

**CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE
COUNCIL**

2016/17 ANNUAL REPORT



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Our Shire

Central Darling Shire encompasses an area of over 53,000 square kilometres, making it the largest Local Government Area (LGA) in New South Wales. Conversely, population figures for the Shire are one of the lowest with 2,108 residents dispersed throughout and surrounding the towns of Ivanhoe, Menindee, Wilcannia and White Cliffs, and its localities of Darnick, Mossgiel, Sunset Strip and Tilpa.



The principal economic activities within the Shire include pastoral, horticultural, agricultural, mining and tourism. Rural grazing properties represent the largest land use within the Shire, accounting for 97% of the entire area.

The Central Darling Shire is bounded by the Shires of Bourke, Cobar, Carrathool, Balranald, Wentworth and the Unincorporated Area.

Our Mission

“Realising quality opportunities for all in the Central Darling Shire through Effective Leadership, Community Involvement and Facilitation of Services”.

Our Values

Through a collaborative approach and strong commitment, the values that will support our mission and guide us in achieving our visions are:

- Energising Leadership
- Customer Service and Contribution to Community
- Innovation and Continuous Improvement
- Equal Opportunity and Caring for Individuals
- Political Harmony
- Teamwork
- Ethical Behaviour

Our Towns

Menindee



Menindee is an oasis in the Outback, a beautiful spot to soak up the outback atmosphere with the convenience of modern services at your fingertips. Dubbed the first town on the Darling River, Menindee has a rich Indigenous and European history. Menindee is located close to Kinchega National Park where visitors can enjoy spectacular views of the Menindee Lakes and the Darling River, as well as close encounters with local with local wildlife.

Menindee is associated with bold explorers of the outback, Burke and Wills, Mitchell and Sturt, and the pastoral tradition of wool production and labouring paddle steamers transporting bales to market. Many travellers today are surprised to find great fields of grapevines and fruit under irrigation besides the Lakes that Major Mitchell originally named “Laidley’s Ponds”.

Today, Menindee produces much sought after fruits such as table grapes, rock melons, and many varieties of apricots, tomatoes, and oranges.

Ivanhoe



Ivanhoe is a town situated on the Cobb Highway 220 kilometres North West of Hay. The township provides visitors with a pleasant break to their journey in an outback pastoral community. Friendly people, clean amenities, landscaped recreational areas and a self-guided Heritage Trail, enable visitors to enjoy a short break and gain an insight into the town’s interesting past.

Retrace the exploits of bushrangers, the journeys of Cobb & Co and the advent of the railways as you follow the Ivanhoe Heritage Trail. Through tough times and good, flood and crippling drought, towns like Ivanhoe have earned their place in Australian history.



Wilcannia



Wilcannia has a rich and vibrant history. Once known as the “Queen City of the West”, it was the third largest shipping port in Australia. In the boom years of the 1880’s, sandstone was quarried locally for the beautiful buildings that stand today as a reminder of those heady days.

A short drive or walk around town will reveal the great sandstone buildings, historic centre Loft Bridge and old wharf that handled all that cargo so many years ago. Wilcannia has a large Aboriginal community, being the traditional home of the Barkandji people (Barka Meaning River).

White Cliffs



White Cliffs is unique! Precious seam opal was discovered in White Cliffs in the 1890’s and opal from this field was the first to be marketed overseas (giving White Cliffs the distinction of being known as Australia’s first Commercial Opal field).

To escape the high summer temperatures, early miners soon began to live in their working mines enjoying the constant underground temperature in the mid-twenties all year round. These were known as “dugouts” and became home for many miners.

Today, modern dugout homes provide a unique housing style for many White Cliffs residents with all the conveniences of any modern home but being environmentally friendly, little heating or cooling is required.

Tilpa



The origin of the name “Tilpa” may be found in the Barkandji word “thulpa”, which means “floodwaters”, for it is in the vicinity of Tilpa that the Darling River floods up to seventy kilometres wide in major floods.

The village of Tilpa came into existence in 1876 when Arthur Cotton opened a store. James Buckley built the Wee Wattah Hotel where the Tilpa Trading Post is now located in the same year.

By 1894, Cotton’s store was owned by David Jones & Co. who sold it to Edmond Perrott who turned it into a hotel named the Royal. This is the existing Tilpa Hotel.

In 1880 a Postal Receiving Office was opened in the store. Tilpa had a school from 1896 till its closure in 1945.

A punt served as the only means of crossing the Darling River at Tilpa until the bridge was completed in December 1963.

Sunset Strip



Sunset Strip was gazetted in 1965 as a village within the Central Darling Shire, 20 km north of Menindee, situated on the northern shore of Lake Menindee. A unique outback take on a holiday by the sea, Sunset Strip is a home-away-from-home for many Broken Hill residents needing a weekend escape. Sunset Strip can boast having its own Post Office and Community Hall with boating, fishing, golf and tennis being some of the activities available.



Message from the Administrator

In December 2013 the Central Darling Shire Council was placed into temporary administration by the Minister for Local Government and by November the following year, that interim administration was formalised for a period of six years. It is now three and a half years since that original suspension of the elected councillors and we have made great progress in that time.

The financial position of the Council continues to strengthen with successive surplus budgets, better costing and revenue forecasting, improved cash flow and a more stringent focus on directly delivering the basic services necessary for our community while facilitating others to deliver those services that are discretionary or best delivered by expert organisations other than the Council.

Notwithstanding this success, it is true that the Shire Council will always struggle with its financial sustainability. With an enormous land area and one of the smallest Council populations in the State, Central Darling Shire will always be dependent upon other levels of government for its viability.

Actions by the NSW Government over the past two years to improve co-ordination and sustainability in the Far West appear to have come to a halt. The Western Division of Councils has proposed an alternate model but the truth is that the State Government is a vital player in the solution to the problems of the Far West and needs to be deeply involved in determining that solution. I will continue to advocate for this vital work to continue.

Your Council has continued to deliver improved services and facilities, under difficult circumstances, and these are outlined in other sections of this Annual Report.

May I thank the staff of the Council, under the very able direction of General Manager Michael Boyd, for their continued dedication to our task. I would also like to express my sincerest thanks to all of those community groups and volunteers who work so hard for their communities.

I look forward to continuing the work of building a better Council for Shire residents.

Greg Wright
Administrator



From the Office of the General Manager

The Annual Report provides an overview of Council's operations and performance during the previous 12 months, exemplifying the dedication and commitment by the staff of the Council to the ongoing task of rebuilding the Council's financial sustainability and ensuring improved and additional service delivery.

Council continues to ensure that projects undertaken are delivered within budget and that the Operational Plan and quarterly performance reviews ensure deliverability of budgeted projected surplus and rebuilding of cash liquidity. However, Council still needs to also address its historic failure to fund staff entitlements, restricted funds, and its cross subsidisation of water/sewer and waste management, as well as a number of governance issues.

Considerable time is taken up by senior management in pursuing external grants for a number of capital projects, and I acknowledge the extensive additional workload for the Shire Services department relating to the Council's contractual commitment towards the ongoing reconstruction of the Cobb Highway, a project that assists in providing additional financial resources to the Council.

During the year, Council continued to review and address a number of identified outstanding governance and changing government issues including:

- Long Term Financial Plan
- Community Strategic Plan
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- Policy Manual
- Delegation Manual

The Far West initiative, a State Government review of the local government sustainability and overall coordination of government service deliverability has not progressed as quickly as expected, but the Council, together with other Councils within the region, have proposed an alternative restructure of the Western Division Shires which we believe will go some way to deliver the outcomes sought by the State Government for local government generally. The Council awaits the State Government formal response to this proposal.

Finally, I express my appreciation to the Administrator, senior management team and the staff for their continued endeavours in addressing the organisational demands in this challenging environment and their dedication and ongoing commitment to serving the residents of the Shire.

Michael Boyd
GENERAL MANAGER



Management Team



Greg Wright
Administrator



Michael Boyd
General Manager



Jacob Philp
Director Business Services



Reece Wilson
Director Shire Services



Council's Achievements in Implementing the Delivery Program

Delivery Program Performance Measures

The tables below show the Delivery Program measures that have been identified to assess the Council's performance in implementation of the Delivery Plan and Community Strategic Plan in 2016-2017. It is noted that during the first half of 2017, Council undertook to review the Plan, and following community consultation, adopted the 2018-2027 Community Strategic Plan for the ensuing 10 years.

Strategy	Action	Performance Target
1.1.1 Relevant and quality health and family support services for all members of our community	Assist the implementation of the Far West Local Health Service to address health care issues within the Shire	Implement annual Community Satisfaction Survey
	Support services that address alcohol and substance misuse in the community	
	Seek continual funding of services and programs for: HACC services Community and transport	Continuous improvement program (as part of the operational plan- service level agreements)
1.2.1 Health, improved aged care and disability services in collaboration with service providers	Facilitate the sourcing of funding to assist in the provision of home care services at Ivanhoe	Continuous improvement program (as part of the operational plan-service level agreements)
	Investigate appropriate partners to deliver aged care facilities	Implement annual community satisfaction survey
	Liaise with appropriate local health services on public health related matters	
1.3.1 Culture and Art: Development of creative industries, culture and art	Encourage the establishment of community based arts and cultural groups	Maintain active membership with Regional and State Arts organisations
	Liaise with heritage, tourism and community bodies to establish Art and Cultural Centres	
1.4.1 Youth, Sport and Recreation Options for the whole community	Investigate the provision of youth recreational facilities (including Skate Park and/or BMX Track)	Complete Sport and Recreation options investigation and



	funding, possible partnerships and locations in each town	communicate to the community
	Support existing swimming pool committees	
1.4.1 Youth, Sport and Recreation Options for the whole community	Construct disabled ramp at Ivanhoe Pool	Implement annual community satisfaction survey
	Investigate possible options for funding longer opening hours for swimming pools. Lobby local communities for volunteers to undertake Pool Lifeguard Training	
1.4.2 Community Housing	Continue provision of existing Community Housing at Menindee	Maintain communication with community housing providers, Aboriginal Land Councils and Aboriginal Housing Office
1.5.1 Public safety	Liaise with the NSW Police through attendance and participation in the Community Safety Precinct Committee	Alcohol Free Zones meet legislative requirements as per LGA
	Support and assist emergency services by participating in scheduled meetings and reporting to council	Attendance at Community Safety Precinct Committee meetings
	Update Council's Emergency Management Plan	Updated Emergency Management Plan presented to Council
	Maintain consistent animal control practices	Increased level of registration and microchipping of dogs
	Encourage and maintain micro chipping register	
1.5.1 Public safety	Maintain companion animal register	Implement annual community satisfaction survey



