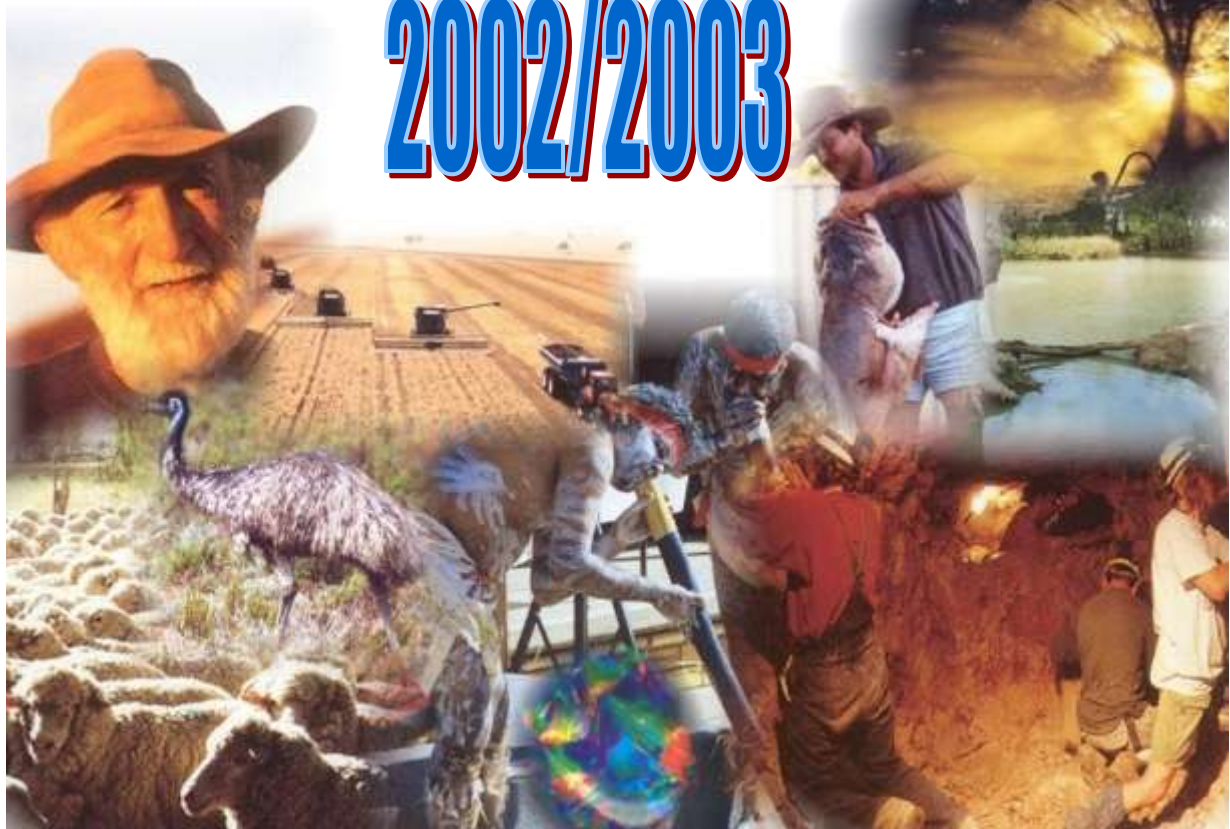




**2002/2003**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

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## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL INFORMATION

Address:	77 Fox Street WALGETT NSW 2832
Postal Address:	PO Box 31 WALGETT NSW 2832
Telephone:	(02) 6828 1399
Facsimile:	(02) 6828 1608
Email:	<a href="mailto:admin@walgettshire.com">admin@walgettshire.com</a>
Office Hours:	9.00 am – 4.30 pm
Council Meetings:	Second Monday of each Month
Auditors:	Spencer Steer
Principal Towns:	Walgett Lightning Ridge Collarenebri
Villages:	Come-By-Chance Carinda Burren Junction Grawin/Glengarry/Sheepyards Rowena
Hamlet	Cryon

## SHIRE STATISTICS

Area:	22,007 Square Kilometers
Population:	8550
Road Length:	2908 Kilometers
Distance from Sydney:	691 Kilometers
Distance from Canberra:	677 Kilometers

## PURPOSE OF REPORT

Section 428 (1) of the Local Government Act provides that Council, within five (5) months of the end of each year, must prepare a report as to its achievements with respect to the objectives and performance targets set out in the Management Plan for that year.

The aim of the report is to increase the level of accountability and transparency of Council's operation and, to a large degree, the report achieves these aims as well as providing a relatively concise and informative insight into Council's operation.

Section 428 (3) of the Local Government Act specifies that the report need only be furnished to the Minister and such other persons and bodies as required by the regulations, and whilst Council complies with these directives it also feels that the report provides a valuable resource for Councillors and Staff as it provides a comprehensive yet concise overview of Council's operation and performance.

The report has been completed in accordance with the Guidelines of the Department of Local Government and includes information required under the following legislation: -

1. *Local Government Act 1993*
2. *Local Government (General Regulations) 1999*
3. *Local Government (Rates and Charges) Regulations 1999*
4. *Freedom of Information Act 1989*
5. *Information Protection Act 1998*

## **VISION STATEMENT**

Walgett Shire is a thriving community where residents and visitors live, work and play in harmony in a sustainable and prosperous environment where businesses flourish and Council delivers highest quality services and infrastructure.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*Walgett Shire Council will:*

1. Provide strong leadership to the community
2. Deliver highest quality services and infrastructure
3. Ensure that the Shire takes a prominent leadership role in Local Government
4. Plan and develop a vibrant, sustainable and prosperous environment and a thriving harmonious community
5. Promote the Shire as a great place to live, work and visit
6. Lobby governments to ensure that appropriate levels of support are provided for health, education, employment, housing and infrastructure development and maintenance
7. Co-operate with other bodies in the sharing of specialist resources
8. Adopt a Code of Conduct that ensures practices are ethical, fair, accountable and equitable

## COUNCIL'S CHARTER

In accordance with Section 8 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council's Charter comprises a set of principles that guide Council in carrying out its legislative obligations and functions.

### **The Council's Charter is: -**

- To provide directly or on behalf of other levels of government, after due consultation, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively
- To exercise community leadership
- To exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and actively promotes the principles of cultural diversity
- To promote and to provide and plan for the needs of children
- To properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development
- To have regard to the long term and cumulative effects of its decisions
- To bear in mind that it is the custodian and trustee of public assets and to effectively account for and manage the assets for which it is responsible
- To facilitate the involvement of Councillors, Members of the Public, Users of Facilities and Services and Council Staff in the development, improvement and co-ordination of Local Government
- To raise funds for local purposes by the fair imposition of rates, charges and fees, by income earned from investments and, when appropriate, by borrowing and grants
- To keep the local community and the State Government (and through it, the wider community) informed about its activities
- To ensure that, in the exercise of its regulatory functions, it acts consistently and without bias, particularly where an activity of the Council is affected
- To be a responsible employer

## COUNCILLORS

<i>Councillor PP (Peter) Waterford</i>	<i>Mayor</i>	<i>(Elected September 2002)</i>
<i>Councillor PA (Prue) Hutchinson</i>	<i>Deputy Mayor</i>	<i>(Elected September 2002)</i>
<i>Councillor MP (Marg) Bow</i>		<i>(Elected September 1999)</i>
<i>Councillor RL (Robert) Greenaway</i>		<i>(Elected September 1999)</i>
<i>Councillor RG (Bob) Hewlett</i>		<i>(Elected September 1999)</i>
<i>Councillor TJ (Tim) Horan</i>		<i>(Elected September 1999)</i>
<i>Councillor WJ (Sam) Jeffries</i>		<i>(Elected September 1999)</i>
<i>Councillor DA (David) Lane</i>		<i>(Elected September 1999)</i>
<i>Councillor PL (Peter) Lang</i>		<i>(Elected September 1999)</i>
<i>Councillor CJ (Charlie) Mitchell</i>		<i>(Elected September 1999)</i>
<i>Councillor JH (Joan) Treweeke</i>		<i>(Elected September 1999)</i>
<i>Councillor AH (Alan) Friend</i>		<i>(Elected September 1999)</i>

## SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

<i>General Manager</i>	<i>Mr Vic North</i>
<i>Group Manager Services Management</i>	<i>Mr John Burden</i>
<i>Group Manager Infrastructure Management</i>	<i>Mr Jonathon Wooldridge</i>



## MAYORAL REPORT

It is with much pleasure that I provide the following report as part of the 2002/2003 Annual Report required under the Local Government Act 1993.

The previous twelve months have been a demanding and challenging period but many good outcomes have been achieved on behalf of the Walgett Shire community.

Council continued to pursue its long-term vision that reads:

*Walgett Shire is a thriving community where residents and visitors live, work and play in harmony in a sustainable and prosperous environment where businesses flourish and Council delivers highest quality services and infrastructure.*

Over the period we continued to address a number of issues, which have been of concern to the wider community for a long period of time, including law and order, crime and policing, unemployment, road and rail services, grant funding, education, youth and community services and critical social issues such as domestic violence and alcohol and gambling. Obviously, most of these require long term sustainable outcomes that will take a concerted effort over many months and years, maybe even a generation in some cases, to resolve. However, there are positive signs now that the community as a whole is ready to make the hard decisions, to acknowledge the problems and to find solutions.

The General Manager and myself met with a number of State Government Politicians during the course of the year to discuss these and other issues, in an attempt to seek agreed strategies, achieve partnership agreements and to gain cooperation and assistance that will enable the Walgett community to develop and achieve a desired future.

The River Towns Project was commenced to address the underlying social issues and some progress, albeit slow, has been made. We continued active participation in the Barwon Darling Alliance including the quest to establish a Barwon Darling Credit Union and we commenced the development and introduction of a Shire-wide Tourism Strategy as a front end of the broader Economic Development Strategy. Further, we continued with a proactive approach to improve the physical and corporate image of the Shire.

I want to thank my fellow Councillors for their efforts during the past twelve months and for their commitment to the Walgett Shire Community.

I would also like to thank the General Manager, Vic North, his Management Team and Staff of the Shire for the way that they have applied themselves during difficult and challenging times.

Finally, it has been a great pleasure serving as Mayor and representing Walgett Shire Council at a range of gatherings at local, State and Federal levels.

Peter Waterford  
**Mayor**

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 2002/2003 and wish to convey my thanks to the Mayor, Peter Waterford and Councillors for their support during the year.

I also wish to thank my management team and staff for another year of dedicated service. They have weathered another difficult and challenging year and I want to acknowledge and publicly commend them for their significant contribution and unfailing support and commitment to both the Shire community and Council over the past twelve-months. We have a great team and some outstanding young people who will one day soon be our leaders, "the movers and shakers" in the community.

The Management Team and Staff have continued with reviewing and updating internal systems, policies and procedures. We are close to introducing a new chart of accounts, we are implementing changes to the customer requests and complaints system, we have initiated the introduction of a GIS System, which will be progressively developed over the next twelve months or more and we have taken a proactive approach to training and development through the implementation of a number of courses across a range of areas including OH&S. We have also introduced new work procedures to reduce costs and improve efficiency.

We have developed a Shire-wide Strategic Plan for Tourism and commenced implementation of a progressive tourism strategy focussed on the wonderfully broad and diverse range of attractions that the Shire has to offer visitors. Two Visitor Information Centres, one in Lightning Ridge and the other in Walgett, have been opened and set on a path of "self funding". A very successful cooperative partnership has been established with the Lightning Ridge Tourist Association and the Walgett and District Tourist Association to achieve maximum benefit for the community and as a consequence a range of publications and tours have been developed and prepared. The Mayor and myself have actively participated on the Executive of the Outback Regional Tourism Organisation (ORTO) and achieved agreement to have Walgett Shire included on future maps and promotional material of the "touring routes" in our vicinity. We have also been actively involved with five other shires and NSW Tourism in the planning and development of the Kamilaroi Highway as a touring route and tourist destination. Further, we had a very successful marketing campaign, promoting Walgett Shire in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales and achieved 12,000 requests for information, which we responded to with a promotional package, which included a personalised letter, brochures, the shire booklet and the River, Plains and Opals Booklet.

The shire-wide beautification program has continued as an integrated component of normal daily activities, rather than as a separate function, and this initiative has worked very well and staff members are to be commended for their efforts to date. Nonetheless we still have an enormous task ahead principally, to encourage all community members to take pride in their towns, villages and the shire as a whole.

The developments of a Thematic History of the Shire and a Heritage Plan have now been completed and a number of related proposals are under consideration and development. I would like to thank our consultants, Graham Hall and Terry Kass who have done a marvellous job. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the many shire residents who actively participated and took ownership of the project and made it happen.

## Walgett Shire Council – 2002-2003 Annual Report

The Walgett River Towns Project, which has now been underway for almost twelve months, provides the Walgett community with an opportunity to identify and address underlying social issues in the town. Some progress has been made on a broad level but it is acknowledged by all involved that much of the actual social reform desired will take many years to achieve. I am delighted that we have the expertise and stature of Dr Bob Morgan, an old boy of Walgett, to facilitate the project and I believe the Walgett community is most fortunate to have secured his services.

We continued to support work by the University of Sydney on the Archaeological Dig at Cuddy Springs and continued cooperation with the National Museum on a Dinosaur and Fossil collection within the Shire.

I am pleased with the work and the successes that have been achieved by my staff and by the organisation as a whole. The year has been one that has been both successful and difficult, but I believe one that we will look back on and be proud.

My message for the future is important. As a community, we must work cohesively together to achieve our dream for the Shire and our towns and villages". "We have to concentrate on the 'big picture' and the things that will really make a positive difference in the long term". "We have to try harder to encourage everyone to be part of 'the team' and to play a positive and active role and we must discourage spectators standing on the sideline throwing abuse and being destructive".

"Walgett Shire will be a major force in future with thriving towns and villages, if together we tackle the challenges head on, embrace change and plan for the next generation."

I look forward to assisting the Walgett Shire community in making a positive and sustainable difference to Walgett Shire, establishing our Shire as a tourist destination, a great place to do business and a wonderful place to live.

*Vic North*

**General Manager**

## **COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL REPORTS 2002/2003**

### **LGA SECTION 428 (2) (A)**

Attached to this report is a copy of Council's Financial Report for the year ending 30 June 2003. Council was able to complete the Statements within the four (4) months prescribed by the Act and furnish copies to the Department of Local Government.

The draft Financial Statements were completed and ready for audit early in October 2003, and the audited statements were presented to Council at its meeting held on Monday 10 November 2003 and were adopted.

Included in the Financial Reports are the Auditors Report and Special Purpose Financial Reports and Special Schedules.

The Reports are contained in **Appendix "A"**.

## **STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE**

### **LGA SECTION 428 (2) (B)**

Attached is the report on the comparative performance that relates to the functions of Walgett Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2003, and is marked as **Appendix "G"**.

## **REPORTS AS TO THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

### **LGA SECTION 428 (2) (C)**

Walgett Shire Council has a key role in ensuring that the quality of the environment is maintained in a number of ways, including:

1. Managing its operational activities, such as road construction and waste disposal in an environmentally sensitive manner.
2. As a regulator by promoting community compliance with the requirements of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
3. Ensuring that appropriate environmental assessments are undertaken for new developments that require Council approval and that unnecessary environmental disturbance is avoided.

Each year Council is also required to produce a State of the Environment Report which provides information on the status of a range of environmental factors that include, land, air, water, biodiversity, waste, noise, Aboriginal heritage and non-Aboriginal heritage.

The Walgett Shire Council State of Environment Report has been included within this annual report as **Appendix "B"**.

As part of the process of preparing the report, information was sought from the following organisations:

- Department of Land and Water Conservation
- Walgett Rural Lands Protection Board
- Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
- Department of Mineral Resources
- Walgett Shire Pesticide and Environment Liaison Committee.

## **REPORTS AS TO THE CONDITION OF PUBLIC WORKS LGA SECTION 428 (2) (D)**

### **PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

Council has a total of twenty-two (22) public buildings on which an amount of \$362,131. was expended on maintenance during 2002/2003 in order to maintain them at a satisfactory standard. With regards to public housing Council has twenty-nine (29) dwellings on which an amount of 116,405 was expended during this period to maintain them at a suitable standard. All of Council's buildings are subject to a cyclic maintenance programme to ensure they remain at a satisfactory standard.

### **PUBLIC ROADS AND BRIDGES**

Within the Walgett Shire area there is approximately 2,908 kms of public roads that Council is responsible for, this includes Council and classified roads, State Highways and Regional Roads. Of this total, 563kms is sealed with the remainder being gravel or black soil surfaces. Council also is responsible for 58 bridges within the shire. During 2002/2003 Council expended an amount of \$4,783,146 on maintaining these public roads and bridges. The estimate to replace such infrastructure would amount to \$48m for roads and \$9.5 m for bridges.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Walgett Shire is responsible for water and sewerage services in the three larger populated centres that are Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri. The general standard of these works is exceeded with some towns having gone through recent augmentation programs.

Council expended a total of \$322,747 on maintenance and operations for the three sewer schemes and a total of \$752,482 for the three water supply services.

The current replacement costs of the sewerage schemes within the Shire have been estimated at \$13 m with the water supply schemes being \$15 m

The Walgett Shire Council Condition of Public Works schedule is annexed to this annual report as **Appendix "H"**.

<p><b>SUMMARY OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS</b>  <b>LGA SECTION 428 (2) (E)</b></p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

DETAILS	COST
Residential Tenancy Action <b>Current Status: -</b> Still Proceeding	\$3,652
Public Liability Claims <b>Current Status: -</b> Still Proceeding	\$6,531.18
Native Title Legal Opinion	\$2,734.55
These amounts are rechargeable to the Debtor	\$28,198.82

<p><b>MAYORAL AND COUNCILLORS FEES AND EXPENSES</b>  <b>LGA SECTION 428 (2) (F)</b></p>
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The following amounts were expended during the period 1 July 2002 and 30 June 2003: -

Mayoral Allowance	\$10,560.00
Deputy Mayoral Allowance	\$1,650.00
Councillors Fees	\$63,568.00
Councillors Travelling & Other Expenses	\$12,585.00

A copy of the Policy is attached in **Appendix “E”**.

**DETAILS RELATING TO SENIOR STAFF  
LGA SECTION 428 (2) (G) AND LGA SECTION 31 (1) (B)**

In accordance with the provision of Section 334 of the Local Government Act 1993, the position of General Manager is the only position at Walgett Shire determined to be a Senior Staff position as defined in Section 332 of the Local Government Act 1993.

The total salary package applicable for this position for the period of 1 July 2002 to the 30 June 2003 inclusive of Salary, Fringe Benefits, Provision of Motor Vehicle and Employer Funded Superannuation was \$121,200.

**STATEMENT OF CONTRACTS AWARDED IN EXCESS OF  
\$100,000  
LGA SECTION 428 (2) (H)**

Council recognises the need to ensure that Ratepayers receive the best value possible for their rate dollar. Council at all times attempts to maximize its scarce financial resources by monitoring the purchase of goods and services to ensure that the most competitive price is obtaining taking into account quality, service and reliability.

During the year ended 30 June 2003, the following Contracts were awarded in excess of \$100,000: -

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>amount</b>
Coates Hire	Plant hire	\$198,877.10
Ostwald Bros.	Plant hire, road haulage & materials	\$137,736.98
Ridgerock	Plant hire	\$204,560.55
G Lane – Lightning Ridge	Waste Management Centre	\$103,119.96
Mijon Pty Ltd	Supply & delivery Aggregate	\$435,759.30
Allan Bros. Plant Hire & Sales Pty Ltd	Plant hire	\$161,490.00
R.A. & J.M.Ramien	Plant hire	\$405,295.71
R Rushie – Water Tankers	Plant hire, haulage & road materials	\$162,364.70
Pioneer Road Services	Road sealing works	\$695,625.62

## **BUSHFIRE HAZARD REDUCTION ACTIVITIES**

### **LGA SECTION 428 (2) (I)**

#### **GENERAL**

The Walgett Shire area encompasses 22,007 square kilometres, which is protected primarily by the Rural Fire Service. The townships of Walgett and Lightning Ridge are serviced by the New South Wales Fire Brigade.

A Mutual Aide Agreement approved in 2001/2002 exists between these organisations.

A further three [3] second hand category 1 fire tankers were acquired during 2002/2003 and are stationed at Come By Chance, Burren Junction & Cumborah. The later is intended to be relocated to Grawin / Glengarry when suitable accommodation is constructed.

#### **TRAINING**

Two courses were conducted during the fiscal year, Basic Fire Fighting & Basic Assessment.

#### **HAZARD REDUCTION**

Due to prolonged drought conditions no hazard reduction activities were necessary.

#### **INCIDENT REPORTS**

Incidents during 2002 / 2003 were categorised:

- [a] **Bush fires .**  
Two (2) grass fires equating to 850 hectares approximately burnt.  
One (1) bale of cotton fire
  
- [b] **Structural fires:**  
Three (3) structures burnt  
Two (2) farm workshops burnt  
One (1) smoke detector call-out
  
- [c] **Motor vehicle accidents –**  
Two (2) vehicles burnt

#### **SUMMARY**

Walgett Shire experienced a relative quiet year as a result of prolonged prevailing drought.



**PROGRAMMES TO PROMOTE SERVICES AND ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR PEOPLE OF DIVERSE CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC BACKGROUNDS  
LGA SECTION 428 (2) (J)**

Council recognises the need for the provision of and access to appropriate services for all sections of the community within the Shire. Accordingly, Council has ensured that provision has been made for all Sections of the Community in relation to access to services.

Council is conscious of developing and promoting better understanding and the compliance with Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement (EAPS) guidelines of the issues related to people of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds who live in the Shire, ensuring equitable access to services.

Council commissioned the preparation of a Social Plan and this was adopted by Council in October 1999 and will be updated with every significant change. This document has not required amendment in the 2002/2003 period.

The plan is attached to and forms part of this Annual Report in **Appendix “C”**.

**WORKS CARRIED OUT UNDER SECTION 67  
LGA SECTION 428 (2) (K)**

There were no works undertaken under the provisions of Section 67 during the year ending 30 June 2003.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER SECTION 356 LGA SECTION 428 (2) (L)**

A total of \$25,530.75 was expended during 2002/2003 by way of donations and contributions.

Significant contributions were made to the establishment / continuance of support to the:

- Australian Theatre for the Young \$2,500.00
- Lightning Ridge Pony Club \$6,000.00
- CWA – Walgett \$2,500.00 (including \$2,000.00 medical scholarship)

Other minor contributions were made to various sporting, cultural, school and community organisations.

Council recognises the valuable contribution made by the various community groups within the Shire and the fact that without such continuation on a voluntary basis many of the services and facilities currently available would not otherwise be able to be provided. Council's contribution under Section 356 in some small way recognises their offerings.

## **STATEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES ACTIVITIES 2002/2003 LGA SECTION 428 (2) (M)**

### **SALARY SYSTEM**

The majority of staff annual appraisals were undertaken and completed by May 2003 therefore avoiding the need to action back pays as in previous years. During the appraisal process it was identified that some positions had acquired variations to the duties the incumbents were performing therefore substantiated possible re-grading. The re-evaluation processes were undertaken for these positions accordingly.

### **OH&S**

Nominations were held for the OH&S Committee whereby committee members were duly elected with a Chairperson and Secretary being appointed. The Human Resource Officer was requested to arrange for all members to undertake the OH&S Consultation Committee Training. The OH&S Committee is a very proactive committee and meets regularly every month. The Constitution has been revised and is going through the due processes for endorsement.

With regards to Workers' Compensation, from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 the total number of claims was five (5) with only seven (7) actual working days lost. This resulted in a refund of \$222,087.07 to Walgett Shire Council.

### **RECRUITMENT**

The EEO Committee is currently revising the Recruitment and Selection Policy. The Staff Induction Manual is also under revision with a formal staff induction day to be introduced to all new employees.

## **TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

We currently have sixteen (16) employees undertaking the 2 ½ year Civil Construction (Road Construction and Maintenance) Certificate III training provided in-house by Western Institute of TAFE, Bathurst Campus. We also have two (2) employees undertaking the Horticulture Certificate III and one (1) undertaking the Horticulture Certificate II, which is a one-year course and training is also in-house and provided by Western Institute of TAFE.

Throughout the year there have been a variety of courses (in-house and outside Council) for a great number of employees with excellent results.

## **CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

Nominations were called for members of the Consultative Committee with elections duly held and a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary appointed. The Constitution has been revised and will go through the due processes for endorsement. The Committee meet regularly once a month.

## **EEO**

The EEO Committee was re-established with nominations and elections held. A Chairperson and Secretary were duly appointed. This committee remains a sub-committee of the Consultative Committee.

The EEO Committee are currently revising the EEO Management Plan, Child Protection Policy, Code of Conduct, Disciplinary Policy and Procedures, Dismissal Guidelines, Harassment Policy and Grievance Procedures, Workplace Display Policy and Recruitment and Selection Policy.

However, Council applies the principles of the Equal Employment Opportunities Legislation to all appointments and will continue to ensure all job descriptions and induction procedures highlight its commitment to those principles.

<p><b>A STATEMENT OF THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY COUNCIL DURING THE YEAR TO IMPLEMENT ITS EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT PLAN LGA SECTION 428 (2) (N</b></p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Council is mindful of its obligations under the Equal Employment Opportunities Legislation and has for sometime had an active and representative Equal Employment Opportunity Committee which has met to discuss issues as the arise.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan has been developed over some years and modified as deemed necessary.

Council has applied the principles of the Equal Employment Opportunities Legislation to all appointments and will continue to ensure that all job descriptions and induction procedures highlight its commitment to those principles.

A copy of Council's current Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan, which incorporates a Policy Statement, is incorporated in this Report in **Appendix "D"**.

**STATEMENT OF ALL EXTERNAL BODIES THAT EXERCISE  
FUNCTIONS DELEGATED BY COUNCIL  
LGA SECTION 428 (2) (o)**

The only function delegated by Council to other bodies is that of the Control of Noxious Weeds.

This function has been delegated to Castlereagh Macquarie County Council.

**STATEMENT OF COMPANIES IN WHICH COUNCIL HOLD A  
CONTROLLING INTEREST  
LGA SECTION 428 (2) (P)**

Council did not hold a controlling interest in any companies during the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003.

**STATEMENT OF PARTNERSHIPS CO-OPERATIVES AND  
JOINT VENTURES  
LGA SECTION 428 (2) (Q)**

**NORTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY**

This Regional Library Facility is based in Moree and is administered by Moree Plains Shire Council.

Membership of the Northern Regional Library and Information Service enables the provision of a far better level of services and access to resources than would be achieved under a stand alone Library and offers the service at far less cost than otherwise would be incurred.

