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MAYOR'S FOREWORD

Councillor Andrew Hope

This annual report marks the beginning of a period of review and transformation for Liverpool Plains Shire Council that is crucial for future development and ongoing sustainability.

At the beginning of this period the political and operating environments were marked by the State Government's major local government reform program "Fit for the Future". This reform program required most NSW Councils to consider amalgamation options with neighbouring Councils as the Government looked to investigate the efficiency of Councils and to reduce the number of regional and metropolitan Councils.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council responded to these challenges by instituting financial management strategies to avoid the budget deficits and commencing Council's most comprehensive review of its services and current operations. The State Government identified that we had met all of the criteria with the exception of scale and capacity. We believe we have now demonstrated to the State Government that we can meet scale and capacity with new projects being approved and a positive outlook for Shire growth.

Council's efforts have resulted in many major achievements including:

- a major restructuring of the organisation, and a reinvigorated community engagement focus across the whole organisation, providing a foundation to deliver better service outcomes for our community;
- significant progress having been made through collaboration with the rural fire services in planning for the construction of a Zone Headquarters and training facility in an emergency services precinct;
- maximising government grant funding to deliver on key community projects including a Federal Government grant for a \$4.8 million pipeline, which will drought proof the village of Willow Tree;
- maintaining our focus on improving our roads and infrastructure spending to address our community's needs

It has been a challenging year, however we have made good progress. We have continued to deliver major priority projects such as the Willow Tree pipeline project while also providing services to the Liverpool Plains Shire community. We remain committed to continually improving our financial viability, the growth of our great shire and improving our customer service and outcomes for the LPSC Community. I would like to thank staff for their mammoth efforts and look forward to further gains in the future.

This annual report will outline many other initiatives and achievements of Council during 2015/16. There are many challenges before us, but I am confident we can continue to face them and build a positive future for our Shire.



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 \$2.70m. The following projects were completed on regional roads during the year:

- MR 130 Werris Creek Road 20.7 – 21.0 North of Quirindi, Reconstruction \$246,200;
- MR 358 Merriwa Road 29.2 –30.4 from New England Highway, Construction \$564,800;

A local rural road reconstruction project was undertaken on SR 28 Harrisons Plains Road at a cost of \$321,880 and 750m of Moreduval Lane was constructed and sealed for \$283,000. New kerb and gutter was constructed on the eastern side of Allnutt Street Quirindi between Freetrade Street and Young Street at a cost of \$117,000 and \$140,000 was allocated to the extension of the bitumen seal on Callaghans Lane through Mart Gully to Annies Lane.

Work continued on the development of the Quipolly Dam Recreation Area with completion of the Stage 3 project. This project included the construction of a jetty, picnic tables, barbeques, pathway extension, boat ramp extension and a casting wharf. The project was funded by Council \$120,000, Roads and Maritime Services \$120,000 and Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) \$50,000.

Work continued on the expansion of the shared pathway network with construction of new concrete pathways in Lennox and Loder Streets Quirindi. These pathways were fully funded by Roads and Maritime Services from grant funding totaling \$275,000. Funding of \$20,000 was also obtained from Roads and Maritime Services for the development of a Bike Plan and a Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP). The funding was provided on a dollar for dollar basis with Council also contributing \$20,000 to this project.

Council undertook a \$591,100 gravel road re-sheeting program which included \$242,300 of Council funds \$ 25,000 from the Federal Assistance Grant and \$323,800 from the Roads to Recovery Program. In addition \$908,800 in Natural Disaster (Flood Damage) repairs was also spent on gravel roads and drainage infrastructure over a broad area of the Shire. The roads treated included:

- SR 1 Bundella Rd,
- SR 71 Lowes Creek Rd,
- SR 93 Cattle Lane,
- SR 13 Share Farmers Rd,
- SR 33 Dry Creek Rd
- SR 26 Big Jacks Creek Rd,
- SR 25 Little Jacks Creek Rd,
- SR 27 Dellars Rd,
- SR 228 Saunders Ln,
- SR 79 Inverkip Rd,
- SR 42 Scotts Ln
- SR 151 Bloomfields Rd

ENGINEERING WORKS AND SERVICES (Continued)

Urban Resheeting

- Gurton Street,
- Fortune Street,
- South Street Werris Creek
- South Street Quirindi

The culvert and causeway construction and repair program continued with \$246,170 allocated towards the cost of upgrading or constructing culverts and causeways. Major projects funded under this budget included:

- SR 28 Harrisons Plains Road
- MR 358 Merriwa Road
- SR 25 Little Jacks Creek Road
- SR 66 Merrilong Rd
- SR 3 Blackville Road

Considerable work was undertaken to improve the accuracy of data within the Assetic Asset Management System. Changes to the coding assigned to asset records have enhanced asset data and the mapping of the codes to the Authority Finance System will improve future financial reporting of each asset class.

A significant bitumen resealing program was undertaken in the 2014/15 financial year at a total cost of \$1,109,300 including \$416,000 on the Kamilaroi Highway, \$344,800 on Regional Roads, \$250,000 on local rural roads and \$98,500 on urban streets.

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's 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.

Good progress was made on the realisation of drought proofing some of Council's Water Supplies during 2014/15 with the completion of one project and the commencement of work on another. Wallabadah received an upgrade to its water supply with the completion of a new bore and rising main from a fractured rock water source to the east of the village, providing an alternative to the shallow aquifer system which had proven susceptible to running out during periods of little runoff.

ENGINEERING WORKS AND SERVICES (Continued)

The Wallabadah project was completed on time and under the \$380,000 budget allocated. It was commissioned and opened in January 2015.

Tenders were called for the construction of an upgraded water supply for the village of Willow Tree early in 2015. The \$4.8m project involves the construction of 15.5 kilometres of 150mm pipe drawing water from the reliable Quirindi Water Supply. In addition, a new transfer pump station and an additional 200 kilolitre concrete reservoir located adjacent to the existing reservoirs is needed for the upgrade. Engagement of the preferred construction contractor occurred in late 2014/15 with preliminary designs and approvals commencing in that year. Actual works commenced in the 2015/16 year on this project. Both drought proofing projects were fully funded by the NSW Government through its Restart NSW fund.



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 Assestic 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 the 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. A significant improvement in gravel quality has been noted with the operation of Council's recently acquire mobile Jaw Crusher. The crusher has predominantly been used at Warrah Ridge Pit producing construction and maintenance gravel. However it was also used at Tollbar Pit Willow Tree to produce gravel for the MR358 construction project and Donoghue's Pit Bundella for the Moredual Lane project.

Works Depots and Plant Administration

Several plant items were replaced and upgraded during the year including the replacement of a wheel loader, 5 tonne excavator and two (2) tractors and slashers.

Return on the sale of plant, on average, achieved the estimated result. 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 few years continued with Council maintaining the current light vehicle replacement policy. Light vehicles are now held for approximately 5 years or 120,000kms 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 the construction of recreation facilities at the Quipolly Dam Recreation area continued in conjunction with the Stage 3 project detailed in other areas of this report. A grant of \$35,000 under the Public Reserve Management Fund Program was obtained to upgrade the toilets at the First Fleet Gardens and install an underground irrigation system. A \$20,000 grant was also obtained under the Community Building Partnership Program to enhance the playground equipment at Hoamm Park Werris Creek with an additional \$70,000 for the project allocated from the Werris Creek Coal Community fund. The projects will be completed in the 2015/16 financial year.



Quipolly Dam Recreation Area

Public Cemeteries

A total of \$10,000 was allocated for upgrade works at Council's Cemeteries including new concrete plinths in Quirindi and Werris Creek. Cemetery maintenance was completed including topdressing of the lawn cemeteries and turf care. Council is appreciative of the volunteers who carry out maintenance at several cemeteries throughout the Shire.

ENGINEERING WORKS AND SERVICES (Continued)

Swimming Pools

The management and operation of Council's Swimming Pools was once again undertaken by the YMCA on Council's behalf. While positive comments have been received regarding the operation of the Recreation Centre (also managed by the YMCA), mixed messages continue to be received regarding the operation of the swimming pools. Increasing management fees from the YMCA are forcing Council to review how best to manage these centres with the likely outcome being a return of the three facilities to direct Council management from 2015/16.

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. This allows the airport to retain the status of a Registered Aerodrome.

During the year work was completed on heavy patching repairs to 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 RMS direction. Council met the RMS specification requirements for the contract and received an overall contract performance rating of "satisfactory" for the work.

Regional Roads

Two projects were completed on Regional Roads under the Roads and Maritime Services REPAIR Program. These projects were the reconstruction of 300m of MR130 Werris Creek Road 20.7km to 21.0km north of Quirindi and the construction and bitumen sealing of 1.2km of MR358, Merriwa Road starting at a point 29.2km south west from the New England Highway.

ENGINEERING WORKS AND SERVICES (Continued)

Shire Roads

The annual gravel re-sheeting program was undertaken and completed as scheduled. The bitumen resealing program was completed including additional work which was carried over from the previous financial year. 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 0.95km of pavement work undertaken at a cost of approximately \$321,880. A large drainage culvert was constructed at Mart Gully on Callaghans Lane and approximately 750m of the road was formed and bitumen sealed. The work included widening the road pavement at Mart Gully and improving vertical sight distance to substantially improve road safety at this location.

Urban Streets

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

- Kerb and gutter was constructed along the eastern side of Allnutt Street Quirindi between Freetrade Street and Young Road as part of Council's Urban Improvement Program.
- The former Quirindi Saleyards were demolished allowing future re-development of this strategic site.
- Bitumen Resealing Urban Roads \$98,400



ENGINEERING WORKS AND SERVICES (Continued)

Water Supplies

Water supplies generally operated without incident during 2014/15, with the exception of Willow Tree which required several occasions of water cartage from Quirindi to maintain basic internal domestic supply. Fortunately some good runoff rainfall received in late 2015 has enabled the supply to recommence operation utilising its own water source for as long as is required to complete the aforementioned drought proofing upgrade.

The continuing dry period has lowered the level of Quipolly Dam with no appreciable inflow received since the completion of the dam upgrade project. Current use by the Werris Creek water supply is sustainable for quantity; however more concern over water quality when water levels are in this vicinity continues to require vigilance by the treatment plant operators.

Further development of components of the new Drinking Water Management Plan occurred in 2014/15 with external consultants providing assistance with specialised calculations and updates to Council's existing procedures. Additional monitoring instrumentation equipment was also installed to assist with keeping water chemistry in the correct range.

Council also undertook the construction of the Quirindi reticulation improvement component of the Willow Tree transfer system upgrade by building a 200mm pipeline from the Wallabadah Road water main back to the new pump station location on the Kamilaroi Highway. Repairs to leaking reservoirs in village supplies were also completed during 2014/15.



ENGINEERING WORKS AND SERVICES (Continued)

Sewerage Systems

Extensive planning and development of concept designs continued for upgrade options of the Werris Creek Sewerage Treatment Plant. This work is in preparation for the receipt of sewage from the approved worker's accommodation facility development on the outskirts of Werris Creek. This proposed project has dominated sewerage scheme strategy work during 2014/15.

Removal of sludge from the initial pond in the Quirindi Sewerage Treatment Plant tertiary pond system was completed in 2014/15. This removal was undertaken to improve hydraulic capacity and remove entrained nutrient to improve effluent quality. Additional improvements to the access for personnel to maintain aeration equipment in the Extended Aeration Tank side of the plant was also completed.

Both Werris Creek and Quirindi sewer reticulations have been studied to assess their capacity for future growth potential options. This study will enable targeted capital project selection and allow feedback to potential development discussions as to feasibility. Additionally, the Quirindi Sewerage Treatment Plant has also been studied to assess its capacity and set out a roadmap for future upgrades.



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. 2014/15 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.

2014/15 has also seen the introduction of resource sharing arrangement with Gunnedah Shire Council in the provision of Planning and Environmental Services. Collaborative partnerships have also been entered into with Warrumbungle Shire Council who is assisting LPSC with project management services for the innovative Liverpool Range Emergency Services Precinct project.

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 four 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.

A review of Council's Development Control Plan (DCP) has been undertaken with the view of ensuring that the DCP continues to be a responsive and flexible contemporary planning policy that keeps pace with change. It is expected that the DCP review process will be finalised towards the latter part of 2015.

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)

- Ongoing 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 \$26,446,968 (2014/15)
- Council issued 263 section 149 zoning certificates (2014/15)

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
- Additional process mapping of assessment systems and implementation of associated efficiency improvements
- Participation in the e-Planning initiative which also included the delivery of online DA tracking system.
- 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 endeavour to achieve compliance with the Noxious Weeds Act by land owners
- In negotiated partnerships, undertake environmental weed control projects particularly in riparian zones
- Report to Government Authorities e.g. Crown Lands Office, the control work required for Noxious Weeds
- Manage and control noxious weeds on public land for which Council is responsible e.g. Council controlled road reserves
- To a limited extent and under Private Works contracts, control noxious weeds on privately owned land
- Participate in cooperative Joint Organisational and Regional Projects

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

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 formalised into site management plans. All sites are being assessed for improved management opportunities to create extended lifespans and managed with a view to minimizing the existence of bushfire hazards.

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, Merinda Recycling (also known as Quirindi Aboriginal Corporation) accepted the contract to undertake site management services and provide a modern separation and resale of recyclables business undertaking. This contractor has exercised the option to extend the contract for a further five years.

As part of Council's contract for kerbside waste and recycling collection, the contractor conducts two annual kerbside collections – one of green waste and one for bulky goods waste. These collections are programmed to continue annually and assist to keep town areas tidy and free of potential vermin 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 minimise problems with straying stock and dog attacks. A Compliance Officer and one full-time Ranger undertake regular patrols across the Shire and have promoted animal owner responsibilities at various community venues.

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
- Illegal dumping incidents
- Overgrown allotment complaints
- Unfenced private swimming pool issues
- On-site Sewage Management System (OSMS) approvals and inspections
- Adherence to signposted restrictions at the Quipolly Dam Recreation Area
- Alcohol Free Area signage and Liquor Accord interests

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

Redesign and documentation work for Council's new Animal Welfare Facility to be located near the Quirindi Landfill have been revamped this year in line with budget limitations and in anticipation of building commencement in 2016.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (Continued)

COMPLIANCE/RANGER SERVICES (Continued)

Annual Statistics 2014/15

Dogs Seized	171
Dogs Surrendered	86
Dogs Rehomed	105
Dogs Returned to Owner	41
Dogs Released to Owner	69
Dogs Euthanased	45
Dangerous Dog Orders	0
Nuisance Dog Orders	2
Menacing Dog Orders	2
Stock Call-Outs	30
Stock Impounded	0
Cats Seized	41
Cats Euthanased	77

BUILDING ASSET MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT

This ongoing program enhances facilities and maintains Council's existing public buildings in a state of good repair and condition. Maintenance work has been carried out on many of Council's built assets in both an ongoing and proactive nature.

Maintenance schedules are being updated and further developed to better cover the required works into the future.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

This program provides support and assistance to:

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

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.

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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (Continued)

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



Photograph of Quirindi township taken during aerial inspections

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 – 1 pm 2 pm – 5 pm
	Saturday	10 am – 12 pm
Werris Creek	Tuesday to Friday	10am – 5pm
	Saturday	10 am – 12 pm
Premer	Monday	9 am – 10.30 am
	Saturday	9.30 am -12pm
Willow Tree	Sunday to Saturday	9 am – 5 pm

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.

In the CNRL 2014/2015 Annual Report it reads that "Liverpool Plains Shire Libraries had the highest loans per capita in the region lending 4.2 items per capita in 2014-15". A fantastic result for our area.

Storytime is held at the Quirindi Library every Monday, and also throughout the School Holidays. It is a program especially designed for younger children aged three to five.

The following are some of the Programs delivered through the Shire's Libraries:

Adult programs	Children's programs	Active Book clubs
Author Talks	Disability Services Visits	Biggest morning tea activities
Reading Clubs	Knitting Groups	Local Govt Week Activities
Waste to Art Displays	Chess Club	Book week colour in comp

COMMUNITY SERVICES (Continued)

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. There are 10 schools visited within our Shire during September and October

A community based committee administers the Youth Scholarship Program on Council's behalf. This program provides funding to assist local youth. Projects undertaken in previous years 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.



Entries in the Waste to Art Competition

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

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

Council provides a venue for the Higher School Certificate Senior Drama Annual Performance

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES (Continued)

COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM

Recently the Home and Community Care Organisation undertook a name change, now being known as the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP). This however, has not changed the vital services that clients receive within the area. The Liverpool Plains CHSP 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. CHSP 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 as well as many social outings and vacations available on a regular basis.

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 CHSP Services.

CHSP 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
- CHSP Car

COMMUNITY SERVICES (Continued)

COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM (Continued)

- Meals on Wheels
- Food Service
- Craft Day
- Monthly Carers' Meeting
- Social Support
- Seniors' Newsletter
- CHSP Annual 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



Annual Holiday for CHSP Clients to Newcastle in 2014

PROMOTION AND TOURISM

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES (Continued)

PROMOTION AND TOURISM (Continued)

The Royal Theatre provides fortnightly leaflets to various shopping outlets, as well as having a Facebook Page and website that are regularly maintained. The Royal Theatre often has events and is host to the North West Talent Quest on an annual basis.

Council also has a website which is updated regularly along with its own Facebook Page.

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

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Liverpool Plains Shire Council has co-ordinated quite a few events throughout the last 12 months, which include the following:

- Senior's Week Celebrations, which included computer courses for Seniors, Dinners and Day Excursions.
- Carer's Week is a time when Council thanks all those who Care for others and a special outing was organised.
- Local Government Week showcased the LPSC with visits from students from local schools, BBQ's at various venues and community consultations.
- Volunteer's Week included a "Big" Morning Tea followed by a movie at the Royal Theatre.
- International Women's Day celebrated the achievements of women in the Liverpool Plains area with a dinner which included guest speakers.
- Australia Day Celebrations were co-ordinated and were comprised of an Awards Ceremony at the Royal Theatre, Luncheon and Tours of the First Fleet Gardens at Wallabadah and various activities in the Warrah Creek and Werris Creek Communities.

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 the final approval from the Federal 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 20 room motel was approved which will cater for additional accommodation demand arising from the resources and commodities sectors. The necessary background work (including the development of detailed servicing strategies) also continues in respect to the proposed 1,500 workforce accommodation village on the Gap Road at Werris Creek.

Aurizon has a newly established 'base' within Quirindi in the existing industrial estate. Modifications to development approvals were undertaken in respect of the Willow Tree and Ardglan Quarries to extend their operating lives.

The retail sector continues to struggle given the prevailing climatic and economic conditions and changes in the consumer spending patterns. In an attempt to address these trends, Council continues to explore opportunities to promote economic growth and continues to work in partnership with the Quirindi and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

SECTION 2 STATUTORY REPORTING

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The audited Financial Statements for 2014/15 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 3 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.

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

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
1.1.1 Periodically review community engagement strategy	Community engagement strategy reviewed	Annually	New strategy prepared.
	Percentage satisfaction in community survey	Bi-annually	Consultation carried out during Council's Fit for the Future process
1.1.2 Councillors to be available for community members to raise issues	No reasonable complaints from members of the public about access	Ongoing	No complaints received

STRATEGY 1.2 Foster and support community leadership and encourage innovation

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
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.	Ongoing	Achieved
	Meetings held with community representative groups	Annually	Volunteers Week 2015 held
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	Regular topic at all staff meetings

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 2014/15		Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
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	Grants received from State Government

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

STRATEGY 1.4

Actions 2014/15		Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
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	Opportunity for a Recognition campaign to be determined

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

Actions 2014/15		Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
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 August 2014
1.5.2	Ensure decision making processes are fair, open and equitable	Council recognised as a transparent, accountable and ethical organisation	Ongoing	Community engagement undertaken
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 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
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 to be held 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 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
1.7.1 Discuss resource-sharing opportunities with Namoi Councils	Discussions held and opportunities implemented	Ongoing	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	Annually	GM attends Regional leadership meetings quarterly. LPSC active at all levels in Namoi Councils Joint Organisation activities

STRATEGY 1.8 Enhance the financial sustainability of Council

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
1.8.1 Develop long term financial plans that improve council's financial position	LTFP developed and reviewed	Annually	Achieved

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

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
2.1.1 Undertake creek clearing projects.	Projects undertaken, health of rivers and creeks improved	Ongoing	Quirindi Creek Riparian Zone project completed
2.1.2 Seek grant funding opportunities.	Grants received	Ongoing	One application pending
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 education activities completed

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

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
2.2.1 A development control plan will be reviewed and implemented to provide guidance for the sustainable development of the Shire	DCP reviewed	June 2015	Progressively reviewed.
	Level of community satisfaction in surveys for management of development	Bi-annual	Achieved

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

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
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	Support provided as per budget and survey completed.
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 2015 and then ongoing	Project commenced with review of identified and serious threats

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

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
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	Progressively implemented as opportunities arose

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

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
2.5.1 Complete a community heritage plan	Heritage Plan completed	By June 2015	Achieved

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 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
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	Included in all mining related submissions

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

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
2.7.1 Increase education to community on benefits of recycling.	Education program implemented	By June 2015 and ongoing	Activities undertaken in conjunction with collection contractor
	Waste to Art Program implemented	By Dec 2014	Competition held in 2014

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

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
3.1.1 Promote and support cultural festivals and events within the Shire.	Festivals, events and promotions are celebrated.	Annually	Support provided for Quirindi Annual Show, inaugural Quirindi Music Festival. Shire events listed on website and facebook

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

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
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	Services maintained and no QHS meetings attended this year
3.2.2 Continue with the provision of subsidies and lobbying to attract new GP's and dentists if necessary	Sufficient GP's and dentists to meet demand	Ongoing	Services established with sufficient GPs and dentists
3.2.3 Advocate better services for people with special needs.	Better services provided as a result of advocacy	Ongoing	Support provided for children with special needs event at Royal Theatre. Provide Tamworth Family Support Services with accommodation at Beehive for program.
3.2.4 Advocate services to address mental health issues	Better services provided as a result of advocacy	Ongoing	Advocacy continues

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

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
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. Five officers stationed at Quirindi and one at Werris Creek
3.3.2 Council will continue to install CCTV cameras at strategic crime hot spots	CCTV cameras installed	As required	Three mobile cameras installed at Council depot this year

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

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
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	Increased number of children attending Eastside CCC, however no Census statistics available

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

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
3.5.1 Encourage and develop vibrant and creative open space areas and public infrastructure for use by residents and youth in particular.	Increase in people being active and using recreational facilities	Ongoing	YMCA contracted to manage pools and recreation centre finalised. Reports indicate increased usage of Quipolly recreation area.
	Level of satisfaction in the community survey for recreation facilities compared to benchmark	Bi-annual	Assessed during the Fit for the Future activities.

STRATEGY 4.1 Increase tourism infrastructure and visitation to the Shire

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
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	Assessed by way of FFTF activities
4.1.2 Implement strategies in the Tourism Destination Plan.	Strategies implemented	Ongoing to 2016/17	Revised Destination Plan completed. Prepared by Tourism C'tee in May 2015

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

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
4.2.1 Promote and market the area to attract businesses and new residents.	Increase in resident population as per ABS projections	Annually	Population projected for slight increase
	Level of satisfaction in the community survey with economic development compared to benchmark	Bi-annual	Assessed by way of FFTF activities
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	Adequate zoned land available but commercial/ industrial activity at modest levels
	Reduced number of vacant commercial premises in Quirindi and Werris Creek	Ongoing	Not achieved but working closely with Chamber of Commerce to address this trend

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

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
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	Works completed in accordance with Management Plan. PAMP and Bike Plans completed. Last survey completed with mean of 3.2 and above benchmark

STRATEGY 5.2 Maintain a road transport network that satisfies community needs

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
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	Road survey completed in conjunction with REPAIR Program assessments. Works undertaken in accordance with Operational Plan Last survey completed with Rural Roads below 3 Urban roads 3.06
5.2.2 Lobby for rail overpasses/by-passes at key road/rail interfaces to reduce delays	Overpasses/by-passes constructed	Ongoing	Ongoing – Issue of cumulative rail transport impacts on communities raised with NSW MP Hon Kevin Humphries on 29 January 2015 and ARTC Reps on 28 January 2015. Worked with ARTC on temporary level crossing repairs Merriwa Rd Willow Tree

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

Actions 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
5.3.1 Undertake maintenance and new works as funding permits	Percentage of residents who express satisfaction in survey	Bi-annual	Ongoing maintenance work undertaken in accordance with Operational Plan. Causeway reconstructed on Little Jacks Creek Rd and Merriwa Rd, Merrilong Rd causeway extended. 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 2014/15	Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
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	Quipolly Dam Recreation Area Stage 3 completed, Casting wharf completed. Cricket nets constructed at David Taylor Park. 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 2014/15		Performance Measure	Timeline	Status 30.06.15
5.5.1	Implement Best Practice Water Supply and Sewerage principles.	Achievement of 100% compliance with best practice principles excluding best practice pricing	Ongoing to 2016/17	Ongoing
		Percentage of residents who express satisfaction in survey compared to benchmark	Bi-annual	Last survey completed with Water 3.34 Sewer 4.08
5.5.2	Develop alliances with Gunnedah Shire Council and/or Namoi Councils	Alliances implemented	Ongoing	Completed with Namoi Councils. Joint projects include CCTV inspection program, 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 [SECTION 428 (2) (d)]

Condition of Public Roads and Drainage

Item	Condition at end of 2014/15	Estimate of cost to bring to satisfactory standard [2014/15 Values]	Estimate of annual cost of maintaining satisfactory std. [2014/15 values]	Total Expenditure for 2014/15
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.	2,158,573	575,000	2,023,841
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.	1,865,467	2,895,600	3,023,000
Urban Streets	FAIR – Council's focus on bitumen reseals over recent years 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.	1,572,960	338,300	950,642

Supplementary Notes

REGIONAL ROADS

Capital works were undertaken on MR 130, Werris Creek Road and MR 358 Gap Road at a total cost of \$811,000. The work involved widening the road formation, chemically stabilizing the existing pavement, applying a 100mm stabilized gravel overlay and two (2) coat hot bitumen seal.

