



LOAD LEVELS

ANNUAL Report 2019 - 2020

Building a better community

Adopted - 24 November 2020

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.

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the first peoples of the River Murray as the traditional custodians of the land and respect their spiritual relationship with their country and the importance of their cultural beliefs.

Mayor's Report

It is with great pleasure that I present the Berri Barmera Council Annual Report for 2019/20. I am pleased to say that we are continuing on our path of sustainability within our Council district.

Who would have believed that this latter part of the financial year could have been so devastating for all countries around the world with the COVID-19 pandemic? There is no doubt, we as Australians should be thankful that we live where we do. I commend our Prime Minister, Premiers, Chief Ministers, Governments, SAPOL and Health Authorities for the leadership that they have shown in guiding our country through one of the most trying times in our history. Let's all hope that a cure is found in the immediate future.

As a Council, we have been proactive throughout the pandemic by assisting our community members and local businesses, through rate and financial hardship relief during this period.

On a brighter note and as everyone would be aware, Council has received some valuable funding sources over the past couple of years from our Federal and State Governments, and we thank them sincerely for their contributions. These opportunities allow us to implement projects that we possibly would not have achieved.



Our Australia Day Awards event, held in Berri this year, was a great success. We were pleased to award the following; Barmera resident Dr. Raphael Torome - Citizen of the Year, Aiden Ercerg - Young Citizen of the Year, The Overland Corner Time Capsule Retrieval - Community Event of the Year, with Harmony Day and Barmera Active Community Hub - joint Building a Better Community Award.



Our Community Grants Awards that are given out bi-annually are always well received and help a large number of organisations in many ways throughout our district.

In conclusion, I would once again like to pass on my sincere appreciation to my fellow Elected Members, CEO Karyn Burton, 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.

Peter R. Hunt
Mayor

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Berri Barmera Council were fortunate in securing grant funding under the Federal Government's Drought Communities Program, which allowed for the delivery of additional projects that would otherwise have been very difficult for Council to fund in the short term. The focus of the funding was specifically to grow employment of locals, assist with retention of businesses, and, to contribute to the economic activity of our community. Our Council developed projects with the knowledge that local businesses, suppliers and contractors would be the direct beneficiaries of this funding. The projects carried out were—

- Barmera skatepark upgrade
- Bonney Theatre Art Projection
- Tourism signage upgrades
- Installation of Solar Panels on Council buildings
- Upgrades to irrigation
- Installation of seating at the Berri Stadium
- Lighting installation at Berri Wharf and Lake Bonney Jetty
- Installation of playground equipment at Monash Adventure Park
- Monash town upgrades
- Walking/Cycling Trail at Lake Bonney
- Footpath upgrade Berri Special School
- Extension of walking trail Riverview Drive Berri

Further information about each of these projects is provided throughout this report.

During 2019/2020 Council were advised that we were eligible again for a second round of funding under the Drought Communities Program with projects to be delivered over the first half of 2020/2021.

Throughout the year Council undertook a raft of community engagement sessions in order to develop a Central Business District Revitalisation Plan. The responsibility of revitalising the Berri and Barmera central business districts is shared among all stakeholders, and everyone has a role to play in shaping the success of the town. Community engagement meant many activities and projects were jointly identified that have the ability to bring Council and businesses together to build vibrant and responsive business precincts. The CBD Revitalisation Plan is a plan focused over the next 5 years with a vision to building resilience and success within our towns.



The business and success of the first half of 2019/2020 was overshadowed by the extraordinary circumstances brought about by the global COVID-19 pandemic and its impact since March 2020. Council has been adaptive in business to manage the necessary government restrictions put in place whilst maintaining services to our community albeit, in a different way to 'normal'. We have been mindful that community members will have suffered financial hardship as a result of the restrictions put in place on many businesses and the effect that the loss of employment may have on the future. The 2020/2021 budget process carried out during the latter half of 2019/2020 was reflective of this with Council moving quickly to put in place assistance to ratepayers who may experience financial hardship.

As you read through our Annual Report for 2019/2020 you will see that Council continually strives to work in partnership with the community and other key stakeholders. We are guided by the Vision and Goals outlined in the Strategic Plan. We have an outstanding workforce who are passionate about the area they live and work in, and who diligently support Elected Members in Building a Better Community.



Karyn Burton
Chief Executive Officer



EXECUTIVE

Services

Council Members' Profiles

Mayor Peter Hunt JP

10 Trevelyan Street,
BARMERA SA 5345
0408 821 922
mayorhunt@bbc.sa.gov.au



Committee Membership

- Berri Improvement Committee (ex-officio)
- Barmera Improvement Committee (ex-officio)
- Cemetery Advisory Committee (ex-officio)
- Friends of the Bonney Theatre Complex Working Group (ex-officio)
- Road and Place Naming Committee (ex-officio)
- Environment and Sustainability Committee (ex-officio)
- Strategy, Assets and Major Projects Committee
- Audit Committee (ex-officio)
- CEO Selection and Performance Review Committee (Chair)
- Community Grants Program 2019-2020 (Chair)
- Australia Day Awards Selection Panel 2020 (Chair)
- Leases and Licences Committee (ex-officio)
- Lake Bonney Caring for Country Advisory Committee (ex-officio)

Other

- President - Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association, including ex-officio of associated committees of the MRLGA
- SA Region Organisation of Councils (SAROC)
- Local Government Finance Authority
- Riverland Local Government Forum



Council Members' Profiles

Cr Rhonda Centofanti
Deputy Mayor
Nov 2018-Nov 2019



PO Box 182, Winkie SA 5343
0419 837 217
crcentofanti@bbc.sa.gov.au

Committee Membership

- Berri Improvement Committee
- Barmera Improvement Committee
- Cemetery Advisory Committee
- Lake Bonney Caring for Country Management Plan Committee
- Friends of Bonney Theatre Working Group
- Road and Place Naming Committee
- Environment and Sustainability Committee
- Strategy, Assets and Major Projects Committee
- Audit Committee
- Barmerara Meru Committee
- CEO Selection and Performance Review Committee
- Community Grants Program 2019-2020
- Australia Day Awards Selection Panel 2020

Other

- Upper Murray Garden of Memory
- Riverland Community Suicide Prevention Network
- Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association
- Riverland Local Government Forum
- Glossop High School Historical Preservation Committee

Cr Ella Winnall
Deputy Mayor
Nov 2019-Nov 2020



PO Box 319, Barmera SA 5345
0403 420 139
crwinnall@bbc.sa.gov.au

Committee Membership

- Berri Improvement Committee
- Environment and Sustainability Committee
- Strategy, Assets and Major Projects Committee
- Leases and Licences Working Group
- CEO Selection and Performance Review Committee
- Community Grants Program 2019-2020
- Australia Day Awards Selection Panel 2020

Other

- Riverland Wine and Food Steering Committee
- Riverland Suicide Prevention Network (proxy)
- Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association
- Riverland Local Government Forum
- Glossop High School Amalgamation Steering Committee
- Riverland Tourism Plan 2030 Steering Committee

Council Members' Profiles

Cr Margaret Evans OAM



2/1 McGilton Road, Berri SA 5343
0470 240 765
crevans@bbc.sa.gov.au

Committee Membership

- Berri Improvement Committee
- Cemetery Advisory Committee
- Road and Place Naming Committee
- Strategy, Assets and Major Projects Committee
- Barmerara Meru Committee
- CEO Selection and Performance Review Committee
- Community Grants Program 2019-2020
- Australia Day Awards Selection Panel 2020

Other

- Glossop High School Governing Council (Observer) (Proxy)

Cr Mike Fuller



54 Nookamka Terrace, Barmera SA 5345
0417 669 804
crfuller@bbc.sa.gov.au

Committee Membership

- Barmera Improvement Committee
- Lake Bonney Caring for Country Management Plan Committee
- Friends of Bonney Theatre Working Group
- Environment and Sustainability Committee (Chair)
- Strategy, Assets and Major Projects Committee
- Audit Committee
- Barmerara Meru Committee

Other

- Murray Darling Association (Region 5) (proxy)

Council Members' Profiles

Cr Andrew Kassebaum



PO Box 14 Glossop SA 5344
0409 097 103
crkassebaum@bbc.sa.gov.au

Committee Membership

- Strategy, Assets and Major Projects (Chair)
- Audit Committee
- Leases and Licences Committee

Other

- Murray Darling Association (Region 5)
- Berri Barmera Health Advisory Council representative
- Berri Barmera Landcare (proxy)

Cr Trevor Scott



7 Cooper Street, Berri SA 5343
0409 588 568
crscott@bbc.sa.gov.au

Committee Membership

- Berri Improvement Committee (Chair)
- Lake Bonney Caring for Country Management Plan Committee
- Friends of Bonney Theatre Complex Working Group
- Road and Place Naming Working Group
- Audit Committee (Proxy)
- Leases and Licence Committee
- Community Grants Program 2019-2020
- Australia Day Awards Selection Panel 2020

Other

- Glossop High School Governing Council (Observer)
- Glossop High School Branding Committee

Council Members' Profiles

Cr Adrian Little



PO Box 421, Berri SA 5343
0415 620 586
crlittle@bbc.sa.gov.au

Committee Membership

- Lake Bonney Caring for Country Management Plan Committee (proxy)
- Cemetery Advisory Committee
- Barmera Improvement Committee
- Environment and Sustainability Committee
- Strategy, Assets and Major Projects Committee

Other

- Monash and Lone Gum Community Association Inc.
- Berri Barmera Landcare

Cr Meta Sindos



PO Box 94, Barmera SA 5345
0418 816 737
crsindos@bbc.sa.gov.au

Committee Membership

- Barmera Improvement Committee
- Lake Bonney Caring for Country Management Plan Committee (Chair)
- Friends of Bonney Theatre Working Group
- Strategy, Assets and Major Projects Committee
- Barmerara Meru Committee

Council Meeting Attendances by Members for period 2019/2020

	Ordinary Council Meetings	Special Meetings of Council
Mayor Hunt	12	8
Cr Centofanti	12	8
Cr Evans	12	8
Cr Fuller	11	7
Cr Kassebaum	10	7
Cr Little	12	7
Cr Scott	11	8
Cr Sindos	12	8
Cr Winnall	12	8

Elected Member Training and Development Activities

In the 2019/2020 year, Elected Members attended the following Conferences and Training Sessions.

- Local Government Association Conference and AGM
- Council Meeting and Chamber Etiquette
- Local Government Association Roads and Works Conference
- ALGA Roads and Works Conference - Hahndorf
- Due Diligence, WHS Roles and Responsibilities and PSSI - Elected Members
- Confidentiality (Section 90) training
- Murray Darling Basin Conference – Toowoomba

The three Councils, through the Riverland G3 Alliance, have been collaborating to offer regional delivery of training opportunities for Elected Members of the 2018 to 2022 term.

Electronic Council Meetings – COVID-19

In order to implement social distancing rules and new legislation allowances as a result of COVID-19, Council held several meetings electronically.

Mayor Hunt hosted the meetings online from the Council Chambers with the CEO and councillors took part from their homes. The meetings were available to the public via Council's YouTube channel.



Council General Information

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



Corporate Structure

The Corporate and Functional Structure reflects areas of responsibility within Council's various departments and functions.

To compliment the Corporate and Functional Structure further, Section 41 Committees have been appointed to enhance decision making and accountability of the department and function areas.

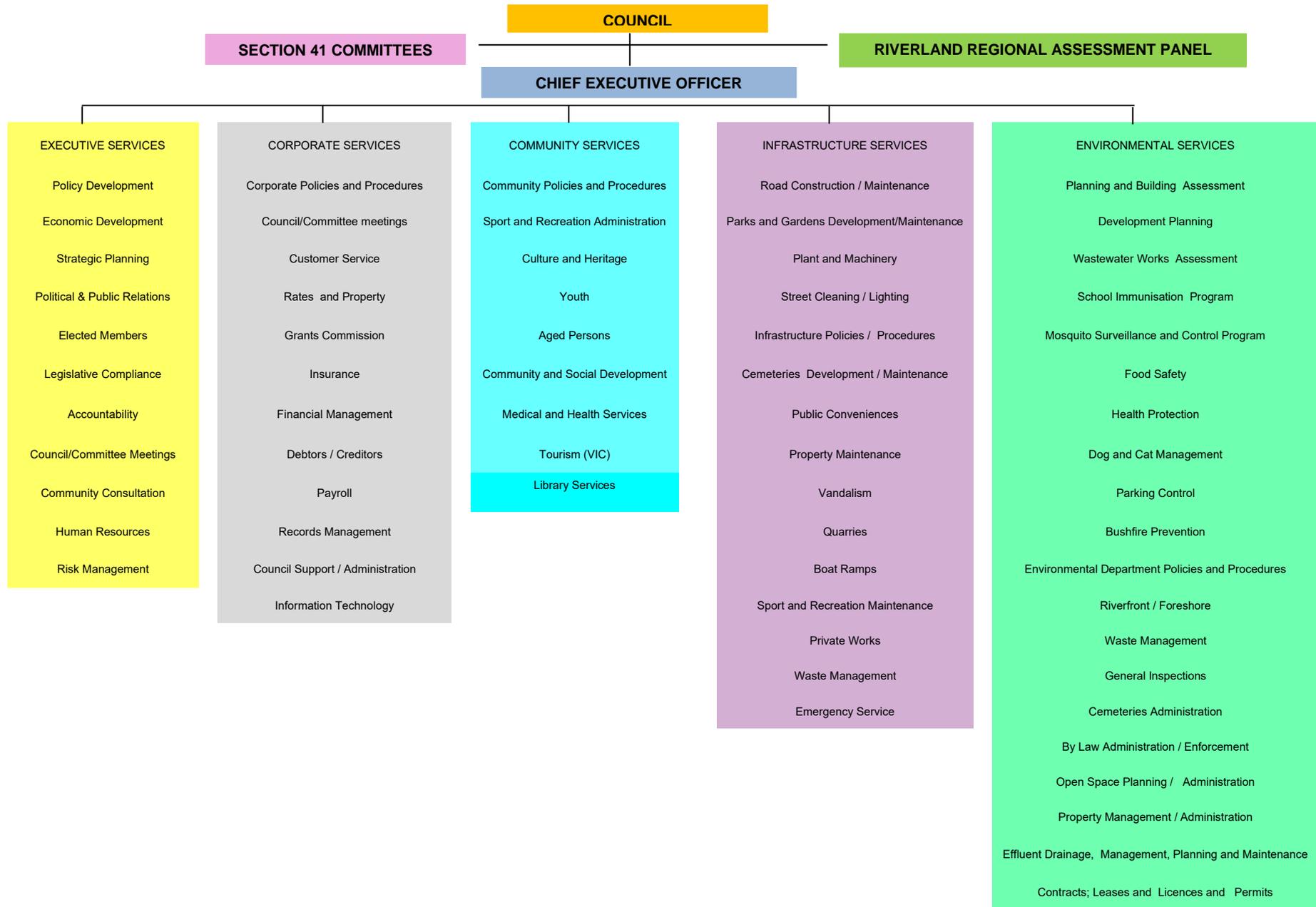
The Committees are:

- Berri Improvement Committee
- Barmera Improvement Committee
- Cemetery Advisory Committee
- Lake Bonney Caring For Country Advisory Group
- Friends of Bonney Theatre Working Group
- Road and Place Naming
- Environment and Sustainability Committee
- Audit Committee
- Strategy, Assets and Major Projects Committee
- CEO Selection and Performance Review Committee

Other Specific Purpose Committees:

- Berri Barmera Council Building Fire Safety Committee
- Riverland Regional Assessment Panel

A visual chart showing the Corporate Structure is shown overleaf.



Regional Involvement

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association (MRLGA)

Council is a member of the Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association, which is a Regional Subsidiary established pursuant to Section 43 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
- 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 MRLGA is included within this report under the heading "Regional Subsidiary Reports" (refer contents).

Riverland Local Government Forum (RLGF)

Berri Barmera Council, District Council of Loxton Waikerie and Renmark Paringa Council 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.

In addition to the Forum, Renmark Paringa Council, Berri Barmera Council and District Council of Loxton Waikerie formed an alliance in July 2013, to be known as the Riverland G3 Alliance (the Alliance). The purpose of the Alliance is to increase benefit from economies of scale, increase the range and quality of services, and, improve lifestyle to their residents. Wherever possible, reducing the cost of services to ratepayers through a consultative and collaborative approach.

The Alliance meets bi-monthly and reports on the progress of the projects to the RLGF. The Group monitors progress of the projects against the agreed aims and objectives.

The RLGF and Council carries out a annual formal review of the Alliance, to ensure the aims and benefits to ratepayers and residents of the member councils are being achieved.

More detail on the business of the Alliance can be found in its Annual Report, which is published each year.

Salaries and Allowances

Senior Executive Officers – Register of Salaries

Title of Position	Classification	Other benefits
Chief Executive Officer	Contract agreement	Annual Salary Mobile Phone and Car provided
Manager Corporate Services	Contract agreement	Mobile phone and car provided
Manager Infrastructure Services	Contract agreement	Mobile phone and car provided
Manager Environmental Services/Major Projects	Contract agreement	Mobile phone reimbursement and car provided
Library Manager	LG Award includes EB agreement	Library pool car provided
Manager Community Development	LG Award includes EB agreement	Mobile phone allowance and car provided
Human Resources/Risk Manager	LG Award includes EB agreement	Mobile phone and car provided

For the Strategy, Assets and Major Projects, Friends of Bonney Theatre, Environment and Sustainability, Berri Improvement, Barmera Improvement, Cemetery Advisory, Lake Bonney Caring for Country, Leases and Licences Committees/Working Groups (as per 3.3.2.2 of the Remuneration Tribunal Determination of Allowances and Council Resolution) an allowance of \$177 per meeting limited to an aggregate amount allowance of \$1,058 per annum.

The Audit Committee Independent Chair received an allowance of \$1,050 per meeting.

Council also resolved that Community Members in the role of Presiding Members received an allowance of \$177 per meeting.

Elected 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 2020.

Position	Allowance
Mayor	\$57,668
Deputy Mayor	\$18,021
Councillors	\$14,417

Human Resources and Risk Management

Human Resources

Council's workforce ending for the reporting period of 2019-2020 equated to 62 FTE employees. The workforce is dispersed evenly between field operations and corporate functions for the delivery of Council services and programs. Opportunities for multiskilling are encouraged to ensure Council has a workforce that is progressive, flexible and responsive to the needs of the community.

Council actively promotes Equal Employment Opportunities through its rigorous recruitment and selection process and through the ongoing delivery and management of its expectations and procedural obligations. Performance Management systems ensure that these expectations are regularly communicated, understood and that there is accountability by both Council and employees for the delivery of professional service standards in the discharging of duties. These contribute to the ongoing support of employee development and equitable access to opportunities.

Council continues to foster positive interaction with all its employees by focusing on positively influencing culture by encouraging Council's values of; Professionalism, Excellence, Service, Leadership, Resilience, Accountability, and, Inclusiveness.

Training and Development

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. For 2019-2020, approximately 227 training,

development and health monitoring sessions were attended by staff.

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 activities in planning, preparedness, response and recovery within emergency management.

Council continues to actively work with agencies and supporting departments in the development of strategies with representation on the Murray Mallee zone and local emergency committees to ensure that plans are reflective of local government's capacity and within scope of responsibilities. Council has been part of the representation for the Local Government sector for the development and review of state, local and federal strategies and initiatives.

Key representation during 2019-2020 has been part of the South Australian River Murray flood warning system; River Murray Constraints Measures Project; and Bio-Security SA fruit fly.

Council during emergencies responds to and actively monitors Council infrastructure and services, and provides support to the emergency services and supporting agencies. The response to and management of events by the emergency services personnel and agencies is recognised along with the staff of Council all of whom work collectively to minimise the impact of events the community.

Operational activities and support has been provided in the Riverland district area during 2019-2020 in the response to; rural and urban fires, extreme weather heat and storm, plant disease; and human pandemic. Officers of Council provided CFS representation on the fire ground and through the Local Government Functional Support Group support in the incident management team at the Kangaroo Island fires and the response to the human pandemic (COVID-19) with state border control.



Council remains committed to actively establishing and supporting a resilient community through mitigation activities.

Part of this has been a resilience focus on the identification of opportunities for strengthening the capacity of the community for, and of, the effects from disaster events within the district areas.



Council continues to participate with the recovery of hailstorms event which impacted the Riverland Councils. Along with the surrounding councils, there is regular collaboration with the community functional services of SAPOL to discuss crime prevention and community safety within the region. This provides for a collective approach to issues that are or have the potential for impact on the safety of the community.



Human Resources and Risk Management

Risk Management

Council's exposure to liability has been limited through established frameworks that support a vigorous risk management culture. The continual assessment, measurement and monitoring of our risk profile ensure risks involved in Council's functions and services are managed and opportunities are maximised.

Risk management is integrated as part of good management practice into all functions of Council. Effective identification, assessment and evaluation of defined risks are critical to council achieving our strategic objective and meeting the expectation of our community. Proactive management and maintenance of Council's assets, infrastructure and facilities; policy and procedures; plans and programs are areas that are continually reviewed for appropriateness.

In 2019-2020 Council received a special distribution risk management payment through the LGAMLS of \$12,682 and access to \$30,438 through an incentive program.

Work Health and Safety (WHS)

Under the requirements of the Performance Standards for Self Insurers (PSSI) as administered by ReturnToWork SA, Council undertook the biennial WHS Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Audit conducted by LGAWCS in November 2018.

It is an obligation of being self insured for Workers Compensation to meet the requirements of the PSSI. Council has been continuing to address the identified outcomes of the 2018 WHS KPI Audit through developed and implemented WHS action plans to address the areas of improvement and compliance.

Due to the dedicated commitment and effort by the WHS team, Council received a 100% close out for the WHS Action Plan resulting in a returned rebate of \$103,302 from LGAWCS to Council. In addition Council received a payment of \$7,498 in special distributions for WHS; \$17,286 accessible through an incentive program and continues to receive additional services at no cost.

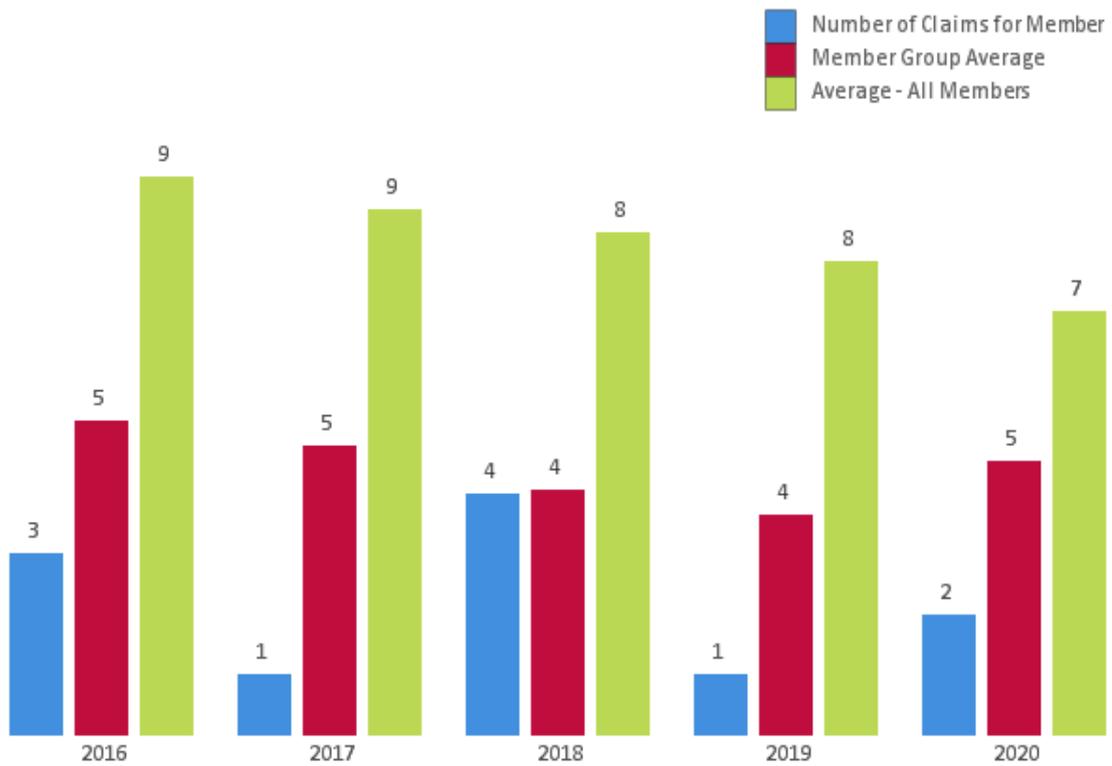
In November 2019 council undertook a WHS Procedure Validation audit for Hazardous Manual Tasks and is continuing to work through the close out actions for rebate calculations in November 2020.

For 2019-2020 the WHS focus for Council were the following programs: WHS KPI Audit Actions; and Return To Work. All programs have identified actions which are assigned to responsible officers which were monitored and reported on regularly to ensure that the focus of Council was timely and relevant.

Injury Management

Workers Compensation Claims Data

Claims



Data Source: LGAWCS, Claims Analysis and Tracking System as at 30 June 2019. 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. The structure of Council and its major committees which integrate with Council's Corporate Structure is as follows:



Riverland Regional Assessment Panel (RRAP)

Refer Page 90 for further details

Audit Committee

The functions of the Audit Committee include:

- reviewing annual financial statements to ensure that they present fairly the state of affairs of the Council; and
- proposing, and providing information relevant to, a review of the Council's strategic management plans or Annual Business Plan; and
- proposing, and reviewing, the exercise of powers under Section 130A; and
- 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

- liaising with the Council's auditor; and
- 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 (Mr Tim Muhlhausler)
 Crs M Fuller, R Centofanti, A Kassebaum, Mayor P Hunt (ex officio)
 Cr T Scott (Proxy)
 Chief Executive Officer
 Manager Corporate Services
 Internal/External Auditors
 Human Resources/Risk Manager

Strategy, Assets and Major Projects Committee

The functions of the Strategy, Assets and Major Projects Committee include:

- To develop, implement and review a Strategic Plan for the Berri Barmera Council area including undertaking extensive public consultation.
- To oversee, monitor and review Council's major projects and Annual Business Plan.
- To oversee the regular evaluation of asset management and programs and the review of relevant service levels.
- To receive deputations and/or representations from interested parties, which may aid council, in determining its objectives, strategies and priorities.
- 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.

- To guide the development of the asset management 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.
- To formulate and deliver appropriate strategies in relation to its strategic property holdings.

Membership: All Councillors
 Chairperson Cr A Kassebaum
 Attendees Chief Executive Officer and Senior Management Team
 Co-ordinator Chief Executive Officer

Council/Committee Meetings

Council meetings are generally held on the fourth Tuesday of every month commencing at 6:00 pm. 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 before mentioned Committees, 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:

- Audit Committee
- Cemetery Advisory Committee
- Berri Improvement Committee
- Barmera Improvement Committee
- Friends of Bonney Theatre Working Group
- Environment and Sustainability Committees
- Strategy, Asset and Major Projects Committee
- CEO Selection and Performance Review Committee
- Lake Bonney Caring for Country Advisory Committee
- Community Grants and Award Selection Committee
- Leases and Licences Committee

Following meetings of Council and Committees, the minutes are made available on the Council's website or can be viewed at the Council Office or purchased if desired.

Strategic and Corporate Plan

The Strategic Plan to 2015-2020, adopted in January 2016, outlined the following Vision for the Council.

Vision

In 2030, the Berri Barmera community will be a sustainable, prosperous, confident regional community throughout the Riverland of SA.

Goals

Our Strategic Plan is shaped by five goals.

1. Confident and Contributing Community;

This goal focuses on creating opportunities for active contributions from the community and retaining the population. The goal encourages the community to participate. It is underpinned by an entrepreneurial spirit, partnerships and the region's future success and leadership.

2. Diverse Economy;

This goal focuses on broadening the economic base of the region. Recognising that the region has successfully grown through horticultural associated industries, now is the time to create and attract new economic opportunities and talent.

3. Smart Infrastructure

This goal focuses on effectively managing assets, ensuring contemporary systems are in place to enhance community wellbeing, communication and access.

4. Valued Natural Environment / Resources;

This goal focuses on protecting and enriching our natural resources for future generations. While the river is foundational to our identity and lifestyle, this goal extends beyond to the creation of 'closed loop' ¹ systems and by becoming self reliant in many areas.