Members of the Northern Regional Library and Information Service are: -

- (i) Moree Plains Shire
- (ii) Brewarrina Shire
- (iii) Walgett Shire
- (iv) Yallaroi Shire

**STATEWIDE MUTUAL INSURANCE GROUP**

Statewide Mutual is a Local Government based Insurance Group administered by Jardine Lloyd Thomas Pty Ltd and supported by the Local Government and Shires Association of New South Wales and a large percentage of New South Wales Councils.

## **Walgett Shire Council – 2002-2003 Annual Report**

The object of the group is to develop Insurance Products to meet the needs of Local Government and to negotiate the best possible price for all members.

Significant savings have resulted in all classes of insurance and in particular the area of Public Liability and Professional Indemnity.

## **NORTH WEST WEIGHTS OF LOADS GROUP**

Moree Plains Shire Council administers this group and its function is to enforce the Road Act and Limits (Weights) on vehicles using Public Roads with a view to reducing Road Maintenance Costs.

Members of the Group are: -

- (i) Glen Innes Municipal Council
- (ii) Severn Shire Council
- (iii) Bingara Shire Council
- (iv) Moree Plains Shire Council
- (v) Walgett Shire Council
- (vi) Yallaroi Shire Council
- (vii) Inverell Shire Council

## **BARWON DARLING ALLIANCE**

This Group has been formed to provide combined voice and lobby movement for the Member Bodies all of whom are experiencing similar problems and have common goals.

The Alliance has looked at issues such as Employment Generation, Asset Contribution and Maintenance, Community Justice and Law and Order Issues.

A major initiative has been the investigation unto the establishment of a Credit Union to fill the void in the Communities created when the major banks have withdrawn or substantially reduced services.

Members of the Group are: -

- (i) Walgett Shire Council
- (ii) Brewarrina Shire Council – excepting the Barwon Darling Credit Union.
- (iii) Bourke Shire Council
- (iv) Coonamble Shire Council
- (v) Central Darling Shire Council
- (vi) Murdi Paaki Regional Council of ATSIC

## **FIRE CONTROL OFFICER**

An amalgamation of Bogan, Coonamble, Warren & Walgett Shire Councils have jointly appointment a Bush Fire Control Officer to co-ordinate and undertake the duties and responsibilities of Council under both the Local Government Act 1993 and the Rural Fires Act 1997. The Bush Fire Control Officer is located at Coonamble.

## **TOURISM ORGANISATIONS**

Council is a keen participant in many Tourism Promotional Groups, particularly those focusing on the Far Western Region of New South Wales through involvements with the Outback Regional Tourism Organisation and NSW Tourism.

### **OVERSEAS VISITS UNDERTAKEN BY COUNCILLORS AND STAFF WHILST REPRESENTING COUNCIL LGR SECTION 31 (1) (A)**

No Councillors or Members of Staff undertook overseas travel on behalf of Council in 2001/2002.

### **DETAILS OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO DEVELOP AND PROMOTE SERVICES AND PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN LGR SECTION 31 (1) (C)**

Council networks with other agencies to ensure that the needs of children of all ages are met, and whilst the needs of pre-school children have over the last twelve (12) months been the focus of attention, the continued and pro-active focus is in place to develop better outcomes for children, particularly in the provision of interesting recreational and educational after school care activities.

Council employs a Youth Development Officer. This position is currently being reviewed, with a view to restructure Walgett Shire youth services.

After school care available at Youth Centres in Lightning Ridge, Walgett and Collarenebri as well as through Family Day Care Service providers.  
After School Care seeks to provide recreational and educational activities.

Vacation Care is provided for school age children for two weeks in each school holiday period in the communities of Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri and Grawin. Vacation Care in Walgett is provided through the Aboriginal Medical Service for one week in each school holiday period.

Programmes have been developed for the Summer Holidays and the Youth Development Officer has made considerable progress in gaining acceptance and support for the range of new initiatives.

## **Walgett Shire Council – 2002-2003 Annual Report**

The small population base of many of the smaller towns and villages makes the task of organising and co-coordinating services and facilities in these places extremely difficult, however, the need is recognised and will continue to be addressed as financial and physical resources allow.

It is important for the youth of the towns within the Shire that a co-operative and bipartisan approach be taken for any new initiatives introduced.

Councils ongoing support for projects that will provide benefits for the young people of the Shire.

Further details are contained within the Social Plan – **Appendix “C”**.

## **REPORT ON COUNCILS PERFORMANCE IN RELATION TO ACCESS AND EQUITY ACTIVITIES LGA SECTION 1 (D) (I)**

A comprehensive review of this area is contained within the Walgett Shire Social Plan, which forms part of this report as **Appendix “C”**.

Walgett Shire accepts that it has a responsibility to provide access and equity of all access to all services and has adopted the following principles which are contained with the Social Plan: -

- promote fairness in the distribution of resources, particularly for those in need
- recognise and promote people’s rights and improve the accountability of decision makers
- ensure that people have equitable and fairer access to the economic resources and services essential to meeting their basic needs to improve their quality of life
- provide access to give people better opportunities for genuine participation and consultation about decisions affecting their lives
- provide opportunities for people to participate and access community consultation in decisions affecting their lives and their communities

## **NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY LGR SECTION 31 (D) (II-IX)**

### **CATEGORY 1 BUSINESS ACTIVITIES**

Council does not have any business activities, which have sales in excess of \$2,000,000 and as such, no Category 1 Business Activities.

### **CATEGORY 2 BUSINESS ACTIVITIES**

Council has two (2) Business Activities which it has deemed to be Category 2 Businesses and these are: -

1. Walgett Shire Water Supply
2. Walgett Shire Sewerage Services

The Financial Statements for each of the above form part of Council’s Annual Financial Reports and are contained in **Appendix “A”**.

## PRINCIPLES OF COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY

Council is mindful of the Principles of Competitive Neutrality and has applied them in its Category 2 Operations.

It must be remembered that Walgett Shire Council is a large Rural Shire in far Western New South Wales and in many instances undertakes activities, which in large centers may also be provided by the Private Sector. Council, however, provides these activities as a service to the Community, as distance, isolation and low population base prevents

the provision of the service by the private sector when motivated by profit rather than the Community Service Obligation of Council.

The need for Council's involvement is particularly important given the number of relatively small Communities within the Shire.

## COMPLAINTS HANDLING FOR COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY

As part of its General Complaints Policy Council has provided a mechanism for the handling of complaints regarding Competitive Neutrality. A copy of the Complaints Policy is appended to this Report in **Appendix "F"**.

## SUMMARY OF COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY COMPLAINTS

No Complaints were received in the 2002/2003 Financial Year.

### RATES AND CHARGES WRITTEN OFF

#### LGR SECTION (RATES AND CHARGES) REGULATION CLAUSE 15

Pensioners Rates (Section 583)	\$133,971.37
Rates Debt Write Off 1-1055-70	\$72,699.04
Small Debts	\$366.53
	\$207,036.94



**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1989****SECTION 68 (6) OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT****STATISTICS**

Council is required by the Freedom of Information Act to include in its annual report statistics relating to applications received for access to its records under the Freedom of Information Act and these are detailed hereunder:

FOI REQUESTS	2002/2003			2001/2002		
	<u>Personal</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Personal</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
New (inc. transferred in)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Brought forward	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total to be processed	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Completed	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Transferred out	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Withdrawn	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total Processed	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unfinished (carried forward)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No further statistic analysis is provided due to the fact that no applications were received and the provision of further statistics would serve no real purpose.

<p><b>IMPACT OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS ON COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</b></p>
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Council feels it provides adequate access to records and information and this is reflected in the fact that there has been no need for any FOI applications to be lodged.

While there was no direct impact to Council caused by the lodgement of any FOI application, Council remains aware of the need for compliance with the FOI Legislation and will need to be aware also when there is any potential conflict with the privacy Legislation.

## **PRIVACY AND PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION ACT 1998**

The Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act (1998) (PIIP) places obligations on Government Agencies including Local Government, within New South Wales to comply with the provisions contained therein.

The Legislation is far reaching and it will take sometime to fully clarify the impact of the legislation on Local Government and then in turn the impact on individual Councils and information that has traditionally been made available to the Public.

Council has adopted both the Model Privacy Management Plan and the Model Code of Practice for Local Government as an interim measure, whilst council staff continue drafting its own Plan and Code, on which work commenced October 2003. Staff are already mindful of the implications of the PIIP and exercise extreme care to all requests. Staff education, with assistance from the Privacy Commissioner's office, will be implemented as soon as tools / resources are available.

As at 30 June 2003, there had not been any review conducted by, or on behalf of, Council.

Council is mindful of its continued obligations under the Act and will ensure that all Staff and Elected Members are briefed on the importance of the obligations

Appendix “A”



**2002/2003**

**AUDITED**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**



Appendix “B”



**2002/2003**

**STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
REPORT**



# STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2002 – 2003

## 1. INTRODUCTION

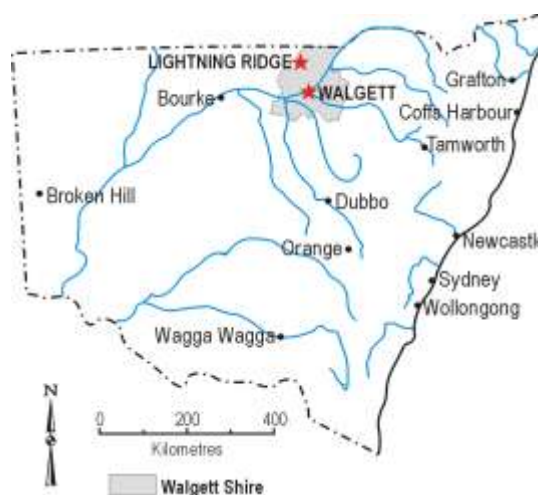
Councils are required to prepare a comprehensive State of the Environment Report for the year ending after Council elections as a result of the NSW Local Government Act 1993 (Section 428(2)(c) and the Local Government (General) Regulation 1999.

An annual “supplementary” State of the Environment Report is also required by the local government legislation. These reports provide an update on existing issues, as well as outlining new ones that have arisen since the previous State of the Environment Report.

This report is a supplementary report.

## 2. WALGETT SHIRE - BACKGROUND

The Shire has a total area of 22,330 square kilometres and is located in northwestern New South Wales as shown in Figure 1. Walgett Shire adjoins a number of other shires, and the state of Queensland (Figure 2).



**Figure 1 – Location of Walgett Shire in NSW.**



**Figure 2 – Adjoining shires.**

### Land titles

Administratively Walgett Shire is separated into the Central Division (11,310 km<sup>2</sup>) and the Western Division (11,030 km<sup>2</sup>). The Barwon River separates the two divisions, as shown in Figure 3.

Freehold land titles are dominant within the Central Division, while most of the Western Division consists of Crown Land held under Western Lands Leases.



Figure 3 – Western and Central Divisions.

### Landform

A number of rivers pass through the shire, these include the Barwon, Namoi, Macquarie, Castlereagh, Narran and Moonie rivers. The dominant landform consists of floodplains of unconsolidated alluvium with an elevation between 120 and 145 m above sea level.

In the northern portion of the shire there are a number of ridges composed of weathered sedimentary rocks that reach a maximum elevation of about 160 m above sea level.

### Climate

The climate of the region is semi-arid with peak monthly rainfall usually occurring in summer and a smaller peak from May to July. Average daily temperatures, considered on a

monthly basis, show a minimum of 5°C in July and a maximum of 35°C in the summer months.

### Population

Urban centres within the Shire include Burren Junction, Carinda, Collarenebri, Cumborah, Cryon, Lightning Ridge, Rowena and Walgett, as depicted in Figure 4. There are also numerous people residing in mining camps on mineral claims. The majority of mining camps occur on the opal fields at Grawin, Glengarry, Sheeppark and Lightning Ridge.

A profile of the population within the Shire is provided from the results of the 2001 census summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

These figures are probably understated, as there are a substantial number of people who live on the Lightning Ridge, Grawin, Glengarry and Sheeppark opal fields. Some only reside on the opal fields for several months each year, especially during winter, and the population estimates are unlikely to reflect this itinerant population.

Table 1 – 2001 Census data on population age groups within Walgett Shire (ABS 2002).

AGE	PEOPLE
0 to 4	605
5 to 14	1,156
15 to 24	880
25 to 54	3,620
55 to 64	1,078
65 or more	939
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,310</b>

**Table 2 – Population centres within Walgett Shire in 2001 (ABS 2002).**

<b>AREA</b>	<b>PEOPLE</b>
Lightning Ridge	2,993
Walgett	2,012
Rural – Central Division	1,448
Rural – Western Division	996
Collarenebri	505
Grawin & Glengarry opal fields, Cumborah, nearby properties	209
Burren Junction	147
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,310</b>

### **Economic**

Dominant industries include cropping (wheat, cotton, chickpeas), grazing (sheep, cattle), opal mining and tourism.



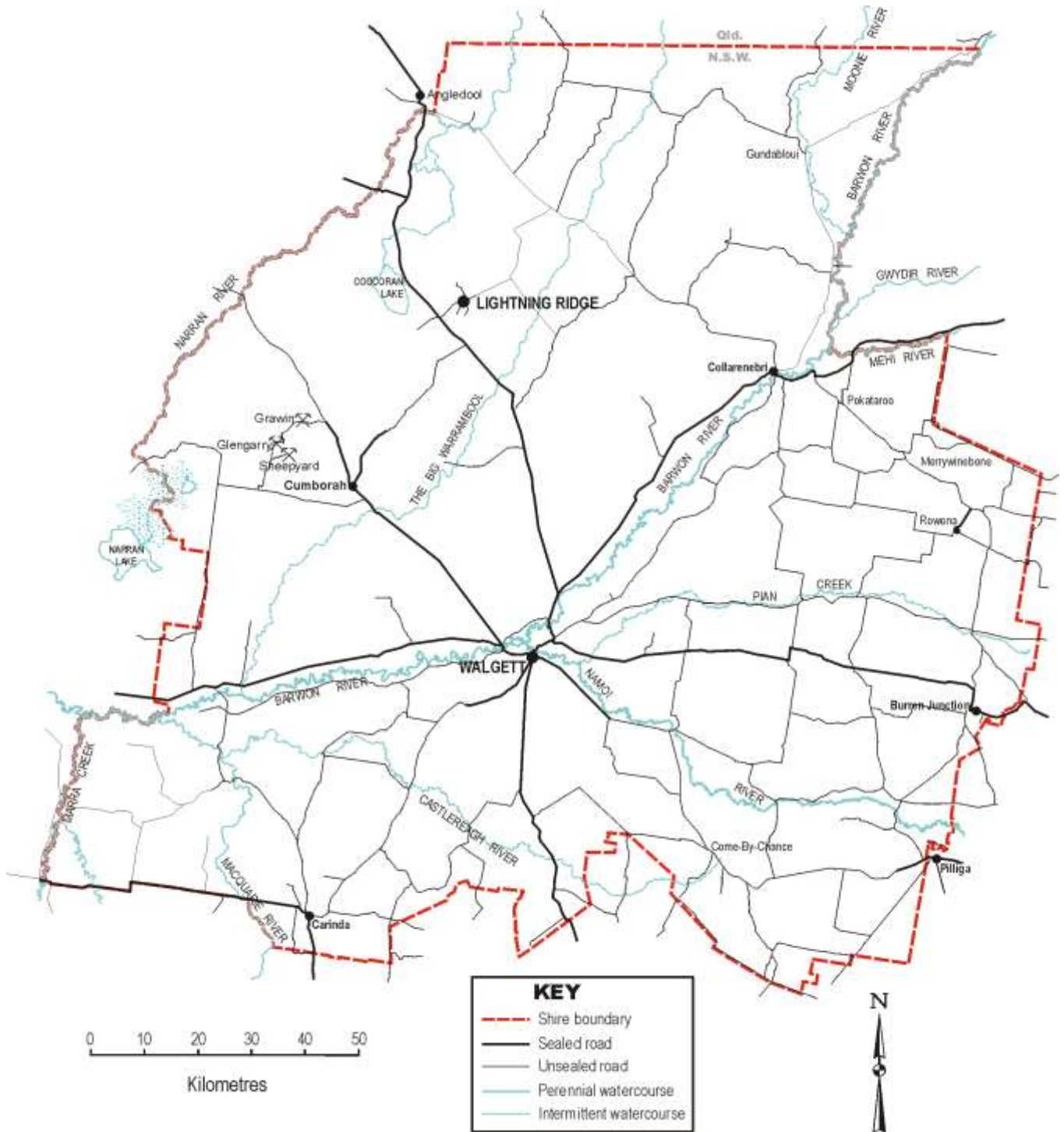


Figure 4 – Towns, villages & major roads in Walgett Shire.

### 3. LAND

#### 3.1 CLEARING

##### Pressure

A number of landholders within the shire would like to clear additional land for the cultivation of crops such as wheat and chickpeas. This desire has been stimulated by progressive improvements in cultivation techniques that preserve soil moisture and maximise crop yields, as well as by the ongoing low returns available from grazing sheep.

##### State

Authorisations to clear land in the Western and Central divisions are being issued at reduced rates compared to several years ago. Data on clearing licence applications is not readily available from Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources, the state government authority which issues the licences.

##### Response

From August 1998 to September 2001, the Walgett Regional Vegetation Management Committee (WRVMC) worked on developing a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for the Walgett Shire that would provide the basis for decisions about clearing applications for up to ten years. However the WRVMC resigned in September 2002.

The Department of Land and Water Conservation (recently renamed the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources) subsequently continued development of the VMP and this resulted in the “*Walgett Draft Regional Vegetation Management Plan*” being released for public comment on 24 June 2002.

At public meetings convened by the Department of Land and Water Conservation at Walgett and Lightning Ridge, which were

held on 7 August 2002, the Department sought feedback from the local community on the Walgett Draft Regional Vegetation Management Plan. Substantial concern was expressed by the community at these meetings about the potential impacts that adoption of the draft plan would have on agricultural activities, especially cropping. At the end of June 2003 there had been minimal publicity from the Department as to what was happening with the plan.

#### 3.2 OPAL MINING

##### Pressure

Active opal prospecting and mining occurs to varying degrees on the major opal mining areas listed in shown in Figure 5. Mining activity seems to be occurring at a relatively low level. One of the most active areas is the Mulga “rush” in the Grawin Glengarry area, which was discovered late in 2000.

Prospecting is generally undertaken by drilling holes in the ground that range from 0.1 to 1m in diameter and are up to 25m deep. Although Mulga rush is the most recent major opal field to be found, prospecting continues on the ridges near Angledool, Lightning Ridge and Cumborah.

##### State

Once a person decides to cease mining or prospecting activities in a particular area the Department of Mineral Resources requires that the area be rehabilitated. In most areas this involves:

- Backfilling all drill holes with soil and rock originally excavated from the hole.
- Removal of mullock (waste) dumps to a centralised mullock dump.
- Removal of all rubbish to a public waste depot and the destruction of any weeds.
- Open cut mines are required to be backfilled, have the topsoil returned

to the surface and be revegetated with local native species.

An exception to the points above applies on a number of defined “preserved” opal fields where shafts may be fenced or meshed and mullock dumps may be left on site. The other requirements outlined must still be met. These preserved fields have been determined to be of more value to the community as an example of mining practices instead of rehabilitating them to the higher standards applied elsewhere.

Mineral claim statistics for the 2002-2003 financial year were:

- 4070 existing claims were renewed.
- 1565 new claims were registered.
- 1198 claims were cancelled.
- 681 claims lapsed.

The Department of Mineral Resources could not indicate how many claims were satisfactorily rehabilitated, and how many were not.



Figure 5 – Location of major opal fields.

## Response

RW Corkery and Co Pty. Limited were engaged by the Department of Mineral Resources to undertake a review of the rehabilitation objectives for on “new” (non-preserved) opal fields in the Lightning Ridge area. Subsequently another environmental consulting company, Parsons Brinckerhoff, was engaged by the Department of Mineral Resources to prepare a Review of Environmental Factors for proposed opal prospecting area (OPA) number four. The Department is proposing to establish OPA4 over land located to the south and west of the existing Sheeptyard and Glengarry opal fields.

## 3.3 WEEDS

### Pressure

A wide range of agricultural and environmental weeds exist within Walgett Shire. *Opuntia tunicata* (also known as thistle cholla, Hudson pear) is one species that received ongoing community and media attention through the year.



Plate 1 – *Opuntia tunicata*, spines are about 5cm long.

### State

It is believed that there are three distinct occurrences of *Opuntia tunicata* in the Shire. It appears that the largest occurrence may be in the general area of the Grawin/Glengarry opal fields, the second largest in the Lightning Ridge area (including the eastern

edge of the Coocoran Lake) and the smallest surrounding Cumborah. Combined, these occurrences affect about 100 km<sup>2</sup> with low to medium density populations of the plant.

## **Response**

The Lightning Ridge Miners Association obtained a \$30,000 grant from the Natural Heritage Trust to undertake a program of *Opuntia tunicata* control work. As a condition of the grant, the association was required to match the grant on a dollar for dollar basis through its contribution, which could include labour.

At the end of June 2003, substantial areas of the weed had been sprayed within Permissive Occupancy 1985/19 held by Walgett Shire Council. The Permissive Occupancy includes many of the opal fields in the immediate vicinity of Lightning Ridge.

The Lightning Ridge Miners Association was working with a number of landholders to seek additional funds from the Natural Heritage Trust to facilitate further control work on properties adjoining the Permissive Occupancy.

## 4. AIR

### 4.1 PESTICIDE RESIDUE POND

#### Pressure

At the Walgett aerodrome there is a wash down bay that was historically used to clean crop dusting planes. The bay ceased being used in 1999 but a concrete slab and a small dam remain on site. As the dam was used to hold runoff water resulting from the washing down of crop dusters, the dam became contaminated with pesticides.

Historically there has been a number of complaints, especially during summer months, about chemical odours from people living near the Walgett aerodrome.

Soil samples taken by environmental consulting firm, URS, in 2001 showed that there were significant levels of a number of pesticides within 0.5m of the surface of the pond. Soil samples taken from greater depths were not contaminated.



Plate 2 – Pesticide residue pond, Nov. 2001.

#### State

Early in 2002 Walgett Shire Council arranged for a veneer of wood chips about 0.2m thick to be placed over the interior of the pesticide residue pond as shown in Plate 5. Advice from URS indicated that the wood chips should absorb chemicals

contained in the pond and reduce odours emanating from the site.

Walgett Shire Council received no odour complaints from people living in the area during the 2002-2003 year. On this basis it appears that the wood chips have been successful in suppressing the odour problem.

#### Response

In 2001 Walgett Shire Council engaged URS, an environmental consulting company, to provide a report on the nature of the contamination at the site and disposal options. Completion of this report was dependent on advice from the NSW Environment Protection Authority in relation to contaminant thresholds for particular disposal options. The final report was supplied in July 2003.



Plate 3 – Pesticide residue pond, Aug 2002, after the application of wood chips.



## 5. WATER

### 5.1 RIVERS – ALGAE

#### Pressure

In 1991 and 1992 water quality in the Barwon-Darling River system received substantial amounts of media and community attention when contamination by blue-green algal blooms made the water toxic and unsuitable for consumption by livestock and people. As a result, a State of Emergency was declared for numerous shires, including Moree, Walgett, Brewarrina, Bourke and Cobar.

Causes of blue-green algal blooms include:

- High water temperature (20-30°C).
- High pH (8-10) and low CO<sub>2</sub> concentration.
- Abundant zooplankton (microscopic animals).
- Low nitrogen to phosphorous ratios (less than 29:1).
- High phosphorous levels.
- Calm water conditions.
- Low light intensity.



Plate 4 – Namoi River near Walgett.

#### State

High and medium algal alerts are listed in Table 3 were issued by the Department of

Land and Water Conservation during 2002-2003. River water samples are collected by Walgett Shire Council staff and analysed by the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources in Sydney. Sampling is usually undertaken on fortnightly basis in winter and weekly in summer.

High alerts are issued when samples show more than 15,000 cells per millilitre, while medium alerts are issued when there are 2,000 to 15,000 cells per millilitre.

Table 3 – 2002-03 algal alerts.

SITE	DATE	ALERT
Barwon R., Walgett	08/10/2002	Medium
Barwon R., Walgett	26/11/2002	Medium
Barwon R., Walgett	06/01/2003	Medium
Barwon R., Walgett	07/01/2003	Medium
Barwon R., Walgett	13/01/2003	Medium
Barwon R., Walgett	20/01/2003	Medium
Barwon R., Walgett	03/02/2003	Medium
Barwon R., Walgett	10/02/2003	Medium
Barwon R., Collarenebri	11/11/2002	High
Barwon R., Collarenebri	11/11/2002	High
Barwon R., Collarenebri	18/11/2002	Medium
Barwon R., Collarenebri	02/12/2002	Very High
Barwon R., Collarenebri	03/12/2002	High
Barwon R., Collarenebri	09/12/2002	High
Barwon R., Collarenebri	16/12/2002	Very High
Barwon R., Collarenebri	05/01/2003	High
Barwon R., Collarenebri	07/01/2003	Medium
Barwon R., Collarenebri	19/01/2003	Medium
Barwon R., Collarenebri	28/01/2003	Medium
Barwon R., Collarenebri	03/02/2003	Medium
Namoi R., Walgett	08/07/2002	Medium
Namoi R., Walgett	15/07/2002	Medium
Namoi R., Walgett	15/07/2002	Medium
Namoi R., Walgett	12/11/2002	Very High
Namoi R., Walgett	18/11/2002	Medium
Namoi R., Walgett	26/11/2002	Medium
Namoi R., Walgett	02/12/2002	Very High
Namoi R., Walgett	10/12/2002	Medium

Namoi R., Walgett	16/12/2002	High
Namoi R., Walgett	06/01/2003	High
Namoi R., Walgett	13/01/2003	High
Namoi R., Walgett	20/01/2003	Medium
Namoi R., Walgett	28/01/2003	Medium
Namoi R., Walgett	03/02/2003	High
Namoi R., Walgett	10/02/2003	Medium
Namoi R., Walgett	31/03/2003	Medium

**Response**

The town water supply for Walgett is drawn from a weir on the Namoi River. As a result, during periods when there are medium or higher algal alerts current for the river, activated carbon is used in the water treatment plant to reduce the toxins in the town’s filtered water supply.

Collarenebri’s town water supply is drawn from a weir on the Barwon River. The water treatment plant uses a micro-filtration process and, like Walgett, activated carbon is used during periods of medium or higher algal alerts.

**5.2 GROUNDWATER**

**Pressure**

Both river and bore water is used for human and domestic livestock consumption in the shire. Historically artesian bore water has been distributed by bore drains, which consist of ditches excavated in the ground to allow water to flow away from the source bore. Most of the water flowing through these bore drains is lost as seepage and evaporation, so they are relatively inefficient as a method of distributing water.

