



annual report berri barmera council 2008/2009

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It is with great pleasure that I present my Annual Report of the Berri Barmera Council for 2008/2009.

Unfortunately, we still find ourselves in the worst drought on record and my thoughts and prayers continue to be with those individuals, families and businesses who are finding things difficult within our region.

In August, we honoured Berri's own Beijing Olympic silver and bronze medalist Hayden Stoeckel to a civic reception within the Berri Town Hall. He returned in November for a public function and unveiling when the Berri Swimming Pool was renamed after him.

In November, I along with the nations other Mayors and Council Chairman, was invited to Canberra for the inaugural Australian Council of Local Government Conference hosted by the Hon. Kevin Rudd and the Hon. Anthony Albanese. From this meeting our Council was fortunate to receive \$371,000 as part of the Government's Community Infrastructure Program. We also attended the annual event in June and our Council was allocated another \$142,000. The latter amount however, cannot be accessed until the first round of funds have been used and the projects completed by September 09. This great stimulus of funds that we have been grateful for allows our Council to proceed with projects that may not have been accomplished for many years.

Throughout December and January, Lake Bonney received 10 gigalitres of much needed water from the State Government and we are further thankful that another 26 gigalitres will be forthcoming during the early months of the 09/10 year. This will give a big boost to the Barmera community coming into summer and the Christmas holidays.

Some of the other notable events to take place and supported by Council included the Riverland Field Days, the Riverland Wine and Food Festival, the Seniors Christmas parties, the Barmera Christmas pageant, the Tennis Australia Tournament and NAB Cup Football sporting events. We were also privileged to have Ms. Jan Stirling AM, the Australian Women's "Opals" Basketball Coach as our Australia Day Ambassador at our Australia Day events held in Barmera and Berri.

During the year besides the normal rural road maintenance, we have progressed and continued the upgrade of various bitumen road reseals and road reconstructions as part of our works program. The ongoing construction of new footpaths within our towns including the Berri Riverfront and Lake Bonney Foreshore have progressed well and when completed will enhance the area for locals and tourists visiting the region.

In conclusion, I would like to pass on my sincere appreciation to my fellow Elected Members, CEO David Beaton, Executive Officers and all staff and volunteers for their continued dedication in serving the Berri Barmera Council and for the support they have given me during the year.

To find out more on the operations of your Council, I would urge you all to please read through the Annual Report in its entirety.

**PETER R HUNT**  
**MAYOR**



The conditions that confront the region and your Council over the last year have been unknown in my generation. To have severely reduced water allocations affecting our horticultural sector viability and global financial crisis affecting just about everything else will change the future plans for many.

In reponse to these circumstances, Council is focused on three areas:

- 1) To continue to maintain the public oval and lawned areas as well as possible so that there is green space for families when their own lawns are dying.
- 2) To support the community by upgrading the community areas, including the Berri Riverfront and the Barmera Lakefront.
- 3) Ensuring financial sustainability in the long term through greater efficiency and not increasing the rates unnecessarily.

The Council has during last year, made large in roads to the future sustainability of Council through the Asset Management Committee, chaired by Cr Richardson. Cr Chapple chairs the Project monitoring Committee, which has improved oversight and governance of Councils budgeted programs and works. Cr Centofanti chairs the Strategic Planning Committee which will be busy as we adjust to our new combined future. Council is still focused on improving the development opportunity in Berri and Barmera to support the long term viability of local business.

I am personally pleased by the work undertaken by community groups in conjunction with Council. These groups including the Lake Bonney Management Committee, Berri Town Beautification Committee and other groups add to the ability to respond in a local and meaningful way and provide better results in the long term.

The next financial year will see Council continue to focus on supporting the social, community and recreation infrastructure of our areas, to ensure we continue to provide a great place for our residents to live.

I wish to thank the elected Council who continue to put the community first in their deliberations and want the community to thrive and prosper.

To the staff of the Council I continue to be impressed by your professionalism and attention to detail in your work as we strive to deliver for our community.

**DAVID BEATON**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

GOVERNANCE:

Council Profile  
General Information  
Corporate Structure  
Organisational Structure  
Regional Involvement - MMLGA / Riverland Local Government Forum  
Senior Executive Officers – Register of Salaries  
Human Resource Management – Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare  
Decision Making Structure of Council  
Council / Committee Meetings  
Strategic Plan  
Annual Business Plan Implementation

COMPLIANCE:

Registers, Codes, Policies and Procedures  
Members Allowances  
Elector Representation Review  
Competitive Tendering / Cost Effective Delivery of Service  
Delegations of Power  
Grievance Procedures  
Council and Committee Meetings / Matters Considered in Confidence  
Freedom of Information / Information Statement - General  
National Competition Policy

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT:

Financial Management Statement



GOVERNANCE

COUNCIL MEMBERS PROFILE: November 2006—2010



Mayor Peter Hunt, JP

PO Box 1326  
BERRI SA 5343  
Phone: 0408 821 922

**Standing Committees of Council:**

Asset Management Committee  
Project Monitoring Committee  
Strategic Planning and Review Committee

**Specific Purposes Committees of Council:**

Lake Bonney Management Committee  
Berri Town Beautification Committee  
Audit Committee

**Other:**

Berri Barmera Development Assessment Panel (Chair)  
Murray Mallee Local Government Association  
LGA of SA  
Riverland Development Corporation  
Riverland Local Government Forum  
Riverland Futures Taskforce



Cr Bruce Richardson, Deputy Mayor  
(Appointed November 2008)

PO Box 509  
BERRI SA 5343  
Phone: 8583 2187

**Standing Committees of Council:**

Asset Management Committee (Chairman)  
Project Monitoring Committee  
Strategic Planning and Review Committee

**Specific Purposes Committees of Council:**

Audit Committee  
Berri Town Beautification Committee

**Other:**

Regional Steering Committee - Riverland Recreation & Sports Project 2007-2010 Partnership Proposal  
Riverland Local Government Forum  
Murray Mallee Local Government Association  
Riverland Futures Taskforce (Proxy)





Cr Bill Kanakaris

74 Nookamka Terrace  
BARMERA SA 5345  
Phone: 8588 1558



Cr Rhonda Centofanti

Po Box 182  
WINKIE SA 5343  
Phone: 8583 7216



Cr Barry Fletcher

Po Box 546  
Barmera SA 5345  
Phone: 8588 2861

Standing Committees of Council:

Asset Management Committee  
Project Monitoring Committee  
Strategic Planning and Review Committee

Specific Purposes Committees of Council:

Lake Bonney Management Committee  
Cemetery Advisory Committee

Other:

Berri Barmera Development Assessment Panel

Standing Committees of Council:

Asset Management Committee  
Project Monitoring Committee  
Strategic Planning and Review Committee (Chairman)

Specific Purposes Committees of Council:

Berri Town Beautification Committee  
Cemetery Advisory Committee (Chairman)

Other:

Berri Barmera Development Assessment Panel  
Upper Murray Garden Of Memory (Cemetery) Committee  
(Observer)  
Berri Centenary Committee  
(Note: Cr Centofanti was Deputy Mayor from July-November 2008)

Standing Committees of Council:

Asset Management Committee  
Project Monitoring Committee  
Strategic Planning and Review Committee

Specific Purposes Committees of Council:

Cemetery Advisory Committee



Cr Geoff Higgs

Po Box 31  
BERRI SA 5343  
Phone: 8582 2608



Cr Jim Rolfe

PO Box 170  
BARMERA SA 5345  
Phone: 8588 1204



Cr Les Hill

Unit 26 Cottage Homes  
McGilton Road  
BERRI SA 5343  
Phone: 8582 1531

**Standing Committees of Council:**

Asset Management Committee  
Project Monitoring Committee  
Strategic Planning and Review Committee

**Specific Purposes Committees of Council:**

Berri Town Beautification Committee

**Other:**

YACU  
Lone Gum & Monash Community Association Inc.  
(Observer)

**Standing Committees of Council:**

Asset Management Committee  
Project Monitoring Committee  
Strategic Planning and Review Committee

**Specific Purposes Committees of Council:**

Nil

**Other:**

Cobdogla Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee (Observer)

**Standing Committees of Council:**

Asset Management Committee  
Project Monitoring Committee  
Strategic Planning and Review Committee

**Specific Purposes Committees of Council:**

Berri Town Beautification Committee  
Audit Committee

**Other:**

Bushfire Prevention Committee  
Murray Darling Association  
Riverland Community Transport Scheme



Cr Trevor Chapple

PO Box 567  
BERRI SA 5343  
Phone: 8583 2057



Cr Vicki Beech

11 Rosenthal Drive  
BERRI SA 5343  
Phone: 8582 1293



Cr Bruce Casey

PO Box 3  
BERRI SA 5343  
Phone: 8582 1543

**Standing Committees of Council:**

Asset Management Committee  
Project Monitoring Committee (Chairman)  
Strategic Planning and Review Committee

**Specific Purposes Committees of Council:**

Berri Town Beautification Committee  
Berri Traders Association (Observer)  
Murray Darling Association

**Standing Committees of Council:**

Asset Management Committee  
Project Monitoring Committee  
Strategic Planning and Review Committee

**Specific Purposes Committees of Council:**

Berri Town Beautification Committee

**Other:**

YACU  
Berri Barmera Development Assessment Panel

**Standing Committees of Council:**

Asset Management Committee  
Project Monitoring Committee  
Strategic Planning and Review Committee

**Specific Purposes Committees of Council:**

Nil

**Other:**

Riverland Youth Theatre (Observer)  
Berri Barmera Development Assessment Panel  
Bushfire Prevention Committee

COUNCIL MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCES BY MEMBERS FOR PERIOD 2008/2009

Elected Member	Ordinary Meetings (12)	Special Council Meetings (4)
Mayor Peter Hunt	11	4
Cr Rhonda Centofanti	12	4
Cr Barry Fletcher	9	1
Cr Geoff Higgs	11	2
Cr Vicki Beech	12	4
Cr Bill Kanakaris	11	3
Cr Bruce Casey	8	3
Cr Bruce Richardson	12	3
Cr Les Hill	11	4
Cr Trevor Chapple	12	3
Cr Jim Rolfe	8	4

ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

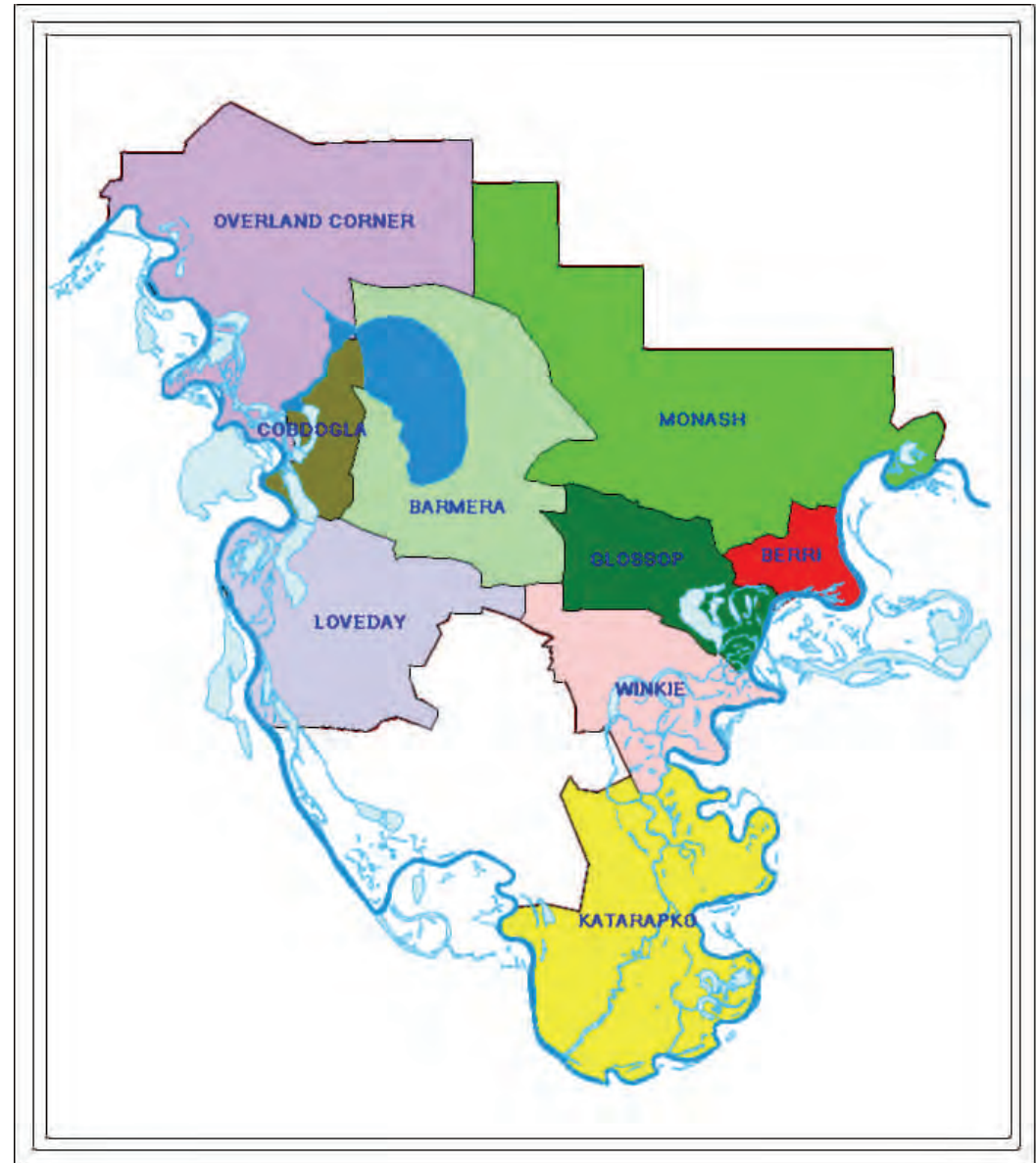
Throughout 2008 – 2009 Elected Members attended the following Conferences and Training Sessions:

- Local Government Showcase and Conference
- Roads and Works Conference
- National Local Roads Congress
- LGA – AGM and associated sessions
- Australian Council Local Government Conference
- Local Government Constitutional Summit
- Other associated LGA sessions
- Elected Members Residential Seminar – Crs Centofanti and Beech completed extra studies and received “Governance Concepts for Local Government” Certificates

COUNCIL GENERAL INFORMATION

Council Area

The Berri Barmera Council area incorporates the Berri, Barmera, Cobdogla, Loveday, Monash, Glossop, Winkie and Overland Corner districts. There are no Wards, with all ten elected members (and the Mayor) representing the interests of the entire community and district.



CORPORATE STRUCTURE

The following Corporate and Functional Structure reflects areas of responsibility within Council's various Departments/Functions.

To compliment the Corporate and Functional Structure further, Committees have been appointed to enhance decision making and accountability of the Department/Functional areas.

The Committees are:

Standing Committees of Council:

- Asset Management Committee
- Project Monitoring Committee
- Strategic Planning and Review Committee

(Additional information on the roles and functions of the Council is included in the "Decision Making Structure of the Council" section of the report)

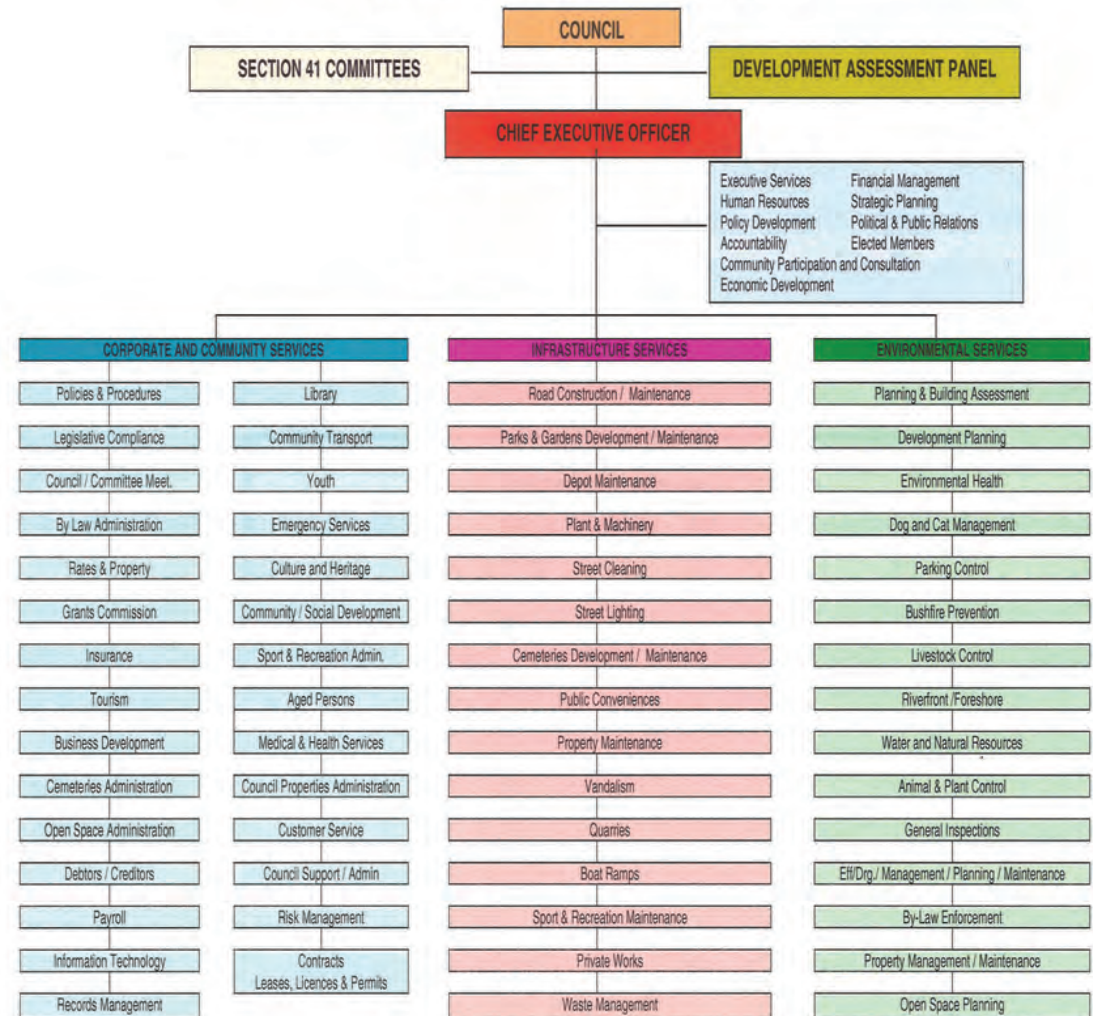
Specific Purposes Committees:

- Cemetery Advisory Committee
- Audit Committee
- Berri Town Beautification Committee
- Lake Bonney Management Committee

Other:

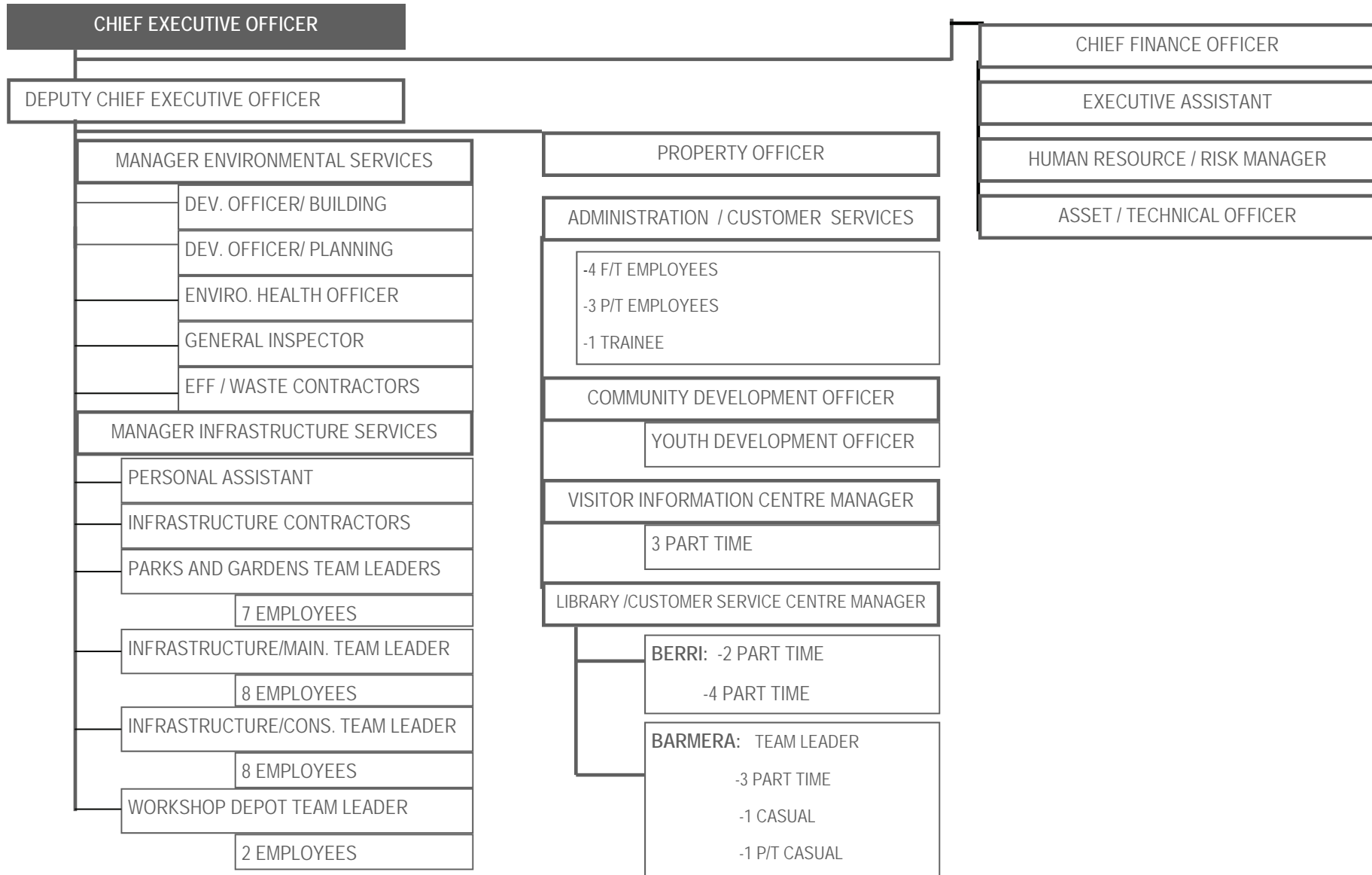
- Berri Barmera Council Building Fire Safety Committee
- Berri Barmera Bushfire Prevention Committee
- Riverland Community Transport Scheme
- Berri Barmera Development Assessment Panel

CORPORATE AND FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The following Organisational Structure was adopted by Council to integrate with Council's Corporate Structure.



REGIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Murray and Mallee Local Government Association

Council is a member of the Murray and Mallee Local Government Association which is a Regional Subsidiary established pursuant to the Schedule 2, Schedule 28 of the Local Government Act, 1999. The membership of the Association includes the following Councils:

- Berri Barmera Council
- Coorong District Council
- District Council of Karoonda East Murray
- District Council of Loxton Waikerie
- Mid Murray Council
- The Rural City of Murray Bridge
- Renmark Paringa Council, and
- Southern Mallee District Council

A requirement of Schedule 2 (Section 28) is that the Annual Report of the Regional Subsidiary should form part of this Council's Annual Report.

The Annual Report of the Murray and Mallee Local Government Association is included in this report. (Refer Index – "Regional Subsidiary Reports")

Riverland Local Government Forum

The Berri Barmera Council, along with the Loxton Waikerie and Renmark Paringa Councils form the Riverland Local Government Forum. Though the Forum is not constituted under the Local Government Act, the Forum does provide an opportunity for the Riverland Councils to meet and discuss issues affecting the Region.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Register Of Salaries

TITLE OF POSITION	CLASSIFICATION	OTHER BENEFITS PACKAGES PROVIDED
Chief Executive Officer	Contract Agreement	3/2 yr. package Agreement. Novated Lease Available TOIL for out of hours work Annual salary increase CPI – as per contract Mobile Phone / Work related calls
Deputy Chief Executive Officer	ASU Award Senior Officer Level 4 Inc. 1 Includes E.B.	Private use of vehicle Civic Allowance Telephone Allowance
Manager Infrastructure Services	ASU Award Senior Officer Level 2 Inc. 3 Includes E.B.	Private use of vehicle Telephone rental
Manager Environmental Services	ASU Award Senior Officer Level 2 Inc. 3 Includes E.B. 6 Continued	Private use of vehicle All telephone rental & calls incl. Mobile (excl.o/seas calls) Municipal allowance 5 yr Contract to 1/1/2010
Chief Finance Officer	ASU Award Level Senior 1 Officer Level 2 Inc. 3 Includes EB	Telephone Allowance Civic Allowance



**HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Within the Berri Barmera Council, Human Resources contributes to Council's mission through the development and integration of human resources principles and practices to enhance individual and organisational effectiveness.

*Staffing Profile*

For the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 Council employed 75 staff. Council develops and supports a flexible workforce and management structure committed to the continued improvement and success of the Berri Barmera Council. With a variety of worksites with varying needs, a flexible workforce enables Council to provide and deliver a high level of service to our community and visitors to our region.

*Training*

Council undertakes a training and skills improvement programme which is aimed to increase individual expertise of employees with a view to improve excellence within the Council through the provision of defined career paths for employees. Training needs analysis primarily occurs through a staff development review process, through the evolution and expansion of positions, and as part of legislative compliance. Funds are allocated to training in the annual budget and are managed by departments.

**HR Initiatives**

*Employee Assistance Programme*

Council engages within its management the need to focus on a holistic work life balance, assisting in creating greater vitality and enthusiasm in the pursuit of both personal and working endeavors. Increasing life demands have, for

many created difficulties in remaining focused on work requirements, contributing to higher levels of reported stress and workplace issues such as absenteeism. Council has implemented an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). Available through the EAP is a variety of services for employees including personal and professional development workshops and the provision of counseling services.

*Employment Opportunities*

The Career Development Programme (CDP), which sees a number of positions allocated to a rotational appointment of trainees within the various departments in Council has been operational for over 12months. Within this time Council has appointed a trainee within the administration stream and has entered into two school based apprenticeships in our tourism and infrastructure stream. The CDP is an opportunity for Council to further actively participate in the growth of the community by providing training opportunities to begin or further enhance career paths within our region.

**Injury and Rehabilitation Management**

The Local Government Association (LGA), which operates for and on behalf of Council is part of a registered Group of Exempt Employers to conduct and manage a Local Government Workers Compensation Self-insurance Scheme. The LGA established the Local Government Association Workers Compensation Scheme (LGAWCS) to provide a scheme for self-insurance and provides Council with competitive rates and delivers unique programmes to assist Council, being the, Healthy Lifestyle Programme which provides a detailed health assessment to participating staff members, and the access to the services of a Regional Risk Coordinator (RRC) to assist Council in the management and delivery of safety and risk to meet Performance Standards.

Effective and efficient injury management is crucial to the rehabilitation of an injured employee. Council assists the

employee to return to work and achieve the best practicable level of physical and mental recovery through our Injury and Rehabilitation Management (IRM) Procedure. Further to Councils IRM Procedures, the LGAWCS provides Injury and Rehabilitation Management by:

- Pro Active Claims Management
- In House Rehabilitation
- Training and Education
- Professional advice and Business Planning in OHSW and IRM

**Risk Management**

Council endeavors through planning, implementation and completion stages to minimize risk of the potential losses against employees, assets, liabilities and the community. Council's civil liabilities are protected by the Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme (LGAMLS), a self managed fund in agreement between LGA and CPA.

The LGAMLS conducts an annual review of all Local Governments into the areas of:

- Risk / Emergency Management / Professional Indemnity
- Committee and Non Employment Management
- Contract Management
- Legislative Requirements – Land
- Asset management Programs and Systems – Land
- Land Use (Lease / License / Permit Activities)
- Road Management Programs and Systems

The annual review gives Council the opportunity to be rewarded back (as a "discount") a percentage of its Gross Contribution via the Bonus System. Berri Barmera Council's result for the 2009/2010 contribution period is 72.1%

**Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare (OHSW)**

Council aims to minimise the risk of injury and ill health to its employees by adopting a planned and systematic approach to the management of occupational health, safety and welfare and developing strategies for its successful implementation. Council will achieve its occupational health, safety and welfare aim by developing and implementing appropriate policies and procedures which document standards and guide managers and employees in performing their responsibilities.

The Local Government Association Workers Compensation Scheme (LGAWCS) undertakes an annual Key Performance Indicator (KPI) audit on Council. The KPI Audit reflects Councils' compliance with certain OHS/IM standards being:

- Commitment and Policy
- Planning
- Implementation
- Measurement and Evaluation
- Management Systems Review and Improvement

Council undertook the KPI Audit and scored 75% resulting in an 80% rebate.

*OHSW Management Plan*

The objectives of the OHSW Management Plan is to ensure that the Performance Standards for Self Insurers are met and for facilitating continuous improvement of the OHSW System. When appropriate, responsibilities, key performance indicators and time frames have been included to assess against the targets as determined by the OHSW Committee.

The OHSW Management Plan and OHSW System addresses strategies on issues such as:

- Training
- Safety culture
- Performance Measurement
- Equating safety to sustainability

*OHSW Committee*

The current structure of the OHSW Committee consists of three employers and three employees, with at least one member representing each worksite. The OHSW Committee is governed by the constitution and rules as developed and endorsed by the committee, and by various legislation. The prime objective of the OHSW committee is to continually monitor and review the OHSW Management Plan and OHSW System by addressing areas of non compliance, to either rectify the issue or improve performance.

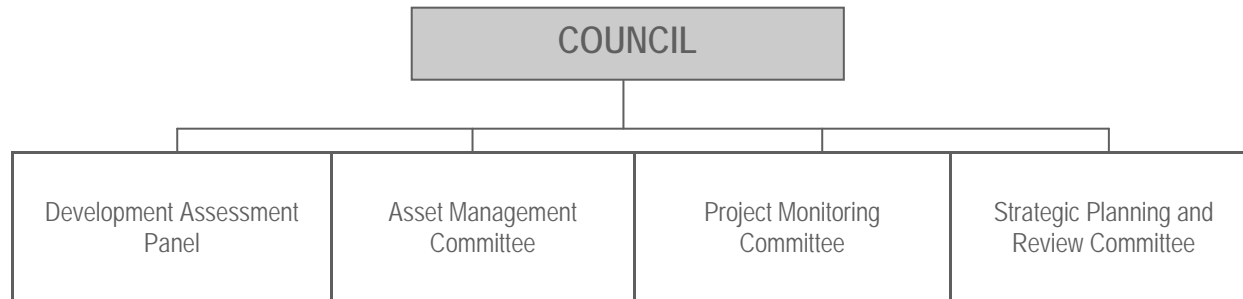
*Health and Safety Representatives*

Two designated workgroups being Infrastructure Services and Corporate and Community Services have been identified and a Health and Safety Representative (HSR) has been appointed for each workgroup by their relevant peers. The HSR's have been appointed in accordance with the provisions under the OHSW Act.



**DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE OF COUNCIL**

To facilitate sound governance and to ensure that decision making processes are carried out in the most efficient manner the Council has adopted the following decision making structure. The structure of Council and its major committees which integrate with Council's Corporate Structure are as follows.



**Development Assessment Panel**

The Development Act 1993 and the Development Regulations 2008 provide for the Council to be responsible for the management of most development within its area.

The Council, pursuant to Section 56A of the Development Act 1993, has established a Development Assessment Panel to assist it to exercise or perform its functions in relation to development assessment matters in accordance with the delegations that the Council has conferred upon it.

**Membership**

- Mr P. Hunt (Chairperson)
- Mrs R. Centofanti
- Mrs V Beech
- Mr V. (Bill) Kanakaris
- Mr B Casey
- Mr D. Beaton - Non Voting / Advisory Capacity

The following Committees have been formed pursuant to Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1999. Information is provided on the purpose of the Committee, with information on the Committee's roles etc. contained in the Terms of Reference.

**Asset Management Committee**

The basic function of the Asset Management Committee is to implement Council's asset management strategy and policy framework and recommend divisional operations to best meet the needs and aspirations of the Berri Barmera community.

**Specific Functions**

- 1) To guide the development of an asset management policy framework for the Council and make recommendations for consideration in forward financial estimates, and to deal with matters in respect of Council's asset management programs.
- 2) To oversee the regular evaluation of asset management and programs and the review of relevant service levels.
- 3) To formulate and deliver appropriate strategies in relation to its strategic property holdings.
- 4) To receive deputations and/or representations from interested parties, which may aid Council, in determining its objectives, strategies and priorities.
- 5) To establish sub-committees and/or working parties to assist in carrying out the Committee's functions.
- 6) To consider any other matters referred to it by the Council, other Council Committees and the Chief Executive Officer.

Membership – All Councillors

Chairperson: Cr B Richardson (Appointed September 2008)

Attendees

Chief Executive Officer and Management Team

Co-Ordinator

Manager Infrastructure Services

**Project Monitoring Committee**

The purpose of the Committee is to monitor the progress of delivering all funded capital and major operating projects included in Council's annual Management Plan and Budget.

