## Wentworth Shire Council 2015-2016 Annual Report

**Recording our Progress** 

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#### Mayor's Message

It has been my pleasure this year to serve the community as Mayor of this amazing Shire.

Over the last twelve months I have welcomed 8 new Australian Citizens, attended Remembrance Day, Anzac Day, and conducted the Australia Day ceremonies. I have also continued to lobby the State Government and remain in constant contact with our local Ministers to ensure that Wentworth Shire is not forgotten about.

Council has been very proactive in the Fit for the Future Local Government Reform which has been very challenging. Over the last twelve months, Councillor McKinnon, the General Manager Peter Kozlowski, and I have been lobbying the Far West Initiative to ensure that Wentworth Shire remains independent.



This is now the fourth year of our term and I am very proud of what Wentworth Shire Council has been able to achieve.

Over the last four years my fellow Councillors and I have been able to see the fruition of our efforts, from resolving long standing legal issues, the construction of the change rooms at the George Gordon Oval, the addition of a second portable skate ramp, the continued efforts at James King Park, and the expansion of the footpath and cycle-way network throughout the Shire.

I would like to sincerely thank the General Manager and his staff for the contribution they have made over the past twelve months.

Councillor WJ (Bill) Wheeldon MAYOR

#### **General Manager's Introduction**

I present this report of activities and achievements throughout the 2015-16 in the context of significant change in local government throughout the State and the ongoing discussions and consultations in the Far West Region.

While there has been a degree of uncertainty over the Shire's future due to the Far West Initiative deliberations this year has proved to be another successful year for Wentworth Shire Council.

Council participated in the Far West Initiative Advisory Committee (FWIAC) which was set up by the Minister for Local Government in August 2015 to assist him in investigating possible new models for regional governance in the Far West which could underpin service



delivery by all levels of government. Councillor McKinnon and I were Council's representatives on the FWIAC. This Committee, comprising representatives from local government, State and Federal Governments and non Government Organisations and Indigenous bodies, met on a number of occasions.

The FWIAC focused on developing a new governance model for the Far West. The eight councils in the Far West were advised that "no change" was not an option, however the eight councils were not required to submit proposals outlining their plans to be fit for the future; all other councils in the State were required to submit such plans.

During the year some of our achievements were as follows;

- Decision to purchase the old Wentworth Service Club building
- Revamped Council website
- Construction of a bore for the Pooncarie township
- Review of Council's public Effluent Disposal Systems was commenced and new operating system introduced
- Completion of significant drainage works at the Wentworth Aerodrome
- Successful events such as the Ted Hurley Ski Race and the 60<sup>th</sup> Flood Rally
- Partnership with the State Government in employing a Road Safety Officer
- Infrastructure projects including 13.6 km sealing of the Renmark Road, Dareton monument, Bottle Bend Boat ramp, Shire welcome signs, McLeod Oval irrigation upgrade, diving boards at the Dareton and Wentworth pools
- Ongoing planning and design of a number of projects scheduled for 2016/17

While Council remains in a good financial position as at 30 June 2016, with its investments increasing from approximately \$22m to \$25m in this financial year, prudent long term financial management continues to be Council's focus. The year ended with a surplus of \$2.129m. This focus is also shared by the State Government in its local government reform program.

In June 2016 Council approved the biggest annual Operational Plan (budget) in this Shire's history with a total operation budget of \$39,653,675 which includes \$18,951,423 of capital works projects.

Council increased its strong advocacy program to influence, in particular, State Ministers on a range of issues such as provision of aged care facilities, converting leasehold land, and returning planning powers to local councils.

Council held a number of town meetings and project specific consultation meetings during the year. These well attended meetings raised many issues and provided an opportunity for valuable feedback on a number of Council proposals.

I thank the Mayor, Councillors and staff for their dedication and support during the last year.

#### Peter Kozlowski GENERAL MANAGER



Councillor Brad Clarke



Councillor Paul Cohrs



**Councillor Melisa Hederics** 



Councillor Don McKinnon

## Wentworth Shire Council Councillors



Councillor Peter Nunan



Councillor Brian Wakefield



Councillor Bob Wheeldon Resigned 29 March 2016



Councillor Ian Whitfield

#### End of Term Report

It gives me great pleasure to provide this End of Term Report on behalf of the Councillors elected to serve the Wentworth Shire in September 2012.

As required under legislation in June 2013 Council endorsed (on behalf of the Community) the 2013-2023 Wentworth Region Community Strategic Plan. The endorsement of this plan followed on from the extensive community consultation undertaken in the final year of the previous Council's term of office and



included 3 Community Visions, 11 Themes and 43 Strategies.

It is worthwhile remembering that Council is merely the custodian of the Community Strategic Plan – the Plan is a plan for the whole community, rather than a plan that council is wholly responsible to deliver. For this reason, the accompanying pages to this report provide an account of the progress that the community has made towards the aspirational goals of the Community.

Council through its four year Delivery Program is not only required to identify what it will do to respond to the Community Strategic Plan, we must ensure that all the services and activities undertaken do contribute to the Community Strategic Plan.

In its response to the Community Strategic Plan, this Council set about focusing on five key priority areas: Civic Leadership, Growth and Development, Service Provision, Community Life and Environmental Performance. These priority areas were further broken down into thirteen goals.

#### Civic Leadership

In the area of Civic Leadership, our aim is to be the best council we can be.

Since taking office we have been focused on improving the financial position of Council, abiding by all compliance requirements, being the best employer we can be, and facilitating collaborative, fair and equitable decision making.

Early in our Council term we restructured the organisation, moving from a two Director model back to a three Director model including restructuring each of the Divisions accordingly. Through a system of committees and user groups we have been able to increase the number of forums through which the community are able to be interact with Council and provide input into Council's decision making processes.

Our report card shows that the NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) assessment of Council's financial position has moved from being weak/negative to moderate.

On the compliance side of things Council performed well within the compliance goal of achieving 90% of all compliance requirements, and through our various committees, and individual interactions Councillors have demonstrated their willingness to ensure that decision making was fair and equitable for all ratepayers.

## Council's End of Term Report

#### Growth and Development

In the area of Growth and Development, our aim was to facilitate the growth of business, industry and population.

We set about to maximise the productive use of land, increase the external promotion of the Shire, to encourage the diversification and expansion of business and industry and to encourage land development and housing construction.

In striving to achieve these aims, Council embarked on two major television advertising campaigns which we are particularly proud of. The "*explore the wonders of the Wentworth Shire*" campaign depicted strong imagery of the many lifestyle activities available in the Shire, and the "*we want you*" campaign was firmly aimed at attracting new housing development, new business and new residents to the Shire.

On the down side, we have been continually frustrated by the red tape that has hampered our ability to progress the Rural Land Use Study and it is hoped that this will be something that Council will have more success with.

#### Service Provision

Under the heading of Provision of Services, our aim was to responsibly provide and maintain Council services. While it is very easy to focus on building new assets, existing infrastructure assets such as roads, drains, bridges, water, sewerage and public buildings present particular challenges. Their condition and longevity can be difficult to determine. Financing needs can be large, requiring planning for large peaks and troughs in expenditure for renewing and replacing such assets. As a Council we have worked exceptionally hard to try to find the right balance of creating new assets and servicing our existing assets. The current year's capital expenditure budget is one of, if not the largest in the Shire's history and demonstrates how sound financial management can assist Council to achieve a healthy balance of creating new assets whilst maintaining existing assets.

#### Community Life

Community Life and the aim to encourage a safe, inclusive and connected community is somewhat more difficult to measure than some of our other aims. Statistical data from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research shows that our 36 month crime trend is stable. Our community is blessed to have numerous actively supported community groups and we hope that the roll out of the National Broadband Network will improve communications and connectivity throughout the whole Shire.

#### Environmental Performance

In addressing environmental performance, our aim was to improve council's environmental performance by engaging in prudent waste, energy and water management activities and implementing sound environmental practices. One of the major focusses in this area has been in resuming operational control of the Buronga Landfill. Council has been actively working with the NSW EPA to address all compliance requirements with the aim of creating a regional waste facility.

#### **Conclusion**

This Council has made substantial and positive contributions towards progressing the 2013-2023 Wentworth Region Community Strategic Plan.

#### Councillor (WJ) Bill Wheeldon

#### MAYOR

## The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

#### The Community Strategic Plan

In June 2012 the Wentworth Shire Council endorsed, on behalf of the community, the first version of the Community Strategic Plan entitled *Footsteps to Our Future*, the Wentworth Region. The Community Strategic Plan outlines 11 community based objectives to be achieved over a 10 year period.

In September 2012 the newly elected Council reviewed and endorsed the Community Strategic Plan for the next 10 year period being 2013-2023.

#### The Delivery Program

Under the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework Council's four year Delivery Program establishes how Council will assist the community to achieve the objectives of the Community Strategic Plan.

The current four year program was adopted by Council in June 2013 and consists of five key elements:-

- Civic Leadership;
- Growth & Development;
- Service Provision;
- Community Life; and
- Environmental Performance.

#### The Operational Plan

The Operational Plan is an annual subset of the Delivery Program which sets out the tasks that Council will undertake during the financial year to achieve the implementation and objectives of the program.

#### The Annual Report (this document)

The Annual Report is a key element of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. It is Council's way of reporting to the community on the progress of each of the strategies included in the Delivery Program.

It combines the audited financial statements for 2015-2016, the end of term report which was tabled at the last meeting of the out going Council and incudes other statutory information.

As this is the last Annual Report presented by the current elected representatives, this year's annual report also includes an End of Term Report.

#### **Status Update**

There were 124 Delivery Program initiatives originally scheduled to be delivered within the four year Delivery Program.

Of the 124 tasks scheduled for this period:

- 39 were completed;
- 15 are currently in progress;
- 8 were deferred;
- 9 were cancelled;
- 47 are on going; and
- 6 are yet to begin.





WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

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#### **Delivery Program Objectives**

- 1.1 Improve Council's financial position
- 1.2 Abide by all compliance requirements
- 1.3 Be the best employer we can be
- 1.4 Facilitate collaborative, fair and equitable decision making

#### **Community Strategic Plan Linkage**

Vision 3 - Ensure that Council exercises good governance, prudent financial management and provide effective support services for all of its operations.

#### 1.1 Improve Council's Financial Position

The 2015-2016 financial year saw Wentworth Shire Council record a \$2.129m surplus. This was a \$2.475m improvement on the 2014-2015 result, however the surplus was still \$1.302m less than the \$3.431msurplus that was originally budgeted for. The main reason for this was the \$1.396m variance in the actual depreciation recorded.

#### Income Statement

The income statement details a comparison with the previous financial year. The statement excludes Capital expenditure and includes non-cash items such as depreciation and does not differentiate between income received for restricted or non-restricted purposes e.g. specific purpose grants and contributions.

#### **Balance Sheet**

The balance sheet details a summary of Council's total assets, liabilities and total equity as at 30 June 2016.

The net assets of Council (total assets less total liabilities) have increased by \$15,327m during the 2015-2016 financial year.

Total current assets have increased by \$2,936m overall with cash and investments increased by \$2,251m and receivables increased by \$0.659m.

Infrastructure property, plant, and equipment increased by \$12,242m reflecting asset purchased, capital works and revaluations being greater than the increase in accumulated depreciation. Council is required to index its Water, Sewer and Drainage assets at 30 June. Mandatory revaluation of the Wentworth Levee and Community land was undertaken during 2015-2016. Council continuously monitors the value of all its asset classes resulting in an increase in valuation for roads and bridges. Council's total infrastructure assets are written down to 67.66% of their fair value.