	Assist with de-sexing clinics and education programs for animal control	
	issue penalty infringement notices	
	Conduct lighting audit and upgrades	Audit report presented to Council and upgrades presented
2.1.1 Sustainable economic development of Shire towns	Maintain active membership of the relevant regional/state tourism board	Board memberships maintained
	All policies, plans and procedures are appropriate to maintain economic development in the Shire	100% of policies are reviewed and updated
2.1.2 Improved industry and business attraction, retention and growth	Review the Shire's Economic Development Strategy	Strategies prepared and presented to Council
2.1.2 Improved industry and business attraction, retention and growth	Improve tourism marketing, infrastructure and business development through the review, updating and implementation of the Shire's Tourism Strategy	Strategies prepared and presented to Council
	Encourage the establishment of new and expansion of existing industries and businesses	Community Strategy Survey
	Support the Far West Action Plan to drive Business Development and implement programs	
	Investigate incentives to encourage industry and business development in the Shire	



2.2.1 Succession Planning – employment strategy	Develop partnership with job network agencies to identify employment opportunities	Maintain relationships with job networks Develop traineeship opportunities
2.2.2 Opportunities for the highest level of education and training for members of the community	Seek government bodies for support and financial assistance for educational programs	Increased number of locally offered traineeships and educational programs
	Promote traineeships and career paths post traineeship	
2.3.1 Enhance Tourism Assets	Investigate the options for dissemination of tourist information in each community	Increased dissemination streams of tourist information
2.3.1 Enhance Tourism Assets	Investigate tourism business opportunities identified in the Council’s Economic and Tourism Strategy with appropriate partners	100% of interpretive panels and relevant signage inspected and repaired/updated
	Inspect and maintain Heritage Trail Interpretive panels (tourism signage)	
3.1.1 Environmental compliance	To review and update State of Environment Report	State of Environment Report prepared
	Register food businesses	Activity Report to NSW Food Authority completed
	Undertake annual food premises inspections to Category B level	
	Investigate food complaints to Category B level	
3.1.2 Tree planting	Actively support and contribute to National Tree Day	Free trees distributed as part of National Tree Day to local residents
3.1.3 Waste management	Provide street cleaning and bin maintenance in townships	Community satisfaction survey
	Provide waste collection services for Wilcannia, Menindee and Ivanhoe	Community satisfaction survey
	Review waste depots at White Cliffs and Sunset Strip and investigate appropriate ways to cover the waste	Prepare a report and present to Council



	on a weekly basis to limit burning episodes	Minimal number of issues raised by EPA; increased level of recycling
	Pursue contracts through NetWaste for sale of recyclables	Maintain partnership with NetWaste
	Report on landfill capacities	Complete and present to EPA
3.1.3 Waste management	Lobby government for re-introduction of container deposit levy	Support interested groups
3.1.4 Weed management	Undertake noxious weed control and seek appropriate opportunities for funding	Weed infestations and target areas mapped Inspect treated plants and document
3.2.1 Visually attractive and functional town entrances and streetscapes	Seek funding from the NSW Heritage office to continue local heritage strategy	Review Central Darling Shire Council's Local Heritage Strategy
3.2.1 Visually attractive and functional town entrances and streetscapes	Continue to seek funding (State and Federal) for heritage projects	Heritage advisor engaged and report developed annually
	Provide street tree maintenance in townships Support tree plantings per Councils street tree policy	Report of Council number of trees planted
3.2.2 Initiate streetscape projects in collaboration with business and the community to upgrade shopfronts linked to our built heritage	Develop a plan to restore Post Office including investigation costings to complete heritage restoration of the site	Stages of restoration reported to Council
	Progress Knox and Downs site in Wilcannia	Site clean-up and redevelopment
	Encourage clean up unsafe premises and land	
3.3.1 Stormwater is managed throughout each community	Develop a plan to identify, investigate and design suitable solutions for storm water issues in communities	Stormwater Management Plan to be reviewed tri-annually
	Maintain a network of kerb, gutter and stormwater drainage to an appropriate standard	



3.3.2 Safe and reliable water supply for Shire communities	Ensure that potable water meets the guidelines set by NSW Health	Develop integrated water management plan for each community
	Ensure that potable and raw water supplies are provided within designated water districts of Wilcannia and Ivanhoe	
3.3.2 Safe and reliable water supply for Shire communities	Maintain the consistency of water supply to the White Cliffs community and investigate potable water supply	
3.3.3 Water testing and treatment	Undertake routine chlorine residual readings	Quality Water Testing meets the NSW Health standards
	Maintain representation on the Regional Algae Committee	
	Sample swimming pools in accordance with NSW Health requirements with regard to Council owned swimming pools	
3.3.4 Water supply management	Review and improve water management strategies	All relevant water plans are reviewed
3.3.4 Water supply management	Lobby the Minister for funding for potable water supply for White Cliffs	
	Investigate the options for the replacement of the Wilcannia Weir	
	Upgrade the White Cliffs water supply reticulation network	
3.3.5 Safe and reliable network of roads throughout the Shire	Reconstruction, sealing and civil works on Ivanhoe Cobar Road (MR416)	All roads throughout the Shire meet RMS requirements
	Routine maintenance grading on 10 Main Roads	
	State Highways maintenance work through Routine Maintenance Contract with RMS	
	Maintenance grading of local roads to an appropriate standard	
3.3.5 Safe and reliable network of roads throughout the Shire	Maintain good relationship with RMS to meet requirements under RMS contract	
	Conduct a study to identify roads in the Shire that need to be maintained or upgraded to all weather condition roads. Study to include why	



	particular roads should be identified as all-weather roads	
	Prepare a report including costs to maintain and upgrade identified roads to all weather condition roads	
	Continue to lobby for road funding for all roads in the Shire and specifically the Cobb Highway	
3.3.6 Traffic management	Investigate and review the usage of signage on all Council owned and controlled land	Four traffic management meeting conducted per annum to review traffic issues
3.4.1 Maintain airports	Conduct weekly inspection and maintenance program to Airports	Maintenance programs completed in accordance with CASA standards
	Continue to liaise with RFDS and RFS	
	Seek funding to upgrade airports	
3.4.2 Council and community assets are maintained and managed responsibly	Review and maintain an Asset Register	Asset maintenance program developed and operational (see Asset Maintenance Program)
3.4.2 Council and community assets are maintained and managed responsibly	Develop Asset Maintenance Plans	Asset maintenance program developed and operational (see Asset Maintenance Program)
	Manage and maintain Council depot facilities	
	Provide and maintain Council's fleet within budgetary allowances	Community survey
	Provide maintenance to all Shire buildings	
	Maintain Ivanhoe Saleyards in working order	
	Manage all Council owned and operated halls and support hall committees	
	Maintenance of footpaths on a priority basis within a budget	
	Maintain parks, gardens and sporting grounds to an acceptable standard	
3.4.2 Council and community assets are maintained and managed responsibly	Issue temporary licences for Crown Land as required	Community survey



	Issue leases for Crown Land as required	
	Maintenance of Wilcannia sewerage system	Community survey
	Maintenance of sewage system for Aboriginal estates	
	Upgrade to Wilcannia sewerage infrastructure	
	Routine inspections of septic tanks	
	Investigate sewer/septic complaints	
3.4.3 Ensure that public ablution facilities are maintained to a standard acceptable to the wider community and visitors	Cleaning of public toilet facilities	Prompt response to complaints about cleanliness
3.4.4 Maintain cemeteries	Implement expansion of the Wilcannia Cemetery	Support current committee structure
	Maintain and update cemetery records as information becomes available	
3.4.5 Playgrounds are provided and maintained to meet community needs	Plan for new playgrounds and the upgrade of existing playgrounds in consultation with the community	Secure funding for upgrades to playgrounds
	Develop a maintenance schedule for all playgrounds within the Shire	
	Research and apply for funding for playground renewal	
3.5.1 Provide appropriate town planning policies and services	Management of all planning, development and building regulatory functions in accordance with legislative and LEP requirements	Develop applications, inspections and certifications undertaken within legislative timeframes
4.1.1 Effective communication and consultation with our community	Liaise with Indigenous representatives to identify service needs and assist in planning for improved service delivery	Attend meetings as required
	Provide support services to Council	Councillors attend Civic Leadership bi-annually



		Produce quarterly newsletter
	Foster and co-ordinate an extensive network of partnerships in delivering services to the community.	
	Encourage community members to take an interest in community leadership	
4.2.1 Effective community service provision in the Shire through a strategic and collaborative approach	Manage corporate finance functions	Information uploaded to CDSC website and is regularly updated
	Implement new financial reporting format for Council that is clear, accurate and concise	
	Reduction in outstanding rates and charges through proactive approach to collection and management of overdue debtors	Attend 100% of meetings and report to council
	Manage IT systems and service requirements	
4.2.1 Effective community service provision in the Shire through a strategic and collaborative approach	Investigate a new electronic document management system	
	Implementation of new asset management system	
	Investigation of managed services environment	
	Provide customer services in accordance with Council policies and procedures	Customer survey
	Investigation of customer request management system	
	Relocation of archived records to appropriately secured facilities	



4.2.1 Effective community service provision in the Shire through a strategic and collaborative approach	Update and implement a Risk Management plan	
	Review and implement Work Health and Safety policies and procedures	
	Management of Council's finances in accordance with accepted local government financial sustainability principles and adopted Council strategies	
4.3.1 Leadership and community involvement	Review integrated plans in compliance with NSW Local Government Legislation	Customer surveys
	Continue to engage the community through representation at Community Working Party meetings	Attend meetings
4.4.1 Education	Liaise with school communities on Education and Community Issues	Attend a minimum of 4 meetings per annum

