

# Walgett Shire Council Annual Report 2015-2016





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## MAYOR IAN WOODCOCK Foreword

The ratepayers and residents of the Walgett Shire.

We have come to the end of another year and it does look like the Gods have smiled on us at last with the rain that we have been lucky enough to receive since Late January for some.

There is no doubt that the explosion of feed in the paddocks has put a smile on the faces of most of our rural residents and even though there has been losses with excessive rain most are assured of having high yielding crops to help with the bank balance.

We have been through a number of meetings with representatives of the Government departments to do with the Fit For The Future and the Far West Initiative.

They have toned down their ideas from what we were originally informed was going to happen and if they stick to the agenda that they have spoken about the whole concept seems to be more acceptable.

We have had a very good year financially with the extra money that we have received in grants for the Shire, but as always there is never enough for the road network that the Shire has to look after.

We have a healthy balance at present but all is promised for various works which will continue on into the next financial year

Thanking you,

Clr. Ian Woodcock OAM  
Mayor Walgett Shire Council.





## YOUR COUNCILLORS



Mayor  
*Ian Woodcock OAM*  
LIGHTNING RIDGE



Deputy Mayor  
*Manuel Martinez*  
LIGHTNING RIDGE



Councillor  
*Lawrence Walford*  
LIGHTNING RIDGE



Councillor  
*Jane Keir OAM*  
COME BY CHANCE



Councillor  
*Bill (Gustavus) Murray*  
WALGETT



Councillor  
*Michael Taylor*  
LIGHTNING RIDGE



Councillor  
*Kelly Smith*  
COLLARENEBRI



Councillor  
*Tanya Cameron*  
ROWENA



Councillor  
*Robbie Turnbull*  
COLLARENEBRI



## COUNCIL SENIOR MANAGEMENT



General Manager  
*Don Ramsland*



Chief Financial Officer -  
*Michael Urquhart*



Acting Director of Engineering  
and Technical - *Prafulla KC*



Director of Environmental  
Services - *Jessica McDonald*





## COUNCIL ORGANISATIONAL CHART

### COMMUNITY, COUNCIL AND MAYOR

#### GENERAL MANAGER

- Mayoral Support
- Councillors Training and Support
- Council Business - Agenda and Action
- Inter Governmental Relations
- Inter Council Relations
- Community Relations
- Corporate Leadership and Direction
- Organisational Structure and Performance Management
- Economic Development
- Human Resources Management
- Work Health & Safety
- Tourism and Visitor Information
- Community Working Party

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

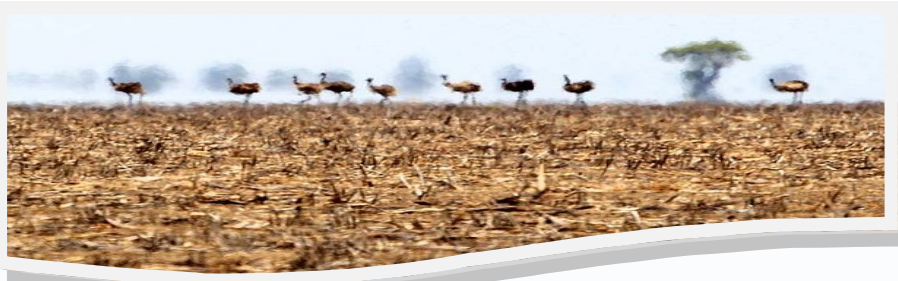
- Building Services
- Development Approvals
- Development Compliance
- Onsite Wastewater Management
- Environmental and Health Compliance
- State of the Environment Report
- Land Use and Environment Strategies
- Development Control Plans
- Local Environment Plans
- Section 149 Certificates
- GIS Management
- Animal Control
- By Laws
- Main Street Program
- Heritage
- Solid Waste and Recycling Services including New Landfill Development
- Building Maintenance

#### CORPORATE SERVICES

- Youth Services
- Property Services
- Property Register
- Childcare Services
- Financial Services
- Aboriginal Services
- Information Technology
- Swimming Pool Management Arrangements
- Budget and Management Plan
- Arts and Cultural Services
- Records Management
- Public Officer Services
- Legal Services
- Libraries
- Caravan Parks
- Leases and Licences
- Infrastructure Asset Register
- Corporate and Strategic Planning
- Policy and Delegations
- Delegate to External Bodies
- Crown Reserves

#### ENGINEERING SERVICES

- Water Services
- Waste Water Services
- Urban Storm Water Management
- Urban Streetscape and Cleansing
- Parks and Reserves Maintenance
- Bore Baths Maintenance and Management
- Urban Flood Mitigation including Levy Bank
- Airfields
- Road and Bridge Construction
- Road and Bridge Maintenance
- Quarries and Construction Material Storage and Supply
- Traffic Facilities
- Plant and Fleet Management
- New Depot Development
- Workshop and Stores
- Emergency Services



## SNAPSHOT OF SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

- NSW Local Government Youth Week Award Winners in three categories for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year:
  - NSW Best On-Going commitment to local Youth Week programs 2016—Joint winner with Dubbo City
  - Best Small Council NSW with the most outstanding Youth Week program in 2016
  - NSW Health Play Safe Sexual Health Project Award 2016
- Upgrade No 1 Oval Walgett—Flood lights installed
- Restoration of Collarenebri Agency residence
- Successful Country Arts Support Program Grant to host the production of The Mikado
- Dispersal of over 40,000 Visitor Information Guides throughout Australia and supply of over 400 Visitor packs for local events and workshops
- Dog Blitz Walgett Shire
- New planning website
- Online cemetery database
- Opal fields rural addressing concept
- Improved water testing compliance
- Main street lighting/planting/rubbish bins
- Walgett and Lightning Ridge landfill fencing project
- Free pre DA development information sessions
- Swimming pool inspection program
- Installation of new air conditioning to the Administration Centre building
- Continued partnership with Riverina Rescue, resulted in an increasing number of dogs and cats being rehomed
- Commencement of Walgett CBD Main Street Program \$46,000
- Stage 4 of the Walgett Levee Rehabilitation work completed and Stage 5 commenced \$329,000
- Regional roads repair & Maintenance projects \$1,197,000
- Angledool road resheeting \$181,000
- Reconstruct & reseal various regional roads \$502,000
- Commissioning of the new Walgett Water Treatment Plant
- Reseal and rehabilitation of shire roads \$1,202,000
- Installation of perimeter fencing for Walgett & Collarenebri aerodromes
- Replacement of two (2) graders, two (2) smooth drum rollers and two (2) backhoes



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

Serious Local Government reform in NSW began with the Integrated Planning and Reform process which was introduced by legislation in 2009. This legislation, provided for Councils throughout NSW to prepare a ten year community strategic plan, a four year works programme and an annual operational plan. These documents were underpinned by a long term (ten year) financial plan, a ten year asset management plan and a four year workforce plan.