5. Strong Internal Capability/Capacity

This goal focuses on business practices for community benefit, accountability, good governance and clear decision - making processes. Reduction in complexity, increased skill development of staff and Elected Members and resource sharing opportunities are pivotal to the goal.



¹ A system that adjusts itself to varying conditions by feeding output information back as input.

Strategic Planning Framework



Action Plan

The following Action Plans encompass the major activities that Council will undertake to achieve its objectives as per Schedule 4, 2(a).

Community Goal 1 Confident and Contributing Community <i>This goal focuses on creating opportunities for active contributions from the community and retaining the population. The goal encourages the community to participate. It is underpinned by an entrepreneurial spirit, partnerships and the region's future success and leadership.</i>	
Objective 1 We will create opportunity for active involvement and input to civic issues and decision making.	
Actions 2019-2020	Performance Outcomes (Measures)
Increase in social media to disseminate information Opportunity for community feedback on projects provided Community Groups are provided the opportunity to suggest Councils investment into community projects Community members have the opportunity to nominate for Annual Awards Community members have the opportunity to participate in Council committees and working groups Community engagement sessions held with stakeholders where applicable to projects Item included within Council meeting agendas for communication Regular engagement with local media	15.5% increase in facebook page likes. Consultations undertaken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's draft Annual Business Plan and budget • Council's Long Term Financial Plan 2020-2030 • Leases • Central Business Districts Revitalisation Plan • Public Consultation and Community Engagement Policy (any other policies?) • Strategic Community Plan 2020-2025 • Council's Environmental Management and Sustainability Strategy 20 community groups/events received funding via grant application process Annual Australia Day nominations received and awarded Community Members involved in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berri Improvement Committee • Barmera Improvement Committee • Friends of Bonney Theatre Working Group • Cemetery Advisory Committee • Lake Bonney Caring for Country Management Plan Committee • Environment and Sustainability Committee

Objective 2 We will increase involvement in civic pride	
Actions 2019-2020	Performance Outcomes (Measures)
Training undertaken by several staff to assist with greater use of social media Redevelopment of Council webpage Town Improvement Committees driving community projects Opportunity for community to nominate for awards	Increased social media responses Assistance from Community Groups and Schools with several committees Ongoing projects carried out by Berri and Barmera Improvement Committees
Objective 3 We will support first people	
Barmerara Meru Committee Support of indigenous programs and events	Ongoing consultation between Council and River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation in relation to the Lake Bonney Caring for Country Management Plan Ongoing Project delivery – Lake Bonney Nature and Cultural Project. NAIDOC week events conducted by community. Funding provided for arts, social and sports programs Ongoing assistance with municipal service delivery and infrastructure upgrades via Federal and State Government funding bodies on behalf of the Gerard Community
Objective 4 We will support and promote multicultural diversity	
Objective 5 We will increase access to quality housing for a greater range of individuals	
Objective 6 We will create opportunities for community ownership and control of assets.	
Actions 2019-2020	Performance Outcomes (Measures)
Newly built assets under the control and management of community groups. Support community led facility improvements. Contribution and support for Regional STARCLUB Officer.	Contributions provided and close working relationships with various community sporting groups/clubs to upgrade and maintain facilities – Riverland Regional Innovation and Sports Precinct, Monash Bowling Club, Friends of Bonney Theatre, Barmera Sporting Hub. 10 clubs actively working through the STARCLUB accreditation process: Barmera Bowls Club, Barmera Tennis Club, Barmera United Soccer Club, Riverland Gymnastics, Monash Bowling Club, Berriview Tennis Club, Berri Waterski Club, Berri Rowing Club, Berri Football Club, Riverland Netball Association Facilitated borrowing arrangements to assist not-for-profit community groups to upgrade and improve facilities.

Objective 7 We will work with communities of interest to increase safety.	
Continued interaction with SAPOL Support of Multicultural Programs	Decrease in reported crime. Strengthened capacity for disaster recovery through increased community resilience
Objective 8 We will influence state, regional and local decision making	
Mayor President of MRLGA Mayor Member of South Australian Region Organisation of Councils (SAROC) Riverland Local Government Forum G3 Procurement Alliance Elected Member membership of various boards, committees, community groups.	Input/Outputs MRLGA Annual Business Plan, activities and actions Contributions to SAROC Strategic Plan. Lobby local government representatives when required Liaise with RDAMR to achieve economic and community benefits Resource sharing and continued alliance with Riverland Councils for several projects outlined in Riverland G3 Annual Report

Community Goal 2 Diverse Economy

This Goal focuses on broadening the economic base of the region. Recognising that the region has successfully grown through horticultural and associated industries, now is the time to create and attract new economic opportunities and talent.

Objective 1 We will develop partnerships to attract new industry (eg advanced manufacturing; green industries; alternative horticulture; education and training)

Actions 2019-2020	Performance Outcomes (Measures)
Supported new business initiatives and expansion of existing businesses. Investigations into green waste disposal viability	New businesses or expansions of existing businesses RDA supported programs Assist new or existing businesses to access appropriate infrastructure for relocation, incorporating into Business Support Policy. Assist local business facilitate borrowings to expand local tourism business Charter Agreement – Small Business Friendly Council initiative Development of Central Business District Revitalisation Plan in consultation with business owners/traders of our District. Continue to gather information regarding green waste disposal options and working with potential businesses in this space.

Objective 2 We will attract investment to value add to current industry

Support business to access Federal funding for business investment	Local tourism business grant success
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Objective 3 We will work with partners to attract business not reliant on the River	
Supported new business initiatives and expansion of existing businesses	RDA supported programs as well as individual business opportunities.
Objective 4 We will develop a China strategy	
Objective 5 We will promote quality Country Style living and lifestyle	
Council continues to work with landowners to facilitate development of rural living in areas appropriately zoned for this use	New houses are being built Initiate commencement of Growth Strategy for Berri Barmera Council to be undertaken 20/21.
Objective 6 We will facilitate development through appropriate zoning and amend where required (while protecting the natural assets of the region).	
Actions 2019-20	Performance Outcomes (Measures)
Working with State Government to facilitate new Planning and Design code	Implementation of new electronic Planning and Design Code portal with 'go live' date of 31 July 2020.
Objective 7 We will support local businesses and townships to work together to increase joint profitability.	
Intensive consultation undertaken with Barmera and Berri Traders and stakeholder groups to identify 5 year action plan to enhance profitability of business within the district	Development of Central Business District Revitalisation Plan in consultation with business owners/traders of our District.
Objective 8 We will support tourism.	
Investment in Tourism Services and attractions. Provide information services to support visitor experience Support the development and operations of facilities that service RV and camping Support the attraction of events that result in increased visitor nights Support the installation of Electric Vehicle recharging station Support projects to enhance visitor experience. Continual upgrades and maintenance to both Riverfront and Lakefront.	Operation of Berri VIC directly and make contribution to Barmera VIC. Contributed to district and regional marketing materials Support for tourism businesses as well as major funding partner of Destination Riverland. Provision of ongoing facilities at Martin Bend and Barmera RV Park improvements Ongoing projects to enhance the visitor experience at Lake Bonney Barmera. Ongoing planning for walking trail at Wilabalangaloo and the extension of trails throughout district. Installation of lighting at Berri Wharf and Barmera Lakefront Jetty. Installation of Bonney Theatre Art Projection. Upgrade and installation of tourism signage.

Objective 9 We will support more women in leadership roles.	
Programs in place for development and ongoing provision of opportunities to upskill.	Increase in women in mid and senior management roles. Provide LG network opportunities for women within the LG Sector.
Community Goal 3 Smart Infrastructure <i>This Goal focuses on effectively managing assets, ensuring contemporary systems are in place to enhance community wellbeing, communication, and access.</i>	
Objective 1 We will ensure fast, reliable NBN infrastructure. We will bolster technology capacity and capability across the region	
Actions 2019-20	Performance Outcomes (Measures)
NBN available in Barmera and Berri.	NBN working to community satisfaction
Objective 2 We will continue to invest in sports, recreation and lifestyle infrastructure working to partner with businesses when appropriate.	
Riverland Regional Innovation and Sports Precinct at Berri	Continued facilities upgraded and equipment renewed such as air conditioning and spectator seating. Assisted financially/in kind support with sporting events. Assisted sporting clubs. Working with selected schools to develop shared community use facilities and reduce duplication of infrastructure
Upgrades Barmera Lakefront, Glassey Park, Monash Adventure Park, playgrounds and other recreational areas	Construction of walking trails throughout the district, installation of playground equipment, maintenance of playgrounds and other sporting/recreation areas.
Objective 3 We will modernise and build community assets. We will enhance the combining and sharing of community resources (eg transport)	
Glassey Park – hub/home for numerous sporting groups Hawdon Chambers and Soldiers Memorial Hall renovations Ongoing infrastructure renewal such as irrigation to ensure reduction in water usage.	Facilities continuously maintained and upgraded where possible. Home for Friends of Bonney Theatre Working Group Home for “Part of Things” at Hawdon Chambers Regular and popular use of Council facilities Working with Sporting Clubs to access funding opportunities to upgrade facilities.

Objective 4 We will provide non structured recreational facilities, locally and regionally, to promote participation, well-being and aesthetic landscape quality.	
Walking trails being developed Planning for recreational activities and enhancement of use around Lake Bonney	Barmera Lake Front exercise equipment and walking paths Lake Bonney Caring for Country Management Plan
Objective 5 We will focus on amalgamating sporting, recreational and lifestyle facilities to continue to provide high quality services.	
Glasse Park Berri Barmera facilities	A number of joint use facilities now available in the community especially Alan Glassey Park, Barmera Community Sporting Hub and Bruce Oval Barmera.

Community Goal 4
Valued Natural Environment/Resources
This Goal focuses on protecting and enriching our natural resources for future generations. While the river is foundational to our identity and lifestyle, this goal extends beyond to the creation of 'closed loop'¹ systems and by becoming self-reliant in many areas.
^{1.} A system that adjusts itself to varying conditions by feeding output information back as input.

Objective 1 We will explore alternative energy supplies to reduce our carbon footprint.	
Actions 2018-19	Performance Outcomes (Measures)
Solar Panel installation on Council buildings	Solar Panels installed on several Council buildings.
Objective 2 We will explore business opportunities in the waste stream area. We will continue to upgrade and promote practices.	
Commence regional approach to waste management contract.	Investigate opportunities for up to date waste models and management practices via renewal of waste management contract.
Objective 3 We will promote and encourage eco-tourism. We will invest in the provision of high quality tourism facilities, services.	
Commencement of Lake Bonney Caring for Country Project.	Upgrade to camping and caravanning areas at Lake Bonney to ensure the sustainability of the Lake Environs and to provide quality experience to visitors to Barmera.
Objective 4 We will implement best practice in Cat Management.	
Developing Cat By-Laws	By-Laws commencement August 2018. DACO introduced 1 July 2018 allowing cat owners to register pets, assisting Council with cat management practices. By laws to be reviewed August 2020.

Community Goal 5

Strong Internal Capability/Capacity

This Goal focuses on business practices for community benefit, accountability, good governance and clear decision-making processes. Reduction in complexity, increased skill development of staff and Elected Members and resource sharing opportunities are pivotal to the goal.

Objective 1 We will embed strategic procurement practices.

Actions 2019-20

Performance Outcomes (Measures)

Using G3 Procurement Alliance and strategic purchasing.

Utilising the G3 Alliance purchasing power to reduce costs via economies of scale and reduce duplication across region.

Objective 2 We will continuously improve process ensuring a focus on monitoring and evaluation.

Implementation of ICT strategy

Improvements to ICT Systems and processes.
Continuation of cloud transition.
Installation of software that transfers paper based processes to improved ICT processes.
Installation of agendas/minutes software and rollout to all users (EM's and staff) across 3 Riverland Councils.

Objective 3 We will enhance resource sharing with other councils (exploration of enhanced service) provision through regional collaboration, public/private partnerships and sector-wide approaches.

G3 Procurement Alliance operating on numerous projects

MOU signed with Riverland Councils and implemented

- RPC/BBC Shared General Inspector
- ICT Strategy and shared Business Transformation Analyst
- Social Indicators Project
- Riverland STARCLUB Officer working across 3 Councils

Objective 4 We will invest in workforce planning and upskilling of staff

Workforce planning in place
Budget allocations for staff training and development

Enhanced knowledge and empowered staff.
Ability to access various LG Networks to increase skills and knowledge.

Objective 5 We will invest in upskilling/skill maintenance of Elected Members

Members have attended training sessions and conferences.

Robust and confident decision making

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 207	Community Land
Section 231	Public Roads
Section 252	By Laws

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 6	Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures

Council Policies

The Berri Barmera Council has their Policies displayed via the Council website and are continually updated to reflect changes in circumstances or if a new issue arises.

Statutory Requirements

- Access to Meetings - Code of Practice
- Council Member Access to Information
- Elections - Caretaker Policy
- Review of Council Decisions (Including Handling Complaints)
- Procedure for Managing Elected Members Code of Conduct (Breach of Code) Complaints
- Elected Members Support
- Road and Street Naming Policy
- Informal Gatherings Policy
- Order Making Policy

- Procurement (Contracting and Tendering) Policy and Procedure
- Public Consultation and Community Engagement
- Training - Elected Members
- Code of Conduct - Elected Members and Committee Members
- Code of Conduct - Council Employees
- Mobile Temporary vending Policy
- Internal Financial Controls Policy

Financial Management

- Annual Budget Policy
- Asset Accounting
- Asset Management
- Business and Residential Development Support Policy
- Credit Card Purchasing Policy
- Credit Card Cardholders Register
- Debt Recovery
- Fees and Charges Policy and Schedule
- Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy
- Financial Hardship (CWMS) Policy
- Grants Policy
- Treasury Management
- Valuation of Land Under Roads Policy
- Public Interest Disclosure Policy
- Privacy Policy

Rates

- Fines/Rates Recovery Policy
- Rate Capping Policy
- Rate Rebate Policy
- Rate Remission Policy
- Rating Policy

Governance

- Chief Executive Officer Appraisal
- Elections – Casual Vacancies
- Policy Development
- Citizenship Ceremonies
- Electronic Communications
- Flag Flying Policy
- Media and Communications Policy
- Delegations Policy
- Confidentiality Provisions Code of Practice

Elected Members

- Code of Practice – Meeting Procedures
- Council Member Access to Information
- Council Representations and Delegations
- Deputy Mayor/Chairperson Council Committees
- Elected Member Electronic Communication and iPad Policy
- Mayor/Chairpersons Seeking Legal Advice
- Records Management – Elected Members

Risk Management

- Children and Vulnerable Persons' Safety Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Risk Management Framework
- Provision of Council Resources to Support the Emergency Services in Emergencies Policy
- Volunteer Management Policy
- CCTV Policy

Community Services

- Community Grants and Assistance Policy

Tourism

- Tourism Services

Library

- Library Collection and Development Policy
- Library – Conditions of Use Policy

Infrastructure Management

- Plant and 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
- Vaughan Terrace War Memorial Policy

Roads and Footpaths

- Crossings (Driveways) Policy
- Footpath Construction
- Construction of Unmade Roads Policy

Waste Management

- Kerbside Waste, Recycling and Green Waste Service Policy

Environmental Services

- Community Wastewater Management Scheme (CWMS) (Connection Fees)
- Abandoned Vehicles Policy
- Building and Swimming Pool Inspection Policy
- Camping, Caravanning and Recreational Vehicle Policy
- Liquor Licencing Policy
- Outdoor Dining Policy
- Permit Parking Policy
- Signage Policy
- Delegations under the Development Act 1993 and Development Regulations 2008
- Unclad Bathing Policy
- Leases, Licences and Permit Policy
- Food Inspection Policy
- Horse Riding Policy
- Land Development Infrastructure Guidelines

By-Laws

- No. 1 Permits and Penalties
- No. 2 Moveable Signs
- No. 3 Council Land
- No. 4 Roads
- No. 5 Dogs
- No. 6 Cats

Elector Representation Review

Under the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999, Councils representation must comply with a specified quota tolerance. 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 Berri Barmera Council is as follows:

House of Assembly as provided by the State Electoral Commission	7,326
Council's Supplementary Role	4
Total	7,330

Council's representation quota is therefore 814 electors per elected member.

Council completed an Elector Representation review of its size, composition and ward structure, as required by the provisions of Section 12 of the Act over the 2016/2017 year. The review, which was conducted in accordance with the specified process, public consultation requirements and addressed the matters detailed under Sections 26 and 33 of the Act, culminated in Council resolving that:

- the principal member of Council continue to be a Mayor elected by the community at council-wide elections;
- the Council area not be divided into wards (i.e. the existing "no wards" structure be retained);
- Council continue to comprise of eight (8) area councillors and the Mayor; and
- The current name of the Council be retained

The next review will be conducted as per legislative requirements, in April 2024 to April 2025.

The table below outlines a comparison for Representation Quotas 2019/2020, as per Schedule 4 of the Local Government Act 1999.

Council	Elected Members Including Mayor	Electors	Ratio
Alexandrina	12	20,830	1,735
Barossa	12	17,947	1,495
Berri Barmera	9	7,330	814
Copper Coast	10	11,405	1,140
Light Regional	11	10,536	957
Loxton Waikerie	11	8,171	742
Murray Bridge	10	14,625	1,462
Port Pirie	10	12,881	1,288
Victor Harbor	10	12,463	1,246
Wattle Range	12	8,471	705
Yorke Peninsula	12	8,878	739

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 in accordance with section 44(6a) of the Act, and are available for public inspection free of charge at the Council Office.

Contracted Services 2019/2020

Competitive Tendering/Cost Effective Delivery of Service

Contractors are awarded on a tender / quotation basis as Councils commitment towards providing cost effective services to its community as well as competitive tendering. Resulting from this approach by Council, significant amounts of Councils operations are contracted out to minimise Councils requirements to provide expensive plant and equipment and also to maintain a relatively small workforce as we continue to reduce overheads.

The table overleaf outlines the contract work awarded through tendering / quotation processes for specific projects and functions of the Council in accordance with Councils Procurement Policies and Procedures.



Project/Service	Amount (\$)
Audit Contract (External)	19,755
Barmera Recreation Centre Management	34,571
Effluent Drainage Maintenance	358,238
CWMS Infrastructure Renewal	167,860
Garbage Collection	1,237,561
Animal and Plant Control Board Pigeon Control and Weed Control	10,345
Public Convenience Management	115,898
Sealed Road Construction	364,354
Jury Road Upgrade	61,610
Road Maintenance Sealing and Construction Berriman – Evans – Comley- Ellis -McIntosh	218,345
Kerbing Maintenance	5,916
Dump Rehabilitation- Monash	10,037
Sealed Road Maintenance	8,400
Footpath Maintenance	2,673
Swimming Pool Management	110,322
Community Wastewater Management Scheme	2,458,096
Stormwater Renewal	67,573
Solar Project	13,855
RRISP	16,030
Rock Crushing – Quarries	111,465
Sundries	
Riverfront Waste Water Upgrade	151,730
Enhancement Berri Wharf	87,540
Lake Bonney Jetty Lighting	71,000
Bonney Theatre Complex - Solar Panels and Battery	89,585
Berri Town Hall/Civic Centre/Depot Solar Panels	53,593
Water Fountain Barwell Avenue	19,701
Barmera Skate Park Upgrade	55,445
Master Planning & Activation - Coombe Street Berri	41,702
Berri Riverfront Precinct Retrofit/Redesign	12,660
Lake Bonney Walking/Cycling Path	20,924
Lake Bonney/Barmera - Tracks & Roads	103,985
Central Business Districts Revitalisation Plan	32,083
Berri Library Maintenance	2,434
Barmera Library Maintenance	16,895
Madison Avenue Monash Upgrade	31,660
Council Office Building	17,215
Debt Collection Costs	2,251
Halls Building Maintenance	51,147
Immunization Maintenance	5,191
Street Tree Maintenance	20,764
TOTAL	6,280,409

Grievance Procedure

Council has formally adopted a procedure for internal review of Council decisions as per the requirements of Section 270 of the Local Government Act 1999. 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.

Furthermore, 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*

Action: 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 2019/2020, one complaint was received that was deemed 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

Council and Committee Meetings / Matters considered in Confidence (Section 90 (2) and 91 (7))

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. In 2019/2020, there were twelve Ordinary and eight Special Meetings of Council and 50 Committee/Sub-Committee Meetings.

At the time Council resolves to consider a matter in confidence, Council complies with its Access to Meetings – Code of Practice. 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.

It is a requirement of the Local Government Act 1999 (The Act), schedule 4, clause 1(ga) that Council include in the Annual Report, information in relation to any orders of the Council or Council committee where the public have been excluded from attendance in accordance with Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act 1999.

It is also a requirement of the Act, for Council to include in the Annual Report, information in relation to any orders of the Council or Council committee that documents be kept on a confidential basis in accordance with Section 91(7) of the Local Government Act 1999.

Council used the provisions of Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act, 1999, on 20 separate occasions during the course of Council and Committee meetings, Council and the Committees met in confidence to discuss issues in relation to:

Section 90 (3)(a) information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead);

Section 90 (3)(a) information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead);

Meeting	Date	Subject
Ordinary Council	23 July 2019	Riverland Regional Assessment Panel – recommendation for appointments of Independent Members for the period 2019/2021
Ordinary Council	17 December 2019	Community and Citizen of the Year Nominations
Ordinary Council	28 January 2020	Sale of land for non-payment of rates – Section 184
CEO Selection and Performance Review Committee	12 May 2020	CEO Review
Special Meeting of Council	16 June 2020	Draft CEO Selection and Performance Review Committee – Minutes from meeting held 12 May 2020

Section 90 (3) (b) information the disclosure of which

- (i) could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposing to conduct, business, or to prejudice the commercial position of the council; and
- (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest;

Meeting	Date	Subject
Ordinary Council	25 February 2020	Confidential Minute Book – Release of Confidential Minutes – “Land Development Reserve”.
Ordinary Council	26 May 2020	Confidential Minute Book – Release of Confidential Minutes – “Confidential Deputation: Tom Doull, Associate, Grieve Gillett Andersen”
Ordinary Council	26 May 2020	Confidential Minute Book – Release of Confidential Minutes – “Council Accommodation Review”
Strategy Assets and Major Project Committee	9 June 2020	Confidential Minute Book – Release of Confidential Minutes – “Solar Farm Project Power Purchase Agreement Negotiations status”
Strategy Assets and Major Project Committee	9 June 2020	Confidential Minute Book – Release of Confidential Minutes – “Land Development Reserve”
Strategy Assets and Major Project Committee	9 June 2020	Berri Riverfront Precinct Retrofit

Section 90 (3) (d) commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which—

- (i) could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or to confer a commercial advantage on a third party; and
- (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest;

Meeting	Date	Subject
Ordinary Council	23 July 2019	Solar Farm Project options
Ordinary Council	27 August 2019	Solar Farm – Expression of Interest for acquisition of development rights and intellectual property
Strategy Assets and Major Project Committee	8 October 2019	Solar Farm Expression of interest for potential sale of project
Strategy Assets and Major Project Committee	8 October 2019	LED Bulk Lamp Replacement Program
Ordinary Council	28 January 2020	Confidential Minute Book – Release of Confidential Minutes – “Berri Renewable Energy Solar Power Generation Facility Business Case”
Strategy Assets and Major Project Committee	11 February 2020	Berri Solar Farm potential sale – Request for Proposal
Ordinary Council	25 February 2020	Confidential Minute Book – Release of Confidential Minutes – “Request to consider interest in co-dedication of Crown lands Queen Elizabeth Drive Barmera”

Section (90) (h) legal advice;

Meeting	Date	Subject
Ordinary Council	26 May 2020	Property Lease – Vaughan Terrace, Berri

Section (90) (j) information the disclosure of which— (i) would divulge information provided on a confidential basis by or to a Minister of the Crown, or another public authority or official (not being an employee of the council, or a person engaged by the council); and (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest;

Meeting	Date	Subject
Ordinary Council	25 February 2020	Confidential Minute Book – Release of Confidential Minutes – “Request to consider interest in co-dedication of Crown lands Queen Elizabeth Drive Barmera”
Ordinary Council	24 March 2020	Confidential Minute Book – Release of Confidential Minutes – “Lake Bonney Environs”

Review of items discussed in confidence is undertaken on a regular basis, quarterly and as required. This process has seen four items released from confidentially provisions over the course of the year. At the end of the 2019/2020 year, 15 items remained in confidence.

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)	20	328	13	90 (3)(a) 90 (3)(b) 90 (3)(d) 90 (3) (h) 90 (3)(j)
Berri Improvement Committee	5	12	Nil	N/A
Barmera Improvement Committee	5	13	Nil	N/A
Audit Committee	3	12	Nil	N/A
Riverland Regional Assessment Panel	10	7 (Berri Barmera)	Nil	N/A
Environment and Sustainability Committee	4	19	Nil	N/A
Strategy, Assets and Major Projects Committee	5	40	6	90 (3)(b) 90 (3)(d)
Cemetery Advisory Committee	4	15	Nil	N/A
CEO Selection and Performance Review Committee	1	3	1	90 (3)(a)
Lake Bonney Caring for Country Advisory Committee	2	5	Nil	N/A
Friends of Bonney Theatre Working Group	3	4	Nil	N/A
Riverland Regional Building Fire Safety Committee	3	37	Nil	N/A
Leases and Licences Working Group	5	44	Nil	N/A

Freedom of Information Statement

During 2019/2020 there were three Freedom of Information (FOI) applications received.

Council's Role

The Council's role is to govern and manage 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

- 1.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;
 - iv.to ensure, as far as is practicable, that the principles set out in Section 8 are observed
 - b.as a person elected to the Council - to represent the interests of residents and ratepayers, to provide community leadership and guidance, and to facilitate communication between the community and the Council.

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

The activities that Council provides or is associated with are: public events, 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, and leasing of Council owned property to community organisations.

Agendas and Minutes

Agendas for all Council and Committee meetings are placed on public display not less than three days prior to meetings, with minutes being made available for perusal within five days of a meeting. Agendas and Minutes for Council and Riverland Regional Assessment Panel Meetings (RRAP) 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.

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

Members 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 Council's 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 to copy are listed below. A comprehensive listing of Council's Fees and Charges is available on the website.

Documents are available for public inspection at the Principal Office of Council between 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.

Fees and Charges

2019/2020	
Sale of Minutes/Agendas	\$5.00
Annual Financial Statements	\$10.00
Annual Report	\$10.00
Budget Report	\$20.00
Search Fees - Standard (8 days)	As per Act \$57.05
Search Fees - Rates Only	As per Act \$33.25
Extract from Assessment Book	20c per page

*Current 2019/2020 GST Inclusive
(Where applicable)

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 2019/2020 year, 10 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

Action: 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.



COMMUNITY Services

Library Services

This year has been one of change and flexibility. We have been able to be creative and introduce some new programs and events to add interest for our library customers whilst also being flexible enough to adapt to frequent changes. The Library Services report contains highlights of the year's events which include new programs such as Lego Club and the Summer Holiday Guide, as well as events such as Writer in Residence and the installation of The Little Free Library.

Our online presence has also been bolstered by the addition of photos onto our catalogue via The Portfolio historical photos project.

The closure of our libraries due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic was unexpected but brought about different approaches to the way we do things and digital products were utilised more fully throughout this period.

Plans for the consolidation in 2022 of the Glossop High School Senior Campus and the Middle School means that many additional changes will be required at the Berri Library to accommodate a larger school population. We have begun planning for this and, are communicating on a more regular basis with our joint-use library partner.

Lego Club

Children in the community are able to participate in the newly formed Lego Club on a weekly basis during term time at the Barmera Library. The Club was launched at the Barmera Library on Thursday 24th October to coincide with Children's Week. The launch was an event to remember with around 30 children and their families in attendance to enjoy Lego themed cupcakes, face painting, eating popcorn, tackling the Lego challenge and designing their own Lego beaded wristbands.

Barmera Library staff member, Sue Webber, sets out different Lego challenges each week for the children to tackle. This new program has been very well attended and feedback from community members has been positive; people love the way it brings family members together in the library environment. Even when library activities were disrupted by COVID-19, the Lego Club continued online with challenges being posted on the library Facebook page.



"Lego Whiz Kids" Brayden and Cohen admiring their work after completing one of the challenges at the newly formed Lego Club at Barmera Library.



Our school based library trainee Natalie Bradford-Marshall carrying out one of her many tasks at the Berri Library.