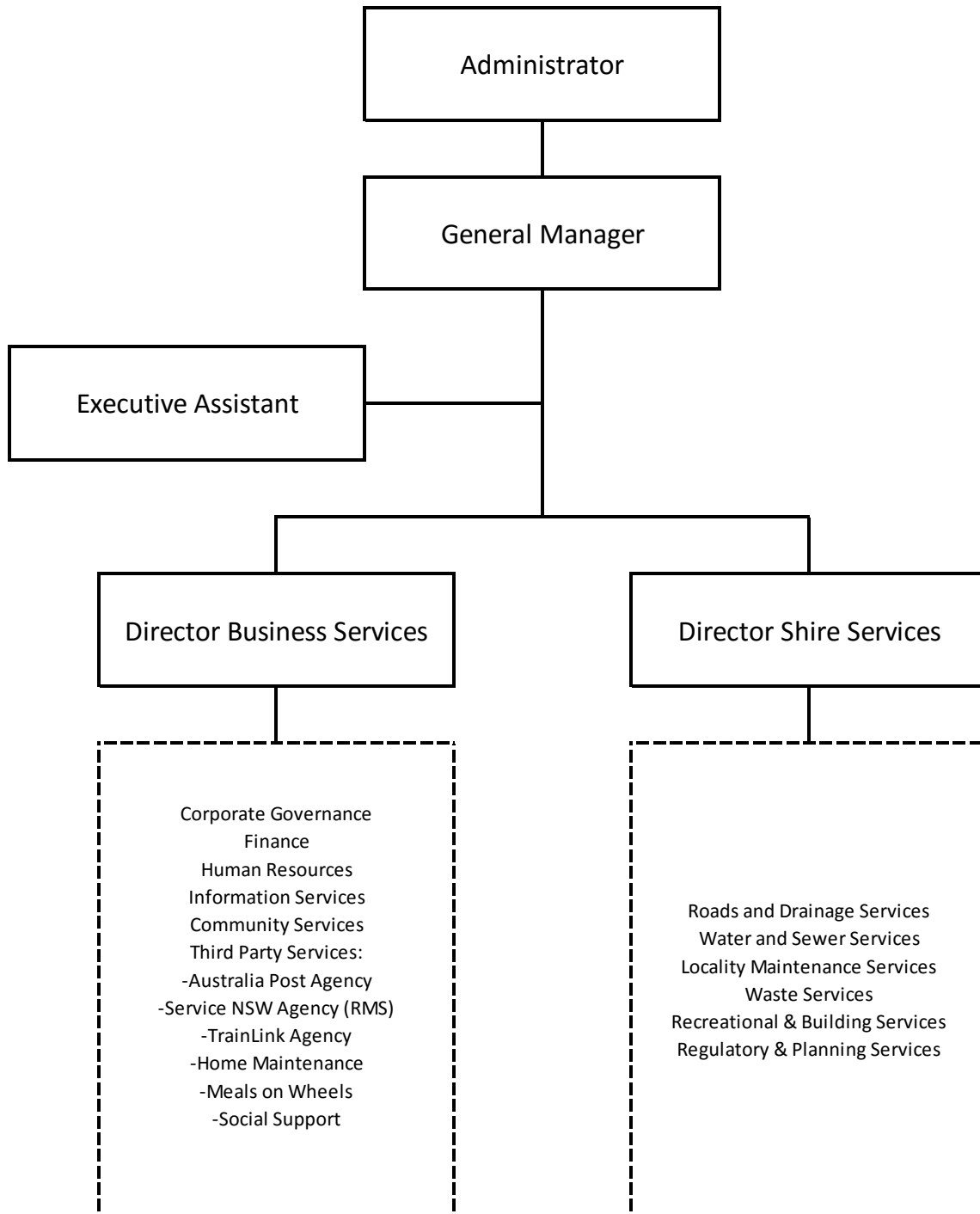
Human Resources

As part of Council's requirements under the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, Council has prepared a Workforce Management Plan in order to develop the staffing and human resourcing needs to ensure effective and efficient delivery of services.

Currently the recruitment and selection process is managed by the General Manager. Formal staff training exercise relating to Work Health & Safety was undertaken by key staff this financial year. Individual staff members undertook various training courses specific to their needs as required.

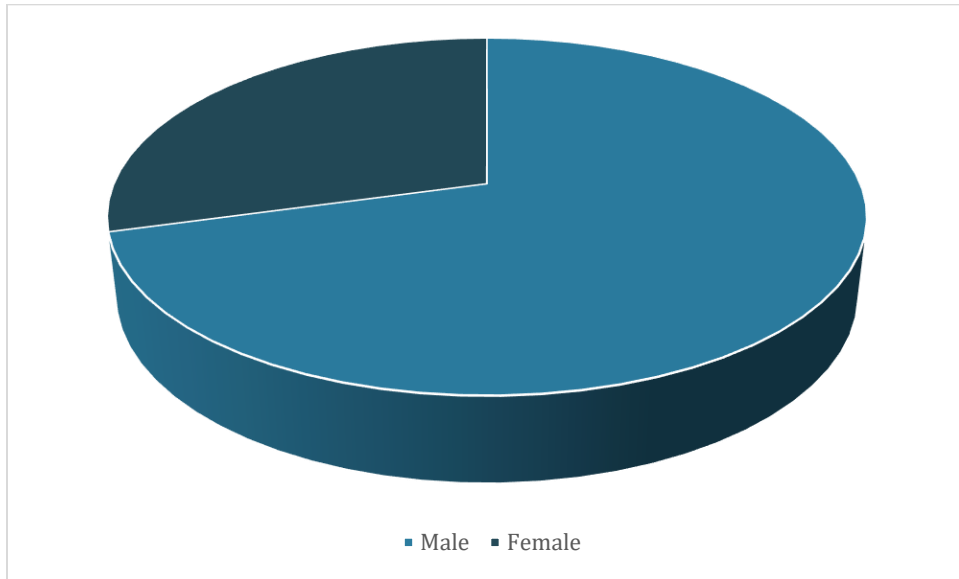


Organisational Structure

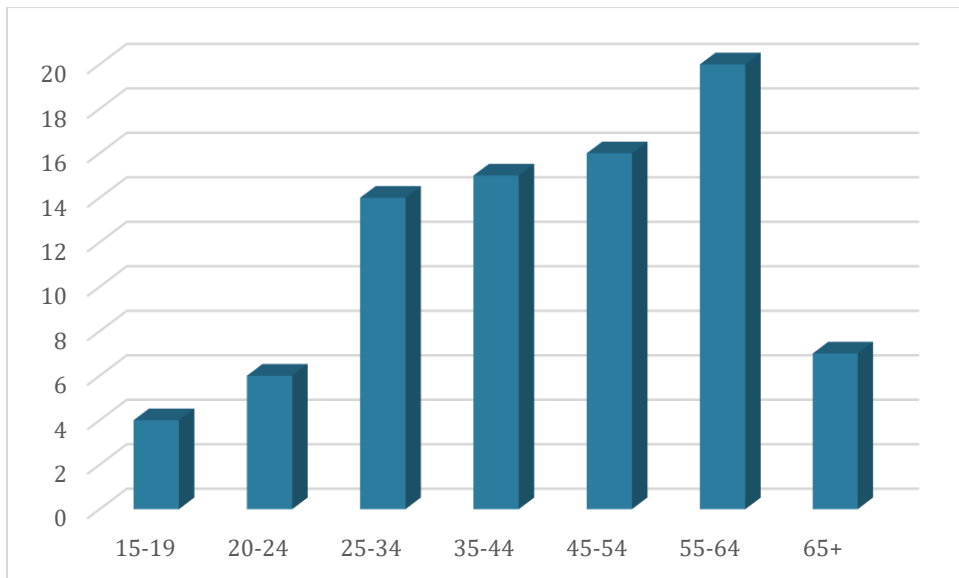




Gender Balance for 2016/17

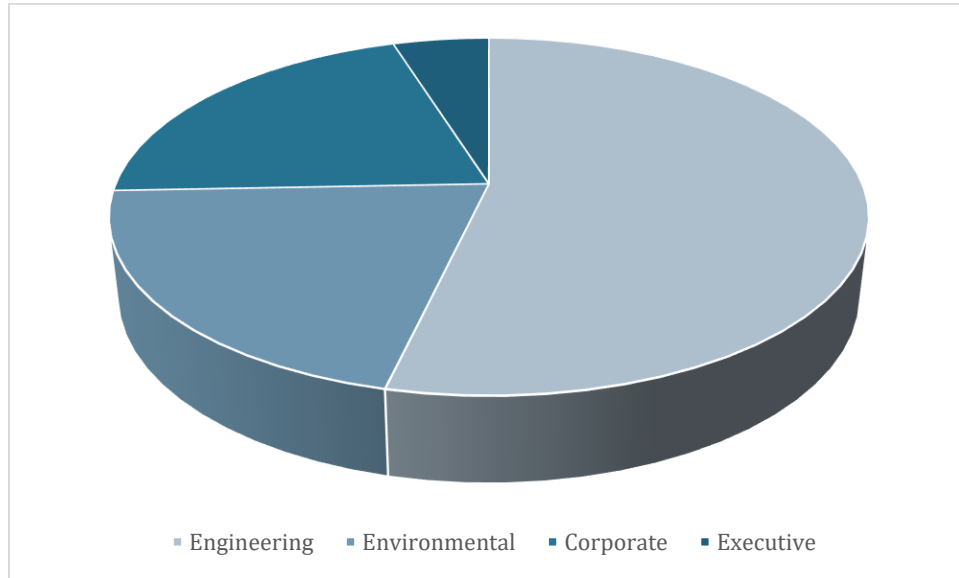


Age of Workforce 2016/17





Breakdown of employees by department 2016/17



Training and Professional Development

Council values its existing staff and offers training for the professional development of employees. During the reporting period Council staff also attended a number of training courses as listed:

Training & Professional Development	
Venomous Animal Awareness	Surf Lifesaving Bronze Medallion Training
Water Treatment Operation	Dangerous Goods
Traffic Control Planning	Plant Operations, LB, LL, LE, LF
Chemical Dosing Systems Training	Gas Chlorine
Asset Edge (Reflect)	Ongoing Toolbox Talks
ChemCert Training	CivilCAD
Chainsaw	Senior First Aid
HP Records Manager	Microsoft SharePoint

Equal Employment Opportunity

Council’s EEO Management Plan covers all aspects required under legislation. This includes plans for redeployment, retraining, retrenchment and redundancy. Council has ensured that the EEO Management Plan has been adhered too; however, no specific activities have been undertaken in relation to this plan.

Corporate Governance	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
Ensure pecuniary interest returns are completed	Completed and presented to Council
Complete and present Annual Financial Report	Completed and presented to OLG



Complete and present Annual Management Plan	Completed and adopted by Council
Complete and present Annual Report	Completed and presented to OLG

Legal Proceedings	
30 June 2017	Summary of Legal Proceedings
Total Expenditure	\$5,702

Administrator Fees	
Fee	Amount
Administrator	\$117,220

The Administrator, Council Staff or any other persons representing Council partook in any overseas visits.

Administrator Facilities & Expenses		
(i)	Provision of dedicated office equipment allocated to the Administrator	\$489
(ii)	Attendance at conferences & seminars	Nil
(iii)	Training & provision of Skill development	Nil
(iv)	Interstate visits	Nil
(v)	Expenses of any spouse or partner	Nil

A copy of Council's S252 policy, Provision of Facilities for use by Councillors and the Payment of Councillors' Expenses can be seen at Appendix A.

