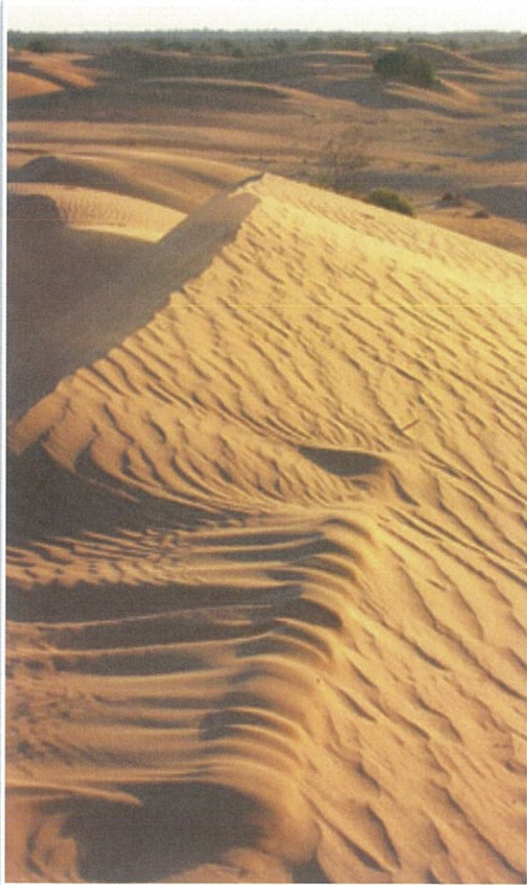




ANNUAL REPORT

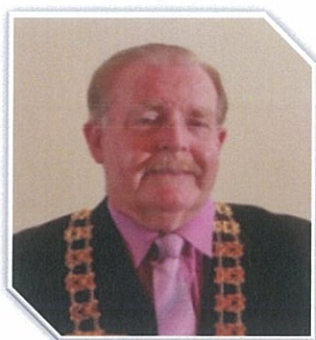
2012/2013



Contents

Mayoral Introduction- Celebrating our achievements	3
Report from the General Manager	4
Delivery Program Implementation.....	5
Vision 1 - Becoming a vibrant, growing and thriving community	5
Vision 2 – Strengthening the natural and built environment.....	8
Vision 3 – Enhanced community and civic leadership	12
Statutory Information	15
General Purpose Financial Statements.....	19

Mayoral Introduction- Celebrating our achievements



In 2012 the Wentworth Shire Council, on behalf of the community, endorsed the first Wentworth Region Community Strategic Plan. The need to develop and document a long term vision for the community stems from the State Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements which are enshrined in the Local Government Act 1993.

Council was also required to develop a Delivery Program to respond to the Community Strategic Plan (CSP). The Delivery Program details all of the activities that Council undertakes and how each of those activities responds to the Community Strategic Plan.

In line with the requirements of the Local Government Act, Council is also obliged to provide an Annual Report to the Community, detailing its progress towards achieving the objectives set in the Delivery Program.

Whilst the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) requirements are new to Wentworth Shire, they have been phased in across all Councils over the three years prior to June 2012, with Wentworth Shire electing to be in the last group of Councils to implement the requirements of the Local Government Act.

We have an exciting future ahead of us with the Community Strategic Plan establishing a shared vision of the future, and the Delivery Program establishing what Council will contribute towards the Community Strategic Plan during its term of office.

This annual report reflects the activities undertaken within the 2012-2016 Delivery Program, as adopted by the previous Council in June 2012. Within the Community Strategic Plan, the community told us that it wanted an efficiently managed Council that provides leadership within its available means. Shortly after its election in September 2012, Council was delivered a financial sustainability assessment which sparked the need to address our long term sustainability as a Council. Since September 2012 the newly elected Council has focussed on taking the necessary action to reduce fixed expenditure and increase our revenue base in the longer term.

The community also told us that it wanted increased economic development and growth, and to this end, Council has been actively encouraging development and promoting that we are indeed 'open for business'.