Glossop High School activities

School library staff Maureen Spiers and Susanne Fisher have worked closely with teachers and students in various ways to maximise educational outcomes for students. School Services Librarian, Maureen Spiers organized and ran library orientation sessions in November for Glossop High School

year 10 students who will be attending the Senior Campus in 2020.

In June we replaced six study tables and eleven meeting room chairs. The tables in the study area, which is used daily by Glossop High School students, had been in use since the joint-use library first opened in 1999.

The new furniture looks great and the wheels on the new tables has made it easier to reorganise our spaces for different activities.

The impact of COVID-19 in the first part of the school year meant that some students elected to study from home; this put more focus on online resources and we were busy assigning online texts to many mathematics students.

With the date of the consolidation between the Senior Campus and the Middle Campus coming closer we formulated some questions of concern and set up a meeting between the joint-use partners to gain some clarity on issues in regard to library operations.

Our school-based trainee through Glossop High School, Natalie Bradford-Marshall, finished up with us at the beginning of February after having completed a Certificate III in Library and Information Services. Natalie worked one day a week with us helping out on the circulation desk as well as assisting with other library-related activities. We certainly appreciated having Natalie with us; her positive approach and very obliging nature was evident to all through her work on the circulation desk.



Melanie Alder pictured with participants attending her last Rhyme Time session at Barmera Library.

Baby Rhyme Time

Volunteers Melanie Alder at Barmera Library and Sarah Plush at Berri Library have been involved in running this fun and educational program for many years. In December both decided to step down from their roles as volunteer co-ordinators. Farewells were organised and both were presented with various gifts along with an engraved glass plaque in appreciation of their voluntary service. Programs resumed at both libraries when school started in 2020 with library staff conducting the sessions whilst looking for suitable volunteers to assist with these activities.

Writer in Residence

Our library service was fortunate to be included in a *Writers in Residence* program event organised by Writers SA in July 2019. We were pleased to host Royce Kurmelovs, author of *The death of Holden, Boom and Bust* and *Rogue Nation*. After a 'meet and greet' morning tea at Berri Library, Royce held a community workshop on 'Writing books & making it as a freelance writer', he also spoke to a Glossop High School year 11 English class about his experiences in becoming a writer and also conducted one on one meetings with interested individuals.

Royce spent a day at Barmera Library where he spoke to library members about his career in journalism, his books and also answered questions for the many who called in to chat with him.

A morning tea and informal workshop was held later in the morning, this was attended by eight people.



Writer in Residence, Royce Kurlmelovs conducting a community workshop at the Berri Library.

Be Connected Tech Savvy Sessions

Be Connected is an Australian Government initiative aimed at increasing the confidence, skills and online safety of older Australians in using digital technology. Barmera Library were successful in obtaining a \$1,500 *Be Connected Get Online Week* grant to be used by both libraries to fund events and programs. This partnership has allowed us to develop and run free training programs of interest to our older residents.

Berri Library released their *Be Connected Tech Savvy* program for July-December 2019 with lots more free training sessions such as *eSafety, Using Email, Researching Your Family History and What is Virtual Reality?* There have also been fortnightly walk-in sessions where people brought along their tech problems and we helped to solve them.

At the Barmera Library a total of 40 adults took part in the *Be Connected* program on Wednesdays and Fridays over a period of three months. Volunteers Kaye Stead and Matthew Smith guided learners through their IT problems on Wednesdays whilst library staff provided a wide variety of IT help during the Friday drop in sessions.



Be Connected Volunteer Kaye Stead (left) assisting a member of the public to navigate the *Be Connected* website at the Barmera Library.

Barmera Railway Local History Record

Partnering with others to record historical events can result in valuable local history records being created. Barmera Library staff member Joella Crossfield liaised with community members to compile and edit an in-house book on the Barmera Library 90th Anniversary Railway Event which the community held in August 2018. The book features maps, newspaper articles, stories and pictures and we are grateful to the many community members who contributed stories, photos and memories. A DVD of the 90th Anniversary Railway Event at the library created by David Badger has been included with the book which can be viewed at both Berri and Barmera Libraries.



Barmera Library staff member Joella Crossfield with the recently produced book to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Barmera Railway.

Barmera Library Improvements

The new meeting room at Barmera Library is now finished and has been well received. It is a functional area that can be used as before with the doors open or easily turned into a private meeting room for small groups.

Staff Training and Development

Continuous training is available for staff to update their knowledge and skills in areas related to their work. All staff at both libraries have undertaken *Fraud and Cyber Awareness Training*. Relevant staff members also took part in *Emergency Warden Training* and *First Aid* and two new casual staff members took part in an induction. During the COVID-19 pandemic, face-to-face training has not been possible so some staff have taken the opportunity to seek out and complete webinars and other forms of online training.

Historic Photographs online

Our cultural heritage is being recorded and made available to the public via our online catalogue. The Portfolio historic photo project has been progressed by our Local History Officer. So far, more than 300 history photographs have been added and made available online to the general public through the SA Public Library online catalog. By limiting the search to *Images* and using keywords it is possible to access some fantastic old photos from our region like the one of the Berri Irrigation Office in 1917 shown below.



Original Irrigation Office in Berri situated on Allotment 38 Wilson Street in 1917.

Author visits

Partnerships with authors have enabled us to hold 'meet and greet' events at each of our libraries. Berri Library held a successful "Meet the Author" event in October 2019 with more than 20 people attending. Well renowned speaker and author, Val Oldfield gave an enlightened recount of her book titled *No Beating About The Bush* which traces her childhood years from the seaside suburb of Semaphore all the way to the Birdsville Track and Mungeranie Station as a naïve newlywed. During the presentation we were given a rare privilege of viewing some very old footage of the outback and beyond! The evening continued with book signing and sales while everyone mingled and enjoyed some light refreshments.

Self-published South Australian author Wendy Altschwager visited Barmera Library on 16th August, 2019 to talk about her latest book, *Behind the Door*, a mystery based on Wendy's real life experiences. Wendy's seven books are all inspired by life on the land, the people who make up bush communities and the realities of battling drought and dust storms. Wendy and her husband John joined with the event attendees for afternoon tea and more talk about books and the bush.

Op Shop Fashion

Barmera Library staff partnered with the Barmera Opportunity Shop and local volunteer models to stage an *Op Shop Fashion Show*. The event was held on 14th November in the Soldier's Memorial Hall and it was a "runway" success! One hundred and twenty people attended; there were drinks and nibbles, clothing from the Barmera Opportunity Shop was paraded by the fourteen volunteer models with Opportunity Shop clothes on sale afterwards. The \$840.85 profit went to the Barmera Opportunity Shop Residential Care Auxiliary, who reported that they also sold \$315 worth of clothing on the night, so a very good result was achieved for this very worthy

cause. A letter from the secretary of the Barmera Residential Care Auxiliary was received thanking Barmera Library staff for the donation.

Summer School Holiday Guide

This inaugural guide was distributed to all families with kindergarten and primary school age children in our Council region during the final week of school for 2019. Staff from both libraries as well as the Visitor Information Centre collaborated to compile a huge list of activities to create this useful guide. Initial comments from recipients have been very positive with people liking the calendar section and the colourful activity advertisements. This comprehensive guide listing children's and family holiday activities running in the region over the December 2019 and January 2020 break was made available for collection and viewing from Council offices and websites, with links on Facebook and Instagram. A story was also done on the guide by ABC Riverland Radio 1062 in early December. Participants at any of the activities were encouraged to take a selfie and post it on Instagram using the hashtag #selfieatbbc, to go in the running to win a Chaffey Theatre family movie pass.

In addition to this, Berri and Barmera libraries designed a Summer Holidays Reward Card, this encouraged young readers to attend or complete six activities at either library - borrowing items, colouring in, or attending various craft sessions to receive a prize.

Special events

Events occurring in the Riverland have benefitted communities elsewhere. In January 2020 both libraries held sales of old library stock and donated money to aid the recovery from the fires on Kangaroo Island. Barmera Library supported the Kangaroo Island's Mayors Bushfire Appeal with a donation of \$219.00 whilst the Berri Library raised \$751.00 to be donated to the Kangaroo Island Wildlife Park. Many generous people donated extra on top of their book sale cost when they found

out where the money was going.

COVID-19 Library impact

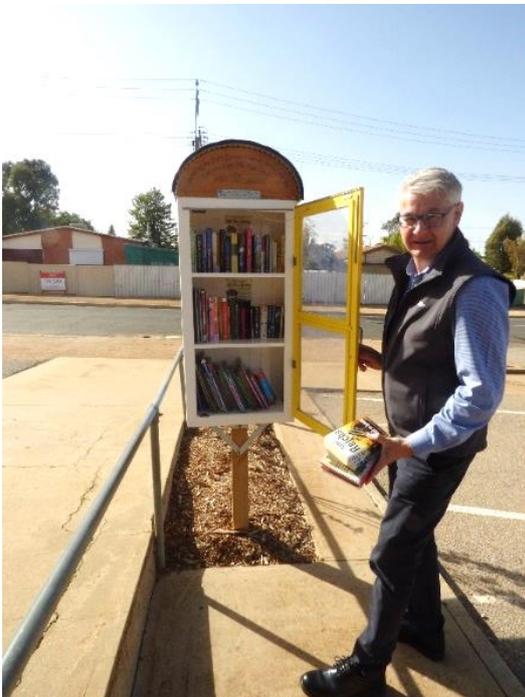
COVID-19 has had a huge impact on our Berri Barmera Library Service, with children's activities, Rhyme Time, Lego club, IT Tech help, Tech Savvy for Seniors, visits to and from the Barmera Kindergarten, U3A and Book Group activities ceasing on Friday 20th March. On 23rd March, following Government COVID-19 restriction on non-essential services, the Berri and Barmera libraries closed for face to face business. At Berri Library, staff continued to work behind closed doors on a range of tasks and to serve the school staff and students as schools were still open.

As the pandemic closure continued, more and more library users went online and SA Public Libraries reported a state-wide increase of 30% across all digital products including Overdrive, Libby Press reader, Ancestry and IELTS. A new online Book Club was started on the Berri Barmera Library service Facebook page, meetings were held via Zoom and anyone could join.

At Berri, staff offered a Mail Out service utilising Australia Post to deliver resources to customers who were desperate for reading and viewing material, as well as a Home Delivery service direct to people's homes or work. At Barmera, staff introduced a Call and Collect service for needy library customers, where they could phone the library and request items, which would then be left outside the back door for them to collect at a pre-arranged time. Despite the Berri Library re-opening on 15th May and Barmera Library re-opening on the 18th May we were required to follow the State Government's three-step approach to lifting the COVID-19 restrictions across South Australia; we put in place a large number of precautions to keep our staff and customers safe.

Little Free Library

The establishment of our first trial Little Free Library located at the Riverland Central Church at 11 Mortimer Road, Berri took place on 17th March. This free neighbourhood book exchange enhances the hospitality of our region and promotes relaxation through reading. Our Little Free Library was built by volunteers from the Barmera Community Men's Shed and is administered jointly by the Berri Barmera Library Service and the Riverland Central Church. If this trial project is successful we hope to install other Little Free Libraries around our Council area.



Library Manager Peter Ison re-stocking the Little Free Library situated on Mortimer Road in Berri.

Memorial Seat

The Barmera Red Cross partnered with the Berri-Barmera Council to install a memorial seat outside the Barmera Library to recognise the valuable contribution to the town of past Librarian Di Tillett. Di was the Librarian at Barmera Library for forty years and was also a long-standing member, Vice President and Emergency Services Liaison Officer of the Barmera Red Cross branch.

Berri Barmera Council Library Statistics 2019/2020					
LOANS & USAGE	BERRI		BARMERA		
	2018-2019	2019-2020*	2018-2019	2019-2020*	2019-2020 TOTALS*
Door Count	109,562	85,018	44,276	28,387	113,405
Total Loans	44,596	38,885	34,416	29,713	65,598
Internet Bookings	3,846	2,486	2,936	2,167	4,653
Holiday Activities	211	381	411	365	746
Weekly children's Activities	251	194	1,217	485	679
Baby Rhyme Time	571	285	1,212	435	720
SA Library Network Incoming Hold Transits	4,842	4,391	4,615	4,299	8,690
SA Library Network Outgoing Hold Transits	9,341	8,224	4,672	4,102	12,326
Visits per capita (Berri 7,025, Barmera 4,188)	15.6	12.1	10.6	6.8	10.1
Loans per capita	6.3	5.5	8.2	7.1	5.8
Open hours per annum	2,422	2,042**	1,950	1,644**	
Web Catalogue Sessions	14,846	9,403	combined statistics		9,403
Library Website Sessions	12,052	10,548	combined statistics		10,548

* Numbers affected by COVID-19 and the government restrictions that required public libraries to close from 23rd March 2020. Libraries were closed throughout April and opened offering more limited services from mid May 2020. At the time of writing (3 Sept 2020) some restrictions on library activities are still in place.

** Open hours reduced to account for the 8 weeks both libraries were closed to the public (although Berri library was still open to GHS staff and students during this period).

Community Development Services

Volunteers

Volunteers play an extremely important role within Council, not only do they contribute to building a better and vibrant community, they also provide staff with the support needed to extend and enhance the services being delivered by Council.

Council provides an opportunity for people to volunteer, some volunteers providing a few hours of service on an “as needs” basis, while others perform regular shifts enabling them to give back to their community, share their knowledge, learn, connect and support others.

Our volunteers provide assistance at Rocky’s Hall of Fame, the libraries and on special projects.

We have been lucky to have some long-standing volunteers associated with Council, including those who work at Rocky’s Hall of Fame. Chris and Phil have again, over the course of the year, volunteered over 370 hours of their time to assist with maintaining the site, acting as tourism ambassadors, along with developing stories and updating displays associated with history of artists and our region.

Sadly, in December we farewelled two of our volunteers Sarah Plush and Melanie Alder. After 12 years, Melanie decided to step down from her role as volunteer coordinator at the Barmera Library and after 5 years, Sarah decided it was time to leave Berri Library’s Baby Rhyme Time. Both women were instrumental in making our Baby Rhyme Time sessions a success and we wish them all the very best for the future.



Events

Council provides various levels of in-kind and financial assistance to a broad range of community and regional events. Our works, property and community teams provide a range of logistics and equipment support to a wide range of activities.

Throughout the course of the year, Council would normally support an extensive list of events within our region. Unfortunately, the later part of this financial year saw many of those events cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, however, we were still able to support:

- NAIDOC Week Opening Ceremony and Street March
- Barmera Orchid Show
- Riverland Field Days
- Riverland Wine and Food Festival
- Relay for Life
- Murray Man Triathlon
- JDRF One Walk
- Overland Corner Time Capsule Retrieval
- Barmera Markets
- Barmera Christmas Pageant
- Glossop High School Prom
- Barmera Santa's Cave
- Berri Merri Christmas
- Australian Hovercraft Federation National Rally
- Berri Speedboat Trophy Day
- Veteran and Remembrance Days
- Riverland Musical Society Performance

Not only do these events provide great celebrations and activities for our residents, many also attracted visitors from outside of our region which provided an economic benefit to tourism and business operators within the region.



Recreational Facilities

Council supports and maintains a diverse range of recreation and sports facilities across our district.

There are many trail networks, parks and playgrounds for more in formal use and then a range of sporting venues such as our Ovals, Barmera Recreation Centre, Alan Glassey Park Precinct and Berri District Swimming Pool.

This year there have been a number of projects undertaken by our works teams to improve and extend both the Riverfront trail and Lake Bonney trails, these have seen a dramatic increase in walkers, and joggers in these areas, especially during the COVID-19 restrictions. The Berri Sports Stadium also had new seating installed, thanks to Federal Government funding, this increases the comfort and ticketing control for spectators for a range of sporting and community activities held at the facility.

There have been a number of community-led improvements to our districts sporting facilities this year including Barmera Active Community Hub who had created a concept plan for the recreation precinct and secured funds to develop the space around the town's outdoor courts and skate park. The Hub Committee successfully constructed 4 new Netball/Basketball courts and continue to improve the visual appeal of the surrounding space. Barmera Central repainted the Scout and Guides Hall, and Council replaced the old permaline fencing around the site. With additional funding the Perimeter fencing adjoining the Football club was also replaced and the addition of retaining wall and turf surrounding the skate park have not only improved the look of the venue but also removed the bark chip 'garden' which often posed a problem for users of the facility with loose bark chips getting under skate and scooter wheels. Volunteers from the

Barmera Monash Football Club also pitched in helping to lay turf at the skate park, and painting the Netball/Basketball Clubrooms, Toilets and Councils Storage Shed. This collective effort of community groups earned the Barmera Active Community Hub the 'Building Better Community' Award, presented at the 2020 Australia Day Breakfast.



Community Facilities

Each year, Council maintains a wide range of community, arts and cultural facilities that provide meeting, tourism and event spaces for our community organisations. Rocky's Hall of Fame continues to tell the story of connections between Barmera and Country Music Artists from across the Nation but also has a growing number of local history stories about the town's development as a post war soldier settlers irrigation settlement and the impact of various events on our community over the years.

Bonney Theatre continues to see improvements made to user experiences with air-conditioning installed in the Soldiers Memorial Hall and improved energy use for the facility with solar panel installation. In a boost for local tourism and community storytelling, a digital projection system was installed to project images, art and video onto the external wall of the Bonney theatre. A program of projections will be rolled out later in 2020, with extensive use also anticipated for 2021 in conjunction with the Townships Centenary celebrations.

StarClub

Thanks to the support of the Office of Recreation and Sport, Berri Barmera Council and Renmark Paringa Council, a dedicated StarClub field officer has been appointed to our region. Their role was developed to work with local sporting groups and organisations and assist in education to ensure their continued future.

STARCLUB offered information sessions to sporting clubs in our region to inform clubs about the STARCLUB Club Development Program and to explain what clubs are required to do, discuss the legislative compliance points and then go through the online tool with the representatives.

Funding was used to deliver the following training:

- Strategic Planning
- Child Protection
- Risk Management
- Volunteer Management
- StarClub Information Session
- Social Media
- Succession Planning

Training was scheduled focusing on key points and areas where clubs continue to have difficulties developing and implementing policies and procedures.

Well done to Barmera Netball Club, Barmera Bowling Club and Berri Tennis Club for commencing a review of their systems and Congratulations to Barmera Golf Club, Berri Golf Club, Lake Bonney Sporting Clays and Berri Swimming Club who became accredited Star Clubs this year.

Community Grants

Council remains committed to assisting local groups through a series of grants and support programs each year.

The Community Grants program encourages and supports a range of projects, events and activities within the Berri Barmera Council region. Eligible groups, organisations and individuals are invited to apply for up to \$4,000 to assist with community focused initiatives that benefit the Berri Barmera region.

In the 2019/20 Grant Rounds, a total of 29 applications were received and 20 were allocated to a variety of initiatives as outlined below:

Organisation	Activity / Event	Amount Supported	In Kind
Riverland Rodders	Riverland auto picnic	\$500	
Barmera Basketball Club	Electronic Scoreboard	\$1,500	
Moorook Animal Shelter	New kennels	\$4,000	
Monash Cricket Club	Junior Cricket Blast Program	\$1,500	
JRDF Australia	Fundraising Walk at Barmera Oval	\$140	
Berri Traders	Berri Santa's Cave	\$5,000	
Riverland Vintage and Classic Car Club	Solar Panel System	\$4,000	
Barmera Tennis Club	Spectator Area	\$4,000	
Barmera Clay Target Club	Weather protection for Spectators	\$2,820	
Riverland Brass Band	Organisational Support	\$1,500	
Berri Rowing Club	Driveway entrance upgrade		\$4,000
Barmera Pageant Committee	Barmera's Santa's Cave	\$1,500	
Barmera Pageant Committee	Christmas Pageant	\$1,500	
K Doupis – Youth Sponsorship	U15 Elite Squad	\$100	
A Corman – Youth Sponsorship	Ultimate Fiji Cup	\$200	
C. Ebert – Youth Sponsorship	U16 Future Cfanaroos National Development Tour	\$200	
Berri Girl Guides	Laptop	\$350	
Riverland Country Music Club	Country Music Festival	\$5,000	\$5,000
Berri Lions Club	2020 Easter Carnival	\$1,500	\$1,500

Some 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.



Australia Day Awards

Two community minded citizens and two local community groups were recognised as part of Council's Australia Day breakfast held on the Berri Riverfront on Sunday 26 January 2020.

The Australia Day Awards recognises individuals and organisations who have made a noteworthy contribution during the past year, and/or given outstanding service over many years, to our local community beyond normal employment duties.

This year's event was attended by over 300 people, and, consisted of a cooked breakfast provided by the Berri Lions Club, plus entertainment by Harrison Lowe and the Motley Crew Choir. The Barmera Scouts and Barmera Girl Guides started the official ceremony with the raising of the flags, before the official speeches and award ceremony.



Dr Raphael Torome is actively involved in recruiting doctors to the Riverland area. He is also involved in their training to ensure that the demand for health care professionals is met, In 2019, he received a national award from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners for his outstanding contribution to the community, his award was for General

Practice Supervisor of the Year. Aside from his works as a general practitioner, Dr Torome has been involved with men's health and skin cancer within our community, dedicating his personal time to encourage men to take time to check on their personal health status. He encourages men to get involved within the community and look after themselves ensuring a positive outcome.



This year's Award recipients being:
Citizen of the Year – Dr Raphael Torome

Young Citizen of the Year – Aiden Erceg

Throughout Aiden's five years at Glossop High School he has been actively engaged with the school's education and sports program with a consistently positive attitude and an eagerness to learn. Aiden has demonstrated leadership within the school through being house captain, deputy prefect and school sports captain. Aiden has overcome balancing his deputy head role whilst completing rigorous and highly academic subjects. He has participated in numerous school events including swimming carnivals and sports day. He has also been

active as a role model at the Berri Primary School where he has been involved in their “Talk and Toast” program which is a school breakfast program. Aiden also contributes to the community through being a volunteer for Friends of Riverland Parks, a player for the Barmera Soccer Club and also participated in the National Youth Science Forum.

Community Event of the Year – Overland Corner Time Capsule Retrieval

In September of this year, the Riverland National Trust hosted the Overland Corner Time Capsule Retrieval event at the Overland Corner Hotel. The four Riverland branches of the Riverland National Trust worked together to produce an event to celebrate 50 years since the capsule was interned. The event was attended by hundreds of people who came from far and wide, where many friendships forged friendships over half a century ago were renewed, and new ones formed. A mobile display of the items retrieved was shown at schools, events and as a static display at the Cobdogla Irrigation and Steam Museum. The event ignited a wonderful atmosphere within the community.



Building a Better Community Award – Joint Winners

Harmony Day
 Since 2015 Riverland Youth Theatre has co-ordinated Riverland Harmony Day event in partnership with the culturally and linguistically diverse communities in the Riverland including

the Singh Society from Glossop. This free family friendly event brings a diverse range of cultural groups together for a day of performances, food, workshops and fun activities. This event promotes respect and understanding of different cultures within our community in a peaceful environment.

Barmera Active Community Hub

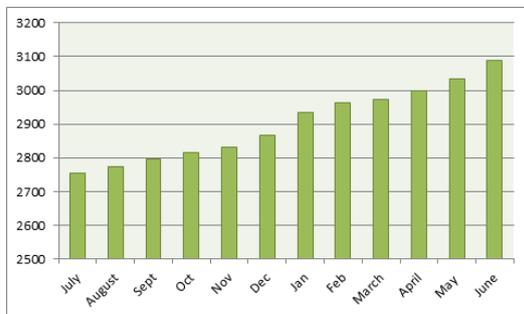
Established in 2016, the Barmera Active Community Hub is a collaboration of sporting clubs in the town working together to improve facilities and build on community participation in sport. The group was established after it was identified that the town’s outdoor courts were no longer safe for players and a number of spaces in the recreation precinct were not being used and had fallen into disrepair. The hub collaborated with community groups, nearby sporting venues and sought feedback to identify the needs for the area and secured major funding through Office for Recreation and Sport to develop the space. With some funding support from Council, they have been successful in completing the construction of four new courts and improvements to the surrounds, with more than 200 local players having enjoyed the new facility. The Hub continues to work towards building a space that will improve links across the main sporting facilities in the town. They also aim to build suitable change rooms in the future.



Connecting with our Community Media and Communications

This year Council has moved its website to a new Content Management System called Squiz Matrix, which is used by the majority of SA Councils. There was an extensive behind the scenes effort to prepare for the change, and now the information and functionality of the website will continue to improve as we move forward and learn more about its features and how these can be used to match the expectations of our community.

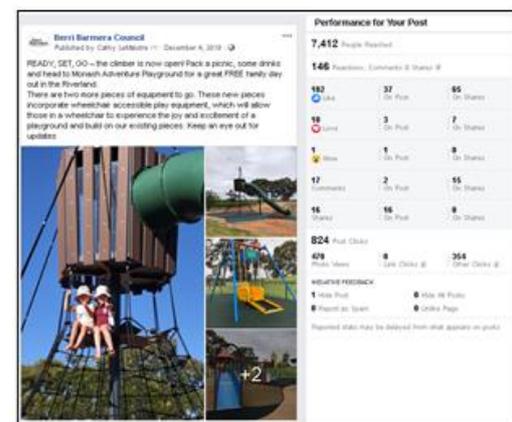
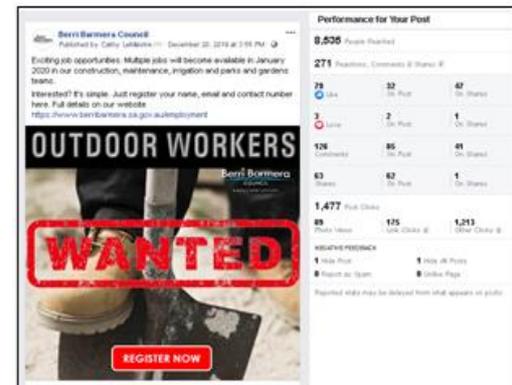
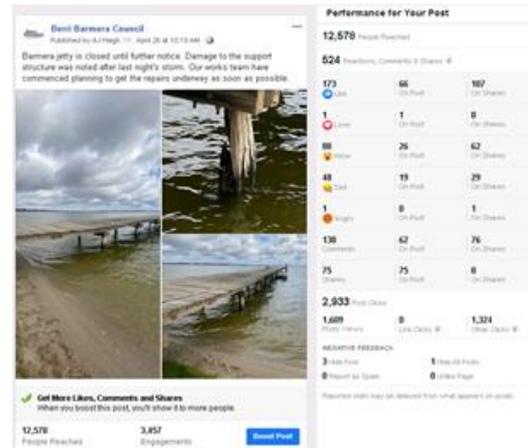
The new website went live in February 2020 and remains our primary source of information with over 33,200 visits to our website last financial year. The growth in website use may be in part attributed to the increased reach of Council's Facebook page over the past 12 months with 15.5% increase in followers, with many Facebook articles linking back to Council's website for further information on latest news articles, consultations, community events, and job opportunities within Council.



Graph 1: Council's main Facebook page growth for 2019-2020

Some statistics about our Council Facebook followers include that our audience following our page is 65% female and the age group most engaged in 2019/20 has changed from 45-54 year old's (2018/19) to the 25-34 making up 28%, closely followed by 35-44 year old's at 26%, with 45-54 year old's at 19%.

The highest reaching posts from 2019//20 were a broad cross section of themes from infrastructure, community events, employment opportunities and new playground equipment.



Visitor Services / Tourism

Berri Visitor Information Centre

The Berri Visitor Information Centre, situated on the riverfront is an ideal place for visitors to stop and learn more about the region, while engaging with our staff.

Council's community development team members based at the Berri Visitor Information Centre, play an important role in building economic development by welcoming tourists to the region and providing information on local attractions, businesses and activities. The Centre also stocks an extensive range of local product and merchandise which provides a great opportunity to support local businesses. This commitment is reflected in that, we have stocked over 180 local product items from 38 local small businesses within a 75km radius of Berri. These items range from food products, homewares, skin care, stationary, souvenirs, books, jewellery and artworks. Local Artists are also further supported with the opportunity to be involved in exhibitions throughout the year.

This year, tourism numbers have been down on previous years due to COVID-19 restrictions placed on travel between states, however our intrastate visitation numbers have had a notable increase. The centre still serviced the needs of 10,613 visitors during 2019/2020, which was above expectations. Our staff were able to value add to the experiences of these visitors and connect them with a range of local attractions and businesses for a positively contribution to the local economy.