Current liabilities include payables, borrowings and employee leave entitlements. The overall current liabilities have decreased by \$0.125m with payables decreasing by \$0.265m. This is a result of a decrease in accrued expenditure as the invoices had not been received until July for work that occurred prior to 30 June. Leave Provisions increased by \$0.853m; this is due to the bond rate that is used to discount future leave payments decreasing 30% in 2015-2016 while the number of outstanding leave hours increased by 0.89%.

Non-current liabilities increased by \$0.024m reflecting a decrease in loan borrowings of \$0.162m and an increase in leave provisions of \$0.138m.

## Aim: to be the best Council we can be

#### Available Cash and Cash Equivalents

The available working capital of Council has decreased from \$1,883m at 30 June 2015 to \$1,134m at 30 June 2016. Investments increased from \$22m to \$25m. It is considered that \$1,134m is more than adequate to manage day to day operating requirements and provides Council with the capacity to respond to unforeseen events and opportunities.

The spread of investments throughout a large number of financial institutions allows Council to spread its risk while endeavoring to maximise its returns. It also allows for ready access to funds due to multiple maturity dates.

#### A summary of the Financial Statements is provided below:

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
Income Statement		
Total income from continuing operations	\$25,123	\$22,664
Total expenses from continuing operations	\$22,994	\$23,010
Operating result from continuing operations	\$2,129	(\$346)
Net operating result for the year	\$2,129	(\$346)
Net operating result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	\$601	(\$1,822)
Statement of Financial Position		
Total current assets	\$30,320	\$27,384
Total current liabilities	(\$4,423)	(\$4,548)
Total non-current assets	\$371,077	\$358,835
Total non-current liabilities	(\$1,241)	(\$1,265)
Other financial information		
Unrestricted current ration (times)	5.80x	4.73x
Operating performance ratio (%)	2.4%	-8.7%
Debt service cover ration (times)	36.30x	16.68x
Rates and annual charges outstanding ration (%)	10.0%	15.1%
Infrastructure renewals ration (%)	72.1%	93.6%
Own source operating revenue ration (%)	53.1%	58.5%
Cash expense cover ration (months)	18.58 months	15.3 months
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#### **Financial Indicators**

There are a number of key ratios included in the financial reports that provide an indication of liquidity and financial capacity of Council. These are presented below and graphically illustrate the movement over the last three years.

#### 1. Operating Performance Ratio

This ratio measures Council's achievement of containing operating expenditure within operating revenue. The ratio is calculated by dividing total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants & contributions minus operating expenditure by total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants.

The benchmark figure for this rate is 0%. Council's result has improved significantly as a result of an increase in operating grants in 2015-2016.

#### 2. Own Source Operating Ratio

This ratio measures fiscal flexibility. It is the degree of reliance on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. The ratio is calculated by dividing total continuing operating revenue less all grants by total continuing operating revenue.

The benchmark figure for this ratio is 60%. The ratio for this year decreased as Council's own source of revenue only increased by \$0.081m while total operating revenue increased by \$2.446m.

#### 3. Unrestricted Current Ratio

This ratio provides an assessment of the adequacy of working capital and the ability to satisfy obligations in the short term for the unrestricted activities of Council. The ratio measures current assets (less restricted assets) divided by current liabilities (less specific purpose liabilities).

The benchmark figure for this ratio is 1.5. This ratio increased during the 2015-2016 financial year as a result of the increase in cash and investments and continues to be well above the benchmark ratio.







## Aim: to be the best Council we can be

#### Debt Service Cover Ratio

The Debt Service Cover Ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments. The ratio is calculated by dividing the operating result before capital excluding interest and depreciation by total loan payments for the year (principal and interest).

The benchmark figure for this ratio is 2. Council continues to have sufficient operating cash to service current debt levels.

#### 5. Rates, Annual Charges, Interest & Extra Charges Outstanding Percentage Ratio

This ratio assesses the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts. The ratio is calculated by dividing annual & extra charges collectible.

The benchmark figure for this ratio is 10%. Council's efforts to continually monitor outstanding rates and annual charges has seen the ratio fall to 10% which is equal to the industry benchmark.

#### 6. Cash Expense Cover Ratio

This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months a Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow. The ratio is calculated by dividing current year's cash and cash equivalents plus deposits by payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities.

The benchmark figure for this ratio is 3.0.



42.04

45.0056

40.00%

25.00%

20.00%

15.00%

10.00%

Latio



5. Rates, annual charges, interest and extra charges outstanding percentage



2016

#### rates, annual & extra charges outstanding by rates, 35,00% 30.00%



Reserves Transfer Schedule 20	015-2016			
Reserve	Opening Balance	Transfer to Reserve	Transfer from Reserve	Closing Balance
Developer Contribution	\$732		\$203	\$529
Plant Replacement Reserve	\$2,080		\$49	\$2,031
Future Development Reserve	\$1,113			\$1,113
Asset Revaluation Reserve	\$348,316	\$13,201		\$361,517
Crown Land Reserve	\$201	\$27		\$228
Unexpended Grants Reserve	\$209	\$128		\$337
Capital & Major Project Reserve	\$3,575		\$2,575	\$1,000
Domestic Waste Management	\$105			\$105
Total	\$356,331	\$13,356	\$2,827	\$366,860

The full audited financial statements are contained in a separate document.

### Aim: to be the best Council we can be

#### Special Rate Variation [9.(1.1)]

In accordance with section 508 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW), in June 2004 Council was granted approval by the Minister for Local Government to increase its general income to 7.18% from ordinary rates for the periods 2004-2005 to 2023-2024 to assist with funding the payments on a loan raised to construct a levee bank around Wentworth. The project cost was in excess of \$4m with \$1m to be repaid by the ratepayers. A loan was taken out through Local Government Financial Services for the amount of \$1m with the balance owing as at 30 June 2016 being \$208,877.

The approval was subject to the following conditions:

- That Council raise \$113,790 by additional rates for funding the principal and interest payments on a loan raised to construct a levee bank around the town of Wentworth; and
- That Council reduces its general income for the 2024-2025 rating year by \$113,790 plus the equivalent cumulative proportion of this increase from any general variation increases or any special variation increases approved for the 2005-2006 to 2023-2024 rating years inclusive.

A tourism special rate of \$10 per assessment was approved by the Minister for the operation of the accredited Visitor Information Centre. The Council clearly reports the outcomes and expenditures incurred in its annual report for the term of the variation. This levy raised \$37,930.

#### Rates and Charges [9.(1.2)]

In accordance with both Clause 132 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW), details of the rates and charges written off during the 2015-2016 rating year are presented in the table A.

TABLE A Rates and charges written off 2015-2016		
Rates and Charges	\$3,258.20	
Debtor Charges	\$0	
Total	\$3,258.20	



#### Financial Assistance Provided [9.(1.2)]

In accordance with Clause 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 Council advises the amount contributed or otherwise granted under Section 356 was \$128,619.37 for the 2015-2016 financial year.

#### Promoting Better Practice Review [9.(1.1) & (1.2)]

The final report from Council's Promoting Better Practice Review was published by the Office of Local Government in February 2015. The review consisted of a self-assessment audit and a two day site visit in April 2014 by representatives of the Office of Local Government. The result of the review was ten improvement suggestions from the Office of Local Government, three of which were considered a high priority as they focused on financial performance and asset management. The improvement suggestions are to take place over the next three to four years.

#### Private Works [9.(1.2)]

In accordance with Section 67 of the Local Government Act and Clause 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 Council advises that no subsidised work was carried out by Council on Private Land.



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

### Aim: to be the best Council we can be

#### Council's Committee Structure [10.(1.2) & (1.4)]

During the 2015-2016 financial year Council continued to utilise a robust committee structure to facilitate the achievement of objective 1.2. and 1.4.

Additionally there are a number of User Groups, such as the Wentworth Showgrounds and the Alcheringa Oval. These User Groups enable Council to undertake focussed community engagement that is specific to a particular purpose or need.

#### External Committees [10.(1.4)]

External Committees provide Councillors with the opportunity to stay in touch with the interests and needs of established bodies within the Community. On an annual basis Council determines which external bodies it will participate in with at least one Councillor being nominated as the Council representative for each Committee. Councillors regularly provide Delegate reports to Council in order to keep Councillors informed of wider Community issues.

#### Community Consultation [9.(1.4)]

Council has also conducted several town meetings, this has allowed the community at large another platform in which they can voice their ideas, concerns, issues and to provide feedback.

Council has also held several Community Consultation meetings for the purpose of discussing proposed concept plans, for example Midway, James King Park, and Junction Links.



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

#### Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities [9.(1.2)]

In accordance with clause 217 of the Local Government Act (General) Regulation 2005, details of the total cost of the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities to Councillors in relation to their Civic Functions for the year ending 30 June 2016, as reported in the audited financial report is \$215,651.

Summary of Total Costs as Reported in the Audited Financial Report	
Councillor Expenses - Mayoral Fees	\$22,923
Councillor Expenses - Councillor Fees	\$95,083
Councillors' Expenses (incl mayor) - other (excluding fees above)	\$97,645
Total	\$215,651

Details of the payment of expenses and provision of facilities to Councillors as required by the Local Government Act (General) Regulation 2005 clause 217 are:

Councillor Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities		
Provision of dedicated office equipment	\$18,929	
Telephone Calls made by Councillors	\$641	
Attendance of Councillors at conference and seminars	\$3,805	
Training of Councillors and provision of skill development	\$227	
Interstate visits by Councillors	Nil	
Overseas visits by Councillors	Nil	
Expenses of any spouse or partner	Nil	
Carer expenses	Nil	
Total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits	Nil	
Total	\$23,602	

## Aim: to be the best Council we can be

#### Asset Management [9.(1.1)]

The Asset Management Plan is an integral part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

Since adopting its first comprehensive Asset Management Plan in 2012, Council has been compiling a comprehensive data management system based on the benefit, cost and risk of all assets.

Council currently has in excess of \$548m in assets.

It is easy to create new assets, but far more challenging to adequately service and maintain assets in the long term. Ongoing dialog between the Council and its constituents is a key component of Council's asset management strategy.

Asset Class	Fair Value (\$'000)
Capital Works in Progress	\$1,284
Plant & Equipment	\$13,857
Office Equipment	\$2,206
Furniture and Fittings	\$342
Land	
Community Land	\$6,647
Land under Roads Post 30 June 2008	\$99
Depreciable Land Improvements	\$6,876
Infrastructure	
Buildings	\$50,470
Other Structures	\$10,725
Roads	\$173,202
Bridges	\$11,421
Footpaths	\$3,987
Bulk Earthworks	\$189,775
Stormwater drainage	\$5,5973
Water Supply Network	\$32,403
Sewerage Network	\$37,979
Swimming Pools	\$830
Other Open Spade/Recreational Assets	\$382

#### Workforce Management [9.(1.3)]

In April 2014 the Office of Local Government conducted the Promoting Better Practice Review. It was highlighted during this review that there is a need to further align the Workforce Management Plan with the four year Delivery Program and the one year Operational Plan.

As at 30 June 2016 63% of the Shire workforce was Male.

The age profile of the workforce shows that approx. 70% of staff are aged 45 or over.



#### Equal Employment Opportunity Plan [9.(1.2) & (1.3)]

In 2013 Council adopted its Workforce Management Plan in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

The workforce demographics are:

- Female employees account for 37% of the workforce.
- The majority of the workforce are over the age of 55.
- The majority of employees are employed full time.

