and to Council. (See the daily limit table 1.0 Monetary Limits and Standards)

Sustenance Expenses

Council will reimburse to Councillors the reasonable cost of breakfast, lunch, dinner, carparking and other out-of-pocket expenses for attendance at conferences, seminars, meetings, etc.

Reimbursement and Reconciliation of Expenses

Council will reimburse the Mayor and Councillors for all reasonable expenses, subject to the provision of supporting receipts or documents. Claims are to be made on the appropriate claim form.

A Councillor will be entitled to reimbursement of expenses necessarily incurred for the cost of facilities which the Council has agreed to provide as part of this policy.

Claim for reimbursement of expenses must be made within three (3) months of incurring the expense and are to be made on the appropriate claim form **supported by receipts or documents**.

The General Manager will authorise claims for travel and the reimbursement of other expenses.

Payment in Advance

A Councillor may wish payment in advance in anticipation of expenses to be incurred in attending approved conferences, seminars and meetings outside the Shire.

Councillors shall reconcile the expenses to the advance and submit a claim (on the appropriate claim form) supported by receipts or documents to the General Manager for approval within one (1) month of incurring the expense.

NO allowance type payment is permitted.

POLICY TITLE: PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO COUNCILLORS **Policy No. 1.24**

ESTABLISHMENT OF MONETARY LIMITS AND STANDARDS

Council will reimburse to the Mayor and Councillors expenses incurred in the execution of their civic duty having consideration to the following limits and standards.

Table 1.00 Monetary Limits and Standards

Travel/Facility	Recipient	Details/Limit/Standards
Domestic air travel within Australia (must be greater than 4 hours travel by motor vehicle)	Mayor/Councillor	Economy class
International air travel	Mayor/Councillor	Business class
Rail	Mayor/Councillor	First class (Sleeper when necessary)
Private vehicle	Mayor/Councillor	Maximum per kilometer as advised by the LGNSW
Coach and taxi	Mayor/Councillor	Actual cost
Meals and associated refreshments when not provided at conference/seminar	Mayor/Councillor	A maximum of \$150 per day
Accommodation within Australia	Mayor/Councillor	Government/Corporate accommodation rates (where applicable)
Accommodation overseas	Mayor/Councillor	In accordance with Council resolution authorising travel
Mobile phone costs	Mayor	Maximum \$1,500 pa
Telephone expenses while at a conference/seminar outside the Shire	Mayor/Councillor	Maximum \$15 per day
Carer Costs	Mayor/Councillor	Maximum \$2,000 per annum
Clothing	Mayor/Councillor	Maximum \$400 Councillor pa
Training/Development	Mayor/Councillor	Maximum \$15,000 pa
Meals and Refreshments	Mayor/Councillor	Maximum \$40 per head per meeting
Stationery	Mayor/Councillor	\$500 per Councillor pa

SPOUSE AND PARTNER EXPENSES

Councillors may invite his/her spouse to accompany them on a business trip however Council will not pay for any spouses expenses, with the exception of registration and dinner at the annual Local Government NSW Conference.

FACILITIES

Council will provide to Councillors, subject to the various conditions and terms outlined, the following facilities:

(1) Insurance

Council will effect an appropriate level of insurance for Councillors in the following areas:

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- (a) Personal Accident – coverage of Councillor and spouse while on Council business;
- (b) Defamation.

(2) Seminars and Conferences

Council will provide the following facilities to Councillors attending conferences or seminars which have been authorised by Council resolution or by the Mayor under delegated authority.

- (a) Registration Fees** – the payment of registration fees for attendance at conference/seminar sessions;
- (b) Accommodation** – the payment of accommodation costs on the following basis:
 - (i) Accommodation will be selected by the Council on the basis of cost and convenience of location to the conference venue. A Councillor may choose accommodation at a different location but which is at the same cost or less.
 - (ii) The number of accommodation days provided under this policy will be limited to:
 - A. Registration day; and
 - B. Each day on which official sessions of the conference/seminar are held.
 - (iii) Any additional accommodation costs incurred as a result of the attendance of partners and/or children, shall be borne by the Councillor.

(c) Car Parking Fees

Council will meet the cost of the following car parking fees:

- (i) Hotel/motel parking – additional carparking fees not included in accommodation costs.

(d) Transportation

Council will provide a Councillor with transportation to and from conferences and seminars. Transportation may be by:

- (i) Aircraft – economy class
- (ii) Hire car – up to standard 6 cylinder
- (iii) Private vehicle
- (iv) Train
- (v) Council vehicle

(e) Councillor Training/Development

A maximum of \$15,000 will be provided in annual budgets for training/development of Councillors to assist them to become effective community leaders.

(f) Carer Expenses

For Councillors responsible to care for dependent children or other dependents including people with a disability and the elderly, Council will reimburse the cost of a carer to a maximum of \$2,000 per annum while attending Council meetings, conferences, training and other business of Council. Claims must be accompanied by a receipt from the care provider showing the day and time care was provided and details of the reason care was needed on such an occasion.

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(g) General

The General Manager is granted delegated authority to exceed the terms of (b) above (accommodation) if such action will result in a more economical cost effective solution for the Council.

(3) Legal Costs

Councillors are entitled to reimbursement of reasonable legal expenses in the circumstances, and to the extent, described in this clause.

In the event of:

- (i) any enquiry, investigation or hearing into the conduct of a Councillor by any of:
 - the Independent Commission Against Corruption;
 - the Office of the Ombudsman;
 - the Office of Local Government, Department of Premier & Cabinet
 - the NSW Police;
 - the Director of Public Prosecutions;
 - the Local Government Pecuniary Interest & Disciplinary Tribunal;
 - a Parliamentary Committee;
 - Council's Conduct Review Committee/Reviewer
 - or the like; or
- (ii) legal proceedings being taken against a Councillor; or
- (iii) a Councillor being compelled to appear before any of the bodies referred to above to give evidence on matters arising out of or in connection with the Councillor's performance of their civic duties or exercise of their functions as a Councillor, Council shall reimburse such Councillor at the conclusion of such enquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding, for all legal expenses properly and reasonably incurred, given the nature of the enquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding, on a solicitor/client basis, PROVIDED THAT
 - (a) the Councillor did not initiate the legal action;
 - (b) the amount of such reimbursement shall be reduced by the amount of any monies that may be or are recouped by the Councillor on any basis;
 - (c) the enquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding results in a finding substantially favourable to the Councillor; or
 - (d) the enquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding does not result in a finding that the Councillor acted in bad faith.

PROVISION OF FACILITIES

Provision of Facilities Generally

Council will provide the following support facilities to Councillors for use by Councillors in the conduct of their duties of office:

Clothing

Councillors will be provided with one jacket and tie/scarf (with embroidered Council Logo) during a term of office. **Maximum total cost not to exceed \$400 per Councillor.**

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Badge

Each Councillor is provided with a standard name badge during a term of office.

Secretarial and IT Support

Secretarial/typing assistance will be made available to the Mayor and other Councillors for work directly related to the duties of office. IT support will be made available to the Mayor and Councillors to ensure the effective and efficient operation of computer equipment.

Office/Meeting Room Facilities

Office/meeting room facilities are available at the Administrative Centre for use by Councillors in the conduct of their duties of office.

Meals and Refreshments

Council will provide to Councillors appropriate light meals and refreshments at meetings of Council and Committees. The cost of meals and refreshments per meeting will not exceed \$40 per head.

Computer

Each Councillor will be supplied with an appropriate iPad (or equivalent) and a suitable printer. Council will maintain the equipment.

Stationery

Council will provide, upon request, the following stationery to Councillors to be used only on Council business:

Writing and note pads, writing pens, business sachet, business cards, diary, promotional materials and any other stationery deemed appropriate by the General Manager. Maximum cost not to exceed \$500 per Councillor per annum.

Private Use of Equipment and Facilities

Council facilities and equipment **are not** to be used for private purposes as set out in the provisions of this policy and Council's Code of Conduct which states:

7.12 You must use council resources ethically, effectively, efficiently and carefully in the course of your public or professional duties, and must not use them for private purposes (except when supplied as part of a contract of employment) unless this use is lawfully authorised and proper payment is made where appropriate.

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- 7.14 *You must be scrupulous in your use of council property including intellectual property, official services and facilities and should not permit their misuse by any other person or body.*
- 7.15 *You must avoid any action or situation that could create the appearance that council property, official services or public facilities are being improperly used for your benefit or the benefit of any other person or body.*
- 7.16 *You must not use council resources, property or facilities for the purpose of assisting your election campaign or the election campaign of others unless the resources, property or facilities are otherwise available for use or hire by the public and any publicly advertised fee is paid for use of the resources, property or facility.*
- 7.17 *You must not use council letterhead, council crests and other information that could give the appearance it is official council material for:*
- a) the purpose of assisting your election campaign or the election campaign of others, or*
b) for other non-official purposes.
- 7.18 *You must not convert any property of the council to your own use unless properly authorised.*
- 7.19 *You must not use council's computer resources to search for, access, download or communicate any material of an offensive, obscene, pornographic, threatening, abusive or defamatory nature.*

PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES FOR MAYOR

In addition to the facilities, equipment and services provided to Councillors the Council shall provide to the Mayor a mobile phone in accordance with Council's mobile phone policy.. A maximum expense of \$1,500 per annum is assigned to the provision of this equipment (see above section limits and standards).

From time to time when unaccompanied by the General Manager / Director, the Mayor will incur expenses in carrying out the role, eg, attendance at functions, conferences, delegations outside the shire. For convenience, a corporate credit card with a limit of \$5,000 is made available, if required, for the Mayor to use while discharging the functions of the Mayor. All credit card expenditure must be supported by receipts, invoices or tax invoices. Supporting documentation must be accompanied by a credit card reconciliation sheet providing a description and occasion for the expense. The reconciliation sheet and supporting documents must be handed to the Finance Officer within 7 days of the date of the Statement being handed to the Mayor. (See attached Reconciliation Sheet)

Council will provide a vehicle for use by the Mayor under Council's motor vehicle lease back agreement in accordance with conditions currently applicable to the General Manager and Directors.

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PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO
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OTHER MATTERS

ANNUAL FEES

a. Mayor

In accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council will pay the Mayor an annual fee monthly in arrears, with the fee to be determined annually. This fee will be paid in addition to the fee paid to the Mayor as a Councillor. Such amount is to be determined by Council in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal's Guidelines.

b. Deputy Mayor

In accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council may pay the Deputy Mayor an allowance for such time as the Deputy Mayor acts in the office of the Mayor. The amount of the fee paid to the Deputy Mayor would be deducted from the Mayor's annual fee. Such amount to be determined by Council in conjunction with the decision in respect of (a) above (Mayor).

ACQUISITION AND RETURN OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES BY COUNCILLORS

Councillors shall return to Council all equipment and other facilities at the completion of their term of office, while on extended leave of absence or at the cessation of their civic duty.

A Councillor finishing office may also have the option of purchasing the Council Ipad (or equivalent) at an agreed fair market value. Council will acquire an appraisal from a reputable dealer in support of the agreed value.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

AUTHORITY TO TRAVEL

DATE: **COUNCILLOR:**

PURPOSE OF JOURNEY:.....

N.B. PLEASE ATTACH COPY OF PROGRAMS, REGISTRATION FORM, AGENDA OR OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION.

DESTINATION:

Expected time of departure: Date of departure:

Expected time of return: Date of return:

TRANSPORT TO BE ORGANISED? Yes ☐ No ☐
(Air ☐) (Bus ☐) (Train ☐) (Car ☐)

ACCOMMODATION TO BE ORGANISED? Yes ☐ No ☐
Check in date: Motel Preference:
Check out date:
Single ☐ Double ☐ Twin ☐

REGISTRATION FEE AND FORM TO BE ORGANISED? Yes ☐ No ☐
Please attach completed registration form.

HIRE CAR AT DESTINATION? Yes ☐ No ☐

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO BE ORGANISED? Yes ☐ No ☐
Please supply details

.....
.....

BUDGET ALLOCATION NO. **CURRENT BALANCE**

APPROVED BY:
MAYOR and GENERAL MANAGER or MINUTE NO

DECLARATION: I confirm that actual details of my journey were undertaken as claimed above.

(To be signed by Councillor on return)

.....
.....
COUNCILLOR'S SIGNATURE. DATE.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

AUTHORITY TO TRAVEL

DATE:

MAYOR:

PURPOSE OF JOURNEY:.....

N.B. PLEASE ATTACH COPY OF PROGRAMS, REGISTRATION FORM, AGENDA OR OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION.

DESTINATION:

Expected time of departure: Date of departure:

Expected time of return: Date of return:

TRANSPORT TO BE ORGANISED? Yes ☐ No ☐
(Air ☐) (Bus ☐) (Train ☐) (Car ☐)

ACCOMMODATION TO BE ORGANISED? Yes ☐ No ☐
Check in date: Motel Preference:
Check out date:
Single ☐ Double ☐ Twin ☐

REGISTRATION FEE AND FORM TO BE ORGANISED? Yes ☐ No ☐
Please attach completed registration form.

HIRE CAR AT DESTINATION? Yes ☐ No ☐

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO BE ORGANISED? Yes ☐ No ☐
Please supply details

.....
.....

BUDGET ALLOCATION NO. **CURRENT BALANCE**

APPROVED BY:
DEP MAYOR COUNCILLOR GEN MAN or MINUTE NO

DECLARATION: I confirm that actual details of my journey were undertaken as claimed above.

(To be signed by Councillor on return)

.....

MAYOR'S SIGNATURE.

DATE.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

EXPENSES CLAIM

Councillor:

Vehicle greater than 2500cc: **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐

Council/Committee Meeting	Kms	Date	Amount
Travelling			
Other			

Meetings Attended as a Council Delegate	Kms	Date	Amount
Travelling			
Sustenance (attach receipts)			
Other (e.g. car parking fees)			

Signature:

Date:

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL
CREDIT CARD RECONCILIATION SHEET

MAYOR:

MONTH: **20** .

Description of Mastercard expenditure	Occasion	Date	\$ Total Amount
Eg: Accommodation Wentworth Hotel	LGNSW Conference	30/06/2011	\$880.00

MAYOR

Signature:
MAYOR

Date:

General Manager / Chief Financial Officer

Signature:

Date: