

Annual Report

2014-2015

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Mayor's Report



It is with great pleasure that I present my Annual Report of the Berri Barmera Council for 2014/2015.

There is no doubt that we have had some good news stories over the past year and one that I believe continues our course on Building a Better Community for our residents.

In late June 2014 and consequently from the visit to the Riverland by the Premier Jay Weatherill, his Cabinet and Department Heads, on the 7th July I received a phone call from the Minister for Sustainability Environment and Conservation the Hon. Ian Hunter advising the sale of the Berri Riverfront land to Council had been approved. It was on the 16th June 2009 that the CEO and I first met with the Hon. Jay Weatherill and the Hon. Karlene Maywald to discuss this proposal and the way forward.

Council could now proceed to relocate the Bowling Club and, once built, start the land development. Although there have been various minor issues along the way, a year on, the new Bowling Club and rink covering structure (funded by the bowling club) is nearing completion.

The news of Bunnings and Aldi stores within Berri has also created some excitement and hopefully will see both of these ventures come to fruition in the near future. These ventures will give an enormous boost to employment throughout our region.

Council Elections took place during November and I was pleased to congratulate Crs. Rhonda Centofanti, Margaret Evans OAM, Mike Fuller and Andrew Kassebaum on being re-elected for another four year term. The election also welcomed new Elected Members, Crs. Linc Gore, Stephen Lynch, Trevor Scott and David Waterman to Local Government.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge Crs. Trevor Chapple and Michelle Campbell who both resigned for personal reasons prior to the Elections, and Crs. Vicki Beech and Bruce Richardson who did not seek re-election, for the contributions they had given to the Berri Barmera communities over the years.

At our Australia Day event held in Barmera this year, long time Barmera resident and volunteer Barbara Manning was awarded Citizen of the Year and Jess Press - Young Citizen of the Year. Monash and Lone Gum Community Association were awarded Community Event of the Year for their 75th Birthday Celebrations and book launch of "Maestro John Monash: Australia's Greatest Citizen General" with the author the Tim Fisher AC in attendance. The Lions Club of Berri for the Lions Bougainvillea Round-about Project, were awarded the Building a Better Community Award.

A Community Commendation Award was awarded to last years joint Young Citizen of the Year Award Winner Meg Gillespie for her continual efforts within the community in 2014. Mrs. Lynn Hill, founder of Dragon Boat Racing for Survivors of Breast Cancer was our Australia Day Ambassador and helped to present the awards on the day.

Council continues to support the notable events such as the Riverland Country Music Festival, Riverland Field Days, Riverland Wine and Food Festival, Berri Merri Christmas event and Barmera Christmas pageant, just to name a few. Our Community Grants Awards that are given out are always well received and help a large number of organisations in many ways throughout our district.

"The news of Bunnings and Aldi stores within Berri has also created some excitement and hopefully will see both of these ventures come to fruition in the near future".



Being awarded 20 years of service in Local Government at the Local Government Association AGM event in October 2014 by then president David O'Loughlin

In conclusion, I would once again 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 to me during the year.

I would furthermore recommend that to find out more on the operations of your Council, please consider reading through the Annual Report in its entirety.

CEO's Report

The 2014/15 financial year was a great result for a number of reasons. Firstly, an agreement was finally reached with the State Government regarding the sale of land on Riverview Drive, Berri, which has meant the Berri Bowling Club's long awaited move to Glassey Park has commenced. The tender for the new clubroom additions was awarded to local builder Michael Kregar Building Pty Ltd and commenced in February 2015. This will allow the sale of the riverfront allotments to recover the costs of the move. The Berri Bowling Club have invested their funds to build a canopy over the new rinks that will make it a first class facility.

Secondly, detailed planning commenced for the building of a sports stadium at Berri which Council is hoping to receive government support to allow it to be built.

Council has been able to record an operating surplus for the financial year and continues to be aware of the difficulties facing residents and is pursuing a low rate increase regime.

November 2014 saw the Local Government elections held with new Councillors Linc Gore, Trevor Scott, David Waterman and Stephen Lynch elected and a period of intense training undertaken. I would like to record my personal appreciation of the commitments of Vicki Beech, Trevor Chapple, Michelle Campbell and Bruce Richardson in responding to the needs of the community and good governance ethics. Being an elected member of Council, is in my view, community service and those elected show great understanding and empathy of the needs and financial capacity of the region.

We have received mixed messages from the Federal Government with the freeze of the Financial Assistance Grants for three years reducing the Councils income by nearly \$1million over the period but they have forward paid Roads to Recovery allocation of nearly \$500,000 towards upgrading our local roads, which is greatly appreciated.

“Council has been able to record an operating surplus for the financial year and continues to be aware of the difficulties facing residents and is pursuing a low rate increase regime”.



All levels of Government struggle to balance their budgets and it's an achievement for Councils to in by surplus, but more importantly we are focussed on improving the amenity of the community.

The “hard waste” collection this year was successful and I would like to record my appreciation of the community, council staff and charities of Aspitech and Diabetes SA who worked in partnership with Council.

The many positive outcomes that occur in Council operations are brought about by the hard work and dedication of the staff, who continue to provide the community with the support that is within Council's financial capacity.

Alan Bester





Mayor Peter Hunt

PO Box 1326
BERRI SA 5343
Phone 0408821922

July 2014-November 2014
November 2014-June 2015

Committee Membership

Asset Management Committee
Strategic Governance Committee
Berri Town Beautification Committee
Barmera Town Beautification Committee
Audit Committee (ex Officio)
Recreation Facilities Committee
Major Projects Committee (Chair)
Martin Bend Recreation Area Committee
Cemetery Advisory Committee
Strategic Governance and Asset Management Committee
Audit Committee (ex Officio)
Major Projects Committee (Chair)
Berri Town Beautification Committee
Barmera Town Beautification Committee
Community Grant Panel Review

Other

Murray Mallee Local Government Association (Vice President)
LGA of SA—Board Member Vice President
Riverland Local Government Forum
Local Government Finance Authority
SAROC
Murray Mallee Local Government Association (Vice President)
LGA of SA—Board Member Vice President
LGA Executive Committee
Riverland Local Government Forum
Local Government Finance Authority
SAROC



Cr Andrew Kassebaum (Deputy Mayor Nov 2014—Nov 2015)

PO Box 14
GLOSSOP SA 5344
Phone 85837116

July 2014-November 2014
November 2014-June 2015

Committee Membership

Asset Management Committee
Strategic Governance Committee
Audit Committee (Proxy)
Cemetery Advisory Committee
Recreation Facilities Committee
Major Projects Committee
Strategic Governance and Asset Management Committee (Chair)
Audit Committee (proxy)
Major Projects Committee
Martin Bend Recreation Area Committee

Other

Monash and Lone Gum Community Association Inc (Observer)
Murray Darling Association
Riverland Wine and Food Festival Steering Committee
Riverland Local Government NRM Advisory Group
Riverland Local Government Forum
Murray Mallee Local Government Association
SA MDB NRM Board Member, Local Government representative
Monash and Lone Gum Community Association Inc (Observer)
Murray Darling Association
Riverland Wine and Food Festival Steering Committee
Riverland Local Government NRM Advisory Group
Riverland Local Government Forum
Murray Mallee Local Government Association
Riverland Cat Management Forum
Queensland Fruit Fly Steering Committee



Cr Rhonda Centofanti

PO Box 182
WINKIE SA 5343
Phone 85837216

July 2014-November 2014
November 2014-June 2015

Committee Membership

Asset Management Committee
Strategic Governance Committee
Berri Town Beautification Committee
Cemetery Advisory Committee
Recreation Facilities Committee
Barmera Town Beautification Committee
Major Projects Committee
Martin Bend Recreation Area Committee
Signage Committee
Community Grant Panel Review
Strategic Governance and Asset Management Committee
Barmera Town Beautification Committee
Major Projects Committee
Martin Bend Recreation Area Committee
Signage Committee
Community Grant Panel Review
Berri Town Beautification Committee
Cemetery Advisory Committee

Other

Riverland Regional Development Assessment Panel
Upper Murray Garden Of Memory (Cemetery) Committee (Observer)
Riverland Regional Development Assessment Panel
Upper Murray Garden Of Memory (Cemetery) Committee (Observer)
RMMAC
The Ruby Hunter Memorial,
No:ri Committee





Cr Margaret Evans

2/1 McGilton Road
BERRI SA 5343
Phone 85821764

July 2014-November 2014
November 2014-June 2015

Committee Membership

Asset Management Committee
Strategic Governance Committee
Cemetery Advisory Committee
Berri Town Beautification Committee
Recreation Facilities Committee
Strategic Governance and Asset Management Committee
Cemetery Advisory Committee
Berri Town Beautification Committee
Community Grant Panel Review

Other

Berri Barmera HAC (Observer)
Berri Barmera HAC (Observer)
RMMAC
The Ruby Hunter Memorial, No:ri Committee



Cr Mike Fuller

54 Nookamka Terrace
BARMERA SA 5345
Phone 85881130

July 2014-November 2014
November 2014-June 2015

Committee Membership

Asset Management Committee
Strategic Governance Committee
Barmera Town Beautification Committee
Audit Committee
Recreation Facilities Committee
Audit Committee
Strategic Governance and Asset Management Committee
Barmera Town Beautification Committee

Other

Riverland Community Transport Advisory Scheme Committee
Barmera District War Memorial Community Centre (Observer)
Murray Darling Association
Riverland Community Transport Advisory Scheme Committee



Cr Linc Gore *(Elected Nov 2014)*

36 Derrick Street
BERRI SA 5343
Phone 8582 1118

Committee Membership

Audit Committee
Strategic Governance and Asset Management Committee
Major Projects Committee
Martin Bend Recreation Area Committee

Other

Cobdogla Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee (Observer)
Berri Barmera Local Action Planning
Riverland Natural Resources Management Group





Cr Trevor Scott
(Elected Nov 2014)

7 Cooper Street
BERRI SA 5343
Phone 0409 588 568

Committee Membership

Strategic Governance and Asset Management Committee
Major Projects Committee
Berri Town Beautification Committee (Chair)
Martin Bend Recreation Area Committee

Other

Business Riverland (Observer)



Cr Stephen Lynch
(Elected Nov 2014)

PO Box 530
LOVEDAY SA 5345
Phone 8588 7384

Committee Membership

Strategic Governance and Asset Management Committee
Major Projects Committee
Cemetery Advisory Committee
Barmera Town Beautification Committee (Chair)
Community Grant Panel Review

Other

Barmera District War Memorial Community Centre
(Observer)



Cr David Waterman
(Elected Nov 2014)

6/41 Queen Elizabeth Drive
BARMERA SA 5345
Phone 8588 1177

Committee Membership

Strategic Governance and Asset Management Committee
Audit Committee
Barmera Town Beautification Committee





Cr Vicki Beech
Deputy Mayor Nov 2013—Nov 2014
Term expired November 2014

Cr Trevor Chapple
(resigned 13/6/2014)

Cr Bruce Richardson
Term expired November 2014

Cr Michelle Campbell
(resigned 11/8/2014)

PO Box 173
 BERRI SA 5343

PO Box 567
 BERRI SA 5343

PO Box 509
 BERRI SA 5343

23 Powell Street
 BERRI SA 5343

Committee Membership

Asset Management Committee
 Strategic Governance Committee (Chair)
 Berri Town Beautification Committee
 YACU (Youth and Council Unite) Committee
 Recreation Facilities Committee
 Barmera Town Beautification Committee
 Community Grant Panel Review

Committee Membership

Asset Management Committee
 Strategic Governance Committee
 Audit Committee
 Berri Town Beautification Committee
 Recreation Facilities Committee
 Barmera Town Beautification Committee
 Major Projects Committee
 Martin Bend Recreation Area Committee

Committee Membership

Asset Management Committee (Chairman)
 Strategic Governance Committee
 Audit Committee
 Recreation Facilities Committee
 Major Projects Committee

Committee Membership

Asset Management Committee
 Strategic Governance Committee
 YACU (Youth and Council Unite)
 Recreation Facilities Committee
 Martin Bend Recreation Area Committee
 (Chair)

Other

Riverland Local Government Forum
 MMLGA

Other

Business Riverland (Observer)

Other

Riverland Regional Waste Management
 Strategy Committee
 Riverland Recreation and Sport “Be Active”
 Steering Committee
 Berri Barmera Local Action Planning
 Riverland Local Government NRM Advisory
 Group



Community Services



Department Operations and Structure Outline

Berri Visitor Information Centre

Riverland Community Transport

Community Development

Community Organisation Support

Electronic Communications

Council Events

Library Services

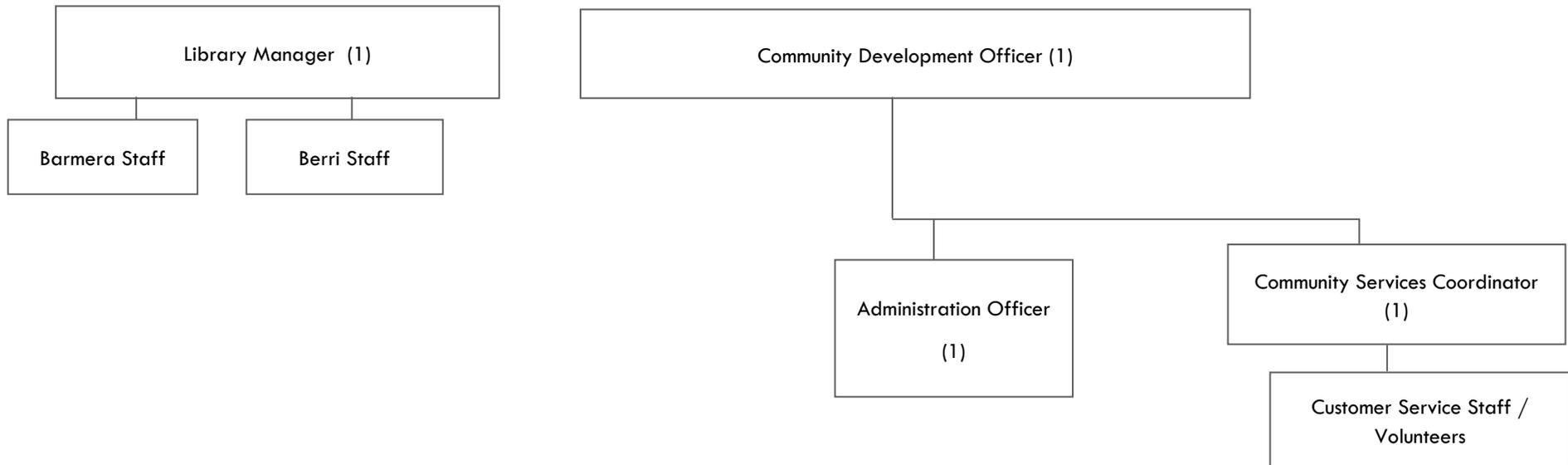


D EPARTMENT OPERATIONS AND STRUCTURE OUTLINE

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

- Community Grants
- Tourism
- Library
- Community Transport
- Culture and Heritage
- Community/Social Development
- Sport & Recreation Development
- Community News and Information

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



BERRI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

The Berri Visitor Information Centre (VIC) is situated on the riverfront, with over 25, 000 visitors through the door annually. The VIC is a popular first-stop for travellers on their trip to the Riverland.

A primary goal of any VIC is to not only provide information to visitors, but to generate unintended spend by visitors in the community. This means that for each person that comes through the facilities doors, the aim is to encourage them to spend more, stay longer, come back and tell their friends. The enthusiastic staff go that bit further by telling the stories of the local district, it's people, producers and tourism operators, allowing customers a detailed insight into the region. This ensures people visiting the region leave feeling as though they know and love the area, rather than simply visited it.

The Berri VIC plays a strong leadership role in the Riverland tourism industry, advocating for positive change for tourism operators, VICs and the region. This means working closely with the four Riverland VICs, three Riverland Councils, Destination Riverland, SA Tourism Commission and SA Tourism Industry Council. These close partnerships strengthen the region's representation at all levels, and provide valuable insight to stakeholders about current trends.

OUR ECONOMY—Objective 5:

We will promote and support tourism to increase economic activity and increase employment density in the region.

Souvenirs and Sales

The strong tourism foot traffic provides the Berri Visitor Information Centre with an opportunity for gift sales; in fact many tourists expect it. By choice, Council has committed to a 'buy local' focus, steering away from typical souvenir products available cheaply from overseas. The target has been to support local producers and creators, and by introducing the customer to the people behind the products; telling how the product came to be, being able to use the opportunity to then direct visitors to other shop fronts, markets and cellar doors. The VIC now stocks one of the most diverse ranges of local products available in the region, and are constantly working directly with locals to ensure their products are customer-ready.

Locally made food products include jams, sauces, dried fruit, nuts, chocolate treats, honey, mettwurst, olive oil, bush tucker and 'arts & crafts' like brooches, jewellery, cards and cheese boards. Each of the suppliers is proud to say that the Berri VIC retails their products which provides many with an opportunity for a shop front they otherwise wouldn't have had.

After a staged implementation of the 'Buy local' strategy, the VIC are now in a position of boasting more than 160 local products on the shelves (95% of all stock), provided by over 60 local suppliers (93%). This is an immense shift from six local products and three local suppliers in 2011. This commitment has been received very well by local residents and visitors alike, as evidenced by an increased turn over.

In addition to these local gift products, the centre also provide sales of transport tickets, cruises and community events, becoming a true community hub for visitors and locals alike.

OUR ECONOMY - Objective 4:

We will support local businesses and towns to work together to increase their profitability and opportunity because resources are limited and we need to maximise our return.

Communication and collaboration

Staff continue to collaborate extensively with regional projects, with other Riverland VICs, Destination Riverland as well as SATC, SATIC and Discover Murray. In particular, staff at the VIC, in collaboration with Destination Riverland, have been guiding the development of a regional event management system which will enable better online distribution of community event information. The centralised event database will feed data to multiple distribution channels (regional, Council & town websites, as well as hard copy guides).



visitors through
the door annually

The Visitor Information Centre's Facebook page continues to grow with over 1,200 friends, including a cross section of local residents, businesses and organisations. This social media page allows followers to be kept up to date with not only 'what's on' but also provides an opportunity for local operators and producers to further promote their events and activities.

OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL - Objective 6:

We will promote and support special events and multi-cultural festivals that bring the community together.

Visitor Numbers

Visitor numbers have continued to improve after the lower visitations associated with the years of drought, then adverse media regarding high river and also the side affects of the global financial crisis. A new door counter installed in early 2015, is assisting in the gathering of statistics and is already suggesting that the numbers through the doors are, in fact, higher than previously collated statistics suggest. The staff team will continue to improve the information collection processes to assist in what information and distribution methods can be used to further increase visitors to our district.



BERRI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE STATISTICS

Visitor Numbers	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015
Local Visitors	3480	4806	7529
Intrastate Visitors	1803	5486	6921
Interstate Visitors	1873	2818	3476
Overseas Visitors	394	686	1254
Unknown Origin Visitors	8441	5064	8095
Bus Enquiries	2864	1275	2183
TOTAL VISITORS	18,855	20,135	29,458
Information Requested	2012-2013	2013-2014	2013-2014
Directions/Maps	2982	3121	4761
Attractions	1715	3548	4655
Cruises/Tours	557	720	1219
Food Outlets	502	350	348
Restaurants/Café's	355	362	357
Shops	375	742	682
Accommodation Enquiries	1356	768	961
Camping	245	358	422
Events	527	755	897
National Parks	265	548	555
Souvenirs	2766	3424	5705
Just Looking	2683	2459	2866
Detail not gathered	4527	2980	6130
TOTAL	18,855	20,135	29,458

RIVERLAND COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Riverland Community Transport (RCT) 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 transport options available in the region, including commercial operators such as Taxi Services and Bus operators (Link SA, 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.

OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL - Objective 10:

We support the development of a public and community transport system for our community.

For many residents, finding suitable solutions to their transport issues is simply being educated towards adjusting appointment times to bus timetables, or choosing services that are closer to home. In most cases, private or commercial transport options can meet the requirements of most Riverlanders, although some community members may not always have the ability to access these options. Riverland Community Transport may, in some instances, be able to provide an increased level of service via brokerage or access to volunteer driven vehicles to ensure that the frail or highly isolated residents can still get to important appointments and other priority activities.

Over 780 individuals accessed the services of the Riverland Community Transport Scheme in 2014/15, the origins of these clients are, in general, evenly shared amongst the three Councils. Of these individuals, just over 400 clients were provided direct transport assistance; these are summarized in the table adjacent. The Scheme relies on the generosity of some 15 volunteers who provided just under 6,000 hours this year towards transporting clients between Riverland towns and also to Adelaide. There are four Council owned vehicles and a partnership Community Bus servicing the local area. Collectively these vehicles travelled over 190,000km for the year and provided over 3,400 client trips.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICE SUMMARY 2014/2015

Local Riverland Assistance	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015
Individuals Assisted	259	208	125
Passenger Trips provided	4,406	2,521	1,629
Volunteer Hours	3,420hrs	2,088hrs	1,910hrs
Kilometres travelled	127,431km	86,763km	65,908kms
Clients referred to Public Services	259	444	363
Adelaide Transport Assistance	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Individuals Assisted	332	309	295
Passenger Trips provided	1,660	1,573	1,571
Volunteer Hours	4,416 hrs	4,268hrs	3,956hrs
Kilometres travelled	134,560km	124,677km	127,625km

Every community transport trip would not be viable without the contributions 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. Most of the Community Transport Schemes services are delivered under a funding contract, providing Home and Community Care funds towards the operational costs, through the State Government's Departments of Communities and Social Inclusion and Public Transport Services. Renmark Paringa Council and District Council Loxton Waikerie also provide funding to support the service.

Council continues to advocate to a number of state and local agencies to ensure that improved transport services are developed. This includes increasing the use of public services for agency clients who have the capacity to access these services and for agencies that have significant resources to better use their fleets to increase transport options to all residents of the Riverland.



Thank you for Volunteering

A number of community services provided by the Berri Barmera Council rely heavily on volunteers from the community. These volunteers work in library, history, tourism and transport services, as well as a number in community/ Council committees. The hours contributed by our volunteers are significant, and Council sincerely thanks each of these individuals for their commitment. This year's volunteer Christmas get together was held at Rocky's Hall of Fame, Barmera. The weather was perfect for this thank you function which provided an opportunity for volunteers, staff and Elected Members to get together and share stories and enjoy being a part of the generous Berri Barmera community.

As part of State Volunteers Day celebrations a number of certificates were awarded to volunteers recognising their years of service. In particular Mr Ken Schwarz, a volunteer driver, was presented with an award for 15 years of service.

National Youth Week

Berri Barmera Council was involved in two events during National Youth Week. Working in partnership with Business Riverland, a Young Professionals network event saw over 40 individuals attend the Berri Visitor Information Centre to listen to guest speakers and provide feedback as to the needs of young business people in the district.

Over 80 community members attended a free skateboarding workshop and demonstration event hosted by Headspace Berri and the Berri Barmera Council at the Barmera Skate park

Members of the Australian Skateboarding Community Initiative travelled from Adelaide to encourage local young people to come out and try skateboarding and learn new skills. For many this was the first time they had ever jumped on a skateboard, most picking up the skill with ease and amazing themselves and spectators.



(Above) Mr Ken Schwarz receiving his award recognising 15 years of service as a volunteer driver for Riverland Community Transport, presented by Mayor Hunt at the State Volunteers Day celebrations .

(Middle Left) National Youth Week Skateboarding event hosted by Headspace and Berri Barmera Council at Barmera Skate Park.

(Left) Young Professionals Network event held as a part of National Youth Week.



Youth Development

Berri Barmera Council continues to be represented on the Riverland Innovative Community Action Network (RICAN) - management committee, which provides local leadership to support vulnerable young people to address barriers and re-engage into learning and earning pathways.

In August 2014, the committee in partnership with the Education Department and Berri Barmera Council brought Community Development Facilitator, Peter Kenyon to the Berri Barmera district to facilitate four workshops. The RICAN events included the 'Leading Community Connections' workshop which was attended by a large number of community leaders, principals and school leadership staff.

The committee has been actively involved and supported a number of community partnership programs:

- the "Right to Drive" program, to assist disadvantaged young people to get their licence through mentors offering to assist them to achieve their driving hours needed to gain a Licence.
- The Glossop Skills Hub is now managed by Finding Workable solutions and offering practical skills development for both young people and adult job seekers.
- Riverland Education and Accommodation Program – a program attempting to reduce youth homelessness.
- Home Reconnect - a program to reconnect young people with their families to stay at home if it is safe to do so.
- Binge on Art - workshops to create awareness on the impact that binge drinking has on individuals, families and communities through art.
- Coming to Life – a program to strengthen social and emotional wellbeing and learning outcomes through the arts.



NAIDOC Week Colouring in Competition is a national competition for students in R-2 as a part of the NAIDOC celebrations held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Held right at the beginning of the 2014 – 2015 year the Berri Barmera Council collaborated with the national program to collect 64 local entries in our Council district and display them publicly in the Berri Town Hall for the duration of NAIDOC Week.

As recognition of community participation the entries were judged locally based on colouring skill and creativity. The winners and runner up in each category were awarded a certificate. All entries were submitted into the national competition.



COMMUNITY ORGANISATION SUPPORT

Supporting our Community to Build a Better Community

Community groups undertake a significant contribution to the communities quality of life, committing hours of volunteer time in providing activities, projects and events for residents of our district. Council is often able to value add to this contribution by providing varied levels of support. Whether it's through project partnership agreements, community grant applications or operational contributions, Council's support may consist 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 contribution many of these services would not be viable. Some of these include Rocky's Hall of Fame, Barmera Recreation Centre, Berri District Swimming Pool and most recreation and sports grounds in the district. A number of organisations also gain supplementary funding through Council for their operations, including Regional Development Australia, Destination Riverland, Riverland Youth Theatre, Foodbank and 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 that these activities return into the community in both economic and social impact.

OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL - Objective 5:

We will reward groups that have a strong self help culture to work in partnership to maximise the benefit from limited funds.

OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL - Objective 6:

We will promote and support special events and multi-cultural festivals that bring the community together.

OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL - Objective 9:

We will provide high quality facilities, services and attractions because it will entice tourists to our region and provide employment locally.



The following organisations and projects were amongst those to receive direct support through the Community Grants Program and event services in 2014/2015

ORGANISATION	ACTIVITY/EVENT	CASH	IN-KIND
Families SA	Christmas Party for foster kids	\$100	
Rotary Club of Berri	Riverland and Mallee Apprentice Awards	\$250	
Business Riverland	Berri Easter Carnival	\$400	\$1,200
Monash Anglican Church	Building renovations	\$4000	
Barmera Lake Bonney Quilters	Purchase of equipment	\$500	
SSAA Barmera Pistol and Rifle Club	Construction of an all weather, wheelchair friendly pistol range	\$4,000	
Adelaide Triathlon Club	Murray Man Triathlon Festival	\$1,000	\$6,800
Berri Barmera Ministers Association Inc	Carols by the River at Berri	\$1,500	\$50
Barmera Live Action Group	Barmera Christmas Pageant	\$1,500	\$1,000
Lone Gum and Monash Community Association	Kitchen upgrade of the Monash Hall	\$4,000	
Barmera District War Memorial Community Centre	Barmera Twilight Markets and movie night	\$1,000	\$800
Youth Sport and Cultural Sponsorships	Donations to various individuals to attend representative activities	\$300	
Riverland Brass Inc	Operational support (rates, water, electricity etc)	\$1,250	
Cobdogla Steam Museum	Storage Shed extension	\$4,000	
Norwood Cycling Club Inc.	41st Tour of the Riverland	\$1,500	\$1,500
Barmera Sheep Dog Trial	Running of the Sheep & Barmera Sheep Dog Trial	\$1,500	\$550
Berri District Business Association	Berri Merri Christmas	\$1,500	\$1,000
Berri Rowing Club	Clubhouse cladding and security upgrade	\$2,000	
Undercover Quilters	Riverland club establishment costs	\$500	
Riverland Gem and Mineral Club	Annual Gem and Mineral Show	\$500	
Berri Playgroup	Equipment support	\$400	
SA Carp Frenzy	SA Carp Frenzy event	\$1,500	
Riverland Softball Association	Riverland Masters Carnival	\$500	
Riverland Youth Theatre	Riverland Youth Theatre activities	\$5,000	
Tennis SA	Riverland Tennis Futures Junior Tournament	\$2,500	
Riverland Country Music Club Inc	Country Music Festival and Awards	\$5,000	\$1,700
Riverland Wine and Food Festival	Riverland Wine and Food Festival	\$7,500	\$5,033
NAIDOC Week Committee	Riverland NAIDOC week 2014	\$750	\$600
Lifestyle Assistance and Accommodation Services	International Day of People with a Disability event	\$550	\$300
Relay for Life Committee	Riverland Relay for Life		\$300
Riverland Triathlon Club	Training and club promotion, event support	\$2,500	\$6,100
Puctum Arts	Community Arts Project		\$1000
Riverstock Committee	Establish a transport service to future events	\$1,000	
RSL	Remembrance Day		\$300
Glossop High School	Prom		\$400
Bruno Bay Committee	Bruno Bay Fireworks Event		\$250
Monash Primary School	Mammoth Monash Markets		\$250



In 2014/2015 Council continued to focus on improvements to Council's on-line communications presence. It is recognised that whilst social media and internet services may not be accessible to our entire community, a significant portion of the community use online services to seek up to the minute information on a range of topics.

Website

The Latest News section on the website's front page has been improved to include Community News items as well as Council information. An improved frequency of articles published to Latest News has been maintained at an average of two stories per week. The 'What's On' page also maintains a strong list of Community events and links to the Destination Riverland regional events guide. Investigations have also started to support continued improvements in fact sheet development, tourism information access and ease of navigation throughout the website.

Smart Phone App

Council has continued to work closely with the Local Government Association (SA) to ensure that event lists, what's nearby, rubbish bin notifications and a 'report it' functions are available on a smart device app called 'My Local Services'. This App is available to residents and visitors alike and can be downloaded from both Google Play and the Apple App Stores.

Social Media

Adding to the existing social media pages of the Council, Berri Visitor Information Centre, Berri Library and Information Centre and Barmera Library, Council has now established a Facebook page for Lost and Found Pets. The following of this page is growing rapidly and it has been instrumental in the quick reuniting of a number of dogs with their owners. Each of these Council social media sites will continue to grow from the current of over 2,500 followers, and are now recognised as good sources of latest news, notifications and event information by many in the community.

E- Newsletter

The Council E-newsletter 'Community and Council Connect' is now being released monthly and has a small but active database of locals receiving the email distribution. You can subscribe via the News tab on Councils website or type in www.berribarmera.sa.gov.au/connect

Australia Day 2015

Set on the lakefront in Barmera, the 2015 Australia Day celebration was again launched with the annual community walk at dawn. Led by volunteers from the Heart Foundation walking group, 60 participants braved the early start. The three kilometre walk embraces all that the lakeside environment has to offer, acting as a peaceful backdrop as the walkers welcomed the day with a stroll.