## Aim: to be the best Council we can be

Workforce Management Plan Objectives 2015-2016	Status
Review & implement changes to corporate training & development program and incorporate into the Workforce Management Plan.	Ongoing
Provide 24/7 access for staff to the employee assistance program.	Ongoing
Continue to monitor performance management across the organisation and refine KPI's as required.	Ongoing
Within the continuous improvement program, undertake a review of the performance appraisal system and make improvement recommendations to Council.	Ongoing
Redesign and implement an annual staff satisfaction survey.	Ongoing

#### **Employment Status**

In 2013 staff numbers were reduced by 7.6% (from 106.6 to 98.45). This was achieved through redundancies.

During the 2014-2015 financial year, Council resumed control of the Buronga Landfill, which resulted in an additional 6 full time equivalents being added to the structure, taking the total staff numbers to 104.45.

S	tatus of Em	ployment	
105			
FULLTIME	PART TIME Employme	CASUAL	TRAINEE

In the most recent financial year, an additional 3 positions were added to the structure, those positions being a Subdivision Engineer, a Technical Officer and a Coordinator Customer Service.

The majority of employees are employed on a full time basis.



#### Senior staff remuneration [9.(1.2)]

In accordance with clause 217 of the Local Government Act (General) Regulation 2005, details of the total remuneration packages of all senior staff members are shown in the below table and are expressed as the gross remuneration (i.e. not of the individual members). For reporting purposes the senior staff members are the General Manager and the three Directors.

Senior Staff Remuneration General Manager		
Total value of the salary component of the package.	\$164,967	
Total amount of any bonus, performance or other payments that do not form part of the salary component.	Nil	
Total amount payable by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which the general manager may be a contributor.	\$34,999	
Total value of any non-cash benefits for which the general manager my elect under the package.	\$8,000	
Total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits.	\$3,196	
Total	\$211,162	

Senior Staff Remuneration Directors		
Total value of salary components of their packages.	\$469,784	
Total amount of any bonus, performance or other payments that do not form part of salary components of their packages.	Nil	
Total amount payable by council by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which any of them may be contributor.	Nil	
Total value of any non-cash benefits for which any of them may elect under the package.	Nil	
Total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits.	Nil	
Total	\$469,784	

## **Delivery Program Status Update**

Delivery Program Initiatives	Activity Year	Progress as at 30/6/2016	Progress Report Comments
Provide adequate funding to address infrastructure backlog issues identified through asset management condition	2013-2014	On going	Council invested a total of \$13.4million during 2015-2016 towards the upgrade, replacement or renewal of assets.
Streamline the organisational structure, focussing on improved delivery of Council's core services	2013-2014	Completed	Council further reviewed the Organisational Structure in March 2016 and increased the FTE level to 107.45.
Actively explore resource sharing opportunities to either reduce expenditure or increase own source revenue	Yearly	On going	Discussions, particularly with Mildura Rural City Council and other Council's within the Far West are being progressed.

Delivery Program Initiatives	Activity Year	Progress as at 30/06/2016	Progress Report Comments
Address risk issues at the Buronga Depot Office by delivering upgrades to the depot lunchroom	2013-2014	Completed	New Office & Amenities block were installed February March 2014.
Streamline the number of Council policies, simplify the re view process and ensure all policies are current and relevant	2013-2014	Deferred	Individual policies have been reviewed as required, and streamlined where possible. A full review of all Council policies will be commenced from September 2016 following the Council elections.
Utilise the Promoting Better Practices Program to monitor compliance across Council	Yearly	In progress	The final report from the OLG was reported to Council on 18/03/15, which contained nine recommendations, all of which have been completed between 2015 and 2016 as required.
Actively manage WHS (Risk Management) compliance	Yearly	On going	Council continues to work with its insurers in actively managing its WHS obligations. WHS sits within the Enterprise Wide Risk Management framework which is monitored by the Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee.

1.2 Abide by all compliance requirements Cont'd			
Delivery Program Initiatives	Activity Year	Progress as at 30/6/2016	Progress Report Comments
Undertake all Integrated Planning & Reporting requirements	Yearly	On going	IP&R reporting is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Act and Regulations.
Undertake required drainage works to the apron and taxiways at the Wentworth Airport as per CASA audit requirements	2013-2014	In progress	The drainage works at the aerodrome have been undertaken in preparation for the sealing of the main runway and associated taxiways in 2016.
Implement asbestos action plan tasks	Yearly	On going	Asbestos removal is carried out as and when required in accordance with approved WHS standards.
Ensure that aerodromes comply with all CASA standards	Yearly	On going	Due to the continuing upgrade works at the aerodrome, CASA standards will be ongoing and Council staff maintain regularly.

Delivery Program Initiatives	Activity Year	Progress as at 30/6/2016	Progress Report Comments
Within the continuous improvement program, undertake a review of the performance appraisal system and make improvement recommendations to Council	2013-2014	In progress	As an interim step the appraisal form has been reviewed to better facilitate electronic completion of the information. Statistical data is being captured to enable a comprehensive review to be undertaken as to the effectiveness of the existing appraisal system.
Provide 24/7 access for staff to the employee assistance program	Yearly	Deferred	Scope to be developed in readiness for the 2017 Workforce Management Plan.
Redesign & implement an annual staff satisfaction survey	2013-2014	Deferred	Scope to be developed in readiness for the 2017 Workforce Management Plan.
Review & implement changes to corporate training & development program and incorporate into the Workforce Management Plan	2013-2014	Deferred	Scope to be developed in readiness for the 2017 Workforce Management Plan.
Undertake annual training activities in line with workforce management plan	Yearly	On going	Fifteen training packages were delivered in the 2015-2016 year in line with organisational requirements.
Develop KPI & Performance Management tools	2013-2014	Deferred	Scope to be developed in readiness for the 2017 Work-force Management Plan.

## Civic Leadership Delivery Program Status Update

Delivery Program Initiatives	Activity Year	Progress as at 30/6/2016	Progress Report Comments
Continue to deliver the DC&G program, simplify the process and rebadged as the Community Assistance Program	Yearly	On going	As at 28 April a total of \$41,868 of the \$150,000 allocation had been allocated to various community groups from the fund. There are requests of a further \$28,765 to be considered by Council at the May meeting.
Review the membership, role and function of all Council Committees	2013-2014	Completed	All Charters for all committees were reviewed and adopted by Council in May 2015. The minutes of all committees are reported to Council and included in the public agenda of the Council meeting.
In conjunction with the advisory body, undertake the redevelopment of the Gol Gol Riverfront	2013-2014	On going	The James King Park steering committee continues to progress the redevelopment of JKP and considerable on-ground works are proposed for the 2016-2017 budget year.
Enable the Council to undertake its civic duties and responsibilities	Yearly	On going	During 2015-2016 staff resources have been reallocated to the Office of the General Manager to improve service delivery capabilities and response times.



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

#### **Delivery Program Objectives**

- 2.1 Maximise the productive use of land
- 2.2 Increase the external promotion of the Shire
- 2.3 Encourage the diversification and expansion of business and industry
- 2.4 Encourage land development and housing constructions

#### **Community Strategic Plan Linkage**

**Vision 1**:Identify new opportunities and actively encourage increased investment into industries such as Tourism, mining, solar industries, recycling and aquaculture, that support growth and development.

#### Growth and Development [1.2.1)]

In reference to Growth and Development, Council's aim was to facilitate the growth of business, industry and population within the Shire.

Council set about to maximise the productive use of land, to encourage the diversification and expansion of businesses, and to promote land development and housing construction.

It was also the intention of this Council to increase the external promotion of the Shire.

In striving to achieve these aims Council embarked on two major television advertising campaigns which we are particularly proud of. The "*explore the wonders of the Wentworth Shire*" campaign, which depicted strong imagery of the many lifestyle activities available in the Shire, and the "We Want You" campaign was firmly aimed at attracting new housing development, new business and new residents to the Shire.

On the down side, we have been continually frustrated by the red tape that has hampered our ability to progress the Rural Land Use Study and it is hoped that this will be something that Council will have more success with in the future.

Council continues with its *red tape to red carpet* approach in its pursuit to drive growth and development across the Shire and the results can be demonstrated through both residential and commercial development applications.

From 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 there were a total of 206 Development Applications (DA's) determined.

Of the 206 DA's 41 were for new dwellings and 27 were for new subdivisions creating an additional 31 allotments throughout the Shire. Included in the total DA's determined for the year are a number of commercial developments including:

- Child Care Centre
- Car Museum
- Grape Crushing Plant

## Growth and Development

Aim: to facilitate the growth of business, industry and population



#### Tourism Development [1.(2.2)]

Council has continued to use the new Tourism Brand by adding a display in the Mildura Visitor Centre specifically dedicated to the Wentworth Region. The new display is complemented with drive, Drive and Discover digital, mobile friendly tours and hard copy region maps.

This year we have showcased several up and coming artists from the region.

The Mildura Country Music Festival was a great success this year allowing Wentworth to incorporate the use of our local sporting complex.

The accredited Visitor Information Centre staff attended the "Chinese Workshop" and "Getting to know Chinese Visitors". The workshop was aimed at how to tap into the growing Chinese visitor market within our region. The presenter, Mr Richard Beere, provided numerous tips, in particular how important word of mouth is among the Chinese, and observations for tourism operators who wanted to consider doing more with this growing international segment.

Delivery Program Initiatives	Activity Year	Progress as at 30/6/2016	Progress Report Comments
Develop engineering designs for Junction Links Housing Development	2013-2014	Deferred	This item has been deferred by Council. Council is actively trying to sell Junction Links to a third party developer at which point in time the developer will complete the required engineering designs.
Undertake a floodplain management study that will inform the LEP	2013-2014	In progress	The Flood Plain Management Committee has been formed with the main function to oversee the delivery of the Flood Plain Management Study and subsequent Flood Plain Management Plan. The Plan should be completed by December 2016.

2.2 Encourage the diversification and expansion of business and industry

	1	1	
Delivery Program Initiatives	Activity Year	Progress as at 30/6/2016	Progress Report Comments
Complete the rural land use study, using findings to inform the updating of the LEP	2013-2014	In progress	This project is underway but has experienced delays due to Councillors applying for exemptions from their Pecuniary Interest liabilities in order to consider the plan.
Introduce promotion of the Shire as a conference and event destination	2013-2014	In progress	A tourism budget has been allocated for general tourism promotion.
Provide new and replacement tourism signs	2013-2014	Completed	2013-2014 Completed.
Provide new and replacement tourism signs	2014-2015	Completed	2014-2015 Completed.
Provide new and replacement tourism signs	2015-2016	Completed	2015-2016 Completed.
Re-invest Reserve Trust income into agreed maintenance works at the Buronga and Wentworth Caravan Parks and the old Wentworth Goal	Yearly	On going	Program is developed in conjunction with operators. A new jumping pillow was installed at the Buronga Riverfront Caravan Park.