I commend this annual report to you and my fellow Councillors and I look forward to continuing working with the community towards achieving the shared vision established within the Community Strategic Plan.

Cr. Don McKinnon
Mayor, Wentworth Shire Council

Report from the General Manager



As I reflect on the 2012/13 Financial Year I can say it has been one of the most challenging, turbulent and interesting years that I have had as General Manager.

Challenging because it was the first year the organisation has operated under the new Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. It is a tough juggling act to try to balance the community aspirations established within the Community Strategic Plan with the services and facilities that this Council can reasonably afford to provide to its community. The newly elected Council have set a cracking pace since the September elections and my role is to ensure that the organisation responds accordingly.

The turbulence during the year came as a consequence of the State Government's reform agenda. Reviews of the Local Government Act, Local Government boundaries and planning reforms have each caused a degree of uncertainty about our future as a local government area. Council has made strong representations to State politicians to highlight our uniqueness and our ability and desire for positive growth.

The year was made interesting with the re-configuration of the Organisation and the appointment of new Directors. It is with great pleasure that the organisation welcomed Joy Hentschke as the Director Finance and Policy, Chris Edwards as Director Roads and Engineering and Ken Ross as Director Planning and Health.

The Annual Report highlights our many achievements during the year, and my staff is to be congratulated on their continual focus on providing quality services and facilities for the benefit of all residents and ratepayers.

Peter Kozlowski
General Manager



Delivery Program Implementation

VISION 1 - BECOMING A VIBRANT, GROWING AND THRIVING COMMUNITY

Within the Community Strategic Plan the community said that it wanted to achieve increased economic development and growth; improved population growth and residential expansion; expanded employment and training opportunities and improved educational outcomes. Council is proud to highlight just some of the activities that it undertook in 2012-13 to help the community achieve its first vision.

A digital library initiative attracts new library members

The eBook component of the digital library initiative was launched in Library and Information Week in May 2013 and resulted in several new members joining the library.

The SW Zone consortium of libraries continues to develop and support the digital library,

and the group is looking at future digital formats such as online magazines and newspapers.

Another consortium purchase by the SW Zone has resulted in the installation of Libero Uno, which, apart from searching the library catalogue, also

searches the catalogues of the other member libraries and information databases to which the library subscribes.

These networking initiatives expand the range of services that can be offered within the Wentworth Shire and respond to objective 3 of the CSP.



Three new wi-fi hotspots launched

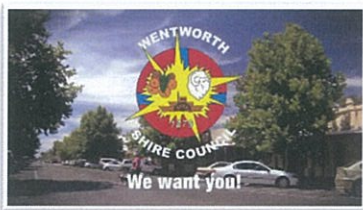
Residents, visitors and itinerant workers are the key beneficiaries of three new wi-fi hotspots introduced to library branches within the Wentworth Shire.

The service is proving to be extremely popular with 1,246 usage tickets being purchased in the first 6 months of installation.

This initiative responds to objectives 1 and 3 of the CSP and was made possible with the assistance of NSW.net.



The WE WANT YOU! Campaign Launch



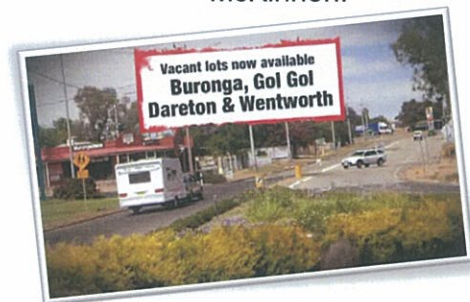
In response to CSP Objectives 1 and 2, Council launched its WE WANT YOU campaign in November 2012. The promotional campaign was designed to help stimulate development within the Wentworth Shire Council

area and highlighted the \$15,000 First Home Owner Grant, stamp duty concessions and land availability in Buronga, Gol Gol, Dareton and Wentworth.

Council produced a 30 second TV commercial and also distributed information to local real estate agents, builders, developers and Council Customer Service Centres, in order to maximize the use of the TV commercials.