In August, 2011, the then Department of Local Government convened its Destination 2036 workshop in Dubbo. Arising from this workshop was the establishment of the Independent Local Government Review Panel (ILGRP) which conducted an extensive consultation process before preparing a final report containing sixty four recommendations in October, 2013 which were finally released for public comment in early 2014.

During the ILGRP consultation process as the result of apparent political intervention, the Panel was tasked with undertaking a more detailed review of what were termed the “Western Rivers Councils” – the Shires of Bourke, Brewarrina, Central Darling and Walgett. Later, this focus was extended by the Panel to include Broken Hill City, the Shires of Cobar, Balranald and Wentworth as well as the Unincorporated Area.

Running parallel to this process has been the Local Government Acts Taskforce which was given the task of reviewing and updating the somewhat dated 1993 Local Government Act and subsidiary legislation.

In 2011 Walgett Shire Council initiated discussions with the neighboring shires of Bourke and Brewarrina and this process led to the formation of what was initially known as the Barwon Darling Co-ordination Group but later became the Outback Shires Alliance (OSA) in response to issues raised by the ILGRP recommendations.

The entire local government reform process has now been embraced by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Office of Local Government’s “Fit for the Future” reform which all Councils in NSW were required to submit a case outlining how they believe they will be “Fit for the Future”. Eight western division Councils including Walgett Shire have been exempted from this process and will instead have to consider the establishment of the Far West Initiative. The purpose of the Far West Initiative is to develop a new whole of government service delivery and governance model for all services delivered in Far West NSW. The incorporates the Council areas of Balranald, Bourke, Brewarrina, Broken Hill Central Darling, Cobar, Walgett and Wentworth as well as the NSW Unincorporated Area.

The NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet has been leading the Far West Initiative together with the Office of Local Government. The initiative forms part of the Government’s response to the Final Report of the NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel. The Panel recommended systemic and sustainable change in the way the region is administered.





## LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM Continued

In its response, the NSW Government supported the principle of a new governance model to ensure the needs of these remote communities can be met into the future.

Council's financial position was reviewed by T-Corp in 2012 when it was an FSR rating of "moderate" but a long term outlook of "negative". Council has been investigating how the T-Corp ratings are arrived at with a view to being able to improve its standing to one where it is able to substantiate its long term viability as a stand alone local government undertaking in participating in an appropriate level of resource sharing with neighbouring Councils.

In the 2014/15 Financial returns, Council met 5 of the 9 Ratios identified by T-Corp.

In the 2016/17-2025/26 long term financial plan council meets four of the five T-Corp ratios and would meet the own source operating revenue ratio if the FAGs Grant were to be included in these calculations. As such Walgett Shire Council now meets short, medium and longer term financial viability and ongoing sustainability issue plagued across all the Western Division Council's in the ILGRP's additional report on these council's.

The Far West Initiative Advisory Committee has met several times since its inception in October 2015. Various approaches to a new governance model have been canvassed through the committee and the preferred model, a "Joint Organisation on Steroids" is the subject of a consultation paper which was on public exhibition in September/October 2016.

However, the consultation paper fails to address adequately the whole of government service delivery issue that was the second major issue identified as part of the Independent Local Government Reform panel's report on the Far West Councils.

At this point in time only limited input has been made by State Government agencies and there has been next to nothing proposed at a Commonwealth Government Level.

One of the main problems the FWI is supposed to address is economic reforms. The report correctly identifies the higher levels of unemployment in the Indigenous and Youth including Walgett, but the State and Commonwealth Governments continue to pump funds into the welfare system propping up the unemployed negating the need for them to seek employment. Why would anyone go looking for work when the State/Commonwealth Government should be addressing this issue directly instead of duping the general public into thinking that it is the governance of Local Councils that is letting them down.

One of the most identified decisions for the incoming council will be to adequately address the Local Government Reform process in a meaningful way for the lasting benefit of the whole community.



## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Local Government Act Section  
428 (4)(a)

*A copy of the Council's audited financial reports.*

Walgett Shire Council's Financial Statements for the financial year ending 30 June 2016 were prepared in accordance with section 413{2}(c) of the Local Government Act 1993, the Office of Local Government's (OLG) Code of Accounting Practice and the Australian Accounting Standards.

The final statements were audited by Council's auditors, Luka Group and were deemed to be materially correct.

The following is a brief summary of some of the matters reported in the statements:

- The consolidated result from continuing operations before capital amounts was a surplus of \$2,769,000 compared to a 2015 surplus of \$5,696,000.
- Rates and annual charges increased by \$301,000 to \$8,584,000.
- User charges and fees increased by \$1,461,000 to \$7,364,000, largely due to the increase in RMS charges for the year.
- Interest revenue from investments increased by \$142,000 to \$797,000.
- Operational Grants and Contributions increased by \$1,815,000 due largely to Council receiving addition Roads to Recovery Grant Funding.
- Grants and Contributions for capital purposes decreased during the year by \$226,000 to \$1,614,000. The completion of the upgrades to water supply plant in the previous year impacted on this income stream.
- Employee benefits (annual leave, long service leave, etc.) and other on-costs increased by \$461,000. The increase in salaries and wages is due mostly to normal changes in grades and pay rates, additional casual staff and locum staff placements. Workers Compensation increased by \$161,000 on the previous year.
- The cost of Materials and Contracts increased by \$3,381,000. This movement is consistent with the levels of works carried out during the year and the completion of outstanding road maintenance projects.
- Depreciation expense increased by \$2,205,000, a result of road re-evaluations in 2014/2015.

Walgett Shire Council's Statement of Performance Measurement – Indicators (Consolidated) (Note 13a) shows that Council is in a good position compared to the benchmarks as set by OLG at the end of the 2016 financial year.

*See attachment (A): Financial Statements*



## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES DELIVERY PROGRAM

Local Government Act Section  
428 (1)

*A report on the Council's actual performance of its Principal Activities during 2015/2016 against the Actions detailed in the Delivery Program.*

*See attachment (B): Walgett Shire Council Delivery Program 2012-2016 Operational Plan 2015/2016*





## RATES AND CHARGES WRITTEN OFF

Local Government (General)  
Regulation 2005 Clause 132

*Rates and Charges written off by Walgett Shire Council during 2015/2016.*

Description	Amount
Rates - Pension Rebates	\$175,265.30
<b>(S 583 Local Government Act 1993)</b>	
Rates - Write-Offs - Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates & Charges	\$1,873.05
Rates - Donations	\$16,785.30
<b>(S 356 Local Government Act 1993)</b>	
Total	\$193,923.65





## OVERSEAS TRAVEL

Local Government Act Section 428 (4)(b)

Local Government (General)  
Regulation 2005 Clause 217 (1)(a)

*Details (including the purpose) of overseas visits undertaken during the year by Councillors, Council Staff or other persons representing the Council (including visits sponsored by other organisations).*

No overseas travel was undertaken during 2015/2016 by Councillors, Council Staff or persons representing Council.





## MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR FEES

### Local Government (General) Regulation Clauses 217 (i)(a1)(i-viii)

A statement of the total amount of money expended during the year on Mayoral fees and Councillor fees, the Council policy on the provision of facilities for use by Councillors and the payment of Councillor's expenses, together with a statement of the total amount of money expended during the year on the provision of such facilities and the payment of such expenses for the 12 month period 1 July 2015 to 30 July 2016.

In addition it is necessary to provide separate details of the total cost of;

- Dedicated office equipment allocated to Councillors
- Telephone calls made by Councillors
- Attendance at conferences and seminars by Councillors
- Training of Councillors and provision of skill development
- Interstate visits by Councillors (including transport, accommodation and out of pocket expenses)
- Overseas visits by Councillors (including transport, accommodation and out of pocket expenses)
- Expenses of any spouse or partner who accompanied a Councillor
- Expenses involved in the provision of childcare for a Councillor or immediate family member
- Mayoral car \$4,625
- Mayoral Christmas function \$1,358
- Delegates expenses attendance at conferences/meetings/seminars \$9,103

Councillor	Mayoral/Councillor Allowance	Office Expenses	Accommodation	Travel	Interstate Visits	Total for each Councillor
<i>Clr Darryl Cooper</i>	\$11,010	\$1,080	-	-	-	<b>\$12,090</b>
<i>Clr Robert Greenaway</i>	\$11,010	\$1,080	-	\$1451	-	<b>\$13,541</b>
<i>Clr Jane Keir Deputy Mayor</i>	\$16,926	\$1,080	-	\$881	-	<b>\$18,887</b>
<i>Clr David Lane Mayor</i>	\$28,759	\$1,080	-	-	-	<b>\$29,839</b>
<i>Clr Manuel Martinez</i>	\$11,010	\$1,080	-	\$109	-	<b>\$12,199</b>
<i>Clr Bill Murray</i>	\$11,010	\$1,080	-	\$1632	-	<b>\$13,722</b>
<i>Clr Michael Taylor</i>	\$11,010	\$1,080	-	-	-	<b>\$12,090</b>
<i>Clr Lawrence Walford</i>	\$11,010	\$1,080	-	-	-	<b>\$12,090</b>
<i>Clr Ian Woodcock</i>	\$11,010	\$1,080	-	\$1402	-	<b>\$13,492</b>
<b>Total for each Category</b>	<b>\$122,755</b>	<b>\$9720</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$5475</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$137,950</b>



## MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE

Council meetings are predominately held in Walgett with one meeting each year held in Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri, Carinda, Rowena and Burren Junction. A total of 11 ordinary meetings and 2 extra-ordinary meetings were held in 2015/2016.

Councillors also attended committee meetings of which they are a member with Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Murray and Walford also attending conferences.

The Mayor is an ex-officio member of all committees.

Councillor	Ordinary Council Meetings	Extra-Ordinary Council Meetings	Conferences	Committee Meetings
<i>Clr Darryl Cooper</i>	9	2	0	1
<i>Clr Robert Greenaway</i>	11	1	0	3
<i>Clr Jane Keir</i> <i>Deputy Mayor</i>	9	1	1	4
<i>Clr David Lane</i> <i>Mayor</i>	10	2	5	9
<i>Clr Manuel Martinez</i>	10	1	0	2
<i>Clr Bill Murray</i>	9	2	1	4
<i>Clr Michael Taylor</i>	9	2	0	3
<i>Clr Lawrence Walford</i>	10	2	1	1
<i>Clr Ian Woodcock</i>	10	2	0	3



## CONTRACTS AWARDED

Local Government (General)  
Regulation 2005 Clause 132

*Details of each contract awarded by the Council during 2015/2016 (whether as a result of a tender or otherwise), other than;*

- a. Employment contracts (that is, contracts of service but not contracts for service), and*
- b. Contracts for less than \$150,000.00 or such other amount as may be prescribed by the regulations for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016*

*Included is the name of the contractor, the nature of the goods or services supplied by the contractor and the total amount payable to the contractor.*

Name of Contractor	Goods/Services	Contract Amount Awarded	Amount Paid in 2013/14
Gingie Water Supply Upgrade	Concept Services Pty Ltd	\$429,595.60	\$403,881.23
Walgett Weir Raising Design & Project Management	Public Works - Department of Finance	\$537,328.00	\$230,907.39
Walgett Weir - Fishway Design	Public Works - Department of Finance	\$208,736.00	\$65,600.00
Walgett WTP Bore	DPI Water - Groundwater Unit	\$439,582.00	\$439,582.00
Walgett Weir - Fishway Design	Public Works - Department of Finance	\$208,736.00	\$65,600.00
Walgett Emergency - Cooling Tower	Water Treatment Australia	\$167,339.70	\$146,700.73
Walgett Emergency - Bore Pumping Station	Water Treatment Australia	\$340,930.00	\$0.00
Reseal Road	SRS Pty Ltd	\$1,038,123.50	\$1,038,123.50
Line Marking	Road & Maritime Services	\$192,721.00	\$192,721.00





## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Local Government (General)  
Regulation 2005 Clause 217 (1)(a3)

*A summary of the amount by the Council during 2015/2016 in relation to legal proceedings taken by or against the Council (including amounts, costs and expenses paid or received by way of court settlements, other than those the terms of which are not to be disclosed) and a summary of the state of progress of each legal proceeding (if it has been finalized) the result, for the 12 monthly period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.*

Council incurred \$81,051.19 in legal costs in 2015/2016, comprising \$77,413.19 for rates collection which is recoverable as a charge on the ratable property. The balance of \$3,638.00 involved general legal costs per below.

Description	Amount
Complete - Resolve Ownership	\$850
Complete - Removal of Cattle Grids	\$1,600
Complete - Development of a Memorandum of Understanding	\$1,188
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,638</b>





## PRIVATE WORKS

Local Government Act Section 67(3)

Local Government (General) Regulation Clause 217 (1)(a4)

*Details of a summary of resolutions made during 2015/2016 under Section 67 concerning work carried out on private land and details or summary of such works if the cost of the work has been fully or partly subsidised by the Council, together with a statement of the total amount by which the Council has subsidised any such work during 2015/2016.*

Council received \$280,344.81 (Excl. GST) for private works carried out in 2015/2016, with an expenditure of \$270,599.37 (Excl. GST), no subsidies.