## Growth and Development Delivery Program Status Update

Delivery Program Initiatives	Activity Year	Progress as at 30/6/2016	Progress Report Comments
Continue to provide Visitor Information services across the Shire	Yearly	On going	Visitor information services continued to be delivered through the accredited Visitor Information Centre in Wentworth. "Explore the wonders of Wentworth Shire" television
Continue to oversee the Land Tenure Program	Yearly	On going	This is an ongoing program with several acquisitions to be made in 2016-2017 in order to secure existing Council infrastructure.
Continue with tourism industry familiarisation tours throughout the year	Yearly	Completed	Industry familiarisation tours have been undertaken by Wentworth Regional Tourism. The Visitor Information Centre assists when required.
Develop & distribute a list of investment opportunities within the Shire	2013-2014	Cancelled	This item was not pursued, however the Health and Planning Division has been actively working with developers and investors to encourage investment in the Shire.
Identify and target new industries & businesses who could relocate to the Shire	2013-2014	Cancelled	This item was not pursued, however the Health and Planning Division has been actively working with developers and investors to encourage investment in the Shire.
Develop a concept plan for the Buronga Peninsula which will result in a plan of management for the area - Land Tenure Program	2013-2014	In progress	This project is being developed through the Roads and Engineering Division and informed by Community Consultation.
Oversee the restoration and maintenance of the Paddle Steamer Ruby	Yearly	Completed	The restoration of the PS Ruby is complete and the Paddle steamer is fully operational. Council employs a part time administration resource to work in conjunction with the s355 committee.

#### **Service Provision**

#### **Delivery Program Objectives**

- 3.1 Provide for the renewal, replacement or upgrade of assets and infrastructure in line with agreed service levels
- 3.2 Improve the service delivery capabilities within Council

#### **Community Strategic Plan Linkage**

**Vision 2 :** To strengthen the natural and built environment.

The 2015-2016 financial year has seen works in the order of \$5m successfully delivered by the Roads and Engineering Division. These projects include:

Bottle Bend Boat Ramp	Fotherby Park Ram
Welcome Signs	Wentworth Aerodrome - Stage 3     Drainage
Cemetery Signs Updates	Dareton Monument
McLeod Oval Irrigation Upgrade	Buronga Roundabout Landscaping
Wentworth Facility Signs	<ul> <li>Diving Boards at Dareton and Wentworth pools</li> </ul>
Sewer Pump Station Lids	Low Darling Water Issues - Water Bores
SWMS—Review and Update	Overhaul Treated Water Pump Gol Gol

#### Ongoing RMS Contract Works [2.(3.1)]

Council is contracted to deliver ordered works on behalf of Roads and Maritime Services (RMS).

This year, in addition to Council's regular maintenance contract with RMS, Council was also contracted to undertake the Palm Island Intersection.

- 4km Renmark Rd Reconstruction & Sealing
- 13.6km Sealing Renmark Rd (Primer Seal)
- Resheeting Adelaide St Extension



## Service Provision

### Aim: to responsibly provide and maintain council services

## Pooncarie Emergency Water Supply [7.(3.1)]

As part of the Pooncarie Emergency Water supply works, additional water storage tanks have been delivered at the Pooncarie Water Reservoir Site. Council has added two water tanks with a capacity of 100,000L.

The works to connect the new tanks has been completed, and a standpipe has been installed to deliver overhead water into water carting tankers primarily for rural properties within the Pooncarie area.



#### Crown Reserves [8.(3.2)]

Council is the Trust Manager for a number of Crown Reserves. Crown Reserves are land parcels reserved from sale for a specific gazette purpose.

The majority of reserves are gazetted for public recreation. Council's ovals, parks and showgrounds are all on Crown Reserves. Council has care and control of these land parcels. Council is responsible for the maintenance of the reserve and must comply with the Crown Lands Act of 1989.

Any organisation that undertakes an activity on Crown Reserves requires written permission to do so by way of a licence directly from Crown Lands or if Council has care and control, Council issue the licence.

Council is currently developing Management Plans for the Reserves and, in consultation with User Groups, are now a requirement when seeking grant funding. The type of information that typically would be in a Management Plan is:

- Reserve purpose
- Participation trends
- Discussion of issues
- Recommendations
- Summary of findings and directions
- Assets list
- Action plan
- Costings

In addition Council is now developing Management Plans for reserves that have a natural environment. In many cases there is an aquatic and land component. Council has been undertaking Community consultation and is developing a framework for future plans to ensure information regarding a reserve is recorded in the Management Plan format

WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL



#### Road Rehabilitation [5.(3.1)]

Over the last financial year Council has completed maintenance of the rest areas and toilets within the Shire.

Council has also completed reconstruction works on Renmark Road, Adelaide Street Extension, and Twin Wells.

Re-sheeting and reconstruction works have been conducted on sections of the Shire roads including, but not limited to:

Pooncarie Rd	Wentworth Bridge Hydraulic
Renmark Rd	Adelaide Street
Trentham Cliffs	Palm Island
Patching Silver City Highway	Patching Sturt Highway

#### Footpath Repair Program [5.(3.1)]

Council completed all planned footpath repairs and general maintenance during the 2015-2016 financial year.

New footpaths were installed in Millie Street, Hendy Road, Tapio Street, William Street and Midway Drive, with Council's aim to improve pedestrian access.

In addition, the Division undertook routine maintenance works under contract to the NSW Roads and Maritime Services valued at close to \$800,000.

#### Appointment of a Road Safety Officer [6.(3.2)]

In August 2015 Council, in conjunction with NSW Roads and Maritime Services, employed a Road Safety Officer.

This position is instrumental in assisting our local community in regards to different activities that require road closures or traffic control plans.

#### Effluent Disposal Stations [7.(3.2)]

The Council phased in a new operating system for the public Effluent Disposal Stations located in Wentworth, Dareton and Buronga.

This came into effect on 1 July 2015. Since then, Council has introduced a swipe key system to access the Effluent Disposal Stations. Council then moved to an identification key system from 1 October 2015. There have been approximately 180 keys since its inception.

### Service Provision

### Aim: to responsibly provide and maintain council services

#### Placement of Wentworth Bridge Hydraulic Ram [7.(3.1)]

In 2013 the Darling River Bridge at Wentworth was raised, and the old hydraulic rams decommissioned.

In 2014 council resolved to locate one of these Hydraulic Rams at Fother Park.

This year the Hydraulic Ram was installed in its final position and an information board will be installed to provide historic information of the Wentworth Bridge to the public.



## Coomealla Memorial Gardens installation of public amenities [7.(4.2)]

Council applied for funding under the NSW Community Building Partnership program and was awarded \$23,000 to assist Council with the construction of a purpose built toilet building located at the Coomealla Memorial Gardens.

The Coomealla Memorial Gardens are utilised by the entire community, including members of the Aboriginal Community, the aged, the culturally and linguistically diverse, refugees, migrants, and war veterans.



3.1 Provide for the renewal, replacement or upgrade of assets in line with agreed service levels				
Delivery Program Initiatives	Activity Year	Progress as at 30/6/2016	Progress Report Comments	
Enlist the Roads Committee to develop a Shire Wide footpath strategy, the result of which will be included in the relevant Asset Management Plan	2013-2014	Completed	The 2015-2016 PAMPS program saw approx. 1,090 lm of footpaths installed including seven pram ramps. Program completed for 2015-2016.	
Acquire land and create an easement for the Pooncarie Weir	2013-2014	Deferred	This project is on hold until the outcome of discussions with NSW Office of Water regarding transferring ownership to them is known.	
Provide minor upgrades to public halls	Yearly	On going	Minor maintenance works have been undertaken at Wentworth. The Curlwaa Hall is unable to be used and discussions are continuing about replacement options.	
Address risk issues by replacing the irrigation pump at McLeod Oval	2013-2014	Completed	This item was completed during the 2015-2016 financial year.	
Complete landscaping works at the Dareton Wharf	2013-2014	Completed	Landscaping works have been completed.	
Construct a storage shed at the Coomealla Memorial Gardens	2013-2014	Completed	Completed.	
Provide a new transformer at George Gordon Oval	2013-2014	Cancelled	Not required.	
Develop and implement a plan to reduce the number of public toilets within the Shire, and to improve the quality of toilets provided	2013-2014	Yet to Start	Continuing to monitor feedback in relation to public conveniences. The old town hall toilets remain in service, however were earmarked for demolition following the completion of new toilets in the town hall.	
Complete the levy bank easements project	2013-2014	On going	Council has 100% of affected landholders who have formally accepted compensation for the easement. T his has been reported to Council.	
Continue to strengthen Wentworth's heritage appeal through the heritage program	Yearly	On going	Council's Heritage Adviser of 22 years has retired and the resourcing of this will be within the Health and Planning Division or when more expertise of detail is required consideration will be given to the engagement of external professional assistance.	
Plan for the upgrading of Arumpo Road to cater for all weather access	2013-2014	Completed	A preliminary engineering study has been completed.	
Seek funding for the upgrading of Arumpo Road to cater for all weather access	2014-2015	On going	Funding applications are being submitted to try to progress this initiative	
### Service Provision Delivery Program Status Update

Delivery Program Initiatives	Activity Year	Progress as at 30/6/2016	Progress Report Comments
Subject to a successful RDAF application, commence the sealing of the apron and main runway at the Wentworth Aerodrome	2014-2015	On going	Whilst continuing to actively pursue funding for this project, a budget allocation has been made in 2016-2017 for the full amount of the project cost.
Complete a Plan of Management for each reserve that Council manages, with data informing the Asset Management Improvement Plan	2013-2014	On going	The development of management plans is being facilitated via User Groups and other community consultation.
Undertake required water infrastructure upgrades, as per the Asset Management Plan	Yearly	Completed	The following upgrades have been undertaken. Buronga Booster Pump Station, Settled water pumps Pooncarie, Bore pumps East Gol Gol.
Undertake all planning requirements as defined in Water Supply and Sewerage Asset Management Guidelines (Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan)	2013-2014	Yet to start	This project is to be delivered in 2016-2017.
Provide a replacement server	2014-2015	Completed	IT assets have been updated as needed.
Provide for the replacement of office photocopier	2015-2016	Completed	IT assets have been updated as needed.
Deliver scheduled computer replacement	Yearly	Completed	IT assets have been updated as needed.
Deliver scheduled replacement of office furniture	Yearly	Completed	Office furniture has been updated as needed.
Complete the installation of the new Integrated Management System within Council	2013-2014	In progress	Approval has been given to continue to pursue this project which is scheduled for delivery in 2016-2017.
Complete the delivery of the new Website Content Management System for Council	Carried forward	Completed	The redevelopment of Council's website was ubdertaken during 2015-2016 and went live in July 2016.

3.1 Provide for the renewal, replace	cement or upgra	ade of assets in line	with agreed service levels Cont'd
Delivery Program Initiatives	Activity Year	Progress as at 30/6/2016	Progress Report Comments
Provide capital plant replacement items as per annual schedule	Yearly	Completed	The delivery of the 2015-2016 Plant Replacement Schedule is on track for completion 2016-2017 Plant Replacement Schedule being developed.
Renew stormwater drainage in line with Asset Management Plan	Yearly	Completed	Works completed 2015-2016 - Wilga Road, Murray Street, Cadell Street and Hendy Road.
Provide minor upgrades to library buildings	Yearly	Completed	Minor maintenance works undertaken as needed.
Deliver the Roads Repair program	Yearly	On going	This program is delivered in conjunction the Repair Program and the Roads to Recovery Program.
Deliver the 3x3 Roads Program	Yearly	On going	Required works undertaken in 2015-2016.
Deliver the Local Roads Repair Program	Yearly	On going	Required works undertaken in 2015-2016.
Deliver the RRSU Asset Inspection Program	Yearly	Cancelled	
Deliver the RMCC Contractual Works	Yearly	On going	Silver City Highway and Sturt Highway works completed as required in 2015- 2016.
Deliver the Regional Roads Rural Unsealed Repair Program	Yearly	On going	Repair works completed as required during 2015-2016.
Deliver the Bridges, Footpaths and Sharedways Programs	Yearly	On going	Program delivered as required during 2015-2016.
Maintain (and renew where required) bus shelters, tourist bays, wharves, jetties and boat ramps	Yearly	On going	Required works undertaken in 2015- 2016.
Undertake the kerb and gutter extension program	Yearly	On going	Highlighted works during this financial year include Chapman Road, Hendy Road, Williams Road, Burns Street and James King Park Gol Gol. Short Street Wentworth and Devonport Street Dareton.
Undertake the Sharedways program	Yearly	On going	This program is delivered in conjunction with the kerb and gutter extension program.
Complete the Pooncarie Weir Project	2013-2014	Completed	Previously completed.
Complete the internal painting of the Midway Water Tower	2013-2014	Completed	Project has been completed.
Provide waste water infrastructure upgrades	Yearly	On going	Gol Gol Sewer Pump Station five planning works have commenced along with a Pump Replacement Program. A flow meter has been installed at Buronga.