Specific Functions

- 1) To receive reports and enquiry on the progress of Council's capital and operating projects budget program.
- 2) To monitor the timeliness of Council planning and execution of Council's approved projects.
- 3) Ensure compliance with Council's purchasing policies in regard to tendering of works, services or products.
- 4) Recommend areas of process improvement to increase effectiveness of project delivery.

Membership – All Councillors  
 Chairperson: Cr T Chapple (Appointed September 2008)  
Attendees  
 Chief Executive Officer and Management Team  
Co-Ordinator  
 Chief Executive Officer

**Strategic Planning and Monitoring Committee**

The basic function of the Strategic Planning and Review Committee is to develop, implement and review Council's long term Strategic Plan. Develop a policy framework based on the Strategic Plan and recommend divisional operations to best meet the needs and aspirations of the Berri Barmera community.

Specific Functions

- 1) To develop, implement and review a Strategic Plan for Berri Barmera Council area including undertaking extensive public consultation.

- 2) To develop a policy framework for the Council to support the strategic direction of the Council.
- 3) To review and make recommendations regarding the Council's Management Plan.
- 4) To receive deputations and/or representations from interested parties, which may aid Council, in determining its objectives, strategies and priorities.
- 5) To establish sub-committees and/or working parties to assist in carrying out the Committee's functions.
- 6) To consider any other matters referred to it by the Council, other Council Committees and the Chief Executive Officer.

Membership – All Councillors  
 Chairperson: Cr R Centofanti (Appointed September 2008)  
Attendees  
 Chief Executive Officer and Management Team  
Co-Ordinator  
 Chief Executive Officer

**COUNCIL / COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Council meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month commencing at 6.00 p.m. These meetings are maintained in a public forum with the exception of items that Council considers for reasons pursuant to Section 90 of the Local Government Act need to be discussed in confidence.

Although meetings are held in a public forum, members of the public attending are not permitted to speak, however individuals are provided with an opportunity to make representation and address Council on specific issues that are raised.

In addition, the Council maintains a wide distribution of its Council and Committee Agendas to the local community through different outlets e.g. the Berri Library and Information Centre, the Barmera Library and Customer Service Centre and also the Council website. The local media are also provided with a copy of the Agenda to ensure that coverage of Council issues are disseminated to the wider community.

The Council and committee agendas are also placed on public display within the Council office at least three days prior to the Council and committee meetings in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999.

In addition to the above mentioned Committees, the Council also has formed a number of other committees that incorporate either full Council representation or a mixture of Council and community representation and perform various tasks or manage Council facilities. These committees include the following:

- Cemetery Advisory Committee
- Berri Town Beautification Committee
- Lake Bonney Management Committee
- Audit Committee

Following Meetings of Council and Committees, the Minutes of such are available on the Council's Website. Minutes can also be viewed at the Council Office or purchased if desired.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

The Strategic Plan 2006-2016 established the following Vision and Mission for the Council:

### Vision— Building a better community

*The Vision of the Council is underpinned by the basic principle that everything the Council does affects the quality of life of the community and therefore everything that is done in the future must enhance the quality of life, thus "Building a Better Community".*

**Mission— Enhance the quality of life, the natural character and economic potential of our district through sustainable management, service delivery and development opportunities.**

*The mission underpins the vision and also addresses the quadruple bottom line as follows:*

- *Social—quality of life*
- *Environment:- natural character*
- *Economic—economic potential and sustainable development opportunities, which also leads into our planing framework*
- *Governance: - sustainable management and serviced delivery*

The Plan also recognises and adopts a number of definitions as to the approach to financial sustainability, business activities and community service obligations.

### Financial Sustainability

*A Council's long-term financial management performance and position is sustainable where planned long-term service and infrastructure levels and standards are met without unplanned increases in rates or disruptive cuts to services.*

## Business Activities

*To be efficient, effective and sustainable in our approach to all responsibilities, services and activities, while continuing to measure, question, review and develop methodologies and partnerships to ensure our approach utilises best practice methods and up to date technologies and equipment.*

### Community Service Obligation

*Community Service Obligations (CSO's) are those services provided by Council at a subsidised cost by legislative requirement or agreement in order to meet social, equity, governance or environmental goals associated with the Council's delivery of services.*

Further, the Plan establishes the Governance and Management framework to be sustained by the Council along with the Functional and Organisational Structure that integrates with Council's key department areas.

The Plan also refers to the Organisational Culture of the Council that has been developed around the primary principle of Employer of First Choice and creates an environment that forms a basis for sustainability and encourages innovation. The culture is based on the following set of guiding principles:

- 1) Worthwhile work
- 2) Taking control of achieving goals
- 3) Encouraging each other
- 4) Be involved and innovative

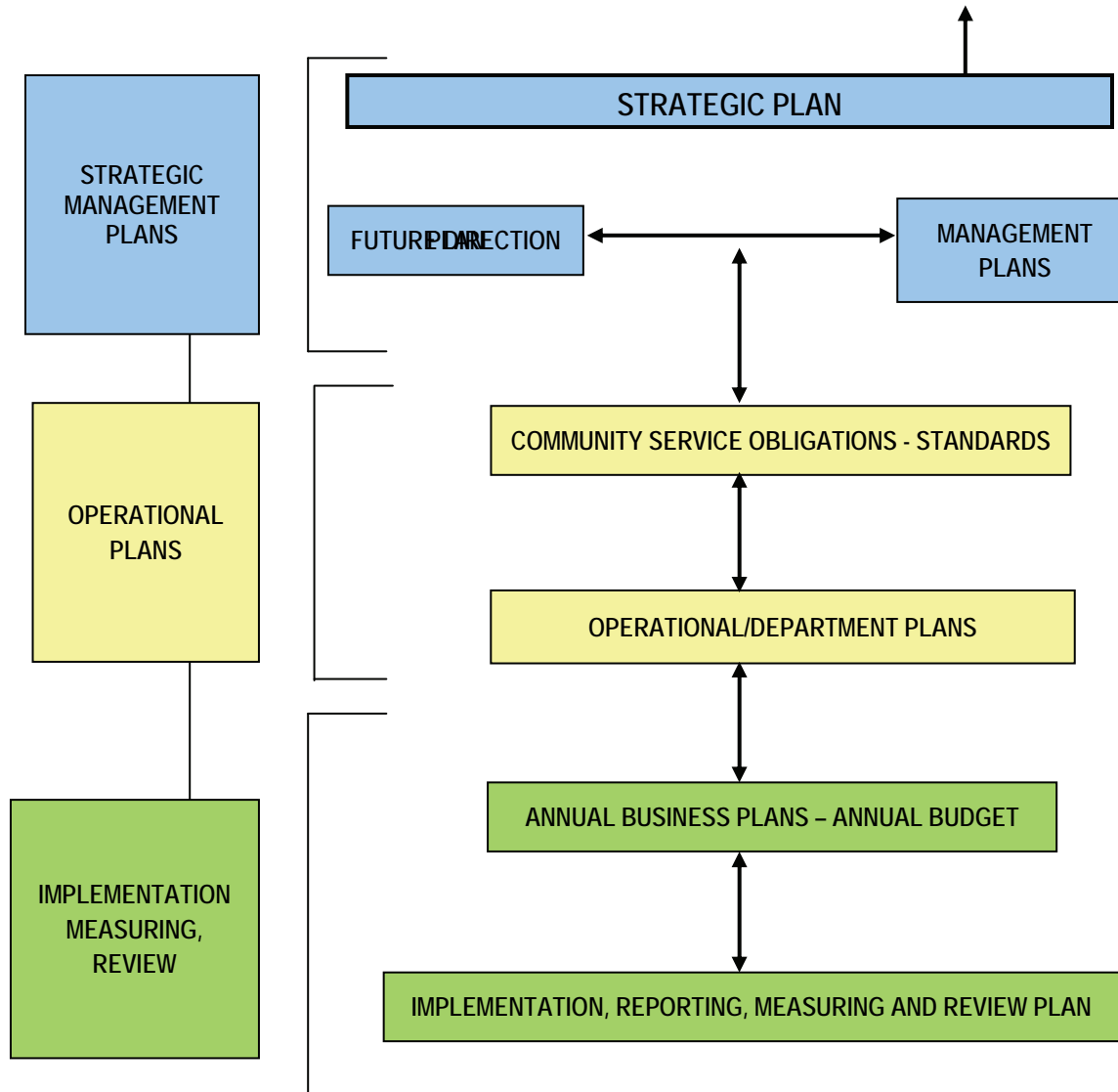
The Strategic Plan integrates a number of Council's Objectives with those of both the State Strategic Plan and the State Infrastructure Plan. This is an important component of the Strategic Plan to ensure that the Councils direction is aligned with that of the State and maximises future opportunities for the obtaining of Grant Funding for specific projects to implement Council's vision and direction.

In conclusion, the Strategic Plan is a critical document in ensuring that Council's and the Communities vision for the future is both shared and implemented. The Strategic Plan is designed to keep the whole organisation focussed on the big issues and the wider vision, which enables the day to day issues to be managed in an environment based on the principles of accountability and freedom while maintaining the focus.

The Council, through a strategic approach, encourages everyone within its community and all stakeholders to be involved and "come along for the ride" in achieving our long-term sustainability and above all, our vision **Building a Better Community**.



The following Strategic Planning framework ensures integration of Council's Strategic Direction with the day to day operations of the Council.



**CORPORATE OBJECTIVES**

To build on the eight scorecards, the following are corporate objectives that integrate with the scorecards and drive the vision and mission of the Council. The objectives will form the basis of everything the Council does from management to day-to-day operations.

*Social and Community*

- SC1 Encourage community participation and active inclusion in council decisions and activities
- SC2 Enhance lifestyle, quality of life and social development
- SC3 Ensure effective management of community facilities to meet community needs that includes rationalisation, accessibility and fit for purpose
- SC4 Encourage youth to be involved in council decision making processes and future planning for youth facilities and activities via the YACU Committee

*Environment and Heritage*

- EH1 Encourage the efficient and effective management and use of energy, water and other natural resources in the community and council operations through district wide strategies and Council policies
- EH2 Implement strategies and establish facilities and services that ensure effective waste management, recycling and minimisation practices that align with Regional and State Strategies and principles
- EH3 Ensure development principles are established and implemented to enhance the preservation of our environment and heritage to achieve ecologically sustainable development
- EH4 Implement strategies and practices for the reuse of waste including water, green waste and other reusable waste streams

*Economic Development*

ED1 Encourage, facilitate and secure private and public funding and investment in the establishment of infrastructure to support development opportunities

ED2 Encourage and facilitate economic and sustainable development by promoting opportunities and securing alliances or partnerships with the private and public sector and Regional Development Corporation

ED3 To be involved and assist with the promotion and development of tourism activities within the district and region, via the Visitor Information Centre and sponsorship of major events and icons, and which involves integration with local businesses and tourism operators

*Governance and Financial*

GF1 Ensure transparent, accountable, compliant and sustainable governance through open measurement and performance reporting against established criteria

GF2 Ensure long term financial management through the development of key management goals, principles, measures, ratios and performance indicators that integrate with long term asset management planning, community service obligations, service delivery and core business activities

GF3 Implement training and development programs for Elected Members, Executive and Management employees to ensure best practice governance and financial principles are implemented and adhered to

GF4 Ensure the continued development and implementation of OHS&W policies, programs, actions and training to provide for a safe working environment

GF5 Ensure the continued development and implementation of Risk Management Plans, programs and actions to mitigate against risks in the community

*Infrastructure*

IN1 Establish and implement long term infrastructure maintenance, replacement, rehabilitation and development principles, priority criteria and programs to meet community needs and expansion

IN2 Develop strategies that integrate with economic development objectives that assist with supporting the development of new and existing opportunities

IN3 Explore and secure funding opportunities that assist with the development and replacement of infrastructure and implementation of developed programs and forward plans

IN4 Ensure that infrastructure programs and forward plans integrate with and adhere to developed Financial Management principles

*Learning and Growth*

LG1 Maintain and enhance a positive culture that is based on the "Employer of First Choice" principle that contributes to achieving organisational growth

LG2 Maintain and enhance employees' skills, knowledge, personal development and work satisfaction

LG3 Maintain and enhanced information management and flow, while encouraging innovation

*Customer Satisfaction*

CS1 Maintain and enhance presence, open communication, civic leadership, advocacy and involve stakeholders to achieve sound public relations

CS2 Ensure efficient and effective service delivery and customer service to meet community needs that integrates with the community service obligations

*Internal Processes*

IP1 Develop and implement community service obligations and service standards for Council services to ensure effective, efficient and sustainable delivery methods

IP2 Develop and implement a services review program to ensure that up to date technology and procedures are utilised, and that integrates with employee training and development programs

IP3 Improve productivity, processes and increase infrastructure and resource capacity

STRATEGIC PLAN 2008 / 2009

<p><u>Corporate Objective 1: Social and Community</u></p> <p><i>How our decisions contribute to and affect the communities quality of life through effective management of community facilities and how we manage social and community consultation, participation and inclusion.</i></p>		
Strategic Plan Reference	Actions 2008/2009	Performance Outcomes
Encourage community participation and active inclusion in council decisions and activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish Lake Bonney Management Committee</li> <li>2. Establish Berri Beautification Committee</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Committee meets on a monthly basis</li> <li>2. Committee meets on a monthly basis</li> </ol>
Enhance lifestyle, quality of life and social development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Berri Barmera Seniors Parties</li> <li>2. Medical Transport systems</li> <li>3. Community Grants</li> <li>4. New facilities established</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Well attended event</li> <li>2. Highly supported service renewed</li> <li>3. Fully subscribed</li> <li>4. Facilities completed</li> </ol>
Ensure effective management of community facilities to meet community needs that includes rationalisation, accessibility and fit for purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Asset Management Committee established</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Priorities established with – a framework of financial sustainability</li> </ol>
Encourage youth to be involved in council decision making processes and future planning for youth facilities and activities via the YACU Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. YACU facilitated and supported by Youth Officer</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Many events supported or co-ordinated by YACU</li> </ol>



<p><u>Corporate Objective 2: Environment and Heritage</u></p> <p><i>How we manage and preserve the natural character, environment and heritage.</i></p>		
Strategic Plan Reference	Actions 2008/2009	Performance Outcomes
Encourage the efficient and effective management and use of energy, water and other natural resources in the community and council operations through district wide strategies and council policies	Drought caused a prioritisation of water use	Drought and water restrictions
Implement strategies and establish facilities and services that ensure effective waste management, recycling and minimisation practices that align with Regional and State Strategies and principles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regional Waste tender to include recycling</li> <li>2. Establishment of Waste Transfer Stations</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On going process</li> <li>2. To be completed in 2009/2010</li> </ol>
Ensure development principles are established and implemented to enhance the preservation of our environment and heritage to achieve ecologically sustainable development	Section 30 Review commenced	To be completed 2010
Implement strategies and practices for the reuse of waste including water, green waste and other reusable waste streams	Applied for strengthening community funding to assess opportunities	To be completed 2010/2011

<p><b>Corporate Objective 3: Economic Development</b></p> <p><i>How we manage and encourage development opportunities while ensuring sustainable development principles are implemented.</i></p>		
Strategic Plan Reference	Actions 2008/2009	Performance Outcomes
Encourage, facilitate and secure private and public funding and investment in the establishment of infrastructure to support development opportunities	1. Establishment of Riverland Taskforce and projects	1. Riverland prospectus 2010 2. Regional plan
Encourage and facilitate economic and sustainable development by promoting opportunities and securing alliances or partnerships with the private and public sector and Reg. Development Corporation	1. Reports from Riverland Development Corporation 2. Regional Development Australia Board for region	1. On going process 2. To be completed in 2009/2010
To be involved and assist with the promotion and development of tourism activities within the district and region, via the Visitor Information Centre and sponsorship of major events and icons, and which involves integration with local businesses and tourism operators	1. Visitor Information Centre 2. Riverland Food and Wine Festival	1. 21,023 Visitors to the Berri Barmera area in 2008/2009 2. 2000+ participants

<p><b>Corporate Objective 4: Governance and Finance</b></p> <p><i>How we manage the governance and financial affairs of the council to ensure accountability, sustainability, compliance and transparency.</i></p>		
Strategic Plan Reference	Actions 2008/2009	Performance Outcomes
Ensure transparent, accountable, compliant and sustainable governance through open measurement and performance reporting against established criteria	Reduce the amount of Council reports in confidence and items kept in confidence	Only two items kept in confidence over the year
Ensure long term financial management through the development of key management goals, principles, measures, ratios and performance indicators that integrate with long term asset management planning, community service obligations, service delivery and core business activities	Long Term financial plan developed and adopted	Regularly reviewed and updated
Implement training and development programs for Elected Members, Executive and Management employees to ensure best practice governance and financial principles are implemented and adhered to	Elected members attend conferences and training	Crs Centofanti and Beech completed Governance Course run by Flinders University
Ensure the continued development and implementation of OHS&W policies, programs, actions and training to provide for a safe working environment	OHS policies are under review	
Ensure the continued development and implementation of Risk Management Plans, programs and actions to mitigate against risks in the community	Risk Management plans developed for major exposures	Risk Management plans developed for Wine and Food Festival and Seniors Christmas parties

<p><b>Corporate Objective 5: Infrastructure</b></p> <p><i>How we manage our infrastructure to ensure safe and reliable access to services, facilities and property to meet community needs.</i></p>		
Strategic Plan Reference	Actions 2008/2009	Performance Outcomes
Establish and implement long term infrastructure maintenance, replacement, rehabilitation and development principles, priority criteria and programs to meet community needs and expansion	Asset Management Committee established	Plans developed for each class of Council asset
Develop strategies that integrate with economic development objectives that assist with supporting the development of new and existing opportunities	Global financial crisis has affected local business outcomes	Greater focus during recovery 2009 / 2010
Explore and secure funding opportunities that assist with the development and replacement of infrastructure and implementation of developed programs and forward plans	Regional and Community Infrastructure Grants	Applied for major funding for Berri Recreation Centre which was successful
Ensure that infrastructure programs and forward plans integrate with and adhere to developed Financial Management principles	Asset management plans integrated with long term financial plan	Completed June 2009

**ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

The Annual Business Plan, which is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1999, provides details as to the projects and activities of the Council for the year and how these projects and activities integrate with the Measures and Corporate Objectives contained in the Strategic Plan. The projects that were contained specifically within the Annual Business Plan are listed in the following table, which also advises as to the status of the projects as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

The status refers to whether the project was completed, deferred for future completion or carried forward for inclusion within the 2008 / 2009 year.

It is noted from the table aside that there are a number of projects that have been carried forward to the 2009 / 2010 year, primarily due to the fact that either the projects are very large and planning stages are still proceeding or in fact, the project was being undertaken but had not been finalised by the reporting date.

Overall, the assessment of the performance of the Council for the year is satisfactory as a majority of the projects committed to by Council were completed during the year and within their financial constraints.

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES	STATUS
Major Buildings Upgrade	On-going
Berri Indoor Recreation & Community Centre Study	Completed
Information Technology	On-going
Records Management	On-going
Wall Mural	Completed
Information Infrastructure Upgrade	Completed
Libraries Furniture & Fittings, Plant & Equipment	Completed
District Entrance Signage	On-going
Berri Centenary Celebrations	On-going
Computer Room Upgrade (Carry over from 2007/2008)	Completed
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES	
Jarvis Street Open Space Development	On-going
Vaughan Terrace Toilets Upgrade	On-going
Water Transfer Station	On-going
Lake Bonney Foreshore Development	On-going
Berri Riverfront Pontoons Upgrade	On-going
McKay Road Realignment	On-going
Gopher Routes/Footpaths p- Berri, Barmera and Loveday	On-going
Cemetery Upgrade Works – Furniture and Vaults	On-going
Berri Marina Upgrade	Completed
Martin Bend BBQ Shelters	On-going
Glassey Park BBQ Shelters	On-going
Roads Reseals Town and District	On-going
McBride Street Construction	Completed
Unsealed Road Resheeting / Rerubbling	On-going
Service Road – Riverland Bricks	Completed
Hoskin Road Traffic Management	On-going
Mills Road Sealing	Completed
Kerbing & Verge Sealing Berri and Barmera	On-going
Plant Purchases	On-going

Cemetery - Memorial Crosses & Cemetery Extension	On-going
2 Lane Boatramp Design – Lake Bonney	On-going
Safe School Routes	On-going
Denny Street Carpark	Completed
Regional Waste Management Studies	On-going
Drought Recovery Parks and Gardens	On-going
Stormwater Drainage Study	Completed
Relocation Bitumen Tank & Other Plant Modifications	Completed
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
Wastewater Re-Use Project	Completed
Dog Pound Construction	On-going
Berri East CWMS Extension	Completed
Berri Riverfront Concept Plan	On-going
Section 30 Development Plan Review	On-going
Waste Water Re-use Scheme Trial	On-going
Berri East Progress	On-going
Berri West Progress	On-going
Lake Bonney Management Plan (Land and Water)	On-going
Removal Asbestos Council Buildings	On-going
EXECUTIVE SERVICES	
Future Direction Planning – Town Centre Renewal Project	On-going
Land Purchases – Sporting Grounds	On-going
Long Term Financial Management Plan and Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan	Completed
Barmera Sporting/Community Facilities Planning (Carry over from 2007/2008)	Completed

## COMPLIANCE

### REGISTERS, CODES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

(REQUIRED TO BE KEPT UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AND/OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS ACT 1999)

#### Registers

The Common Seal Register (Sec. 38)  
Register of Interests - Members (Section 64)  
Register of Allowances and Benefits – Elected Members (Section 79)  
Delegations Register (Section 103)  
Register of Remuneration, Salaries and Benefits (Employees) (Section 105)  
Register of Interest (Staff) (Section 111-119)  
Register of Community Land (Section 207)  
Register of Public Roads (Section 231)  
Register of Approvals for Use of Community Land (Section 242)  
Register of By-laws  
Register of Gifts  
Register of Fees and Charges  
Declarations by Elected Members

#### Council Policies and Bylaws

The Berri Barmera Council has developed a Policy Manual which is continually updated to reflect changes in circumstances or if a new issue arises.

Council's Policies and Bylaws are listed overleaf—

#### List of the Codes of Conduct / Practice

(Note: These Codes etc. are available on Council's Website)

Access to Meetings - Code of Practice (Policy A10)  
Code of Conduct for Council Employees (Policy C17)  
Code of Conduct for Council Members (Policy C18)  
Confidentiality Provisions - Code of Practice (Policy C19.5)  
Consultation Policy (Policy C20)  
Contracting and Tendering Policy (Policy C22)  
Council Decisions Procedure - Review of (Policy C62)  
Order Making Policy (Policy O20)  
Rating Policy (Policy R22)



ABANDONED VEHICLES (Refer L.G. Act Sec. 748)		FLAMMABLE UNDERGROWTH	F20
ACCESS TO MEETINGS - Code of Practice	A10	FOOTPATH - Construction	F25
ACCOUNTING POLICIES	A15	GOVERNMENT WORK PROGRAMS	G10
ADVERTISING ON FOOTPATHS	A20	HOUSE NUMBERING	H15
AGENDAS - COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETING	A25	IMMUNISATIONS—Service Policy	I12
BADGE DAYS, & DOOR KNOCK APPEALS	B10	IMMUNISATIONS - Standing Drug Orders	I15
BY-LAWS: No. 1 - PERMITS & PENALTIES	B30	LIBRARY COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY	L10
No. 2 - DOGS	B35	MEDIA STATEMENTS	M10
No. 6 - COUNCIL LAND	B55	NAMING OF ROADS	N10
BY-LAWS - PENALTIES	B65	NOVATED LEASING OF MOTOR VEHICLES	N20
CEMETERIES	C10	OHS & W - Health & Safety Policy	O10
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	C11	OHS & W - Consultation Policy	O15
CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES	C15	ORDER MAKING POLICY	O20
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCIL EMPLOYEES	C17	PERMIT PARKING POLICY	P10
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS	C18	PLANT & MACHINERY - Emergency Use Of	P20
COMMUNITY FACILITIES LEASING POLICY	C18.5	PLANT & MACHINERY - Community Use Of	P25
COMMUNITY GRANTS POLICY	C18.75	PURCHASING, HIRING & LEASE OF EQUIPMENT	P35
COMPETITION PRINCIPLES - Complaints Process	C19	PURCHASING - Local Preference	P40
CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS - Code of Practice	C19.5	PURCHASING - Orders	P45
CONSULTATION POLICY	C20	RATE REBATE POLICY	R21
CONTRACTING, TENDERING & PURCHASING POLICY	C22	RATING POLICY STATEMENT	R22
CONTRACTORS	C25	REFUSE COLLECTION - Domestic 240 Litre Bins	R31
CONTRACTS - CURRENT	C30	RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY	R43
COUNCIL COMMITTEES	C60	ROADS - Installation of Pipes, etc.	R45
COUNCIL DECISIONS PROCEDURE, REVIEW OF	C62	ROADS - Sealing Properties	R51
COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES & DELEGATES	C65	ROADSIDE TRADING POLICY	R55
COUNCIL WORKS' VEHICLES - Identification	C75	SPORT & RECREATION GRANTS	S12
COUNTRY FIRES ACT - BBQ Areas	C80	SPORTING GROUNDS - USE OF	S15
COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE - Council Employees	C90	STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE - Council Employees	S25
COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE - Use of Council Plant	C95	STREET TREES	S30
CROSSING PLACES	C100	TRAINING - Council Members Training & Development	T10
DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY - Council Officers	D15	TREES - Rural Areas - Road Intersections	T30
DEPUTY MAYOR	D20	VALUATION OF LAND UNDER ROADS	V05
ELECTION SIGNS	E20	VOLUNTEER POLICY	V10
ELECTIONS - CASUAL VACANCIES	E30	WORKS CONTRACT	W10

**MEMBERS ALLOWANCES**

The following allowances are paid to Elected Members (Applicable from November 2008)

Mayor	\$33,000
Deputy Mayor	\$10,000
Councillors	\$ 8,000

**ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW**

Under the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999, Councils representation must comply with a specified quota tolerance. The Berri Barmera Council is represented by a Mayor and 10 Councillors. The total number of electors in the district of The Berri Barmera Council is as follows:

House of Assembly as provided by the State Electoral Commission	7303
Council's Supplementary Roll	800
Total:	8103

Councils' representation quota is therefore 736 electors per elected member.

Pursuant to section 12(13)(a) of the Act, the Electoral Commissioner has certified that the most recent review undertaken by Council satisfies the requirements of Section 12. The representation arrangements are as follows:

- Retain the status quo of a Mayor and 10 Councillors; and
- The Council area will not be divided into wards, thereby requiring all members to represent the Council area as a whole.

Also, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, it is necessary for The Berri Barmera Council to undertake a periodical review of its composition and elector representation arrangements. Council is currently undertaking this review.

During the process for conducting the review, all electors will have the opportunity to make submissions on the representation and ward boundary structure of the Council. The first phase of consultation will be conducted with the preparation of a public consultation report that outlines the current status of Councils ward boundary structure and representation. This report will also provide details on options under the Local Government Act that can be considered during the process. For example these include the option of the review of numbers of elected members. Any person making

a written submission can make a verbal presentation to a committee of Council appointed for the purposes of overseeing the review process.

The second phase of consultation involves the preparation of options based on consideration of submissions received during the first phase of consultation and Council discussion. The report prepared as part of the second phase of consultation will be specific to the options provided for consideration and provide relevant details. Again, any person forwarding a written submission will be afforded the opportunity to present that submission to the appointed committee.

The elector representation with respect to the Council area is detailed in the following table.

**Local Government Representation: Ratios SA 2008/2009**  
(Information supplied by the Local Government Association)

COUNCIL	ELECTED MEMBERS Including Mayor	ELECTORS	RATIO
Alexandrina	12	24,338	2028
Barossa Council	14	17,307	1236
Berri Barmera	11	8,103	736
Copper Coast	11	13,087	1189
Light Regional	11	10,535	957
Loxton Waikerie	13	9,165	705
Murray Bridge	10	15,281	1528
Port Pirie	11	13,197	1199
Victor Harbor	11	15,166	1378
Wattle Range	12	10,471	872
Yorke Peninsula	12	14,717	1226



## COMPETITIVE TENDERING / COST EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF SERVICE

The Council utilises Contractors to provide specific services. During the year Council's Waste Management operations continued with a private contractor carrying out the solid waste pick-up and waste depot operations. Bitumen laying on roads was tendered and contractors were used for carting of materials as well as tree pruning and removal.

Council will continue to look at improving service delivery options into the future to ascertain the best options available and the standards of services provided.

In relation to local purchase, Council has decided on a weighting of 10% for local purchases (i.e. throughout the Riverland).

Contracts are awarded on a tender / quotation basis as Councils commitment towards providing cost effective services to its community and providing the opportunity for competitive tendering. Resulting from this approach by Council, significant amounts of Council's operations are contracted out to minimise Council's requirement to provide expensive plant and equipment and to maintain a relatively small workforce to reduce overheads.

The table below outlines the contract work awarded through tendering / quotation processes for specific projects and functions of the Council.

CONTRACTORS 2008/2009	
Audit Contract (External)	11,360.00
Barmera Recreation Centre Management	42,710.00
Building Service Contract	36,511.00
Council Office Building	10,596.00
Debt Collection Costs	22,009.00
Effluent Drainage Maintenance	140,851.00
Footpath Construction	15,333.00
Garbage Collection	285,962.00
Garbage Disposal	87,638.00
Halls Building Maintenance	45,276.00
Information Technology	74,962.00
Riverland Animal and Plant Control Board	104,950.00
Public Convenience Management	53,421.00
Riverland Wine Festival Co-ordinator Contract	19,000.00
Sealed Road Construction	22,594.00
Sport Recreation Maintenance	43,559.00
Swimming Pool Management	66,452.00
Town Planning Legal Fees	13,181.00
TOTAL	1,086,865.00

## DELEGATIONS OF POWER

To assist in the decision making process of Council, the Council has delegated responsibilities and powers to the Chief Executive Officer and/or specific committees of Council. These delegations are reviewed on an annual basis and are available for public inspection free of charge at the Council Office.

## GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

In relation to grievance procedures and review of Council's decisions, the Council has formally adopted a procedure for internal review of Council decisions as per the requirements of Section 270 of the Local Government Act. The procedure provides a mechanism for persons grieved by a Council decision or a decision made by an officer and sets out the procedures for application for the review of the decision. Further, the procedure states the following as its primary principles:

*When a complaint is received it shall be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for internal investigation in the first instance.*

*In the event that the Chief Executive Officer is of the opinion that the complaint requires an independent investigation then the Chief Executive Officer shall refer the complaint to the independent panel established by the Local Government Association.*

Action: *Within five working days from receipt of the complaint:*

- record the complaint in the complaints register
- acknowledge the complaint
- advise the complainant who will be dealing with the complaint
- provide the complainant with a copy of the policy
- provide the complainant with a copy of the complaints process

*Within twenty working days from receipt of the complaint:*

- investigate the complaint
- advise the complainant of the result of the investigation and any corrective action taken
- record the outcome in the complaints register

*In the event that the complaint does or is likely to take longer than twenty days to resolve, a deadline for resolution of the complaint will be set with the complainant.*

*If the complainant is not satisfied with the advice given and requests a review of the outcome and the complaint was originally handled internally the complaint will be referred to a person from the panel established by the Local Government Association.*

*Where a complaint has been addressed through the Local Government process the complainant may refer the complaint to the Competition Commissioner.*

**COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS / MATTERS CONSIDERED IN CONFIDENCE**

Further to Councils decision making structure, there were a number of occasions during the financial year that Council considered matters in confidence pursuant to Section 90 of the Local Government Act 1999. During the year there were 12 Ordinary and 4 Special Meetings of Council and 20 Committee/Sub-Committee Meetings.

The following table contains details of the Council / Committee Meetings.

Particulars	No. of Meetings	Total Resolutions Passed	Confidential Resolutions	Reason for Confidentiality
Council Meetings	16	355	4	Pursuant to Sections: <u>90(3)(b)(i) / 90(3)(d)(i)</u> - Commercial in Confidence <u>90(3)(a) and (i)</u> - Personal Affairs <u>90(3)(h)</u> - legal advice <u>90(3)(m)</u> - Relating to amendments to the Development Act
Berri Town Beautification Committee	2	-	Nil	N/A
Project Monitoring Committee	4	16	Nil	N/A
Strategic Planning and Review Committee	2	1	Nil	N/A
Lake Bonney Management Committee	8	50	Nil	N/A
Asset Management Committee (Sub-Committees)	1	11	Nil	N/A
- Buildings & Structures	2	4	Nil	N/A
- Infrastructure	1	5	Nil	N/A
- Land	2	5	Nil	N/A
- Office Equipment	1	3	Nil	N/A
- Plant & Machinery	1	1	Nil	N/A
Audit Committee	3	21	Nil	N/A
Development Assessment Panel	6	25	Nil	N/A

At the time Council resolves to consider a matter in confidence, Council complies with its access to Council Meetings, Council Committees and Council Documents Code. Also, Council specifies a time for the item to remain confidential with delegated power provided to the Chief Executive Officer to remove the confidentiality provision provided the item has satisfactorily been completed or the need for the item to remain confidential has been reviewed.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION STATEMENT / INFORMATION STATEMENT**

During 2008/2009 the outstanding application from 2007/2008 was finalised. Three new FOI Applications were received. One of those applications was withdrawn; the remaining two are still being processed.