## CONTRIBUTIONS

Local Government (General)  
Regulation 2005 Clause 217 (1)(a5)

*The total amount contributed or otherwise granted under Section 356.*

Council contributed a total of \$533,535 under Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993. The expenditure is listed in the table below;

Organisation	Donation
<i>Glengarry Grawin Sheepyards Miners Association</i>	\$30,000
<i>Lightning Ridge Pool Complex</i>	\$350,000
<i>Lightning Ridge Jewellery Design Award</i>	\$3,500
<i>Lightning Ridge Visitor Information Centre</i>	\$130,000
<i>Fees &amp; Charges Rebates, Local Churches</i>	\$16,785
<i>Barwon Group CWA Medical Scholarship Scheme</i>	\$3,50
Total	\$533,535

Council also contributed a further \$7,380 of grants under its Community Assistance Scheme to another 7 organisations listed below;

Organisation	Donation
<i>Collarenebri Jockey Club</i>	\$1000
<i>Isolated Children's Parent's Association Inc. Walgett</i>	\$400
<i>Lightning Ridge Junior Rugby League Football Club</i>	\$880
<i>Walgett Aero Club</i>	\$3000
<i>Lightning Ridge Community Radio</i>	\$1000.
<i>Lightning Ridge Arts &amp; Craft Council</i>	\$550
<i>David Bowie Tribute Committee Carinda</i>	\$550
Total	\$7,380



## EXTERNAL BODIES

Local Government (General)  
Regulation Clause 217 (1)(a6)

*A statement of all external bodies (such as County Councils) that during 2015/2016 exercised functions delegated by the Council.*

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council has been delegated the responsibility for the management of noxious weeds within the Walgett Shire Council Local Government Area. Walgett Shire Council contributed \$99,518.00 (Excl GST) to the County Council for its services.





## CONTROLLING INTEREST IN COMPANIES

Local Government (General)  
Regulation 2005 Clause 217 (1)(a7)

*A statement of all companies in which the Council (whether alone or in conjunction with other Councils) held a controlling interest during 2015/2016.*

Walgett Shire Council held no controlling interest in any company during 2015/2016.





## JOINT VENTURES

Local Government (General)  
Regulation 2005 Clause 217 (1)(a8)

*A statement of all corporations partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies to which the Council participated during 2015/2016.*

Council was involved in the following joint ventures:

- North West Slopes and Plains Cooperative Library Service
- Statewide Mutual Insurance Group
- Northwest Weight of Loads Group
- Rural Fire Service NSW
- Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC)
- Namoi Local Government Group (NLGG)
- Hunter Councils Inc. – Regional Procurement Initiative
- Western Division and “C” Division of NSW Shire Association
- Netwaste
- Outback Shires Alliance
- Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
- Walgett Local Emergency Management Committee
- Far West Initiative Advisory Committee





## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Local Government (General)  
Regulation 2005 Clause 217 (1)(a9)

*A statement of the activities undertaken by the Council during 2015/2016 to implement its Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan.*

Activities undertaken during the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 to ensure Council continues to apply the principles of Equal Employment Opportunity legislation;

- Continual review of Job Descriptions, Policies and Induction programs
- Monitoring of advertisements and selection criteria by General Manager to ensure advertising is non-discriminatory
- School to Work Programs to assist student transition into the workforce
- Provide assistance to employees and supervisors regarding EEO issues and grievances through Council's Human Resources Manager
- Continuation of Council's Employee Assistance Program through Converge International
- Engagement of professionals to provide counselling, support and/or mediation to staff if required
- Creation of apprentice and trainee opportunities to provide career paths in Local Government.





## EMPLOYMENT OF SENIOR STAFF

Local Government (General) Regulation Clause 217 (b) Clause 217 (1)(b)(i-iv) Clause 217 (1)© And Clause 217 (1)(c)(i-iv)

*A statement of the number of Senior Staff employed by the Council during 2015/2016, together with a statement of the total amount of money payable in respect of the employment of Senior Staff, including money payable for salary, for the provision of fringe benefits and for all other on-costs connected with their employment.*

In 2015/2016 Council employed four (4) senior staff as defined under the requirements of the Local Government Act with these being the General Manager, the Director Corporate Services, Chief Financial Officer and Director Engineering /Technical Services.

The total amount spent on employing these senior staff was \$509,325. This amount includes salaries, fringe benefits tax, private use of a Council vehicle, employer's superannuation contributions and total value of non-cash benefits as detailed below.

Position	Salary	House Rent (non-cash)	Motor Vehicle (non-cash)	Superannuation	Fringe Benefits Tax	Total
General Manager	\$170,413	\$13,780	\$9,507	\$16,189	\$10,263	\$220,152
Senior Staff	\$233,557	\$6927	\$7,885	\$25,542	\$15252	\$289,173







## STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Local Government Act Section  
428A (1)

### State of the Environment Report

*The Local Government Act 1993 (sub-section 428A(1)) requires the annual report of Council to include a "State Environment Report" (SOE) in the year of an ordinary election. The last Council election was in September 2012. The next SOE report is required after Council election - FY 2016-2017.*

A report as to the State of the Environment in the area, and in particular in relation to the following environment sectors;

- (i) Land
- (ii) Air
- (iii) Water
- (iv) Biodiversity
- (v) Waste
- (vi) Noise
- (vii) Aboriginal Heritage
- (viii) Non-Aboriginal Heritage

With particular reference, with regard to each such environmental sector to;

- (ix) Management plans relating to the environment
- (x) Speed Council projects relating to the environment
- (xi) The environment impact of Council activities

*See attachment (C): 2012/2013 State of the Environment Report (New report due 2016-2017)*





## STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE with Special Variations approved Conditions

Local Government Act Section  
508 (2) and Section 508A

No special rates variation applied for and approved by Minister by Walgett Shire Council for the 2015/2016 Financial Year.





## COMPANION ANIMALS AND REGULATION

Local Government (General)  
Regulation 2005 Clause 217 (1)(f)  
And Companion Animal Guidelines

*Statement on activities relating to enforcing and ensuring compliance with the Companion Animals Act and Regulations (including information on pound data, data relating to dog attached, funding spent on companion animal management and activities, community education programs, strategies to promote the de-sexing of dogs and cats, strategies to comply with Section 64 to seek alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals, off leash areas provided by Council area and detailed financial information on the use of companion animals fund money).*

### Companion Animals Act and Regulation

Council lodges an annual return with the Department of Local Government which shows the numbers of impounded companion animals. Key aspects of this year's return include:

#### Council Seizure Activity -

- 48 dogs and 95 cats were seized - with 10 dogs and 0 cats returned to owners

#### Animals in and Arriving at Council's Facility -

- 233 dogs and 10 cats were surrendered

#### Animals Leaving Council's Facility -

- 28 dogs were released to their owners and 248 were re-homed
- 16 cats were released to their owners and 77 were re-homed
- 27 dogs and 183 cats were euthanased
- 

Council spent \$140,287.00 on companion animal management related activities during 2015-2016, including the employment of a Regulatory Officer.

The expenditure was offset by funds received from:

Income, Fines, Microchipping, Impound Fees & Charges ( \$33,238.00 )

Council participated in the RSPCA Companion Animal Welfare Scheme (CAWS) again, which was very well received and attended. The scheme includes a de-sexing and micro-chipping program for dogs.

The vast majority of companion animals surrendered to, or seized by, Council were rehomed by volunteers from Riverina Rescue who undertook regular visits to the Walgett pound to retrieve and re-home unclaimed dogs.

Council did not access any money from the Companion Animals Fund during the period.