RURAL SHIRE ROADS

Capital road works expenditure for the year totaled \$2,490,850. Work involved the reconstruction of a further 0.95 km of Harrisons Plains Road; the pavement was chemically stabilized and a new bitumen seal applied. The work also involved the widening of an existing road culvert and concrete causeway. Approximately 0.75 km of gravel road on Moreduval Lane was constructed and sealed. Gravel from Donoghue's Pit was spread on the existing road formation and it was then chemically stabilised and hot bitumen sealed. Further causeways were constructed on Merriwa Rd, Merrilong Rd, Little Jacks Creek Rd, Blackville Rd and Harrisons Plains Road. Gravel re-sheeting was undertaken on numerous gravel roads including Bundella Rd, Lowes Creek Rd, Cattle Ln, Share Farmers Rd, Dry Creek Rd, Big Jacks Creek Rd, Little Jacks Creek Rd, Dellars Rd, Saunders Ln, Inverkip Rd, Scotts Ln and Bloomfields Rd. The planned bitumen sealing program was completed with additional carry over projects from the previous financial year also completed.

URBAN STREETS

The development of a Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP) and Bike Plan for the major towns and villages in the shire was completed with partial funding from RMS. Such plans are required before the State Government will consider further applications for the expansion of the shared path network. New shared pathways were constructed along Lenox and Loder Streets Quirindi and successful applications were lodged for further pathway projects in Hawker Street and Dewhurst Street Quirindi in the 2015/16 financial year.

Condition of Bridges

Item	Condition at end of 2014/15	Estimate of cost to bring to satisfactory standard [2014/15 Values]	Estimate of annual cost to keep at satisfactory std. [2014/15 values]	Total Expenditure for 2014/15
Concrete/Steel	Satisfactory	381,000	180,500	67,741
Timber	Satisfactory	24,000	37,500	0

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 2014/15	Estimate of cost to bring to satisfactory standard [2014/15 Values]	Estimate of annual cost to keep at satisfactory std. [2014/15 values]	Total Expenditure for 2014/15
Quirindi Supply	Satisfactory	649,086	502,732	1,418,781
Werris Creek Supply	Fair	216,362	696,509	1,309,476
Villages Supplies	Satisfactory	138,451	285,743	793,382

Supplementary Notes

WATER SUPPLIES

Capital expenditure in 2014/15 related to upgrades for drought proofing water supplies with the majority of that provided by full grant funding. Small components of these projects were ineligible for grant funds, such as land purchase, and this was funded by Council.

Increased maintenance and operations costs in 2014/15 relate to the increased monitoring and reactive works associated with the new drinking water quality plan.

Condition of Sewerage System

Item	Condition at end of 2014/15	Estimate of cost to bring to satisfactory standard [2014/15 Values]	Estimate of annual cost to keep at satisfactory std. [2014/15 values]	Total Expenditure for 2014/15
Quirindi System	Satisfactory	255,000	148,176	602,602
Werris Creek System	Satisfactory	276,000	40,805	246,955

Supplementary Notes

SEWERAGE SYSTEM

Current rolling programs for mains inspections and relining have been altered to allow for more opportunity to participate with other Council's undertaking similar work in the Namoi Water Alliance. Consequently none of this style of work was carried out in 2014/15 with an increased budget planned to be undertaken in 2015/16.

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 Long Day Childcare Centre in East Street Quirindi. This Childcare service currently has 39 enrollments on a daily basis.

Council provides a venue for Family Day Care to operate an outreach childcare service at the Quirindi Pavilion (Beehive). 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 participates in Youth Week activities and held several successful youth events in association with the local High School and the Quirindi Interagency group.

Council provides funds to the Youth Scholarship Committee, which is managed by local citizens 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.

The many parks in the Shire provide play equipment and shade covers are being progressively installed. These are maintained on a regular basis and any issues that arise are attended to quite promptly.

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 CHSP 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.

Community Consultation

In order to ensure Council is working towards delivering an improved service program, a strategic plan was developed in 2014. The information was obtained from the community via a telephone survey and community discussions held within the shire in 2013/2014, this assisted initially as a guide to inform policies and actions throughout our shire. Since the inception of this community strategic plan significant gains in Council's community relationships have been made in 2015. Council's "Fit for the Future" survey, alongside community meetings held throughout the Shire in April and May, provided an opportunity for Council to obtain a further understanding of what the community valued and what was important to them as a whole shire and to the individual towns and villages within our shire.

These consultations encompassed more than 15 events as well as meetings and pop up stalls across the Shire.

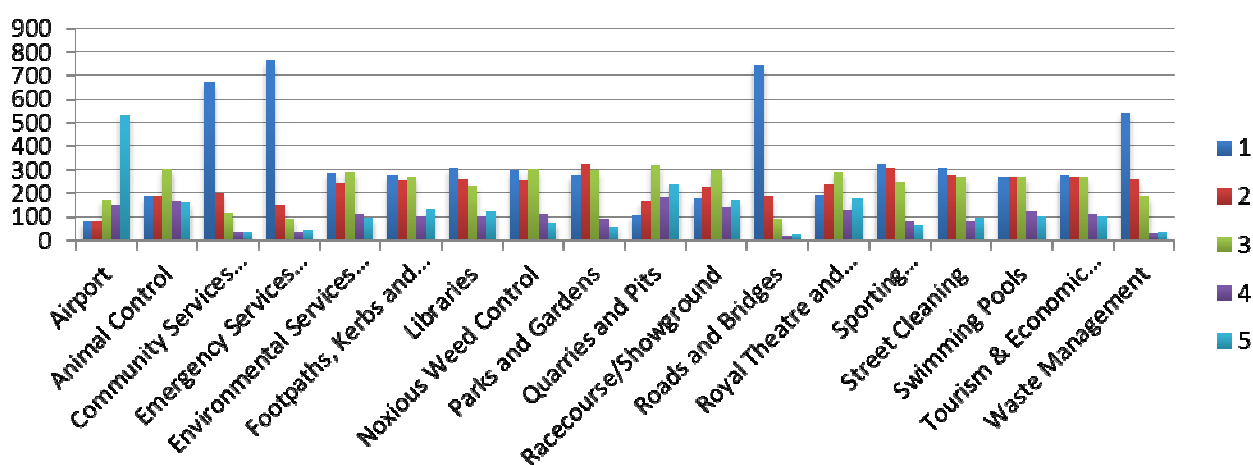
Consultative tools included:

- Presenting to organisations such as Lions, Rotary and Quota.
- One on one meetings with key individuals and groups within the community.
- Meetings held with Section 355 Committees.
- Discussions held with key business owners in each village and town.
- Photo and design competitions within schools to encourage more involvement in the "Fit for the Future" project and to obtain community input.
- Site specific website with all the details and updates on "Fit for the Future" <http://yoursayliverpoolplainsshirecouncil.com.au>
- A Fit for the Future hot line.
- Promotion of events and survey in the media, which included: radio, print, television and social media, along with advertising events and promoting the survey on the local radio stations. Interviews were also conducted with: ABC Radio, 88.9 and Prime Seven news. Posters and flyers were also strategically placed in each town and village along with flyers to endorse the "Fit for the Future" events and the survey. Flyers were also attached to community and school newsletters.
- Promotion of survey at local events including Relay for Life, Quirindi Canter, Werris Creek "Friends of the Library" monthly market stall and the Quirindi Heritage Rally.
- An online and paper-based "Fit for the Future" survey.

Over 1,102 surveys were completed, a percentage of 27.55% of the residents over 16 that reside within the area, 87.3% of the respondents to the survey wanted to remain independent and form a joint organisation with Namoi Councils. The information obtained from the surveys, meetings and stalls is been utilised by Council in its decision making.

Figure 1: Community Survey - Most Valued Services

Residents most value roads and bridges, Council continuing its financial support of Emergency Services such as the rural fire service and community services such as Home Support Services. As the survey allowed for the respondent to note the area they lived in within the shire, it is important to note that a majority of the villages and surrounds rated Noxious Weed Control and Street Cleaning in the top five services.



Continuing Council commitment In improving and genuinely working with the community is demonstrated by the June 2015 adopted Community Engagement Policy. This policy provides a framework that facilitates understanding the decision making between the Council and the LPSC community. The adoption of this has and will:

- Continue to achieve good governance by facilitating open, fair and constructive dialogue;
- Allow for informed decision making through involvement and inclusiveness of the community;
- Ensure engagement of the community is conducted in a coordinated way that works well for both the Council and the community; and
- Provide the public and the LPSC staff with a clear understanding of the councils participation process.

The Council recognises the importance of informing and involving the community in decisions that may affect them. Council understands that community engagement not only assists the Council achieve its goals, it also improves the outcome and builds a community's capacity to more actively participate in the development of a shared future. Council is committed to continuing to work with the community in delivering food service programs.

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 the latter part of 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 2015/16 to be completed by 30th June 2016:

- 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 2014/15

Legal costs for 2014/2015 totaled \$127,270.54 and the following is a dissection by activity:

- Ongoing - A total of \$47,848.87 was incurred in relation to legal action against ratepayers for recovery of overdue rates.
- Complete – Sale of Doctors Surgery – Quirindi \$ 2,215.70
- Complete – Sale of Werris Creek Sportsground – Werris Creek \$ 3,786.20
- On-going – Sale of Land to Werris Creek Pre-school – Werris Creek \$ 4,593.82
- On-going – General Legal Advice \$ 4,165.16
- On-going – Legal advice Development matter Quirindi \$ 55,903.99
- On-going – Legal advice building work Werris Creek \$ 8,756.80

FEES, EXPENSES AND FACILITIES PROVIDED TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS DURING 2014/15

The following fees were expended during the year 2014/2015:

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 the "Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors" policy in accordance with section 253 of the Local Government Act 1993. Council adopted the policy at its **26th November 2014**.

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 2014/2015 was \$ 40,756.79. This comprised of:

Delegates' expenses for attendance at conferences/meetings, seminars and personal development. \$21,851.54

Meals and sustenance associated with meetings \$ 7,041.22

Expense	Mayor	Councillors	Total
Mobile phone – Net of contributions	\$1,737.10	NIL	\$1,737.10
Facsimile/Internet	NIL	NIL	NIL
Travel – meetings	\$1,923.68	\$4,233.99	\$6,157.67
Interstate travel	NIL	NIL	NIL
Overseas Travel	\$2,026.26	NIL	\$2,026.26
Child care	NIL	NIL	NIL
Spouse / Partner expenses (Shires Conference)	NIL	NIL	NIL
Mayoral Motor Vehicle – Net of Contributions	\$ 1,943	NIL	\$ 1,943
Computer (capital)	NIL	NIL	NIL

The General Manager and three (3) Councillors attended the 2014 Local Government NSW Conference in Sydney.

SENIOR STAFF EMPLOYED BY COUNCIL DURING 2014/15

As at 30th June 2015 only one senior staff member, in terms of the Local Government Act, was employed by Council. This position is the General Manager's, and at 30 June 2015 was occupied by an Acting General Manager.

The General Manager's Package is \$ 227,690, which is made up of a salary component, Superannuation and Motor Vehicle.

- Salary Component - \$ 204,480
- Superannuation - \$ 15,732
- Motor Vehicle - \$ 7,478

Fringe benefits tax payable \$ 11,157

CONTRACTS IN EXCESS OF \$150,000 AWARDED BY COUNCIL DURING 2014/15

In 2014/2015 Council awarded five (5) 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
Hitachi Constructions	\$ 245,154.55	John Deere 544K Wheel Loader
Hitachi Constructions	\$ 245,154.55	John Deere 624K Wheel Loader
Fulton Hogan Industries	Schedule of Rates	Supply of Bitumen Sealing Services
Leed Engineering	\$ 3,200,000	Willow Tree Water Supply
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 2014/2015 to the total of \$102,693.18.

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 + 20% + GST

During 2014/2015 Council did not partly or fully subsidise any works carried out on private land.

GRANTS UNDER SECTION 356

During 2014/2015, Council made grants totalling \$20,538.82 to individuals and local community groups.

EXTERNAL BODIES EXERCISING FUNCTIONS DELEGATED BY COUNCIL DURING 2014/2015

Twenty Six (26) external bodies were delegated functions by Council during 2014/2015:

Body	Function
Arts Council (including Wallaby Art Group)	Organisation of art functions
Australia Day Committee	Organisation of Australia Day Celebrations
Blackville Hall Committee	Management of Public Hall
Central Northern Libraries	The provision of library services
Currabubula Hall & Reserve Committee	Management of Public Hall & Reserve
Home Support Services Committee	The provision of meal, transport and respite services for the aged and disabled
Internal Audit Committee	Management of Council's internal audit function
Local Emergency Management Committee	Co-ordination & management of emergency services
Mid North Weight of Loads	Control of weight of loads on roads
Mining Consultative Committee	Advisory body providing support and advice to Council on mining
Premier Development Committee	Management of Public Hall & Reserve
Quipolly Dam Recreation Committee	Management and development of the Quipolly Dam recreation area
Royal Theatre Committee	Organisation & co-ordination of functions and events at the Theatre
Sister City Committee	Management of Council's relations with its Sister City Blacktown and Friendship City Jimo China
Sports Council	Advisory body providing support in the development of sport and recreational facilities
Spring Ridge Development Committee	Management of Public Hall & Reserve
Summerhill Lodge Management Committee	Management of residential units for low income earners
Tourism & Economic Development Committee	Advisory body providing support and advice on tourism and economic development
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 Railway Institute	Management of Public Hall
Werris Creek Sporting Complex	Management of recreational facility
Willow Tree Harvesting for the Future Committee	Advisory body to Council for works and services in Willow Tree
Youth Scholarship Committee	Advisory body providing support and advice on youth programs and activities

HUMAN RESOURCES ACTIVITIES

ARRB Group Ltd	Road Management Workshop Training	5
Asset Edge Pty Ltd	Asset Edge Annual Conference	3
Australian Institute Of Local	Rangers conference	1
Australian Training & Consulting	Cert III Civil Construction	2
Barry Peterson Computer Training	Computer Training Word & Excel	3
Blue Visions Management Pty Ltd	Project Management Fund	1
Catalyst Event Solutions Pty.	NSW Public Libraries Conference	2
Civica	Authority E Tutorials	6
Coates Hospitality Services Pty	RMS Traffic Control Yellow Ticket	4
Coates Hospitality Services Pty	RMS Traffic Control Blue Ticket	7
Constructive Solutions	Pavement Design Workshop	2
Cooma-Monaro Shire Council	Weeds conference registration	2
Department of Trade & Investment	Chemical Dosing P1 Course	4
Essential Resources Ltd	Professional Development Reference	1
First Aid Tamworth	First Aid Training	45
Glen Innes Severn Council	Mock Trial	4
Gunnedah Shire Council	Farmland Rating Workshop	2
Gunnedah Shire Council	Coalface Rates Training	3
Gunnedah Shire Council	Tax & Payroll Training	1
IPWEA NSW Division	IPWEA Webinar Training	1
IPWEA NSW Division	ISO55000 training	1
IPWEA NSW Division	Training Rego	1
Liverpool Range RFS Support Br	TFT Course	3
Liverpool Range RFS Support Br	Crew Leader Safety Course	2
Liverpool Range RFS Support Br	Rural Fire Driver Course	2
Liverpool Range RFS Support Br	Advance Fire Fighter Course	15
Local Government Procurement	LGP Annual Conference	1
Local Government Procurement	LGP Conference 2014	1
Local Government Procurement	Stores and Inventory Management	3
Local Government Training Institute	Working with Overhead Power lines	1
Open College Pty Ltd	Project Management	2
Skillset Limited	Cert 111 Water operations	1
Statewide Mutual Liability Sch	Conference Rebate 2014	1
TAFE NSW (New England Institute)	Asbestos Awareness Course	4
TAFE NSW (New England Institute)	Forklift Training	4
Tamworth Community College Inc	Red Card Training	14
Tamworth Community College Inc	First Aid Refresher Course	1
Tamworth Community College Inc	First Aid Refresher & Anaphylaxis	1
Tamworth Community College Inc	White card training	1
The Instruction Company	Track Safety Awareness training	25
Trainer Services Pty Ltd	Chem. Cert Refresher	4
Trainer Services Pty Ltd	Rural Pesticide Refresher Course	4
Trainer Services Pty Ltd	Urban Pesticide Refresher	4
Wavelength Public Relations	Media Training	4

COMPANIES IN WHICH HELD A CONTROLLING INTEREST DURING 2014/15

Council did not hold a controlling interest in any companies during 2014/2015.

PARTNERSHIPS, CO-OPERATIVES OR OTHER JOINT VENTURES TO WHICH THE COUNCIL WAS A PARTY DURING 2014/15

Council was not a party to any partnerships, co-operatives or other joint ventures during 2014/2015.

OVERSEAS VISITS FUNDED BY COUNCIL

Mr Robert Hunt (General Manager) and Ian Lobsey (Mayor) visited China in July 2014.

ANNUAL REPORT OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION (PUBLIC ACCESS) FOR THE PERIOD 2014/2015

Total number of access applications received during the reporting year	5
--	---

*During the reporting year 5 applications were received.

Table A: Number of applications by type of applicant and outcome*									Total	% of Total
	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	0	0
Members of Parliament	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private sector business	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	33%
Not for profit organisations or community groups	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	17%
Members of the public (application by legal representative)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	17%
Members of the public (other)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	33%
Total	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	
% of Total	100%	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	Total	% of Total
Personal information applications*	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	67%
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	33%
Access applications that are partly personal information applications and partly other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	
5 of Total	100%	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	1	0	1
Review by ADT	0	0	0
Total	1	0	1

*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 2014/2015 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 2014/2015 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 2014/15



Liverpool Plains Shire Council

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2015

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



Liverpool Plains Shire Council

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

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2. Statement by Councillors & Management	3
3. Primary Financial Statements:	
- Income Statement	4
- Statement of Comprehensive Income	5
- Statement of Financial Position	6
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Overview

- (i) These financial statements are General Purpose Financial Statements and cover the consolidated operations for Liverpool Plains Shire Council.
- (ii) Liverpool Plains Shire Council is a body politic of NSW, Australia - being constituted as a Local Government area by proclamation and is duly empowered by the Local Government Act (LGA) 1993 of NSW.

Council's Statutory Charter is detailed in Paragraph 8 of the LGA and includes giving Council;

- the ability to provide goods, services & facilities, and to carry out activities appropriate to the current & future needs of the local community and of the wider public,
- the responsibility for administering regulatory requirements under the LGA and
- a role in the management, improvement and development of the resources in the area.

A description of the nature of Council's operations and its principal activities are provided in Note 2(b).

- (iii) All figures presented in these financial statements are presented in Australian Currency.
 - (iv) These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Council on 25 November 2015. Council has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements.
-

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Understanding Council's Financial Statements

Introduction

Each year, individual Local Governments across NSW are required to present a set of audited financial statements to their Council & Community.

What you will find in the Statements

The financial statements set out the financial performance, financial position & cash flows of Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2015.

The format of the financial statements is standard across all NSW Councils and complies with both the accounting & reporting requirements of Australian Accounting Standards and requirements as set down by the Office of Local Government.

About the Councillor/Management Statement

The financial statements must be certified by Senior staff as "presenting fairly" the Council's financial results for the year, and are required to be adopted by Council - ensuring both responsibility for & ownership of the financial statements.

About the Primary Financial Statements

The financial statements incorporate 5 "primary" financial statements:

1. The Income Statement

Summarises Council's financial performance for the year, listing all income & expenses.

This statement also displays Council's original adopted budget to provide a comparison between what was projected and what actually occurred.

2. The Statement of Comprehensive Income

Primarily records changes in the fair values of Council's Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment.

3. The Statement of Financial Position

A 30 June snapshot of Council's financial position indicating its Assets, Liabilities & "Net Wealth".

4. The Statement of Changes in Equity

The overall change for the year (in dollars) of Council's "Net Wealth".

5. The Statement of Cash Flows

Indicates where Council's cash came from and where it was spent.

This statement also displays Council's original adopted budget to provide a comparison between what was projected and what actually occurred.

About the Notes to the Financial Statements

The Notes to the financial statements provide greater detail and additional information on the 5 primary financial statements.

About the Auditor's Reports

Council's financial statements are required to be audited by external accountants (that generally specialize in Local Government).

In NSW, the Auditor provides 2 audit reports:

1. An opinion on whether the financial statements present fairly the Council's financial performance & position, &
2. Their observations on the conduct of the Audit including commentary on the Council's financial performance & financial position.

Who uses the Financial Statements ?

The financial statements are publicly available documents & must be presented at a Council meeting between 7 days & 5 weeks after the date of the Audit Report.

Submissions from the public can be made to Council up to 7 days subsequent to the public presentation of the financial statements.

Council is required to forward an audited set of financial statements to the Office of Local Government.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

General Purpose Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

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:

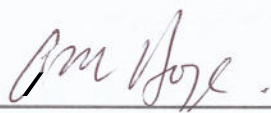
- The Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) and the Regulations made thereunder,
- The Australian Accounting Standards and professional pronouncements, and
- The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.


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


- present fairly the Council's 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 25 November 2015.