**INFORMATION STATEMENT (GENERAL)**

The following information statement is published by the Berri Barmera Council in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 4 of the Local Government Act 1999.

**Council's Role**

The Council's role is to provide for the government and management of its area at the local level. Section 6 of the Local Government Act 1999, defines the role of Council as follows:

- To act as a representative, informed and responsible decision-maker in the interests of its community; and
- To provide and co-ordinate various public services and facilities and to develop its community and resources in a socially just and ecologically sustainable manner; and
- To encourage and develop initiatives within its community for improving the quality of life of the community; and
- To represent the interests of its community to the wider community; and
- To exercise, perform and discharge the powers, functions and duties of local government under the Local Government Act and other Acts in relation to the area for which it is constituted.

**The role of the Principal Member and Members of Council**

The role of the principal member (Mayor) and members of Council is defined in Sections 58 and 59 of the Local Government Act 1999.

1)The role of the principal member is:

- a) to preside at meetings of the Council;
- b) if requested, to provide advice to the Chief Executive Officer between Council meetings on the implementation of a decision of the Council;
- c) to act as the principal spokesperson of the Council
- d) to exercise other functions of the Council as the Council determines;
- e) to carry out the civic and ceremonial duties of the office of principal member

2)The role of members of Council is:

- a) as a member of the governing body of the Council -
  - (i) to participate in the deliberations and civic activities of the Council;
  - ii) to keep the Council's objectives and policies under review to ensure that they are appropriate and effective;
  - (iii) to keep Council's resource allocation, expenditure and activities, and the efficiency and effectiveness of its service delivery under review;
- b) as a person elected to the Council - to represent the interests of residents and ratepayers, to provide community leadership and guidance, and to facilitate communication between the community and the Council.

**Activities that Council provides or is associated with (financial or otherwise)**

The activities that Council provides or is associated with are:

public functions, donations to local organisations, dog control, fire prevention, animal and plant control, health inspections, immunisation program, cemeteries, public toilets, garbage collection and disposal, District Halls, Community Library and Information Centre, parks and gardens, play equipment, boat ramps, ovals, building and development control, road maintenance and construction, footpaths, kerbs and guttering, storm water control, bike tracks, street lighting, tourism, private works, industrial estate, support re loans to sporting clubs, leasing of Council owned property to community organisations, etc.

**Agendas and Minutes**

Agendas for all Council and Committee meetings are placed on public display not less than three days prior to meetings, minutes being made available for perusal within five days of a meeting. Agendas and Minutes for Council and DAP Meetings are also available on Council's website. The timeframes for the availability of Council agendas and minutes is in accordance with the Local Government Act and Regulations.

**Delegations**

To assist in the decision making process of Council, the Council has delegated responsibilities and powers to the Chief Executive Officer and or specific committees of Council. These delegations are reviewed on an annual basis. The delegations are available for public inspection free of charge at the Council Office.

**Public Participation**

Members of the public have a number of opportunities to put forward their views on particular issues before Council. These include:

*Deputations* - with the permission of the Mayor, a member of the public can address the Council or a Committee, personally or on behalf of a group of residents.

*Presentations to Council* - with prior notification and arrangement with the Mayor, a member of the public can address the Council for a period of time determined by the Mayor on any issue relevant to Council.

*Petitions* - written petitions can be addressed to the Council on any issue within the Council's jurisdiction.

*Written Requests* - a member of the public can write to the Council on any Council Policy, activity or service.

*Elected Members* - members of the public can contact their Elected Members of Council to discuss any issue relevant to Council.

**Community Consultation**

The Council has adopted a Public Consultation Policy in accordance with Section 50 of the Local Government Act 1999. Though the Act specifies that Councils must have public consultation policies in place for mandatory consultation with the public on specific issues, the policy is also used for general consultation with the public on other issues at the Councils discretion.

In addition there are also opportunities for the public to attend public meetings or information forums on certain issues or to complete a survey on specific issues. The Council is also required to consult with the public on other matters as a requirement of relevant legislation. For example, there are requirements within the Development Act, which require Council to advertise certain development applications comment.

**Access to Council Documents**

A list of documents available for inspection or copy are listed below, with the relevant fee per page or entry listed, should a copy be required.

FEES AND CHARGES PARTICULARS	CURRENT AS AT 01/7/06 GST INCLUSIVE (Where applicable) \$
<b>COUNCIL DOCUMENTS ETC.</b>	
Sale of Minutes / Agendas	3.00
Annual Financial Statements	11.00
Annual Report	11.00
Budget Report	20.00
Search Fees - Standard (8 days)	30.00
Search Fees – Urgent	40.00
Search Fees - Rates Only	10.00
Extract from Assessment Book	10.00
Council Development Plan	10.00

A comprehensive listing of Council's Fees and Charges is available on the website.

Documents are available for public inspection at the Principal Office of Council between 8.30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding Public Holidays). Members of the public may also purchase copies of these documents at Council's Principal Office.

The Council also readily provides information to the public, with Council Agendas and Minutes being circulated widely to the local media, and also available at the Berri Library and Information Centre, Barmera Library/Customer Service Centre and at the Council's Principal Office. These documents are also available on Council's website.

**Amendment of Council Records**

A member of the public may request a correction to any information relating to them that is incomplete, incorrect, misleading or out of date. To gain access to Council records a member of the public must indicate in writing the documents required to be inspected and complete a Freedom of Information Request Form.

**Other information requests**

Council readily provides information requested by the public. Requests for any other information will be considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information provisions of the Local Government Act. Under this legislation an application fee and a search fee must be forwarded with a completed request for access form as provided by Council that satisfies the requirements of Section 13 of the Freedom of Information Act, 1991, unless the applicant is granted an exemption.

Should the applicant require copies of any documents inspected pursuant to a Freedom of Information request, legislative charges will apply.

Freedom of Information Request Forms and other requests regarding the access to Council documents must be addressed to:

Freedom of Information Officer  
 Berri Barmera Council  
 19 Wilson Street (or PO Box 229)  
 BERRI SA 5343

Response to applications will be within the statutory thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the properly completed Freedom of Information Request Form, together with the application and appropriate fees.

**NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY**

Pursuant to the *Government Business Enterprises (Competition) Act 1996* and the revised Clause 7 Statement published in September 2002, the following information is provided:

- 1) Significant Business Activities
  - Category One - Nil
  - Category Two - Nil

- 2) Complaints Mechanism
  - Council has adopted a entitled "Competition Principles—complaints Process" (Policy C19), which reads as follows:

*When a complaint is received it shall be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for internal investigation in the first instance.*

*In the event that the Chief Executive Officer is of the opinion that the complaint requires an independent investigation then the Chief Executive Officer shall refer the complaint to the independent panel established by the Local Government Association.*

Action: *Within five working days from receipt of the complaint:*

- *record the complaint in the complaints register*
- *acknowledge the complaint*
- *advise the complainant who will be dealing with the complaint*
- *provide the complainant with a copy of the policy*
- *provide the complainant with a copy of the complaints process*

*Within twenty working days from receipt of the complaint:*

- *investigate the complaint*
- *advise the complainant of the result of the investigation and any corrective action taken*
- *record the outcome in the complaints register*

*In the event that the complaint does or is likely to take longer than twenty days to resolve a deadline for resolution of the complaint will be set with the complainant.*

*If the complainant is not satisfied with the advice given and requests a review of the outcome and the complaint was originally handled internally the complaint will be referred to a person from the panel established by the Local Government Association.*

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

The following financial indicators for 2008 / 2009 are interpreted as follows:

#### Indicator 1—Operating Surplus

The receipt of the first 09/10 Financial Assistance Grant (\$518,821) in June 09 has contributed to the improvement to the operating result. Likewise with the RLCIP Grant (\$371,000) from the Commonwealth.

#### Indicator 2—Operating Surplus Ratio

Reviews of various asset categories were undertaken throughout the year resulting in a significant decrease in depreciation expense. A revaluation of footpaths and kerbing was undertaken by Tonkins also resulting in a decrease in the annual depreciation expense.

#### Indicator 3—Net Financial Liabilities

Council's target is to be not greater than operating revenue and not less than zero. This indicator shows that Council's indebtedness has decreased from the previous year.

#### Indicator 4—Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

Council's net amount owed compared with income has improved from the previous year. This shows that Council's ability to meet its financial obligations from operating revenue is improving.

#### Indicator 5—Interest Cover Ratio

This very low ratio shows Council's level of debt is quite low in comparison to its operating revenue.

#### Indicator 6—Asset Sustainability Ratio

Council's target is to have this ratio between 50% and 100% of depreciation. The current indicator shows Council are still not renewing or replacing assets at the same rate they are wearing out.

#### Indicator 7—Asset Consumption Ratio

This indicates the proportion of 'as new' condition left in assets. Council's target is between 40% and 80%.

INDICATOR	2009	2008
Operating Surplus	-206,149	-1,687,635
Operating Surplus Ratio	-3%	-23%
Net Financial Liabilities	1,059,237	2,550,082
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio	8%	23%
Interest Cover Ratio	0.9%	0.1%
Asset Sustainability Ratio	46%	21%
Asset Consumption Ratio	66%	64%

CORPORATE:

Community Land Management Plans  
Rating and Valuations - Rating Policy for the Year 2007 / 2008

COMMUNITY:

Youth  
Library  
Council Volunteers  
Riverland Community Transport Scheme  
Community Organisation Support  
Council Properties  
Special Events  
Riverland Sport and Recreation  
Council Properties  
Berri Visitor Information Centre



CORPORATE SERVICES

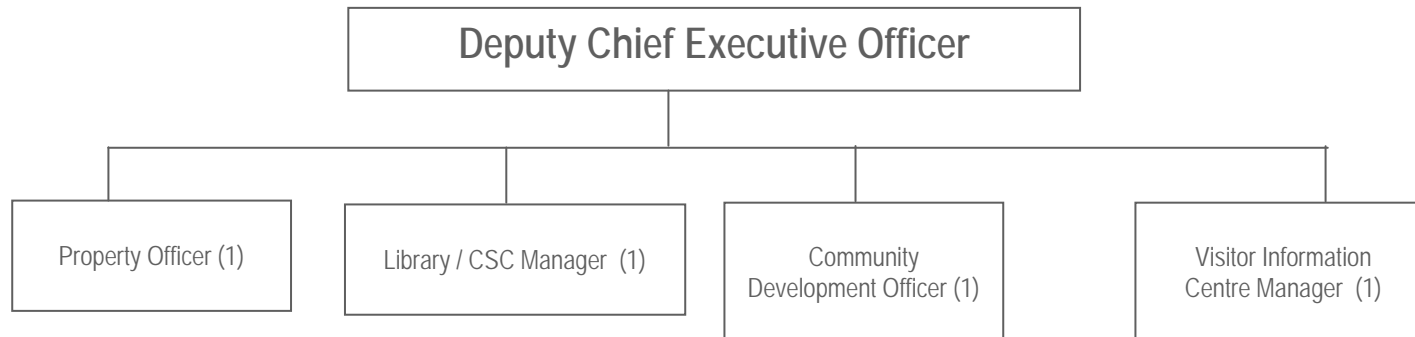


Ms Mary Deakin  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

The Corporate and Community Services Department is responsible for the management and operations of the following functions of Council:

- Policies and Procedures
- Legislative Compliance
- Council / Committee Meetings
- By Law Administration
- Rates and property
- Grants Commission
- Insurance
- Tourism
- Business Development
- Cemeteries Administration
- Open Space Administration
- Debtors / Creditors
- Payroll
- Information Technology
- Records Management
- Library
- Community Transport
- Youth
- Emergency Services
- Culture and Heritage
- Community / Social Development
- Sport & Recreation Administration
- Aged Persons
- Medical and Health Services
- Council Properties Administration
- Customer Service
- Council Support / Administration
- Risk Management
- Contracts, Leases, Licenses and Permits

To effectively implement the management and operations of the Department, the following Staffing Structure applies:





## COMMUNITY LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS

Pursuant to Section 196 of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council is required to prepare, adopt and maintain management plans for all of the land classified as community land. The preparation of these plans requires extensive community consultation and establishes the framework for which land and community facilities controlled by Council are managed in the future.

The Council has satisfied the provisions of the Act with the preparation and adoption of key Community Land Management Plans and is now in the process of reviewing the relevance of the Management Plans to ensure that the Plans reflect the activities for which the Community Land facilities are utilised.

This process will be conducted over a two year period which is being linked to a total review of Council's land and community assets to ensure that these assets are being utilised and do not duplicate services being provided to the community.



## RATING POLICY FOR THE YEAR 2008 / 2009

### Introduction

The Rating Policy is prepared in accordance with Section 171 of the Local Government Act 1999, referred to as the "Act". The Policy is prepared and adopted each financial year in conjunction with the adoption of Council's Annual Business Plan. A copy of the Policy is made available to the community at the Council's principal office and at the customer service outlets as listed below.

This document sets out the policy of the Berri Barmera Council for setting and collecting rates from its community. The policy covers:

- Valuation used for rating
- Method used to value land
- Adoption of valuations
- Notional Values
- Councils revenue raising powers
- Deferential general rates
- Minimum rate
- Service Charges
- Natural resource management levy
- Rate concessions
- Late payment of rates
- Rebate of rates
- Rate Capping
- Remission and postponement of rates
- Deferment of Rates – Primary Producers
- Sale of land for non-payment of rates
- Rate Impact Statement
- Application of the policy
- Disclaimer
- Adoption and review

### Contact Details for Further Information

The Berri Barmera Council's principal office is located at 19 Wilson Street, Berri, South Australia. The office is open to the public between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m, Monday to Friday.

**Postal Address:** PO Box 229, Berri SA 5343

**Phone:** (08) 8582 1922

**Fax:** (08) 8582 3029

**Email:** [bbc@berribarmera.sa.gov.au](mailto:bbc@berribarmera.sa.gov.au)

**Web:** <http://www.berribarmera.sa.gov.au>

For the convenience of ratepayers, an office is also located at the Barmera Library Barwell Avenue, Barmera, with opening hours being on Mondays from 9.30 a.m to 1 p.m and Tuesday to Friday between 9.30 a.m to 5.00 p.m.

**Phone:** (08) 8588 1477

**Fax:** (08) 8588 1243

Valuations used for Rating

The following table and information provides a breakdown of valuation movements within the Council area, separated in the respective Land Use Codes provided by the Valuer Generals Office.

Land Use Code	Valuation 07/08	Valuation 08/09	Increase (\$)	Increase (%)
Residential	724,799,866	751,792,672	26,992,806	3.72%
Commercial (Shops)	44,225,000	47,474,000	3,249,000	7.34%
Commercial (Offices)	9,634,000	11,706,000	2,072,000	21.50%
Commercial (Other)	66,577,140	71,061,880	4,484,740	6.74%
Industrial (Light)	5,805,500	6,331,500	526,000	9.06%
Industrial (Other)	32,566,500	33,415,500	849,000	2.61%
Primary Production	249,642,710	243,110,600	-6,532,110	-2.62%
Vacant Land	21,183,740	26,212,240	5,028,500	23.7%
Others	73,814,944	72,618,548	-1,196,396	-1.62%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,228,249,400</b>	<b>1,264,334,940</b>	<b>36,085,540</b>	<b>2.94%</b>

The figures contained within the above table are provided by the Valuer Generals Office and demonstrate an overall increase of 2.94% of valuations over the Council area. The significant increases in valuations have occurred in the commercial and vacant land land use, however there has been a decrease in valuations for the Primary Production land use category.

The following information relates to the valuation increase in each of the Land use Codes used by Council for rating purposes that is a direct result of development occurring within the area, and which is calculated as a percentage of the valuation increase. The valuations displayed are valuations used for rating purposes, that is non-ratable valuations are not included.

Land Use Code	Valuation 07/08	Valuation 08/09	Increase (\$)	Increase (%)
Residential Towns	461,814,841	489,850,847	28,036,006	6.07
Residential Rural	261,793,725	261,941,825	148,100	.005
Primary Production	250,818,050	243,110,600	-7,707,450	-3.07
Rural Dry/Vacant	12,200,800	13,512,800	1,312,000	10.75
Other	22,695,625	23,648,588	952,963	4.20
Commercial Towns	102,250,834	111,760,015	9,509,181	9.30
Commercial Rural	16,365,350	16,786,300	420,950	2.57
Industrial Towns	6,350,500	6,747,500	397,000	6.25
Industrial Rural	27,298,375	27,340,225	41,850	.006
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,161,588,100</b>	<b>1,194,698,700</b>	<b>33,110,600</b>	<b>2.85</b>

**Method Used to Value Land**

The Council may adopt one of three valuation methodologies to value the properties in its area. They are:

- *Capital Value* - the value of the land and all of the improvements on the land.
- *Site Value* - the value of the land and any improvements which permanently affect the amenity or use of the land, such as drainage works, but excluding the value of buildings and other improvements.
- *Annual Value* - a valuation of the rental potential of the property.

The Council has decided to continue to use **Capital Value** as the basis for valuing land within the Council area. The Council considers that this method of valuing land provides the fairest method of distributing the rate burden across all ratepayers on the following basis:

- the equity principle of taxation requires that taxpayers of greater wealth pay more tax than those of lesser wealth;
- property value is a relatively good indicator of wealth and capital value, which closely approximates the market value of a property and provides the best indicator of overall property value.

**Adoption of Valuations**

The Council proposes to adopt the valuations made by the Valuer-General as provided to the Council for the financial year 2008/2009. If a ratepayer is dissatisfied with the valuation made by the Valuer-General then the ratepayer may object to the Valuer-General in writing, within 60 days of receiving the notice of the valuation, explaining the basis for the objection, provided they have not:

- a) previously received a notice of this valuation under the Local Government Act, 1999, in which case the objection period is sixty (60) days from the receipt of the first notice; or
- b) previously had an objection to the valuation considered by the Valuer-General.

**Notional Values**

Certain properties may be eligible for a notional value under the Valuation of Land Act 1971 where the property is the principal place of residence of a ratepayer. This can relate to certain primary production land or where there is State heritage recognition. A notional value is generally less than the capital value and this will result in reduced rates, unless the minimum rate already applies. Application for a notional value must be made to the Office of the Valuer-General.

**Council's Revenue Raising Powers**

All land within a Council area, except for land specifically exempt (e.g. Crown Land, Council occupied land and other land prescribed in the Local Government Act 1999 – refer Section 147 of the Act), is rateable. The Local Government Act provides for a Council to raise revenue for the broad purposes of the Council through a general rate, which applies to all rateable properties, or through differential general rates, which apply to classes of properties. In addition, Council can raise separate rates for specific areas of the Council, or service rates or charges for specific services. The Council also raises revenue through fees and charges, which are set giving consideration to the cost of the service provided and any equity issues. Refer to Section 9 - Funding the Business Plan.

**Differential General Rates**

The Council has decided to impose Differential General Rates according to the locality of the land and its use, pursuant to Section 156 (1)(c) of the Local Government Act 1999. In applying Differential General Rates, Council has considered and is satisfied that the rating system addresses the issue of consistency and comparability across all Council areas, particularly as it relates to the various sectors of the business and wider community. This satisfies the requirements of Section 153(2) of the Local Government Act 1999. The localities and uses are as follows:

- 1) Township of Barmera, Berri, Cobdogla, Glossop, Loveday and Monash as defined, with land use categories including residential, commercial, industrial and other
- 2) Outside of aforesaid Townships as defined, with land use categories including residential, primary production, vacant, rural dry, other, commercial and industrial.

The Council is proposing to raise rate revenue of \$5,922,409 in a total revenue budget of \$11,698,641 and will continue to use the differential rating method as follows:

- 1) Townships of Barmera, Berri, Cobdogla, Glossop, Loveday and Monash as defined:
  - a) Residential 0.4820 cents in the dollar on the capital value of such rateable property
  - b) Commercial 0.5575 " "
  - c) Industrial 0.6035 " "
  - d) Other 0.4985 " "
- 2) Outside the aforesaid Townships as defined:
  - a) Residential 0.5015 cents in the dollar on the capital value of such rateable property
  - b) Primary Production 0.4595 " "
  - c) Vacant 0.3995 " "
  - d) Other 0.4985 " "
  - e) Commercial 0.5720 " "
  - f) Industrial 0.6035 " "

### Minimum Rate

A Council may impose a minimum amount payable by way of rates, provided that it has not imposed a fixed charge. Where two or more adjoining properties have the same owner and are occupied by the same occupier, only one minimum rate is payable by the ratepayer. Where a Council imposes a minimum rate it must not apply to more than 35% of properties in the Council area. The Council proposes to set a minimum rate of \$518 which shall be applied to all rateable properties within the Council District. This will affect 16.88% of rateable properties and will raise \$519,036 of rate revenue for the 2008/2009 financial year. The reasons for imposing a minimum rate are:

- The Council considers it appropriate that all rateable properties make a base level contribution to the cost of administering the Council's activities;
- The cost of creating and maintaining the physical infrastructure that supports each property.

### Service Charge

The Council provides a community wastewater management system to properties in the townships of Barmera, Berri, Cobdogla, Glossop, Monash and Loveday. The full cost of operating and maintaining the service for the financial year 2008/2009 is budgeted to be \$2,556,563. This cost includes the running of the Wastewater Re-Use Scheme. As per the declaration of the service charge relating to Effluent Drainage Schemes, the Council will recover the operating cost through the imposition of a service charge of \$240 for each unoccupied property unit and \$480 for each occupied property unit. The occupied property unit includes an amount of \$30 per unit for septic tank desludging.

### Natural Resources Management Levy

The Natural Resources Management Act 2004 requires that the Berri Barmera Council collect on behalf of the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board a levy on all rateable properties within its Council area. The levy funds ongoing NRM projects that are vital to the region to protect and manage precious natural resources such as water and soil and control pest plants and animals. For the financial year 2008/2009 the Berri Barmera Council are required to make payable to the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board an amount of \$64,589. In order to recover this amount a separate rate of .000055 cents in the dollar has been declared, based on the capital value of all rateable land within the Council area. A minimum separate rate of \$6.00 has also been declared for such rateable land.

### Rate Concessions

The State Government, in providing equity across SA in this area, funds a range of concessions on Council rates. The concessions are administered by various State Agencies who determine eligibility and pay the concession directly to Council on behalf of the ratepayer. Concessions are available only on the principal place of residence.

Ratepayers who believe they are entitled to a concession should not withhold payment of rates pending assessment of an application by the State Government as penalties apply to overdue rates. A refund will be paid to an eligible person if Council is advised that a concession applies and the rates have already been paid.

#### *State Seniors Card Ratepayer (Self Funded Retirees)*

This concession is administered by Revenue SA. If you are a self-funded retiree and currently hold a State Seniors Card you may be eligible for a concession toward Council rates.

In the case of couples, both must qualify, or if only one holds a State Senior's Card, the other must not be in paid employment for more than 20 hours per week. If you have not received a concession on your rate notice or would like further information please contact the Revenue SA Call Centre on 1300 366 150.

#### *Pension Concession*

If you are an eligible pensioner you may be entitled to a remission on your rates. Application forms (including information on the concessions) are available from the Council office or by phoning the DFC Concessions Hotline on 1800 307 758 or Council on 8582 1922. An eligible pensioner must hold a Pension Card, State Concession Card or be a T.P.I. Pensioner. They must also be responsible for the payment of rates on the property for which they are claiming a concession. The State Government administers the applications. It is important to note that seeking a remission does not change the due date for payment of rates.

#### *Unemployed Persons Concessions*

The Department for Families and Communities (DFC) Department of Human Services (DHS) may assist with the payment of Council rates for your principal place of residence (remissions are not available on vacant land or rental premises). Please contact the Concessions Hotline on 1800 307 758 or your nearest DHS office for details.

### Payment of Rates

The Local Government Act 1999 requires that Council must provide an opportunity for all ratepayers to pay rates by quarterly installments. These installments are to be payable in the months of September, December, March and June. It is not mandatory for ratepayers to pay by quarterly installments, however it is an option that Council must make available to all ratepayers.

The due dates for the quarterly installments of Council rates for 2007/2008 are:

- 1) 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2008
- 2) 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2008
- 3) 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2009
- 4) 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2009

Council rates may be paid:

- by mail (cheque or money order)
- by telephone, using a debit or credit card, phone (08) 8582 1922
- by Bpay facility as detailed on the rate notice
- by internet as detailed on the rate notice
- in person at the Council Office locations - EFTPOS facilities are available for payments
- by Australia Post billpay facility as detailed on the rate notice

Any ratepayer who may, or is likely to, experience difficulties with meeting the standard payment arrangements should contact the Rates Officer on (08) 8582 1922 to discuss alternative payment arrangements. Such enquiries are treated confidentially.

## Late Payment of Rates

The Local Government Act provides that Councils impose a penalty of a 2% fine on any payment for rates, whether instalment or otherwise, that is not paid on or before the due date as from 1 July 2008. A payment that continues to be late is then charged a prescribed interest rate, set each year according to a formula in the Act, for each month it continues to be late. The purpose of this penalty is to act as a deterrent to ratepayers who might otherwise fail to pay their rates on time, to allow Councils to recover the administrative cost of following up unpaid rates and to cover any interest cost the Council may meet because it has not received the rates on time. For the 2008/2009 financial year this rate is .9375% per month.

When the Council receives a payment in respect of overdue rates the Council applies the money received as follows:

- first – to satisfy any costs awarded in connection with court proceedings;
- second – to satisfy any interest costs;
- third – in payment of any fines imposed;
- fourth – in payment of rates, in chronological order (starting with the oldest account first).

## Rebate of Rates

The Local Government Act requires Councils to rebate the rates payable on some land. Specific provisions are made for land used for health services, community services, religious purposes, public cemeteries and educational institutions. Discretionary rebates may be applied by the Council under Section 166 of the Act, upon receipt of applications in accordance with Council's Rate Rebate Policy that deem to satisfy the criteria specified within this section. The Council under the discretionary rebate of rates, may grant a rebate in any of the following purposes and cases:

- Where the rebate is desirable for the purpose of securing the proper development of the area (or a part of the area).
- Where the rebate is desirable for the purpose of assisting or supporting a business in its area.
- Where the rebate will conduce to the preservation of buildings or places of historic significance.
- Where the land is being used for educational purposes.
- Where the land is being used for agricultural, horticultural or floricultural exhibitions.
- Where the land is being used for hospital or health centre.
- Where the land is being used to provide facilities or services for children or young persons.
- Where the land is being used to provide accommodation for the aged or disabled.

- Where the land is being used for a residential aged care facility that is approved for Commonwealth funding under the Aged Care Act 1997 (Cwlth) or a day therapy centre.
- Where the land is being used by an organisation which, in the opinion of the council, provides a benefit or service to the local community.
- Where the rebate relates to common property or land vested in a community corporation under the Community Titles Act 1996 over which the public has a free and unrestricted right of access and enjoyment.
- Where the rebate is considered by the council to be appropriate to provide relief against what would otherwise amount to a substantial change in rates payable by a ratepayer due to –
  - A redistribution of the rates burden within the community arising from a change to the basis or structure of the Council's rates, or
  - A change to the basis on which land is valued for the purpose of rating, rapid changes in valuation, or anomalies in valuations.
  - Any rebate over and above the legislated percentage provided by the Act, for mandatory rebates or discretionary rebates, will need to be considered by Council upon written application and in conjunction with the Rate Rebate Policy adopted by Council on 26th July 2005. Applications for such additional rebates are required on an annual basis.

## Rate Capping

To address any potential inequities in how the rates are levied across the district Council has decided to provide relief by way of rate capping. Where a ratepayer is levied an increase in general rates greater than 12% a rate cap will be applied to ensure no ratepayer will pay any more than 12% on the previous year's general rates.

This rebate will not apply where:

- Ownership of the rateable property has changed since 1 July, 2007;
- Any such increase in the capital value of the rateable property is a result of improvements made on the property since 1 July, 2007 with a value in excess of \$10,000;
- There has been a change of land use, or there have been zoning changes which have contributed to the increase in valuation.

## Deferment of Rates—Primary Producers

Section 182 of the Local Government Act permits the Council to partially or wholly remit or postpone rates on the basis of hardship. It has been the decision of Council that due to the economic downturn and hardship being faced by the horticulture industry, ratepayers, upon application to the Council, may request to defer payment of Council rates. Council has an arrangement with the Rural Counselling Service for assessment of rate deferment or postponement of rates for the 2008 / 2009 year for the horticultural and primary industry sectors. The applications that are made to the Rural Counselling Service are based on hardship grounds and are therefore assessed and forwarded to Council. The Annual Business Plan reflects a policy position for Council that is where postponement of rate applications are received through the Rural Counselling Service for horticulture and primary industry based ratepayers, the rates will be postponed without the addition of fines and interest. This will be the basis for the assessment of these types of applications.

In addition to other applications to be received on hardship grounds for non-horticulture or industry based ratepayers, organisations such as Families SA with the Financial Counsellors will be utilised to assess these applications and a determination will be made on each application as and when received.

## Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Rates

The Local Government Act provides that a Council may sell any property where the rates have been in arrears for three years or more. The Council is required to notify the owner of the land of its intention to sell the land, provide the owner with details of the outstanding amounts, and advise the owner of its intention to sell the land if payment of the outstanding amount is not received within one month.

## Rate Impact Statement

The Council has considered the impact of rates on all classes of properties in its area, in particular primary producers. In considering the impact, the following observations were made:

- Primary producers, in particular the viticulture industry, have in recent years suffered poor returns and lower incomes which has then resulted in Council's consideration in setting a somewhat lower rate in the dollar in comparison to other properties within the district. Overall, there has been a reduction in property valuations for primary production properties which is reflective of the lower income returns for horticulture properties.
- From primary production properties Council is proposing to raise rate revenue of \$1,126,904 for the 2008/2009 year.
- The majority of Council's ratepayers are classified as "town residential". The total rate revenue to be raised from town residential properties for 2008/2009 is \$2,435,522 and represents 41% of its total rate revenue raised.
- Commercial and industrial properties of the Council area generally have the same services available to them and their employees as other ratepayers, however it is accepted that commercial and industrial users have a greater impact on the main services such as road maintenance and may derive a greater benefit from such services as improved public lighting, parking controls, etc. This is the basis for Council setting a higher rate in the dollar for such properties.

- Council proposes to raise rate revenue of \$727,594 from commercial properties for the 2008/2009 financial year and \$209,127 from industrial properties.

Council recognises its responsibility to stimulate and encourage economic growth in a diverse range of activities and to do so must provide adequate infrastructure.

## Application of the Policy

Where a ratepayer believes that the Council has failed to properly apply this policy it should raise the matter with the Council. In the first instance contact should be made with the Deputy Chief Executive Officer on (08) 8582 1922 to discuss the matter. If after the initial contact a ratepayer is still dissatisfied they should write to the Chief Executive Officer, Berri Barmera Council, PO Box 229, Berri SA 5343.

## Disclaimer

A rate cannot be challenged on the basis of non-compliance with the rating policy and must be paid in accordance with the required payment provisions.

## Adoption and Review

This policy was adopted at the Council meeting held on 22 July 2008, being resolution number 1600/08 of the Council meeting. The policy will be reviewed annually in May or June to coincide with Council adopting its annual budget and declaring the annual rates.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### YOUTH

#### Youth and Council Unite

YACU (the Youth Advisory Committee for Council) is responsible for advising Council on youth issues and in return, Council grant the committee the opportunity to run projects for young people in the community. The 2008/2009 financial year has been jam packed with activities which have developed our young leaders' skills and motivation for community involvement. Some of the highlight projects that YACU have taken an active role in this year include:

- N Hanced 2009
- Australia Day Celebrations
- Senior Citizens Christmas Parties
- National Youth Week
- School Holiday activities
- Culturally Diverse Youth Forum
- State Youth Forum attendance
- Various Consultation meetings
- Drug & Alcohol awareness program



YACU members Dean Barnett & Meg Buller, Youth Development Officer Michelle Baden with children at the Barmera Library School Holiday Program.

The committee are made up of young people between the ages 12-25. They attend a monthly committee meetings along with elective meetings relating to appropriate issues or projects. Some are engaged in other community programs such as mentoring, sporting etc, which provides added experience and variety to feed back to the committee. The time and commitment these young people volunteer is inspiring to say the least. The positive effect on our community which they have is undeniable.

#### Youth Development Officer

Michelle Baden is Council's Youth Development Officer, with a core role of co-ordinating YACU and liaising with local organisations across the region to support the development of young people and the opportunities provided in our community. Michelle is a member of the Riverland & Mallee Youth Sector Network, which meets on a regular basis with the aim to bridge the gaps in services and opportunities available for youth. It also involves communication with other organisations both government and non-government, local & non-local to strengthen ties and develop partnerships that tackle common issues. During the financial year Michelle has been a representative on the:

- Riverland Drug & Alcohol Working Group Committee
- Local Community Partnerships Committee
- Riverland & Mallee Youth Sector Network
- YACSA's Regional Policy Council Committee
- Various working groups and conferences on both local and state level

There are many other once off functions and meetings which were attended, all linking back to the aims and objectives of YACU and Council to strengthen youth participation in our community.