Mayor McKinnon described the campaign as being a bold and positive step forward for Council to attract developers back to the Shire.

"Council wants to send a clear message to developers that Council is open for business and that we want to attract our fair share of the development that is occurring in the region and it is likely that we will continue with similar promotions in the future", said Mayor McKinnon.



Attracting Visitors to the Region – Jewells at the Junction

Council is continually seeking innovative ways to attract additional visitors to the region.

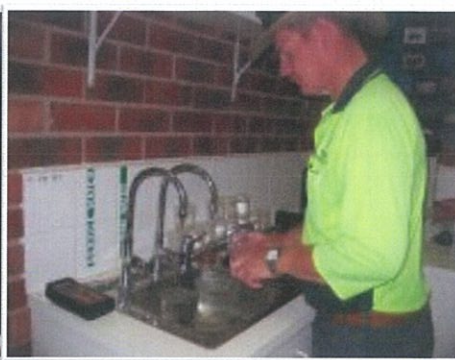
One such initiative was the Jewells at the Junction event which included an Antiques and Collectables Appraisal Day. Vanessa Crew and Adam Truscott from the Collector visited Wentworth to hold

appraisal sessions for the public at the Wentworth Town Hall. Fine china, teas sets, clocks and toys were dusted off and valued by the visiting pair.

Following the event Ms Crew commented to the Sunraysia Daily that they had seen some fantastic stuff such as original Pro Hart paintings and rare

pieces of Australian Pottery. There were also 1905 to 1910 maps that would have been drawn up by riverboat captains which were estimated to be valued between \$800 to \$1000.





Helping householders to save on power costs

Pensioners and low income families in the Shire were assisted during 2012 and 2013 with the introduction of two grant funded programs aimed educating householders about how they could save power.

Letter box drops, mail outs, radio advertisements, media releases and information days at Senior Citizens days were among some of the activities undertaken to promote the initiatives. As a part of the

initiatives residents were able to access a free energy audit and receive free energy saving items such as stand-by saver power boards, energy efficient light globes, water efficient showerheads, door snakes, and shower timers

Council provides over \$150,000 to community groups

In the 2012-2013 financial year Council approved over \$150,000.00 of assistance to a variety of organisations through its Donations, Contributions and Grants program.

Mayor of the Wentworth Shire Cr. Don McKinnon said that Council provides support to organisations in a variety of ways such as the waiving of fees, the free use of Council facilities and through cash donations.

"The Donations Contributions and Grants Program is one way of accounting for all the support provided back to our community", said Mayor McKinnon.

With some of the funds yet to be allocated in the 2013/14 financial year, one of the major beneficiaries in this financial year has been the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens who received a \$45,000 grant from Council.

Council also supported the Wentworth District Racing Club with a \$5,000 grant to promote the annual races, together with Murray House who received rate reductions and fee waivers throughout the year.

The Donations Contributions and Grants Program is an application based program that is available to all community groups and not-for profit organisations and responds to Objective 4 of the Community Strategic Plan.





VISION 2 – STRENGTHENING THE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The aim of vision two of the Community Strategic Plan is to address major infrastructure such as roads, bridges, footpaths and water and sewer infrastructure. From a Council perspective simply maintaining these assets is a significant budgetary commitment. The community have told us in the Community Strategic Plan that they would like to see improvements in infrastructure, and Council has been working hard to try to address some of the infrastructure backlogs. These are just some of the highlights from the 2012/2013 financial year.

Enhancing our river frontage

The Community Strategic Plan highlights the community's desire to capitalise on our most strategic advantage – our river.

The James King Park Masterplan (completed in January 2012) explored multiple ways to reinvigorate the riverfront at Gol Gol.

Council quickly realised that more community extensive input would be required to determine the most appropriate way to plan and prioritise how this project should take shape.

During the 2012-13 financial year a community reference group was established and commenced working through the various issues and ideas from the Masterplan. Multiple ideas have stemmed from the consultation, including ideas on how to make the area



safer for pedestrians and river users, the future development of the tennis courts and surrounds and works beyond James King Park itself.