Throughout this time the Centre also supported local businesses by maintaining an "Open for Business" directory and managing the Berri, South Australia Facebook page. We were also able to continue sales of local produce, through window services and it was surprising that product sales continued at higher than expected levels throughout the lockdown.

The Visitor Centre remains fully accredited under the Australian Tourism Accreditation Program. The accreditation assures the consumer that the Centre meets specific quality assurance criteria and the highest standards of business practice.

The Visitor Centre Team partners effectively with our Library Services Team and the Barmera Visitor Centre to encourage and support local and tourist activity throughout the school holidays, producing a calendar of events, engagement activities and activation of the Berri riverfront and surrounds and Berri Barmera visitor centres and library spaces.

Current projects for the team include Trails Map development, Wayfinding Signage review and update, updated online presence for Berri and strategic planning in line with SA Tourism Commission and Destination Riverland. Other than the many infrastructure and beautification projects that Council undertakes to support visitors, business and residents, there is also further investment in the tourism and economic sectors through direct contributions to Destination Riverland, Regional Development Australia and the Barmera Visitor Information Centre, which is a community operated centre run by Barmera Central.





INFRASTRUCTURE

Services

In Memory

In memory of Mrs Karina Davis,
Personal Assistant to Manager Infrastructure Services
and Council employee for over 30 years.



Infrastructure Services

Operations Summary

The Infrastructure Services department has the responsibility of developing and enhancing Council's infrastructure and assets to ensure that community members and tourists are provided with high quality, safe and well maintained environments.

A number of tasks are undertaken each financial year to ensure that Council Infrastructure and assets are maintained to the highest standard. These tasks include:

- Maintenance & Construction; road and footpath maintenance and replacements, grading, stormwater and effluent issues (including toilets), minor Council building maintenance, weed spraying, slashing, dead animal removal, road signage and white posts, vandalism, bins and concrete kerbing.
- Cemetery works, road sealing, boat ramps, pontoons and landings
- Parks & Gardens; mowing, irrigating, weeding, tree/shrub trimming and planting, playgrounds and BBQ cleaning
- Other; asset management, geographical information, technical advice and customer liaisons.

This year summarised

A word from the Manager of Infrastructure Services, Mr David Otto DeGrancy:

Council was fortunate enough to receive \$1 million in Drought Stimulus funding with a large portion of the associated projects falling under Infrastructure Services to deliver. These additional projects fell on top of our annual capital and maintenance projects putting additional pressure on the department and across the board, however; we were able to successfully deliver some very worthwhile projects for the community.

This was my first full financial year as Manager of Infrastructure Services and it has included a learning curve as steep as a cliff! However, I have loved the challenge and am extremely proud of the Infrastructure team, their cohesiveness and capabilities.

Sadly, 3 months into my term as Acting Infrastructure Services Manager one of the pillars of the department, my PA and dear friend, Karina Davis was diagnosed with a terminal illness. During this time, she continued to attend work and guide me through the challenges of my new role. Sadly, in January 2020 Karina passed away leaving a huge hole in our department, as she had a career at Council spanning 30 years and her knowledge of local government was amazing.

The Manager and PA roles were only two of several staffing changes seen within the department leadership team within the past 12 months. This has required us all to develop and adapt our leadership styles, which have been reflected by what we have accomplished. Anyone coming through our towns can see the passion each and every staff member has in their work.

As everyone in this wonderful world has experienced, the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on our productivity and ability to efficiently deliver outcomes. Thankfully, the high-level restrictions were short lived for our state and we were able to return to a slightly modified working environment, so we could keep pushing on.

The 2019/2020 financial year tested and stretched the Infrastructure Services department past its normal capacity. I would like to think that it has strengthened and bonded our team to now be a professional and resilient crew, ready to face the challenges presented in the future.

I would like to thank our CEO, Karyn Burton, for her leadership and the entire Infrastructure team for their great work and passion towards their job and community.

Tree Day

On 20 November 2019, Council with the assistance of former Councillor Mr Linc Gore held a Street Tree workshop at the Berri Hotel.

For the last 20 years Treenet, Australia's pinnacle urban tree research and education cluster, have organised an Adelaide based annual symposium. For the past three years, Berri Barmera Council has sent representatives along.

Small regional Councils cannot afford to send all their relevant workers, so after the 2019 symposium a plan was developed to bring up-skilling knowledge to the Riverland.

The workshop had 120 attendees including Riverland Council workers, members of Land Care groups, local volunteers and ten employees from the Mildura Rural City Council.

There were four key-note speakers that presented at the event. They were:

- Dr Greg Moore OAM – From the University of Melbourne. After a life time of researching and educating, is regarded as Australia's Premier Educator with all things Urban Forest.
- Dr Dean Nicolle OAM – A consulting arborist, botanist and ecologist. Australia's leading authority on Eucalypts – His methods saved the iconic Adelaide Oval Fig Trees during the Oval's re-development.
- Russell King – Drainage Engineer with the Mitcham Council who with his colleague, Dr Tim Johnson, installed infrastructure with permeable surfaces and preparations under surfaces that prevent path and road upheaval, channelling water off the road and

into the root zone thus enhancing tree growth.

- Hamish Mitchell – Managing Director of Specialty Plants, Melbourne. Hamish is a driving force behind AS 2303 - The Australian Standard on how tree stock for landscape use must be prepared and presented for sale.

Learnings from the workshop included:

- What to look for when purchasing tree stock.
- Correct planting, mulching and formative pruning methods.
- How staking weakens tree growth
- Why not to remove lower growth on saplings early in tree growth.
- Planting trees in a bitumen car park and getting water into the root zone in pocket parks.
- Urban tree myths and some pre-conceived ideas.

Overall, the event was well received by Treenet members, the community and surrounding Councils.





Capital Works

Drought Communities Funding

In 2019, The Berri Barmera Council was approved for \$1 million worth of projects to be funded through the Government's Drought Communities Program.

The aim of the Drought Communities Programme was to support communities in drought-affected regions of Australia by providing funding to eligible councils for local infrastructure projects and other drought-relief activities. The intention of the funding is to provide short term support by boosting local employment and procurement whilst also addressing social and community needs.

Berri Barmera Council utilised the funding for a number of projects that not only provided townships with upgraded facilities but also supported local businesses by providing additional work for local contractors and their employees. The upgrades are expected to further increase tourist visitations to the townships and trade for local businesses.

Infrastructure Drought Funding projects that were undertaken in the 2019/20 financial year are as follows.

Berri Wharf Enhancements

In 2019, enhancement works were undertaken on the Berri Wharf. This project provided additional elements not able to be initially included in the Wharf redevelopment completed in July of 2019. Partial funding was received to add additional facilities and features to allow residents and tourists to relax, reflect and appreciate the River Murray in all its magnificence.

The initial stage of the project was rendering the riverside wall of the viewing platform adjacent the Visitor Information Centre. This brought the surface up to a visually appealing standard.

Electrical works to upgrade the power supply for the lighting and outlets were carried out. Two stainless steel powered bollards containing two access points for visiting river vessels and houseboats were also installed.

Lighting installations followed with the installation of a programmable coloured lighting system and an illuminated flood marker. The lights from the lighting system shine across the concrete path up the swimming steps, retaining wall and up the stairs. These additions bring a major point of difference to anything else within the region.



Berri wharf lighting upgrades

To welcome visitors arriving by river, a feature has been mounted on the viewing platform wall. This artwork is visible by river, announcing the township and is also able to be appreciated by pedestrians utilising the wharf's walking path.



Berri 'welcome' artwork on platform wall

Two sets of picnic seating have been installed within the widened concrete apron in front of the swimming steps where individuals will be able to sit and enjoy the light show provided by the programmable lighting.

These additions will attract people to the Wharf and build positivity within the region through the improvement of the recreational facility, providing residents and tourists with a beautiful location to enjoy with their families.

Lake Bonney Jetty Lighting

The Lake Bonney Jetty was fitted with the same lighting system as the Berri Riverfront Wharf. This lighting system shines light toward the water beneath the jetty providing a spectacular lighting show. This project along with the Berri Wharf enhancements project leads the way for lighting within the region.



The Barmera Jetty lighting at night

Upgrade Monash Adventure Park Equipment



Local residents utilising treehouse with climbing frame

The Monash Adventure Park opened in 1996 in the location of the old Monash Playground. The adventure park is an iconic feature of the Riverland and the Berri Barmera Council has shown a commitment to the facility by maintaining the Park to the highest standards and the addition of more play equipment.

A focus to include inclusive and disabled play equipment to support equality in play has increased significantly in recent years. A number of new inclusive play pieces have therefore been installed at the Park to expand the opportunity for inclusive

play that provides multifunctional use, for both people with and without disabilities, and further diversifies play opportunities within the Park.



Inclusive swing set

Two traditional playground pieces were also installed with a focus on developing hand-eye coordination and balance which are essential skills to focus on for developing bodies.



Treehouse with climbing frame

Through the expansion of inclusive play equipment continued connections will be encouraged for families from all walks of life. Equipment that can be utilised by all will work towards increased social inclusion and will have long term flow on benefits for the community. The addition of new equipment also builds upon the commitment to will also continue to develop and upgrade the facility and ensure that the Park remains a huge tourist attraction for years to come.

Monash Township Revitalisation

The township of Monash is a stable well supported community within the Berri Barmera Council Area that is home to the famous Monash Adventure Park.

The Monash Township Revitalisation project has provided several upgrades to support the town and further aid in the preparations for the Centenary year. The project expands on a previous project to upgrade medians along the main street in the town, Madison Avenue with ground treatments (alternative mulch and artificial turf) which are low maintenance yet very visually effective.

To compliment the median upgrades the two garden beds in front of the Monash Memorial Hall have been renewed with the installation of artificial turf and have a tree centrally located within each garden bed.

This upgrade reduces maintenance requirements and improves the presentation of this community facility.



Monash Memorial Hall before works had been undertaken



Monash Memorial Hall after works had been completed

Two recycled plastic benches were also installed within the township. Tourism is a key market for the businesses in Monash. The Monash Adventure Park along with a well presented town will help to encourage tourists to visit the Monash township and stay within the Council region.

Upgrade Irrigation Ovals

The Cobdogla Oval and Barmera Memorial Oval have both received upgrades after their subsurface irrigation systems were unable to be effectively managed due to ongoing issues. The systems were initially installed 8 years ago and were due for renewal.

The Cobdogla Oval has received a new automated irrigation system. The upgrade included mainline, submain, valves and overhead sprinklers.

This project has reduced costs, both in staff maintenance time and materials and has provided a more consistent watering of the ovals which benefits both the turf and users of the facility.

Footpaths and Cycling Paths

Council prides itself on providing quality footpaths and walking trails for the community. The following footpaths and walking trails were completed in the 2019/20 financial year as drought funding projects.

- **Lake Bonney Cycling/Walking path**

A path was constructed at Lake Bonney, Barmera, extending from east of the Bluebird Café to Apex Park. The path allows users to traverse through natural scrub and along the lake-front on a constructed/compacted trail. The trail allows locals and tourists to appreciate the natural environment and what Lake Bonney has to offer.



A section of the completed Lake Bonney trail

- **Stadium Footpath**

A concrete footpath has been constructed at the Berri Stadium that extends for about 300m and connects the Education Hub and nearby sporting facilities in the precinct with the stadium. The footpath has been installed to aid in the access and egress to the Berri Stadium.



The footpath stadium during and after construction



- **Special School access footpath**
A footpath has been constructed that extends from the Riverland Special School to the Berri Stadium allowing access to all students from the school regardless of their mobility restrictions. This footpath allows the Special school students to be able to access and enjoy the facility with no barriers.



The completed Special School path

- **Riverview Drive – Continuation of Riverview Drive/Fenwick Road shared use path**

The Riverview Drive shared use path is a path used heavily by locals and tourists alike. This path takes people (walking, running, riding or pushing prams) from inner Berri to the Murray River bringing in beautiful scenery from the vineyards, orange orchards and the Mighty Murray River. The path has been extended from Fenwick Road to Mills Road.



Works being undertaken on the Riverview Drive Shared Drive Path

These paths encourage locals and tourists to get active, explore and appreciate what our region has to offer. The paths are expected to increase tourism for the towns by providing added experiences for visitors, leading to increased tourist stays. This will continue to benefit our communities in the long term and will lead to increased economic benefits.

Committee Projects **Barmera Fountain**



The Barmera fountain lights at night

A fountain has been installed at the intersection of Barwell Avenue, Fowles Street, Pascoe Terrace and Scott Avenue, Barmera to replace the previous feature.

The previous feature was a modern interpretation of a sailing boat using simple elements, erected approximately 10 years ago. The feature was relatively small compared to the spacious surroundings and failed to be eye-catching or transmit the symbolism intended.



The previous Barmera fountain

The new fountain has a more elaborate design and is overall more visually appealing adding to the aesthetics of the township.

Memorial seat for Diane Tillett



Diane Tillett seat and plaque

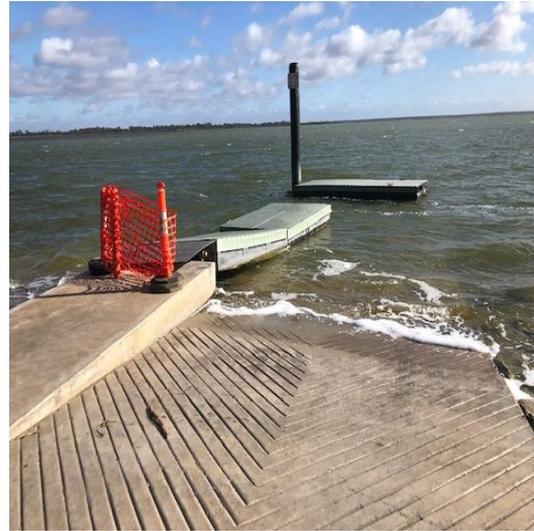


Council takes pride in acknowledging community members for their efforts in assisting others and donating their time to the community.

A seat and plaque have been installed in front of the Barmera Library in memory of Diane Tillett. Diane was a librarian at the Barmera Library for 40 years, retiring in 2002. Diane donated a vast majority of her time throughout her lifetime to assisting the Riverland Community for which Council is very grateful. One of the many ways that Diane donated her time to the community was through the Barmera Red Cross. As a sign of their appreciation, Barmera Red Cross have made a financial contribution towards the seat.

General Projects

Barmera Pontoon repairs



The damaged Barmera pontoon

In August 2019, Barmera experienced strong gusts of wind up to 110kph in force. These winds managed to crack and damage the structure of the floating pontoon located on the Barmera Lakefront.

A replacement pontoon that is of a much higher quality and significantly more durable than the previous pontoon, has been installed after the damaged pontoon was deemed irreparable. The replacement pontoon is much stronger and will be able to withstand wave battering, providing the community with a sturdy facility that can be utilised for many years to come.

Footpath upgrade - Graham Street, Loveday



Graham street, Loveday, during upgrade works



A new footpath, kerbing and road surface has been installed on Graham Street, Loveday. The road did not originally have proper drainage installed for water run off and a footpath had not originally been installed for the 5 house blocks that are located along the roadside.

Upgrading this area ensures that both pedestrians and road users can travel safely and comfortably within the Council district.

Road Renewals/Upgrades – Roads to Recovery funded – Comley Road Barmera

Roads to Recovery is a 5-year based Federal Government programme that supports maintenance of the nation's local road infrastructure assets. The Berri Barmera Council has received funding under this programme to be split over a 5 year period on projects. This funding has previously assisted Council to undertake a multitude of projects in the past, improving our roads.

Comley Road has been funded under the *Roads to Recovery Programme* for upgrading after the road, which was previously a pipeline reserve,

was deemed to be in an unsuitable condition for its current traffic load.



Comley Road, Barmera, after upgrade works

Road Sealing – Jones Road Barmera



Jones Road, Barmera, After sealing works had been completed

An almost 1 km section of Jones Road, Barmera was sealed in the 2019/20 financial year. The road surface type has been changed from sheeted to a two coat spray sealed road surface.

The road has been sealed to improve the road ride quality and reduce long term road maintenance costs associated with an unsealed road as determined by the Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (IAMP).

Alan Glassey Park Mainline Relocation



The Alan Glassey Park mainline relocation works underway

The mainline at the Alan Glassey Park has been relocated after it had sprung a leak and had to be diverted around the field for practicality reasons.

Relocation enables consistent watering of the park to continue, providing a well maintained environment for local residents to utilise.

Stormwater Renewal per Asset Management Plan – McGilton Road, Berri

Council undertakes renewal of stormwater assets as required throughout each year. In the 2019/20 financial year the stormwater system on McGilton Road was renewed after stormwater pipes that were running at high capacity and accumulating debris were identified as the cause of major flooding issues in the area. The new system takes pressure off of the pipes resolving the flooding issue and therefore ensuring that Council assets, such as roads, are not damaged by the water. It also provides a safer environment for road users.



McGilton Road, Berri, stormwater works underway

Tree Planting and Removal



Council employees undertaking tree works

Several Chinese Elms have been planted at the Berri Senior Citizens building after a number of the previous trees were beginning to die and had to be removed. The new trees will provide more shade for carparking, creating a more comfortable environment for the elderly citizens that utilise the area.



ENVIRONMENTAL

Services

Environmental Services

Development Assessment

Council's Planning and Regulatory Services Department deliver the following:

- Development Assessment
- Strategic Planning
- Building Rules Assessment
- Building Fire Safety
- Enforcement / Compliance
- Management of Council Buildings

Development Assessment

Planning assessment is the first stage of the development approval process. Development Applications are assessed against the provisions of the Development Plan, the policy document administered by Council to ensure development occurs in an orderly manner.

The planning assessment process ensures that development:

- Results in the appropriate use of the land within a particular zone.
- Enhances or maintains the appearance and surroundings of the area.

The process may involve public notification and referral of the application to State Agencies, such as the Department of Environment and Water, the Environment Protection Authority, or the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

The majority of applications processed by Council under the Development Act were 'merit' applications that do not involve public notification and are dealt with by Council staff under delegation.

There are three categories of public notification. Types of Category 1 and Category 2 developments are listed in the Development Regulations (2008) and may also be listed in individual zones within the Council's Development Plan.

If an application is categorised as either Category 2 or Category 3 development there exists an opportunity to lodge a representation on the appropriate form within the specified time.

In the past 12 months, Council received 187 applications, primarily comprising residential uses, but also including health, agriculture and industrial uses. The State Commission Assessment Panel also issued a number of consents for Crown Land and Ministerial 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. Only One (1) appeal was lodged against a decision made by the Riverland Regional Development Assessment Panel (RRAP) in the previous 12 months. This is a good indication of the sound decision making within this process. The appeal was settled by a compromise.

Riverland Regional Development Assessment Panel (RRAP)

The Riverland Regional Assessment Panel (RRAP), met on ten occasions during 2019/20, presiding over 42 development application reports as well as two administrative reports.

Of the 42 development application reports (combined for Berri Barmera, Loxton Waikerie and Renmark Paringa Councils; 32 applications were approved or sought concurrence of the State Planning Commission, three were refused and seven were deferred seeking further information. Four of the reports required a hearing of representations, and eight reports were for non-complying developments, of which seven were resolved to seek the concurrence of the State Planning

Commission and one was to resolve to proceed with assessment.

The two administrative reports were to amend the Meeting Procedures at the April 2020 meeting to enable electronic attendance in response to COVID-19 and in May 2020 the RRAP resolved its delegations under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (PDI Act).

Panel Member Attendance/Conflict of Interest

The Independent Presiding Member Bruce Ballantyne, and, two Independent Members Geoff Parsons and Jake McVicar attended all ten meetings of the RRAP. One of the Independent Members, Julie Lewis, was an apology for the March 2020 meeting and attended the remaining nine meetings.

The Elected Member representative from District Council Loxton Waikerie (DCLW) attended all four meetings held in the reporting period in 2019 and the Elected Member representative from Renmark Paringa Council (RPC) attended five meetings in 2020. Unfortunately, the gazettal of the Renmark Paringa Elected Member was delayed resulting in them not being able to attend the January meeting of the RRAP.

Independent Members of the RRAP had to declare a conflict of interest for two reports and the DCLW Elected Member for one report.

In July 2019, the membership of the RRAP was endorsed by the three Riverland Councils and the membership of the Independent Members and the Independent Presiding Member ends on 30 September 2021. The Elected Member representative rotates between the three Councils and will be a Berri Barmera Council Elected Member from January 2021.

It should be noted that the 2019/20 reporting period is the last for the RRAP operating under the Development Act 1993. From 31 July 2020 the RRAP will operate under the PDI Act.

Planning Reforms

Planning reforms will come into effect on 31 July 2020 across regional South Australia. This is the largest undertaking towards modernisation in 25 years.

The new planning system is underpinned by the new Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (the Act) which introduces a range of new tools, including a 24/7 digital ePlanning system.

The Planning and Design Code is the cornerstone of the new system and replaces all development plans, including the Berri Barmera Development Plan, to become the single source of planning policy for assessing development applications.

The Development Act 1993 is replaced by the new Act state-wide and will no longer be operational.

The new planning system will deliver better outcomes for the economy, environment and communities, including:

- A consistent and simplified development assessment process
- New assessment pathways that provide increasing certainty for simple developments and a tailored approach for more complex developments.
- Delivering the Code electronically provides decision makers with the planning rules they need, saving time and improving consistency
- An online ePlanning system that is easy to use and understand
- One centralised place for all of South Australia's planning and development matters.

The implementation of the Act, Code and ePlanning system has been a significant amount of work that has consumed considerable time while still maintaining the day-to-day assessment operation of existing development applications, customer enquiries and compliance matters.

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.

Onsite Wastewater systems

Safe disposal and reuse of wastewater is essential to protect public and environmental health. Applications for new and altered wastewater systems for domestic and commercial installations are assessed and approved prior to installation.

Any new connections or extensions to the CWMS must comply with Council's standards and guidelines to ensure Council takes responsibility for an efficient and trouble free drainage network. To guarantee a high standard is achieved, Berri Barmera Council now requires a greater amount of information about a proposed connection before any construction is to commence. All drainage infrastructure must also be inspected prior to backfilling. As-constructed plans of each new connection and extension of the drainage network are now compulsory to enable Council to keep up to date electronic mapping and records of the network.

Complaints regarding failed wastewater systems and mismanagement of wastewater are investigated and enforcement action undertaken when required.

Building Rules Assessment

Building rules assessment is the second stage of the development approval process and involves the assessment of building plans for compliance with the Building Code of Australia, various Australian Standards, the South Australian Housing Code and other relevant Council and state requirements. Building rules assessments involve the surveying of plans for compliance with the following matters:

- Structural adequacy
- Fire safety
- Health and amenity
- Energy efficiency
- Access for people with disabilities

Encompassing a broad range of skills and expertise, the Council's Building Surveyor assesses over 150 development applications for building rules compliance each year.

Building Fire Safety Committee

Local councils play an important role in protecting the safety of building occupiers and users, including residents and workers or clients and visitors.

Under the Development Act 1993 the Council must appoint a Building Fire Safety Committee to ensure adequate fire safety in buildings. The Riverland Regional Building Fire Safety committee was implemented in October 2009.

The role of the building fire safety committee (the committee) includes;

- Examining the adequacy of fire safety provisions in buildings
- Issuing fire safety defect notices for building owners to upgrade to a reasonable level of safety for occupants

- Negotiating with building owners for cost effective solutions to reduce fire safety risks to an acceptable level
- Issuing notices of building work that must be carried out in order to raise the building fire safety to a reasonable level
- Ensuring a building owner complies with a notice of building works required by initiating enforcement or other action
- Revoking or varying fire safety notices

A building owner served with a fire safety notice has two months to develop an upgrading proposal and report to the building fire safety committee of the proposed measures to make the fire safety of the building adequate.

A building owner can;

- Make representations to the committee about the fire safety of the building and the work required
- Apply to the committee to have the fire safety notice revoked or varied
- Appeal to the Environmental Resources and Development (ERD) Court against the service of a notice

An owner must comply with a fire safety notice or risk prosecution and/or enforcement action through the ERD Court.

<https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/planning-and-property/owning-a-property/council-monitoring-of-fire-safety-for-buildings>

During the past 12 months the Committee have inspected a number of premises where the public either work or assemble for recreation. In the course of these inspections deficiencies were noted and action taken to rectify the situation.

During the 2019/2020 reporting period the following inspections were undertaken within the Berri Barmera Council area;

Type of Premise	Premise Quantity (Active Cases)	Number of Inspections
Hotels and Gaming venues	0	0
Motels	0	0
Caravan Parks & Backpackers	4	5
Clubs	1	0
Packing sheds	1	0
Commercial/industrial complexes	7	4
Council buildings	0	0
Age care facility	0	0

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



Environmental Health

Public and environmental health plays a daily and often unseen role to protect, maintain and promote community wellbeing. Council continued to provide a broad range of public and environmental health services in 2019-20 to address aspects of the natural and built environment that may affect the health and wellbeing of the community.

Mosquito Control

For 20 years Council had an ongoing partnership with the University of South Australia's Healthy Environments, Healthy People, to monitor the presence and types of mosquitoes and to treat mosquito breeding sites within the Council area. The mosquito surveillance and control program is partly funded by SA Health. This year significant changes to the program have seen Councils Environmental

Health Officer (EHO) undertaking this work. Results have shown minimal mosquito activity during the 2019-20 season.

The Riverland Integrated Mosquito Management Plan (RIMMP) 2019-22 was developed by Berri Barmera Council and District Council of Loxton Waikerie's EHOs and has been adopted by the three Riverland Councils. The RIMMP is an integrated and risk management approach and will guide the Riverland Councils to monitor, control and manage mosquitoes in the region in order to minimise the number of adult vector mosquitoes present in populated areas. Mosquito management is important to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases (arbovirus), such as Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus and Murray Valley Encephalitis virus.



Mosquito breeding site with permanent treatment stations



Mosquito trap

Immunisation

Each year Council staff and a registered nurse from FocusOne Health attend Glossop High School, Riverland Special School and Rivergum Christian College to undertake the school immunisation program.

Food Safety

Inspections are undertaken of food businesses, including those of fixed address, mobile operators based in the Berri Barmera Council area and mobile operators based elsewhere that visit the area. Food businesses are classified in accordance with the SA Health Food Business Risk Classification framework. Routine inspections are undertaken at frequencies allocated by the framework. Additional inspections are undertaken in response to customer complaints or if requested by SA Health, e.g. for serious food recalls. Inspections assess compliance with the Food Safety Standards and the Food Act 2001.

Free on-line food safety training is made available of Council's website and is aimed at educating food handlers within food businesses and community/charity groups.

High Risk Manufactured Water Systems

Warm water systems and cooling water systems (high risk manufactured water systems) within the Council area are registered, inspected and water tested annually to control the growth of Legionella and to monitor compliance with the South Australian Public Health (Legionella) Regulations 2013.

Public Swimming Pool Operation and Management

Public swimming pools, spa pools and water play parks within the Council are monitored for compliance with the South Australian Public Health (General) Regulations 2013.

Environmental Health Australia (SA) Award for Excellence in Leadership 2019

Rebecca Burton, Environmental Health Officer (EHO) was nominated by her peers for the Kellely Jones Lawyers Award for Outstanding Individual Contribution to the Environmental Health Profession, awarded at the 44th National Environmental Health Conference in November 2019. Rebecca was nominated for the award in recognition of her ongoing efforts to improve the awareness of the role of EHOs, advocating for and creating opportunities for regional EHOs, and for providing support to regional EHOs. To be recognised and rewarded by her peers is an outstanding achievement for Rebecca and the Berri Barmera Council.



Compliance

Council's Compliance Officers actively engage with our community, providing consultation, information and education in an effort to create a safe environment for residents and visitors.

Compliance Officers provide a range of reactive and programmed services such as:

- Road safety and parking
- Dog and cat management
- Corella control
- Investigate abandoned vehicles
- Monitor and enforce Council By-Laws
- Fire prevention
- Attend to Litter and Local Nuisance complaints

Compliance Officers investigated more than 800 customer requests in 2019/2020 which were handled either through education or enforcement.

Dog and Cat Management

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

Over the 2019/2020 period there were 2,455 dogs and 308 cats registered within the Berri Barmera Council area and recorded on the Dogs and Cats Online database. Throughout the 2019/2020 period, Compliance Officers attended to the following dog related complaints:

Complaint	2019/2020
Barking dog noise	14
Dogs wandering at large	110
Dogs impounded	79
Dogs returned to an owner	53
Dog harass	11
Dog attack	11

Compliance Officers issued a total of 153 expiation notices for dog related offences.