Daniel Barnett, Young Australian Citizen of the Year 2008 speaking at 2009 Australia Day celebrations.

## LIBRARY SERVICES

### Your Library @ Berri Barmera

Berri Barmera Council Libraries have flourished in the 2008/2009 financial year, offering a diverse range of resources and services. The community's demand for the newest and best in book and multimedia resources and services is met by library staff following the latest trends in informational, educational and recreational choices. Listed below are some of the highlights for the last 12 months:

#### July 08

- Barmera Library took part in a campaign entitled "Get Smart at your Library" to encourage literacy and numeracy. Over 100 children participated in our holiday activities during the July school holidays.
- Berri Library continued to provide high quality fortnightly new outreach loan services to St Catherines and Cottage Homes. This service includes books, talking books, audio CDs and DVDs to the elderly, who cannot otherwise visit the library.

## August 08

- Children's Book week at the Barmera Library was again a huge event. Celebrations, storytelling, activities and book readings were held from the 16th to the 22nd August with Barmera Kindergarten, Barmera Primary School and Loveday School children. A total of 166 children attended from Loveday and Barmera Primary schools, with a further 28 pre-schoolers bringing the total to 194. We thank the teachers and children from the schools and kindergarten for supporting the Library activities and look forward to further partnerships in the future.
- The Berri Library hosted a History Trust SA travelling display called "Blue Jeans and Jungle Greens", which focused on the conflict in Vietnam, including the part played by South Australians in the war, and the anti-war campaign on the home front. This fantastic exhibition was available for viewing by the community for a month and on the 5<sup>th</sup> September, the Riverland Vietnam Veteran's Association hosted the official opening to welcome the display to the region. A number of Councillors, Library Staff, Vietnam Veterans and History Trust SA representatives attended.
- Successful eBay information sessions were conducted at both Berri and Barmera libraries with more than 60 people attending.



Barmera Primary years 2-3 dressed up to visit the Library during book week

## September 08

- Library staff trialed free children's story time and craft activities for the first time at the Riverland Field Days on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September. Although numbers were not substantial, those children and families that did attend were not regular library users so this was positive. In 2009, it is hoped to try this again on a larger scale involving the other Riverland libraries.
- A special free and exciting "Spring Has Sprung" children's concert was held at the Berri Library attracting 54 children and was put on by Cool4Kids (Tony Genovese), a visiting children's entertainer.
- Free training sessions on podcasting and Photostory were conducted by Berri Library staff at the Berri Seniors Citizens Club.
- A Justice of Peace service began in the Barmera Library & Council Customer Service Centre. Tony Peak, JP, volunteers his time between 12.00 and 2.00 pm on Wednesdays and is available for anyone who requires a JP. The Berri Library also has a JP available between 9.00 -3.00 pm, Monday to Friday.
- Adult Learners Week was celebrated at Berri Library with a combined presentation by library and TAFE staff. The day began with an informative session 'eBay for Everyone' which was followed by 'High Tea' at the Berri TAFE Campus restaurant. A number of unusual teas were tried and served with delicious accompaniments. Almost 40 people attended the event.

## October 09

- Baby Rhyme Time, coordinated by Melanie Alder, celebrated its first birthday with a party for babies and their carers. Barmera Library also celebrated a 47th birthday on the 30th October.

## November 08

- Both libraries hosted a Questacon children's science exhibit and workshop for under 5's.
- Outback Connect visited both libraries to help adults learn more about using computers.
- We completed the conversion of our Amlib Library Management System database from SQL Base to Microsoft SQL. This change has resulted in improved system reliability and faster Web catalogue searching for our customers. Glossop High School also tested and implemented Terminal Services software, which has dramatically improved connection speeds to Amlib for the Glossop Middle Campus Library

## December 08

- The author selected to write the history book for the Berri Centenary, Rob Linn visited the library and conducted Oral History training sessions for library staff and community members at the Berri Library in November and December – the training was well received with more than 30 people attending.
- The Barmera Library Reading group, under the direction of Di Tillet, held their 5<sup>th</sup> Christmas meeting at the Library. Library Staff joined with other council staff, the Mayor, and Councillors to make the Seniors Christmas parties at Berri and Barmera nights to remember.

## January 09

Barmera initiated a new promotion to encourage children to read during the summer holidays. Lucky Loans - working on a similar basis to lucky dips but the books were for loan. Other prizes were also given out. Cindy Shorrocks from Catchment Care came to two of our school holiday activity sessions as a special guest. "A Frog's Life" and "Critters Galore" were the programs she presented to a very appreciative young audience.



- Library staff participated in the Channel 9 "Out of the Ordinary" filming at the Berri Library in January. Councillors, volunteers and staff also attended the resulting "Out of the Ordinary" series 5 launch at the Channel 9 studios in North Adelaide.

### February 09

- A staff member represented country libraries on a state wide Public Library network database review project team with a view to providing the latest e-resources for customers.
- Barmera Library took part in celebrating Library Lovers Week with a very successful week of free raffles, romantic displays and an appearance by the King himself- Elvis Stefanopoulos.

### March 09

- Berri Library book group members meet at alternative locations to hold their monthly book discussions. Here they are discussing the book "Coronation Talkies" by Susan Kurosawa over a coffee at the Berri Resort Hotel.
- A joint initiative of local councils saw a campaign to highlight Volunteers with free materials and information on display at Council libraries.



Visiting PLSA members Bernie McSwain, Geoff Stremple and Bill Roche, with Berri Barmera Councillors Trevor Chapple and Rhonda Centofanti.

### April 09

- The Public Libraries of South Australia Executive visited Both Barmera and Berri Libraries in April as part of their annual country tour. The executive were impressed by the high level support from Council provided to both Council libraries and the services and facilities available.
- During the last school holiday break, Tony Genovese and his "Cool 4 Kids" team entertained almost fifty children accompanied by their parents. The free interactive show ensured audience participation with many budding artists engaging in singing, dancing and dressing up. The environmental theme proved to be very relevant and successful with the whole audience.

### May 09

- The Berri Library hosted a display featuring the Victoria Cross awarded to South Australian soldier Major Peter Badcoe in Vietnam and the breastplate presented to the Yandruwandha people of North-Eastern South Australia for humanity shown to the members of the ill-fated Burke & Wills 1861 expedition. Almost 300 people from all over the district viewed the display, including a number of school children and members of the Riverland RSLs. A wine and cheese evening brought more than 35 people into the library to view the display and hear co-ordinator, Kate Walsh representing the SA History Trust speak about the historical significance of both items. Visitors to the library could also view the Diver Derrick display and try out the new multimedia station, funded by a grant from the ANZAC Day Commemorative Fund – SA Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- Council library staff attended the South Australian Public Library network "Public Libraries Building Futures" 2 day conference in Adelaide. Library Week and History week were celebrated with raffles and displays.



Terry Anderson, Jan Murray and Maurie O'Brien of the SA Bush Poets entertained Barmera Kindergarten children during Country Music Week.

### June 09

- The author of "Baby Gets Dressed" Katrina Germein, visited Barmera Library as a special guest. Katrina joined with Melanie Allder, Rhyme time co-ordinator, and Library staff to take part in storytelling and activities with babies and toddlers during Baby Rhyme time. "Baby Gets Dressed" is the free book included in the Baby Rhyme time packs for 2009. The Barmera Kindergarten also visited for the occasion. Katrina is the award winning author of "Big rain coming" and "Leaving" with another book to be published in February next year.
- Both Council libraries underwent a few changes in June with new paperback spinners installed at Barmera, and slat wall and a new publishing centre installed at Berri.
- Another highlight in June was a visit from the SA Bush poets who held 2 free sessions in the Barmera Library for adults and children – a great way for the Library/Council to be a part of Country Music Week celebrations.

Library staff have worked hard to find innovative and resourceful ways to meet the challenges of the past year and provide the highest quality service to our library and Council customers. We are again grateful to our many volunteers for their help over the past year, and thank Councillors, all council staff and our local communities for their continued support.

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL LIBRARY STATISTICS 2008/2009

LOANS	BERRI		BARMERA		2008-2009 TOTALS
	2007-2008	2008-2009	2007-2008	2008-2009	
Adult Fiction	11,252	10,972	6,117	6,761	17,733
Adult Non-Fiction	5,931	5,565	3,110	3,298	8,863
Large Print	5,361	5,242	6,103	6,544	11,786
<b>Sub Total Adult</b>	<b>22,544</b>	<b>21,779</b>	<b>15,330</b>	<b>16,603</b>	<b>38,382</b>
Children	13,737	10,316	4,969	6,441	16,757
Paperbacks - Adult	5,915	5,156	7,679	5,829	10,985
Paperbacks—Children	1,717	3,443	1,447	1,268	4,711
Periodicals	4,806	4,248	3,791	3,479	7,727
CDs	2,482	2,781	1,512	1,969	4,750
CD-ROMs	1,806	1,825	579	588	2,413
Videos	2,781	1,574	1,639	1,061	2,635
DVDs	12,065	14,244	8,873	10,741	24,985
Hear-A- Books	1,005	832	484	699	1,531
LOTE	97	119	185	177	296
School Resources	5,380	5,277	63	17	5,294
TAFE Resources	3,264	2,915	29	65	2,980
ILLs & Other	1,424	1,373	1,033	1,170	2,543
AV Equipment	661	705	NA	NA	705
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>79,684</b>	<b>76,587</b>	<b>47,613</b>	<b>50,107</b>	<b>126,694</b>



Cool4Kids perform at Berri.

Photo is of Cameron 5, Lara 3, Jasmine 5, all of Berri, Joshua, 6 of Winkie and Andrew Pipprell, Nige Jackson and Tony Genovese (front) all of Adelaide.

USAGE	BERRI		BARMERA		2008-2009
	2007-2008	2008-2009	2007-2008	2008-2009	
Door Count	116,242	131,721	54,977	59,594	191,315
Internet Bookings	6,555	7,425	5,056	5,368	12,793
Holiday Activities	201	214	253	294	508
Weekly children's Activities*	464	506	729*	1,242*	1,748
SA Network Inter Library Loans	6,591	7,858	4,095	4,808	12,666
Visits per capita (Berri 7,025, Barmera 4,188)	16.5	18.7	13.1	14.2	17.0
Loans per capita	11.3	10.9	11.3	11.9	11.3
Open hours per annum	2,750	2,750	1,950	1,950	4,700
Web Catalogue Searches	26,950	12,870	combined statistics		12,870

\*includes Barmera Baby Rhyme Time (553 visits)

### COUNCIL VOLUNTEERS

The staff and elected members would like to convey our sincere gratitude to each and every volunteer driver, and in fact all 85 Council volunteers who assist in building a better community by undertaking vital duties in the Libraries, Visitor Information Centre, Youth Services and Rocky's Hall of Fame Pioneers Museum.

Each year our volunteers make a significant contribution toward ensuring that many community services can be provided beyond the budget capacity. These fantastic volunteers provide Council with more than 17,650 hours of duties each year at an estimated value of over \$550,000 per year.



The Youth and Council Unite (YACU) Team who volunteered at both events

### RIVERLAND COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEME

The Riverland Community Transport Scheme (RCTS) was established in 1998 and has been coordinated by the Berri Barmera Council since its inception. The key goal of the Scheme is to link Riverland residents with the commercial operators, including the Taxi Services and Bus operators such as Link SA, Mid Murray Coaches, Premier Stateliner and Townsend's.

Achieving this priority will ensure increased use of these public transport options, so they may continue to be sustainable well into the future. Staff members have now developed a Riverland Bus Timetable, which incorporates each public bus route in one document. This timetable is now available from each of the Riverland Council offices or from RCTS directly.

Commercial transport options may not always meet the needs of all community members and in these situations the RCTS is able to provide volunteer driven vehicles to ensure that the frail, isolated and other transport disadvantaged residents get to medical appointments and other priority activities.

This year some 29 volunteers have provided over 10,000 hours towards transporting clients between Riverland towns and even to Adelaide. The scheme consists of three cars and a community bus operating locally and the Medical Bus for trips to Adelaide and has operated nearly every weekday and an occasional weekend trip. In total over 750 Riverland residents have utilised the scheme, with drivers covering over 285,000km for the 7000 client trips during the twelve months.

The Medical Bus alone has clocked up in excess of 261,000km since commencing the service in early 2007 providing over 1000 client trips for Riverlander's to access medical treatment in Adelaide. This service has been coordinated almost entirely by a team of volunteers who have ensured that this essential service successfully links the Riverland community with specialist medical services unavailable in the region.

Every community transport trip would not be viable without the donations made by clients and the broader community, and most importantly the dedicated volunteers giving their time to ensure those in need get to their destinations. Funding is provided Home and Community Care and the State Government's Public Transport Division towards the operational costs and the vehicles purchased by the Berri Barmera Council.



### COMMUNITY ORGANISATION SUPPORT

Council has taken a proactive approach for a number of years in supporting community groups that are committed to contributing to the community's quality of life. Whether it is through project partnership agreements, community grant applications or operational contributions, Council's support has consisted of financial, in kind or a combination of both.

Each year Council also maintains a wide range of facilities that are provided at heavily subsidised rates to community organisations. Many of these are heavily reliant on additional funding from various sources (including user fees) but without Council funding many of these services would not be viable. Some of these include Rocky's Hall of Fame, Riverland Youth Theatre, Barmera Recreation Centre, Riverland Tourism Association, Berri District Swimming Pool and the Barmera Visitor Information Centre.

In total the investment into community activities, not including facility maintenance and operations, is over \$500,000 which is only a small percentage of the total value of these activities and a great investment when the economic or social impact of these services is considered.

Some of the projects and groups that have been supported this year are:

## Community Grant Projects

- Berri District Traders—Public Art
- Riverland Choral Society
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Riverland Youth Alive Event
- St Edmund's Church Hall Renovations
- Program for New Mothers
- Lions Club of Barmera
- Berri Cricket Club
- Barmera RSL sub branch
- Berri District Youth Club
- Barmera Residential Care Auxillary
- Riverland Choral Group
- Riverland Obedience Kennel Club
- Kidz Central Playgroup Equipment
- Riverland Brass Band
- Youth Supports Grants (E. Millar, J. Main, M, Drogemuller)
- Riverland Primary Schools Music Festival
- Riverland Environment Day School Expo

## Event Support Funding

- Food and Wine Festival
- Barmera Main Street Markets
- Riverland Country Music Festival
- Seniors Lifestyle Expo
- International Tennis Tournaments
- Riverland Cycling Tour
- Barmera Christmas Pageant
- Berri Merry Christmas
- Various Major Sporting Carnivals
- Various Community and Cultural Events

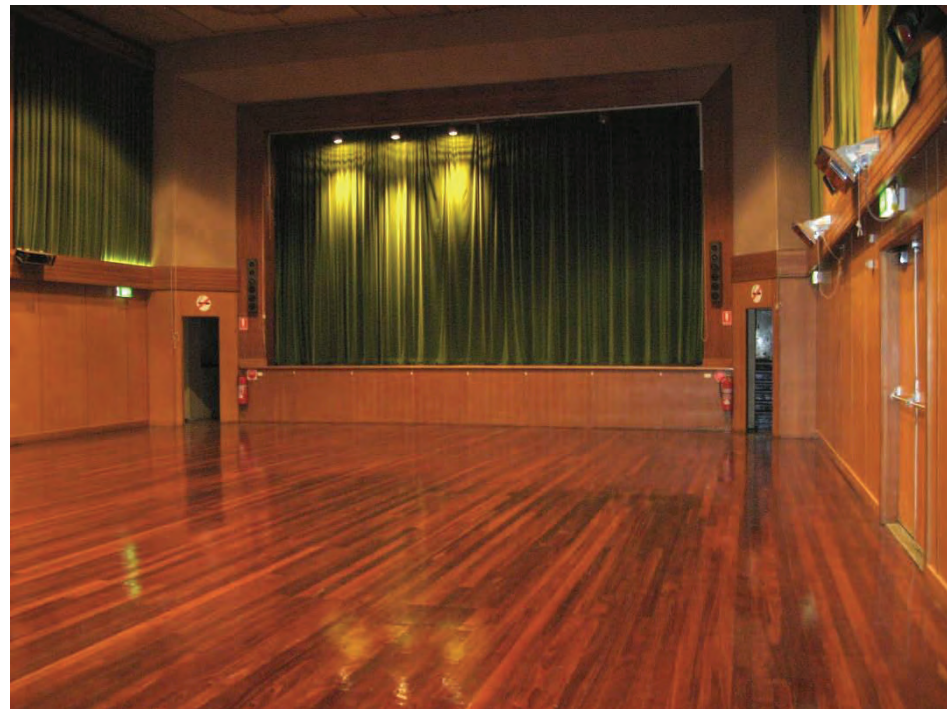
## Community Projects Support

- Arts Connecting Communities
- Regional Dance Workshops
- Riverland Volunteers Projects
- Riverland be active
- CWA Memorial
- Royal Flying Doctor Service
- Cobdogla Netball Courts
- RFL Centenary activities

## COUNCIL PROPERTIES

Earlier this year we had Richard Woods and some of his colleagues from Habitable Places come and discuss with Council staff the processes required to ensure that the Bonney Theatre, Barmera is preserved and maintained. Habitable Places has been engaged to develop a Master Plan for the Bonney Theatre, this will outline a projected maintenance schedule and also enable Council to preserve and upgrade the Theatre in a manner that is consistent with guidelines set out by the Heritage Places Act 1993. mind the economic climate of the area, and increases to hall hire and permit fees were kept to a minimum.

In June we engaged Riverland Floor Centre to repair the floor in the Berri Town Hall. Council staff had received complaints on the condition of the floor, due to movement and splinters. These repairs included restablising of the floor from underneath, replacing damaged floorboards, sanding and polishing, these repairs will enable the Town Hall to be used for a number of years to come. The Town Hall floor will now be periodically reviewed and placed on a maintenance schedule. All Council facilities were well utilised, and once again Council kept in mind the economic climate of the area, and increases to hall hire and permit fees were kept to a minimum.



The repaired floor in the Berri Town Hall

SPECIAL EVENTS

Seniors Christmas Parties 2008

Each year the staff and elected members of the Berri Barmera Council work together with a number of Community Service organisations to give our senior citizens a Christmas party to remember. Over 400 seniors enjoyed the entertainment and catering provided at events in Berri or Barmera. Over 120 individuals volunteer their time (including all of the staff) to produce the event.

It must be acknowledged that without the support of the Service Club volunteers (Berri Rotary, Berri Zonta, Barmera Lions, Barmera Rotary), our own YACU group and the Riverland Entertainers these events would be far more daunting.

The senior citizens thoroughly enjoy the evening and look forward to the next one as do, the staff and elected members. Plans get underway early to choose entertainment and organise the venues, food and drinks. Mayor Hunt says, 'It is one way that we can give just a little back to those who have contributed so much to our local community in the past'



Barmera Seniors Residents enjoying the evening



Berri Seniors Residents enjoying the evening



Staff and Volunteers preparing for the final Christmas carols

Australia Day 2009

Set on the shores of Lake Bonney, Barmera, the 2009 Australia Day celebrations were launched with a community walk at dawn. The success of this activity set the tone for the day, with some 70 participants from across our district, embracing the opportunity to welcome the day with a stroll. Over 200 residents enjoyed the free breakfast, cooked by volunteers from the Lions Club of Barmera, with up to 250 attending the official speeches and ceremonies. The change of location, to a lawn setting with the backdrop of the lake, proved to be very pleasant and proved significantly more shade than the previous Barmera event.

The breakfast was followed up by a morning tea in Berri, hosted by the Berri Rotary Club and Berri Senior Citizens Club. The 150 attendees at the Berri Senior Citizen Hall were treated to scones and an Australia Day cake, as well as welcoming the Districts Australia Day Award recipients.

Special guest at both events was Australia Day Ambassador, Jan Stirling, who captured everyone's attention as she discussed her exploits as coach of the Australian Women's Basketball Team, the Opals.

The Berri Barmera Council presented three awards at the Australia Day Breakfast held in Barmera. The recipients were as follows:

2009 Citizen of the Year—Mr Michael Cook

2009 Young Citizen of the Year – Emma Wilksch

2009 Event of the Year Award – Riverland Relay for Life



Deputy Mayor Bruce Richardson cutting the Australia Day 'Mud Cake' with Jan Stirling, Australia Day Ambassador and Coach of the Opals.

The workshops titled – *So You Want to Volunteer* and *So You Want Volunteers* aimed at providing training opportunities for both existing and potential volunteers and volunteer coordinators/managers. More than 80 people attended these sessions and represented a large cross section of Riverland organisations and communities. This project has provided a renewed interest in volunteering across the Riverland and has been the direct catalyst behind 6 new volunteers commencing duties with the Berri Barmera Council.

- Assist providers to further develop their organisations and the programs and services they provide their community;

and

- Increase community participation in those programs.

Through seminars and consultations, numerous organisations in our district have benefited from changes to their club management and/or with successful grant applications. Berri and Barmera residents have also benefited through their involvement in the indigenous 'Team Effort' project, the school based physical activity of 'Bluearth', or participating in the 'Active Communities Team Challenge' and Australia Day Community Walk.



Volunteers cooking up a feast on Australia Day

## REGIONAL PROJECTS

### Riverland Volunteers Project

Commencing in July of 2008, Renmark Paringa Council received State Government funding to establish a Volunteers Resource Centre in the region and subsequently invited our Council to join the project to ensure that all Riverland volunteers benefited from the project.

Outcomes from the project included:

- The development of an extensive marketing campaign to promote volunteering in the Riverland;
- Each of the regions public libraries have been established as volunteer resource centres, with a range of resources purchased;
- and the delivery of 5 training workshops.

### Riverland Sport and Recreation

Berri Barmera Council has been a partner in this community development project since 2004, working in conjunction with the other two Riverland Councils, Regional Health Service and the State Government through the Office for Recreation and Sport. The key aims of the project are to work with a network of key stakeholders to promote and coordinate the implementation of programs/initiatives that aim to:

- Maintain & coordinate the structures that support the development of active recreation and sport;



Over 70 participants took the chance to be active at dawn on Australia Day

Some outcomes from the last 12 months include:

- Touch Football Competition starting on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
- Over 100 Indigenous youths participated in various Team Effort programs.
- Funding obtained from the Team Effort project for the development of an Indigenous Participation Toolkit including templates, policies and procedures that sporting clubs and associations can adapt to assist them in becoming more inclusive of Indigenous participants.
- Funding has been sourced from ORS to run a series of volunteer management workshops and to develop a Riverland -specific be active brand (see below).
- Women's Soccer Comp became a reality with over 50 female players participating each week.
- 42 Teams participating in the ACTC in Berri – over 150 people (132 teams in the Riverland with 463 participants in total).
- Be Active Marquee is available for loan by Community groups.



## BERRI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

The Berri Visitor Information Centre continues to provide high quality service to the community as well as visitors to our area.

During the past 12 months the Berri Visitor Information Centre has once again expanded the range of services and products that we offer to ensure that we are catering to the demands of visitors and local residents alike.

Our range of local, intrastate and interstate information continues to increase, with a huge selection of brochures available to the general public free of charge to aid in the preparation of their travels. We also have an extensive range of UBD and Gregory's maps, atlases, camping and 4WD books for those wanting additional information at reasonable prices.

The introduction of the new souvenir area has also proved very successful. The plush animals are very popular with local residents looking for that perfect gift for loved ones overseas, whilst our huge range of t-towels, prints, Bella Lavender products and beautiful bird cards are highly sort by visitors! We try and ensure we have something for all tastes and all budgets.



Some of the souvenir items stocked by the Berri Visitor Information Centre.

## South Australian Tourism Awards 2008

Held on the 22nd of November, at the Convention Centre in Adelaide, the South Australian Tourism Awards honour the talent that South Australia has to offer. The Berri Visitor Information Centre once again entered the "Visitor Information and Service" category of the awards and was thrilled to win another Silver Medal which is presented to entries of a high standard with a score of 80% or higher.

The submission process included a one hour site visit and a very detailed written submission on a range of different areas relating to the visitor centre including customer service, marketing, staff development and business plans.

The success of taking out the Silver Award was definitely a major highlight of 2008, and it was amazing to be recognised at such a high level. This is proof that the Berri Visitor Information Centre is made up of an amazing team of staff and dedicated volunteers.

## Murray Cod Mural

The exterior of the Berri Visitor Centre proudly boasts the addition of a galvanised 'Murray Cod' to our outside wall. The image of the Murray Cod was created with the assistance of artist Trevor Wren with the galvanised artwork designed to fit in with the structure of the building. Funding from the artwork was supplied through Country Arts SA. It is certainly an eye catching piece of artwork with visitors often commenting on the design.



The completed Murray Cod Mural on the Berri Visitor Information Centre

**Plans for 2009/2010**

The Berri Visitor Information Centre is currently working on the 2009/10 Berri Visitor Guide and Discount Vouchers which proved very popular with visitors last year. Our aim is to get more local businesses involved to try and encourage visitors to the region to stay that little bit longer.

We will also be launching a new Berri Visitor Information Centre website – which will be used as a great marketing tool to attract people to our district. Our aim is to develop a user friendly website with access to the important information visitors needs to know before they leave home. This will be kept up to date with local happenings and events also.

Finally, we are looking at expanding our souvenir area to enable us to display more local produce, arts and crafts. We find that visitors are keen to pick up a little piece of Berri to take home and feel that a designated 'local product area' will prove successful.

Berri Visitor Information Centre Annual Report Statistics		
Description	2007 - 2008	2008 - 2009
Local Visitors	2424	2833
Intrastate Visitors	4523	3733
Interstate Visitors	2883	2986
Overseas Visitors	1497	1743
Unknown Visitors	4637	4345
Bus Enquiries	6485	5333
<b>TOTAL VISITORS</b>	<b>22,449</b>	<b>21,023</b>
Information Requested	2007 - 2008	2008 - 2009
Directions/Maps	5368	5603
Attractions	3307	3038
Cruises/Tours	1011	1123
Food Outlets	1060	1100
Restaurants/Café's	438	367
Shops	621	564
Hotels/Motels	419	281
Caravan Parks	618	352
Self Contained Accommodation	269	110
Bed & Breakfasts	144	37
Houseboats	279	172
Backpackers	205	222
Camping	266	273
Events	804	812
Walks	579	415
National Parks	473	603
Internet	177	163
Employment Agencies	158	393
Centrelink	124	50
Motor Registration	66	60
Quarantine	132	155
Churches	62	44
Library	183	146
Souvenirs	1056	1046
Toilets	2941	2418
Just Looking	4982	3956
Other	405	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26,147</b>	<b>23,503</b>
Phone Enquiries	2007 - 2008	2008 - 2009
All phone enquiries	3,507	3,525
Mail outs	275	283



PLANNING AND BUILDING ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT

PARKING CONTROL

BUSHFIRE PREVENTION

RIVERFRONT /FORESHORE AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING

ANIMAL AND PLANT CONTROL

EFFLUENT DRAINAGE /MANAGEMENT/PLANNING/MAINTENANCE





Mr Steven Kubasiewicz

Manager Environmental Services

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP:

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Berri Beautification Committee  
Lake Bonney Management Committee

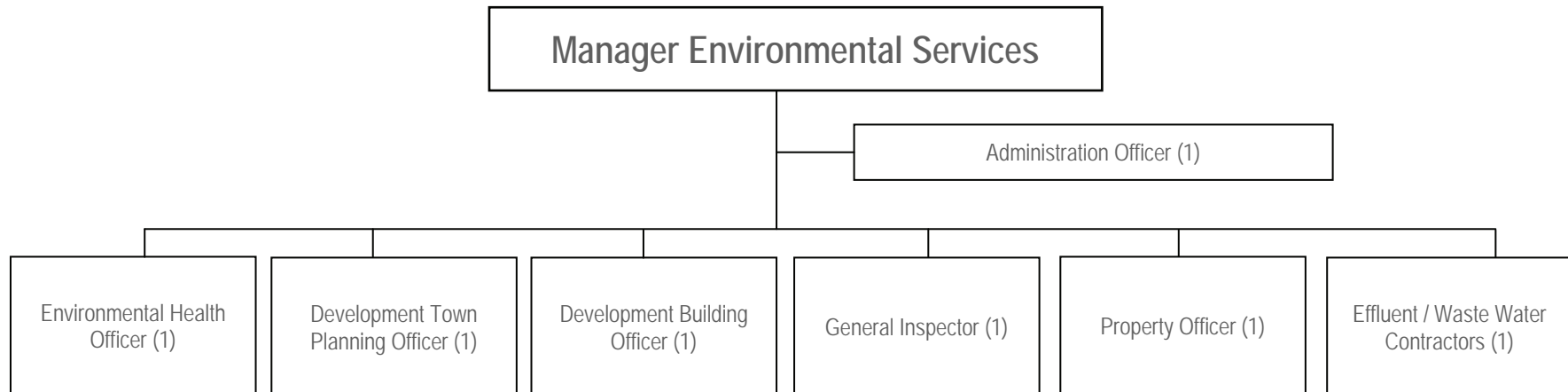
SPECIFIC PURPOSES COMMITTEES:

Development Assessment Panel  
Asset Management Sub-Committee

The Environment Services Department is responsible for the management and operations of the following functions of Council, as summarised in the Functional and Corporate structure.

- Planning and Building Assessment
- Development Planning
- Environmental Health
- Dog and Cat Management
- Parking Control
- By Law Enforcement
- Bushfire Prevention
- Riverfront / Foreshore
- Animal and Plant Control
- General Inspections
- Effluent Drainage Management / Planning / Maintenance
- Open Space Planning

To effectively implement the management and operations of the Department the following Staffing Structure applies:





**PLANNING AND BUILDING ASSESSMENT**

Council has a requirement under the Development Act 1993 to assess applications for development across the Council area. Council has delegated its authority to staff and the Development Assessment Panel (DAP).

In the past 12 months, Council has received 253 applications, in the majority of domestic and rural nature. Applications have included 28 dwellings and extensions and 18 commercial projects. There were numerous approvals issued for minor domestic works including verandahs, sheds and swimming pools.

There have also been a number of land division applications lodged, primarily for the excision of dwellings from horticultural allotments.

Work continued on a land division of over 140 allotments in the north of Berri, and the developer will release the first stage of this development shortly.

*Development Assessment Panel*

Council is required to form a Development Assessment Panel by section 57 of the Development Act. As Council moves to implement a Regional DAP, Council continues to operate a Panel which consists of 5 elected members under an exemption from the Minister to the requirement to form a DAP consisting of independent members, legislated in 2007.

Council's DAP has met on 6 occasions during the year, and has assessed 13 applications. The membership of the DAP consists of Messrs Peter Hunt (Presiding Member), Bill Kanakaris, Bruce Casey, Mrs Rhonda Centofanti and Ms Vicki Beech. Council's Development Officer and Manager for Environmental Services act in an advisory manner to the committee.

*Regional Development Assessment Panel*

Berri Barmera Council, together with the Renmark Paringa Council and the District Council of Loxton Waikerie have agreed to form a Regional Development Assessment Panel. The Minister has drafted legislation to form the Panel, to which the Councils have agreed. Each Council is required through this draft legislation to appoint an independent member to the Regional DAP, together with a further member who may be an elected member or a member of the Council staff. Berri Barmera Council has appointed Mr Ken Stokes as its independent member and Cr Rhonda Centofanti as the Council representative. The three Councils agreed to appoint Mr Bruce Ballantyne as the independent chair of the RDAP. It is hoped that the legislation will be enacted in early 2009-10. Council sees the formation of the RDAP as an important way of promoting a common approach to assessment and policy development in the Riverland region.

*Residential Development Code*

In March 2009 the State Government introduced the Residential Development Code, which provided a greater number of exemptions to the requirement to obtain development approval under the Development Act. These include small sheds (up to 15 square metres), pergolas, decks, shade sails, water tanks and fences – these exemptions all have some conditions attached.

The Residential Code also introduced building rules only consent for certain types of development. These types of buildings include outbuildings, carports, verandahs, swimming pools and spas, solar panels and the like, provided certain requirements are met. Residential code requirements in relation to the erection of new dwellings in residentially zoned areas will come into effect in July 2009.

This system is designed to meet customer expectations of quick approvals for residential development. Development approval for residential code applications is now required within 35 business days of the lodgement of an application. This does not include times where additional information is requested from the applicant, or referrals to statutory bodies are required. It is worth noting that in the past Council has provided approvals well within this timeframe for development of the nature now covered under the Residential Code provisions.

*Local Issues*

The impacts of the Governments exit packages for irrigators and the sale of water allocations are beginning to be felt across the horticultural zoned areas of the district. As the horticultural land use ceases the land is more likely to be used for rural living purposes. As more dwellings are excised from horticultural land, and new dwellings erected there is potential for land use conflict.

There is concern that as ownership changes there is the potential for less awareness of the impacts of any surrounding horticultural activities—spraying, late night harvesting, pruning, bird scarers and the like. These concerns will be addressed as part of future Development Plan Amendments and reviews.