Remuneration of the General Manager

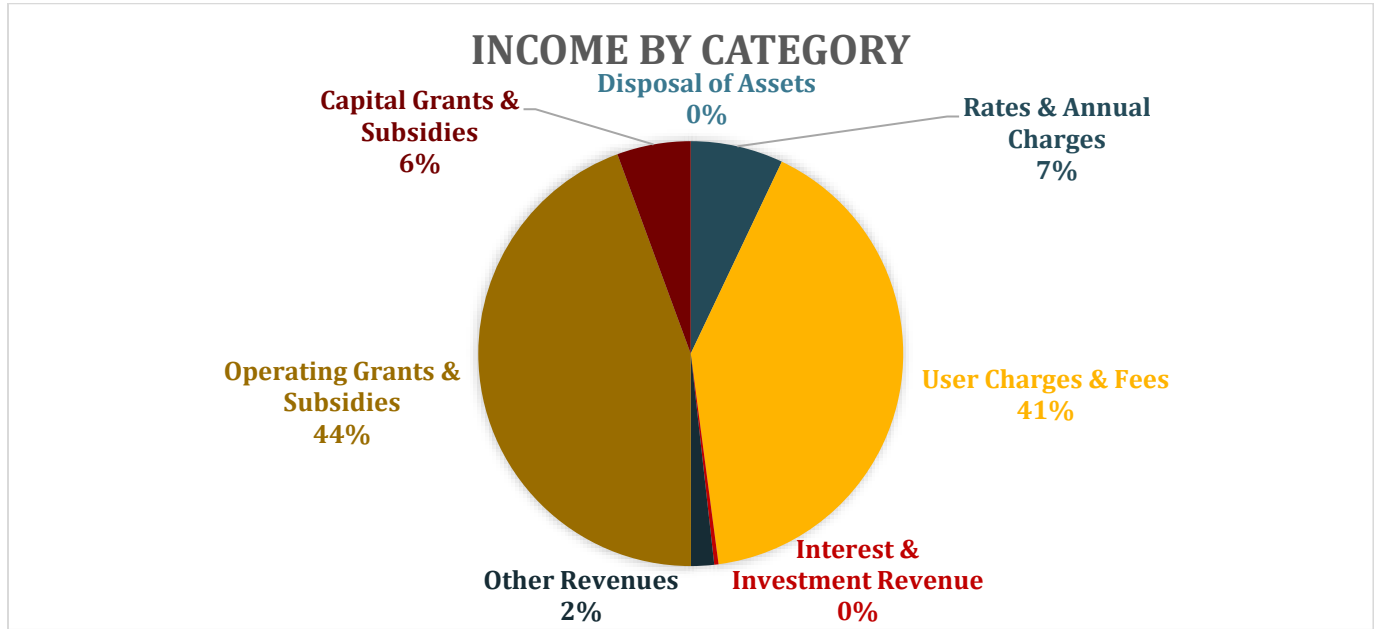
Remuneration of the Acting and Interim General Managers	
General Manager	\$154,591
Provision of Housing, Superannuation and Vehicle for the General Manager	\$43,757



Business Services

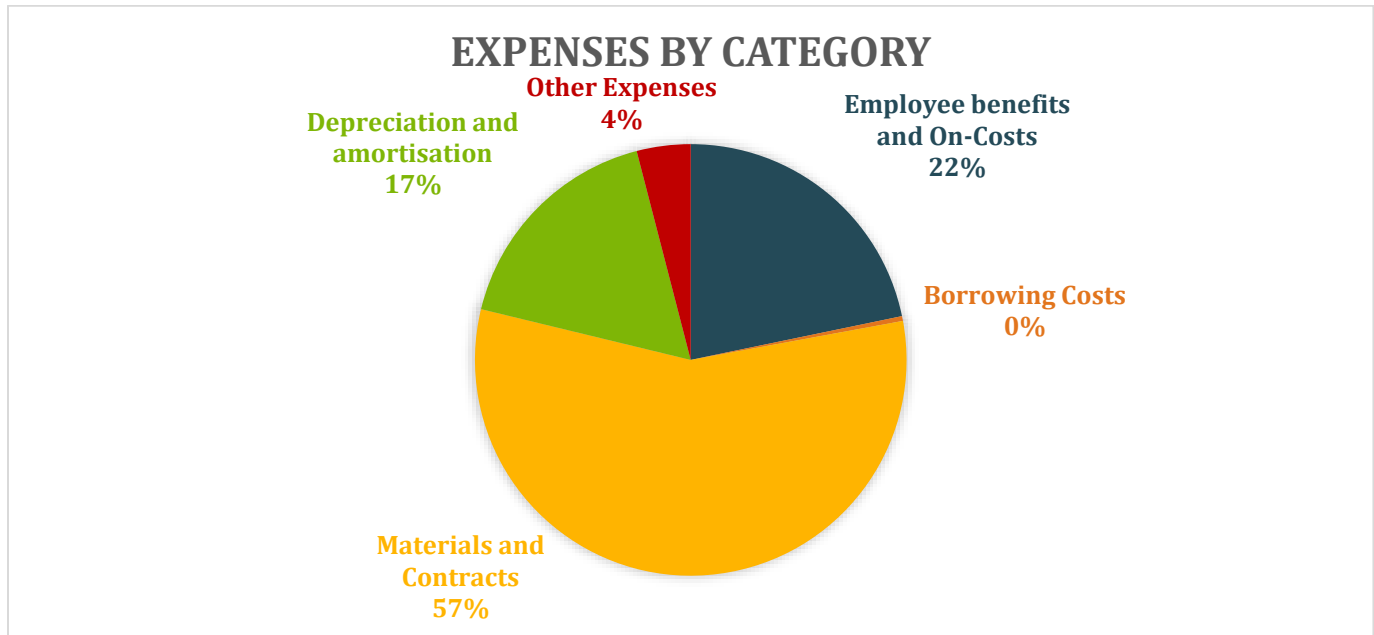
Income by Category

\$26,631,000



Expenses by Category

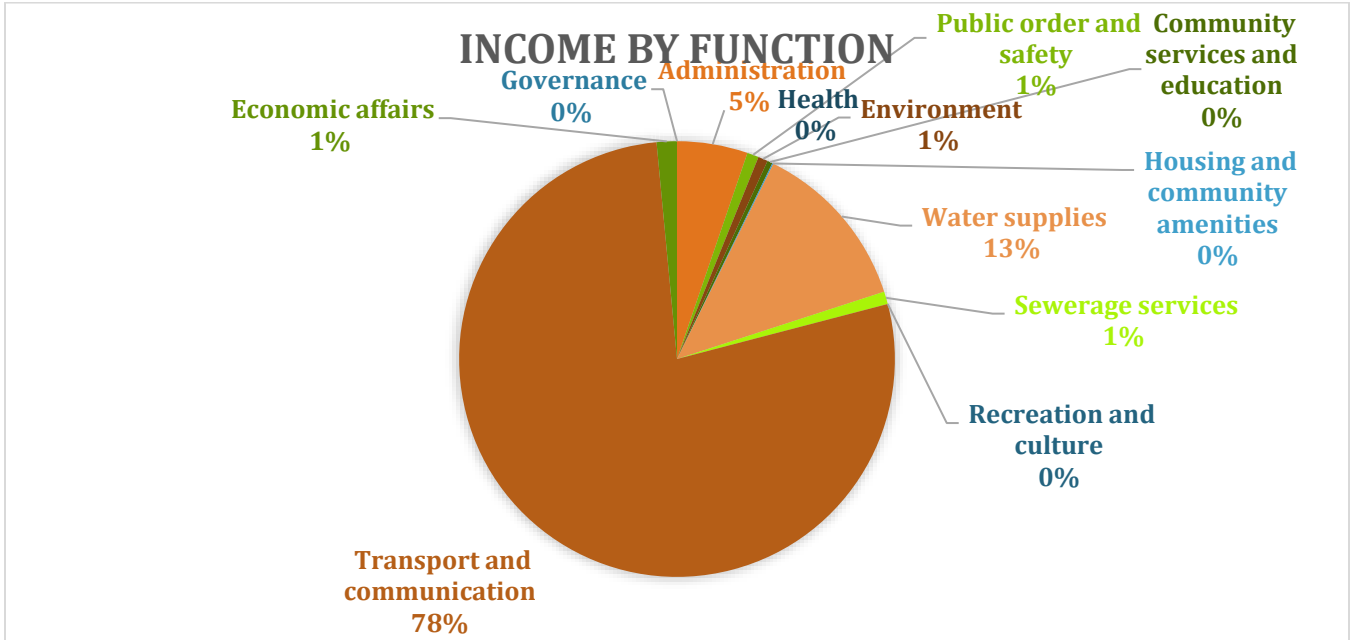
\$20,578,000





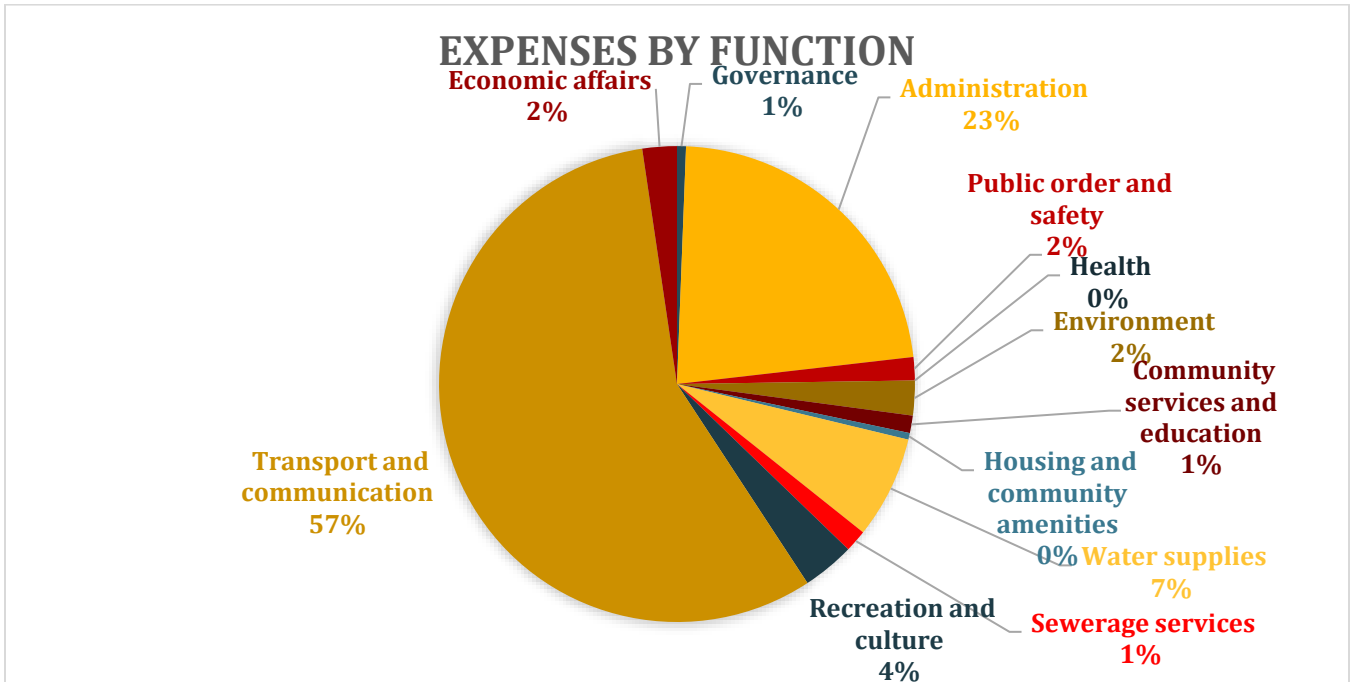
Income by Function

\$18,272,000



Expenses by Function

\$20,578,000





Business Services

Corporate Services	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
Complete Grants Commission return	Completed
Complete FBT Returns	Completed
Complete all GST Returns	Completed
Complete Pensioner Concession Claims	Completed
Submit salary details for workers compensation	Completed
Submit details for annual insurance assessment	Completed and submitted to Jardine Lloyd Thompson
Maintain solid relations with local media	Press releases, public notices, information and newsletters distributed as and when required to all local media authorised by the Administrator or General Manager
Meeting of targets within Management Plan	All targets met as required
Levy Rates	Rates levied quarterly
Levy water accounts	Water accounts levied quarterly
Levy sundry debtor accounts	Accounts levied monthly

Copy of Council's Audited Financial Reports

See Appendix B: Audited Financial Statements 2016/17

Rates & Charges written off during the 2016/17 period

Rates & Charges written off during the period	
Interest	\$1,445
Amalgamations	Nil
Property or Licence cancellations	Nil
Levied in error	\$19,608
Hardship	Nil
Total	\$21,053



Central Darling Shire Council Awarded Contracts 2016/17

- White Cliffs Aerodrome Fencing Contract, labour only, M. Edwards \$32,000 GST Exc
- Porters Crossing Reinforced Concrete Box Culverts, J&E Sammon \$395,072 GST Exc
- 10 number work packages for preconstruction works - Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs Water Supplies, NSW Department of Public Works \$682,419 GST Exc

PPIP Act S33 Privacy & Personal Information Protection Act 1998

In accordance with Section 33 of the Privacy and Personal Information & Protection Act 1998, Council must include in its annual report a statement of the action taken in complying with the requirements of the Act.