Andrew Hope
MAYOR

Robert Webster
DEPUTY MAYOR

Ronald Van Katwyk
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

Ann Newsome
RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Income Statement

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Budget ¹ 2015 \$ '000		Notes	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
Income from Continuing Operations				
Revenue:				
10,061	Rates & Annual Charges	3a	10,220	9,645
3,815	User Charges & Fees	3b	3,552	3,260
617	Interest & Investment Revenue	3c	847	789
735	Other Revenues	3d	684	1,157
7,239	Grants & Contributions provided for Operating Purposes	3e,f	7,249	4,795 ²
2,111	Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	3e,f	1,407	3,202
Other Income:				
-	Net gains from the disposal of assets	5	75	138
-	Net Share of interests in Joint Ventures & Associates using the equity method	19	-	-
24,578	Total Income from Continuing Operations		24,034	22,986
Expenses from Continuing Operations				
8,008	Employee Benefits & On-Costs	4a	7,712	8,239
293	Borrowing Costs	4b	134	286
7,563	Materials & Contracts	4c	6,999	3,983
6,414	Depreciation & Amortisation	4d	6,439	6,584
-	Impairment	4d	-	-
1,929	Other Expenses	4e	2,024	1,778
24,207	Total Expenses from Continuing Operations		23,308	20,870
371	Operating Result from Continuing Operations		726	2,116
Discontinued Operations				
-	Net Profit/(Loss) from Discontinued Operations	24	-	-
371	Net Operating Result for the Year		726	2,116
371	Net Operating Result attributable to Council		726	2,116
-	Net Operating Result attributable to Non-controlling Interests		-	-
(1,740)	Net Operating Result for the year before Grants and Contributions provided for Capital Purposes		(681)	(1,086)

¹ Original Budget as approved by Council - refer Note 16

² Financial Assistance Grants for 13/14 were lower reflecting a one off timing difference due to a change in how the grant was paid in prior years-refer Note 3 (e)

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
Net Operating Result for the year (as per Income statement)		726	2,116
Other Comprehensive Income:			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to the Operating Result			
Gain (loss) on revaluation of I,PP&E		(7,498)	-
Impairment (loss) reversal relating to I,PP&E	20b (ii)	-	(33)
Total Items which will not be reclassified subsequently to the Operating Result		(7,498)	(33)
Amounts which will be reclassified subsequently to the Operating Result when specific conditions are met			
Nil			
Total Other Comprehensive Income for the year		(7,498)	(33)
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		(6,772)	2,083
Total Comprehensive Income attributable to Council		(6,772)	2,083
Total Comprehensive Income attributable to Non-controlling Interests		-	-

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2015

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	6a	2,785	6,173
Investments	6b	6,250	3,750
Receivables	7	2,646	3,720
Inventories	8	1,209	1,229
Other	8	-	-
Non-current assets classified as "held for sale"	22	-	-
Total Current Assets		12,890	14,872
Non-Current Assets			
Investments	6b	10,750	7,500
Receivables	7	1	1
Inventories	8	-	-
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	9	526,709	537,832
Investments accounted for using the equity method	19	-	-
Investment Property	14	-	-
Intangible Assets	25	-	-
Total Non-Current Assets		537,460	545,333
TOTAL ASSETS		550,350	560,205
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	10	1,004	2,720
Borrowings	10	193	2,572
Provisions	10	2,206	2,628
Total Current Liabilities		3,403	7,920
Non-Current Liabilities			
Payables	10	1	-
Borrowings	10	4,943	2,828
Provisions	10	1,612	1,940
Total Non-Current Liabilities		6,556	4,768
TOTAL LIABILITIES		9,959	12,688
Net Assets		540,391	547,517
EQUITY			
Retained Earnings	20	208,292	207,920
Revaluation Reserves	20	332,099	339,597
Council Equity Interest		540,391	547,517
Non-controlling Equity Interests		-	-
Total Equity		540,391	547,517

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Statement of Changes in Equity for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

\$ '000	Notes	Retained Earnings	Reserves (Refer 20b)	Council Interest	Non-controlling Interest	Total Equity
2015						
Opening Balance (as per Last Year's Audited Accounts)		207,920	339,597	547,517	-	547,517
a. Correction of Prior Period Errors	20 (c)	(354)	-	(354)	-	(354)
b. Changes in Accounting Policies (prior year effects)	20 (d)	-	-	-	-	-
Revised Opening Balance (as at 1/7/14)		207,566	339,597	547,163	-	547,163
c. Net Operating Result for the Year		726	-	726	-	726
d. Other Comprehensive Income						
- Revaluations : IPP&E Asset Revaluation Rsve	20b (ii)	-	(7,498)	(7,498)	-	(7,498)
- Revaluations: Other Reserves	20b (ii)	-	-	-	-	-
- Transfers to Income Statement	20b (ii)	-	-	-	-	-
- Impairment (loss) reversal relating to I,PP&E	20b (ii)	-	-	-	-	-
- Other Movements	20a	-	-	-	-	-
Other Comprehensive Income		-	(7,498)	(7,498)	-	(7,498)
Total Comprehensive Income (c&d)		726	(7,498)	(6,772)	-	(6,772)
e. Distributions to/(Contributions from) Non-controlling Interests		-	-	-	-	-
f. Transfers between Equity		-	-	-	-	-
Equity - Balance at end of the reporting period		208,292	332,099	540,391	-	540,391

\$ '000	Notes	Retained Earnings	Reserves (Refer 20b)	Council Interest	Non-controlling Interest	Total Equity
2014						
Opening Balance (as per Last Year's Audited Accounts)		205,804	339,630	545,434	-	545,434
a. Correction of Prior Period Errors	20 (c)	-	-	-	-	-
b. Changes in Accounting Policies (prior year effects)	20 (d)	-	-	-	-	-
Revised Opening Balance (as at 1/7/13)		205,804	339,630	545,434	-	545,434
c. Net Operating Result for the Year		2,116	-	2,116	-	2,116
d. Other Comprehensive Income						
- Revaluations : IPP&E Asset Revaluation Rsve	20b (ii)	-	-	-	-	-
- Revaluations: Other Reserves	20b (ii)	-	-	-	-	-
- Transfers to Income Statement	20b (ii)	-	-	-	-	-
- Impairment (loss) reversal relating to I,PP&E	20b (ii)	-	(33)	(33)	-	(33)
- Other Movements	20a	-	-	-	-	-
Other Comprehensive Income		-	(33)	(33)	-	(33)
Total Comprehensive Income (c&d)		2,116	(33)	2,083	-	2,083
e. Distributions to/(Contributions from) Non-controlling Interests		-	-	-	-	-
f. Transfers between Equity		-	-	-	-	-
Equity - Balance at end of the reporting period		207,920	339,597	547,517	-	547,517

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Statement of Cash Flows

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Budget 2015 \$ '000		Notes	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
Cash Flows from Operating Activities				
Receipts:				
10,061	Rates & Annual Charges		10,101	9,662
3,815	User Charges & Fees		3,992	3,631
617	Investment & Interest Revenue Received		463	777
9,350	Grants & Contributions		9,276	7,977
735	Other		2,237	933
Payments:				
(8,008)	Employee Benefits & On-Costs		(8,500)	(7,915)
(7,563)	Materials & Contracts		(9,225)	(3,495)
(293)	Borrowing Costs		(468)	(302)
(1,929)	Other		(2,167)	(1,933)
6,785	Net Cash provided (or used in) Operating Activities	11b	5,709	9,335
Cash Flows from Investing Activities				
Receipts:				
-	Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment		1,004	415
-	Deferred Debtors Receipts		-	1
Payments:				
-	Purchase of Investment Securities		(5,750)	(483)
(7,354)	Purchase of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment		(4,087)	(8,124)
(7,354)	Net Cash provided (or used in) Investing Activities		(8,833)	(8,191)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities				
Receipts:				
-	Proceeds from Borrowings & Advances		2,355	-
Payments:				
(301)	Repayment of Borrowings & Advances		(2,619)	(242)
(301)	Net Cash Flow provided (used in) Financing Activities		(264)	(242)
(870)	Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents		(3,388)	902
6,173	plus: Cash & Cash Equivalents - beginning of year	11a	6,173	5,271
5,303	Cash & Cash Equivalents - end of the year	11a	2,785	6,173
Additional Information:				
plus:	Investments on hand - end of year	6b	17,000	11,250
Total Cash, Cash Equivalents & Investments			19,785	17,423

Please refer to Note 11 for information on the following:

- Non Cash Financing & Investing Activities.
- Financing Arrangements.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

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n/a - not applicable

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted by Council in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below in order to assist in its general understanding.

Under Australian Accounting Standards (AASBs), accounting policies are defined as those specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by a reporting entity (in this case Council) in preparing and presenting its financial statements.

(a) Basis of preparation

(i) Background

These financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with;

- Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board,
- the Local Government Act (1993) & Regulation, and
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

For the purpose of preparing these financial statements, Council has been deemed to be a not-for-profit entity.

(ii) Compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs)

Because AASBs are sector neutral, some standards either:

- (a) have local Australian content and prescription that is specific to the Not-For-Profit sector (including Local Government) which are not in compliance with IFRS's, or
- (b) specifically exclude application by Not for Profit entities.

Accordingly in preparing these financial statements and accompanying notes, Council has been unable to comply fully with International Accounting Standards, but has complied fully with Australian Accounting Standards.

Under the Local Government Act (LGA), Regulations and Local Government Code of Accounting Practice & Financial Reporting, it should be noted that Councils in NSW only have a requirement to comply with AASBs.

(iii) New and amended standards adopted by Council

There were no accounting standards that became mandatory this year which materially impacted on Council's financial statements.

(iv) Early adoption of Accounting Standards

Council has not elected to apply any pronouncements before their operative date in the annual reporting period beginning 1 July 2014.

Refer further to paragraph (ab) relating to a summary of the effects of Standards with future operative dates.

(v) Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been prepared under the **historical cost convention** except for:

- (i) certain financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss and available-for-sale financial assets which are all valued at fair value,
- (ii) the write down of any Asset on the basis of Impairment (if warranted) and
- (iii) certain classes of non current assets (eg. Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment and Investment Property) that are accounted for at fair valuation.

The accrual basis of accounting has also been applied in their preparation.

(vi) Changes in Accounting Policies

Council's accounting policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

There have also been no changes in accounting policies when compared with previous financial statements unless otherwise stated [refer Note 20(d)].

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

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Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(vii) Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates (in conformity with AASBs).

Accordingly this 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 Council and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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 remediation provisions.

Critical judgements in applying Council's accounting policies

- (i) Impairment of Receivables - 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.

(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 it and specific

criteria have been met for each of the Council's activities as described below.

Council bases any 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.

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.

A provision for the impairment on rates receivables has not been established as unpaid rates represent a charge against the rateable property that will be recovered when the property is next sold.

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.

Revenue from Contributions is recognised when the Council either obtains control of the contribution or the right to receive it, **(i)** it is probable that the economic benefits comprising the contribution will flow to the Council and **(ii)** the amount of the contribution can be measured reliably.

Where grants or contributions 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 or contribution is disclosed in Note 3(g).

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Note 3(g) also discloses the amount of unused grant or contribution from prior years that was expended on Council's operations during the current year.

The Council has obligations to provide facilities from contribution revenues levied on developers under the provisions of S94 of the EPA Act 1979.

Whilst Council generally incorporates these amounts as part of a Development Consents Order, such developer contributions are only recognised as income upon their physical receipt by Council, due to the possibility that individual Development Consents may not be acted upon by the applicant and accordingly would not be payable to Council.

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.

A detailed Note relating to developer contributions can be found at Note 17.

User Charges, Fees and Other Income

User charges, fees and other income (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.

A provision for the impairment of these receivables is recognised when collection in full is no longer probable.

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

Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant 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

Rental income is accounted for on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Interest Income from Cash & Investments is accounted for using the effective interest rate at the date that interest is earned.

Dividend Income

Revenue is recognised when the Council's right to receive the payment is established, which is generally when shareholders approve the dividend.

Other Income

Other income is recorded when the payment is due, the value of the payment is notified or the payment is received, whichever occurs first.

(c) Principles of Consolidation

These financial statements incorporate **(i)** the assets and liabilities of Council and any entities (or operations) that it **controls** (as at 30 June 2015) and **(ii)** all the related operating results (for the financial year ended the 30th June 2015).

In the process of reporting on Council's activities as a single unit, all inter-entity year end balances and reporting period transactions have been eliminated in full between Council and its controlled entities.

(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 Fund
- Quirindi Sewerage Fund
- Werris Creek Sewerage Fund
- Blackville Hall Committee
- Currabubula Hall & Reserve Committee

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

- 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

Note:

Where actual figures are not known, best estimates have been applied.

(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 money 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 those monies.

Trust monies and property subject to Council's control have been included in these statements.

Trust monies and property held by Council but not subject to the control of Council, have been excluded from these statements.

A separate statement of monies held in the Trust Fund is available for inspection at the Council office by any person free of charge.

(iii) Joint Arrangements

Joint Ventures

Council is a partner in a regional library service – Central Northern Regional Library (CNRL) with other regional 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 is a departure from Australian Accounting standards.

(iv) Associates

Council has no interest in any Associates.

(v) County Councils

Council is not a member of any County Councils.

(d) Leases

All Leases entered into by Council are reviewed and classified on inception date as either a Finance Lease or an Operating Lease.

Finance Leases

Leases of property, plant and equipment where the Council has substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised at the lease's inception at the lower of the fair value of the leased property and the present value of the minimum lease payments.

The corresponding rental obligations, net of finance charges, are included in borrowings.

Each lease payment is allocated between the liability outstanding and the recognition of a finance charge.

The interest element of the finance charge is costed to the income statement over the lease period so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability for each period.

Property, plant and equipment acquired under finance leases is depreciated over the shorter of each leased asset's useful life and the lease term.

Operating 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) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For Statement of Cash Flows (and Statement of Financial Position) presentation purposes, cash and cash equivalents includes;

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

- 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, and
- bank overdrafts.

Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet but are incorporated into Cash & Cash Equivalents for presentation of the Cash Flow Statement.

(f) Investments and Other Financial Assets

Council (in accordance with AASB 139) classifies each of its investments into one of the following categories for measurement purposes:

- **financial assets at fair value through profit or loss**,
- **loans and receivables**,
- **held-to-maturity investments**, and
- **available-for-sale financial assets**.

Each classification depends on the purpose/intention for which the investment was acquired & at the time it was acquired.

Management determines each Investment classification at the time of 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 include financial assets that are “held for trading”.

A financial asset is classified in the “held for trading” category if it is acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term.

Assets in this category are primarily classified as current assets as they are primarily held for trading &/or are expected to be realised within 12 months of the balance sheet date.

(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 (or in some cases ability) of selling the resulting 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.

(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.

In contrast to the “Loans & Receivables” classification, these investments are generally quoted in an active market.

Held-to-maturity financial assets are included in non-current assets, except for those with maturities less than 12 months from the reporting date, which are classified as current assets.

(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.

Investments must be 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.

Accordingly, this classification principally comprises marketable equity securities, but can include all types of financial assets that could otherwise be classified in one of the other investment categories.

They are generally included in non-current assets unless management intends to dispose of the investment within 12 months of the balance sheet date or the term to maturity from the reporting date is less than 12 months.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Financial Assets – Reclassification

Council may choose to reclassify a non-derivative trading financial asset out of the held-for-trading category if the financial asset is no longer held for the purpose of selling it in the near term.

Financial assets other than loans and receivables are permitted to be reclassified out of the held-for-trading category only in rare circumstances arising from a single event that is unusual and highly unlikely to recur in the near term.

Council may also choose to reclassify financial assets that would meet the definition of loans and receivables out of the held-for-trading or available-for-sale categories if it has the intention and ability to hold these financial assets for the foreseeable future or until maturity at the date of reclassification.

Reclassifications are made at fair value as of the reclassification date. Fair value becomes the new cost or amortised cost as applicable, and no reversals of fair value gains or losses recorded before reclassification date are subsequently made.

Effective interest rates for financial assets reclassified to loans and receivables and held-to-maturity categories are determined at the reclassification date. Further increases in estimates of cash flows adjust effective interest rates prospectively.

General Accounting & Measurement of Financial Instruments:

(i) Initial Recognition

Investments are initially recognised (and measured) at fair value, plus in the case of investments not at "fair value through profit or loss", directly attributable transactions costs

Purchases and sales of investments are recognised on trade-date - the date on which the Council commits to purchase or sell the asset.

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.

(ii) Subsequent Measurement

Available-for-sale financial assets and **financial assets at fair value through profit and loss** are subsequently carried at fair value.

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

Realised and unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of the financial assets classified as "**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.

Impairment

Council assesses at each balance date whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired.

A financial asset or a group of financial assets is impaired and impairment losses are incurred only if there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the asset (a 'loss event') and that loss event (or events) has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset or group of financial assets that can be reliably estimated.

(iii) Types of Investments

Council has an approved Investment Policy in order to undertake its investment of money in accordance with (and to comply with) Section 625 of the Local Government Act and S212 of the LG (General) Regulation 2005.

Investments are placed and managed in accordance with the Policy and having particular regard to authorised investments prescribed under the Ministerial Local Government Investment Order.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Council maintains its investment Policy in compliance 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.

Council amended its policy following revisions to the Ministerial Local Government Investment Order arising from the Cole Inquiry recommendations. Certain investments that Council holds are no longer prescribed (eg. managed funds, CDOs, and equity linked notes), however they have been retained under grandfathering provisions of the Order. These will be disposed of when most financially advantageous to Council.

(g) 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 balance sheet 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.

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.

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.

(h) Receivables

Receivables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, less any provision for impairment.

Receivables (excluding Rates & Annual Charges) are generally due for settlement no more than 30 days from the date of recognition.

The collectibility of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off in accordance with Council's policy.

A provision for impairment (ie. an allowance account) relating to 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 each receivable.

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.

Impairment losses are recognised in the Income Statement within other expenses.

When a receivable for which an impairment allowance had been recognised becomes uncollectible in a subsequent period, it is written off against the allowance account.

Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against other expenses in the income statement.

(i) Inventories

Raw Materials and Stores, Work in Progress and Finished Goods

Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods in respect of business undertakings

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

are all stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Cost comprises direct materials, direct labour and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overhead expenditure, the latter being allocated on the basis of normal operating capacity.

Costs are assigned to individual items of inventory on the basis of weighted average costs.

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.

Inventories held in respect of non-business undertakings have been valued at cost subject to adjustment for loss of service potential.

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 and borrowing costs during development.

When development is completed borrowing costs and other holding charges are expensed as incurred.

Borrowing costs included in the cost of land held for resale are those costs that would have been avoided if the expenditure on the acquisition and development of the land had not been made.

Borrowing costs incurred while active development is interrupted for extended periods are recognised as expenses.

(j) Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment (I,PP&E)

Acquisition of assets

Council's non current assets are continually revalued (over a 5 year period) in accordance with the fair valuation policy as mandated by the Office of Local Government.

At balance date, the following classes of I,PP&E were stated at their Fair Value;

- **Plant and Equipment**
(as approximated by depreciated historical cost)
- **Operational Land** (External Valuation)
- **Community Land** (External Valuation)
- **Land Improvements**
(as approximated by depreciated historical cost)
- **Buildings – Specialised/Non Specialised**
(External Valuation)
- **Other Structures**
(as approximated by depreciated historical cost)
- **Roads Assets incl. roads, bridges & footpaths**
(Internal Valuation)
- **Bulk Earthworks** (Internal Valuation)
- **Stormwater Drainage** (Internal Valuation)
- **Water and Sewerage Networks**
(Internal Valuation)
- **Swimming Pools**
(Internal Valuation)
- **Other Open Space/Recreational Assets**
(Internal Valuation)
- **Other Infrastructure**
(Internal Valuation)
- **Other Assets**
(as approximated by depreciated historical cost)
- **Investment Properties** – refer Note 1(p),

Initial Recognition

On initial recognition, an assets cost is measured at its fair value, plus all expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition.

Where settlement of any part of an asset's cash consideration is deferred, the amounts payable in the future are discounted to their present value as at the date of recognition (ie. date of exchange) of the asset to arrive at fair value.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

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.

Where infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets are acquired for no cost or for an amount other than cost, the assets are recognised in the financial statements at their fair value at acquisition date - being the amount that the asset could have been exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

Subsequent costs

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.

Asset Revaluations (including Indexation)

In accounting for Asset Revaluations relating to Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment:

- Increases in the combined carrying amounts of asset classes arising on revaluation are credited to the asset revaluation reserve.
- To the extent that a net asset class increase reverses a decrease previously recognised via the profit or loss, then increase is first recognised in profit or loss.
- Net decreases that reverse previous increases of the same asset class are first charged against revaluation reserves directly in equity to the extent of the remaining reserve attributable to the asset, with all other decreases charged to the Income statement.

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.

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.

Capitalisation Thresholds

Items of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are not capitalised unless their cost of acquisition exceeds the following;

Land

- council land	100% Capitalised
- open space	100% Capitalised
- land under roads (purchases after 30/6/08)	100% Capitalised

Plant & Equipment

Office Furniture	> \$1,000
Office Equipment	> \$1,000
Other Plant & Equipment	> \$1,000

Buildings & Land Improvements

Park Furniture & Equipment	> \$1,000
Building	
- construction/extensions	> \$10,000
- renovations	> \$10,000
Other Structures	> \$1,000

Water & Sewer Assets

Reticulation extensions	> \$1,000
Other	> \$1,000

Stormwater Assets

Drains & Culverts	> \$1,000
Other	> \$1,000

Transport Assets

Road construction & reconstruction	> \$10,000
Reseal/Re-sheet & major repairs	> \$10,000
Bridge construction & reconstruction	> \$10,000

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Other Infrastructure Assets

Swimming Pools	> \$10,000
Other Open Space/Recreational Assets	> \$10,000

Other Infrastructure	> \$10,000
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Depreciation

Depreciation on Council's infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets is calculated using the straight line method in order to allocate an assets cost (net of residual values) over its estimated useful life.

Land is not depreciated.

Estimated useful lives for Council's I,PP&E include:

Plant & Equipment

- Office Equipment	5 to 10 years
- Office furniture	10 to 20 years
- Computer Equipment	3 to 5 years
- Vehicles	5 to 10 years
- Heavy Plant/Road Making equip.	5 to 8 years
- Other plant and equipment	5 to 15 years

Other Equipment

- Playground equipment	5 to 15 years
- Benches, seats etc	10 to 20 years

Buildings

- Buildings : Masonry	50 to 100 years
- Buildings : Other	20 to 40 years

Water & Sewer Assets

- Dams and reservoirs	80 to 100 years
- Bores	20 to 40 years
- Reticulation pipes : PVC	70 to 80 years
- Reticulation pipes : Other	25 to 100 years
- Pumps and telemetry	15 to 20 years
- Culverts	50 to 80 years

Stormwater Assets

- Drains	80 to 100 years
- Culverts	50 to 80 years

Transportation Assets

- Sealed Roads : Surface	25 years
- Sealed Roads : Structure	40 to 80 years
- Unsealed roads	40 to 80 years
- Bridge : Concrete	20 to 80 years

Other Infrastructure Assets

- Bulk earthworks	Infinite
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All asset residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted (if appropriate), at each reporting 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 – refer Note 1(s) on Asset Impairment.

Disposal and De-recognition

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

Any gain or loss arising on derecognition of the asset (calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset) is included in Council's Income Statement in the year the asset is derecognised.

(k) Land

Land (other than Land under Roads) is in accordance with Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Local Government Act (1993) classified as either Operational or Community.

This classification of Land is disclosed in Note 9(a).

(l) Land under roads

Land under roads is land under roadways and road reserves including land under footpaths, nature strips and median strips.

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

Land under roads acquired after 1 July 2008 is recognised in accordance with AASB 116 – Property, Plant and Equipment.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(m) Intangible Assets

Council has not classified any assets as Intangible.

(n) Crown Reserves

Crown Reserves under Council's 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 Council's Income Statement.

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

(o) Rural Fire Service assets

Under section 119 of the Rural Fires Act 1997, *"all 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 or on behalf of which the fire fighting equipment has been purchased or constructed"*.

At present, the accounting for such fire fighting equipment is not treated in a consistent manner across all Councils.

Until such time as discussions on this matter have concluded and the legislation changed, Council will continue to account for these assets as it has been doing in previous years.

(p) Investment property

Council does not hold any investment properties.

(q) Provisions for close down, restoration and for environmental clean up costs – including Tips and Quarries

Close down, Restoration and Remediation costs include the dismantling and demolition of infrastructure, the removal of residual materials and the 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.

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, Restoration and Remediation 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.

This amortisation of the discount is disclosed as a borrowing cost in Note 4(b).

Other movements in the provisions for Close down, Restoration and Remediation 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.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

These costs are then depreciated over the lives of the assets to which they relate.

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 unwind 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.

Specific Information relating to Council's provisions relating to Close down, Restoration and Remediation costs can be found at Note 26.

(r) Non-Current Assets (or Disposal Groups) "Held for Sale" & Discontinued Operations

Non-current assets (or disposal groups) are classified as held for sale and stated at the lower of either (i) their carrying amount and (ii) fair value less costs to sell, if their carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use.

The exception to this is plant and motor vehicles which are turned over on a regular basis. Plant and motor vehicles are retained in Non Current Assets under the classification of Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment - unless the assets are to be traded in after 30 June and the replacement assets were already purchased and accounted for as at 30 June.

For any assets or disposal groups classified as Non-Current Assets "held for sale", an impairment loss is recognised at any time when the assets carrying value is greater than its fair value less costs to sell.

Non-current assets "held for sale" are not depreciated or amortised while they are classified as "held for sale".

Non-current assets classified as "held for sale" are presented separately from the other assets in the balance sheet.

A Discontinued Operation is a component of Council that has been disposed of or is classified as "held for sale" and that represents a separate major line of business or geographical area of operations, is part of a single co-ordinated plan to dispose of such a line of business or area of operations, or is a subsidiary acquired exclusively with a view to resale.

The results of discontinued operations are presented separately on the face of the income statement.

(s) Impairment of assets

All Council's I,PP&E is subject to an annual assessment of impairment.

Assets that are subject to amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

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.

Where an asset is not held principally for cash generating purposes (for example Infrastructure Assets) and would be replaced if the Council was deprived of it then depreciated replacement cost is used as value in use, otherwise value in use is estimated by using a discounted cash flow model.

Non-financial assets (other than goodwill) that suffered a prior period impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

Goodwill & other Intangible Assets that have an indefinite useful life and are not subject to amortisation are tested annually for impairment.

(t) Payables

These amounts represent liabilities and include goods and services provided to the Council prior to the end of financial year which are unpaid.

The amounts for goods and services are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

(u) Borrowings

Borrowings are initially recognised at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred.

Borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Amortisation results in any difference between the proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the redemption amount being recognised in the Income Statement over the period of the borrowings using the effective interest method.

Borrowings are removed from the balance sheet when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expired.

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 balance sheet date.

(v) Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are expensed when incurred.

(w) Provisions

Provisions for legal claims, service warranties and other like liabilities are recognised when:

- 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 recognised 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.

Provisions are measured at the present value of management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date.

The discount rate used to determine the present value reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability.

The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as interest expense.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(x) Employee benefits

(i) Short Term Obligations

Short term employee benefit obligations include liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits), annual leave and vesting sick leave expected to be wholly settled within the 12 months after the reporting period.

Leave liabilities are recognised in the provision for employee benefits in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date with other short term employee benefit obligations disclosed under payables.

These provisions are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

Liabilities for non vesting sick leave are recognised at the time when the leave is taken and measured at the rates paid or payable, and accordingly no Liability has been recognised in these reports.

Wages & salaries, annual leave and vesting sick leave are all classified as Current Liabilities.

(ii) Other Long Term Obligations

The liability for all long service and annual leave in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date (which is not expected to be wholly settled within the 12 months after the reporting period) are recognised in the provision for employee benefits.

These liabilities are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made 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 then discounted using market yields at the reporting date based on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match as closely as possible the estimated future cash outflows.

Due to the nature of when and how Long Service Leave can be taken, all Long Service Leave for employees with 4 or more years of service has been classified as Current, as it has been deemed that Council does not have the unconditional right to defer settlement beyond 12 months – even though it is not anticipated that all employees with more than 4 years service (as at reporting date) will apply for and take their leave entitlements in the next 12 months.

(iii) Retirement benefit obligations

All employees of the Council are entitled to benefits on retirement, disability or death.

Council contributes to various defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans on behalf of its employees.

Defined Benefit Plans

A liability or asset in respect of defined benefit superannuation plans would ordinarily be recognised in the balance sheet, and measured as the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the reporting date plus unrecognised actuarial gains (less unrecognised actuarial losses) less the fair value of the superannuation fund's assets at that date and any unrecognised past service cost.