This project is a continuing project which now falls within the responsibility of the Director Roads and Engineering, Mr. Chris Edwards. Mr Edwards said that the first stage of the project is to construct John Street, which will provide two-way vehicular access to the area.

The riverfront at Coomealla also received a face lift, thanks to the creativity of the Parks and Gardens staff.



New toilets completed in the Wentworth Town Hall

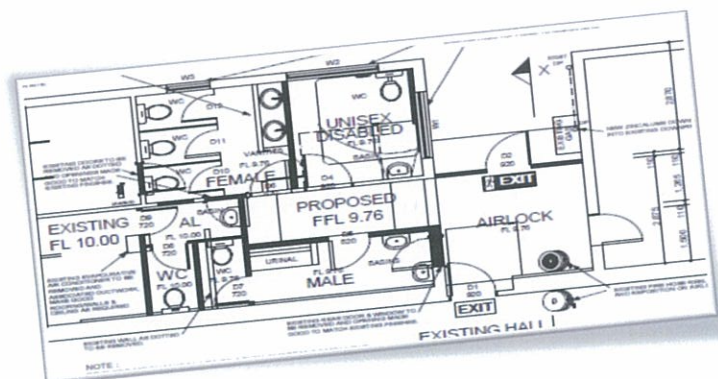
Users of the Wentworth Town Hall will no longer need to access the outside toilets, thanks to the construction of brand new internal toilets.

Addressing the need to rationalise and improve the public toilets the new additions

to the town hall address accessibility issues and the poor state of repair of the external toilet facilities that previously serviced the town hall.

The new amenities comprise male, female and disabled

toilets, all of which are accessible from either the town hall or the Community Meeting Room. The project also included installing new toilets in the Maternal and Child Health Care office which is located at the front of the Town Hall



The benefits of pet registration and micro-chipping.

After 3 years apart, Allan Eastwood thought his dog Drum was gone for good, until he received a phone call from the Hay Shire Council to tell him his dog had been found.

Wentworth Shire Council Ranger, Amanda had been called out to a private property in Dareton where a Kelpie dog had been captured in a private dog trap. Standard practice is to check all animals for a

microchip and NSW registration, and on this occasion Ranger Amanda was in luck. "The contact details were out of date but because the address listed was in the Hay area, I contacted the Hay Shire Council to see if they knew of the owner, and they located Allan for me", said Amanda.

When Allan received the call to tell him that Drum was in the

Buronga pound, he jumped in his car and drove 543 km's from West Wyalong to pick him up the next day. "This was a touching reunion and proves the benefits of pet registration and micro-chipping", said Amanda.





Recycling & composting trial completed

In response to community calls for recycling within the Shire, council conducted a recycling trial in Gol Gol between February and May 2013.

Director, Health and Planning Mr Ken Ross reported that the recycling and composting 3 bin system trial was a partnership between Wentworth Shire Council, Mildura Regional Waste Management Group, Transpacific Cleanaway and Mildura Rural City Council who conducted the same trial with Merbein residents.

The three bin system was trialled by approx. 320 Gol Gol residents over a 16 week period. Residents were

required to separate their recycling and organic material from their general rubbish, and they were also provided with a kitchen caddy and compostable cornstarch bag liners to assist with the collection of food scraps for disposal in the organics bin.

Organic waste was collected and transported to the Buronga Landfill site, where it was processed and trialled as a soil conditioner on local farms. The recyclable waste was delivered to the Mildura Bottle Exchange where it was sorted and re-processed into new products. During the 16 week trial 42.3 tonnes of organic material and 30.24

tonnes of recyclable material was collected from the kerbside.

Residents who participated in the trial have provided feedback to Council and this information, together with the results of the trial will be analysed to determine the future direction of a waste collection system within the Shire.

The recycling and composting trial responds to Objective 8 of the Community Strategic Plan.

Buronga Animal Shelter - After Hours Drop Off Facility

The Wentworth Shire Council constructed a new animal facility at Buronga Animal Shelter.