Council's cat By-Law is now operational. Complaints regarding cat nuisance have more than doubled for the 2019/2020 period from the previous year.

Compliance Officers have been educating cat owners regarding their responsibilities and relevant By-Laws and have found that this has so far been successful.

Throughout the 2019/2020 period, Compliance Officers attended to the following cat related complaints;

Stats	2019/20	Results
Cat nuisance complaints	65	All complaints dealt with using education of Cat By-Law and Dog and Cat Management Act.
Cat trap hire requests	32	Feral cats are euthanised by a vet at a cost to Council.



Australian National Animal Management Office of the Year Award 2019

Council's Compliance Officer, Michael Murtagh started with Berri Barmera Council as a General Inspector in 2016. Over his employment with Council Michael has been instrumental and passionate in providing a high level of service in the following areas;

- Cat Management – including trapping and working with cat rescue groups to rehome; lead Council with the implementation of

the newly established cat By-Laws and providing education with partnership of Landcare groups;

- Dog Management – managing dog registrations, unregistered dogs, implementing the new South Australian microchipping and desexing laws, with non compliance, follow ups, investigation of dog attacks, management of Council's dog pound, management and upgrades of off-leash dog parks and providing advice and education to the community;
- Aiming to be a no kill Council, Council's Compliance Officers continually work with reputable external agencies to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome animals. All impounded animal notices and information are advertised via Council's website and predominately and often successfully through Facebook – Berri Barmera Council Lost and Found Pets. Where animals are unable to be returned to owners or are abandoned, they are rehomed within the district where possible or transferred to external agencies for assessing and rehoming. A specially built trailer has been acquired for the transport of animals to external agencies, so as to not harm or stress the animal during the commute.
- Other Regulatory functions include parking, fire prevention, camping, litter and nuisance control.
- Extensive out of hours services are delivered for animal management and other regulatory services.

The delivery of these services resulted in Michael being nominated and subsequently awarded the South Australian Animal Management Officer of the year at the State Conference. Michael was awarded with attendance at the Australian Animal Management Conference in Darwin.

At the National Conference held in Darwin, Michael was awarded the

National Animal Management Officer of the Year award. To be recognised at a State and National level is an outstanding reflection and achievement for Michael and the Berri Barmera Council.



Compliance Officer Michael Murtagh with his National Animal Management Officer of the Year award.

Parking Control

The Compliance Officers continue to enforce parking regulations and respond to complaints from the community.

Council’s Compliance Officers focus on maintaining a safe environment for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists by monitoring and enforcing the Australian Road Rules.

The Compliance Officers approach is to provide education to motorists where possible as well as issuing warnings and expiations.

In total, 9 parking expiation notices and 39 warnings were issued during 2019/2020 as a result of parking complaints received.

Fire Prevention

Compliance Officers commenced fire prevention duties in August 2019 sending education based letters to land owners of vacant blocks, and land

owner who received Section 105F notices previously, reminding them that it is time to prepare for the fire danger season. Section 105F Notices are issued pursuant to the Fire and Emergency Services Act.

Inspections of every property within the Council area were conducted throughout September 2019. As a result, 63 105F fire hazard reduction notices were sent to land owners where property was identified as requiring work to reduce the risk of fire on their land.

Council also has the responsibility to ensure that land under its care and control is maintained to fire prevention standards. Our Infrastructure Department work tirelessly to keep Council assets prepared during the fire danger season.

Compliance Officers will continue to monitor all land within the Council area and issue clean up notices where required throughout the fire danger season.

Section 105F Statistics		2019/2020
Section 105F notices issued		63
Council action required		2
Expiations issued		3

Out of the 63 105F notices issued, only three land owners were non compliant after the required time to reduce the risk of fire at their property. The three expiations of \$315 issued required Council contractors to enter the property under authority of the Fire Prevention Act to conduct the required works. Land owners are charged the cost of the services provided.

2019/20 brought tougher restrictions on the issuing of Schedule 9 and 10 permits, issued to light and maintain fires during the fire danger season.

In total, Council issued seven permits under the Fire and Emergency Services Act to light and maintain fires during fire danger season, mainly to those operating business for the purpose of

sulphur box burning and charcoal production. Other reasons permits were issued included CFS training exercises, disposal of drug crops by SA Police and emergency hot works at Berri Estates Winery.

Corella Management

2019/20 saw a reduced corella season compared to previous years. Smaller flocks of corellas still caused considerable damage to Barmera Oval.

The over-abundance of little corellas cause problems to the community and the environment. Little corellas cause damage to built-infrastructure including buildings, stobie poles, lights, timber structures sporting equipment and vegetation including trees, crops and native vegetation.

Council managed a Corella Control Program within the surrounding Councils. A contractor was engaged for the destruction of corellas in public areas at Lake Bonney and the Berri Riverfront precinct to help protect areas within our region. No corella management was conducted during peak holiday periods to ensure minimum disruption or confronting scenes to visitors and tourists.

Litter and Local Nuisance Control

Local Nuisance and Litter complaints from the community were on par with the previous years complaints. Noticeably, most local nuisance complaints were received during 2019/2020 as a result of smoke nuisance or offensive smell from illegal burning on properties.

Litter and Nuisance Statistics	Local Control	2019/2020
Local complaints	nuisance	19
Litter complaints		28
Expiations issued		7

The EPA remains the main contact for significant environment complaints.

Council Projects

Caring for Country Management Plan

The River Murray and Mallee Region Aboriginal Corporation (RMMAC) and Berri Barmera Council established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated 23 September 2014 providing a framework to guide administration of joint care, control and management arrangements of lands around Lake Bonney subject to the native title determination. In accordance with the MOU, relevant decisions require the authority of each party.

The Lake Bonney Caring for Country Management Plan was out on public consultation in 2018 and subsequently adopted by RMMAC and the Council. After gaining funding under the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program and Open Space and Places for People Grant Program, works commenced and will continue until 2022.

The works identified to be carried out over the project term are vegetation management planning & contract, signage, pest animal and weed management, indigenous rangers, campground improvements, carpark upgrades, track rationalisation activities, tracks (cycling/walking), day visitor areas and waste management.

Work on the carpark upgrades and day areas 1 & 2 have been completed. Two Indigenous Rangers have been engaged.



Community Land and Council Facilities

Pursuant to Section 196 of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council is required to prepare, adopt and maintain management plans for all 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 are to ensure that the plans reflect the activities for which the Community Land facilities are used for.

Soldiers Memorial Hall – Air conditioning, electrical upgrade and solar installation.

The Soldiers Memorial Hall Barmera has been renovated previously but had lacked heating and cooling. A project was developed including installation of solar panels, installation of reverse cycle air conditioning and electrical system upgrades.

Works have been completed and the Soldiers Memorial Hall was upgraded as part of the Drought funding for 2019.



Solar panel installation

A 30KW roof mounted photovoltaic solar panel system was installed at the Berri Barmera Council offices, Berri Town Hall and Civic Centre located at 19 Wilson Street, Berri. A 20KW roof mounted photovoltaic solar panel system was installed at the Berri Barmera Council Depot located at Hughes Street, Berri. This project reduces carbon emissions and energy costs.

Riverland Regional Innovation and Sports Precinct upgrade

After investigations it was identified that the air conditioning system on the netball/basketball side of the Berri Stadium provided minimal relief to players and would benefit from an upgrade. Funds were allocated and the system was designed and installed in September 2019.





CORPORATE

Services

Rating

Rating Policy for the Year 2019/2020

This section sets out the policy of the Berri Barmera Council for setting and collecting rates from its Community for the 2019/2020 financial year. The Policy covers;

- Valuation used for rating
- Method used to value land
- Adoption of valuations
- Notional Values
- Councils revenue raising powers
- Differential general rates
- Minimum rate
- Service Charge—Community Wastewater Management System
- Service Charge—Waste Management
- Natural resource management levy
- Payment of rates
- Late payment of rates
- Rebate of rates
- Rate Capping
- Remission and postponement of rates
- Sale of land for non-payment of rates
- Rate Impact Statement
- Application of the policy
- Disclaimer
- Adoption and review

Contact details for further information

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

Postal Address:

PO Box 229, Berri SA 5343

Phone: (08) 8582 1922

Fax: (08) 8582 3029

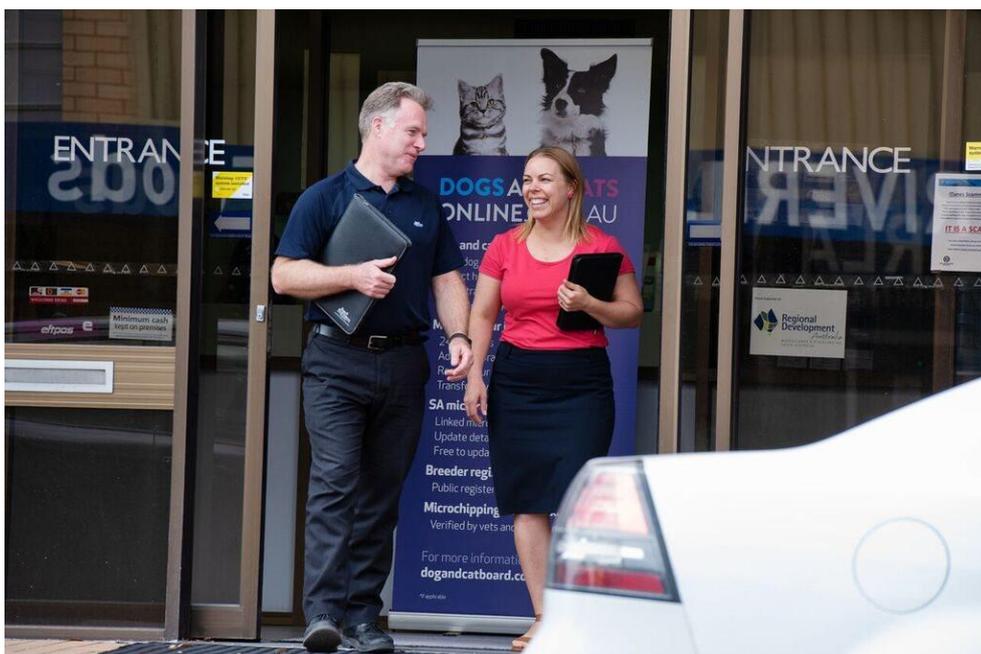
Email: bbc@bbc.sa.gov.au

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.

Valuations for Industrial and Commercial land use codes have experienced greater increases in 2019/2020 due to 2 specific large developments in the Council district being the Accolade Bottling Plant in Glossop and the redeveloped On The Run site in Berri.

Land Use Code	Valuation 18/19	Valuation 19/20	Variance (\$)	Variance (%)
Residential	\$820,595,297	\$843,368,942	\$22,773,645	2.78%
Primary Production	\$214,131,405	\$223,018,258	\$8,886,853	4.15%
Commercial (all categories)	\$132,758,117	\$145,708,890	\$12,950,773	9.76%
Industrial (all categories)	\$33,622,777	\$54,122,336	\$20,499,559	60.97%
Vacant	\$23,757,754	\$24,501,199	\$743,445	3.13%
Other	\$32,393,111	22,180,805	(\$10,212,306)	-31.53%
Total	\$1,257,258,461	\$1,312,900,430	\$55,641,969	4.43%



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 will 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 2019/2020. 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.

Objections are to be forwarded to:

State Valuation Office

GPO Box 1354

ADELAIDE SA 5001

Email: LsgObjections@sa.gov.au

Telephone: 1300 653 346.

Fax: (08) 8115 5709

Online:

<http://www.sa.gov.au/landservices> and enter "Objecting to a Valuation" in search field.

Please note that Council has no role in this process. It is also important to note that the lodgment of an objection does not change the due date for the payment of rates.

Notational Values

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

Council's Revenue Raising Powers

All land within a Council area, except for land specifically exempt (e.g. Crown Land, Council occupied land and other land prescribed in the Local Government Act 1999 – refer Section 147 of the Act), is rateable. The Local Government Act provides for a Council to raise revenue for the broad purposes of the Council through a general rate, which applies to all rateable properties, or through differential general rates, which apply to classes of properties. In addition, Council can raise separate rates for specific areas of the Council,

or service rates or charges for specific services.

The Council also raises revenue through fees and charges, which are set giving consideration to the cost of the service provided and any equity issues. Refer to Section 9 - Funding the Business Plan.

Differential General Rates

The Council has decided to impose differential general rates according to the land use of the property, pursuant to Section 156 (1)(a) 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.

As an encouragement to have vacant land within townships developed, Council have reviewed its Business and Residential Development Support Policy where-

1. Council may support potential new residential development when a residential dwelling is proposed to be built on land vacant for a period of 2 years within the townships of Berri and Barmera.
2. Council may support new residential development in the following ways –
 - a. Place a freeze on Council rates to that of the minimum for 2 years;
 - b. Reduction of planning and/or building fees.

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 \$8,344,546 (net of rebates) in a total revenue budget of \$16,244,446 and will continue to use the differential rating method as follows:

Land Use	Cents in the dollar on the capital value of such rateable property
Residential	0.6372
Commercial (all categories)	0.6601
Industrial (all categories)	0.6984
Primary Production	0.5733
Vacant	0.5271
Other	0.7554

Land use as defined:

The above rates have been increased by 1% of that of last financial year. Adelaide CPI was set at 1.3% for the March 2019 quarter the Local Government Price Index for the same period was 2.1%. The Local Government Price Index measures price movements faced by Local Government in South Australia in respect of their purchases of goods and services.

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 is provided indicating total rate and service charges on various residential property capital values.

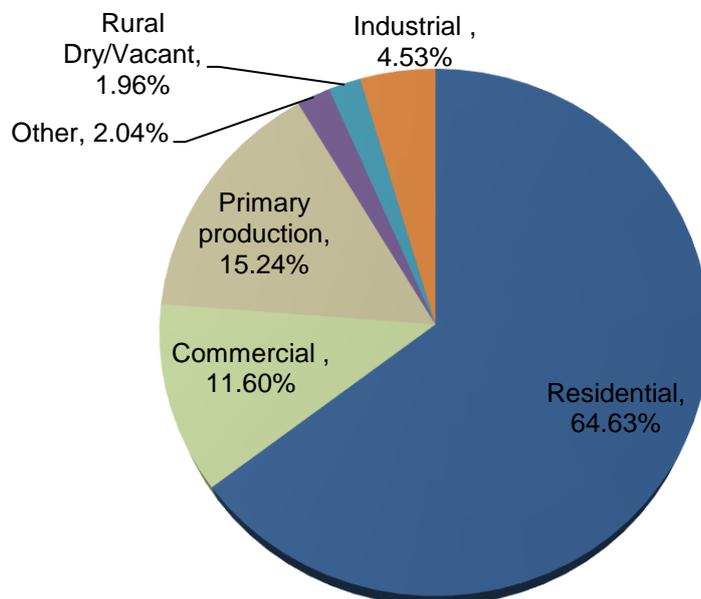
Residential property capital value	general rates	CWMS service charge	Waste Service Charge (3 bin)	NRM levy	Proposed Total 2019/2020	Total 2018/2019	Proposed Increase p.a.	Proposed Increase per week
\$100,000.00	\$655.00 *	\$718.00	\$220.00	\$25.00	\$1,618.00	\$1,587.40	\$30.60	\$0.59
\$188,673.00	\$1,202.22 **	\$718.00	\$220.00	\$47.17	\$2,187.39	\$2,151.26	\$36.13	\$0.69
\$200,000.00	\$1,274.40	\$718.00	\$220.00	\$50.00	\$2,262.40	\$2,225.60	\$36.80	\$0.71
\$300,000.00	\$1,911.60	\$718.00	\$220.00	\$75.00	\$2,924.60	\$2,881.90	\$42.70	\$0.82
\$400,000.00	\$2,548.80	\$718.00	\$220.00	\$100.00	\$3,586.80	\$3,538.20	\$48.60	\$0.93
\$500,000.00	\$3,186.00	\$718.00	\$220.00	\$125.00	\$4,249.00	\$4,194.50	\$54.50	\$1.05

* general rates = minimum \$655
 ** average residential property value

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	\$ 76,971,570	5.54%	480	7.14%	\$ -	0.00%
Residential	\$ 843,368,942	60.68%	4470	66.46%	\$ 5,468,977.65	64.63%
Primary Production	\$ 223,018,258	16.05%	921	13.69%	\$ 1,289,341.05	15.24%
Commercial (all categories)	\$ 145,708,890	10.48%	402	5.98%	\$ 981,823.60	11.60%
Industrial (all categories)	\$ 54,122,336	3.89%	81	1.32%	\$ 383,431.80	4.53%
Vacant	\$ 24,501,199	1.76%	283	4.21%	\$ 165,478.30	1.96%
Other	\$ 22,180,805	1.60%	89	1.20%	\$ 172,349.15	2.04%
	\$ 1,389,872,000	100%	6726	100%	\$ 8,461,401.55	100%

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 \$655 which shall be applied to all rateable properties within the Council District. This will affect 15.7% of rateable properties and will raise \$639,280 of rate revenue for the 2019/2020 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 Charge

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 Baramera, Berri, Cobdogla, Glossop, Monash and Loveday. The full cost of operating and maintaining the service for the financial year 2019/2020 is budgeted to be \$3,572,417. Capital expenditure of

\$417,326 for the replacement and renewal of pumps and other equipment is proposed for 2019/2020.

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 \$359.00 for each vacant land property unit and \$718 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 smaller 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.

Council's waste management contractors have notified Council that due to China's change in policy to reduce importation of recyclables an increase in costs associated with the disposal of recyclables is necessary. To recover the cost of collection including the increases, Council will set an annual service charge of \$220 for the three bin collection and \$186 for the two bin collection. This is a 2% increase on 2018/2019 charges.

Natural Resources Management Levy

The Natural Resources Management Act 2004 requires that the Berri Baramera 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 2019/2020 the Berri Barmera Council are required to make payable to the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board an amount of \$312,808.

Council proposes that in order to recover this amount a separate rate of .025 cents in the dollar based on the capital value of all rateable land within the Council area along with a minimum separate rate of \$5.00 for such rateable land.

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 2019/2020 are:

- 2nd September, 2019*
- 2nd December, 2019*
- 2nd March 2020*
- 1st June, 2020*

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. 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 (Cwth) or a day therapy centre.
- Where the land is being used by an organisation which, in the opinion of the council, provides a benefit or service to the local community.
- Where the rebate relates to common property or land vested in a community corporation under the Community Titles Act 1996 over which the public has a free and unrestricted right of access and enjoyment.
- Where the rebate is considered by the council to be appropriate to provide relief

against what would otherwise amount to a substantial change in rates payable by a ratepayer due to –

- A redistribution of the rates burden within the community arising from a change to the basis or structure of the council's rates, or
- A change to the basis on which land is valued for the purpose of rating, rapid changes in valuation, or anomalies in valuations. Any rebate over and above the legislated percentage provided by the Act, for mandatory rebates or discretionary rebates, will need to be considered by Council upon written application and in conjunction with the Rate Rebate Policy adopted by Council on 26th July 2005. Applications for such additional rebates are required on an annual basis.

Rate Capping

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

This rebate will not apply where:

- ownership of the rateable property has changed since 1 July, 2018
- Any such increase in the capital value of the rateable property is a result of improvements made on the property since 1 July, 2018 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 as well as \$20 per annum of the waste management 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;
- 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 \$500.00 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 not
- 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 effects of the current economic climate.
- Imposed legislative changes.
- The need to manage, maintain and improve the community's 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.

As has been the practice since the rate review process carried out in 2014, an adjustment has been made downwards to the rate in the dollar that is applied to industrial properties to gradually bring them into alignment with commercial properties.

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 25 June 2019, being resolution number 5459/19 of the Council meeting. The policy will be reviewed annually to coincide with Council adopting its annual budget and declaring the annual rates.

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 aside, which also advises as to the status of the projects as at 30th June 2020.

The status refers to whether the project was completed, deferred for future completion or carried forward for inclusion within the 2020/2021 year.

It is noted from the tables below and overleaf that there are a number of projects that have been carried forward to the 2020/2021 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.

The following lists are the Project priorities for the year separated into Operational Projects and Capital Projects

7.1.1 Operating Projects

Project Description	Status
Public Art Strategy & Projects (funding \$20,000)	Ongoing
Barmera & District Centenary Celebrations	Ongoing
Waste Education Activities	Ongoing
Riverland Trail Strategy (regional project)	Deleted
Starclub Community Contribution (regional project)	Completed
Riverland Social Indicators Project Contribution (regional project)	Completed
Joint Planning Board Business Plan and Implementation	Completed
Developer Facilitation	Ongoing
Planning & Design Code – Policy Review and Development	Ongoing
Planning Records – Digital Conversion	Ongoing
Regional Public Health Plan	Ongoing
Friends of the Bonney Theatre	Ongoing
Corella Management	Ongoing
Environment & Sustainability Strategy	Completed
Barmera Cemetery/GOM Beams	Completed
Loveday Rubble Pit Rehabilitation	Completed
Green Waste Disposal Options (carry over project)	Ongoing
Preparation for Award Submissions	Deleted
Wood Carving Gum Tree Dean Drive Barmera – Stage 2	Ongoing
Berri & Barmera Improvement Committees	Ongoing
Tree Plantings – ongoing allocation	Ongoing
Tree Replacement Senior Citizens Car Park Berri	Completed
Aerial Imagery	Completed
Berri CBD On Street Parking Review	Ongoing
Native Vegetation Management	Ongoing

7.1.2 Capital Projects

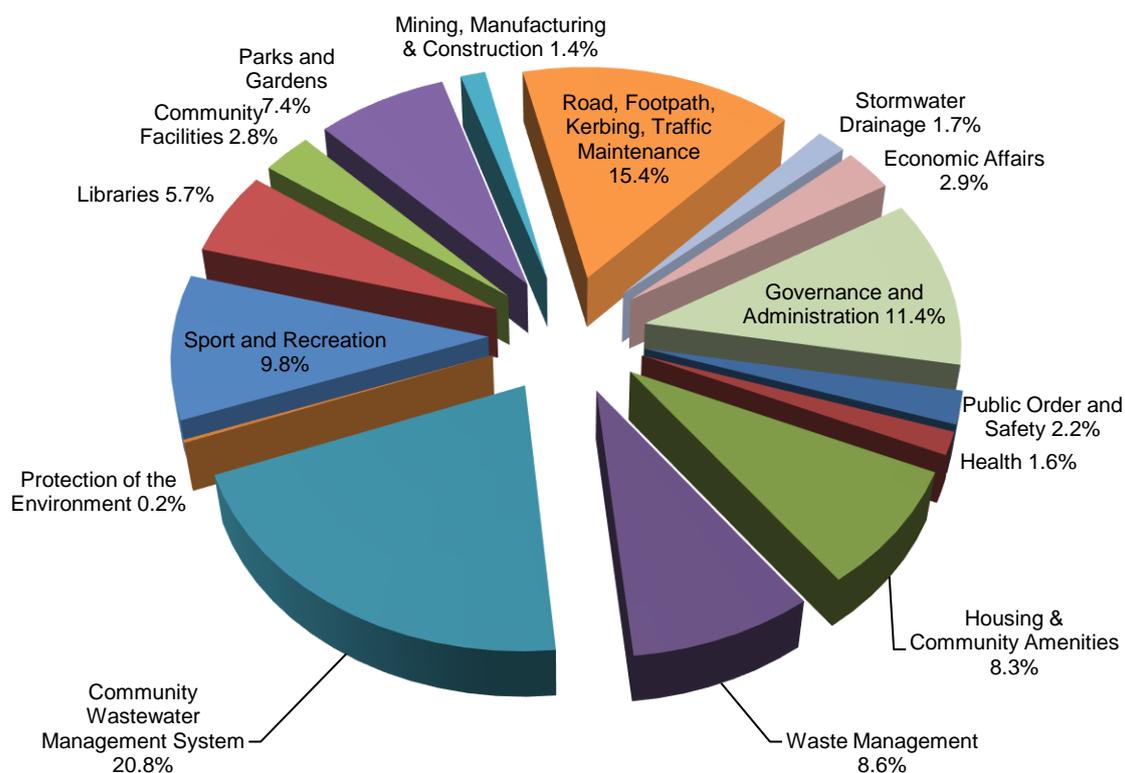
Project Description	
Economic/Corporate Services	
Berri Riverfront Development Stidiford Road Civils	Ongoing
ICT Strategy Delivery, Plant & Equipment	Completed
Motor Vehicle Changeover – Executive/Corporate	Completed
Community Services	
Berri and Barmera Libraries – Facilities Improvements and Plant & Equipment	Completed
Swimming Centre Equipment & Upgrade	Completed
Tourism Signage Upgrades (drought communities funding)	Completed
Bonney Theatre Projection (drought communities funding)	Completed
Barmera Skatepark Upgrade (drought communities funding)	Completed
Wilabalangaloo Walking Trail – carry over project	Ongoing
Dog Park and Pound Improvements	Completed
Motor Vehicle Changeovers - Regulatory	Completed
Motor Vehicle Changeovers – General Inspection	Completed
CWMS Infrastructure Renewal	Completed
CWMS Infrastructure Upgrade	Completed
Berri Riverfront Precinct Retrofit	Completed
Berri Riverfront Precinct Planning Stage 2	Ongoing
Master Planning – Coombe Street Berri	Ongoing
Central Business Districts Revitalisation Plan	Completed
Council Civic Centre Improvements	Completed
Berri No. 1 Oval Grandstand Change Rooms Upgrade (funding \$298,000)	Ongoing
Disability Access & Inclusion Plan (preparation)	Ongoing
Lake Bonney Caring for Country Management Plan (year 1) (half funded MDB ED Grant) – part carry over project	Ongoing
Buildings and Structures Renewals per Asset Management Plan	Completed
Upgrade Spectator Seating RRISP (drought communities funding)	Completed
Bonney Theatre Complex – Solar Panels and Air Conditioning (drought communities funding)	Completed
Solar Installation – Town Hall/Civic Centre/Council Depot (drought communities funding)	Completed
Infrastructure Services	
Cemetery Improvements	Completed
Berri Marina Bank Stabilisation – carry over project	Ongoing
Enhancements Berri Wharf (drought communities funding)	Completed
Barmera Jetty Lighting (drought communities funding)	Completed
Rowe Park Seating and Amenity Upgrade	Completed
Upgrade Switchboards – Barmera Lakefront	Completed
Irrigation Automation	Completed
Water Fountain – Barwell Avenue – carry over project	Completed
Playgrounds Equipment Renewals	Completed
Monash Adventure Park Equipment Upgrade/Renewals (drought communities funding)	Completed
Barmera Memorial Oval – Sprinkler Upgrade – (drought communities funding)	Completed
Berri Oval Grand Stand Viewing Mound – carry over project	Ongoing

Infrastructure Services continued.	
Removal old Pine Posts	Completed
Cobdogla Oval – Irrigation Upgrade (drought communities funding)	Completed
Barmera Basketball Court – Lawned Seating Area	Completed
Road Reseals	Completed
Road Renewal – Heavy Vehicle Road Audit Outcomes – part carry over project	Completed
Road Renewal – Coneybeer Street Berri	Ongoing
Road Construction – McIntosh Avenue Glossop (Contribution only)	Completed
Sealing Laneways – Barmera	Completed
Road Sealing – Jones Road Barmera	Completed
Road Sealing – Evans Road Barmera	Completed
Road Sealing – Ellis Road Berri	Completed
Roads Renewals/Upgrade – Roads to Recovery funded – Comley Road Barmera	Completed
Road Renewal – Crawford Terrace Berri – Carry over project	Ongoing
Road Upgrade – Jury Road Berri – carry over project	Ongoing
Unsealed Road Resheeting	Completed
Median Upgrades – Maddison Street Monash (drought communities funding)	Completed
Kerbing Renewals – per Asset Management Plan	Ongoing
Kerbing Renewal – Nookamka Terrace Barmera	Ongoing
Kerbing Upgrade – Derrick Street Traffic Island	Ongoing
Footpath Renewals per Asset Management Plan	Ongoing
Footpath Upgrade, Ahern Street (Courthouse to Gilbert) – carry over project	Ongoing
Paver Replacements – Berri CBD	Ongoing
Paver Replacements – Barmera CBD	Ongoing
Footpath Upgrade – Fenwick Road to Burgess Drive Berri	Ongoing
Pram Ramps	Completed
Lake Bonney Walking/Cycling Path (drought communities funding)	Completed
Footpath Upgrade – Berri Stadium & Special School (drought communities funding)	Completed
Footpath Upgrade – Graham Street Loveday	Completed
Riverview Drive Shared Use Path Extension (drought communities funding)	Completed
Footpath Upgrade – Langdon/Sims Street Barmera	Ongoing
Footpath Upgrade – adjacent Rocky's HOF	Ongoing
Stormwater Renewal per Asset Management Plan	Completed
Stormwater Upgrade – Barmera Western Entrance- carry over project	Deleted
Stormwater Renewal – Worman/Powell Streets Berri – carry over project	Ongoing
Plant and Machinery Replacements	Completed
Small Plant Renewals	Completed

Financial Management Statement

Functions	Operating Expenditure	
Public Order and Safety	\$369,137	2.2%
Health	\$256,687	1.6%
Housing & Community Amenities	\$1,358,314	8.3%
Waste Management	\$1,414,743	8.6%
Community Wastewater Management System	\$3,422,333	20.8%
Protection of the Environment	\$33,673	0.2%
Sport and Recreation	\$1,613,610	9.8%
Libraries	\$932,751	5.7%
Community Facilities	\$465,698	2.8%
Parks and Gardens	\$1,211,448	7.4%
Mining, Manufacturing & Construction	\$229,168	1.4%
Road, Footpath, Kerbing, Traffic Maintenance	\$2,533,197	15.4%
Stormwater Drainage	\$279,540	1.7%
Economic Affairs	\$472,586	2.9%
Governance and Administration	\$1,869,510	11.4%
	\$16,462,395	100%

The following pie chart graphically presents a breakdown of operating expenditure by function for the Berri Barmera Council for 2019/2020.