The present value of the defined benefit obligation is based on expected future payments which arise from membership of the fund to the reporting date, calculated annually by independent actuaries using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service.

However, when this information is not reliably available, Council can account for its obligations to defined benefit plans on the same basis as its obligations to defined contribution plans – i.e. as an expense when they become payable.

Council is party to an Industry Defined Benefit Plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, named the "Local Government Superannuation Scheme – Pool B".

This Scheme has been deemed to be a "multi employer fund" for the purposes of AASB 119.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Sufficient information is not available to account for the Scheme as a defined benefit plan (in accordance with AASB 119) because the assets to the scheme are pooled together for all Councils.

Effective from 1 July 2009, employers are required to contribute additional contributions to assist in extinguishing this deficit.

The amount of employer contributions to the defined benefit section of the Local Government Superannuation Scheme and recognised as an expense and disclosed as part of Superannuation Expenses at Note 4(a) for the year ending 30 June 2015 was \$216,703.34. The last valuation of the Fund was performed by Mr Martin Stevenson BSc, FIA, FIAA on the 20th February 2013.

Councils expected contributions to the plan for the next annual reporting period is \$203,994.72. To assist in extinguishing the deficit, additional contributions are estimated to remain in place until 30 June 2016 i.e. \$83,522.04 additional contributions remaining.

Council's share of that deficiency cannot be accurately calculated as the Scheme is a mutual arrangement where assets and liabilities are pooled together for all member councils.

For this reason, no liability for the deficiency has been recognised in these financial statements.

Defined Contribution Plans

Contributions to Defined Contribution Plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

(iv) Employee Benefit On-Costs

Council has recognised at year end the aggregate on-cost liabilities arising from employee benefits, and in particular those on-cost liabilities that will arise when payment of current employee benefits is made in future periods.

These amounts include Superannuation and Workers Compensation expenses which will be payable upon the future payment of certain Leave Liabilities accrued as at 30/06/15.

(y) Self insurance

Council does not self insure.

(z) Allocation between current and non-current assets & liabilities

In the determination of whether an asset or liability is classified as 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.

Exceptions

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.

In the case of inventories that are "held for trading", these are also classified as current even if not expected to be realised in the next 12 months.

(aa) Taxes

The Council is exempt from both Commonwealth Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax.

Council does however have to comply with both Fringe Benefits Tax and Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Goods & Services Tax (GST)

Income, expenses and assets are all recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the revenue / expense.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Receivables and payables within the Balance Sheet are stated inclusive of any applicable GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from or payable to the ATO is included as a current asset or current liability in the Balance Sheet.

Operating cash flows within the Cash Flow Statement are on a gross basis, ie. they are inclusive of GST where applicable.

Investing and Financing cash flows are treated on a net basis (where recoverable from the ATO), ie. they are exclusive of GST. Instead, the GST component of investing and financing activity cash flows which are recoverable from or payable to the ATO are classified as operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from (or payable to) the ATO.

(ab) New accounting standards and interpretations

Certain new (or amended) accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for reporting periods ending 30 June 2015.

Council has not adopted any of these standards early.

Council's assessment of the impact of these new standards and interpretations is set out below.

Apart from the AASB disclosures below, there are no other standards that are "not yet effective" which are expected to have a material impact on Council in the current or future reporting periods and on foreseeable future transactions.

Applicable to Local Government:

AASB 9 - Financial Instruments (and associated amending standards)

AASB 9 replaces AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement and has an effective date for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018 (and must be applied retrospectively).

The overriding impact of AASB 9 is to change the requirements for the classification, measurement and disclosures associated with financial assets.

Under the new requirements the four current categories of financial assets stipulated in AASB 139 will be replaced with two measurement categories:

- fair value and
- amortised cost (where financial assets will only be able to be measured at amortised cost where very specific conditions are met).

AASB 15 - Revenue from contracts with customers and associated amending standards

AASB 15 will introduce a five step process for revenue recognition with the core principle of the new Standard being that entities recognise revenue so as to depict the transfer of goods or services to customers in amounts that reflect the consideration (that is, payment) to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services.

The changes in revenue recognition requirements in AASB 15 may cause changes to accounting policies relating to the timing and amount of revenue recorded in the financial statements as well as additional disclosures.

The full impact of AASB 15 has not yet been ascertained or quantified.

AASB 15 will replace AASB 118 which covers contracts for goods and services and AASB 111 which covers construction contracts.

The effective date of this standard is for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2017.

AASB 124 - Related Party Disclosures

From 1 July 2016, AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures will apply to Council.

This means that Council will be required to disclose information about related parties and Council transactions with those related parties.

Related parties will more than likely include the Mayor, Councillors and certain Council staff. In addition, the close family members of those people

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

and any organisations that they control or are associated with will be classified as related parties (and fall under the related party reporting requirements).

AASB 2015-7 – Amendment to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Disclosures of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities

This Standard applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2016. Early application is permitted for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005 but before 1 July 2016.

The standard changes the levels of disclosure councils need to make in relation to the fair value for particular assets. It provides relief from the following disclosures in AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement for level 3 assets within the scope of AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment for which the future economic benefits are not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate net cash inflow.

(ac) Rounding of amounts

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

(ad) Comparative Figures

To ensure comparability with the current reporting period's figures, some comparative period line items and amounts may have been reclassified or individually reported for the first time within these financial statements and/or the notes.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 2(a). Council Functions / Activities - Financial Information

Functions/Activities	Income, Expenses and Assets have been directly attributed to the following Functions / Activities. Details of these Functions/Activities are provided in Note 2(b).												
	Income from Continuing Operations			Expenses from Continuing Operations			Operating Result from Continuing Operations			Grants included in Income from Continuing Operations		Total Assets held (Current & Non-current)	
	Original Budget	Actual	Actual	Original Budget	Actual	Actual	Original Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
	2015	2015	2014	2015	2015	2014	2015	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
Governance	7	44	-	442	463	418	(435)	(419)	(418)	5,082	-	480,666	491,292
Administration	473	281	270	2,703	2,143	1,950	(2,230)	(1,862)	(1,680)	-	11	-	-
Public Order & Safety	456	314	705	1,227	753	1,076	(771)	(439)	(371)	-	671	-	-
Environment	1,507	1,814	1,654	2,149	2,887	2,722	(642)	(1,073)	(1,068)	-	160	-	-
Community Services & Education	900	835	816	1,675	924	983	(775)	(89)	(167)	-	228	-	-
Housing & Community Amenities	291	329	259	378	336	378	(87)	(7)	(119)	-	34	-	-
Water Supplies	2,201	3,215	3,182	2,294	2,664	2,612	(93)	551	570	-	400	42,643	42,894
Sewerage Services	1,121	1,331	1,345	936	818	774	185	513	571	-	-	27,041	26,019
Recreation & Culture	473	575	479	1,924	2,205	2,057	(1,451)	(1,630)	(1,578)	-	135	-	-
Mining, Manufacturing & Construction	56	76	383	35	231	155	21	(155)	228	-	-	-	-
Transport & Communication	6,566	4,755	3,038	9,944	9,397	7,239	(3,378)	(4,642)	(4,201)	-	4,211	-	-
Economic Affairs	300	300	507	500	487	506	(200)	(187)	1	-	-	-	-
Total Functions & Activities	14,351	13,869	12,638	24,207	23,308	20,870	(9,856)	(9,439)	(8,232)	5,082	5,850	550,350	560,205
Share of gains/(losses) in Associates & Joint Ventures (using the Equity Method)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Purpose Income ¹	10,227	10,163	10,348	-	-	-	10,227	10,163	10,348	3,366	1,796	-	-
Operating Result from Continuing Operations	24,578	24,032	22,986	24,207	23,308	20,870	371	724	2,116	8,448	7,646	550,350	560,205

1. Includes: Rates & Annual Charges (incl. Ex-Gratia), Untied General Purpose Grants & Unrestricted Interest & Investment Income.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 2(b). Council Functions / Activities - Component Descriptions

Details relating to the Council's functions / activities as reported in Note 2(a) are as follows:

GOVERNANCE

Costs relating to the Council's role as a component of democratic government, including elections, members' fees and expenses, subscriptions to local authority associations, meetings of council and policy making committees, area representation and public disclosure and compliance.

ADMINISTRATION

Corporate Support and Other Support Services (not otherwise attributed to the listed functions / activities).

PUBLIC ORDER & SAFETY

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

ENVIRONMENT

Noxious plants and insect/vermin control, other environmental protection, solid waste management, street cleaning, drainage, stormwater management.

COMMUNITY SERVICES & EDUCATION

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

HOUSING & COMMUNITY AMENITIES

Housing, town planning, street lighting, other sanitation and garbage, public cemeteries, public conveniences,

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.

MINING, MANUFACTURING & CONSTRUCTION

Building control, abattoirs, quarries & pits, other.

TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION

Urban roads, sealed rural roads, unsealed rural roads, bridges, footpaths, aerodromes, parking areas, bus shelters and services, water transport, RMS works, other.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

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

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 3. Income from Continuing Operations

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
(a) Rates & Annual Charges			
Ordinary Rates			
Residential		1,770	1,634
Farmland		3,882	3,676
Mining		272	259
Business		451	489
Total Ordinary Rates		6,375	6,058
Special Rates			
Nil			
Annual Charges (pursuant to s.496, s.496A, s.496B, s.501 & s.611)			
Domestic Waste Management Services		888	858
Water Supply Services		1,525	1,401
Sewerage Services		1,098	1,006
Waste Management Services (non-domestic)		334	322
Total Annual Charges		3,845	3,587
TOTAL RATES & ANNUAL CHARGES		10,220	9,645

Council has used 2013 year valuations provided by the NSW Valuer General in calculating its rates.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 3. Income from Continuing Operations (continued)

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
(b) User Charges & Fees			
Specific User Charges (per s.502 - Specific "actual use" charges)			
Water Supply Services		995	1,135
Sewerage Services		-	33
Waste Management Services (non-domestic)		168	81
Total User Charges		1,163	1,249
Other User Charges & Fees			
(i) Fees & Charges - Statutory & Regulatory Functions (per s.608)			
Building Services - Other		134	53
Planning & Building Regulation		3	150
Private Works - Section 67		159	150
Total Fees & Charges - Statutory/Regulatory		296	353
(ii) Fees & Charges - Other (incl. General User Charges) (per s.608)			
Aerodrome		108	98
Aged Care		62	-
Cemeteries		198	112
Child Care		497	488
Corporate		81	59
Gravel Pits		23	4
Halls		44	19
Leaseback Fees - Council Vehicles		52	49
RMS (formerly RTA) Charges (State Roads not controlled by Council)		796	685
Septic Tanks		5	6
Sporting and Recreation		60	86
Swimming Centres		46	30
Water Connection Fees		10	19
Headworks & Sundry Charges		88	-
Other		23	3
Total Fees & Charges - Other		2,093	1,658
TOTAL USER CHARGES & FEES		3,552	3,260

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 3. Income from Continuing Operations (continued)

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
(c) Interest & Investment Revenue (incl. losses)			
Interest & Dividends			
- Interest on Overdue Rates & Annual Charges (incl. Special Purpose Rates)		81	39
- Interest earned on Investments (interest & coupon payment income)		766	750
<u>TOTAL INTEREST & INVESTMENT REVENUE</u>		<u>847</u>	<u>789</u>
Interest Revenue is attributable to:			
Unrestricted Investments/Financial Assets:			
Overdue Rates & Annual Charges (General Fund)		81	39
General Council Cash & Investments		341	337
Restricted Investments/Funds - External:			
Development Contributions			
- Section 94		22	27
- Section 64		11	13
Water Fund Operations		209	195
Sewerage Fund Operations		183	178
<u>Total Interest & Investment Revenue Recognised</u>		<u>847</u>	<u>789</u>
(d) Other Revenues			
Rental Income - Other Council Properties		186	214
Reversal of prior period revaluation decrements (applicable to I,PP&E)	9(a)	-	234
Fines - Other		6	5
Legal Fees Recovery - Rates & Charges (Extra Charges)		44	53
Commissions & Agency Fees		145	149
Insurance Claim Recoveries		8	52
Insurance Discounts		59	62
Sales - General		152	171
Theatre		56	57
Other		28	160
<u>TOTAL OTHER REVENUE</u>		<u>684</u>	<u>1,157</u>

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 3. Income from Continuing Operations (continued)

\$ '000	2015 Operating	2014 Operating	2015 Capital	2014 Capital
(e) Grants				
General Purpose (Untied)				
Financial Assistance	3,295	1,630	-	-
Pensioners' Rates Subsidies - General Component	71	73	-	-
Total General Purpose	3,366	1,703	-	-

¹ The Financial Assistance Grant for the comparative 13/14 year reflects a one off timing difference (reduction). This grant ceased being paid in advance in the 13/14 year by up to 50% as had occurred in previous years.

Specific Purpose

Pensioners' Rates Subsidies:

- Water	32	32	-	-
- Sewerage	25	25	-	-
- Domestic Waste Management	35	35	-	-
Water Supplies	-	400	354	-
Child Care	34	-	-	-
Community Care	236	228	-	-
Community Centres	-	82	-	-
Employment & Training Programs	13	11	-	-
Environmental Protection	92	-	-	-
Heritage & Cultural	4	82	-	58
Library	54	-	-	-
Noxious Weeds	68	-	-	-
NSW Rural Fire Services	288	342	-	329
Public Halls	-	-	4	-
Recreation & Culture	9	-	220	-
Roads & Bridges	2,883	1,597	720	2,593
Street Lighting	-	21	-	-
Return of Wallabadah Servo Grant from NSW Environmental Trust	-	-	(43)	-
Other	54	108	-	-
Total Specific Purpose	3,827	2,963	1,255	2,980
Total Grants	7,193	4,666	1,255	2,980

Grant Revenue is attributable to:

- Commonwealth Funding	3,594	2,085	946	77
- State Funding	3,582	2,571	300	2,903
- Other Funding	17	10	9	-
	7,193	4,666	1,255	2,980

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 3. Income from Continuing Operations (continued)

\$ '000	2015 Operating	2014 Operating	2015 Capital	2014 Capital
(f) Contributions				
Developer Contributions:				
(s93 & s94 - EP&A Act, s64 of the LGA):				
S 94 - Contributions towards amenities/services	-	-	22	66
S 94A - Fixed Development Consent Levies	-	-	59	61
S 64 - Water Supply Contributions	-	-	5	11
S 64 - Sewerage Service Contributions	-	-	-	2
Total Developer Contributions	-	-	86	140
Other Contributions:				
Bushfire Services	3	-	-	-
Community Services	3	5	-	-
Recreation & Culture	1	5	10	75
Roads & Bridges	48	-	-	-
Other	1	119	56	7
Total Other Contributions	56	129	66	82
Total Contributions	56	129	152	222
TOTAL GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS	7,249	4,795	1,407	3,202

\$ '000	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
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(g) Restrictions relating to Grants and Contributions

Certain grants & contributions are obtained by Council on condition that they be spent in a specified manner:

Unexpended at the Close of the Previous Reporting Period	1,515	3,347
add: Grants & contributions recognised in the current period but not yet spent:	575	499
less: Grants & contributions recognised in a previous reporting period now spent:	(574)	(2,331)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Restricted Assets during the Period	1	(1,832)
Unexpended and held as Restricted Assets	1,516	1,515
Comprising:		
- Specific Purpose Unexpended Grants	576	693
- Developer Contributions	940	822
	1,516	1,515

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 4. Expenses from Continuing Operations

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
(a) Employee Benefits & On-Costs			
Salaries and Wages		6,020	6,424
Employee Termination Costs		463	-
Travelling		157	269
Employee Leave Entitlements (ELE)		872	880
Superannuation		674	770
Workers' Compensation Insurance		186	194
Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT)		39	51
Training Costs (other than Salaries & Wages)		75	115
Total Employee Costs		8,486	8,703
less: Capitalised Costs		(774)	(464)
TOTAL EMPLOYEE COSTS EXPENSED		7,712	8,239
Number of "Equivalent Full Time" Employees at year end		113	120
Number of "Equivalent Full Time" Employees at year end (incl. vacancies)		122	122
(b) Borrowing Costs			
(i) Interest Bearing Liability Costs			
Interest on Loans		278	286
Total Interest Bearing Liability Costs Expensed		278	286
(ii) Other Borrowing Costs			
Discount adjustments relating to movements in Provisions (other than ELE)			
- Remediation Liabilities	26	(144)	-
Total Other Borrowing Costs		(144)	-
TOTAL BORROWING COSTS EXPENSED		134	286
(c) Materials & Contracts			
Raw Materials & Consumables		5,217	2,778
Contractor & Consultancy Costs		1,586	1,023
Auditors Remuneration ⁽¹⁾		71	47
Legal Expenses:			
- Legal Expenses: Planning & Development		-	3
- Legal Expenses: Other		125	132
TOTAL MATERIALS & CONTRACTS		6,999	3,983

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 4. Expenses from Continuing Operations (continued)

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
(c) Materials & Contracts (continued)			
1. Auditor Remuneration			
During the year, the following fees were incurred for services provided by the Council's Auditor (& the Auditors of other Consolidated Entities):			
(i) Audit and Other Assurance Services			
- Audit & review of financial statements: Council's Auditor		47	47
- Other Assurance Services: Council's Auditor		24	-
Remuneration for audit and other assurance services		71	47
Total Auditor Remuneration		71	47

\$ '000	Notes	Impairment Costs		Depreciation/Amortisation	
		Actual 2015	Actual 2014	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
Plant and Equipment		-	-	759	800
Office Equipment		-	-	36	22
Furniture & Fittings		-	-	16	22
Land Improvements (depreciable)		-	-	-	3
Buildings - Non Specialised		-	1	411	411
Buildings - Specialised		-	-	16	16
Other Structures		-	-	39	45
Infrastructure:					
- Roads		-	658	3,555	3,686
- Bridges		-	-	356	350
- Footpaths		-	-	23	30
- Stormwater Drainage		-	-	272	270
- Water Supply Network		-	38	823	830
- Sewerage Network		-	-	171	172
Other Assets					
- Other		-	-	19	27
Asset Reinstatement Costs	9 & 26	-	-	(57)	(100)
Total Depreciation & Impairment Costs		-	697	6,439	6,584
less: Impairments (to)/from ARR [Equity]	9a	-	(697)	-	-
TOTAL DEPRECIATION & IMPAIRMENT COSTS EXPENSED		-	-	6,439	6,584

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 4. Expenses from Continuing Operations (continued)

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
(e) Other Expenses			
Other Expenses for the year include the following:			
Advertising		40	52
Bad & Doubtful Debts		33	27
Bank Charges		34	32
Cleaning		71	-
Contributions/Levies to Other Levels of Government			
- Emergency Services Levy (includes FRNSW, SES, and RFS Levies)		-	296
Councillor Expenses - Mayoral Fee		20	20
Councillor Expenses - Councillors' Fees		78	75
Councillors' Expenses (incl. Mayor) - Other (excluding fees above)		56	61
Donations, Contributions & Assistance to other organisations (Section 356)		-	33
Electricity & Heating		300	376
Insurance		320	349
Printing & Stationery		43	47
Promotions		37	34
Security Services	14	14	14
Street Lighting		157	106
Subscriptions & Publications		91	30
Telephone & Communications		143	174
Valuation Fees		35	52
Plant Operation Expenditure		215	-
Library Costs		135	-
Return Grant Black is the new Green		194	-
Other		8	-
<u>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES</u>		<u>2,024</u>	<u>1,778</u>

Note 5. Gains or Losses from the Disposal of Assets

Property (excl. Investment Property)			
Proceeds from Disposal - Property		669	-
less: Carrying Amount of Property Assets Sold / Written Off		(472)	-
Net Gain/(Loss) on Disposal		<u>197</u>	<u>-</u>
Plant & Equipment			
Proceeds from Disposal - Plant & Equipment		335	369
less: Carrying Amount of P&E Assets Sold / Written Off		(457)	(231)
Net Gain/(Loss) on Disposal		<u>(122)</u>	<u>138</u>
<u>NET GAIN/(LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS</u>		<u>75</u>	<u>138</u>

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 6a. - Cash Assets and Note 6b. - Investments

\$ '000	Notes	2015	2015	2014	2014
		Actual Current	Actual Non Current	Actual Current	Actual Non Current
Cash & Cash Equivalents (Note 6a)					
Cash on Hand and at Bank		1,779	-	2,416	-
Cash-Equivalent Assets ¹					
- Deposits at Call		1,000	-	3,757	-
- Other Financial Assets		6	-	-	-
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents		2,785	-	6,173	-
Investments (Note 6b)					
- Long Term Deposits		6,250	10,750	3,750	7,500
Total Investments		6,250	10,750	3,750	7,500
TOTAL CASH ASSETS, CASH EQUIVALENTS & INVESTMENTS					
		9,035	10,750	9,923	7,500

¹ Those Investments where time to maturity (from date of purchase) is < 3 mths.

**Cash, Cash Equivalents & Investments were
classified at year end in accordance with
AASB 139 as follows:**

Cash & Cash Equivalents

a. "At Fair Value through the Profit & Loss"		2,785	-	6,173	-
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Investments

b. "Held to Maturity"	6(b-ii)	6,250	10,750	3,750	7,500
Investments		6,250	10,750	3,750	7,500

Note 6(b-i)

Reconciliation of Investments classified as "Held to Maturity"

Balance at the Beginning of the Year		3,750	7,500	7,500	3,500
Additions		2,500	3,250	-	4,000
Disposals (sales & redemptions)		-	-	(3,750)	-
Balance at End of Year		6,250	10,750	3,750	7,500

Comprising:

- Long Term Deposits		-	-	3,750	7,500
- Other Long Term Financial Assets		6,250	10,750	-	-
Total		6,250	10,750	3,750	7,500

Refer to Note 27 - Fair Value Measurement for information regarding the fair value of investments held.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 6c. Restricted Cash, Cash Equivalents & Investments - Details

	2015 Actual Current	2015 Actual Non Current	2014 Actual Current	2014 Actual Non Current
\$ '000				
Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments	9,035	10,750	9,923	7,500
attributable to:				
External Restrictions (refer below)	8,029	3,750	5,454	5,700
Internal Restrictions (refer below)	-	4,695	2,024	1,800
Unrestricted	1,006	2,305	2,445	-
	9,035	10,750	9,923	7,500

2015 \$ '000	Opening Balance	Transfers to Restrictions	Transfers from Restrictions	Closing Balance
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Details of Restrictions

External Restrictions - Included in Liabilities

Nil

External Restrictions - Other

Developer Contributions - General	(D)	822	118	-	940
Specific Purpose Unexpended Grants	(F)	693	-	(117)	576
Water Supplies	(G)	4,853	174	-	5,027
Sewerage Services	(G)	4,692	450	-	5,142
Other		94	-	-	94
External Restrictions - Other		11,154	742	(117)	11,779
Total External Restrictions		11,154	742	(117)	11,779

Internal Restrictions

Employees Leave Entitlement		1,055	80	(100)	1,035
Economic Development & Tourism		259	46	(26)	279
Environmental		1,319	50	-	1,369
Office Equipment		103	-	-	103
Transport & Road Infrastructure		624	925	(881)	668
Corporate Services		464	809	(32)	1,241
Total Internal Restrictions		3,824	1,910	(1,039)	4,695
TOTAL RESTRICTIONS		14,978	2,652	(1,156)	16,474

D Development contributions which are not yet expended for the provision of services and amenities in accordance with contributions plans (refer Note 17).

F Grants which are not yet expended for the purposes for which the grants were obtained. (refer Note 1)

G Water, Sewerage, Domestic Waste Management (DWM) & other Special Rates/Levies/Charges are externally restricted assets and must be applied for the purposes for which they were raised.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 7. Receivables

\$ '000	Notes	2015		2014	
		Current	Non Current	Current	Non Current
Purpose					
Rates & Annual Charges		820	-	725	-
Interest & Extra Charges		124	-	124	-
User Charges & Fees		1,071	-	1,296	-
Accrued Revenues					
- Interest on Investments		384	-	-	-
- Other Income Accruals		-	-	286	-
Deferred Debtors		29	1	29	1
Other Levels of Government		288	-	1,336	-
Total		2,716	1	3,796	1
less: Provision for Impairment					
Rates & Annual Charges		-	-	(24)	-
User Charges & Fees		-	-	(52)	-
Other Debtors		(70)	-	-	-
Total Provision for Impairment - Receivables		(70)	-	(76)	-
<u>TOTAL NET RECEIVABLES</u>		<u>2,646</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3,720</u>	<u>1</u>
Externally Restricted Receivables					
Water Supply					
- Rates & Availability Charges		201	-	580	-
- Other		417	-	10	-
Sewerage Services					
- Rates & Availability Charges		113	-	135	-
- Other		64	-	-	-
Domestic Waste Management		-	-	139	-
Total External Restrictions		795	-	864	-
Internally Restricted Receivables					
Nil					
Unrestricted Receivables		1,851	1	2,856	1
TOTAL NET RECEIVABLES		2,646	1	3,720	1

Notes on Debtors above:

- (i) Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding are secured against the property.
- (ii) Doubtful Rates Debtors are provided for where the value of the property is less than the debt outstanding.
An allowance for other doubtful debts is made when there is objective evidence that a receivable is impaired.
- (iii) Interest was charged on overdue rates & charges at 8.50% (2014 9.00%).
Generally all other receivables are non interest bearing.
- (iv) Please refer to Note 15 for issues concerning Credit Risk and Fair Value disclosures.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 8. Inventories & Other Assets

\$ '000	Notes	2015		2014	
		Current	Non Current	Current	Non Current
Inventories					
Real Estate for resale (refer below)		885	-	895	-
Stores & Materials		324	-	334	-
Total Inventories		1,209	-	1,229	-
Other Assets					
Nil					
<u>TOTAL INVENTORIES / OTHER ASSETS</u>		<u>1,209</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,229</u>	<u>-</u>

Externally Restricted Assets

There are no restrictions applicable to the above assets.