The new facility is for Shire residents to drop off stray dogs or cats when the animal shelter is closed.

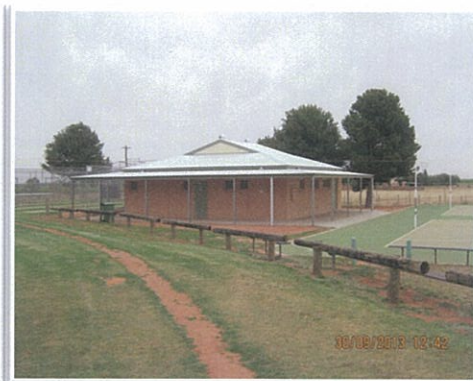
The new structure allows 24 hour public access and provides secure after hours

housing for stray or unwanted animals. The additional facility is one of several ongoing improvements to the shelter, which include directional signage on the Silver City Highway, Corbett Ave, Alcheringa Drive and signage out the front of the animal shelter.

There is also a dedicated cat enclosure, fencing improvements to the dog exercising area plus an examination bench for micro chipping and admin requirement.

The Wentworth Shire Council animal shelter is located at 308 Alcheringa Drive Buronga.





Upgrades to the George Gordon Oval

The George Gordon Oval is one of the Shire's major sporting precincts hosting a feast of district netball, cricket and football competitions.

User groups identified the need for updated change room facilities which had the capacity to cater for the increased number of women and young people participating in sport across the region.

Mayor Don McKinnon said the that the upgrades to the George Gordon Oval highlights the benefits of Council, user groups and the community combining their resources to achieve positive outcomes.

"The change rooms and the lighting projects have come together with the financial support of Council and

multiple funding partners", and these are the sorts of project that I would like to see more of", said Mayor McKinnon.

"I would like to congratulate the committee of management on its excellent leadership of this project, and I am certain that the community will benefit from these new facilities for years to come". (Mayor McKinnon)

The Pooncarie Weir and fish ladder

Works on the Pooncarie Weir and fish ladder were scheduled to recommence in this reporting period.

Funding for the project had originally been secured and works commenced on this project in 2009, however

flooding events in Queensland and exceptionally high flows into the Darling River resulted in the works being underwater before they could be completed. Manager, Engineering Services, Simon Pradhan said that following the high river levels it became a waiting game as to when we

would be able to re-start the project works. Thankfully the river levels have now eased and we have now been able to recommence the project in the next financial year.

The weir and fish ladder works are scheduled for the 2013/14 financial year, and responds to Objective 7 of the CSP.





VISION 3 – ENHANCED COMMUNITY AND CIVIC LEADERSHIP

During the development of the Community Strategic Plan it was evident that the community was concerned about issues such as community leadership, volunteerism and the future for our young people. Vision three of the CSP addresses these issues and it is in this area that Council addresses the administration component of its operations. The following articles represent some of the initiatives undertaken by Council during 2012/2013 to contribute to this aspect of the Community Strategic Plan.

2012 Council elections

September 2012 marked the completion of term of office for the previously elected Council led by Cr. Margaret Thomson, and the commencement of a new four year term of office for the newly elected Council.

There were 12 candidates who contested the election from which 9 were elected to represent the community, with the poll finally being declared on 16 September 2012.

The elected representatives for the next four years were:-

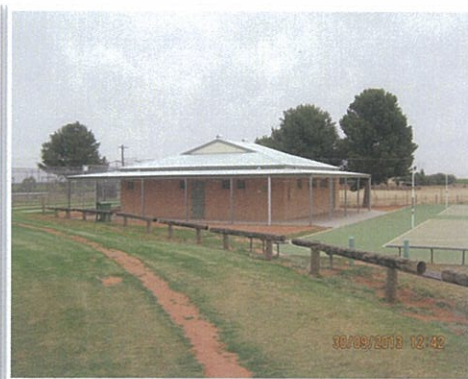
- Cr. Brad Clarke
- Cr. Paul Cohrs
- Cr. Melisa Hederics
- Cr. Don McKinnon
- Cr. Peter Nunan
- Cr. Brian Wakefield
- Cr. Bill Wheeldon
- Cr. Bob Wheeldon
- Cr. Ian Whitefield

Once elected, the first task of the new Council is to elect its Mayor and Deputy Mayor at its first meeting.