### Service Provision Delivery Program Status Update

Delivery Program Initiatives	Activity Year	Progress as at 30/6/2016	Progress Report Comments
Provide an options paper for the replacement of old trickling filter sewer infrastructure	2013-2014	Completed	Options paper completed and has been attached to funding documents.
Complete the George Gordon Oval major improvements	2013-2014	Completed	Construction of new change rooms and landscaping works have been completed.
Contribute to ongoing upgrades of the George Gordon Oval	Yearly	On going	Council continues to liaise with the George Gordon Oval User Group on minor works at the facility.
Provide for capital upgrades for the Wentworth Showgrounds, as per the Wentworth Showgrounds Masterplan	Yearly	On going	The Wentworth Showgrounds User Group continues to provide input into works required at the showgrounds.
Undertake the redevelopment of the Midway Centre	2013-2014	In progress	A funding application has been successful and this project will now be delivered over the following two financial years. A revised concept plan has been developed and is now being developed into a full working drawing.
Complete the redevelopment of the Midway Centre	2013-2014	Yet to start	Construction works are yet to start.
Deliver the Roads to Recovery program	Yearly	On going	Highlighted works during 2015-2016 include Renmark Road Rehab Project - Reshape formation, Gravel re-sheet and define table drain 4km sealed 17.1km.
Deliver the RMCC Contractual Works	Yearly	On going	Silver City Highway and Sturt Highway works completed as required in 2015- 2016.
Deliver the Regional Roads Rural Unsealed Repair Program	Yearly	On going	Repair works completed as required during 2015-2016.
Deliver the Bridges, Footpaths and Sharedways Programs	Yearly	On going	Program delivered as required during 2015-2016.
Maintain (and renew where required) bus shelters, tourist bays, wharves, jetties and boat ramps	Yearly	On going	Required works undertaken in 2015- 2016.

3.2 Improve the service delivery c Delivery Program Initiatives	-		Brogross Bonart Comments
Delivery Program Initiatives	Activity Year	Progress as at 30/6/2016	Progress Report Comments
Install Microfilm scanner at the library (a grant funded project)	2013-2014	Completed	Previously completed.
Deliver the continuous improvement program	2013-2014	Completed	2013-2014 Completed.
Deliver the continuous improvement program	2014-2015	Completed	2014-2015 Completed.
Deliver the continuous improvement program and undertake a review of the performance appraisal system and make improvement recommendations to council	2015-2016	On going	As an interim step the appraisal form has been reviewed to better facilitate electronic completion of the information. Statistical data is being captured to enable a comprehensive review to be undertaken as to the effectiveness of the existing appraisal.
Deliver the Big Air Wireless Internet Access project	2013-2014	Cancelled	Previously cancelled.
Enter into arrangements with RFS and Essential Energy to install communication equipment on their towers at various points around the Shire	2013-2014	Completed	The upgrade of Council's radio network, as part of the greater RFS radio upgrade project was completed in March. This project has been underway since 2012 and involved the upgrade and expansion of Council's mobile plant and vehicle radio network. This was made possible through Council working with RES and their
			Council working with RFS and their greater radio network upgrade project, to enable the upgrade of Councils' infrastructure t the same time
Research funding opportunities and available technology, and develop a business case for the roll out of tourism touch screens across the Shire	2013-2014	Completed	Television screens, rather than tourisn touch screens have been installed in several locations.
Provide new and replacement library resource	Yearly	On going	Library resources are updated on an an annual basis and old stock is sold off.
Complete the delivery of the Library Local Special Project	Yearly	Completed	This initiative has delivered aid for children's and other programs within the library and in outreach situations.
Continue to service pumping stations, water treatment plants and water mains and waste water pumping stations	Yearly	On going	This is an ongoing service to the public.

Service Provision Delivery Program Status Update



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

#### **Delivery Program Objectives**

- 4.1 Oversee public health and safety
- 4.2 Continue to provide services that contribute to community life

#### **Community Strategic Plan Linkage**

Vision 2: Identify and preserve heritage buildings and historically and culturally significant sites, including culturally significant Aboriginal sites

### Companion Animals [4.(4.1) & (1.2)]

### **Companion Animals Act 1998 & Companion animals Regulation 2008**

The details of impounded companion animals are compiled in a database register. This data is then uploaded onto the NSW Companion Animals website survey of Council's Seizure activity for dogs and cats.

The database is updated regularly as animals are impounded or released. All animals released to their owner, sold or sent to rescue are microchipped before leaving the pound. All dog attacks are also recorded under the Dog Attack Function on the NSW Companion Animal Website.

During the 2015-2016 financial year Council has continued its strong working relationship with many rescue groups including Second Chance Animal Rescue, Starting Over dog Rescue, Homeless Hounds and Rural Rescue reflected by the number of rescued animals. Cats and dog were returned to owners due to being microchipped and their owner details current. The animals that have been released to owners have been claimed after being impounded.

#### **Companion Animal Community Education Programs and Desexing**

Responsible pet ownership within our Local Government Area is integral to Council. Council has now engaged the services of two full time rangers and has commenced the process of considering education programs for the upcoming financial year.

Although desexing is not a requirement of selling a dog from the pound, we do offer a service through our local rescue group Rural Rescue where the animal is released to the group for desexing and vaccination. The animal is then rehomed by the rescue group at a rate which covers the veterinary work.

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Total

522

Total

66

SEIZED, ABANDONED OR STRAY AND

SURRENDERED

**RETURNED TO OWNER** 

TRANSFERRED TO COUNCIL'S FACILITY

Dogs

343

Dogs

65

### Aim: to encourage a safe, inclusive and connected community

### **Section 64 requirements**

Companion Animals that are seized by Council Rangers that are not permanently identified are conveyed to the Buronga Animal Shelter

Cats

179

Cats

1

where they are kenneled for 7 days. Photos of unidentified dogs and cats are placed on Council's website to facilitate owners being reunited with their pets. All identified cats and dogs are kept for 14 days. Every effort is made to contact the person who the animal is microchipped to. A notice of seizure is sent via registered post, all phone numbers are called including emergency contact numbers and an er a lot of our comp rescue there are a suitable for rehomi are euthanised.

#### **Off-leash areas**

A review of Cou Management Plan a suitable off leash

#### Investigations

Within the Local

email is also sent. Although	Cats	Dogs			Total	
panion animals are sent to	133	164		297		
a small number that are not ning and in which case they	RELEASED TO OWNER, SOLD, OR RELEASED TO ORGANISATION FOR REHOMING					
		Cats	D	ogs	Total	
S	Sold	0		0	0	
uncil's Companion Animal nincluding consideration of	Released	7		58	65	
h area(s) is required.	Re-homed	72	2	202	274	
	Euthanized	99		18	117	
Government Area in the ial year all complaints relating			0		0,	

2015-2016 financia the Council rangers. Five dog attacks were reported and investigated. Most attacks centered on livestock in outlying areas. All barking/nuisance animals were dealt with in an expedient manner focusing on management of the issues.

#### Funding companion animal activities

The total amount of expenses associated with Council's companion animal management and activities was \$238,192. This expenditure consists of animal shelter maintenance, veterinary services, operating costs and salaries.





#### Library Services [4.(4.2)]

Our libraries are far more than just a place to go to borrow a book, it is the jewel in Council's Crown.

This year Council has said good bye to some of its long term employees, however we have said hello to some new faces. New people mean new ideas which we are sure will shine through in the next financial year.

The Library membership has continued to grow, with the current total standing at 3,854.

The number of visitors to the libraries in the last year was 14,380.

The libraries continue to be an essential resource for itinerant workers, travellers and people needing to complete government-based forms, and this is reflected in the number of computer bookings (3,451) and Wi-Fi usage (2,740 tickets issued). Library staff members also answered 1,533 information requests during the year. The number of programs offered in the libraries was down slightly from 579 to 546 over the year, however the total attendance increased to 4,331.

The Libraries hosted a number of featured programs such as Children's Book Week, P J Night Storytime, School Holiday Activities, and regular book club meetings.

The dedicated children's programs have been very successful over the last 12 months and have included our sessions run at Gyndarna, the Jack & Jill Childcare Centre and Gol Gol Preschool.

There were also various programs for adults including Tai Chi, the walking group, genealogy forums, Library Lovers' Week, and Christmas craft sessions.



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

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### **Community Life**

### Aim: to encourage a safe, inclusive and connected community

## Events integral to community life [4(4.2)]

Throughout the year Council continually provides support and assists in promoting a variety of events within the community. One of the main events in the region is the Annual Country Music Festival.

Each year the Shire comes alive with Country Music and last year was no exception. It was, one of the more successful years. We had visitors from far and near with 78% returning.

Another annual event is the Ted Hurley Memorial Ski Race. The Show and Shine on the Friday night with the racing commencing on Saturday and concludes on Sunday. Teams head up to the Murray Darling Junction and then complete a 180 degree turn into the Murray.

Other popular local events are the Christmas Eve Main street Party and Easter Sunday Junction Junk, which produce great economic benefits for our Shire.

Each event requires a collaborative effort between the community and Council.

Council has assisted with:

- creation of traffic control plans
- event coordination
- risk mitigation measures
- oval line marking
- additional cleaning of public amenities and litter collections
- supplying and setting out of traffic control signs, and
- provision of qualified Traffic Controllers.

To help ensure that these major events are not impacted upon by other works activities, the scheduling of capital works is arranged around known community events wherever possible.

#### Success through joint promotions

Over the last year, Wentworth accredited Visitor Information Centre staff have supported several local artists. This included Wearable Art Exhibition, Pipping the Colour Exhibition, Birds of a Feather and West Darling Arts - Aboriginal Collective Touring Exhibition.



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL





### The PS Ruby [4.(4.2)]

After many years of restoration by the Wentworth Rotary Club, the people of Wentworth were gifted the paddle steamer Ruby in 1995.

She was built in 1907 and is 40m (133ft) long. There are three deck levels and accommodates up to 100 guests during normal cruises; overnight accommodation is also available for up to 28 passengers and 12 crew.

This historical vessel is recognised by the Australian Maritime Museum and



the restoration and preservation program is an on-going process. All restoration work is as close to original condition as feasible. This has only been possible with the help from an army of volunteers and the generous donations and the substantial assistance from Wentworth Shire Council.

More recently the PS Ruby has been mostly a static display in her pond at Fotherby Park, whilst volunteers have been working tirelessly replacing the rotten timbers and giving her a fresh coat of paint.

The PS Ruby has operated cruises on both the Darling and Murray Rivers including being host to at least one wedding party this year.