The following financial indicators for 2019/2020 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 2019/2020 is 4%. In recent years the Federal Government has made advance payments prior to 30 June from future year allocations of financial assistance grants – the adjusted operating surplus ratio of 4.2% adjusts for the distortion in the disclosed operating result for each year and indicates that Council is maintaining sustainability (see table below).

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 2019/2020 ratio of 22% is within the adopted target.

Asset Renewal Funding Ratio

This ratio indicates whether Council is renewing or replacing its existing non-financial assets at the same rate the assets are wearing out. The 2019/2020 ratio is 59%.

Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Operating Surplus Ratio	4%	0.2%	3.7%	14%	(3.0%)
Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio	4.2%	-0.8%	3.9%	7.0%	6.0%
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio	22%	26%	26%	25%	40%
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio	59%	46.6%	78%	73%	36%

ANNUAL

**Financial
Statements**

Berri Barmera Council
General Purpose Financial Reports
for the year ended 30 June 2020

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Berri Barmera Council
Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

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 2020 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
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER


.....
PETER HUNT
MAYOR

Date: 9 November 2020

Berri Barmera Council
Statement of Comprehensive Income
for the year ended 30 June 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
INCOME			
Rates	2	12,593,353	12,086,272
Statutory charges	2	216,776	226,751
User charges	2	156,166	171,378
Grants, subsidies and contributions	2	3,136,948	3,015,764
Investment income	2	124,519	153,514
Reimbursements	2	614,952	826,322
Other income	2	311,353	397,616
Total Income		<u>17,154,067</u>	<u>16,877,617</u>
EXPENSES			
Employee costs	3	4,790,218	4,662,243
Materials, contracts & other expenses	3	8,068,321	8,550,306
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	3	3,349,907	3,353,846
Finance costs	3	253,949	271,870
Total Expenses		<u>16,462,395</u>	<u>16,838,265</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		<u>691,672</u>	<u>39,352</u>
Asset disposal & fair value adjustments	4	(177,874)	(207,772)
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	2	982,722	1,340,784
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) (transferred to Equity Statement)		<u>1,496,520</u>	<u>1,172,364</u>
Other Comprehensive Income			
Changes in revaluation surplus - infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	9	-	277,982
Total Other Comprehensive Income		<u>-</u>	<u>277,982</u>
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		<u>1,496,520</u>	<u>1,450,346</u>

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

Berri Barmera Council
Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	4,321,387	3,744,673
Trade & other receivables	5	2,678,868	2,880,708
Inventories	5	47,877	42,131
Total Current Assets		<u>7,048,132</u>	<u>6,667,512</u>
Non-current Assets			
Financial assets	6	1,597,202	1,768,140
Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	7	128,842,119	128,602,121
Other non-current assets	6	3,231,516	2,598,156
Total Non-current Assets		<u>133,670,837</u>	<u>132,968,417</u>
Total Assets		<u>140,718,969</u>	<u>139,635,929</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade & other payables	8	2,986,950	6,980,613
Borrowings	8	1,005,656	720,372
Provisions	8	1,190,372	1,134,748
Total Current Liabilities		<u>5,182,978</u>	<u>8,835,733</u>
Non-current Liabilities			
Borrowings	8	7,019,390	3,727,234
Provisions	8	162,720	215,601
Total Non-current Liabilities		<u>7,182,110</u>	<u>3,942,835</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>12,365,088</u>	<u>12,778,568</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>128,353,881</u>	<u>126,857,361</u>
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus		29,041,202	27,314,299
Asset Revaluation Reserves	9	97,176,294	97,176,294
Other Reserves	9	2,136,385	2,366,768
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>128,353,881</u>	<u>126,857,361</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 2020

		Acc'd Surplus	Asset Rev'n Reserve	Other Reserves	Total Council Equity	TOTAL EQUITY
2020	Notes	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at end of previous reporting year		27,314,299	97,176,294	2,366,768	126,857,361	126,857,361
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		1,496,520			1,496,520	1,496,520
Other Comprehensive Income						
Transfers between reserves		230,383	-	(230,383)	-	-
Balance at end of period	9	29,041,202	97,176,294	2,136,385	128,353,881	128,353,881
2019						
Balance at end of previous reporting period		25,640,503	96,898,312	2,868,200	125,407,015	125,407,015
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		1,172,364			1,172,364	1,172,364
Other Comprehensive Income						
Gain on revaluation surplus - infrastructure, property, plant & equipment		-	277,982	-	277,982	277,982
Transfers between reserves		501,432	-	(501,432)	-	-
Balance at end of period	9	27,314,299	97,176,294	2,366,768	126,857,361	126,857,361

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 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
<i>Receipts:</i>			
Rates - general & other		12,320,778	12,079,460
Fees & other charges		238,454	249,426
User charges		1,672,770	274,872
Investment receipts		124,519	153,514
Grants utilised for operating purposes		3,293,795	3,317,340
Reimbursements		789,860	822,426
Other revenues		1,669,244	1,471,290
<i>Payments:</i>			
Employee costs		(4,775,853)	(4,712,321)
Materials, contracts & other expenses		(14,302,561)	(10,151,154)
Finance payments		(231,227)	(234,986)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	11	<u>799,779</u>	<u>3,269,867</u>
 CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
<i>Receipts:</i>			
Amounts specifically for new or upgraded assets		982,722	1,340,784
Sale of replaced assets		148,818	117,728
Sale of surplus assets		-	935,000
Sale of real estate developments		-	219,546
Repayments of loans by community groups		132,654	140,945
<i>Payments:</i>			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets		(2,044,008)	(1,737,466)
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets		(3,020,691)	(4,429,929)
Development of real estate for sale		-	(60,656)
Loans made to community groups		-	(1,251,500)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities		<u>(3,800,505)</u>	<u>(4,725,548)</u>
 CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
<i>Receipts:</i>			
Proceeds from borrowings		4,050,000	1,251,500
<i>Payments:</i>			
Repayments of borrowings		(472,560)	(433,976)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities		<u>3,577,440</u>	<u>817,524</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held		<u>576,714</u>	<u>(638,157)</u>
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period	11	<u>3,744,673</u>	<u>4,382,830</u>
Cash & cash equivalents at end of period	11	<u>4,321,387</u>	<u>3,744,673</u>

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 2020

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 nearest dollar.

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, 5343. 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.

Trust monies and property held by Council but subject to the control of other persons have been excluded from these reports.

3 Income recognition

The Council recognises revenue under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 1058) or AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers (AASB 15) when appropriate.

In cases where there is an 'enforceable' contract with a customer with 'sufficiently specific' performance obligations, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 where income is recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or service to a customer). Revenue is measured based on the consideration to which the Council expects to be entitled in a contract with a customer.

In other cases, AASB 1058 applies when a not-for-profit (NFP) entity enters into transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than the fair value of the asset principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. The excess of the asset recognised (at fair value) over any 'related amounts' is recognised as income immediately, except in the case where a financial asset has been received to enable the council to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset that is to be controlled by the council. In this case, the council recognises the excess as a liability that is recognised over time in profit and loss when (or as) the entity satisfies its obligations under the transfer.

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (con't)

In recent years the payment of untied grants (financial assistance grants/ local roads/ supplementary grants) has varied from the annual allocation as shown in the table below:

	Cash Payment Received	Annual Allocation	Difference	
2017-18	\$2,670,842	\$2,675,222	-	\$4,380
2018-19	\$2,828,957	\$2,662,978	+	\$165,979
2019-20	\$2,631,345	\$2,660,053	-	\$28,708

Because these grants are untied, the Australian Accounting Standards require that payments be recognised upon receipt. Accordingly, the operating results of these periods have been distorted compared to those that would have been reported had the grants been paid in the year to which they were allocated.

The Operating Surplus Ratio disclosed in Note 15 has also been calculated after adjusting for the distortions resulting from the differences between the actual grants received and the grants entitlements allocated.

The actual amounts of untied grants received during the reporting periods (including the advance allocations) are disclosed in Note 2.

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. Reimbursements not received are recognised as receivables and reimbursements received in advance are recognised as "payments received in advance".

For works undertaken on a fixed price contract basis, revenues are recognised over time using the input method, with costs incurred compared to total expected costs used as a measure of progress. . . When it is probable that total contract costs will exceed total contract revenue, the expected loss is recognised as an expense immediately.

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.

AASB 7 Financial Instruments - Disclosures and AASB 9 Financial Instruments commenced from 1 July 2018 and have the effect that non-contractual receivables (e.g. rates & charges) are now treated as financial instruments. Although the disclosures made in Note 13 Financial Instruments have changed, there are no changes to the amounts disclosed.

All financial instruments are recognised at fair value at the date of recognition. A detailed statement of the accounting policies applied to financial instruments also form 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.

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (con't)

5.1 Real Estate Assets Developments

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

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

5.2 Other Real Estate held for resale

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

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

6 Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

6.1 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.

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.

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.

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (con't)

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 carried at fair value 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, are not assessed for impairment.

Other 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).

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.

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 on costs) 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 on costs) 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.

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (con't)

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

Accounting Policy applicable for the year ending 30 June 2019 (comparatives):

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

In respect of finance leases, where Council substantially carries the entire 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.

Accounting policy applicable from 01 July 2019:

The Council assesses at contract inception whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. That is, if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

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.

The Berri Barmera Council assist the neighbouring Gerard Council to expend funds provided by the State Government for Municipal Works and funds from the Commonwealth Government (Roads to Recovery) for roadworks and other infrastructure upgrades. The income of grants and expenditure for works are treated as private works within the accounts of The Berri Barmera Council.

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.

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (con't)

13 New and amended standards and interpretations

Adoption of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities:

The Council applied AASB 15 and AASB 1058, for the first time from 1 July 2019. AASB 1058 clarifies and simplifies the income recognition requirements that apply to not-for-profit (NFP) entities, in conjunction with AASB 15. These Standards supersede the NFP income recognition requirements previously in AASB 1004 Contributions (with the exception of certain matters relating to public sector NFP entities) as well as current revenue recognition guidance including AASB 118 Revenue, AASB 111 Construction Contracts and the related Interpretations. The timing of income recognition depends on whether such a transaction gives rise to a liability or other performance obligation (a promise to transfer a good or service). Details of the accounting policy adopted for these standards can be found in section 10 of this note. The Council has elected to adopt the modified retrospective method on transition to the new standards with an initial application date of 1 July 2019. The cumulative effect of initially applying AASB 15 and AASB 1058 is recognised at the date of initial application as an adjustment to the opening balance of Accumulated Surplus. Therefore, the comparative information was not restated and continues to be reported under AASB 111, AASB 118, AASB 1004 and related Interpretations.

The Council has determined the impact of the new standards will mainly impact the timing of revenue recognition in relation to special purpose grants. These grants are provided to the Council to construct or acquire an asset to be controlled by the Council. They are accounted for under AASB 1058 and as such, amounts received in relation to these grants are recorded as a liability "Amounts in Advance" and recorded in revenue as the asset is constructed.

The impact of adopting the new standards as at 1 July 2019 was an increase to liabilities of \$1,219,478 and a decrease to Accumulated Surplus of \$1,219,478.

Adoption of AASB 16 Leases (AASB 16)

AASB 16 Leases commenced from 1 July 2019, requires that the right of use conveyed by leasing contracts - except leases with a maximum term of 12 months and leases for low-value assets - be recognised as a form of Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment, and that the lease liability be disclosed as a liability. As at 30 June 2020, Council has no leases to which this treatment will need to be applied.

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 2 - INCOME

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
RATES REVENUE			
<u>General Rates</u>		8,449,449	8,043,654
Less: Mandatory rebates, Discretionary rebates, remissions & write offs		(266,937)	(270,453)
		<u>8,182,512</u>	<u>7,773,201</u>
<u>Other Rates (including service charges)</u>			
Natural Resource Management levy		328,461	322,683
Waste collection		1,120,584	1,094,071
Community wastewater management systems		2,869,354	2,777,372
		<u>4,318,399</u>	<u>4,194,126</u>
<u>Other Charges</u>			
Penalties for late payment		92,442	118,945
		<u>92,442</u>	<u>118,945</u>
Less: Discretionary rebates, remissions & write offs			
		<u>12,593,353</u>	<u>12,086,272</u>
STATUTORY CHARGES			
Development Act fees		84,791	74,430
Town planning fees		21,290	15,928
Animal registration fees & fines		94,420	129,750
Parking fines / expiation fees		-	440
Other licences, fees, & fines		16,275	6,203
		<u>216,776</u>	<u>226,751</u>
USER CHARGES			
Cemetery/crematoria fees		59,868	47,528
Commercial activity revenue		45,949	45,590
Hall & equipment hire		29,083	33,980
Parking fees		991	3,043
Sales - general		11,154	9,788
Sundry		9,121	31,449
		<u>156,166</u>	<u>171,378</u>
INVESTMENT INCOME			
Interest on investments:			
Local Government Finance Authority		41,382	67,197
Banks & other		11,594	11,809
Loans to community groups		71,543	74,508
		<u>124,519</u>	<u>153,514</u>

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 2 - INCOME (con't)

	2020	2019
REIMBURSEMENTS	\$	\$
- wastewater reuse scheme	177,124	362,811
- for private works	208,945	208,024
- by joint undertakings	210,575	192,601
- other	18,308	62,886
	<u>614,952</u>	<u>826,322</u>
OTHER INCOME		
Insurance & other recoupments - infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	39,433	42,267
Rebates received	103,302	101,942
Sundry	168,618	253,407
	<u>311,353</u>	<u>397,616</u>
GRANTS, SUBSIDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS		
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	982,722	1,340,784
Other grants, subsidies and contributions		
Untied - Financial Assistance Grant	2,631,345	2,828,957
Roads to Recovery	326,660	-
Library & Communications	139,235	70,844
Sundry	39,708	115,963
	<u>3,136,948</u>	<u>3,015,764</u>
	<u>4,119,670</u>	<u>4,356,548</u>
<i>The functions to which these grants relate are shown in Note 12.</i>		
Sources of grants		
Commonwealth government	1,298,804	-
State government	2,810,288	4,106,548
Other	10,578	250,000
	<u>4,119,670</u>	<u>4,356,548</u>

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 2 - INCOME (con't)

		2020	2019
	Notes	\$	\$
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>			
<i>Unexpended at the close of the previous reporting period</i>		497,000	-
<i>Plus: amounts recognised as revenues in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions</i>			
<i>Roads Infrastructure - Special Local Roads (Jury Road)</i>			497,000
<i>Subtotal</i>		-	497,000
<i>Unexpended at the close of this reporting period</i>		497,000	497,000
 <i>Net increase / (decrease) in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period</i>		-	497,000

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 3 - EXPENSE

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
EMPLOYEE COSTS			
Salaries and Wages		4,071,468	3,926,776
Employee leave expense		418,126	518,464
Superannuation - defined contribution plan contributions	18	331,217	315,001
Superannuation - defined benefit plan contributions	18	98,744	106,881
Workers' Compensation Insurance		239,890	208,257
Less: Capitalised and distributed costs		<u>(369,227)</u>	<u>(413,136)</u>
Total Operating Employee Costs		<u>4,790,218</u>	<u>4,662,243</u>
Total Number of Employees		62	65
<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		19,755	19,870
Bad and Doubtful Debts		14,051	14,051
Elected members' expenses		203,584	253,165
Lease Expenses - low value assets	17	<u>12,845</u>	<u>11,938</u>
Subtotal - Prescribed Expenses		<u>250,235</u>	<u>299,024</u>
<u>Other Materials, Contracts & Expenses</u>			
Contractors		2,902,791	2,600,673
Trility - wastewater Re-Use scheme Availability and Volumetric Charge		2,490,448	2,599,800
Legal Expenses		68,874	63,493
Levies paid to government - NRM levy		344,951	330,377
Parts, accessories & consumables		1,194,401	1,501,512
Contribution to Sporting Groups		-	115,000
Sundry		<u>816,621</u>	<u>1,040,427</u>
Subtotal - Other Materials, Contracts & Expenses		<u>7,818,086</u>	<u>8,251,282</u>
		<u>8,068,321</u>	<u>8,550,306</u>

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 3 - EXPENSE

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
EMPLOYEE COSTS			
Salaries and Wages		4,071,468	3,926,776
Employee leave expense		418,126	518,464
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Less: Capitalised and distributed costs		<u>(369,227)</u>	<u>(413,136)</u>
Total Operating Employee Costs		<u>4,790,218</u>	<u>4,662,243</u>
<i>Total Number of Employees</i>		62	65
<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		19,755	19,870
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Elected members' expenses		203,584	253,165
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Subtotal - Other Materials, Contracts & Expenses		<u>7,818,086</u>	<u>8,251,282</u>
		<u>8,068,321</u>	<u>8,550,306</u>

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 4 - ASSET DISPOSALS AND FAIR VALUE ADJUSTMENTS

		2020	2019
	Notes	\$	\$
INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT			
<i>Assets renewed or directly replaced</i>			
Proceeds from disposal		148,818	117,728
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold		326,692	336,204
Gain (Loss) on disposal		(177,874)	(218,476)
 <i>Assets surplus to requirements</i>			
Proceeds from disposal		-	935,000
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold		-	880,807
Gain (Loss) on disposal		-	54,193
 REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT ASSETS			
Proceeds from disposal		-	219,546
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold		-	263,035
Gain (Loss) on disposal		-	(43,489)
 NET GAIN (LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OR REVALUATION OF ASSETS		 (177,874)	 (207,772)

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 5 - CURRENT ASSETS

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
CASH & EQUIVALENT ASSETS			
Cash on Hand and at Bank		816,102	80,245
Deposits at Call		3,505,285	3,664,428
		<u>4,321,387</u>	<u>3,744,673</u>
TRADE & OTHER RECEIVABLES			
Rates - General & Other		1,665,385	1,393,640
Rates postponed for State Seniors		16,417	15,587
Debtors - general		446,644	886,893
GST Recoupment		100,347	173,324
Prepayments		15,246	14,719
Loans to community organisations		448,880	410,596
Total		<u>2,692,919</u>	<u>2,894,759</u>
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Debts		<u>14,051</u>	<u>14,051</u>
		<u>2,678,868</u>	<u>2,880,708</u>
INVENTORIES			
Stores & Materials		<u>47,877</u>	<u>42,131</u>
		<u>47,877</u>	<u>42,131</u>

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 6 - NON-CURRENT ASSETS

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
FINANCIAL ASSETS			
Receivables			
Loans to community organisations		<u>1,597,202</u>	<u>1,768,140</u>
TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS		<u>1,597,202</u>	<u>1,768,140</u>
 OTHER NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Inventories			
Capital Works-in-Progress		<u>3,231,516</u>	<u>2,598,156</u>
		<u>3,231,516</u>	<u>2,598,156</u>

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 7 - INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT (IPP&E)

		2019				2020			
		\$				\$			
	Fair Value Level	Fair Value	Cost	Acc' Dep'n	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Cost	Acc' Dep'n	Carrying Amount
Land	3	20,788,793	-	-	20,788,793	20,788,793	-	-	20,788,793
Buildings	2	17,062,752	-	(15,593,534)	1,469,218	17,062,752	-	(15,649,316)	1,413,436
Buildings	3	21,957,728	334,691	(7,532,318)	14,760,101	21,957,728	733,945	(7,993,546)	14,698,127
Structures	3	18,525,317	1,920,704	(7,625,610)	12,820,411	18,525,317	2,609,892	(8,176,114)	12,959,095
Roads	3	59,474,579	1,251,619	(22,564,092)	38,162,106	59,474,579	2,022,642	(23,054,725)	38,442,496
Footpaths	3	7,809,815	329,432	(4,887,237)	3,252,010	7,809,815	461,370	(5,042,935)	3,228,250
Stormwater Drainage	3	14,883,892	43,160	(5,900,298)	9,026,754	14,883,892	223,668	(6,068,272)	9,039,288
Effluent	3	22,606,921	256,956	(11,155,669)	11,708,208	22,606,921	576,227	(11,192,874)	11,990,274
Kerbing	3	21,119,661	263,602	(7,670,498)	13,712,765	21,119,661	292,402	(7,972,861)	13,439,202
Plant and Machinery		-	5,219,725	(2,963,359)	2,256,366	-	5,325,824	(3,147,896)	2,177,928
Minor Plant		-	1,283,992	(858,967)	425,025	-	1,361,031	(945,831)	415,200
Office Equipment		-	1,539,928	(1,319,564)	220,364	-	1,648,026	(1,397,996)	250,030
Total IPP&E		204,229,458	12,443,809	(88,071,146)	128,602,121	204,229,458	15,255,027	(90,642,366)	128,842,119
Comparatives		203,059,973	10,310,412	(85,411,641)	127,958,744	204,229,458	12,443,809	(88,071,146)	128,602,121

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 2020

Note 7 - INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

	2019	CARRYING AMOUNT MOVEMENTS DURING YEAR							2020	
	\$	\$							\$	
	Carrying Amount	Additions		Disposals	Dep'n	Impair't	Transfers		Net Reval'n	Carrying Amount
	New / Upgrade	Renewals	In				Out			
Land	20,788,793	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,788,793
Buildings	16,229,319	386,301	12,953	-	(517,010)	-	-	-	-	16,111,563
Structures	12,820,411	559,783	129,405	-	(550,504)	-	-	-	-	12,959,095
Roads	38,162,106	646,421	679,371	(116,715)	(928,687)	-	-	-	-	38,442,496
Footpaths	3,252,010	138,236	4,769	-	(166,765)	-	-	-	-	3,228,250
Stormwater Drainage	9,026,754	22,636	157,872	-	(167,974)	-	-	-	-	9,039,288
Effluent	11,708,208	445,027	195,253	(76,691)	(281,523)	-	-	-	-	11,990,274
Kerbing	13,712,765	28,800	-	-	(302,363)	-	-	-	-	13,439,202
Plant and Machinery	2,256,366	-	451,875	(132,426)	(397,887)	-	-	-	-	2,177,928
Minor Plant	425,025	-	83,556	(860)	(92,521)	-	-	-	-	415,200
Office Equipment	220,364	-	109,954	-	(80,288)	-	-	-	-	250,030
Total IPP&E	128,602,121	2,227,204	1,825,008	(326,692)	(3,485,522)	-	-	-	-	128,842,119
<i>Comparatives</i>	<i>127,958,744</i>	<i>3,080,944</i>	<i>1,959,507</i>	<i>(1,217,011)</i>	<i>(3,458,045)</i>				<i>277,982</i>	<i>128,602,121</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 2020

Note 7 (con't) – 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.

Berri Barmera Council

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 7 (con't) – INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

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

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
Kerbing	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

Berri Barmera Council

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 7 (con't) – INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

Land & Land Improvements

Land and land improvements were revalued as at 30 June 2018 by Jones Lang LaSalle at fair value. Additions are recognised at cost.

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 interest in land.

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 were revalued as at 30 June 2018 by Jones Lang LaSalle at written down replacement cost. Additions are recognised at cost.

It is recognised that there are a number of buildings and structures situated on land belonging to Crown that is in the care and control of council and are assets neither maintained nor operated by Council but rather, by other community groups and/or sporting bodies. Arrangements are in place via operating lease agreements for the community groups to be entirely responsible for the renewal of these assets.

In addition, there are several buildings and structures situated on land belonging to Crown that are not in the care and control of Council, yet are assets considered to be non-replaceable assets and are not maintained by Council. Such assets are not included within the Council's accounts based on the following legal advice:

- *Where the lease provides that the improvements vest in the lessee, it is for the lessee to depreciate those assets. However, if the improvements remain after the expiration or termination of the lease;*
 - *in the case of Crown land, they become the property of the Crown and from that point depreciation is the Crown's responsibility; or*
 - *in the case of land owned by Council, they become Council property and depreciation is the Council's responsibility.*
- *If the lease is silent regarding ownership of lessee improvements constructed during the term of the lease, any improvements that constitute a fixture (such as a building) become part of the land. In the case of Crown land, the improvements will be taken to be owned by the Crown and the Crown will be responsible for depreciating them.*

Infrastructure

Roads, footpaths and kerbing infrastructure are recognised at depreciated current replacement cost, deriving from a valuation at 1 July 2015. Additions are recognised at cost. The revaluation was undertaken by Tonkin Consulting. The work for revaluation was taken up in 2020, but will only be applied to the 20/21 financial year from 1 July 2020 due to the conclusion of the revaluation work overlapping with the end of the financial year.

Stormwater drainage infrastructure is recognised at depreciated current replacement cost deriving from a valuation at 1 July 2016. Additions are recognised at cost. The revaluation was undertaken by Tonkin Consulting.