Cr. Don McKinnon was duly elected as Mayor and Cr. Melisa Hederics was elected Deputy Mayor at the meeting held on 03 October 2012.

The Council formally elects its Mayor and Deputy Mayor in September of each year.





Setting the Council agenda

The new Integrated Planning and Reporting framework provides each newly elected Council with the opportunity to review the progress on Council's commitment to the Community Strategic Plan.

"Clearly when there is a Council election, each candidate has their own election platform, and the September 2012 elections were no different", said Mayor McKinnon. "Several of the new Councillors were elected on a development and reform agenda, and together as the elected representatives we now need to work through the various plans and re-determine the priorities for Council moving forwards".

One of the first tasks that Council undertook was to commence a review of the organisational structure. "The determination of the structure within 12 months of the election is a requirement of the Local Government Act, and Council decided that a comprehensive review was warranted on this occasion", said Mayor McKinnon.

We systematically worked through each of the departments, and one of the first decisions was to revert back to a three Director model and to have all our Directors on Senior Contracts. This resulted in Chris Edwards being appointed to the position of Director of Roads and

Engineering, Ken Ross appointed to the position of Director Health and Planning, and Joy Hentschke appointed to the position of Director, Finance and Policy.

Following the appointment of the Directors a review of the Planning was commenced, which would be followed by the Roads and Engineering directorate and the Finance and Policy Area in the new financial year. Under the timeframes established within the Local Government Act, the redetermination is to be completed in September, 2013.

Managing Council's Assets

Asset Management Planning is one of the central planks of the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework and is designed to ensure that each Council has a comprehensive approach to managing and maintaining its assets.

With nearly \$400million in assets it is vitally important that Council prudently manages the asset base on

behalf of the community, said Mayor McKinnon.

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

The extent of the asset base is highlighted on the following table.

Asset Class	Replacement Cost (\$000)
Transport	\$259,448.00
Stormwater Drainage	\$4,389.00
Water and Sewer	\$72,397.00
Buildings	\$11,084.00
Plant and Equipment	\$11,973.00
Other Assets	\$24,888.00
Total	\$384,179.00



The Workforce Management Plan

Council's first Workforce Management Plan under the IP & R requirements was compiled as a component of the 2012 set of plans and provided the incoming Council with a comprehensive analysis of its workforce. The actions from the Workforce Management Plan were

incorporated into the Delivery and Operational Plans and continue to be implemented across the organisation.

Led by the General Manager, the organisation focussed on reducing red tape and improving efficiencies across the organisation.

General Manager, Peter Kozlowski commented that he was confident that whilst organisational change is never easy the end result of the organisational redetermination would be a much stronger and more competitive workforce.

Creating a Long Term Financial Plan for Council

In addition to developing its Long Term Financial Plan, during 2012, all NSW Councils were subjected to an independent NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) assessment of their financial position. General Manager, Peter Kozlowski commented that for the newly elected Council the TCorp assessment provided a sobering reality check with

TCorp assessing Council's current Financial Sustainability as being weak with a negative outlook. The General Manager commented that whilst Council might not necessarily agree with some of the unpinning data that TCorp used, there is no escaping the fact that the same methodology was used for every Council across the State.

"As a council we are working hard to address some of the fundamental issues that led to the negative TCorp assessment, and we certainly hope that next time the assessment is undertaken the outlook will be much more positive", said Mr Kozlowski.

Youth Week Celebrations

In celebration of National Youth Week 2013, the Wentworth Shire Council hosted a special screening of "The Hobbit". The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey is an epic fantasy adventure film was shown on the big screen under the stars at McLeod Oval, Wentworth.

This free event for young people was particularly planned to celebrate the vital importance of youth within a community. Needing only to bring a deck chair the drug and alcohol free event was a huge success.