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

### **Community Life**

### Aim: to encourage a safe, inclusive and connected community



### Well maintained recreation spaces [7.(4.1) & (4.2)]

Each year Council's Parks and Gardens team perform numerous activities including but not limited to general maintenance, upkeep of Cemeteries, upgrading irrigation systems, tree assessments and landscaping.

They also prepare our recreation areas for upcoming major events, and each year they continue to amaze our residents with their ability to produce spectacular pieces that showcase our Shire.

This year is no exception with the preparation of Alcheringa Oval for the 2015 Millewa Football League Mega Day. The result was a stunning visual display on the day.

#### Preparing for summer [8.(4.1) & (4.2)]

Council provides swimming pools in both Wentworth and Dareton.

It became apparent in 2014 during routine maintenance that the diving boards located at Dareton and Wentworth Public Swimming Pools were in very poor condition and as such all boards were removed and new boards have now been installed.





4.1 Oversee public health and saf	ety		
Delivery Program Initiatives	Activity Year	Progress as at 30/6/2016	Progress Report Comments
Provide signs at the Coomealla Memorial Gardens describing segregated areas	2013-2014	Cancelled	This was previously cancelled.
Complete an inventory of all trees within the Shire	2013-2014	Completed	A tree audit has been completed and funds being allocated in 2016-2017 for remediation work.
Provide education, monitor an inspect retail food premises	Yearly	On going	This function is resourced externally to a level that delivers this standard.
Continue to enforce requirements under the Companion Animals Act	Yearly	On going	This function is resourced internally within the allocation of two Rangers.
Seek funding for the Closing the Gap strategy and other crime prevention strategies	2013-2014	Cancelled	This strategy has been previously cancelled, however Council will continue to pursue opportunities to work in conjunction with indigenous representatives.
Coordinate meetings between agencies involved in the CP	2013-2014	Cancelled	Council resolved not to pursue the revision of a Crime Prevention Plan due to resourcing constraints.
Undertake the painting of the Wentworth Swimming Pool	2013-2014	In progress	Repainting works, including decorative painting, completed during 2015-2016. Further works have been included in the 2016-2017 budget.
Maintain and renew where required street lighting and welcome signs	Yearly	Completed	New Welcome signs have been installed.
DISPLAN Update	2013-2014	In progress	Update is occurring - LEMC working through under direction from REMO.
Purchase grave yard safety fencing	2013-2014	Completed	This activity has been completed.
Install new playground equipment	2013-2014	Completed	Completed for 2013-2014.
Install new playground equipment	2015-2016	Completed	Completed for 2014-2015, in 2015- 2016 16 new pieces of equipment were installed at O'Donnell Park and Swing at Apex Park.
Install new park benches	Yearly	Yet to start	Planning is currently in progress.
Maintain trees under powerlines	Yearly	In progress	This project is delivered in conjunction with Essential Energy.

### Community Life Delivery Program Status Update

4.2 Community service support	4.2 Community service support				
Delivery Program Initiatives	Activity Year	Progress as at 30/6/2016	Progress Report Comments As at April 2016 a total of \$41,868 of the \$150,000 allocation had been allocated to various community groups from the fund. There are requests of a further \$28,765 to be considered by Council at the May meeting.		
Continue to provide limited financial assistance to community groups, youth, aged care and senior citizens	Yearly	On going			
Continue to manage and maintain cemeteries within the Shire	Yearly	On going	Council staff continue to provide grave digging services with the Parks and Gardens team maintaining the lawn sections of the cemeteries.		
Continue to maintain public conveniences across the Shire	Yearly	On going	Council toiles are cleaned on a roster basis as well as RMS rest areas.		
Continue to maintain recreation facilities to existing standards across the Shire	Yearly	On going	This is an ongoing function provided by Council's Parks and Gardens team.		
Provide support services for Rural Fire Services and other emergency services	Yearly	On going	Council supplies an Administration Officer and Local Emergency Management Officer to Local Emergency Management.		



#### Objectives

- 5.1 Engage in prudent waste, energy and water management activities
- 5.2 Implement sound environmental practices within Council operations.

#### **Community Strategic Plan Linkage**

**Vision 2:** Ensure there is a mixture of active a passive recreation spaces that are suitable for all ages and abilities, are safe, accessible and well maintained



### Exercise Equipment - James King Park and Buronga Wetlands [7.(4.2) & (5.2)]

Council, in conjunction with the James King Park User Group and other community meetings, agreed to the installation of exercise equipment to be strategically placed around James King Park.

Council has received wonderful feed back from the community.

### Aim: to improve Council's environmental performance

#### **Community Strategic Plan Linkage**

**Vision 3 :** Support, promote and encourage the health and well being of all residents within the Shire, making it easier for all people to be involved in an active and full community life

#### **Community Strategic Plan Linkage**

**Vision 2:** Strengthen the natural and built environment.

### Mobile Skate Ramp [11.(5.2)]

Following several requests from the youth of Wentworth Shire, Council made the decision to invest in a second mobile skate ramp.

Through the design stage Council held several consultation sessions with the younger generation.

The second mobile skate ramp encourages more children of all ages to go outside and enjoy our lovely weather.

The skate ramp was unveiled in June by Mayor Bill Wheeldon at Buronga Primary School.



### Bottle Bend Boat Ramp [8.(5.2)]

Council in conjunction with NSW Crown Lands Department have finished the boat ramp at Bottle Bend Reserve.

Bottle Bend Reserve is a spectacular area where the community can enjoy passive recreational actives including fishing, primitive camping and nature conservation.



### State of Environment Report

Councils are required to develop a State of Environment (SoE) report every four years, following local government elections; with a supplementary report every other year.

The purpose of the SoE report is to provide accurate, current and accessible information about environmental and heritage conditions within the Local Government Area (LGA).

Reporting is used for:

- Identifying issues most relevant to the sustainability of the environment and heritage.
- Report on causal factors that influence the environment.
- Report on the effectiveness of responses designed to address change.
- Guide improvements in the reporting process.
- Facilitate policy development to enhance and protect the environment and heritage.

The content of this report has been grouped into 12 main categories: General, Town Planning, Development, Roads, Management Plans/Strategies/Studies, Land, Atmosphere, Water, Biodiversity, Human Settlement, Heritage and Council Projects.

In previous years the SoE report was developed as a regional project under the umbrella of the Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils (RAMROC). This year Wentworth Shire Council has elected to develop the SoE report independent of RAMROC by directing internal resources to conduct the research and prepare the report.



No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
	What is the local government area covered by WSC?		26,268 km <sup>2</sup>	No change.
	What is the current population of WSC?		6,610 (2011 ABS Quick Stats Wentworth LGA)	6,779 (2006 ABS Quick Stats Wentworth LGA)
			ABS 2015 Estimated Residential Population 6,883 (Remplan)	
	Were there any significant local events that affected population numbers in 2015-2016? i.e. new development, business closure	N	There were no significant local events that have affected population numbers or the migration of residents.	No data reported.
	Has council undertaken or participated in any new significant environmental projects in 2015-2016?	Y	Installation and management of a sub soil bore to provide raw water to the residents of Pooncarie.	No data reported.
			Participating in the review of Murray REP No 2 – Riverine Land with Department of Planning.	
			Participating in the development of Far West Regional Plan with Department of Planning.	
	Has council undertaken or participated in continuing	Y	Agricultural Land Strategy and Rural Land Use & Rural Residential Strategy.	No data reported.
	environmental projects in 2015-2016?		Review of draft Flood Study, preparation of Flood Risk Management Study & Plan.	
			Improvement and efficiency in Waste Management.	
	What do you consider to be the most important environmental issue(s) faced by your council in 2015-2016?		Darling and Anabranch Rivers being dry. Blue Green Algae in Murray River. Waste Management. Sustainability of natural environment.	A list of issues on Page 2 of RAMROC SoE 2010- 2011. The list does not specify individual issues each Council.

No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
	What do you consider to be the most important environmental issues facing your council in future years?		<ul> <li>Climate change, increase in number and severity of storm events.</li> <li>Flood.</li> <li>Drought Management of Murray Darling Basin/Riverine environment. Waste management/recycling. Pest animals/weeds. Irrigation water/supply/ allocations.</li> </ul>	A list of issues on Page 2.4 of RAMROC SoE 2010-2011, it does not specify individual issues for each Council.
	Has council made any direct response to climate change in 2015-2016?	Y	Council Health & Planning staff are participating in WERA (Western Enabling Regional Adaptation). Encouraging and supporting solar farm development.	No data reported.
	Does council have any plans in response to climate change?	Y	Committed to completing the Flood Study, Flood Risk Management Study and Plan. Committed to completing the Rural Land Strategy and Rural Land Use & Rural Residential Strategy. Will continue to encourage the development of natural energy infrastructure.	No data reported.



No.	lo. Question		Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
	What year was your current WLEP gazetted?		Wentworth LEP 2011 was gazetted 16 December 2011.	Wentworth LEP 1993
	Have any amendments been undertaken to the current LEP in 2015-2016?	Y	Amendment No. 5 8/7/15 – Rectified a mapping error. Amendment No. 7 16/10/15 – Removed 3 heritage items from Schedule 5 and Mapping. Amendment No. 12 15/7/16 – Extended the provisions to the Grandfather/Sunset Clause by 12 months.	No data reported.
	Under the current WLEP how much area of land is under an environmental zone?		Approximately 261,541 Hectares.	No data reported.
	Has Council utilised environmental overlays within its WLEP?	Y	Flood Planning Maps. Natural Resource - Watercourse Maps. Natural Resource - Wetlands Maps. Natural Resource – Terrestrial Biodiversity Maps.	No data reported.



No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
	How many new dwellings were approved in 2015-2016?		41	42
	How many subdivision approvals did your council grant in 2015-2016?		27	22
	How many lots were approved/ certified in 2015-206?		<ul><li>31 Lots approved through</li><li>Development Approvals.</li><li>23 Lots approved through</li><li>Subdivision Certificates.</li></ul>	No data reported.
	How many designated development applications were determined in 2015-2016?		3 Gravel Quarries.	1
	How many DA's were referred to Independent Panels in 2015-2016?		3 Gravel Quarry applications were determined through the Joint Regional Planning Panel.	No data reported.
	How many DA's were received for retirement villages/aged care and the like in 2015-2016?		Nil.	1
	How many DAs for other public developments (such as schools, hospitals, childcare centres) were received in 2015-2016?		1 Childcare Centre in Buronga.	3



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No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
	Please provide the lengths (approx.) for the following road types maintained by your council: • Sealed • Unsealed • State/National Highways		Sealed (Urban) = 52km Sealed (Rural) = 455km Unsealed (Rural) = 1496km Unsealed (Urban) = 10km State/National Highways = 216km	No data reported.
	Have there been any major road and related projects (e.g. bridges, railway, etc.) in your LGA during 2015-2016?	Y	17km upgrade to seal of Renmark Road. 4km upgrade to seal of Low Darling Road. 3km upgrade to seal of Rufus River Road.	No data reported.
	Have there been any major changes of road use/traffic counts in 2015-2016?		No response from R&E.	No data reported.
	Has there been any ma- jor damage to the roads in 2015-2016?		No response from R&E.	No data reported.