Council has adopted the Model Privacy Management Plan and its Public Officer is available for contact on privacy matters. Council will review the Plan as more experience is gained from its implementation.

Government Information (Public Access) 2009 (GIPA) Act

Council received no applications under the Government Information (Public Access) 2009 (GIPA) Act. There was no contravention by Council of an information protection principle or of a privacy code of practice, or disclosure of personal information kept in a public register under Part 5 Section 33. There were no Freedom of Information activities outstanding from the 2016/17 financial year.

Details of programs to promote services and access for people with diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds consistent with principles of multiculturalism.

At the 2011 Census, Central Darling Shire's population totalled 2,108 with 38% of the population being from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage. This is a significant number compared to the 6.8% of residents who are from a non-English speaking background. Due to this low number it is neither practical nor economically viable for Council to place a strong emphasis on the non-English speaking community.

Throughout the Council towns there are a number of State and Federal Government funded services who provide for the Indigenous population and Council has over the 2016/17 reporting year has received funding to auspice the services of the, Meals on Wheels and Home Care.



Statement of external bodies that exercised functions delegated by Council	Council has 12 s355 Committees that exercise functions of Council
Statement of external bodies that exercised functions delegated by Council	Council has 11 s355 Committees that exercise functions of Council in the towns of Darnick, Ivanhoe, Menindee, White Cliffs and Wilcannia.
Statement of all companies in which Council held a controlling interest	Nil
Statement of partnerships, co-operatives and other joint ventures	Council has a number of partnerships with varying groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryde City Council • NetWaste • Regional Development Australia • Western Division Councils of NSW • Roads and Maritime Services • TrainLink • Australia Post • Service NSW • Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance
Details of activities to develop and promote services and programs that provide for the needs of children	During early 2017, Council undertook consultation with the community before adopting it's revised Community Strategic Plan. These proposed outcomes and capital works will be reported on during 2017/18. Council currently includes some funding to provide financial assistance to youth.
Report on the Council's performance in relation to access and equity activities to meet residents' needs outlined in Council's Management Plan	During early 2017, Council undertook consultation with the community before adopting it's inaugural Disability Inclusion Action Plan. These proposed outcomes will be reported on during 2017/18.
Requirement	Assessment
Statement of external bodies that exercised functions delegated by Council	Council has 12 s355 Committees that exercise functions of Council
Statement of all companies in which Council held a controlling interest	Nil



Details of activities to develop and promote services and programs that provide for the needs of children	Whilst Council support all local Schools and Youth Groups, the Council's Social Plan expired in 2009. The needs of activities and services for the youth of the Shire will be identified as part of the Community Strategic Planning Process.
Report on the Council's performance in relation to access and equity activities to meet residents' needs outlined in Council's Management Plan	Principal Activity achievements listed throughout report.

Special Variation Expenditure

Council has no special variation.

Financial Assistance Grants

Organisation Name/Details	Description/Purpose of Grant	Amount
Queen's Head Gallery	Assist with costs associated with Opening Exhibition	\$1000
Wilcannia Community Tourism Association	Assist with printing of brochures and purchase of seating for Field Day	\$1000
Menindee Regional Tourism	Assist with printing of Brochures	\$2427.80
Tourism Association White Cliffs	Assist with printing of Brochures	\$2500
TOTAL		\$6927.80

Heritage

Council is actively involved in preservation of heritage items and assisting owners of local heritage items to retain and conserve buildings and items of heritage significance on a regular basis. Council has a Heritage Strategy that includes the provision of a Heritage Advisory Service and a Local Heritage Fund. Council receives funding from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage for these programs.

During 2016/17, Council's Heritage Advisor visited the Shire and met with local residents on a number of occasions at no cost to the residents. An amount of \$22,500 was distributed to residents to assist with restoration works.

The Heritage Strategy continues to be a worthwhile program for delivery across the Shire and has been in progress since 2008. Following public consultation, the Heritage Strategy was rewritten and updated by Council's Heritage Advisor, Liz Vines, and Council gratefully acknowledges the funding assistance for this work by the Officer of Environment and Heritage.



Shire Services

Drinking Water Quality Testing

Health	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
Undertake water samples (microbiology) for potable water supplies	Samples taken weekly/fortnightly
Undertake water samples (microbiology) for swimming pools	Taken monthly during swimming season
Undertake routine chlorine residual readings	Weekly
Undertake blue-green algae sampling along river	As required

Sampling of drinking water quality is carried out within the towns of Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs. The frequency of sampling is different in each town however the sample parameters are the same, with most samples tested for microbiology and chemistry. The below tables demonstrate the sampling pattern, the number of samples collected and the number of non-compliant results identified.

Town	Frequency	No of Sites Sampled	Samples Collected
Wilcannia	Weekly	10	- Microbiology - Chemistry – biannually
Ivanhoe	Fortnightly	11	- Microbiology - Chemistry – biannually
White Cliffs	Fortnightly	7	- Microbiology - Chemistry – biannually
Wilcannia Aboriginal Water and Sewage Program including Mallee and Warrali precincts	Monthly	2	- Microbiology- Ongoing - Chemistry -Finished - Disinfection-by-products- Finished - Pesticide-Finished



No of Samples Collected	Microbiology	Chemistry
Wilcannia	69	3
Ivanhoe	29	1
White Cliffs	30	2
<u>No of Non-Compliant Results</u>	<u>Microbiology</u>	<u>Chemistry</u>
Wilcannia	0	0
Ivanhoe	0	0
White Cliffs	0	0

Food Inspections

Health	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
To provide level of services as per Category B	Ongoing task
To implement food premises inspections to Category B level	Completed in 4 th Quarter
To investigate complaints to Category B level	Ongoing task

Central Darling Shire Council is classified as Category B under the Food Regulation Partnership as per agreements with NSW Food Authority. Under this arrangement food premises are inspected annually.

The following table demonstrates Council food premises activities over the past 12 months. During the reporting period one business required a second inspection and was found to be satisfactory. On re-inspection it complied with the Food Act 2003 and Food Regulation 2010.

No of inspections undertaken	No of food outlets	No of non-compliance	No of food business requiring re-inspection
21	21	0	0



Public Order & Safety

Companion Animals

Health	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
To implement companion animal control measures	Ongoing task
To encourage registrations and micro chipping	Ongoing task
To assist with de-sexing clinics and education programs as required	RSPCA de-sexing clinic

Animal Control in Central Darling is an ongoing issue. Constant monitoring and control measures are needed to deal with roaming and straying animals including both dogs and cats.

Other activities Council has undertaken to assist animal control within the Shire include provision of dog and cat traps to local residents (on a loan basis) to capture roaming animals, assist residents to surrender animals and rehome/remove as required, tend to injured animals and seek veterinary care as required through RSPCA in Broken Hill. Information items have been provided to educate local residents on animal control matters per the local newspaper and on rates notices.

Council has lodged relevant returns to the Department of Local Government as required being pound data collection returns and dog attack data. The amount of funding spent relating to companion animal management and activities was \$99,914. At this stage it has not be deemed necessary to allocate specific off leash areas within any Shire towns.



Animal Control Statistics for 2016/17								
Month	Seized & Impounded	Returned to owner	Surrendered	Dumped	Euthanised	Stolen	Re-homed	In Pound at end of month
July 2014	10	2	8	0	0	0	8	0
Aug 2014	10	2	2	0	0	0	2	0
Sept 2014	8	2	4	0	2	0	4	0
Oct 2014	16	2	12	0	2	0	12	0
Nov 2014	12	2	9	0	1	0	9	0
Dec 2014	19	3	16	0	2	0	16	0
Jan 2015	6	1	6	0	0	0	6	0
Feb 2015	8	1	0	0	5	0	0	0
Mar 2015	9	2	7	0	7	0	0	0
April 2015	14	2	9	0	3	0	9	0
May 2015	8	2	3	0	3	0	3	0
June 2015	10	0	0	0	2	0	3	0
Total	130	21	76	0	27	0	72	0



Bushfire Hazard Reduction

Hazard Reduction Programs

The Central Darling Bush Fire Management Committee has a significant role to play in the development of hazard reduction activities and funding priorities and holds regular meetings to discuss any issues or concerns.

Hazard reduction work carried out in the Central Darling Shire over the past year included mechanical works, such as grading and slashing, as well as a number of prescribed burns. The priority for works will be around villages and towns.

Hazard Reduction Works

NSW Rural Fire Service – Far West Team (Incorporating Central Darling District)

- Asset protection zones maintained around all townships and villages, including Wilcannia, Ivanhoe, Tilpa, White Cliffs, Menindee, as well as small communities such as Sunset Strip and Copi Hollow.
- Asset protection zones implemented around the 2 Wilcannia discrete Aboriginal communities.
- Fire trail maintenance works within the Mallee Bush Fire Prevention Scheme area and other registered fire trails.

A total of \$214,673 of external hazard reduction funds were sought and allocated through the Government funding process.

Other hazard reduction works totaled \$26,072

Central Darling Shire Council

- Roadside slashing.
- Maintained asset protection zone around Central Darling Waste depots.
- Fire Breaks

National Parks

- Reserve fire trail maintenance.
- Strip burning along strategic fire trails.

Fire Safety Awareness

Community awareness activities are carried out as part of the NSW Rural Fire Service community education program; this is updated annually with community events, media activities and other activities carried out in accordance with Service protocols. Some examples include:

- School & Community groups visits
- Brigade open day activities.