Community wastewater management system infrastructure is recognised at depreciated current replacement cost from a valuation at 1 July 2016. Additions are recognised at 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 2020

Note 8 - LIABILITIES

	Notes	2020		2019	
		Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES					
Goods & Services		921,096	-	1,562,243	-
Payments received in advance		1,926,881	-	5,039,183	-
Accrued expenses - employee entitlements		48,385	-	33,861	-
Accrued expenses - other		90,588	-	345,326	-
		<u>2,986,950</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,980,613</u>	<u>-</u>
BORROWINGS					
Loans		1,005,656	7,019,390	720,372	3,727,234
		<u>1,005,656</u>	<u>7,019,390</u>	<u>720,372</u>	<u>3,727,234</u>
PROVISIONS					
Employee entitlements (including oncosts)		1,190,372	12,720	1,134,748	15,601
Future reinstatement / restoration, etc		-	150,000	-	200,000
		<u>1,190,372</u>	<u>162,720</u>	<u>1,134,748</u>	<u>215,601</u>
Movements in Provisions - 2020 year only (current & non-current)				<i>Future Reinstatement</i>	<i>Other Provision</i>
Opening Balance				200,000	1,150,349
Add Unwinding of present value discounts				3,000	17,255
(Less) Payments				10,038	382,638
Add (Less) Remeasurement Adjustments				(42,962)	418,126
Closing Balance				<u>150,000</u>	<u>1,203,092</u>

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 9 - RESERVES

ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE	1/7/2019	Net Increments/ (Decrements)	Transfers, Impairments	30/6/2020
Notes	\$	\$	\$	\$
Land	10,366,818	-	-	10,366,818
Structures	3,199,686	-	-	3,199,686
Infrastructure -		-	-	-
- Roads	33,711,113	-	-	33,711,113
- Footpaths	3,403,674	-	-	3,403,674
- Stormwater Drainage	10,158,944	-	-	10,158,944
- Effluent	13,234,029	-	-	13,234,029
- Kerbing	23,102,030	-	-	23,102,030
TOTAL	97,176,294	-	-	97,176,294
Comparatives	96,898,312	277,982		97,176,294

OTHER RESERVES	1/7/2019	Transfers to Reserve	Transfers from Reserve	30/6/2020
Land Development Reserves	1,849,549	6,440	-	1,855,989
District CWMS	398,423	3,051,480	(3,334,806)	115,097
Work in Progress	117,000	158,500	(112,000)	163,500
Open Space	1,796	3	-	1,799
TOTAL OTHER RESERVES	2,366,768	3,216,423	(3,446,806)	2,136,385
Comparatives	2,868,200	3,430,859	(3,932,291)	2,366,768

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 of managing the income and expenditure of the 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 operating projects 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 2020

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	2020	2019
		\$	\$
Unexpended amounts received from Federal Government			
Unexpended amounts received from State Local Government Infrastructure Partnership (SLGIP) - Grant received for the construction of 10 megawatt solar generation facility		-	5,034,000
Unexpended amounts received from State Government Special Local Roads Grant - Jury Road reconstruction (18/19 + 19/20)		497,000	497,000
TOTAL ASSETS SUBJECT TO EXTERNALLY IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS		497,000	5,531,000

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

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:

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
Total cash & equivalent assets	5	<u>4,321,387</u>	<u>3,744,673</u>
Balances per Cash Flow Statement		<u>4,321,387</u>	<u>3,744,673</u>

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

Net Surplus (Deficit)		1,496,520	1,172,364
Non-cash items in Income Statement			
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment		3,349,907	3,353,846
Net increase (decrease) in unpaid employee benefits		50,012	(84,126)
Premiums & discounts recognised & unwound		20,255	21,223
Change in allowances for under-recovery		-	14,051
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as Investing Activity		(982,722)	(1,340,784)
Net (Gain) Loss on Disposals		<u>177,874</u>	<u>207,772</u>
		4,111,846	3,344,346
Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets			
Net (increase) decrease in receivables		240,124	(298,850)
Net (increase) decrease in inventories		(5,746)	67,381
Net (increase) decrease in other current assets		-	135,477
Net increase (decrease) in trade & other payables		(3,536,407)	-
Net increase (decrease) in other provisions		<u>(10,038)</u>	<u>21,513</u>
Net Cash provided by (or used in) operations		<u>799,779</u>	<u>3,269,867</u>

(c) Non-Cash Financing and Investing Activities

Estimated future reinstatement etc. costs		<u>(53,000)</u>	<u>(3,000)</u>
		<u>(53,000)</u>	<u>(3,000)</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	135,000	135,000
LGFA Cash Advance Debenture facility	7,750,000	7,750,000

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 2020

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				
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Administration	10,931,434	10,623,193	25,389	19,443	10,906,045	10,603,750	2,409,951	2,465,527	31,340,624	30,075,315
Public Order & Safety	159,054	176,864	369,137	389,454	(210,083)	(212,590)	-	-	286,460	336,840
Health	37,677	53,185	256,687	293,733	(219,010)	(240,548)	-	-	-	24,318
Housing & Community Services	4,360,890	4,362,598	6,195,390	6,359,953	(1,834,500)	(1,997,355)	35,936	-	13,457,978	13,214,139
Sport Recreation & Culture	518,822	525,460	4,223,507	4,336,824	(3,704,685)	(3,811,364)	518,514	133,523	26,280,298	26,561,544
Mining & Manufacture	36,897	29,740	229,168	245,329	(192,271)	(215,589)	-	-	-	34,041
Transport & Communication	549,632	420,606	2,812,737	2,890,039	(2,263,105)	(2,469,433)	710,416	913,714	64,185,531	64,191,322
Economic Affairs	32,905	46,087	472,586	533,422	(439,681)	(487,335)	278,561	250,000	1,046,920	1,083,669
Other Purposes	517,753	631,317	1,844,121	1,719,452	(1,326,368)	(1,088,135)	2,272	-	4,121,158	4,057,141
Protection of the Environment	9,003	8,567	33,673	50,616	(24,670)	(42,049)	164,020	593,784	-	57,600
TOTALS	17,154,067	16,877,617	16,462,395	16,838,265	691,672	39,352	4,119,670	4,356,548	140,718,969	139,635,929

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 12 (con't) - COMPONENTS OF FUNCTIONS

The activities relating to Council functions are as follows:

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.

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.

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.

Sport and Recreation

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

Mining, Manufacturing and Construction

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

Transport and Communication

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

Economic Affairs

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

Other Purposes

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

Protection of the Environment

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

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

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: Initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, interest is recognised when earned

Terms & conditions: Deposits are returning fixed interest rates between 0.25% and 0.75% (2019: 1.25% and 2.35%). Short term deposits have an average maturity of 365 days and an average interest rates of 0.45% (2019: 365 days, 1.25%).

Carrying amount: approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.

Receivables - Rates & Associated Charges

Accounting Policy: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method

Terms & conditions: Secured over the subject land, arrears attract interest of 2% (2019: 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: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method

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: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method.

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.

Berri Barmera Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 13 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (con't)

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: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently at amortised cost, interest is charged as an expense using the effective interest rate

Terms & conditions: secured over future revenues, borrowings are repayable on fixed and variable terms; interest is charged at fixed and variable rates between 2.4% and 7.5% (2019: 3.35% and 7.5%)

Carrying amount: approximates fair value.

Liabilities - Finance Leases

Accounting Policy: accounted for in accordance with AASB 16 as stated in note 17

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 13 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (con't)

Liquidity Analysis

2020	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<u>Financial Assets</u>					
Cash & Equivalents	4,321,387	-	-	4,321,387	4,321,387
Receivables	2,655,775	1,356,691	541,191	4,553,657	4,260,824
Total	6,977,162	1,356,691	541,191	8,875,044	8,582,211
<u>Financial Liabilities</u>					
Payables	2,847,977	-	-	2,847,977	2,847,977
Current Borrowings	1,295,897	-	-	1,295,897	1,005,656
Non-Current Borrowings	-	4,514,554	3,813,944	8,328,498	7,019,390
Total	4,143,874	4,514,554	3,813,944	12,472,372	10,873,023

2019	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year; ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<u>Financial Assets</u>					
Cash & Equivalents	3,744,673	-	-	3,744,673	3,744,673
Receivables	2,791,814	1,332,678	786,641	4,911,133	4,648,848
Total	6,536,487	1,332,678	786,641	8,655,806	8,393,521
<u>Financial Liabilities</u>					
Payables	6,601,426	-	-	6,601,426	6,601,426
Current Borrowings	944,024	-	-	944,024	720,372
Non-Current Borrowings	-	3,124,010	1,408,927	4,532,937	3,727,234
Total	7,545,450	3,124,010	1,408,927	12,078,387	11,049,032

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

	30 June 2020		30 June 2019	
	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Carrying Value	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Carrying Value
	%	\$	%	\$
Other Variable Rates	variable	250,000	variable	223,000
Fixed Interest Rates	3.22	7,775,046	5.29	4,224,610
		<u>8,025,046</u>		<u>4,447,610</u>

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 13 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (con't)

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 impairment. 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 2020

Note 14 - COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

	2020	2019
	Notes	Notes
	\$	\$
Other Expenditure Commitments		
Other non-capital expenditure commitments in relation to investment properties:		
Audit Services	90,002	18,009
Waste Management Services	1,325,000	1,185,189
Household Desludging Contract	110,000	120,000
Wastewater Reuse Scheme - Operating		
availability charge	2,125,421	2,324,155
volumetric charge	284,000	325,845
Cleaning Services Contract	67,822	203,467
Public Convenience Maintenance	43,041	129,123
IT Support Contract	270,960	120,640
IT Transition to Cloud Project	312,240	468,359
	<u>4,628,486</u>	<u>4,894,787</u>
These expenditures are payable:		
Not later than one year	4,219,174	4,330,661
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	409,312	564,126
Later than 5 years	-	-
	<u>4,628,486</u>	<u>4,894,787</u>

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 15 - FINANCIAL INDICATORS

	2020	2019	2018
Operating Surplus Ratio			
Total Operating Income	4.0%	0.2%	3.7%

This ratio expresses the operating surplus as a percentage of total operating revenue.

Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

<u>Net Financial Liabilities</u>	22%	26%	26%
Total Operating Income			

Net Financial Liabilities are defined as total liabilities less financial assets. These are expressed as a percentage of total operating revenue.

Adjustments to Ratios

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. These **Adjusted Ratios** correct for the resulting distortion in key ratios for each year and provide a more accurate basis for comparison between years.

Adjusted Operating Surplus Ratio	4.2%	-0.8%	3.9%
Adjusted Net Financial Liabilities Ratio	30%	25%	18%

Asset Renewal Funding Ratio

<u>Net Outlays on Existing Assets</u>	59%	47%	78%
Net Asset Renewals - IAMP			

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 2020

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.

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Income	17,154,067	16,877,617
Expenses	<u>(16,462,395)</u>	<u>(16,838,265)</u>
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	691,672	39,352
 Net Outlays on Existing Assets		
Capital Expenditure on renewal and replacement of Existing Assets	(2,044,008)	(1,737,466)
Add back Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	3,349,907	3,353,846
Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets	<u>148,818</u>	<u>117,728</u>
	1,454,717	1,734,108
 Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets		
Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets <i>(including investment property & real estate developments)</i>	(3,020,691)	(4,490,585)
Amounts received specifically for New and Upgraded Assets	982,722	1,340,784
Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets <i>(including investment property and real estate developments)</i>	-	1,154,546
	<u>(2,037,969)</u>	<u>(1,995,255)</u>
Net Lending / (Borrowing) for Financial Year	<u>108,420</u>	<u>(221,795)</u>

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 17 - OPERATING LEASES

Council as a Lessee

Right of Use Asset

Council has undertaken an assessment regards to the application of new Accounting Standard AASB16 Leases. Council, as Lessee holds leases for non-material amounts only and therefore treatment according to AASB16 does not apply.

The following are amounts recognised on profit/loss:	2020
Expenses relating to leases of low value assets	12,845
Total amount recognised in profit and loss	12,845

Council as a Lessor

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.

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

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Not later than one year	35,350	61,787
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	22,245	2,299
Later than 5 years	-	-
	57,595	64,086

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

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 2018-19; 9.50% in 2019-20). 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 2018-19) 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, Louise Campbell, FIAA, of Willis Towers Watson as at 30 June 2020. 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 2020
Note 19 - INTERESTS IN OTHER ENTITIES

Joint Operations

Council is party to an agreement between 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
Community of the Berri Barmera Council

Each party is responsible for its own costs however shared facilities are split between the parties on a 50/50 percentage basis.

Wastewater Re-Use Scheme

A joint venture has been entered into between Council and Trility Ltd 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 Accolade Wines at Glossop.

Operating Expenditure payable in 2019/2020 was:

Availability Charge - Annual Charge \$2,125,421

Volumetric Charge - Average annual charge \$284,000

Regional Subsidiary

Council is a member of the Murraylands and Riverlands Local Government Association (MRLGA) which was established pursuant to Section 43 of the Local Government Act, 1999.

Contribution paid to the Association was (ex GST)

2020 - \$21,423 2019 - \$21,423

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 20 - CONTINGENT ASSETS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

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

1. 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.

Berri Barmera Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 21 - RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The Key Management Personnel of the Council include the Mayor, Councillors, CEO and certain prescribed officers under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1999. In all, 17 persons were paid the following total compensation:

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Salaries, allowances & other short term benefits	991,913	1,030,015
Post-employment benefits		
Long term benefits		
Termination benefits		
TOTAL	991,913	1,030,015

Other than amounts paid as ratepayers or residents (e.g. rates, swimming pool entry fees, etc.), Council received the following amounts in total:

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Contributions for fringe benefits tax purposes	33,506	21,345
Planning and building applications fees		
Rentals for Council property		
TOTAL	33,506	21,345

PARTIES RELATED TO KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

One elected member is a member of the Barmera District War Memorial Community Centre Inc. (Barmera Central). In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, this person declares a conflict of interest and leaves the meeting environs when any matter affecting their organisation is discussed or voted upon.

Council made payment to Barmera Central an annual contribution towards tourism and improvements for the Barmera District of \$53,008 in 2019/2020.

Some key management personnel or their close family members are affiliated with various service clubs, emergency service organisation or benevolent organisations of the region. From time to time Council will assist such organisations by way of community grant, rate rebate in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999 or in kind assistance. During 2019/2020 financial assistance of this manner did not exceed \$1,500

Other key management personnel or close family members are affiliated with various sporting clubs of the district. These sporting clubs regularly hire council facilities and pay Council hire fees in accordance with Fees and Charges adopted by Council.

Key management personnel or close family members (including related parties) lodged a total of one planning and building applications during the year. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999 this person declared conflicts of interest and took no part in the assessment or approval processes for this application. Total fees for this application (all of which are payable on lodgement) amounted to \$982.50.

BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 22 - SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. BERRI RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLAR POWER GENERATION FACILITY

In 2018/2019 The Berri Barmera Council were successful in obtaining a grant of \$5,034,000 towards the construction of a 10 megawatt solar generation facility under the State Local Government Infrastructure Partnership (SLGIP). The commitment from the SLGIP was 20% of the total project cost being \$25,170,000 with Council requiring to borrow the remaining 80% at a discounted loan rate over 15 years via the Local Government Finance Authority.

The viability of the Solar Project was always dependent upon an acceptable Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA) being negotiated with a single high demand customer. Delays occurred with changing requirements by the customer and ownership of the customer company being transferred. The company advised Council they were undertaking alternative energy procurement options and no longer wanted to continue negotiating with Council the PPA and Solar Project.

At its meeting of 23rd July 2019 the Berri Barmera Council resolved to seek expressions of interest for the rights to develop the proposed 10 megawatt Solar Farm. This effectively meant Council did not proceed with developing the facility but proceeded to negotiate selling the project in its 'shovel ready' form.

In 2019 The SLGIP Grant received by Council was included within Amounts Received in Advance at Note 8 of these accounts. Additionally, Note 10 of these accounts disclosed that the SLGIP Grant received by Council was subject to restrictions in that funding will be required to be returned in the event that the power purchasing agreement with local industry is not finalised.

In 2019/2020 pursuant to the Funding Deed for the SLGIP at Clause 8 and the requirement of repayment of the funding received, the Berri Barmera Council have repaid the grant amount of \$5,034,000 to the State Government.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT

To the members of the Berri Barmera Council

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of the Berri Barmera Council (the Council), which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2020, Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statements of Changes in Equity, the Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Council Certificate of Council.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2020, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 2011* and the Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described as in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Council in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Council's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*. This responsibility includes determining that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the need of the members. The Council's responsibility also includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to enable the preparation of the financial report to be free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Council is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Council either intends to liquidate the Council or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Council's financial reporting process.

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that the audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Council’s internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Council.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Council’s use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Council’s ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**DEAN NEWBERY & PARTNERS
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**



**SAMANTHA CRETEN
PARTNER**

Signed on the 9th day of November 2020,
at 214 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide

INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REPORT ON THE INTERNAL CONTROLS OF THE BERRI BARMERA COUNCIL

Opinion

In our opinion, the Council has complied, in all material respects, with Section 129(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1999* in relation to the Internal Controls established by the Council relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities so as to provide reasonable assurance that the financial transactions of the Council have been conducted properly and in accordance with law for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Basis for opinion

We have audited the Internal Controls of the Berri Barmera Council (the Council) under the requirements of *Section 129(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation only to the Internal Controls established by the Council to ensure that financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 have been conducted properly and in accordance with law.

We conducted our engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements *ASAE 3150 Assurance Engagements on Controls* issued by the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

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

The Council's Responsibility for the Internal Controls

The Council is responsible for implementing and maintaining an adequate system of internal controls, in accordance with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and incurring of liabilities have been conducted properly and in accordance with law.

Our Independence and Quality Control

We have complied with the independence and other relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements, and applying Auditing Standard *ASQC 1 Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Review of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, and Other Assurance Engagements* in undertaking the assurance engagement.

Assurance Practitioner's Responsibilities

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Council's compliance with *Section 129(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation only to the Internal Controls established by the Council to ensure that financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities, based on our procedures have been conducted properly and in accordance with law.

ASAE 3150 requires that we plan and performed our procedure to obtain reasonable assurance about whether, in all material respects, the controls are suitably designed to achieve the control objectives and the controls operating effectively through the period.

An assurance engagement to report on the designed and operating effectiveness of controls involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the suitability of the design of the controls to achieve the control objectives and the operating effectiveness of the controls throughout the period. The procedures selected depend on our judgement, including the assessment of the risks that the controls are not suitably designed or the controls did not operate effectively. Our procedures included testing the operating effectiveness to the controls that we consider necessary to achieve the control objectives identified. An Assurance engagement of this type also includes evaluating the suitability of the control objectives.

Limitation on Use

This report has been prepared for the members of the Council in accordance with *Section 129(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation to the Internal Controls specified above. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report to any persons or users other than the members of the Council, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Limitations of Controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and operating effectively, the control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error, or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected.

An assurance engagement on operating effectiveness of controls is not designed to detect all instances of controls operating ineffectively as it is not performed continuously throughout the period and the tests performed are on a sample basis. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with them may deteriorate.

DEAN NEWBERY & PARTNERS CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



SAMANTHA CRETEN PARTNER

Signed on the 9th day of November 2020
at 214 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, South Australia, 5006

**Berri Barmera Council
Annual Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020**

CERTIFICATION OF AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE

--To the best of our knowledge and belief, we confirm that, for the purpose of the audit of Coalface SA Council for the year ended 30 June 2020, the Council's Auditor, Dean Newbery and Partners, have maintained its 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
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



.....
TIM MUHLHAUSLER
PRESIDING MEMBER
AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date: 9 November 2020

Certification of Auditor's Independence

I confirm that, for the audit of the financial statements of the Berri Barmera Council for the year ended 30 June 2020, 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*.



SAMANTHA CRETEN

Partner

DEAN NEWBERY & PARTNERS

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Dated this 9th day of November 2020

REGIONAL

**Subsidiary
Reports**



Murraylands and Riverland
Local Government Association

Annual Report

2019/20



A regional subsidiary established under the
Local Government Act 1999

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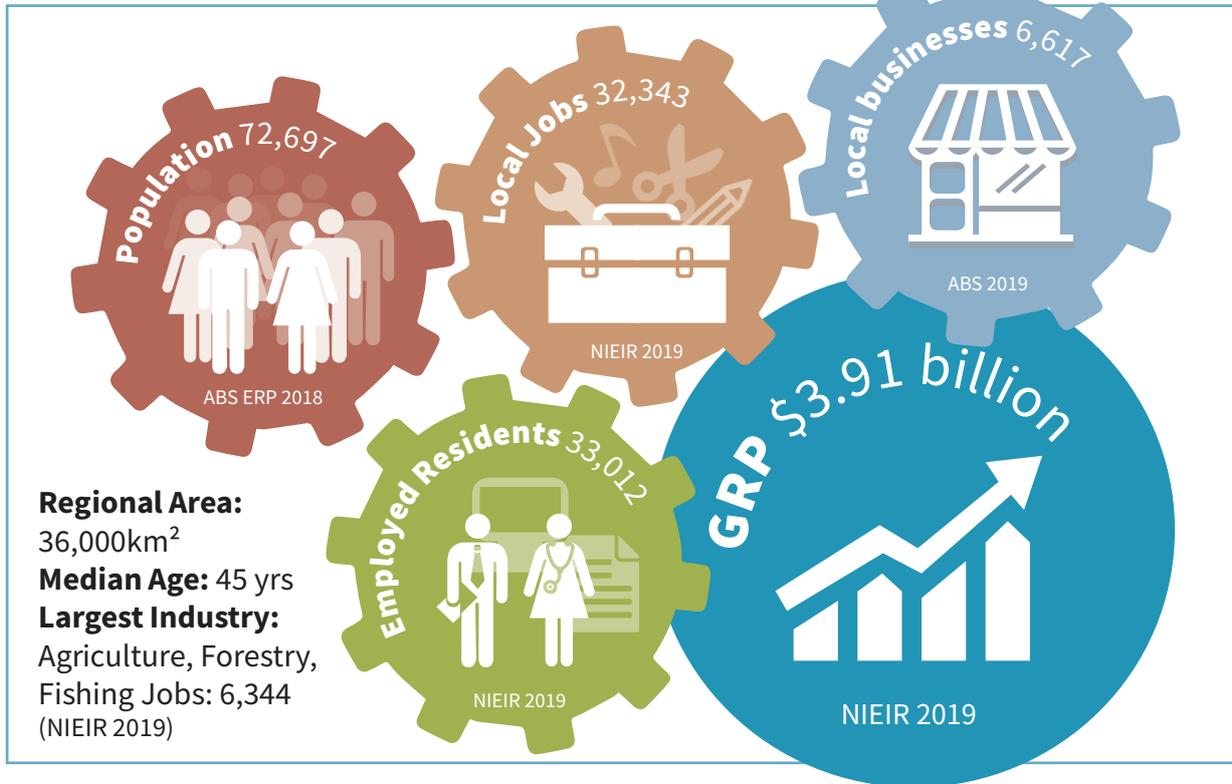
Constituent Councils



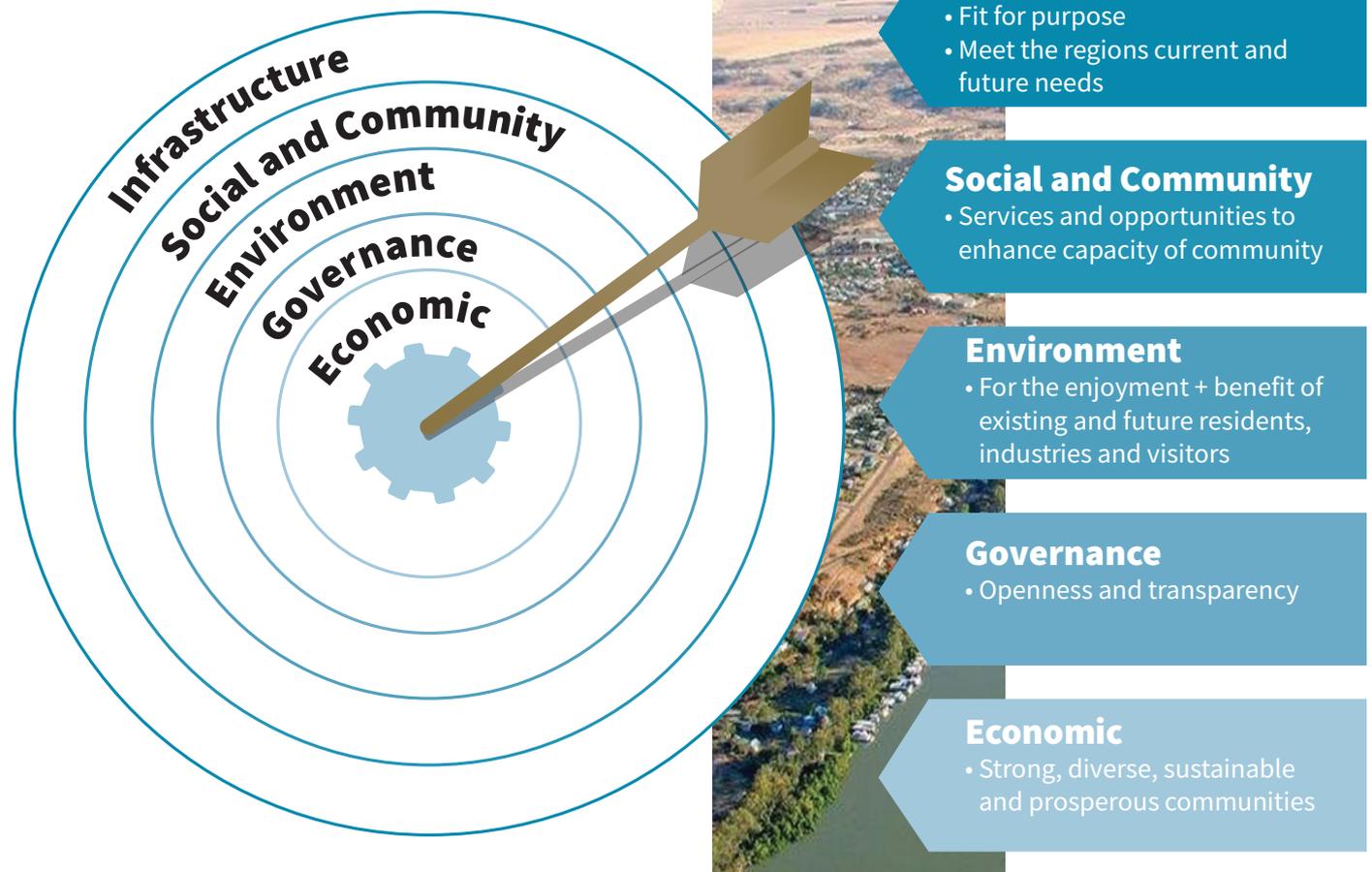
MRLGA is a Section 43 regional subsidiary established under the *Local Government Act 1999*.

About the Region

Important Statistics



MRLGA Goals 2016-2020



President's Report



**Mayor
Peter Hunt**

I am pleased to present my President's Report for 2019-2020. The report highlights the Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association's (MRLGA) key achievements of the year.

The last twelve months have been about renewed focus and purpose. We welcomed a new Chief Executive Officer in June 2019, endorsed a new iteration of the Charter in October 2019, held a Strategic Planning Forum in February 2020, convened Public Health Workshops in early March 2020 and sought feedback on our draft Strategic Documents in June 2020.

In addition to our efforts to prepare for the future, we have continued to pursue the implementation of our existing plans. The 2030 Regional Transport Plan is one such example where the fruits of the collaboration across member councils can be readily seen.

The region was again successful in receiving \$2.6 million in funding from the Special Local Roads Program.

This funding is important to the region as it affords constituent councils extra opportunity to maintain and upgrade regionally significant local roads.

The Regional Transport and Assets Committee, under the guidance of Mayor Neil Martinson, has broadened its focus to consider other opportunities to promote partnerships in the way we manage the considerable road network that traverses our region.

The progress of the Regional Road Hierarchy Plan and the High Risk Intersection projects will provide platforms that help promote the role that Local Government plays in managing these significant assets on behalf of our industries and communities and in

the interest of the State. Where the benefits of maintaining infrastructure extend beyond our borders, there is a strong argument to continue to advocate for support from other tiers of government.

The High Risk Intersection project, with cost estimates and concept designs of 41 very high to high risk intersections can be found at: https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0026/694322/High-Risk-Intersection-Cost-Estimates-and-Concept-Designs.pdf

The project was presented to Hon Tim Whetstone on 29 May 2020 and was forwarded to the Hon Stephan Knoll MP, then Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government on 29 June 2020. Consultations have followed with the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (now the Department of Infrastructure and Transport) regarding proposed upgrades to Rural Highway Corridors. With a total cost estimate of \$11.37 million, the High-risk intersection project represents a small portion of the total proposed spend on regional road upgrades across South Australia but represents a significant safety proposition for all road users.

As the State Government responds to the needs of industry and permits many of the arterial roads for 36.5m heavy vehicle usage, it is beholden upon them to think about the safety implications related to intersections where B-Double configurations will interact with even larger vehicles. B-Doubles turning onto, or off of, the arterial roads should be able to do so within the allocated lanes and without sight impediments.

With the raising of the State Government's solid waste levy, there is increasing pressure on councils to manage the rising cost of waste management services in the region. MRLGA had hoped to be further advanced in the development of a Regional Waste Strategy but an adjusted



approach has enabled the Association to be awarded \$35,000 of funding from Green Industries SA. The additional funding allows the scope of the project to be broadened and for robust investigation to inform the development of strategy and the framework for implementation.

The focus on waste management has also allowed MRLGA to forge a stronger relationship with Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland. I look forward to seeing the development of a partnership that focuses on the establishment of a strong evidence base for change. In the instance of waste management, it makes sense to work together to better understand what is in our waste, the opportunity to divert some of that waste from landfill and find business development opportunities in the circular economy. Throughout our strategic planning process there has been a growing sense of the importance of resilient communities and the influence of wellbeing in making our region an attractive, liveable and prosperous place. As we now come to terms with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; the reliance we have on one another, our networks, and our need to engage positively as part of a community cannot be understated.

The Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Committee has been working hard behind the scenes to oversee the compilation of regional public health data, while participating in public health workshops and lending their considerable experience and capability to the updating of the Regional Public Health Plan. The process has not only focused on the big issues and the individual roles each council must play but has started to build a platform for future collaboration.