This was a joint initiative of Council and the Department of Transport NSW, and was a part of Council's contribution to increasing youth participation and leadership.

Statutory Information

The inclusion of the following information within the Annual Report is a statutory requirement under the Local Government Act 1993 and associated regulations.

Rates and charges

In accordance with Clause 132 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, details of rates and charges written off during the 2012 – 2013 rating year are provided in table 1. These rates and charges have been written off in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and Regulations

Table 1 - Rates and charges written off in 2012/13	
Rates and Charges	\$636.12
Debtor Charges	\$1,487.24
Total	\$2,123.36

Payment of expenses and provision of facilities

In accordance with clause 217 of the Local Government Act (General) Regulation 2005, details of the payment of expenses of, and the provision of facilities to, councillors in relation to their civic functions are provided in table 2

Table 2 – Payment of expenses and provision of facilities to councillors	
Mayor Fees	\$22,310.40
Councillor Fees	\$91,980.00
Provision of dedicated office equipment	NIL
Telephone calls made by Councillors	\$6,245.12
Attendance of Councillors at conferences and seminars	\$17,877.67
Training of Councillors & provision of skill development	NIL
Interstate visits by Councillors	NIL
Overseas visits by Councillors	NIL
Expenses of any spouse or partner	\$496.65
Carer expenses	NIL
Total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits	NIL
Total	\$138,916.84

Contracts awarded 2012 / 2013

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 table 3, which lists the name of each contractor, the nature of goods or services supplied and the total amount payable under the contract.

Table 3 – Contracts greater than \$150,000 awarded in 2012/13	
Belgravia Health & Leisure	
Operate Dareton & Wentworth swimming pools (3 year contract)	\$118,090.90
Bendigo Truck Centre	
Hino 500 Series Crew Cab	\$218,370.50
CPM Building Contractors	
George Gordon Oval upgrade netball/umpire change rooms	\$178,124.87
Cummins & Noonan	
George Gordon Oval Lights	\$220,441.06
Tasco Fuel	
Fuel Supply	\$575,291.21

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 table 4, 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.

Table 4 – Legal Proceedings 2012/13	
Outstanding rate collections and planning matters	\$313,088.05

Private Works

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.

Financial assistance provided

In accordance with Clause 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 Council advises the amount contributed or otherwise granted under section 356 was \$141,308.90 for the 2012/13 financial year.

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.

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.

Senior staff remuneration

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 table 5 and are expressed as the total (not of the individual members). The senior staff members are designated to be the General Manager and the three Directors.

Table 5 – Senior Staff remuneration	
Salaries	\$614,254.20
Superannuation	\$59,624.13
Salary sacrifice	\$508.00
Motor Vehicle	\$8,000.00
Total	\$682,386.33

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, Council a State of the Environment report from Council is not required until after the next Ordinary Council election in 2016.

Special Rate Variation

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 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 \$4 million with \$1 million to be repaid by the ratepayers. A loan was taken out through Local Government Financial Services for the amount of \$1 million with the balance as at 30 June 2013 being \$468,232. The approval was subject to the following conditions:

- The Council will raise \$80,373 by additional rates for funding the principal and interest payments on a loan raised to construct a levee bank around the town of Wentworth.
- The Council will reduce its general income for the 2024/2025 rating year by \$80,373 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 Visitor Information Centre.
- The Council clearly reports outcomes and expenditures in its annual report for the term of the variation.

Report on Capital Works

Council has not undertaken any projects which fall under the requirements of the Capital Expenditure Guidelines¹.