Properties & Community Amenities

Properties

Environmental	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
Issue temporary licences for Crown Land as required	2 temporary licences issued in reporting period
Submit financial statements for Crown Land as required	Financial statements submitted
Support National Tree Day through tree allocations to local communities	Tree Day held in all Shire communities
Maintain all public parks, sporting facilities and public toilets to an acceptable community standard	All amenities maintained as per budgetary allocations
Manage Local Heritage Funding Program pending funding support from NSW Heritage Office	Continuing program with 5 projects funded in reporting period

Crown Land – Council is Trust Manager of a large portfolio of Crown Land within the Central Darling LGA. This land has been gazetted for many differing purposes of use. At this stage, Council is responsible for 52 Crown land parcels scattered across all towns, villages and localities.

Crown Land Properties Managed by Council in 2012/13 – facility and purpose of use			
<u>Reserve/Facility</u>	<u>Reserve Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Purpose of use</u>
Bourke & Wills Park	28962	Menindee	Oval, swimming pool
Burke Park	630012	Wilcannia	Showground
Crick Park	82520	Menindee	Public Recreation
Darnick Community Reserve	230084	Darnick	Community Purposes
Emmdale Emergency Reserve	1001363	Emmdale	Airstrip
Ivanhoe Aerodrome	85153	Ivanhoe	Aviation
Ivanhoe Bushfire Brigade	83244	Ivanhoe	Bushfire Brigade
Ivanhoe Recreation Grounds	83596	Ivanhoe	Recreation
Ivanhoe Regeneration Reserve	85989	Ivanhoe	Regeneration
Ivanhoe Rubbish Depot	84487	Ivanhoe	Rubbish Depot
Ivanhoe Water Supply	78333	Ivanhoe	Water Supply
Lake Menindee Plantation Res.	86859	Sunset Strip	Plantation, tourism purposes
Menindee Aerodrome	230056	Menindee	Aviation
Menindee Common Reserve	64609	Menindee	Camping, access
Menindee Common Reserve	64899	Menindee	Addition – commonage
Menindee Common Reserve	71522	Menindee	Common
Menindee Fire Brigade	78117	Menindee	Fire Station
Menindee Racecourse	84041	Menindee	Racecourse



Menindee Regeneration Res.	88474	Menindee	Regeneration
Tilpa Reserve	1004528	Tilpa	Cemetery
Menindee Reserve	13524	Menindee	Works Depot
Wilcannia Reserve	19334	Wilcannia	Common
White Cliffs Reserve	24554	White Cliffs	Cemetery
Menindee Reserve	28978	Menindee	Cemetery
White Cliffs Reserve	38958	White Cliffs	Not Known
Ivanhoe Reserve	3966	Ivanhoe	Plantation & Cemetery
Ivanhoe Reserve	3967	Ivanhoe	Not Known
Menindee Reserve	87753	Menindee	Rubbish Depot
Ivanhoe Reserve	87826	Ivanhoe	Trucking & stock yards
Tilpa Reserve	88701	Tilpa	Public Recreation
White Cliffs Reserve	91119	White Cliffs	Rubbish Depot
Menindee Rubbish Depot	90833	Menindee	Rubbish Depot
White Cliffs Rubbish Depot	97755	White Cliffs	Rubbish Depot
Wilcannia Rubbish Depot	90899	Wilcannia	Rubbish Depot
Sturt Park Reserve	630016	Wilcannia	Recreation
Sunset Strip Bushfire Brigade	230091	Sunset Strip	Bushfire Brigade purposes
Sunset Strip Rubbish Depot	97736	Sunset Strip	Rubbish Depot
Tilpa Airport	96846	Tilpa	Aviation
Trida Public Hall	85640	Trida	Public Hall
Victory Park Caravan Park	1004988	Wilcannia	Recreation
White Cliffs Aerodrome	86808	White Cliffs	Aviation purposes
White Cliffs Gymkhana Res	30642	White Cliffs	Racecourse
White Cliffs Regeneration Res	89857	White Cliffs	Regeneration
White Cliffs Water Supply	97857	White Cliffs	Water Supply
Wilcannia Common Reserve	77322	Wilcannia	Commonage
Wilcannia Effluent Ponds	91299	Wilcannia	Sanitary Purpose
Wilcannia Golf Course	87463	Wilcannia	Golf Course
Wilcannia Public Recreation Res	85567	Wilcannia	Recreation
Wilcannia Regeneration Res	87409	Wilcannia	Regeneration
Wilcannia Septic Tank Pumpout	90900	Wilcannia	Sanitary Depot
Wilcannia Urban Services	230082	Wilcannia	Fire Brigade
William Murray Memorial Park		Menindee	Recreation

Public Buildings/Council Owned or Managed Facilities – Council owns many buildings across the Shire primarily related directly to its operations and staff accommodation. There are 211 buildings and structures in total. These buildings consist of houses, flats, work depots, administration buildings, Rural Transaction Centres, Community Halls, bushfire sheds and buildings, SES buildings, public toilets, sporting ovals, swimming pool amenities, roadside shelters, animal pounds, filtration plants and various other sheds.



Council Owned or Managed Facilities		
<u>Facility Type</u>	<u>Number of Buildings</u>	<u>Locations</u>
Staff Houses and flats	15	Wilcannia
Community Housing	6	Menindee
Community Halls	7	Darnick, Wilcannia, Ivanhoe, Menindee, White Cliffs, Sunset Strip, Tilpa
ATCO's	3	Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe
SES Sheds	4	Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe, White Cliffs
Bushfire Brigade	6	Wilcannia, Ivanhoe, Menindee, White Cliffs, Sunset Strip, Tilpa
Rural Transaction Centres	1	Menindee
Multiservice Outlets	1	Ivanhoe
Administration Buildings	1	Wilcannia (Council Chambers – heritage listed)
Customer Service Centre	1	Wilcannia
Works Depots	4	Menindee, Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs
Athanaeum	1	Wilcannia
Heritage Buildings/Sites	2	Wilcannia (Post Office, Knox & Downs)
Caravan Parks	2	Wilcannia and White Cliffs
Public Toilets	6	Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe
Ovals, sports grounds	4	Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe, Tilpa
Swimming Pools	4	Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs
Cemeteries	5	White Cliffs, Tilpa, Menindee, Ivanhoe & Wilcannia
Water Filtration Plants	3	Wilcannia, White Cliffs & Ivanhoe
Waste Depots	7	White Cliffs, Tilpa, Ivanhoe, Wilcannia, Menindee, Sunset Strip & Copi Hollow

The above list is not exhaustive and does not include smaller buildings attached or associated with these main facilities. Three of the above listed items notably the Old Wilcannia Post Office, the Wilcannia Council Chambers and the Knox & Downs building are heritage listed sites within Wilcannia.

The Old Wilcannia Post Office building has had some renovations undertaken to the exterior of the building and inside the main front room, however still requires extensive works to the residential section and to the yard. Funding to continue the works is required and to date Council has not been successful in obtaining additional funding. The building is currently being utilised for Post Office purposes as intended.

Caravan Parks

Victory Park Caravan Park, Wilcannia



Situated on the banks of the Darling River at Wilcannia is Victory Park Caravan Park, set amongst majestic gum trees. During the reporting period this caravan park is currently being managed by Council.

Opal Pioneers Caravan Park, White Cliffs



Situated in the opal mining town of White Cliffs is Central Darling Shire Council's Opal Pioneer Caravan Park. The park has had upgrades to its power system and a dump point has been installed due to the increase in tourism numbers. The park has modern amenities. Rainwater tanks have also been installed at various locations within the grounds. This park is managed by a S355 Committee of Council being the White Cliffs Community Association.

Heritage

Council is actively involved in preservation of heritage items and assisting owners of local heritage items to retain and conserve buildings and items of heritage significance on a regular basis. Council has a Heritage Strategy that includes the provision of a Heritage Advisory Service and a Local Heritage Fund. Council receives funding from the NSW Heritage Office for these programs. The Heritage Strategy was revised during early 2017 and is currently out for public consultation.

During 2016/17, Council's Heritage Advisor, Liz vines, visited the Shire and met with interested local residents on a number of occasions at no cost to the residents.

Swimming Pools

Council owns, manages and operates 4 public swimming pool facilities across the Shire. These facilities are located in Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs. Within each facility are a large pool and a small toddlers wading pool, apart from White Cliffs which only has one large pool operational. Council's public swimming pools are relatively aged, and require ongoing works to keep operational. White Cliffs has the newest pool being constructed in late 2012. Council employs Casual Pool Lifeguards each year to supervise its swimming pools. These employees are trained in First Aid, Bronze Medallion and Royal Lifeguard License. Extensive works have been undertaken to manage risks at our pools in the areas of signage and supervisory activities.

Council is mindful of the extensive summer heat, and has installed large shade sails over its pools in all locations. The amenities are all in average condition including Ivanhoe which received extensive works to bring the facility up to basic standard.

The pools are open from mid- November to March/April each year. The hours of operation are limited to 3.30pm to 6pm on school days, and 3pm to 7pm on weekends and school holidays.

Tree Day

Council holds a tree day every year in conjunction with National Tree Day. Council has been participating in this event since 1993 and purchases trees (as seedlings) to give away to our ratepayers and community members. Trees are free on a first in basis, with two free trees being given to each resident that attends the distribution point in each town/locality. This program is held in Wilcannia, White Cliffs, Menindee, Ivanhoe, Sunset Strip and Tilpa. Schools from all towns also participate and are given free trees to plant on School Tree Day, generally held at the same time as National Tree Day.



Council staff, Ryan Block and Tamara Kessell prepare for Tree Day



Town Planning

Development Applications

Council receives a number of Development Applications (DAs) each year for a wide range of development varying from residential to commercial work. Council receives in the vicinity of 20-30 DAs per year, in the 2013/2014 reporting period Council has received 25 DAs. The table below provides a breakdown on the types of DAs received, and the total value of these three main categories of development. Development in the Central Darling LGA is mainly in the townships of Wilcannia and Menindee; however development in the other towns and in rural settings has occurred as well. Most DAs lodged with Council are for smaller residential developments, however at least a couple of times a year Council receive applications for larger developments. Council supports Complying Development Certificates when possible. Over the reporting period 0 Complying Development Certificate applications were lodged with Council for development in Wilcannia. As part of the DA process Council has also issued 11 Construction Certificates and 4 Occupation Certificates.

DA Categories and Values for 2016/17 reporting period		
Development Category	Number of DAs related to this Category	Total Value of Category
Residential	8	\$1430,148
Commercial	13	\$21,739,193
Rural	2	\$177,000
Signs	2	\$1,500
Total	25	\$23,347,841

Information about planning agreements

Central Darling Shire Council has not entered into any planning agreements for the reporting period.

Section 67 – Work carried out on Private Land

Central Darling Shire council has had no Section 67 works completed for the reporting period.

Environment

Climate Change

Over recent years increased focus is being placed on climate change and what this means for the local environment and local communities. To date, Council has had minimal input into climate change and the possible effects on the local area and the operations of Council, due to lack of funding & resources.