## GOVERNMENT INFORMATION Public Access Act 2009

### *Authorised proactive release of Government Information.*

An agency must, at intervals of not more than 12 months, review its program for the release of Government Information to identify the kinds of Government Information held by the agency that should in the public interest be made publicly available without imposing unreasonable additional costs on the agency.

Walgett Shire Council's program for proactive release of information involves;

- Progression of the systems and mechanisms utilised by the organisation to increase the effective access by members of the public to information that they have a right to view, download or copy (where applicable)
- Working towards ensuring all government information is available to the public on the Council website
- Ensuring that if information is not available on the Council website that it may be accessed by other means
- Reviewing the types of information requested via Formal Access applications and via customer contact with Council's Customer Service Centre and deciding if the information should be made readily available to all members of the public.

For the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, Council received 0 Formal Applications for release of Government information.

### *Attachment D (with Attachment B)*





## ENVIRONMENT PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979

### Planning agreements under the Environmental Planning Assessment Act 1979

*Details of compliance with and effect of planning agreements in force during the year.*

No planning agreements were entered into by Council during 2015/2016.





## CONDITION OF PUBLIC WORKS

A report on the condition of public works (including public buildings, public roads and water, sewerage and drainage works) under the control of the Council as at the end of 2015/2016 together with;

- a. An estimate (at current values) of the amount of money required to bring the works up to a satisfactory standard
- b. An estimate (at current values) of the annual expense of maintaining the works at that standard and
- c. The Council's program of maintenance for that year in respect of the works.

### Public Buildings

Council owned or controlled buildings have not been fully assess in relation to the funding required to bring them up to a satisfactory standard. Comprehensive building condition reports have been prepared for each building/facility and a maintenance repair program developed.

### Public Roads

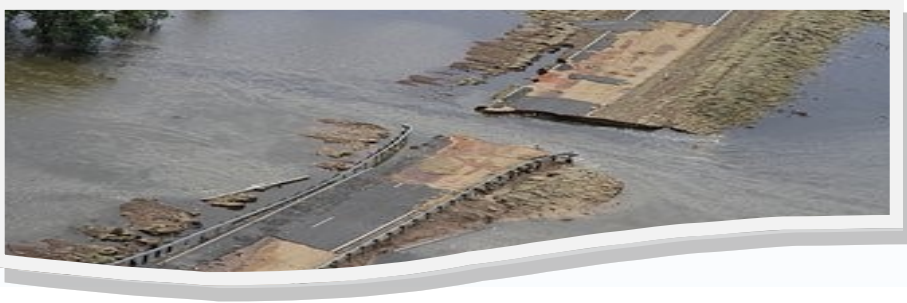
Council maintains a network of 2375km local and regional roads, which are made up of regional (558km), local (1817km) and urban (86km) roads. There are 426.66km of classified roads, which Council maintains on behalf of the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS). The urban network consists of 25.70 km of footpath and 77km of sealed roads. The length of sealed and unsealed roads in the Shire is 447km and 1928km respectively. Council maintains 47 concrete bridges, 4 timber bridges, 10 box culverts and 1 pipe culvert.

Council's maintenance programme for 2015/2016 totalled \$2.194 million at an average cost of \$923.00 per kilometre which is up from \$580 in the previous financial year.

The roads assets replacement value and written down value at 30 June 2016 was;

Assets	Replacement Value	Written Down Value	Depreciation
<b>Roads</b>	\$93,605,143.00	\$49,173,355.00	\$44,431,788.00
<b>Footpaths</b>	\$2,470,955.00	\$2,470,955.00	\$2,329,797.00
<b>Bridges</b>	\$37,207,957.00	\$19,883,131.00	\$17,324,826.00

The cost of improvement works estimated to bring the road assets to a satisfactory condition is \$3 million. Kerb and gutters are considered to be in a satisfactory condition and it is estimated that it will cost \$6,000.00 per annum to maintain the satisfactory condition.



## BUSHFIRE HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM

*A report on the bush fire hazard reduction activities of the Council during 2015/2016 that include activities carried out under the Bush Fire Management Plan approved under the Rural Fires Act 1997.*

### Bushfire hazard reduction programs

The Bush Fire Management Committee held two meetings during 2015/2016. At these meetings, Section 52 plan, land management and reports from various agencies were discussed. Council also attended 4 Service Level Agreement meetings during 2015/2016.

The NSW Rural Fire Service provides up to \$35,000.00 to assist Council with road side vegetation management and hazard reduction through vegetation slashing.

In 2015/2016 a total of \$15,245.15 was expended in relation to Bushfire Hazard Reduction Programs with the reduced amount primarily resulting from reduced vegetation growth during the current drought conditions.

2015/2016 Fire Hazard Reduction Works	
Location	Total
<b>Rowena</b>	\$373.36
<b>Carinda</b>	\$1200.00
<b>Walgett Town</b>	\$2475.00
<b>Walgett Airport</b>	\$2400.00
<b>Shire Roads Slashing—Gwydir Highway</b>	\$5433.79
Rural Fire Service Contribution	<b>\$15245.15</b>



## TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### **2015 Walgett Bulldust to Bitumen Festival**

The 2015 Walgett Bulldust to Bitumen Festival was held 3-9 August. Overall the numbers were down compared to the 2014 festival. Marketing, clashing of local events and the weather contributed to the low participation numbers. Workshops in Art, Astronomy and circus tricks were well attended and entries for the Waste to Art, Chickpea Cooking and Photography competitions were good.

The Big Day Out Street Party and Dinner Under the Stars clashed with Rugby Union finals but Wine with Words and the Carp Bash proved to be very popular.

### **Walgett Shire Newsletters**

Newsletters are again being distributed throughout the Walgett Shire on a regular basis. Following the last edition released in Autumn 2014, newsletters covering Spring 2015 and Summer 2015/2016 have been mailed out to residents within the Walgett Shire and are made available on the Walgett Shire website and Weekly Bulletin.

### **Walgett Outdoor Markets**

Quarterly Markets were held at Apex Park on the 12/9/2015 and the 12/3/2016. Unfortunately stall holder bookings were down for both days compared to the previous year.

The Christmas Market was held in Fox Street to coincide with the Walgett Christmas Street Party on the 18/12/2016 as visiting stall holders were attending the Coonamble Markets the evening before. Hosting two Christmas Markets in the one month was seen as excessive.

The June markets were arranged to compliment the Walgett Races but were cancelled due to wet weather.

The request to have the markets coincide with the races has been noted.

2 x 3.5mtr "Walgett Outdoor Markets" teardrop banners were purchased in June 2016.

It is anticipated that they will attract more residents and travelers' driving past.

### **Toyota Tour de OROC**

Due to the ongoing drought and the financial strain on the community, it was decided that a large fundraiser for the 2015 Toyota de OROC wouldn't be viable.

Cyclists and support teams were welcomed at a community BBQ & pool party and TTdO monster raffle tickets sold by council staff. An amount of \$694.00 was raised and Walgett Shire Council contributed \$1,000.00 that covered costs for accommodation and food.