(i) Other Disclosures

(a) Details for Real Estate Development

Residential	819	-	829	-
Industrial/Commercial	66	-	66	-
Total Real Estate for Resale	885	-	895	-

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

Represented by:

Acquisition Costs	885	-	895	-
Total Costs	885	-	895	-
Total Real Estate for Resale	885	-	895	-

Movements:

Real Estate assets at beginning of the year	895	-	895	-
- Transfers in from (out to) Note 9	(10)	-	-	-
Total Real Estate for Resale	885	-	895	-

(b) Inventory Write Downs

There were no amounts recognised as an expense relating to the write down of Inventory balances held during the year.

Refer to Note 27 - Fair Value Measurement for information regarding the fair value of other assets held.

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 9a. Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

\$ '000	as at 30/6/2014					Asset Movements during the Reporting Period								as at 30/6/2015				
	At Cost	At Fair Value	Accumulated		Carrying Value	Asset Additions	WDV of Asset Disposals	Depreciation Expense	WIP Transfers	Adjustments & Transfers	Tfrs from/(to) Real Estate Assets (Note 8)	Reversal of prior period Revaluation Decrements to the P&L	Revaluation increments/ (decrements) to Equity (ARR)	At Cost	At Fair Value	Accumulated		Carrying Value
			Dep'n	Impairment												Dep'n	Impairment	
Capital Work in Progress		-	-	-	-	47	-	-	417	-	-	-	-	464	-	-	-	464
Plant & Equipment	-	15,496	7,998	-	7,498	770	(457)	(759)	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,491	8,439	-	7,052
Office Equipment	-	1,544	1,289	-	255	20	-	(36)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,565	1,326	-	239
Furniture & Fittings	-	432	325	-	107	12	-	(16)	-	-	-	-	-	-	445	342	-	103
Land:																		
- Operational Land	-	6,906	-	-	6,906	25	(160)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,771	-	-	6,771
- Community Land	-	2,166	-	-	2,166	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	2,176	-	-	2,176
- Land under Roads (post 30/6/08)	-	3	-	-	3	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	16
Buildings - Non Specialised	-	35,078	7,231	-	27,847	241	(110)	(411)	(3)	-	-	-	-	-	35,067	7,503	-	27,564
Buildings - Specialised	-	1,090	19	-	1,071	-	(202)	(16)	-	-	-	-	(82)	-	800	29	-	771
Other Structures	-	3,835	437	-	3,398	418	-	(39)	(92)	-	-	-	-	-	4,161	476	-	3,685
Infrastructure:																		
- Roads	-	349,207	88,140	-	261,067	1,351	-	(3,555)	(160)	-	-	-	(18,262)	-	276,285	35,844	-	240,441
- Bridges	-	70,606	17,199	-	53,407	-	-	(356)	(41)	-	-	-	16,999	-	73,601	3,592	-	70,009
- Footpaths	-	1,985	145	-	1,840	153	-	(23)	(121)	-	-	-	476	-	2,518	193	-	2,325
- Bulk Earthworks (non-depreciable)	-	87,641	-	-	87,641	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(9,625)	-	78,016	-	-	78,016
- Stormwater Drainage	-	18,556	3,295	-	15,261	73	-	(272)	-	-	-	-	194	-	19,327	4,071	-	15,256
- Water Supply Network	-	55,011	14,189	-	40,822	783	-	(823)	-	-	-	-	1,861	-	57,641	14,998	-	42,643
- Sewerage Network	-	28,105	1,920	-	26,185	87	-	(171)	-	-	-	-	941	-	29,350	2,308	-	27,042
Other Assets:																		
- Other	-	3,317	1,880	-	1,437	-	-	(19)	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,317	1,899	-	1,418
Reinstatement, Rehabilitation & Restoration Assets (refer Note 26):																		
- Tip Assets	-	803	169	-	634	-	-	-	-	(194)	-	25	-	-	659	193	-	466
- Quarry Assets	-	556	269	-	287	-	-	-	-	(70)	-	35	-	-	486	234	-	252
- Other Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57	-	-	-	(57)	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIP.	-	682,337	144,505	-	537,832	3,993	(929)	(6,439)	-	(264)	10	3	(7,498)	464	607,692	81,447	-	526,709

Additions to Buildings & Infrastructure Assets are made up of Asset Renewals (\$2,954,079) and New Assets (\$582,048). Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

Refer to Note 27 - Fair Value Measurement for information regarding the fair value of other Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 9b. Externally Restricted Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

\$ '000 Class of Asset	Actual 2015				Actual 2014			
	At Cost	At Fair Value	A/Dep & Impairm't	Carrying Value	At Cost	At Fair Value	A/Dep & Impairm't	Carrying Value
Water Supply								
Plant & Equipment	-	1,725	4	1,721	-	-	-	-
Infrastructure	-	55,916	14,994	40,922	-	55,011	14,189	40,822
Total Water Supply	-	57,641	14,998	42,643	-	55,011	14,189	40,822
Sewerage Services								
Land								
- Operational Land	-	369	-	369	-	-	-	-
Infrastructure	-	28,981	2,308	26,673	-	28,105	1,920	26,185
Total Sewerage Services	-	29,350	2,308	27,042	-	28,105	1,920	26,185
Domestic Waste Management								
Land								
- Operational Land	-	459	-	459	-	459	-	459
Buildings	-	64	18	46	-	64	16	48
Tip Assets	-	659	193	466	-	809	175	634
Other Assets	-	2	1	1	-	2	1	1
Total DWM	-	1,184	212	972	-	1,334	192	1,142
Stormwater Drainage								
- Stormwater Drainage	-	19,327	4,071	15,256	-	18,556	3,295	15,261
Total Other Restrictions	-	19,327	4,071	15,256	-	18,556	3,295	15,261
TOTAL RESTRICTED I,PP&E	-	107,502	21,589	85,913	-	103,006	19,596	83,410

Note 9c. Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment - Current Year Impairments

Council has recognised no impairment losses during the reporting period nor reversed any prior period losses.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 10a. Payables, Borrowings & Provisions

\$ '000	Notes	2015		2014	
		Current	Non Current	Current	Non Current
Payables					
Goods & Services - operating expenditure		767	-	2,164	-
Accrued Expenses:					
- Borrowings		75	-	-	-
- Interest on Bonds & Deposits		-	-	66	-
- Salaries & Wages		92	-	489	-
- Other		46	1	1	-
Super owing year end pay		24	-	-	-
Total Payables		1,004	1	2,720	-
Borrowings					
Loans - Secured ¹		193	4,943	2,572	2,828
Total Borrowings		193	4,943	2,572	2,828
Provisions					
Employee Benefits;					
Annual Leave		657	-	743	-
Sick Leave		15	-	15	-
Long Service Leave		1,422	44	1,535	66
ELE On-Costs		112	2	275	9
Sub Total - Aggregate Employee Benefits		2,206	46	2,568	75
Asset Remediation/Restoration (Future Works) ²⁶		-	1,566	60	1,865
Total Provisions		2,206	1,612	2,628	1,940
Total Payables, Borrowings & Provisions		3,403	6,556	7,920	4,768
(i) Liabilities relating to Restricted Assets					
		2015		2014	
		Current	Non Current	Current	Non Current
Externally Restricted Assets					
Water		204	4,062	225	4,193
Sewer		-	-	127	-
Liabilities relating to externally restricted assets		204	4,062	352	4,193
Internally Restricted Assets					
Nil					
Total Liabilities relating to restricted assets		204	4,062	352	4,193
Total Liabilities relating to Unrestricted Assets		3,199	2,494	7,568	575
TOTAL PAYABLES, BORROWINGS & PROVISIONS		3,403	6,556	7,920	4,768

¹. Loans are secured over the General Rating Income of Council

Disclosures on Liability Interest Rate Risk Exposures, Fair Value Disclosures & Security can be found in Note 15.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 10a. Payables, Borrowings & Provisions (continued)

	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
\$ '000		

(ii) Current Liabilities not anticipated to be settled within the next 12 months

The following Liabilities, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.

Payables - Security Bonds, Deposits & Retentions	1,275	1,535
	<u>1,275</u>	<u>1,535</u>

Note 10b. Description of and movements in Provisions

Class of Provision	2014	2015				Closing Balance as at 30/6/15
	Opening Balance as at 1/7/14	Additional Provisions	Decrease due to Payments	Remeasurement effects due to Discounting	Unused amounts reversed	
Annual Leave	743	(86)	-	-	-	657
Sick Leave	15	-	-	-	-	15
Long Service Leave	1,601	(135)	-	-	-	1,466
ELE On-Costs	284	(170)	-	-	-	114
Asset Remediation	1,925	(359)	-	-	-	1,566
TOTAL	4,568	(750)	-	-	-	3,818

- Employees Leave Entitlements & On-Costs represents those benefits accrued and payable and an estimate of those that will become payable in the future as a result of past service.
- Asset Remediation, Reinstatement & Restoration Provisions represent the Present Value estimate of future costs Council will incur in order to remove, restore & remediate assets &/or activities as a result of past operations.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 11. Statement of Cash Flows - Additional Information

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
(a) Reconciliation of Cash Assets			
Total Cash & Cash Equivalent Assets	6a	2,785	6,173
Less Bank Overdraft	10	-	-
BALANCE as per the STATEMENT of CASH FLOWS		2,785	6,173
(b) Reconciliation of Net Operating Result to Cash provided from Operating Activities			
Net Operating Result from Income Statement		726	2,116
Adjust for non cash items:			
Depreciation & Amortisation		6,439	6,584
Net Losses/(Gains) on Disposal of Assets		(75)	(138)
Non Cash Capital Grants and Contributions		-	(104)
Losses/(Gains) recognised on Fair Value Re-measurements through the P&L:			
Unwinding of Discount Rates on Reinstatement Provisions		(409)	-
+/- Movement in Operating Assets and Liabilities & Other Cash Items:			
Decrease/(Increase) in Receivables		1,080	(289)
Increase/(Decrease) in Provision for Doubtful Debts		(6)	15
Decrease/(Increase) in Inventories		10	(38)
Increase/(Decrease) in Payables		(1,397)	1,923
Increase/(Decrease) in accrued Interest Payable		75	(16)
Increase/(Decrease) in other accrued Expenses Payable		(351)	-
Increase/(Decrease) in Other Liabilities		(42)	-
Increase/(Decrease) in Employee Leave Entitlements		(391)	(14)
Increase/(Decrease) in Other Provisions		50	(703)
NET CASH PROVIDED FROM/(USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES from the STATEMENT of CASH FLOWS		5,709	9,336

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 11. Statement of Cash Flows - Additional Information (continued)

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
(c) Non-Cash Investing & Financing Activities			
Bushfire Grants		-	337
Total Non-Cash Investing & Financing Activities		-	337
(d) Financing Arrangements			
(i) Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit:			
Bank Overdraft Facilities ⁽¹⁾		150	250
Credit Cards / Purchase Cards		30	25
Total Financing Arrangements		180	275

1. The Bank overdraft facility may be drawn at any time and may be terminated by the bank without notice.
Interest rates on overdrafts are Interest Rates on Loans & Other Payables are disclosed in Note 15.

(ii) Secured Loan Liabilities

Loans are secured by a mortgage over future years Rate Revenue only.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 12. Commitments for Expenditure

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
(a) Capital Commitments (exclusive of GST)			
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:			
Property, Plant & Equipment			
Willow Tree Pipeline - 100% funded - Gross amount shown		4,068	-
Emergency Services Precinct - 88.3% funded - Gross amount shown		4,256	-
Total Commitments		8,324	-
These expenditures are payable as follows:			
Within the next year		6,068	-
Later than one year and not later than 5 years		2,256	-
Total Payable		8,324	-
Sources for Funding of Capital Commitments:			
Unrestricted General Funds		384	-
Future Grants & Contributions		7,825	-
Total Sources of Funding		8,324	-

Details of Capital Commitments

Emergency Service Precinct development
Construction of a pipeline to Willow Tree village to provide water security

(b) Finance Lease Commitments

Nil

(c) Operating Lease Commitments (Non Cancellable)

Nil

(d) Investment Property Commitments

Nil

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 13a(i). Statement of Performance Measurement - Indicators (Consolidated)

\$ '000	Amounts 2015	Indicator 2015	Prior Periods 20142013	
Local Government Industry Indicators - Consolidated				
1. Operating Performance Ratio				
Total continuing operating revenue ⁽¹⁾				
(excl. Capital Grants & Contributions) - Operating Expenses	(756)	-3.35%	-7.51%	-8.41%
Total continuing operating revenue ⁽¹⁾	22,552			
(excl. Capital Grants & Contributions)				
2. Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio				
Total continuing operating revenue ⁽¹⁾				
(excl. ALL Grants & Contributions)	15,303	63.87%	64.64%	57.59%
Total continuing operating revenue ⁽¹⁾	23,959			
3. Unrestricted Current Ratio				
Current Assets less all External Restrictions ⁽²⁾	4,066	2.11x	1.42	2.58
Current Liabilities less Specific Purpose Liabilities ^(3, 4)	1,924			
4. Debt Service Cover Ratio				
Operating Result ⁽¹⁾ before capital excluding interest and depreciation / impairment / amortisation	5,817	2.11x	10.25	10.41
Principal Repayments (from the Statement of Cash Flows) + Borrowing Costs (from the Income Statement)	2,753			
5. Rates, Annual Charges, Interest & Extra Charges Outstanding Percentage				
Rates, Annual and Extra Charges Outstanding	944	8.45%	7.76%	8.85%
Rates, Annual and Extra Charges Collectible	11,170			
6. Cash Expense Cover Ratio				
Current Year's Cash and Cash Equivalents + All Term Deposits	19,785	10.33	15.06	10.93
Payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities	1,915	mths		

Notes

⁽¹⁾ Excludes fair value adjustments and reversal of revaluation decrements, net gain/(loss) on sale of assets and the net share of interests in joint ventures & associates.

⁽²⁾ Refer Notes 6-8 inclusive.

Also excludes any real estate & land for resale not expected to be sold in the next 12 months

⁽³⁾ Refer to Note 10(a).

⁽⁴⁾ Refer to Note 10(a)(ii) - excludes all payables & provisions not expected to be paid in the next 12 months (incl. ELE).

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 13a(ii). Local Government Industry Indicators - Graphs (Consolidated)

<p>1. Operating Performance Ratio</p> <p>Benchmark: — Minimum $\geq 0.00\%$</p> <p>Source for Benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting #23</p>	<p>Purpose of Operating Performance Ratio</p> <p>This ratio measures Council's achievement of containing operating expenditure within operating revenue.</p>	<p>Commentary on 2014/15 Result</p> <p>2014/15 Ratio -3.35%</p> <p>Councils Operating performance continues to improve.</p>
<p>2. Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio</p> <p>Benchmark: — Minimum $\geq 60.00\%$</p> <p>Source for Benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting #23</p>	<p>Purpose of Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio</p> <p>This ratio measures fiscal flexibility. It is the degree of reliance on external funding sources such as operating grants & contributions.</p>	<p>Commentary on 2014/15 Result</p> <p>2014/15 Ratio 63.87%</p> <p>Council achieves the benchmark Own Source Operating Revenue.</p>
<p>3. Unrestricted Current Ratio</p> <p>Benchmark: — Minimum ≥ 1.50</p> <p>Source for Benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting #23</p>	<p>Purpose of Unrestricted Current Ratio</p> <p>To assess the adequacy of working capital and its ability to satisfy obligations in the short term for the unrestricted activities of Council.</p>	<p>Commentary on 2014/15 Result</p> <p>2014/15 Ratio 2.11x</p> <p>Council has adequate unrestricted working capital to fund operations.</p>

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 13a(ii). Local Government Industry Indicators - Graphs (Consolidated)

<p>4. Debt Service Cover Ratio</p> <p>Ratio (x)</p> <p>2013 2014 2015</p> <p>Benchmark: Minimum ≥ 2.00</p> <p>Source for Benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting #23</p>	<p>Purpose of Debt Service Cover Ratio</p> <p>This ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments</p>	<p>Commentary on 2014/15 Result</p> <p>2014/15 Ratio 2.11x</p> <p>Council has sufficient operating cash to service debt.</p>
<p>5. Rates, Annual Charges, Interest & Extra Charges Outstanding Percentage</p> <p>Ratio %</p> <p>2013 2014 2015</p> <p>Benchmark: Maximum $< 10.00\%$</p> <p>Source for Benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting #23</p>	<p>Purpose of Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding Ratio</p> <p>To assess the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts.</p>	<p>Commentary on 2014/15 Result</p> <p>2014/15 Ratio 8.45%</p> <p>Councils outstanding rates and annual charges ratio is lower than the benchmark.</p>
<p>6. Cash Expense Cover Ratio</p> <p>Ratio (mths)</p> <p>2013 2014 2015</p> <p>Benchmark: Minimum ≥ 3.00</p> <p>Source for Benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting #23</p>	<p>Purpose of Cash Expense Cover Ratio</p> <p>This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months a Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow.</p>	<p>Commentary on 2014/15 Result</p> <p>2014/15 Ratio 10.33 mths</p> <p>Council has sufficient cash to cover its immediate expenses for a period of 10.3 months without additional cash inflow.</p>

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 13b. Statement of Performance Measurement - Indicators (by Fund)

\$ '000	Water 2015	Sewer 2015	General ⁵ 2015
Local Government Industry Indicators - by Fund			
1. Operating Performance Ratio			
Total continuing operating revenue ⁽¹⁾			
<u>(excl. Capital Grants & Contributions) - Operating Expenses</u>	7.14%	38.47%	-8.03%
Total continuing operating revenue ⁽¹⁾			
(excl. Capital Grants & Contributions)	prior period: 17.88%	42.41%	-17.45%
2. Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio			
Total continuing operating revenue ⁽¹⁾	87.75%	98.14%	57.55%
<u>(excl. ALL Grants & Contributions)</u>			
Total continuing operating revenue ⁽¹⁾	prior period: 86.42%	98.14%	82.09%
3. Unrestricted Current Ratio			
Current Assets less all External Restrictions ⁽²⁾	8.06x	No Liabilities	2.11x
<u>Current Liabilities less Specific Purpose Liabilities ^(3, 4)</u>			
	prior period: 11.40	13.39	1.42
4. Debt Service Cover Ratio			
Operating Result ⁽¹⁾ before capital excluding interest and depreciation / impairment / amortisation	5.68x	0.00	1.53x
<u>Principal Repayments (from the Statement of Cash Flows)</u>			
+ Borrowing Costs (from the Income Statement)	prior period: 5.28	0.00	12.28
5. Rates, Annual Charges, Interest & Extra Charges Outstanding Percentage			
<u>Rates, Annual and Extra Charges Outstanding</u>	13.18%	10.29%	7.37%
Rates, Annual and Extra Charges Collectible			
	prior period: 5.96%	8.81%	8.24%
6. Cash Expense Cover Ratio			
Current Year's Cash and Cash Equivalents			
<u>+ All Term Deposits</u>	0.00	0.00	9.20
Payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities	prior period: 11.45	31.09	mths 14.86

Notes

(1) - (4) Refer to Notes at Note 13a(i) above.

(5) General Fund refers to all of Council's activities except for its Water & Sewer activities which are listed separately.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 14. Investment Properties

\$ '000

Council has not classified any Land or Buildings as "Investment Properties"

Note 15. Financial Risk Management

Risk Management

Council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks including **(1)** price risk, **(2)** credit risk, **(3)** liquidity risk and **(4)** interest rate risk.

The Council's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Council.

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

Financial risk management is carried out by Council's Finance Section under policies approved by the Council.

A comparison by category of the carrying amounts and fair values of Council's Financial Assets & Financial Liabilities recognised in the financial statements is presented below.

	Carrying Value		Fair Value	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Financial Assets				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,785	6,173	2,785	6,173
Investments				
- "Held to Maturity"	17,000	11,250	17,000	11,250
Receivables	2,647	3,721	2,647	3,721
Total Financial Assets	22,432	21,144	22,432	21,144
Financial Liabilities				
Payables	1,005	2,720	1,005	2,720
Loans / Advances	5,136	5,400	5,136	5,400
Total Financial Liabilities	6,141	8,120	6,141	8,120

Fair Value is determined as follows:

- **Cash & Cash Equivalents, Receivables, Payables** - are estimated to be the carrying value which approximates mkt value.
- **Borrowings & Held to Maturity Investments** - are based upon estimated future cash flows discounted by the current market interest rates applicable to assets & liabilities with similar risk profiles, unless quoted market prices are available.
- Financial Assets classified (i) "**at fair value through profit & loss**" or (ii) **Available for Sale** - are based upon quoted market prices (in active markets for identical investments) at the reporting date or independent valuation.

Refer to Note 27 - Fair Value Measurement for information regarding the fair value of financial assets & liabilities

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 15. Financial Risk Management (continued)

\$ '000

(a) Cash & Cash Equivalents, Financial assets 'at fair value through the profit & Loss' "Available-for-sale" financial assets & "Held-to-maturity" Investments

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

The investment portfolio is managed in accordance with Council's policy.

This Investment Policy complies with the Local Government Act & Minister's Investment Order.

This Policy is regularly reviewed by Council and its staff and an Investment Report is tabled before Council on a monthly basis setting out the portfolio breakup and its performance.

The risks associated with the investments held are:

- **Price Risk** - the risk that the capital value of Investments may fluctuate due to changes in market prices, whether there changes are caused by factors specific to individual financial instruments or their issuers or are caused by factors affecting similar instruments traded in a market.
- **Interest Rate Risk** - the risk that movements in interest rates could affect returns and income.
- **Credit Risk** - the risk that the investment counterparty) will not complete their obligations particular to a financial instrument, resulting in a financial loss to Council - be it of a capital or income nature.

Council manages these risks (amongst other measures) by diversifying its portfolio and only purchasing investments with high credit ratings or capital guarantees.

The following represents a summary of the sensitivity of Council's Income Statement and Accumulated Surplus (for the reporting period) due to a change in either the price of a financial asset or the interest rates applicable.

It is assumed that the change in interest rates would have been constant throughout the reporting period.

	Increase of Values/Rates		Decrease of Values/Rates	
	Profit	Equity	Profit	Equity
2015				
Possible impact of a 1% movement in Interest Rates	152	-	(152)	-
2014				
Possible impact of a 1% movement in Interest Rates	163	163	(163)	(163)

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 15. Financial Risk Management (continued)

\$ '000

(b) Receivables

Council's major receivables comprise **(i)** Rates & Annual charges and **(ii)** User Charges & Fees.

The major risk associated with these receivables is credit risk - the risk that debts due and payable to Council may not be repaid in full.

Council manages this risk by monitoring outstanding debt and employing stringent debt recovery procedures. It also encourages ratepayers to pay their rates by the due date through incentives.

Credit risk on rates and annual charges is minimised by the ability of Council to secure a charge over the land relating to the debts - that is, the land can be sold to recover the debt. Council is also able to charge interest on overdue rates & annual charges at higher than market rates which further encourages the payment of debt.

There are no significant concentrations of credit risk, whether through exposure to individual customers, specific industry sectors and/or regions.

The level of outstanding receivables is reported to Council.

Council makes suitable provision for doubtful receivables as required.

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

A profile of Council's receivables credit risk at balance date follows:

	2015 Rates & Annual Charges	2015 Other Receivables	2014 Rates & Annual Charges	2014 Other Receivables
(i) Ageing of Receivables - %				
Current (not yet overdue)	0%	35%	0%	100%
Overdue	100%	65%	100%	0%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

		2015 Rates & Annual Charges	2015 Other Receivables	2014 Rates & Annual Charges	2014 Other Receivables
(ii) Ageing of Receivables - value					
Rates & Annual Charges	Other Receivables				
Current	Current	-	670	-	3,072
< 1 year overdue	0 - 30 days overdue	820	639	-	-
1 - 2 years overdue	30 - 60 days overdue	-	20	-	-
2 - 5 years overdue	60 - 90 days overdue	-	14	-	-
> 5 years overdue	> 90 days overdue	-	554	725	-
		820	1,897	725	3,072

(iii) Movement in Provision for Impairment of Receivables

	2015	2014
Balance at the beginning of the year	76	76
- previous impairment losses reversed	(6)	-
Balance at the end of the year	70	76

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 15. Financial Risk Management (continued)

\$ '000

(c) Payables & Borrowings

Payables & Borrowings are both subject to liquidity risk - the risk that insufficient funds may be on hand to meet payment obligations as and when they fall due.

Council manages this risk by monitoring its cash flow requirements and liquidity levels and maintaining an adequate cash buffer.

Payment terms can (in extenuating circumstances) also be extended & overdraft facilities utilised as required.