Domestic Waste Management

Waste Management

S428(2)(b) Asset Management	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
Continue to improve Menindee & Wilcannia Waste Depots	In progress



Implement improvements to Ivanhoe Waste Depot	In progress
Source contracts through NetWaste for sale of recyclables	Contracts updated.

Council manages and operates 7 waste depots across the Shire. Each waste depot consists of a landfill, with Wilcannia, Menindee and Ivanhoe also having broader recycling streams. Council's waste depots are located in Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe, Sunset Strip, White Cliffs and Tilpa. Council's Landfills are unmanned and open 24hrs. The larger recycling streams provide for separation of large wastes, such as scrap metal, tyres, green waste, timber products, and concrete products. It is often difficult to keep these lines defined, as many dumpers do not segregate their wastes, and often the wrong materials end up in the wrong areas. This is an ongoing challenge for Council.

Future recycling opportunities are very difficult to secure due to distance and freight costs. The option to further refine recycling lines into glass, plastic, cans and other streams is not currently viable.

Council provides kerbside collection services to the towns of Wilcannia, Menindee and Ivanhoe. Collection is via 240L wheelie bins and garbage trucks and is provided to 795 residential and commercial properties.

Community Services

Community Services	
Performance Required	Assessment
Ensure the Ivanhoe Multi Service Outlet is operating to funding guidelines	Ongoing
Ensure the Menindee Transaction Centre is maintained to community expectations	Ongoing
Continue to support the Community Working Parties of the Shire in achieving their action plans	Ongoing
Assist community groups to stage regular and ongoing events	Assistance given on an as need basis

Ivanhoe Multi Service outlet

The Ivanhoe Multi-Service Outlet (MSO), run by the Central Darling Shire Council, is a one stop shop for residents who need to access a variety of agencies like Home and Community Care (HACC), Centrelink Access Point, community transport, social support, Meals on Wheels, yard maintenance, local library & CDSC business.

It also acts as an information centre for locals and tourists seeking advice on road conditions, local native flora and fauna, maps and history of the area.

Australia Day Awards

The Australia Day Awards in Ivanhoe was hosted by the MSO on behalf of the CDSC.

Congratulations to Ivanhoe local, Joshua Robertson, who was honoured with this year's Australian Citizen of the year Award.



MSO presents Ivanhoe Australia Day awards on behalf of CDSC and Held a fun day with an Australia Day Cake for the Community and a BBQ lunch and fun and games for the day.

CDSC Business

Council Public notices and general information are displayed at the MSO to ensure the Ivanhoe community keeps informed about Council business.

Residents can pay their rates or water bills direct here or on payment plans.

Any Council enquires can be made at the MSO during business hours on week days.

Centrelink Access Point

The Centrelink Access Point provides direct online & telephone services for Centrelink clients. Our staff provide support to those needing extra assistance.

Social Support

Social Support is allocated to MSO clients for medical or shopping trips and social outings to Broken Hill, Griffith and Hay. This year the staff took the Elderly on a day trip to Yanga National Park in Balranald.



MSO Clients Social Outing Day - Staff took their clients to the Yanga National Park in Balranald.

The MSO often hosts morning teas to celebrate special occasions like Seniors Week and Christmas, clients are invited to play bingo, cards or sing along to songs and have a good laugh.

At the end of last year, we hosted a Christmas Luncheon which was well attended by seniors from the community.



The MSO holds an Annual Christmas Party for all MSO Clients.

Seniors Broadband

Computer access is available to our senior clients and the Ivanhoe community. There's also monthly computer sessions for our clients to learn basic computer skills.

HACC Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels are delivered five days a week from Monday to Friday's, including public holidays like Christmas Day and Easter. Kitchen staff can cater to special requests like vegetarian and gluten free. The meals are prepared at the Correctional Service who do a wonderful job. This important service is auspiced by CDSC.

Library

The MSO has a small library service where locals can borrow magazines, books, CD's, DVD's and videos.

Laundry & Dryer Service

The MSO has a washing machine and clothes dryer which is available for community members to use.

Menindee Rural Transaction Centre





Highlights of the Year:

There have been some important upgrades around the Centre throughout this year. Kerb and guttering has been laid along the section of Yartla St in the immediate vicinity of the Centre allowing clients to take advantage of parallel parking if not wanting, or able to park, in the Centre Carpark making for a more user-friendly foot-traffic access. This coincided with the installation of the All-Accessible Toilet and pathway to the Men's Shed which has allowed for a finished feel to the Centre. But as always there are many projects and programs that can be developed for our community so expect more changes as time goes by or let us know if you have any ideas. Technology has been the biggest upgrade to the Centre with new staff computers, EFTPOS access for the payment of Council accounts, and website accessibility.



Please feel free if you are in Menindee to call into the Centre to view the facilities.

Centre Staff:

Margot Muscat – Centre Coordinator – permanent full time - 10years service with Council

Deanna Pinal – Admin Assistant – completed 2 traineeships with Council and is now employed full time (since March 2016). Deanna was a finalist in the 2016 Far West Region Business Awards competing against other young employees in the Training Awards section.

Services available: *denotes fees applicable

Human Services Agent for Centrelink and Medicare - for lodgement of forms, phone contact, and identification needs etc. 9.30am-12.30pm Monday — Friday

Room Hire* - available for meetings or appointments

Hall Hire* - Menindee Civic Hall hire bookings for meetings, functions and courses

All secretarial needs* – word processing, laminating, photocopying, shredding, printing

Contact Centre for many Community Service Organisations in Broken Hill – Legal Centre, CentaCare, Lifeline, St. Vincent de Paull and Salvation Army

Community Library

- Having received two large donations of books this year the library is fast running out of room with books also being held in storage. Residents are welcome to come browse and borrow from the great range we now have. The



Reference/non-fiction section has also had another bookcase added to provide shelving for an increase in this area of the library.

- Due to a busy year for the Pre-school and the RTC there was only one visit



managed for the year. Following on from our story of 'Dino Loves to Play' the children and staff enjoyed a snack of carrots, snow-peas, bread-rolls and sugar cubes, which is the food eaten by Dino, the horse. The visit concluded with a (blindfold) game of feeding Dino peas and carrots!



Youth Week

Centre staff member, Deanna Pinal was elected to the NSW Youth Week Committee for 2017 to represent the Youth of this area in organizing and promoting Youth Week 2017. Deanna was required to meet with fellow committee members in Sydney and via link-up on four occasions. The first meeting was to decide on the theme and promotional materials for Youth Week – Get Involved. Be Heard. Make a Difference.

Meanwhile, back in Menindee on Thursday 13th April 2017, Deanna used tic toc biscuits, table tennis balls, tissue boxes and water balloons as props in a 'Minute to Win It' themed event to bring 90+ community members ranging in age from 4months to 70yrs together to join in some fun and games with local youth. The event was held at the Burke & Wills Multi-Purpose Centre where Maari Ma Health provided fruit and water with their information stand and Mission Australia kept the littlies entertained with an arts and crafts corner; Murdi Paaki participants kept the crowd fed with an ongoing sausage sizzle and took plenty of photos to remember the day.





Australia Day

The Menindee Awards were presented by Margot Muscat who also attended the Sunset Strip Progress Association festivities to award the recipient Collin Pickering with the Citizen of the Year Award.

The Menindee celebrations were held later in the day at the Menindee Swimming Pool where the Menindee Development Committee put on a sausage sizzle and gum boot throwing competition. The award for the Event of the Year was awarded to Maari Ma Menindee and the Tenancy group for their input into the 2016 Youth Week family day event.



Stuart McIntosh receiving the 2017 Youth Week Event of the Year Australia Day Award on behalf of Maari Ma Menindee



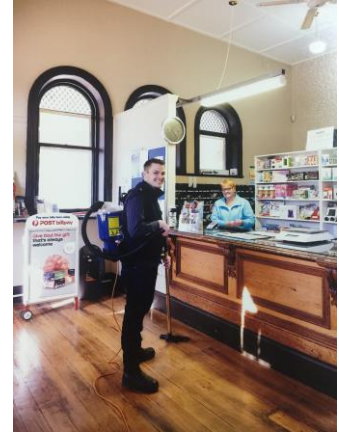
All ages participated in the Gum Boot Throwing Comp





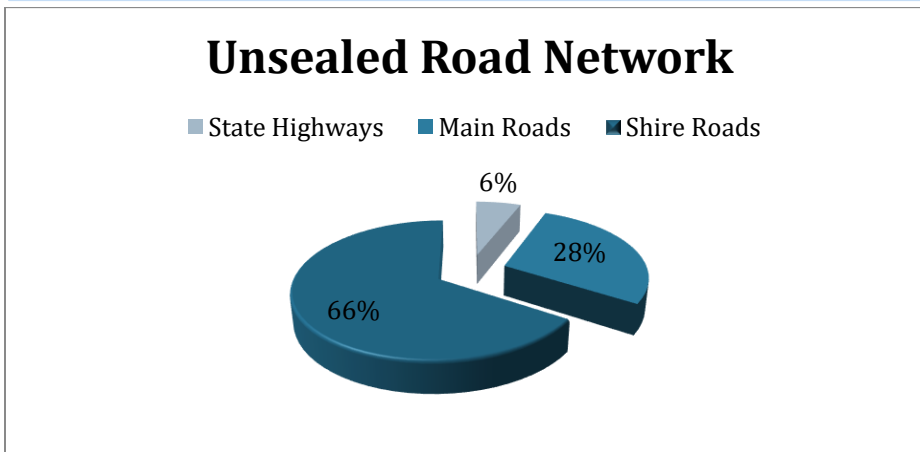
Wilcannia Local Post Office

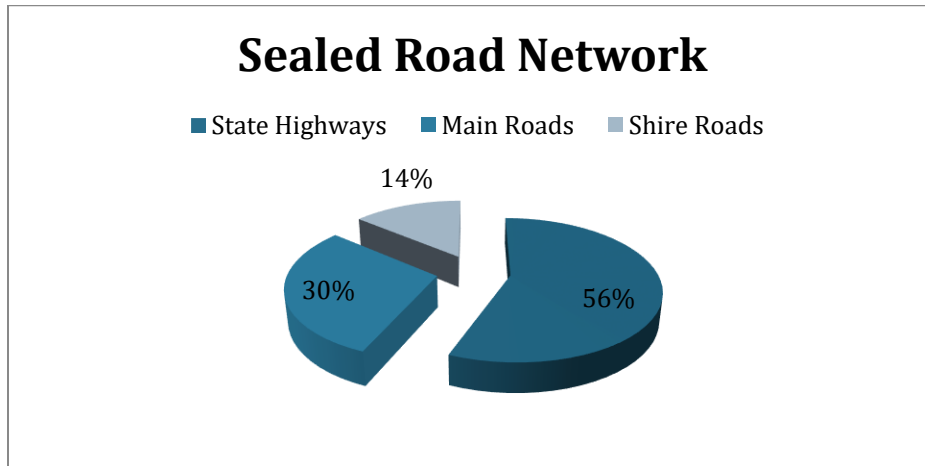
Since reopening the Australia Post Office Agency in its original building in 2013, Council has been applying for grants to not only open the Main Customer Service Area, but to restore the residence to be usable space for the community. The ServiceNSW (RMS) Agency was relocated to the Post Office Building in 2016 to make this building a Customer Service Hub for Wilcannia. TrainLink ticketing, ServiceNSW (RMS), Australia Post facilitated banking can all be carried out at this Office.