**Development Planning**

Council is required via section 30 of the Development Act to undertake a review of its development plan every 5 years. The last section 30 review was undertaken in 2004. As the Department of Planning and Local Government are currently undertaking a review of the horticultural zonings across the 3 Riverland Councils in conjunction the Riverland Futures project, Council sought and obtained an extension to the requirement to conduct a section 30 review. This review will now be undertaken in the 2009/10 year. The review will make a list of recommendations and actions with a clear and concise implementation plan and costings for Council to undertake future Development Plan Amendments Reports on a priority needs basis.

During 2008/09 Council also completed the installation of a new effluent pump station and rising main in Berri which will provide the future disposal needs from allotments created in the residentially zoned areas in the north and west of Berri. The Council continues to be involved with both developers and the landowners in the area known as Berri west to encourage the development of a co-ordinated approach to the provision of both infrastructure and open space. Where possible Council seeks to combine the development of stormwater storage/management facilities with the development of open space.

Council also continues to support the Town Centre renewal project, which was released for comment in the 2007/08 year. Future planning in line with this project continues, and Council will continue to assess future district centre and public outdoor space requirements in the future. This may include relocation of the Berri Bowling Club, and further development of Alan Glassey Park.

**Building Fire Safety Committee**

The role of the committee is to undertake inspections of public use buildings (those other than for domestic purposes) to determine their adequacy in terms of fire safety. During the past twelve months the Committee have inspected many premises where the public either work or assemble for pleasure. In the course of these inspections deficiencies have been noted and action taken to rectify the situation. Over the 2008/09 year the following inspections (both primary and follow up inspections) were undertaken.

Type of Inspection	Quantity
Hotels and Gaming venues	1
Motels	4
Caravan Parks	7
Golf clubs	1
Packing sheds	3
Commercial/industrial complexes	2
Council buildings	2

In addition to the committees role, Council's Building Officer carries out follow up inspections to determine compliance with the fire safety issues relating to development applications. The three Riverland Councils have established a Riverland Regional Building Fire Safety Committee with the first meeting to be held in Renmark on Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

Councils Environmental Health Officer has continued to provide school based immunisation services and other public and environmental health services including mosquito control, septic tank/sanitary plumbing inspections and inspection of food premises aiming to meet the requirements of the Food Act and Public and Environmental Health Act.

**Food Premises**

There are a total of 163 food premises in the Berri Barmera area. Four businesses are classified as high risk, which includes premises such as hospitals, aged care and child care facilities.

Business Type	Number of Businesses	Routine Inspections	Follow Up Inspections	Complaint Inspections
High risk	4	0 – audited (see below)	0	1
Medium Risk	107	33	6	8
Low risk	52	4	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>

Warnings were sent to 12 business premises, ranging from requesting food business notification details, food handling, food storage and hand washing issues. No improvement notices or expiation notice were issued.

Twelve complaints were received in relation to food businesses. The complaints related to food being unsuitable or unsafe due to microbial contamination/growth or due to the presence of contaminants, alleged food poisoning, inappropriate wastewater disposal, pest control, temperature control and food handling.

Three alleged/suspected food borne illnesses were reported. Two of these cases related to a large number of people who ate at the same venues. All cases were investigated with two inspections being undertaken. Two cases were found to be viral, and not linked to food. The third case could not be confirmed as food borne. SA Food Handler Update newsletters were mailed to high and medium risk food businesses and community/charity groups.

### Auditing High Risk Businesses

Councils EHO has qualified as a Department of Health approved auditor. The Berri and Barmera hospital kitchens have each been audited twice by the Department of Health. Councils EHO attended one of these audits as an observer.

In addition to the hospitals and associated facilities, there is one child care centre and one aged care facility that also require auditing. Both of these businesses have been audited by Councils EHO once within the 2008/09 period.

Councils EHO has also audited businesses within the Loxton Waikerie Council area in conjunction with the EHO from the Renmark Paringa Council in order to assist the Loxton Waikerie Council until such time as their EHO becomes qualified as a Department of Health approved auditor.

### Public and Environmental Health

A total of 19 complaints were received from the public in relation to public health matters. Insanitary conditions regarding accumulated rubbish, animals and wastewater disposal were the main cause of complaints. Other complaints included mosquitoes, insect infestation, swimming pool disinfection and odours. As a result of these complaints 16 inspections were undertaken and two notices were served to rectify an insanitary condition.

### Waste Control Systems

The following activities were undertaken in response to waste control systems:

Type of System	Number of applications	Number of routine inspections
Septic Tank – CWMS	53	32
Aerobic System	9	7
Soakage	13	6
Defective/Illegal Installation	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>49</b>

One complaint was received regarding a defective waste control system. The complaint was found to be justified and has been rectified. Two illegal installations were brought to the attention of Council. One has since been approved under the Waste Control Regulations and one has been removed. In all cases the required work was undertaken without the need to issue Maintenance Orders.

Six orders to connect to STEDS and four reminder orders were issued. Three properties have connected to STEDS as a result. Two properties have allegedly been connected to STEDS, however application was not made to Council, therefore at this stage are considered illegal installations.

Council engages a contractor to undertake a desludging program of the septic tanks connected to the Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS). On a rotational basis each septic tank is pumped about every four years. In reporting on the operations the contractor includes details such as the location and condition of the septic tanks. Property owners are advised of any defects and action required to bring the tank in line with the relevant standards. 685 tanks were desludged and approximately 280 letters were sent to property owners advising them to expose their tanks for desludging or to advise of maintenance required on the tank. A number of follow up inspections were undertaken as a result.

**Immunisation**

The school based immunisation program was provided for the Riverland Special School and the Glossop Middle School campus. Follow up clinics are provided approximately one week after each school clinic to ensure that all students are provided with adequate opportunities to attend. A review of the School Based Immunisation Program Model Documents has begun to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Service Agreement between Council and the Minister for Health.

Type of vaccine	Total no. of vaccinations 2008 school year	Total no. of vaccinations to date for 2009
Hepatitis B	218	131
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	50	99
HPV (cervical cancer)	184	132
DTPa (Dptheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)	134	116
Total	586	478

**Mosquito Surveillance and Control Activities**

Larval and adult catch sites are monitored during the mosquito breeding season by Uni SA's Mosquito Research Laboratory. The laboratory visited 11 times during the previous season to monitor breeding sites and adult mosquito numbers and to undertake spot control as necessary. The laboratory provides an Annual Report at the end of each season.

Council's EHO investigates mosquito related complaints and distributes "Fight the Bite" pamphlets within the community. Two complaints were received during this reporting period and one follow up inspection undertaken.

Since March 2006, Council's EHO has been actively involved in the Riverland Arbovirus Prevention Working Group (RAPWG). As the majority of the Groups objectives had been met prior to June 2008, the group now meets on an as needs basis. The group last meet in November 2008 to decide how to best utilise the suite of health promotion resources previously developed by RAPWG for this mosquito season.

The group decided that Community Service Announcements were to be played on the local ABC radio station; adverts would be placed in the three Riverland papers and in the Riverland Visitors Guide.

RAPWG decided that the fruit fly stop at Yamba would be a good place to distribute 'Fight the Bite' pamphlets. PIRSA supported the idea and 4,000 pamphlets were delivered for distribution at Yamba and Pinnaroo.

Prior to the start of the mosquito breeding season the three Riverland Councils advertised for expressions of interest for a suitably experienced person to undertake mosquito control activities when required. During this mosquito season the appointed contractor was not required to undertake any control activities within the Berri Barmera area.

**DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT**

Council has responsibility for dog and cat management in accordance with the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. Over the 2008/09 period there were 2141 dogs registered within the Council area.

The Animal Management Plan went through a period of public consultation prior to adoption by Council, and was forwarded to the Dog and Cat Management Board where it was adopted with a minor change required. This plan provides Council with a sound basis and direction from which it can plan, co-ordinate and make future decisions to meet the needs of the community over the next five years. It aims to establish management guidelines where people and their pets can integrate harmoniously within the Berri Barmera community.

Following consultation with the Dog and Cat Management Board a facility has been designed that satisfies the relevant standards as well as addressing occupational health and safety matters. Construction will commence on the new dog pound during July 2009.

In total 133 dogs were impounded. Wandering dog complaints (255), dog attacks (48), unregistered dogs (45) and barking dogs (44) were the most significant issues associated with the officer's activities. A total of 58 expiation notices were issued in relation to dog and cat management.

**PARKING CONTROL**

Council maintained a process of enforcement of its parking controls. Parking restrictions continue to apply in the towns of Berri and Barmera and are enforced by Council's General Inspector. In total some 260 parking expiation notices were issued. The 2 permit only car parks in the Berri business district have continued to be well supported. Request for spaces in the Denny Street car park have been in demand, exceeding number of spaces available. Keeping this in mind, when Council demolished an old toilet block and removed some dying trees another 7 parking spaces were created.

**BUSHFIRE PREVENTION**

As required Council have an established Bushfire Prevention Committee that includes members of the various fire authorities. This committee meets three times a year. Council experienced a significant bushfire for our region at Cobdogla in January 2009. The fire was 5 kilometres from Barmera at Cobdogla. Approximately 64 hectares was affected by the blaze.

The drought has had a significant impact on the horticultural blocks due to the supply of water being restricted and in some cases switched off. This has meant that there is a significant fire hazard for the coming 2009/10 summer season. The committee will continue to monitor these land holdings and as required issue the required clean up notices. Over the year 129 section 83 and 56 section 56 clean up notices were issued. In total the Council issued 43 permits under the Fire and Emergency Services Act to burn during the fire danger season. The type of activities that these permits cover include burning off stubble, old plantings and rubbish, BBQs, training purposes, burning general garden waste and disposal of drug crops. An additional 9 permits were issued to burn on a total fire ban day.

The Berri Barmera Bushfire Prevention Plan has been received and updated. This was endorsed by the Berri Barmera Council at their meeting held on February 24 2009.



Cobdogla Bushfire, January 2009

**RIVERFRONT / FORESHORE AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING**

Council's two foreshore committees, being the Lake Bonney Redevelopment Advisory Committee (LBRAC) was dissolved in 2008 and was replaced by the Lake Bonney Management Committee and the Berri Riverfront Redevelopment Committee (BRRC) was replaced by the Berri Town Beautification Committee in 2009. These committees have the role in developing the Barmera /Lake Bonney foreshore and the Berri riverfront area.

The Lake Bonney foreshore master plan was not adopted, as a result the Foreshore development was not completed in the time frame allocated. This lead to a report and new plans being requested from Primary Industries & Resources SA to ensure the funding was extended to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009. This extension was granted on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009. Works have begun with the paving along the foreshore.

Works have begun on the Riverfront with the pergola being replaced opposite the Berri Resort Hotel and the disability ramp to the pontoons being installed. The role of this committee will increase as the town centre redevelopment project proceeds.



**ANIMAL AND PLANT CONTROL**

In response to general community concerns the Council undertook a program of pigeon control. Ongoing maintenance of this is required to ensure that pigeon numbers continue to be controlled.

The Berri Barmera Council is a member of the Riverland Local Government NRM Advisory Group established by the SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources management board. Rabbit baiting was carried out by the NRM board in the area around Lake Bonney and the old Barmera rubbish dump area. The Council's depot workers spent approximately 2 weeks cleaning up the Lake Bonney Foreshore after a fish kill occurred in November 2008. This was funded by the NRM board.

Fresh water was siphoned into Lake Bonney in January 2009. European carp gathered at the fresh water inlet. This event attracted a large number of people to the area to catch and kill the carp. Dead carp were dumped along the shore. Bins were provided as a result. Council removed approximately 30 ton of carp during this event.



#### EFFLUENT DRAINAGE/MANAGEMENT/PLANNING/MAINTENANCE

Council has entered into agreement with United Utilities Australia to provide, operate and maintain infrastructure for waste water in the Berri Barmera Council Area. This is predicted to produce 200-220 mega litres per year of water that will be available for use on public spaces in the towns of Berri and Barmera.

Regular meetings between United Utilities Australia and Representative of Council occur to ensure effective communication between the parties.





ROAD CONSTRUCTION

ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS

FOOTPATHS

WASTE MANAGEMENT

STORMWATER DRAINAGE STUDY



The Infrastructure Services Department is responsible for the management and operations of the following functions of Council:

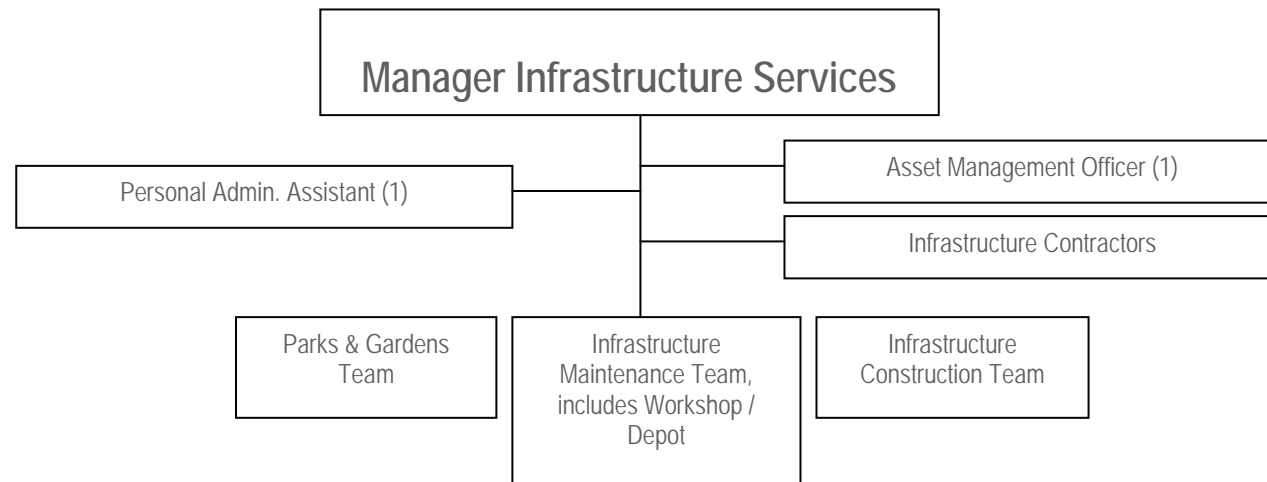


Mr. Tom King

Manager of Infrastructure Services

- Cemeteries
- Public Conveniences
- Waste Management
- Street Cleaning
- Public Lighting
- Foreshore Protection
- Parks & Gardens
- Sport & Recreation
- Quarries
- Road Maintenance
- Storm water Drainage
- Parking Off Street
- Plant Operations
- Depot & Overhead
- Vandalism
- Private Works

To effectively implement the management and operations of the Department the following Staffing Structure applies:



## ROAD CONSTRUCTION

As with previous years, Council has completed several road construction / upgrade projects in 2008/09

### McKay Road Realignment

The construction of this road has been delayed once again, with tenders for construction exceeding Council's budget quite considerably. The main issues affecting the delivery of this project have been trying to construct a road within an existing corridor that has too many service authorities within that corridor. Clarification was sought and gained from the funding body to change the scope of works which has meant that this project will be carried over into 2009/10.

### Mills Road Design / Sealing

After several years of asking for this road to be sealed, residents now enjoy the comfort of travelling on a 5m sealed pavement. By keeping to the existing horizontal alignment of the road and with minimal disturbance to the native vegetation, Infrastructure staff have managed to maintain the ambience and character of this road.

### Hoskin Road / Old Sturt Highway Intersection

State Black Spot Funding was applied for and granted for the construction of a right turn lane and associated works drawings and liaise with Department Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI). Funding and project has been carried over into 2009/10.

### Old Sturt Highway – Service Road

The next stage of this project is well on the way to completion with the installation of kerbing, storm water drain and controlled access points adjacent to the new Rosenthal's development and Build Pro. A temporary holding seal has been applied to the new surface with the final pavement to be leveled during 2009/10.

Mills Road / Design Sealing



Old Sturt Highway—Service Road



McBride Street– Barmera

Construction of a residential cul-de-sac to service 6 new allotments has been carried out.

MacGillivray Street – Barmera

Kerb replacement and verge sealing has been carried out.

Dolan Street – Cobdogla

Removal and replacement of sunken kerbing undertaken to rectify a storm water drainage problem.

Seekamp Street – Berri

Kerb replacement and pavement rehabilitation carried out to repair damage caused by adjacent street trees.

Rear Lane – Berri Police Station

Kerb replacement and reconstruction of sealed pavement has been carried out.



## ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS

Roads are the most expensive (and most used) asset of the Council and the Community, with expenditure on road maintenance kept at or near levels of 2007/08 during the previous year. Council's road maintenance (which includes pot hole repairs, patching, signs, etc.) was in the vicinity of \$583,000. \$100,000 was allocated for resealing Council's roads (both Town and District). This work is allocated based on asset condition but generally roads will be resealed every 10 – 14 years. An amount of \$100,000 was allocated for the resheeting / rerubbling of unsealed roads. This work being allocated based on a priority list identified by engineering staff using a detailed set of criteria as approved by Council.

A further \$134,000 was expended during the year on the general maintenance of Council's unsealed road network. Hot mix surfacing of a section of Riverview Drive in Berri and Nookamka Terrace in Barmera at a cost of \$100,000 was carried out with National Roads to Recovery Supplementary funding.



## FOOTPATHS

### Gopher Routes

In accordance with the gopher route program, developed and endorsed by Council, the following section of footpaths have been upgraded to gopher friendly standards (minimum 2 metre wide hot mix)



Crawford Terrace to Roundabout  
to Worman Street



Worman Street to Crawford  
Terrace to Keally Street

## Paved footpaths constructed in the following areas

### Berri

- Crawford Terrace – Coneybeer Street to Roundabout (clay brick paved)

### Barmera

- Nookamka Terrace – Ritchie Street to Pascoe Terrace (clay brick paved)

### Loveday

- Morris Street – Western side (chip seal)



## WASTE MANAGEMENT

### Regional Waste Management Strategy and Future Planning

Council's commitment to the implementation of the Regional Waste Management Strategy has continued with ongoing negotiations between neighbouring Councils recognizing the development of documentation to facilitate the opportunity to assess options for collections and disposal of domestic waste and also kerbside and green waste recycling. Closure and post closure plans for Winkie and Loveday landfill sites have been developed and will be implemented in 2009/10. Closure and post closure plan for the Monash landfill is progressing in conjunction with the planned construction of the Monash Material Resource Recovery Facility.

## STORM WATER DRAINAGE STUDY

Engineering firm, Wallbridge and Gilbert were engaged by Council to undertake this study to make recommendations on improving the quality of stormwater runoff going into the river. The investigations are complex and will continue into the 2009/10 financial year to be completed. The outputs will guide Council's future programs for the upgrading of stormwater installation for a number of years.





ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

**Berri Barmera Council**  
**General Purpose Financial Reports**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2009**

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**Berri Barmera Council**  
**INCOME STATEMENT**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2009**

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Rates	2	7,866,792	7,300,659
Statutory charges	2	154,199	192,473
User charges	2	191,858	281,367
Grants, subsidies and contributions	2	3,939,615	2,413,719
Investment income	2	76,613	205,926
Reimbursements	2	365,438	680,158
Other income	2	563,220	317,457
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>13,157,735</u>	<u>11,391,759</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Employee costs	3	4,134,410	3,868,580
Materials, contracts & other expenses	3	6,261,674	5,405,875
Finance costs	3	198,576	218,594
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	3	2,769,224	3,586,345
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<u>13,363,884</u>	<u>13,079,394</u>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>		<b>(206,149)</b>	<b>(1,687,635)</b>
Net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets	4	(589,298)	(639,207)
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	2	547,683	345,000
<b>SIGNIFICANT ITEM - Expenditure incurred for design and construction of Wastewater Re-Use Scheme</b>	3	-	(4,661,582)
<b>NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>		<u>(247,764)</u>	<u>(6,643,424)</u>

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

## Berri Barmera Council

BALANCE SHEET  
as at 30 June 2009

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	2,115,542	1,745,789
Trade & other receivables	5	1,370,618	1,475,477
Inventories	5	97,146	529,344
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>3,583,306</b>	<b>3,750,610</b>
<b>Non-current Assets</b>			
Financial Assets	6	511,271	405,348
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	7	105,341,375	121,229,896
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>		<b>105,852,646</b>	<b>121,635,244</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>109,435,952</b>	<b>125,385,854</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade & Other Payables	8	1,558,084	2,609,467
Borrowings	8	378,315	473,743
Provisions	8	300,187	317,552
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>2,236,586</b>	<b>3,400,762</b>
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>			
Borrowings	8	2,720,721	2,674,382
Provisions	8	99,361	101,552
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>		<b>2,820,082</b>	<b>2,775,934</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>5,056,668</b>	<b>6,176,696</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>104,379,284</b>	<b>119,209,158</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated Surplus		18,137,227	16,849,550
Asset Revaluation Reserve	9	84,671,032	99,253,142
Other Reserves	9	1,571,025	3,106,466
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>104,379,284</b>	<b>119,209,158</b>

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

## Berri Barmera Council

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS</b>			
Balance at end of previous reporting period		16,849,550	20,171,492
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		(247,764)	(6,643,424)
Transfers to Other Reserves		(1,325,012)	(946,635)
Transfers from Other Reserves		2,860,453	4,268,117
<b>Balance at end of period</b>		<b>18,137,227</b>	<b>16,849,550</b>
<b>ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE</b>			
Balance at end of previous reporting period	9	99,253,142	30,932,408
Gain/(Loss) on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment		(14,582,110)	68,320,734
<b>Balance at end of period</b>		<b>84,671,032</b>	<b>99,253,142</b>
<b>OTHER RESERVES</b>			
Balance at end of previous reporting period	9	3,106,466	6,427,948
Transfers from Accumulated Surplus		1,325,012	946,635
Transfers to Accumulated Surplus		(2,860,453)	(4,268,117)
<b>Balance at end of period</b>		<b>1,571,025</b>	<b>3,106,466</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD</b>		<b>104,379,284</b>	<b>119,209,158</b>
<i>Total of all revenues recognised directly in Equity</i>		-	68,320,734
<i>Total of all expenses recognised directly in Equity</i>		(14,582,110)	-
<b>NET CHANGE IN EQUITY</b>		<b>(14,582,110)</b>	<b>68,320,734</b>

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

## Berri Barmera Council

### CASH FLOW STATEMENT for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Operating receipts		13,720,837	14,862,352
Investment receipts		101,544	205,926
<u>Payments</u>			
Operating payments to suppliers & employees		(11,682,189)	(14,116,520)
Finance payments		(200,085)	(214,296)
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities</b>		<b>1,940,107</b>	<b>737,462</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Amounts specifically for new or upgraded assets		547,683	345,000
Sale of replaced assets		79,028	63,955
Sale of real estate developments		293,333	153,637
Repayments of loans by community groups		48,749	27,822
<u>Payments</u>			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets		(1,339,336)	(802,641)
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets		(972,195)	(447,732)
Development of real estate for sale		(16,379)	(262,952)
Loans made to community groups		(162,148)	(250,600)
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities</b>		<b>(1,521,265)</b>	<b>(1,173,511)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Proceeds from Borrowings		309,000	745,000
<u>Payments</u>			
Repayments of Borrowings		(358,089)	(878,575)
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities</b>		<b>(49,089)</b>	<b>(133,575)</b>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>369,753</b>	<b>(569,624)</b>
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period	11	1,745,789	2,315,413
<b>Cash &amp; cash equivalents at end of period</b>	11	<b>2,115,542</b>	<b>1,745,789</b>

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

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

##### 1 Basis of Preparation

###### 1.1 Compliance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards

This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS) as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Urgent Issues Group Interpretations (UIGs) and relevant South Australian legislation.

The financial report was authorised for issue by certificate under clause 11 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999*.

###### 1.2 Historical Cost Convention

Except as stated below, these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

###### 1.3 Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with AIFRS requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates, and requires management to exercise its judgement in applying Council's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are specifically referred to in the relevant sections of this Note.

###### 1.4 Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollars (\$).

##### 2 The Local Government Reporting Entity

Berri Barmera Council is incorporated under the SA Local Government Act 1999 and has its principal place of business at 19 Wilson Street, Berri. These financial statements include the consolidated fund and all entities through which Council controls resources to carry on its functions. In the process of reporting on the Council as a single unit, all transactions and balances between activity areas and controlled entities have been eliminated.

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

##### 3 Income recognition

Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Income is recognised when the Council obtains control over the assets comprising the income, or when the amount due constitutes an enforceable debt, whichever first occurs.



## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies (cont)

Where grants, contributions and donations recognised as incomes during the reporting period were obtained on the condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period, and those conditions were undischarged as at the reporting date, the amounts subject to those undischarged conditions are disclosed in these notes. Also disclosed is the amount of grants, contributions and receivables recognised as incomes in a previous reporting period which were obtained in respect of the Council's operations for the current reporting period.

#### 4 Cash, Cash Equivalents and other Financial Instruments

Cash Assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Council's option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Receivables for rates and annual charges are secured over the subject land, and bear interest at rates determined in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999. Other receivables are generally unsecured and do not bear interest.

All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered doubtful.

All financial instruments are recognised at fair value at the date of recognition. A detailed statement of the accounting policies applied to financial instruments forms part of Note 13.

#### 5 Inventories

Inventories held in respect of stores have been valued by using the weighted average cost on a continual basis, after adjustment for loss of service potential. Inventories held in respect of business undertakings have been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

##### 5.1 Real Estate Assets Developments

Real Estate Assets developments have been classified as Inventory in accordance with AASB 102 and are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Cost includes the costs of acquisition, development, borrowing and other costs incurred on financing of that acquisition and up to the time of sale. Any amount by which cost exceeds the net realisable value has been recognised as an expense.

Revenues arising from the sale of property are recognised in the operating statement when settlement is completed.

##### 5.2 Other Real Estate held for resale

Properties not acquired for development, but which Council has decided to sell as surplus to requirements, are recognised at the carrying value at the time of that decision.

Certain properties, auctioned for non-payment of rates in accordance with the Local Government Act but which failed to meet the reserve set by Council and are available for sale by private treaty, are recorded at the lower of the unpaid rates and charges at the time of auction or the reserve set by Council. Holding costs in relation to these properties are recognised as an expense when incurred.

#### 6 Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

##### 6.1 Transitional Provisions

As at 1 July 2008, Council has elected not to recognise any values for land under roads acquired before the commencement of AASB 1051 *Land Under Roads*. Details of the effects of this election are given in Note 7.

All non-current assets purchased or constructed are capitalised as the expenditure is incurred and depreciated as soon as the asset is held "ready for use".

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies (cont)

##### 6.2 Initial Recognition

All assets are initially recognised at cost. Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition, including architects' fees and engineering design fees and all other costs incurred. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the Council includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overhead.

Capital works still in progress at balance date are recognised as other non-current assets and transferred to *infrastructure, property, plant & equipment* when completed ready for use.

##### 6.3 Materiality

Assets with an economic life in excess of one year are only capitalised where the cost of acquisition exceeds materiality thresholds established by Council for each type of asset. In determining (and in annually reviewing) such thresholds, regard is had to the nature of the asset and its estimated service life. Examples of capitalisation thresholds applied during the year are as follows. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

Office Furniture & Equipment	\$1,000
Other Plant & Equipment	\$1,000
Buildings - new construction/extensions	\$10,000
Park & Playground Furniture & Equipment	\$2,000
Road construction & reconstruction	\$10,000
Paving & footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	\$2,000
Drains & Culverts	\$5,000
Reticulation extensions	\$5,000
Sidelines & household connections	\$5,000
Artworks	\$5,000

##### 6.4 Subsequent Recognition

Certain asset classes are revalued on a regular basis such that the carrying values are not materially different from fair value. For infrastructure and other asset classes where no active market exists, fair value is determined to be the current replacement cost of an asset less, where applicable, accumulated depreciation calculated on the basis of such cost to reflect the already consumed or expired future economic benefits of the asset. Further detail of existing valuations, methods and valuers are provided at Note 7.

##### 6.5 Depreciation of Non-Current Assets

Other than land, all infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets recognised are systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner which reflects the consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets.

Depreciation is recognised on a straight-line basis. Major depreciation periods for each class of asset are shown below. Depreciation periods for infrastructure assets have been estimated based on the best information available to Council, but appropriate records covering the entire life cycle of these assets are not available, and extreme care should be used in interpreting financial information based on these estimates.

Plant, Furniture & Equipment	
Electronic Office Equipment	4 years
Office Furniture	10 years
Vehicles and Road-making Equip	10 years
Other Plant & Equipment	3 to 5 years
Building & Other Structures	
Buildings - masonry	50 to 100 years
Buildings - other construction	20 to 40 years
Park Structures - masonry	50 to 100 years
Park Structures - other construction	20 to 40 years
Playground equipment	5 to 20 years

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies (cont)

Benches, seats, etc	5 to 25 years
Infrastructure	
Road Surfaces – sealed and sheeted	15 to 30 years
Road Pavements – pavements under sealed Surfaces	60 to 90 years
Kerb and Gutter	60 to 70 years
Footpaths	15 to 60 years
Drahs	80 to 100 years
Culverts	50 to 75 years
Flood Control Structures	80 to 100 years
Reticulation Pipes – PVC	70 to 80 years
Reticulation Pipes – other	20 to 75 years
Pumps and Telemetry	15 to 25 years
Other Assets	
Library Books	10 to 15 years
Artworks	Indefinite

#### 6.6 Impairment

Assets that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to depreciation and are reviewed annually for impairment. Assets that are subject to depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount (which is the higher of the present value of future cash outflows or value in use).

For assets whose future economic benefits are not dependent on the ability to generate cash flows, and where the future economic benefits would be replaced if Council were deprived thereof, the value in use is the depreciated replacement cost. In assessing impairment for these assets, a rebuttable assumption is made that the current replacement cost exceeds the original cost of acquisition.

#### 6.7 Borrowing Costs

Borrowing costs in relation to qualifying assets (net of offsetting investment revenue) have been capitalised in accordance with the allowed alternative treatment in AASB 1023 "Borrowing Costs". The amounts of borrowing costs recognised as an expense or as part of the carrying amount of qualifying assets are disclosed in Note 3, and the amount (if any) of interest revenue offset against borrowing costs in Note 2.

## 7 Payables

### 7.1 Goods & Services

Creditors are amounts due to external parties for the supply of goods and services and are recognised as liabilities when the goods and services are received. Creditors are normally paid 30 days after the month of invoice. No interest is payable on these amounts.

### 7.2 Payments Received in Advance & Deposits

Amounts received from external parties in advance of service delivery, and security deposits held against possible damage to Council assets, are recognised as liabilities until the service is delivered or damage reinstated, or the amount is refunded as the case may be.

## 8 Borrowings

Loans are carried at their principal amounts which represent the present value of future cash flows associated with servicing the debt. Interest is accrued over the period to which it relates, and is recorded as part of "Payables". Interest free loans are carried at their nominal amounts; interest revenues foregone by the lender effectively being a reduction of interest expense in the period to which it relates.

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies (cont)

## 9 Employee Benefits

### 9.1 Salaries, Wages & Compensated Absences

Liabilities for employees' entitlements to salaries, wages and compensated absences expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of reporting date are accrued at nominal amounts (including payroll based oncosts) measured in accordance with AASB 119.

Liabilities for employee benefits not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows (including payroll based oncosts) to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Present values are calculated using government guaranteed securities rates with similar maturity terms.

No accrual is made for sick leave as Council experience indicates that, on average, sick leave taken in each reporting period is less than the entitlement accruing in that period, and this experience is expected to recur in future reporting periods. Council does not make payment for untaken sick leave.

### 9.2 Superannuation

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Government Superannuation Scheme. The Scheme has two types of membership, each of which is funded differently. No changes in accounting policy have occurred during either the current or previous reporting periods. Details of the accounting policies applied and Council's involvement with the schemes are reported in Note 18.

## 10 Construction Contracts

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

## 11 Joint Ventures and Associated Entities

Council participates in cooperative arrangements with other Councils for the provision of services and facilities.

## 12 Leases

Lease arrangements have been accounted for in accordance with Australian Accounting Standard AASB 117.

In respect of finance leases, where Council substantially carries all of the risks incident to ownership, the leased items are initially recognised as assets and liabilities equal in amount to the present value of the minimum lease payments. The assets are disclosed as assets under lease, and are amortised to expense over the period during which the Council is expected to benefit from the use of the leased assets. Lease payments are allocated between interest expense and reduction of the lease liability, according to the interest rate implicit in the lease.

In respect of operating leases, where the lessor substantially retains all of the risks and benefits incident to ownership of the leased items, lease payments are charged to expense over the lease term.

## 13 GST Implications

In accordance with UIG Abstract 1031 "Accounting for the Goods & Services Tax"

- Receivables and Creditors include GST receivable and payable.

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies (cont)

- Except in relation to input taxed activities, revenues and operating expenditures exclude GST receivable and payable.
- Non-current assets and capital expenditures include GST net of any recoupment.
- Amounts included in the Statement of Cash Flows are disclosed on a gross basis.

#### 14 Comparative Information

Comparative information has been reclassified to be consistent with the current year disclosure of equivalent information in accordance with AIFRS.

#### 15 New Accounting Standards

Certain new accounting standards and UIG interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2009 reporting period.

- AASB 3 *Business Combinations*
- AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*
- AASB 123 *Borrowing Costs*
- AASB 127 *Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements*
- AASB 2007-6 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 123*
- AASB 2007-8 & AASB 2007-10 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 101*
- AASB 2008-2 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Puttable Financial Instruments and Obligations arising on Liquidation*
- AASB 2008-3 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 3 and AASB 127*
- AASB 2008-5 & AASB 2008-6 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project*
- AASB 2008-7 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Cost of an Investment in a Subsidiary, Jointly Controlled Entity or Associate*
- AASB 2008-8 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Eligible Hedged Items*
- AASB 2008-9 *Amendments to AASB 1049 for Consistency with AASB 101*
- AASB 2008-11 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard – Business Combinations Among Not-for-Profit Entities*
- AASB 2008-12 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Reclassification of Financial Assets – Effective Date and Transition*
- AASB 2008-13 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 17 – Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners*
- *Interpretation 15* *Agreements for the Construction of Real Estate*
- *Interpretation 16* *Hedges of a Net Investment in a Foreign Operation*
- *Interpretation 17* *Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners*
- *Interpretation 18* *Transfers of Assets from Customers*
- (Standards not affecting local government have been excluded from the above list.)

Council is of the view that none of the above new standards or interpretations will affect any of the amounts recognised in the financial statements, but that they may impact certain information otherwise disclosed.

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 2 - INCOME

	2009	2008
Notes	\$	\$
<b>RATES REVENUES</b>		
<u>General Rates</u>	<b>5,996,996</b>	5,739,945
Less: Mandatory and Discretionary rebates, remissions & write offs	<b>(141,842)</b>	(113,140)
	<b>5,855,154</b>	5,626,805
<u>Other Rates</u> (including service charges)		
Natural Resource Management levy	<b>67,195</b>	65,511
Community wastewater management systems	<b>1,885,412</b>	1,549,935
	<b>1,952,607</b>	1,615,446
<u>Other Charges</u>		
Penalties for late payment	<b>59,031</b>	58,408
	<b>59,031</b>	58,408
	<b>7,866,792</b>	7,300,659
<b>STATUTORY CHARGES</b>		
Development Act fees	<b>67,118</b>	27,121
Town planning fees	<b>23,203</b>	95,518
Animal registration fees & fines	<b>56,802</b>	61,943
Parking fines / expiation fees	<b>879</b>	7,151
Sundry	<b>6,197</b>	740
	<b>154,199</b>	192,473
<b>USER CHARGES</b>		
Cemetery/crematoria fees	<b>49,162</b>	28,100
Tourist Centre		132,805
Septic Tank Fees	<b>17,975</b>	14,248
Hall & equipment hire	<b>10,216</b>	
Parking fees	<b>14,062</b>	
Sales - general	<b>29,786</b>	
Subsidies received on behalf of users	<b>8,427</b>	
Sundry	<b>62,230</b>	106,218
	<b>191,858</b>	281,367
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>		
Interest on Investments		
Local Government Finance Authority	<b>38,207</b>	184,540
Banks & other	<b>16,020</b>	13,194
Loans to community groups	<b>22,386</b>	8,192
	<b>76,613</b>	205,926

### Berri Barmera Council

#### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

##### NOTE 2 - INCOME (continued)

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>REIMBURSEMENTS</b>			
- for private works		96,100	145,834
- wastewater reuse scheme		50,427	
- by joint undertakings		208,724	202,340
- sporting clubs improvements			264,600
- other		10,187	67,384
		<u>365,438</u>	<u>680,158</u>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>			
Rebates received		135,722	
Sundry		427,498	317,457
		<u>563,220</u>	<u>317,457</u>
<b>GRANTS, SUBSIDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS</b>			
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets		547,683	345,000
Other grants, subsidies and contributions		3,420,794	2,413,719
Individually Significant Item - additional Grants Commission payment	see below	518,821	
		<u>4,487,298</u>	<u>2,758,719</u>
<i>The functions to which these grants relate are shown in Note 2.</i>			
<b>Sources of grants</b>			
Commonwealth government		3,868,143	2,498,464
State government		375,972	260,255
Other		243,183	
		<u>4,487,298</u>	<u>2,758,719</u>
<b>Individually Significant Item</b>			
On 26 June 2009, Council received payment of the first quarter instalment of the 2009/10 Grant Commission (FAG) grant. This represents a significant increase in income from this source for 2008/09, with an equivalent reduction in 2009/10.		518,821	-

### Berri Barmera Council

#### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

##### NOTE 2 - INCOME (continued)

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>Conditions over grants &amp; contributions</b>			
<i>Grants and contributions which were obtained on the condition that they be expended for specified purposes or in a future period, but which are not yet expended in accordance with those conditions, are as follows:</i>			
<i>Unexpended at the close of the previous reporting period</i>			4,035,157
<i>Less: expended during the current period from revenues recognised in previous reporting periods</i>			
<i>Roads Infrastructure</i>			(98,991)
<i>Heritage &amp; Cultural Services</i>			(3,936,166)
<i>Subtotal</i>			<u>(4,035,157)</u>
<i>Plus: amounts recognised as revenues in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions</i>			
<i>Roads Infrastructure</i>			
<i>Heritage &amp; Cultural Services</i>			
<i>Subtotal</i>			<u>371,000</u>
<i>Unexpended at the close of this reporting period</i>			<u>371,000</u>
<i>Net increase (decrease) in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period</i>			<u>371,000</u> <u>(4,035,157)</u>

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 3 - EXPENSES

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>EMPLOYEE COSTS</b>			
Salaries and Wages		3,335,584	3,498,409
Employee leave expense		494,082	85,302
Superannuation - defined contribution plan contributions	18	191,510	131,247
Superannuation - defined benefit plan contributions	18	121,001	163,843
Workers' Compensation Insurance		191,208	105,577
Voluntary Separation Payments		-	70,688
Less: Capitalised and distributed costs		<u>(198,975)</u>	<u>(186,486)</u>
<b>Total Operating Employee Costs</b>		<u><b>4,134,410</b></u>	<u><b>3,868,580</b></u>

<b>Total Number of Employees</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>75</b>
<i>(Full time equivalent at end of reporting period)</i>		

#### **MATERIALS, CONTRACTS & OTHER EXPENSES**

##### Prescribed Expenses

Auditor's Remuneration			
- Auditing the financial reports		11,360	10,340
Elected members' expenses		124,453	127,039
Election expenses		5,327	2,426
Operating Lease Rentals - non-cancellable leases	18		
- minimum lease payments		13,581	10,906
<b>Subtotal - Prescribed Expenses</b>		<u><b>154,721</b></u>	<u><b>150,711</b></u>

##### Other Materials, Contracts & Expenses

Contractors		1,830,371	1,710,383
Materials		1,407,227	1,400,936
Individually Significant Items		1,865,614	1,197,276
Legal Expenses		51,062	36,679
Levies paid to government - NRM levy		64,589	63,696
Sundry		888,090	846,194
<b>Subtotal - Other Materials, Contracts &amp; Expenses</b>		<u><b>6,106,953</b></u>	<u><b>5,255,164</b></u>
		<u><b>6,261,674</b></u>	<u><b>5,405,875</b></u>

#### **INDIVIDUALLY SIGNIFICANT ITEMS (as above)**

Sporting Clubs Improvements to facilities to be reimbursed			120,472
United Utilities, Wastewater Re-Use Scheme Initial availability and volumetric charges		1,865,614	1,197,276

**SIGNIFICANT ITEM (per Income Statement) United Utilities, Wastewater Re-Use Scheme Design and Construction Costs - Contractual arrangement is "Build, Own, Operate, Transfer" (BOOT). This expenditure has not been capitalised in the accounts of Council as the asset is not owned by Council.**

	-	4,661,582
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## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 3 - EXPENSES (cont)

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>FINANCE COSTS</b>			
Interest on Loans		<u>198,576</u>	<u>218,594</u>
		<u><b>198,576</b></u>	<u><b>218,594</b></u>
<b>DEPRECIATION, AMORTISATION &amp; IMPAIRMENT</b>			
<b>Depreciation</b>			
Buildings and Structures		718,407	1,354,238
Infrastructure			
- Roads		1,041,332	1,037,970
- Footpaths		252,834	349,552
- Stormwater Drainage		59,670	59,669
- Effluent		93,192	93,193
- Kerbing		140,155	176,839
Other Assets		516,987	559,379
Less: Capitalised and distributed costs		<u>(53,353)</u>	<u>(44,295)</u>
		<u><b>2,769,224</b></u>	<u><b>3,586,345</b></u>

Depreciation expense has decreased significantly due to a review and revaluation of footpaths and kerbing by Tonkine Consulting throughout the financial year. In addition a change in policy by Council has occurred regarding several buildings and structures situated on Council land however not owned, maintained nor operated by Council. These assets are no longer recognised as assets belonging to Council.

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 4 - ASSET DISPOSAL & FAIR VALUE ADJUSTMENTS

	2009	2008
Notes	\$	\$
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>		
<i>Assets renewed or directly replaced</i>		
Proceeds from disposal	79,028	63,955
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold	<u>526,135</u>	<u>52,225</u>
<b>Gain (Loss) on disposal</b>	<u>(447,107)</u>	<u>11,730</u>
<i>Assets surplus to requirements</i>		
Proceeds from disposal		
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold		664,079
<b>Gain (Loss) on disposal</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>(664,079)</u>
<b>REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT ASSETS</b>		
Proceeds from disposal	293,333	153,637
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold	<u>435,524</u>	<u>140,495</u>
<b>Gain (Loss) on disposal</b>	<u>(142,191)</u>	<u>13,142</u>
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OR REVALUATION OF ASSETS</b>	<u>(589,298)</u>	<u>(639,207)</u>

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 5 - CURRENT ASSETS

	2009	2008
Notes	\$	\$
<b>CASH &amp; EQUIVALENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash on Hand and at Bank	377,921	412,292
Deposits at Call	<u>1,737,621</u>	<u>1,333,497</u>
	<u>2,115,542</u>	<u>1,745,789</u>
<b>TRADE &amp; OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>		
Rates - General & Other	675,285	545,363
Debtors - general	617,163	586,027
GST Recoupment	-	176,247
Prepayments	32,008	129,154
Loans to community organisations	<u>46,162</u>	<u>38,686</u>
	<u>1,370,618</u>	<u>1,475,477</u>
<b>INVENTORIES</b>		
Stores & Materials	24,559	37,512
Real Estate Developments	<u>72,587</u>	<u>491,732</u>
	<u>97,146</u>	<u>529,344</u>
<i>Aggregate write-downs and other losses recognised as an expense, and reversals of these, were not material in amount in either year. All such reversals occurred principally as a result of clerical inaccuracies during stores operations.</i>		
<b>Real Estate Developments</b>		
<i>(Valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value)</i>		
Residential	<u>72,587</u>	<u>491,732</u>
<b>Total Real Estate for Resale</b>	<u>72,587</u>	<u>491,732</u>
<i>Represented by:</i>		
Development Costs	<u>72,587</u>	<u>491,732</u>
<b>Total Real Estate for Resale</b>	<u>72,587</u>	<u>491,732</u>

### Berri Barmera Council

#### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

##### Note 6 - NON-CURRENT ASSETS

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
Receivables		
Loans to community organisations	511,271	405,348
	<u>511,271</u>	<u>405,348</u>
<b>OTHER NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
<b>Inventories</b>		
Stores & Materials		
Trading Stock		
Real Estate Developments	-	-
Other		
Capital Works-in-Progress		
Other		

### Berri Barmera Council

#### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

##### Note 7 - INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

	2008				2009			
	AT FAIR VALUE	AT COST	ACCUM DEP'N	CARRYING AMOUNT	AT FAIR VALUE	AT COST	ACCUM DEP'N	CARRYING AMOUNT
Land	21,052,522	-	-	21,052,522	21,052,522	-	-	21,052,522
Buildings	42,010,745	-	(20,134,192)	21,876,553	25,277,703	117,791	(12,189,684)	13,205,810
Structures	13,263,220	-	(5,034,930)	8,228,290	6,416,119	130,997	(2,549,314)	3,997,802
Infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Sealed Roads	66,688,792	-	(17,331,520)	49,357,272	66,306,529	602,166	(18,110,819)	48,797,876
- Unsealed Roads	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Footpaths	8,226,465	-	(4,178,484)	4,047,981	6,296,182	158,668	(3,304,147)	3,150,703
- Stormwater Drainage	3,136,832	-	(386,855)	2,749,977	3,136,832	30,000	(446,525)	2,720,307
- Effluent	3,952,488	50,131	(564,696)	3,437,923	4,002,619	600,683	(657,889)	3,945,413
- Kerbing	12,601,400	-	(4,885,667)	7,715,733	9,943,589	122,480	(3,986,928)	6,079,141
Plant and Machinery	-	3,975,853	(1,592,701)	2,383,152	-	4,002,461	(1,869,064)	2,133,397
Minor Plant	-	647,200	(595,807)	51,393	-	653,871	(613,715)	40,156
Office Equipment	-	957,699	(628,599)	329,100	-	861,756	(643,508)	218,248
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>170,932,464</b>	<b>5,630,883</b>	<b>(55,333,451)</b>	<b>121,229,896</b>	<b>142,432,095</b>	<b>7,280,873</b>	<b>(44,371,593)</b>	<b>105,341,375</b>
<b>2008 Totals</b>	<b>170,929,127</b>	<b>14,530,455</b>	<b>(30,072,678)</b>	<b>55,386,904</b>	<b>170,932,464</b>	<b>5,630,883</b>	<b>(55,333,451)</b>	<b>121,229,896</b>

This Note continues on the following pages.

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 7 - INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

	2008	CARRYING AMOUNT MOVEMENTS DURING YEAR					2009
	\$	\$					\$
	CARRYING AMOUNT	Additions		Disposals	Depreciation	Net Revaluation	CARRYING AMOUNT
	New/Upgrade	Renewals					
Land	21,052,522	-	-	-	-	-	21,052,522
Buildings	21,876,553	-	117,791	-	(479,876)	(8,308,658)	13,205,810
Structures	8,228,290	-	130,997	(391,761)	(238,531)	(3,731,193)	3,997,802
Infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Sealed Roads	49,357,272	29,097	573,069	-	(1,041,332)	(120,230)	48,797,876
- Unsealed Roads	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Footpaths	4,047,981	-	158,668	-	(252,834)	(803,112)	3,150,703
- Stormwater Drainage	2,749,977	25,000	5,000	-	(59,670)	-	2,720,307
- Effluent	3,437,923	559,514	41,168	-	(93,192)	-	3,945,413
- Kerbing	7,715,733	28,250	94,230	-	(140,155)	(1,618,917)	6,079,141
Plant and Machinery	2,383,152	-	199,912	(58,145)	(391,522)	-	2,133,397
Minor Plant	51,393	-	13,912	-	(25,149)	-	40,156
Office Equipment	329,100	-	65,693	(76,229)	(100,316)	-	218,248
<b>TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	121,229,896	641,861	1,400,440	(526,135)	(2,822,577)	(14,582,110)	105,341,375
<i>2008 Totals</i>	<b>55,386,904</b>	<b>447,732</b>	<b>1,421,468</b>	<b>(716,303)</b>	<b>(3,630,640)</b>	<b>68,320,735</b>	<b>121,229,896</b>

*This Note continues on the following pages.*



## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 7 (cont) – INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

##### Valuation of Assets

At 1 July 2004 upon the transition to AIFRS, Council elected pursuant to AASB 1,19 to retain a previously established deemed cost under GAAP as its deemed cost for the purposes of AIFRS.

##### Plant, Furniture & Equipment

Pursuant to Council's election, these assets are recognised on the cost basis.

##### Land & Land Improvements

Pursuant to Council's election, freehold land and land over which Council has control, but does not have title, is recognised on the cost basis. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

Land improvements, including bulk earthworks with an assessed unlimited useful life, are recognised on the cost basis, deriving from a valuation at 30 June 2008 at written down current replacement cost. Additions are recognised at cost. The revaluation was undertaken by Maloney Field Services (Australia) Pty. Ltd.

Estimated future costs of reinstatement of land, capitalised in accordance with AASB 116.16(c), are reviewed annually (see Note 1) and depreciated over the estimated remaining life of the relevant asset.

##### Buildings & Other Structures

Building and other structures are recognised on the cost basis, deriving from a valuation at 30 June 2008 at written down current replacement cost. Additions are recognised at cost. The revaluation was undertaken by Maloney Field Services (Australia) Pty. Ltd.

##### Infrastructure

Roads infrastructure is recognised on the cost basis, deriving from a valuation at 30 June 2008 at written down current replacement cost. Additions are recognised at cost. The revaluation was undertaken by Tonkin Consulting.

Stormwater drainage infrastructure was valued by Council officers as at 30 June 2006 at written down current replacement cost, based on actual costs incurred during the reporting period ended 30 June 2006. All acquisitions made after the respective dates of valuation are recorded at cost.

Community wastewater management scheme infrastructure was valued by Council officers as at 30 June 2006 at written down current replacement cost, based on actual costs incurred during the reporting period ended 30 June 2006. All acquisitions made after the respective dates of valuation are recorded at cost.

Footpaths infrastructure is recognised on the cost basis, deriving from a valuation at 30 June 2009 at written down current replacement cost. Additions are recognised at cost. The revaluation was undertaken by Tonkin Consulting.

Kerbing infrastructure is recognised on the cost basis, deriving from a valuation at 30 June 2009 at written down current replacement cost. Additions are recognised at cost. The revaluation was undertaken by Tonkin Consulting.

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 8 - LIABILITIES

	Notes	2009		2008	
		Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
		\$		\$	
<b>TRADE &amp; OTHER PAYABLES</b>					
Goods & Services		921,380		2,087,858	
Payments received in advance		33,074		26,783	
Accrued expenses - employee entitlements		548,241		357,891	
Accrued expenses - other		55,389		116,935	
		<u>1,558,084</u>	-	<u>2,609,467</u>	-
<b>BORROWINGS</b>					
Loans		378,315	2,720,721	473,743	2,674,382
		<u>378,315</u>	<u>2,720,721</u>	<u>473,743</u>	<u>2,674,382</u>
<i>All interest bearing liabilities are secured over the future revenues of the Council.</i>					
<b>PROVISIONS</b>					
Employee entitlements (including oncosts)		300,187	99,361	317,552	101,552
		<u>300,187</u>	<u>99,361</u>	<u>317,552</u>	<u>101,552</u>

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 9 - RESERVES

ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE	1/07/2008	Net Increments (Decrements)	Transfers on Sale	30/06/2009
Notes	\$	\$	\$	\$
Land	8,958,086			8,958,086
Buildings	15,870,025	(12,039,851)		3,830,174
Infrastructure	74,425,031	(2,542,259)		71,882,772
<b>Total Infrastructure, Property, Plant &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>99,253,142</b>	<b>(14,582,110)</b>		<b>84,671,032</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99,253,142</b>	<b>(14,582,110)</b>		<b>84,671,032</b>
<b>2008 Totals</b>	<b>30,932,408</b>	<b>68,320,734</b>		<b>99,253,142</b>

OTHER RESERVES	1/07/2008	Transfers to Reserve	Transfers from Reserve	30/06/2009
Library	7,441			7,441
Cemetery	9,001			9,001
Local Govt Housing	11,287			11,287
Land Development	435,018	174,134		609,152
District CWMS	1,782,966		(2,061,878)	(278,912)
Work in Progress	798,575	1,143,522	(798,575)	1,143,522
Open Space - Jarvis Street	53,060	3,031		56,091
CWMS Wastewater	9,118	4,325		13,443
<b>TOTAL OTHER RESERVES</b>	<b>3,106,466</b>	<b>1,325,012</b>	<b>(2,860,453)</b>	<b>1,571,025</b>
<b>2008 Totals</b>	<b>6,427,948</b>	<b>946,635</b>	<b>(4,268,117)</b>	<b>3,106,466</b>

#### PURPOSES OF RESERVES

##### Asset Revaluation Reserve

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements arising from changes in fair value of non-current assets and available-for-sale financial assets.

##### Library Reserve

Funding received and set aside in reserve for the purpose of upgrading library facilities.

##### Cemetery Reserve

Funds set aside for the upgrading of Council cemeteries.

##### Local Government Community Housing

Similar reserve set aside for the purpose of maintaining Council community housing facilities.

##### Land Development Reserve

Reserve created for the specific use of funding certain economic development projects throughout the district.

##### District CWMS Reserve

Reserve set up for the express purpose of funding Council's Community Wastewater Management Scheme which includes the maintenance of the scheme and upgrades as required.

##### Work in Progress Reserve

Reserve used to carry funds over from one year to the next for projects that are unfinished at year end and to be completed in the following year.

##### Open Space - Jarvis Street Reserve

Reserve used to set aside developer contributions and to be used in the development of open space areas for use of community.

##### CWMS Wastewater Reserve

Funds received and set aside for the purpose of upgrade of community wastewater management scheme.

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 10 - ASSETS SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS

The uses of the following assets are restricted, wholly or partially, by legislation or other externally imposed requirements. The assets are required to be utilised for the purposes for which control was transferred to Council, or for which the revenues were originally obtained.

CASH & FINANCIAL ASSETS	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Programme 2008/09		371,000	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS SUBJECT TO EXTERNALLY IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS</b>		<b>371,000</b>	<b>0</b>

The Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Programme 2008/2009 grant were restricted whereby Council was to expend the funding by 30 September 2009 on NEW capital works.

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 11 - RECONCILIATION TO CASH FLOW STATEMENT

**(a) Reconciliation of Cash**

Cash Assets comprise highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Total cash & equivalent assets	2,115,542	1,745,789
Less: Short-term borrowings	-	-
Balances per Cash Flow Statement	2,115,542	1,745,789

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

Net Surplus (Deficit)	(247,764)	(6,643,424)
Non-cash items in Income Statement		
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	2,769,224	3,586,345
Fair value adjustments	-	-
Equity movements in equity accounted investments (increase) decrease	-	-
Net increase (decrease) in unpaid employee benefits	160,794	38,776
Premiums & discounts recognised & unwound	-	-
Change in allowances for under-recovery	-	-
Non-cash asset acquisitions	-	-
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as Investing Activity	(547,683)	(345,000)
Net (Gain) Loss on Disposals	589,298	639,207
	2,723,869	(2,724,086)
Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets		
Net (increase) decrease in receivables	112,335	2,555,891
Net (increase) decrease in inventories	13,053	(2,920)
Net (increase) decrease in other current assets	-	-
Net increase (decrease) in trade & other payables	(909,150)	908,587
Net increase (decrease) in other provisions	-	-
Net increase (decrease) in other liabilities	-	-
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) operations</b>	<b>1,940,107</b>	<b>737,462</b>

**(c) Non-Cash Financing and Investing Activities**

Acquisition of assets by means of:

- Physical resources received free of charge	3	-
- Non-cash grants & contributions	-	-
<i>Amounts recognised in Income Statement</i>	-	-
- Finance Leases	-	-
- Land taken over for non-payment of Rates	-	-
	-	-

**(d) Financing Arrangements**

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

Bank Overdrafts	45,000	45,000
Corporate Credit Cards	26,000	26,000

The bank overdraft facilities may be drawn at any time and may be terminated by the bank without notice.

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 12 - FUNCTIONS

INCOMES, EXPENSES AND ASSETS HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES										
	INCOME		EXPENSES		OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		GRANTS INCLUDED IN INCOME		TOTAL ASSETS HELD (CURRENT & NON-CURRENT)	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	2009	2008	2009	2008
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Public Order and Safety	58,797	63,099	224,676	162,326	(165,879)	(99,227)			323,956	179,783
Health	33,972	35,099	140,617	145,354	(106,645)	(110,255)				
Social Security	29,846	16,814	159,011	139,559	(129,165)	(122,745)	17,800	9,900	751,468	583,470
Housing & Community Amenities	2,385,131	2,270,101	3,897,037	3,379,257	(1,511,906)	(1,109,156)	325,765	63,921	5,179,022	6,950,294
Protection of the Environment	205,952	49,952	37,833	43,804	168,119	6,148	200,000	44,000		678,647
Sport & Recreation	662,744	636,030	2,874,075	3,331,688	(2,211,331)	(2,695,658)	383,984	118,861	10,165,713	18,848,580
Mining, Manufacturing & Construction	39,035	49,507	101,499	261,483	(62,464)	(211,976)				24,408
Transport & Communication	761,678	618,800	2,326,496	2,713,559	(1,564,818)	(2,094,759)	686,614	509,917	60,788,216	69,088,026
Economic Affairs NEC	300,552	272,697	624,851	650,438	(324,299)	(377,741)	8,591	16,000	1,290,797	17,796,168
Other Purposes	229,653	249,244	2,088,575	1,555,340	(1,858,922)	(1,306,096)			2,888,406	3,995,140
Administration	8,450,375	7,130,416	889,214	696,586	7,561,161	6,433,830	2,316,861	1,651,120	28,048,374	7,241,338
	-				-	-				
	-				-	-				
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13,157,735</b>	<b>11,391,759</b>	<b>13,363,884</b>	<b>13,079,394</b>	<b>(206,149)</b>	<b>(1,687,635)</b>	<b>3,939,615</b>	<b>2,413,719</b>	<b>109,435,952</b>	<b>125,385,854</b>

Excludes net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets, net gain (loss) from joint ventures & associated entities, amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets and physical resources received free of charge.

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 12 (cont) - COMPONENTS OF FUNCTIONS

The activities relating to Council functions are as follows:

##### Public Order and Safety

CFS Fire Protection, Dog Control, General Inspection, Other Public Order and Safety Services.

##### Health

Health Inspections, Immunisations, Septic Tank Inspections, Noxious Insect Control, Community Bus Service, Other Health Services.

##### Social Security and Welfare

Aged and Disabled Services, Families and Children Services, Youth Programs and Services, Other Social Security and Welfare Services.

##### Housing and Community Amenities

Council Housing, Town Planning, Land Development, Cemeteries, Sanitation and Garbage, Community Wastewater Management Systems, Public Conveniences, Urban Stormwater Drainage, Pollution Control, Protection Works, Street Cleaning, Public Lighting, Other Community Development and Amenity Services.

##### Protection of the Environment

Foreshore Protection, Jetty Maintenance, Flood Prevention, Natural Resource Management.

##### Sport and Recreation

Libraries, Community Information, Community Centres, Halls, Ovals, Parks and Gardens, Reserves, Sporting Facilities, Contribution to Regional Sporting Bodies, Swimming Centre, Recreation Centre, Other Sport and Recreation, Cultural Services, Museums.

##### Mining, Manufacturing and Construction

Building Act, Development Control, Quarries, Other Mining Manufacturing and Construction.

##### Transport and Communication

Road Construction and Maintenance, Bridges, Footpaths, Parking, Other Transport, Kerbing and Watertable, Stormwater Drainage, Passenger Transport and Cancer Patient Bus, Traffic Control.

##### Economic Affairs

Offstreet Parking, Land Development, Employment, Tourism, Community Festivals, Youth Camp, Regional Development Corporation.

##### Other Purposes NEC

Public Debt Transactions, Debenture Loans, Interest, Plant and Equipment, Council Depot and overheads, Vandalism, Other Property and Services

##### Administration

Governance, Elected Members, Office administration, Council Chambers, Organisational, Support Services, Accounting/Finance, Payroll, Human Resources, Information Technology, Communication, Rates Administration, Records, Occupancy, Contract Management, Customer Service, Other Support Services, Revenues, LGGC – General Purpose

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 13 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

##### Recognised Financial Instruments

<b>Bank, Deposits at Call, Short Term Deposits</b>	<p><b>Accounting Policy:</b> Carried at lower of cost and net realisable value; Interest is recognised when earned.</p> <p><b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Deposits are returning fixed interest rates between 2.75% and 7% (2008: 6% and 7%). Short term deposits have an average maturity of 365 days and an average interest rates of 6% (2008: 365 days, 6%).</p> <p><b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.</p>
<b>Receivables - Rates &amp; Associated Charges (including legals &amp; penalties for late payment)</b>	<p><b>Accounting Policy:</b> Carried at nominal values less any allowance for doubtful debts. An allowance for doubtful debts is recognised (and re-assessed annually) when collection in full is no longer probable.</p> <p><b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Secured over the subject land, arrears attract interest of 1% (2008: k%) Although Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries in the State.</p> <p><b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).</p>
<b>Receivables - Fees &amp; other charges</b>	<p><b>Accounting Policy:</b> Carried at nominal values less any allowance for doubtful debts. An allowance for doubtful debts is recognised (and re-assessed annually) when collection in full is no longer probable.</p> <p><b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Unsecured, and do not bear interest. Although Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries.</p> <p><b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).</p>
<b>Receivables - other levels of government</b>	<p><b>Accounting Policy:</b> Carried at nominal value.</p> <p><b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest. All amounts are due by Departments and Agencies of the Governments of the Commonwealth &amp; State.</p> <p><b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value.</p>
<b>Receivables - Retirement Home Contributions</b>	<p><b>Accounting Policy:</b> Carried at nominal values less any allowance for doubtful debts. An allowance for doubtful debts is recognised (and re-assessed annually) when collection in full is no longer probable.</p> <p><b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective legislation.</p> <p><b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).</p>
<b>Liabilities - Creditors and Accruals</b>	<p><b>Accounting Policy:</b> Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Council.</p> <p><b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.</p> <p><b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value.</p>
<b>Liabilities - Retirement Home Contributions</b>	<p><b>Accounting Policy:</b> To avoid inconvenience when complying with the separate audit requirements imposed by the relevant legislation, amounts are carried at nominal values.</p> <p><b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Pursuant to Commonwealth legislation certain intending residents are required to contribute amounts on an interest free basis. The amounts are subject to certain deductions as prescribed by the legislation, the balance being repaid on termination of tenancy.</p> <p><b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value for short tenancies; may be non-materially over-stated for longer tenancies.</p>
<b>Liabilities - Interest Bearing Borrowings</b>	<p><b>Accounting Policy:</b> Carried at the principal amounts. Interest is charged as an expense as it accrues.</p> <p><b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> secured over future revenues, borrowings are repayable (describe basis); interest is charged at fixed (or variable - describe) rates between 4.0% and 8.1% (2008: 5.35% and 8.1%)</p> <p><b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value.</p>
<b>Liabilities - Finance Leases</b>	<p><b>Accounting Policy:</b> accounted for in accordance with AASB 117.</p>

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 13 (cont) - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

##### Liquidity Analysis

2009	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year; ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Payables	954,454			954,454	954,454
Current Borrowings					
Non-Current Borrowings	354,450	1,667,381	1,077,205	3,099,036	3,099,036
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,308,904</b>	<b>1,667,381</b>	<b>1,077,205</b>	<b>4,053,490</b>	<b>4,053,490</b>
2008	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year; ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Payables	2,124,641			2,124,641	2,124,641
Current Borrowings					
Non-Current Borrowings	490,430	2,667,695		3,148,125	3,148,125
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,615,071</b>	<b>2,667,695</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,272,766</b>	<b>5,272,766</b>

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

	30 June 2009		30 June 2008	
	Weighted Average Interest Rate %	Carrying Value \$	Weighted Average Interest Rate %	Carrying Value \$
Overdraft				
Other Variable Rates	0	954,454	0	2,124,641
Fixed Interest Rates	5.8	3,099,036	7	3,148,125
		<b>4,053,490</b>		<b>5,272,766</b>

#### Net Fair Value

All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of the Council.

#### Risk Exposures

**Credit Risk** represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties fail to perform as contracted. The maximum credit risk on financial assets of the Council is the carrying amount, net of any allowance for doubtful debts. All Council investments are made with the SA Local Government Finance Authority and are guaranteed by the SA Government. Except as detailed in Notes 5 & 6 in relation to individual classes of receivables, exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries, and there is no material exposure to any individual debtor.

**Market Risk** is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices. All of Council's financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk nor currency risk apply.

**Liquidity Risk** is the risk that Council will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations with financial liabilities. In accordance with the model Treasury Policy (LGA Information Paper 15), liabilities have a range of maturity dates based on cash inflows. Council also has available a range of bank overdraft and short-term draw down facilities that it can access.

**Interest Rate Risk** is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has a balance of both fixed and variable interest rate borrowings and investments. Cash flow fluctuations are managed holistically in seeking to minimise interest costs over the longer term in a risk averse manner.