Along with other local cycling enthusiasts, Deputy Mayor Jane Keir cycled the last 1,250mts from the levee bank on the western side of Walgett to the swimming pool.

A total of \$105,742.00 was raised and presented to MacQuarie Homestay in March 2016.





## TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Continued

### **Collarenebri Christmas Festival**

The 1st annual Collarenebri Christmas Festival was on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2015 to support local businesses and organisations.

The main street was closed to traffic allowing 3 hours of trade, entertainment and games.

Staff of the Collarenebri Youth Centre ran activities for the kids and approximately 300 people attended the event.

### **Walgett Christmas Street Party**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Walgett Christmas Street Party was held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of December.

Trade was noticeably quiet, some businesses chose not to participate and others stated that it was held too close to Christmas.

The financial impact of the drought, the heat during the evening and the fact that 2 local couples got married elsewhere would have impacted on attendance rates.

On a positive note the new festoon lighting and freshly planted garden beds in Fox Street looked wonderful.

### **Welcome to the Community Events**

“Meet and Greet Nights” were conducted in Walgett and Lightning Ridge during March 2016, unfortunately due to a lack of numbers the Collarenebri function was cancelled.

*Walgett:* A total of 35 people attended the evening at the Walgett Library which was ideal and well catered to families, platters were lovely, kids activities and book giveaways were very appreciated, having guests introduce themselves worked well.

*Lightning Ridge:* 30 people attended the function at the Lightning Ridge Bowling Club.

Food was great, guests introduced themselves which encouraged conversation and locals suggested that event should be held earlier in the year.

### **Inland NSW Tourism**

Meetings attended in Cobar to discuss the rebranding of “Outback NSW”, with delegates from Broken Hill, Balranald, Hay, Cobar, Bourke & Nyngan.

In February 2016, Walgett Shire contributed \$5,500.00 to Inland NSW for a new “Outback Campaign”. Members were informed that the Board of Inland NSW had to appoint Voluntary Administrators as the organisation had not been able to successfully apply for enough grant funding which accounted for over 80% of Inland's budgeted income.

At an administrators meeting in June, major creditors Destination NSW and Bauer Media requested that all creditors associated with Inland NSW sign a waiver on the understanding that the Outback campaign will be undertaken by Bauer Media.

Bauer Media committed to providing services to those who contributed to the Outback campaign via Turu links.



## CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC PROMOTIONS

Our communities within our Local Government Area are as diverse as they are unique and the diversity and cultural cohesion of our people and towns attributes to the social inclusion values and program delivery of our Council. Council understands the issues faced by minority and marginalised groups in regards to access and inclusion and endeavours to include ALL residents in program and promotional events and initiatives.

Council's community development department, libraries and youth development staff target and align program delivery to the needs of community. Council has successfully introduced opportunities for community, services, and organisations to have direct input into what Council delivers through the forming of "Working Groups" around each specific event or program across our three larger communities. This allows a avenue for all to be involved and has proven to be best practice as evidenced by the continual increase in community engagement and participation numbers at the series of "whole of community" events delivered throughout the year.

Harmony Day celebrations across three communities coincided with the United Nations International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination and a day of cultural respect for all who call Australia home. Many local people across all communities participated in the events which promoted living in Harmony and working together for common goals

Promotion of Council driven events is essential and sometimes challenging due to the demographic of our Shire. Council has addressed this issue with a regular bulletin on its website of programs and events, mail outs to community members if required, posters and flyers of events and correspondence through extensive email lists of local people. Council recognises the importance of keeping people informed and the regular Shire newsletter endeavours to also offer community members insight into Council business.

NAIDOC Week was again a well-planned, "working group" delivered event in each of the three larger communities of Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri. The theme for 2016 was *Song Lines - The living Narrative of our Nation*. Song Lines are been passed down for thousands of years and are central to the existence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They are imperative to the preservation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural practices. Council staged significant events in each community with guest speakers and performances by local Aboriginal people.

Council and its community development staff placed an emphasis on inclusion of all residents in delivery of the above programs and also supported, planned and delivered in partnerships and numerous other awareness, promotional, interventional, educational and diversionary programs to community.

Programs and events delivered successfully throughout the year include, Seniors Week Events, International Women's Day events an all three larger communities. Statistically information gathered indicates a marked increase in attendance at all events in 2016 by community members and services alike.



## HUMAN RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

The major human resource related activities undertaken within the Organisation during the 2015/2016 period included:

- Industrial and Employee Relations
- Recruitment, selection and induction
- School to Work Program
- Consultative Committee administration
- Equal Employment Opportunity
- Training and development programs
- Salary Administration and Job evaluation
- Workplace Health and Safety
- Workers compensation, Injury management and rehabilitation

### Work Health and Safety

The major Work Health and Safety related activities undertaken within the organisation from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 included:

- Policy reviews completed for First Aid, Emergency Management, Asbestos Management, Drug and Alcohol Policy, Safe Work Method Statements
- Developed and presented Code of Conduct and Induction training to all staff, Developed Worker on Foot training, In house training/assessment for plant operators
- Completed StateCover audit 2015 and 2016
- Set up Health Monitoring – Asbestos, Chemical, Noise, Fluvax, Skin checks
- Updated all Traffic Control and Chemical qualifications of relevant staff along with licences and operator ticket inspections
- Implemented Safehold Program
- Attended numerous Workshops/Forums/Meetings—Compensation changes, JLTA, Injury Management, Northern Inland Risk Group, MANEX, Orana Risk Group, WHS
- Fully compliant with Asbestos Management Plan/Register for all council buildings - Organised complete inspections of all Council assets

### Workers Compensation, injury management and rehabilitation

The Work-Health and Safety Officer and Rehabilitation Co-Ordinator, in conjunction with the Human Resources Manager, provides advice, guidance and support to managers, supervisors and employees to help prevent injury or illness related to work activities. Where injury or illness did occur assistance was given to assist in a timely and safe return to pre-injury duties.

Appropriate controls were actioned to return injured workers to the workplace and to prevent further injury.

Where injury resulted in a claim for workers Compensation the claims were proactively managed in line with Council's obligations under the legislation.

Medical providers contributed to the management of workplace injuries and illness through the provision of expert medical advice and pre employment health checks.



## HUMAN RESOURCE ACTIVITIES Continued

### Industrial Relations

Support and guidance was provided to managers, supervisors and employees during performance management, disciplinary and industrial matters to ensure procedural fairness and effective outcomes were achieved. Advice and guidance was provided to managers, supervisors in regard to the Local Government (State) Award 2014 and legislation surrounding employment.

### Health and Safety Committee

The Health and Safety Committee is representative of the broader workforce and considers issues relating to the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. The Committee met on (eight) 8 occasions during the 2015/2016 financial year.

### Consultative Committee

The Consultative Committee is representative of the broader workforce and considers issues relating to the Local Government (State) Award 2014. The Committee met on 5 occasions during the 2015/2016 financial year.

### Recruitment, Selection and Induction

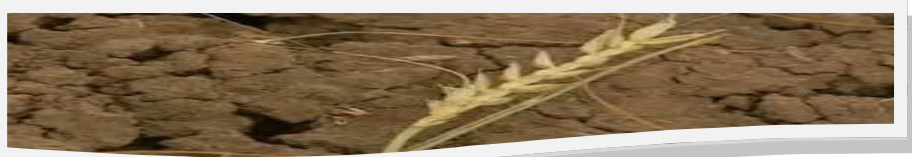
The turnover rate for the period 01 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 was 30% using the 'all in approach', up by 9.71% from the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. This increase is in part caused by casual staff employed for drought employment works. Council continues to implement flexible working conditions, training and development opportunities, corporate uniform, salary packaging and subsidised housing rental to support the recruitment, retention and development of suitable staff.

Recruitment activity for the period 01 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 totalled 39 new appointments. Council continues to recruit, develop and train employees engaged through traineeships and apprenticeship employment options. Three (3) new trainees and one (1) apprentice were recruited in the 2015/2016 year.

In managing recruitment, selection and induction processes, Council was cognizant of the application of fair and equitable processes and maintenance of the principles of merit and Equal Employment Opportunity.

### School to Work Program

Walgett Shire Council continued the School to Work Program in partnership with Walgett Community College, Collarenebri and Lightning Ridge High Schools. This program was introduced to assist students in choosing a career path within Local Government. Students are assigned to a 'buddy' to assist them whilst at work and are offered training and development to improve their skills. Four (4) students participated in the program for the 2015/2016 financial year.



## HUMAN RESOURCE ACTIVITIES Continued

### Training Programs

Council continues to encourage employees to participate in training and development. During the period 2015/2016 Council expended \$98,770.59 including outdoors staff wages costs on training, accommodation, travel and registration expenses. An additional amount of \$11,183.82 was expended on conference attendance and travel to assist staff to improve their skills and remain up to date with legislative requirements.

*Training included but was not limited to:*

- RMS Traffic control tickets – Traffic Controller, Implement Traffic Control Plans,
- Prepare a work Zone Traffic Management Plan
- Diploma in Building Surveying (Building)
- Safe Dog Handling, Apprehension & Bite Prevention
- Certificate IV Accounting
- Complying Development course (Building)
- Certificate IV Food Surveillance
- Certificate III Business Administration
- Automotive Mechanical Apprenticeship (1<sup>st</sup> year and 3<sup>rd</sup> year apprenticeship)
- First Aid
- Reflect
- Data-fuel Training
- Rating Professionals courses – 1 to 4
- Enter & Work Confined Spaces
- Working at Heights
- Swimming Pool assessments, compliance and safety awareness
- Fringe Benefit Tax
- Implementation of Infrastructure Assets (Schedule 7)
- Making Consultative Committees more effective
- Equal Employment Opportunity
- Workplace Health & Safety workshop
- Civica Northern Inland User Group
- Chemical Certificate (refresher & initial)
- Certificate III in Local Government (Regulatory Services)
- Certificate III Horticulture
- Certificate IV Water Operations
- Certificate III water Operations – Traineeship
- Automotive Air Conditioning Technology

### Salary Administration

The Human Resources Manager administered the salary system on behalf of the entire organisation to ensure compliance with Local Government (State) Award 2014. A number of position descriptions were revised and processed through the Mercer Evaluation System to ensure appropriate grading.



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES

Council's commitment to developing, engaging and creating leadership opportunities for our youth and young people remains a strong focus on our agenda as our youth development team continue to plan, initiate and deliver services to children and youth across our Shire.

The youth and community development teams work with children and youth guided by its strategy of diversion, engagement and leadership as the model of service delivery working alongside local and regional services, organisations and agencies endeavouring to make a positive difference in the lives of our future leaders. Councils Youth Centres and Vacation Care services continue to be well attended throughout the year with programs being developed with input from young people on all occasions from planning to delivery. Youth Development staff are all working towards furthering their qualifications which in turn will consistently improve service delivery.

The National Quality Framework legislative guidelines for "services to young people" are in place at all centres and is adhered too, supported by each centres quality improvement plans in place ensuring our service delivery to children and youth is of a high standard.

Councils Youth Week 2016 program has again, for an amazing tenth consecutive year been recognised as the bench mark and best practise in delivery of youth week programs across NSW being nominated as finalists in all four eligible categories of NSW Youth Week 2016.

The categories included, NSW Best Small Council with the most outstanding youth week program, Council with the most on-going commitment to Youth Week NSW, 2016 Best Local youth week Program and NSW Health's Play Safe Sexual Health Project Award. Walgett Shire was awarded a total of three State awards at the NSW Local Government Awards 2016.

### **Best on-going commitment to local Youth Week programs 2016**

**Winner:** *Joint - Walgett Shire Council & The former Dubbo City Council*

### **Best Small Council with the most outstanding Youth Week program in 2016**

**Winner:** *Walgett Shire Council*

### **NSW Health Play Safe Sexual Health Project Award 2016**

**Winner:** *Joint - Walgett Shire Council & the former City of Canterbury.*

The Walgett Shire Youth Council continues to play a vital role in what, how our youth teams deliver services to young people and have again proven pivotal in guiding our teams in deliver as evidence by the outstanding outcomes of our Youth Week program and our succession plans in regards to membership of the group. We have had (36) thirty-six young people engage in Youth Council business over the year and interest increases regularly following engaging programs and initiatives and State recognised outcomes.

Many good things have been achieved by the children and young people of our Shire during 2016 and our teams can measure success by feedback from young people and statistical information via attendance at programs offered. The PARTY program was well received following advocacy from our department in addressing risk related trauma with young people and risky behaviours.

Council was successful in hosting three events at each of the schools delivered by the team from Royal North Shore Hospital. This program will be again delivered in 2017 and coincide with National Youth Week initiatives. The School 2 Work Program currently has 6 young people participating and more are keen to trial this initiative. Partnerships with schools, services local and regional sees our teams well placed to continue to engage, empower and support young people across our Shire.



## LIBRARY SERVICES

A significant increase in patronage and membership has taken place during the year at both Library services in Walgett and Lightning Ridge. Borrowing and usage of our updated resources and services have proven to be welcomed by community. Beautification development at both centres has improved appearance and offered community and visitors a more welcoming hub for information gathering, utilization of services and social interaction.

The continuing number of workshops, exhibitions, evening functions and meetings offered at both Libraries has created a community ownership of our Libraries and aided in outstanding attendance and participation of patrons.

The “Big Sky” regional library partnership continues to gain momentum with improved technical services available to patrons and state of the art resources available, promoting technology awareness through Borrow Box to community members helping them download EBooks, E-Magazines and E-Audio which are available through membership from our webpage.

Councils outreach programs have sustained and continued over the past year providing a valuable link for people in remote areas and maintaining a positive connection to their Library.

The Library services staff work together with Councils community and youth development teams demonstrating an essential link in addressing community issues and delivery information, supporting events, promoting early literacy needs, and partnering and utilizing resources for specific events and acknowledgment opportunities.

Libraries in both communities report high numbers of young people frequenting the services and promote this to schools and services working with young people that the Libraries are a space they are welcome to attend. National literacy and educational events are offered to community through the Library services and external groups are encouraged to seek support of the Library staff in relation to space for workshops and information sharing.





## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Council continues to advocate, promote and demonstrate a commitment to the health and well being of our Shires residents. The community development team works closely with local and regional services, agencies and organisations supporting, partnering and promoting the wellbeing of our residents within our communities. Partnerships with local service providers are essential in addressing and targeting interventional and awareness initiatives across our vast Shire.

Our Community, Youth, Aboriginal affairs and Library teams partner with local health , family support, domestic violence, educational, sporting and law and order services across the Shire in delivery of programs addressing, physical fitness, emotional and social well being. We maintain our infrastructure to our communities needs and work on the ground with local clubs to ensure Council is there to support the objectives relating to the best outcomes for community.

Council staff presence on both Walgett and Lightning Ridge Interagency groups ensure we are well informed of issues and gaps and needs across community. The groups play a key role in addressing the war on drugs in our communities and have sustained our involvement as Auspice body for both the Walgett Community Drug Action Team and the Lightning Ridge Drug Action Team.

Council has partnered in numerous awareness and statistic gathering programs to assist in gaining information of drug usage and distribution of information sharing as an interventional strategy.

The development this year of our first ever *Walgett Shire Council Crime Prevention and Safety Plan 2016-2020* is welcomed by Council and community alike.

This document outlines a strategic approach in addressing and preventing crime and anti social issues across our Shire. It is a *Plan* we trust will be utilized by services addressing these needs within our Shire and a reference tool in measuring outcomes and delivery of initiatives implemented to the broader community.

This last year we have delivered in partnership numerous events targeting Domestic Violence, Child Protection, Mental Health, Youth employment ethics and readiness, World Aids Awareness Events, Sexual, Emotional and Social Health and Wellbeing, Cultural harmony programs and social inclusion initiatives.

Council has supported local organisations to undertake improvements to facilities across the Shire in promotion of sports and physical exercise and maintains the outdoor gym equipment and other supporting infrastructure.

Council also implemented special events for International Women's Day, Youth Week Program, Children's Week, Grandparents Day, Seniors Weeks, Carers Week, Suicide Prevention and continues to sustain our support of the health and well being of our residents.





## ACCESS AND EQUITY

*A report on the Council's performance in relation to access and equity to meet residents needs outlined in Council's 2014/2015 Community Strategic Plan and undertaken by Council in 2015/2016.*

Council recognises the importance to provide all residents with equal access and equity opportunities and activities that meet residents' needs and expectations. Council is committed to be recognised as a listening council and connected to its residents. Council meets these needs by;

- Consulting and communicating decisions effectively through Council's website and media releases
- Providing opportunities for the public to address agenda items at Council meetings
- Strengthening and maintaining the community's involvement in the delivery of services through a transparent process of networking and partnerships
- A consultation framework that promotes and values engagement with all community sectors
- Providing opportunities for residents to have input into programs and initiatives facilitated by the youth and community development team
- Ongoing audit and assessment of Council facilities





## CATEGORY 1 BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

*A list of the Category 1 Business activities of the Council.*

Council's significant business activities are as follows:

- Category 1 (annual sales turnover \$2 million and above)

## STATEMENT OF EXPENSES/REVENUE/ASSETS FOR CATEGORY 1

*A statement of expenses, revenues and assets in relation to each Category 1 business activity.*

Walgett Shire Council does not have any Category 1 Business Activities.





## CATEGORY 2 BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

Local Government (General)  
Regulation 2005  
Clause 217 (1)(d)(iii)

*A list of the Category 2 business activities of the Council.*

The following business activities have been identified as Category 2 Businesses (annual sales turnover less than \$2 million):

- Council has two (2) business activities declared as Category 2 business activities with total annual operating revenue less than \$2 million. These businesses units are Walgett Shire Water Services and Walgett Shire Sewerage Services as contained Special Purpose Financial Report attached to this report.





## IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY

*A summary of the progress of the Council in implementing the principals of Competitive Neutrality.*

The disclosure requirements are reflected in Council's pricing and financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents, Council subsidies, rate of return on investments in business units and dividends paid.

## COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY PRICING REQUIREMENTS

*A statement as to whether the Competitive Neutrality requirements have or have not been applied to each Category 1 business activity of the Council.*

## COMPLAINT HANDLING MECHANISM FOR COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY

*A statement regarding the establishment of a complaints handling mechanism for Competitive Neutrality complaints, and as to the manner in which the Council publicises and makes the mechanism known to the public.*

In July 2016 Council implemented a new Customer Action Request system called EnviroCAR. This online service request system allows members of the public and also Council staff to lodge requests/complaints for a variety of service needs such as road maintenance, animals, parks and gardens, building enquiries, rates etc.

With EnviroCAR implemented a new streamlined process is now in place with comprehensive workflow and reporting capabilities, customer notifications via SMS, e-mail or letter and integration into Councils existing corporate systems.

Members of the public can access this system by navigating to Councils website at [www.walgett.nsw.gov.au](http://www.walgett.nsw.gov.au) and selecting Customer Request from the quick link button on the right hand side of the website or alternatively you can call Council on (02) 6828 6100 and submit one over the phone.

Council has adopted a Complaints Management Policy which would also respond to complaints in relation to Competitive Neutrality.



## SUMMARY OF COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY COMPLAINTS

*A summary of Competitive Neutrality that have been made against the Council during the year (including details of the number of complaints received and the subject matter or nature of the complaints) and a statement as to the outcome of those complaints (including details as to the number of complaints disposed of during the year and the number still outstanding at the end of the year).*

No complaints in relation to Competitive Neutrality have been made against the Council in 2015/2016.





## PRIVACY AND PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION ACT

The annual report of each public sector agency must include;

- A statement of the action taken by the agency in complying with the requirements of the Act;
- \* Statistical details of any review conducted by or on behalf of the agency under Part 5.
- Whether the public authority has an internal reporting policy in place.  
**Walgett Shire Council has an internal reporting policy.**
- What action the head of the public authority has taken to ensure his or her staff awareness responsibilities under section 6E(1)(b) of the PID Act have been met.  
**Council has notified staff by way of newsletter of their responsibilities.**

### Statistical information on PIDs

Public authorities may wish to include the following table in their annual reports:

	Made by public officials performing their day to day functions	Under a statutory or other legal obligation	All other PIDs
Number of public officials who made PIDs directly	0	0	0
Number of PIDs received	0	0	0
Of PIDs received, number primarily about:			
Corrupt conduct	0	0	0
Maladministration	0	0	0
Serious and substantial waste	0	0	0
Government information contravention	0	0	0
Local government pecuniary interest contravention	0	0	0
Number of PIDs finalised	0	0	0