Roads and Bridges

Public Road Network





Asset Management	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
Ensure all roads within the Shire are maintained	Ongoing maintenance grading program reviewed monthly
Acquit grant funds as required	Funds acquitted with the RMS
Maintain Routine Maintenance Council Contract	Ongoing with RMS

The following is a summary of the works undertaken on the State, Regional and Shire road network with the Shire in the 2016/2017 financial year.

State Highways

Under Council’s Routine Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC), Council is responsible for 387km of State Highway which includes both sealed and unsealed sections. The majority of funding was expended on construction, reseals, heavy patching, new grids and approaches, formation grading and re-sheeting.

Report on RMCC Work 2016/17

Total budgeted cost paid to Council for RMCC ordered work:	\$1,869,856
Special Projects – Eurella Initial Seal, Cobb Highway:	\$4,968,863
Total budgeted cost paid to Council for RMCC routine work:	\$836,685

List of jobs done under this routine work:

- Routine inspection
- Pothole repair
- Edgebreak repair
- Formation grading
- Shoulder grading



- Litter & debris removal
- Ground vegetation control
- Control saplings within clear zone
- Stock grids & races maintenance
- Stockpile sites maintenance
- Rest area – Service
- Rest area – Repair
- Clean culverts
- Minor repair culverts
- Minor repair headwalls and/or wingwalls
- Guide post maintenance
- Replace minor signs
- Maintain major signs



Description of Works Orders received as part of RMCC	Value after Variation	Status
HW8 Heavy patching	\$544,936	Complete
HW21 Heavy Patching	\$144,309	Complete
HW8 Resealing	\$663,542	Complete
HW21 Resealing	\$88,878	Complete
HW21 Grid replacement- Burndoo	\$43,758	Complete
HW21 Culvert Extension- Bushley	\$41,317	Complete



HW8 Culvert Headwall & Wings- Dry Lake Road	\$26,998	Complete
HW 8 & 21 G Series Signs 2	\$52,705	Complete
HW8 Traffic Counters	\$2,321	Complete
HW8 No Stopping – Paul Brown	\$653	Complete
HW8 Incident Response	\$2,381	Complete
HW21 Re-sheeting	\$199,358	Complete
HW 8 Rest Area Upgrade- Netallie	\$21,816	Complete
HW21 Scour Protection Works	\$15,163	Complete
HW 8 G Series Signs 1	\$21,721	Complete
TOTAL WORK ORDER VALUES =	\$1,869,856	
Initial Seal Project, Eurella =	\$4,968,863	In Progress

Regional Roads

Council maintains 790km of Regional (or Main) Roads within the Shire. Funding received included \$2,642,000 from Regional Road Block Grant and \$400,000 from Regional Roads Repair Program

Expenditure of the Block Grant included maintenance grading works, gravel resheeting and resealing works.

The Menindee-Ivanhoe Rd MR433 received REPAIR program funding to complete 100km of grid replacements and reconstruction and sealed approaches. The Wilcannia-Menindee West Rd MR68B received 3.0km of gravel resheeting works.

Reseals were carried out in this financial year in the following locations:

MR66 Menindee-Broken Hill Rd

MR435 Opal Miners Way

MR68A Wilcannia-Tilpa West Rd



Local Roads

Council maintains 1600km of Local Roads within the Shire. Funding expended from Federal Assistance Grant (Roads Component totalled \$1,224,381 and an additional \$1,097,926 allocated from Roads to Recovery.

The majority of local road expenditure included maintenance grading works, resealing works and construction works. Roads to Recovery allocation was utilised on Wilcannia Town street reseals, Yartla St Menindee kerb and gutter works, Woore St Wilcannia Kerb and gutter works.

Town Street routine maintenance works are ongoing and include kerb and gutter cleaning on a weekly basis, tree and ground vegetation maintenance, street sweeping and sign maintenance.



Bridges

Routine maintenance carried out on Council owned bridges included visual inspections, vegetation control and minor repairs. Recent bridge replacements have seen 50% of Council owned bridges replaced within the Shire, as per Councils Asset Management Plan, all dilapidated timber bridges have now been replaced.

Works on Private Land

Limited private works were carried out during the year. Council received \$19,836 in Private Works income.

Water, Sewer & Stormwater

Asset Management	
Performance Requirement	Assessment
Maintain consistency of primary treated water to town of White Cliffs	Ongoing
Maintain consistency of potable and raw water supplies to Ivanhoe and Wilcannia	Ongoing
Ensure that the current standard of sewerage collection is maintained	Ongoing

Major Activities

Wilcannia Water Supply and Sewerage Services continue to benefit from the Aboriginal Communities Water Supply and Sewerage Program and the Water Securities, Restart Program funded by the Commonwealth Government.

The federally funded Aboriginal Communities Water Supply and Sewerage Program continues to provide funding for ongoing operational support for the Mallee and Warrali Aboriginal Estates in the amount of \$105k for routine maintenance and repairs. These funds are implemented in accordance with the Service Agreement between Council and the DPI Water.

The \$1.2M Preconstruction and training funding provided under the Restart initiative consisted of \$1M for Ivanhoe, Wilcannia and White Cliffs town water supplies and infrastructure. \$200k for training was





utilized by consultant regularly visiting each water treatment plant and providing on the job training for all operators to improve individual operator ability and therefore better water quality and best practice for Council.

Water

Potable (treated) and raw (untreated) water supplies continued to be provided to the townships of Wilcannia and Ivanhoe in accordance with NSW Office of Water and Department of Health regulations and guidelines in conjunction with a testing regime undertaken by Council operators in consultation with these government agencies.

Wilcannia and Ivanhoe Water Supply is sourced from a combination of river and bore supplies. In the past year, Wilcannia was serviced predominately from Darling River flows and Ivanhoe has been serviced from Morrisons Lake Reservoir fed from Willandra Creek.

White Cliffs is serviced by a reticulated non-potable filtered water supply and is sourced from surface runoff collected in large off-line ground tanks. Typical operational issues are reticulation leakage from agricultural grade poly pipe network and low pressure issues. Main leakages are repaired as they arise. Water pressure issues are predominantly the responsibility of householders at White Cliffs where a header tank is to be provided by each dwelling/dugout.

Menindee Water Supply is managed by Essential Water pursuant Water Management (General) Regulation (2011) and related to the establishment of the now redundant Broken Hill Water Board.

Sewer

Wilcannia Sewerage Services is comprised of a Common Effluent Collection System which collects domestic sewage from connected properties and discharges to the Wilcannia Sewerage Treatment Plant (Oxidation Ponds). The recent Civil Works Upgrades included the sewer systems in the Aboriginal precincts of Mallee and Waralli being converted to full gravity sewer systems. The 2 existing pump stations at Warralli were replaced with one single pump station and 2 new lift wells were installed in the Mallee, Ivanhoe, Menindee and White Cliffs residents manage generated sewerage with on-site facilities.

Stormwater

Stormwater infrastructure throughout the townships of Wilcannia, Ivanhoe, Menindee and White Cliffs were maintained including cleaning of the gross pollutant traps in Wilcannia and Menindee. Council is investigating funding opportunities to replace the stormwater outlets into the Darling River at Wilcannia (which have structurally failed).

Aerodromes

Council maintains 6 airstrips within the Shire being Wilcannia, White Cliffs, Tilpa, Emmdale, Menindee and Ivanhoe. \$143,667 was expended on Pavement M&R, Buildings, toilets, fences, Lighting, grounds M&R and energy costs. Council received 50% funding to complete the Menindee aerodrome resealing works and lighting upgrade works at a total cost of \$127,273 and the White Cliffs Aerodrome animal proof fencing works at a total cost of \$113,000

Boat Ramps

Council maintains two boat ramps completed in Menindee 2012/13 and Tilpa 2014/15. Additional small grant funding is being sourced to improve recreation facilities at both locations.

Footpaths, Kerbs, & Guttering

Footpaths

The townships of Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and Menindee have extensive footpath networks. The footpath network in the urban areas are predominantly concrete but also is comprised of gravel and in-situ earth sections. \$74,307 was expended on footpath repairs in Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and Menindee.

The extent of the footpath network in each township is summarised below:

- Wilcannia 4895m
- Ivanhoe 2189m
- Menindee 1312m

Council has completed the Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP) which was placed on public exhibition and adopted by Council. From this plan, staff can produce a footpath replacement/ repair program and reference the document in order to apply for additional funding.



Kerbs and Gutter

The townships of Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and Menindee's extensive kerb and gutter infrastructure was maintained. Limited repairs were carried out in this financial year.



Plant & Equipment

Council replaced skid steer loader (\$79,321)

Council replaced one generator trailer for road works (\$32,683)

Council replaced 2 caravans (under lease arrangements) (\$144,00)

Various running costs are attributed to plant maintenance throughout the year. The following is a breakdown of that expenditure which totals \$511,661

- Fuel \$246,002
- Repairs and maintenance \$146,506
- Tyres \$23,140
- Oil \$1,251
- Parts \$7,984
- Insurance \$73,874
- Registration \$3,698
- Miscellaneous \$9,206





Business Undertakings

Competitive Neutrality

The Division of Local Government's July 1997 guidelines 'Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses: A Guide to Competitive Neutrality' outlines the process for identifying and allocating costs of activities and provide a standard of disclosure requirements. These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and/or financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents, Council subsidies, rate of return on investments in business units and dividend paid. In relation to competitive neutrality Council provide the following:

- "Category 1" Business Units have total annual operating revenues that exceed \$2 million.
Council has no Category 1 Business Units.
- "Category 2" Business Units have totaled annual operating revenues that do not exceed \$2 million.
Council has no Category 2 Business Units.



Appendix A: Policy Payment of Expenses & Provisions of Facilities to Councillors

Appendix A: Policy Payment of Expenses & Provisions of Facilities to Councillors

On 14 November 2014, the NSW Minister for Local Government, the Hon Paul Toole MP, announced that a permanent Administrator would be appointed at Central Darling Shire Council, following recommendations made by Commissioner Richard Colley who headed a public inquiry into Central Darling Shire Council, due to concerns having been expressed that the Council was in an extremely serious financial position.

Mr Greg Wright, who had previously been appointed as Interim Administrator, was appointed as the permanent Administrator.

Consequently, Council does not require a Policy for Payment of Expenses & Provisions of Facilities to Councillors.

Appendix B: 2016/17 Annual Financial Statements