The contractual undiscounted cash outflows (ie. principal and interest) of Council's Payables & Borrowings are set out in the maturity table below:

\$ '000	Subject to no maturity	payable in:						Total Cash Outflows	Actual Carrying Values
		≤ 1 Year	1-2 Yrs	2-3 Yrs	3-4 Yrs	4-5 Yrs	> 5 Yrs		
2015									
Trade/Other Payables	-	1,005	-	-	-	-	-	1,005	1,005
Loans & Advances	-	473	470	467	465	462	5,712	8,049	8,049
Total Financial Liabilities	-	1,478	470	467	465	462	5,712	9,054	9,054
2014									
Trade/Other Payables	-	2,720	-	-	-	-	-	2,720	2,720
Loans & Advances	-	245	2,676	-	-	-	2,479	5,400	5,400
Total Financial Liabilities	-	2,965	2,676	-	-	-	2,479	8,120	8,120

Borrowings are also subject to interest rate risk - the risk that movements in interest rates could adversely affect funding costs & debt servicing requirements. Council manages this risk through the diversification of borrowing types, maturities & interest rate structures.

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

	2015		2014	
	Carrying Value	Average Interest Rate	Carrying Value	Average Interest Rate
Trade/Other Payables	1,005	0.0%	2,720	0.0%
Loans & Advances - Fixed Interest Rate	3,299	4.9%	2,549	3.2%
Loans & Advances - Variable Interest Rate	1,837	6.6%	2,851	2.7%
	<u>6,141</u>		<u>8,120</u>	

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 16. Material Budget Variations

\$ '000

Council's Original Financial Budget for 14/15 was adopted by the Council on 05 February 2014.

While the Income Statement included in this General Purpose Financial Report must disclose the Original Budget adopted by Council, the Local Government Act requires Council to review its Financial Budget on a Quarterly Basis, so that it is able to manage the various variations between actuals versus budget that invariably occur throughout the year.

This Note sets out the details of MATERIAL VARIATIONS between Council's Original Budget and its Actual results for the year as per the Income Statement - even though such variations may have been adjusted for during each Quarterly Budget Review.

Note that for Variations* of Budget to Actual :

Material Variations represent those variances that amount to **10%** or more of the original budgeted figure.

F = Favourable Budget Variation, **U** = Unfavourable Budget Variation

\$ '000	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2015 ----- Variance* -----	
REVENUES				
Rates & Annual Charges	10,061	10,220	159	2% F
User Charges & Fees	3,815	3,552	(263)	(7%) U
Interest & Investment Revenue	617	847	230	37% F
<p>The prior financial years on which the budget was based included incorrect end of year interest accruals. This error resulted in an understatement of interest in the 2013 Statements on which the budget was based. This difference is compounded by the correct interest being shown in the 2015 financial statements. The budget also calculated a 3% rate of return and Councils investments had a greater average rate of return, in excess of 4%.</p>				
Other Revenues	735	684	(51)	(7%) U
Operating Grants & Contributions	7,239	7,249	10	0% F
Capital Grants & Contributions	2,111	1,407	(704)	(33%) U
<p>Budgeted capital grants in 2014 included amounts for non capital items e.g. RMS repair program \$592K.</p>				
Net Gains from Disposal of Assets	-	75	75	0% F
<p>During the year Council disposed of two properties, a medical centre and a sports ground. Council also demolished a building on the site of the old saleyards whilst clearing this site. These activities created net gain on disposal of \$197K which had not been included in the 2014 budget. Council also continued to upgrade its plant fleet as is normal practice. In 2015 this resulted in a net loss of \$122K. This amount was not included in the budget as from year to year the net impact of this process can vary. All plant is sold in the open market and can vary from a net profit to a net loss and dependant on the state of the market.</p>				

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 16. Material Budget Variations (continued)

\$ '000	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2015 ----- Variance* -----	
EXPENSES				
Employee Benefits & On-Costs	8,008	7,712	296	4% F
Borrowing Costs	293	134	159	54% F
Budgeted borrowing costs did not take into consideration potential discounting arising from the valuation of landfills and quarries. The useful lives and the cost of remediation of these assets are recalculated year. During the year a discounting gain of \$100k for landfill sites for \$44K for quarries were calculated. This resulted in a decrease of borrowing expenses of \$144k.				
Materials & Contracts	7,563	6,999	564	7% F
Depreciation & Amortisation	6,414	6,439	(25)	(0%) U
Other Expenses	1,929	2,024	(95)	(5%) U

Budget Variations relating to Council's Cash Flow Statement include:

Cash Flows from Operating Activities	6,785	5,709	(1,076)	(15.9%) U
There are a number of variances between the budgeted and actual figures. Termination pays of \$463K were paid during the year. These were outside the original budget. A reduction in accounts payable contributed to addition cash out flows during the year.				
Cash Flows from Investing Activities	(7,354)	(8,833)	(1,479)	20.1% U
The 2014 budget did not take into consideration the potential sale of infrastructure and plant. These sales provided a cash inflow of \$1,004m. Capital expenditure was less than budgeted due in part to wet weather preventing capital renewal work on roads.				
Cash Flows from Financing Activities	(301)	(264)	37	(12.3%) F
Budgeted cashflows did not take into consideration that a floating rate loan of \$2,355M was due for renewal. This renewal is shown in the cash flow from financing activities.				

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 17. Statement of Developer Contributions

\$ '000

Council recovers contributions, raises levies & enters into planning agreements on development works that are subject to a development consent issued by Council. All contributions must be spent/utilised for the specific purpose they were levied and any interest applicable to unspent funds must be attributed to remaining funds.

The following tables detail the receipt, interest and use of the above contributions & levies and the value of all remaining funds which are "restricted" in their future use.

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS & LEVIES

PURPOSE	Opening Balance	Contributions received during the Year		Interest earned in Year	Expenditure during Year	Internal Borrowing (to)/from	Held as Restricted Asset	Projections			Cumulative Internal Borrowings due/(payable)
		Cash	Non Cash					Future income	Exp still outstanding	Over or (under) Funding	
Drainage	1	-	-	0	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Roads	107	20	-	4	-	-	131	-	-	131	-
Open Space	35	2	-	2	-	-	39	-	-	39	-
Community Facilities	19	-	-	1	-	-	20	-	-	20	-
Bushfire	10	1	-	0	-	-	11	-	-	11	-
Youth Services	17	-	-	1	-	-	18	-	-	18	-
Other	136	-	-	5	-	-	141	-	-	141	-
S94 Contributions - under a Plan	325	23	-	12	-	-	360	-	-	360	-
S94A Levies - under a Plan	202	59	-	8	-	-	269				-
Total S94 Revenue Under Plans	527	82	-	20	-	-	629				-
S94 not under Plans	17	-	-	1	-	-	18	-	-	18	-
S64 Contributions	278	4	-	11	-	-	293				
Total Contributions	822	86	-	32	-	-	940	-	-	378	-

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 17. Statement of Developer Contributions (continued)

\$ '000

S94 CONTRIBUTIONS - UNDER A PLAN

CONTRIBUTION PLAN - Quirindi

PURPOSE	Opening Balance	Contributions received during the Year		Interest earned in Year	Expenditure during Year	Internal Borrowing (to)/from	Held as Restricted Asset	Projections			Cumulative Internal Borrowings due/(payable)
		Cash	Non Cash					Future income	Exp still outstanding	Over or (under) Funding	
Roads	23	-	-	1	-	-	24	-	-	24	-
Open Space	23	-	-	1	-	-	24	-	-	24	-
Community Facilities	19	-	-	1	-	-	20	-	-	20	-
Youth Services	17	-	-	1	-	-	18	-	-	18	-
Total	82	-	-	4	-	-	86	-	-	86	-

CONTRIBUTION PLAN - Willow Tree

PURPOSE	Opening Balance	Contributions received during the Year		Interest earned in Year	Expenditure during Year	Internal Borrowing (to)/from	Held as Restricted Asset	Projections			Cumulative Internal Borrowings due/(payable)
		Cash	Non Cash					Future income	Exp still outstanding	Over or (under) Funding	
Drainage	1	-	-	0	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Roads	84	20	-	3	-	-	107	-	-	107	-
Open Space	12	2	-	1	-	-	15	-	-	15	-
Bushfire	10	1	-	0	-	-	11	-	-	11	-
Total	107	23	-	4	-	-	134	-	-	134	-

CONTRIBUTION PLAN - Werris Creek

PURPOSE	Opening Balance	Contributions received during the Year		Interest earned in Year	Expenditure during Year	Internal Borrowing (to)/from	Held as Restricted Asset	Projections			Cumulative Internal Borrowings due/(payable)
		Cash	Non Cash					Future income	Exp still outstanding	Over or (under) Funding	
Other	136	-	-	5	-	-	141	-	-	141	-
Total	136	-	-	5	-	-	141	-	-	141	-

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 17. Statement of Developer Contributions (continued)

\$ '000

S94A LEVIES - UNDER A PLAN

PURPOSE	Opening Balance	Contributions received during the Year		Interest earned in Year	Expenditure during Year	Internal Borrowing (to)/from	Held as Restricted Asset	Projections			Cumulative Internal Borrowings due/(payable)
		Cash	Non Cash					Future income	Exp still outstanding	Over or (under) Funding	
Other	202	59	-	8	-	-	269	-	-		-
Total	202	59	-	8	-	-	269				-

S94 CONTRIBUTIONS - NOT UNDER A PLAN

PURPOSE	Opening Balance	Contributions received during the Year		Interest earned in Year	Expenditure during Year	Internal Borrowing (to)/from	Held as Restricted Asset	Projections			Cumulative Internal Borrowings due/(payable)
		Cash	Non Cash					Future income	Exp still outstanding	Over or (under) Funding	
Other	17	-	-	1	-	-	18	-	-	18	-
Total	17	-	-	1	-	-	18	-	-	18	-

S64 Contributions

PURPOSE	Opening Balance	Contributions received during the Year		Interest earned in Year	Expenditure during Year	Internal Borrowing (to)/from	Held as Restricted Asset	Projections			Cumulative Internal Borrowings due/(payable)
		Cash	Non Cash					Future income	Exp still outstanding	Over or (under) Funding	
Other	278	-	-	11	-	-	289	-	-		-
Total	278	-	-	11	-	-	289				-

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 18. Contingencies & Other Assets/Liabilities Not Recognised

\$ '000

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but their knowledge & disclosure is considered relevant to the users of Council's Financial Report.

LIABILITIES NOT RECOGNISED:

1. Guarantees

(i) Defined Benefit Superannuation Contribution Plans

Council participates in an employer sponsored Defined Benefit Superannuation Scheme, and makes contributions as determined by the Superannuation Scheme's Trustees.

Member Councils bear responsibility of ensuring there are sufficient funds available to pay out the required benefits as they fall due.

The Schemes most recent full actuarial review indicated that the Net Assets of the Scheme were not sufficient to meet the accrued benefits of the Schemes Defined Benefit member category with member Councils required to make significantly higher contributions in future years.

The Local Government Superannuation Scheme however is unable to provide Council with an accurate estimate of its share of the net deficit and accordingly Council has not recorded any net liability from it's Defined Benefit Scheme obligations in accordance with AASB 119.

Future contributions made to the defined benefit scheme to rectify the net deficit position will be recognised as an expense when they become payable - similar to the accounting for Defined Contributions Plans.

(ii) Statewide Limited

Council is a member of Statewide Mutual, a mutual pool scheme providing liability insurance to Local Government.

Membership includes the potential to share in either the net assets or liabilities of the fund depending on its past performance. Council's share of the Net Assets or Liabilities reflects Councils contributions to the pool and the result of insurance claims within each of the Fund Years.

The future realisation and finalisation of claims incurred but not reported to 30/6 this year may result in future liabilities or benefits as a result of past events that Council will be required to fund or share in respectively.

(iii) StateCover Limited

Council is a member of StateCover Mutual Limited and holds a partly paid share in the entity.

StateCover is a company providing workers compensation insurance cover to the NSW Local Government Industry and specifically Council.

Council has a contingent liability to contribute further equity in the event of the erosion of the Company's capital base as a result of the company's past performance and/or claims experience or as a result of any increased prudential requirements from APRA.

These future equity contributions would be required to maintain the company's minimum level of Net Assets in accordance with its Licence Requirements.

(iv) Other Guarantees

Council has provided no other Guarantees other than those listed above.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 18. Contingencies & Other Assets/Liabilities Not Recognised (continued)

\$ '000

LIABILITIES NOT RECOGNISED (continued):

2. Other Liabilities

(i) Third Party Claims

The Council is involved from time to time in various claims incidental to the ordinary course of business including claims for damages relating to its services.

Council believes that it is appropriately covered for all claims through its Insurance Coverage and does not expect any material liabilities to eventuate.

(ii) S94 Plans

Council levies Section 94/94A Contributions upon various development across the Council area through the required Contributions Plans.

As part of these Plans, Council has received funds for which it will be required to expend the monies in accordance with those Plans.

As well, these Plans indicate proposed future expenditure to be undertaken by Council, which will be funded by making levies and receipting funds in future years or where a shortfall exists by the use of Council's General Funds.

These future expenses do not yet qualify as liabilities as of the Reporting Date, but represent Councils intention to spend funds in the manner and timing set out in those Plans.

(iii) Potential Land Acquisitions due to Planning Restrictions imposed by Council

Council has classified a number of privately owned land parcels as Local Open Space or Bushland.

As a result, where notified in writing by the various owners, Council will be required to purchase these land parcels.

At reporting date, reliable estimates as to the value of any potential liability (& subsequent land asset) from such potential acquisitions has not been possible.

ASSETS NOT RECOGNISED:

(i) Land Under Roads

As permitted under AASB 1051, Council has elected not to bring to account Land Under Roads that it owned or controlled up to & including 30/6/08.

(ii) Rural Fire Fighting Assets

Council has title to, and is the registered owner of a number of 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 bushfire protection and defences as set out in their Service Agreement with Council, and accordingly they have not been recognised in these reports.

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

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 18. Contingencies & Other Assets/Liabilities Not Recognised (continued)

\$ '000

(iii) Central Northern Libraries

Liverpool Plains Shire Council is a member of the Central Northern Libraries Group.

This group operates under the Central Northern Library Regional Library Agreement renewed from 1 July 2010. This organisation is administered by the Tamworth Regional Council on behalf of the Six members.

The percentage of contribution and share of net assets for Liverpool Plains Shire Council is 9.5%. This has not been recognised in the financial statements.

Council has been advised that the total equity is \$1,233,000 of which Councils share at 30th June 2015 is \$117,135.

Note 19. Interests in Other Entities

Council has no material interest in any Controlled Entities, Joint Arrangements or Associates.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 20. Equity - Retained Earnings and Revaluation Reserves

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
(a) Retained Earnings			
Movements in Retained Earnings were as follows:			
Balance at beginning of Year (from previous years audited accounts)		207,920	205,804
a. Correction of Prior Period Errors	20 (c)	(354)	-
b. Net Operating Result for the Year		726	2,116
Balance at End of the Reporting Period		208,292	207,920

(b) Reserves

(i) Reserves are represented by:

- Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment Revaluation Reserve	332,099	339,597
Total	332,099	339,597

(ii) Reconciliation of movements in Reserves:

Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment Revaluation Reserve

- Opening Balance	339,597	339,630
- Revaluations increments/ (decrements) for the year	9(a) (7,498)	-
- increment (decrement) of revalued assets / Impairment reversals	9(a),(c) -	(33)
- Balance at End of Year	332,099	339,597

TOTAL VALUE OF RESERVES

332,099	339,597
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(iii) Nature & Purpose of Reserves

Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment Revaluation Reserve

- The Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment Revaluation Reserve is used to record increments/decrements of Non Current Asset values due to their revaluation.

(c) Correction of Error/s relating to a Previous Reporting Period

Correction of errors disclosed in this year's financial statements:

Retained Earnings Correction	(354)
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In accordance with AASB 108 - Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors, the above Prior Period Errors have been recognised retrospectively.

(d) Voluntary Changes in Accounting Policies

Council made no voluntary changes in any accounting policies during the year.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 21. Financial Result & Financial Position by Fund

Income Statement by Fund \$ '000	Actual 2015	Actual 2015	Actual 2015
Continuing Operations	Water	Sewer	General¹
Income from Continuing Operations			
Rates & Annual Charges	1,525	1,098	7,597
User Charges & Fees	1,004	25	2,523
Interest & Investment Revenue	218	183	446
Other Revenues	-	-	684
Grants & Contributions provided for Operating Purposes	124	25	7,100
Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	354	-	1,053
Other Income			
Net Gains from Disposal of Assets	-	-	75
Share of interests in Joint Ventures & Associates using the Equity Method	-	-	-
Total Income from Continuing Operations	3,225	1,331	19,478
Expenses from Continuing Operations			
Employee Benefits & on-costs	665	237	6,810
Borrowing Costs	221	-	(87)
Materials & Contracts	951	344	5,704
Depreciation & Amortisation	829	238	5,372
Impairment	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	2,024
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	2,666	819	19,823
Operating Result from Continuing Operations	559	512	(345)
Discontinued Operations			
Net Profit/(Loss) from Discontinued Operations	-	-	-
Net Operating Result for the Year	559	512	(345)
Net Operating Result attributable to each Council Fund	559	512	(345)
Net Operating Result attributable to Non-controlling Interests	-	-	-
Net Operating Result for the year before Grants and Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	205	512	(1,398)

¹ General Fund refers to all Council's activities other than Water & Sewer.

NB. All amounts disclosed above are Gross - that is, they include internal charges & recoveries made between the Funds.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements as at 30 June 2015

Note 21. Financial Result & Financial Position by Fund (continued)

Statement of Financial Position by Fund \$ '000	Actual 2015	Actual 2015	Actual 2015
ASSETS	Water	Sewer	General¹
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1,027	1,142	616
Investments	-	-	6,250
Receivables	618	177	1,851
Inventories	-	-	1,209
Other	-	-	-
Non-current assets classified as 'held for sale'	-	-	-
Total Current Assets	1,645	1,319	9,926
Non-Current Assets			
Investments	4,000	4,000	2,750
Receivables	-	-	1
Inventories	-	-	-
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	42,643	27,041	457,025
Investments Accounted for using the equity method	-	-	-
Investment Property	-	-	-
Intangible Assets	-	-	-
Total Non-Current Assets	46,643	31,041	459,776
TOTAL ASSETS	48,288	32,360	469,702
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	74	-	930
Borrowings	130	-	63
Provisions	-	-	2,206
Total Current Liabilities	204	-	3,199
Non-Current Liabilities			
Payables	-	-	1
Borrowings	4,062	-	881
Provisions	-	-	1,612
Total Non-Current Liabilities	4,062	-	2,494
TOTAL LIABILITIES	4,266	-	5,693
Net Assets	44,022	32,360	464,009
EQUITY			
Retained Earnings	21,278	11,546	175,468
Revaluation Reserves	22,744	20,814	288,541
Total Equity	44,022	32,360	464,009

¹ General Fund refers to all Council's activities other than Water & Sewer.

NB. All amounts disclosed above are Gross - that is, they include internal receivables & payables between the Funds.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 22. "Held for Sale" Non Current Assets & Disposal Groups

\$ '000

Council did not classify any Non Current Assets or Disposal Groups as "Held for Sale".

Note 23. Events occurring after the Reporting Date

Events that occur between the end of the reporting period (ending 30 June 2015) and the date when the financial statements are "authorised for issue" have been taken into account in preparing these statements.

Council has adopted the date of receipt of the Auditors' Report as the applicable "authorised for issue" date relating to these General Purpose Financial Statements.

Accordingly, the "authorised for issue" date is 25/11/15.

Events that occur after the Reporting Period represent one of two types:

(i) Events that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the Reporting Period

These financial statements (and the figures therein) incorporate all "adjusting events" that provided evidence of conditions that existed at 30 June 2015.

(ii) Events that provide evidence of conditions that arose after the Reporting Period

These financial statements (& figures therein) do not incorporate any "non-adjusting events" that have occurred after 30 June 2015 and which are only indicative of conditions that arose after 30 June 2015.

Council is unaware of any material or significant "non-adjusting events" that should be disclosed.

Note 24. Discontinued Operations

Council has not classified any of its Operations as "Discontinued".

Note 25. Intangible Assets

Intangible Assets represent identifiable non-monetary asset without physical substance.

Council is unaware of any control over Intangible Assets that warrant recognition in the Financial Statements, including either internally generated and developed assets or purchased assets.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 26. Reinstatement, Rehabilitation & Restoration Liabilities

\$ '000

Council has legal/public obligations to make restore, rehabilitate and reinstate the following assets/operations:

Asset/Operation	Estimated year of restoration	NPV of Provision	
		2015	2014
Landfill Remediation	various	893	1,925
Quarries Remediation	various	673	-
Balance at End of the Reporting Period	10(a)	1,566	1,925

Under AASB 116 - Property, Plant & Equipment, where the use of an asset results in the obligation to dismantle or remove the asset and restore the site on which the asset stands, an estimate of such costs is required to be included in the cost of the asset.

An equivalent liability must be recognised under AASB 137 - Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.

The provision has been calculated by determining the present value of the future expenditures expected to be incurred. The discount rate used is the risk free borrowing rate applicable to Council.

Reconciliation of movement in Provision for year:

Balance at beginning of year	1,925	2,628
Effect of a change in discount rates used in PV calculations	(265)	(703)
Effect of a change in other calculation estimates used	50	-
Amortisation of discount (expensed to borrowing costs)	(144)	-
Total - Reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration provision	1,566	1,925

Amount of Expected Reimbursements

Of the above Provisions for Reinstatement, Rehabilitation and Restoration works, those applicable to Garbage Services & Waste Management are able to be funded through future charges incorporated within Council's Annual Domestic Waste Management Charge.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 26. Reinstatement, Rehabilitation & Restoration Liabilities (continued)

\$ '000

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, 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.

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 the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 27. Fair Value Measurement

\$ '000

The Council measures the following asset and liability classes at fair value on a recurring basis:

- Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment
- Financial Assets & Liabilities

The fair value of assets and liabilities must be estimated in accordance with various Accounting Standards for either recognition and measurement requirements or for disclosure purposes.

AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a "level" in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

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

(1) The following table presents all assets and liabilities that have been measured & recognised at fair values:

		Fair Value Measurement Hierarchy			
2015		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	Date of latest Valuation	Quoted prices in active mkts	Significant observable inputs	Significant unobservable inputs	
Recurring Fair Value Measurements					
Financial Liabilities					
Loans / Advances	30/6/15	-	(5,136)	-	(5,136)
Total Financial Liabilities		-	(5,136)	-	(5,136)
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment					
Plant and Equipment		-	-	7,052	7,052
Office Equipment		-	-	239	239
Furniture & Fittings		-	-	103	103
Operational Land	30/6/13	-	-	6,771	6,771
Community Land		-	-	2,176	2,176
Land under Roads (post 30/6/08)		-	-	16	16
Buildings - Non Specialised	30/6/13	-	-	27,564	27,564
Other Structures	30/6/13	-	-	3,685	3,685
Roads	30/6/15	-	-	240,441	240,441
Bridges	30/6/15	-	-	70,009	70,009
Footpaths	30/6/15	-	-	2,325	2,325
Bulk Earthworks (non-depreciable)	30/6/15	-	-	78,016	78,016
Stormwater Drainage	30/6/15	-	-	15,256	15,256
Water Supply Network	30/6/15	-	-	42,643	42,643
Sewerage Network	30/6/15	-	-	27,041	27,041
Other Assets		-	-	2,654	2,654
Tip Assets	30/6/15	-	-	466	466
Quarry Assets	30/6/15	-	-	252	252
Total Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment		-	-	526,709	526,709

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 27. Fair Value Measurement (continued)

\$ '000

(1) The following table presents all assets and liabilities that have been measured & recognised at fair values (continued):

2014	Fair Value Measurement Hierarchy			Total
	Level 1 Quoted prices in active mkts	Level 2 Significant observable inputs	Level 3 Significant unobservable inputs	
Recurring Fair Value Measurements				
Financial Liabilities				
Loans / Advances	-	5,400	-	5,400
Total Financial Liabilities	-	5,400	-	5,400
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment				
Plant and Equipment	-	7,498	-	7,498
Office Equipment	-	255	-	255
Furniture & Fittings	-	107	-	107
Operational Land	-	6,906	-	6,906
Community Land	-	-	2,166	2,166
Land under Roads (post 30/6/08)	-	-	3	3
Buildings - Non Specialised	-	27,847	-	27,847
Other Structures	-	-	3,398	3,398
Roads	-	-	261,067	261,067
Bridges	-	-	53,407	53,407
Footpaths	-	-	1,840	1,840
Bulk Earthworks (non-depreciable)	-	-	87,641	87,641
Stormwater Drainage	-	-	15,261	15,261
Water Supply Network	-	-	40,822	40,822
Sewerage Network	-	-	26,185	26,185
Other Infrastructure	-	-	1,071	1,071
Other Assets	-	-	1,438	1,438
Tip Assets	-	-	634	634
Quarry Assets	-	-	286	286
Total Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	-	42,613	495,219	537,832

(2) Transfers between Level 1 & Level 2 Fair Value Hierarchies

During the year, there were no transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 Fair Value hierarchies for recurring fair value measurements.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 27. Fair Value Measurement (continued)

\$ '000

(3) Valuation techniques used to derive Level 2 and Level 3 Fair Values

Where Council is unable to derive Fair Valuations using quoted market prices of identical assets (ie. Level 1 inputs) Council instead utilises a spread of both observable inputs (Level 2 inputs) and unobservable inputs (Level 3 inputs).