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No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting
110.	Question	1/13	Details	2010-2011
	Does council have a current heritage study?	Y	Wentworth Heritage Study 1989.	Wentworth Heritage Study 1989.
	Does council have a heritage management plan, strategy or similar document?	N	Council has previously engaged the services of a qualified heritage consultant.	No data reported.
	Does council have a vegetation management plan?	N		No data reported.
	Does council have a pest/weed management plan?		CP171 Noxious Weeds Management Policy.	It was reported that most councils implement a weed management plan.
	Does council have a soil and water management plan?	N		No data reported.
	Does council have a salinity management?	Ν		No data reported.
	Does council have an acid sulphate soils management plan?	N		No data reported.
	Does council have a floodplain management plan?	Y	Current plan only relates to the Murray River from Gol Gol to Abbottsford Bridge. Council is currently working on a Flood Study, Flood Risk Management Study and Plan with consultants and the Floodplain Risk Management Committee.	Murray River from Gol Gol to Abbottsford Bridge.
	Does council have recent flood prone data?	Y	Council has recent LiDAR flood data for the Murray, Darling and Anabranch Rivers.	No data reported.
	Does council have a flora/fauna management plan?	N		No data reported.
	Has council undertaken any major assessments of flora or fauna or biodiversity certification?	N	Not formally, however the terrestrial biodiversity and wetlands mapping, as endorsed by the Office of Environment and Heritage, have been applied in the Wentworth LEP 2011.	Some Council's within RAMROC are currently preparing new LEPs presenting an opportunity for greater protection of natural resources and biodiversity.
	Does council have a domestic animal policy?	N		No.

	6. LAND			
No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
6.1 C	Contaminated Land	<u> </u>		
	Does council maintain a contaminated lands register? If so, how many items are on the register?	Y	WSC register contains four properties on its register. The EPA website lists three sites, one of these is still under investigation.	WSC register contained four properties.
	Were any new sites added to the register in 2015-2016?	N		No data reported.
	Are there any sites that have been the subject of remediation by order of NSW EPA?	N		No data reported.
6.2 S	Salinity/Acid Sulphate			-
	Does your council know of any land affected by salinity? If so, how much?	Y	Area of affected land in hectares is unknown.	Area of affected land unknown.
	Are there any salinity measuring sites in the LGA?	N		No data reported.
	Does your council know of any land affected by acid sulphate? If so, how much?	Y	Area of affected land in hectares is unknown.	Area of affected land in hectares is unknown.



	7. ATMOSPHERE			
No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
7.1 P	ollution	1		
	Does your council maintain a pollution complaint register?	Y	Council has a container set up in HP Records Manager called Laws & Enforcement – Air Pollution Notices. We register all Customer Complaints and Requests including pollution complaints in this container.	Council maintains a complaint register.
	If so, how many complaints were received in 2015-2016?		Council did not receive any pollution complaints during 2015-2016.	During 2010-2011 two complaints were received.
7.2 N	lotor vehicle use			
	How many vehicles does council operate?		Passenger = 7 Light vehicles = 29 Heavy vehicles = 18 Plant = 31	Passenger = 6 Light Vehicles = 28 Heavy Vehicles/Plant = 80
	How many kilometres were travelled by council vehicles in 2015-2016?		Approximately 2,710,000 kilometres. This includes all light and heavy vehicles.	No data reported.
	How many litres of fuel were consumed by council vehicles?		Unleaded = 20,000 Diesel = 366,000	Unleaded = 50,000 Diesel = 320,000
	Does council have a policy to increase the number of fuel efficient vehicles purchased?	Y	The purchase of new vehicles is guided by Best Value. The majority of new vehicles purchased are now diesel.	No data reported.
	Are any vehicles run on alternative fuel?	Y	1 passenger vehicle on gas.	1 passenger vehicle on gas.

7.3 S	Smoke			
No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
	How many permits were issued for stubble burning in 2015-2016?	Y	215 permits were issued for a variety of types of burning off, including crop stubbles.	Three stubble permits were issued.
	How many permits were issued for solid fuel heaters in 2015-2016?		4	1
	Were controlled burns conducted by council/ RFS in 2015-2016?	N	Due to lack of suitable conditions, controlled burns were not carried out. Hazard reduction works such as ploughing, grading and slashing were carried out instead.	2,320 hectares of controlled burns by Council.
7.4 C	limate			
	Were there any significant climatic events in 2015-2016? i.e. record temperatures, rainfall.	N	A total of 191.3mm of rain recorded at the Wentworth Post Office. The highest recording for the year occurred in January with 59.5mm. Highest temperature recorded for the year was 42.9° in January at the Lake Victoria	
			Storage Station. Lowest recorded for the year was 8.5° in July.	
	Were there any storm events in 2015-2016 which resulted in widespread damage to the built or natural environment?	N	Nil	During this year the region experienced a significant increase in rainfall due to the La Nina pattern. November 2010 received 117.2mm. Total rainfall for the year was 718.4mm. Wentworth LGA experienced a 1 in 10 year flood event, causing \$67,000 in damage.

No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting
110.	Question	1/1	Details	2010-2011
8.1 C	consumption			I
	Did your council have any water restrictions in place during 2015-2016?	N	There were no water restrictions in place during the 2015-2016 financial year.	No data available. Considering the flood event experienced, it is anticipated that water restrictions were not put in place during this financial year.
	What was the total average daily household water consumption in 2015-2016?		Filtered Water 287 kl Raw Water 529 kl	Filtered Water 0.79 kl Raw Water 221.2 kl
	What was council's water consumption for 2015-2016?		\$64,000 of water purchased from NSW Office of Water plus water via rateable properties totalling \$10,000. Raw water used 3,750 kl Filtered water used 2,100 kl	No data reported.
	Does council use treated wastewater for irrigation or any other purposes? If so, how much land is irrigated with wastewater and how many mega litres of wastewater was used?	Y	The Wentworth Wastewater Treatment Facility irrigates McLeod Oval and the Wentworth Golf Course. This results in a saving of up to 80 mega litres of potable water per year which returns approximately \$50,000 in water savings. (EDS 2011-2016)	No.

No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
	Does council monitor raw/ filtered water for quality purposes?	Y	CP173 Water Quality Policy includes the following: Council will maintain regular monitoring of the quality of drinking water and effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information, and promote confidence in the water supply and its management to consumers.	Yes. Alerts were issued for potable water. There were no ground water issues in the Wentworth LGA.
	Did council issue any alerts for its filtered water in 2015-2016?	N	No alerts were issued during 2015-2016.	No data reported.
	Does council maintain a complaints register for water quality?	Y	All complaints are registered in HPRM.	No data reported.
	Did your council report any blue-green algae outbreaks in 2015-2016?	Y	During autumn 2016 the Murray River was affected with blue- green algae.	No.
	Does council have any groundwater monitoring points?	Y		
	Does council have any identified groundwater issues?	Y	Some areas of the shire have a high water table – these areas are not mapped. Some areas of the shire have brackish groundwater – these areas are not mapped.	No.
8.3 lı	rrigation			
	How many hectares of land, approximately, are irrigated for agricultural purposes?		<ul> <li>8,860 Ha irrigated permanent crops.</li> <li>1,740 Ha irrigated seasonal crops.</li> <li>4,100 Ha vacant/not irrigated area previously permanent/ seasonal crop.</li> </ul>	No data reported.

No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
	Did your LGA experience any flooding in 2015-2016? If so, what was the ARI of the flood event? e.g. 1:20 years	N	Nil.	A 1 in 20 year flood event occurred in 2010-2011.
	Was there any damage caused by flooding?	N	N/A.	\$67,000 of damage was caused by flooding. No data available on what was actually damaged.
	9. BIODIVERSITY	1		
No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
9.1 T	ree Preservation			
	Does your council require approval for tree removal? If so, how many applications were received in 2015-2016?	N	Office of Environment & Heritage together with Local Land Services manage the implementation of the Native Vegetation Act 2003 and Native Vegetation Regulation 2013.	No data reported.
	Does council require offset plantings to compensate for vegetation removal?	N	N/A.	N/A.
9.2 F	irewood collection	1		
	Does council allow collection of firewood from roadside and other public places?	N	Collection of firewood from roadside and public places is not permitted.	Not permitted.
	If so, does collection of		N/A	N/A

No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
	Does council maintain any land for the purposes of biodiversity or the environment?	Y	The following reserves are used for both public recreation and have Management Plans for the preservation of the natural environment and biodiversity: Perry Sandhills Reserve. Thegoa Lagoon Reserve. Junction Island/2 Rivers Ski Reserve.	No data reported.
	If so, how much land is reserved?		Thegoa Lagoon Reserve is approximately 294 hectares. Perry Sandhills Reserve is approximately 97 hectares. Junction Island/2 Rivers Ski Reserve 9.31 hectares.	No data reported.
	Is this land protected from activities such as four wheel driving and fire wood collection?		<ul> <li>Thegoa Lagoon has a number of 4WD tracks and firewood collection is prohibited.</li> <li>Perry Sandhills prohibits vehicle access over the hills but vehicle access is permitted around the base of the site and firewood collection is prohibited.</li> <li>Junction Island/2 Rivers Ski Reserve provides for pedestrian access only and firewood collection is prohibited.</li> </ul>	No data reported.

No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
	Does your LGA contain bushfire prone land? If so, how many hectares?	Y	Under the current Bushfire Prone Land mapping approximately 60% of the LGA is classed as either Category 1 or 2. The draft 2016 BPL mapping proposes approximately of 80% of the LGA as either Category 2 or 3.	No data reported.
	How many fires occurred in your LGA during 2015-2016? If so, how many hectares were burnt?		85 bushfire events recorded during 2015-2016. The amount of hectares burnt is unknown.	26 bushfire events were recorded in 2010-2011 with 160 hectares being burnt.
	How many rural fire brigades are operational in your area?		There are 17 brigades located throughout the LGA.	There were 16 brigades located throughout the LGA.
	How many fire trucks are maintained by Council?		None. Council do not maintain any fire trucks but do contribute financially to their maintenance. Council pay the total maintenance cost and claim it back the following year. Therefore, contributing 11.7% of the cost with the remaining 88.3% being reimbursed. Rural Fire Services has 28	26 fire trucks were maintained by Council.
			Firefighting Appliances and 14 Support Vehicles.	

9.5 V	Veeds			
No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
	Did council implement any weed control measures during 2015-2016?	Y	Burr Ragweed at Pooncarie, Menindee Road, Clockweed at Dareton, Boneseed at Coomealla.	No data recorded.
	Does council implement other weed control techniques such as biological weed control?	Y	Cactoblastis delivered to Balranald and Popiltah.	No data recorded.
	Does council participate in larger weed control programs?	Y	WAP through MVWAC and Western Regional Weeds Committee.	Most RAMROC Council's implement a weed management plan.
	Does council involve community groups and landholders in weed control programs?	Y	Council encourages individual landowners and community organisations to be pro-active in the control and eradication of weeds.	Council involves the community and landholders in weed control programs.
9.6 F	est Animals			
No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
	Did council identify or experience any specific pest problems in 2015-2016?	Y	Wild dog attacks on stock.	Locusts and rabbits were identified as problem pests in 2010-2011.
	Does council involve community groups and landholders in pest control?	Y	Council encourages landholders and community groups to assist with the control of pest and feral animals.	Council encourages landholders and community groups to assist with the contro of pest and feral animals.
	What are the most common pest animals in your LGA?		Wild goats/dogs/cats, rabbits, foxes, dingoes, wild pigs, possums, miners, kangaroos, emus, mice, carp.	Data not reported.