¹ Capital Expenditure Guidelines, Dpt Premier and Cabinet, Division of Local Government, December 2010

EEO Management Plan

In 2012 Council adopted its first Workforce Management Plan in accordance with the Local Government Act. The Workforce Management Plan incorporates the EEO Management Plan with all actions being embedded into the 4 year Delivery Program and the 1 year Operational Plan. Statistical information regarding Council's workforce is provided in table 6. Major EEO activities for the 2012/13 year include:-

- Re-forming of the staff consultative and EEO committee
- Workplace bullying and harassment training provided for all staff
- Coping with stress training provided for all staff
- Continuation of the Employee Assistance program for staff and immediate family

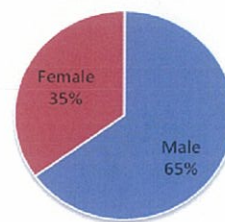
Companion Animals Act 1998

Council provides holding facilities for dogs and cats at the Buronga Animal Shelter (pound). Council maintains a database register of companion animals impounded and the number of dog attacks which occur within the Shire. Reportable data, in accordance with Clause 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, and the Companion Animal Act Guidelines² is provided in table 7. Council works closely with volunteers from Victorian Dog Rescue, Rural rescue and Sunraysia Animal Rescue to rehome companion animals. All animals that are to be rehomed are desexed, microchipped and registered as part of the rehoming process. Details of impounded animals are posted on Council's website. Council staff are trained in the microchipping animals. All companion animals over the age of six (6) months are required to be microchipped and registered. Council also encourages people to have their companion animals desexed.

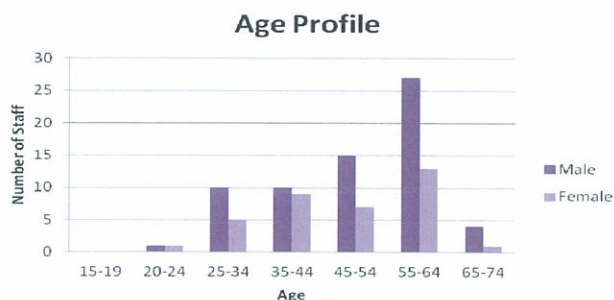
Table 7 – Companion Animals summary data 2012/13

No. of dogs impounded	284
No. of cats impounded	115
No. of dogs destroyed ¹	10
No. of cats destroyed ¹	43
¹ The balance of impounded animals were either returned to their owners or re-homed	

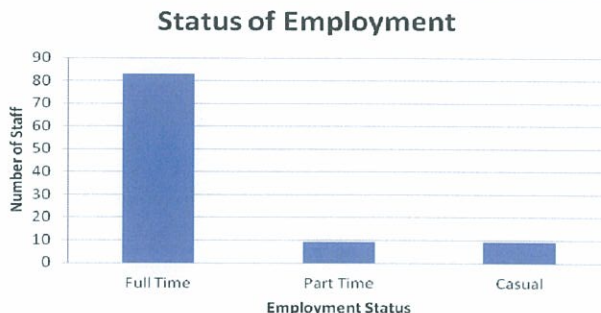
Table 6 – Workforce Profile 2012/13



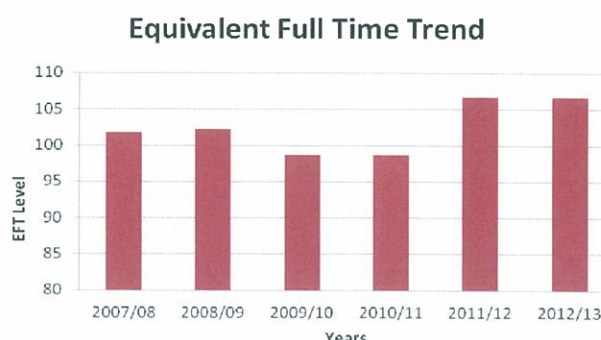
6a – Gender mix as % of total staff



6b – Number of employees by age



6c – Number of employee by tenure



6d – EFT trend

² Guidelines on the Exercise of Functions under the Companion Animal Act, Dpt of Premier & Cabinet, Division of Local Government, October 2012

Government information (Public Access)**2009 (GIPA) Act**

In accordance with section 125 of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 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 1 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.

Table 8 - GIPA report 2012/13

No. of GIPA requests received	3
No of contraventions by Council of an information protection principle or of a privacy code of practice, or disclosure of personal information kept in a public register under Part 5 Section 33	NIL

General Purpose Financial Statements