Systems of pipelines, tanks and troughs are substantially more efficient at distributing water and minimising loss, but they are quite costly to establish. In most cases land holders find it difficult, both technically and financially, to establish piping systems with their own resources.



**Plate 5 – Free flowing water from an artesian bore.**

**State**

The Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources provides financial and technical assistance to landholders who want to cap bores and establish piping systems. This assistance program is ongoing.

**Response**

Data was sought from Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources on the number of bores capped and piped for the year, as well as those planned to be capped, but not data had been supplied by 12 November 2003.

## 6. BIODIVERSITY

### 6.1 AQUATIC ANIMALS

#### Pressure

Important fish habitats that occur in Walgett Shire Council include: floodplain areas, riparian vegetation, instream aquatic vegetation, snags, gravel bars, over-hanging banks. The natural variability of flows that occur in rivers is very significant as, in addition to providing ecological triggers for a number of species, different flows make different habitats (such as the floodplain during floods) available for fish.

Key Threatening Processes listed under Schedule 6 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* that have impacted or, continue to impact on waterways in Walgett Shire Council include:

- The introduction of fish to freshwaters within a river catchment outside their natural range.
- The removal of large wood debris
- The degradation of native riparian vegetation along NSW water courses.
- Installation and operation of upstream structures and other mechanisms that alter natural flow regimes of rivers and streams.

#### State

NSW Fisheries advise that they are uncertain of the number of potential road crossings within rivers that may form barriers to fish. There are also a number of weirs that they regard as barriers.

Known endangered species include the river snail (*Notopala sublineata*) and endangered fish populations include the western populations of the purple spotted gudgeon (*Mogurnda adspersa*) and the olive perchlet (*Ambassis agassizii*). Known vulnerable

species include the silver perch (*Bidyanus bidyanus*).

Alien or introduced species known to occur in the Shire include Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), Gambusia (*Gambusia holbrooki*) and Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*).



Plate 6 – Fish ladder on the Collarenebri weir.

#### Response

On July 4<sup>th</sup> 2003 the Endangered Aquatic Ecological Community of the Lowland Darling River was gazetted under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*. This endangered ecological community includes the main channels and tributaries of the Barwon-Darling river and the Namoi River at Walgett.

NSW Fisheries have indicated their intent to work with Walgett Shire Council in the near future to ameliorate fish passage at the Walgett Weir on the Namoi River, Walgett as well as undertaking a project to identify and prioritise road crossing barriers for remediation.



## **7. WASTE**

### **7.1 URBAN WASTE DISPOSAL**

#### **Pressure**

The main waste depots within the Shire are located near the two largest towns, Walgett and Lightning Ridge. Both these facilities will come to the end of their useful life in the short to medium term. Smaller facilities are operated at Burren Junction, Carinda, Collarenebri, Rowena and Come-by-Chance.

Substantial expenses are incurred in establishing, operating and maintaining the waste depots.

#### **State**

The drum muster program, which recycles used agricultural chemical containers, continued operating at the Walgett waste depot. Opportunistic recycling is also undertaken at Walgett and Lightning Ridge waste depots. An example is that the United Hospital Auxiliary at Lightning Ridge actively seeks aluminium cans for fund raising.

Vegetation removed as a result of Walgett Shire Council maintenance operations is chipped and reused as mulch where possible.

No kerbside recycling is undertaken in any of the communities within the Shire.

#### **Response**

Relatively high transportation costs and the low value of recycled materials have obstructed previous attempts to establish systematic recycling operations. Nevertheless Walgett Shire Council will continue to look for opportunities to recycle waste.

## **8. NOISE**

### **8.1 DOMESTIC NOISE**

#### **Pressure**

Noise is rarely regarded as a significant issue within the Shire as there are few substantial noise generating developments. Most problems arise in a domestic context with issues such as a barking dog or noisy neighbor. Such issues tend to occur more frequently in association with camp mineral claims on the opal mining fields.

#### **State**

Council receives sporadic complaints about the noise created by generators operating at what are perceived as “late” hours by the complainant.

Although the issue is relatively simple in itself, complications arise from community attitudes that vary from acceptance that “it is part of living on the opal fields” through to an expectation that legislative requirements should be rigorously enforced. In some cases it appears that personality conflicts may be a key factor in the complaint.

#### **Response**

In the majority of situations Walgett Shire Council advocates that any party concerned by generator noise should discuss the matter directly with the person involved. The suggested objective of the discussion is to develop a mutually acceptable outcome. Other situations are dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

## 9. ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

### Pressure

Although some heritage assessment work has occurred within the shire, no community based, systematic study has been undertaken. As a result, items of significance may be at risk from decay or inappropriate development.

### State

There are no items listed in the State Heritage Register as of November 2002 for Walgett Shire. Items recorded by the Australian Heritage Commission in the Register of the national estate database, as of November 2002, are listed in Table 4.

Ultimately the present state of heritage items in the Shire is relatively poorly understood when considered on an overall basis.

**Table 4 – National Estate Heritage Sites**

ITEM	TOWN	STATUS
2 Indigenous Places	Walgett	Indicative Place
Bore Baths	Lightning Ridge	Indicative Place
Cuddie Springs	Carinda	Indicative Place
Indigenous Place	Brewarrina	Registered
Indigenous Place	Collarenebri	Registered
Indigenous Place	New Angledool	Registered
Indigenous Place	Walgett	Registered
Narran Lakes Area	Brewarrina	Registered
Nettleton's Shaft	Lightning Ridge	Registered
Old Shire Chambers, 78 Fox St	Walgett	Indicative Place
Two Mile Creek (Warrambool) Rail Bridge	Walgett	Registered
Walgett Courthouse, 55 Wee Waa St	Walgett	Registered

### Response

Walgett Shire Council's heritage adviser, Graham Hall, has been undertaking regular

meetings with stakeholders to discuss heritage concepts and has begun the development of a community based heritage study for the shire.

In order to provide some background for the community based heritage study, a consultant historian has been engaged by Walgett Shire Council to prepare a thematic history of the Shire.

As the community based heritage study progresses, it is expected that a draft schedule of local heritage sites will be developed. This schedule will then be considered by Council for inclusion within a Local Environmental Plan that is to be developed to supersede the current local planning instrument, the Interim Development Order No. 1 – Shire Of Walgett.



**Plate 6 – Two Mile Warrambool railway bridge.**

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the environmental matters covered in this report then the following government agencies, and their web sites, will be of interest.

- **Community Access to Natural Resource Information (CANRI)**, a web page with links to numerous NSW government web pages, <http://www.canri.nsw.gov.au/>
- **Ecologically Sustainable Development**, federal government web page on the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development, <http://www.ea.gov.au/esd/national/strategy/index.html>
- **NSW government State of the Environment indicators**, <http://soedirect.nsw.gov.au/app/index.jsp>
- **Murray–Darling Basin Commission**, <http://www.mdbc.gov.au/>
- **NSW State Heritage Inventory and State Heritage Register**, [http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07\\_subnav\\_02.cfm](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07_subnav_02.cfm)
- **Register of the National Estate**, <http://www.ahc.gov.au/register/easydatabase/database.html>
- **Local Government and Shires Association**, information and links dealing with refundable deposits on beverage containers, <http://www.lgsa.org.au/policy/environment/waste/cdl/>

For information on specific issues covered in this report please contact the Manager of Developmental Services, Walgett Shire Council.

Appendix “C”



# WALGETT SHIRE COMMUNITY PLAN / PROFILE



**Appendix "C".**

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Walgett Shire  
Community Plan/Profile  
2003

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## Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile

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### Walgett Shire Council Information

<b>ADDRESS:</b>	77 Fox Street NSW 2834	Walgett
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS</b>	P.O. Box 31 NSW 2832	Walgett
<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	(02) 6828 1399	
<b>FACSIMILE:</b>	(02) 6828 1608	
<b>EMAIL:</b>	<a href="mailto:admin@walgettshire.com">admin@walgettshire.com</a>	
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Mon–Fri 9.00 – 16.30	
<b>COUNCIL MEETINGS:</b>	Last Monday of each Month	
<b>AUDITORS:</b>	Spencer Steer	
<b>PRINCIPAL TOWNS:</b>	Walgett Lightning Ridge Collarenebri	
<b>VILLAGES:</b>	Burren Junction Carinda Come by Chance Cryon Cumborah Grawin Glengarry Pokataroo Rowena Sheep Yard	

### Shire Statistics

<b>AREA:</b>	22,007 Square Kilometres
<b>POPULATION:</b>	8310 (ABS Census 2001)
<b>ROAD LENGTH:</b>	2908 Kilometres
<b>DISTANCE FROM SYDNEY</b>	691 Kilometres
<b>DISTANCE FROM CANBERRA</b>	677 Kilometres

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## Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile

### Councils Vision Statement

**Walgett is a thriving community where residents and visitors live and work in harmony in sustainable and prosperous environment where businesses flourish and Council delivers highest quality services and infrastructure**

**WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL**

**Community Services**

**Outback country with a vibrant diversity**

### Legislative Requirements

The Government (General) amendment (Community and Social Plans) Regulation 1998 requires that Councils develop a social plan or community plan in accordance with departmental guidelines by June 1999.\*

### Definition of a Community Plan

A social/community plan examines the needs of the local community, including groups, which may be disadvantaged in some way, and formulates strategies which Council and/or other agencies could implement to address identified needs. The plan informs council's strategic planning process across a range of functions and helps to make sure that Council services are responsive and accessible to all residents, as far as possible.



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## *Walgett Shire Community Profile*

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCIL**

Section 8 of the Local Government Act, 1993 has a charter that guides Council in carrying out its legislative obligations and functions.

**Walgett Shire Council has the following charter:**

- to provide directly or on behalf of other levels of government, after due consideration, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively
- to exercise community leadership
- to exercise its functions with due regard for the cultural and linguistic diversity of its community
- to promote and to provide and plan for the needs of children
- to properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible
- to have regard to the long term and cumulative effects of its decisions
- to bear in mind that it is the custodian and trustee of public assets and to effectively account for and manage the assets for which it is responsible
- to facilitate the involvement of councillors, members of the public, users of facilities and services council staff in the development, improvement and co-ordination of local government
- to raise funds for local purposes by the fair imposition of rates, charges and fees, by income earned from investments and, when appropriate, by borrowings and grants
- to keep the local community and the State government (and through it, the wider community) informed about its activities
- to ensure that, in the exercise of its regulatory functions, it acts consistently and without favour particularly where an activity of the council is affected
- to be a responsible employer

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### Introduction

The Walgett Shire Council Community Profile\* presents a compilation of information about the communities, the people, Services, facilities that describe our communities. The Community profile also depicts the breadth of our large and very diverse shire.

The Community Plan/Profile will assist to provide and develop a better understanding of the issues and needs that exist in the communities that lie within the Walgett Shire Local Government Area.

The Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile 2003 is an update of the 1999 Walgett Shire Social Plan. This update of the Social Plan will for now be more appropriately named a Community Profile, as community consultations for comment and input have not at this stage been actioned.

With the Community Profile now in place it will be forwarded to community for discussion and comment. A process of community consultations will assist with appropriate strategies to be put in place in response to identified needs. Target date for consultation process to be completed is January 2004.

A Social or Community Planning process is an ongoing and living document, it is a process that involves continual updating, assessment, planning, implementation monitoring and review. It is a process that will regularly be updated as social objectives are achieved, new strategies emerge, and as the community evolves and changes.

## Key Issues

The Community Profile will further develop and plan a coordinated community approach to a consultative process, seeking to methodologically address the priority needs for the main target groups in the community.

Locally coordinated initiative for a whole of community approach to addressing identified needs

Identify appropriate strategies to address these needs

## Target Group

The main target groups for the community services sector of the Shire are the following groups;

- **Young People**
- **Families and Children in Walgett Shire**
- **Women**
- **Aboriginal People**
- **People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds (CALD)**
- **Older People**
- **People with Disabilities**

The above target groups are a large part of community life, the overall well being of community depends on appropriate access to services, or referral to appropriate services. Ensuring that those needing assistance know where to turn.

The Shire has an ongoing issue relating particularly with youth services and families and children. These services need to go through a strategic planning approach early 2003. Youth issues in the Shire will need to be addressed methodologically, through a workshop with key community and service provider stakeholders. A whole of Shire audit of youth services will be conducted, and from there a strategic planning process can begin.

Similarly, access to childcare is a problem for our communities, and particularly in Walgett, where mothers out in the workforce, are finding this a very stressful situation. Family Day Care is in place, but a huge problem attracting carers in all communities throughout the Shire.

These planning sessions will need an outcome for new directions by March 2005.

Shire auspiced service providers in the community have an important role in being in a shopfront position to assist. But if cannot assist need to ensure that person seeking assistance is referred to another service.

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*Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile*

**ACCESS AND EQUITY STATEMENT**

Walgett Shire Council adopted an Equal Employment Plan (EEO) following consultation with and comments from employees and the community.

Council is committed to ensuring that there is equity and fairness in all its dealings with current, as well as future employees.

The implementation and results of EEO principals shall be reviewed annually.

Walgett Shire Council has an obligation to all residents to ensure that in all its dealings with people, the following principles are adhered to.

- promote fairness in the distribution of resources, particularly for those in need
- recognise and promote people's rights and improve the accountability of decision makers
- ensure that people have fairer access to the economic resources and services essential to meeting their basic needs to improve their quality of life
- provide people with people better opportunities for genuine participation and consultation about decisions affecting their lives

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## *Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile*

### **Character and Geography of Area**

Walgett Shire Local Government Area is located in the far west of NSW and covers an area of 22,007 square kilometres. The Walgett LGA closely borders with Queensland to the North and borders Moree Plains LGA and Narrabri LGA to the east, Coonamble LGA to the south and Brewarrina LGA to the west.

The Shire is located on Kamilaroi country, and to the north on Uralarai country. Acknowledgement of the traditional land and the Aboriginal heritage attached to the land is displayed on signs along main roads entering into the Walgett Shire.

There are seven rivers that meander through the Shire, they are the Barwon, Castlereagh, Macquarie, Marthaguy, Mehi, Namoi, and Narran, and there is the Narran lake, well known for its bird life, there is also the Coocoran Lake which fills up during extensive flood conditions, and then remains filled for a couple of years.

The Shire is geographically on the productive black soil plains of New South Wales, part of which is in the Central Division and part in the Western Division. To the north and north west of the Shire is opal country, contrasting the black soil plains are the opal bearing ridges.

A large part of income is derived from traditional farming and grazing, and pursuits with cotton production are ongoing. Opal mining, tourism and the service industries are other major sources of income for residents of the Shire. The 2001, 2002 and 2003 drought has had a great impact, not only on the primary producers but also putting pressure on small business enterprise within the Shire.

The administrative centre of the Shire is based in Walgett, located on the Castlereagh Highway some 275 kilometres north of Dubbo. Walgett is situated near the junction of the Namoi and Barwon Rivers. The Shire also has Council agencies and depots based in Lightning Ridge, 78km north of Walgett and Collarenebri 78 km north-east from Walgett.

Walgett Shire comprises of thirteen communities spread all throughout the Shire. There are three principal towns, ten villages and two rural divisions. Each community has its own identity, through cultural expression, cultural diversity and economic structures and development.

## **Population Profile**

Official population statistics for the Walgett Shire as per ABS data 2001 Census is 8310.  
The ABS data provides us with an approximate indicator of population activity.

### **DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY**

	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91-01
<b>Male</b>	4189	4596	4843	4678	1.8
<b>Female</b>	3432	3612	3707	3632	0.6
<b>Persons</b>	7621	8208	8550	<b>8310</b>	<b>1.2</b>

### **WALGETT SHIRE POPULATIONS OF TOWNS & VILLAGES**

<b>PRINCIPAL TOWNS</b>	<b>POPULATION SUMMARY</b>
Walgett	1960
Lightning Ridge	3432
Collarenebri	505
<b>VILLAGES</b>	
Burren Junction	147
Carinda	-
Come by Chance	-
Cryon	-
Cumborah*	394
Glengarry*	*
Grawin*	*
Pokataroo	-
Rowena	-
Sheepyard	-
<b>OTHER RURAL</b>	
Western Division	1263
Central Division	640

Data: ABS 2001 Censuses

CASAS 2001

The demographic summary shows that though there was a decrease in Shire population between 1996 and 2001, there has been a gradual population increase since 1986.

—  
WALGETT SHIRE  
COMMUNITY PLAN/PROFILE

DIVERSITY PROFILE

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*Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile*

## **Reconciliation Statement**

Walgett Shire Council respectfully acknowledges the Aboriginal people of the Shire. We live in a diverse society, and all citizens need to continually strive to create a cohesive community for the benefit of all. By sharing our experiences, with understanding and mutual respect, this journey of reconciliation and healing will progress

By striving towards a common sense of purpose, towards Reconciliation and by making a commitment to the Reconciliation process by working together with the National Council for Reconciliation's vision of "A united Australia which respects this land of ours; values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage; and provides justice and equity for all.

Reconciliation activity at the local level is essential to the future of a better society. Change for the better comes about when local communities have an opportunity to participate in change. We need to identify the common ground and develop with quality the nature of our relationship.

By working together through issues, we believe that reconciliation will be advanced at the local level, and the community as a whole will be better informed about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aspirations and concerns.

## **Aboriginal Strategy**

To be addressed in consultation with the Walgett Shire Reconciliation Group and the Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri Working Parties.



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## *Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile*

### **ABORIGINES & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

##### **Aboriginal Population Profile**

Walgett Shire has a large Aboriginal population. ABS 2001 data indicates there is a continuing increase in the number of indigenous people who live in the Walgett Shire.

2001 ABS data showed that 1781 Aboriginal people now live in the Shire an increase of 17, or 21.43% of total population.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics suggests that the increase in population counts is partly due to an increasing willingness to self-identify and to report all members of the household as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI).

#### **WALGETT LGA ATSI DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY**

<b>ATSI</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>%change 91-01</b>
Males	726	774	879	897	15.9
Females	728	739	885	884	19.6
Persons	1454	1513	1764	1781	17.7
ATSI as % of pop.	19.1	18.4	20.6	<b>21.4</b>	16.3

As shown above the Aboriginal population in the Shire has steadily increased over the last ten years, though a change can be seen, where Aboriginal population growth is happening. When looking at the three larger communities separately on the ATSI tables shown below it can be seen that there has been no growth in Collarenebri and Walgett since the last Census.

Conversely the Aboriginal population in Lightning Ridge significantly increased in the ten year period between 99 – 01 by 61.5%.

Note: The three larger communities are shown as indicators of trends and changes within the Shire.

**ATSI population in Shire and breakdown of Shire’s principal towns as per ABS Census data 2001**

**ABORIGINALITY (Walgett Shire)**

	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91-01
Aboriginal	1446	1496	1729	1742	16.4
T'Strait Islander	8	17	23	18	5.9
BothA&TSI	n/av	n/av	12	21	n/av
Total ATSI	1454	1513	1764	1781	<b>17.7</b>
ATSI as % Of pop	19.1	18.4	20.6	<b>21.4</b>	<b>16.3</b>

**ABORIGINALITY (Walgett)**

	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91-01
Aboriginals	693	729	828	749	2.7
T'Strait Islander	5	6	6	3	-50
BothA&TSI	n/av	n/av	0	10	n/av
Total ATSI	698	735	834	762	<b>3.7</b>
ATSI as % of pop	32.5	35.1	42.3	<b>41.7</b>	<b>18.9</b>

**ABORIGINALITY (Lightning Ridge)**

	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91-01
Aboriginal	172	210	296	341	62.45
T'Strait Islander	0	3	0	0	-100
BothA&TSI	n/av	n/av	3	3	n/av
Total ATSI	172	213	299	344	<b>61.5</b>
ATSI as % of pop	13.3	14.0	16.5	<b>18.8</b>	<b>34.3</b>

**ABORIGINALITY (Collarenebri)**

	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91-01
Aboriginal	150	134	195	179	33.6
T'Strait Islander	0	0	0	0	0
BothA&TSI	n/av	n/av	0	3	n/av
Total ATSI	150	134	195	182	<b>35.8</b>
ATSI as % of pop	24.1	21.8	35.8	<b>36.0</b>	<b>15.7</b>

## **Walgett Shire Council – 2002-2003 Annual Report**

### **Facilitator, Walgett River Towns Project**

The Facilitator of project is primarily responsible for facilitating the implementation of initiatives and strategies to assist in the resolution of social and economic issues in the Walgett Local Government Area of NSW as part of the Walgett River towns Project. One of the objectives is to build on the strong working relationship between, Walgett Shire Council, the Gamilaroi Goondi Community Working Party, the business community State and Commonwealth Government and the Walgett Community.

### **Networking and Community Consultation with Aboriginal Communities**

There are in the main, three groups of Aboriginal people in Walgett with many sub-groupings that are variable. Variations can occur according to the issue under discussion, the state of inter-family relationships and the fluidity of internal community politics. Similar situations exist in Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri. Extensive community consultations are important with each issue raised.

### **Working Parties**

Since 2001 Council is pleased to be closely and actively networking with the Walgett Gamilaroi, Yuwaalaraay Working Parties.

Currently the networking is focused on Walgett Working Party, it is planned that council will also develop ongoing networking relationship with Collarenebri and Lightning Ridge Working Parties.

### **Walgett Shire Reconciliation Group**

The Reconciliation Group has continued to meet on a regular basis. The Group has achieved a number of positive outcomes and are in the process of working on a number of positive objectives for better awareness and understanding of the of Aboriginal achievements.

The National Reconciliation week 2002 was celebrated with the inaugural Reconciliation Dinner Dance event in Walgett on the 2 June, this event was well received by a good cross section of the community. The Inaugural Walgett Shire Reconciliation Awards were presented to Rose Fernando and Don Lillyman at the Dinner Dance event. It is planned Reconciliation week event will be an annual event, rotating between the communities, and as requested by each community, communities will decide how they wish to celebrate and express a reconciliation week event.

There needs to be long term planning for this event with both the Walgett Shire and the Working Parties in our communities within the Shire.

Next Reconciliation Week event will be celebrated in Lightning Ridge on the 31 May 2003

### **Reconciliation Display**

The Reconciliation Week 2002 presented a Reconciliation display of panels depicting Aboriginal achievements as part of the Walgett Shire community. The Reconciliation Week display will continue to be worked on, it is a living and continuing collection of information that can be displayed for special occasions, both within the Shire and outside the Shire.

### **Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Co-operative Limited**

Walgett Aboriginal Medical service (WAMS) provides a comprehensive Health Service for Aboriginal people eg. general practitioner, dental, community nursing, health screening, health education, referral and advocacy and crisis intervention, transport, to name a few services provided by WAMS.

The communities at large throughout the Shire also access WAMS

### **AGE PROFILE**

The age distribution of the indigenous population and total population differ in that the indigenous population is much younger. This reflects the high birth rate and mortality rates of the indigenous population who for service provision purposes are considered to be 'old' at the age of 45 years.

Walgett by far has the largest Aboriginal community in the Shire. There appears to be a consensus that the Aboriginal people are represented by approx. 60% in the Walgett community.

The Aboriginal population in Collarenebri are represented by approx. 40% of total population

The Aboriginal population in Lightning Ridge is growing at the fastest rate, and in the last 10 has experienced a relatively large increase. The Aboriginal people in Lightning Ridge represent approx 15% of total population.

### **ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION BREAKDOWN 1996, (2001 ABS Census data not available)**

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Persons</b>	<b>% of total of popul.</b>	<b>NSW % persons</b>
<b>0-4</b>	130	120	250	<b>14.2</b>	15.0
<b>5-9</b>	123	119	242	<b>13.7</b>	13.8
<b>10-14</b>	101	88	189	<b>10.7</b>	12.1
<b>15-19</b>	74	74	148	<b>8.4</b>	9.5
<b>20-24</b>	57	69	126	<b>7.1</b>	8.9
<b>25-34</b>	151	147	298	<b>16.9</b>	15.7
<b>35-44</b>	107	109	216	<b>12.2</b>	11.6
<b>45-54</b>	68	67	135	<b>7.7</b>	7.2
<b>55-64</b>	47	59	106	<b>6.0</b>	3.8
<b>65+</b>	21	33	54	<b>3.1</b>	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>1764</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**CURRENT SERVICES**

There are a range of Aboriginal services throughout the Shire. While the main aim of the services is to help the Aboriginal communities, non-Aboriginal people are also welcome to access the services. In many cases, both formal and informal partnerships are evident for events and services. All government departments have at least one Aboriginal person employed.

<b>Walgett:</b>	<b>Lightning Ridge :</b>	<b>Collarenebri:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barriekneal Housing Limited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collarenebri Land Council</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walgett Land Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lightning Ridge Land Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal Community Enterprise Service</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gamilaroi Working Party</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lightning Ridge CDEP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mangankali</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Western Aboriginal Legal Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ngangana Home Care Service of NSW</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ngangana Home Care Service of NSW</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gamilaroi CDEP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ngangana North West Area Community Options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ngangana North West Area Community Options</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walgett Shire Reconciliation Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lightning Ridge Working Party</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collarenebri Working party</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ngangana Home Care Service of NSW</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yawarra Meamei</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ngangana North West Area Community Options</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YAAMA FM</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walanbaa Yinnar Wharoo</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River Towns Project, based Walgett</li> </ul>		

**MAJOR ISSUES**

- Lack of employment opportunities
- To continue better understanding through cultural awareness sharing our differences
- Youth, education, employment
- Drug and Alcohol
- Housing
- Domestic Violence

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*Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile*

**The NSW**

**CHARTER OF PRINCIPLES FOR A CULTURALLY DIVERSE SOCIETY**

The Charter of Principles For A Culturally Diverse Society was adopted by the NSW government in 1993 to guide all activity and aims to inform and influence all public decisions. Councils, along with all other NSW Government departments have to consider all its activities in relation to the following Charter.

The Government of NSW regards the cultural and linguistic diversity of the state's population as a valuable national resource which enhances all aspects of life.

In order to maximise this resource, the government adopts the Charter of basic principles to guide all Government activity. These principles will apply to all aspects of the social, cultural, political, legal and economic life of NSW on which public institutions impact.

Pursuant to the Government's commitment, all NSW institutions will be required to diversify their policies and activities in order to realise the full potential of the population.

1. All individuals in NSW should have the greatest possible opportunity to contribute to, and participate in, all levels of public life
2. All individuals and public institutions should respect and accommodate the culture, language and religion of others within an Australian legal and institutional framework where English is the primary language.
3. All individuals should have the greatest possible opportunity to make use of and participate in relevant activities and programs provided and/or administered by NSW Government Institutions.
4. All NSW public institutions should recognise the linguistic and cultural assets in the NSW population as a valuable resource and utilise and promote this resource to maximise the development of this state.