Over 200 residents enjoyed the free breakfast, with pancakes, bacon and eggs cooked by members from the Barmera Lions Club, Elected Members and Council staff who had all volunteered their time. The backdrop of the lake made for a great setting for the entertainment from Sing Australia Riverland and Eric Cook, the flag raising by the Barmera Guides and official speeches and ceremonies. We were lucky to again be joined by an official Australia Day Ambassador; Lynn Hill, Founder of Dragon Boat Racing for Survivors of Breast Cancer (South Australia), a Rotarian, and an active promoter of ovarian cancer awareness. Lynn has also won the COTA Every Generation Award in 2009 and 2012 for promoting involvement in physical activity for the over 50's.



Australia Day

OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL - Objective 6:

We will promote and support special events and multi-cultural festivals that bring the community together.

OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL - Objective 8:

We will be "Young Family Friendly" with areas and events that support community involvement to make it easier for families to move and stay in the region.





**Citizen of the Year -
Barbara Manning**

Barbara was born in Barmera, where she has lived all her life and has continued to contribute to the Barmera Community. For over 30 years, Barbara has been involved with the Barmera Chamber of Commerce (now Barmera Live Action Group), raising funds towards the Barmera Christmas Pageant and fireworks. Her long-term dedication and volunteer service to various clubs and committees also includes the Barmera Theatre Gallery; assisting with the operational services for at least 15 years, an active member of the Bonney Lodge Auxiliary Fundraising Committee, and a former member of the Barmera Monash Football Club Ladies Auxiliary; providing catering and also raising funds for the club.

**Young Citizen of the Year –
Jess Press**

Jess is actively involved in her school and community, and has demonstrated strong leadership skills. She was a peer support leader, House Captain, a member of the Student Representative Council and Year 12 Prefect during her time as a student. She also represented Glossop High School in various sporting and team events including swimming, athletics, cross country, volleyball, netball and debate team. Her community involvement includes mentoring junior netball teams, coaching and umpiring within the Barmera Netball Club, and her volunteer contributions to the Relay for Life, Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea, ANZAC Day Dawn service, Remembrance Day, Dance for Cancer and Barmera Sheep Dog Trials. Jess was awarded the Lions Youth of the Year awards (Club and Regional winner and District finalist) also winning the public speaking award at all three levels.

**Community Event of the Year –
Monash Memorial Hall 75th Anniversary
Celebrations**

The Monash and Lone Gum Community Association has contributed significant effort and time into maintaining the Monash Memorial Hall as one of the best hall facilities in our district. This commitment was again evident as they planned the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Monash Memorial Hall, inclusive of the book launch of “Maestro John Monash: Australia’s Greatest Citizen General” with author Tim Fischer AC in attendance. The event was well attended and visitors from far and wide shared in the memories of many events and activities held in the hall over the previous 75 years.

**Building a Better Community
Award - Berri Lions Bougainvillea
Roundabout Project**

The Lions Bougainvillea Roundabout project was a gift to the community as a way to celebrate the Centenary of Berri. The Berri Lions Club has proudly served our community with a desire to make the community better, by using their creativity, enthusiasm and energy. This project was a dream of Lions member, the late Terry Kearney and his wife Dawn, who were inspired and impressed with several bougainvillea structures at the Smithsonian Institute while on a holiday in Los Angeles. The roundabout provides a beautiful entrance to the township and features a tall iron bower, which is planted with bougainvillea and surrounded by a swirling pattern of ‘statice’ and ‘tanikas’; it is a work of art that will be enjoyed for many years to come.

LIBRARY SERVICES

The 2014/15 year has been one of challenge and change for our libraries. Both libraries have strived to promote their library to the people of the Riverland in various ways and we have celebrated our regular events such as Library and Information Week and Book Week. Our Children's Activity Programmes have continued in school holidays as well as term time and we have taken the opportunity of adding new events which have brought additional people into our libraries. The Berri Library and Information Centre launched the Baby Rhyme Time programme and our library has become a meeting place for the University of the 3rd Age workshop sessions in Berri. At the Barmera Library and Customer Service Centre an additional Baby Rhyme Time session has been added. We are pleased with the new look created internally in both libraries with new carpet and painting of walls. The Berri Library and Information Centre has made some room modifications to meet the changing needs of our customers and to allow for the expansion of our local history collection.

At the end of 2014 TAFE SA withdrew from the Berri Joint Use Library Agreement after 15 years. The withdrawal was one of the outcomes of an internal review of library services at all campuses. The remaining partners (Glossop High School Senior Campus and Berri Barmera Council) have chosen to continue the arrangement to share the cost of providing staff and services. The withdrawal of TAFE SA has resulted in some changes to our resources, services and staffing levels and it has been a challenge maintaining previous service levels.

We continue to attend training workshops and make observations at other libraries in order to keep abreast of current ideas and innovations that will improve the experiences of our library patrons. In 2014 SA Public Library Services began planning another huge project that follows on from the recently completed statewide One Card system. The RFID project will see the introduction of RFID (Radio Frequency ID) in all South Australian public libraries by mid 2017. RFID tags will be added to all library items, and with the introduction of additional equipment, will bring a range of benefits, including allowing customers to self-serve and providing staff with the ability to stock take library collections in hours, rather than days!

Library & Information Week - 25th to 31st May

The Berri Library & Information Centre ran a number of special activities for Australian Library and Information Week, including National Simultaneous Storytime with the Riverland Special School, a vote for your favourite author and book displays and a great mini book sale, with all items selling for discount prices.

Barmera Library used the 'Imagine' theme for Library and Information Week to encourage all library visitors to use their imaginations, dress up and have their pictures taken at a free photo booth. Adults and children took part and lots of great pictures were taken during this fun activity. Our celebrations also included a week long backyard book sale of donated and debited books, a promotion pairing books for loan with their matching DVDs and a competition for all who borrowed from our Library Week display.

Berri Library Orientation Sessions

Organisations from around the Riverland continue to take advantage of the wide range of resources and services provided by the Berri Library & Information Centre. During the last year, library staff have conducted a number of tailored library orientation sessions for groups like Young Mums, the Headspace Mothers group, Berri Primary School Special Education class, Relationships Australia, "Reach for the Stars", 123 Me! a self-help group organised by the RDA as well as the Riverland Support To Achieve group.

Barmera Library Special Events

St Patrick's Day in March saw 23 Barmera Primary school years 3 and 4 students visiting the library to learn about Ireland, and the history behind St Patrick's Day. They had fun learning and made some great leprechaun hats at the same time.



Brothers Seth and Kale having fun in the Photo Booth at Barmera

OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL-Objective 6:

We will promote and support Special Events and multi-cultural festivals that bring the community together.



Children and carers making a cute mouse at Berri during Library Week



The Bush Poetry afternoon at Barmera Library was the biggest and best yet! For the second year our event was included in the Official Country Music Festival program in June and attracted a huge crowd of 75 people. Award winning poet Bob Magor was our special guest again this year, with talented poet and author Jill Wherry MC for the afternoon. Local sound technician Lance Gum set up and donated the use of the sound equipment so the poets' voices could be easily heard reciting the original, traditional, and contemporary poetry. Afternoon tea afterwards was a great opportunity for catching up with old friends and for making new ones.



Berri Library staff get into the spirit of the Barmera Country Music Festival (at Berri)

Author events at Barmera Library

We were lucky to have two very different authors donate their time to come to Barmera Library over the past year, one in December and one in May. The first to visit was Australian born author Carrie Lock, who has been living in India since 2006. Carrie is foundress of a contemplative ashram and has led a fascinating life. Carrie spoke about her Indian experiences, her time spent with tsunami survivors in Sri Lanka, her connection to Aboriginal spirituality and her research into Mary MacKillop.



Elizabeth Lewis, Carrie Lock and Councillor Margaret Evans with one of Carrie's books.

The second author to visit was South Australian author Tricia Stringer, who came to Barmera Library during her tour of regional South Australia and New South Wales. Tricia is a writer of popular Rural Romance books, the fastest growing genre in Australia today. Tricia read a chapter from her newest book, the first in a new historical romance series set in early Australia. Around 26 people attended and helped launch this new book. Tricia described the extensive research she carries out for each book which has enabled her to become an award winning author. Tea, coffee, conversation and delicious Barmera Bakery scones concluded the very successful event.

Riverland Field Days in September traditionally has been an important way for libraries in the Riverland to join forces and promote our services to the community. Berri Barmera Library Services staff members Peter Ison, Jacque Zagotsis, Jodie Bannear and Peg Germein joined in a roster of Library staff from other Riverland libraries at the Field Days promoting Council services and libraries as part of the 'Kids Corner' group. This year was the first year that the Field Days have been held on Friday and Saturday and the number of children who visited Barmera and Berri's Library craft activities in the children's tent was up on past years, especially on Saturday morning when around 30 children and 15 adults stopped by to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the Field Day to read books and take part in crafty activities.

Library Lover's Day was celebrated in early February around the same time as Valentine's Day and we used the promotion to 'share the library love' with some romantic displays and a free raffle. 170 library borrowers took part in our competition to guess the combined number of pages in a book pack to win the prize of assorted new books.



Jodie Bannear, Sue Webber and Peg Germein during Library Lovers Week.



Library Promotional Activities

The Berri Barmera Library Service has continued to utilise a multi-faceted approach to the promotion of services and events. The weekly ABC radio program "A Novel Idea" is a valuable promotional tool with Peter Ison and Maureen Spiers participating from Berri and Di Tillet from Barmera. Newsletters, the **BLIC Blurb** (Berri Library) and **The Barmera Book Worm** (Barmera Library) have been used over the year to share information and communicate news of coming events. Barmera Library has also made use of Monthly New Book Lists and Website page updates to keep library borrowers informed. The relatively recent introduction of library Facebook pages allows us to connect with a different audience and constantly changing displays within our libraries also attract the attention of customers.

OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL-Objective 5:

We will reward groups that have a strong self-help culture to work in partnership to maximise the benefit from limited funds.

University of the 3rd Age Riverland

During the latter half of 2014 a public meeting of interested participants was held at the Berri Town Hall, where a decision was reached to launch a University of the 3rd Age in the Riverland. The Berri Library and Information Centre has proved to be a suitable venue for many of the sessions offered in Berri and library staff assisted Di March in preparing for her Snapfish sessions which commenced in February 2015 at the Berri Library.

Information Sessions

The Berri Library & Information Centre has continued to offer free information sessions. Library staff offered workshops on the following IT based topics: Email, iPads and Android Tablets, Advanced eBay Selling, Introduction to iPad Tablets and Basic IT Q&A. In 2015 a series of five workshops were offered on buying a tablet and what tablet is right for you, which looked at the positives and negatives of Android, Apple and Window tablets.

In 2014 visiting presenters conducted sessions on the following: Digital Photography (Daniel Schmidt, ABC Open), Beading and Jewellery (Gabby Traforti), Gardening (John Menzel), Astrology (Cathy Schier), Being Bushfire Ready (Sue Mickan, CFS) and Toddlers, Tantrums & Triumphs (Val Fewster). These sessions were all well attended and we are very appreciative of the presenters for sharing their expertise with the interested participants.



Library Manager, Peter Ison presenting a Buying a Tablet Session at Berri Senior Citizens

Volunteers

Our volunteers have continued to make a valuable contribution. At Berri we have been fortunate to have the assistance of the following; Sarah Plush (Baby Rhyme Time), Jenny Duggin (local history), Jigna Patel (resources processing), Rob Lehmann (local history) and Leanne Quayle (resource processing).

At Barmera Library the following people have provided assistance; Melanie Alder (Baby Rhyme Time Co-ordinator), Robyne Ridgeway, Gale Fiebig and Terri Fowles (computer and iPad lessons for beginners), Di Tillet (readers' book group and ABC Radio "A Novel Idea"), Joan Heinicke (resource processing and maintenance) and Virginia Mahoney (processing, shelving and special projects). Volunteers from the Community Transport team, transport resources between Berri and Barmera Libraries.

Staff members have also attended a number of Council functions where volunteer contributions have been recognised. Merridy Rady and Peter Ison along with Jigna Patel attended the volunteer Christmas gathering and thank you party at Rocky's Hall of Fame. Peggy Germein and Peter Ison attended the Council volunteers Thank You afternoon Devonshire tea in the Len Mahoney room during June 2015.

Partnership with Barmera Kindergarten

This successful partnership has been ongoing since around 2006 with the Kindergarten children and teachers visiting the Barmera library on a weekly basis and library staff calling in to the Barmera Kindergarten once a week to read a story to the children. The Barmera Kindergarten donated some craft materials for library use, and staff work in with the Kindergarten's activities and term topics whenever possible. The Kindergarten children benefit by getting to know library staff, know what the library service offers, and are more confident with books and reading when they start school.



Other Barmera Library partnerships

Our partnership with local business, committees, charities, op-shops and the Barmera Men's shed group have been an important part of our library year. Barmera Men's shed made us a beautiful puppet theatre for our children's activities, and Barmera Newsagency supplied us with gifts and lucky dips for children. The two local opportunity shops loaned materials and props for our different displays. Chaffey Theatre provided free movie tickets for us to use as prizes in our holiday activities.

Library staff value this community help and try to be involved with local charities and promote events like the Cancer council "paint the town purple", Relay for Life promotion, the SA Living Artists festival (SALA) in August and travelling exhibition 'Century of Red Cross' display. Many individuals and community groups use the library as a friendly meeting place and the Barmera Beautification Meetings held at the library bi-monthly are just one example.

Lions International Peace Poster Contest entries were displayed at Barmera Library in October for the third year running. Our walls came alive with colour in October as we once again displayed entries from Grade 6 and 7 Riverland school students in the 'Lions International Peace Poster Contest'. Around the world at the same time, 350,000 young artists from over 70 countries were also taking part in this competition. The 50 posters made a beautiful display for library customers to see and enjoy.



Lions International Peace Posters on display at Barmera Library



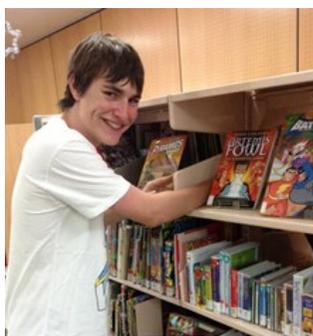
Poster by Cobdogla School student Cameron Kuchel

OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL-Objective 7:

We will engage the youth at their level to understand their views to build opportunities for retention and increased community involvement.

Barmera Library Work Experience

In February and March, Glossop High School students Matt Sly and Brayden LeGassick volunteered at the library as part of the Glossop High School Community Service Program. Both Matt and Brayden were very keen to use the experience to learn more about what it means to work in a Public Library.



GHS students Matt Sly (left) and Brayden LeGassick (right) at Barmera Library

Summer reading Club at Barmera

Our Summer Reading Club which encourages reading over the summer holiday break, was such a success this year that it was continued until the end of February, instead of finishing when school started again at the end of January as we usually do. The theme was **Choose Your Own Adventure** and over 100 packs containing bookmarks, reading logs and small gifts donated by Barmera Newsagency were given away to children. When the children had read 10 or more library books, they were given a certificate and an additional small prize. Around 30 children completed the task of reading 10 library books over the holidays which was a great achievement.



Samira Roissetter with her SRC certificate



Cody and Emily Thompson with SRC books. Emily won the prize for reading the most books over the holidays.



Glossop High School-Senior Campus Activities

Berri Library & Information Centre staff members Maureen Spiers and Susanne Fisher continued to provide support to the teachers and students of Glossop High School Senior Campus especially in relation to the Research Project, a compulsory Stage 2 SACE subject. Maureen Spiers along with Glossop High School teachers Claire Long and Kristina Kalkstein accompanied a large group of interested Year 11 students to attend the Research Project Expo held at the Wayville Showgrounds. Students gained much useful information for next year by visiting stalls manned by current Year 12 students as well as those from business and government sectors.

Year 12 students also attended a Research Project Workshop at the Berri Library & Information Centre at the end of the 2014 school year. This was presented by School Services Librarian Maureen Spiers. The workshop detailed how the library could assist students with their research in 2015 and tips and techniques in relation to searching the library catalogue -Enterprise and also the e-Library database were demonstrated.

During the first semester in 2015 Year 11 students undertook a Library Orientation Program to make them aware of what the library has to offer and to also assist them to approach tasks within the library more confidently and independently.

An Educational Bookseller, Andrew Pierson from Lighthouse Books and Office Supplies was organised to visit the school during first semester, and teachers were able to purchase new Teacher Reference material. Library staff continue to provide up to date resources on current topics to add to the collection in order to meet the research needs of the students of the Glossop High School Senior Campus.

Renaë Rapson a Year 10 student from Glossop High School Middle Campus chose the Berri Library to carry out the Work Experience component of her course. Renaë involved herself enthusiastically in a wide range of tasks in order to gain an understanding of what it is like to work in a library.

TAFE SA Withdrawal

The Berri Joint Use Library Agreement between the Minister for Education and Children's Services and Berri Barmera Council which had operated for 15 years expired on the 31st December, 2014. On the 3rd November 2014, TAFE SA contacted Council by email and explained that "...TAFE SA is withdrawing from the Joint Use Library arrangements at Berri..." because "...the financial aspects of our review of the Agreement indicate the arrangement is not sustainable and we need an alternative arrangement for TAFE students and staff in the Riverland." It was disappointing that TAFE SA did not contact library staff, Council or even local TAFE SA staff for their input before making this decision and it appears it was mainly financially motivated. TAFE SA's financial contribution to the library was approximately \$174, 000, this had a major impact on the current budget and staff and services.

Practical matters that were addressed almost immediately included the removal of all TAFE SA stock housed in the library, and alternative computer and network arrangements were made for library staff. With the loss of the two TAFE SA library staff members, a new weekly library and desk roster was trialled and is still in operation. This has meant that staff have been rostered increased hours on the circulation desk and also a Thursday night and a Saturday morning shift on alternate weeks rather than every 3 weeks. Greater use of casual staff to cover staff absences due to annual, sick and long service leave has been made throughout 2015.

On a more positive note, discussions took place between the remaining partners and the Berri Barmera Council and Glossop High School agreed to work together to provide staff and services. A new draft agreement is in the hands of the Crown Solicitor's Department and signing by the parties involved should occur in the near future. Comments made by Principal Julie Ahrens in the Glossop High School newsletter indicated that the school was pleased that operations at the library had continued successfully in the 2015, school year and students had not been impacted by the withdrawal of TAFE SA.



OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL - Objective 8:

We will be "Young Family Friendly" with areas and events that support community involvement to make it easier for families to move and stay in the region.

Berri Library staff held a farewell dinner for our two wonderful TAFE SA library services colleagues, Merridy Rady and Hanah Garoufalis who have been sorely missed



Baby Rhyme Time

Berri Library & Information Centre introduced a new programme in February, Baby Rhyme Time, for parents and carers with babies. The session runs weekly on Wednesday morning at 9.30am and is run by a dedicated volunteer, Sarah Plush. This builds on the already very successful Barmera Baby Rhyme Time program at Barmera which celebrated its seventh birthday in October. Volunteer co-ordinator Melanie Alder's continuing contribution over the past seven years is much appreciated by Library and Council staff and all past and present participants of Baby Rhyme Time. Research has proven that reading to children from an early age has a positive effect on children's literacy and numeracy skills, and parents in the community agree, as the Rhyme Time sessions have grown in popularity over the seven years. In April 2015 Melanie offered to hold an extra session on Thursdays as a trial. While this is still in trial mode, it has been very successful so far, gaining more members each week as word gets out about the extra sessions.



Children's Activities

Tony Genevese from Cool-4-Kids ran a Children's Cooking show at the Berri Library & Information Centre as part of our school holiday activities, on Tuesday 21st April. The show was booked out with parents and children attending and making healthy wraps to take home.



Barmera Library Children's activities held weekly during the term and during the School holidays in the 2014/15 year have included some great stories and craft activities. Some of the highlights include visits by Riverland Dog Training & Kennel Club members Sue Laidler and Kay Richardson with their dogs, a life sized walking talking robot (volunteer Terri Fowles) and Magician James Young. When we invited Destiny Farm Wildlife Park to bring some animals to the library outdoor children's area in the April school holidays, we thought we'd have a lot of children coming and were delighted with a record crowd of 136. Our outdoor area was transformed into a mini petting zoo with kangaroos, a goat, guinea pigs, dogs, a turtle, rabbits, a water python and a baby crocodile all receiving lots of love and attention from the kids. Decorating animal masks, chalkboard wall drawings and constructing paper planes were other ways the large crowd was kept occupied while waiting for their turn to pet the animals.



Sarah Plush conducting her first Baby Rhyme Time at the Berri Library & Information Centre (top left), Melanie Alder with her Baby Rhyme Time group at the Barmera Library (top right), At the Berri Library the large group of participants listen as Tony Genevese explains how to go about making a salad wrap (middle left) Tony Genevese from Cool 4 Kids assisting participants Tatam, Miley, Ryder and Eliza to prepare their wrap (middle right), Hayden, Emily and Rylan get friendly with some reptiles during the Destiny Farm Wildlife Park visit (bottom)



Children's Book Week

A display celebrating the theme 'Reading to connect, Connect to reading' was on show in the front foyer of the Berri Library & Information Centre. Peter Ison and Jacque Zagotsis organised a visit by 21 children from Our Lady of the River Catholic School along with their teacher Anthony Segui. Peter read one of the winning stories 'Jeremy' then the children participated in creating jigsaw pieces with pictures of their favourite book to 'Connect to Reading'. These jigsaw pieces were then stuck on the children's area wall as a 'Connect to Reading' display. After craft activities, Jacque read another Book Week winner book and the children went outside to draw their favourite book titles and pictures on the pavement in chalk. A story and photos was published in *the Murray Pioneer* and on Facebook (with permission from Ros Oates, the Principal at OLOR).

Book Week at Barmera is always a busy one and 2014 was no exception as we "connected to reading" in a big way with 250 children visiting the Barmera Library over the week. Barmera Kindergarten, Kingston, St Josephs and Barmera Primary schools joined Barmera Library staff for craft activities and to read the award winning books, discovering why "connecting to reading" can be such fun. The children, from Kindergarten to Grade 7, all signed their name to our giant jig saw pieces as a memento of their visit. An iPad presentation of one of the winning books was a highlight this year. Jodie Bannear and Sue Webber made great use of the creative ideas gained from their attendance at the July Book Week Zart Workshop and we received many positive comments from school staff on the thought and planning that goes into our Book Week activities and display.

Berri Library Improvements

The Berri Library & Information Centre has taken on a new look internally and the usage of some rooms has changed to meet the needs of our customers. At the commencement of the 2015 school year our Multi-media Room was modified structurally and painted and fitted out with school tables and chairs, this has provided an extra space for Private Supervised Study by the Year 11 and 12 students at the Glossop High School Senior Campus.

All major works required to transform our existing meeting room into the new local history room were completed in June. This included, laying new carpet, painting, electrical and network cabling and the installation of new bench and cabinet works. Shelving, furniture and resources in both rooms were swapped around in early July and the rooms were ready for use on 20th July. This project has increased the storage space and work area of our local history service while retaining a fully functional meeting room for 10 people. The Silent Reading Room which houses the "ANZACS at War" collection has also been modified with the installation of a built-in data projector and pull down screen that allows the room to be easily used for presentations and training. A new coin operated photocopier was installed at the library in November that enables customers to carry out their own copying without staff intervention and also do their own document scanning direct to USB.

At Barmera Library, new carpet tiles were laid in March, replacing the old worn, unravelling carpet that had become a trip hazard in places and was unsafe. Thanks to Barmera United Supermarket for lending us a squadron of shopping trolleys to pack books in while the shelves were being moved and the carpet tiles put in place. This made our job of re-shelving all the books so much easier and saved a lot of manual labour. The new carpet tiles have added a fresh modern look to the library and been much admired by library and Council users.

One of the library air conditioning units was replaced in March as it had become inoperable. The other units were given a thorough service and are all now all working efficiently and well, making the environment comfortable in all weather. In June renovations continued at the Barmera Library with the painting of blue feature walls and panels brightening up the whole library. The public toilet at the back of the library was also repainted at the same time. The purchase of six new chairs in bright blue and green complement the new fresh and bright look and we have had many positive comments on how good our library is looking.

One Card and Statewide LMS User Group

It has now been almost two years since Berri Barmera Council libraries joined the statewide Consortium called One Card. Now public library borrowers from all over South Australia can use their borrower card at all libraries, and both our libraries we have seen an increase in use by borrowers from other SA areas. The introduction of a shared Library Management System (LMS) has brought with it many challenges for the network and to address this a number of statewide working groups have been formed to ensure there is consistency with cataloguing, circulation and other processes across all network libraries. Library Manager, Peter Ison has been nominated to serve a two year term representing the Murray River Region on the Statewide LMS User Group. This group meets approximately 10 times per year and helps support the Consortium's strategic and policy requirements with members consulting widely with their regional colleagues on LMS Consortium operational matters.

Staff Training and Development

Berri Barmera Library Services staff have attended various library and Council training sessions to help us best perform the roles we are responsible for within the library service. Peter Ison attended the A Future of the Public Library Network Visioning Workshop at the Adelaide Oval, this was a very interesting workshop looking at the future of SA public libraries using a future perfect approach. Following this a regional workshop was held at the Berri Library and Information Centre. Maureen Spiers, Merridy Rady, Jacque Zagotsis and Peggy Germein participated from the Berri and Barmera libraries, a facilitator worked with the group of people from Riverland public libraries in order to gain ideas and feedback to be supplied to Public Library Services. The event was designed to get us all thinking about what the State's circumstances will be in 2030, and within this context how will libraries be operating.



Staff at the Barmera Public Library have participated in a wide range of training which assists them to perform their dual roles of library and Council services. All staff were trained and accepted as Electoral officers for the Local Government Elections in August 2014. Staff also attended CFS Bushfire awareness training, Fire Warden training, ICAC Awareness for Council Employees, Communications workshop and St John courses. Jodie Bannear and Sue Webber attended ZART Art Children's Book Week and Christmas Craft Workshops. 'Putting Readers first' and 'Changing libraries' workshops run by noted UK library consultant Rachel Van Riel were attended by Sue Webber and Peg Germein. In June, Peg Germein undertook an on-line course 'Reading makes the world go round' aimed at extending participants library skills, knowledge of books, and reader's advisory needs. Sue Webber accepted the voluntary position of WHS Committee employee representative, and has attended meetings in this capacity during the year.

Statistics from your Library service

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL LIBRARY STATISTICS 2014/2015					
LOANS	BERRI		BARMERA		2014-2015 TOTALS
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015	
Adult Fiction	13,050	10,949	12,566	11,548	22,497
Adult Non-Fiction	4,937	4,558	2,999	2,815	7,373
Large Print	4,011	3,783	4,142	3,488	7,271
Sub Total Adult	21,998	19,290	19,707	17,851	37,141
Children	6,678	6,232	4,632	4,580	10,812
Children Non-Fiction	1,451	1,437	794	505	1,942
Children Adolescent	1,544	1,275	524	413	1,688
Sub Total Children	9,673	8,944	5,950	5,498	14,442
Magazines	2,736	2,918	3,334	3,484	6,402
CDs	2,570	1,960	1,335	1,314	3,274
CD-ROMs	756	368	271	227	595
DVDs	12,021	10,790	11,558	12,373	23,163
Hear-A- Books	652	728	1,013	967	1,695
LOTE / Languages	125	240	134	147	387
School Resources*	22,623	22,069	38	31	22,100
TAFE Resources	7,046	1,610	107	104	1,714
Equipment, ILLs & Other	419	90	86	7	97
TOTALS	80,619	69,007	43,533	42,003	111,010
USAGE	BERRI		BARMERA		2014-2015 TOTALS
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015	
Door Count	128,808	118,701	42,780	42,318	161,019
Internet Bookings	6,753	6,001	5,228	4,450	10,451
Holiday Activities	183	148	391	366	514
Weekly children's Activities	406	344	700	946	1,290
Baby Rhyme Time	NA	196**	1,073	1,240	1,436
SA Library Network Incoming Transits	2,789***	5,936	4,489***	5,020	10,956
SA Library Network Outgoing Transits	10,364***	13,516	6,104***	6,375	19,891
Visits per capita (Berri 7,025, Barmera 4,188)	18.3	16.8	10.2	10.1	14.4
Loans per capita	11.5	9.8	10.4	10.0	9.9
Open hours per annum	2,685	2,496	1,950	1,950	4,446
Web Catalogue Sessions	7,795	7,533	combined statistics		7,533
Library Website Sessions	6,909	6,833	combined statistics		6,833

*Includes school laptop loans ** Berri new program started Feb 2015

*** combined legacy LMS & 1LMS Incoming & Outgoing Transits



Infrastructure Services

Department Operations and Structure Outline

Sealing Works

Capital Road Works Program, 2014/2015

Miscellaneous Projects

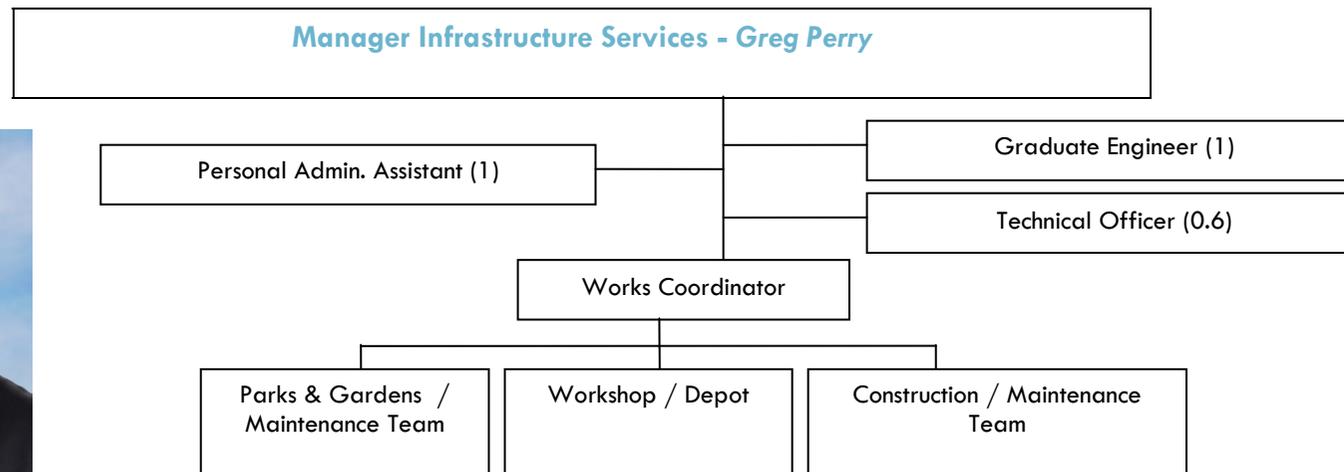


D EPARTMENT OPERATIONS AND STRUCTURE OUTLINE

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

- Cemeteries
- Waste Management
- Street Cleaning
- Public Lighting
- Foreshore Protection
- Parks & Gardens
- Sport & Recreation
- Quarries
- Road Maintenance
- Stormwater Drainage
- Parking Off Street
- Plant Operations
- Works Depots
- Vandalism
- Private Works

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



SEALING WORKS

As part of Councils service to provide fit for purpose infrastructure it decided to continue with the upgrade of two new roads from unsealed to a sealed service as per the 2013/14 Unsealed Roads Assessment.

The two roads that were sealed, while not being long roads, were the highest on the list due to several factors including, but not limited to; dwelling numbers, vehicle use and the total cost of the upgrade.

Chabrel Road between the Old Sturt Highway and West Road included a major realignment due to the road encroaching onto private land and the existing poor road design, which had two sharp 90 degree corners with little to no line of site visibility.

The second road to be sealed was Sunrise Court which attracts traffic due to its easy access to the Old Sturt Highway from the western side of Berri and the large Seventh Day Adventist Church located midway along this road.

2014/15 was the second year of a three year term for the G3 Riverland Councils Alliance for Annual Road Sealing Services. The alliance resulted in gains with more competitive prices and service, largely due to the volume of works offered in the joint tender.

Council also undertook a large amount of crack sealing on its sealed roads. This was done to lengthen the life of the roads before they are resealed. Cracks in the road are caused from both environmental and traffic; environmental is due to things like ground movement from wet weather, hot and dry periods and tree roots to name a few. Traffic also effects roads in different ways from many sources such as amount of use, type of vehicles (meaning weight carried), screwing of tyres and can relate to previous design inefficiency that effects current use. In a lot of cases the cracks present will not take up during the normal reseal of the road and in a short period of time will reflect back through to the surface of the new seal and be open to let water and soil penetrate them and can lead to possible accelerated surface failure.

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM, 2014/2015

The 2014/15 Capital Works Program has seen the following completed:

Reseals

Whitmore Avenue (west)
Whitmore Avenue (east)
Oates Way
Laffer Street
Carmel Court
Lake Avenue
Germein Road
Pascoe Terrace
Caddy Road
Draper Street
Queen Elizabeth Drive
Cocksedge Road
Marks Road
Joyce Street
Nookamka Terrace
Scott Avenue
Scott Avenue Carpark
Rumbold Drive
Fowles Street
Mckenzie Road
Till Road

Crack Sealing

Affleck Court
Ahern Street
Barwell Avenue (east)
Barwell Avenue (r-about)
Barwell Avenue (west)
Bice Street
Bosman Drive
Denny Street
Fiedler Street
Halliday Court
Huckstepp Court
Jellett Road
Mcgregor Street
Mortimer Road
Tipper Street
Vaughan Terrace (east)
Vaughan Terrace (west)
William Street
Wilson Street
Zante Road



Unsealed Roads – Re-sheeting

LH Maddern Road
Chapple Road
Forward Avenue
Heward Road
McKenzie Road

Gopher Routes

Berri

Cornwall Street
Maddern Street
Kay Avenue

Glossop

Streeter Avenue

Stormwater

Pipe line from Bice Street to Nookamka Terrace.
Queen Elisabeth Drive surface water diversion from Nookamka Terrace into existing pipeline.
Clarke Road surface water diversion into existing pipeline.



MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS

- Paver replacement – corner of Vaughan Terrace and Denny Street, including an additional section of Denny Street
- Barmera Primary School Parking and Rumbold Drive verge sealing/kerbing with the aid of a \$15,000 grant from the ‘Way 2 Go’ program through the Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure. (pictured below right).
- Footpath renewal – Kay Avenue adjacent Riverland Plaza (pictured below left).
- Jellett Road verge construction and sealing
- Berri Boat Ramp car park construction and sealing
- Tonkin Avenue footpath
- Barmera Playspace footpath (link to join up with Dean Drive crossover)

Fowles Street median and sealing

Council received a grant through the Local Government Stimulus program (Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure) to upgrade Fowles Street. The project was for a concrete median and trees, including irrigation and sealing of the carriage ways which had reached the end of their useful life and were very rough to drive on. Several new pedestrian ramps were also installed and resealing of the footpaths. To finish off the project the road way was line marked to include a bike lane for safe passage.



Riverview Drive Paver Replacement

The footpath paver area along Riverview Drive between Crawford Terrace and Vaughan Terrace have slowly decayed and undulated to the point where they needed attention. The best solution was to replace the pavers and incorporate the replacement of some trees that have been removed some time ago. The result is a safe, clean and modern look to a busy area frequented by locals and visitors.



Hard Waste

A hard waste pickup was offered to the townships of Berri, Barmera, Glossop, Monash, Cobdogla and Loveday, while the rural areas were able to take a small trailer load free of charge to the Riverland Regional Transfer Station.

The pickup was much larger than anticipated and six container loads of E-Waste were collected and disposed of free of charge via Aspitech, a not for profit group in Adelaide who will recycle the collection.

A white goods collection received good participation and was recycled due to the steel content with general hard waste pickups disposed of at the Riverland Regional Transfer station in Berri.



Berri & Barmera Town Beautification Committees

Our major towns of Berri and Barmera have been influenced by the two beautification committees again this past year.

Barmera Town Beautification Committee (BATBC) has been very proactive and formed a working group to look at street banners. The end result was the purchase of 12 custom made street banners that depicted local activities.

The other major activity suggested by the BATBC was the retaining wall and landscaping of the carpark area on Pascoe Terrace.



Berri Town Beautification Committee has also suggested some works undertaken by Council with the replanting of the two round a bouts, one on Kay Avenue and the other on Crawford Terrace with the same plants as the large round a bout on the Old Sturt Highway and Kay Avenue intersection planted by the Berri Lions a few years ago.

The other notable project instigated by the Committee was the 'dream time serpent' near the Berri Club and was undertaken by a local artist.



Centenary of ANZAC Memorial—Barmera

The 'Centenary of ANZAC' Memorial is a community project that commemorates and honours the servicemen and women who served Australia in peace and wartime and honours those who paid the supreme sacrifice. This project came to fruition through the efforts and donations of various community groups and individuals and a grant through the ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program.

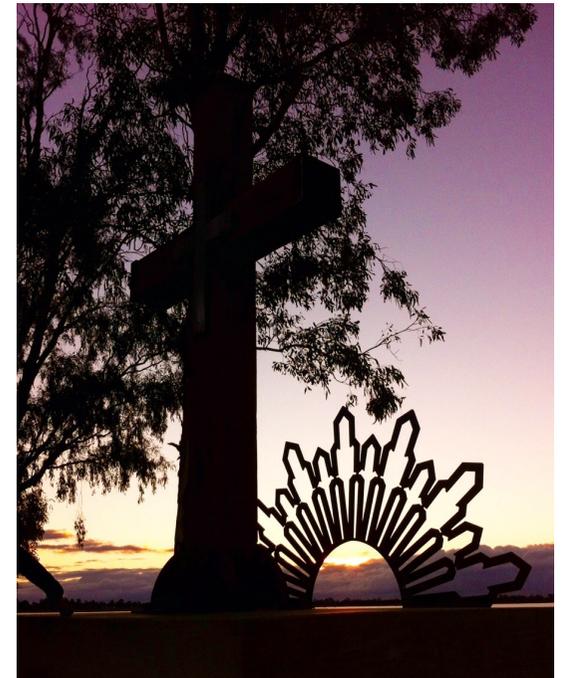
The design includes a red gum cross which signifies the river and the communities along the river from which many citizens of our region have served in the 100 years since the first ANZAC's. To compliment the cross, is a stylised image of the rising sun. This image has been a common theme to military uniforms and insignia over the century.

One unexpected historical coincidence is that the tiles used in the final design originate in Turkey where the ANZAC's landed in Gallipoli in 1915.

The foreshore location of the Memorial at Lake Bonney, now creates a line of war related memorials within the township, as the ANZAC Memorial aligns with the Memorial Gates down the main street of Barmera.



Above:
The Catafalque Party in front of the Memorial Cross following the ANZAC Day Dawn Service, April 2015



Environmental Services



Department Operations and Structure Outline

Development Assessment

Environmental Health

Dog and Cat Management

Parking Control

Bushfire Prevention

Effluent Drainage/Management/Planning/Maintenance

Council Projects

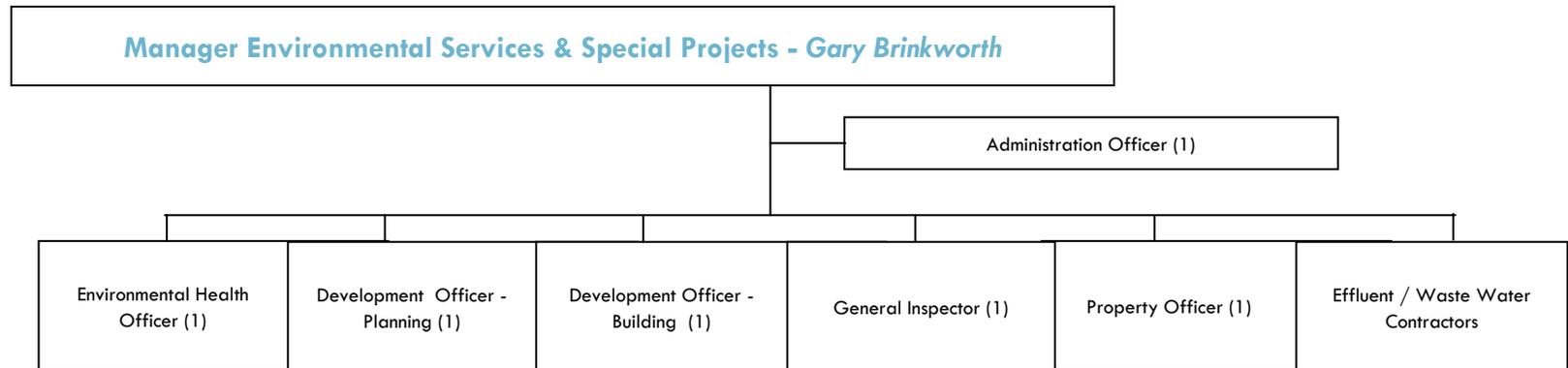
Community Land

D EPARTMENT OPERATIONS AND STRUCTURE OUTLINE

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

- Development Assessment
- Environmental Health
- Dog and Cat Management
- Parking Control
- Bushfire Prevention
- Animal and Plant Control
- General Inspections
- By Law Enforcement
- Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS)
- Property Leasing/Licensing
- Building Maintenance
- Major Projects

To effectively implement the management and operations of the Department the following staffing structure applies:



D

VELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

Council's Development Services encompass the following main areas of responsibility:

- Development assessment
- Policy planning
- Building control
- Building fire safety
- Illegal development/compliance

Development Assessment

Development plan assessment involves assessment of a development proposal against the relevant development provisions contained within Council's Development Plan to determine the appropriateness of a development and land use upon a particular site.

The majority of applications processed by Council under the Development Act were 'consent' applications which do not involve public notification and are dealt with by Council staff using extensive delegated authority granted to them by Council.

Other applications considered as Category 2 or 3 forms of development pursuant to the Development Act required public notification procedures to be followed. Similarly, those forms of development classed as non-complying followed the public notification process.

In the past 12 months, Council received 179 applications, primarily comprising domestic uses, and including 12 land divisions.

The Development Assessment Commission also issued a number of consents for Crown development.

Appeal Proceedings

As provided for by the *Development Act 1993*, should a person be aggrieved by a decision of Council with respect to their development application, or who are third parties that have lodged representations during the public notification period, appeals may be lodged with the Environment, Resources and Development Court. No appeals were lodged against Council decisions in the previous 12 months which is a good indication of the sound decision making within this process.

Riverland Regional Development Assessment Panel (RRDAP)

In January 2010, the Berri Barmera Council, together with the Renmark Paringa and Loxton Waikerie Councils, formed the RRDAP pursuant to Section 34 of the *Development Act 1993*. The RRDAP commenced operations on 1 January 2010. The formation of the RRDAP is an important way of promoting a common approach to assessment and policy development in the Riverland region.

The RRDAP assesses applications and hears applicants, as a delegate of Council on behalf of the Renmark Paringa, Loxton Waikerie and Berri Barmera Councils. The Panel adheres to the Minister's Code of Conduct under section 21A of the *Development Act 1993*, and adopts its own Operating Procedures for the conduct of its members and for its meetings.

The following people have been appointed as members of the RRDAP:

Independent Presiding Member - Mr Bruce Ballantyne
Independent Members: Miss Rebecca Perkin (Berri Barmera Council), Miss Ellie Anspach (Loxton Waikerie Council), Mr Geoffrey Parsons (Renmark Paringa Council)

Elected Members: Crs Rhonda Centofanti (Berri Barmera Council), Margaret Malthouse (Loxton Waikerie Council) and Mark Chown (Renmark Paringa Council).



All members have a keen interest in community planning and have knowledge of the Development Act and Regulations with appropriate qualifications and/or experience relevant to development assessment. The Panel met on nine occasions during the 2014/15 year. The RRDAP assessed 24 applications on behalf of the Councils. Panel members are remunerated by each relevant Council; independent and Elected Member representatives are paid \$350 per meeting. Mr Ballantyne, as the Presiding Member, is reimbursed \$700 plus GST (including travel) per meeting.

The terms of both the Elected Member and Independent Member appointments cease at 31 December 2015.



Policy planning

Development Plan Review

Pursuant to the *Development Act 1993* and *Development Regulations 2008*, each Council is required to have, and maintain, a Development Plan. The Development Plan is the property of the Minister for Urban Development and Planning, however, it is the responsibility of the Council to periodically review the Development Plan through the Section 30 Review process, and both Council and the Minister have the power to amend the Development Plan through the Development Plan Amendment process.

Continual updating of the Development Plan is vitally important to ensure the policy is tailored to take account of current issues and provides for “best outcome” developments through the development assessment process.

Council undertook a Better Development Plan Conversion and Riverland wide alignment, resulting in the gazettal of the Berri Barmera Development Plan on 1 December 2011.

Council also commenced proceedings under Section 30 to prepare a Strategic Directions Report, its period review of the Development Plan. This process was completed during the 2013/14 year and will guide future Development Plan Amendments for the next five years.

Development Act 101A Committee

Council is required to form a Strategic Planning and Development Policy Committee pursuant to section 101A of the *Development Act 1993*. The functions of the Committee are to advise and assist Council in undertaking strategic planning and monitoring, and to ensure that Councils strategic planning and development policies accord with the Regional Planning Strategy.

The Committee comprises all Elected Members and the Mayor, and is advised by staff members.

Compliance / Illegal development

Council undertakes to inspect properties at various stages of development as part of a development application process. It also inspects incidences of illegal development where development approval has not been sought for changes in land use and building work. Mindful of costs involved with action through the Environment, Resources and Development Court, Council attempts to work with property owners towards a suitable outcome for all parties. Council has investigated and taken both formal and informal action on a number of occasions during the year.

Building Fire Safety Committee

The Riverland Regional Building Fire Safety Committee was implemented in October 2009. The purpose of the Committee is to undertake inspections of public use buildings (those other than for domestic purposes) to determine its adequacy of fire safety. During the past 12 months the Committee have inspected a number of premises where the public either work or assemble for pleasure. In the course of these inspections, deficiencies were noted and action taken to rectify the situation.

During the 2014/15 reporting period the following inspections were undertaken;

Type of Inspection	Quantity	Number of Inspections
Hotels and Gaming venues	1	
Motels		
Caravan Parks & Backpackers	2	3
Clubs	2	5
Packing sheds		
Commercial/industrial complexes	6	11
Council buildings	1	
Age care facility	1	1

In addition to the Committee’s role, Council’s Building Officer conducted follow up inspections to determine compliance with fire safety issues linked to development applications.

E NVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Food

Council continues to undertake its legal responsibilities under the provisions of the *Food Act 2001*. 27 routine inspections were undertaken and 11 follow up inspections were also undertaken to ensure compliance with outstanding issues.

During the reporting period four complaints were received involving food safety. Two inspections were undertaken as results of complaints.

Food business proprietors are provided information when appropriate, for example, the circulars from the SA Health regarding food handler health and hygiene responsibilities, TAFE SA training opportunities and I’m Alert online training promotion.

The aged care facility that provides food for vulnerable persons had follow up audits conducted by Council’s Environmental Health Officer (EHO)/SA Health approved auditor. The child care was audited once. The two local hospitals and associated aged care facility are audited by SA Health.

I’m Alert on-line food safety training

On line food safety training is provided on Councils website providing free and unlimited access to a training resource aimed at assisting businesses (including community groups) and food handlers in gaining valuable skills and knowledge in food safety and hygiene.



Public and Environmental Health

Legionella

The *South Australian Public Health (Legionella) Regulations 2013* require all High Risk Manufactured Water Systems (HRMWS), i.e. warm water systems and cooling water systems, to be inspected annually.

Pursuant to Regulation 15, notices requiring inspections of cooling water systems and warm water systems were issued to HRMWS operators to cause an inspection to be carried out by an independent third party inspector.

There are five premises with a total of 17 cooling water systems and one premise with a total of three warm water systems. A number of warm water systems have been converted to hot water and are no longer regulated. All systems inspected by third party inspectors.

One notice was served to gain compliance with the Regulations in regards to non-compliant drift eliminators on cooling towers.

Swimming Pools

There are 12 public swimming pools and one public spa pool within the district. Eleven routine inspections and one follow up inspection of swimming pools were undertaken. The public spa was also inspected. Inspections check for compliance with the *South Australian Public Health (General) Regulations 2013*.

New cryptosporidium posters from SA Health were distributed to some public swimming pool operators. This will continue to be done with the next round of inspections.

Waste Control Systems

42 applications to install new or alter existing waste control systems were received. 48 approvals were issued pursuant to the *South Australian Public Health (Wastewater) Regulations 2013*.



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. This past year a total of 698 septic tanks were desludged. Where septic tanks are not exposed for desludging or defects were found with the septic tanks, letters are sent to property owners advising them of the action required to expose or maintain the septic tank. A number of septic tanks have been repaired or replaced as a result of these letters.

Immunisation

The School Based Immunisation Program was provided for year 8 and 9 students at the Riverland Special School and Glossop High School. Follow up clinics are provided approximately one week after each school clinic to ensure that all students are provided with adequate opportunities to attend.

Due to the large number of enrolments at Glossop High School this year, an additional clinic was held in March as it was not possible to vaccinate all students on one day. The Riverland Division of General Practice provides registered nurses for the clinics and to assist with continued improvement of the School Based Immunisation Program.

In 2015 the vaccines offered to all year 8 students were Boostrix, Varicella (Chicken Pox), and Gardasil (human papillomavirus).

Mosquito Surveillance and Control Activities

The Healthy Environments, Healthy People Research Group (formerly the Mosquitoes and Public Health Research Group) at the University of South Australia provided mosquito surveillance and spot control services to seven local government areas along the River Murray from late August 2014 to April 2015. This was the 16th consecutive year of this service for six of the local councils, including Berri Barmera Council.

The program saw 11 sampling trips performed by the field officer for each adult trap location. Regular reports are provided to Council's Environmental Health Officer along with regular newsletters and updates, and the annual report 'A survey of mosquitoes along the Murray River in South Australia'.

As with the previous season many larvae sites previously identified did not require treatment. In late August some pre-emptive treatment of known *Ae.camptorhyncus* sites was undertaken. The heavy summer rainfall during January resulted in increased effort to identify potential larvae sites for the vector species *Cx. annulirostris*.

A total of 856 adult mosquitoes were trapped in the Berri Barmera Council area during the season, the fifth lowest catch since the commencement of this program. This is a continuation of the lower mosquito numbers following the record season of 2010/11 when 24,458 mosquitoes were trapped.



During the mosquito season Council's EHO provides monthly reports to SA Health regarding mosquito surveillance, treatment and complaints.

"Fight the Bite" pamphlets are distributed within the community as are resources previously developed by the Riverland Arbovirus Prevention Working Group (RAPWG), including a bookmark and A4 size checklist, aimed at reminding tourists to take personal protection measures against mosquito bites.

Council's EHO investigates mosquito related complaints and conducts treatment or refers these to the contractor when necessary for surveillance and/or treatment. One complaint was received regarding a stormwater retention basin, but the complaint could not be substantiated.

Numerous complaints were received regarding insects in Cobdogla. The insects were identified as a type of Chironomidae, a non biting midge. There was no risk of disease transmission, although it is acknowledged that the persistent nature of the insects was a concern for residents and businesses. The insect were also present in Barmera and Monash, however they were patchy and not found throughout the whole township as was the case in Cobdogla. "Fight the bite" information was distributed during this time as mosquitoes were present and therefore the risk of mosquito borne disease also remained.

Council now receives notification of flooding events such as the flooding of the irrigation channel in Cobdogla. This allowed the coordination of surveillance in the area by Uni SA during their scheduled visits.

European Wasps

During the reporting period there were no European Wasp nests either identified or destroyed. When a nest is located, arrangements can made to have the nest destroyed by a licensed pest controller at no cost to the ratepayer. Information about European Wasps is available from Council.

DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT

Council has responsibility for dog and cat management in accordance with the *Cat and Dog Management Act 1995*. The objectives of the Act are to encourage responsible dog ownership, promote effective management and reduce the impact of dogs and cats on the public and environment.

Over the 2014/15 period there were 2,287 dogs registered within the council area.

Council's Animal Management Plan was reviewed in 2012 and endorsed in 2014. The 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. It aims to establish management guidelines where people and their pets can integrate harmoniously within the Berri Barmera community.

During the reporting period 94 dogs were impounded, and Council's General Inspector undertook the following duties;

Complaint	2014/2015
Dog wandering at large	226
Dog impounded	94
Dog returned to owner	108
Dog attack	17
Dog harass	14
Noise complaint	28

In December 2012 the off leash dog park at the Colin Jennings Apex Park, Berri was officially opened. In the 2014/15 budget monies were allocated for improvements to the dog park and add amenities for dog activities.

The Berri Barmera Council Lost and Found Pets facebook page was established in 2015 and has proven to be a very efficient tool for reuniting impounded dogs with their owners. All impounded dogs that are not claimed by their owners or rehomed are transported to the Animal Welfare League in Adelaide.

PARKING CONTROL

The General Inspector continues to enforce parking regulations in the towns of Berri and Barmera. In total, 95 parking expiation notices were issued over the 2014/15 year.

BUSHFIRE PREVENTION

In 2009/2010 following changes to regulations, the Berri Barmera Council District Bushfire Prevention Committee was replaced and bushfire prevention is now managed by the Regional Bushfire Prevention Committee.

The *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* stipulates that each rural Council must appoint a Fire Prevention Officer for its area. The Fire Prevention Officer's role includes the monitoring of residential and rural areas to ensure land owners take responsible steps to protect their property from fire, as required under the Act. Inspections are carried out, leading up to and during the Fire Danger Season to assess compliance. Notices are issued where compliance has not been met.

Section 105F Notices are issued pursuant to the Act, requiring landowners to maintain their properties to reduce the risk of fire. Council also has the responsibility to ensure that reserves under its care and control are maintained to fire prevention standards. The Fire Prevention Officer continue to monitor these land holdings and issued clean up notices where required.

Section 105F Statistics	2014/2015
Section 105F notices issued	24
Council action required	Nil
Expiations issued	Nil



In total the Council issued 37 permits under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* to burn during the fire danger season. The type of activities that were allowed by these permits included burning off stubble, burning old plantings and rubbish, lighting BBQs, training exercises, burning general garden waste and the disposal of drug crops.

Animal and Plant Control

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.

Effluent Drainage / Management / Planning /

Maintenance

Council has an agreement with Trility Pty Ltd to operate and maintain infrastructure for waste water in the Berri Barmera Council area. This facility produces on average 200-220 megalitres per year of water that is available for use on public spaces in the towns of Berri and Barmera.

Regular meetings between Trility and representatives of Council occur to ensure effective communication between the parties.

COUNCIL PROJECTS

Barmera Recreation Centre

Council undertook an upgrade of the Barmera Recreation Centre in 2014 that provided new insulation and natural light to the stadium to improve the comfort for patrons and reduce energy consumption. Also included was a change of use for the squash courts to consulting rooms and workout rooms that have now been leased out to a private practitioner, as well as a new canteen area for use by the sporting clubs.

Further works are budgeted to improve operations at the centre, including air conditioning and fencing between the caravan park.



Monash Adventure Park Equipment Upgrade

Significant equipment upgrades were completed at the Monash Adventure Park in 2015. These include features for disabled people ensuring enjoyment of the park is available for people of all ages with disabilities.

OUR ECONOMY - Objective 6:

We will facilitate and partner business and industry because it will create employment.

OUR ECONOMY- Objective 7:

We will actively lobby State and Federal Governments for funding because it will mean Council can provide improved services.



Glassey Park Redevelopment

The Council is also committed to progressing with the relocation of the Berri Bowls Club to Glassey Park in an effort to combine sporting facilities in order to provide the highest level sporting facilities while reducing operational costs. Construction is scheduled for completion in 2015.

Berri Sports Stadium

The Berri Barmera Council has committed to investigating the development of a new sports stadium with the preferred location to be at Glassey Park. Council is currently working with a designer along with the sporting clubs who would utilise such a facility on the design of the centre. Planning consent has been issued and tender documents will be prepared to allow for a more accurate cost to be provided.

OUR ECONOMY - Objective 7:

We will actively lobby State and Federal Governments for funding because it will mean Council can provide improved services.

OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL - Objective 3:

We will amalgamate sporting facilities to continue to provide the top level of facilities within our means.

Berri Boat Ramp

The Berri Boat Ramp construction is now complete with the result being a new four lane boat ramp with central pontoon, altered marina area and associated car park. This provides a usable facility that will cater for large scale events on the river.

This project was funded equally by the Council and the South Australian Boating Facilities Advisory Committee. Approval from the Environmental Protection Authority was obtained for the removal of material to assist with the project.

OUR ECONOMY - Objective 7:

We will actively lobby State and Federal Governments for funding because it will mean Council can provide improved services.



Barmera Playspace – Stormwater upgrade

Funding was obtained for a new swale and planting system to assist with the disposal of stormwater in Barmera. This system will assist in removing pollutants from the water before being discharged and will result in less harm to our water systems. Construction commenced in 2013/14 and was completed in 2015.

OUR COMMUNITY/SOCIAL - Objective 7:

We will be “Young Family Friendly” with areas and events that support community involvement to make it easier for families to move and stay in the region.

Waste Management

Council has engaged the services of Transpacific Waste Management for the collection and disposal of Council’s kerbside waste. This collaboration has included the implementation of the three bin system to allow for the separation of green waste and recyclables from the general waste that goes to landfill sites. Transpacific have also completed construction of a new regional Waste Transfer Station which will assist in the separation of waste locally for transport outside the region. This will reduce the overall cost for Council’s waste management while also improving the impact on the environment by reducing the amount of waste to landfill sites and encouraging reuse of materials through recycling.

Hard Waste Collection

In June 2015, the Berri Barmera Council partnered with Diabetes SA & Aspitech, both not for profit organisations, to undertake a hard waste collection from residential properties in Berri, Barmera, Cobdogla, Glossop, Loveday and Monash townships. Rural property owners within the council area were given the opportunity to take a standard trailer load of hard waste to the waste transfer station at no cost, by producing their rates notice.

The adopted budget for the hard waste collection was \$70,000, with the final cost approximately being \$45,000. Diabetes SA received 176 bags of clothing, bikes, furniture and beds and Aspitech received five x 20’ containers and one x 40’ container from the E-Waste collection. White goods collected came to approximately 60 tonnes with a scrap value of \$3,000. The remaining 50 tonnes of hard waste went to landfill. 53 rural property owners took up the dumping offer.



COMMUNITY LAND

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 Council has satisfied the provisions of the Act with the preparation and adoption of key Community Land Management Plans and conducts annual reviews and inspections. The relevance of the Management Plans is to ensure that the Plans reflect the activities for which the Community Land facilities are utilised.



Corporate Services



Department Operations and Structure Outline

Rating and Valuations

Annual Business Plan Implementation

Financial Management Statement

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

Audit Committee

Project Monitoring Committee

Major Projects Committee

Asset Management Committee

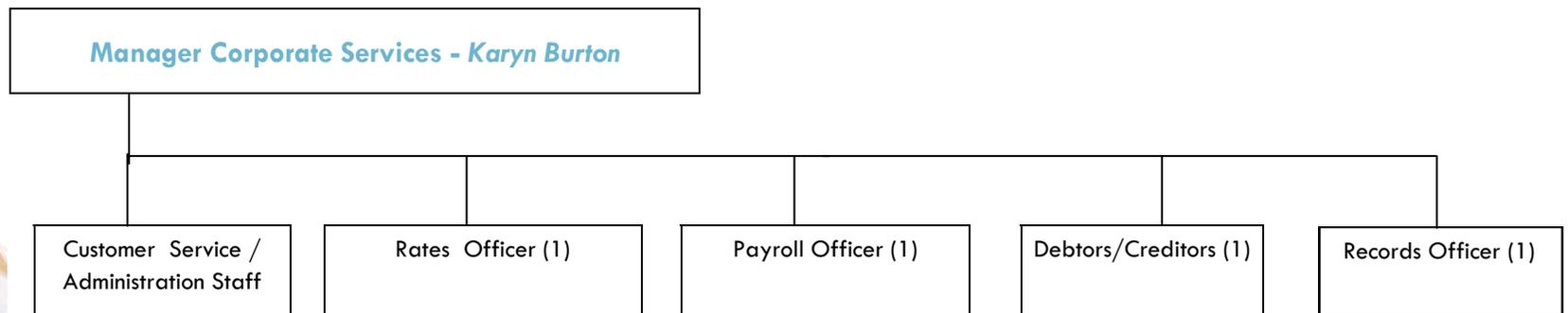
Strategic Governance Committee

Berri Town Beautification Committee

The Corporate Services Department is responsible for the management and operations of the following functions of Council as summarised in the Functional and Corporate Structure:

- Corporate Policies / Procedures
- Council / Committee Meetings
- Customer Services
- Rates and Property
- Grants Commission
- Insurance
- Financial Management
- Debtors / Creditors
- Payroll
- Records Management
- Council Support / Administration Information Technology

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



Rating and Policy for the Year 2014/2015

This document sets out the policy of the Berri Barmera Council for setting and collecting rates from its Community for the 2014/2015 financial year. The Policy covers;

- Valuation used for rating
- Method used to value land
- Adoption of valuations
- Notional Values
- Councils revenue raising powers
- Deferral general rates
- Minimum rate
- Service Charge—Community Wastewater Management System
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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 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Postal Address: PO Box 229, Berri SA 5343
Phone: (08) 8582 1922
Fax: (08) 8582 3029
Email: bbc@bbc.sa.gov.au
Web: 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 9.30am to 1pm and Tuesday to Friday between 9.30am to 5.00pm.

Phone: (08) 8588 1477
Fax: (08) 8588 1243



Valuations Used For Rating

The following information relates to the valuation changes in each of the Land use Codes used by Council for rating purposes.

The valuations displayed are valuations used for rating purposes, that is non-rateable valuations are not included.

Land Use Code	Valuation 13/14	Valuation 14/15	Variance (\$)	Variance (%)
Residential Towns	483,441,632	487,408,200	3,966,568	0.82%
Residential Rural	301,718,567	308,666,397	6,947,830	2.30%
Primary Production	210,137,083	210,617,053	479,970	0.23%
Rural Dry/Vacant	12,224,420	12,032,340	-192,080	-1.57%
Other	29,354,240	29,301,335	-52,905	-0.18%
Commercial Towns	105,463,554	102,465,458	-2,998,096	-2.84%
Commercial Rural	17,333,550	17,614,950	281,400	1.62%
Industrial Towns	10,179,476	9,409,909	-769,567	-7.56%
Industrial Rural	21,010,000	22,732,300	1,722,300	8.20%
Total	1,190,862,522	1,200,247,942	9,385,420	0.79%

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 2014/2015. 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) This 60 day objection period may be extended by the Valuer-General where it can be shown there is reasonable cause;
- (c) you may not object to the valuation if the Valuer-General has already considered an objection by you to that valuation.

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.

Differential General Rates

The Council has decided to impose differential general rates according to the land use of the property, 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 differential general rates imposed by Council are separate and distinct from the service charges imposed for the Community Wastewater Management System and Waste Management. Details of the service charges are provided further in this document.



The Council is proposing to raise general rate revenue of \$7,256,362 in a total revenue budget of \$15,611,001 and will continue to use the differential rating method as follows:

- (1) Land use as defined:
- (a) Residential 0.5929 cents in the dollar on the capital value of such rateable property
 - (b) Primary Production 0.5276 “
 - (c) Vacant 0.4765 “
 - (d) Other 0.7089 “
 - (e) Commercial 0.6107 “
 - (f) Industrial 0.7968 “

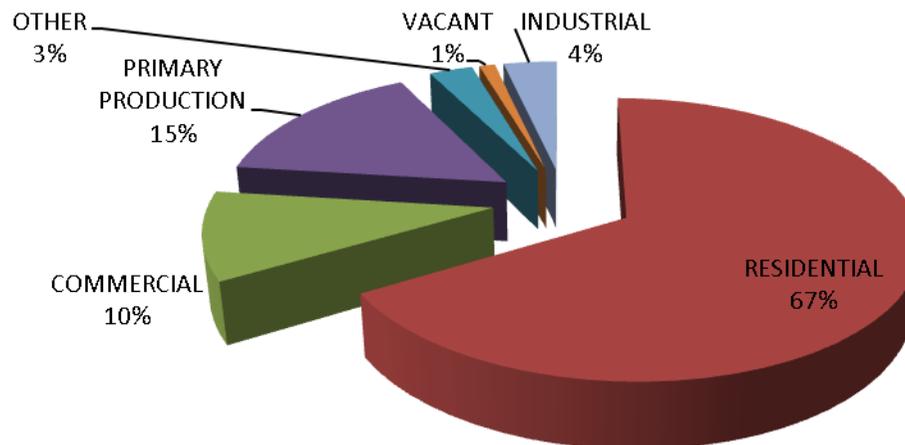
Land use is used as the factor to apply differential rates. If a ratepayer believes that a particular property has been wrongly classified as to its land use, then they may object to that land use within 60 days of receiving notice.

A ratepayer may discuss the matter with the Council’s Rates Officer in the first instance and Council will provide a copy of Section 156 of the *Local Government Act 1999* which sets out the rights and obligations of ratepayers in respect of objections to a land use.

The following table shows the proportion of general rates raised per category of land use

Land Use	Capital Value	% of total CV	No. of Properties	% of total Properties	Proposed Rates	% of rates levied
Non Rateable	70,321,138	5.53%	484	7.31%	-	0.00%
Residential	796,074,597	62.65%	4460	67.37%	4,830,114.55	66.57%
Primary Production	210,617,053	16.58%	922	13.93%	1,124,938.80	15.50%
Commercial	120,080,408	9.45%	390	5.89%	752,707.65	10.37%
Industrial	32,142,209	2.31%	91	1.37%	260,156.95	3.59%
Vacant - Rural	12,032,340	0.95%	193	2.92%	76,224.80	1.05%
Other	29,301,335	2.53%	80	1.21%	211,954.90	2.92%
	1,270,569,080	100.00%	6620	100.00%	7,256,097.65	100.00%

Percentage of total rates raised by land use



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 \$601 which shall be applied to all rateable properties within the Council District. This will affect 17.61% of rateable properties and will raise \$649,080 of rate revenue for the 2014/2015 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 – Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS)

Council may impose an annual service charge on rateable (and non rateable) land within its area for the provision of a prescribed service. A prescribed service is legislated as any of the following services:-

- The treatment or provision of water;
- The collection, treatment or disposal (including recycling) of waste;
- Any other service prescribed by the regulations (which includes the collection, treatment or disposal of wastewater or effluent).

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 2014/2015 is budgeted to be \$3,752,143. Capital expenditure of \$178,000 for the replacement and renewal of pumps and other equipment is proposed for 2014/2015.

The service charge for CWMS is calculated using the Code for Establishing and Applying Property Units for the Imposition of Annual Services Charges for CWMS. The Council will recover the operating cost through the imposition of a service charge of \$344 for each unoccupied property unit and \$688 for each occupied property unit.

Service Charge – Waste Management

Council provides a recycling and green waste collection service in its district. The service includes -

- Weekly domestic collection in a 140 litre bin for all properties.
- Fortnightly recycling collection in a 240 litre bin for all properties.
- Fortnightly green waste collection in a 240 litre bin for town residential properties.

To recover the cost of collection and disposal of waste Council will set an annual service charge of \$195 for the three bin collection and \$165 for the two bin collection.

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 SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board is responsible for distributing the levy collected by Council and is used to fund 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 2014/2015 the Berri Barmera Council are required to make payable to the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board an amount of \$122,865.

In order to recover this amount a separate rate of .0104 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 \$9.00 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 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.

Concession on Waste Management Service Charge for Pensioners

For those ratepayers who are eligible for the above State Government Concessions, Council will remit a fixed amount of \$20 per annum against the newly introduced Waste Management Service Charge. This remission will be applied automatically at the same time the State Government Concessions are applied and will show separately on the rate notice. Please note, however that eligibility for this concession is determined by the various State Government Agencies who then notify Council.

Payment Of Rates

The *Local Government Act 1999* requires that Council must provide an opportunity for all ratepayers to pay rates by quarterly instalments. These instalments are to be payable in the months of September, December, March and June.

It is not mandatory for ratepayers to pay by quarterly instalments, however, it is an option that Council must make available to all ratepayers.

The due dates for the quarterly instalments of Council rates for 2014/2015 are:

- 1st September, 2014
- 1st December, 2014
- 2nd March, 2015
- 1st June, 2015

Council rates may be paid by:

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

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 2011. 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.

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 2015. 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 2013;
- Any such increase in the capital value of the rateable property is a result of improvements made on the property since 1 July 2013 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.

A copy of Council's Rate Capping Policy is available from its offices or on Council's website.

Remission And Postponement Of Rates

Section 182 of the *Local Government Act* permits the Council, on the application of the ratepayer, to partially or wholly remit rates or to postpone rates, on the basis of hardship. Where a ratepayer is suffering hardship in paying rates, it is recommended to contact the Rates Officer on (08) 85821922 to discuss the matter.

A ratepayer may be required to submit evidence of the hardship being suffered to benefit from the application of Section 182. Such enquiries are treated confidentially by the Council.

For those ratepayers who are on fixed incomes such as pensioners and self funded retirees, we propose to remit a fixed amount of \$20 per annum of the general rates and \$20 per annum of the effluent drainage service charge to assist those ratepayers who may be experiencing hardship. To be eligible to receive the remission an application must be made to council and is subject to the following criteria:

- The property is the principal residence of the ratepayer and is the only property owned by the ratepayer;
- The property has been owned by the ratepayer and has been their principal residence for a minimum of five years;
- The ratepayer is able to produce one of the following identification cards;
 - Pensioner Concession Card – Centrelink
 - Pensioner Concession Card – Veteran Affairs
 - T.P.I. Card – Veteran Affairs
 - Or they can demonstrate to Council that they are a self funded retiree with an income of less than \$35,000 per annum.

Section 182A of the *Local Government Act* permits the Council, upon application by the ratepayer, to postpone payment of any amount of rates in excess of \$500 for the current or future financial year by:

- A (prescribed) ratepayer who holds a current State Seniors Card issued by the State Government, or spouse of a prescribed ratepayer;
- Where the rates are payable on the principal place of residence;
- Where the land is owned by the prescribed ratepayer, or the prescribed ratepayer and his or her spouse, and no other person has an interest, as owner, in the land.

Any rates that are postponed will become due and payable:

- When the title to the land is transferred to another person, or
- There is failure to comply with a condition of postponement.

Interest will accrue on the amount postponed at the prescribed rate per month until the full amount is paid. Postponement is available as a right and can only be refused when the applicant/s has less than 50% equity in the property.

Sale of Land For Non-Payment Of Rates

The *Local Government Act* (Section 184) 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 setting rates, Council has taken into account a number of factors including:

- The affects of the current economic climate.
- Imposed legislative changes.
- The need to manage, maintain and improve the communities infrastructure and other assets.
- The requirement to maintain current service levels to the community.
- The need to ensure long term financial sustainability of the Council.
- Cost increases that are over and above inflation.

Council takes into consideration the effect of rates on all ratepayers and is mindful of maintaining the balance between economic and community development.

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 Manager of Corporate Services 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 1st July 2014, being resolution number 3838/14 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.

A 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 table overleaf, which also advises as to the status of the projects as at 30th June 2015.

The status refers to whether the project was completed, deferred for future completion or carried forward for inclusion within the 2015/2016 year.

It is noted from the table overleaf that there are a number of projects that have been carried forward to the 2015/2016 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. Some projects are shown as 'on-going' as they are programmed projects and are prioritised according to Council's Asset Management Plans.

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/Executive Services	Status
Future Direction Planning	Ongoing
Strategic & Corporate Planning	Ongoing
Riverland Resource Sharing	Ongoing
IT Plant and Equipment	Ongoing
Motor Vehicle Changeovers	Ongoing
Berri Riverfront Development	Ongoing
Planning Berri Sports Stadium	Ongoing
Community Services	
Community Facility Needs Audit/Assessment	Ongoing
Berri and Barmera Libraries Facility Improvements, Plant & Equipment Replacements	Completed
Swimming Centre Upgrade	Completed
Swimming Centre Equipment renewal	Completed
Barmera Recreation Centre air conditioning, fencing, electrical	Completed
Barmera Recreation Centre air conditioning stadium	Ongoing
Community Transport Vehicle Changeover	Completed
Visitor Information Centre Plant & Equipment	Completed
Town Signage	Ongoing
Environmental Services	
Aerial Photography of District	Completed
Spot DPA Review	Ongoing
Dry Area Review and Signage	Ongoing
Planning Records Storage and Archiving	Ongoing
Vandal Proof Public Conveniences Fixtures	Ongoing
Update/Review Asbestos Register	Completed
Heritage Survey & DPA	Ongoing
Regional Public Health Plan	Ongoing
Building Highworks Required	Ongoing
Dog Pound Fence	Completed
Dog Park Equipment	Completed
Motor Vehicle Changeovers	Completed
CWMS Infrastructure Renewal	Ongoing
Council Office Land & Building	Ongoing
Air conditioning Alba's Cafe	Completed
Barmera CWA Ceiling	Ongoing
Lake Bonney Jetty Toilets Disabled Upgrade	Ongoing
Barmera VIC Toilets Upgrade	Ongoing
Berri No. 1 Oval Grandstand Timber Replacement	Ongoing
Replacement Chairs Bonney Theatre	Ongoing
Berri Town Hall Disabled Lift	Completed
Bonney Theatre Painting and Lighting	Ongoing
Construction Car Park rear Town Hall	Ongoing



Infrastructure Services	
Barmera Cemetery Cremation Garden	Ongoing
Hard Waste Collection	Completed
Mulching Green Waste	Ongoing
Street Lighting Audit	Ongoing
Berri Riverfront Engineering Solution	Ongoing
Tree Removal (Safety)	Completed
Matthews Park Turf	Ongoing
Rodeo Grounds Clean Up	Completed
Tree Plantings – Various	Completed
Demolish Old Pump Sheds	Ongoing
Irrigation Management Plan	Ongoing
Berri No 2 Oval Irrigation Valve Replacements	Ongoing
Tree Removal (under roads)	Ongoing
Cemeteries furniture and vaults	Completed
Rubbish Bins Surrounds	Ongoing
Berri Marina Boatramp Upgrade	Completed
Pollard Park Development	Completed
Holden Park Development	Completed
Anzac Centenary Project (Lake Bonney)	Completed
Fowles Street Streetscaping	Completed
Barmera West Median Upgrade	Ongoing
Zante/Mortimer Roads Park Upgrade	Ongoing
Berri Riverfront Furniture	Ongoing
Seating Berri Riverfront	Completed
Irrigation Automation	Completed
New Barmera Irrigation Line	Completed
Pioneer Park Upgrade	Ongoing
Apex (Jennings) Park Playground Upgrade	Ongoing
Playground Equipment renewals	Completed
Monash Adventure Park Equipment Upgrade	Completed
Road Reseals Town and District	Completed
Unsealed Road Resheeting	Completed
Chabrel Road Barmera - Sealing	Completed
Sunrise Court Berri - Sealing	Completed
Service Road (Growers Services) - Sealing	Ongoing
O'Callaghan Road - Construction	Completed
Vaughan Terrace Berri – Kerbing Renewal	Completed
Spoon Drain Bonnar/Nookamka Barmera	Ongoing
Rumbold Drive Barmera – Kerbing and Carpark	Completed
Jellett Road – Kerbing, Verge and Drainage	Ongoing

Infrastructure Services—continued	
Nookamka Terrace Barmera – Kerb Removal	Completed
Gopher Routes Berri & Barmera	Completed
Footpaths Glossop	Completed
Footpaths Monash	Ongoing
Tonkin Avenue Barmera – Footpaths Upgrade	Completed
Nookamka Terrace Barmera Footpath	Ongoing
Berri CBD Paver Replacements	Completed
Riverview Drive Berri – Footpath Renewal	Completed
Walking Path Extension (Jimmy James)	Completed
Walkway Construction – Barmera Playspace to Jetty Toilets	Completed
Stormwater Pond - Monash	Completed
Stormwater Upgrade – Queen Elizabeth Drive Barmera	Completed
Stormwater Renewal - Barmera	Completed
Stormwater Renewal – Vaughan Terrace Berri	Ongoing
Stormwater Renewal – Shiell Road Berri	Ongoing
Stormwater Renewal – McGilton Road Berri	Ongoing
Stormwater Renewal – Clarke Road Berri	Completed
Plant and Machinery Purchases	Completed

F INANCIAL MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

The following financial indicators for 2014/2015 are interpreted as follows:

Operating Surplus Ratio

This ratio expresses the operating surplus as a percentage of general and other rates, net of the NRM levy. The operating surplus ratio for 2014/2015 is 12% which means Council is placing itself well to maintain sustainability. Additional grants received throughout the year has increased Council's operating surplus.

Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

This ratio indicates the extent to which net financial liabilities of Council can be met by its operating revenue. Where the ratio is falling over time indicates that the Council's capacity to meet its financial obligations from operating revenue is strengthening. The 2014/2015 ratio of 26% is within the adopted target.

Asset Sustainability Ratio

This ratio indicates whether Council is renewing or replacing its existing non-financial assets at the same rate the assets are wearing out. Council's target is to have this ratio between 50% and 100% of depreciation. The current indicator shows a ratio higher than the target as Council has concentrated on addressing backlog of asset renewal in line with its Asset Management Plans.

Indicator	2015	2014	2013
Operating Surplus Ratio	12%	5%	-7%
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio	26%	15%	25%
Asset Sustainability Ratio	114%	36%	33%

Berri Barmera COUNCIL

*Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 30th June 2015*



BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

General Purpose Financial Reports for the year ended 30 June 2015

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Audit Certificate of Audit Independence	

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2015

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been authorised by the Council to certify the financial statements in their final form. In our opinion:

- the accompanying financial statements comply with the *Local Government Act 1999, Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* and Australian Accounting Standards.
- the financial statements present a true and fair view of the Council's financial position at 30 June 2015 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the financial year.
- internal controls implemented by the Council provide a reasonable assurance that the Council's financial records are complete, accurate and reliable and were effective throughout the financial year.
- the financial statements accurately reflect the Council's accounting and other records.


KARYN BURTON

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER


PETER HUNT
MAYOR

Date:



BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL			
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
for the year ended 30 June 2015			
	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
INCOME			
Rates	2	10,959,381	10,847,674
Statutory charges	2	170,929	186,226
User charges	2	198,130	185,998
Grants, subsidies and contributions	2	3,314,217	3,136,465
Investment income	2	88,874	102,667
Reimbursements	2	1,036,686	606,535
Other income	2	539,150	537,549
Total Income		<u>16,307,367</u>	<u>15,603,114</u>
EXPENSES			
Employee costs	3	4,538,142	4,573,866
Materials, contracts & other expenses	3	7,129,093	7,176,700
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	3	3,042,976	3,053,046
Finance costs	3	305,237	284,216
Total Expenses		<u>15,015,448</u>	<u>15,087,828</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		1,291,919	515,286
Asset disposal & fair value adjustments	4	22,955	78,834
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	2	1,082,314	320,450
Physical resources received free of charge	2	-	312,000
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		<u>2,397,188</u>	<u>1,226,570</u>
transferred to Equity Statement			
Other Comprehensive Income			
<i>Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to operating result</i>			
Impairment (expense) / recoupments offset to asset revaluation reserve	9	(250,843)	(112,160)
Total Other Comprehensive Income		<u>(250,843)</u>	<u>(112,160)</u>
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		<u>2,146,345</u>	<u>1,114,410</u>

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

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL			
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			
as at 30 June 2015			
	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	3,519,239	3,454,134
Trade & other receivables	5	2,484,662	2,426,286
Inventories	5	54,173	26,128
Total Current Assets		<u>6,058,074</u>	<u>5,906,548</u>
Non-current Assets			
Financial assets	6	246,823	141,251
Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	7	118,804,545	116,036,794
Other non-current assets	6	1,971,188	626,390
Total Non-current Assets		<u>121,022,556</u>	<u>116,804,435</u>
Total Assets		<u>127,080,630</u>	<u>122,710,983</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade & other payables	8	2,990,924	2,469,252
Borrowings	8	2,372,249	285,772
Provisions	8	1,136,283	1,062,814
Total Current Liabilities		<u>6,499,456</u>	<u>3,817,838</u>
Non-current Liabilities			
Borrowings	8	3,360,321	3,802,278
Provisions	8	670,455	686,814
Total Non-current Liabilities		<u>4,030,776</u>	<u>4,489,092</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>10,530,232</u>	<u>8,306,930</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>116,550,398</u>	<u>114,404,053</u>
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus		22,120,022	20,168,966
Asset Revaluation Reserves	9	92,665,952	92,916,795
Other Reserves	9	1,764,424	1,318,292
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>116,550,398</u>	<u>114,404,053</u>

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 2015

	Notes	Accumulated Surplus	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Other Reserves	TOTAL EQUITY
		\$	\$	\$	\$
2015					
Balance at end of previous reporting period		20,168,966	92,916,795	1,318,292	114,404,053
Restated opening balance		20,168,966	92,916,795	1,318,292	114,404,053
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		2,397,188	-	-	2,397,188
Other Comprehensive Income					
Impairment (expense) / recoupments offset to asset revaluation reserve		-	(250,843)	-	(250,843)
Transfers between reserves		(446,132)	-	446,132	-
Balance at end of period		22,120,022	92,665,952	1,764,424	116,550,398
2014					
Balance at end of previous reporting period		18,751,030	93,028,955	1,509,658	113,289,643
Restated opening balance		18,751,030	93,028,955	1,509,658	113,289,643
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		1,226,570	-	-	1,226,570
Other Comprehensive Income					
Impairment (expense) / recoupments offset to asset revaluation reserve		-	(112,160)	-	(112,160)
Transfers between reserves		191,366	-	(191,366)	-
Balance at end of period		20,168,966	92,916,795	1,318,292	114,404,053

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

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
for the year ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Rates - general & other		10,851,168	10,736,693
Fees & other charges		188,022	204,849
User charges		172,160	176,153
Investment receipts		88,874	102,667
Grants utilised for operating purposes		4,978,959	2,799,194
Reimbursements		1,140,355	667,189
Other revenues		1,896,157	1,441,413
<u>Payments</u>			
Employee costs		(4,558,230)	(4,501,548)
Materials, contracts & other expenses		(9,397,396)	(8,363,742)
Finance payments		(260,564)	(240,983)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities		5,099,505	3,021,885
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Amounts specifically for new or upgraded assets		1,082,314	320,450
Sale of replaced assets		68,091	226,859
Sale of surplus assets		57,679	-
Repayments of loans by community groups		44,677	36,813
<u>Payments</u>			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets		(2,993,434)	(1,321,182)
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets		(4,788,247)	(1,632,087)
Loans made to community groups		(150,000)	-
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities		(6,678,920)	(2,369,147)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Proceeds from borrowings		2,000,000	1,591,160
<u>Payments</u>			
Repayments of borrowings		(355,480)	(1,008,138)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities		1,644,520	583,022
Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held		65,105	1,235,760
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period	11	3,454,134	2,218,374
Cash & cash equivalents at end of period	11	3,519,239	3,454,134

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 2015

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 Accounting Standards

This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Interpretations and relevant South Australian legislation.

The financial report was authorised for issue by certificate under regulation 14 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.

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 Australian Accounting Standards 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 dollar (\$1.00).

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 SA. These financial statements include the Council's direct operations 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.

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.

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 discharged 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.

In June 2015 the Federal Government paid \$1,333,320 of untied financial assistance grants, being two quarters of the 2015/2016 allocation. Council have recorded the receipt of the advance payment as amounts received in advance.

Berri Barmera Council

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies (cont)

3.1 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".

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.

6 Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

6.1 Land under roads

Council has elected not to recognise land under roads acquired prior to 1 July 2008 as an asset in accordance with AASB 1051 Land under Roads. Land under roads acquired after 30 June 2008 has not been recognised as in the opinion of Council it is not possible to reliably attribute a fair value, and further that such value if determined would be immaterial.

6.2 Initial Recognition

All assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition.

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". 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. 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 given in Note 7. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

Berri Barmera Council

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies (cont)

6.4 Subsequent Recognition

All material 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 on a straight-line basis which, in the opinion of Council, best reflects the consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets.

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values of classes of assets are reviewed annually.

Major depreciation periods for each class of asset are shown in Note 7. 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.

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.

Where an asset that has been revalued is subsequently impaired, the impairment is first offset against such amount as stands to the credit of that class of assets in Asset Revaluation Reserve, any excess being recognised as an expense.

6.7 Borrowing Costs

Borrowing costs in relation to qualifying assets (net of offsetting investment revenue) have been capitalised in accordance with AASB 123 "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.

Berri Barmera Council

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies (cont)

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.

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 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 within the appropriate asset class, 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.

11 Joint Ventures and Associated Entities

Council participates in cooperative arrangements with other Councils for the provision of services and facilities. Council's interests in cooperative arrangements, which are only recognised if material, are accounted for in accordance with AASB 128 and set out in detail in Note 19.

Berri Barmera Council

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies (cont)

12 GST Implications

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

- > Receivables and Creditors include GST receivable and payable.
- > 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.

13 Pending Accounting Standards

Certain new accounting standards and UIG interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2015 reporting period and have not been used in preparing these reports.

AASB 7	Financial Instruments – Disclosures
AASB 9	Financial Instruments
AASB 15	Revenue from Contracts with Customers
AASB 124	Related Party Disclosures

Standards containing consequential amendments to other Standards and Interpretations arising from the above - AASB 2010-7, AASB 2014-1, AASB 2014-3, AASB 2014-4, AASB 2014-5, AASB 2014-6, AASB 2014-7, AASB 2014-8, AASB 2014-9, AASB 14-10, AASB 15-1, AASB 15-2, AASB 15-3, AASB 15-4, AASB 15-5 and AASB 2015-6.

(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.

The Australian Accounting Standards Board is currently reviewing AASB 1004 *Contributions*. It is anticipated that the changes resulting from this review may have a material effect on the timing of the recognition of grants and contributions, but the financial consequences cannot be estimated until a revised accounting standard is issued.

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 2 - INCOME

	2015	2014
Notes	\$	\$
RATES REVENUES		
<u>General Rates</u>	7,218,380	7,153,151
Less: Mandatory & Discretionary rebates, remissions & write offs	(205,672)	(209,563)
	<u>7,012,708</u>	<u>6,943,588</u>
<u>Other Rates (including service charges)</u>		
Natural Resource Management levy	126,617	125,608
Waste collection	949,716	939,518
Community wastewater management systems	<u>2,727,668</u>	<u>2,721,413</u>
	<u>3,804,001</u>	<u>3,786,539</u>
<u>Other Charges</u>		
Penalties for late payment	142,672	117,547
	<u>142,672</u>	<u>117,547</u>
	<u>10,959,381</u>	<u>10,847,674</u>
STATUTORY CHARGES		
Development Act fees	67,174	83,587
Town planning fees	23,279	22,000
Animal registration fees & fines	74,797	74,453
Sundry	5,679	6,186
	<u>170,929</u>	<u>186,226</u>
USER CHARGES		
Cemetery/crematoria fees	55,614	43,809
Septic Tank Fees	12,798	14,865
Commercial activity revenue	55,441	31,895
Hall & equipment hire	37,435	36,671
Parking fees	9,257	10,170
Sales - general	3,313	2,620
Subsidies received on behalf of users	7,249	8,723
Sundry	<u>17,023</u>	<u>37,245</u>
	<u>198,130</u>	<u>185,998</u>
INVESTMENT INCOME		
Interest on investments		
Local Government Finance Authority	64,190	76,179
Banks & other	16,751	17,648
Loans to community groups	<u>7,933</u>	<u>8,840</u>
	<u>88,874</u>	<u>102,667</u>

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

NOTE 2 - INCOME (continued)

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
REIMBURSEMENTS			
- wastewater reuse scheme		390,938	211,570
- sporting club improvements		150,000	-
- for private works		168,853	109,451
- by joint undertakings		307,912	266,889
- other		18,983	18,625
		<u>1,036,686</u>	<u>606,535</u>
OTHER INCOME			
Insurance & other recoupments - infrastructure, property, plant & equipment		86,304	74,283
Rebates received		96,663	104,638
Sundry		356,183	358,628
		<u>539,150</u>	<u>537,549</u>
GRANTS, SUBSIDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS			
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets		1,082,314	320,450
Other grants, subsidies and contributions		3,314,217	3,136,465
		<u>4,396,531</u>	<u>3,456,915</u>
<i>The functions to which these grants relate are shown in Note 12.</i>			
Sources of grants			
Commonwealth government		142,369	76,174
State government		4,014,249	3,368,741
Other		239,913	12,000
		<u>4,396,531</u>	<u>3,456,915</u>

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

NOTE 2 - INCOME (continued)

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
Conditions over grants & contributions			
<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>			
Unexpended at the close of the previous reporting period		200,000	-
Less: expended during the current period from revenues recognised in previous reporting periods			
Fowles Street Streetscaping		(100,000)	-
Monash Adventure Park Upgrade		(100,000)	-
	Subtotal	<u>(200,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Plus: amounts recognised as revenues in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions</i>			
Fowles Street Streetscaping		-	100,000
Monash Adventure Park Upgrade		-	100,000
	Subtotal	<u>-</u>	<u>200,000</u>
Unexpended at the close of this reporting period		<u>-</u>	<u>200,000</u>
<i>Net increase (decrease) in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period</i>			
		<u>(200,000)</u>	<u>200,000</u>
PHYSICAL RESOURCES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE			
Land		-	312,000
TOTAL PHYSICAL RESOURCES RECEIVED		<u>-</u>	<u>312,000</u>



BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 3 - EXPENSES

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
EMPLOYEE COSTS			
Salaries and Wages		3,992,148	3,948,604
Employee leave expense		470,243	419,934
Superannuation - defined contribution plan contributions	18	265,823	254,071
Superannuation - defined benefit plan contributions	18	119,113	134,038
Workers' Compensation Insurance		194,735	194,948
Less: Capitalised and distributed costs		<u>(503,920)</u>	<u>(377,729)</u>
Total Operating Employee Costs		<u>4,538,142</u>	<u>4,573,866</u>
Total Number of Employees		62	64
<i>(Full time equivalent at end of reporting period)</i>			
MATERIALS, CONTRACTS & OTHER EXPENSES			
<u>Prescribed Expenses</u>			
Auditor's Remuneration			
- Auditing the financial reports		12,000	12,000
Bad and Doubtful Debts		10,480	141,317
Elected members' expenses		182,749	180,510
Operating Lease Rentals - cancellable leases		<u>25,044</u>	<u>17,000</u>
Subtotal - Prescribed Expenses		<u>230,273</u>	<u>350,827</u>
<u>Other Materials, Contracts & Expenses</u>			
Contractors		2,050,967	2,330,296
Trility - Wastewater Re-Use Scheme Availability and Volumetric Charge		2,506,665	2,250,787
Legal Expenses		38,399	42,843
Levies paid to government - NRM levy		122,865	121,859
Parts, accessories & consumables		1,379,213	1,446,091
Sundry		<u>800,711</u>	<u>633,997</u>
Subtotal - Other Materials, Contracts & Expenses		<u>6,898,820</u>	<u>6,825,873</u>
		<u>7,129,093</u>	<u>7,176,700</u>

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 3 - EXPENSES (cont)

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
DEPRECIATION, AMORTISATION & IMPAIRMENT			
Depreciation			
Buildings and Structures		883,993	861,823
Infrastructure			
- Roads		955,451	937,654
- Footpaths		201,281	190,407
- Stormwater Drainage		149,689	148,181
- Effluent		250,745	251,327
- Kerbing		145,340	144,763
Other Assets		546,342	604,866
Impairment			
Roads		124,168	36,584
Footpaths		32,178	32,991
Stormwater Drainage		66,447	832
Effluent		20,153	16,379
Kerbing		<u>7,897</u>	<u>25,374</u>
		<u>3,383,684</u>	<u>3,251,181</u>
Less: Capitalised and distributed costs		<u>(89,865)</u>	<u>(85,975)</u>
Less: Impairment expense offset to asset revaluation reserve	9	<u>(250,843)</u>	<u>(112,160)</u>
		<u>3,042,976</u>	<u>3,053,046</u>
FINANCE COSTS			
Interest on Loans		277,746	263,792
Unwinding of present value discounts		<u>27,491</u>	<u>20,424</u>
		<u>305,237</u>	<u>284,216</u>



BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 4 - ASSET DISPOSAL & FAIR VALUE ADJUSTMENTS

	2015	2014
Notes	\$	\$
INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
<i>Assets renewed or directly replaced</i>		
Proceeds from disposal	68,091	226,859
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold	39,815	148,025
Gain (Loss) on disposal	<u>28,276</u>	<u>78,834</u>
<i>Assets surplus to requirements</i>		
Proceeds from disposal	57,679	-
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold	63,000	-
Gain (Loss) on disposal	<u>(5,321)</u>	<u>-</u>
NET GAIN (LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OR REVALUATION OF ASSETS	<u>22,955</u>	<u>78,834</u>

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 5 - CURRENT ASSETS

	2015	2014
Notes	\$	\$
CASH & EQUIVALENT ASSETS		
Cash on Hand and at Bank	229,267	209,546
Deposits at Call	3,289,972	3,244,588
	<u>3,519,239</u>	<u>3,454,134</u>
TRADE & OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Rates - General & Other	1,610,928	1,500,278
Debtors - general	701,629	654,261
GST Recoupment	112,707	189,048
Prepayments	15,190	38,242
Loans to community organisations	44,208	44,457
	<u>2,484,662</u>	<u>2,426,286</u>
INVENTORIES		
Stores & Materials	54,173	26,128
	<u>54,173</u>	<u>26,128</u>

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 6 - NON-CURRENT ASSETS

	2015	2014
Notes	\$	\$
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
<i>Receivables</i>		
Loans to community organisations	246,823	141,251
TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS	<u>246,823</u>	<u>141,251</u>
Capital Works-in-Progress	1,971,188	626,390
	<u>1,971,188</u>	<u>626,390</u>



BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2015**

Note 7 - INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

Fair Value Level	2014				2015				
	\$				\$				
	AT FAIR VALUE	AT COST	ACCUM DEP'N	CARRYING AMOUNT	AT FAIR VALUE	AT COST	ACCUM DEP'N	CARRYING AMOUNT	
Land	2	17,038,448	-	-	17,038,448	18,835,867	-	-	18,835,867
Land Improvements	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings	3	34,670,084	410,996	(20,865,594)	14,215,486	34,670,084	493,685	(21,358,864)	13,804,905
Structures	3	13,479,865	262,000	(4,256,474)	9,485,391	13,479,865	2,562,872	(4,647,199)	11,395,538
Infrastructure									
- Roads	3	61,748,027	645,944	(17,179,233)	45,214,738	61,195,541	1,580,695	(17,706,366)	45,069,870
- Footpaths	3	6,605,627	370,074	(3,946,083)	3,029,618	6,493,798	705,300	(4,067,713)	3,131,385
- Stormwater Drainage	3	13,254,519	121,494	(4,279,973)	9,096,040	13,163,892	303,726	(4,405,482)	9,062,136
- Effluent	3	17,033,957	188,786	(9,101,711)	8,121,032	16,973,625	259,980	(9,312,277)	7,921,328
- Kerbing	3	10,113,326	77,582	(3,105,335)	7,085,573	10,105,197	149,341	(3,250,443)	7,004,095
Plant and Machinery		-	4,557,302	(2,481,936)	2,075,366	-	4,640,384	(2,722,921)	1,917,463
Minor Plant		-	1,027,858	(522,732)	505,126	-	1,085,128	(580,815)	504,313
Office Equipment		-	1,244,592	(1,074,616)	169,976	-	1,264,986	(1,107,341)	157,645
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT		173,943,853	8,906,628	(66,813,687)	116,036,794	174,917,869	13,046,097	(69,159,421)	118,804,545
<i>Comparatives</i>		<i>173,924,774</i>	<i>6,682,827</i>	<i>(64,328,919)</i>	<i>116,278,682</i>	<i>173,943,853</i>	<i>8,906,628</i>	<i>(66,813,687)</i>	<i>116,036,794</i>

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 2015

Note 7 - INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

	2014	CARRYING AMOUNT MOVEMENTS DURING YEAR					2015	
	\$	\$					\$	
	CARRYING AMOUNT	Additions		Disposals	Depreciation	Impairment	Net Revaluation	CARRYING AMOUNT
		New/Upgrade	Renewals					
Land	17,038,448	1,860,419	-	(63,000)	-	-	-	18,835,867
Land Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings	14,215,486	-	82,689	-	(493,270)	-	-	13,804,905
Structures	9,485,391	2,178,512	122,358	-	(390,723)	-	-	11,395,538
Infrastructure								
- Roads	45,214,738	228,984	705,767	-	(955,451)	(124,168)	-	45,069,870
- Footpaths	3,029,618	288,492	46,734	-	(201,281)	(32,178)	-	3,131,385
- Stormwater Drainage	9,096,040	176,283	5,949	-	(149,689)	(66,447)	-	9,062,136
- Effluent	8,121,032	-	71,194	-	(250,745)	(20,153)	-	7,921,328
- Kerbing	7,085,573	37,932	33,827	-	(145,340)	(7,897)	-	7,004,095
Plant and Machinery	2,075,366	-	295,721	(30,863)	(422,761)	-	-	1,917,463
Minor Plant	505,126	-	64,169	(4,949)	(60,033)	-	-	504,313
Office Equipment	169,976	-	55,221	(4,004)	(63,548)	-	-	157,645
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT	116,036,794	4,770,622	1,483,629	(102,816)	(3,132,841)	(250,843)	-	118,804,545
<i>Comparatives</i>	<i>116,278,682</i>	<i>1,462,245</i>	<i>1,695,073</i>	<i>(148,025)</i>	<i>(3,139,021)</i>	<i>(112,160)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>116,036,794</i>

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 2015

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

Valuation of Assets

General Valuation Principles

Accounting procedure: Upon revaluation, the current new replacement cost and accumulated depreciation are re-stated such that the difference represents the fair value of the asset determined in accordance with AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*: accumulated depreciation is taken to be the difference between current new replacement cost and fair value. In the case of land, fair value is taken to be the current replacement cost.

Highest and best use: For land which Council has an unfettered right to sell, the "highest and best use" recognises the possibility of the demolition or substantial modification of some or all of the existing buildings and structures affixed to the land.

Much of the land under Council's care and control is Crown land or has been declared as community land under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999. Other types of restrictions also exist.

For land subject to these restrictions, the highest and best use is taken to be the "highest and best use" available to Council, with a rebuttable presumption that the current use is the "highest and best use". The reason for the current use of a large proportion of Council's assets being other than the "highest and best use" relates to Council's principal role as the provider of services to the community, rather than the use of those assets for the generation of revenue.

For buildings and other structures on and in the land, including infrastructure, "highest and best use" is determined in accordance with the land on and in which they are situated.

Fair value hierarchy level 2 valuations: Certain land, and the buildings and structures thereon, are shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 2 valuation inputs. They are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, with directly or indirectly observable adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset.

Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of land: Valuations of Crown land, community land and land subject to other restrictions on use or disposal, shown above as being based on fair value hierarchy level 3 valuation inputs, are based on prices for similar assets in an active market, but include adjustments for specific advantages or disadvantages attaching to the particular asset that are not directly or indirectly observable in that market, or the number and / or amount of observable adjustments of which are so great that the valuation is more fairly described as being based on level 3 valuation inputs.

Fair value hierarchy level 3 valuations of buildings, infrastructure and other assets: There is no known market for these assets and they are valued at depreciated current replacement cost. This method involves:

The determination of the cost to construct the asset (or its modern engineering equivalent) using current prices for materials and labour, the quantities of each being estimated based on recent experience of this or similar Councils, or on industry construction guides where these are more appropriate.

The calculation of the depreciation that would have accumulated since original construction using current estimates of residual value and useful life under the prime cost depreciation method adopted by Council.

This method has significant inherent uncertainties, relying on estimates of quantities of materials and labour, residual values and useful lives, and the possibility of changes in prices for materials and labour, and the potential for development of more efficient construction techniques.

Capitalisation thresholds used by Council for a representative range of assets are shown below. 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

Berri Barmera Council

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 7 – Property, Plant & Equipment (cont)

Estimated Useful Lives: Useful lives are estimated for each individual asset. In estimating useful lives, regard is had to technical and commercial obsolescence, as well as legal and other limitations on continued use. The range of useful lives for a representative range of assets is shown below, although individual assets may have an estimated total useful life of greater or lesser amount:

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
Benches, seats, etc	5 to 25 years
Infrastructure	
Road Surfaces – Sealed and Unsealed	15 to 30 years
Road Pavements – pavements under sealed surfaces	60 to 90 years
Kerb and Gutter	60 to 70 years
Footpaths	15 to 50 years
Drains	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	25 to 75 years
Pumps & Telemetry	15 to 25 years

Land & Land Improvements

Council being of the opinion that it is not possible to attribute a value sufficiently reliably to qualify for recognition, 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.

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, originally deriving from a valuation at 30 June 2013 at current replacement cost. Additions are recognised at cost. The revaluation was undertaken by Liquid Pacific Holdings 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

Buildings and other structures generally are recognised at fair value, deriving from a valuation at 30 June 2013 at written down replacement cost. Additions are recognised at cost. The revaluation was undertaken by Liquid Pacific Holdings Pty Ltd.

It is recognised that there are a number of buildings and structures situated on land that is in the care and control of council but are not assets maintained nor operated by Council but rather, by other community groups and/or sporting bodies. Although Council include these assets within these accounts they are valued at salvage value and are not depreciated as arrangements are in place via lease agreements for the community groups to be entirely responsible for the renewal of these assets.

In addition there are a number of buildings and structures situated on land that is in the care and control of Council but have been considered as non-replaceable assets and as such are not maintained by Council. Although these assets are included within these accounts as they are recognised to be of salvage value only.

Berri Barmera Council

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 7 – Property, Plant & Equipment (cont)

Infrastructure

Roads, kerbing and footpaths infrastructure are recognised at fair value, deriving from a valuation at 30 June 2013 at written down current replacement cost. Additions are recognised at cost. The revaluation was undertaken by Tonkin Consulting.

Stormwater drainage infrastructure is recognised at fair value, deriving from a valuation at 30 June 2013 at written down current replacement cost. The revaluation was undertaken by Tonkin Consulting.

Community wastewater management system infrastructure is recognised at fair value, deriving from a valuation at 30 June 2013 at written down current replacement cost. The revaluation was undertaken by Tonkin Consulting.

Plant, Furniture & Equipment

These assets are recognised on the cost basis.

All other assets

These assets are recognised on the cost basis. Library books and other lending materials are capitalised in bulk, and written out when fully depreciated.

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 8 - LIABILITIES

	2015		2014	
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES				
Goods & Services	1,358,441		2,114,443	
Payments received in advance	1,346,664		9,322	
Accrued expenses - employee entitlements	59,410		60,813	
Accrued expenses - other	226,409		284,674	
	<u>2,990,924</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,469,252</u>	<u>-</u>
BORROWINGS				
Loans	2,372,249	3,360,321	285,772	3,802,278
	<u>2,372,249</u>	<u>3,360,321</u>	<u>285,772</u>	<u>3,802,278</u>
PROVISIONS				
Employee entitlements (including oncosts)	1,136,283	20,455	1,062,814	36,814
Future reinstatement / restoration, etc		650,000		650,000
	<u>1,136,283</u>	<u>670,455</u>	<u>1,062,814</u>	<u>686,814</u>

Movements in Provisions - 2015 year only
(current & non-current)

Opening Balance	
Add Unwinding of present value discounts	
Additional amounts recognised	
(Less) Payments	
Unused amounts reversed	
Add (Less) Remeasurement Adjustments	
Closing Balance	

Future Reinstatement

650,000
-
-
-
-
650,000

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 9 - RESERVES

ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE	1/7/2014	Net Increments (Decrements)	Transfers, Impairments	30/6/2015
Notes	\$	\$	\$	\$
Land	4,554,589	-	-	4,554,589
Buildings	8,205,200	-	-	8,205,200
Infrastructure	80,157,006	-	(250,843)	79,906,163
TOTAL	92,916,795	-	(250,843)	92,665,952
<i>Comparatives</i>	<i>93,028,955</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>(112,160)</i>	<i>92,916,795</i>

OTHER RESERVES	1/7/2014	Transfers to Reserve	Transfers from Reserve	30/6/2015
Land Development	1,165,660	73,481	(48,779)	1,190,362
District CWMS	97,854	3,123,873	(2,797,049)	424,678
Work In Progress	53,000	147,600	(53,000)	147,600
Open Space	1,778	6	-	1,784
TOTAL OTHER RESERVES	1,318,292	3,344,960	(2,898,828)	1,764,424
<i>Comparatives</i>	<i>1,509,658</i>	<i>2,993,995</i>	<i>(3,185,361)</i>	<i>1,318,292</i>

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 (less any subsequent impairment losses, where applicable).

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 for managing the income and expenditure of 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 and capital works that are unfinished at year end and to be completed the following year.

Open Space Reserve

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

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

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	2015 \$	2014 \$
Unexpended amounts received from State Government			
Fowles Street Streetscaping Project		-	100,000
Monash Adventure Park Upgrade		-	100,000
		<u>-</u>	<u>200,000</u>



BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

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:

	2015	2014
	Notes	\$
Total cash & equivalent assets	5	\$ 3,519,239
Balances per Cash Flow Statement		<u>3,454,134</u>

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

Net Surplus (Deficit)	2,397,188	1,226,570
Non-cash items in Income Statement		
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	3,042,976	3,053,046
Net increase (decrease) in unpaid employee benefits	28,216	61,979
Premiums & discounts recognised & unwound	27,491	20,424
Non-cash asset acquisitions	-	(312,000)
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as Investing Activity	(1,082,314)	(320,450)
Net (Gain) Loss on Disposals	<u>(22,955)</u>	<u>(78,834)</u>
	4,390,602	3,650,735
Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets		
Net (increase) decrease in receivables	(58,625)	743,812
Net (increase) decrease in inventories	(28,045)	(7,734)
Net increase (decrease) in trade & other payables	795,573	(1,240,608)
Net increase (decrease) in other provisions	-	(124,320)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) operations	<u>5,099,505</u>	<u>3,021,885</u>

(c) Non-Cash Financing and Investing Activities

Acquisition of assets by means of:		
- Physical resources received free of charge	3	312,000
<i>Amounts recognised in Income Statement</i>		312,000
- Estimated future reinstatement etc. costs		<u>(124,320)</u>
		<u>187,680</u>

(d) Financing Arrangements

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

Bank Overdrafts	140,000	140,000
Corporate Credit Cards	39,000	39,000
LGFA Cash Advance Debenture facility	500,000	2,560,000

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 2015

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	2015	2014	2015	2014
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	\$	\$	\$	\$
Public Order and Safety	75,861	75,732	212,053	196,132	(136,192)	(120,400)	-	-	340,732	362,405
Health	28,557	35,017	239,859	266,154	(211,302)	(231,137)	-	-	20,785	25,239
Social Security	2,000	-	33,460	76,292	(31,460)	(76,292)	2,000	-	549,340	573,325
Housing and Community Amenities	4,199,511	4,052,502	6,381,311	6,003,549	(2,181,800)	(1,951,047)	-	32,041	9,761,868	9,762,104
Protection of the Environment	45,708	7,600	40,365	38,588	5,343	(30,988)	334,900	23,000	-	-
Sport and Recreation	915,761	465,897	3,589,531	3,679,268	(2,673,770)	(3,213,371)	822,809	331,306	26,280,205	21,268,171
Mining, Manufacturing and Construction	33,200	28,974	245,858	247,913	(212,658)	(218,939)	-	-	24,694	29,985
Transport and Communication	548,782	592,098	2,817,584	2,986,114	(2,268,802)	(2,394,016)	520,908	566,125	64,389,676	64,558,779
Economic Affairs	171,079	167,868	436,104	461,751	(265,025)	(293,883)	-	7,500	894,574	905,301
Other Purposes	411,293	355,274	859,035	973,963	(447,742)	(618,689)	25,000	38,600	3,618,508	3,855,429
Administration	9,875,615	9,822,152	160,288	158,104	9,715,327	9,664,048	2,451,001	2,446,343	21,200,248	21,370,245
TOTALS	16,307,367	15,603,114	15,015,448	15,087,828	1,291,919	515,286	4,156,618	3,444,915	127,080,630	122,710,983

Revenues and expenses exclude 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 2015

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 Programmes 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, Reservices, 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, Organisation, 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 2015

Note 13 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

All financial instruments are categorised as *loans and receivables*.

Accounting Policies - Recognised Financial Instruments

Bank, Deposits at Call, Short Term Deposits	Accounting Policy: Carried at lower of cost and net realisable value; interest is recognised when earned. Terms & conditions: Deposits are returning fixed interest rates between 2% and 2.5% (2014: 2.5% and 2.75%). Short term deposits have an average maturity of 365 days and an average interest rates of 2% (2014: 365 days, 2.5%). Carrying amount: approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.
Receivables - Rates & Associated Charges (including legals & penalties for late payment)	Accounting Policy: 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. Note: These receivables do not meet the definition of "financial instruments" and have been excluded from the following disclosures. Terms & conditions: Secured over the subject land, arrears attract interest of 2% (2014: 2%) Although Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries in the State. Carrying amount: approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).
Receivables - Fees & other charges	Accounting Policy: 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. Terms & conditions: 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. Carrying amount: approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).
Receivables - other levels of government	Accounting Policy: Carried at nominal value. Terms & conditions: 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 State and Federal Governments. Carrying amount: approximates fair value.
Liabilities - Creditors and Accruals	Accounting Policy: Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Council. Terms & conditions: Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms. Carrying amount: approximates fair value.
Liabilities - Interest Bearing Borrowings	Accounting Policy: Carried at the principal amounts. Interest is charged as an expense as it accrues. Terms & conditions: secured over future revenues, borrowings are repayable 6 monthly; interest is charged at fixed and variable rates between 4.6% and 8.1% (2014: 4.6% and 8.1%) Carrying amount: approximates fair value.
Liabilities - Finance Leases	Accounting Policy: accounted for in accordance with AASB 117.

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2015**

Note 13 (cont) - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Liquidity Analysis

2015	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year; ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
Financial Assets	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash & Equivalents	3,519,239	-	-	3,519,239	3,519,239
Receivables	1,120,557	-	-	1,120,557	1,120,557
Total	4,639,796	-	-	4,639,796	4,639,796
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	2,705,105	-	-	2,705,105	2,705,105
Current Borrowings	2,372,249	-	-	2,372,249	2,372,249
Non-Current Borrowings	-	1,787,942	1,572,379	3,360,321	3,360,321
Total	5,077,354	1,787,942	1,572,379	8,437,675	8,437,675

2014	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year; ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
Financial Assets	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash & Equivalents	3,454,134	-	-	3,454,134	3,454,134
Receivables	1,067,259	-	-	1,067,259	1,067,259
Total	4,521,393	-	-	4,521,393	4,521,393
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	2,123,765	-	-	2,123,765	2,123,765
Current Borrowings	613,825	-	-	613,825	285,772
Non-Current Borrowings	-	2,698,043	2,418,370	5,116,413	3,802,278
Total	2,737,590	2,698,043	2,418,370	7,854,003	6,211,815

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

	30 June 2015		30 June 2014	
	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Carrying Value	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Carrying Value
Other Variable Rates	%	\$ 2,000,000	%	\$ -
Fixed Interest Rates	6.75	3,732,570	6.75	4,088,050
		5,732,570		4,088,050

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 Management Policy (LGA Information Paper 15), liabilities have a range of maturity dates. Council also has available a range of bank overdraft and standby borrowing 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 2015**

Note 14 - COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

	2015	2014
Notes	\$	\$
Capital Commitments		
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
Construction Berri Bowling Club, Glassey Park	313,792	-
Fowles Street Streetscape Project	-	200,000
Monash Adventure Park Upgrade	-	200,000
	313,792	400,000
These expenditures are payable:		
Not later than one year	313,792	400,000
	313,792	400,000
Other Expenditure Commitments		
Other non-capital expenditure commitments:		
Audit Services	84,946	12,000
Waste Management Services	1,057,000	1,084,240
Household Desludging Contract	150,000	118,820
Wastewater Re-Use Scheme - Operating		
Availability Charge	2,100,000	2,130,000
Volumetric Charge	200,000	210,000
Cleaning Services Contract	29,000	87,110
Public Convenience Maintenance	20,000	59,843
IT Support Contract	86,768	144,613
	3,727,714	3,846,626
These Expenditures are payable:		
Not later than one year	3,629,845	3,710,873
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	97,869	135,753
	3,727,714	3,846,626

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 15 - FINANCIAL INDICATORS

	2015	2014	2013
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.			

Operating Surplus Ratio			
Operating Surplus	12%	5%	(7%)
Rates - general & other less NRM levy			

This ratio expresses the operating surplus as a percentage of general and other rates, net of NRM levy.

Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio	12%	5%	6%
---	-----	----	----

In recent years the Federal Government has made advance payments prior to 30th June from future year allocations of financial assistance grants, as explained in Note 1. The Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio adjusts for the resulting distortion in the disclosed operating result for each year.

Net Financial Liabilities Ratio			
Net Financial Liabilities	26%	15%	25%
Total Operating Revenue			

Net Financial Liabilities are defined as total liabilities less financial assets (excluding equity accounted investments in Council businesses). These are expressed as a percentage of total operating revenue.

Asset Sustainability Ratio			
Net Asset Renewals	114%	36%	33%
Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan required expenditure			*

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.

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

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 simplified Uniform Presentation Framework basis.

All Councils in South Australia 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

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Income	16,307,367	15,603,114
less Expenses	15,015,448	15,087,828
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	1,291,919	515,286
<i>less Net Outlays on Existing Assets</i>		
Capital Expenditure on renewal and replacement of Existing Assets	2,993,434	1,321,182
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	(3,042,976)	(3,053,046)
Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets	(68,091)	(226,859)
	(117,633)	(1,958,723)
<i>less Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets</i>		
Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets (including investment property & real estate developments)	4,788,247	1,632,087
Amounts received specifically for New and Upgraded Assets	(1,082,314)	(320,450)
Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets (including investment property and real estate developments)	(57,679)	-
	3,648,254	1,311,637
Net Lending / (Borrowing) for Financial Year	(2,238,702)	1,162,372

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

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:

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Not later than one year	8,365	7,759
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	47,997	29,273
Later than 5 years	240	302
	<u>56,602</u>	<u>37,334</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:

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Not later than one year	10,199	19,918
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	32,184	21,722
	<u>42,383</u>	<u>41,640</u>

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 18 – SUPERANNUATION

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to Statewide Super (formerly Local Government Superannuation Scheme). There are two types of membership, each of which is funded differently. Permanent and contract employees of the South Australian Local Government sector with Salarylink benefits prior to 24 November 2009 have the option to contribute to the Accumulation section and/or Salarylink. All other employees (including casuals) have all contributions allocated to the Accumulation section.

Accumulation only Members

Accumulation only members receive both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of ordinary time earnings in accordance with superannuation guarantee legislation (9.50% in 2014/15; 9.25% in 2013/14). No further liability accrues to the Council as the superannuation benefits accruing to employees are represented by their share of the net assets of the Fund.

Salarylink (Defined Benefit Fund) 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 and level of contribution and final average salary. Council makes employer contributions to Salarylink as determined by the Fund's Trustee based on advice from the appointed Actuary. The rate is currently 6.3% (6.3% in 2013/14) of "superannuation" salary.

In addition, Council makes a separate contribution of 3% of ordinary time earnings for Salarylink members to their Accumulation account. Employees also make member contributions to the Salarylink section of the Fund. As such, assets accumulate in the Salarylink section of the Fund to meet the member's benefits, as defined in the Trust Deed, as they accrue.

The Salarylink section is a multi-employer sponsored plan. As the Salarylink section's assets and liabilities are pooled and are not allocated by each employer, and employees may transfer to another employer within the local government sector and retain membership of the Fund, 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 actuarial investigation was conducted by the Fund's actuary, A C Miller, FIAA, of Russell Employee Benefits Pty Ltd as at 30 June 2014. The Trustee has determined that the current funding arrangements are adequate for the expected Salarylink liabilities. However, future financial and economic circumstances may require changes to Council's contribution rates at some future time.

Contributions to Other Superannuation Schemes

Council also makes contributions to other superannuation schemes selected by employees under the "choice of fund" legislation. All such schemes are of the accumulation type, where the superannuation benefits accruing to the employee are represented by their share of the net assets of the scheme, and no further liability attaches to the Council.

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 19 - INTERESTS IN OTHER 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.
Contribution paid to the Association were (ex GST)
2015 - \$22,164 2014 - \$21,649

Joint Use Library

For the first half of the 2014/2015 financial year Council were 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

The Murray Institute of TAFE withdrew from this agreement effective 31st December, 2014. The agreement continued under a 50/50 arrangement between the Berri Barmera Council and the Minister for Education and Children's Services.

Wastewater Re-Use Scheme

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

Operating Expenditure payable in 2014/2015 were:

Availability Charge - Annual Charge \$2,060,082

Volumetric Charge - Average annual charge \$217,816

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

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 Balance Sheet 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 \$1,450,000 (2014: \$1,217,014) at reporting date.

Council does not expect to incur any loss arising from these guarantees.



Independent Audit Report to the Members of the Berri Barmera Council

We have audited the accompanying financial report of the Berri Barmera Council which comprises the statement of financial position, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows, summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the certification of financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015.

Chief Executive Officer's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Local Government Act 1999 together with the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls 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 have 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 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 Board of Management, 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.

Independence

In conducting our audit we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional and ethical pronouncements and the Local Government Act 1999.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Berri Barmera Council as of 30 June 2015, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Local Government Act 1999 together with the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011.



Ian G McDonald FCA
Chartered Accountant
Registered Company Auditor

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

Signed this 18th day of October 2015, at Adelaide, South Australia

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Adelaide SA 5000

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Henley Beach SA 5022

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BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2015**

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 2015, the Council's Auditor, Mr Ian McDonald, has maintained his independence in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22(3) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.



KARYN BURTON
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



JOHN COMRIE
PRESIDING MEMBER
AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date: 14 October 2015

Berri Barmera Council
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2015

STATEMENT BY AUDITOR

I confirm that, for the audit of the financial statements of the Berri Barmera Council for the year ended 30 June 2015, 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 2011* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 22 (5) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.



Ian G McDonald FCA

Dated this 23rd day of September 2015

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Executive Services



GOVERNANCE

- Council General Information
- Corporate Structure
- Regional Involvement
- Senior Executive Officers – Register of Salaries
- Human Resources / Work Health and Safety
- Decision Making Structure of Council
- Council/Committee Meetings
- Strategic and Corporate Plan - Corporate Objectives

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

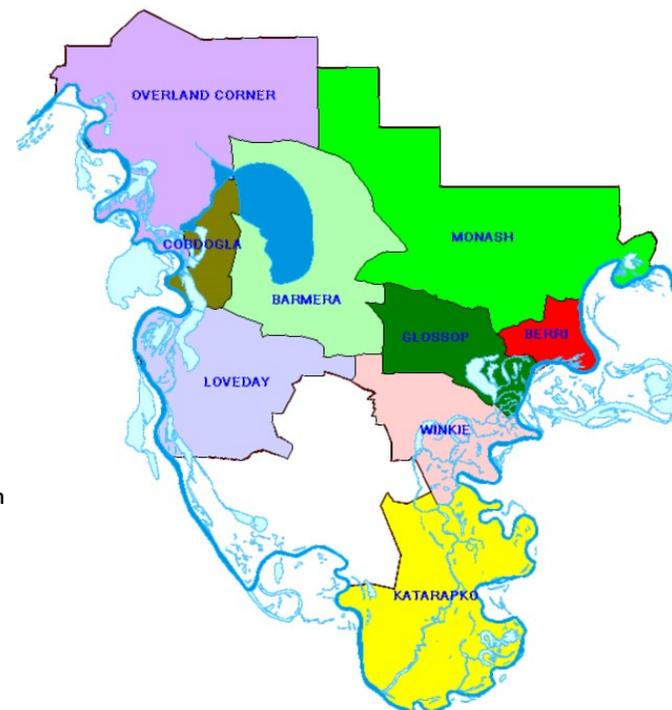
COUNCIL GENERAL INFORMATION - Council Area

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

Elected Member Training and Development Activities

Throughout 2014/2015 Elected Members attended the following Conferences and Training Sessions;

- Local Government Association AGM and Showcase
- Local Government Association Roads and Works Conference
- National General Assembly of Local Government (Canberra)
- Other associated Local Government Association training sessions, including Council Member Induction Program (Mandatory)
- Murray Darling Association Board meeting and MDA Conference



Council Meeting and Attendances by Members for period 2014/2015

Elected Member	Ordinary Meetings (up to November 2014)	Special Council Meetings (up to November 2014)	Ordinary Meetings (from November 2014)	Special Council Meetings (from November 2014)
Mayor Peter Hunt	4	1	8	3
Cr Rhonda Centofanti	4	1	8	3
Cr Margaret Evans	4	1	8	3
Cr Michelle Campbell	1	1		
Cr Vicki Beech	4	1		
Cr Mike Fuller	4	1	8	3
Cr Bruce Richardson	4	1		
Cr Trevor Chapple	-	-		
Cr Andrew Kassebaum	4	0	8	2
Cr Linc Gore			8	3
Cr Stephen Lynch			8	3
Cr Trevor Scott			8	3
Cr David Waterman			8	3



CORPORATE STRUCTURE

The Corporate and Functional Structure (overleaf) 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: (up to November 2014)

- Asset Management Committee
- Strategic Governance Committee
- Audit Committee
- Cemetery Advisory Committee
- Berri Town Beautification Committee
- Barmera Town Beautification Committee
- Recreation Facilities Committee
- Martin Bend Recreational Area Committee
- Major Projects Committee

Following Elections—November 2014

- Strategic Governance and Asset Management Committee
- Audit Committee
- Cemetery Advisory Committee
- Berri Town Beautification Committee
- Barmera Town Beautification Committee
- Recreation Facilities Committee
- Martin Bend Recreational Area Committee
- Major Projects 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)

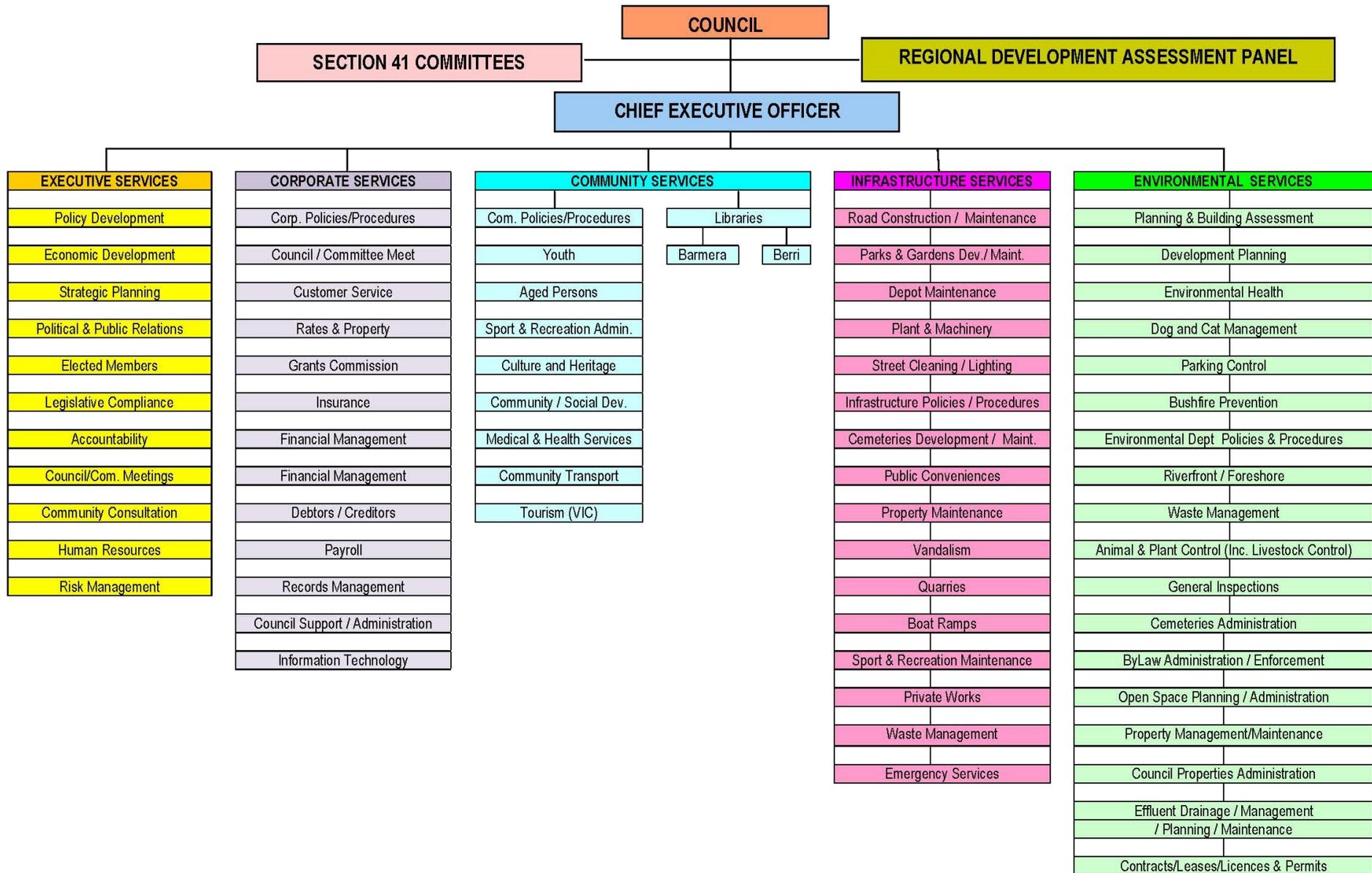
Other Specific Purposes Committees:

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



Mr Tim Fischer AC with Mayor Peter Hunt at Tim's Book Launch of "Maestro John Monash: Australia's Greatest Citizen General" and 75th Anniversary of the Monash Memorial Hall event in November 2014.





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

Pursuant to Schedule 2 (Section 28) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Annual Report of the Murray and Mallee Local Government Association is included within this report under the heading “Regional Subsidiary Reports” (refer contents).

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.

Title of Position	Classification	Other Benefits Packages Provided
Chief Executive Officer	Contract Agreement	Novated Lease Available Annual salary increase CPI – as per contract Mobile Phone / Work related calls
Manager Corporate Services	Contract Agreement Includes EB Agreement	Novated Lease Allowance
Manager Infrastructure Services	Contract Agreement Includes EB Agreement	Mobile phone and car provided
Manager Environmental Services and Special Projects	Contract Agreement Includes EB Agreement	Mobile phone and car provided



Mr Tim Fischer AC addressing the crowd at Tim's Book Launch of "Maestro John Monash: Australia's Greatest Citizen General" and 75th Anniversary of the Monash Memorial Hall event in November 2014.



HUMAN RESOURCES/ WORK HEALTH

SAFETY

Human Resources

Council's workforce equated to 63 Full Time equivalents for the 2014/2015 period. There was a slight increase in staffing numbers following the appointment of some casual staff due to additional works from funded projects that required extra resources. Staffing changes occurred during this period also due to the redeployment of staff following the withdrawal of funding from TAFE SA from the Joint Use Agreement for the Berri Library and Information Centre.

Training and Development

For 2014/2015 approximately 230 training, development and health monitoring sessions were attended by staff. Training and development remains a key focus of council in supporting and progressing the skills and knowledge of staff within their professions. Compliance training in legislation and industry standards forms a large part of Council's training needs.

Emergency Management

Helping to protect and assist the community to respond to and recover from disasters is a shared responsibility. Council, along with other agencies, provide support through various strategies in planning, preparedness, response and recovery within emergency management. Council have adopted the i-Responda Framework, an initiative of LGA in partnership with LGRS. The key principle behind the i-Responda Framework is to ensure that Council personnel can participate safely in providing support to emergency services during an event, and that risks to Council and Council personnel are appropriately managed. This is based on the fundamental concept of **ordinary operations in extraordinary situations**. The i-Responda Framework outlines the processes and decision making to be undertaken for each element being: *Council Preparation*; *Council Response*; and, *Worker Response*. The i-Responda Framework has been developed so that it can be applied to all types of emergency incidents.



Risk Management

Council's exposure to liability has been limited through proactive management and maintenance of Council's assets, infrastructure and facilities. Plans and programs continue to be formulated for these areas.

Work Health and Safety

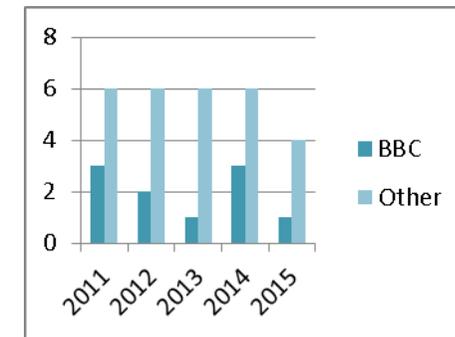
Under the requirements of the Performance Standards for Self Insurers (PSSI) as administered by WorkCover SA, Council undertook the annual Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Audit conducted by LGAWCS in November 2014. It is an obligation of being self insured for Workers Compensation to meet the requirements of the PSSI. Due to on going partnership programs with WorkCover SA and Councils across the State, only nine sub elements of the PSSI were selected to form the 2014 KPI audit. Based on the outcome of this audit Council received a 100% rebate.

For 2014/2015 the WHS focus for Council remained the following programs: Contractor Management; Hazard Management; Communication and Consultation; and, WHS Management System (Planning). All programs had identified actions which were assigned to responsible officers. As a result of completion of these actions the programs were closed off and consultation began for new programs for the next two year period.

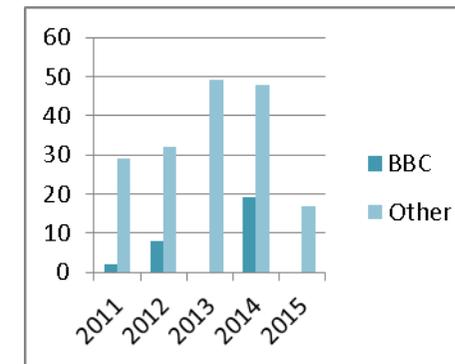
Injury Management

Workers Compensation Claims Data

Claims



Lost Time Injury Days



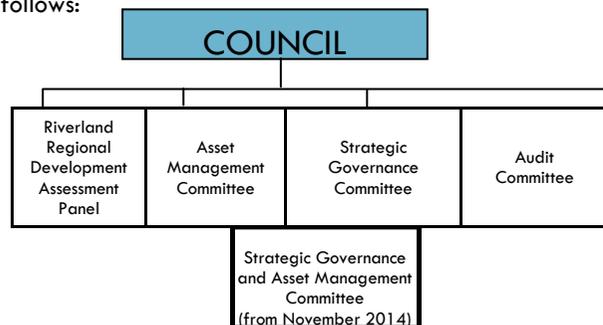
Other: Similar Groups of Councils (Group D).

Data Source: LGAWCS, Claims Analysis and Tracking System as at 30 June 2015. Statistical information is update monthly by LGAWCS but the accuracy is dependent on the timing of information being lodged and processed.



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. Following the 2014 Elections, the Asset Management Committee and Strategic Governance Committee were amalgamated. The structure of Council and its major committees which integrate with Council's Corporate Structure are as follows:



Riverland Regional Development Assessment Panel (RRDAP)

The Berri Barmera Council, together with the Renmark Paringa and Loxton Waikerie Councils formed the RRDAP pursuant to Section 34 of the *Development Act 1993*. The formation of the RRDAP is an important way of promoting a common approach to assessment and policy development in the Riverland region.

The RRDAP assesses applications and hears applicants, as a delegate of Council on behalf of the Renmark Paringa, Loxton Waikerie and Berri Barmera Councils. The Panel adheres to the Minister's Code of Conduct under section 21A of the *Development Act 1993*, and adopts its own Operating Procedures for the conduct of its members and for its meetings. The following people have been appointed as members of the RRDAP:

Independent Presiding Member - Mr Bruce Ballantyne

Independent Members: Miss Rebecca Perkin (Berri Barmera Council), Miss Ellie Anspach (Loxton Waikerie Council), Mr Geoffrey Parsons (Renmark Paringa Council)

Elected Members: Crs Rhonda Centofanti (Berri Barmera Council), Margaret Malthouse (Loxton Waikerie Council) and Mark Chown (Renmark Paringa Council).

All members have a keen interest in community planning and have knowledge of the *Development Act* and Regulations with appropriate qualifications and/or experience relevant to development assessment. The Panel met on nine occasions during the 2014/15 year. The RRDAP assessed 24 applications on behalf of the Councils. Panel members are remunerated by each relevant Council; independent and Elected Member representatives are paid \$350 per meeting. Mr Ballantyne, as the Presiding Member, is reimbursed \$700 plus GST (including travel) per meeting.

The terms of both the Elected Member and Independent Member appointments cease at 31 December 2015.

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

Attendees - Chief Executive Officer and Management Team

Co-ordinator - Manager Infrastructure Services

Strategic Governance Committee

1. The basic function of the Strategic Governance Committee is to develop and 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.
2. 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 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 receive reports and enquiry on the progress of Council's capital and operating projects budget program.
- 6) To monitor the timeliness of Council planning and execution of Council's approved projects.
- 7) Ensure compliance with Council's purchasing policies in regard to tendering of works, services or products.
- 8) Recommend areas of process improvement to increase effectiveness of project delivery.
- 9) To establish sub-committees and/or working parties to assist in carrying out the Committee's functions.



To consider any other matters referred to it by the Council, other Council Committees and the Chief Executive Officer.

Membership - All Councillors

Chairperson - Cr A Kassebaum

Attendees - Chief Executive Officer and Management Team

Co-ordinator - Chief Executive Officer

Audit Committee

The functions of the Audit Committee include:

- 1) reviewing annual financial statements to ensure that they present fairly the state of affairs of the council; and
- 2) proposing, and providing information relevant to, a review of the Council's strategic management plans or Annual Business Plan; and
- 3) proposing, and reviewing, the exercise of powers under Section 130A; and
- 4) if the Council has exempted a subsidiary from the requirement to have an audit committee, the functions that would, apart from the exemption, have been performed by the subsidiary's audit committee; and
- 5) liaising with the Council's auditor; and
- 6) reviewing the adequacy of the accounting, internal control, reporting and other financial management systems and practices of the council on a regular basis.

Membership:

One independent member (John Comrie)

Crs B Richardson, M Fuller, T Chapple

Mayor P Hunt (ex officio)

Cr A Kassebaum (Proxy)

Chief Executive Officer

Manager Corporate Services

Internal/External Auditors

Human Resources/Risk Management

Membership (following the 2014 Elections)

One independent member (John Comrie)

Crs M Fuller, D Waterman, Cr L Gore

Mayor P Hunt (ex officio)

Cr A Kassebaum (Proxy)

Chief Executive Officer

Manager Corporate Services

Internal/External Auditors

Human Resources/Risk Management

Strategic Governance and Asset Management Committee

The functions of the Strategic Governance and Asset Management Committee include:

Strategic Governance

- 1) To develop, implement and review a Strategic Plan for the 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.

Asset Management

- 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 A Kassebaum

Attendees - Chief Executive Officer and Management Team

Co-ordinator - CEO

Council meetings are generally held on the fourth Tuesday of every month commencing at 5:30pm. 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 via the website and Council office.

The Council and Committee agendas are 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
- Barmera Town Beautification Committee
- Martin Bend Recreational Area Committee
- Major Projects 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.



S STRATEGIC AND CORPORATE PLAN

The Strategic and Corporate Plans to 2015 established the following Vision for the Council:

Vision

In 2015 the Berri Barmera Council shall be part of one regional community, which is sustainable, growing and prosperous, where residents are enjoying a lifestyle and environment second to none.

The Corporate and Strategic Plan includes Objectives for key areas, namely:

- **Our Economy**

In 2025 the economy will be horticulture based but more diverse and vibrant, with a range of traditional and new businesses.

- **Our Environment**

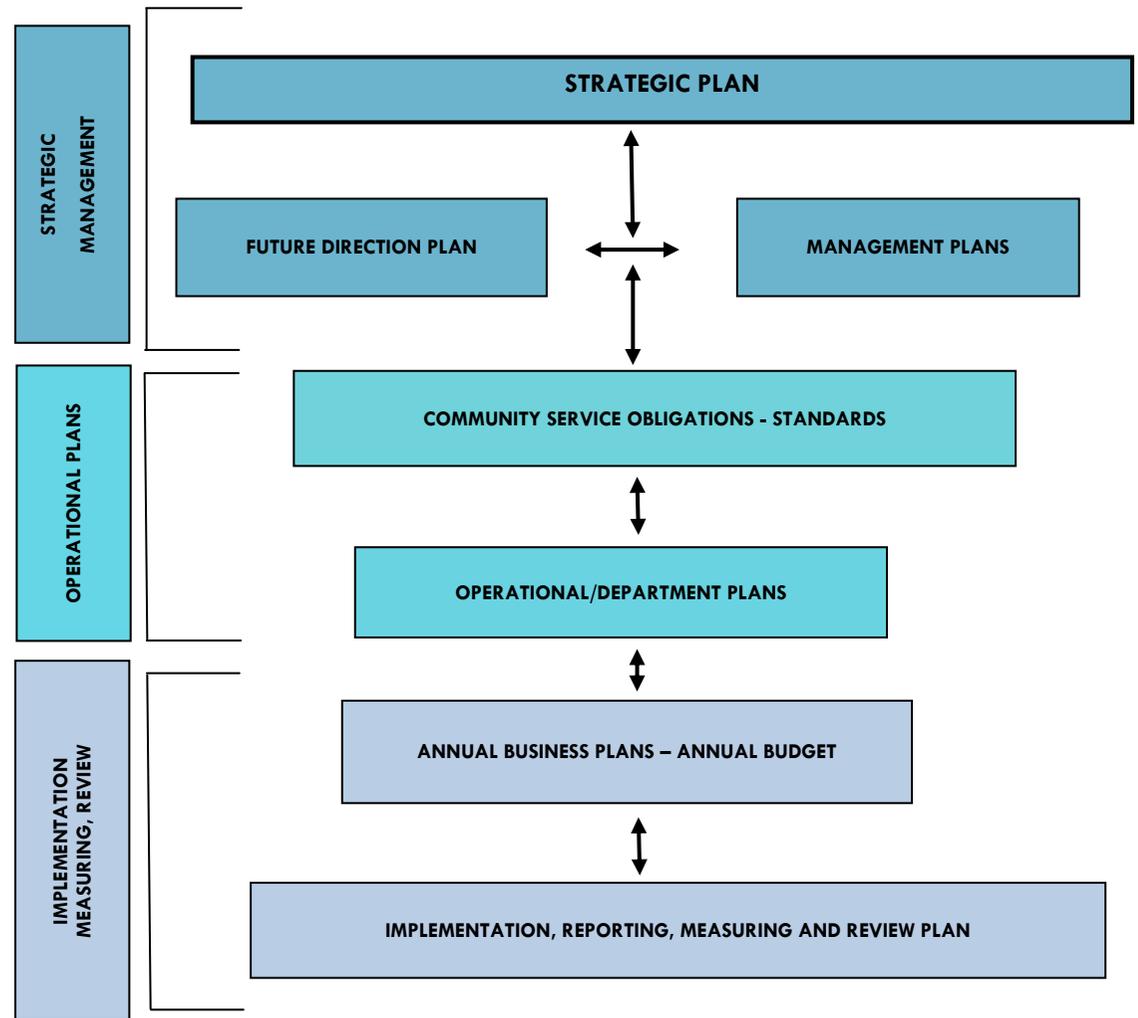
In 2025 the environment will be healthier and sustainable. Council will be a leader in holistic reuse of industry and community waste.

- **Our Community / Social**

In 2025 our community will be diverse, healthy, sporting, safe, friendly, growing, with a sense of community self help and pride that supports the aged and youth.

Strategic Planning Framework

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



Action Plan

The following Action Plans encompass the major activities that Council will undertake to achieve its objectives.

Our Economy:

In 2025 the economy will be horticulture based but more diverse and vibrant, with a range of traditional and new businesses.

Corporate / Strategic Plan Reference (Objective)	Actions 2014/2015	Performance Outcomes (Measures)
1. We will promote and foster the entrepreneurial spirit that helped build the Riverland because we need locals investing in our community.	1.1 Build and maintain links with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RDA - State Government - Federal Government 	Funding for high priority projects increased - resulting in new business start ups Received funding for Monash Playground \$100,000 Fowles Street Barmera \$100,000 Planning approval for Aldi and Bunnings stores
2. We will complete Berri Riverfront from the hotel to the caravan park and Sporting Clubs' Projects to stimulate the economy.	2.1 Work with the Land Management Corporation/Urban Renewal Authority to finalise project to full government approval at Glassey Park. 2.2 Achieve return on investment for Berri Bowling Club relocation.	State Government Approval received Project now in development stage after State Government support.
3. We will solve Berri's parking problem because it will increase accessibility for businesses to establish and expand.	3.1 Investigate opportunities for provision of on-street parking.	Review completed
4: We will support local businesses and towns to work together to increase their profitability and opportunity because resources are limited and we need to maximise our return.	4.1 Develop partnerships with traders organisations 4.2 Maximise return on investment with joint or linked programs.	One joint project completed. Continued development of the 'eat and local' campaign established at the Berri Visitor Information Centre. Joint digital marketing and business training project. Young professionals group has met.



<p>5: We will promote and support tourism to increase economic activity and increase employment density in the region.</p> <p>We will promote and encourage eco-tourism because it will mean an increased understanding of our unique environment and promote its preservation and create employment.</p>	<p>5.1 Investigate eco-tourism based options for Lake Bonney.</p> <p>5.2 Develop a localised Tourism Strategy across Council area.</p> <p>5.3 Implement 5.1 and 5.2</p>	<p>Plans lodged for eco tourism project at Lock Luna.</p> <p>Completed.</p> <p>In progress</p>
<p>6: We will facilitate and partner business and industry because it will create employment.</p>	<p>6.1 Identify key stakeholders with whom to develop alliances and relationships</p> <p>6.2 Identify opportunities for employment creation and economic growth</p>	<p>A number of key stakeholders identified</p> <p>Increased involvement with regional employment (ABS), Business Riverland</p>
<p>7: We will actively lobby State and Federal Governments for funding because it will mean Council can provide improved services.</p>	<p>7.1 Identify future needs via Council planning processes</p> <p>7.2 Source funding through available grants and programs</p>	<p>A number of projects funded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming Pool upgrade • Swimming Pool Disability upgrades • Hall of Fame displays • Art, history and other trails • Transport Expansion (new services) • Recreation Centre cladding • Recreation Centre climate control • • Monash Playground Upgrades <p>Grant for war memorial</p> <p>Grant for toilets</p> <p>Grants lodged for Berri Sports Stadium</p> <p>Office for Youth Department of Community and Social Inclusion Country Arts SA</p>
<p>8: We will provide high quality facilities, services and attractions because it will entice tourists to our region and provide employment locally.</p>	<p>8.1 Audit of standard of facilities and amenities</p> <p>8.2 Promotion of the facilities within the region i. Identify priority list</p>	<p>Audit of standard of facilities and amenities completed ✓</p> <p>Complete audit (see Our Community 3.1) Priority facilities promoted on Website ✓ Enquiries monitored for specific promotions undertaken Assessment of future needs undertaken I- n Progress Development of a Project Plan for Berri Recreation Centre</p>



Our Environment:

In 2025 the environment will be healthier and sustainable. Council will be a leader in holistic reuse of industry and community waste.

Corporate / Strategic Plan Reference (Objective)	Actions 2014/2015	Performance Outcomes (Measures)
1: We will promote alternate energy Supplies to reduce our carbon footprint.	1.1 Investigation of suitability and sustainability of alternative energies for the region.	Increase in use of alternate energy, discussions with potential large solar providers
2: We will work with the NRM Board to promote better grey water disposal from river users to promote tourism use of the river and protect the environment.	2.1 Establish a working party with NRM and other Riverland Councils to create greater awareness and facilitate development of more river waste disposal sites.	No progress, not an NRM priority
3: We will promote community awareness regarding preserving the natural environment because it will create a better, healthier and more sustainable environment	3.1 Working with and forming partnerships with local stakeholders to promote community awareness.	Partnered with SAMDNRM Board via Riverland NRM Group ✓ Berri Barmera Local Action Planning partnerships
4: We will have at least one town in the top 10 of Tidy Towns because this will mean we are looking after our towns and our environment.	4.1 Working with Berri and Barmera beautification committees, schools and industry to increase the amenity of our townships	Placement of a town in top ten of Tidy Town awards. Barmera has entered the sustainable communities awards. Community projects undertaken and completed in Berri and Barmera



Our Community/ Social:

In 2025 our community will be diverse, healthy, sporting, safe, friendly, growing, with a sense of community self help and pride that supports the aged and youth.

Corporate / Strategic Plan Reference (Objective)	Actions 2014/2015	Performance Outcomes (Measures)
1: We will work with SA Police and associated groups to have a safe community.	<p>1.1 Establish regular communication with SAPOL about community safety</p> <p>1.2 Development of Berri Barmera Council emergency management plan and promotion for community awareness.</p>	<p>Regular reports received ✓</p> <p>Berri Barmera Council emergency management plan and promotion for community awareness developed. ✓</p>
2: We will provide non-structured recreation facilities, locally and regionally to increase participation, fitness and well being including nature trails, bike tracks, walking tracks and canoe courses, art and culture.	<p>2.1 Audit of non structured recreation and cultural facilities</p> <p>2.2 Assessment of community demand</p> <p>2.3 Development of non structured recreation and cultural facilities</p> <p>2.4 Development of Communication materials to increase use of facilities</p>	<p>Audit of non structured recreation and cultural facilities completed.</p> <p>Assessment of community demand undertaken. In progress.</p> <p>Development of non structured recreation and cultural facilities completed. Walking trail developed at Martin Bend. Dog Park established.</p> <p>Communication Plan includes promotion of relevant facilities. Supported production of pamphlets of Martin Bend.</p>
3: We will amalgamate sporting facilities to continue to provide the top level of facilities within our means	<p>3.1 Audit of sporting facilities</p> <p>3.2 Assessment of community demand</p> <p>3.3 Development of policy for support of sporting groups</p>	<p>Audit of sporting facilities completed ✓</p> <p>Assessment of community demand undertaken In progress</p> <p>Policy for support of sporting groups developed ✓</p>
4: We will reward groups that have a strong self help culture to work in partnership to maximise the benefit from limited funds.	<p>4.1 Review the Community Grants policy</p>	<p>Community Grants policy reviewed ✓</p>



<p>5: We will promote and support special events and multi-cultural festivals that bring the community together.</p>	<p>5.1 Development of sustainable event calendar systems and processes. ✓ 5.2 Ensure Council's grants process is updated to reflect the variation in event size and community return. ✓</p>	<p>Majority of Community Events are available on Council's website and targeted communication tools. Grant applications and procedures are updated to reflect a range of community events, styles and sizes. Policy for community use of Council Logo developed.</p>
<p>6: We will engage our community using communication tools and activities that are designed to reach a broad cross section of community members, to understand the youth at their level to understand their views to build opportunities for retention and increased community involvement.</p>	<p>6.1 Develop a strategy to utilise social media more effectively 6.2 Develop youth leadership through programs in partnership with community service organisations 6.3 Provide career development programs and traineeships</p>	<p>Communication Plan includes social media targets ✓ Four Youth partnership programs supported ✓ Increase in percentage of Council workforce undertaking or have completed traineeships.</p>
<p>7: We will be "Young Family Friendly" with areas and events that support community involvement to make it easier for families to move and stay in the region.</p>	<p>7.1 Link Council policies and programs with an emphasis to reflect the needs of young families.</p>	<p>Our percentage of young families against Riverland average (as measured by ABS) Further development of Barmera, Monash and Berri playgrounds.</p>
<p>8: We support the development of a public and community transport system for our community.</p>	<p>8.1 Advocate for improved Transport services to State, National and local stakeholders. 8.2 Provide information on existing Transport services to agencies and local community members to ensure increased sustainability of commercial and community transport systems.</p>	<p>Continue to meet with agencies to recommend that new Transport Services be introduced to meet the needs of our community. New or improved information materials are developed.</p>
<p>9: We recognise and support the aging of our population through improving lifestyle choices to allow residents to live full and active retirements.</p>		
<p>10: We recognise the SA Housing Trust residencies in our area are getting to the end of their useful lives and will promote the upgrade and replacement of housing stock, to support our residents in state owned homes.</p>	<p>New Strategy Meetings with Housing SA and Renewal SA</p>	



Corporate Services: (Asset Management, Financial Management, Risk Management, Records, Information Technology, Customer Service)

Objective – *Ensure transparent and accountable governance and financial responsibility.*

Corporate / Strategic Plan Reference (Objective)	Actions 2014/2015	Performance Outcomes (Measures)
Annual Business Plan	<p>Prepare Annual Business Plan and Budget in line with statutory requirements and community needs. Budget Plans are approved by Council.</p> <p>Ensure rates raised and associated charges are consistent with Council's rate declaration and rating policies.</p>	<p>Annual Business Plan ✓</p> <p>Adopted by Council ✓</p>
Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP)	<p>Review and update 10 year LTFP in line with statutory requirements and community needs</p> <p>Review and update assumptions in consultation with Audit Committee</p> <p>Review and amend where appropriate key financial performance targets</p> <p>Ensure the LTFP is consistent with and integrates with Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans</p>	<p>Long Term Financial Plan Adopted by Council ✓</p>
Rating Review	<p>Conduct a review of Council's current rating system and methodology used to raise rates and service charges with consideration being given to options available to Council under the Local Government Act. The review is to be conducted in consultation with the public.</p>	<p>Rate review completed</p>
Asset Management Plans	<p>Review and update Asset Management Plan for Infrastructure assets (roads, footpaths and kerbing) ensuring it includes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual and future capital upgrade and replacement programmes and costings for minimum of 10 years for all asset replacements, upgrades and disposals. ● Ensure data is systematically recorded to enable sound asset management decision making. ● Determination of service levels provided by Council. ● Determine labour requirements regarding Council staff and sub- contractors as an outcome of future capital works requirements. ● Financial data such as valuations and annual depreciation are recorded. 	<p>Completed</p>



Asset Management Plans (cont)	<p>Develop Asset Management Plan for Stormwater assets ensuring it includes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual and future capital works programmes and costings for minimum of 10 years for all asset replacements, upgrades and disposals. ● Ensure data is systematically recorded to enable sound asset management decision making. ● Determination of service levels provided by Council. ● Determine labour requirements regarding Council staff and sub contractors as an outcome of future capital works requirements. ● Financial data such as valuations and annual depreciation are recorded. 	Completed
Asset Management Plans (cont)	<p>Develop Asset Management Plan for Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS) assets ensuring it includes-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual and future capital works programmes and costings for minimum of 10 years for all asset replacements, upgrades and disposals. ● Ensure data is systematically recorded to enable sound asset management decision making. ● Determination of service levels provided by Council. ● Determine labour requirements regarding Council staff and sub contractors as an outcome of future capital works requirements. ● Financial data such as valuations and annual depreciation are recorded 	Completed
Asset Management Plans (cont)	<p>Develop Asset Management Plan for Building assets ensuring it includes -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual and future capital works programmes and costings for minimum of 10 years for all asset replacements, upgrades and disposals. ● Ensure data is systematically recorded to enable sound asset management decision making. ● Determination of service levels provided by Council. ● Financial data such as valuations and annual depreciation are recorded. 	In Progress
Asset Management Plans (cont)	<p>Develop Asset Management Plan for Parks/ Gardens and Sport and Recreation assets (playgrounds, irrigation, trees, sundry structures) ensuring it includes-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual and future capital works programmes and costings for minimum of 10 years for all asset replacements, upgrades and disposals. ● Ensure data is systematically recorded to enable sound asset management decision making. ● Determination of service levels provided by Council. ● Financial data such as valuations and annual depreciation are recorded. 	In Progress



Asset Management Plans (cont)	<p>Develop Asset Management Plan for Other Assets (major plant, minor plant, office equipment, IT) ensuring it includes-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual and future capital upgrade and replacement programmes and costings for minimum of 10 years. • Ensure data is systematically recorded to enable sound asset management decision making • Financial data such as valuations and annual depreciation are recorded. 	Asset Management Plan ✓
Financial Risk Management	<p>Review and update Policies relating to financial risk management.</p> <p>Review and test suite of documented Internal Financial Control processes.</p>	<p>Updated policies</p> <p>Action Plan complete</p> <p>Report to Audit Committee</p> <p style="text-align: right;">] ✓</p>
Audit Committee	<p>Ensure committee meetings are held at least 3 times per year in accordance with Terms of Reference (TOR).</p> <p>Review and update Audit Committee work programme.</p> <p>Prepare relevant reports in order to assist the Committee to carry out its functions as stated in TOR.</p> <p>Ensure Audit Committee prepare written annual report of its activities to present to Council and to publish on Council's website.</p>	<p>Minutes of meetings</p> <p>Work Program available</p> <p>Meeting Agendas</p> <p>Report to Council</p> <p style="text-align: right;">] ✓</p>
Information Technology (IT)	<p>Improve the effectiveness of Council's computer system by regularly replacing obsolete hardware and software</p> <p>In conjunction with Council's IT Support Contractors develop a long term IT strategy identifying innovative technology solutions for Council business. This includes a strategy for business continuity to be formulated and included in Council's over arching Business Continuity Plan.</p>	<p>Efficient function of Council's IT</p> <p>Costed IT Plan</p> <p style="text-align: right;">] ✓</p>
Records Management	<p>Develop procedures and appropriate systems to ensure consistent logging of all incoming and outgoing correspondence, including emails.</p> <p>Review adequacy of storage facilities</p> <p>Review archiving and sentencing requirements.</p>	<p>Report</p> <p>Report</p> <p style="text-align: right;">] ✓</p>
Purchase Ordering	<p>Implement electronic purchase order system to fully integrate with Council's current financial accounting system</p> <p>Investigate and implement where practicable opportunities for procurement on a regional basis under the " Riverland G3 Alliance" which has been formed by the 3 Riverland Councils as a mechanism to achieve savings, create efficiencies and to stimulate economic activity.</p>	Implementation complete



HUMAN RESOURCES (including Work, Health and Safety, training and development, performance appraisal, Enterprise Bargaining Agreement)

Risk Management Objective:

Through planning, implementation and completion of strategies council endeavours to minimise risk of the potential losses against, liabilities and the community.

Corporate / Strategic Plan Reference (Objective)	Actions 2014/2015	Performance Outcomes (Measures)
Risk Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formulate a Schedule for all Council departments to undertake a review of business risk identification and management. 2. Complete the existing draft business continuity plan. 3. Complete Council's Emergency Management Plan 4. Establish strategies on partnership with agencies to strengthen the community's disaster resilience. 	Completed

Work, Health and Safety

Objective: To provide a safe and supportive work environment for council workers and visitors

Corporate / Strategic Plan Reference (Objective)	Actions 2014/2015	Performance Outcomes Measures)
Work Health, and Safety	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To monitor and review Council's Work, Health and Safety (WHS) and Injury Management (IM) systems. 2. To regularly review, monitor and update Council's WHS & IM Plan 3. Identify opportunities for improvement by evaluating the performance of the WHS & IM system against its WHS policy, objectives and targets 4. Develop benchmarking tool for performance measurement. 	<p>Review completed</p> <p>Completed. New plan adopted.</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>



Human Resources Practices Objective:

To improve human resources and employment relations processes and performance outcomes.

Corporate / Strategic Plan Reference (Objective)	Actions 2014/2015	Performance Outcomes Measures)
Human Resources Practices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and review HR policies and procedures. 2. Continue to review position descriptions 	<p>Meet legislative compliance Commenced</p> <p>Due to commence. Natural attrition reviews are completed.</p>

Workforce Planning Objective:

To respond to workplace trends and opportunities through workforce planning in accord with Council strategic priorities.

Workforce Planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project changing resource levels and impacts on skill requirements to meet the anticipated service levels identified in Council's Strategic Management Plans in the workforce plan. 2. Analyse job descriptions to collate a profile of required skills for each service or workgroup. 3. Collate information on the skills of current staff and compare with a profile of required skills to identify gaps. 4. Develop strategies to address skills shortages and alternative solutions to identified skill gaps. 5. Develop a succession plan for key personnel and skills areas. 	Ongoing
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Training and Development Objective:

Council pursues strategies to ensure a well trained and motivated workforce.

Training and Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that the personal plans for staff reflect the goals of the service delivery plan. 2. Collate the training and development needs of individual staff into a training program 3. Develop annual report on the outcomes of the training plan for staff development. 	Training Needs Analysis for staff for core components completed (WHS)
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Governance Objective:

Provision of progressive leadership and good governance which encourages confidence of the community in the Council.

Corporate / Strategic Plan Reference (Objective)	Actions 2014/2015	Performance Outcomes Measures)
<p>Representative & Open Council:</p> <p>Professional Development of Councillors</p> <p>Consultation and Engagement</p> <p>Compliance</p> <p>Risk Management</p> <p>Financial Sustainability</p>	<p>Provide open, accessible and accountable governance and ensure the community has open access to Council decisions</p> <p>Develop annual plan for the professional development of councillors</p> <p>Use proactive and innovative ways to inform, engage and involve the community</p> <p>Meet Council's legislative obligations and increase community awareness through education and enforcement where necessary.</p> <p>Model best practice in risk management to minimise risks to Council, its workforce and the community.</p> <p>Ensure the long term financial sustainability of the Council</p>	<p>The community's satisfaction with accessibility to Council information, documents and meetings</p> <p>Numbers of the community satisfied with Council's overall performance</p> <p>Numbers of the community satisfied with Council's consultation with residents</p> <p>Evidence that policies, systems and procedures have been developed and are functioning effectively, by Governance Review.</p> <p>Evidence that policies, systems and procedures have been developed and are functioning effectively.</p> <p>The 7 key indicators under the LGA 2007 Model Financial Statements.</p>



REGISTERS, CODES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

(Required to be kept under the *Local Government Act* and/or *Local Government Elections Act 1999*)

Registers

Section 68	Members Register of Interests
Section 79	Members Register of Allowances and Benefits
Section 105	Officers Register of Salaries
Section 116	Officer Register of Interests
Section 188	Fees and Charges
Section 196	Community Management Plans
Section 207	Community Land
Section 231	Public Roads
Section 252	By Laws
Part 14	Campaign Donation Returns prepared by candidates

Codes

Section 63	Members Code of Conduct
Section 92	Code of Practice for Access to Meetings and Documents
Section 110	Employees Code of Conduct
Reg 7	Code of Practice Meeting Procedures

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 Index are listed overleaf-



Statutory Requirements	Access to Meetings – Code of Practice
	Code of Conduct – Elected Members & Committee Members
	Code of Conduct – Council Employees
	Procedure for Managing Elected Members Code of Conduct (Breach of Code) Complaints
	Confidentiality Provisions – Code of Practice
	Procurement Policy and Procurement Procedures
	Order Making Policy
	Public Consultation and Community Engagement
	Rate Policy (2014/2015)
	Review of Council Decisions (Including Handling Complaints)
Financial Management	Annual Budget Policy
	Asset Accounting
	Asset Management
	Business Support Policy
	Credit Card Use
	Debt Recovery
	Fees & Charges Policy and Schedule
	Fraud & Corruption Prevention Policy
	Full Cost Attribution
	Hardship Policy
	Internal Financial Control Policy
	Treasury Management
	Valuation of Land Under Roads Policy
	Whistleblower Protection Policy

Rates	Fines / Rates Recovery Policy
	Rate Capping Policy
	Rate Rebate Policy
	Rate Remission Policy
Governance	Chief Executive Officer Appraisal
	Elections – Caretaker Policy
	Elections – Casual Vacancies (Supplementary Election)
	Policy Development
Public Relations	Citizenship Ceremonies
	Electronic Communications
	Flag Flying Policy
	Media and Communications Policy
Elected Members	Code of Practice – Meeting Procedures
	Council Member Access to Information
	Council Representations and Delegations
	Deputy Mayor / Presiding Members
	Elected Member Electronic Communication & IPad Policy
	Elected Members Support
	Informal Gatherings Policy
	Mayor / Chairpersons Seeking Legal Advice
	Training – Elected Members



Risk Management	Children & Vulnerable Persons' Safety Policy
	Risk Management Policy
	Risk Management Framework
	Provision of Council Resources to Support the Emergency Services in Emergencies Policy
Community Services	Community Grants and Assistance Policy
	Community Bus Use
Community Transport Scheme	Community Transport Policy
Tourism	Tourism Services
Youth Services	Youth Services Policy
Library	Library Collection & Development Policy
	Library – Conditions of Use Policy
Infrastructure Management	Plant & Equipment – Emergency Use of
	Plant and Equipment – Employee Use of
	Plant Operations – Plant Replacement
	Private Works
	Township and Rural Tree Policy
	Urban House Numbering Policy
	Road and Street Naming Policy
	Vaughan Terrace War Memorial Policy

Roads and Footpaths	Crossings (Driveways) Policy
	Footpath Construction
Waste Management	Hard Waste Collection Policy
	Kerbside Waste, Recycling and Green Waste Service Policy
	Refuse Collection – 240 litre Bin Allocation and Replacement
Environmental Services	Community Wastewater Management Scheme (CWMS) (Connection Fees)
	Abandoned Vehicles Policy
	Building and Swimming Pool Inspection Policy
	Camping, Caravanning and Recreational Vehicle Policy
	Election Signs
	Liquor Licencing Policy
	Outdoor Dining Policy
	Permit Parking Policy
	Signage Policy
	Land Development Infrastructure Guidelines
	Delegations under the <i>Development Act 1993</i>
	Unclad Bathing Policy
	Leases, Licences and Permit Policy



MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

Council member allowances are set by the Remuneration Tribunal and take effect from the first ordinary meeting of the Council held after the conclusion of the periodic elections. (Section 76 and Regulation 4, LG (Allowances and Benefits) Regulations 2010).

The following allowances are paid to Elected Members as at 30 June 2015

Mayor	\$51,200
Deputy Mayor	\$16,000
Councillors	\$12,800

Council has, in the past, foregone an extra allowance for Presiding Members (Chair) on Committees (i.e. allowance paid has been equal to that of all Councillors). The allowance set by the Remuneration Tribunal 2014 for the position of Presiding Member for the Berri Barmera Council is \$16,000 for the Strategic Governance and Asset Management Committees.

For the Martin Bend Recreation Area, Berri Town Beautification, Barmera Town Beautification and Cemetery Advisory Committees (as per 3.3.2.2 of the Remuneration Tribunal Determination of Allowances) an allowance of \$150 per meeting limited to an aggregate amount allowance of \$900 per annum.

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 eight Councillors. The *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* requires that as at 1 January of every election year, the Council Voters Roll is to be purged of all landlords, business lessees and resident non-citizens in readiness for the period election. 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	7,298
Council's Supplementary Roll	<u>2</u>
Total:	7,300

Council's representation quota is therefore 811 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. Representation arrangements are as follows:

- Compromision of Council being a Mayor and eight councilors.
- The Council area will not be divided into wards, thereby requiring all members to represent the Council area as a whole.

A comparison chart of Council's within the State with similar Elector/Elected member ratio is as follows:

Council	Elected Members Including Mayor	Electors	Ratio
Alexandrina	12	18,887	1,573
Barossa Council	12	16,803	1,400
Berri Barmera	9	7,300	811
Copper Coast	11	10,385	944
Light Regional	11	9,948	904
Loxton Waikerie	11	8,165	742
Murray Bridge	10	13,447	1,344
Port Pirie	10	12,361	1,236
Victor Harbor	10	11,714	1,171
Wattle Range	12	8,540	711
Yorke Peninsula	12	9,321	776



COMPETITIVE TENDERING / COST EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF SERVICE

Contractors are awarded on a tender/quotation basis as Council's 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 2014/2015 (Major)		
Audit Contract (External)	Ian McDonald	12,000.00
Barmera Recreation Centre Management	Chubb Fire	606.00
	Zippy Cleaning	14,281.00
	Others	747.00
Effluent Drainage Maintenance	D. Kuhn Plumbing	16,664.00
	Laser Alignment Maintenance	39,130.00
	Riverland Tank and Drain	75,894.00
	Anderson Surveyor's	1,180.00
	Lucid Consulting	1,200.00
	Masel Steel	10,400.00
Garbage Collection	National Trust	720.00
	Transpacific – Cleanaway	478,985.00
	Transpacific Industries	420,236.00
	Transpacific Industries—Cleanaway	64,413.00
Animal and Plant Control Board	Casey's Pest Control	270.00
	Elders	6,411.00
Public Convenience Management		65,753.00
Sealed Road Construction	Fulton Hogan Industries	174,754.00
	Fulton Hogan	256,538.00
	Super Sealing	46,200.00
Road Maintenance Sealing	Fulton Hogan	47,130.00
Dump Rehabilitation—Monash	Scherer Contractors	127,246.00
	J. Wallace	16,020.00
Gopher Route footpath construction	Topcoat	35,783.00
	Riverland Creative Gardens	9,241.00
Footpaths Pavers Replacement	P. Juckers	2,080.00
	Riverland Landscaping	14,928.00
	Riverland High Works	1,550.00
Footpath Renewal	RD Concrete	7,498.00
	P. Juckers	19,420.00
Stormwater Harvesting	Thinkwater	72,310.00
	JT Wallace	3,473.00
Swimming Pool Management		62,666.00
Swimming Pool Upgrade	Wallbridge and Gilbert	14,220.00
	Statewide Pool Services	538,524.00
Stone ridge Quarry	Scherer Contractors	86,679.00
Community Wastewater Management Scheme	Trility	2,506,666.00

CONTRACTORS 2014/2015 – Sundries (Multiple Contractors)	
Barmera Recreation Building Maintenance	8,280.00
Berri Library Maintenance	7,351.00
Barmera Library Maintenance	9,818.00
Council Office Building	12,082.00
Debt Collection Costs	10,882.00
Halls Building Maintenance	42,558.00
Berri Town Hall Disabled Lift (PR King)	44,846.00
Immunisation Maintenance	4,380.00
Town Planning Consultants Fees	22,745.00
Town Planning Legal Fees	19,601.00
Street Tree Maintenance	16,133.00
Riverland High Works	
TOTAL (Major and Sundried combined)	5,378,709.00



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 offer independent mediation or neutral evaluation or further refer the complaint to an external review process eg. Ombudsman's Office, Legal advice and/or the courts.

Action: Within seven 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 one 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 one 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 applicant will be advised of other options for review such as the State Ombudsman, legal advice and/or the courts.

During 2014/2015 four complaints were received that were deemed as necessary to be recorded in Councils "Complaints Register", and grievance procedures put in place. Processes were followed in accordance with the requirements of Section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and Council Policy, and the matters were resolved to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS/MATTERS CONSIDERED IN CONFIDENCE

Further to Council's 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 four Special Meetings of Council and 30 Committee/Sub-Committee Meetings.

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. The table below outlines the Council and Committee's use of section 90(2) and 91(7) for the 2014/2015 year.

Operative orders as at 30/6/2014	13
Total orders made for 2014/2015	7
Reviewed orders	3
Orders that expired, ceased to apply or were revoked during	14
Orders that remain operative as at 30 June 2015	3



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

Particulars	No. of Meetings	Total Resolutions Passed	Confidential Resolutions	Reason for Confidentiality
Council Meetings (including Special Meetings)	16	301	13	Pursuant to Sections: 90(3)(b)(i)(ii) Confer a Commercial advantage 90(3)(d)(i)(ii) Commercial in Confidence 90(3)(g) Considered in Confidence to ensure no law breach 90(3)(h) Legal advice 90(3)(i) information relating to litigation 90(3)(j)(i)(ii) Information provided by Minister of the Crown or other public authority/contrary to public interest 90(3)(k) Tenders 90(3)(m) Relating to proposed amendments to a Development Plan
Berri Town Beautification Committee	5	22 (Recommendations)	Nil	N/A
Strategic Governance Committee	1	6	1	90(3)(j)(i)(ii) Information provided by Minister of the Crown or other public authority/contrary to public interest
Barmera Town Beautification Committee	6	26 (Recommendations)	Nil	N/A
Asset Management Committee	1	5	Nil	N/A
Audit Committee	3	20	1	90(3)(k) Tenders
Riverland Regional Development Assessment Panel	10	6 (Berri Barmera Council only)	Nil	N/A
Martin Bend Recreational Area Committee	5	14 (Recommendations)	Nil	N/A
Major Projects	3	6	1	90(3)(j)(i)(ii) Information provided by Minister of the Crown or other public authority/contrary to public interest
Cemetery Advisory Committee	1	Nil	Nil	N/A
Development Act 101A Committee	1	Nil	Nil	N/A
Strategic Governance and Asset Management Committee	4	22	Nil	N/A
Riverland Regional Building Fire Safety Committee	3	41	Nil	N/A

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION STATEMENT / INFORMATION STATEMENT

During 2014/2015 there was one Freedom of Information (FOI) application received and determined to the satisfaction of the Applicant.

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-
 - (i) 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, gopher routes, 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 (now Regional Development Assessment Panel) are also available on Council's website. The timeframes for the availability of Council agendas and minutes are 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 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.

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

Fees and Charges Particulars Council Documents Etc.	Current 2014/2015 GST Inclusive (Where applicable) \$
Sale of Minutes / Agendas	5.00
Annual Financial Statements	10.00
Annual Report	10.00
Budget Report	20.00
Search Fees - Standard (8 days)	49.75
Search Fees - Rates Only	29.75
Extract from Assessment Book	20c per page

Documents are available for public inspection at the Principal Office of Council between 9.00am - 5.00pm 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 available on Council's website and the Council Office.



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.

Citizenship

During the 2014/2015 year, 22 people received citizenship certificates.

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 an entitled "Review of Council Decisions (including Handling Complaints)", 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 offer independent mediation or neutral evaluation or further refer the complaint to an external review process eg. Ombudsman's Office, Legal advice and/or the courts.

Action: Within seven 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 one 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 one 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 applicant will be advised of other options for review such as the State Ombudsman, legal advice and/or the courts.



Regional Subsidiary Reports

ANNUAL REPORT 2014 to 2015



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

Registered Office;

P.O. Box 236
VICTOR HARBOR SA 5211

Email: ce@mmlga@outlook.com
Website: www.mmlga.sa.gov.au

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INTRODUCTION

This document is the Annual Report of the Murray & Mallee Local Government Association for the period 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015. This report is prepared pursuant to the Local Government Act 1999 to report to Constituent Councils on the work and operation of the Association for the preceding financial year.

This Report details the activities of the Association to represent and serve our Constituent Councils and to advance the Murray and Mallee communities through effective advocacy, facilitation and innovation.

OUR ASSOCIATION

The Murray & Mallee Local Government Association (MMLGA) 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.

Further statutory reviews of the Charter have taken place with a new Charter gazetted on the 8th February, 2007.

As a Regional Subsidiary of the Member Councils, the Association has as its governing document, a Charter 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.bodies for the advancement of matters of common interest.

MMLGA CONSTITUENT COUNCILS

The Association is comprised of the following Constituent Councils:

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

PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

This being my third term as President of the Murray and Mallee Association, I have the greatest of pleasure in providing the following President's Annual report for the period July 2014 to June 2015.

Local/State Government Reform

The LGA have been active in identifying areas to enhance State/Local Government relations and the capacity of the Local Government sector. The LGA Board authorised ongoing discussions with the Premier and Minister for Local Government to finalise a program of reform implementation over the next 12-24 months.

LGA Regions Work Plan

Councils and other stakeholders have been consulted on a draft LGA Regions Work Plan and the final Plan has been endorsed by the LGA Board. SAROC will receive regular progress reports on the Work Plan.

Pensioner Concessions

Following significant lobbying from LG regions such as the MMLGA over concerns that the State might remove pensioner concessions the Ordinary General Meeting authorised the inclusion of the following policy in the LGA Policy Manual 'To ensure equity between Council communities and generally within SA, State and Federal governments should fund concessions, for pensioners and concession card holders, on Council rates'.



On 14 May 2015 the State Government announced the proposed Cost of Living Concession (CLC) to replace the concession formerly available on Council rates to pensioners, low income earners and self-funded retirees holding a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card. It is important to note that the proposed CLC has not yet been introduced to parliament but it is anticipated to be part of the State Budget.

Supplementary Road Funding

The LGA President and Secretariat will continue to seek Federal Government reinstatement of the South Australian Supplementary Road Funding program and encourages all Councils to continue to inform Local Federal MPs of the importance of this funding to SA communities.

Planning Reform

A submission has been made to the State Government on the Expert Panel on Planning Reforms Final Report which was endorsed by the LGA Board in January 2015. The Ordinary Meeting authorised further activities proposed by the LGA to continue engaging with the State Government to represent the views of Councils regarding planning reform.

Reinstatement of Automatic Enrolments

Following submissions from the MMLGA per Rural City of Murray Bridge, the LGA will continue to lobby the State Government to reinstate automatic enrolment on Councils' voters roll under the Local Government (Elections) Act 1999 - Murray Bridge.

Regional Public Health Plan

Community is our great strength and nothing could be more important than the health, wellbeing and safety of our citizens. I believe our region is a great place to live and has enormous potential for growth. To achieve this we must ensure that people can live active, connected and productive lives so that we can achieve our economic and social goals for the future.

Our regional Local Government Association was established to strengthen the representation of our region when dealing with other levels of government, private enterprise and the community.

We coordinate and facilitate the activities of local government across the region to protect the environment, and promote economic and social development of the Murray and Mallee Region. Through the Regional Health Plan we will work together to implement strategies that will promote the health and wellbeing of our communities. We will continue to provide opportunities for citizens to be physically active and we will work with other agencies to prevent harm from alcohol, drugs and tobacco.

2015 Shandong Delegation

In late May 2015, a delegation of 256 representatives from businesses, state and local government, including the Premier, senior Ministers and Mayors from the MMLGA region, travelled to China on a South Australian trade and investment mission. They visited Shandong Province, Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong to promote economic opportunities in South Australia:

- The Premier co-chaired the South Australia-Shandong Cooperation and Development Forum with the Shandong Governor, to showcase how businesses from both regions could support each other's plans for growth.
- In Qingdao, the State Government and the Adelaide City Council reached an agreement with the Qingdao Municipal Government to cooperate on our shared objectives of Adelaide and Qingdao becoming low carbon cities.

- In Shandong, the Premier announced the winner of the Study, Adelaide Qingdao Sister City Student Ambassador, Ms Wang Dan, who will travel to Adelaide for a four week study tour in July.

A total of thirty Memoranda of Understanding and a number of other commercial agreements were signed during the mission. These totalled millions of dollars worth of exports in hay, wine, tuna and other food.

Next year marks the 30th anniversary of our Sister-State relationship with Shandong. This provides a significant opportunity to further strengthen the relationship and will build on Shandong being South Australia's window to China and vice-versa.

Summary

As delegates would be aware 1st May 2015 saw me take the helm of the Local Government Association for the next two years.

I am proud and humbled to take up this new role and want to continue the good work done by previous Presidents in forging closer ties and consultation with the State Government. As President I will also be aiming for a higher profile for the Provincial Cities Association and the regions and will let State Government know the strength there is in the regions.

Also top of my agenda is to continue the campaign for the reinstatement, by the State Government in its forward estimates, of the rate concessions for pensioners, pension card holders and self-funded retirees who should not have to bear the brunt of an impasse between the State and Federal Governments.

LGA CEO Wendy Campana also said farewell to local government in 2015 after a long and esteemed career with the Association. I wish Wendy well in her new role as Commissioner to Kangaroo Island.

I thank our outgoing CEO Peter Campbell, Acting CEO, Russell Peate, Rose Sloper and incoming CEO, Peter Bond for their commitment and support provided to me and the Association over the past year. It is an opportune time to acknowledge Peter Campbell's service to the MMLGA over many years. He has provided continual effective services to the Association despite increased family health pressures over the last years. During the year the Association has undertaken actions, including:

- Collation of Member Councils' Special Local Roads Funding Applications with Association recommendations to the Local Government Transport Advisory Panel,
- Implementation of the Murray and Mallee Regional Public Health Plan.
- Implementation of the strategic 2030 Regional Transport Plan.
- Regional Collaboration.
- State Government commitment for planned River Murray Ferry replacements.

The Association continues to be vitally involved with:

- The Murray Darling Basin Plan and funding issues around the River Murray water flow operations,
- Regional submission for the Special Local Roads Program,
- Councils' facilitation of the NBN Co rollout and for the provision of Council land for fixed wireless towers.



During the year the Association resolved to undertake the following submissions to the SAROC Committee, being the regional Councils Advisory Committee to the Local Government Association of SA Board, as well as directly to the SA State Government:

- SAROC Submissions:
 - Rural Road Speed Limits Review
 - Retention of Pensioner Concessions by the State Government
 - Council Performance Improvement Program
 - Reinstatement of Automatic Enrolment

The Association has provided support for the following external Committees:

- The Murray and Mallee Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Committee
- The Murray and Mallee Zone Emergency Management Committee including provision of the Chair
- River Murray Ferries Working Party

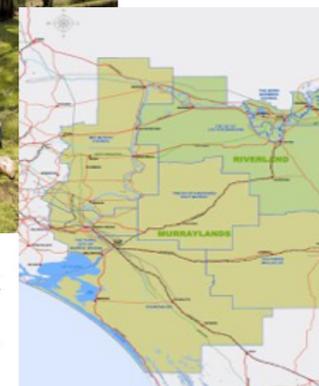
I again take this opportunity to sincerely thank Vice President Mayor Peter Hunt, Mayor Leon Stasinowsky and after December 2014 Mayor Neville Jaensch (as proxy) for being Delegates to the SAROC Committee and the LGA State Executive Committee (now termed the LGA Board) and all other Member Council Mayors, Delegates, both past and present, Member Council CEO's and staff, all of whom have provided local government representation to the Association, internal and external committees and working parties.

I have a growing sense of pride about the achievements and undertakings of the Association during this second term as President and thank all Member Councils and Delegates for the opportunity afforded to me being your President again for the past year.



Mayor David Burgess,
President 2014-2015
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 km² 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 Murray and Mallee Regional Coordination Network, and the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Murraylands and Riverland Board.



ASSOCIATION PRESIDENCY

Mayor Dave Burgess, Mid Murray Council was re-elected President at the Annual General Meeting held at Berri Friday 5th December 2014 and Mayor Peter Hunt, Berri Barmera Council was re-elected Vice President both for a full annual term of office.

Mayor Neville Jaensch was elected to the position as proxy to the Vice President.

REPRESENTATION: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF SA (LGA SA)

Mayor Dave Burgess and Mayor Peter Hunt served on the LGA Board (previously termed the State Executive of the Local Government Association of South Australia), with Mayor Leon Stasinowsky, District Council of Loxton Waikerie, as proxy up to December 2014. Mayor Neville Jaensch took up the role as a proxy member representing the Associations at the LGA Board and the SAROC Committee after December 2014.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SERVICES

The Chief Executive Officer services for the Association for the year were again provided by Peter Campbell up to his retirement on December 2014. Peter Bond took over the role from 1st January 2015 under a two year contract arrangement.

In accordance with a resolution of Member Council Delegates, the Chief Executive Officer will be subject to performance review following the conclusion of the Strategic Review process and 12 months of service with the Association.

The Review Panel consists of the President and Vice-President of the Association, and two CEO's appointed from member Councils within the Association.

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.

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999, a review of the Association's Charter took place during the year. The revised Charter can be viewed on the Association's website at www.mmlga.sa.gov.au

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

During 2014-2015, the Association met on six occasions on:

1st August 2014 - General Meeting - at the Murray Bridge Town Hall, 13-17 Bridge Street, Murray Bridge - the Rural City of Murray Bridge as host.

2nd October, 2013 - General Meeting - at the Pinnaroo Institute, 21 Railway Terrace, Pinnaroo - the Southern Mallee District Council as host.

5th December, 2014 - General Meeting - at the Berri Barmera Council Chamber, 19 Wilson Street, Berri - the Berri Barmera Council as host.

6th February 2014 - General Meeting - at the Coorong Civic Centre, 95-101 Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend - the Coorong District Council as host.

27th March 2015 - General Meeting - District Council of Karoonda East Murray Council Offices, 11 Railway Terrace, Karoonda - the District Council of Karoonda East Murray as host.

26th June 2015 – Annual General Meeting – at the District Council of Loxton Waikerie Council Chamber, East Terrace, Loxton - the District Council of Loxton Waikerie 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

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

- Mr Peter Mylius-Clark, Executive Director, Department of State Development
- Greg Lundstrom, SA MDB NRM.
- Dr Ann Herraman, Chaffey Learning Exchange.
- Kelliann Conway and Trudy Dickson, Davies Stewart Recruitment and HR.
- Ben Black, State Manager SA, Australian Government Department of Employment.
- Joseph Rostano and Rebecca Timmings, DPTI

Representatives of the LGA, RDA, SA MDB NRM and PIRSA 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 outgoing CEO of the LGA, Wendy Campana, Brenton Lewis, CEO, RDA Murraylands and Riverland, Sharon Starick SA MDB NRM Board Presiding Member and Tim Smythe, PIRSA who have been ready to assist the region and ensure that the LGA SA and PIRSA have 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 General Meeting of 5th December 2014;

Berri Barmera Council (BBC): Mayor Peter Hunt, Vice President, Deputy Mayor Andrew Kassebaum and David Beaton, CEO (proxy).

Coorong District Council (CDC): Mayor Neville Jaensch, Vincent Cammell, CEO, Deputy Mayor Sharon Bland (proxy) and Cr. Peter Wright (proxy).

District Council of Karoonda East Murray (DCKEM): Mayor Kevin Burdett, Peter Smithson, CEO and Deputy Mayor C.A. Phillips (proxy).

District Council of Loxton Waikerie (DCLW): Mayor Leon Stasinowsky, Peter Ackland, CEO and Deputy Mayor Michael Vovles (proxy).

Mid Murray Council (MMC): Mayor David Burgess, President, Cr. Mardi Jennings, Cr. Kevin Myers, (proxy) and Russell Peate, CEO (proxy).

The Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB): Mayor Brenton Lewis, Deputy Mayor Clem Schubert and Michael Sedgman, CEO (proxy).

Renmark Paringa Council (RPC): Mayor Neil Martinson, Deputy Mayor Peter Hunter, Tony Siviour, CEO (proxy) and Nathan Haynes, Director Corporate and Community Services (proxy).

Southern Mallee District Council (SMDC): Mayor Robert Sexton, Deputy Mayor Brian Toogood, Cr. Neville Pfeiffer (proxy) and Neville Gasmier, Acting CEO (proxy).

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

The following were the Association Committee Members up until the AGM of the 26th June, 2015, noting that some representatives came into their role in November 2014 as an outcome of the Local Government elections held in that month:

LGA Board (Formerly State Executive Committee):

- President, Mayor David Burgess, Mid Murray Council.
- Vice President, Mayor Peter Hunt, Berri Barmera Council.
- Mayor Neville Jaensch, Coorong District Council.
- Deputy Member for President or Vice President, Mayor Leon Stasinowsky, District Council of Loxton Waikerie.

South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC):

- President, Mayor David Burgess, Mid Murray Council.
- Vice President, Mayor Peter Hunt, Berri Barmera Council.
- Mayor Neville Jaensch, Coorong District Council.
- Proxy for President and or Vice President, Mayor Leon Stasinowsky, District Council of Loxton Waikerie.
- CEO M&MLGA - Peter Bond.

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SA MDB NRM Board.

- Cr. Andrew Kassebaum, Berri Barmera Council.

Murray and Mallee Local Government Association Regional Waste Management Strategy Committee:

- President M&MLGA as Chair, Mayor David Burgess.
- Deputy Mayor Clem Schubert, Rural City of Murray Bridge.
- Tony Siviour, CEO, Renmark Paringa Council.
- David Mosel, Asset Manager, Coorong District Council.
- Brenton Lewis, CEO Murraylands Regional Development Board.
- Mayor Neville Jaensch, Coorong District Council.
- Paul Day, Renmark Paringa Council.
- Greg Hill, Mid Murray Council.
- Peter Ackland, CEO, District Council of Loxton Waikerie.
- Matthew Sherman, Works Manager, Southern Mallee District Council.
- Peter Smithson, CEO, District Council of Karoonda East Murray
- Greg Perry, Manager Infrastructure Services, Berri Barmera Council.
- David Beaton, CEO, Berri Barmera Council.
- Michael Sedgman, CEO, Rural City of Murray Bridge.
- Tim Tol, Infrastructure Director, District Council of Loxton Waikerie.
- Mayor Robert Sexton, Southern Mallee District Council.
- Cr. Trevor Kerley, District Council of Karoonda East Murray.
- A representative, Zero Waste SA. (external appointment)

Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Regional Transport Strategy Committee:

- Mayor Robert Sexton, Southern Mallee District Council, Chair
- Peter Bond, CEO, M&MLGA
- President, Mayor David Burgess, Mid Murray Council
- Paul Day - Renmark Paringa Council
- Greg Perry, Manager Infrastructure Services, Berri Barmera Council
- Greg Hill, Director, Infrastructure - Mid Murray Council.
- Tim Tol, Director of Infrastructure - District Council of Loxton Waikerie
- Peter Smithson - District Council of Karoonda East Murray (Peter Jones - proxy)
- Simon Bradley, GM Infrastructure and Environment, Rural City of Murray Bridge (Matt James - proxy)
- Matthew Sherman, Southern Mallee District Council
- David Mosel, Coorong District Council
- Brenton Lewis, Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland
- DPTI - 2 nominees (external appointment)
- Harry Du – Berri Barmera Council

Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Transport Reference Group - Community Transport:

- Peter Smithson, CEO, District Council of Karoonda East Murray.
- Cr. Mike Fuller, Berri Barmera Council.

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Murraylands and Riverland Regional Coordination Network:

- Peter Smithson, CEO, District Council of Karoonda East Murray.

Murray and Mallee Zone Emergency Management Committee:

- Deputy Mayor Kevin Myers, Mid Murray Council, Chair.
- Mayor Peter Hunt, Berri Barmera Council.
- Michael Sedgman, CEO, Rural City of Murray Bridge (Ros Kruger – Proxy).
- Tim Tol, Director Infrastructure Services, District Council of Loxton Waikerie.
- David Mosel, Asset Manager, Coorong District Council.
- Harc Wordsworth, Manager, Environment and Planning, Southern Mallee District Council.
- Matthew Sherman, Works Manager, Southern Mallee District Council.

River Murray Ferries Working Group:

- Russell Peate, CEO, Mid Murray Council,
- Tony Siviour, CEO, Renmark Paringa Council,
- Vincent Cammell, CEO, Coorong District Council,
- Dept. of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure representatives.

Murray and Mallee CEO Network Group:

- Peter Bond, CEO, MMLGA
- Tony Siviour, CEO, Renmark Paringa Council,
- Peter Bond, CEO, Rural City of Murray Bridge,
- Russell Peate, CEO, Mid Murray Council,
- Peter Ackland, CEO, District Council of Loxton Waikerie,
- Vince Cammell, CEO, Coorong District Council.
- David Beaton, CEO, Berri Barmera Council
- Neville Gasmier, Acting CEO, Southern Mallee District Council

Murray and Mallee Regional Public Health Plan Committee:

- Kelvin Goldstone, Mid Murray Council, Chair,
- Caroline Thomas, Mid Murray Council,
- Gary Brinkworth, Berri Barmera Council,
- Harc Wordsworth, Southern Mallee District Council and District Council of Karoonda East Murray,
- Jim Quinn, Coorong District Council,
- Katina Nikas, Renmark Paringa Council,
- Phil Eckert and Clarry Fisher, Rural City of Murray Bridge,
- Stephen Bateman, District Council of Loxton Waikerie.

Historically, both the President and Vice President and a further nominated proxy are appointed to the LGA State Executive, (now termed the LGA Board) and the SAROC Committee.

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

There were no Executive Meetings 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 2014-2015 funding round.
- Association advocates for the retention of pensioner concessions
- Association advocates for the Reinstatement of Automatic Enrolment
- Association seeking urgent sign-off to the Federal Government's \$25m Murray Darling Basin Diversification Fund.
- Association advocates for the formation of the River Murray Ferries Working in association with the SA Government.
- Submission on the Draft Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourses - NRMMDA
- SAROC Submissions as outlined in this report

The Association has provided support and representation on the following external Committees:

- The Murray and Mallee Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Committee
- The Murray and Mallee Zone Emergency Management Committee including provision of the Chair

The CEO has also attended Forums, Workshops and Briefings throughout the year regarding evolving issues and to make contribution on behalf of the Association.



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (SAROC)

The President, Mayor David Burgess, Vice President Mayor Peter Hunt, (Mayor Leon Stasinowsky and Neville Jaensch as proxy's 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 Board.

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 includes:

- Native Vegetation and Biodiversity
- State Government Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy for SA
- Risk Assessment and Reduction of Financial Impost on Councils
- Local Government Roads Hierarchy and Transport Strategy
- Public Health Act
- Proposed Regional Communities State Election Campaign
- SAROC Agenda and Report Procedures
- Native Vegetation SEB Review
- Regional Waste Management Investigations Report
- Works Rehabilitation Compensation (SAMFS Fire-fighters) Amendment Bill 2013
- Regional Tourism
- Consolidation of Major LGA Events
- Integrated Transport Land Use Plan
- 2014 State Election Making Regions Matter
- Rural Speed Limits Review
- Regional Health Plans Update
- Use of Council Resources in Emergency Response Operations
- Mining Resources Protocol
- Funding for Community Facilities
- Regional Health Plans Update
- Local Excellence Expert Panel Update
- Regional Waste Management Investigations Update

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- Video Conferencing Update
- National Heavy Vehicle Regulations (NHVR)
- Inquiry into Regional Capitals contribution
- Assessment of Farm Buildings
- Emergency Services Levy and Reform
- Local Government Elections Voter Enrolments
- Black Spot Funding for Roads
- Crown Land Red Tape Reduction
- Pensioner Concessions
- Regional Collaboration Projects
- Regional Work Plan

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO 30TH JUNE, 2015

Regular financial reports are presented at each MMLGA General Meeting. The Audited Financial Statements for 2014-15 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 2014-2015 grant of \$38,305 (excl. GST) 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 Minutes of Association General Meetings are produced in an expanded and explanatory form, and includes the full Agenda Item, appendices, detail of deliberations and resolutions. This initiative has received wider and favourable comment.

The Association's website www.mmlga.sa.gov.au contains a wealth of information on the Association's activities, including all Agendas, Appendices, Minutes for General and Committee Meetings and past Newsletters.

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General Meetings of the Association will continue where possible to be held during 2015-2016 on the first Friday in the months of August, October, 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 Annual General Meeting held on the 26th June, 2015, the Association endorsed the interim Annual Business Plan 2015-2016 and the associated Annual Budget. These documents are available to be viewed and downloaded from the Association's website at www.mmlga.sa.gov.au

The status of the objectives and actions in the Association's Interim Annual Business Plan 2015-2016 will be reviewed half yearly at the December General Meeting and the June Annual General Meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Association's Charter.

A strategic review is in process commencing in March 2014 and running through to November 2015 where it is anticipated the outcomes of that review will be signed off by the MMLGA Board at the December meeting. The outcomes of that review are expected to be:

- a restatement of the purpose of MMLGA
- refinement of the regional model to be followed
- minor revisions to the Charter
- a new strategic plan 2016 -2020
- commencement of the Business Plan for 2016/17 as a derivative of the adopted strategic plan.

The review is taking place at a crucial time where significant changes are being proposed. These potential changes may focus on delivering the recommendations of the report "Strengthening South Australian Communities in a Changing World – The Council of the Future" completed for the LGA of South Australia in 2013 as well as;

- SA Government reforms which include a drive to reform the planning system
- changes to tLocal Government Act
- introduction of regional governance models
- taxation reform (including land tax)
- NRM funding and delivery.

Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Contact details:

President:

Mayor David Burgess
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Email: mayor@midmurray.sa.gov.au

Chief Executive Officer:

Peter Bond
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Mob: 0411 406799
Email: ceommlga@outlook.com
Website: www.mmlga.sa.gov.au

ABN: 78 714 181 490

3rd October 2015

Nick Walker
Principal
Crowe Horwath
133 Langtree Avenue
MILDURA VICTORIA 3500

Dear Nick,

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial report of Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2015 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in note 1 to the financial statements and the *Associations Incorporation Act (SA) 1985*.

We confirm that *(to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made such enquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves)*:

Financial report

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement dated 11 June 2014, for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, in particular the financial report presents fairly in accordance therewith.
2. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
3. We have considered the requirements of AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets* and AASB 139 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement* when assessing the possible impairment of assets and in ensuring that no assets are stated in excess of their recoverable amount.
4. The following have been properly recorded and/or disclosed in the financial report:
 - (a) related party transactions and related amounts receivable or payable, including sales, purchases, loans, transfers, leasing arrangements and guarantees (written or oral);
 - (b) arrangements involving restrictions on cash balances, compensating balances and line-of-credit or similar arrangements;
 - (c) agreements to repurchase assets previously sold;
 - (d) material liabilities or contingent liabilities or assets including those arising under derivative financial instruments;

Achieving Improvements for the benefit of the Murray Mallee Community

Berri Barmera Council, Coorong District Council, District Council of Karoonda East Murray, District Council of Loxton Walkerie, Mid Murray Council, Renmark Paringa Council, Rural City of Murray Bridge, Southern Mallee District Council



- (e) unasserted claims or assessments that our lawyer has advised us are probable of assertion; and
 - (f) losses arising from the fulfilment of, or an inability to fulfil, any sale commitments or as a result of purchase commitments for inventory quantities in excess of normal requirements or at prices in excess of prevailing market prices.
5. We have no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying values, or classification, of assets and liabilities.
 6. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards.
 7. All events subsequent to the date of the financial report and for which Australian Accounting Standards require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
 8. There are no violations or possible violations of laws or regulations whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial report or as a basis for recording an expense.
 9. The entity has satisfactory title to all assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets nor has any asset been pledged as collateral. Allowances for depreciation have been adjusted for all important items of property, plant and equipment that have been abandoned or are otherwise unusable.
 10. The entity has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial report in the event of non-compliance.
 11. There were no material commitments for construction or acquisition of property, plant and equipment or to acquire other non-current assets, such as investments or intangibles, other than those disclosed in the financial report.
 12. We have no plans to abandon lines of product or other plans or intentions that will result in any excess or obsolete inventory, and no inventory is stated at an amount in excess of net realisable value.
 13. The application of the going concern assumption is appropriate in respect of the preparation of the financial statements and there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.
 14. The effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial report as a whole. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to the representation letter.

Information Provided

15. We have provided you with:
 - (a) Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial report such as records, documentation and other matters;
 - (b) Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and

Achieving Improvements for the benefit of the Murray Mallee Community

Berri Barmera Council, Coorong District Council, District Council of Karoonda East Murray, District Council of Loxton Walkerie, Mid Murray Council, Renmark Paringa Council, Rural City of Murray Bridge, Southern Mallee District Council

- (c) Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
16. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial report.
 17. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design and implementation of internal control to prevent and detect error. We have established and maintained adequate internal control to facilitate the preparation of a reliable financial report, and adequate financial records have been maintained. There are no material transactions that have not been properly recorded in the accounting records underlying the financial report.
 18. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial report may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
 19. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the entity and involves:
 - (a) Management;
 - (b) Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - (c) Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial report.
 20. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial report communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.
 21. We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial report.
 22. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial report; and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act (SA) 1985* and the Australian Accounting Standards.
 23. We have disclosed to you the identity of the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.
 24. We confirm that the Association is a not for profit entity and is exempt from income tax under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.
 25. We have provided you with all requested information, explanations and assistance for the purposes of the audit
 26. With respect to the publication of the financial report on our website, we:
 - o acknowledge we are responsible for the electronic presentation of the financial report;
 - o will ensure that the electronic version of the audited financial report and the audit report on the website will be the same as the final signed hard copy version;
 - o will clearly differentiate audited and unaudited information on the website and that the absence of appropriate controls to address this issue increases the risk of potential misrepresentation to users;
 - o have assessed the controls over the security and integrity of the data on the website and that adequate procedures are in place to ensure the integrity of the information published; and

Achieving Improvements for the benefit of the Murray Mallee Community

Berri Barmera Council, Coorong District Council, District Council of Karoonda East Murray, District Council of Loxton Walkerie, Mid Murray Council, Renmark Paringa Council, Rural City of Murray Bridge, Southern Mallee District Council



- o will not present the audit report on the full financial report with extracts only of the full financial report.

We understand that your examination was made in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and was, therefore, designed primarily for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial report of the entity taken as a whole, and that your tests of the financial records and other auditing procedures were limited to those which you considered necessary for that purpose.

Yours faithfully,



Peter Bond
Chief Executive Officer

Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated

Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2015

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Achieving Improvements for the benefit of the Murray Mallee Community

Berri Barmera Council, Coorong District Council, District Council of Karoonda East Murray,
District Council of Loxton Wakerie, Mid Murray Council, Renmark Paringa Council, Rural City
of Murray Bridge, Southern Mallee District Council



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Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
for the year ended 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
MBM LGA contributions	2	144,410	180,578
Regional enhancement fund grant	2	38,305	37,225
Interest received	2	5,262	3,717
Total revenue		187,977	221,520
Operating expenses	3	(148,456)	(208,808)
Surplus (deficit) for the year		39,521	12,712
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income (loss)		39,521	12,712

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2015

Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
ASSETS		
Current assets		
4	161,723	115,004
5	7,872	3,599
Total current assets	169,595	118,603
TOTAL ASSETS	169,595	118,603
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
6	25,998	14,527
Total current liabilities	25,998	14,527
TOTAL LIABILITIES	25,998	14,527
NET ASSETS	143,597	104,076
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
7	60,854	50,548
8	82,743	53,528
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	143,597	104,076

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Statement of Changes in Members' Funds
for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note	Accumulated surplus \$	Unspent funds reserve \$	Total \$
2015			
	53,528	50,548	104,076
	39,521	-	39,521
7,8	(10,306)	10,306	-
Balance at the end of the year	82,743	60,854	143,597
2014			
	53,184	38,180	91,364
	12,712	-	12,712
7,8	(12,368)	12,368	-
Balance at the end of the year	53,528	50,548	104,076

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash from operating activities		
Receipts from members	158,851	180,579
Receipts from grants	42,136	37,225
Interest received	5,262	3,717
Payments to suppliers	(159,530)	(196,681)
Net cash provided from operating activities	46,719	24,840
Net increase in cash held	46,719	24,840
Cash at beginning of financial year	115,004	90,164
Cash at end of financial year	161,723	115,004

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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

Structure

The financial report covers Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated (the "Association") as an individual entity. Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated is an association incorporated in South Australia under the *Associations Incorporations Act (SA) 1985*.

Note 1: Summary of significant accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Associations Incorporation Act (SA) 1985*. The association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions to which they apply. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on by the members of the committee.

Accounting Policies

(a) Comparatives

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

Where the association has retrospectively applied an accounting policy, made a retrospective restatement or reclassified items in its financial statements, an additional statement of financial position as at the beginning of the earliest comparative period will be disclosed.

(b) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

(c) Income taxes

The activities of the Association are exempt from taxation under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(d) 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

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

Note 1: Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

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 statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

(e) Financial Instruments

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that the association commits itself to either purchase or sell the asset (i.e. trade date accounting is adopted).

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs except where the instrument is classified "at fair value through profit or loss", in which case transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss immediately.

Classification and subsequent measurement

Financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, amortised cost using the effective interest method, or cost. Fair value represents the amount for which an asset could be exchanged or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted.

Amortised cost is calculated as the amount at which the financial asset or financial liability is measured at initial recognition less principal repayments and any reduction for impairment, and adjusted for any cumulative amortisation of the difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount calculated using the effective interest method.

The effective interest method is used to allocate interest income or interest expense over the relevant period and is equivalent to the rate that discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts (including fees, transaction costs and other premiums or discounts) over the expected life (or when this cannot be reliably predicted, the contractual term) of the financial instrument to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability. Revisions to expected future net cash flows will necessitate an adjustment to the carrying amount with a consequential recognition of income or expense in profit or loss.

The association does not designate any interests in subsidiaries, associates or joint venture entities as being subject to the requirements of Accounting Standards specifically applicable to financial instruments.

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

Note 1: Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(i) Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss through the amortisation process and when the financial asset is derecognised.

(ii) Financial liabilities

Non-derivative financial liabilities other than financial guarantees are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss through the amortisation process and when the financial liability is derecognised.

Impairment

At the end of each reporting period, the association assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset has been impaired. A financial asset or a group of financial assets is deemed to be impaired if, and only if, there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events (a "loss event") that has occurred, which has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset(s).

In the case of available-for-sale financial assets, a significant or prolonged decline in the market value of the instrument is considered to constitute a loss event. Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss immediately. Also, any cumulative decline in fair value previously recognised in other comprehensive income is reclassified to profit or loss at this point.

In the case of financial assets carried at amortised cost, loss events may include indications that the debtors or a group of debtors is experiencing significant financial difficulty, default or delinquency in interest or principal payments, indications that they will enter bankruptcy or other financial re-organisation and changes in arrears or economic conditions that correlate with defaults.

For financial assets carried at amortised cost (including loans and receivables), a separate allowance account is used to reduce the carrying amount of financial assets impaired by credit losses. After having taken all possible measures of recovery, if the management establishes that the carrying amount cannot be recovered by any means, at that point the writing off amounts are charged to the allowance account or the carrying amount of impaired financial assets is reduced directly if no impairment amount was previously recognised in the allowance accounts.

When the terms of financial assets that would otherwise have been past due or impaired have been renegotiated, the association recognises the impairment for such financial assets by taking into account the original terms as if the terms have not been renegotiated so that the loss events that have occurred are duly considered.

Derecognition

Financial assets are derecognised where the contractual right to receipt of cash flows expires or the asset is transferred to another party, whereby the entity no longer has any significant continuing involvement in



Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1: Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

the risks and benefits associated with the asset. Financial liabilities are derecognised where the related obligations are discharged, cancelled or expire. The difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability extinguished or transferred to another party and the fair value of consideration paid, including the transfer of non-cash assets or liabilities assumed, is recognised in profit or loss.

(f) Impairment of assets

At the end of each reporting period, the association assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. The assessment will consider both external and internal sources of information. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of that asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and its value-in-use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is immediately recognised in profit or loss.

Where the future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent upon the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and when the entity would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, value in use is determined as the depreciated replacement cost of an asset.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the association estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Where an impairment loss on a revalued asset is identified, this is recognised against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that class of asset.

(g) Revenue

Non-reciprocal grant revenue is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income when the association obtains control of the grant and it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the association and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before it is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

When grant revenue is received whereby the association incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customer.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(h) Trade and other payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1: Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

(i) Trade and other receivables

These include amounts due from ATO and accrued interest on deposits in financial institutions. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Accounts receivable are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any provision for impairment.

(j) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

Key estimates

(i) Impairment - general

The association assesses impairment at the end of each reporting period by evaluation of conditions and events specific to the association that may be indicative of impairment triggers. Recoverable amounts of relevant assets are reassessed using value-in-use calculations which incorporate various key assumptions.



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

Note 2: Revenue

	2015 \$	2014 \$
MBM LGA contributions:		
Berri Barmera Council	22,239	26,649
Coorong District Council	14,730	19,339
DC of Karoonda East Murray	7,798	12,591
DC of Loxton Waikerie	23,538	27,914
Mid Murray Council	17,618	22,150
The Rural City of Murray Bridge	29,459	33,678
DC of Renmark Paringa	19,784	24,259
Southern Mallee DC	9,244	13,998
	<u>144,410</u>	<u>180,578</u>
Other contributions:		
Regional Enhancement Fund Grant	-	37,225
Local Government Association of SA	38,305	-
	<u>38,305</u>	<u>37,225</u>
Interest revenue	5,262	3,717
Total revenue	<u>187,977</u>	<u>221,520</u>

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

Note 3: Other operating expenses

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Accounting software	578	-
Audit fees	5,563	5,323
Bank charges	82	55
Consultancy and contractors	33,115	82,632
Executive officer contract services	96,235	105,672
Insurance	5,476	5,358
Meeting expenses	1,168	1,556
Postage	26	82
President's travelling allowance	3,750	2,500
Printing and stationery	58	781
Record sentencing/archiving	224	151
SAROC regional meeting costs	261	1,353
Sundry expenses	3	92
Telephone, fax and broadband	1,867	2,933
Website maintenance	50	320
	<u>148,456</u>	<u>208,808</u>

Note 4: Cash and cash equivalents

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash on hand	100	100
Cash at bank	994	22,537
LGFA Investment	160,629	92,367
	<u>161,723</u>	<u>115,004</u>



Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 5: Trade and other receivables

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current		
GST receivable (net)	<u>7,872</u>	<u>3,599</u>

Note 6: Trade and other payables

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current		
Trade payables - unsecured	<u>25,998</u>	<u>14,527</u>

Note 7: Unspent funds reserves

The unexpended funds reserve represent funds set aside for future use on projects managed by the association.

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Shared Resource Cluster Project		
Balance brought forward	-	19,654
Transfer to Resource Sharing Projects		(19,654)
Project funds not expended at year end	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Discretionary Project		
Balance brought forward	226	226
Transfer from accumulated surplus	8,000	-
Project funds not expended at year end	<u>8,226</u>	<u>226</u>
Legal Charter Review		
Balance brought forward	4,768	7,000
Transfer from accumulated surplus	1,300	-
Professional fees	-	(2,232)
Fees and charges	(33)	-
Project funds not expended at year end	<u>6,035</u>	<u>4,768</u>
Council Improvement Project		
Balance brought forward	-	10,000
Transfer to Resource Sharing Projects		(10,000)
Project funds not expended at year end	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
2030 Transport Plan Project		
Balance brought forward	14,100	-
Transfer from accumulated surplus	-	55,000
Consultancy	-	(40,900)
Transfer to Review of Regional Transport Strategy Plan Project	(14,100)	-
Project funds not expended at year end	<u>-</u>	<u>14,100</u>
Regional Public Health Plan		
Balance brought forward	500	-
Transfer from accumulated surplus	-	40,000
Consultancy	-	(39,500)
Project funds not expended at year end	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>



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

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

	2015	2014
	\$	\$



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

Riverland Resource Sharing Project		
Balance brought forward	13,500	-
Transfer from Shared Resource Cluster Project and Council Improvement Project	-	13,500
Project funds not expended at year end	<u>13,500</u>	<u>13,500</u>
Murraylands Resource Sharing Project		
Balance brought forward	16,154	-
Transfer from Shared Resource Cluster Project and Council Improvement Project	-	16,154
Project funds not expended at year end	<u>16,154</u>	<u>16,154</u>
Annual Priorities Project		
Balance brought forward	1,300	1,300
Project funds not expended at year end	<u>1,300</u>	<u>1,300</u>
Succession Planning Consultancy Project		
Transfer from accumulated surplus	20,000	-
Consultancy	(6,210)	-
Project funds not expended at year end	<u>13,790</u>	<u>-</u>
Review of Regional Transport Strategy Project		
Transfer from 2030 Transport Plan Project	14,100	-
Transfer from accumulated surplus	13,120	-
Consultancy	(21,646)	-
Project funds not expended at year end	<u>5,574</u>	<u>-</u>
Transport strategy project		
Consultancy	(4,225)	-
Project funds not expended at year end	<u>(4,225)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total unspent funds reserves	<u>60,854</u>	<u>50,548</u>

Note 8: Accumulated surplus

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

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Opening balance	53,528	53,184
Surplus for the year	39,521	12,712
Net transfers (to)/from reserves:		
Discretionary Project	(8,000)	-
Legal Charter Review	(1,267)	2,232
2030 Transport Plan Project	-	(14,100)
Regional Public Health Plan	-	(500)
Succession Planning Consultancy Project	(13,790)	-
Review of Regional Transport Strategy Project	8,526	-
Transport strategy project	4,225	-
Net transfers (to)/from reserves	<u>(10,306)</u>	<u>(12,368)</u>
Balance at year end	<u>82,743</u>	<u>53,528</u>

Note 9: Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with surplus for the year

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Net surplus for the year	39,521	12,712
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(4,273)	1
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	11,471	12,127
	<u>46,719</u>	<u>24,840</u>



Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 10: Financial risk management

The association's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with bank, receivables and payables.

The total for each category of financial instrument, measured as detailed in the accounting policies to these financial statements, are as follows:

		2015 \$	2014 \$
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	161,723	115,004
Total financial assets		<u>161,723</u>	<u>115,004</u>
Financial liabilities			
Trade and other payables as amortised cost	6	25,998	14,527
Total financial liabilities		<u>25,998</u>	<u>14,527</u>

Specific Financial Risk Exposures and Management

The main risks the association is exposed to through its financial instruments are credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk relating to interest rate risk and other price risk. There have been no substantive changes in the types of risks the association is exposed to, how these risks arise, or the association's objectives, policies and processes for managing or measuring the risks from the previous period.

(a) Credit risk

Exposure to credit risk relating to financial assets arises from the potential non-performance by counterparties of contract obligations that could lead to a financial loss to the association.

Credit risk is managed through maintaining procedures (such as the utilisation of systems for the approval, granting and removal of credit limits, regular monitoring of exposure against such limits and monitoring of the financial stability of significant customers and counterparties) ensuring, to the extent possible, that members and counterparties to transactions are of sound credit worthiness.

Risk is also minimised through investing surplus funds in financial institutions that maintain a high credit rating or in entities that the committee has otherwise assessed as being financially sound.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2015

Credit risk exposures

The maximum exposure to credit risk by class of recognised financial assets at the end of the reporting period is equivalent to the carrying amount and classification of those financial assets (net of any provisions) as presented in the statement of financial position.

There is no collateral held by the association securing trade and other receivables.

Accounts receivable and other debtors that are neither past due nor impaired are considered to be of high credit quality. Aggregates of such amounts are detailed at Note 5.

The association has no significant concentrations of credit risk with any single counterparty or group of counterparties. Details with respect to credit risk of trade and other receivables are provided in Note 5.

(b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises from the possibility that the association might encounter difficulty in settling its debts or otherwise meeting its obligations related to financial liabilities. The association manages this risk through the following mechanisms:

- preparing forward-looking cash flow analysis in relation to its operational, investing and financing activities;
- only investing surplus cash with major financial institutions; and

The association does not hold directly any derivative financial liabilities.

Cash flows realised from financial assets reflect management's expectation as to the timing of realisation. Actual timing may therefore differ from that disclosed. The timing of cash flows presented in the table to settle financial liabilities reflects the earliest contractual settlement dates.

Financial assets pledged as collateral.

No financial assets have been pledged as security for any financial liability.

(c) Market risk**(i) Interest rate risk**

Exposure to interest rate risk arises on financial assets and financial liabilities recognised at the end of the reporting period whereby a future change in interest rates will affect future cash flows or the fair value of fixed rate financial instruments. The association is exposed to earnings volatility on floating rate instruments. The financial instruments that expose the association to interest rate risk that are limited to cash and cash equivalents.



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

(ii) **Other price risk**

Other price risk relates to the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk) of securities held.

The association is not exposed to other price risk.

Sensitivity analysis

The following table illustrates sensitivities to the association's exposures to changes in interest rates. The table indicates the impact on how surplus and equity values reported at the end of the reporting period would have been affected by changes in the relevant risk variable that management considers to be reasonably possible.

These sensitivities assume that the movement in a particular variable is independent of other variables.

	2015 \$	2014 \$
+/- 1% in interest rates impact on surplus	1,616	1,149
+/- 1% in interest rates impact on equity	1,616	1,149

(d) **Fair Values**

Fair value estimation

Carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities as disclosed in the statement of financial position and this note approximate fair value.

Note 11: Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

At 30 June 2015, the association is unaware of any liability, contingent or otherwise, which has not already been recorded elsewhere in this financial report.

Note 12: Capital Commitments

At 30 June 2015, the association is unaware of any capital or leasing commitments which have not already been recorded elsewhere in this financial report.

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

Note 13: 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.

Note 14: Economic Dependence

Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Incorporated is dependent on the Local Councils within its jurisdiction and other funding bodies for the majority of its revenue used to operate the business. At the date of this report, the Committee believe that the Local Councils and other bodies will continue to fund the association.

Note 15: Key Management Personnel Compensation

Any person(s) having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the association, directly or indirectly, including its committee members, is considered key management personnel.

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Short-term benefits	<u>96,235</u>	<u>105,672</u>

Note 16: Capital Management

The Committee controls the capital of the entity to ensure that adequate cash flows are generated to fund its programs and that returns from investments are maximised within tolerable risk parameters. The Committee ensures that the overall risk management strategy is in line with this objective.

The committee operates under policies approved by the board. Risk management policies are approved and reviewed by the board on a regular basis. These include credit risk policies and future cash flow requirements.

The entity's capital consists of financial liabilities, supported by financial assets.

There have been no changes to the strategy adopted by the Committee to control the capital of the entity since the previous year.



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

Note 17: Going concern dependent on ongoing support from funding bodies

These financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis which contemplates the realisation and payments of liabilities in the ordinary course of business. The Association's ability to continue as a going concern is dependent upon its ability to attain profitable operations and generate funds there from and to maintain the ongoing support from the entity's funding bodies, sufficient to meet current and future obligations.

Note 18: Association details

The registered office of the association and principal place of business is:

Murray & Mallee Local Government Association Inc
PO Box 236
Victor Harbor SA 5211

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

Statement by the Committee

In the opinion of the committee the financial statements comprising the statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income, statement of financial position, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements:

1. Present fairly the financial position of Murray & Mallee Local Government Association as at 30 June 2015 and the results of the Association for the year ended on that date in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Murray & Mallee Local Government Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:



Member Mayor Dave Burgess, President MMLGA.....



Member Peter Bond CEO, MMLGA.....

Dated this 3rd day of October 2015



Year End: 30 June 2015
 Adjusting journal entries - normal adjusting
 Date: 1/07/2014 To 30/06/2015

Auditor	Senior	Manager	Partner

JT-6

Number	Date	Name	Account No	Reference	Debit	Credit	Net Income (Loss)	Amount Chg	Recurrence	Misstatement
Net Income (Loss) Before Adjustments							82,062.00			
1	30/06/2015	Audit and Accounting Fees (400)	400			4,400.00				
1	30/06/2015	Exec Officer Contract Services (415)	415			8,806.00				
1	30/06/2015	Rounding adjustment	451		2.00					
1	30/06/2015	Retained Earnings (960)	960		13,204.00					
Reconciliation of opening balances with prior year statutory financial statements.					13,206.00	13,206.00	95,266.00	13,204.00		
2	30/06/2015	Audit and Accounting Fees (400)	400		4,400.00					
2	30/06/2015	Creditors	810			4,840.00				
2	30/06/2015	GST (820)	820		440.00					
Recognition of accrued audit fee.					4,840.00	4,840.00	90,866.00	(4,400.00)		
3	30/06/2015	Consultancy and Contractors	410		21,646.00					
3	30/06/2015	Accumulated Surplus (961)	961			21,646.00				
Recognition of consultancy fees incurred re Review of Regional Transport Strategy Plan Project (833) through the profit or loss.					21,646.00	21,646.00	69,220.00	(21,646.00)		
4	30/06/2015	Consultancy and Contractors	410		6,210.00					
4	30/06/2015	Accumulated Surplus (961)	961			6,210.00				
Recognition of consultancy fees incurred re Succession Planning Consultancy Project (832) through the profit or loss.					6,210.00	6,210.00	63,010.00	(6,210.00)		
5	30/06/2015	Fees and Charges (417)	417		33.00					

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Year End: 30 June 2015
 Adjusting journal entries - normal adjusting
 Date: 1/07/2014 To 30/06/2015

Auditor	Senior	Manager	Partner

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Number	Date	Name	Account No	Reference	Debit	Credit	Net Income (Loss)	Amount Chg	Recurrence	Misstatement
5	30/06/2015	Accumulated Surplus (961)	961			33.00				
		Recognition of government gazette fees incurred re Legal Charter Review (821) through the profit or loss.			33.00	33.00	62,977.00	(33.00)		
6	30/06/2015	Consultancy and Contractors	410		4,225.00					
6	30/06/2015	Accumulated Surplus (961)	961			4,225.00				
		Recognition of consultancy fees incurred re Transport Strategy Project (805) through the profit or loss.			4,225.00	4,225.00	58,752.00	(4,225.00)		
7	30/06/2015	Rounding adjustment	451			1.00				
7	30/06/2015	Accumulated Surplus (961)	961		1.00					
		Rounding correction resultinmg from corrections to reserves.			1.00	1.00	58,753.00	1.00		
8	30/06/2015	Consultancy and Contractors	410		1,034.00					
8	30/06/2015	Creditors	810			1,138.00				
8	30/06/2015	GST (820)	820		104.00					
8	30/06/2015	Review of Regional Transport Strate	833		1,034.00					
8	30/06/2015	Accumulated Surplus (961)	961			1,034.00				
		Recognition of omitted creditor - Consultancy performed by HDS Australia re Review of Regional Transport Strategy Plan Project (833) - Invoice 14-214 dated 27/08/15			2,172.00	2,172.00	57,719.00	(1,034.00)		
9	30/06/2015	Record Sentencing/Archiving (465)	465		18.00					
9	30/06/2015	Creditors	810			20.00				

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Year End: 30 June 2015
 Adjusting journal entries - normal adjusting
 Date: 1/07/2014 To 30/06/2015

Auditor	Senior	Manager	Partner

JT-6-2

Number	Date	Name	Account No	Reference	Debit	Credit	Net Income (Loss)	Amount Chg	Recurrence	Misstatement	
9	30/06/2015	GST (820)	820		2.00						
		Recognition of omitted creditor - Document management services rendered by Recall - Invoice 1130011546 dated 22/05/15				20.00	20.00	57,701.00	(18.00)		
10	30/06/2015	Exec Officer Contract Services (415)	415		18,180.00						
10	30/06/2015	Creditors	810			20,000.00					
10	30/06/2015	GST (820)	820		1,820.00						
		Recognition of omitted creditor - Executive services rendered by Peter Bond and Associates - Invoice 0002 dated 21/07/15 in respect of May 15 and June 15.				20,000.00	20,000.00	39,521.00	(18,180.00)		
					72,353.00	72,353.00	39,521.00	(42,541.00)			