That being said, I would encourage councils to think about the next iteration of the Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Committee, their representatives and the skill

set required to transition to a Community Wellbeing Alliance.

In a similar fashion, the three Riverland Councils, under the auspices of MRLGA, have been able to progress the Riverland Social Indicators report. The data provides compelling reason for change; the issues are not new and local government doesn't want to take on board extra responsibility, but real leadership is needed. A committed and connected approach is required. Leadership doesn't mean we'll do it all, but it does say that we need to work on this together.

Central to the success of any combined effort is reflection on, and the establishment of, governance models.

MRLGA provides a conduit for the local government sector within the region to get organised and in doing so it allows us to engage more broadly on local government matters across the state and country. On that note, it has been pleasing to see the Association engage in important matters such as local government reform, planning and design code implementation, migration and water policy. The support we receive through the Local Government Association for advocacy related matters and their willingness to work collaboratively with the regional associations is to be commended.

In closing, I sincerely thank all constituent Councils and MRLGA Board Delegates for the opportunity afforded to me in being your President. I also wish to thank our CEO, Tim Smythe for his commitment to the Association in the last 12 months.

As we embark on a new phase in the life of MRLGA, I look forward knowing that change will come our way and with confidence that we step out having built a solid platform from which to launch.

Key Outcomes



\$2.646mil

attracted via the Special Local Roads Program and Supplementary Local Roads Program for improved freight and tourism connectivity within the region and surrounds.

Development of the High-Risk Intersection project to a stage where concept designs and cost estimates, to reduce the risk involved between B-double and Road Train interaction, have been forwarded to the state government for consideration.

Regional Road Hierarchy has been progressed using adapted Austroad definitions to categorise roads according to purpose and in accordance with the asset management constraints of local government.



Draft Regional Public Health Plan has been progressed to a stage where the role and activities of Local Government in the sphere of public health have been captured. In addition, a commitment to further develop a collaborative environment to share information, better define the key issues impacting wellbeing and improve service delivery have been developed through the draft governance and resourcing arrangement designed to underpin implementation.



A new strategic plan with concise vision and mission were developed.

A new Charter that:

- formalised the use of the trading name of Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association
- specified membership as the principal member of each council, with up to two deputy delegates
- recognised the CEO Network as a committee with a strategic advisory capacity to the Board.



\$35,000

was awarded from Green Industries SA as a contribution toward the development of a Regional Waste Strategy.

MRLGA Board and Committees

Board Member	
<i>As of November 2019</i>	
Mayor Peter Hunt (<i>President</i>)	Berri Baramera Council
Mayor Paul Simmons	Coorong District Council
Mayor Caroline Phillips	District Council Karoonda East Murray
Mayor Leon Stasinowsky	District Council Loxton Waikerie
Mayor Dave Burgess (<i>Deputy President</i>)	Mid Murray Council
Mayor Neil Martinson	Renmark Paringa Council
Mayor Brenton Lewis	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Mayor Andrew Grieger	Southern Mallee District Council

Deputy Delegates	
<i>As of November 2019</i>	
Cr Rhonda Centofanti	Berri Baramera Council
Cr Ella Winnall (<i>Deputy Mayor</i>)	Berri Baramera Council
Cr Jeff Arthor (<i>Deputy Mayor</i>)	Coorong District Council
Cr Sharon Bland	Coorong District Council
Cr Yvonne Smith (<i>Deputy Mayor</i>)	District Council Karoonda East Murray
Cr Trevor Norton (<i>Deputy Mayor</i>)	District Council Loxton Waikerie
Cr Kevin Myers (<i>Deputy Mayor</i>)	Mid Murray Council
Cr Peter Hunter (<i>Deputy Mayor</i>)	Renmark Paringa Council
Cr Wayne Thorley (<i>Deputy Mayor</i>)	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Cr Paul Ireland (<i>Deputy Mayor</i>)	Southern Mallee District Council

CEO Network	
<i>As of April 2020</i>	
Karyn Burton	Berri Baramera Council
Bridget Mather	Coorong District Council
Matthew Morgan	District Council Karoonda East Murray
David Beaton	District Council Loxton Waikerie
Ben Scales	Mid Murray Council
Tony Siviour	Renmark Paringa Council
Michael Sedgman	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Jason Taylor	Southern Mallee District Council

MRLGA Committees

MRLGA Regional Transport & Assets Committee

As of June 2019

Mayor Neil Martinson Chair

Mayor Peter Hunt (*ex officio*)

Mayor Paul Simmons

Harry Du	Berri Barmera Council
Dave Degraney	Berri Barmera Council
David Mosel	Coorong District Council
Jarrold Manuel	District Council Karoonda East Murray
Greg Perry	District Council Loxton Waikerie
Dom Perre (proxy)	District Council Loxton Waikerie
David Hassett	Mid Murray Council
Russell Pilbeam (proxy)	Mid Murray Council
Tim Tol	Renmark Paringa Council
Geoff Meaney (proxy)	Renmark Paringa Council
Heather Barclay	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Matt James (proxy)	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Mathew Sherman	Southern Mallee District Council

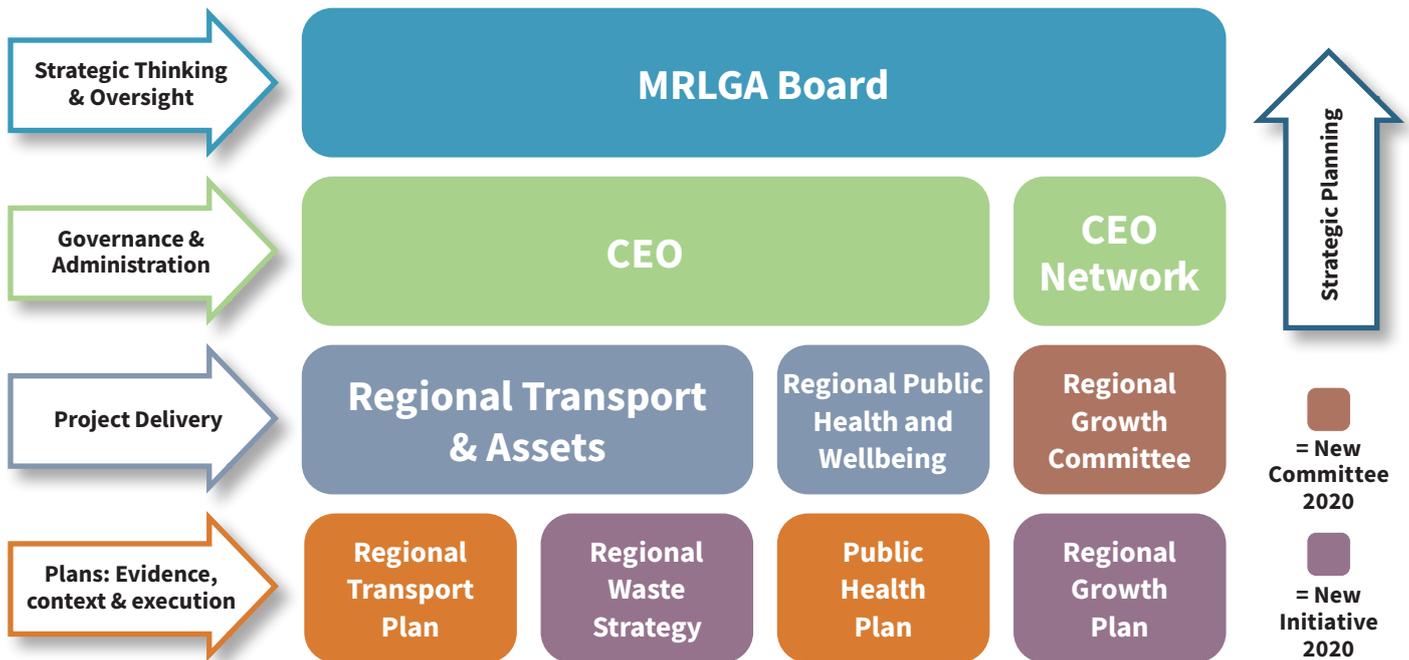
MRLGA Regional Public Health & Wellbeing Committee

Current 30 June 2020

Mayor Peter Hunt (*ex officio*)

Rebecca Burton	Berri Barmera Council
Andrew Haigh	Berri Barmera Council
Myles Sommers	Coorong District Council
Cr Sharon Bland	Coorong District Council
Cheryl Pedler	District Council Loxton Waikerie
Thomas McKellar	Mid Murray Council
Kristy Morgan	Mid Murray Council
Julie Savill	Mid Murray Council
Karen Wetherall	Renmark Paringa Council
Dara Frankel	Renmark Paringa Council
Jeremy Byrnes	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Reg Budarick	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Geoff Parsons	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Caroline Thomas	Rural City of Murray Bridge
Shilo Wyatt	Southern Mallee District Council

MRLGA Structure



MRLGA Activities

MRLGA Board:

The MRLGA Board meets quarterly. Membership of the Board is filled by the Principal Members (Mayor) of each Constituent Council. Meetings of the Board were held on:

1. Wednesday, 10 July 2019
2. Friday, 10 October 2019
3. Friday, 31 January 2020
4. Friday, 8 May 2020

In addition to the general oversight of the Associations activities the MRLGA Board:

- Endorsed a new Charter
- Formalised the change of name of the Association to Murraylands and Riverland LGA via the registration of a business name with ASIC
- Presided over a strategic review including the running of a strategic planning forum on 24 February 2020. A new 2020-25 Strategic Plan was endorsed on 10 July 2020.

The meetings of the Board provide a forum for regular updates from:

- LGA SA administration
- SAROC
- Office of Local Government
- Regional Development Murraylands and Riverland
- PIRSA
- Members of Parliament

CEO Network

The MRLGA CEO Network is established as a strategic advisory group to the MRLGA Board. As the name suggests it is formed from the CEOs of the eight constituent councils. Meetings of the CEO Network were held on:

1. Monday, 22 July 2019
2. Monday, 16 September 2019
3. Monday, 18 November 2019
4. Monday, 6 April 2020
5. Monday, 15 June 2020

In addition to providing guidance on project activities and operations, the CEO Network:

- Co-hosted a Local Government Reform consultation session with Andrew Lamb, Local Government Reform Partner, LGA SA on 16 September 2019
- Engaged with LGA SA and SA Power Network re: Public Lighting
- Engaged with URPS re: River Murray Specific planning policies that could be influenced by the introduction of the State Government Planning and Design code
- Engaged with Building Upgrade Finance concerning the availability of funding for non-residential property owners to make environmental or heritage improvements to their properties.
- Were briefed by Mellor Olsson Lawyers regarding the procedures involved in the Native Title Claim by the First Peoples of the River Murray

Regional Transport and Assets (RTA) Committee

MRLGA Regional Transport and Assets (RTA) Committee is a forum that brings together the Directors of Infrastructure, Assets and Environment as well as Works Managers from each of the 8 constituent councils.

Meetings of the RTA Committee were held on:

1. Friday, 30 August 2019
2. Friday, 8 November 2019
3. Friday, 27 March 2020

Key activities of the committee included:

- Co-ordination of the application process for Councils to the Special Local Roads Program.
- An update of the 2030 Transport Plan – regional routes reviewed, action plans and database updated
- Input to the progress of the development of a regional road hierarchy
- The development of the High Risk Intersection project to seek funding support from other tiers of Government – concept designs and costing for improvements at Gazetted B-Double roads that intersect with regional freight routes and have sight or trailer movement impediments.
- The development and endorsement of a project brief and procurement plan to establish of a Regional Waste Strategy and Action Plan.

Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Committee

The MRLGA Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Committee includes environmental health officers, community development managers and planning managers from each of the 8 constituent councils. Meetings of the Committee were held on:

1. Wednesday, 10 July 2019
2. Friday, 22 November 2019
3. Thursday, 2 April 2020

Key activities of the committee included:

- Development of a draft 2020-2024 Regional Public Health Plan and governance arrangements for a Community Wellbeing Alliance.
- Public Health Consultations were held on 4 and 5 March 2020 in Murray Bridge and Loxton respectively.
- Meetings with the consultant occurred on 22 November 2019, 22 April 2020 and 14 May 2020.

A sub-group of the committee was also actively involved in responding to the to the State Government's Planning and Design Code implementation.

Regional Organisation Executive Officers

The Regional Organisations Executive Officers Management group have formalised their Working Group. Meetings of the Committee were held on:

1. Wednesday, 18 September 2019
2. Wednesday, 30 October 2019
3. Thursday, 16 January 2020
4. Thursday, 27 February 2020
5. Monday, 6 April 2020
6. Wednesday, 29 April 2020

Key activities of the committee have included:

- Providing input into SAROC Business Plan and the Agenda
- Develop a working relationship with the LGA Management team
- Advocate on behalf of the regions
- Share information and provide collegiate support
- Coordinate collaborative project activity

SA Regional Organisation of Councils

The South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) is a Committee of the LGA that focuses on key issues affecting country Councils.

MRLGA supports SAROC by attending the meetings, contributing to agenda items for SAROC meetings, the distribution of Key Outcomes Statements of meetings and collegiate support to prepare briefings and support submissions. Key activities undertaken in support of SAROC have included:

- Support for the review of the 2019 SAROC Annual Business Plan and development of the 2020 SAROC Annual Business Plan
- Facilitation of engagement concerning proposed local government reform measures
- Promoting a leadership position on a waste and recycling strategy
- Lobbying the State Government on support for the second tranche of Climate Change and adaptation sector partner agreements
- Liaising with the State Government (DPTI/Local Government Grants Commission) to promote a centralised database for roads built upon common descriptors, categories (purpose) and construction and maintenance (fit for purpose) standards.
- Identifying and working with the other tiers of Government on the role of the LG sector in any economic recovery and stimulus programs in response to drought and the Covid-19 pandemic.

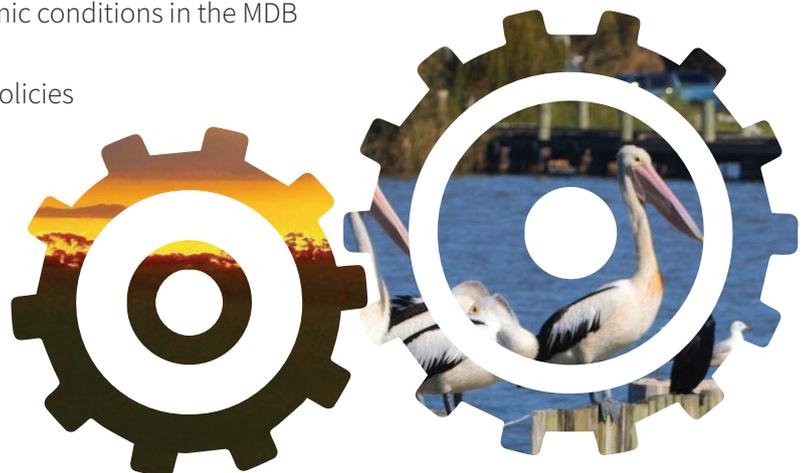
Responses to Government Inquiries and Advocacy

In addition to the work overseen by the MRLGA Committees and Working Groups, responses have been provided to the following:

- Independent Panel Assessment of Socio-economic conditions in the MDB
- Joint Standing Committee on Migration
- Draft Planning and Design Code – River Murray Policies

Matters progressed to LGA SA include:

- Public Interest Disclosure Act
- Voter roll process
- Lesson learnt – bushfires
- Sand Drift over roads
- Fines for flammable undergrowth notices



Audited Accounts

Auditors Declaration of Independence

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER REGULATION 22(5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT) REGULATIONS 2011 TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2020 there has been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011 in relation to the audit; and,
- ii. no contraventions of Section 290 of APES 110—Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants or any other applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

GALPINS ACCOUNTANTS, AUDITORS & BUSINESS CONSULTANTS



Tim Muhlhausler CA, Registered Company Auditor
Partner

14 / 09 / 2020



**Murraylands and Riverland
Local Government Association**

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 June 2020**

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

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Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Income			
M&R LGA Contributions	2	172,661	143,436
Other Grants & Contributions	2	316,148	367,234
Interest Revenue	2	11,773	9,961
Total Revenue		<u>500,582</u>	<u>520,631</u>
Operating Expenses	3	(438,644)	(190,302)
Surplus (deficit) for the year		<u>61,938</u>	<u>330,329</u>
Total Comprehensive Profit (Loss)		<u>61,938</u>	<u>330,329</u>

The accompanying Notes form part of these financial statements

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4	945,263	902,359
Trade and Other Receivables	5	20,585	750
Total Current Assets		<u>965,848</u>	<u>903,109</u>
Total Assets		<u>965,848</u>	<u>903,109</u>
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	6	3,567	2,766
Total Current Liabilities		<u>3,567</u>	<u>2,766</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>3,567</u>	<u>2,766</u>
Net Assets		<u>962,281</u>	<u>900,343</u>
Member's Funds			
Accumulated Surplus	7	962,281	900,343
Total Members Funds		<u>962,281</u>	<u>900,343</u>

The accompanying Notes form part of these financial statements

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBER'S FUNDS
AS AT 30 JUNE 2020**

	Note	Accumulated Surplus \$	Unspent funds reserve \$	Total \$
2020				
Balance at the beginning of the year	7	900,343	-	900,343
Surplus for the year		61,938	-	61,938
Balance at the end of year		<u>962,281</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>962,281</u>
2019				
Balance at the beginning of the year	7	570,014	-	570,014
Surplus for the year		330,329	-	330,329
Balance at the end of year		<u>900,343</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>900,343</u>

The accompanying Notes form part of these financial statements

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Cash from operating activities			
Receipts from grants		316,148	367,234
Receipts from members		172,661	143,436
Interest received		11,773	9,961
less: increase/(decrease) in debtors		(19,835)	147,956
Payments to suppliers		(438,644)	(190,302)
add: increase/(decrease) in payables		801	(11,618)
Net cash provided from operating activities	8	<u>42,904</u>	<u>466,667</u>
Net increase in cash held		42,904	466,667
Cash at beginning of financial year		902,359	435,692
Cash at end of financial year	4	<u>945,263</u>	<u>902,359</u>

The accompanying Notes form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Local Government Act (1999). 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 noncurrent 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 by the members of the committee.

(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 (subject to materiality).

(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.

(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 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.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

(e) Financial Instruments

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 instruments are 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.

(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.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

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 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.

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

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

Where it has been determined that the grant agreement is enforceable and sufficiently specific performance obligations exist, revenue is recognised in profit and loss as performance obligations are met. Otherwise, revenue is recognised on receipt.

If an amount received is in advance of the performance of obligations, a revenue in advance liability is recognised and reduced as performance obligations are met.

Revenue from membership subscriptions are recognised as income in proportion to the stage of completion of the transaction at the reporting date. The stage of completion is determined by reference to the membership year.

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).

New Accounting Standards Implemented:

AASB 15: Revenue from contracts with customers and AASB 1058: Income of Not-for-Profit Entities have been applied using the cumulative effective method. Therefore, the comparative information has not been restated and continues to be reported under AASB 1004: Contributions and AASB 118: Revenue.

(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 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 the 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.

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Note 2: Revenue

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
M&M LGA Contributions		
Berri Barmera	21,423	21,319
Coorong District Council	15,266	14,120
DC of Karoonda East Murray	8,132	7,476
DC of Loxton Waikerie	23,071	27,566
Mid Murray Council	18,859	16,889
The Rural City of Murray Bridge	30,634	28,241
Renmark Paringa Council	19,032	18,965
Southern Mallee DC	9,784	8,860
SLRP surcharge	26,460	-
	<u>172,661</u>	<u>143,436</u>
Other Grants & Contributions		
Other Grants	-	-
Rubble Royalties	177,787	194,542
Regional Capacity Buildings	41,221	40,692
Community Wellbeing Alliance	-	75,000
Out Reach Program Income	-	25,000
Riverland Social Indicators	84,790	32,000
Regional Road Hierarchy Plan	12,350	-
	<u>316,148</u>	<u>367,234</u>
Interest Revenue	11,773	9,961
Total Revenue	<u><u>500,582</u></u>	<u><u>520,631</u></u>

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Note 3: Other Operating Expenses

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Allowances	3,032	2,862
Accounting software	50	50
Audit fees	3,100	3,050
Executive officer contract services	118,500	121,393
Insurance	5,922	4,325
Meeting expenses	1,780	4,615
Sundry expenses & fees	382	-
Strategic Planning	12,210	-
Administration Support	20,240	18,273
Legal Charter Review	1,741	490
CEO Succession Planning / Recruitment	-	7,302
MDB Social Planning Forum	-	2,618
Project Expenditure:		
Discretionary Projects	66,222	1,192
Community Wellbeing Initiative	55,812	-
Regional Capacity - Rubble Royalty Project	6,000	-
Regional Joint Planning Board	12,005	-
Regional Waste Strategy	-	900
Riverland Social Indicators	131,648	23,232
	<u>438,644</u>	<u>190,302</u>

Note 4: Cash and cash equivalents

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Cash on hand	100	100
Cash at bank	67,311	136,180
LGFA Investment	877,852	766,080
	<u>945,263</u>	<u>902,360</u>

Note 5: Trade and other receivables

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Trade Debtors	3,396	-
GST receivable / (payable)	17,189	-
Prepayments	-	750
	<u>20,585</u>	<u>750</u>

Note 6: Trade and other Payables

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Payables	3,567	-
GST (receivable) / payable	-	2,766
	<u>3,567</u>	<u>2,766</u>

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Note 7: Accumulated Surplus

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Opening Balance	900,343	570,014
Surplus for the year	61,938	330,329
Balance at year end	962,281	900,343

Note: reserves no longer used in relation to unspent funds as a result of change in accounting treatment.

Note 8: Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with surplus for year

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Net surplus for the year	61,938	330,329
<i>Changes in assets and liabilities</i>		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(19,835)	147,956
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	801	(11,618)
Net cash provided from operating activities	42,904	466,667

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Note 9: Financial Instruments

Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted including the criteria for the recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised with respect to each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument are disclosed in Note 1 Summary of Significant Account Policies.

Categorisation of Financial instruments

	Note	2020		2019	
		Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
Financial liabilities		\$	\$	\$	\$
Trade and other Payables	6 (i)	3,567	3,567	2,766	2,766
Total Financial liabilities		3,567	3,567	2,766	2,766
Financial Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	4	945,263	945,263	902,360	902,360
Trade and other Receivables	5	20,585	20,585	-	-
Total Financial Assets		945,263	945,263	902,360	902,360

The fair values disclosed in the table above have been based on cash and cash equivalents, trade and other receivables and trade and other payables short term instruments of a nature whose carrying value is equal to fair value.

i. 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 to regularly monitor the financial stability of customers and counterparties and by investing surplus funds in financial institutions that maintain a high credit rating.

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

ii. Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk arises from the possibility that the association might have difficulty in settling its debts or otherwise meeting its obligations related to financial liabilities. The association manages this risk by preparing and monitoring budgets, only investing surplus cash with major financial institutions and proactively monitoring the recovery of unpaid debts.

No assets have been pledged as security for any liabilities.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

iii. **Market Risk**

Exposure to interest rate risk arises on financial liabilities recognised at the end of the reporting period whereby a future change in interest rates will affect future cash flows.

The following table illustrates sensitivities to the association's exposure to changes in interest rates.

	2020		2019	
	% Weighted Average Interest rate	Carrying Value	% Weighted Average Interest rate	Carrying Value
Financial liabilities	\$	\$	\$	\$
Trade and other Payables	0%	3,567	0%	2,766
Financial Assets				
Cash at bank	0%	67,311	0%	136,180
LGFA Investment	1.8%	877,852	1.8%	766,080
Cash on hand	0%	100	0%	100
Trade and other Receivables	0%	20,585	0%	-

Note 10: Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

At 30 June 2020, the association is unaware of any liability, contingent or otherwise, which has not already been recorded elsewhere in this financial report.

Note 11: Capital Commitments

At 30 June 2020, the association is unaware of any capital or leasing commitments which have not already been recorded elsewhere in this financial report.

Note 12: Events after the end of the reporting period

The World Health Organisation (WHO) announced a global health emergency on 31 January 2020 in relation to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Since then, the Australian and South Australian governments have placed restrictions on business, sporting and social activities which will impact on the Association's revenue and expenses. At the date of this report, an estimate of the financial impact of these events cannot be made. The Association are ensuring adequate financial reserves are in place to manage any financial risks.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

Note 13: Economic Dependence

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association 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 14: Related Party Transactions

The total remuneration paid to key management personnel of Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association Incorporated during the year was as follows:

	2020
	\$
Chief Executive Officer Contract Services	118,500

Key management personnel include the CEO and President.

Other related parties includes close family members of key management personnel and entities that are controlled or jointly controlled by those key management personnel individually or collectively with their close family members. There were no transactions with other related parties.

Note 15: 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. 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.

Note 16: Association details

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

Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

In the opinion of the committee, the Financial Statements comprising of the Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Members' Funds, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association as at 30 June 2020 and its performance 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 Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

The Committee is responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the accounting records and the disclosure of all material and relevant information.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



Name: PETER R. HUNT
Position: President
Date: 11-9-20



Name: TIM SMYTHE
Position: Chief Executive
Date: 14-9-20

David Chant CA, FCPA
Simon Smith CA, FCPA
David Sullivan CA, CPA
Jason Seidel CA
Renaë Nicholson CA
Tim Muhlhausler CA
Aaron Coonan CA
Luke Williams CA, CPA
Daniel Moon CA



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of the Murraylands & Riverland Local Government Association

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of the Murraylands and Riverland Government Association ("the Association"), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2020, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the statement by the Executive Officer and the Chairperson.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2020, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, *Local Government Act 1999* and *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including independence standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* and for such internal control as the Association determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Association is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to audit 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.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

GALPINS ACCOUNTANTS, AUDITORS & BUSINESS CONSULTANTS



Tim Muhlhausler CA, Registered Company Auditor
Partner

14 / 09 / 2020

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the Murraylands & Riverland Local Government Association

Independent Assurance Report on the Audit of the Internal Controls of the Murray and Mallee Local Government Association

Opinion

We have audited the compliance of the Murraylands and Riverland Government Association (the Association) with the requirements of Section 125 of the *Local Government Act 1999* in relation only to the Internal Controls established by the Association to ensure that financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 have been conducted properly and in accordance with law.

In our opinion, the Murraylands and Riverland Government Association has complied, in all material respects, with *Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999* in relation to Internal Controls established by the Association in relation to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities so as to provide reasonable assurance that the financial transactions of the Association have been conducted properly and in accordance with law for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our engagement in accordance with applicable Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3100 *Compliance Engagements*, issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, in order to state whether, in all material respects, the Association has complied with Section 125 of the *Local Government Act 1999* in relation only to the Internal Controls specified above for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. ASAE 3100 also requires us to comply with the relevant ethical requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

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

The Association's Responsibility for Internal controls

The Association is responsible for implementing and maintaining an adequate system of internal controls, in accordance with Section 125 of the *Local Government Act 1999* to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property, and incurring of liabilities have been conducted properly and in accordance with law.

Our Independence and Quality Control

We have complied with the independence and other relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements, and apply Auditing Standard ASQC 1 *Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, and Other Assurance Engagements* in undertaking this assurance engagement.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Association's compliance with Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999 in relation only to the Internal Controls established by the Association to ensure that financial transactions relating to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, acquisition and disposal of property and incurring of liabilities, based on our procedures. Our engagement has been conducted in accordance with applicable Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3100 Compliance Engagements, issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, in order to state whether, in all material respects, the Association has complied with Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1999 in relation only to the Internal Controls specified above for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. ASAE 3100 also requires us to comply with the relevant ethical requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Our procedures included obtaining an understanding of controls in relation to the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities, evaluating management's assessment of these controls, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and implementation of controls on a sample basis based on the assessed risks.

Limitations of Controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and operating effectively, the control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error, or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected.

An assurance engagement on controls is not designed to detect all instances of controls operating ineffectively as it is not performed continuously throughout the period and the tests performed are on a sample basis. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with them may deteriorate.

Limitation of Use

This report has been prepared for the members of the Association in Accordance with Section 129 of the Local Government Act 1999 in relation to the Internal Controls Specified above. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report to any persons or users other than the members of the Association, or for any purpose other than which it was prepared.

GALPINS ACCOUNTANTS, AUDITORS & BUSINESS CONSULTANTS



Tim Muhlhausler CA Registered Company Auditor

Partner

14 / 09 / 2020