## **PEOPLE OF CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In Walgett Shire today residents represent some 65 different countries. The Shire's largest NESB community is in Lightning Ridge where over 55 different nationalities have been counted. Prior to the 1996 census, residents of the Lightning Ridge NESB community organised a publicity campaign so that the ethnic community would be accurately represented in the data gathered. Unfortunately, many people chose not to participate and consequently census figures do not accurately represent the ethnic diversity or accurate population of Lightning Ridge.

### **1. BIRTHPLACE GROUP AS A PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION**

	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91-01
Australian Born	87.6	84.5	81.6	78.4	-7.2
O'seas born ESC	4.2	4.6	4.4	4.1	-9.7
O'seas born NESB	5.9	6.1	6.6	7.0	15.4
Total o'seas born	10.1	10.7	11.0	11.2	4.6

ESC –Eng. speak country, NESB – non-English speaking country  
Data: ABS Census 2001

<b>Persons</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>%change 91-01</b>
Australia	6674	6932	6981	<b>6515</b>	<b>-6.0</b>
Total Overseas born	765	875	940	<b>927</b>	<b>5.9</b>
Oceania and Antarctica		108	126	133	23.1
Europe & former USSR		637	698	658	3.3
Middle East/Nth Africa		12	7	6	-50
Sth & Cent Amer, Carrib.		0	3	3	n/a
Sub-Saharan Africa		17	13	17	0.0
Other		0	0	10	n/a
Not stated		390	45	837	114.6

Source: Census of Population and housing, ABS2001

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## *Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile*

### **CURRENT SERVICES**

The NESB residents of Walgett Shire have chosen to live in the area, as there has never been a formal government relocation scheme in the Shire. Most of the different ethnic groups reside in Lightning Ridge having been enticed there by the lure of the opal or because the different lifestyle suited them.

The very first funding towards a migrant service in Lightning Ridge came from the Ethnic Affairs Commission in 1993, now known as the Community Relations Commission (CRC) and was auspiced and managed by the Walgett Shire Council.

The Lightning Ridge and Region Transcultural Community Council Inc. (TCC) started operating in Lightning Ridge in January 1996. The TCC management committee manages the organisation and employee of the TCC, the Walgett Shire Council continues to administer the wages for the TCC MIRS worker. The TCC is currently receiving both State and Federal Government funding also non-government funding. Currently the organisation employs one Migrant Information and Referral Service (MIRS) Worker. The service operates from the Neighbourhood Centre and is available to migrants, service providers, and general community for information and referral service assistance also providing information for the access of Translator Interpreter Services (TIS).

The MIRS worker is available on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

The TCC continues to play a very proactive role in the community, working towards cultural harmony and better understanding of cultural differences.

There are also migrant communities in other areas of the Shire, particularly in Walgett and Collarenebri. Walgett migrant community is in the main settled migrants. TCC Migrant Information and Referral services are available to this community on a needs basis.

Collarenebri has quite a significant itinerant migrant population, with workers coming to the area to work on the nearby large cotton farm the Colly Farm. TCC Migrant Information and Referral service has networked with the administration of Colly Farm.

### **MAJOR ISSUES**

- The ageing of the NESB population and the possibility of increasing dementia means that many people will revert to their primary language. There will be a need for services to cope with the language needs of the community.
- The ageing of the NESB miners will mean that additional nursing home beds will eventually be required.
- Because many of the residents of Lightning Ridge are individuals or couples, their lack of family support mechanisms means that greater demands will be placed on Service Providers.
- **Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement (EAPS) –Walgett Shire continue training sessions for better understanding and compliance with EAPS guidelines, ensuring people from diverse cultural backgrounds have equitable access to services.**



*Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile*

**FAMILIES AND CHILDREN**

**INTRODUCTION**

In many minds the word ‘family’ still conjures up the traditional nuclear family of two parents and 2.5 children all living under the one roof. The Australian Bureau of Statistics defines ‘family’ as being “a group of related individuals where at least one person is aged fifteen years of age who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering and who are usually resident in the same household. There is a diversity of family types shown by the structure of families in Walgett Shire.

**INTRODUCTION**

*Profile - Families*

**21. FAMILY TYPE**

Household types	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91-01
One family household	1804	1796	1881	n/av	
Two family household	78	15	41	n/av	
Three family household	0	0	6	n/av	
Group household	123	104	90	n/av	
Lone household	636	726	1020	n/av	
Total household	2641	2641	3038	n/av	

Source: Census of Population and Housing, ABS Census 2001

(When comparing the above data with the following table, a significant percentage emerges as having no dependent children.)

**20. FAMILY TYPE - per cent of total families**

Household types	1986	1991	1996	2001	% change 91-01
Parent & depend. child(ren) only	6.7	7.3	8.7	9.2	26.5
Parent,child(ren) other	2.9	3.1	8.4	8.3	172.9
Couple & depend children only	35.0	35.1	27.2	25.8	-26.4
Couple,child(ren) other	9.3	8.2	17.3	15.8	92.0
Couple only	31.0	32.3	35.8	37.7	17.0
Other family	15.1	14.1	2.4	3.0	-78.4

Source: Census of Population a Housing, ABS2001

The above table points to the high number of ‘couples only

**23. SUMMARY OF DWELLINGS**

Persons	1986	1991	1996	2001	% change 91-01
Occup. Private dwell	7380	7909	8241	8074	2.1
Non-private dwellings	241	286	309	206	-28.0
Occupancy ratio*	2.92	2.58	2.41	2.34	- 9.5

\* persons per occupied private dwelling

**31. PERCENT PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD**

Persons in household	1986	1991	1986	2001	%change 91-01
1 or 2	55.0	57.0	63.4	65.4	14.6
3 or 4	30.5	28.5	24.1	22.8	-20.0
5 or more	14.5	14.5	12.5	11.8	-18.1

**32. MEDIAN INCOMES**

Median Individual income	1986	1991	1996	2001	% change 91-01
Males	\$8,300	\$11,800	\$11,100	\$14,800	25.4
Females	\$5,200	\$8,100	\$9,900	\$14,000	72.8
Persons	\$6,100	\$9,900	\$10,300	\$14,400	45.5
Median Family Annual Income	\$15,100	\$22,300	\$23,800	n/av	n/av
Median Household annual income	\$13,400	\$18,200	\$20,500	n/av	n/av
Median monthly mortgage	\$286	\$401	\$559	\$616	53.6
Median weekly rent	\$50	\$60	\$100	\$92	53.3

ABS Census 2001

Walgett Shire Council – 2002-2003 Annual Report

11. AGE LEFT SCHOOL Data: ABS Census 2001 \*(DNG) –Did not Go)

PERSONS	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91-01
14yrs & under	1200	1020	997	n/av	
15 years	1405	1471	1537	n/av	
16 years	1212	1252	1355	n/av	
17 years	707	835	975	n/av	
18 years	434	556	667	n/av	
19yrs & over	103	185	164	n/av	
Still at school	170	154	171	n/av	
Never attended school (DNG)*	64	91	58	n/av	
Not stated	475	748	750	n/av	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5770</b>	<b>6312</b>	<b>6674</b>	<b>n/av</b>	

12. HIGHEST QUALIFICATION OBTAINED Data: ABS Census 2001

PERSONS	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91-01
Degree or higher	129	194	309	n/av	
Diploma	167	213	242	n/av	
Skilled Vocational	429	561	696	n/av	
Other	516	164	162	n/av	
Not qualified	3840	4175	4247	n/av	
Inad. described / not stated	689	997	1058	n/av	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2532</b>	<b>2744</b>	<b>2827</b>	<b>n/av</b>	

**Walgett Shire Council – 2002-2003 Annual Report**

**13. LABOUR FORCE STATUS** Data: ABS Census 2001

<b>PERSONS</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>% change 91-01</b>
Employed	2793	3113	3047	3037	-2.4
Unemployed	668	683	678	448	-34.4
Total labour force	3461	3796	3725	3485	-8.2
not in the labour force	2121	2066	2463	2477	19.99
Not stated LFS	190	411	486	556	35.3
Total aged 15+	5772	6273	6674	6518	3.9
Unemployment rate	19.3	18.0	18.2	12.9	-28.6
Participation rate	60.0	60.5	55.8	53.5	-11.6

Labour force: employed plus unemployed

**14. PER CENT OF LABOUR FORCE**

<b>PERSONS</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>% change 91-01</b>
15-19	8.1	6.1	5.1	4.9	-26.7
20-34	36.7	37.6	34.8	31.0	-24.4
35-54	40.6	42.0	45.3	47.4	3.5
55+	14.6	14.3	14.8	16.8	7.4

However the reliance of many families on some form of Social Security payment is evidenced by the Weekly Individual Income (a) 1996.

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**CENTRELINK - POPULATION 2000 Qtr 2 - Table 1,** Payment Type then ATSI by Moree Region

PENSION TYPE	WALGETT	L'NING RIDGE	W'GETT/L'RIDGE
Age Pension	177	316	493
Austudy	1	2	3
Carer P'ment	18	22	40
Child Care Assist.	7	59	66
Disability Support	166	345	511
Farm Fam. Restart	2	-	2
Fam.P'ment	388	344	732
Fam.Tax Payment	246	245	491
Mature Age Allow.	2	7	9
Newstart MAA	12	28	40
Newstart Allowan.	302	459	761

PENSION TYPE	WALGETT	L'NING RIDGE	W'GETT/L'RIDGE
Parenting P'ment Single	116	91	207
Parenting P'ment partnered	117	153	270
Partner Allowance	15	29	44
Rent Assistance	118	253	371
Sole Parent Pension	3	3	6
Wife Pension	13	37	50
Widow Class B	1	2	3
Youth Allowance	67	91	158
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,811</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>4,329</b>
Aboriginal	(923)	(344)	(1267)
Unknown value	(884)	(2,171)	(3,055)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>(1,811)</b>	<b>(2,518)</b>	<b>(4,329)</b>

## **CURRENT SERVICES**

Services for families in the Walgett Shire include:

- Lightning Ridge Neighbourhood Centre: provides advice on a wide range of issues and acts as a referral point for residents requiring specialised advice or assistance. The Neighbourhood Centre also offers emergency relief vouchers for residents who are having difficulties in meeting their basic needs.
- St Vincent de Paul: operates a clothing shop in Lightning Ridge and in Walgett.
- Domestic Violence Refuges: Lightning Ridge and Walgett each have a refuge.
- Yawarra Meamei women's group: Lightning Ridge based information, support and referral service
- Centrelink offers a range of financial services in Walgett and Lightning Ridge
- Walgett Shire Council Family Day Care – Providing in the home childcare for children 0 –12, throughout the Shire, pending on Family Day Care workers available. Service based in Walgett

There are other general services that families access for assistance such as Community Health, Department of Community Services, Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service.

## **MAJOR ISSUES**

- The need for preventative programmes to address domestic violence situations – much of which is alcohol related.
- Parenting support especially for the relatively high proportion of teenage parents.
- The high incidence of substance abuse in family situations.
- Long Day Care childcare, due to the difficulties in recruiting Family Day Care workers, there is an urgent need particularly in Walgett

*Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile*

**PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**INTRODUCTION**

General definitions of “disability”:

**Disability** – a restriction or lack of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being. There are six major disability types: physical, intellectual, psychiatric, sensory, neurological, head/brain injury. A person can have two or more disabilities. When this occurs that person is referred to as having multiple disabilities.

\*a limitation to perform certain tasks associated with daily living. The limitation must be due to a disability and in relation to one or more of the following areas: self-care, mobility, verbal communication, schooling and employment.

(ABS 1998 Regional Profile)

**PROFILE**

In 2001, ABS statistics gave the total population of the Shire as 8,310 people.

<b>DISABLED SUPPORT PENSION RECIPIENTS, 1995-2000</b>				
Type of Disability Pension	199 5 no.	199 6 no.	199 7 no.	200 0
Disabled support pension recipients	462	465	487	493
Child Disability Allowance				66
Care Payment				40
<b>Total:</b>				<b>599</b>

Source: Department of Social Security /Note: 2001 data Centrelink 2000 Qtr 2

On those figures alone, 6% of the population is in receipt of a disabled support pension. This percentage does not take into account the many people who are ageing and/or in difficulties who do not qualify for a pension. Generally, the older one becomes, the less able one is able to perform tasks without assistance.

The high growth rate of older age groups has created a corresponding increase in demand for community support services, medical, hospital, and geriatric services and nursing home and hostel accommodation. Additional pressure is placed on families, friends, and neighbours to provide care to people whose functional abilities have diminished as a result of ageing. Government now acknowledges that people prefer to remain independently in the community for as long as possible and that provision of community support services is less costly than providing accommodation.

## **CURRENT SERVICES**

There are many services for the older residents of Walgett Shire. These services usually HACC funded and so concentrate on the frail aged and disabled.

- Community Health staff provide domiciliary nursing to clients
- Home Care Service of NSW in Walgett, Collarenebri and Lightning Ridge
- North West Area Community Options in Walgett, Collarenebri and Lightning Ridge
- Aboriginal Home Care and Aboriginal Meals on Wheels Services are available in Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri.
- Walgett Rural Respite Service offers 3.5 hours per week social respite to either the client or the carer. This service has 34 clients throughout the Shire.
- Ngangana, Aboriginal Community Options serves the communities of Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Goodooga
- Kookaburra Court Aged Accommodation Hostel is home for 8 people.
- Lightning Ridge Aged Care Units (Wallungulla) provide accommodation for approximately 12 people
- Earls Court in Collarenebri consists of 4 units and another 4 double units are available for aged Aboriginal people.
- An ACAT nurse works from Walgett Hospital/Health Services
- Balyarta Day Care Centre is attached to Walgett Hospital/Health Services. Different age groups meet at Balyarta on different days. The Coordinator visits Collarenebri and Burren Junction offer Day Care services.
- A Seniors Social Club meets in Balyarta.
- Day Centre Lightning Ridge for the frail aged and the younger disabled is auspiced by the Home Care of NSW. The Day Centre operates each Wednesday 10-2, from the Lightning Ridge Bowling Club.
- Meals on Wheels are available in Walgett (Walgett Food Service), Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri. Frozen meals are also available.
- There are approximately 25 disabled children who are clients of DOCS. These children are from Walgett, Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri and Coonamble. (This not updated since 1999 Social Plan)
- NOVA Employment is a Commonwealth funded programme that aims to provide employment opportunities for disabled people.

## **MAJOR ISSUES**

- Need for overnight/long term respite services to allow carers to have a break
- Need for dementia specific services
- Health related transport
- Therapy services
- **Develop and plan for the Walgett Shire Disability Action Plan to be implemented before 30 June 2003 through a process of consultations with community and service providers.** Disability action plan to comply with planning needs for people with disabilities, providing equity by means of freedom to access public places and buildings.



## Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile

### The Aged

#### Introduction

The average age of Australians is increasing and the ageing of the population is forecast to increase even further over the coming years. The 'aged', 'older persons', 'senior citizens', 'elderly' are all terms used by society to describe people judged by society to be advanced in years in comparison with others. These terms are influenced by government references when attempting to categorise people for retirement incomes, pensions, and concession rates for government services.

#### Profile - Median Age

##### WALGETT MEDIAN AGE

Median age	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91-01
Males	27	28	29	31	10.7
Females	24	27	28	29	7.4
Persons	26	27	28	30	11.1

##### LIGHTNING RIDGE MEDIAN AGE

Median Age	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91-01
Males	40	40	40	42	5.0
Females	38	36	36	37	2.8
Persons	39	38	38	40	5.3

##### WALGETT SHIRE MEDIAN AGE

Median Age	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91-01
Males	33	34	37	40	17.6
Median Age	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91-01
Males	29	29	34	35	20.7
Females	27	29	29	32	10.3
Persons	28	29	31	33	13.8

##### COLLARENEBRI

Median Age	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91-01
Males	29	29	34	35	20.7
Females	27	29	29	32	10.3
Persons	28	29	31	33	13.8

**AGE SUMMARY as a percentage of 50+**

**WALGETT SHIRE**

Age Summary	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91-01
50-54					28.3
55-64	11.0	11.3	11.9	13.0	14.7
65+	8.8	8.2	9.2	11.3	37.0

**WALGETT**

Age Summary	1986	1991	1996	2001	Change 91-01
50-54					5.0
55-64	6.7	7.3	7.9	8.1	10.9
65+	5.9	6.6	6.9	8.1	21.3

**LIGHTNING RIDGE**

Age Summary	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91-01
50-54					10.2
55-64	15.7	13.7	14.8	15.6	13.4
65+	12.3	10.3	11.1	13.7	33.0

**COLLARENEBRI**

Age Summary	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91 -01
50-54	8.5	9.4	8.8		17.2
55-64	7.7	8.1	7.7	10.7	31.7
65+	7.9	9.3	9.6	11.9	28.4

Age Structure, Estimated Resident Population, 2001  
Data: ABS Census 2001

## ***CURRENT SERVICES***

There are many services for the older residents of Walgett Shire. These services usually HACC funded and so concentrate on the frail aged and disabled.

- Community Health staff provide domiciliary nursing to clients
- Home Care Service of NSW in Walgett, Collarenebri and Lightning Ridge
- North West Community Options in Walgett, Collarenebri and Lightning Ridge
- Aboriginal Home Care, Aboriginal Community Options and Aboriginal Meals on Wheels Services are available in Walgett, Lightning Ride and Collarenebri.
- Walgett Rural Respite Service offers 3.5 hours per week social respite to either the client or the carer. This service has 34 clients throughout the Shire.
- Kookaburra Court Aged Accommodation Hostel is home for 8 people.
- Wallungulla Aged Care Units in Lightning Ridge provide accommodation for approximately 12 people
- Earls Court in Collarenebri consists of 4 units and another 4 double units are available for aged Aboriginal people.
- An ACAT nurse works from Walgett District Hospital
- Balyarta Day Care Centre is attached to Walgett District Hospital. Different age groups meet at Balyarta on different days. The Coordinator visits Collarenebri and Burren Junction to offer Day Care.
- A Seniors Social Club meets in Balyarta.
- Day Care is offered in Lightning Ridge
- Meals on Wheels are available in Walgett (known as Walgett Food Service), Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri. Frozen meals are available.
- There are approximately 25 disabled children who are clients of DOCS. These children are from Walgett, Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri and Coonamble.
- NOVA Employment is a Commonwealth funded programme that aims to provide employment opportunities for disabled people

## **MAJOR ISSUES**

- The ageing of the general population is likely to see the increased demand for community services. The increasing demands of an ageing population on the aged sector of community services, the growing needs for aged care will be in the areas of housing, personal care needs, transport, activities.
- Statistically, older women are much more likely to be without a partner or carer than older men are. However, because the mining population is predominantly male in Lightning Ridge, service providers in that town are increasingly being called on to assist ageing single males.
- Older people who experience deteriorating health and reduced mobility may be restricted in their access to services
- Because of funding restrictions, provision of services tend to be aimed at those people who are experiencing difficulties and there are no services or programmes aimed at the 'well-aged'.
- There will be stress on existing hostel and nursing home beds as the population ages and many residents will be forced to move from their community.
- No Day Care Centre for the frail aged and younger disabled in Lightning Ridge

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## *Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile*

### **WOMEN**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

It is generally acknowledged that women experience varying degrees of socio-economic disadvantage in the community. Social indicators demonstrate that women not only have lower socio-economic status, but have less employment and educational opportunities, lower incomes, are poorly represented in high status occupations and high income brackets and are over represented in part-time and casual work. Women are highly represented in unpaid positions such as volunteer organisations and are predominantly carers of the sick and disabled. For many women, lack of accessible and affordable child care results automatically in exclusion from the labour force.

#### **PROFILE**

The 1996 census showed that there were 2,777 females over the age of 15 in Walgett Shire. Of this number 1,175 were employed in either full-time or part-time work i.e. 42.3%. By contrast there were 3,645 males aged 15 and over, of whom 1,872 were in the labour force; i.e. 51.2% were employed in either full-time or part-time work

#### **CURRENT SERVICES**

- There are very few women specific services in Walgett Shire. Evidence shows that funding bodies only recognise women's health needs. Consequently there is one Women's Health Nurse and one Sexual Assault Nurse who work in Walgett and Lightning Ridge.
- Women's Safe House -Barwon Cottage, Walgett
- Women's Safe House - Coocoran Cottage,. Lightning Ridge
- Yawarra Meamei Women's Group, Lightning Ridge
- Namoi House Incorporated auspices the Domestic Violence Worker positions.
- Namoi House, proclaimed house for individuals who need respite from usual housing arrangements (men in particular).
- Walanbaa Yinnar Vharoo – The Walgett Violence Prevention Unit, providing legal advice, support and assistance .
- Women of Walgett, women's group
- Court Support, org by above group

***MAJOR ISSUES***

- Statistics indicate that women are more likely to lead sole parent families
- Women's economic dependence on men in domestic relationships makes them vulnerable to being trapped in violent relationships.
- Aboriginal women and women from non-English speaking backgrounds can face additional difficulties because of discrimination or lack of culturally appropriate services
- Lack of court support personnel
- Lack of a separate room at court in Lightning Ridge where women in domestic violence situations can wait without having to confront the perpetrator, relatives and the general community.
- Emergency Housing

Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile

**YOUNG PEOPLE**

**INTRODUCTION**

Young people are defined in this report as people aged between 12 and 24 years who have individual needs requiring support and assistance in the transition from childhood to adulthood. Young people are a diverse group and include high school students, those who are dependent on the family, those living independently and those who are establishing families.

**PROFILE**

Attendance At An Educational Institution, 1986, 1991 and 1996

	1986.	1991.	1996.	2001
Aged 15-24				
Secondary				
Full-time	141	131	138	n/av
Part-time	0	4	3	"
Not stated	13	0	0	"
TAFE				
Full-time	5	0	4	"
Part-time	18	34	28	"
Not stated	8	0	0	"
University/Tertiary Institution				
Full-time	18	8	3	
Part-time	6	3	9	
Not stated	0	0	0	
Other Institution				
Full-time	3	3	3	
Part-time	0	4	3	
Not stated	0	0	0	
Total Attending (a)	233	238	209	"
Not attending	821	818	698	
<b>Total (b)</b>	<b>1113</b>	<b>1122</b>	<b>969</b>	"

(a) Includes 'institution not stated'. Source: Census of Population and housing, ABS: (a) Includes 'attendance not stated'

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The above data shows the imprudence of relying wholly on statistical information alone. The table shows 209 young people attending an educational institution when data collected from the secondary schools in the Shire alone give 41 secondary students at Collarenebri, 197 at Walgett and 122 at Lightning Ridge.

Many young people do leave school as soon as they are old enough, and find that their employment options are severely restricted because of their limited education and lack of qualifications. Employment opportunities in the Shire are limited even for adults, so school leavers have no option but to go on the dole. There has been an increasing trend in the past few years, for young adults who quite often have a young family, to return to school or to enrol in external studies.

The Unemployment Rate for Young People is high and census data shows the following:

<b>Males</b>	<b>1986 %</b>	<b>1991 %</b>	<b>1996 %</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>NSW 1996 %</b>
15-19	42.4	29.8	39.1	n/av	19.7
20-24	27.8	29.8	21.8	n/av	14.5
<b>Females</b>					
15-19	58.3	40.6	32.9	n/av	16.9
20-24	30.7	28.0	18.8	n/av	11.2

### 14. LABOUR FORCE SUMMARY

	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91-01
Employed	2791	3113	3047	3037	- 2.4
Unemployed	668	683	678	448	-34.4
Not in the labour force	2121	2066	2463	2477	19.9
Unempl. rate	19.3	18.0	18.2	12.9	-28.6
Particip. Rate	59.9	60.2	55.8	53.2	-11.6

### 14. AGE OF LABOUR FORCE

	1986	1991	1996	2001	%change 91-01
15-19	8.1	6.1	5.1	4.9	-20.1
20-34	36.7	37.6	34.8	31.0	-17.6
35-54	40.6	42.0	45.3	47.4	12.3
55+	14.6	14.3	14.8	16.8	17.0

## ***CURRENT SERVICES***

There are very few services specifically for young people throughout the Shire.

- Walgett Shire Council employs a Youth Development Officer and Centre Based Youth Centre Supervisors and Youth Centre Assistants.
- Traditional structured youth services such as Scouts and Brownies exist in Walgett but they serve only a small proportion of young people. Aboriginal youngsters do not use those services.
- Walgett Shire Youth Council was established April 2002. Current members are represented by 6 students from Walgett High School Students, 4 students from Collarenebri Central School and 6 students from Lightning Ridge Central School
- There is one Youth Centre in Walgett, this youth centre is well attended by, in the main by, Aboriginal children and youth, the centre offers a limited range of activities, the centre, in contrast to previous social plan, now well utilized.
- The Sports Centre in Lightning Ridge, this centre is an initiative by the Lightning Ridge Olympic Pool Association, who in turn employ the CDEP (the, Aboriginal Community Development and Employment Program) and with under contract specified funding from the Walgett Shire Council. The centre is used by the whole of community, both adults and young people. Because of the costs involved, families with several children find it too expensive for regular attendance.
- Vacation Care services are provided in Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri and Grawin, these services are supervised by the Walgett Shire Council Youth Officer.
- Swimming pool facilities maintained by the Council are located in Lightning Ridge, Walgett, Collarenebri, Carinda, Rowena in Burren Junction paid in full

## ***MAJOR ISSUES***

- A major problem in the Shire is alcohol abuse but there are no youth drug and alcohol workers.
- Yarni (marijuana) use is common
- No government service has 'youth specific' workers. All services only have sufficient staff to deal with crises and have neither the time or staff to work proactively.
- Many young people, especially Aboriginal young people, are skilled in various sports and enjoy and participate in local competitions. However because of the distances and costs involved, they rarely have the opportunity to participate in, or compete against more skilled players from either the city or other major country areas.
- There is no drop-in centre where young people can feel comfortable to meet and receive information.
- There is very little recognition given by adults in the community to those young people who do achieve.
- Employment opportunities for young people are extremely limited due in part to the economic climate and in part to young people's lack of literacy
- The youth Services have been extensively supported by the Council over quite some years. Staffing costs related to the provision of youth services in the three communities, are now seen to have escalated to such an extent that youth services will need to be reviewed, outcome of review may see drastic but essential cutback to service. This cost has generously been available to community at the ratepayers expense for too long. The Council will ensure that Government is aware of our current situation with youth services taking a greater responsibility in supporting youth services.
- Vacation Care services, it needs to be recognised will only be able to provide the service within a limited budget, requiring that these services be reviewed.



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# ***Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile***

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## *FUNCTION AREAS*

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*Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile*

## **ACCESS & TRANSPORT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

A transport system is an interaction between fixed infrastructure and mode of mobility. Ownership and control are shared between public and private companies and/or individuals. Transport is derived demand resulting from the need for mobility for the distribution of both people and of goods and services.

Accessibility means “able to be reached” and mobility relates to the ease of movement.