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 14 - COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

	2009 Notes \$	2008 \$
<b>Capital Commitments</b>		
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
Land		
Buildings		
Plant & Equipment		
	-	-
These expenditures are payable:		
Not later than one year		
Later than one year and not later than 5 years		
Later than 5 years		
	-	-
<b>Other Expenditure Commitments</b>		
Other expenditure committed for (excluding inventories) at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
Audit Services	12,000	24,000
Waste Management Services -		
Domestic Collection	242,244	428,000
Street Collection	15,212	27,600
Parks and Foreshore Collection	40,185	49,900
Dump Maintenance	89,424	196,000
Waste Depot Retainer	-	-
Weed Spray Contract	107,340	100,000
Household Desludging Contract	260,000	390,000
Wastewater Re-Use Scheme - Operating		
Availability Charge	1,728,625	1,728,625
Volumetric Charge (based on average use)	108,631	108,631
Cleaning Service Contract	216,000	324,000
IT Support Contract	30,000	30,000
	<b>2,849,661</b>	<b>3,406,756</b>
These expenditures are payable:		
Not later than one year	2,611,661	2,568,006
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	238,000	838,750
Later than 5 years		
	<b>2,849,661</b>	<b>3,406,756</b>

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 15 - FINANCIAL INDICATORS

	2009	2008	2007
These Financial Indicators have been calculated in accordance with <i>Information Paper 9 - Local Government Financial Indicators</i> prepared as part of the LGA Financial Sustainability Program for the Local Government Association of South Australia. Detailed methods of calculation are set out in the SA Model Statements.			
<b>Operating Surplus</b>	(206,149)	(1,687,635)	(1,828,201)
<b>Operating Surplus without additional FAG</b>	(724,970)		
<i>Being the operating surplus (deficit) before capital amounts.</i>			
<b>Operating Surplus Ratio</b>			
<u>Operating Surplus</u>	(3%)	(23%)	(28%)
<u>Operating Surplus without additional FAG</u>	(9%)		
Rates - general & other less NRM levy			
<i>This ratio expresses the operating surplus as a percentage of general and other rates, net of NRM levy.</i>			
<b>Net Financial Liabilities</b>	1,059,237	2,550,082	(1,740,977)
<i>Net Financial Liabilities are defined as total liabilities less financial assets (excluding equity accounted investments in Council businesses).</i>			
<b>Net Financial Liabilities Ratio</b>			
<u>Net Financial Liabilities</u>	8%	23%	-17%
<u>Net Financial Liabilities without additional FAG</u>	8.4%		
Total Operating Revenue less NRM levy			
<b>Interest Cover Ratio</b>			
<u>Net Interest Expense</u>	0.9%	0.1%	0.1%
<u>Net Interest Expense without additional FAG</u>	1.0%		
Total Operating Revenue less NRM levy less Investment Income			
<b>Asset Sustainability Ratio</b>			
<u>Net Asset Renewals</u>	46%	21%	6%
Depreciation Expense			
<i>Net asset renewals expenditure is defined as net capital expenditure on the renewal and replacement of existing assets, and excludes new capital expenditure on the acquisition of additional assets.</i>			
<b>Asset Consumption Ratio</b>			
<u>Carrying value of depreciable assets</u>	66%	64%	59%
Gross value of depreciable assets			
<i>Total carrying value of depreciable assets divided by total reported value of depreciable assets before accumulated depreciation.</i>			

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 16 - UNIFORM PRESENTATION OF FINANCES

The following is a high level summary of both operating and capital investment activities of the Council prepared on a uniform and consistent basis. The uniform presentation represents a simplified version of reporting under the Government Finance Statistics (GFS) framework of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

All Councils in South Australia voluntarily have agreed to summarise annual budgets and long-term financial plans on the same basis.

The arrangements ensure that all Councils provide a common 'core' of financial information, which enables meaningful comparisons of each Council's finances

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Income	13,157,735	11,391,759
less Expenses	(13,363,884)	(13,079,394)
	(206,149)	(1,687,635)
<b>Net Outlays on Existing Assets</b>		
Capital Expenditure on renewal and replacement of Existing Assets	(1,339,336)	(802,641)
less Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	2,769,224	3,586,345
less Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets	79,028	63,955
	1,508,916	2,847,659
<b>Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets</b>		
Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets (including investment property & real estate developments)	(988,574)	(710,684)
less Amounts received specifically for New and Upgraded Assets	547,683	345,000
less Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets (including investment property and real estate developments)	293,333	153,637
	(147,558)	(212,047)
<b>Net Lending / (Borrowing) for Financial Year</b>	<b>1,155,209</b>	<b>947,977</b>

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 17 - OPERATING LEASES

##### *Leases providing revenue to the Council*

Council owns various buildings, plant and other facilities that are available for hire or lease (on a non-cancellable basis wherever practicable) in accordance with the published revenue policy. Rentals received from such leases are disclosed as rent and hire of non-investment property in Note 2.

##### Investment Property

Rentals received, and outgoings reimbursed, in relation to Investment Property are also disclosed in Note 2. These lease agreements, all of which are classified as operating leases, are made on a non-cancellable basis wherever practicable.

Lessee commitments under all non-cancellable lease agreements, including those relating to Investment Property, are as follows:

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Not later than one year	14,419	-
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	30,838	-
Later than 5 years	501	-
	<u>45,758</u>	<u>-</u>

##### *Lease payment commitments of Council*

Council has entered into non-cancellable operating leases for various items of computer and other plant and equipment.

Contingent rental payments exist in relation to the lease of one grader if utilisation exceeds 250 hours during any month. No contingent rentals were paid during the current or previous reporting periods.

No lease imposes any additional restrictions on Council in relation to additional debt or further leasing.

Leases in relation to computer and office equipment permit Council, at expiry of the lease, to elect to re-lease, return or acquire the equipment leased.

No lease contains any escalation clause.

Commitments under non-cancellable operating leases that have not been recognised in the financial statements are as follows:

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Not later than one year	18,487	10,906
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	30,435	21,812
Later than 5 years	-	-
	<u>48,922</u>	<u>32,718</u>

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 18 - SUPERANNUATION

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Government Superannuation Scheme. The Scheme has two types of membership, each of which is funded differently. Permanent and contract employees of the South Australian Local Government sector have the option to contribute to Marketlink and/or Salarylink. All other employees (including casuals) have all contributions allocated to Marketlink.

##### Marketlink (Accumulation Fund) Members

Marketlink receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings in accordance with superannuation guarantee legislation (9% in 2008/09 for Marketlink members and 3% for Salarylink members; 9% and 3% respectively in 2007/08). No further liability accrues to the employer as the superannuation benefits accruing to employees are represented by their share of the net assets of the Fund.

##### Salarylink (Defined Benefit) Members

Salarylink is a defined benefit scheme where the benefit payable is based on a formula determined by the member's contribution rate, number of years of contribution and final average salary. Council makes employer contributions to Salarylink as determined by the Scheme's Trustee based on advice from the Scheme's Actuary. The rate is currently 6% (6% in 2007/2008) of "superannuation" salary. Given that Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings in accordance with superannuation guarantee legislation, the remaining 3% for Salarylink members is allocated to their Marketlink account. Employees also make member contributions to the Fund. As such, assets accumulate in the Fund to meet the member's benefits, as defined in the Trust Deed, as they accrue.

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

The most recent full actuarial investigation conducted by the Scheme's actuary, L C Brett, BSc., FIA, FIAA, of Brett and Watson Pty Ltd as at 30 June 2008, the Trustee has determined that the current funding arrangements are adequate for the expected Defined Benefit Plan liabilities. However, future financial and economic circumstances may require changes to Council's contribution rates at some future time.



## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 19 - JOINT VENTURES & ASSOCIATED ENTITIES

##### Regional Subsidiary

Council is a member of the Murray Mallee Local Government Association (MMLGA) which was established pursuant to Section 43 of the Local Government Act, 1999.

Contributions paid to the Association were (ex GST)

2009 - \$11,719      2008 - \$11,642

##### Joint Use Library

Council is party to an agreement between the Murray Institute of TAFE, the Minister for Education and Children's Services and Council to provide "a dynamic library and information service responsive to Library clients in meeting their educational, cultural and lifelong learning needs."

Primary Client Groups are:

Staff and students of the Glossop High School Senior Campus

Staff and students of the Murray Institute of TAFE Berri Campus

Community of the Berri Barmera Council

Each party is responsible for its own costs however shared facilities are split between the parties on percentage basis being:

Minister for Education and Children's Services - 5/19

Murray Institute of TAFE - 5/19

Berri Barmera Council - 9/19

##### Wastewater Re-Use Scheme

A joint venture has been entered into between Council and United Utilities Australia Pty Ltd to build, operate and maintain a Wastewater Re-use Scheme as a solution to the treatment and reuse of septic tank effluent from the townships of Berri, Barmera, Glossop, Monash, Cobogla and Loveday and winery wastewater from Constellation Wines at Glossop.

Operating Expenditures payable in 2009/10 are:

Availability Charge - Annual Charge \$1,728,625

Volumetric Charge - Average annual charge \$108,631 (subject to volume use)

## Berri Barmera Council

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 20 - CONTINGENCIES & ASSETS & LIABILITIES NOT RECOGNISED IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

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

##### LAND UNDER ROADS

As reported elsewhere in these Statements, Council is of the opinion that it is not possible to attribute a value sufficiently reliably for these assets to qualify for recognition, and accordingly land under roads has not been recognised in these reports. Land acquired for road purposes during the year is initially recognised at cost, but transferred to fair value at reporting date, effectively writing off the expenditure.

At reporting date, Council controlled 490 km of road reserves of average width 25 metres.

##### BANK GUARANTEES

Council has guaranteed certain loans and other banking facilities advanced to community organisations and sporting bodies, amounting to (2009: \$438,813) at reporting date.

Details being:-

Berri War Memorial Community Centre

Total Borrowed \$500,000

Broken into 2 loans - \$300,000 Fixed Term Loan, \$200,000 Variable Rate Loan.

##### PROVISION FOR FUTURE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Council is part of both the Murray Mallee Local Government Association Regional Waste Management Strategy and the Sub Regional Plan for the Riverland Councils to establish a blueprint for waste management within the region and at a Council level for the future.

Although not yet quantified in dollar terms, the implementation of the aforesaid strategy will necessitate Council incurring significant financial liabilities associated with introducing the following:

- Waste transfer station and development of waste transfer and recycle separation centre.
- Introduction of kerbside recycling.
- Closure of Monash landfill.
- Waste disposal schemes for green waste and other recyclable materials that can be utilised for other purposes.

**Berri Barmera Council**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2009**

**Note 21 - EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER REPORTING DATE**

There are no other events subsequent to balance date which necessitate disclosure in the Financial Statements.

**Berri Barmera Council**

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2009**

**STATEMENT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

I, David Beaton, the person for the time being occupying the position of Chief Executive Officer of Berri Barmera Council, do hereby state that the Financial Statements of the Council for the year ended 30 June 2009 are to the best of my knowledge presented fairly, and in accordance with accounting procedures which have been maintained in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999* made under that Act.



**DAVID BEATON  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Dated this 20 day of October 2009

**ADOPTION STATEMENT**

Laid before the Berri Barmera Council and adopted on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of October 2009.



**PETER HUNT  
MAYOR**

**DEAN NEWBERY & PARTNERS  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

ABN 30 164 612 880

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL**

We have audited the accompanying financial report of the Berri Barmera Council, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2009 and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the Chief Executive Officer's Statement.

***The Responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer for the Financial Report***

The Chief Executive Officer of the Berri Barmera Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), the Local Government Act 1999 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

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

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

**Independence**

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Local Government Act 1999 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Local Government Act 1999 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999, provided to the Chief Executive Officer on 18 June 2009, would be in the same terms if provided to the Chief Executive Officer as at the date of this auditor's report.

**Auditor's Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Berri Barmera Council as of 30 June 2009, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999 and the Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations).

**DEAN NEWBERY & PARTNERS  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

**DON VENN  
PARTNER**

Signed on the 21 day of October 2009,  
at 214 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, South Australia 5006.

**Berri Barmera Council**

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2009**

**CERTIFICATION OF AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE**

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we confirm that, for the purpose of the audit of Berri Barmera Council for the year ended 30 June 2009, the Council's Auditor, Dean Newbery & Partners, has maintained its independence in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 16A(2) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999*.

  
.....  
**DAVID BEATON**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

  
.....  
**JOHN COMRIE**  
PRESIDING MEMBER  
AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date: 20/10/2009

**DEAN NEWBERY & PARTNERS  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

ABN 30 164 612 890

**Auditor's Independence Declaration Under Section 16A of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999 to The Berri Barmera Council.**

I confirm that, for the audit of the financial statements of The Berri Barmera Council for the year ended 30 June 2009, I have maintained my independence in accordance with the requirements of APES 110 – Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, Section 290, published by the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 16A (4) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999*.



**DON VENN**

**Partner**

**DEAN NEWBERY & PARTNERS  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
214 MELBOURNE STREET  
NORTH ADELAIDE SA 5006**

**NORTH ADELAIDE, this 9th day of September 2009**

**THE MURRAY AND MALLEE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION'S  
ANNUAL REPORT 2008 – 2009**



**Comprising:**

**Berri Barmera Council: (BBC)**  
**Coorong District Council: (CDC)**  
**District Council of Karoonda East Murray: (DCKEM)**  
**District Council of Loxton Waikerie:(DCLW)**  
**Mid Murray Council: (MMC)**  
**The Rural City of Murray Bridge: (RCMB)**  
**Renmark Paranga Council: (RPC), and the**  
**Southern Mallee District Council:**

## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT



**President, Cr. Leon Stasinowsky.**

Over the 2008-2009 period I am proud to report that the Association has conscientiously followed the essential actions outlined in the Association's Strategic Plan 2008-2011 and Annual Business Plan 2008-2009. We have addressed many new issues with special emphasis on those arising from the effects of the prolonged drought on irrigators, farmers and general water availability for the community.

As this is my second term as President, I again take this public opportunity to sincerely thank Vice President, Mayor Ian Mann, OAM, Member Council Mayors, Delegates, both past and present and Member Council CEO's, many of whom have provided local government representation on internal and external committees and working parties.

This Local Government Association would not have been able to achieve outcomes or address issues detailed below without the continued full participation of Member Councils. I am grateful for their involvement and urge them to continue into the future.

The main matters and issues addressed over the past year are summarized as follows:

### **Projects and activities completed:**

Completion of Special Local Roads Program (SLRP) funding applications for road construction and improvements, resulting in \$1.346m funding assistance for the region.

Regional Zero Waste SA priority funding application completion resulting in \$42,950 funding assistance for the region to forward the aims and outcomes tabulated in the Association's Regional Waste Strategy Management Report.

Expansion of the Association's website.

Annual Review and adoption of the Association's new Strategic Plan 2008-2011.

Provision of a Report to Member Councils on Community Waste-water Management Scheme (CWMS) management options.

Association files sentencing and archiving.

Expansion and a revised format of the Murray and Mallee Briefs bi-monthly Newsletter.

Completion of an independent Report on the suitability of the REMPLAN Program to assist regional Councils throughout the State.

**Projects and activities forwarded:**

Continuation of support for the Riverland and Murraylands Waste Management sub-groups including hosting a forum and providing comment on the proposed Waste to Resources Environment Protection Policy (EPP).

Working with the Regional Broadband Project Officer, DFEEST, DTED, Member Councils and the Association's Regional Broadband Steering Committee to successfully obtain \$2.47m funding from both State and Federal Governments to expand the Clever Networks Project to include Broadband availability to the western section of the Murray and Mallee region.

Rural Property Addressing Standard and implementation program.

Continued provision of Local Government representation on external Boards and Committees including the SA MDB NRM Board, the LGA State Executive Committee, the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC), the Regional Fire Prevention Committee, the River Murray and Lower Lakes Risk Assessment Committee, the SAMRIC Management Committee, the South Australian Fruit Fly Standing Committee, the Murray and Mallee Country Arts Board, the LGA Native Vegetation Working Party and the Riverland Drought Taskforce.

Ongoing assistance provided to the region's community transport schemes, including, forwarding with the LGA the proposed formation of a Community Transport Peak Body to assist with lobbying the State Government for equitable funding arrangements akin to our metropolitan cousins.

Provision of further input into the State's Regional Infrastructure Plan.

Further consideration and input provided for the revised Heavy Vehicle Access Framework (HVAF) project.

Facilitation of the Local Government/NRM Regional Delivery Relationships Project.

Submission provided to the MDB Consultative Committee regarding the Lower Lakes sulphate trigger levels.

Input and representation provided for the Federal Government's Adelaide Rail Freight Study Project.

Successful application to the Local Government Research and Development Fund for \$70,000 to undertake the Ensuring Local Government Services Provision Project, currently underway.

Addressing the proposed Country Health Reform and Shared Services Reform proposals both directly and through the SAROC Committee.

Continued Local Government membership provision on the Riverland and Murraylands State Government Regional Coordination Networks.

Working with the LGA and directly to request the State Government to provide continued Drought Program availability for eligible farmers and businesses due to the continuing drought.

Regional and sub-regional input provided into Planning SA's Regional Landuse Planning Framework project.

Provision of support for the Common Purpose Group to forward rail freight integration and the formation of an intermodal transport hub at Monarto.

Comment provided via the LGA on the draft Miscellaneous Amendment Bill as it relates to the operations of Regional Subsidiaries.

In conjunction with SAROC and the LGA, addressing the matter of agreements with SAFECOM for the utilisation and hire of Council resources during emergency incidents, including the formulation of a model agreement.

Forwarding of Climate Change templates and workshops as it relates to Local Government activities.

With the LGA, State Government and the SA CFS Region 3, addressing the matter of Dead Plantings and associated bushfire hazards resulting from the drought and abandoned land.

Provision of M&MLGA regional representation on the LGA Water Project Working Party.

Comments provided on the proposed River Murray Water Allocation Concept Plan.

### **New Projects and activities:**

Consideration of Services SA provision of services to Member Councils.

Addressing issues referring to the proposed merger of the activities of rationalized Regional Development Boards with Area Consultative Committees including CEO representation as the SAROC representative on the Intergovernmental Working Group.

Position determined and relayed to the State Government on opposition to the extension of Daylight Saving proposals.

Submission provided to Planning SA on the proposed River Murray Houseboat Strategy, resulting in a further review of proposals.

Presentation of regional community expectations on State Government Agency local purchasing arrangements with the Regional Coordination Networks.

Successful submission provided to the SAROC Committee requesting greater uniformity and adequate announcements of Fire Danger Season dates.

Commencement of the process for a potential review of the River Murray 1956 Flood Line.

Successful submission provided to the SAROC Committee to address issues relating to the illegal off-road use, with special emphasis on vegetation degradation and destruction culminating in a proposed LGA Stakeholder Forum.

Support provided for the "Touched by the Road Toll" internet project.

I take this opportunity to recognize the support and timely information provided to the Association over the past year from the Local Government Association of SA, specially mentioning the efforts of Wendy Campana, the LGA SA Executive Director and Barry Parsons, Manager - Member Services & Strategic Projects.



I would also thank our CEO, Peter Campbell for his commitment and support over the past year. I look forward to working with him in the future, albeit as an office holder or Association Delegate.

During 2008-2009 I have enjoyed being your President and once again thank the Association for the opportunity provided to me.

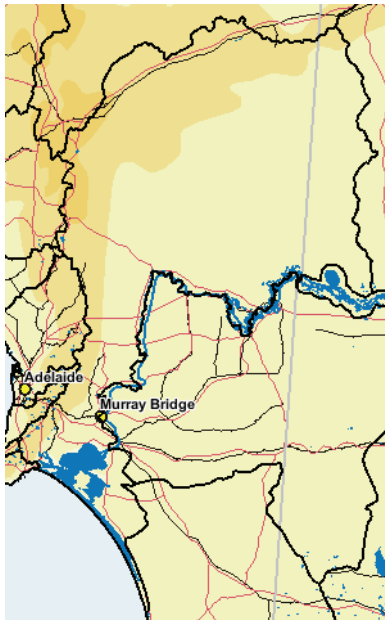


Cr. Leon Stasinowsky.

President, 2008 – 2009.

Murray and Mallee Local Government Association.

## OVERVIEW OF THE REGION.



The Region is located in the Murraylands Statistical Region in eastern South Australia and is dissected by the River Murray. It covers a large area in excess of 50,000 km<sup>2</sup> taking in the areas from the Riverland in the north, agriculture areas in the central, west, south and east along the Victorian border, and south westerly to the coast and lakes. Rural based communities throughout the area share a common interest in agriculture/horticulture, with towns primarily servicing the farming and horticultural communities and supporting a growing tourism sector. The Region has a population base of approximately 68,000 (approx. 4.6% of the State population).

The Murray River, and its associated wetlands and wildlife, Lake Bonney and a number of National/Conservation Parks, support a range of rare and endangered plant and animal species, and are major tourist attractions throughout parts of the Riverland and Mallee. Towards the coast, the Coorong National Park, Lake Alexandrina and the shores of Lake Albert are all well known tourist attractions, particularly for recreational boating and fishing.

Murray Bridge provides regional services to the lower parts of the Region and supports both an industrial and commercial base.

The Murray River travels from the north, and passing through seven of the member Councils, flows into Lake Alexandrina in the south. It supports a number of tourist and recreation activities, with a number of tourism vessels operating from centres along the river.

The Region is serviced by the South Eastern Freeway, Princes, Dukes, Sturt and Mallee Highways, with the Berri (Loxton) to Murray Bridge Road providing a direct link diagonally across the Region.

The Association works closely with its major regional partners - the Murraylands and Riverland Regional Coordination Networks, the Murraylands Regional Development Board and the Riverland Development Corporation.

### **ASSOCIATION PRESIDENCY.**

Cr. Leon Stasinowsky, District Council of Loxton Waikerie was re-elected President at the Annual General Meeting held at Berri on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 and Mayor Ian Mann OAM, Mid Murray Council was re-elected Vice President. The term of these positions, as per the provisions of the Association's Charter, is for the ensuing 12 months.

### **REPRESENTATION: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (LGA SA).**

Cr. Leon Stasinowsky and Mayor Ian Mann OAM continued to serve on the State Executive of the Local Government Association of South Australia, with Mayor Allan Arbon, Rural City of Murray Bridge, as proxy.

### **ASSOCIATION: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SERVICES.**

The Chief Executive Officer services for the Association for the year were again provided by Peter Campbell. In accordance with a resolution of Member Council Delegates, the Chief Executive Officer underwent performance review process in April, 2009, coinciding with the production of the Association's draft 2009-2010 Annual Business Plan and draft 2009-2010 Budget. This process is undertaken annually.

The Review Panel consists of the President and Vice-President of the Association and Dean Gollan, CEO Mid Murray Council and Barry Hurst, CEO of the Renmark Paringa Council. The Association has noted that satisfactory Chief Executive Officer services have been provided.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

The Association operated as a Regional Subsidiary under the transitional provisions of the Local Government Act 1999 until December, 2001 with a formal Charter, agreed to by Member Councils, becoming effective on the 13th December, 2001.

To ensure legal compliance with the Local Government Act 1999, a review of the Charter took place in 2008-2009, the outcome being that it was considered by Delegates that no changes were deemed necessary at that point in time.

This Charter can be viewed on the Association's website at [www.mmlga.sa.gov.au](http://www.mmlga.sa.gov.au)

### **THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

As a Regional Subsidiary of the Member Councils, the Association has as its governing document, the Charter gazetted on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 (reviewed June 2009) as provided for under the Local Government Act 1999. The purpose for which the Association has been established is to:

- Undertake coordinating, advocacy and representational roles for its constituent Councils at a regional level.
- Facilitate and coordinate activities of local government at a regional level related to environment, economic and social development with the object of achieving continual improvement for the benefit of the communities of its constituent Councils.

- Develop, encourage, promote, foster and maintain consultation and cooperation and to strengthen the representation and status of local government when dealing with other levels of government, private enterprise and the community.
- Develop further cooperation between its constituent Councils for the benefit of the communities in the region.
- Develop and manage policies which guide the conduct of programs and projects in the region with the objective of securing the best outcomes for the communities in the region.
- Undertake projects that benefit the region and its communities.

#### **ASSOCIATION MEETINGS:**

During 2008 – 2009, the Association has met bi-monthly for General Meetings.

Meetings of the Association were convened on:

1st August, 2008 - General Meeting - at the District Council of Loxton Waikerie Council Chamber, East Terrace, Loxton, the District Council of Loxton Waikerie as host.

3rd October, 2008 - General Meeting - at the Barn Conference Centre, Randell Street, Mannum, the Mid Murray Council as host.

5th December, 2008 - General Meeting - at the Community and Civic Centre, 61 Eighteenth Street, Renmark, the Renmark Paringa Council as host.

6th February, 2009 - General Meeting - at the Local Government Centre, Rural City of Murray Bridge, 2 Seventh Street, Murray Bridge, the Rural City of Murray Bridge as host.

3rd April, 2009 - General Meeting - at the Lameroo Bowling Club, Needs Road, Lameroo, the Southern Mallee District Council as host.

5<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 – Annual General Meeting – at the Berri Barmera Council Town Hall, 19 Wilson Street, Berri, the Berri Barmera Council as host.

All Association Meetings, including Committee Meetings' Agendas and Minutes are available for viewing and or downloading from the Association's website at [www.mmlga.sa.gov.au](http://www.mmlga.sa.gov.au)

A number of guest speakers have made presentations to the Association meetings throughout the year. They include:

Hon. Karlene Maywald, MP, Member for Chaffey.

Hon. Adrian Pederick, MP, Member for Hammond.

Hon. Ivan Venning, MP, Member for Schubert.

Hon. John Dawkins, MLC.

Wendy Campana, Executive Director, LGA SA.

Brenton Lewis, CEO, Murraylands Regional Development Board.

Bob Stevenson, Planning Officer, SES.

John Coombe and Huxley Lawler, Local Government Managers Association.

Mayor Miriam Smith, Tea Tree Gully Council.

Mike Penhall, SA MDB NRM Board.

Paul Muskett, Regional Broadband Project Officer.

Terry Banks, SA MDB NRM Board.

Representatives of both the LGA and the Office of Local Government attended each meeting and took the opportunity to brief the Association of the relevant matters being addressed by their respective bodies.

We acknowledge the support of Wendy Campana, Executive Director, LGA SA who has been ready to assist the Region and ensure that the LGA SA has had a presence at our meetings. The Association has also enjoyed a close working relationship with its State and Federal Members of Parliament, a number of whom have been regular attendees at our meetings.

The President has continued the practice of giving each of our guests the opportunity to address our meetings briefly about matters and issues before them that may be of interest to the Association and Member Councils. The contribution from all of the speakers, presenters and guests has kept the Association and the Delegates abreast of a wide ranging number of issues that impact on Local Government and the communities in the Region.

#### **MEMBER COUNCIL DELEGATES TO THE ASSOCIATION:**

The following are the current Delegates representing Member Councils as at the AGM of the 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2009.

**Berri Baramera Council (BBC):** Mayor Peter Hunt, Deputy Mayor Bruce Richardson and David Beaton, CEO (proxy).

**Coorong District Council (CDC):** Mayor Roger Strother, Deputy Mayor Paul Simmons and Cr. Sharon Bland (proxy).

**District Council of Karoonda East Murray (DCKEM):** Mayor Kevin Burdett, Peter Smithson, CEO and Deputy Mayor Margaret Size (proxy).

**District Council of Loxton Waikerie (DCLW):** Mayor Dean Maywald, Deputy Mayor Leon Stasinowsky, (President) and Peter Sellar, Acting CEO (proxy).

**Mid Murray Council (MMC):** Mayor Ian Mann, Deputy Mayor David Burgess, Cr. Kevin Myers (proxy) and Cr. Inez Bormann (proxy).

**The Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB):** Mayor Allan Arbon, Cr. Barry Laubsch, Cr. Milton Weinert, (proxy) and Kym Miller, Acting CEO (proxy).

**District Council of Renmark Paringa (RPC):** Mayor Neil Martinson, Barry Hurst, CEO, Deputy Mayor Louis Dimou (proxy) and Robert Wood, Director Corporate and Community Services (proxy).

**Southern Mallee District Council (SMDC):** Mayor John Ramke, Deputy Mayor George Gum, Cr. Robert Sexton (proxy) and Rodney Ralph, CEO (proxy).

#### **ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE AND WORKING PARTY MEMBERSHIPS:**

The following are the current Association Committee Members as at the AGM of the 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2009.

#### **Murray and Mallee Local Government Association Regional Waste Management Strategy Committee:**

President M&MLGA as Chair, Cr. Leon Stasinowsky.

Cr. Barry Laubsch, Rural City of Murray Bridge.

Barry Hurst, CEO, Renmark Paringa Council. *(by virtue of position held)*

Stephen Yam, Coorong District Council.

Brenton Lewis, CEO Murraylands Regional Development Board.

Mayor Roger Strother, Coorong District Council.

Murray Bartsch, Renmark Paringa Council. *(by virtue of position held)*

Mayor Ian Mann, Mid Murray Council.

Jon Fry, Works Manager, Mid Murray Council. *(by virtue of position held)*

Peter Sellar, Acting CEO, District Council of Loxton Waikerie. *(by virtue of position held)*

Peter Broughill, Works Manager, Southern Mallee District Council. *(by virtue of position held)*

Peter Smithson, CEO, District Council of Karoonda East Murray - proxy John Claydon. *(by virtue of positions held)*

Tom King, Manager Infrastructure Services, Berri Baramera Council. *(by virtue of position held)*

David Beaton, CEO, Berri Baramera Council. *(by virtue of position held)*

Martin Waddington, Environmental Services Manager, Rural City of Murray Bridge. *(by virtue of position held)*

Tom Avery, Infrastructure Director, District Council of Loxton Waikerie. *(by virtue of position held)*

Cr. George Gum, Southern Mallee District Council.

Cr. Trevor Kerley, District Council of Karoonda East Murray.

Justin Lang, Zero Waste SA. (external appointment)

Ken Coventry, Murraylands Regional Development Board. (external appointment)

Marina Wagner, EPA. (external appointment)

Ken Smith, CEO, Riverland Development Corporation or nominee. (external appointment)

**Murray and Mallee Local Government Association Regional Community Water Management Scheme (CWMS) Committee: (previously termed STEDS Committee)**

Cr. Bob England, Rural City of Murray Bridge.

Cr. Mark Ward, District Council of Loxton Waikerie.

Cr. Ted Freak, Coorong District Council.

Cr. Trevor Kerley, District Council of Karoonda East Murray.

Cr. Gordon Hancock, Southern Mallee District Council.

Stephan Yam, Coorong District Council.

Kelvin Goldstone, Mid Murray Council (*by virtue of position held*)

Martin Waddington, Rural City of Murray Bridge (*by virtue of position held*)

Mayor Allan Arbon, Rural City of Murray Bridge.

Mary deacon, Berri Barmera Council (*by virtue of position held*)

Neil Martinson, District Council of Loxton Waikerie (*by virtue of position held*)

Peter Broughill, Southern Mallee District Council (*by virtue of position held*)

Peter Smithson, District Council of Karoonda East Murray (*by virtue of position held*)

Robert Wood, Renmark Paringa Council (*by virtue of position held*)

Richard Crabb and Richard Gayler, LGA SA (external appointments)

**Murray and Mallee Local Government Association Regional Transport Strategy Committee:**

Mayor Ian Mann, Mid Murray Council, Chair

Cr. Leon Stasinowsky, President (ex officio)

Peter Campbell, CEO, M&MLGA.

Chair, Murraylands Regional Development Board (external appointment)

Brenton Lewis, Murraylands Regional Development Board (external appointment)

Chair, Riverland Development Corporation (external appointment)

Ken Smith, CEO, Riverland Development Corporation (external appointment)

DTEI (Transport SA) - 2 nominees (external appointment)

**Murray and Mallee Local Government Association Broadband Steering Committee:**

Anthony McCabe, Southern Mallee District Council (*by virtue of position held*)

Craig Chadwick, Mid Murray Council (*by virtue of position held*)

Cr. Leon Stasinowsky, President (ex officio)

Peter Smithson, District Council of Karoonda East Murray (*by virtue of position held*)

Peter Sellar, District Council of Loxton Waikerie (*by virtue of position held*) with proxy Nathan Wishart (*by virtue of position held*).

Mayor Roger Strother, Coorong District Council.

Brenton Lewis, Murraylands Regional Development Board (external appointment)

Ken Coventry, Murraylands Regional Development Board (external appointment)

Ken Smith, CEO, Riverland Development Corporation (external appointment)  
- with proxy Robyn Ormsby.

Peter Triantafilou, DFEEEST (external appointment)

Paul Muskett, Murray and Mallee Regional Broadband Project Officer.

**M&MLGA Transport Reference Group. – Community Transport:**

Peter Smithson, CEO, District Council of Karoonda East Murray. *(by virtue of position held)*

Andrew Haigh, Berri Barmera Council. *(by virtue of position held)*

**M&MLGA "Ensuring Local Government Services Provision" Working Group:**

Anthony McCabe - Southern Mallee District Council.

Kym Miller, Acting CEO - Rural City of Murray Bridge.

David Beaton, CEO - Berri Barmera Council.

John Claydon - District Council of Karoonda East Murray.

Peter Sellar, Acting CEO - District Council of Loxton Waikerie.

Robert Wood- Renmark Paringa Council.

Robin Bourne - Mid Murray Council.

Tim Drew - Coorong District Council.

David Hitchcock - LGA (external appointment).

Jane Gascoigne - PIRSA - OS/LGR (external appointment).

Trevor Bennett - DTED (external appointment).

**ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATION – OTHER BODIES.**

During the year the Association has made and or continued the following appointments to other bodies, as at the AGM of the 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2009.

**LGA State Executive Committee:**

President, Cr. Leon Stasinowsky *(by virtue of position held)*.

Vice President, Mayor Ian Mann, Mid Murray Council *(by virtue of position held)*.

Proxy for President or Vice President, Mayor Allan Arbon, Rural City of Murray Bridge.

**South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC):**

President, Cr. Leon Stasinowsky, DC Loxton Waikerie. *(by virtue of position held)*.

Vice President Mayor Ian Mann, OAM, Mid Murray Council *(by virtue of position held)*.

Proxy for President and or Vice President, Mayor Allan Arbon.

CEO – Peter Campbell *(by virtue of position held)*.

**SA MDB NRM Board:**

Rodney Ralph, CEO, Southern Mallee DC.

**Regional Fire Prevention Committee:**

Mayor Ian Mann, OAM, Mid Murray Council and Cr. Jodi Flavell, DC Loxton Waikerie.

**SAMRIC Management Committee:**

Neil Martinson, DC Loxton Waikerie.

**South Australian Fruit Fly Standing Committee:**

Cr. Les Hill, Berri Barmera Council.

**LGA Native Vegetation Working Group:**

Cr. Inez Bormann, Mid Murray Council with Cr. Les Hill, Berri Barmera Council as proxy.

**Murraylands Regional Coordination Network:**

Peter Campbell, CEO, M&MLGA.

**Riverland Regional Coordination Network:**

David Beaton, CEO, Berri Barmera Council.

**Riverland Drought Taskforce:**

President, Cr. Leon Stasinowsky.

**State Strategic Plan Regionalisation Working Groups:****Murraylands sub-group:**

Cr. Barry Laubsch and Mayor Allan Arbon (proxy), Rural City of Murray Bridge.

**Riverland sub-group:**

Mayor Peter Hunt, Berri Barmera Council.

**River Murray and Lower Lakes Water Quality Risk Assessment Committee:**

Mayor Roger Strother, Coorong DC.

**LGA Bushfire Management Reference Group:**

Mayor Ian Mann, OAM, Mid Murray Council.

**Country Arts Board:**

Mrs. Poppy Papageorgiou.

**EXECUTIVE MEETINGS:**

The Executive Committee comprises of one Delegate from each Member Council. No Executive Committee meetings were held during the year.

**GENERAL ACTIVITIES:**

The Association undertakes a coordinating role, in conjunction with Member Councils, on their issues and those raised by the Local Government Association of South Australia, the community, and other relevant parties' concerns and interests.

State and Federal Members of Parliament representing our Region have been briefed and support has been sought for issues raised.

Submissions and briefings undertaken include:

- Submission for Special Local Roads applications for 2009-2010 funding round.
- Further submissions to the SAROC Committee with reference to integrated Community Passenger Transport Services.
- Submission to Zero Waste SA for Regional Waste Strategy Implementation funding assistance.
- Submission to the State and Federal Governments to provide greater geographical broadband coverage for the region.
- Provision of comment to Planning SA's Regional Landuse Planning Framework.
- Review and referral to the State Government on the Murray and Mallee Regional Infrastructure Plan.
- Ministerial submission with reference to the proposed Country Health Reform.
- Submission to the MDB Community Advisory Committee on River Murray issues.
- Comment provided on the proposed River Murray Water Allocation Concept Plan.
- Review and comment provided on the Agri-Food Industry Workforce Development Plan.
- Submission to Zero Waste SA Regional Implementation Program.
- Review and comment provided on DTEI Broadband proposal.
- The submitting of comment to the LGA SA on the Federal, State and Local Government draft MoU on the integration of ACC's and rationalisation of Regional Development Boards.
- Submission to the SA MDB NRM Board on Planning matters.
- Review of Section 298 Amendment Bill and provision of comment on audit requirements in relation to Regional LGA's.

The CEO has also attended several Forums, Workshops and Briefings throughout the year regarding evolving issues and to make contribution on behalf of the Association. These have included:

- Murraylands Regional Coordination Network Workshop Meetings.
- Murraylands Economic Outlook Conference.
- DEH Drought and Water Forum.
- Murray and Mallee Local Government Association Strategic Planning Workshop.
- LGA President's Forum.
- SA MDB NRM Board's Mayoral and CEO Forums.
- Murray and Mallee Regional CEO's Workshops.
- LGA Climate Change Summit.
- Country Health SA Reform Briefing.
- NRM/LG NRM Relationships Project Workshop.
- SA MDB NRM Board Community Science Forum.
- Dept. Broadband, Communication and Digital Economy Clever Networks and ABG Briefings.
- Planning SA Houseboat and Marina Strategy Workshop.
- LGA General Meeting and associated forums.



## **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (SAROC).**

The President, Cr. Leon Stasinowsky, Vice President Mayor Ian Mann, OAM, (Mayor Allan Arbon as proxy on occasions) and the Chief Executive Officer have attended SAROC meetings during the year.

The meetings are usually held bi-monthly on the day preceding the meeting of the LGA State Executive.

SAROC has a Memorandum of Understanding between Regional Local Government Associations and the Local Government Association of South Australia, which was completed in August, 2003.

The Association has provided our regional input into many topics that are relevant to all communities across the State, some of which include:

- Community Passenger Network Transport.
- Regional broadband Coverage.
- Regional Development Australia.
- Regional Drought Programs.
- Off Road Motor Bike and Vehicle Use on Road Reserves.
- Native Vegetation issues.
- Regional Fire Danger Dates.
- SAFECOM MoU for use of Council Assets.
- Rural Property Addressing Standard.

- Country Health SA proposed reforms.
- NRM/LG Relationships.
- Ensuring Local Government Services Provision Project.
- SA State Government Shared Services Reform.
- Regional Water-proofing.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2009.**

The audited Financial Statements are included at the rear of this report. Surplus cash flow funds have been deposited with the Local Government Finance Authority and drawn on when and as required.

## **REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING.**

The Association acknowledges and thanks the Local Government Research and Development Fund Scheme for their annual 2008-2009 grant of \$36,149 to the Association.

This grant has ensured that the Association has been able to undertake regional enhancement and capacity building projects throughout the year.

## **INFORMING COUNCILS AND OTHER PARTIES.**

The Association recognises the importance of providing both topical and detailed information on its activities to Member Councils, the LGA SA, the Dept. of Planning and Local Government, Politicians, other key stakeholders and the general public within and outside the Region.

The Newsletter, the "Murray Mallee Briefs" has been prepared after each general meeting and is electronically widely distributed. Numerous media interviews have been undertaken as a result of the Newsletter's circulation.

The Association's website [www.mmlga.sa.gov.au](http://www.mmlga.sa.gov.au) contains a wealth of information on the Association's activities, including all Agendas, Appendices and Minutes for General and Committee Meetings.

### **NATIVE TITLE AND INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENTS.**

The Association has continued to engage Rosemary Craddock LLB, to assist Member Councils in Native Title negotiations in and adjacent to the Region.

The CEO provides executive support and a coordinating role, supporting Rosemary Craddock for the Member Councils and other adjacent Council(s) that are involved in the claims impacting on this Region.

### **PARTNERSHIP/STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES 2008 – 2009.**

The Association has continued to pursue a number of strategic issues with the support of partners and other key stakeholders in the Region. Without these partners and stakeholders, the Association would not have been able to singularly progress these initiatives.

#### **Strategic Focus – Telecommunications.**

The project partners are:

The Riverland Development Corporation,  
 The Murraylands Regional Development Board,  
 Dept. of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (DFEEST),  
 Dept. of Broadband Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE),  
 Dept. Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI), and  
 Regional Broadband Project Officer – Mr. Paul Muskett.

The Broadband Development Project commenced in January 2008 with fund-

ing secured for a two year period through the Australian Government as part of the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy's (DBCDE) Clever Networks Broadband Development Network Program. The project covers both the Murraylands and Riverland regions.

During the time of this project, the OPEL project (a scheme designed to provide wireless access to underserved areas) was cancelled and a National Broadband Network (NBN) announced and opened for Requests for Proposals (RFP).

The original NBN RFP process was cancelled in April 2009 and significantly remodelled. The new NBN's stated aim is to provide fibre optic cable to 90% of Australian homes and premises with a service of a minimum speed of 100 Mbps, and to serve the remaining 10% of Australia with a variety of wireless services at a minimum speed of 12 Mbps.

During the year the Association's Regional Broadband Steering Committee advertised for Expressions of Interest to provide broadband services to the region, with a closing date of 18<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

Due to several extensions of the application date for providers to the anticipated main funding source for the project, the Australian Broadband Guarantee (ABG) deciding on a preferred supplier was continually delayed, until the entire process was cancelled in February 2009 due to a number of issues, including doubts around the availability of ABG funding.

The main reason was the announcement of a new preferred supplier for the Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructures' High Speed Broadband project, funded primarily by Clever Networks. The project will deliver fibre optic cable to the townships of Berri, Murray Bridge and Port Pirie, and wireless access in the three townships and some surrounding areas.

As the two projects were very similar in their scope and in the physical areas they were seeking to cover, it was established to be more efficient to cancel the stand alone M&MLGA regional project and partner with the existing funded project. The Association became a partner in the DTEI project due to

the commitment of in-kind support from councils and gained a position on the project management committee.

Six wireless broadband towers broadcasting to surrounding areas will be built as part of the project, and there is the possibility of further towers and broadband services being built off the initial infrastructure if further funding can be secured.

These developments indicate significant progress in gaining high quality broadband services across the majority of the region. This will provide major benefits to the economy of the region, as well as having a positive impact on the lifestyle and experiences of those receiving high quality broadband services.

This past year also saw another long term issue resolved; with a broadband solution provided to the sand mine at Mindarie and surrounds. This connection allows the mine to maintain its administrative staff on-site at Mindarie, due to the provision of a high speed connection between the Mindarie and Adelaide offices.

Due to this added infrastructure, high quality broadband and telecommunication services are now available to areas of the Murray and Mallee that were previously only serviced by satellite.

An application to the South Australian Governments' Broadband Development Fund (BDF) is currently in the final stages of preparation, and is anticipated to be lodged before 30 June 2009. The application is to provide funding to further extend the current DTEI broadband project to provide additional coverage in the Mid Murray, Loxton Waikerie and Southern Mallee council districts. If successful, it is anticipated that the new infrastructure will be built by the end of December 2009.

Despite of the constantly changing playing field in terms of broadband funding for projects at all levels of State and Federal Government, the broadband project has made significant progress in the last year.

The possibility of future broadband based positions in the region is still unclear; however with just over six months remaining of the current project, the aims will be to ensure the progress of the current broadband project remains on target, progress the application to the South Australian Governments BDF to expand the coverage areas further into the region, and to further develop the use of broadband technology for business, education and personal use.

The Association acknowledges the untiring efforts of Paul Muskett, Regional Broadband Project Officer. Without his assistance, the Association's Regional Broadband Project would not have achieved the more than satisfactory outcomes for the year.

### **Strategic Focus – Transport Infrastructure.**

Our Project Partners are:

The Riverland Development Corporation,

The Murraylands Regional Development Board,

Transport SA, and

The Local Government Transport Advisory Panel (LGTAP).

For the period 2008-2009, Member Councils resolved not to review the Murray and Mallee Regional Transport Strategy Plan to support this year's road funding submissions. General agreement is that the matter of a review will be considered for the latter part of 2008-2009.

The Plan provides the basis to enable the Association and its Member Councils, to determine and support applications for Special Local Roads and Auslink funding applications.

Applications for funding in the 2007-2008 round were lodged with the Local Government Transport Advisory Panel at the end of April, 2008 resulting in \$1.346m funding availability for identified road construction in the region.

Applications for funding in 2008-2009 were lodged with the Local Government Transport Advisory Panel on the 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2009, and the Association awaits the results of the Panel's recommendation for the Special Local Roads component to the Local Government Grants Commission.

**Strategic Focus – Community Transport. – Riverland Community Passenger Network and the Murray Mallee Community Passenger Network Schemes.**

Our partners are:

The South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC),

The Local Government Association of SA, The Riverland and Murray Mallee Community Passenger Transport Networks and Advisory Committees, and The Riverland and Murraylands Regional Coordination Networks.

As was actioned during 2007 – 2008, the Association, through the SAROC Committee and the Riverland and Murraylands Regional Coordination Networks, continued to pursue the issue of the integration of Community Passenger Network (CPN) Schemes throughout the region.

Integration allows for the use of agency managed governmental vehicles for the purpose of providing further transport solutions for the disadvantaged.

Following receipt by the SAROC Committee of a report from the Association at the 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2008 SAROC Committee meeting, the LGA wrote to the Minister for Transport seeking redress to the current financial assistance arrangements for Community Passenger Transport Networks. The Association and SAROC Committee positions are that these arrangements are far from satisfactory.

The subsequent reply from the Minister restated that there would be no change to the current arrangements.

Separate from the Ministers reply the LGA SA commissioned a report to undertake research and development on the most appropriate community transport business model to represent SA community transport providers, coordinators, volunteers and users.

With the report has now been completed, it is the view of the LGA SA that a further report is required which will provide clarification of the following contextual matters:

- current provision of passenger transport services and where the gaps and opportunities exist;
- options for filling the gaps including opportunities and challenges in responding to issues that have emerged;
- how the providers of passenger transport are making their services available, funding options they are securing and issues for the future; and the intergovernmental responsibilities for passenger transport service provision.

In conjunction with Partners and sister organisations, the Association will continue to pursue equitable transport

arrangements for the region on an equivalent basis as enjoyed by our metropolitan cousins.

### **Strategic Focus – Environment - Drought.**

Our partners are:

- The Riverland Development Corporation,
- The Murraylands Regional Development Board,
- Primary Industries and Resources SA,
- Riverland Futures Project,
- Regional Coordination Networks,
- Riverland Drought Taskforce,
- Lower Murray Drought Collaboration Group,
- Irrigation Authorities and Associations,
- The SAROC Committee, and
- The Local Government Research and Development Fund (LGR&DF).

The Drought has severely affected environmental and economic stability and planned growth throughout the region including the potential to affect Local Government services to the community.

In order to quantify this potential effect, the Association sought and received \$70k from the LGR&DF for the purpose of determining the availability of a “plug-in type tool” that could be made available to all regional Councils, which would allow Councils to determine the effect on Council and the Community given certain economic impacts.

Such a tool has been identified and forwarding of Council’s agreement to the concept will be undertaken in the ensuing year.

On other environmental matters, the Association and Member Councils have:

- Provided an Association representative on the River Murray Water Quality Risk Assessment Committee.
- Provided a Local Government non-voting Member to the SA MDB NRM Board.
- Provided information to Member Councils regarding Adaptation Actions for Local Government on Climate Change issues.
- Provided Association representation on the LGA Native Vegetation Working Party and input into legislative review, and
- With the LGA, State Government and the SA CFS Region 3, addressed the matter of Dead Plantings and associated bushfire hazards resulting from the drought and abandoned land.
- Provision of a Report to Member Councils on Community Waste-water Management Scheme (CWMS) management options.
- Facilitation of the Local Government/NRM Regional Delivery Relationships Project.
- Submission provided to the MDB Consultative Committee regarding the Lower Lakes sulphate trigger levels.
- Forwarding of Climate Change templates and workshops as it relates to Local Government activities.
- Provision of M&MLGA regional representation on the LGA Water Project Working Party.
- Comments provided on the proposed River Murray Water Allocation Concept Plan.
- Commencement of the process for a potential review of the River Murray 1956 Flood Line.
- Lobbied State and Federal Governments for extensions of the Drought Programs into the year 2009-2010.

**BEYOND 2009.**

General Meetings of the Association will continue to be held during 2008-2009 on the first Friday in the months of August, December, February, April with the Annual General Meeting to be held in June. They will be held throughout the Region, hosted alphabetically by the Member Councils.

At the General Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2009, the Association endorsed their revised Strategic Plan, 2008-2011. The Annual Business Plan 2009-2010, extracted from the Strategic Plan 2008-2011 and associated Annual Budget was adopted at the Association's Annual General Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2009. These documents are available to be viewed and downloaded from the Association's website at [www.mmlga.sa.gov.au](http://www.mmlga.sa.gov.au)

The status of the objectives and actions in the Association's Annual Business Plan 2009-2010 will be reviewed half yearly at the December General Meeting and the June Annual General Meeting as per the provisions of the Association's Charter.

Contact details:

President:

Cr. Leon Stasinowsky  
PO Box 409,  
Loxton. SA 5333  
Tel: 8589 7028

Chief Executive Officer:

Peter Campbell  
55 Excelsior Pde,  
Hindmarsh Island. SA 5214.  
PO Box 1014, Goolwa. SA 5214.  
Tel: (08) 8555 3929  
Fax: (08) 8555 0451  
Email: [mandmлга@bigpond.com](mailto:mandmлга@bigpond.com)



The Murray and Mallee  
Local Government Association

# Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated

## Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2009

## Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated

For the Year Ended 30 June 2009

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## Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated

### Income Statement

For the Year Ended 30 June 2009

		2009	2008	
Note	\$	\$	\$	
	Regional Enhancement Fund Grant	2	32,904	31,487
	Interest received	2	6,177	6,097
	MBM LGA contributions	2	76,095	75,595
			<u>115,176</u>	<u>113,179</u>
	Other operating expenses	3	(102,772)	(97,762)
	<b>Profit attributable to members</b>		<u>12,404</u>	<u>15,417</u>

## Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated

### Balance Sheet

As At 30 June 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	127,442	47,174
Trade and other receivables	5	3,718	3,675
Money held in Trust		2,962	2,962
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>134,122</b>	<b>53,811</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>134,122</b>	<b>53,811</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	6	1,733	1,287
Unexpended Project Funds	7	93,234	19,730
Native Title Claim Moneys unexpended		2,962	2,962
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>97,929</b>	<b>23,979</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>97,929</b>	<b>23,979</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>36,193</b>	<b>29,832</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings		36,193	29,832
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>36,193</b>	<b>29,832</b>

## Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated

### Statement of Recognised Income and Expense

For the Year Ended 30 June 2009

2009

Balance at Tuesday, 1 July 2008  
Profit attributable to members  
Transfer from retained earnings

**Sub-total**

**Balance at 30 June 2009**

2008

Balance at Tuesday, 1 July 2008/1 July 2007  
Profit attributable to members  
Transfer from retained earnings

**Sub-total**

**Balance at 30 June 2008**

Note	Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
	29,832	29,832
	12,404	12,404
7	(6,043)	(6,043)
	<b>6,361</b>	<b>6,361</b>
	<b>36,193</b>	<b>36,193</b>

Note	Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
	26,150	26,150
	15,417	15,417
7	(11,735)	(11,735)
	<b>3,682</b>	<b>3,682</b>
	<b>29,832</b>	<b>29,832</b>



## Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated

### Cash Flow Statement

For the Year Ended 30 June 2009

	2009	2008
Note	\$	\$
<b>Cash from operating activities:</b>		
Receipts from members	76,095	75,595
Receipts from Grants	32,904	31,487
Interest received	6,177	6,097
Payments to suppliers	(102,369)	(98,060)
Project receipts	70,000	-
Project payments	(2,539)	(1,100)
	<u>80,268</u>	<u>14,019</u>
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	8	14,019
	<u>80,268</u>	14,019
<b>Net increase (decreases) in cash held</b>	80,268	14,019
Cash at beginning of financial year	47,174	33,155
	<u>127,442</u>	<u>47,174</u>
<b>Cash at end of financial year</b>	4	47,174

## Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2009

#### 1 Accounting policies

##### (a) General information

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act of South Australia.

The financial report covers Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated as an individual entity. Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated is an association incorporated in South Australia under the Associations Incorporations Act 1985.

The financial report of Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated as an individual entity complies with all Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS) in their entirety.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the association in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

##### (b) Basis of preparation

###### Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

##### (c) Comparatives

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

##### (d) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and deposits held at call with banks.

##### (e) Income taxes

The activities of the Association are exempt from taxation under the Income Tax Assessment Act.

##### (f) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

## Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2009

#### 1 Accounting policies continued

##### (g) Financial Instruments

###### Recognition and Initial Measurement

Financial instruments are initially measured at cost on trade date, which includes transaction costs, when the related contractual rights or obligations exist. Subsequent to initial recognition these instruments are measured as set out below.

###### Financial liabilities

Non-derivative financial liabilities are recognised at amortised cost, comprising original debt less principal payments and amortisation.

###### Impairment

At each reporting date, the association assess whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale financial instruments, a prolonged decline in the value of the instrument is considered to determine whether an impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement.

##### (h) Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the association reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

##### Critical accounting estimates and judgments

###### Key estimates - Impairment

The association assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the association that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Value-in-use calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

## Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2009

#### 2 Revenue

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Interest received	6,177	6,097
<b>MBM LGA contributions</b>		
- Berri Barmera Council	11,719	11,642
- Coorong District Council	7,762	7,711
- DC of Karoonda East Murray	4,109	4,082
- DC of Loxton Waikerie	12,403	12,322
- Mid Murray Council	9,283	9,222
- The Rural City of Murray Bridge	15,523	15,422
- DC of Renmark Paringa	10,425	10,356
- Southern Mallee DC	4,871	4,838
<b>Total MBM LGA contributions</b>	<b>76,095</b>	<b>75,595</b>
Regional Enhancement Fund Grant	32,904	31,487
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>115,176</b>	<b>113,179</b>

#### 3 Profit from Ordinary Activities

##### Expenses

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Audit fees	1,383	1,225
Bank charges	120	153
Executive Officer Contract Services	90,702	87,360
Insurance	2,038	1,019
Meeting Expenses	1,619	1,369
Postage	37	50
President's Travelling Allowance	2,500	2,635
Printing and stationery	433	485
SAROC Regional Meeting costs	459	150
Sundry expenses	326	403
Telecommunications/Broadband	-	1,004
Telephone and fax	3,050	1,803
Website maintenance	105	106
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>102,772</b>	<b>97,762</b>

## Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated

Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2009

### 4 Cash and cash equivalents

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Cash on hand	100	100
Cash at bank	1,644	1,569
LGFA Investment	125,698	45,505
	<u>127,442</u>	<u>47,174</u>

### 5 Trade and other receivables

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Accrued Interest	997	1,202
GST Refund	2,721	2,473
	<u>3,718</u>	<u>3,675</u>

### 6 Trade and other payables

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade payables	1,733	1,287
	<u>1,733</u>	<u>1,287</u>

### 7 Other Liabilities

Grant Funds Unexpended may be refundable and are reflected as liabilities at balance date. It is anticipated that the balance of funds unexpended will be fully utilised on the nominated project.

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
<b>Water Management Project</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Balance brought forward	4,373	4,373
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>4,373</u>	<u>4,373</u>
Project Funds not expended at 30 June 2009	<u>4,373</u>	<u>4,373</u>

## Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated

Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2009

### 7 Other Liabilities continued

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
<b>Regional Broadband Project</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Balance brought forward	1,400	2,500
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>1,400</u>	<u>2,500</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>(39)</u>	<u>(1,100)</u>
Project Funds not expended at 30 June 2009	<u>1,361</u>	<u>1,400</u>
<b>Discretionary Projects</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Balance brought forward	13,957	2,222
Transfer from Retained Earnings	1,043	11,735
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>13,957</u>
<b>Less Expenses</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Project funds not expended at 30 June 2009	<u>15,000</u>	<u>13,957</u>
<b>Provision LG Services Project</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Local Government Research and Development Scheme	70,000	-
Transfer from Retained Earnings	5,000	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>75,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Less Expenses</b>	<u>(2,500)</u>	<u>-</u>
Project funds not expended at 30 June 2009	<u>72,500</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>93,234</u>	<u>19,730</u>

## Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2009

#### 8 Cash Flow Information

##### (a) Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Profit after Income Tax

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Net income/loss for the period	12,404	15,417
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows in profit		
changes in assets and liabilities, net of the effects of purchase and disposal of subsidiaries		
(Increase)/decrease in trade receivables	205	(407)
(Increase)/decrease in GST Rec/Pay	(248)	7
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	73,950	10,737
Increase/(decrease) in Retained earnings from transfers	(6,043)	(11,735)
	<u>80,268</u>	<u>14,019</u>

#### 9 Financial instruments

##### Credit risk

The maximum exposure to credit risk, excluding the value of any collateral or other security, at balance date to recognised financial assets, is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements.

The association does not have any material credit risk exposure to any single receivable or group of receivables under financial instruments entered into by the association.

##### (i) Financial instrument composition and maturity analysis

The association's exposure to interest rate risk, which is the risk that a financial instruments value will fluctuate as a result of changes in market interest rates and the effective weighted average interest rates on classes of financial assets and financial liabilities, is as follows:

## Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2009

#### 9 Financial instruments continued

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate		Floating Interest Rate		Non-interest Bearing		Total	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
	%	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial Assets:</b>								
LGFA Investment	2.75	7.00	125,698	45,505	-	-	125,698	45,505
Cash at bank	1.60	1.60	1,644	1,569	-	-	1,644	1,569
Cash	-	-	-	-	100	100	100	100
Trade and other receivables	-	-	-	-	3,718	3,675	3,718	3,675
Money held in trust	-	-	-	-	2,962	2,962	2,962	2,962
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>			<u>127,342</u>	<u>47,074</u>	<u>6,780</u>	<u>6,737</u>	<u>134,122</u>	<u>53,811</u>
<b>Financial Liabilities:</b>								
Trade and other payables	-	-	-	-	1,733	1,287	1,733	1,287
Unexpended project funds	-	-	-	-	93,234	19,730	93,234	19,730
Native title claims	-	-	-	-	2,962	2,962	2,962	2,962
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>			<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>97,929</u>	<u>23,979</u>	<u>97,929</u>	<u>23,979</u>

All financial assets and liabilities disclosed mature within 12 months, with the exception of money held in trust and native title claims which have a maturity of greater than 12 months and less than 5 years.

##### (ii) Net fair values

The net fair values for other assets and other liabilities approximates their carrying values. No financial assets or financial liabilities are readily traded on organised markets in standardised form other than listed investments. Financial assets where the carrying amount exceeds net fair values have not been written down as the association intends to hold these assets to maturity.

The aggregate net fair values and carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities are disclosed in the balance sheet and in the notes to the financial statements.

##### Interest Rate Risk Sensitivity Analysis

At 30 June 2009, the committee considers that the only material risk arises in relation to interest rates. Should interest rates have increased / decreased by 2%, the associations profit would have increased / decreased by approximately \$2,546 (2008: \$941).

## Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2009

#### 10 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

At 30 June 2009, the Committee is unaware of any liability, contingent or otherwise, which has not already been recorded elsewhere in this financial report.

#### 11 Capital Commitments

At 30 June 2009, the Committee is unaware of any capital or leasing commitments which have not already been recorded elsewhere in this financial report.

#### 12 Events after the end of the reporting period

Since the reporting date, there have been no events that would materially impact on the contents of this report.

#### 13 Key Management Personnel Compensation

##### (a) Key Management Personnel Compensation

	Short term	Total
	<b>Benefits</b>	
<b>2009</b>		
Total compensation	90,702	90,702
<b>2008</b>		
Total compensation	87,360	87,360

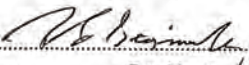
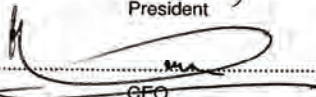
## Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated

### Statement by the Committee

In the opinion of the members of the committee:

- the accompanying Income Statement is drawn up so as to present fairly the profit of Murray and Mallee Local Government Association for the financial year;
  - the accompanying Balance Sheet is drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of Murray and Mallee Local Government Association as at the end of the financial year;
  - the accounts of the association have been made out in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirement.
- The committee has reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
- No officer of the association, or a firm of which the officer is a member, or corporate in which the officer has a substantial financial interest, has received or become entitled to receive a benefit as a result of a contract between the officer, firm of which the officer is a member or a corporate in which the officer has a substantial financial interest and the association.
- No officer of the association has received directly or indirectly from the association any payment or other benefit of a pecuniary value, except for chairman allowances paid.

This statement is made in accordance with the resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

  
 .....  
 President  
  
 .....  
 CEO

Dated *7th August, 2009.*



## Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated

**Independent Audit Report to the members of Murray & Mallee Local Government Association  
Incorporated**

### Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2009, and the income statement, statement of recognised income and expenditure and cash flow statement for the year ended that date a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by the committee..

### Committee Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporations Act (SA) 1985. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

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

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

Total Financial Solutions

A WHK Group Firm

Member Horwath International  
ABN: 27 161 274 861  
PO Box 101, Berri SA 5343  
27 Vaughan Terrace, Berri SA 5343  
Phone: 1300 WHK TFS  
Phone: (08) 8582 1955 Fax: (08) 8582 3014  
E-mail: info@whkthomsons.com.au

*Horwath refers to Horwath International Association, a swiss Verein.  
Each member of the Association is a separate and independent legal entity.*

## Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated

**Independent Audit Report to the members of Murray & Mallee Local Government Association  
Incorporated**

### Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

### Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion the financial report of Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated is in accordance with the Associations Incorporations Act(SA) 1985, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2009 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporations Act(SA) 1985.

### WHK THOMSONS AUDIT SERVICES

Grant Martinella CA

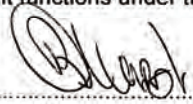
Signed at Berri SA

07/08/2009



**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE-  
AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE**

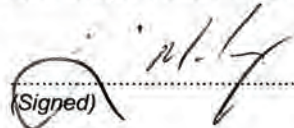
I, Barry Charles Hurst, the person for the time being occupying the position of chief executive of the Renmark Paringa Council, being a constituent council of the Murray and Mallee Local Government Association subsidiary do hereby certify (for the purposes of Regulation 16A(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999) that the Auditor, WHK Thomsons, of the subsidiary has not been engaged by the subsidiary to provide services to the subsidiary outside the scope of the audit functions under the Local Government Act 1999.

  
.....  
(Signed)

23/7/09  
.....  
(Dated)

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE-  
AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE**

I, Damian Maloney, the person for the time being occupying the position of chief executive of the Rural City of Murray Bridge, being a constituent council of the Murray and Mallee Local Government Association subsidiary do hereby certify (for the purposes of Regulation 16A(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999) that the Auditor, WHK Thomsons, of the subsidiary has not been engaged by the subsidiary to provide services to the subsidiary outside the scope of the audit functions under the Local Government Act 1999.

  
.....  
(Signed)

23/7/2009  
.....  
(Dated)

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE-  
AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE**

I, Rodney Ralph, the person for the time being occupying the position of chief executive of the Southern Mallee District Council, being a constituent council of the Murray and Mallee Local Government Association subsidiary do hereby certify (for the purposes of Regulation 16A(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999) that the Auditor, WHK Thomsons, of the subsidiary has not been engaged by the subsidiary to provide services to the subsidiary outside the scope of the audit functions under the Local Government Act 1999.

  
.....  
(Signed)

23-7-2009  
.....  
(Dated)

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE-  
AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE**

I, Peter Smithson, the person for the time being occupying the position of chief executive of the District Council of Karoonda East Murray, being a constituent council of the Murray and Mallee Local Government Association subsidiary do hereby certify (for the purposes of Regulation 16A(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999) that the Auditor, WHK Thomsons, of the subsidiary has not been engaged by the subsidiary to provide services to the subsidiary outside the scope of the audit functions under the Local Government Act 1999.

  
.....  
(Signed)

23-7-2009  
.....  
(Dated)

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE-  
AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE**

I, Timothy Francis Drew, the person for the time being occupying the position of chief executive of the Coorong District Council, being a constituent council of the Murray and Mallee Local Government Association subsidiary do hereby certify (for the purposes of Regulation 16A(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999) that the Auditor, WHK Thomsons, of the subsidiary has not been engaged by the subsidiary to provide services to the subsidiary outside the scope of the audit functions under the Local Government Act 1999.

  
.....  
(Signed)

23-7-2009  
.....  
(Dated)

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE-  
AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE**

I, David Beaton, the person for the time being occupying the position of chief executive of the Berri Baramba Council, being a constituent council of the Murray and Mallee Local Government Association subsidiary do hereby certify (for the purposes of Regulation 16A(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999) that the Auditor, WHK Thomsons, of the subsidiary has not been engaged by the subsidiary to provide services to the subsidiary outside the scope of the audit functions under the Local Government Act 1999.

  
.....  
(Signed)

23/7/09  
.....  
(Dated)

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE-  
AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE**


I, Joan Gollan, the person for the time being occupying the position of chief executive of the Murray Council Council, being a constituent council of the Murray and Mallee Local Government Association subsidiary do hereby certify (for the purposes of Regulation 16A(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999) that the Auditor, WHK Thomsons, of the subsidiary has not been engaged by the subsidiary to provide services to the subsidiary outside the scope of the audit functions under the Local Government Act 1999.

  
.....  
(Signed)

23/7/09  
.....  
(Dated)

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE -  
AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE.**

I, Des Schliebs, the person for the time being occupying the position of acting chief executive officer of the District Council of Loxton Waikerie, being a constituent council of the Murray and Mallee Local Government Association subsidiary do hereby certify (for the purposes of Regulation 16A(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999) that the auditor, WHK Thomsons, of the subsidiary has not been engaged by the subsidiary to provide services to the subsidiary outside the scope of the audit functions under the Local Government Act 1999.

  
.....  
(Signed)

23 July 2009  
.....  
(Dated)