No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
	How many dogs were impounded in 2015-2016?		343 dogs were impounded in 2015-2016. Of those impounded, 123 were returned to owners, 202 rehomed to rescue groups and 18 euthanised.	178 dogs impounded.
	How many cats were impounded in 2015-2016?		179 cats were impounded in 2015-2016. Of these, 7 were returned to owners, 72 rehomed to rescue groups and 99 euthanised.	64 cats impounded
	How many other animals were impounded in 2015-2016?		5 horses and 12 goats were also impounded.	Nil.
	How many animals were euthanised in 2015-116?		117 Animals were euthanised over this period mostly relating to feral cats totalling 99. 18 dogs were euthanised due to age, injury or being unsuitable for rehoming.	85 animals were euthanised.
	Is it compulsory to microchip pets in your LGA?	Y	Companion Animals are required to be microchipped by 12 weeks of age or before being sold or given away.	Data not reported.
	Is it compulsory to register pets in your LGA?	Y	Registration is required from six months of age. In NSW it is a lifetime registration.	Data not reported.
	Is it compulsory to de-sex non- breeding pets in your LGA?	N	Currently there is no requirement to de-sex your pets. An incentive is offered in reduced registration rates for de-sexed animals.	Data not reported.

### State of the Environment Report

No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting
<b>NO</b> .	Question	1/1	Details	2010-2011
10.1	Effluent treatment & dispo	sal	•	
	Does council operate sewerage treatment facilities?	Y	Treatment plants are located in Wentworth, Dareton, Buronga and Gol Gol.	Data not reported.
	Approximately how many dwellings in you LGA are connected to treatment facilities?		1,860	1,611
	Approximately how many dwellings are not connected to treatment facilities?		102	1,300
	How many approvals were granted for on-site disposal systems in 2015-2016?		26	16
	Does council specify a standard for on-site disposal systems?	Y	Systems must be in accordance with NSW Health Department Guidelines.	Data not reported.
0.2	Landfill Waste			
	Does council manage landfill waste sites?	Y	Landfill sites are located at Buronga Landfill, Ellerslie, Pomona and Pooncarie.	No.
	How many tonnes of waste were conveyed to landfill in 2015-2016?		A total of 12,370 tonnes of waste was transported to landfills.	23,000 tonnes.
	Has there been any significant changes to waste disposal methods in 2015-2016?	Y	Accurate weighing system in place through the new weighbridge and its software.	Data not reported.
	Does council manage a street sweeping program?	Y	Council's street sweeping program:- First week Monday and Friday sweeper completes all Wentworth streets Tuesday-Buronga Wednesday-Dareton and Curlwaa, Thursday-Gol Gol streets. Second week All streets in Wentworth completed Tuesday and Friday Wednesday and Thursday sweeper used where required.	Data not reported.

No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
	What is the domestic waste annual charge per household?		Urban charge \$220, Rural charge \$270 per household.	Domestic waste annual charge was \$185.
	How many complaints of illegal dumping were received by council in 2015-2016?		Eight incidents reported.	Six incidents reported.
10.3	Recycling and Reuse			
	Does council manage or control a recycling program?	Y	Recycling drop off bins are available at Buronga Landfill and Transfer Stations.	No.
	If so, how many tonnes of material were recycled or sent for recycling during 2015-2016?		22 tons of materials were transported from these sites for recycling.	N/A
	Has council reused any items for a specific project in 2015-2016? e.g. milk cartons, railway sleepers, tree guards	Y	Collection of used items used in libraries for children's activities.	No.
	Have any major changes affecting the recycling program occurred in 2015-2016?	N	N/A	N/A
	How many reams of office paper were used by council in 2015-2016?		600 reams.	1,805 reams.
	Does council recycle used office paper?	Y	All used office paper is recycled.	Data not reported.
10.4	Noise	1		I
	Does council maintain a noise complaints register?	Y	Council has a container set up in HP Records Manager called Laws & Enforcement – Noise Control. All customer complaints and requests regarding noise are registered in this container.	Data not reported.
	If so, how many complaints were received during 2015-2016?		Council received two noise complaints during 2015-2016.	

### State of the Environment Report

No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
	What was council's electricity consumption and cost for 2015- 2016?		Administrative consumption costs (including libraries, rest rooms, public halls, swimming pools, recreation reserves, parks, aerodrome etc.) \$173,000.00 Sewer Costs \$72,000 Water Costs \$120,000 Street Lighting Costs \$96,000 Total = \$461,000	A total consumption cost of \$453,953.
	How did council's electricity consumption compare to the previous years?		Total Cost in 2014-2015 = \$461,000 Total cost in 2010-2011 = \$453,953 An increase of \$8,000	N/A
	How many solar energy systems were installed in the LGA during 2015-2016?		Unknown–exempt development.	Data not reported.
	How many solar hot water systems were installed in the LGA during 2015-2016?		Unknown–exempt development.	Data not reported.
	What steps has Council taken to reduce its energy consumption?		Consideration of installing solar panel system on administrative building roof.	Data not reported.
	11. HERITAGE	I		
	How many local heritage items are identified in your heritage study?		115	115
	How many local heritage items are identified in your LEP?		91	31
	How many state heritage items are identified in your LEP?		Five items listed as state heritage items on the Office of Environment & Heritage website: St Ignatius School St John's Anglican Church and Rectory Avoca Homestead Complex Old Wentworth Gaol Rodney Paddle Steamer	3



### State of the Environment Report

	11. HERITAGE Cont'd			
No.	Question	Y/N	Details	Previous Reporting 2010-2011
	How many national heritage items are identified in your LEP?		1	1
	Did council undertake any heritage studies or similar during 2015-2016?	N	No. The current WSC Heritage Study 1989 is due for review.	No.
	Have any items been added during 2015-2016?	N	Three items were removed during 2015-2016.	No.
	Did council receive any funding during 2015-2016 for heritage projects?	N	No.	Data not reported.
	Were any heritage items altered or demolished in 2015-2016?	Y	One dwelling was severely damaged by fire that it was deemed unsafe to retain and was subsequently demolished.	Data not reported.
	Were any heritage sites damaged or vandalised in 2015-2016?		As above.	Data not reported.
11.1	Aboriginal Sites			1
	How many aboriginal items/ areas are identified in your LGA?		Sturts Billabong Snaggy Bend Aboriginal Burial Ground Rufus Creek area and massacre burial site Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area Lake Nitchie Area Fletchers Lake Area	8
	How many aboriginal items are nominated in your LGA?		None.	Data not reported.
	Have any archaeological studies been undertaken in 2015-2016?	N	No known archaeological studies have been undertaken.	Data not reported.

#### **12. COUNCIL PROJECTS**

Details of any other council project or venture undertaken in 2015-2016 that is beneficial to the environment

Council is currently preparing a management plan for Junction Island/2 Rivers Ski Reserve.



### Environmental Performance Delivery Program Status Update

Delivery Program Initiatives	Activity Year	Progress as at 30/6/2016	Progress Report Comments
Convert the Pooncarie and Ellerslie Tips to transfer stations	2013-2014	In progress	Discussion about the arrangements for Pooncarie and Ellerslie Tips are on going.
Convert manual irrigation systems to drip irrigation systems	2013-2014	Deferred	This item has not been included in the budget allocation.
Undertake periodic collection of hard waste within the Shire	Carried Forward	Completed	Hard waste collection was undertaken in June 2016.
Acquire new EPA licence for the Buronga Landfill	2013-2014	In progress	Council took over management of the Buronga Landfill site and continues to work with the EPA to ensure that all licence requirements are being met. The immediate requirement is to construct a new cell in 2016-2017.

5.2 Implement sound environmental practices within Council activities				
Delivery Program Initiatives	Activity Year	Progress as at 30/6/2016	Progress Report Comments	
Undertake routine maintenance of the Levee Bank	Yearly	Completed	Limited works undertaken due to easement project. Headwalls, batter sashing and travelling surface have been undertaken on the banks around the golf Club where it does not require consent from the owners to enter.	
Monitor and control blue green alga	Yearly	On going	A blue green alga alert was issued during 2015-2016 with responses being coordinated by DPI Water rather than Council.	
Deliver environmental initiative	Yearly	Cancelled	The activity is being cancelled with activity to be included in the environmental efficiency master plan for water and waste water.	
Complete the River Access Study	2013-2014	Yet to start	The preparation of the Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan has been included in 2016-2017 budget.	
Lobby the State Government to enable the conversion of Crown Land to Residential Land	2013-2014	On going	Council has continued to Lobby the State Government in relation to the conversion of Crown Land within a 20km radius of each of the townships.	

WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

#### **Environmental Planning and**

#### Assessment Act 1979

Council has not entered into any planning agreements during the 2015-2016 financial year.

#### Stormwater Management Services

Council is not required to provide a report in relation to stormwater management services as it does not levy a charge for such services.

#### **Coastal protection services**

Council is not required to provide a report in relation to coastal protection services as it does not levy a charge for such services

#### State of the Environment

In accordance with advice received from the Division of Local Government, a State of the Environment report from Council is not required until after the next Ordinary Council election in 2016.

Council has not entered into any environmental upgrade agreement in accordance with any requirements imposed under s406 in the 2015-2016 financial year .

### Public Interest Disclosure Act 1994 and Regulation

Nil

#### **Carers Recognition Act 2010**

Nil

### External Bodies with delegated functions

In accordance with Clause 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 Council advises that the PS Ruby Committee has delegated functions as a section 355 Committee of Council.

#### Legal Proceedings

In accordance with Clause 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 a summary of the amounts incurred by the Council in relation to legal proceedings is shown in the table below, which details the amounts, costs and expenses paid or received and a summary of the state of progress of each legal proceeding and (if it has been finalised) result.

#### **Report on Capital Works**

Council has not undertaken any projects which fall under the requirements of the Capital Expenditure Guidelines.

Legal Proceedings 2015-2016				
Outstanding rate collections (Ongoing)	\$19,382			
Planning Matters (Finalised)	\$3,134			
Native Title Matters	\$96,028			
Reserves	\$800			
Kerbside Domestic Waste Collection	\$7,000			
Total	\$126,344			

### Sundry Statutory Information

#### **Public Access to Information**

In accordance with section 125 of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA) and regulation, the number of GIPA requests for the year are reported in Table 8.

GIPA applications must be made in writing using the Council's application form which can be downloaded from the website.

There is a \$30 (GST exempt) application fee applicable to all GIPA requests, which relate to one hour of processing time, additional hours can be charged at \$30 per hour unless of a personal nature.

Applications of a personal nature are entitled to 20 hours of processing time after which a \$30 per hour fee will apply.

Processing time is the time taken to locate information, determine the application and undertake any required consultation and photocopying.

#### Corporations in which Council participated

In accordance with Clause 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 Council advises that it entered into an agreement between Destination NSW and Tourism Victoria and Murray River Regional Tourism Limited which was established to grow and promote the development of the tourism industry in the Murray Region in the long term.

### Corporations in which Council held a controlling interest

In accordance with Clause 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 Council advises that it has no controlling interest in any corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies.

#### Contracts awarded in the financial year

In accordance with Clause 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, details of each contract awarded for amounts greater than \$150,000 are provided in the table below, which lists the name of each contractor, the nature of goods or services supplied and the total amount payable under the contract.

GIPA report 2015-2016		Awarded Contracts greater than \$150,000 2015-2016	
No. of GIPA requests received 5		William Adams - Purchase Front End Loader	\$313,345
No of contraventions by Council of an information protection principle or of a privacy code of practice, or disclosure	NIL	Menz Plant - Heavy Patching and Bitumen Sealing	\$186,717
of personal information kept in a public register under Part 5 Section		Garry Davidson Holdings Pty Ltd - Woodside Park - Construction Agreement	\$286,317
33		Waters Excavations - Wentworth Airport Drainage Works	\$278,802