People with no access to transport are deprived of access to services and opportunities for social interaction and thus are restricted in their options.

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

Public transport is limited to air and road.

#### **Air:**

Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri have airstrips provided by Walgett Shire Council and regulated by CASAA.

Burren Junction has an Authorised Landing Area.

The air ambulance also uses these strips when patients have to be flown out. In times of emergencies, the strips at Walgett and Lightning Ridge are of a suitable standard for large fixed wing aircraft to land. Walgett Shire Council has also provided several wider stretches of road between Walgett and Brewarrina that are designed to be used by aircraft in emergencies. Charter flights are common from all towns in the Shire and some individuals either have their own plane or hire a plane from the aero club in Walgett. Hangers are provided for lease at Walgett while in Lightning Ridge, privately owned hangars are built on land purchased from Council.

Air Link provides a daily service from Dubbo to Coonamble, Walgett and Lightning Ridge and return. Passengers change in Dubbo to Hazleton, Qantas or Airlink flights to continue their journeys elsewhere.

#### **Road:**

The majority of roads in the Walgett Shire are a combination of black soil and bitumen with some red soil and gravel in the northern part. Walgett Shire Council has a continuing policy of tarring roads, as funds become available. The Castlereagh Highway comes from the south through the centre of Walgett, past the turn-off to Lightning Ridge and continues to the Queensland border. Approximately 15km north of Walgett, the Gwydir Highway travels to the east through Collarenebri and to Moree and beyond.

As there are no major manufacturing centres in the Shire, all retailers rely on goods of all description being brought in by road transport. This reliance on road transport places great stress on the Shire roads.

**Walgett Shire Council – 2002-2003 Annual Report**

Many people in the Shire do not have a private vehicle and have to rely on friends, neighbours or service providers to move around town for business, medical or social reasons.

Some people do not have a driver's licence because their literacy skills are not adequate to pass the test; some see no reason to get a driver's licence if they do not have a car and others have had to hand their licence in because of age or a court decision.

All of these residents require transport.

A daily coach service leaves Lightning Ridge in the morning to reach Dubbo at 2.30pm so that passengers can connect with the XPT to Sydney. A bus leaves Dubbo at 2.30pm to travel the return journey.

While this service is appreciated, it is unsuitable for people who need to see a medical specialist in Dubbo. Appointments in Dubbo necessitate an overnight stay in a motel if relatives are not available.

To help overcome this, a Medical Specialist Transport Service is available for frail aged and disabled clients with a medical referral, in Walgett. The car was obtained with NGO funding and is driven by a volunteer driver. People who are eligible to use this service can thus make a same day trip to a specialist. Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service also provides some medical related transport for clients.

A 7 seater Tarago is operated by Lightning Ridge Neighbourhood Centre for the benefit of frail aged and disabled clients. The vehicle transports clients mainly to Dubbo, Moree, Tamworth and Walgett.

Collarenebri has no public transport. Many medical patients in Collarenebri use specialists in Moree because of the relative closeness of the town. Recently, the Aboriginal Corporation Enterprise Service has put two buses on the road which make regular trips to Moree. The Collarenebri Land Council also has a bus for use by the community.

Many of the shops and offices throughout the Shire are not wheelchair accessible and are also difficult for prams to negotiate. Footpaths in many instances need upgrading to become disabled-friendly but because of the cost involved, remain untouched.

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<b>outcomes</b>	<b>strategies</b>	<b>responsibility</b>	<b>performance indicator</b>
People with drivers' licences who are more employable	Encourage more people to get a driver's licence	RTA CDEP	An increased number of people obtaining licences
A more efficient use of existing services	Access Health Transport money to expand the existing Lightning Ridge/Dubbo service	Walgett Shire Council FWAHS Lightning Ridge Neighbourhood Centre	Funding received and service operating
Available services being fully used by all sectors of the community	Advertise the available services to farmers and graziers	Service providers Rural Counsellor	An increase in the number of people from properties who use the existing services
Plan for systematic upgrading of footpaths will be available	Audit the condition of footpaths in the CBDs of towns and prioritise areas in greatest needs of replacement or upgrading	Walgett Shire Council	Priority list adopted by Council Funding allocated
Footpaths that are wheelchair friendly	Upgrade identified footpaths	Walgett Shire Council	Construction commenced
An expanded transport service that caters for community needs	Continue to lobby for additional funding for existing services	Walgett Shire Council All Service providers	Funding received
Plan for systematic sealing of school bus routes in conjunction with road sealing priorities will be available	Identify and prioritise school bus routes.  Compare bus routes with Council's preferential order for sealing roads.	Walgett Shire Council	Plans available and priorities established

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*Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile*

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**INTRODUCTION**

A choice of child care is not always available to parents in Walgett Shire due to gaps in affordability, availability of appropriate services and accessibility. This has resulted in ad hoc arrangements being made for the care of children.

**CURRENT SITUATION**

Although preschools have been established for a number of years, the services offered have not always suited the needs of shift workers or women returning to work after maternity leave.

There are two pre-schools in Walgett that cater for 3-5 year olds on a sessional basis. Koolyngarra and Walgett Preschool are licensed for 39 and 16 children respectively.

The Department of School Education is in the process of establishing a centre that will cater for transition education and children with early learning difficulties.

Walgett Shire Council has recently (1999) been granted funding through the Commonwealth Department of Health & Family Services to establish 50 EFT (Equivalent Full Time ) Family Day Care places in Walgett and 50 EFT places in Lightning Ridge.

Family Day Care will concentrate on providing places for 0-2 year olds and catering to identified gaps in child care needs. These needs include occasional care, care of children of shift workers and care of children whose parent/s have out-of-town appointments.

There are two licensed children's services in Lightning Ridge. Little Diggers Child Care Service in Lightning Ridge is a privately owned and operated Child Care Service licensed for 22 children.

Lightning Ridge Pre-school is licensed for 20 children.

Collarenebri Preschool is licensed for 20 children.

Goonimoo Children's Mobile is licensed for 20 children.

Vacation Care in Walgett is auspiced by Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service and is licensed for 45 children. Permission has been granted to allow additional children to be catered for with an appropriate increase in volunteers.

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Vacation Care in Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri is auspiced by Walgett Shire Council for 30 children each. In the July 1999 school holidays, Vacation Care will start at Grawin due to the success of a recent submission by Walgett Shire Council.

<b>outcomes</b>	<b>strategies</b>	<b>responsibility</b>	<b>performance indicator</b>
Provision of a range of child care services	Provide child care services that are responsive to the community needs	Department of Community Services Walgett Shire Council Department of Health and Family Services	All places in the services fully utilised
Children who are multi lingual and are comfortable with cultural diversity	Ensure that all children in the Shire have access to culturally and linguistically appropriate services	Walgett Shire Council Coordinators of services Community members	A variety of community languages being taught Children being exposed to a range of cultures
An improved quality of care for children	Provide locally, post graduate child care training for staff	Walgett Shire Council TAFE Universities Department of Community Services	Local people with acceptable qualifications for employment opportunities
An improvement in parenting skills	Encourage community members to undertake childcare training	Coordinators of Services TAFE Universities Department of Community Services	Childcare courses being run locally either by or in conjunction with TAFE

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*Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile*

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICE DEFINITIONS**

### **Family Day Care**

Family Day Care is home based child care. Carers are registered by the Department of Community Services to care for four (4) children under 6 years including his/her own and three (3) before and after schoolchildren. Total number of children not to exceed seven (7) including the carer's own.

### **Vacation Care**

Offers care for 5-12 year olds during school holidays.

### **Preschool**

Preschool services operate between 9am and 3pm, catering for children aged 3-5 years. This service is suitable for children the year before school and nonworking parents, or those who work part time.

### **Sessional care**

Sessional care is the same as preschool but operates five mornings or five afternoons. It is usually closed during school holidays.

### **Before and After School care**

This service is designed to cater for school aged children requiring care before and after school hours.

### **Mobile Children's Service**

This service operates from a series of venues on a rotational basis. It is designed especially for isolated children who have difficulty in accessing other forms of preschool education.

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## *Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile*

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In any given town, there are a wide range of human needs which must be addressed to ensure members of the community have access to an acceptable quality of life. These needs include physical needs such as housing and a safe and adequate water supply to emotional needs such as crisis assistance or care for the elderly. Community development refers to the process of assisting community members to achieve their needs and improve the physical, emotional and social quality of life of the community.

#### **CURRENT SITUATION**

Throughout the Shire, individuals in organisations are working to a community development model i.e. they are helping people to achieve for themselves rather than solving a problem for them.

The Neighbourhood Centre in Lightning Ridge is the only formal centre of its type in the Walgett Shire and is auspiced by Walgett Shire Council. Funding from Department of Community Services and the Department of Transport pays for the services of 1.5 staff. NGO funding pays for two ethnic advisory officers who work from the Neighbourhood Centre. A range of services includes issuing emergency relief vouchers, transporting frail aged and disabled people to specialists' appointments out of town and to functions in town, acting as a referral point for the community and assisting elderly people living in camps on the opal fields with a range of services that allow the person to remain independent and to retain dignity.

Many community organisations, clubs and associations exist in the Shire. Each though, has a particular focus and consists of members with similar interests or beliefs. While each organisation, club and association is contributing to the social infrastructure of the community, more interaction and communication would reduce the duplication of services and polarisation of individuals .

Amalgamations of associations would provide a way for strengthening the lobbying power of the community and assist with broadening the community development role of the organisations.

Many informal local networks exist between service providers who refer clients to the most appropriate avenue of assistance. **Lightning Ridge Service providers and Walgett Service Providers hold an Interagency meeting monthly.** These networks offer opportunities for information sharing, **a networking communal** approach to planning and lobbying for services, advocacy and support.

In order to sustain effectiveness, these networks need to continually self evaluate their direction and purpose.

Walgett Shire Council owns Community Halls in Collarenebri, Rowena and Carinda, which are available for community purposes.



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outcomes	strategies	responsibility	performance indicator
A concerted approach to improving the quality of life for Shire residents	Improve communication between local organisations	Walgett Shire council All organisations	Effective and active networking between services and organisations
Departments and funding bodies that are more community focussed	Lobby <i>State and Federal Government</i> departments and <i>and NGO</i> funding bodies about the <i>special needs and differences</i> in <u>needs</u> between rural/remote communities and urban centres	Walgett Shire Council	Each submission to include a statement of rural/remote differences and needs
Community committees that have skills in management	Provide training in management for community committees	Walgett Shire Council TAFE	Number of people attending courses
Policies, procedures and work practices that are culturally and linguistically appropriate.	Examine policies to ensure they are culturally and linguistically appropriate.	Walgett Shire Council Individual Services	Compliance with access and equity statement
The co-location of <i>Home and Community Care (HACC) Services</i> , <i>Walgett Shire auspiced community services</i> , <i>NGO community groups</i> in the <i>Lightning Ridge Community Centre</i> will be a reality.	Seek additional funding <i>Regional Solutions Funding</i>	Walgett Shire council Murdi Paaki Regional council Barriekneal <i>Ltd.</i> Community organisations	Building completed and occupied
Community facilities/premises that are accessible to all sectors of the community.	Produce a mobility map of community facilities/premises  Seek funding to make alterations to community facilities/premises	Walgett Shire Council HACC service providers Senior members of the community  Walgett Shire Council	Identification of the problems that need to be addressed.
Lightning Ridge Community group to pursue, and start again waiting list for affordable, low cost housing for mainstream population in Lightning Ridge and opal fields.	Approach the Department of Housing Approach the Walgett Shire Council for support	Department of Housing	Confirmation of recognition by the Department of Housing for lists to be received and assessed by the Department off Housing  Regular visits/presence by Department of Housing to Lightning Ridge

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*Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile*

## **EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Education provides the opportunities for our children, youth and individuals at large, to have the opportunity to have equal bargaining power, to enter the labour force with equity.

Regretfully it has to be said that education in rural and remote communities such as ours providing one of the fundamental influences affecting an individual's lifestyle choices. While a range of options are available to young people in Walgett Shire, those youngsters who are products of educationally deprived parents, find it difficult to believe that their future is determined by attendance and performance at school.

It is important that education is seen as a lifetime job and that acquisition of skills, formally or informally acquired, is conducive to an improved quality of life.

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

Available educational facilities:

Walgett:	Walgett Community College Primary school (K-6) and High school (7-12), St Joseph's Primary School (K-6) and Walgett TAFE, newly established TAFE in Lightning Ridge
Lightning Ridge:	Central school (K-12)
Collarenebri:	Central school (K-12)
Carinda:	Primary school (K-6)
Burren Junction:	Primary school (K-6)
Rowena:	Primary school (K-6)

Distance Education facilities are available at Walgett Public School, Walgett High School.

Many children in Walgett Shire travel long distances by bus to attend school and for those for whom this is not possible, Distance Education is available.

After completing year 6, some young people leave to attend boarding school; similarly some opt to complete years 11/12 away from their home environment. The reasons given for this are many: family tradition, better education available and to experience life outside the levee bank are often quoted. A large majority of students stay in Walgett or Lightning Ridge to complete their education.

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Educationalists find it difficult to convince many students that formal educational qualifications are important because of the lack of local employment opportunities. To gain tertiary qualifications, students have to go to a city or larger country town. Because many students are reluctant to leave their known environment they have no option but to accept Social Security payments.

The Walgett Community of Schools Project has been established with the aim of catering for at risk students and ensuring their smooth transition back into the schools and to facilitate communications between government agencies concerned with young people.

Barwon Darling Alliance was born out of a desire of the Murdi Paaki Regional Council of ATSIC and the Shires of Bourke, Brewarrina, Central Darling, Coonamble, Moree Plains and Walgett to address their common regional concerns regarding high unemployment and serious quality of life issues. The Alliance includes 24 towns and covers almost 20% of NSW.

Best Employment and Mission Employment assist job seekers to find work and that helps employers find suitable staff.

The Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business is located in Orange. The Walgett Aboriginal Education Unit a part of DEWRSB

outcomes	strategies	responsibility	performance indicator
Absenteeism rates will decrease	Home school liaison officers will become more visible in the community	Department of Education and Training	Less absenteeism
Experienced teachers will be encouraged to remain in the area.	Provide for professional growth of staff through training and development programmes.	Department of Education and Training	Number of staff who choose to remain after their initial 3 year term
Alternative programmes and relevant curricula will be available for students.	Examine the curriculum and change it where necessary.	Department of Education and Training	More children opting to remain at school past the official leaving age
Children will be encouraged to stay at school	Careers advisor to interview children individually and assist young people with subject choices	Department of Education and Training	More children opting to remain at school past the official leaving age
Decrease in violent incidents in the playground	Students to participate in anti-bullying and anti-violence days.	Department of Education and Training	A decrease in anti-social behaviour.
A greater demand for labour will be evident	Pursue all avenues to encourage business expansion in the Shire	Barwon Darling Alliance	Number of additional people employed

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## *Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile*

### **HEALTH**

#### ***INTRODUCTION***

All social issues such as employment or unemployment, income, education and isolation impact on the health status of individuals in a community. Health issues relate to:

- the social context of the individual, and
- the physical environment in which the individual lives.

Substance abuse, particularly alcohol abuse, is a major factor adversely affecting the health status of residents of Walgett Shire.

#### ***CURRENT SITUATION***

Health Services in Walgett Shire are part of the Upper Western Sector of the Far West Area Health Service.

The overall administration of the Far West Area Health Service is in Broken Hill. The Area is sub-divided into three sectors for management purposes – the Upper Western Sector, Broken Hill and Lower Western Sector.

**Walgett Hospital and Health Service** - provides health care for Walgett and the surrounding district. This includes the Carinda Health Centre. The hospital accepts referrals and patients from the townships of Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri and Goodooga.

Walgett District Hospital is a second schedule hospital under the provisions of the Public Hospitals Act 1992.

Walgett Health Service Comprises of 31 beds, 23 acute and 8 aged care (Peg Cross Nursing Home) Other services provided are general medical, paediatrics, midwifery, 24 hour accident and emergency and a 3 bed high dependency unit. The Walgett Hospital and Health Service includes an operating theatre that is used by visiting specialists for minor surgery. Nursing staff care for patients in both aged and community areas. The Hospital has outreach clinics in Carinda and other smaller villages as required.

There were more than 12,000 admissions last year and more than 17,000 non-admitted occasions of service.

**Lightning Ridge Health Service** - Services include mental health, primary health, community health and emergency services.

At present there are no inpatient beds at Lightning Ridge. There are 4 holding beds for patients being transferred to a referral centre. Emergency patients currently go to Walgett, for minor conditions, otherwise Dubbo. The emergency Department operate between the A&E centre and is open from 7.30 to 22.30 with a call out service provided after hours.

Lightning Ridge A&E provides health services not only to those residing in town, but also two thirds of population who live out on the surrounding opal fields within 15km radius. Other outlying populations on opal fields accessing the Lightning Ridge Health Services are from the Coocoran fields

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approx. 20km north west, Grawin 65km west, and Carters Rush 70km west, Glengarry 70km west and the Sheeppyard 75km west of Lightning Ridge also New Angledool and /Mehi opal fields 50km north.

Other Communities accessing Lightning Ridge Health Services on a regular basis are Angledool, and Goodooga. Goodooga does have its own community health service but does access Lightning Ridge for specialist services.

Visiting specialist medical services include ophthalmology, surgeon, gynaecologist, podiatrist, physiotherapy, pathology, occupational therapy are provided from Dubbo, Inverell, Sydney and Walgett.

Planning is well advanced for completion in approx. April 2003 of a multipurpose service facility in Lightning Ridge under the Rural Hospitals and Health Services Program. This will be a facility with 24 beds – meeting acute care, aged care and respite needs.

In the period 2001-2002, there were 17,600 non-admitted occasions of service at Lightning Ridge

**Collarenebri Hospital/Health Service** - has 13 beds; 3 acute and 10 residential beds. Services include outpatients, emergency, community and Aboriginal Health Services. There is usually one medical officer in town who provides a general practice and on call services. Radiology services are provided by licensed registered nurses. Regular visiting health staff come from Walgett, Dubbo, Lightning Ridge and Moree

In the period 2001-2002, Collarenebri had more than 150 admissions and 8,500 non-admitted occasions of service.

Planning and building are well advanced for completion of a multipurpose service and facility under the Rural Hospital and Health Service Program, incorporating acute, aged care and allied health services. The new facility will be ready March 2003.

**Burren Junction, Rowena, Pokataroo, Carinda, Come By Chance, Cumborah, Grawin, Glengarry, Sheeppyard** are communities within the Shire who access services in the larger centres or have access to visiting Community Health Services.

**Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service (WAMS)** - A community controlled organisation, members vote for the nine directors annually. The service is available to the communities of Walgett, Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri, Goodooga and other smaller towns in the Shire. Services affiliated with WAMS include a dental clinic, Goonimoo- children's toy mobile service and vacation care service for Walgett.

Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service provides an extensive public health programme that includes diabetes education, heart health and eye and hearing screening.

outcomes	strategies	responsibility	performance indicator
Residents become more responsible for their own health status	reorient the services to focus on primary health care	Individual health facilities and Health Advisory Councils	morbidity data showing a decrease in admission numbers
Less dependence on acute care	provide transitional care for early discharge patients, respite care, accouchement facilities	Walgett Shire Council FWAHS Dept Health & Family Services	Facilities funded, staffed and in operation
Health will not be seen as a 'last resort'	encourage better intersectorial collaboration between Health, other government departments and NGOs	All departments and NGOs	Partnerships established

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<b>outcomes</b>	<b>strategies</b>	<b>responsibility</b>	<b>performance indicator</b>
Provision of culturally appropriate services	Increase collaboration between mainstream health and the Aboriginal Medical Service	FWAHS Service providers Aboriginal Medical Service	Partnerships established
Education & training systems that are not jeopardized by distance	Facilitate training courses on a needs basis	Individual Health Services Universities TAFE	Number of courses established
Less travel required by community members to access specialist services	provide a range of Specialist visits in line with community needs in Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri and Walgett	FWAHS Individual Health Services	Data bank established detailing services accessed and those required
Individuals with special needs can be cared for in their community	provide palliative care and respite beds in Lightning Ridge	FWAHS with State and Federal governments	Services established and operational
Individuals with special needs can be cared for in their community	provide adequate nursing home and/or hostel beds in Lightning Ridge	FWAHS with State and Federal governments	Services established and operational
Community access to a continuum of health care	recruit and retain medical and nursing staff	The whole community Department of Health All government departments FWAHS	All vacant positions filled

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*Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile*

## **HOUSING**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Adequate housing is a basic requirement for everyone. For housing to be considered adequate, it must be affordable and suit the individual's lifestyle. Often a person's choice about where and how to live is limited because of the availability of housing.

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

#### **Walgett:**

The greatest call on housing in Walgett is for the rental market. Houses on the market are difficult to sell. Because such a large percentage of the Walgett population is in receipt of a pension or benefit, people find it impossible to save the required deposit for the purchase of their own home. Consequently there is no capital gain on houses that are sold.

The transient workforce – teachers, police – have their own housing stock which is rarely available for non-transients.

The Gamilaroi Goondi Working Party has funding to purchase houses to relocate Aboriginal people and relieve the overcrowded conditions in which some people live.

Namoi Village and Gingie Mission are two Aboriginal settlements outside the levee bank.

The Department of Housing has a stock of houses that are fully occupied. An officer from the department visits Walgett every fortnight for the convenience of tenants.

Recent changes at Centrelink mean that people in receipt of pensions and benefits can elect to have rent payments automatically deducted from their payments. This has been greatly appreciated by both tenants and landlords.

#### **Lightning Ridge**

Housing in Lightning Ridge ranges from the opulent to camps on mining leases with no running water or electricity. There are no Department of Housing homes in Lightning Ridge.

Private rental accommodation is scarce and expensive. This adds to the difficulty of attracting professional staff to Lightning Ridge.

A mining lease averages 2,500 square metres and is either a residential or mining purpose lease.

Barriekneal Housing Corporation is an Aboriginal owned and controlled housing company that builds and manages housing stock.

Providers of human services in Lightning Ridge are anticipating an additional shortage of housing suitable for elderly people in the next few years as individuals who are at present just coping with living independently, will soon no longer be able to do so.

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**Collarenebri**

Housing and land in Collarenebri is much cheaper than in other centres in the Shire. Services are limited in the town and unless an individual has access to private transport, life can become very restrictive. One kilometre from Collarenebri is the Wolli, which is the Aboriginal Reserve.

<b>outcomes</b>	<b>strategies</b>	<b>responsibility</b>	<b>performance indicator</b>
Housing will be available for potential employees coming from out of town	Council will maintain a stock of houses for employees	Walgett Shire Council	All out of town employees will be housed
Accurate data will be available showing the type of houses needed now and in the next 5 years	An investigative study of housing requirements in Lightning Ridge will be undertaken	Walgett Shire Council Department of Housing Residents of Lightning Ridge	The data gathered and collated
Housing will be available to accommodate the changing needs of the population	Departments will be lobbied and submissions will be made for funding	Walgett Shire Council Residents of Lightning Ridge Service providers	Committee formed
People in crises will have access to safe and secure housing	Emergency housing will be set up in each town	Department of Community Services Department of Housing Walgett Shire Council	Number of flats/medium density houses available



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## *Walgett Shire Community Profile*

### **ARTS and CULTURE**

Walgett Shire Council makes a contribution towards the development of arts and culture and the enjoyment of the arts and culture, and specifically to the Outback Arts Inc.

Outback Arts Inc. offers and establishes innovative and operational plans for the continued development of arts and culture in the Walgett Shire.

Culture and the arts, needs to be recognised as playing an essential role in the well being of sound communities.

The identification of arts and cultural issues within a community needs to be seen as a key aspect of council responsibility.

The people in a culturally diverse rural and remote Shire such as ours would benefit profoundly if community has an equitable opportunity to participate in arts and crafts.

The arts and crafts offer a powerful tool in developing self esteem for our geographically as well as culturally isolated community.

The arts and craft offers people an opportunity to new ways of thinking and expression. The opportunity of self-expression through the arts is very rewarding for individuals, groups and for community.

The arts and cultural industries are to be defined as including the following activities:

Museums, antiques and collectables, environmental heritage, libraries and archives, literature and print media composition and publishing, theatre, music, visual arts and crafts, design, film, television and other electronic broadcasting and distribution.

The youth in the Shire in particular experience cultural isolation, and need to be offered an opportunity to participate in the arts through a better awareness of the arts.

Because arts is creative self expression, inhibitions often comes in the way of this expression, it is important that arts is seen as the norm rather than a one off opportunity to participate. There are many who never had the opportunity to discover the arts.

Arts and culture will have a multitude of outcomes for community. The Shire, education and health services etc. all benefit from recognising the value of arts and culture in the community and within organisation. Planning processes need to include a cultural plan that respects the aesthetics of communities, and the well being this achieves for whole of community.

Cultural issues and activities within our communities need to be identified to establish their scope and planning. The role of arts and culture needs to be assessed, it is important that we take a stand on this role and seek Council endorsement to proceed towards a process of cultural planning.

**LIBRARY SERVICES**

The Walgett Shire is a member of the Northern Regional Library and Information Service, located in Moree. Staff training and expert advice provided by the Northern regional Library to Branch Staff, Council Managers and Councillors.

The Northern Regional Library and Information Service provides an informational and recreational resource to the residents of the shires of Brewarrina, Moree Plains, Walgett and Yallaroi.

The Northern Regional Library and Information Service (NRL) aims to develop, maintain and conserve a range of collections, resources and services in order to satisfy the Northern Region community, educational, informational and recreational needs.

The NRL was able to implement the horizon Sunrise Library Management System for the NRL members in October 2002, with a State Library Council library development grant of \$75,000

This new system offers the region's community a significantly improved library service and unprecedented access to distributed information service

There are two library services in the Walgett Shire, one based in the Shire Council building in Walgett, the other located in Lightning Ridge, next to the Arts and Craft, there is also a deposit station located at the CWA premises in Collarenebri, with CWA volunteers.

The NRL Library Manager regularly visits the libraries, NRL also provides support for the library officers, by means of phone support, regular book exchanges.

Walgett and Lightning Ridge libraries are both open fifteen hours per week. Walgett is open Wed, Thurs, Fri and Sat. Lightning Ridge is open Tue, Wed, Thurs, Fri and Sat. Collarenebri library service is open Saturday mornings.

The library services aim to provide a high standard and quality library service that adequately meets the needs of all sections of the community.

Strategies for effective community involvement in Libraries:

- Promotion of exciting changes in Library services.
- Literacy programs.
- Relationship with educational institutions

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*Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile*

## **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Never before has so much information been available to so many people. Print and electronic media can provide information on any subject. Unfortunately many people do not have the skills to access information that they need to know or want to know. This may be due to shortcomings in their education or because technology is not available, accessible or affordable.

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

Four categories cover the main issues, concerns and needs raised by residents of the Shire.

1. Cooperation and networking

The amount of information available is so vast that is impossible for any one organisation to know everything. In order to maintain an acceptable level of service provision to local communities it is necessary that cooperation and sharing of resources, collective development and maintenance of community information resources, and strong links to specialised services and between local services be encouraged.

2. Information needs of clients

It is essential that information is given to people in ways that make sense to them. Given the often poor English literacy skills, efforts must be made to give information orally or in community languages.

3. Dissemination and information provision

Often people do not access centrally based information services due to;

- barriers to communication
- fear of stigmatisation and lack of confidence when dealing with accessing particular information
- not knowing where to look, or whom to approach, for information
- are too busy to look for the information

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4. Information technology and communication infrastructure

Even though many people are endeavouring to modernise their communication systems, the physical communication system does not permit this to happen. The Shire has two digital cells; one in Walgett and the other in Lightning Ridge. In a great proportion of the Shire, mobile phones do not work. In addition, the analogue phone system operates in Lightning Ridge, while the rest of the Shire operates on the digital system.

A large percentage of the population of the Shire are denied access to information technology. Reasons for this include:

- computers are too expensive
- people are computer illiterate
- people view computers as being 'too complicated' for them to cope with
- people view the Internet as being too expensive and too complicated

outcomes	strategies	responsibility	performance indicator
<p>Improved communications within the Shire.</p> <p>Increased safety for rural residents and travellers</p>	<p>Examine all available forms of telecommunications and technological equipment</p> <p>Utilize the most cost effective and appropriate technology</p> <p>Develop interpersonal communication between and among Councillors and staff</p>	<p>Walgett Shire Council Telstra Department of Communication &amp; the Arts</p>	<p>Production of a comparative table that includes costing options</p>
<p>Identification of the technology needs of residents of the Shire</p>	<p>Complete a survey of residents to determine their technology needs</p>	<p>Walgett Shire Council Residents of the Shire</p>	<p>Compilation of the survey results to allow recommendations to be made in conjunction with the above mentioned comparative table</p>
<p>Improvement in numeracy &amp; literacy for residents of the Shire</p>	<p>Provide a range of user – friendly teaching aids to improve functional literacy &amp; numeracy</p>	<p>Walgett Shire Council in partnership with various funding bodies</p>	<p>Use of the technology in an Internet Café situation</p>

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<b>outcomes</b>	<b>strategies</b>	<b>responsibility</b>	<b>performance indicator</b>
Residents will have reasonable and timely access to library services	Critically examine the current library services with a view to upgrading the services offered to the towns and villages of the Shire  Establish basic library services to the smaller villages within the Shire	Walgett Shire Council Northern Regional Library NSW State Library	A range of cost effective options and recommendations prepared
Residents will have reasonable and timely access to library services	Survey the community to determine the services they require from a library	Librarians Walgett Shire Council	Compilation of the survey results
Residents will have access to information in community languages	Use the government Translating and Interpreting Service  Establish a register of locally available multi - lingual residents	Service providers	Number of people using the services
A range of Shire wide information will be available to residents and tourists	A Walgett Shire Visitor and Information and Internet Centre will be officially opened December 2002  Walgett community will have established a tourist information centre in Walgett  Provide diverse information to be made available at Centre  Good selection of souvenirs	Walgett Shire Council Relevant funding bodies  Community members are encouraged, to become volunteers at the Visitor Information and Internet Centre.  The success of the Centre will depend on the community input and support for project, which promotes community.	Centre established Number of visitors  Number of community participating in project  Number of sources of information and suitable souvenirs
Council's role will be more understood and thus be seen as a resource	Council's role in the community to be better publicised	Walgett Shire Council	Number of people requesting information and services
Information will be more accessible to residents	All services to use community languages more frequently	Walgett Shire Council All service providers	Number of people who request further information

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## *Walgett Shire Community Plan Profile*

### **LEGAL & SAFETY**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Public safety and crime prevention are becoming increasingly common concerns for communities throughout Australia. Although the police service and judicial system are usually seen as being responsible for crime prevention, the social climate of a community is really the responsibility of every individual and organisation in that community.

#### **CURRENT SITUATION**

Walgett is the headquarters of the Castlereagh Patrol, which covers Walgett, Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri, Pilliga, Coonamble, Goodooga, Carinda, Gulargambone, Burren Junction and Gwabegar.

Walgett and Lightning Ridge stations have a larger proportion of officers while one or two officers serve the other sectors of the police command. Crime statistics show a variation in the type of crime with most of the Walgett crime being alcohol related domestic incidents. There is a lower level of property crime in Walgett compared with Lightning Ridge because of the 'ratting' of opal mines in that town. There is also a lowering level of street, anti social and behaviour offences in Walgett.

Local courts operate in Walgett and Lightning Ridge and both Local and District Court sits in Coonamble.

Neighbourhood Watch operates in Walgett

Anecdotal evidence suggests Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse as major concerns within the Shire. Unfortunately because of the sensitive nature of these offences, often people are unwilling to report, address or even acknowledge the serious implications arising from these issues. The long slow process of community education and awareness will be the main strategies that help to minimise these social crimes.

**Walgett Community Safety Plan** Final Draft was presented at meeting held in October,

Many local organisations and individuals have contributed to the preparation of this plan.

The Walgett Community Safety Committee acknowledge with appreciation their support, assistance and contributions.

The plan is a document designed not only to identify community concerns regarding both the perception and reality of crime, but more importantly the document seeks to address the situation and find workable remedies for what are complex issues through the design, development and implementation of specific strategies and programs.

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outcomes	strategies	responsibility	performance indicator
Officers not taken away from local duties	Lobby for Corrective Services staff to be based in Walgett for transport prisoners	Police Service Corrective Services Walgett Shire Council Community groups	Staff member/s appointed
Young people will not have to attend court without support.	Lobby funding bodies for training in court support for young people.	Western Aboriginal Legal Service Juvenile Justice	Number of volunteers trained
Patrons and licensees will comply with the requirements of the Acts	Continue to enforce the Liquor Act and the Licensed Premises Act	Police Service Walgett Shire Council Liquor Consultative Committee	A decrease in the number of liquor related offences
Less places conducive to crime	Plan and budget for additional street lighting in towns throughout the Shire	Walgett Shire Council	Number of additional street lights installed
Through community safety planning will be able to target drugs and property offences with greater effectiveness	Educate the community about the importance of reporting crime	All residents	An increased success rate for the detection/clear-up rate of drug and property crime
Women will be more willing to report instances of domestic violence  Women will be more prepared to follow instances of domestic violence through the legal system	Educate the community about the seriousness of domestic violence  Support women and children in domestic violence and crisis situations  Support women when a court appearance is necessary	The whole community All government departments	Monitor the number of women who actually appear at court  Decrease in police/hospital/domestic violence statistics

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## *Walgett Shire Community Profile*

### **RECREATION**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

People participate in sport and passive recreation for relaxation, to keep fit, or to have a change from their daily routines. Involvement in different activities can provide opportunities for socialisation, building self confidence, gaining new knowledge, extending social space, increasing creativity, for relaxation and enjoyment.

#### **CURRENT SITUATION**

In Walgett Shire, residents have access to a wide variety of recreational activities. Each town in the Shire has a swimming pool, though these are closed between Easter and the October long weekend. The smaller villages in the Shire do not have public pools. The pool at Lightning Ridge is of Olympic standard and adjacent to the pool is a water theme park. Lightning Ridge, Walgett and Burren Junction have hot bore baths. The Lightning Ridge bore Bath is very popular with members of the northern European countries who use the pool as a place for social gatherings. The bore bath in Walgett has a hoist for disabled people.

The Norman 'Tracker' Walford Walkway in Walgett was constructed as a cooperative venture between a prominent Aboriginal family, a variety of government departments and Walgett Shire Council. This walkway was made wheelchair accessible and follows the river bank. The track is used regularly and enjoyed by all users.

Recreation facilities for active sports are quite well provided for within the Shire. Ovals in each town are used for winter and summer sports as well as for occasional outdoor entertainment events. Walgett has a show ground with pavilions and a grand stand.

Council also maintains a number of parks throughout the Shire. A number of these have play equipment.

Libraries are located in Walgett, Lightning Ridge. Walgett Shire Council is part of the Northern Regional Library & Information Service and pays an annual fee for the service. Book stock is changed every three months. Libraries are open for limited hours and while part-time librarians are employed, the work of volunteers in Lightning Ridge allows that library to remain open for more hours.

A list of sporting clubs appears at Appendix 2.



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<b>outcomes</b>	<b>strategies</b>	<b>responsibility</b>	<b>performance indicator</b>
Greater use of existing sports facilities	Plan and cost lighting on all ovals as a staged operation	Walgett Shire Council Sporting bodies	Plan of staged development produced
A community sports/cultural facility in Walgett that provides passive and active recreational opportunities for all age groups	Engage architect to design and cost a sports/cultural complex for Walgett  Seek funding sources  Build the complex	Walgett Shire Council State and federal government departments	Plan completed  Submissions sent to funding bodies  Complex completed and operational
Young people will be able to participate in structured and enjoyable activities	Seek funding to provide after school hours activities in Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri	Walgett Shire Council	Submissions sent to funding bodies
Community based committees will have the skills to organise, operate and be accountable for recreational activities	Assist with the training in management skills for committees	Walgett Shire Council TAFE Department of Sport & Recreation Working Parties	Courses operational
Residents will have a comprehensive and coordinated sports calendar	Assist with the establishment of a combined Sports Council	Walgett Shire Council All sporting bodies	Council operational
Sporting bodies will have a coordinated approach to funding opportunities	Assist with the establishment of a combined Sports Council	Walgett Shire Council All sporting bodies	Council operational

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*Walgett Shire Community Plan/Profile*

## **RURAL SECTOR**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Often when detailing the problems and lifestyle difficulties that are faced by a rural and remote community, the people who live out of town on properties are often forgotten. These people contribute as much to the whole community as do the people in town though their problems and requirements may differ.

The ABS Census 2001 data indicates that the Central Division has had a population increase, whilst the Western Division has had a population decrease.

More men than women populate the rural sector, by 30%, in both the Western Division and the Central Division.

A woman's role on the land, requires that she is multi-skilled, in order to manage role of wife, mother, teacher, farm hand etc. in isolation. The women in rural area often develop a strong support network of between each other, supporting each other, and often as a very well organised group.

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

There are 882 rural properties in the Walgett Shire that usually contribute approximately \$2,139,945 in general rate revenue i.e. 73.62% of total general rate. However they have experienced five years of drought followed by an exceptional flood. Given that the adverse climatic conditions coincided with a monumental downturn in commodity prices and a depressed world market, the rural sector businesses have been experiencing a severe depression.

Graziers have also been experiencing difficulties in matters over which they have no control.

Agricultural activity in the Shire has an estimated production of approximately \$250m per annum.

There are 550 properties spread throughout the shire.

While superficially the plight of the farmers may be seen as affecting an isolated group of people, the reality means that their economic status has had a detrimental effect on the whole community. The domino effect has flowed on to the businesses in town who have continued in many cases to support the farmers and graziers.

Approximately 150 rural sector businesses have sought the services of the Rural Counsellor and consequently assistance from State and Federal governments through the various drought and flood assistance schemes that were offered. Over \$2.2 million has been brought into the Shire through access to these schemes.

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The casual labour market has not only been affected by changing technology now in place on most rural properties. but it has also been adversely affected by the state of the rural economy. This has had a causal effect on town businesses.

At the height of the drought, many farmers were seeking off-farm work while wives were acting as station hands as well as returning to work.

The biggest above ground silos are situated approximately 3 kms out of Walgett on the Castlereagh Highway. The 1998 harvest saw 198,530 tonnes of grain being received at the site. Harvest time brings an influx of contract harvesters into the Shire who also contribute to the economy of the town. Silos are also sited at Merrywinebone and Cryon in the east of the Shire

Although climatic conditions may have eased, commodity prices remain low and world markets have declined further due to economic crises in a variety of countries. These crises have not helped the farmers and graziers of Walgett Shire.

As these people live out of town, often on black soil roads, which are impassable in wet weather.

Difficulties are often experienced accessing the services that are available in the community. Quite often, farmers, graziers and their families are unaware that services and service providers are only a phone call away.

<b>outcomes</b>	<b>strategies</b>	<b>responsibility</b>	<b>performance indicator</b>
Rural sector businesses will be more viable	Promote alternative rural industries	Walgett Shire Council TAFE Rural Counsellor NSW Farmers	Number of alternative industries being started
Rural sector businesses will have access to modern communication services	Survey all farmers and graziers to determine their technological and communications needs	Walgett Shire Council	Surveys returned and a needs list collated
Rural residents will be aware of human services available to them	Make a Community Services booklet available to all rural residents	Walgett Shire Council/ Walgett Advisory Group Inc. Service Providers Rural Counsellor	Number of booklets given out

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WALGETT SHIRE COMMUNITY PLAN/PROFILE

Appendices

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*Walgett Shire Community Profile*

**APPENDIX 1: COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES**

**For a booklet listing community organisations, contact names and phone numbers, please enquire at the front desk of the Shire.**

Home Care Service of NSW operates in Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri and serves the whole Shire  
North West Area Community Options has offices in Walgett and Lightning Ridge and serves the whole Shire.  
Ngangana Aboriginal Home Care Service of NSW, based in Walgett and Lightning Ridge  
Ngangana Aboriginal Community Options is in Walgett and Lightning Ridge  
Ngangana Aboriginal Meals on Wheels in Walgett Shire Council  
Walgett Food Service - Walgett  
Meals on Wheels - Collarenebri and Lightning Ridge  
Walgett Rural Respite Service is based in Walgett and serves clients throughout the Shire.  
Lightning Ridge Community Transport – Walgett Shire Lightning Ridge Neighbourhood Centre  
Walgett Community Transport – Walgett Shire Lightning Ridge Neighbourhood Centre  
Lightning Ridge Neighbour Aid – Walgett Shire Lightning Ridge Neighbourhood Centre  
Domiciliary Nursing  
Palliative Care Health Worker – Far west Area Health, based at Walgett Health Service  
Domestic Violence Refuges in Walgett and Lightning Ridge  
Yawarra Meamei Women’s Group Inc.  
Walgett Women’s Group  
Migrant Information and Referral Service – Lightning Ridge Transcultural Community Council Inc.  
Proclaimed Place in Walgett  
NSW Ambulance Service - Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri

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*Walgett Shire Community Profile*

**APPENDIX 2: SPORTING ORGANISATIONS**

**For a booklet listing sporting organisations, contact names and phone numbers, please enquire at the front desk of the Shire.**

Aero club  
All Breeds  
Bowling Clubs  
Boxing  
Cricket  
District Pony Clubs  
Golf  
Jockey Club  
Junior Netball  
Junior Soccer  
Martial Arts  
Adult Netball  
Pistol Club  
Polo Crosse  
Rodeo  
Rugby League  
Rugby Union  
Swimming  
Tennis

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*Walgett Shire Community Profile*

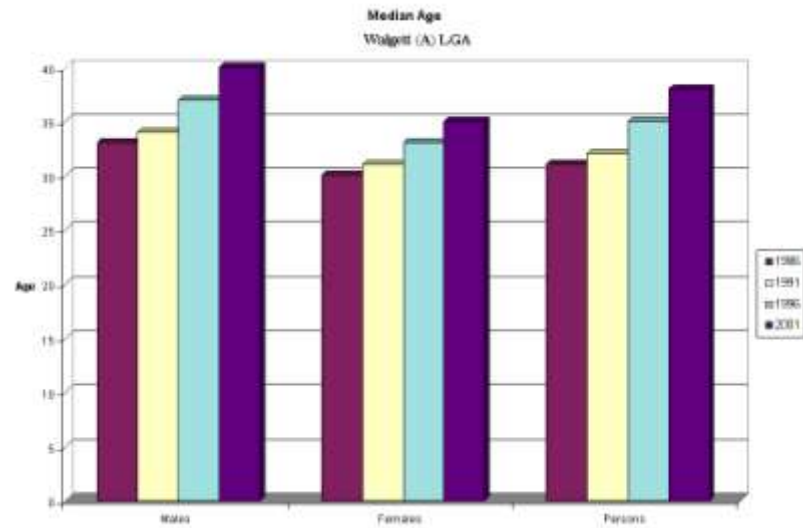
**APPENDIX 3: ABBREVIATIONS**

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACAT	Aged Care Assessment Team
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
CALD	Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
CASAA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Australia
CDEP	Community Development Employment Programme
DOH	Department of Housing
EFT	Equivalent Full Time
FWAHS	Far West Area Health Service
HAC	Health Advisory Council
HACC	Home and Community Care
NESB	Non English Speaking Background
NGO	Non Government Organisation
RTA	Roads and Traffic Authority
TAFE	Technical & Further Education

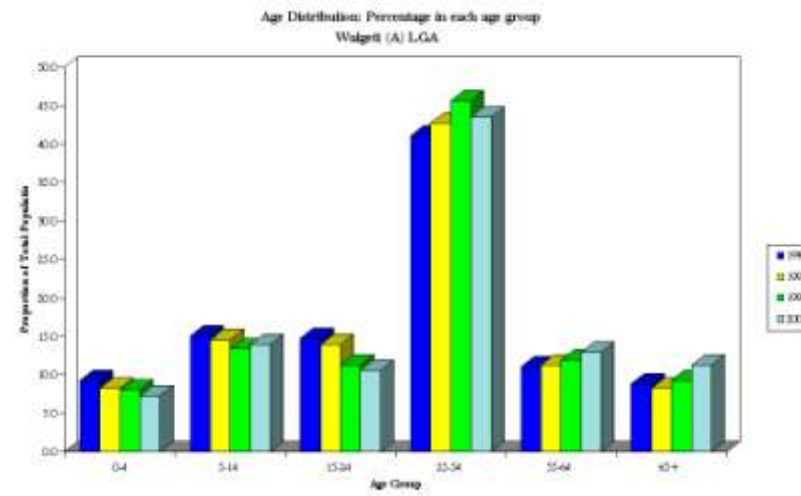
*Walgett Shire Community profile*

**APPENDIX 4: GRAPHS**

**MEDIAN AGE**



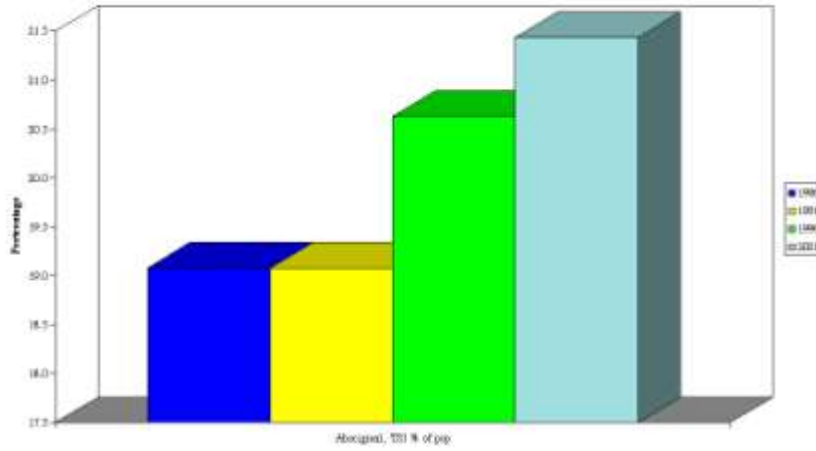
**AGE DISTRIBUTION PERCENTAGE IN EACH AGE GROUP**



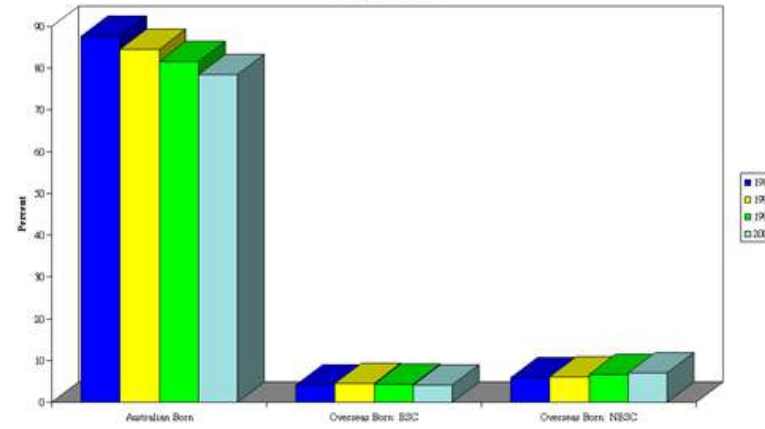


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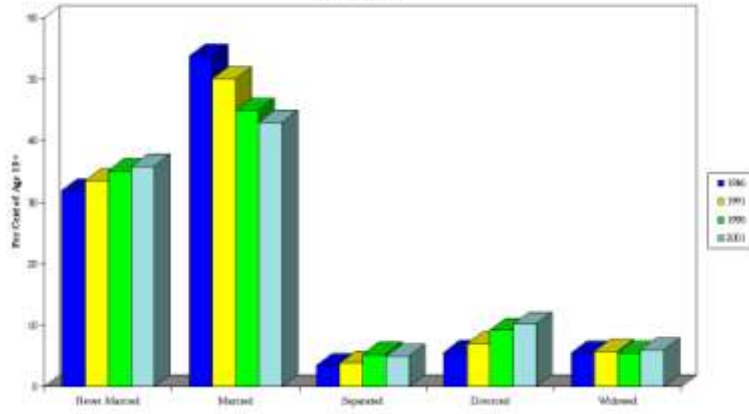
Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders  
Walgett (A) LGA



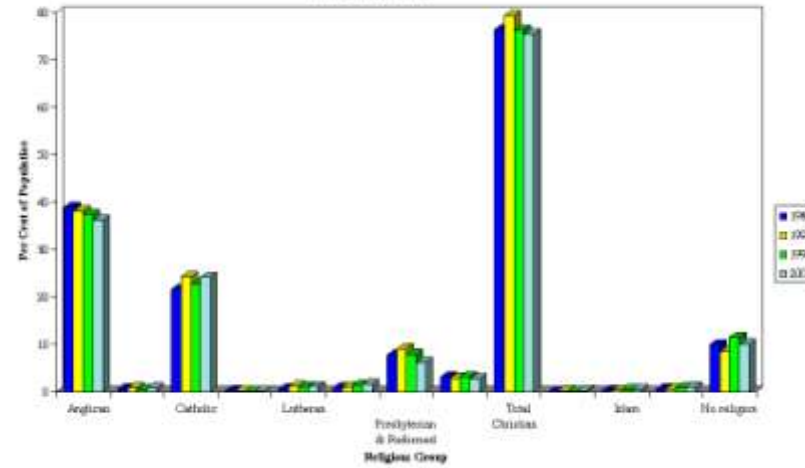
Proportion of Australian and Overseas Born  
Walgett (A) LGA



Marital Status: Each Group as a Per cent of Age 15+  
Walgett (A) LGA

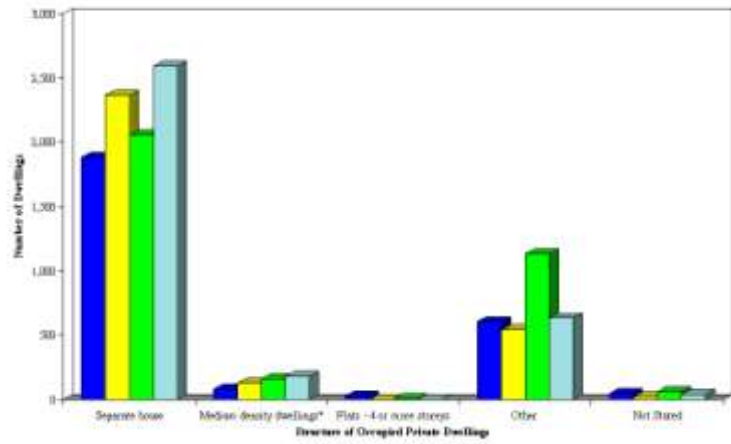


Religion Groups as a Per cent of Population  
Walgett (A) LGA

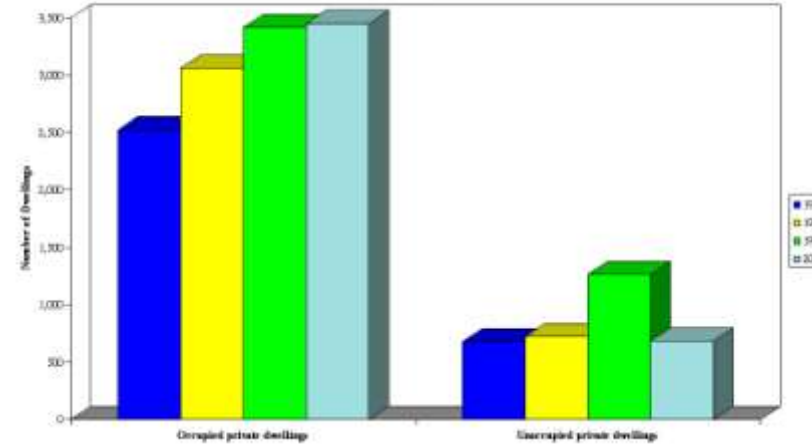


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Dwellings by Structure  
Walgett (A) LGA

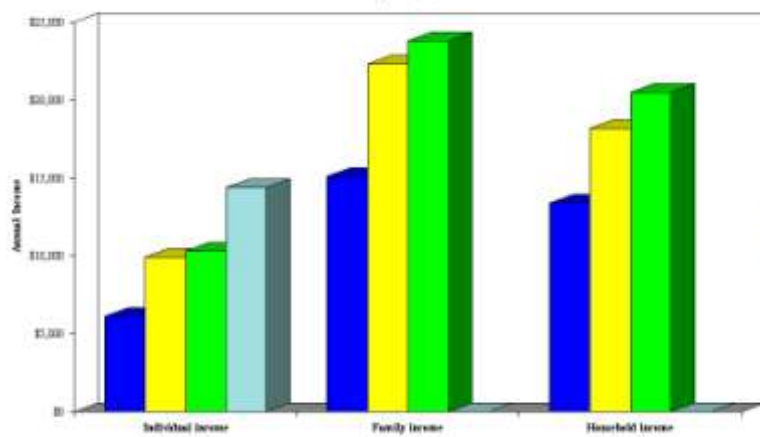


Dwelling Summary  
Walgett (A) LGA

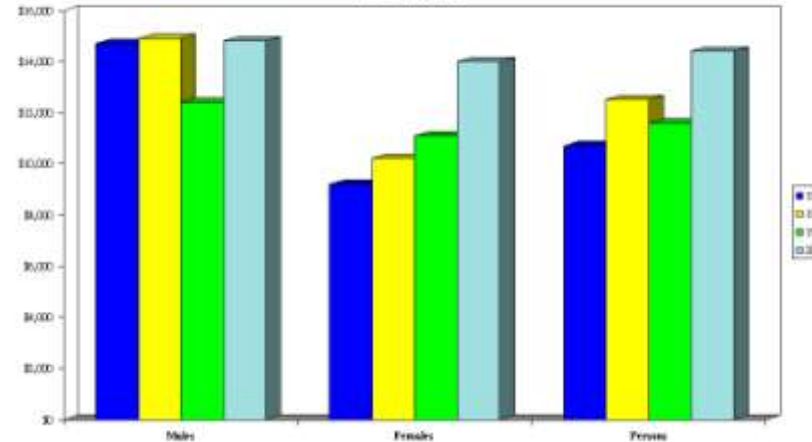


MEDIAN INCOME

Median Incomes  
Walgett (A) LGA

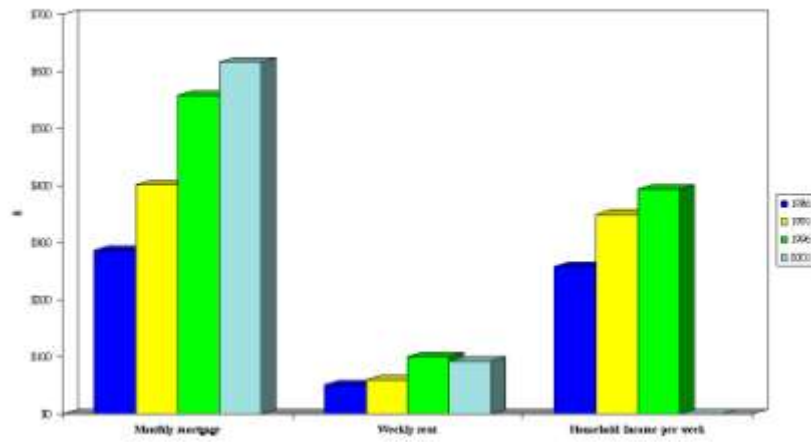


Standardised Median - Individual Income  
Walgett (A) LGA



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Household Medians  
Walgett (A) LGA



Appendix “D”



# **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

## **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **1. POLICY STATEMENT**

**1.1** Walgett Shire Council in accordance with the requirements of the Anti-Discrimination Act (1977) and the Local Government Act (1993) has a legislative responsibility in regards to its employment practices to:

- \* eliminate and ensure the absence of discrimination in employment on the grounds of race, sex, marital status and physical impairment; and

- \* promote equal employment opportunity for women, members of racial minorities and physically handicapped persons.

**1.2** Walgett Shire Council also recognised it has a responsibility to ensure the absence of discrimination in employment on the grounds of age, sexuality, pregnancy, literacy and intellectual impairment.

**1.3** Walgett Shire Council will not condone any form of sexual harassment in the workplace.

**1.4** In implementing Equal Employment Opportunity programs Council will have regard to the requirements of the relevant awards covering all employees and appointments and promotions to new or vacant positions within the Walgett Shire Council Organisational Structure and organisation shall be made on the basis of merit assessed considering the following criteria:

- \* qualifications, specialist knowledge and skills possessed
- \* relevant experience in the field of the new or vacant position
- \* performance in previous position
- \* personal attributes and potential possessed.

**1.5** Equal Employment Opportunity programs and relevant staff awards will provide a systematic appraisal of human resource planning and the commitment of a workforce whose interests and capabilities are more fully utilised.

**1.6** Employees of Walgett Shire Council can benefit from:

- \* a wider and better range of jobs and training opportunities
- \* a better chance to use their skills and qualifications
- \* a chance to gain career development opportunity and job satisfaction

**1.7** Walgett Shire Council can benefit from:

- \* a wider range of applicants for jobs
- \* the opportunity to obtain the best person for the job
- \* the opportunity to improve skills standards
- \* a greater chance to improve performance

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\* more qualified and committed people from all sections of the community

**1.8** Responsibility for preventing discrimination and promoting equal employment opportunity rests with all Managers and Supervisors.

**1.9** The General Manager, Section Managers and Human Resource Officer are responsible for implementing Council's Equal Employment Opportunity Program.

**1.10** All personnel policies and practices will be regularly examined to ensure that they comply with Council's Equal Employment Policy and the opportunity provided for staff to comment.

## **2. IMPLEMENTATION**

The Equal Opportunity Policy adopted by Council provides the framework for the operation of the Council EEO Management Plan.

Council will also appoint an EEO Officer. The Human Resource Officer or other person as determined by the General Manager will fill that role.

In the absence of the appointed person for any reason, the General Manager will assume the responsibility and functions.

The Consultative Committee will assist to develop and review specific policies, guidelines and best practice standards and in conjunction with the Management team will be responsible for ensuring compliance with Council's policy.

All appointments to Council staff shall be on an open application basis with merit being the criterion for selection.

The General Manager, Human Resource Officer and Manager and all those employees in supervisory roles shall be responsible for preventing discrimination, both direct and indirect, and for promoting EEO in the workplace.

All advertisements will have included the words "EEO is Council Policy".

## **3. COMMUNICATIONS**

Council's EEO Policy is to be prominently displayed and freely available to all staff members (e.g. at the office and all Depots within the Shire).

Posters or other EEO related material should be distributed or made readily available to all staff.

Changes in personnel policies and/or practices should be recorded and publicised following endorsement.

An induction program including a section on EEO Policy and the rights and obligations of staff should be introduced for new staff.

EEO responsibilities and accountabilities are to be included on duty statements of all staff with management or supervisory responsibilities.

**4. COLLECTION AND RECORDING OF INFORMATION**

Employment data is collected and recorded on employee personnel files to which may be added any EEO related matter submitted to the EEO officer on the form provided or by in-confidence interview if required.

Other than the above, systems for collecting or recording EEO statistics shall be developed and implemented as the need arises.

**5. REVIEW PROCESS**

The EEO Officer and Committee will:

- \* regularly review Council’s EEO policies and programs including guidelines and best practice standards.
- \* consult with management about EEO programs and review their implementation.

The EEO Officer shall report annually to the General Manager and Council on all aspects of any programs initiated by the Officer and EEO Committee.

**6. EVALUATION OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMS**

The EEO Officer and the EEO Committee shall meet annually to review Council’s EEO Policy and Objectives and shall report to the General Manger on any aspect requiring attention.

Accountability for EEO responsibilities will be incorporated in the performance agreements of all management and supervisory staff and this will form a significant part of the appraisal of the performance of the staff.

**7. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT OF PLANNING**

Council shall review its EEO Policy every two (2) years and make such amendments as may then be required to meet the existing circumstances.

The above shall not preclude Council prior to that date from reviewing or amending its EEO Policy upon the receipt of a report by Council’s General Manager recommending such action.

**8. RESPONSIBLE OFFICER**

The Human Resource Officer, General Manager, or any other person appointed as the EEO Officer, will:

- \* ensure that Council’s EEO Policy and Program is implemented within Council

## **Walgett Shire Council – 2002-2003 Annual Report**

- \* ensure that all staff comply with Council's EEO Policy and with legal obligations under relevant legislation
- \* ensure that management audits of the EEO program are undertaken on a regular basis to ensure that the EEO Policy and program continue to meet their objectives.

### **ADOPTION**

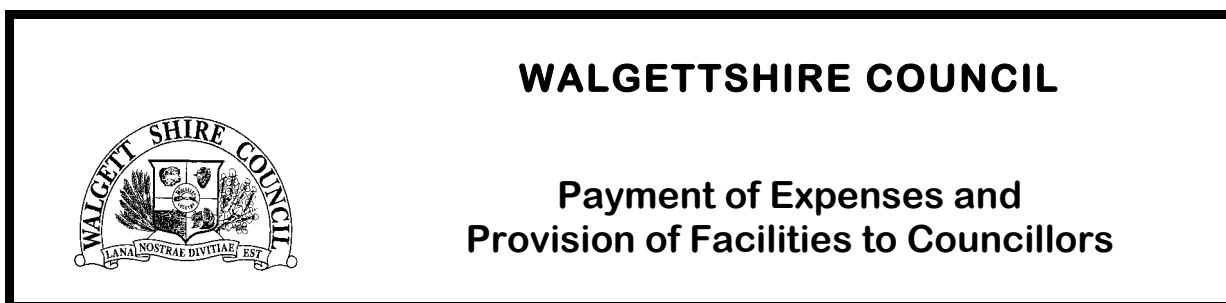
This Policy was presented to Council on 29 January 2001 and adopted by resolution.



Appendix “E”



**POLICY IN RELATION TO  
COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES**



## **OBJECTIVE:**

The objectives of this Policy are:-

1. To comply with the provisions of Section 252(1) of the Local Government Act, 1993, viz:-

**“252.(1) A council must adopt a policy concerning the payment of expenses incurred or to be incurred by, and the provision of facilities to, the mayor, the deputy mayor (if there is one) and the other councillors in relation to discharging the functions of civic office.”**

2. To ensure that the Mayor, as the first citizen of the Walgett Shire Council area, as the leader of the governing body of the Council and as the principal spokesperson on Council policy and attitude is reimbursed for expenses reasonably incurred in performing the role of Mayor, and is provided with a standard and range of facilities appropriate to the importance of the office.
3. To ensure that the Councillors of Walgett in their dual roles as members of the governing body of the Council and as elected persons are reimbursed for expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of the role and are provided with a standard and range of facilities to assist in discharging the functions of civic office.

## **POLICY:**

### ***EXPENSES***

#### **1. Civic Business within the Shire**

##### **a) Scope**

Expenses will be paid for Councillors to attend:

- Meetings of the Council and Committees;
- Meetings of other committees, bodies, organisations or groups to which those Councillors are Council delegates or representatives;
- Other meetings or inspections which are authorised by the Council, or the Mayor

- Training courses, seminars or conferences authorised by the Council, or the Mayor

provided that the claim is made not later than six (6) months after the expenses were incurred.

**Note: Any claims submitted later than six (6) months after the expenses were incurred will not be eligible for reimbursement.**

b) Categories of Payment/Reimbursement

(i) Registration

Includes registration fees for attendance at conferences, seminars etc as well as associated official luncheons, dinners and tours.

(ii) Travel

(A) Private motor vehicle

Where Council vehicles are unavailable Councillors may use their private motor vehicle.

*Where a private motor vehicle is used, Council will reimburse vehicle running expenses (based on the relevant kilometre rate in the staff award). The allowable distance claimed will be for travel, by the most practicable route from the Councillor's usual place of residence or other place where the Councillor might be, immediately prior to the meeting, function, training course, seminar or conference (whichever distance is the lesser) to the meeting, function, training course, seminar, or conference.*

(B) Taxi/Hire Car

Where travel is undertaken by taxi/hire car, Council will reimburse fares paid upon presentation of relevant receipts.

(iii) Out-of-Pocket Expenses

Reasonable out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed for costs associated with attendance, including entertainment, but excluding expenses of a normal private nature.

(iv) Spouses/Partners

In those cases where the function is of such a nature that the Councillor's spouse/partner would normally be expected to accompany the Councillor, any costs associated with the attendance of the spouse/partner will be met by Council.

2. **Civic Business outside the Shire**

a) Scope

Expenses will be paid for Councillors to attend:

- Conferences, seminars and training courses at which attendance has been authorised by the Council or the Mayor
- Meetings of other Councils while representing and as authorised by Council or the Mayor;
- Meetings of other committees, bodies, organisations or groups to which those Councillors are Council delegates or representatives; and
- Other meetings or inspections which are authorised by the Council, the Mayor or the General Manager.

provided that the claim is made not later than six (6) months after the expenses were incurred.

**Note: Any claims submitted later than six (6) months after the expenses were incurred will not be eligible for reimbursement.**

b) Categories of Payment/Reimbursement

(i) Registration

Includes registration fees for attendance at conferences, seminars etc as well as associated official luncheons, dinners and tours.

(ii) Travel

Council will either pay or reimburse Councillors for travel by air, private motor vehicle, rail or taxi/hire car, as appropriate and as set out below: (With all travel arrangements, due consideration is to be given to the physical capacity of the Councillor and any variation to the arrangements below will be with the approval of the Mayor).

(A) Air

Where travel is undertaken by air, this will be by economy class. All bookings for travel will generally be made by Council Staff.

(B) Private Motor Vehicle

***Where Council vehicles are unavailable Councillors may use their private motor vehicle..***

Where a private motor vehicle is used, Council will reimburse vehicle running expenses (based on the relevant kilometre rate in the staff award). The allowable distance claimed will be for travel, by the most direct, practicable route from the Councillor's usual place of residence

or other place where the Councillor might be, immediately prior to the meeting, function, training course, seminar or conference (whichever distance is the lesser) to the meeting, function, training course, seminar, or conference. This claim will be subject to the cost not exceeding the economy class airfare as applicable.

(C) Rail

Where travel is undertaken by train, Council will meet the cost of first class ticket, or equivalent, including sleeping berths where necessary.

(D) Taxi/Hire Car

Where travel is undertaken by taxi/hire car, Council will reimburse fares paid upon presentation of relevant receipts.

(iii) Accommodation

Council will meet reasonable costs (including sustenance and telephone charges) including the night before and after the conference where necessary. Accommodation will generally be booked by Council staff.

(iv) Out-of-Pocket Expenses

Reasonable out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed for costs associated with attendance, including entertainment, but excluding expenses of a normal private nature.

(v) Spouses/Partners

Where a Councillor is accompanied by his/her spouse/partner, accommodation (shared basis) will be met by Council. All other costs will be the responsibility of the spouse/partner.

In exceptional circumstances Council may, by resolution, pay expenses incurred by the spouse/partner of the Councillor incurred whilst they are travelling on Council business.

## **FACILITIES**

### **1. Councillors**

#### **The Councillors are to receive the benefit of the following Council facilities:-**

- a) Meeting Meals and Refreshments - provision of meals and refreshments associated with Council, Committee and Working Parties/Special Committee meetings.
- b) Transportation - provision of Council motor vehicle transportation (when available) for travel to conferences, seminars, etc when on official Council business.

Where a Council vehicle is provided to a Councillor for use on official business, the vehicle may:

- With the consent of the Councillor, be driven by a member of the Councillor's immediate family who is a fully licensed driver and is over the age of 25 years; or

## Walgett Shire Council – 2002-2003 Annual Report

- Provided the Councillor is in the vehicle at the time, be driven by any fully licensed driver who is over the age of 25 years.
  - c) Meeting Rooms - Provision of meeting facilities in the Administration Building for the purpose of Council, Committee and Working Parties/Special Committee meetings, and for meeting with constituents.
  - d) Photocopiers - provision of photocopying facilities generally for official purposes.
  - e) Telephones – the cost of telephone calls to locations outside the Shire made to effect authorised business on behalf of Council will be reimbursed subject to the production of suitable documentation.

### 2. Mayor

In addition to those facilities provided to Councillors, the Mayor shall be provided with:-

- a) Office within the Administrative Complex equipped with all necessary facilities.
- b) **Secretarial Services** – word processing and administrative support provided by the administrative staff.
- c) **Administrative Support** – assistance with functions, organisations, meetings and the like.
- d) **Office Refreshments** – as provided in the Mayoral Office for entertainment purposes.

### 3. Deputy Mayor

In addition to those facilities provided to the Councillors, the Deputy Mayor is to receive the benefits of the Mayor when acting in the Office of Mayor.

**Adopted by Council at its meeting held Monday 26 February 2001**

Appendix “F”



# COMPLAINTS POLICY





## WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL

### Complaints

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

To develop a system to effectively handle complaints.

#### **POLICY:**

#### INTRODUCTION

Council recognises that complaints provide a means for improving customer service and is committed to ensuring that all complaints are dealt with quickly and appropriately.

#### PURPOSE

Council's role is to serve the community. The effective handling of complaints is an integral part of this service.

It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that any complaints are handled expeditiously with a view to satisfactorily resolving the subject of complaint and ensuring that a similar problem does not occur in the future.

This policy serves to explain to staff and the community how Council will deal with complaints.

#### DEFINITIONS

In this policy the words below are defined as follows:-

*“administrative complaint”* shall mean dissatisfaction with the level of service provided in regard to the Council's operations, policies, procedures, charges, staff and agents. A customer request is not an administrative complaint but concerns about inaction in respect of a customer request shall constitute an administrative complaint.

*“legal or criminal complaint”* shall mean a complaint alleging either:-

- a breach of the pecuniary interest provisions of the Local Government Act, 1993;
- or

- corrupt conduct as provided by the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act, 1988.

*“competitive neutrality complaint” shall mean: -*

- a complaint that Council has not met the Government’s requirements under the *“Policy Statement on the Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government”* or *“Pricing and Costing of Council Businesses - A Guide to Competitive Neutrality”*, including a concern that Council has not established an effective complaints handling mechanism;
- a complaint that Council has not abided by the spirit of competitive neutrality in the conduct of a business activity.

## PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING COMPLAINTS

### ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS

#### *How are administrative complaints made?*

Administrative complaints are usually directed to Council in writing or verbally (in person at Council offices or by phone).

#### *Process for Dealing with Administrative Complaints*

##### *Written Administrative Complaints*

1. Upon receipt, the Records Section shall refer the complaint to the appropriate manager for investigation.
2. The manager to whom the complaint is referred for investigation shall forward a letter acknowledging the complaint (within 7 days) which:
  - demonstrates that the subject of the complaint is understood;
  - indicates what will happen next;
3. The manager who is investigating the complaint shall do so as expeditiously as possible.
4. The manager shall advise the complainant, in writing, when action has been completed advising what remedial action (if any) has been taken in respect of the complaint.

Note: In replying to the complainant the manager shall explain that, if the complainant is unhappy with manner in which the complaint has been handled or the result, an appeal may be lodged either internally (by writing to the Council) or externally to either the Department of Local Government and Co-operatives, the Office of the Ombudsman or the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

*Verbal Administrative Complaints*

1. The officer who first receives complaint (either by phone or over the counter) shall refer the matter to the appropriate manager for attention.
2. The manager shall:
  - record the details of the complaint on the Complaint Form;
  - confirm with complainant the accuracy of what has been recorded;
  - explain what will happen next;
  - investigate the complaint as expeditiously as possible and recommend/take remedial action;
  - inform the complainant of the remedial action taken.

Note 1: In those cases where a complaint is received verbally which relates to a staff matter, the complainant is to be advised that the complaint must be lodged in writing.

Note 2: In informing the complainant of the action taken, the manager shall explain that, if the complainant is unhappy with manner in which the complaint has been handled or the result, an appeal may be lodged either internally (by writing to the Council) or externally to either the Department of Local Government and Co-operatives, the Office of the Ombudsman or the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Appeal Process

If a complainant is not satisfied with the manner in which a complaint was handled or the remedial action taken, an appeal may be lodged.

There is basically a two (2) stage appeal process; internal and/or external.

*Internal Appeals*

Who will conduct internal appeals?

The following positions are responsible for reviewing complaints as a result of an appeal:

<i>Review Officer</i>	<i>for complaints relating to investigation by:</i>
Mayor	General Manager
General Manager	All Managers

How will an internal review be conducted?

1. The reviewing officer will investigate the manner in which the complaint was originally handled and the remedial action taken.

2. If, after investigation, the reviewing officer is satisfied with the process and the remedial action taken, he/she will inform the complainant accordingly.
3. If the reviewing officer is not satisfied with the manner in which the complaint was handled or the remedial action taken, he/she will:
  - counsel the officer who initially handled the complaint;
  - institute action to achieve the desired result;
  - inform the complainant of the outcome of his/her review.
4. In the case of reviews undertaken by the General Manager, he/she will inform the Mayor.

Note: In replying to the complainant, the reviewing officer shall explain that, if the complainant is unhappy with manner in which the complaint has been handled or the result, an appeal may be lodged with either the Department of Local Government and Co-operatives, the Office of the Ombudsman or the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

#### *External Appeals*

If a person feels that the Council has not properly dealt with a complaint internally, that person may wish to refer the matter to any of the following Appeal Agencies:

Investigations & Review Branch  
Department of Local Government & Co-operatives  
Locked Bag 1500  
BANKSTOWN NSW 2200  
Telephone: (02) 9793 0793  
Facsimile: (02) 9793 0799

The Office of the Ombudsman  
Level 3 Coopers & Lybrand Building  
580 George Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
Telephone: (02) 9286 1000  
Toll Free: 008 451 524

Independent Commission Against Corruption  
GPO Box 500  
SYDNEY NSW 2001  
Telephone: (02) 9318 5999  
Toll Fee: 008 463 913 or 008 463 909  
Facsimile: (02) 9699 8067

## LEGAL OR CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS

### Form of Legal or Criminal Complaints

These complaints relate to alleged breaches of the pecuniary interest provisions of the Local Government Act, 1993 and corrupt conduct.

Persons who would seek to make such complaints should do so in writing, addressed either to the General Manager or Mayor.

### Process for dealing with legal or criminal complaints

#### *Pecuniary Interest*

1. Upon receipt of a complaint which refers or appears to refer to an alleged breach of the pecuniary interest provisions of the Local Government Act, 1993, it shall be immediately referred to the General Manager (or the Mayor, if the allegation involves the General Manager).
2. The General Manager (or Mayor) shall assess the complaint to determine whether or not it involves a pecuniary interest breach.
3. If the General Manager (or Mayor) considers that the complaint does not involve a breach of the pecuniary interest provisions, it shall be dealt with in accordance with the practice involving administrative complaints, outlined above.
4. If the General Manager (or Mayor) considers that the complaint does involve an alleged breach of the pecuniary interest provisions he/she shall refer the matter to the Department of Local Government and Co-operatives. The General Manager (or Mayor) shall also inform the Council.
5. The complainant shall be informed of the action taken.

#### *Corrupt Conduct*

1. Upon receipt of a complaint, which alleges or appears to allege corrupt conduct, it shall be immediately referred to the General Manager (or the Mayor, if the allegation involves the General Manager).
2. The General Manager (or the Mayor) shall assess the complaint to determine whether or not it involves corrupt conduct.
3. If the General Manager (or Mayor) is convinced that the complaint does not involve corrupt conduct it shall be dealt with in accordance with the practice involving administrative complaints, outlined above.

4. If the General Manager (or Mayor) considers that the complaint does involve corrupt conduct he/she shall then report the matter to the ICAC (in doing so, the General Manager (or Mayor) may decide to contact the ICAC for guidance on how to proceed). The General Manager (or Mayor) shall also inform the Council. If the conduct involves a criminal offence, the matter shall also be reported to the Police.
5. The complainant shall be informed of the action taken.

## **COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY COMPLAINTS**

### *Form of competitive neutrality complaints*

Persons who would seek to make such complaints should do so in writing, addressed to the General Manager.

### *Process for dealing with competitive neutrality complaints*

1. All competitive neutrality complaints shall be referred to the Public Officer.
2. The Public Officer shall inform the General Manager of the receipt of any such complaint and shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint in writing (7 days).
3. The Public Officer shall properly investigate all such complaints.
4. All members of Council's staff shall co-operate with the Public Officer in the investigation of any competitive neutrality complaint and shall provide such information as the Public Officer shall require.
5. Council shall provide the Public Officer with such resources as are required to assist in the investigation of such complaints.
6. A record of every complaint and all action taken in relation to it shall be kept in Council's records system.
7. After investigating the complaint, the Public Officer shall recommend appropriate action to the General Manager which may include, but is not limited to:-
  - the provision of more information to the complainant to enable a more accurate understanding of competition policy;
  - an investigation/review of Council's business activity if a legitimate complaint is made;
  - a change to Council's business practice where a complaint is justified.
8. The General Manager shall review the recommendation and may either accept the recommendation or institute some other course of action.

9. Within 30 days of Council receiving the competitive neutrality complaint, the complainant shall be notified of:-

- the result of the complaint; and
- the alternative avenues of redress that are available, including:

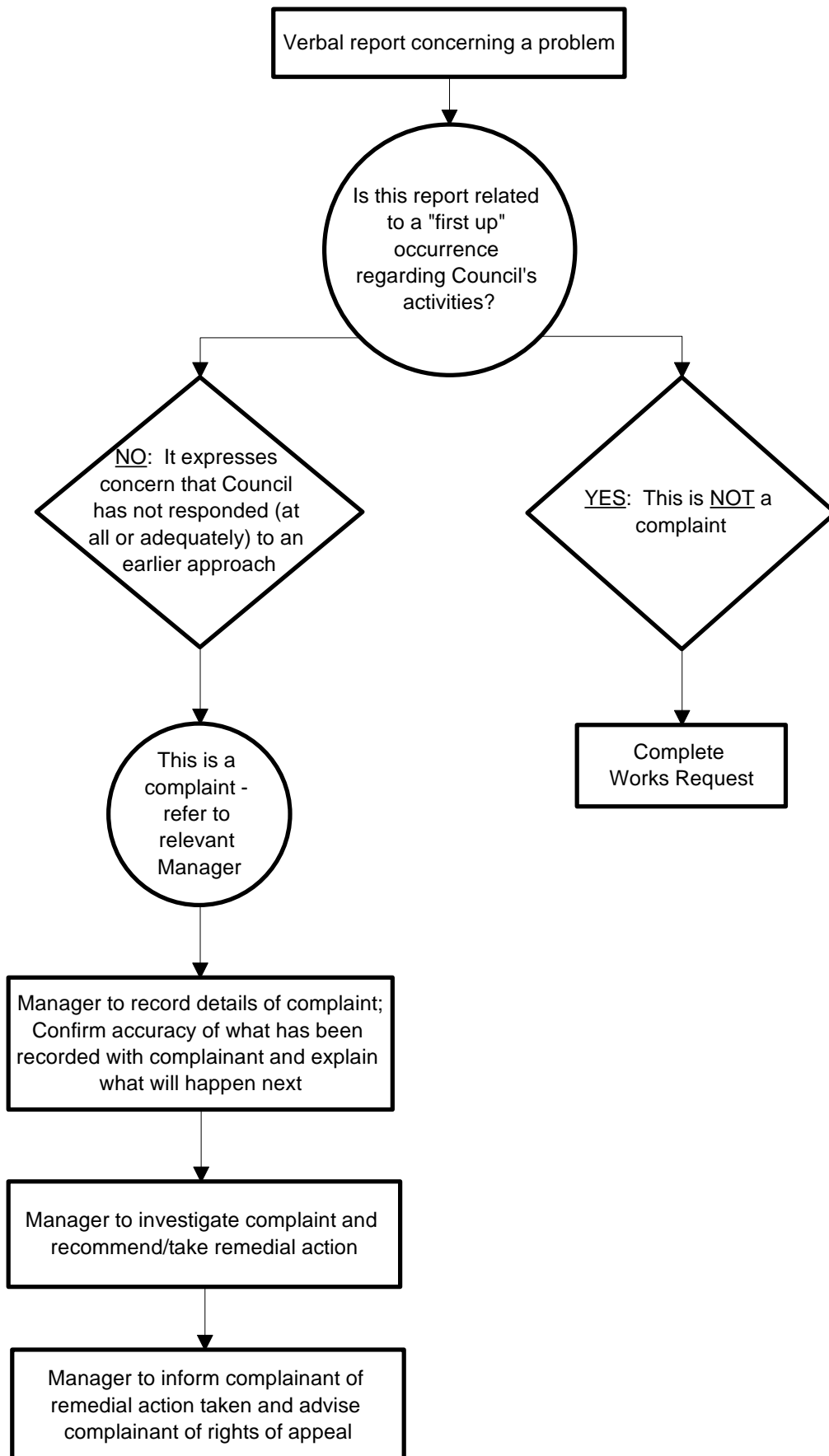
Department of Local Government and Co-operatives  
Locked Bag 1500  
BANKSTOWN NSW 2200  
Telephone: (02) 9793 0793  
Facsimile: (02) 9793 0799

The Office of the Ombudsman  
Level 3 Coopers & Lybrand Building  
580 George Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
Telephone: (02) 9286 1000  
Toll Free: 008 451 524

Independent Commission Against Corruption  
GPO Box 500  
SYDNEY NSW 2001  
Telephone: (02) 9318 5999  
Toll Free: 008 463 913 or 008 463 909  
Facsimile: (02) 9699 8067

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.  
GPO Box 3648  
SYDNEY NSW 2001  
Telephone: (02) 9230 9133  
Facsimile: (02) 9231 5652

**VERBAL ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT**





Appendix “G”



# STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE

# Outputs, Measures and Targets

**Appendix “G”.**

**OBJECTIVE : PLANNING FOR A BETTER FUTURE**

<b>CODE</b>	<b>OUTPUT</b>	<b>2002-2007 MEASURE AND TARGET</b>	<b>2002-2003 MEASURE</b>	<b>2002-2003 TARGET</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<b>2002/3 Outcome</b>
<b>A1</b>	We will be actively involved in developing the strategic vision of the Shire through informed staff involvement	Support and encourage training for staff to allow multi-skilling so that the organizations operations are not compromised in the absence (short, long or indefinite term) of any member of the team.	Identify and Support training requirements for staff with consideration to implementing a “succession plan”	Identify and increase staff participation in training programs	Group Manager, Services Management	All regulatory & compulsory training completed. Some non compulsory training identified & underway.
<b>A2</b>	We will maintain and improve environmental health conditions within the Shire	Undertake regular potable water sampling of town water supplies.	Samples to be submitted every month	80% by September 2002	Manager Developmental Services	Completed satisfactorily.
<b>A3</b>	We will take action to improve the aesthetic characteristics of the Shire	Action to be taken to address dilapidated premises  Beautification projects to be a continual focus and acted upon	Complaints will be investigated within 2 weeks of notification  Favourable comment and/or publicity received from the community	95% by November 2002  At least one new project identified and actioned each month	Manager Developmental Services  General Manager	Proactive actions did not always meet requirements due to external factors. Beautification activities accepted as part of everyday parks & gardens activities, going well.

## Outputs, Measures and Targets

### OBJECTIVE: PLANNING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

CODE	OUTPUT	2002-2007 MEASURE AND TARGET	2002-2003 MEASURE	2002-2003 TARGET	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	2002/3 Outcome
A4	We will provide excellent service through quality staff	<p>Ensure that excellent service is provided to customers by knowing their needs</p> <p>Share information by listening to and consulting with our customers</p> <p>Remain ethical and maintain the highest possible standards in our dealings with customers</p> <p>Be innovative and responsive to customer needs by continually improving our organisation and services</p>	<p>Survey of customer needs and regular consultation as to levels of satisfaction</p> <p>Survey a sample of customers who have used our services (say 1 in 10). Satisfaction levels rated as follows: 1 = poor; 2 = fair; 3 = good; 4 = very good; 5 = excellent</p>	<p>70% of customers rate our service as 3 or above</p> <p>70% of customers rate our service as 3 or above</p>	<p>Manager Executive Services</p> <p>Manager Executive Services</p>	<p>A meaningful customer sample has not been forthcoming from council survey.</p> <p>All council's customer service staff attended TAFENSW training during year, to enhance / reinforce standards. Processes and procedures are under constant review.</p>

## Outputs, Measures and Targets

### OBJECTIVE: PLANNING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

CODE	OUTPUT	2002-2007 MEASURE AND TARGET	2002-2003 MEASURE	2002-2003 TARGET	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Progress / Result as at 30 June 2003
A5	We will ensure that road planning is incorporated in the development strategy for the region.	Consultation with the wider regional Council's to ensure a well-planned road network that attracts development.	Traffic volumes measured successfully which maximises business opportunities for the community	Ongoing increases in traffic volumes	Group Manager Infrastructure Management	Traffic counts on strategic roads undertaken to determine baseline statistics.
A6	We will provide encouragement and support to promote economic growth	Provide greater assistance and remove impediments for increased investment in the Shire  Community satisfaction with overall economic development	Turnaround times for delegated planning approvals does not exceed guidelines	80% of applications finalised within 28 days	Manager Developmental Services	Achieved targets. 27 day turn around in 2002/3 (reduced from 45 in twelve months).
			Number of new job opportunities created through Council led initiatives	Unemployment levels reduced annually	General Manager	Employment strategy in process of development with community input, delayed by drought & poor economic conditions prevailing.
			Identify opportunities for economic development	Identify at least three opportunities for economic development	Economic Development Committee	Economic committee met & still to fully develop strategic approach.
			Shire promoted to attract new investment	Increase community awareness of these opportunities	Marketing and Promotions Officer	Work still continuing. Some opportunities identified & under investigation.

## Outputs, Measures and Targets

### OBJECTIVE: PLANNING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

CODE	OUTPUT	2002-2007 MEASURE AND TARGET	2002-2003 MEASURE	2002-2003 TARGET	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	2002/3 Outcome
A7	We will continue our efforts to ensure the sustained improvement of the Shire's environment	The Shire's physical image is improved and recognised by the community	New trees planted	200 advanced trees by June 2003	Beautification Development Officer	New trees in Walgett, Carinda, Lightning Ridge & Collarenebri; achieved.
			Fishing locations identified and prepared for public use, with tables, seating and cleared area	2 sites in Walgett and 1 in Collarenebri	Beautification Development Officer	2 Walgett & 1 Lightning Ridge sites under community consultation.
			Bird watching areas identified and prepared to allow for passive viewing	Brochure/Booklet prepared for distribution by December 2002	General Manager	Draft brochure prepared & under community consultation.
			Streetscape project implemented in Walgett, L/Ridge and Collarenebri	By June 2003	Beautification Development Officer	Various projects completed.
			Street lightning in town centres reviewed	By December 2002	Manager Utilities and Recreation	Review completed.

## Outputs, Measures and Targets

### OBJECTIVE: PROVIDING STRONG LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

CODE	OUTPUT	2002-2007 MEASURE AND TARGET	2002-2003 MEASURE	2002-2003 TARGET	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	2002/3 Outcome
B1	We will provide strong Regional leadership	Continue membership and participation in regional organisations	Successfully encourage more Councillors and staff to become involved in relevant regional bodies	Ongoing	General Manager	Ongoing encouragement has resulted in marginal success.
B2	We will be a good employer and provide leadership through a safe and productive workplace	Increase productivity and participation by reducing absences	Reduce staff turnover, absenteeism, industrial disputes, workers compensation claims and injuries causing loss of hours	Identified measures reduced by 30%	Manager Executive Services and Human Resources Officer	\$200K workers compensation refund obtained. Significant reductions in days lost through work related injury, absenteeism & turnover.
B3	We will ensure that Council's corporate planning needs meet the requirements of the local and regional community	Improve processes in order to better communicate Council's policies and to further develop our strong focus on customers	Develop an Internet Website  Ensure our statutory obligations are fulfilled  Identify community needs and priorities	Completed by August 2002 and updated regularly  Ongoing  Ongoing	Manager Executive Services  Manager Executive Services  Manager Executive Services and Community Services Facilitator	Satisfactorily achieved.  Systems & procedures are being addressed.  Ongoing identification by Management.

## OUTPUTS, MEASURES AND TARGETS

### OBJECTIVE: PROVIDING STRONG LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

CODE	OUTPUT	2002-2007 MEASURE AND TARGET	2002-2003 MEASURE	2002-2003 TARGET	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	2002/3 Outcome
B4	We will promote and encourage an active, stronger and better informed Walgett Shire Community	Build strong communities and social capital, become well informed, resourced, embracing equity and diversity	Provide communities with information to raise awareness of issues, services and activities	Increased participation in community forums	Group Manager, Services Management	A number of forums conducted on a range of topics.
			Build and maintain community networks with a community service focus	Advisory Groups for all Community Service organisations to meet each quarter	Community Services Facilitator	Community networks established and functioning.
			Support and develop groups where strategies are developed to address issues of disadvantage or difficulty	Advocate to State and Federal agencies the development needs and issues of the community	Community Services Facilitator	Many matters raised with Premier, Minister & departments, on various issues.
			Support and develop the strengths achieved through our rich diversity	Vigorously promote positive aspects of the Shire externally	Group Manager, Services Management	Major marketing campaign resulted in 12,000 enquiries, ongoing opportunities identified.
			Support the development of active and creative community members	Positive participation in local forums	Community Services Facilitator	Active participation evident.

## OUTPUTS, MEASURES AND TARGETS

### OBJECTIVE: PROVIDING STRONG LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

CODE	OUTPUT	2002-2007 MEASURE AND TARGET	2002-2003 MEASURE	2002-2003 TARGET	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	2002/3 Outcome
B5	We will ensure responsible and good governance	Community satisfaction with overall responsibility of Council	Provide adequate and appropriate assistance and advice to Councillors	Ongoing	General Manager	Ongoing support provided.
			All ordinary meetings of Council advertised in the three local newspapers	\Minimum ten days prior to meeting	General Manager	Achieved.
			All special meetings of Council advertised in the three local newspapers	Minimum ten days prior to meeting	General Manager	Achieved.
			Council meetings held outside Chambers at least once a quarter	Minimum one meeting each three months	General Manager	Achieved.
			Opportunities provided for the public to address Council	Minimum one meeting each three months	General Manager	Achieved.
			Walgett Shire Strategic Plan 2002 – 2007 prepared and adopted	By 30 June 2002	General Manager	Achieved, prepared & adopted on schedule.



## OUTPUTS, MEASURES AND TARGETS

### OBJECTIVE : DELIVERING COMMUNITY FOCUSSED SERVICES

CODE	OUTPUT	2002-2007 MEASURE AND TARGET	2002-2003 MEASURE	2002-2003 TARGET	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	2002/3 Outcome
C1	We will give people better opportunities for involvement and consultation about decisions which affect their lives	Recognise and encourage the community's rights and improve the accountability of the decision makers	Identify, through consultation, the unmet needs of the community	Work with service providers and the community to establish needs and how these can be met	Group Manager, Services Management	Co-ag agreement in place to assist Local / State / Federal levels to work harmoniously.
C2	We will deliver high quality, efficient customer service	Level of customer satisfaction with our response to requests and complaints. Levels to remain above targets	Survey a sample of customers who have used our services (say 1 in 10). Satisfaction levels rated as follows: 1 = poor; 2 = fair; 3 = good; 4 = very good; 5 = excellent	70% of customers rate our service as 3 or above	Manager Executive Services	2 surveys conducted, requiring additional work.
C3	We will maintain facilities to a standard which satisfies the expectations of the community	Develop preventative maintenance programs  Initiate five year improvement program	Address environmental issues  Address safety issues  Maintain to a high standard.	Issues identified and actioned  Safety audit carried out and risks minimised  Increased Community usage and appreciation noted	Manager Utilities and Recreation  Manager Utilities and Recreation.  Manager Utilities and Recreation	Progressive measures underway.  Progressive measures being taken.  Proactive & recurrent attention paid.

## OUTPUTS, MEASURES AND TARGETS

### OBJECTIVE : DELIVERING COMMUNITY FOCUSSED SERVICES

CODE	OUTPUT	2002-2007 MEASURE AND TARGET	2002-2003 MEASURE	2002-2003 TARGET	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	2002/3 Outcome
C4	We will strengthen our involvement with, and our services to, Youth	Community satisfaction with Council's performance in youth services	<p>Submission for a significant increase in funding for youth services submitted to State and Federal Governments</p> <p>Develop additional and organised after school programs in areas of culture, arts, sport and recreation for the youth of Walgett Shire</p>	<p>Submitted by November 2002</p> <p>Process commenced August 2002</p>	<p>Facilitator Community Services</p> <p>Facilitator Community Services in consultation with community</p>	<p>Several requests have been submitted without success.</p> <p>Some initiated and ongoing.</p>
C5	We will improve Library and Information Services	Community satisfaction with Council's performance	<p>Increased membership and number of books loaned</p> <p>Improved displays and quality of display material</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Facilitator Community Services</p> <p>Tourism Development Officer</p>	Review ongoing.

## Outputs, Measures and Targets

**OBJECTIVE: WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE OUR ENVIRONMENT**

CODE	OUTPUT	2002-2007 MEASURE AND TARGET	2002-2003 MEASURE	2002-2003 TARGET	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	2002/3 Outcome
D1	We will provide building control services that facilitate the construction of buildings to appropriate standards	Assess and determine Development Application and Construction Certificate applications in accordance with statutory, policy requirements and standards.	80% of applications processed within 28 days.	By September 2002	Manager Developmental Services	Achieved; 27 days @ 30/6/2003.
			2 day response to enquiries about DA's	By September 2002	Manager Developmental Services	Partially met; hindered by inability to recruit suitably qualified persons.
		Establish a system of monitoring developments to ensure compliance with conditions of consent.	Reported breaches investigated within 2 weeks	By September 2002	Manager Developmental Services	Satisfactorily achieved.

## OUTPUTS, MEASURES AND TARGETS

**OBJECTIVE: WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE OUR ENVIRONMENT**

CODE	OUTPUT	2002-2007 MEASURE AND TARGET	2002-2003 MEASURE	2002-2003 TARGET	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	2002/3 Outcome
D2	We will provide regulatory and animal control services that meet community expectations and legislative requirements.	Provide companion animal control services.	Animals micro-chipped on day of registration.	90% by December 2002	Manager Developmental Services	Achieved target.
			Investigate general complaints about dogs, cats and domestic livestock within 2 days.	90% by December 2002	Manager Developmental Services	Goal achieved.
		Undertake algal water sampling in Namoi and Barwon Rivers at Walgett.	Samples are submitted every week (summer) and fortnightly (winter).	95% by December 2002	Manager Developmental Services	Partially achieved.

## OUTPUTS, MEASURES AND TARGETS

### OBJECTIVE: WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE OUR ENVIRONMENT

CODE	OUTPUT	2002-2007 MEASURE AND TARGET	2002-2003 MEASURE	2002-2003 TARGET	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	2002/3 Outcome
D3	We will responsibly manage planning and environmental issues, while taking into account the needs of individuals and the community.	Appoint a Heritage Advisor to conduct workshops and enlist community involvement in a heritage study.	Community based heritage study completed.	70% completed by June 2003	Group Manager, Services Management	Satisfactorily completed.
D4	We will maintain and improve environmental health conditions within the Shire.	Respond to all pollution incidents, including complaints about pesticide use.	Investigations commenced within 24 hours of incident being reported	70% completed by September 2002	Manager Developmental Services	Met.
			Complaints are investigated within 2 days	95% completed by September 2002	Manager Developmental Services	Met.
		Inspect on-site sewage systems and take action to improve their management.	Inspection of all high risk sewerage systems within 500m of rivers	40% completed by June 2003	Manager Developmental Services	Achieved.
			Implement an on-site sewerage management strategy	30% completed by June 2003	Manager Developmental Services	Target achieved.

## OUTPUTS, MEASURES AND TARGETS

### OBJECTIVE : **MANAGING OUR RESOURCES AND ASSETS**

<b>CODE</b>	<b>OUTPUT</b>	<b>2002-2007 MEASURE AND TARGET</b>	<b>2002-2003 MEASURE</b>	<b>2002-2003 TARGET</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<b>2002/3 Outcome</b>
<b>E1</b>	We will identify and record all Council owned/controlled Assets as per statutory requirements	Construct a master database of all Council Assets and implement a dynamic register recording all useable information for any asset item.	Master data base development commenced with priority to residential properties and plant	Database completed for residential properties and plant	Assets Manager	Database is progressively being assembled.
<b>E2</b>	We will provide modern plant, fleet and equipment to meet the operational needs and requirements to carry out Council operations	Establish plant utilisation “base levels”, which are constantly reviewed. The utilisation levels of plant remains higher than the “base level”. Appropriate recommendations are made where existing resource requirements are higher or lower than the “base level”	Achievable and sustainable utilisation “base levels “ for all plant is established and accepted by those responsible	60 % of all plant attain acceptable levels of utilisation	Assets Manager	Improving utilisation evident at year’s end.
<b>E3</b>	We will ensure that all expenditure is justified and readily accounted for	Implement effective systems for Purchasing, Stock monitoring, Work orders and Approvals process.	Implement a centralised electronic ordering system	System operational	Group Manager, Infrastructure Management	Completed.

## OUTPUTS, MEASURES AND TARGETS

### OBJECTIVE : MANAGING OUR RESOURCES AND ASSETS

CODE	OUTPUT	2002-2007 MEASURE AND TARGET	2002-2003 MEASURE	2002-2003 TARGET	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	2002/3 Outcome
E4	We will manage our assets in a sensible and responsible manner	Assets will be maintained to serviceable and sustainable standards	Monitor change in asset condition and/or failures	Improve condition of assets	Asset Manager and Engineers	An ongoing priority. Specific reserves have been created.
E5	We will responsibly manage planning and environmental issues, while taking into account the needs of individuals and the community, and we will update means of acquiring information for users	Update planning instruments to current NSW standards	Implement a Local Environmental Plan	30% complete by June 2003	Manager Developmental Services	Project commenced, but restricted by inability to recruit suitable persons.
			Implement Development Control Plans for villages, rural residential, tourism, energy efficient housing	20% complete by June 2003	Manager Developmental Services	Completion deferred till 30/6/2004.
		Implement a GIS system	Establish a basic GIS system	100% complete by June 2003	Manager Developmental Services	Achieved satisfactorily.
		Digitise existing hard copy data for water, stormwater and sewerage Infrastructure		25% complete by June 2003	Manager Developmental Services	In progress.

## Outputs, Measures and Targets

**OBJECTIVE : MANAGING OUR RESOURCES AND ASSETS**

CODE	OUTPUT	2002-2007 MEASURE AND TARGET	2002-2003 MEASURE	2002-2003 TARGET	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	2002/3 Outcome
E6	We will manage the environment in such a way so as to minimise risks to public health, safety and exposure to public nuisance	Update statutory registers for specific premises	Respond to any complaints regarding public nuisances within 2 days	75% by September 2002	Manager Developmental Services	Achieved.
		Minimise detrimental impacts on the environment	Ensure appropriate environmental assessments are completed by developers and Council	50% by June 2003	Manager Developmental Services	Achieved.
		Regularly inspect food and licensed premises to maintain adequate levels of public health	Implement inspection and registration programs which comply to legislative requirements	100% by June 2003	Manager Developmental Services	Achieved.
E7	We will be prepared for all emergencies	Local Emergency Management Plan (DISPLAN) current	DISPLAN reviewed and Up-dated	By September 2002	General Manager	Achieved on time.



## OUTPUTS, MEASURES AND TARGETS

**OBJECTIVE : MANAGING OUR RESOURCES AND ASSETS**

CODE	OUTPUT	2002-2007 MEASURE AND TARGET	2002-2003 MEASURE	2002-2003 TARGET	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	2002/3 Outcome
E8	We will continue to ensure that the infrastructure of the Shire is improved	20 year Infrastructure Plan and Maintenance Program implemented	Five year Road Plan reviewed	Reviewed by April 2003	Manager Roads and Bridges	Completed.
			Five year Sewerage Plan developed	Development commenced	Manager Recreation and Utilities	Commencement deferred.
			Five Year Water Plan developed	Development commenced	Manager Recreation and Utilities	Commencement deferred.
			Five Year Drainage Plan developed	Development commenced	Manager Recreation and Utilities	Commencement deferred.
		We will use sound management practices to achieve Council's goals	Full costs reflected for all Principal Activities	July 2002 and ongoing	Group Manager Infrastructure Management	Achieved satisfactorily.
		Work Orders to be introduced	September 2002	Group Manager Infrastructure Management	Delayed, scheduled for completion by 30/9/2003.	

## Outputs, Measures and Targets

**OBJECTIVE : MANAGING OUR RESOURCES AND ASSETS**

CODE	OUTPUT	2002-2007 MEASURE AND TARGET	2002-2003 MEASURE	2002-2003 TARGET	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	2002/3 Outcome
<b>E8 (Contd)</b>	We will continue to ensure that the infrastructure of the Shire is improved	Plan for full utilisation of the Council Workforce	Synchronise schedule of works to reduce downtime of manpower and plant and equipment	Ongoing	Group Manager Infrastructure Management	Met and an ongoing objective.
<b>E9</b>	We will plan for the long term efficient management of assets	Develop a policy, procedures and appropriate databases, to identify and manage defects in infrastructure Shire wide  Review and update Plant requirements Develop forward Capital Expenditure Program for three year period to June 2006	Project completed by due date  Review and rectify method of acquisition and financing  Complete plan by due date	Completed by June 2003  Completed by September 2002 and ongoing  Completed by November 2002	Group Manager Infrastructure Management  Group Manager Infrastructure Management  Group Manager Infrastructure Management	Systems being evaluated, completion expected by 30/6/2004.  Completed.  Fleet Management Committee established & operational to manage.

## Outputs, Measures and Targets

**OBJECTIVE: PROMOTING OUR PLANS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

CODE	OUTPUT	2002-2007 MEASURE AND TARGET	2002-2003 MEASURE	2002-2003 TARGET	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	2002/3 Outcome
F1	We will network with other Council's, Local and State Government, Funding Providers and other relevant bodies	Community satisfaction with performance	Participation in forums and actions reported	Participate in at least 5 forums and report to the community on progress	General Manager	Achieved.
F2	We will utilise the media, both printed and electronic, to promote and market our Shire	Regular updates which satisfies the Community expectations	<p>Promote the Shire as a tourist destination</p> <p>Continue with the three local newspapers for communicating Council's activities and plans</p> <p>Review WSC Website</p> <p>Community satisfaction</p>	<p>By June 2003</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>By September 2003</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Marketing and Promotions Officer</p> <p>Marketing and Promotions Officer</p> <p>General Manager</p> <p>All Staff</p>	<p>Major marketing promotion saw 12,000 enquiries. Other promotions ongoing. Weekly 2the4 column identifies council news in three newspaper &amp; local radio networks.</p> <p>Not achieved, scheduled for completion by 31/12/2003.</p> <p>A small number of issues have been identified for council's attention.</p>

**Appendix “H”**



# **CONDITION OF PUBLIC WORKS**

## **Schedule No. 7**

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**WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL  
SPECIAL SCHEDULE No. 7  
CONDITION OF PUBLIC WORKS  
As at 2002/2003**

Asset Class	Asset Category	Depr'n. Rate	Depr'n. Expense	Cost	Valuation	Accum. Depr'n.	WDV	Asset Condition	Estimated Cost to bring to a Satisfactory Standard		Estimated Annual Capital Works	Program Maintenance Works for Current Year	Program Capital Works for Current Year
									\$'000	\$'000			
		Per Note 1	Per Note 4	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000		\$'000	\$'000	Per Section 428(2d)	\$'000	\$'000
Public Buildings	Council Offices	3%	15	381		120	2623		50	30		25	
	Cuel Works Depot	5%	18	365		196	1795		100	50		30	
	Council Halls	5%	25	696		285	4125		200	100		100	
	Council Houses	5%	57	1,133		534	5994		80	70		45	
	Shops & Offices	3%	22	647		246	4004		20	60		50	
	Museum	3%	1	26		14	114		10	6		6	
	Library	3%		8		3	53		10	5		5	
	Amenities Toilets	2%	1	69		16	534		10	50		30	
Other Structures	Aerodrome	5%	14	380		153	2274		75	150	30	136	
	Caravan Park	5%	2	48		30	175		10	20		2	
	Saleyards	3%	7	235		8	2274		15	20		20	
	Levee Bank	1%	16	1,580		128	1,4533		100	25		10	
	Pools	4%	29	775		199	5764		250	150		150	
Public Roads	Sealed Roads	1%	302	30,180		8,108	22,0734		1,000	1,250	500	950	380
	Unsealed Roads	1%	188	18,803		8,760	10,0434		3,000	1,500	300	1,960	150
	Bridges	1%	96	9,563		2,838	6,7253		2,000	50	300	120	

Note: Satisfactory refers to estimated cost to bring the asset to a satisfactory condition as deemed by Council. It does not include any planned enhancements to the existing asset.

WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL  
SPECIAL SCHEDULE No.7 (Cont'd)  
**CONDITION OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
As at 2002/2003

Asset Class	Asset Category	Depr'n. Rate	Depr'n. Expense	Cost	Valuation	Accum. Depr'n.	WDV	Asset Condition	Estimated Cost to bring to a Satisfactory Standard	Estimated Annual Maintenance Expense	Estimated Annual Capital Works	Program Maintenance Works for Current Year	Program Capital Works for Current Year	
														\$'000
Water	Treatment Plants	3%	75	2,505		1,333	1,172	2	100					
	Water Connections	10%	6	503		503		2		38			30	
	Bores	3%	10	320		221	99	2	15	12			1	
	Reservoirs	3%	83	2,770		978	1,792	2	10				4	
	Pipeline	3%	247	8,233		4,268	3,965	2	250				82	
	Pumping Stations	3%	37	1,222		861	361	2	100	150			25	
	Sewerage	Pump Stations	4%	40	1,335		629	705	2	250	33			13
		Pipeline	3%	226	7,774		3,726	4,048	2	300				11
		Reservoirs	3%	19	640		168	472	2	10				
		Sullage	3%	3	117		34	83	2	10				
Treatment Works		3%	55	1,828		1,489	339	2	300	10			36	
Drainage Works		Pump Stations	4%		10		7	3	2	15				15
	Stormwater Conduits	1%	21	2,074		535	1,539	2	10					
	Inlet & Junction Pits	1%	1	106		26	80	2	10					
	Head Walls	1%		8		2	6	2						
	<b>Total - All Assets</b>			1,615	94,331		36,404	57,927		8,300	3,779	1,130	3,856	530

Note: Satisfactory refers to estimated cost to bring the asset to a satisfactory condition as deemed by Council. It does not include any planned enhancements to the existing asset.