The Fair Valuation techniques Council has employed while utilising Level 2 and Level 3 inputs are as follows:

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".

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

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 27. Fair Value Measurement (continued)

\$ '000

(4). Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)

a. The following tables present the changes in Level 3 Fair Value Asset Classes.

	Community Land	Land under Roads	Land improv'mnt non depr	Land improv'mnt depreciable	Total
Opening Balance - 1/7/13	2,065	3	-	55	2,123
Transfers from/(to) another asset class	(60)	-	-	(125)	(185)
Purchases (GBV)	-	6	-	73	79
Depreciation & Impairment	-	-	-	(3)	(3)
Other movement	161	(6)	-	-	155
Closing Balance - 30/6/14	2,166	3	-	-	2,169

Transfers from/(to) another asset class	10	-	-	-	10
Purchases (GBV)	-	13	-	-	13
Closing Balance - 30/6/15	2,176	16	-	-	2,192

	Other Structures	Roads	Bulk Earthworks	Stormwater Drainage	Total
Opening Balance - 1/7/13	7,538	411,274	-	13,214	432,026
Transfers from/(to) another asset class	(3,963)	(95,780)	87,641	2,239	(9,863)
Purchases (GBV)	84	5,718	-	-	5,802
Depreciation & Impairment	(261)	(4,898)	-	(192)	(5,351)
Closing Balance - 30/6/14	3,398	316,314	87,641	15,261	422,614
Transfers from/(to) another asset class	(92)	(322)	-	-	(414)
Purchases (GBV)	418	1,504	-	73	1,995
Depreciation & Impairment	(39)	(3,934)	-	(272)	(4,245)
Other movement	-	(787)	(9,625)	194	(10,218)
Closing Balance - 30/6/15	3,685	312,775	78,016	15,256	409,732

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 27. Fair Value Measurement (continued)

\$ '000

(4). Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) (continued)

a. The following tables present the changes in Level 3 Fair Value Asset Classes. (continued)

	Water Supply Network	Sewerage Network	Other Assets	Total
Opening Balance - 1/7/13	39,421	25,768	43	65,232
Transfers from/(to) another asset class	1,523	466	45,090	47,079
Purchases (GBV)	508	123	15	646
Depreciation & Impairment	(630)	(172)	(27)	(829)
Closing Balance - 30/6/14	40,822	26,185	45,121	112,128
Transfers from/(to) another asset class	-	-	414	414
Purchases (GBV)	783	87	1,115	1,985
Disposals (WDV)	-	-	(929)	(929)
Depreciation & Impairment	(823)	(171)	(1,257)	(2,251)
Other movement	1,861	941	(82)	2,720
Closing Balance - 30/6/15	42,643	27,042	44,382	114,067

	Tip Assets	Quarry Assets	Total
Opening Balance - 1/7/13	950	432	1,382
Closing Balance - 30/6/14	634	287	921
Depreciation & Impairment	25	35	60
Other movement (details here)	(194)	(70)	(264)
Closing Balance - 30/6/15	465	252	717

b. Information relating to the transfers into and out of the Level 3 Fair Valuation hierarchy (as disclosed in the Table above) includes:

Nil

(5). Highest and best use

All of Council's non financial assets are considered as being utilised for their highest and best use.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 28. Council Information & Contact Details

Principal Place of Business:

60 Station Street
Quirindi NSW 2343

Contact Details**Mailing Address:**

PO Box 152
Quirindi NSW 2343

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday
8.30 am to 5.00 pm

Telephone: 02 6746 1755

Facsimile: 02 6746 3255

Internet: www.lpsc.nsw.gov.au

Email: LPSC@lpsc.nsw.gov.au

Officers**ACTING GENERAL MANAGER**

Ronald Van Katwyk

RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

Ann Newsome

PUBLIC OFFICER

Ann Newsome

AUDITORS

Pitcher Partners
101 Hannell St
Wickham NSW 2293

Elected Members**MAYOR**

Andrew Hope

COUNCILLORS

Robert Webster
Ken Cudmore
Andrew Laurie
Ian Lobsey
Mary Roberts
Col Stewart

Other Information

ABN: 97 810 717 370



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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 2015, 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. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the council's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Councillors or management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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 and 8) and accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

As a consequence of system deficiencies and errors in infrastructure, property, plant and equipment in connection with the fixed asset register system in the 2014 year, we were unable to confirm or verify by alternative means infrastructure, property, plant and equipment included in the statement of financial position at 30 June 2014. As a result 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, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows and were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion for the year ended 30 June 2014.

Our audit opinion on the financial report for the year ended 30 June 2014 was modified accordingly. Our audit opinion on the current year's financial report is also modified because of the possible effect of this matter on the comparability of the current years figures and the corresponding figures.

Qualified opinion

In our opinion, except for the possible effects on the corresponding figures of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph:

- (a) the Council's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, Chapter 13 Part 3 Division 2; and
- (b) the financial statements:
 - (i) have been presented in accordance with the requirements of this Division;
 - (ii) are consistent with the Council's accounting records;
 - (iii) present fairly the Council's financial position as at 30 June 2015 and the results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations); and
- (c) all information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained; and
- (d) there are no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial statements that have come to light during the course of the audit.



Pitcher Partners Newcastle & Hunter



Wayne Russell
Partner

Newcastle
25 November 2015



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LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

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

REPORT ON THE CONDUCT OF THE AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015 - SECTION 417(3)

We have completed our audit of the financial statements for Liverpool Plains Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2015, in accordance with Section 415 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act). This report should be read in conjunction with our qualified audit opinion under Section 417(2) of the Act on the General Purpose Financial Reports of 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 conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the Council. Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. 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) and accordingly, we express no opinion on them. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

We performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Council's financial position, and its performance as represented by the results of its operations and cash flows

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 include reading the other information in the Annual Report to determine whether it contains any material inconsistencies with the financial statements.



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

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

As a result of our audit there are a number of comments we wish to raise concerning the trends in Council's finances. These comments are set out below, however they must be considered in light of the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph in our audit report issued under Section 417(2) of the Act.

Income Statement

These financial statements incorporate Council's consolidated accounts for the year ended 30 June 2015.

a) Net Operating Result for the year before Capital Grants and Contributions

Council's Net Operating Result before capital grants and contributions for the year ended 30 June 2015 shows a deficit of \$681,000 compared with a deficit of \$1,086,000 for the year ended 30 June 2014.

The movement in the result is largely attributable to an increase in rates and annual charges of \$575,000, increases in grants and contributions provided for operating purposes of \$2,454,000, a decrease in employee benefits and on-costs of \$527,000 offset by an increase in materials and contract expenses of \$3,016,000.

b) Net Operating Result for the Year

After allowing for items of a capital nature, Council's net operating result for the year ended 30 June 2015 was a surplus of \$726,000 compared to a surplus of \$2,116,000 for the year ended 30 June 2014.

The movement in the result is largely attributable to decreases in capital grants for roads and bridges of \$1,873,000.

Asset Recognition and Measurement

Except for land under roads, infrastructure assets acquired or constructed prior to 1 January 1993 have been capitalised in the accounts on a staged basis since June 1995, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

In July 2006, the Office of Local Government (OLG) (previously the Division of Local Government) determined that all infrastructure, property, plant and equipment will be valued at fair value in a staged approach recognising water and sewerage assets (where applicable) in the year ended 30 June 2007; plant and equipment, land and buildings, and other assets in the year ended 30 June 2008; roads, bridges, footpaths and drainage in the year ending 30 June 2009 (which was subsequently deferred to 30 June 2010), and Community land, land improvements, other structures and other assets by 30 June 2010 (subsequently deferred to 30 June 2011).

The OLG requires that Councils undertake a revaluation of assets at every five years (unless there have been material changes to the valuation beforehand). Under this framework roads (including bulk earthworks), bridges, footpaths and drainage were required to be revalued in the current year.

The fair value of plant and equipment, land and buildings and other assets was ascertained and based on the following methods:

- plant and equipment - approximated by depreciated historical cost
- buildings - fair value as determined by independent external valuations
- operational land - fair value as determined by independent external valuations

The fair value of roads, bridges, footpaths, water, sewerage and drainage assets was based on the method of written down replacement cost.

The fair value of Community land, land improvements and other structures was based on the following methods:

- land improvements and other structures - approximated by depreciated historical cost
- community land - on the following bases
 - the NSW Valuer General's valuations may be used to initially recognise community land acquired at no cost or nominal cost. It is considered that the valuations represent the fair value of such land in lieu of actual cost.
 - Community land acquired at market price should be recorded initially at cost.
 - the NSW Valuer General's valuations may be used under the revaluation model to represent fair value for the revaluation of community land.

As a consequence of system deficiencies and errors in infrastructure, property, plant and equipment in connection with the fixed asset register system in the 2014 year, we were unable to confirm or verify by alternative means infrastructure, property, plant and equipment included in the statement of financial position at 30 June 2014. As a result 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 and were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion for the year ended 30 June 2014 and our audit opinion on the financial report for the year ended 30 June 2014 was modified accordingly. Since the date of our last report, Council has invested significant resources to rectify the discrepancies and errors identified in prior years and implemented a number of our recommendations for improvement.

In addition, Council has taken a number of steps to improve the financial reporting process in the current and subsequent years.

As a consequence of the above, our audit opinion issued under Section 417(2) of the Act for the current year was modified only in respect of the possible effects on the corresponding (2014) figures.

Performance Indicators

Our comments in regard to Council's performance for the 2015 year are based on those performance indicators and areas that are considered meaningful.

The indicators we have reviewed are as follows:

a) Liquidity

At 30 June 2015, Council's net current assets stood at \$9,487,000 compared to \$6,952,000 at 30 June 2014. In other words, the total current assets that Council is expected to realise in the coming year exceeded the total current liabilities that will need to be met by this amount. This is referred to as the current asset ratio and is a measure of the liquidity of Council. The unrestricted current ratio is also a measure of liquidity, with unrestricted current assets (current assets less external restrictions) exceeding

current liabilities (excluding specific purpose liabilities) by 2.29:1 (the benchmark is greater than 1.5). Prima facie these ratios place Council in a sound financial position, however it must be remembered that included are items which are restricted in their use. This is best illustrated in the following table.

Council has total cash and investments of \$19,785,000 which are subject to restrictions as follows:

	30 June 2015 \$'000	30 June 2014 \$'000
Total cash and investments	19,785	17,423
Less: Items specifically restricted by external regulation	<u>(11,779)</u>	<u>(11,154)</u>
	8,006	6,269
Less: Amounts subject to restrictions made by Council to cover long term projects and commitments - Internal restrictions	<u>(4,695)</u>	<u>(3,824)</u>
Unrestricted cash and investments	<u><u>3,311</u></u>	<u><u>2,445</u></u>

Unrestricted Current Ratio

The unrestricted current ratio for the last three years is as follows:

2015	2014	2013
2.29	1.42	2.58

b) Debt Service Cover Ratio

At 30 June 2015 Council had outstanding loans of \$5,136,000 compared with \$5,400,000 at 30 June 2014. The debt service cover ratio has been used to give an indication of the availability of operating cash to service debt including principal, interest and lease repayments. The ratio is 2.11 for the year ended 30 June 2015 compared to 10.25 for the year ended 30 June 2014 and 10.41 for the year ended 30 June 2013. The benchmark is a ratio greater than 2.

c) Own Source Operating Revenue

This ratio (expressed as a percentage) is essentially a measure of the extent to which Council is dependent upon revenue from grants and contributions as compared to its total revenue. Put another way the less reliant Council is on grants and contributions the higher the percentage. For the year ended 30 June 2015, Council's own source operating revenue ratio was approximately 63.87% compared to 64.64% in 2014 and 57.59% in 2013. The benchmark is 60%, however care needs to be taken in interpreting the result as fluctuations in grant and contribution income between years can have a material impact on the calculation.

d) Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding

The rates and annual charges outstanding percentage is used to assess the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on liquidity and the adequacy of debt recovery efforts. The percentage of rates and annual charges outstanding is 8.45% in 2015 compared to 7.76% in 2014 and 8.85% in 2013. The benchmark is less than 10% for rural councils.

Internally Restricted Assets

Council sets aside in the form of specific cash or investments amounts to cover future expenditure that is considered necessary for efficient long term operations. This cash is restricted for use only on the specific purposes designated. It does not include restrictions on unexpended grant income or section 94 contributions, as these are provided for separately in external restrictions. Internal restrictions relate to expenditure on such items as leave entitlements, asset replacement and carry over works. At 30 June 2015, Council had internally restricted assets totalling \$4,695,000 compared to \$3,827,000 at 30 June 2014. It is prudent for Council to regularly consider and assess whether the level of cash and investments it has set aside for future projects and operations is appropriate compared to the desired level and timing of the expenditure at any given point in time.

Statement of Cash Flows

Cash flows from operating activities

Net cash provided from operating activities amounted to \$5,709,000 in 2015 compared to \$9,335,000 for the previous year.

The cash flows from operating activities have decreased significantly from the prior year as a result of an increase in payments for materials and contracts of \$5,730,000, offset by an increase in other receipts of \$1,304,000.

Cash flows from investing activities

Net cash used in investing activities amounted to \$8,833,000 for the year ended 30 June 2015, compared to \$8,191,000 for the previous year.

The movement is primarily attributable to an increase in receipts from the sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment of \$589,000 offset by an increase in the purchase of investments of \$5,267,000 offset by a decrease in the purchase of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment of \$4,037,000 from the prior year.

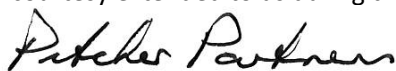
Cash flows from financing activities

Net cash provided by financing activities amounted to \$264,000 for the year ended 30 June 2015 compared to \$242,000 in the previous year.

General

A management letter highlighting matters arising from our audit covering internal controls and other accounting matters will be prepared where it is considered necessary or appropriate and issued to the Chief Financial Officer in due course. Should a letter be issued any matters raised are not of a nature that is significant in arriving at our audit opinion.

We thank the Acting 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
25 November 2015

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, Caroon, 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.

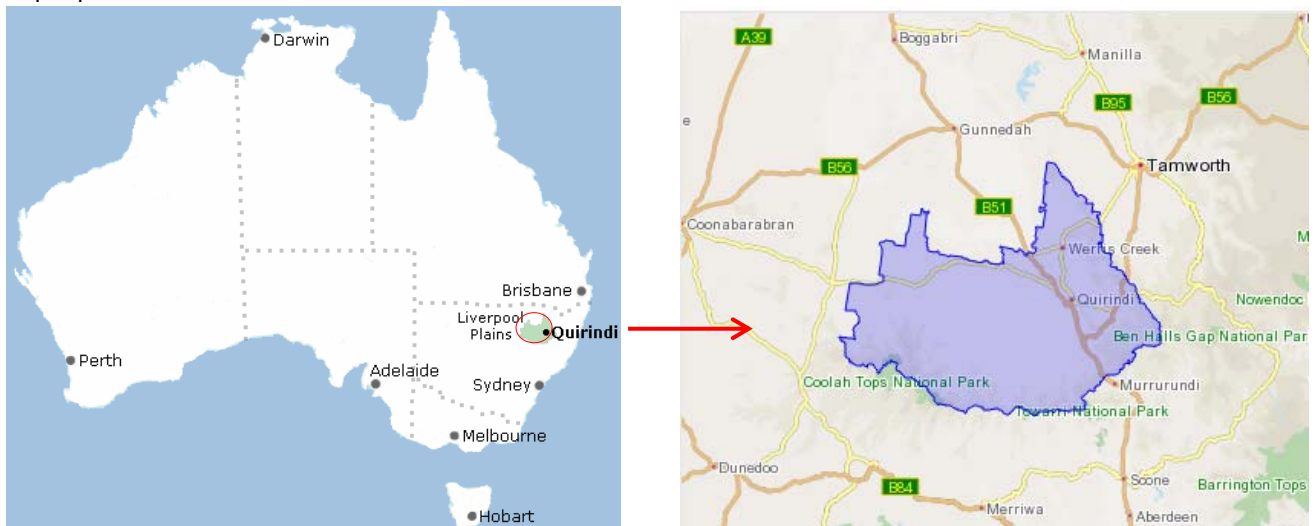


Figure 1. Location of the Liverpool Plains LGA.

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>
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(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 “*Environment and Landcare Portfolio*”, 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

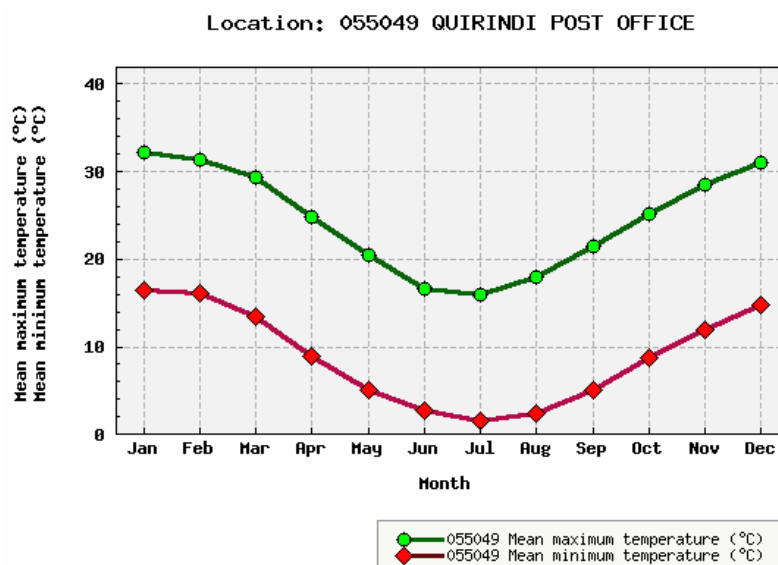
4.3.1 Pressure

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.

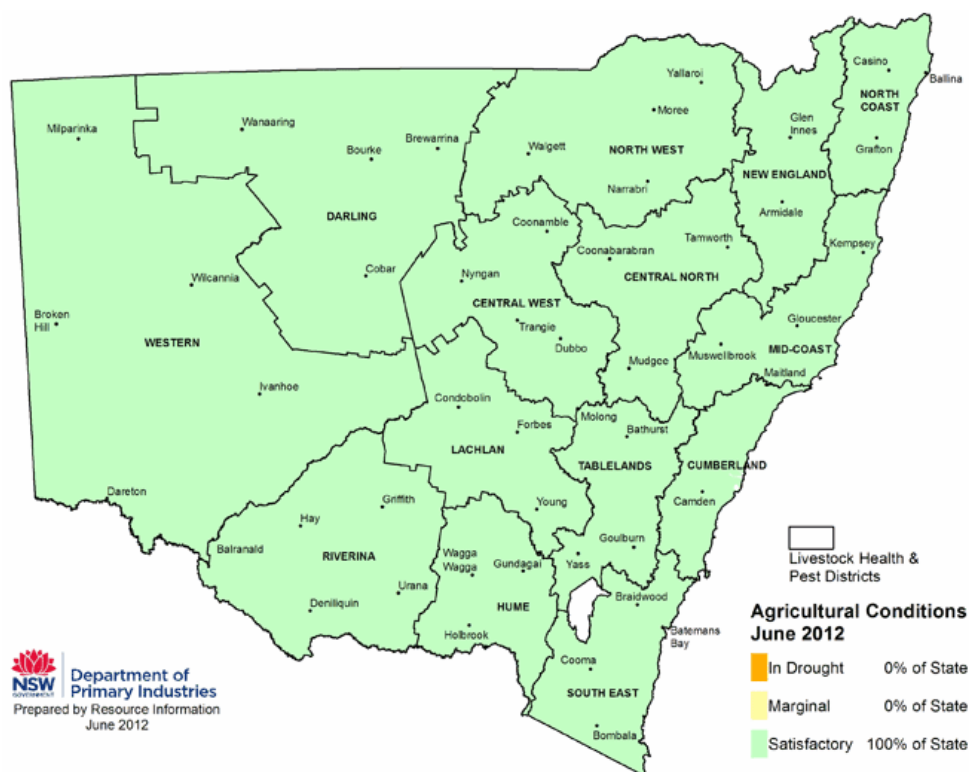


Figure 3. Drought Map June 2012.

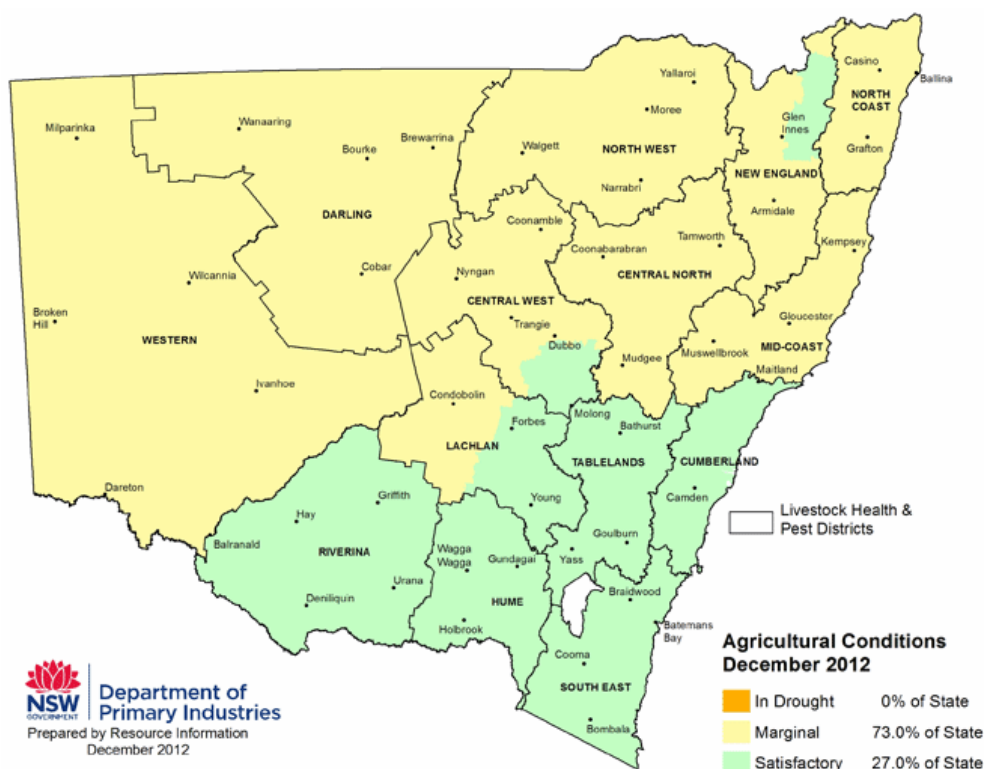




Figure 4. Drought Map December 2012.

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 Act 1972*, 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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APPENDIX C

Social/Community 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.

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 town has a Community Acute Health Service and currently provides acute care and medical services. 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.

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>		

Young People 12-25 years	<p>Transport to access holiday activities & promote paths and cycleways</p>	<p>Apprenticeships are very hard to come by.</p>	<p>There is no forum for youth to have their say and the formation of a Youth Council would be advantageous.</p>	<p>Street lights are not sufficient in some areas.</p>	<p>Access to health services – limited advertising of services in the places that people attend.</p>	<p>Continue to provide scholarships.</p>	<p>Recreational facilities at Recreational Centre. Increase activities ie Big Day In</p>	<p>There is no recognition of different culture within schools or Council.</p>	<p>Concern of the impact of coal mines on the environment eg impact on aquifers, dust, farming and subsidence.</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>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 Youth Officer available to represent youth and their concerns.</p>	<p>Counselling services and Social Workers need to be available and courses on anger management need to be accessible.</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>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>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>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>

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>			

<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 Support given</p>	
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<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.	Improve and provide a range of transport options	The CDEP local apprenticeship initiative has been discontinued.	Include in Community Directory	Employ Indigenous Liaison Officer.	Investigate Outreach Services	Promote pre school participation & occasional care	There are not enough subsidies available for sporting groups making membership expensive and difficult to access for many families.	Need to establish a Keeping Place and mentoring program.	
	Access to Quirindi services from outlying areas- Limited transport options, limited options on weekends, after hours transport, limited footpaths (Walhallow to Carroona shops)	An indigenous administered housing initiative could include builders, plumbers etc.	Develop partnership agreement	It is very difficult to access the Women's Refuge and there is no Safe house in the Shire.	Access to services- limited advertising of services in the places that people attend.			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.	
	Access to driver training. There needs to be provision made for a check in station for child restraints.	There is not enough focus on female employment.	Poor access/visibility to Social & Wellbeing Centre-flights of steps precludes disabled access Acknowledgement to traditional people of the land eg plaque in council reception and other significant public areas-self determination of local Aboriginal population. There is no community Shop at Walhallow any more. Shop needs to reopen so that residents can have more healthy choices.		Limited access to sexual health and lifestyle health services, eg Quit Smoking -no local services for these issues. Oral Health Services-no public funded dental services locally.			Investigate opportunity for Aboriginal Cultural Centre Aboriginal craft gallery and activity centre- limited access to services that promote self esteem, cultural awareness	
Cultural & linguistically diverse							Instigate a multicultural festival or celebration	Recognise in Community Directory	
General	Provide appropriate community transport		Info package for new residents Update community directory Facilitate communication between service providers		Promote the role of HNEHS & provision of services at local level	Provide leadership training		Explore new cultural activities	

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

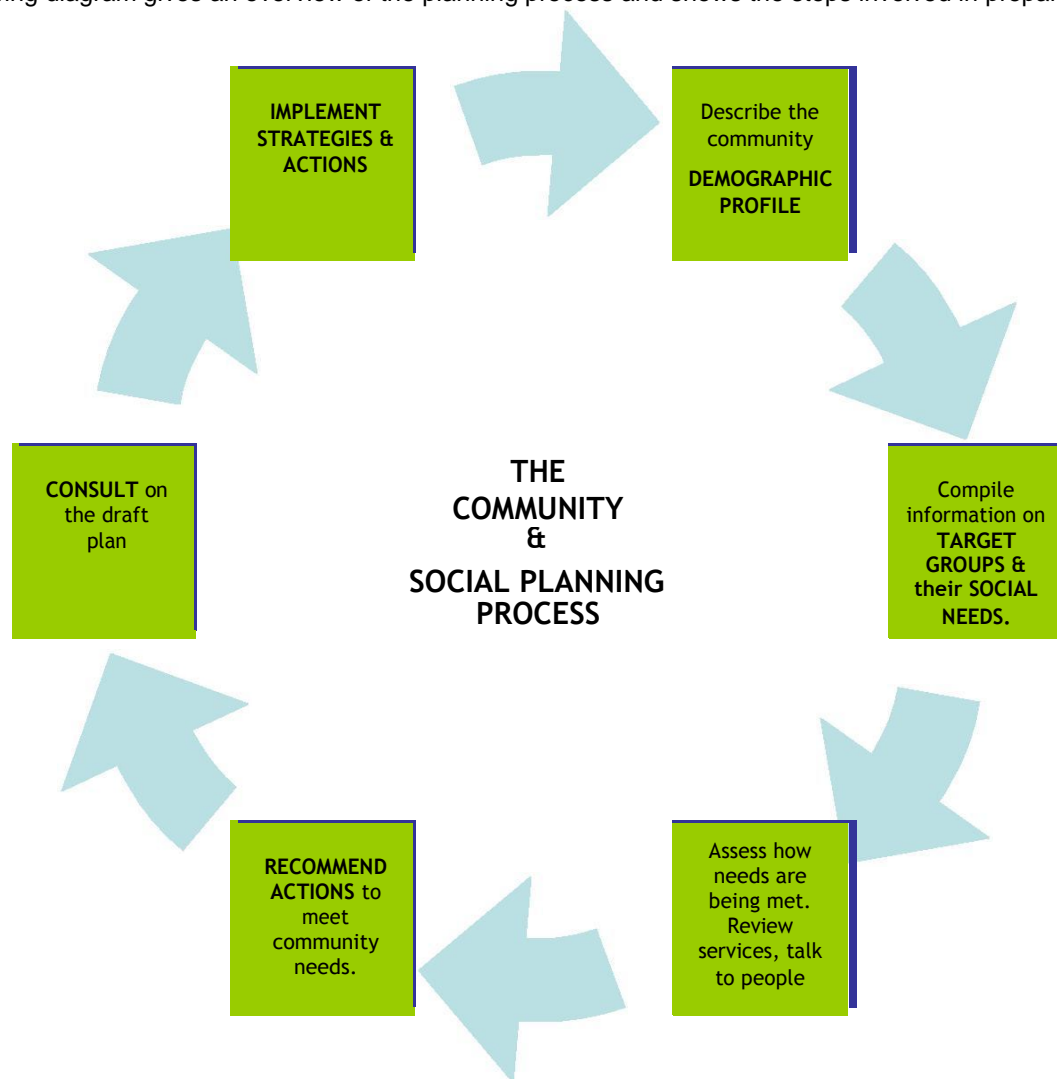
The Local Government Act 1993 defines the role of Council under Section 8(1). This role is explained through a set of principles to guide Council in carrying out its functions:

- 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;

- 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 organized 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. 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 Caroonna 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.

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;

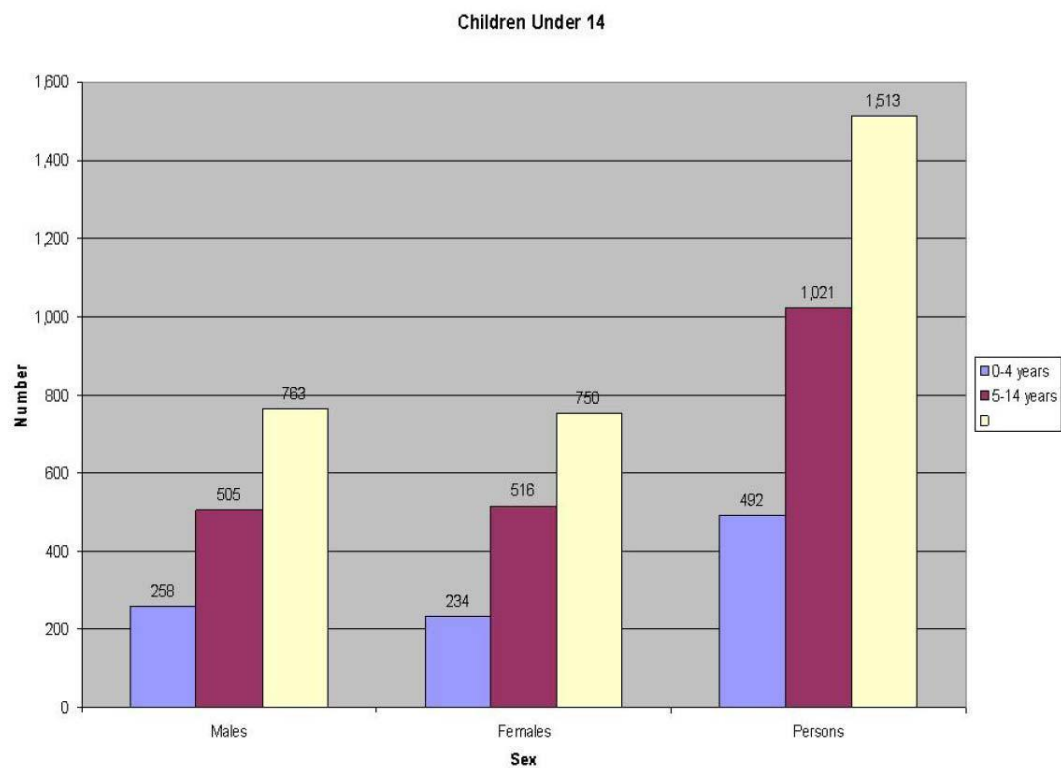


FIGURE 1: Number of males and females under 14 years of age.

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.

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 Practice Nurse operates from the Caroona Medical Centre and also 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

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 Health	<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>	<p>Community groups, Pre-School Directors and Local Council.</p>	<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>

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

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.	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.



5.2

Target Group

Young People

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

	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, Werris 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.

		<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. 		
Education High staff turnover.	Large staff turnover at the High School make it difficult for students to	-P&F to raise concerns with the school community. Lobby state and Federal MPs to change	P&F, Staff and students	A uniform change can be phased in over the next five

<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. 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, 3799 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.

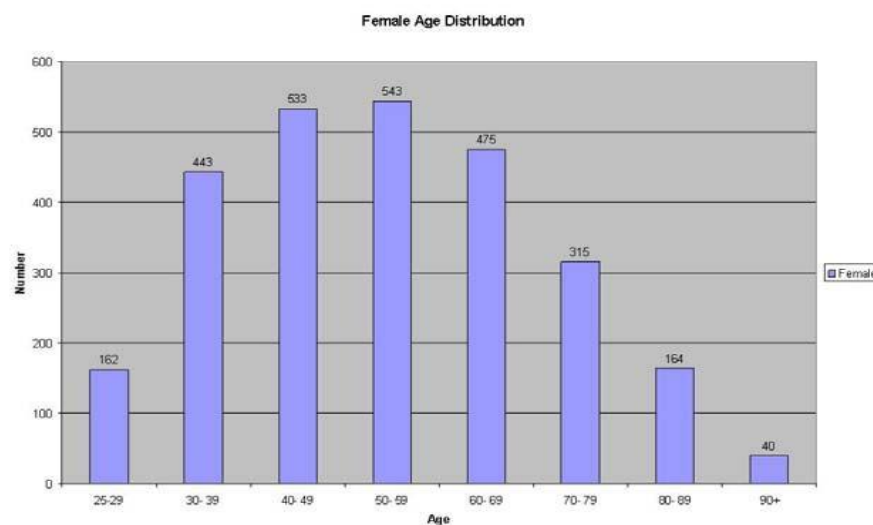


Figure 3: – Women living in Quirindi by age group

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

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 Sexual Health, Drug harm minimization and mental health.	<p>There are no female doctors in the district & Women's Health Nurse position at Community Health is vacant.</p> <p>Chlamydia and syphilis are becoming more common in communities as are mental health issues.</p>	<p>Hunter New England Health need to advertise and actively recruit women for these positions. Council could offer incentives in the form of rent assistance.</p> <p>Investigate education programs focusing on safe sex and ensure there are adequate needle dispensers in public toilets and hospitals.</p> <p>Start the process of establishing a satellite service accessing staff and expertise from the Bligh Street clinic.</p>	Health Service Manager, Liverpool Plains Shire Council.	<p>This is an issue that needs s addressing.</p> <p>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.</p>
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

	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 There is a lack of family based services in the Shire.	<p>Shortage of shopping trolleys at IGA. Poor hygiene of trolleys that are available.</p> <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>Approach IGA management to install new trolleys and make them aware of the state of the existing ones.</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>	<p>IGA management</p> <p>Community groups, members of the community, Community Health Nurse and Liverpool Plains Shire Council</p>	<p>As soon as possible. Customers could start lobbying immediately.</p> <p>This is an issue that is of immediate concern and needs to be looked at urgently.</p>

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. 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

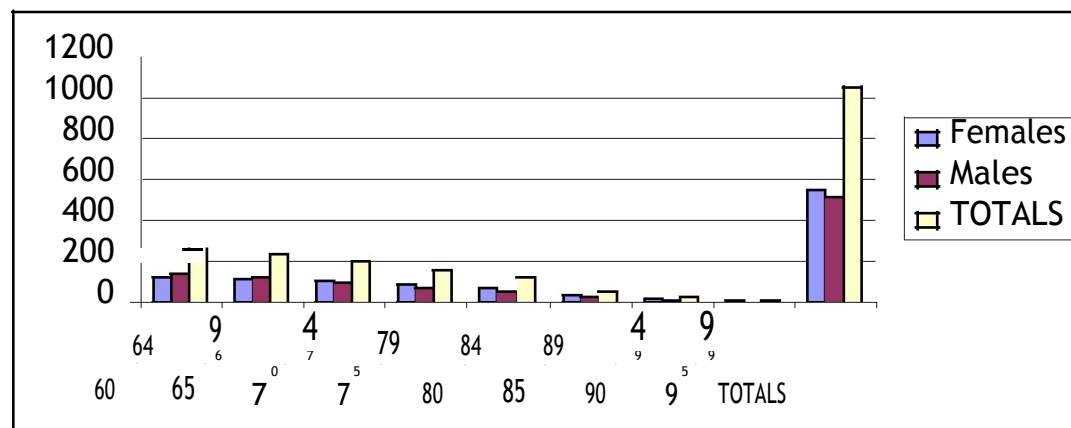


Figure4 : Number of older people living in the Liverpool Plains Shire by age and sex.

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

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 Premer 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

- 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, Elmswood. Clients are often aware of services and what are funding arrangements for high level care.	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.	The various aged care groups are	Letting clients know	Liaise with Retirement	ASAP

<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>not communicating and there are opportunities where referrals could 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>

Older people continuing to drive when not functionally able.	Increase local awareness of RTA processes for older drivers. GP accountability to initiate driving assessments.	Road safety lessons for Gofer Drivers possibly participate in an annual road safety event.	RTA, LPSSC, community groups such as CWA and Quota.	ASAP Annually
No access to publicly funded transport.	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.	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.	LPSC, HACC	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.
Recreation Making full use of Day Centres	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.	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	LPSC, Quirindi Retirement Homes need to promote their services in the wider community.	Ongoing

		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.

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

	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.

<p>Access to school care.</p>	<p>respites/after</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>It was noted that access to the following shops was difficult: Florist, NAB, Newsagent, all hotels the Courthouse and the Police Station.</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>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>

	traffic and walk to the ramp. This is potentially very dangerous and requires traffic to be stopped at times.	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.		
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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.



5.6 Target Group Indigenous People

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.

<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

	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.



5.8

TARGET GROUP

General Community

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

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 popul ation	Rank	Total	Rate per 100,000 popul ation	Rank	Total	Rate per 100,000 popul ation	Rank	Total	Rate per 100,000 popul ation	Rank	Total	Rate per 100,000 popul ation	Rank	Total	Rate per 100,000 popul ation	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 spin 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
Angus Fraser	Community Services Coordinator Assistant	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	Youth/Social
Cindy Teuma	Acting Manager Business Services	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	Youth/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

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	Walhallow Aboriginal Corporation	Indigenous
WLC	Walhallow 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.

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.

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 Premer	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	Premer 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

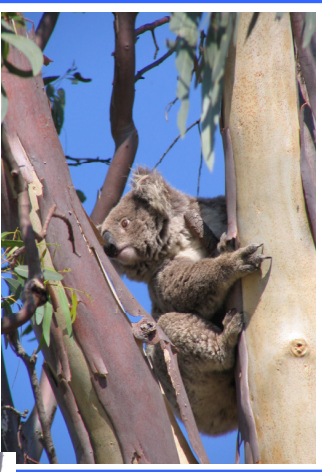
Description	Recommendation	Target Date	What's happened?
Arts North West	Continue membership of Arts North West and encourage community groups and individual artists to use its services.	Ongoing	Ongoing Membership retained
Use of the Internet to promote events	Promote cultural activities in the shire 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 2014- 2019

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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 (2011 Census)

	Liverpool Plains	Australia
Median age	44	37
Median monthly housing loan repayments	\$1,083	\$1,800
Median weekly rent	\$150	\$285
Median weekly individual income	\$433	\$577
Median weekly family income	\$988	\$1,481
Median weekly household income	\$797	\$1,234
Mean household size	2.4	2.6
Dwellings fully owned	43%	32.1%
Dwellings being purchased	24.7%	34.9%
Dwellings being rented	27.7%	29.6%

Table 2: Selected Characteristics (2011 Census)

	Males	Females	Persons
Total persons	3771	3709	7480
Aged 15 yrs and over	2992	3025	6017
Aged 65 yrs and over	762	749	1511
Indigenous persons			816
Born in Australia			6,675
Born overseas			805
Speaks English only			7068
Australian citizen			6825
Employed full-time			1,930
Employed part-time			932
Unemployed			199
Unemployment rate			6.1%



Changes in Liverpool Plains Shire's Population

The main changes since 2011 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 a very minimal amount;
- 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 715 in 2006 to 816 in 2011;
- The median population age has remained reasonably constant over the 5 year period. ie. median age is now 44 and in 2006 it was 43;
- Family and household sizes have again remained quite firm staying at 2.4 persons, the same as 2006;
- 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 2011 Census, the trends set out above have remained strong and stable since the 2006 Census and the outlook for the coming years look promising still. Recent economic development within the Shire suggests that the following may/could occur within the next 5 years:

- The population is likely to increase by about 4% per year and a best case

of about 6 %, depending on the types of employment opportunities arising;

- 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 remain similar to male numbers;
- Household sizes will stabilise with the ageing of the population and preferences for smaller families continue;
- 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
	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.	Ongoing	300-190
	Develop a plan for marketing the Royal Theatre to various cultural groups.	Ongoing	300-190
	Develop subcommittees to manage and market the Royal Theatre	Ongoing	
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.	Ongoing	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.	Ongoing	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	Ongoing	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.	Ongoing	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.	2017/2018	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.	Ongoing	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
	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
To promote the preservation of public art works	Maintain a register of all public art works and memorials in the Liverpool Plains.	Ongoing	200-110
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's Got Talent by providing support and 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 Essential 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**

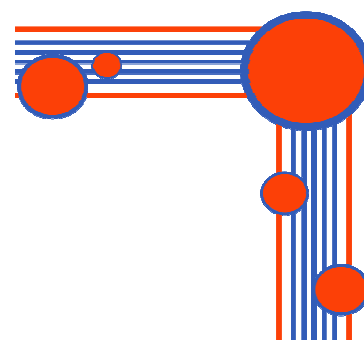
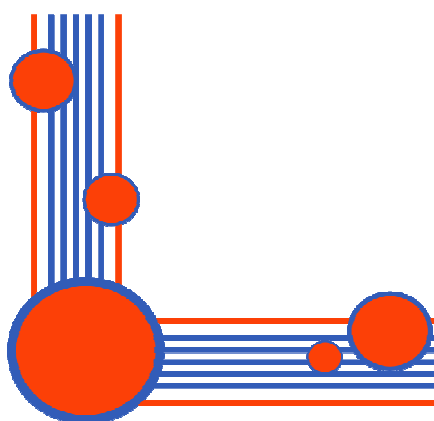
Objective: *To form cultural links with other communities, other regions and other cultures thereby recognising that Liverpool Plains is part of a wider society with broader cultural traditions.*

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 2014/15





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.

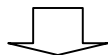
The preparation of this plan would not have been possible without the following reference sources:

- 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.

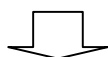


LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL'S ACCESS PLAN DEVELOPMENT FLOWCHART

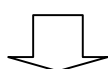
Gain active participation from General Manager and council staff in the planning and implementation of this Access Plan.



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



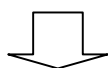
In conjunction with Council staff, compile a list of access 'Black Spots'.



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.



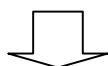
Review submissions and amend plan.



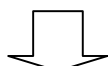
Access Committee to review plan and then present to Council for adoption



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
CFO/DCAS	Chief Financial Officer/ Director of Community and Administrative Services
DEEDS	Director - Environmental and Economic Development Services
DETS	Director - Engineering and Technical Services
HRO	Human Resource Officer
CHSP	Commonwealth Home Support Program (Formerly HACC)
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
- Commonwealth Home Support Program
- 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	- 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	CFO/DCAS/ CHSP	Ongoing
Customer Service Receive feedback from Council Customers	Monitor requests for specific services from people with disabilities	Immediate	CFO/DCAS	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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	Mid term	Manager CHSP	Annual
	Utilise the local press, Council and community notice boards, in and out [of] house newsletters to do so	Immediate		



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
<p>Accessible Toilets</p> <p>Provide accessible toilets that are able to be used 24hrs a day both in the community and at major community functions.</p>	<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	DEEDS	Council facilities are continually being monitored and upgraded when funds become available.
<p>Sports and Recreation</p> <p>Coordination of sport and recreation activities for people with disability.</p>	<p>Lobby local sporting organisations to improve access to services and facilities.</p> <p>Access funding for upgrade of Quipolly Dam Recreation facilities- disabled access to toilets and foreshore.</p> <p>Encourage and support people with disabilities to participate in sporting and recreational activities.</p>	<p>Short term</p> <p>Short term</p>	DETS	Ongoing
<p>Car Parking</p> <p>Increase number and policing of designated parks for pwd especially in front of high use areas such as doctors surgeries.</p>	Liaise with Council's Traffic Engineer	Long term	DETS	Improved car parking space Quirindi/Werris Creek/Willow Tree



OBJECTIVE 5 (Cont.)

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
Adult Fiction Section Provide large print books for people with literacy problems. As well as Talking and Braille books for people with sight impairments.	Ensure Adult Fiction section is updated regularly according to the ongoing needs of the people who use it.	Mid term	Librarians	Ongoing



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	CFO/DCAS GM / CFO/DCAS	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 / CFO/DCAS / DETS CFO/DCAS	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>CFO/DCAS</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	DEEDS DEEDS	No Action
Garbage Bins Give assistance with handling of these bins as required.	Review Current Practice Assess community needs	Long term	DEEDS DEEDS	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. Utilise optimum standards for disability access taking into account cost of renovations to Council building.	Mid term Immediate	DEEDS DEEDS	Ongoing
Access- Existing Council Buildings may not provide access/required aids for people with disabilities	Develop priority listing for upgrading of Council facilities. Endeavour to ensure optimum access for people with disabilities. Review this list regularly, or in response to new information	Mid term Immediate	DEEDS / DETS DEEDS / DETS	Ongoing
Lighting in Parks	Review, check if they meet required standards. It is required that all pathways have lighting.	Long term	DETS	Ongoing



OBJECTIVE 8 (Cont.)

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
Paving/Pathways Surface treatment	Ensure these meet all required standards Investigate the feasibility of non slip paving/pathways within CBD.	Immediate Ongoing	DETS	Ongoing
Toilets Accessibility	Ensure that at least two public toilets are fully accessible by all people with disabilities 24hours a day. Investigate feasibility of updating Council's toilets to meet required standards.	Immediately Mid term	DEEDS DEEDS	Council has met standards at Quirindi and Werris Creek
Swimming Pools Accessibility	Update/rebuild to meet required standards. Ramps into the building & into the pools, or a hoist provided to enable people with disabilities access to the pool. Ramping/non-slip pathways provided outside the pool from parking area. Designated sites to be made available in front of the pool for people with the appropriate RMA sticker.	Long term Long term Long term Long term	DETS	Portable access steps have been installed at Quirindi and Werris Creek Pools
Road Markings	Ensure road markings are maintained so that they are visible to people with visual impairment.	Long Term	DETS	Ongoing



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	DETS	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	DEEDS DEEDS	Provided - Qdi Rec Centre Provided Royal Theatre Provided - Qdi Rec Centre
CHSP 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	CFO/DCAS DETS	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	DEEDS DETS DETS CFO/DCAS	Completed Completed Ongoing



OBJECTIVE 8 (Cont.)

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
Council Chambers- Access Mobility Work Aids- Maintenance	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	DETS	Completed
	Keep vegetation from hanging over ramp and blocking access.	Short term	DEETS	
	Access provided to toilets and tea room facilities.	Long term	DETS	Completed
	Requisition/Installation of a hearing loop in council chamber.	Long term	DEETS	To be reviewed
	Appropriate signage. Large light switches to be installed.			To be reviewed
	Re-paint all step endings with white paint	Long term	DEETS	To be reviewed
		Short term	DEETS	Ongoing
Visitor Information Centre, Royal Theatre & RMA- Access	Designed to meet all required standards.	Short term	CFO/DCAS	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	DETS	Ongoing
Pathways and Surfaces	Design and maintain to meet all relevant standards.	Long term	DETS	Ongoing
Pedestrian Crossings	Ensure appropriate gradients, surfaces and Keri ramps meet relevant standards.	Long term	DETS	Ongoing
Lighting Roads, park, pathways	Provide and maintain adequate lighting along all streets and intersections that meet required standards	Long term	DETS	Ongoing
General Signage	Ensure appropriate signage at all intersections Signage provided to indicate disability services/ facilities/parking/toilets	Long term	DETS	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	DETS	Ongoing
Parking	Provide adequate Designated Parking at all public facilities.	Long term	DETS	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
<p>Awareness</p> <p>Developer may not be aware of and/or design infrastructure that meets requirements of the DDA.</p> <p>Access-</p> <p>Historically, urban design has not always accommodated the needs of people with disabilities</p>	<p>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.</p>	Immediate	DEEDS	Ongoing
	<p>Council, as a matter of course, to include standard note referencing DDA requirements at level of planning approval.</p>	Immediate	DEEDS	Ongoing
<p>Contractors and Agents</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	Immediate	GM / All Directors	Ongoing
<p>Information and Education</p> <p>Availability of material relating to requirements of the DDA.</p>	<p>Council's building and planning department to readily have information regarding DDA's requirements.</p>	Immediate	DEEDS	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 CHSP client. (this is Oxley Community Transports responsibility)	Investigate available options.	Immediate	CFO/DCAS	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	DEEDS	Ongoing
Carer's Financial Support Increased financial support needed for Carers	Lobby Commonwealth Departments on this issue.	Immediate	CFO/DCAS	Ongoing
Service Access	Identify gaps in or issues for existing service.	Immediate	CFO/DCAS	Ongoing
	Representation of local issues at regional meetings.	Immediate	CFO/DCAS	Ongoing
	Lobby appropriate government Departments for continued and expansion of, funding.	Immediate	Council	Ongoing



OBJECTIVE 10 (Cont.)

Issue	Strategies	Time Frame	Responsibility	Status
<p>Advocacy</p> <p>Council to lead as an advocate on behalf of people with disabilities with service providers in the disability field.</p>	Lobby as appropriate	Immediate	Council / GM / Directors	Ongoing
<p>Accommodation</p> <p>Appropriate accommodation needed for people with disabilities.</p>	Lobby state government for appropriate residences to accommodate the housing needs of people with disabilities.	Immediate	Council / GM / Directors	Ongoing
<p>Social Activities</p> <p>Availability of recreational/social activities for people with disabilities.</p>	<p>Lobby Government Departments for increased funding of existing services.</p> <p>Continue to support Liverpool Plains Shire Council CHSP</p>	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
PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO
COUNCILLORS

- (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

POLICY TITLE: PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND Policy No. 1.24
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.

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- (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.

POLICY TITLE: PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND Policy No. 1.24
PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO
COUNCILLORS

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: