

BATHURST REGIONAL COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012





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FROM THE MAYOR

I am delighted to present the Bathurst Regional Council Annual Report for the 2011-12 financial year. The past year has been a busy and successful one during which Council has initiated or continued an outstanding range of projects. This report covers the year's highlights and also contains interesting information about Council and the Region.

Achievements during 2011-2012 have been many and varied, underlining the complexity and range of services Council provides. The most far-reaching development was adoption of Bathurst Region's first Community Strategic Plan. Developed through extensive community consultation, the 'Bathurst 2036 Community Strategic Plan' outlines what we value as a community and articulates the powerful vision we hold for our Region:

"A vibrant regional centre that enjoys a rural lifestyle, the Bathurst Region achieves health and well-being through strengthening economic opportunities, planning for sustainable growth, protecting and enhancing our assets, and encouraging a supportive and inclusive community. A region full of community spirit and shared prosperity"

Bathurst 2036 identifies the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future, along with strategies to achieve these goals. To be reviewed and updated every four years, decisions made by Council in the years ahead will align with this Plan. Community involvement was at the heart of the process and on behalf of Council, I would like to thank the hundreds of community members who contributed their thoughts and feedback.

Another key achievement was the development of Bathurst Community Safety Plan 2011-14, the Region's first Community Safety Plan. Developed in partnership with key service providers, government and law enforcement agencies, the Plan will ensure the introduction of crime prevention strategies which will in turn support development of the Bathurst Region as a healthy, socially cohesive and safe community. Following the formation of Bathurst Regional Community Safety Committee in early 2012, implementation of important safety initiatives has already started, with many more to come.

These are just two important initiatives from the last 12 months. Inside this report you can read about many more - from securing a \$3 million grant from the Regional Development Authority to further develop Mount Panorama; to introducing the Bathurst Sustainable House, an educational resource that encourages people to use sustainable building design principles when building or renovating a home; and commencement of the Carlingford Street Levee, the final section of the levees for the Bathurst Flood Plain Management Plan in the Bathurst urban area.

Over the last twelve months Bathurst has continued to boom and we are now one of the fastest growing areas in regional NSW, growing at 1.2 per cent a year. The fact that so many people are attracted to live in our region is a testament to the great lifestyle we offer - and Bathurst Regional Council is committed to supporting that lifestyle through the responsible provision of quality services and infrastructure.

I hope you enjoy reading the 2011-12 Bathurst Regional Council Annual Report. We are proud of the progress made during the past 12 months, and look forward to another year of exciting achievements in 2012-13.

Cr Greg Westman
30 June 2012





FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

As General Manager, my role is to build a sustainable organisation for the future, one that can meet the challenges of urban and economic development, wellbeing of the community, and environmental sustainability, while being an employer of choice and organisation of excellence.

The 2011-2012 Annual Report shows at a glance the wide-ranging services provided by Bathurst Regional Council, covering everything from water supply, roads and waste management to protection for the environment and childcare.

Bathurst is a diverse region that covers the city, villages and rural areas. It is important that Council's annual budget of \$110 million addresses the key needs of residents across the whole community and works towards a prosperous and sustainable future for all.

Making an impact across all areas of the community, is the particular challenge for council. The 2011-2012 Annual Report shows that balance and progress have been equally maintained across all key performance areas. Building on the success of previous years, Council remained in a sound financial position. As a result, we can continue to focus on delivering high quality services and projects to the community.

Just a few highlights from the year include:

- Introduction of an Indigenous Chronic Disease Care program at the Kelso Community Centre, which is helping to 'close the gap' in health inequality by increasing access to health specialists such as an endocrinologist, cardiologist, dietician and podiatrist.
- Implementation of the Evocities program, which continues to attract new residents to our Region, and the introduction of a new Economic Development strategy which will work to further increase investment and employment.
- Significant investment in major upgrades to rural and urban roads, including reconstruction of Vale Road and extension of Bradwardine Road.
- Completion of the Supernatant Recycling System at the Water Filtration Plant. Construction of the Off Line Waste Water Storage Tank at Gilmour Street also commenced, and preliminary stages of the trial to remove manganese from the water supply have proven successful.
- Ongoing upgrades to facilities at Council childcare services including introduction of a new shaded playground at Little Scallywags and a new watertank, kitchen and nursery change room at Scallywags.
- Launch of the Bathurst Sustainable House showcasing sustainable construction techniques, materials and design features.
- Improved facilities at Bathurst's sporting parks, such as the new Netball Clubhouse at John Matthews Sports Complex, AFL Clubhouse at George Park and change room amenities at Proctor Park.
- Enthusiastic attendance at Council's community events, in particular the New Year's Eve Party in the Park, Bathurst 1000 Off-Track Events Week and Australia Day celebrations.

The important work carried out by Bathurst Regional Council is often only possible because of strong partnerships with fellow Councils and various departments of the State and Federal governments. Council will continue to work closely with all tiers of Australian government in the future to achieve the best outcome for the ratepayers of the Bathurst Region.

I would like take this opportunity to thank the Mayor, Councillors, Directors and staff for their valued input and sound management of Council services and activities. I commend them for their commitment, hard work and innovative thinking and look forward to even greater achievements in the year ahead.

Continuing to provide a high level of service and infrastructure, whilst maintaining a balanced budget is a challenge for every Council. I am confident that with sound financial management and integrated forward planning, the Bathurst Region will continue to grow and prosper.

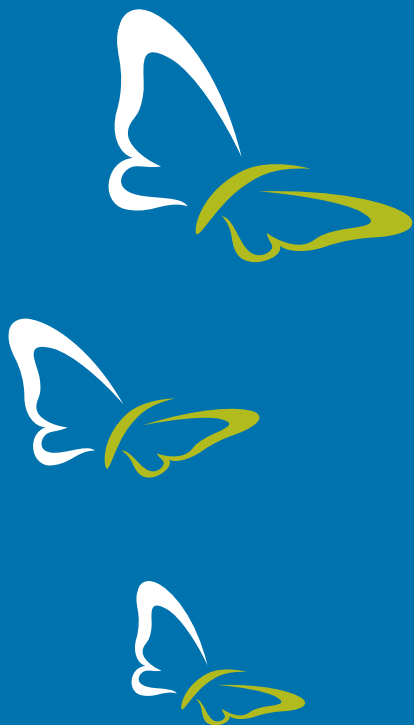
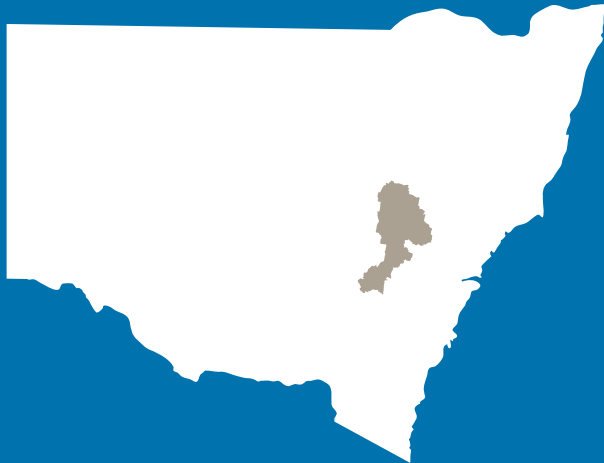
David Sherley
30 June 2012



BATHURST SNAPSHOT

Bathurst is Australia's oldest inland settlement located just over 200 kilometres west of Sydney on the Macquarie River. As the hub of central west New South Wales, Bathurst provides access to a market of more than 8 million people with Sydney just two and a half hours drive away. An idyllic lifestyle is supported by quality infrastructure and essential services that contribute to a steady annual growth rate of 1.2%.

Population	39,936	
Area Bathurst Region	3,815 sq km	
Distance from Sydney	By road	207km approx 2.5 hours
	By rail	239km approx 3.5 hours
	By air	144km approx 40 mins
Average Temperatures	Summer maximum	27.8°C
	Winter maximum	13.4°C
	Summer minimum	11.2°C
	Winter minimum	0.5°C
Rainfall	631mm per annum (Bathurst area)	
Elevation	Bathurst 670m	
Metres above Sea Level	Mount Panorama	874m
	Mount Ovens (Yetholme)	1276m
	Mount Tennyson (Yetholme)	1152m
	Mount Horrible	1204m
Longitude	149° 39.1'E	
Latitude	33° 24.6'S	
Major Industries	Education, food processing, mapping, timber, pet foods	



BATHURST REGIONAL COUNCIL – 2011/2012

Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors as at 30 June 2012.

Mayoral elections are held each September for Bathurst Regional Council. Note that the Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral positions listed on this page are the elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor at the end of the report period which is 30 June 2012.

MAYOR



CR GREG WESTMAN

DEPUTY MAYOR



CR TRACEY CARPENTER

COUNCILLORS



CR WARREN AUBIN



CR BOBBY BOURKE



CR GRAEME HANGER



CR ROSS THOMPSON



CR MONICA MORSE



CR IAN NORTH



CR PAUL TOOLE

Council's Vision

To enhance the lifestyle and environment through effective leadership, community involvement and community service.

Council's Mission

The equitable development and maintenance of services provided for the general health and wellbeing of the citizens of the Bathurst Region and the adjustment of these services to meet the changing needs.

Key Directions

The Management Plan has been developed based on the Council's key identified directions.

LEADERSHIP

To provide a regional centre with a country lifestyle and cosmopolitan opportunities that encourages economic growth; provides well planned services and facilities; and ensures the strategic provision of services and facilities to meet the needs of the community.

INFRASTRUCTURE

To have in place quality infrastructure that meets the needs of the community by providing adequate facilities for a population of 80,000 by the year 2050.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To create a progressive economic environment that facilitates job creation and is responsive to changing demands.

LIFESTYLE

To enhance the lifestyle of residents and of visitors to the Bathurst Region:

- by optimising their health and safety, and providing a clean and safe environment,
- by providing and maintaining recreation and leisure facilities,
- by provision of a range of cultural facilities,
- by increasing access to quality and affordable community facilities and services, and
- by promoting the principles of ecological sustainable development while preserving the existing environment.

A New Vision

During 2011-2012 Council undertook the development of the Bathurst 2036 Community Strategic Plan. This document's development included a considerable amount of community consultation and input.

As a result of the valuable community input Council developed a new community vision which will become effective from 1 July 2012.

The new vision is:

A vibrant regional centre that enjoys a rural lifestyle, the Bathurst Region achieves health and well-being through strengthening economic opportunities, planning for sustainable growth, protection and enhancing our assets, and encouraging a supportive and inclusive community. A Region full of community spirit and shared prosperity.

COUNCIL STRUCTURE

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

MAYOR/COUNCIL



GENERAL MANAGER
DAVID SHERLEY



DIRECTOR
Corporate Services & Finance
BOB ROACH



DIRECTOR
Engineering Services
DOUG PATTERSON



DIRECTOR
Environmental, Planning & Building Services
DAVID SHAW



DIRECTOR
Cultural & Community Services
ANNABELL MILLER

Payroll
Administration
Governance
Stores/Purchasing
Information Services
Geographic Information System
Records
Human Resources
Risk Management/Insurance
Rates
Creditors/debtors
Business Papers
Government Information (Public Access)
Public Interest Disclosures
Work, Health & Safety
Internal Audit
Annual Report
Delivery & Operating Plan
Financial Management
Committee Secretariat
Switchboard
Customer Request Management System
Customer Service
State Emergency Service
Rural Fire Service
Emergency Management
Marketing/Communications
Property Dev & Management
Mount Panorama Business
Conferencing & Events
Sister City

Water
Sewer
Waste & Recycling Collection
Waste Management Centre
Parks & Gardens
Aquatic Centre
Depot
Plant (Workshop)
Floodplain Management
Mount Panorama Operations
Maintenance (roads, bridges, kerb & guttering)
Construction (roads, bridges)
Contract Management
Design Works
Disaster Planning
Aerodrome
Asset Management
Project Management
Forward Planning:
- Environment
- Recreation
- Infrastructure
Rural Works
Indoor Sports Stadium
Tennis Courts
Traffic Management
Buildings Maintenance
Subdivision Design & Construction
Vegetation Management Plan
Cemeteries
Drainage/Stormwater
Private Works

Land Use Planning
Corporate Planning
Environmental Planning Control
Building Control
Health
Pollution Control
Development Control & Applications
Traffic Inspectors (parking control)
Rangers
Stock Impounding
Heritage & Conservation
Regulatory Functions
Animal Control
Companion Animals
Food/Health Inspections
Immunisation
State of Environment
Tree Preservation Order
Septic Tanks
Strategic Planning
Land Use Planning
Subdivision Planning
Ordinance Control
Licence Monitoring
Section 94 Contributions
Plumbing & Drainage
Environmental Management
Contamination
Tourism
Economic Development

Art Gallery
Library
Chifley Cottage
Somerville Collection
Bathurst Memorial
Entertainment Centre
Sallywags Childcare
Family Day Care
Vacation Care
Community Services
Cultural Planning
Community Social Planning
Community Development
Historical Society
Youth Council
Crime Prevention
Community Facilities
Community Halls/Groups
- Eglinton
- Raglan
- Perthville
Community Organisations
- Rockley
- Hill End
- Sofala
- Eglinton
- Wattle Flat
- Trunk Creek
- Bathurst Information & Neighbourhood Ctr
- Home & Community Care Centre
- Kelso Community Centre
Club Grants
Community Interagencies
Senior Citizen Centre
National Motor Racing Museum

CORPORATE SERVICES & FINANCE

Looking after its staff and ensuring open and transparent government is the main priority at Bathurst Regional Council. Council employs around 370 staff in 20 locations and attracting and keeping good people is our priority. For the fourth year in succession, in the annual Employee Opinion Survey, Council rated above the Australian Local Government Industry Standard for employee satisfaction.

HUMAN RESOURCES & RISK MANAGEMENT

PROVIDE A SAFE, SUPPORTIVE AND STIMULATING WORK ENVIRONMENT THAT INCREASES STAFF WELLNESS

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Maintain current levels of Statewide Public Liability Audit and WH&S Risk Audit results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training of all appropriate staff in WH&S, Return to Work, Risk and Injury Management Procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 60 staff trained in WH&S related areas. Target Audit result 80%. Achieved 82.5%.

ENSURE COUNCIL HAS AN APPROPRIATE WORKFORCE TO SUSTAIN SERVICES AND FACILITIES IN LINE WITH DEMAND

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Investigate methods of attracting and retaining a skilled workforce that meets Council requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue development and promotion of a complete suite of HR Policies, Procedures and Guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing review of HR policies, procedures and recruitment processes. All Policies reviewed to reflect new WHS Act with 38 now available on SmartNet. Workforce Plan put in place.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review existing recruitment procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlined recruitment advertising. New online application released. Revised associated forms.

PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL AND COURTEOUS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Community satisfaction with Council service levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed. Report presented to Council in February 2012. Community survey customer satisfaction level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - courteous 8.3/10 - professional 7.5/10.

PROVIDE TRAINEESHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH IN THE CENTRAL WEST

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Ensure successful completion of certificates through provision of training opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure resources available to enable successful completion of Trainee Certificates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Trainees completed studies. Approximately 8 trainees continuing studies in 2012/2013.

INFORMATION SERVICES

IMPROVE BUSINESS CONTINUITY

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Finalise Disaster Recovery link to Library Hot Site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install ESX servers (from Civic Centre) and create second virtual environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed.
Upgrade Civic Centre Virtual Server (VMware) environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace ESX servers with upgraded models. Upgrade VMware to 4.x. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed.
Migrate network from Netware to Microsoft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migrate all users and data to Active directory servers. Switch off Netware servers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed 31 July 2011.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK TO ENSURE THE LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF COUNCIL

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Provision of timely and accurate information to Council and senior managers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of monthly costing reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All targets met on time.
Maintenance of Council's strong financial position.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare and produce Council's new Quarterly Review Statement in line with the Department of Local Government Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly Review Statement presented to Council as required.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare and produce Council's Detailed Budget, Long term Financial Plan, and Fees & Charges for 2012/2013 in conjunction with the preparation and production of Council's Operating Plan, Delivery Program, and Resourcing Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council's annual budgeting process is completed with final plan adopted on 20 June 2012.
Rates and charges outstanding ratio less than 10%.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor outstanding rates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieved 9.71% as per the 2010/2011 Financial Statements
Debt Service Ratio is less than 15%.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor Council's level of debt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieved 6.36% as per the 2010/2011 Financial Statements..
Ensure investment strategies achieve high return rates with minimal risk – to outperform the 90 day bank bill rate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review investment strategies on a regular basis to ensure optimum returns are achieved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At 30th June 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 90 day bill rate 4.52%. - Current earnings 5.55%.
Achieve maximum permissible return from rates and charges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular updating of rating records to ensure properties are correctly categorised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category checks to 30 June 2012 completed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure valuation lists received from Valuer General are up to date. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processing to 30 June 2012 completed.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

PROVIDE GOOD QUALITY RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL REAL ESTATE TO ENCOURAGE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BATHURST REGION

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Residential blocks are available for sale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage the development of new residential land releases to ensure appropriate level of supply available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Windradyne (Barr St) – 30 Lots.. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To follow Avonlea 8, 9 & 10
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Windradyne - 32 Lots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To follow Avonlea 8, 9 & 10.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Llanarth 11 & 12 – 43 Lots. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballot held 21 February 2012. 33 blocks sold at Ballot. Currently 4 blocks remain.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Windradyne 900 (Swanbrooke Street) – 38 Lots. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballot held 17 April 2012. 2 blocks sold at ballot. Total 13 blocks sold as at 30 June 2012.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Avonlea 8 & 10 – 39 Lots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenders to be called for construction in July/August 2012.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Avonlea 9 – 20 Lots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To follow release of Avonlea 8 & 10.

ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREAS DETERMINED OPTIMAL BY COUNCIL FOR CONTROLLED DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Commercial/industrial blocks are available to meet demand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage the development of commercial and industrial land to ensure adequate stocks to cater for demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing.

GOVERNANCE

PROVIDE COUNCILLORS, STAFF AND THE COMMUNITY WITH TIMELY AND ACCURATE INFORMATION TO FACILITATE OPEN AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Provide Council business Papers on a timely basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of three days before each meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Council committee and business papers were provided within targeted timelines.
Provide access to Council documents on website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of documents on website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents updated monthly. Major review completed July 2011.
Complete Annual Report to Community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion by statutory deadline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Report supplied to Department of Premier and Cabinet, Division of Local Government and placed on Council website 29 November 2011.

ENSURE COUNCIL POLICIES REFLECT COMMUNITY NEEDS AND ORGANISATIONAL REQUIREMENTS		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Review of Policy Manual.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Policy Manual – complete review of format and content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy review ongoing.
Monitor Policy Manual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual Policies reviewed for relevance and compliance with statutory requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy Manual last updated provided 7 February 2012.
Community satisfaction with Council service levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Surveys. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2011 Survey completed November, reported to Council 1 February 2012.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION PUBLIC ACCESS ACT (GIPA Act)		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Provision of Contract Register on Council's website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register updated monthly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract Register updated monthly and can be viewed on Council's website.
Respond to requests for information under GIPA Act in timely manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information requests (formal and informal) responded to in accordance with statutory guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 formal applications received during year. All GIPA requests responded to within statutory timeframe.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428]

REVENUE	ACTUAL 2011/2012 \$'000
Rates & annual charges	30,072
User charges & fees	20,163
Interest & investment revenue	3,223
Other revenue	3,441
Grants & contributions – operating	15,529
Grants & contributions – capital	4,959
Net gains from disposal of assets	7,905
TOTAL INCOME	85,292
EXPENSES	ACTUAL 2011/2012 \$'000
Employee costs	27,149
Borrowing costs	997
Materials & contracts	22,112
Depreciation & amortisation	16,230
Other expenses	7,945
TOTAL EXPENSES	74,453
NET RESULT	10,859

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL RESULTS

Operating Result

As disclosed in Council's Income Statement the year's operations resulted in a surplus after capital amounts of \$10,859,000 (2011 - \$4,754,000). Some items of note in the operating statement include:

Revenue

- The operating surplus **before** capital amounts was \$5,900,000 (2011 - \$1,665,000).
- Council's revenue from rates and annual charges rose by \$1,400,000 from \$28,672,000 in 2011 to \$30,072,000 in 2012.

Rates increased by \$755,000 (4.14%) which was the combined result of the approved rate pegging increase of 2.8% and normal additions to rateable land within the Council area through land developments.

- User charges and fees increased from \$18,071,000 in 2011 to \$20,163,000 in 2012 (increase of \$2,092,000). Revenue from the RMS (formerly RTA) for work on State Roads increased by \$1,496,000 over the prior year. This was the result of more maintenance requests by the RMS, partly due to the consistent periods of wet weather experienced in the Council area from November 2011 to March 2012 and the resultant work required to repair damaged roads.
- Operating grants and contributions for the year were \$15,529,000 compared to \$12,800,000 in 2011 (increase of \$2,729,000).

The 2012 year included \$1,577,000 in RMS contributions related to flood damage which occurred in the Council area in January 2012. The 2011 year included \$1,170,000 in contributions of this nature for flood damage which occurred in December 2010.

Council received two (2) advance payments of the Federal Financial Assistance Grant during the 2012 year whereas only one (1) advance payment was received in 2011. Revenue from this source was \$1,860,000 higher in 2012 than 2011.

- Capital grants and contributions rose by \$1,870,000 from \$3,089,000 in 2011 to \$4,959,000. Council received \$1,176,000 in grants for flood mitigation work during 2012, including land acquisitions and levy bank construction. No income of this nature was received in the 2011 financial year.
- Council's net gain from the disposal of assets for 2012 was \$7,905,000 (2011 - \$7,241,000). Gains on the sale of Council's real estate developments contributed \$7,178,000 (2011 - \$7,341,000) to Council's operating result.

Expenditure

- Total employee costs increased by \$2,021,000 (8.04%) compared to the prior year. Salaries and wages costs increased by \$490,000 (2.78 %) which was primarily attributable to the annual Award increase.

A change in the measurement methodology for Council's employee leave entitlements saw an additional \$940,000 added to this line item. In addition, Council's workers compensation insurance expense increased by \$434,000, mostly due to premium adjustments to reflect Council's claims history.

- Council's depreciation expense increased compared to the prior year, moving from \$14,311,000 in 2011 to \$16,230,000 in 2012 (\$1,919,000 increase). Of this, \$1,686,000 was in relation to Council's roads, bridges and footpaths, primarily as a result of the re-assessment by Council of the residual values for sealed roads.
- Other expenses fell by \$1,712,000 to \$7,945,000 (2011 - \$9,657,000). The 2011 year included a \$1,919,000 revaluation decrement in relation to Council's land improvements and land under roads. These categories were revalued for the first time in 2011 and had no existing revaluations against which to offset these decrements. There were no equivalent adjustments required in the 2012 financial year.

(b) Financial Position

The Balance Sheet discloses that for the year ended 30 June 2012 Council's net assets stood at \$999,463,000 (2011 - \$960,375,000) which represents an increase of \$39,088,000.

This increase is the combined effect of the surplus for the year after capital amounts of \$10,859,000 (2011 - \$4,754,000) and the revaluation of Council's water and sewerage assets which saw \$28,229,000 directly recognised in the asset revaluation reserve within Council's Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Comprehensive Income.

At 30 June 2012 Council had a \$423,000 surplus (2011 - \$941,000 deficit) of net unrestricted current assets. Whilst this result is an improvement of the prior year's deficits, it is minimal and continues to emphasise the relative financial strength of Council's non-General Fund activities when the financial position of Council as a whole is considered.

This position will place reliance on short-term cash inflows in the new year to sustain the currency of the restrictions Council has placed on its General Fund assets. The impact of this is articulated in the above analysis adjusted for items to be specifically funded from 2012-'13 revenues which alters the analysis significantly and does indicate the position is manageable within Council's resources.

As in previous years, a contributing factor to this issue is the amount held by Council as internal restrictions. Council needs to recognise the fact that their ability to fund all internal restrictions in the present circumstances is not possible without the reliance on future revenues or loan funding.

Whilst the analysis of the net current asset position is a complete summary of Council's short-term position, the strength of that position is determined by the liquidity of those assets, hence Council's ability to operate effectively is largely governed by the amount of available cash.

Note 6 to the financial statements discloses total cash and investments of \$71,276,000 (2011 - \$64,009,000).

Included in this total is an amount of \$58,856,000 (2011 - \$56,561,000) which is subject to external restrictions requiring Council to commit those funds to the purposes for which they were provided and \$11,944,000 (2011 - \$7,215,000) is subject to internal restrictions agreed upon by Council for designated purposes, which may be altered at the discretion of Council, consistent with their operational plan.

The unrestricted cash balance of \$476,000 (2011 - \$233,000) represents funds available to cover non-budgeted discretionary expenditure and short-term cash flow requirements.

There is no benchmark for the level of unrestricted funds however it is our view that, despite the improvement, the current level of unrestricted funds is below industry experience for Councils of a similar size to Bathurst Regional Council. Indications are that future revenue levels of Council are strong and prudent financial management should enable the unrestricted cash level to be maintained in line with Council demands over the course of 2012-'13. The observed lower level of unrestricted cash compared to other similarly sized Councils reflects this Council's commitment to longer term planning necessitating the restriction of a majority of its funds to known future project priorities.

(c) Performance Indicators

Note 13 to the Financial Statements provides a measure of Council's performance using a number of selected ratios as follows:

Unrestricted Current Ratio

The Unrestricted Current Ratio is a measure of Council's liquidity which demonstrates Council's ability to satisfy obligations out of short-term asset balances.

Council's ratio of 2.61:1 (2011 - 1.75:1) has risen since the prior year and is considered acceptable. We stress the importance of considering this ratio in conjunction with other performance indicators and not in isolation. The fact that this ratio is based upon consolidated funds should also be kept in mind as the ratio for individual funds (i.e. General, Water, Sewer, etc.) may vary significantly.

In particular, attention is drawn to Note 13b which emphasises the strength of Council's Water and Sewer Funds, and the limited recourses available in Council's General Fund.

Debt Service Ratio

The cost of repaying debt is reflected in the debt service ratio, which expresses that cost as a percentage of revenue from ordinary activities.

Whilst there is no definitive guide on what constitutes an acceptable ratio it is generally accepted that a ratio of up to 20% depending on the level of long-term development (infrastructure) plans, is considered tolerable. At 6.61% (2011 - 6.36%) Bathurst Regional Council's ratio is well within its financial capacity.

Rates and Annual Charges Coverage Ratio

The ability of Council to meet community expectations for the delivery of services and provision of facilities is directly influenced by the discretion it can exercise in the allocation of resources.

In relation to rates, a high level of dependency on rates income provides Council with a degree of flexibility in the nature and timing of how funds are spent.

Bathurst Regional Council's ratio of 35.26% (2011 - 37.57%) is consistent with the prior year. It is perhaps a little lower than other councils of comparable size due to the influence of the grants and contributions received, as well as significant proceeds from real estate sales.

Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding Ratio

The rates and annual charges outstanding percentage is a measure of management efficiency. Whilst prevailing economic conditions may influence Council's ability to collect revenue, the efficiency and application of collection procedures are still the largest determinant of this ratio.

Bathurst Regional Council's rates and annual charges outstanding percentage of 8.94% (2011 - 9.71%, 2010 - 8.71%) has improved over the prior year. The ratio for the 2011 financial year was primarily the result of delays in sending out of rate notices due to the conversion of Council's computer system during 2009-'10 and changes in personnel within the rates management section during the year. Further active management of these receivables will be required throughout 2012-'13 to ensure this indicator continues to improve.

Building and Infrastructure Renewals Ratio

The purpose of this ratio is to assess the rate at which infrastructure assets are being renewed against the rate at which they are depreciating.

Because the distinction between replacements, renewals and repairs is not well defined, it is difficult to make meaningful analysis from this ratio. Council's ratio at 30 June 2012 was 30.67 % compared to 34.88% in 2011 and 34.76% in 2010.

National Competition Policy

In accordance with the requirements of National Competition Policy guidelines, Bathurst Regional Council has prepared a special purpose financial report on its business units for the year ended 30 June 2012. Council has determined that it has three (3) business units within its operations: Water, Sewerage, and Waste.

The Division of Local Government's July 1997 guidelines 'Pricing and Costing for Council Businesses: A Guide to Competitive Neutrality' outlines the process for identifying and allocating costs of activities and provides a standard of disclosure requirements. These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and/or financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents, Council subsidies, rate of return on investments in business units and dividends paid.

An unqualified audit report on the special purpose reports for the year ended 30 June 2012 has been issued.

Legislative Compliance

As a result of our audit we advise that there are no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial reports that have come to our attention during the conduct of the audit and that Bathurst Regional Council's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act, 1993 and Regulations.

LEGAL EXPENSES

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1)(a3)]

MATTER	DESCRIPTION	COST	STATUS
PLANNING	French Dangerous Dog	\$1,155.00	Completed
	Telstra Corporation Ltd Development Application	\$22,886.28	Ongoing
	Taylor Development Application	\$17,636.13	Completed
	Manning Development Application	\$750.00	Ongoing
	Strategic Planning	\$1,316.66	
	TOTAL PLANNING LEGAL COSTS	\$43,744.07	
ADMINISTRATIVE	ICAC Inquiry	\$96,521.82	Completed
	Church Lane - Land	\$400	Completed
	John Mathews Tennis Complex Land Acquisition	\$1,788.60	Completed
	LGFS Investment	\$522,247.89	Ongoing
	Code of Conduct	\$3,780.00	Ongoing
	Rental Premises	\$3,835.68	Completed
	Environmental Services	\$7,292.73	Completed
	Inland Development	\$210	Completed
	Mount Panorama Contract dispute	\$88,007.24	Ongoing
	Land Matters Search Fees	\$7,351.54	Completed
	General Advice	\$14,555.71	Completed
	Contract Administration - Yeeha Events	\$2,625	Completed
	Debt Recovery Costs	\$11,460.39	Completed
	TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE LEGAL COSTS	\$760,076.60	
TOTAL LEGAL COSTS		\$803,820.67	

COUNCILLORS' FEES AND EXPENSES

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1)(a1)]

MONEY EXPENDED DURING THE 2010/2011 FINANCIAL YEAR ON:

Mayoral fees	\$36,320
Councillors' fees	\$149,767
Councillors' expenses	\$39,961
TOTAL	\$226,048

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES LISTED ABOVE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WHICH MUST BE SEPARATELY REPORTED:

Provision of dedicated office equipment allocated to Councillors	\$2,965
Telephone calls made by Councillors	\$5,354
Attendance of Councillors at conferences and seminars	\$16,023
Training of Councillors and provision of skill development	Nil
Interstate visits by Councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket travelling expenses	Nil
Overseas visits by Councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket travelling expenses	\$3,324
Expenses of any spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a Councillor	Nil
Expenses involved in the provision of care for a child or an immediate family member of a Councillor	Nil

Council has in place the following policy (updated 4 May 2011) to provide guidelines for the payment of expenses and provision of facilities for Councillors.

POLICY: GOVERNANCE – PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR COUNCILLORS

OBJECTIVE: Provide guidelines for payment of expenses and provision of facilities for Councillors in accordance with the Local Government Act.

1. PURPOSE

Section 252 of the Local Government Act 1993, requires Councils to adopt a policy for the payment of expenses and provision of facilities to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors.

The policy identifies expenses that will be paid and facilities that will be provided, to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors in relation to discharging the functions of civic office.

In the event that an Administrator is appointed for Bathurst Regional Council, this policy will apply to the Administrator in the same manner as the Mayor.

2. OBJECTIVE

- To ensure that no Councillors suffer hardship by reason of meeting their civic responsibilities as an elected person.
- To adequately reimburse Councillors for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, including expenses incurred in becoming adequately informed on subjects relevant to their civic duties.

3. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Councillors are the elected governing body of Bathurst. To assist them to discharge their civic, statutory and policy making functions, they are entitled to be provided with the range of necessary facilities and to be reimbursed the expenses specified in this policy.

Recognising the special role of the Mayor this policy allows for the payment of some additional expenses and the provision of some additional facilities.

Claims for facilities and expenses not included in the policy will not be approved.

Where replacement equipment or facilities is required, Council's policy on plant and asset replacement will be followed. Equipment and facilities will be compatible with and of the same

standard as other Council equipment and facilities.

Council's facilities and services, as detailed in this Policy, are available to Councillors while carrying out the functions of civic office. These facilities and services are not available for use by members of a Councillor's family, unless the use is directly related to attendance at a civic function or to another aspect of the Councillor's civic duties.

4. LEGISLATIVE & LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Local Government Act 1993 states:

248 Fixing and payment of annual fees for Councillors

- (1) A Council must pay each Councillor an annual fee.
- (2) A Council may fix the annual fee and, if it does so, it must fix the annual fee in accordance with the appropriate determination of the Remuneration Tribunal.
- (3) The annual fee so fixed must be the same for each Councillor.
- (4) A Council that does not fix the annual fee must pay the appropriate minimum fee determined by the Remuneration Tribunal.

249 Fixing and payment of annual fees for the Mayor

- (1) A Council must pay the Mayor an annual fee.
- (2) The annual fee must be paid in addition to the fee paid to the Mayor as a Councillor.
- (3) A Council may fix the annual fee and, if it does so, it must fix the annual fee in accordance with the appropriate determination of the Remuneration Tribunal.
- (4) A minimum fee determined by the Remuneration Tribunal.
- (5) A Council may pay the Deputy Mayor (if there is one) a fee determined by the Council for such time as the Deputy Mayor acts in the office of the Mayor. The amount of the fee so paid must be deducted from the Mayor's annual fee.

250 At what intervals are fees to be paid?

Fees payable under this Division by a Council are payable monthly in arrears for each month (or part of a month) for which the Councillor holds office.

251 What is the consequence of paying fees?

- (1) A person is not, for the purposes of any Act, taken to be an employee of a Council and is not disqualified from holding civic office merely because the person is paid a fee under

this Division.

- (2) A fee paid under this Division does not constitute salary for the purposes of any Act."

252 Payment of expenses and provision of facilities

- (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) The policy may provide for fees payable under this Division to be reduced by an amount representing the private benefit to the Mayor or a Councillor of a facility provided by the Council to the Mayor or Councillor.

253 Public notice of proposed policy concerning expenses and facilities

Before adopting a policy for the payment of expenses or provision of facilities, the Council must give at least 28 days public notice of the proposal.

254 Decision to be made in open meeting – Section 254

The Council or a Council committee, all the members of which are Councillors, must not close to the public that part of its meeting at which a policy for the payment of expenses or provision of facilities is adopted or at which any proposal concerning those matters is discussed or considered.

The Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 states:

404 Circumstances in which Councillors' annual fees may be reduced or not paid.

For the purposes of Section 254(A) of the Act, the prescribed circumstance for the non-payment or reduction of a Councillor's annual fee is the circumstance where both of the following conditions are satisfied

- (a) The payment of the annual fee adversely affects the Councillor's entitlement to a pension, benefit or allowance under any legislation of the Commonwealth, a Territory or a State (including NSW),
- (b) The Councillor agrees to a non-payment or reduction.

5. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Local Government Act, 1993 imposes reporting requirements on Councils. Council's Annual Report satisfies the reporting requirements imposed under the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

6. OTHER GOVERNMENT POLICY PROVISIONS

This policy has been developed in accordance with the following policies and documents provided by various government departments.

- Department of Local Government Guidelines for Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Mayors and Councillors - October 2009.
- Division of Local Government Circulars (issued from time to time) including but not limited to:-
 - o 04/04 Appropriate Controls on the use of Council Credit Cards
 - o 05/08 Legal Assistance for Councillors and Council Employees
 - o 08/24 Misuse of Council Resources
 - o 08/37 Council decision making prior to ordinary elections

- Department of Local Government Model Code of Conduct – June 2008
- Council's Adopted Code of Conduct
- Various ICAC Publications.

7. ANNUAL FEE

Pursuant to Section 248 of the Local Government Act, 1993, an annual fee will be paid to each Councillor in twelve instalments (monthly in arrears). In addition to this, the Mayor will be paid an annual fee in accordance with Section 249 of the Act, to be paid in twelve instalments (monthly in arrears). The amount to be paid will be as determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal and adopted in Council's Management Plan for that year.

8. ACCESS AND USE OF FACILITIES/EQUIPMENT

Councillors are to be provided with access and use of the following:

- (i) A room suitably furnished for use by all Councillors;
- (ii) Access to a motor vehicle if available, or alternative arrangement (eg hire car), for the purposes of attending official functions or meetings outside the Council area; (see also Clause 15);
- (iii) Use of Council photocopiers, telephones, computers, (& associated equipment) and fax machine in the course of the Councillor undertaking official business.
- (iv) **Access to Council Operated Facilities**

To assist Councillors to understand the operations of and to promote the various facilities to the community, Council will provide each Councillor with

- (a) annual admission (for the use of the Councillor only) to the following Council operated facilities:
 - Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum
 - National Motor Racing Museum
 - Chifley Cottage and Interpretation Centre
- (b) one adult ticket (for the use of the Councillor only) to each of the Theatre Season performances at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre.

(v) Access to Motor Sport Events

To assist Councillors to promote Bathurst and network with dignitaries, Council will provide four (4) tickets per Councillor to attend all days of each motor racing event (including attendance at Mayoral functions) that requires full track closure at Mount Panorama.

At some events, Councillors may be provided with access to a reserved parking allocation for one vehicle per Councillor.

In addition to those facilities/equipment listed above, the Mayor will be provided with the use of:

- (vi) An office suitably furnished
- (vii) Mayoral robes and chains;
- (viii) A corporate credit card to meet expenses connected with the entertainment of guests of the city;
- (ix) A "Rex" card to allow the Mayor access to the Rex lounge at the airport for the conduct of meetings and whilst waiting between meetings and flights (a card will also be provided to the Deputy Mayor for official use).

9. PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT

Each Councillor will be provided with the following:

- (i) Business cards.
- (ii) Councillor letterhead.
- (iii) A name badge.
- (iv) Stationery, office supplies and other consumables.
- (v) Provision of car parking sticker for parking in designated/ authorised parking areas.
- (vi) Each Councillor will be provided with the following for Council use:
 - A laptop computer and associated equipment (printer etc).
 - Access to the internet.
 - Facsimile transmission device (Fax) (including installation at the principal place of residence).
 - A document shredder.

NB: All rental, call and stationery costs incurred in the course of Council activities will be met by Council.

- (vii) Effective following the Local Government Election to be held on 13 September 2008, Councillors will have the following options in relation to telephone calls made in the course of Council business:

- a. Council will reimburse Councillors for the cost of official mobile and landline calls made in the course of Council business up to a limit of \$80 per month. Claims for reimbursement of calls must be made on the appropriate expenditure claim form.

or

- b. Council will provide Councillors with a mobile phone for exclusive use for Council business, limited to an amount of \$80 per month.

In addition to the equipment listed above the Mayor will be provided with the following:

- (viii) A mobile phone with rental and all charges to be met by Council;
- (ix) A motor vehicle (including private use) on the basis that all costs are met by the Council. NOTE – that during periods of “leave of absence” of the Mayor the vehicle will be made available to the Deputy Mayor under the same terms and conditions.
- (x) A permanently allocated parking space.

Note: A person's re-election to the Council is considered a personal interest. Official Council material such as letterhead, publications, websites, email, as well as council services and forms must not be used for any such personal interests.

9.1 Acquisition and Return of Council Equipment and Facilities by Councillors

All equipment provided to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or a Councillor to assist them to carry out their official duties remains the property of Council and is to be returned to Council upon the Mayor or the Councillor ceasing to hold office.

A Councillor may at the cessation of their duties request to purchase the equipment provided to them for their official duties or part thereof. Any items offered for sale to a Councillor under this clause will be offered on the basis that they are valued at a fair market price or the current written down value, whichever is the greater.

9.2 Private Benefit

Councillors should not generally use Council equipment for their own personal benefit. However, it is acknowledged that incidental use of Council equipment for private benefit may occur. Such incidental use will not be subject to repayment.

Where more substantial use of Council equipment occurs Council will seek reimbursement at a rate determined by the

- (i) Mayor/Deputy Mayor and the General Manager or
- (ii) the Council,

depending upon the circumstances.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Councillors will be provided with secretarial support in relation to official correspondence.

11. TRAINING

Councillors will be provided with training to enhance their ability to carry out their civic responsibilities. An allowance is made in the annual budget for provision of training to Councillors. The type of training attended would normally be approved by the Council but may, in some circumstances, be approved by the Mayor.

12. INSURANCE

Council will provide appropriate insurance for Councillors including insurance against personal injury whether fatal or not, arising out of, or in the course of carrying out duties, or the performance by such Councillor at functions in his/her capacity as a member of Council.

Council will provide the following Insurance cover for Councillors undertaking official Council business:

- Public Liability.
- Councillors and Officers.
- Personal Accident.
- Travel Insurance (where approved) for interstate and overseas travel on Council business.

13. SUSTENANCE/MEALS

Councillors are entitled to the provision of a meal and/or refreshments in conjunction with the Committee/Council meeting or at any official ceremony authorised by Council or the Mayor, or in carrying out their Councillor's responsibilities including meetings with residents, ratepayers or guests of the city.

14. LEGAL

In the event that indemnity is not granted under the existing Councillors and Officers liability policy in relation to:

- (a) any enquiry, investigation or hearing into the conduct of a Councillor:
 - (i) by the Independent Commission Against Corruption;
 - (ii) by the Office of the Ombudsman;
 - (iii) by the Administrative Decisions Tribunal;
 - (iv) by the Division of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet
 - (v) by the NSW Police Force;
 - (vi) by the Director of Public Prosecutions;
 - (vii) by Council's Conduct Review Committee/Reviewer
 - (viii) by the Local Government Pecuniary Interest Tribunal;
 - or
 - (viii) pursuant to FOI legislation;

(ix) pursuant to Privacy and Personal Information Protection legislation

(b) legal proceedings against a Councillor

Council shall reimburse such Councillor on a solicitor/client basis for all legal and associated expenses properly and reasonably incurred having regard to the nature of the enquiry, investigation, hearing or proceedings, provided that:

- (i) the enquiry, investigation, hearing or proceedings relate to conduct arising out of or in connection with a Councillor's performance of his or her civic duty or the exercise of his or her functions as a Councillor;
- (ii) the enquiry, investigation, hearing or proceedings have been finalised and have resulted in a finding, in the opinion of the Council, substantially favourable to the Councillor;
- (iii) the amount of any such reimbursement shall be limited to the amount of moneys that are not otherwise recoverable by a Councillor on any other basis;

the Council authorises the reimbursement by resolution.

Note: Council cannot pay any legal expenses for

- (a) legal proceedings initiated by a councillor
- (b) a councillor seeking legal advice in respect of possible defamation.

15. EXPENSES

- (a) Council will reimburse claims for expenses for actual costs incurred by Councillors in relation to discharging the functions of civic office.

The fundraising activities of political parties, including political fundraising events, are considered to be personal interests. Council will not pay expenses or provide facilities to councillors in relation to supporting and/or attending such activities and events.

- (b) In relation to discharging the functions of civic office, the following facilities will be provided:
 - Mayoral Office.
 - Councillors' meeting room.
 - Provision of a meal/refreshments in conjunction with the Committee/Council meeting.
- (c) Where a Councillor provides his/her own motor vehicle for transport in relation to discharging the functions of civic office, reimbursement of costs will be made on either:
 - (i) a per kilometre basis at the rates specified under Clause 4 of the Local Government (State) Award (NAPSA), or
 - (ii) based on the presentation of a fuel docket/receipt.
- (d) Where travel is by air, Council will pay the cost of an economy class ticket.
- (e) Costs of vehicle hire, taxi fares and/or public transport which are reasonably incurred while attending conferences will be reimbursed by the Council.
- (f) Council will reimburse the cost of parking fees (upon the provision of an appropriate receipt) and the cost of any road tolls paid while on Council business.

In regard to "functions of Civic Office", the following guide is provided:

Travel expenses relate to travel that is on Council business (this can be within NSW or interstate, where approved), including:

- to and from Council meetings;
- to and from Committee meetings, Working Parties etc of which the Councillor is a member;
- to and from meetings of external bodies to which the Councillor is an approved delegate;
- inspections within the area of the Council where such inspections have been arranged by a resolution of Council, or by Mayoral approval;
- to and from the periodical conferences, training courses and seminars of Local Government related organisations at which attendance has been approved by a resolution of Council or by Mayoral approval;
- to and from public meetings where such meetings have been arranged by a resolution of Council or by Mayoral approval.

NB: For the purposes of this Policy, travel within the ACT is regarded as travel within NSW.

Payment is subject to:

- the travel being undertaken expediently and by the shortest practicable route;
- claims must be made within three (3) months of incurring the expense;
- wherever possible and appropriate, a Council vehicle will be made available for use by a Councillor travelling outside the Bathurst Regional Council boundary on Council approved business.

N.B. The driver of the vehicle (whether a Council vehicle or private vehicle) will be personally responsible for all traffic or parking fines incurred while travelling on Council business. Under no circumstances will Council reimburse costs associated with traffic or parking infringement fines.

A copy of the "Claim for Reimbursement of Expenses" form is at Appendix A.

15.1 Payment of expenses for spouses, partners and accompanying persons

Council will pay the cost of attendance of a spouse, partner or accompanying person at an official function of the Council or other official functions that are of a formal and ceremonial nature. Examples would include Citizenship ceremonies, civic receptions/functions and charitable functions for charities supported by the Council.

Council will also pay for any reasonable expenses incurred for a spouse, partner or accompanying person of the Mayor, or of a Councillor when they are representing the Mayor, when they are called upon to attend an official function of Council or, carry out an official ceremonial duty while accompanying the Mayor (or the Mayor's representative) outside the Council's area, but within the State of New South Wales. Reasonable expenses would include the cost of the ticket and meal etc.

In all other instances any costs incurred as a result of the attendance by a spouse, partner or accompanying person shall be met by the respective Councillor.

15.2 Payment in Advance:

The Council will normally pay all costs associated with attendance by a Councillor on official Council business at a conference, seminar or function in advance. Where this is not appropriate or possible:

- a cash allowance or cheque equivalent thereto will be paid to the attendee in advance;
- an allowance for estimated “out-of-pocket” expenses may be paid to an attendee in advance upon request.

Payment via either of these methods will require the provision of a reconciliation statement, verification of expenses and the refund of any unexpended amount being submitted within ten (10) days of the close of the conference, seminar or function.

N.B. Councillors are provided with a credit card to minimise the requirement for payments in advance.

15.3 Childcare

Council will reimburse Councillors for the cost of child care services incurred while on authorised Council business. The amount of reimbursement will be the actual cost incurred, with a maximum of \$8.00 per hour per child applying.

15.4 Dependant Care Related Expenses

Council will reimburse Councillors for the reasonable cost of child/dependant care services (including care of elderly, disabled and/or sick immediate family members of Councillors) incurred while attending Council meetings, Committee meetings, workshops, briefing sessions and other meetings relating to Council's operations.

Councillors will be reimbursed for expenses associated with child/dependent care paid to providers other than immediate family, spouse or partner up to 1 hour before and after such meetings (based on advertised commencement time) subject to the prescribed form being completed and/or the production of appropriate documentation/receipts.

15.5 Councillor Care Related Expenses

Council will give consideration to the payment of other related expenses associated with the special requirements of Councillors such as disability and access needs, including reasonable transportation provisions for those unable or unwilling to drive a vehicle, to allow them to perform their normal civic duties and responsibilities. Costs could include accommodation, meals and travel expenses for carers, accompanying a Councillor where required.

16. CORPORATE CREDIT CARD

Councillors will, upon request, be given a Corporate Credit Card with a limit of \$1,000.

17. PROVISION OF COUNCIL UNIFORM

Councillors are to be provided with a Council uniform. The initial purchase will be subsidised to a maximum of \$800.00 and thereafter an annual allowance for maintenance of a maximum \$200.00 per annum.

A councillor who is re-elected for a new term of office shall, during the first year of that term, be entitled to an allowance of up to a maximum of \$400 and thereafter the annual maintenance amount will apply.

Where Councillors are required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE), this will be provided up to a maximum of \$500 in any one term of Council.

18. CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillors should be aware that where actions are taken in Breach of the Code of Conduct, the failure to comply with the Code of Conduct may be evidence of a lack of good faith which may lead to a denial of payment under the Policy.

Further, Chapter 13, Part 5 of the Local Government Act allows the

Department to surcharge Councillors to recover any deficiency or loss to Council arising from actions involving misconduct. Councillors should be aware that where actions are taken in breach of the Code of Conduct, the failure to comply with the Code of Conduct may be evidence of misconduct which may lead to personal liability pursuant to the surcharge provision of the Local Government Act in connection with such actions.

19. CONFERENCES

In this part **Conference** means conferences, seminars, congresses, forums, workshops, courses, meetings, deputations, information and training sessions, events, etc. held within Australia, related to the industry of local government.

19.1 Who May Attend Conferences

Councillors may be nominated to attend conferences by:

- the Council, by resolution duly taken;
- the Mayor, acting within his/her delegated authority.

In addition the Mayor may nominate a substitute Councillor in his or her absence to attend functions within and outside the Council area on those occasions where the Mayor is unable to be in attendance.

19.2 What Conferences May be Attended

The conferences to which this policy applies shall generally be confined to:-

- Local Government Association (LGA) and Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Conferences.
- Shires Association Conference.
- Special “one-off” conferences called or sponsored by the LGA and/or ALGA on important issues.
- Annual conferences of the major Professions in Local Government.
- Australian Sister Cities Conferences.
- Regional Organisation of Councils Conferences.
- Conferences, which further training and development efforts of the Council and of Councillors, or which relate to or impact upon the Council's functions.
- Any Meetings or Conferences of organisations or bodies on which a Councillor of the Council may be elected, or appointed to be, a delegate or member of the Council or the L.G.A.

Other conferences that may be attended would include those listed in the report provided to Council (from time to time) adopting the delegates/duty delegates.

19.3 Registration

The Council will pay all normal registration costs which are charged by organisers, including the costs of related official luncheons, dinners and tours which are relevant to the interests of the Council or assist Councillors to discharge the functions of their civic office.

19.4 Expenses Incurred

Payment or reimbursement of expenses incurred or to be incurred shall be subject to the requirements that:

- travel expenses relate to travel that is on Council business;
- the travel being undertaken with all due expedition, and by the shortest practicable route;
- only reasonable amounts are claimed or accepted towards necessary out-of-pocket expenses;
- out-of-pocket expenses for which amounts are claimed

relate only to the verified costs of refreshments, meals, travel, registration fees, accommodation, stationery and the like;

- (e) any time occupied or travel incurred in other than Council business is not included in the calculation of expenses to be paid; and
- (f) the claim is made not later than three (3) months after the expenses were incurred, and upon copies of all relevant dockets, receipts and the like being attached to a written claim for payment/reimbursement.

19.5 Categories of Payment or Reimbursement

The categories of payment or reimbursement are as follows:

(a) Travel

See Clause 15 of this policy

(b) Accommodation

Reasonable accommodation costs (including meals), including the night before and/or after the conference where this is necessary, will be met by the Council.

(c) Out-of-Pocket Expenses

Reasonable out-of-pocket or incidental expenses will be reimbursed for costs associated with attending the conference, including entertainment, but excluding expenses of a normal private nature. Incidental expenses are taken to include items such as:

- (i) hotel/motel charges other than accommodation;
- (ii) telephone or facsimile calls;
- (iii) refreshments/meals not included in the Registration fee;
- (iv) any optional activity in a Conference program;
- (v) taxi fares;
- (vi) parking fees.

19.6 Payment of Conference expenses

Councillors, from time to time, may find it necessary to pay day-to-day expenses out of their own pocket. Councillors must then submit a claim (on the claim form attached to this policy) for reimbursement of those expenses in accordance with this policy. Payment of incidental expenses will be limited to a maximum of \$100 per day.

The General Manager reserves the right to decline the reimbursement of any expenses he/she considers to be inappropriate or unreasonable and refer them for further consideration in accordance with the dispute procedures listed in this policy.

19.7 Spouse/Partner

Where the attendee is accompanied by his or her spouse/partner the attendee will pay for any cost supplement involved in the accommodation. All costs for the spouse/partner (including travel and meals) are to be borne by the attendee.

Council will pay for the attendance by a spouse or partner of an attendee at the Local Government Association Conference and the Shires Association Conference. Payment of expenses in these instances will be limited to the cost of registration at the conference and the cost of the official conference dinner.

19.8 Reimbursement of Expenses

All claims for reimbursement of actual expenses incurred by a Councillor in the course of their official duties are to be made under the following conditions:-

- provision of appropriate tax invoices, receipts;
- submission of claim on the Council claim form provided at Annexure A;
- all claims being submitted within 3 months of the expenditure being incurred (except as otherwise specified in this policy);
- completion of a statutory declaration.

20. OVERSEAS TRAVEL

Council will pay the same expenses as detailed above (for conferences) for Councillors travelling overseas on Council business provided Council resolves that such travel be undertaken. Any proposal for overseas travel must be considered at an Open Council Meeting through a report from the General Manager or other appropriate staff member.

Reports are to indicate:

- Who is to take part in the travel;
- The objectives for undertaking the trip, including an explanation of the benefits that will accrue to the community/Council from taking the trip;
- The duration of the trip and general details of travel arrangements;
- The approximate cost of the trip, including accommodation and other expenses payable.

If the trip is to be sponsored by private enterprise, ICAC guidelines and reporting structures shall be followed.

For overseas travel, a daily meal and an incidental expenses allowance will be paid to each authorised attendee in accordance with the Australian Fringe Benefits Taxation guidelines, provided that such expenses are subject to a period of stay not exceeding the period for the conference or authorised business plus one day each way for travelling. Any such payment will be considered as a Payment in Advance and dealt with in accordance with the requirements of clause 15.2 Payment in Advance of this policy.

Where possible proposals for overseas travel by Councillors and staff on Council business should be included in the annual management plan to ensure community awareness.

21. DISPUTE RESOLUTION - PAYMENT OF EXPENSE CLAIMS

Approval for expenses claimed as a result of attendance at a conference, seminar or function for which there is no formal Council resolution to attend will normally be made jointly by the General Manager and the Mayor (or if the claim is made by the Mayor, the General Manager and the Deputy Mayor or another Councillor). In the event of a dispute as to the payment of expenses claimed by a Councillor, the General Manager will prepare a report for consideration at the ordinary monthly Council meeting and the report will be provided as part of the business paper for the meeting. The Council's decision will be final.

OVERSEAS VISITS

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1)(a1)]

Council has a sister city relationship with Ohkuma in Japan, however no visits to Ohkuma were undertaken during the reporting period.

Councillor Warren Aubin was authorised by Council to attend the Malaysian-Sepang 12 Hour Race in September 2011. The purpose of the visit was to promote the Bathurst 12 Hour event which is held in February each year and to attempt to attract international racing teams to the next event. Council's expenses for the visit included the return airfare, meals and accommodation.

SENIOR STAFF REMUNERATION

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1)(b)]

Five senior staff were employed by Council during 2011/2012: the General Manager; Director Corporate Services & Finance; Director Engineering Services; Director Environmental, Planning & Building Services and Director Cultural & Community Services.

The total expenditure for 2011/2012 in respect of employment of these senior staff, including salary, motor vehicle expenses, package benefits, fringe benefits tax, superannuation and provision for leave entitlements was \$1,142,215.

The annual remuneration paid to senior staff for year ended 30 June 2012 was as follows.

General Manager	\$281,177
Directors	\$861,038

CONTRACTS FOR GOODS AND SERVICES

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1)(a2)]

During the year Council awarded the following contracts and tenders.

Active Energy	Electrical reticulation in Windradyn subdivision	\$ 203,126
Activenergy Pty Ltd	Electrical Works	\$ 424,736
Alleasing Ply Limited	Leasing of computer and office equipment	\$ 684,155
Alto Valves & Fittings	Water pipes and fittings	\$ 389,271
Aussie Digger Bobcat Pty Ltd	Hire of plant	\$ 326,063
Australian Wetlands Pty Ltd	Urban drains revegetation plan	\$ 222,899
Banika Pty Ltd	Hire of plant	\$ 260,131
Bathurst Holden	Purchase of cars	\$ 249,749
Bathurst Toyota	Purchase of cars	\$ 217,783
Belgravia Leisure Bathurst	Running Bathurst Aquatic Centre	\$ 535,019
Boral Asphalt	Supply and delivery bitumen emulsion	\$ 380,000
Brunton Electrical	Various electrical works	\$ 171,599
Bustin Free Earthworks	Hire of plant	\$ 1,664,988
Caltex Australia Petroleum P/L	Petrol products	\$ 312,884
CAMS Limited	Motor racing permits	\$ 154,841
Canon Finance Australia Ltd	Copier and printer maintenance	\$ 196,957
D L Kane Ply Ltd	Hire of plant	\$ 169,595
Divali's Earthmoving & Bulk Haulage	Hire of plant	\$ 485,279
Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd	Sprayed Bituminous Surfacing	\$ 2,272,050
Essential Energy	Electricity	\$ 635,286
Ethan Group Pty Ltd	Various electrical works	\$ 252,589
Ever-Ready Concrete	Supply of concrete	\$ 180,564
Glenray Industries Ltd	Mowing Maintenance - 3 year contract	\$ 554,348

Hanson Construction Materials	supply of concrete	\$ 900,044
Hibbo Hire Ply Ltd	Hire of plant	\$ 1,003,899
Hill & Co Mobil Distributors	Fuel supplies	\$ 488,879
Hynash Constructions (Bathurst) Ply Ltd	Construction of flood levee	\$ 274,697
Iveco Trucks Australia	Supply of trucks	\$ 775,853
J E Thomson	Legal Services	\$ 318,478
J H & M J Trindade Pty Ltd	Civil works construction	\$ 904,263
J R Richards & Sons	Household recycling collections	\$ 1,031,761
JC's Construction Pty Ltd	Guardrail installation	\$ 204,538
JLE Electrical	Various electrical services	\$ 189,904
Leichhardt Engineering Workshops Ply Limited	Various electrical works	\$ 214,783
Lowes Petroleum Service	Petrol and oil supplies	\$ 387,532
Iveco Trucks Australia Ltd	Purchase F2350G truck	\$ 377,086
Max Hire Pty Ltd	Hire of plant	\$ 188,054
Mcintosh McPhillamy & Co	Legal Services	\$ 255,510
Mid-West Traffic Management (Orange) Pty Ltd	Traffic Control Services	\$ 884,422
Ministry for Police and Emergency Services	Contribution to emergency services - Fire and SES	\$ 508,526
Mitchell Plant Hire	Hire of plant	\$ 230,597
MRG Electrical Services	Electrical services	\$ 772,993
Nimdor Cleaning	Cleaning public toilets	\$ 132,984
Northern Contract Cleaning Pty Ltd	Cleaning Council Buildings	\$ 238,214
NSW Public Works	Engineering consultancy	\$ 711,672
Oberon Quarries Ply Ltd	Supply of road base	\$ 449,880
Omega Chemicals	Water treatment chemicals	\$ 393,593
Origin Energy Electricity Limited	Supply of electricity	\$ 3,117,527
Patrick & Watts Constructions	Construction AFL Clubhouse	\$ 376,720
PC Brunton Electrical	Electrical services	\$ 171,599
Programmed Maintenance Service	Building maintenance	\$ 151,571
Redox Chemicals Ply Ltd	Water treatment chemicals	\$ 171,652
Regional Publishers Pty Ltd	Advertising and promotion	\$ 162,967
Rocla Pipeline Products	Stormwater drainage pipes	\$ 283,705
S & S Electrical	Electrical services	\$ 171,652
Shumack Engineering (NSW) Pty Ltd	Various road works	\$ 209,521
SITA Australia Ply Ltd P C	Rural garbage collection	\$ 197,855
Skillset	hire of contract staff and apprentices	\$ 304,990
Smith & Co Security	Security services 2 year contract	\$ 296,730
SRS Roads Pty Ltd	Sprayed Bituminous Surfacing	\$ 169,154
Stabiltrac Unit Trust	Road Stabilising Works	\$ 361,541
Tablelands Builders Pty Ltd	Construction sporting facilities	\$ 225,408
Tablelands Builders Pty Ltd	Amenities Block Rockley	\$ 161,082
Telstra	Telephone services	\$ 210,906
Terra Farma	Biosolids reuse 3 year contract	\$ 1,300,000

The Oxford Bathurst	Catering contract Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre	\$ 171,490
Toyota	Purchase of vehicles	\$ 217,783
Tracserv Ply Ltd	Purchase 2 crew cab tippers	\$ 174,262
TWS - Wilson & Sons	Electrical works	\$ 1,190,675
Tyco Water Ply Ltd	Water fittings	\$ 218,501
W P Engineering	Metal fabrication	\$ 389,538
Warren Harvey Homes Ply Limited	Construction AFL Clubhouse	\$ 462,230
Webber Concrete Constructions	Construction of Off-line Wastewater Storage Tank	\$ 1,432,600
West Orange Motors Pty Ltd	Supply of various trucks	\$ 462,976
WesTrac Equipment Ply Ltd	Machinery parts and repairs	\$ 370,581
Xylem Water Solutions	Electrical parts and repairs	\$ 323,533

DONATIONS UNDER SECTION 356

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1) (a5)]

During the year 2011/2012 Council donated a total of \$153,486 under Section 356 to a range of community groups.

General	\$87,000
BMEC Fee Waivers	\$63,508
Mount Panorama Fee Waivers	\$2,978

HUMAN RESOURCES

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428]

Council undertook the following human resource activities during 2011/2012:

- Extensive organisation wide training including: WHS induction, Council induction, manual handling, Public Interest Disclosures and customer service.
- An Employee Opinion Survey was conducted for the eighth year, providing an opportunity for staff to rate and comment on Council as an employer. Feedback has been provided and communication action plans developed for continual improvement.
- Provision of financial and study leave support for a number of staff under Council's Staff Education and Assistance Scheme.
- Tender process undertaken with Centroc to engage a company to provide E-Learning training modules.
- Transition to new competency based assessments for load shifting machinery including tender process for provision of assessments by an external training provider.
- Development and updating of major human resource policies including: Bullying & Harassment, Dispute & Grievance Resolution, Performance Management and Disciplinary Action.
- A review and streamlining of the recruitment advertising process.

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428]

Major Work Health and Safety achievements include the following.

- A total of 1180 inductions have been conducted since being introduced in mid 2004 which includes staff, contractors and volunteers.
- The OHS Risk Officer was invited to be a presenter at the StateWide Risk Conference in Sydney regarding Motorsport in Local Government.
- WHS field inspections have been streamlined using an application on an iPad which allows storage of electronic data and photos as well as producing a comprehensive report for Managers.
- A major review of OHS Policies and Procedures was undertaken with up to 20 documents needing to be either developed or modified to bring into line with the new WHS legislation that was introduced from 1 January 2012.
- A total of 74 incidents were reported during the year. Of these, 20 resulted in worker's compensation claims being lodged and, of these, 13 resulted in lost time to the Council. Of the reported injuries, 22 were sprains and strains, 13 were back injuries with the remainder being made up of various other injury types.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1) (a9)]

Bathurst Regional Council remained committed to the principles of Equal Employment Opportunity during 2011/2012. The Human Resources Section continues to provide information to new staff at the induction program on Council's Harassment and Grievance Procedures and on Council's Equal Employment Opportunity Policy.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan identifies objectives Council wishes to achieve in ten (10) key areas to

ensure that Council is adhering to adopted Equal Employment Opportunity principles. The areas are: Policies and Procedures, Communication and Awareness Raising, Data Collection, Recruitment and Selection Training and Development, Promotion/Transfer and Higher Duties, Conditions of Service, Harassment, Equal Employment Opportunity Target Groups and Implementation/Evaluation. The plan outlines strategies to facilitate achievement of each objective, assigns responsibility to Council officer/s for each strategy, and identifies Key Performance Indicators to allow assessment of whether the objectives are being achieved.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Council continued to provide access to free, confidential professional counselling services for staff and their family members during the year through the provision of the Employee Assistance Program. During the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, 21 initial assessment sessions were conducted. A total of 56 activities took place during this period which resulted in an annual employee utilisation rate of 6.55% and an overall utilisation rate of 7.24% when family members are taken into account.

EXTERNAL BODIES EXERCISING FUNCTIONS DELEGATED BY COUNCIL

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1) (a6)]

During the 2011/2012 financial year the following external bodies exercised functions delegated by Council.

- CENTROC Weight of Loads Group
- Eglinton Hall and Park Committee – Management of Eglinton Hall and Park
- Perthville Development Group Inc – Management of Perthville Hall
- Raglan Hall & Park Committee – Management of Raglan Hall & Park
- Rockley Mill Museum Management Committee
- Rockley Sports and Recreation Association Inc – Management of Rockley Sportsground Hall and Grounds
- Sofala Showground Hall Committee – Management of Showground facilities
- Trunkey Creek Recreation Reserve Management Committee
- Upper Macquarie County Council (noxious weeds) – Operating with delegates from Bathurst Regional Council
- West Bathurst Community House Committee – Management of House
- Wattle Flat Bronze Thong Committee – Management of Racecourse
- Wattle Flat Recreation Ground Trust – Management of Recreation Ground

CONTROLLING INTEREST IN COMPANIES

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1) (a7)]

Council had no controlling interest in any companies during the year.

PARTNERSHIPS, COOPERATIVES AND JOINT VENTURES (CONSORTIUM AGREEMENTS)

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1) (a8)]

- V8 Supercars Australia – Organisation, management and conduct of a motor racing event at Mount Panorama, (V8 Supercars – Supercheap Auto 1000)
- Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo Alliance – alliance between the three Councils to undertake environmental programs and internal audit program.
- Central Region Organisation of Councils (CENTROC) – joint purchasing arrangements, joint training procurement, joint environmental programs
- Country Mayors Association
- Sydney Road Links – Secretariat
- Bells Line Expressway Group – Secretariat and technical support
- The Somerville Collection Ltd – Council is a member of this company limited by guarantee with the Australian Museum, Charles Sturt University, Mr Warren Somerville and the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. The Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum housing the Somerville Collection opened in June 2004
- NetWaste – regional collection of waste materials
- Yeehah Events Pty Ltd – conduct of Bathurst Motor Festival and Bathurst 12 Hour Motor racing events

RATES AND CHARGES WRITTEN OFF

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428], Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 132]

During the year Council abandoned \$1,166,307 in rates and charges (including postponed rates).

Pensioner rebate	\$1,086,993
Postponed rates	\$79,314
Other rates	\$Nil

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 - Section 125(1), Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009 - Clause 13]

Review of proactive release program - Clause 7(a)

The Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 was introduced on 1 July 2010. As a result of the introduction of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 Section 12 of the Local Government Act 1993 was repealed and also the Freedom of Information Act. The Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 provided a general "Right to Information" presumption that was not evident in previous legislation.

Methods of Accessing Council Information

The Council can make information available to the public in 4 different ways:-

1. **Mandatory Release** – where Council is required under legislation to make information available free of charge to the public
2. **Proactive Release** – Councils are encouraged to release as much other information as possible in an appropriate manner (though this may sometimes result in a cost)
3. **Informal Release** – Councils are encouraged to release information in response to an informal request subject to reasonable conditions (e.g. may be copying charge involved)
4. **Formal Release** – Councils may release information in response to a formal request. This is the last resort, if the information is not available in any other way. There is a fee associated with a formal application (currently \$30) and an application form is available on Council's website.

Section 7 of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act) requires Council to undertake a review of the manner in which it releases government information to identify the kinds of information held by Council that should in the public interest be made publicly available and that can be made publicly available without imposing unreasonable cost on the agency.

Council has a website which is able to be accessed by members of the public at any time. Many of the Council's publicly available documents are listed on this website and the majority are available for download.

During 2011/2012 financial year Council undertook a complete review of the documents that it makes publicly available and the methods by which it makes those documents available. In completing this review Council undertook a number of steps including:

1. Council identified the documents that it was required to provide previously as a legislative requirement and compared that to requirements under the GIPA Act
2. Examined other documents that were publicly available and how they were made available to the public.
3. Investigated whether there were any new reporting requirements
4. Identified a need for training of staff members

The review resulted in Council making modifications to its website to facilitate the provision of information to the public. Council has a Public Documents section on its website that lists the documents that are available and in many instances makes them available for download at no cost. Should any document listed on the website be required they can be requested by contacting Council. Depending upon the document required there may be some copying charges involved but all documents listed would be available for viewing free of charge.

Council also provided extensive in-house training to staff members on the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 and their responsibilities.

Proactive Release of Documents throughout the year

As part of its requirements under separate Integrated Planning and Reporting legislation Council developed a Community Strategic Plan during the year. There was a significant number of plans that informed the development of this document as well as significant public consultation. As part of its review under the GIPA Act Council decided to proactively release the majority of the strategic plans that were used to facilitate the development of the Community Strategic Plan. The documents are available for public access on a section of the website related to the Community Strategic Plan.

Mandatory Release of Documents

The Council also developed a Publication Guide in accordance with the statutory requirements and this is also publicly available on the website. This document lists in detail the many methods by which residents and other interested parties are able to access Council information. It provides a detailed schedule of publicly available documents and the means by which they can be accessed.

Council also has on the website its contracts register available for viewing on the Council website.

There are many other documents that Council must make available and these are listed on the website or in the Publication Guide together with methods by which they can be accessed.

Number of access applications received - Clause 7(b)

Council during 2011/2012 financial year received six (6) formal access applications under the Government Information (Public Access) Act. All of these were accepted as valid applications and the information requested in 5 of them was either provided in full or part. One application was refused on the grounds that the information sought was personal information and not readily available. A summary of the applications received is detailed in the table below which is in the format required under Schedule 2 of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009.

Number of refused applications for Schedule 1 information - Clause 7(c)

During the reporting period, our agency did not refuse any formal access applications because the information requested was information referred to in Schedule 1 to the GIPA Act.

Statistical information about access applications - Clause 7(d) and Schedule 2

Table A: Number of applications by type of applicant and outcome*								
	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/ deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Media	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of Parliament	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private sector business	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not for profit organisations or community groups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (application by legal representative)	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (other)	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

*More than one decision can be made in respect of a particular access application. If so, a recording must be made in relation to each such decision. This also applies to Table B.

Table B: Number of applications by type of application and outcome								
	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/ deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Personal information applications*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Access applications that are partly personal information applications and partly other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*A personal information application is an access application for personal information (as defined in clause 4 of Schedule 4 to the Act) about the applicant (the applicant being an individual). The total number of decisions in Table B should be the same as Table A.

Table C: Invalid applications	
Reason for invalidity	Number of applications
Application does not comply with formal requirements (section 41 of the Act)	0
Application is for excluded information of the agency (section 43 of the Act)	0
Application contravenes restraint order (section 110 of the Act)	0
Total number of invalid applications received	0
Invalid applications that subsequently became valid applications	0

Table D: Conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure: matters listed in Schedule 1 of the Act	
	Number of times consideration used*
Overriding secrecy laws	0
Cabinet information	0
Executive Council information	0

Contempt	0
Legal professional privilege	0
Excluded information	0
Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety	0
Transport safety	0
Adoption	0
Care and protection of children	0
Ministerial code of conduct	0
Aboriginal and environmental heritage	0

*More than one public interest consideration may apply in relation to a particular access application and, if so, each such consideration is to be recorded (but only once per application). This also applies in relation to Table E.

Table E: Other public interest considerations against disclosure: matters listed in table to section 14 of the Act	
	Number of occasions when application not successful
Responsible and effective government	0
Law enforcement and security	0
Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice	1
Business interests of agencies and other persons	0
Environment, culture, economy and general matters	0
Secrecy provisions	0
Exempt documents under interstate Freedom of Information legislation	0

Table F: Timeliness	
	Number of applications
Decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus any extensions)	6
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with applicant)	0
Not decided within time (deemed refusal)	0
Total	0

Table G: Number of applications reviewed under Part 5 of the Act (by type of review and outcome)			
	Decision varied	Decision upheld	Total
Internal review	0	0	0
Review by Information Commissioner*	0	0	0
Internal review following recommendation under section 93 of Act	0	0	0
Review by ADT	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

*The Information Commissioner does not have the authority to vary decisions, but can make recommendation to the original decision-maker. The data in this case indicates that a recommendation to vary or uphold the original decision has been made.

Table H: Applications for review under Part 5 of the Act (by type of applicant)	
	Number of applications for review
Applications by access applicants	0
Applications by persons to whom information the subject of access application relates (see section 54 of the Act)	0

PRIVACY ACT

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 - Section 33 (3)]

In complying with the requirements of the PPIP Act, Council has adopted the Model Privacy Management Plan developed by the Department of Local Government. Additionally, Council is subject to the Privacy Code of Practice for Local Government. Council's investigative functions are subject to further policies and procedures imposed by various government bodies.

Council was not required to undertake any review under Part 5 of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act, 1998 during 2011/2012.

ACCESS TO COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETINGS/DISCUSSION FORUMS

Council meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber (except that the December meeting is held on the second Wednesday in December, and the January meeting is held on the first Wednesday in February). There is a 15 minute question time for the public from 6.00 pm to 6.15 pm.

On the first Wednesday of each month, Council holds a Policy Committee Meeting and, when required, discussion forums on matters of interest to the community. This provides a platform where the community can readily access the decision-makers of Council. Several discussion forums relating to Development Applications received by Council were held during the year.

Council held one (1) Extraordinary Meeting and six (6) Ordinary Council Meetings following the Policy Committee.

Council continued to hold monthly sessions whereby community groups and organisations met with Council to discuss issues of relevance. The following groups attended sessions throughout the year.

Complete Sports Marketing

Bathurst Seymour Centre

Central West Catchment Management Authority

Panthers Bathurst

Bathurst Hockey Association

Bathurst Information & Neighbourhood Centre

Bathurst Health Council

The Hon John Cobb MP

Bathurst Agricultural Horticultural & Pastoral Association Inc

CENTROC

Lindsay Cottee Foundation

Bathurst Harness Racing Club

Graham Lupp – 2015 Bicentenary Celebrations

Bathurst District Historical Society Inc

Catholic Cathedral Restoration Project

Crudine Ridge Wind Farm

Bathurst Men's Shed Inc – Workshop Project

Bridle Track Residents Group

Arts OutWest

Corrective Services Community/Correctional Partnerships

In addition to the regular program, Council held community meetings at the following villages: Wattle Flat, Hill End, Sofala, Rockley, Trunkey Creek, Yetholme, Eglinton, Perthville and Raglan.

COUNCIL BUSINESS PAPERS

Council Business Papers are available on Council's website (www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au) for viewing or printing prior to each Council meeting. Council business papers can also be viewed at the Council foyer and the Library. Copies may be obtained from the Corporate Services Department, 1st Floor, Civic Centre, or at the Council or Committee meetings.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Council has a four year financial plan which establishes the framework for expenditure and services for the future. The plan is reviewed and updated every financial year. Before the plan is adopted each June, it is placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, comments are encouraged and considered prior to the final adoption of the Management Plan. Council's Management Plan is available on Council's website (www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au) in the public documents section.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Council operates several committees that involve active representation from members of the community. Council representatives also participate in many community committees. This assists groups to access resources provided by Council and promotes close involvement in the decision-making processes of local government.

Council continued to nominate delegates to community organisations to assist in meeting community needs.

The following groups have delegates/duty delegates appointed:

All Saints Cathedral Chapter

Arts OutWest

Australian Airport Owners Assoc

Bathurst Aboriginal Community Working Party

Bathurst Access Committee

Bathurst Airport Users' Group

Bathurst AH&P Association Inc

Bathurst & District Bicycle User Group

Bathurst Arts Council

Bathurst Business Chamber

Bathurst City RSL Band

Bathurst Community Climate Action Network Inc

Bathurst Community Interagency Group
 Bathurst Correctional Complex Community Consultative Committee
 Bathurst District Historical Society
 Bathurst District Sport and Recreation Council
 Bathurst Domestic Violence Liaison Committee
 Bathurst Education Advancement Group
 Bathurst Health Council
 Bathurst Information and Neighbourhood Centre
 Bathurst Meals on Wheels Service
 Bathurst Refugee Support Group
 Bathurst Regional Art Gallery Society (BRAGS)
 Bathurst Regional Community Safety Committee
 Bathurst Regional Youth Council
 Bathurst Senior Citizens
 Bathurst Seymour Centre
 Bathurst Tidy Towns
 Bathurst Town Square Working Party
 Bells Line Expressway Group
 Boundary Road Nature Reserve Landcare Group
 Bicycle Facilities Working Party
 Carillon Working Party
 Central NSW Tourism
 Central West Catchment Management Authority Focus Group
 Central West Group Apprentices Scheme
 Central West Heritage Network
 Central West Women's Health Centre
 CENTROC
 CEW Bean Memorial Working Group
 Chifley Dam Catchment Steering Committee
 Combined Pensioners & Superannuants Assoc
 Club Grants
 Country Mayors Association
 Eglinton Hall & Park Committee
 Evans Arts Council
 Floodplain Management Authority
 Greening Bathurst
 Hill End & Tambaroora Progress Association
 International Friendship Group
 Kelso Parish & Community Centre
 Local Emergency Management Committee – Bathurst Region

Murray Darling Association
 National Trust of Australia – Bathurst Branch
 NSW Rural Fire Service - Chifley Zone Bushfire Liaison Committee
 NSW Rural Fire Service - Bathurst Senior Management Team
 Perthville Development Group Inc
 Public Libraries Association
 Rail Action Group
 Rockley Sports & Recreation Association Inc
 Somerville Collection Board of Directors
 Upper Macquarie Catchment Management Authority Local Government Liaison Group
 Upper Macquarie County Council
 Water & Sewerage Augmentation Steering Committee
 Wattle Flat (Bronze Thong) Racecourse Committee
 Wattle Flat Heritage Lands Trust
 West Bathurst Community House Management Committee
 Western Regional Access Committee
 2015 Bicentenary Celebrations

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bathurst Regional Council actively promotes its facilities, services and activities to residents and other users across the Bathurst Region.

Events and a range of other Council activities are publicised to all sections of the local media through regular media releases, which are also made available on Council's website. Information about Council and upcoming events is also advertised regularly through a program of community service announcements on the Bathurst Region's main radio stations, Radio 2BS, B-Rock FM and 2MCE FM.

Each week the local daily newspaper, the Western Advocate, carries a Mayor's Column which the Mayor uses to discuss issues, activities and events relating to Council. Regular weekly advertisements are also published in the Western Advocate promoting matters of relevance to the community.

In addition to these channels of communication, Council produces a Community Newsletter each quarter which is distributed to all ratepayers with the rates notices, and is also made available at Council facilities.



ENGINEERING SERVICES

The key to developing a sound foundation for growth and prosperity of the Bathurst Region is by ensuring infrastructure needs are keeping pace with demand. With a budget in excess of \$50m Council's Engineering Services Department has the responsibility to ensure the current needs of the community are met and the capacity exists to cater for future growth. A clean and safe water supply, a quality local road network, and environmentally responsible waste management systems are all high priorities for engineering the future of the Bathurst Region.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE EXISTING ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE CONSISTENTLY THROUGHOUT THE NETWORK

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Improvement of road infrastructure to further link the sealed network.	• The Bridle Track (1.552 km from 4.187 km to 5.793 km).	• Completed - Guardrail installed.
	• Common Road (0 km to 2 km).	• Common Road Complete. Sealed November 2011.
	• Hill End Road - Sofala to Turondale Stage II (4.707 km to 6.695 km).	• Completed. Sealed February 2012.
	• Eusdale Road Stage II (3.493 km to 4.168 km).	• Completed. Sealed 31 May 2012.
	• Yarras Lane (1.097 km to 2.441 km).	• Completed.
	• Willow Tree Lane (4.372 km to 6.854 km).	• Completed. Sealed February 2012.
	• Lagoon Road (10 km to 12 km).	• Completed.
	• 11/12 Reseal Program.	• 15% completed. Remaining reseals abandoned due to adverse weather conditions.
Progressive renewal of road gravel surface throughout the network.	• Rural Road Gravel Re-sheeting Program.	• Program completed. Six roads resheeted - 12.5 km or 55,880m ²
Greater than 90% of the urban road network remain in condition index 1, 2 or 3.	• Undertake maintenance program in accordance with allocated budget.	• Ongoing as per scheduled program. Currently 95% of urban roads fall between condition 1-3.

IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS WITHIN THE URBAN AREA

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Further links in the concrete footpath network within the Bathurst urban areas.	• Completion of additional concrete footpaths in accordance with the Strategic Access Plan (SAP).	• All items in 2011-2012 program completed. Additional 2.727 km added to network.
Public requests regarding trip defects on paved footpaths to be less than 60 during the financial year.	• Monitor condition of footpaths.	• 47 requests received during the year. Inspection program carried out from February to April for all classes of footpath/cycleways and in August for all class 1 footpaths/cycleways.

PROTECTION OF URBAN AREAS ON THE BATHURST FLOODPLAIN

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Increase in number of houses protected from the 1% AEP flood level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the planning for construction of flood mitigation works as outlined in the Bathurst Floodplain Management Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquisition of land for Carlingford St levy and Perthville levy commenced.

CONDITION OF PUBLIC WORKS

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428]

The following table summarises the estimated costs to bring Council's public works assets to a satisfactory standard. It also provides a summary of estimated annual maintenance expenses and programmed maintenance works.

		Estimated cost to bring up to a satisfactory condition /	Required Annual Maintenance	Current Annual Maintenance
ASSET CLASS	Asset Category	standard (1)		
Buildings	Council Offices	-	28	80
	Council Works Depot	58	11	34
	Council Halls	25	31	6
	Rental Buildings	21	5	52
	Museum	-	4	177
	Library / Art Gallery	-	21	26
	Childcare Centre(s)	-	8	19
	Amenities / Toilets	-	2	13
	Other Sport & Rec	30	62	121
	Sporting Grounds	-	20	50
	Visitors Information Centre	-	2	28
	Other Buildings	-	24	77
	Aquatic Centre	-	6	33
	sub total	134	224	716
Other Structures	Assets not included in Buildings	-	41	230
	sub total	-	41	230
Public Roads	Unsealed Roads	4,648	520	451
	Sealed Rural Roads	5,238	1,249	664
	Urban Roads	9,375	940	1,740
	Bridges & Culverts	1,221	87	62
	Footpaths	735	56	230
	Parking Areas	28	553	26
	Bus Shelters	34	5	-
	Aerodrome	1,921	117	73
	sub total	23,200	3,527	3,246
Water	Treatment Plants	4,321	214	273
	Reservoirs	1,954	128	62
	Dams	2,615	320	90
	Hydrants / Valves / Pipelines	13,082	657	1,061
	Pump Station	608	37	27
	sub total	22,580	1,356	1,513
Sewerage	Pump Stations	603	36	85
	Pipes & Mains	16,238	660	446
	Treatment Works	6,068	213	581
	sub total	22,909	909	1,112
Drainage Works	All Drainage Structures	505	182	407
	sub total	505	182	407
	TOTAL - ALL ASSETS	69,328	6,239	7,224

PRIVATE WORKS

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005-Clause 217(1)(a4)]

In accordance with Section 67 of the Local Government Act, 1993 Council from time to time carries out work on privately owned land in accordance with the fee structure adopted as part of the management plan at the beginning of the year. There were no works carried out during the year that required a resolution from Council (in accordance with Section 67 2(b) of the Local Government Act, 1993) to waive or reduce the fees charged under this section.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

[Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1)(e)]

Council proposed the following stormwater management works in its 2011/2012 Management Plan.

Stormwater Drainage Construction	Estimated Cost	Status
Sawpit Creek	\$20,000	Priorities altered – removed from list
Eglinton	\$66,973	Maintenance program - completed
Alexander Street	\$50,000	Completed
Gilmour Retention Basin	\$50,000	Partially completed due to moisture issues
Dunkeld Road Improvements	\$50,000	Not done – priority altered
Carlingford Street	\$50,000	To be constructed in conjunction with Carlingford Flood Levee
Sandy Creek Culverts	\$80,000	Completed

WATER, WASTE WATER & WASTE

MAINTAIN AND UPGRADE EXISTING WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS INTO THE FUTURE

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Meet the Australian Drinking Water Standards 99% of the time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operate, maintain, repair and upgrade Water Filtration Plant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 99% of the 174 samples tested were compliant. Winter maintenance works completed. Supernatant Recycling Project (\$1.6M) is completed. Manganese trial is completed. Stage 1 and Stage 2 testing is now complete. Reports on projects have been drafted and are being finalised.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide compliance reports to NSW Health as required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports supplied, with weekly samples taken around the network. 288 samples taken, tested and reported in the financial year.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operate, maintain, repair and upgrade water distribution system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades completed including Winburndale pipeline, relocations at roadworks, Mount Panorama improvements, Mitre Street from Russell to Keppel Streets. Peel Street from Victoria to Rocket Streets and Rankin Street from Brilliant to Rocket Streets. Repairs carried out as required. Operation ongoing.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond effectively to dirty water complaints within four hours (service standard). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond within timeframe to deal with issue. 616 complaints actioned in financial year.
Australian Drinking Water Guidelines compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review gaps, engage consultant, investigate solutions and complete elements as required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not yet commenced. Attended Department Health Seminar; awaiting templates, which are due before the end of 2012.

Best Practice Guidelines compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update plans as required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% compliant for sewer and 90% compliant for water (residential revenue not 75% or more) at 30 June 2011. Results for 30 June 2012 are due out in the first half of 2013.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate, review and undertake further initiatives in the Best Practice Guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further initiatives being investigated.
Review outcomes and opportunities from the water and sewer models and reports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare plans and estimates for works highlighted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sewer gauging completed, rain events captured, sewer model being reviewed, consultant report due July. Gilmour Street offline storage designs complete and tenders have been called and contract has been awarded. New Kelso reservoir, pump station and pipework design and documentation is underway and is well advanced.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare report and studies for Winburndale Dam and Chifley Dam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports and studies are progressing.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with CENTROC on Water Utilities Alliance goals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing projects are being progressed. Regional Drought Plan actioned. Regional Energy Plan for water security actioned.
Operation of Waste Water Treatment Works in accordance with licence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operate, maintain, repair and upgrade Waste Water Treatment Works to meet or exceed licence conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operations are ongoing, and upgrades continuing. 303 out of 312 tests (97%) complied with the 90 percentile limits in the EPA licence.
Maintain sewer mains.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue program of sewer main CCTV and lining. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program planning and works underway. CCTV works were undertaken in numerous problem areas following the several heavy rainfall events, and necessary sections were relined (Contractors were limited in availability as most are still in Christchurch, New Zealand).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue implementation of Trade Waste Policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation continues. Policy compliant. 301 out of 335 active businesses currently have approval (90%).
Renew water and sewer mains adjacent to road works or large developments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, plan and undertake construction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project works underway. Bradwardine Road project required substantial water main works, several new fire lines were installed for new developments, and sections of water and sewer mains were replaced as required. Future planning commenced.

MAINTAIN AND UPGRADE EXISTING WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE TO MEET STAKEHOLDER REQUIREMENTS		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Vehicle fleet is up to date and able to adequately undertake waste collection activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace vehicles on a 4 yearly cycle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenders called, new garbage truck has been ordered. Delivery has now occurred, with final check and commissioning complete. New vehicle is in use.
Identify future land requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Waste Management Centre fill plans and take necessary steps to ensure the optimum long term strategy is determined and enacted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans being reviewed. Survey completed using GPS scanner.
Review rural waste sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate and review rural waste sites to identify any legacy issues. Develop and implement strategies to eliminate or minimise any issues found. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of rural waste sites is underway and continuing.

REDUCE WASTE TO LANDFILL		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Promote recycling to maximise collection volumes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor to undertake as per Contract. Council to continue education and promotion of appropriate behaviours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans developed and agreed. Activities (Household Hazardous Material Collection) conducted in November 2011. In 2012, CSU orientation week, International Women's Day and Seniors Week activities conducted. Waste 2 Art exhibition and competition held with over 50 entries received. Kerbside collection contract for 2011/2012 totalled 3,090 tonnes with paper and glass being the main items. Waste Management Centre total volume received was 56,000 tonnes with 4% being recycled offsite.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, assess and implement appropriate diversion opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing project. Continue to collaborate with Netwaste to participate in any suitable opportunities.
Benchmark the operations of the Community Recycling Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Central West Care to develop and implement strategies to enable the Centre to operate successfully. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular meetings and reviews held. In 2010/2011 118 tonnes of stock was received and 37 tonnes were diverted. 2011/2012 data is yet to be received.

NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428]

Council has identified its water, sewer and waste activities as Category 1 business activities. Council has not identified any Category 2 businesses. A summary has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Government Policy Statement 'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government' and the Department of Local Government guidelines 'Pricing & Costing for Council Businesses: A Guide to Competitive Neutrality'.

The summary is provided in the 'Notes 1, 2 & 3 Forming Part of the Special Purpose Financial Reports' and 'Income Statements' shown in the attached Special Purpose Financial Statement.

The following progress has been made on the implementation of competitive neutrality principles:

Category 1 businesses have:

- been identified
- had strategic Business Plans prepared
- been separated within Council's reporting system
- had competitive neutrality pricing requirements applied, including calculation of tax equivalents, debt guarantee fees and appropriate rates of return on capital.

The complaints handling system caters for recording competitive neutrality complaints. Council's system caters for the publication of complaints via the annual report. Complaints received are publicised through Council documents such as the Annual Report. During the 2011/2012 year, no such complaints were received. Council has adopted a policy of actual cost when calculating Trade Waste Charges.

RECREATION

PLAN FOR INCREASING POPULATION AND AGEING POPULATION IN THE PROVISION OF SUITABLE RECREATIONAL PROJECTS		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Addition of facilities to compliment the Adventure Playground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct additional facilities as per budgets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil budget 2011-2012. Nil budget 2012-2013.
Continuation of improvements and upgrades to existing sporting facilities as resources become available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update sporting venues as per budgets adopted in Annual Management Plan. New amenities block planned for Proctor Park. Construction starts March 2012. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of AFL Clubhouse completed. Construction of Netball Clubhouse completed. Construction of new changerooms/toilets at Proctor Park 70% completed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct new sporting venues as per budgets adopted in the Annual Management Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil budget.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider construction of, cycling venue, additional soccer fields. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority list for construction of cycling facilities has been compiled. DA Approved. Additional soccer fields not available at this time - still negotiating with land owners for purchase of land.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of irrigation telemetry at selected sports grounds and parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed. Locations include Carrington Park, Proctor Park, Learmonth Park, Ann Ashwood Rugby Union Complex, Macquarie River Bicentennial Park and the Bathurst Adventure Playground.
CONTINUE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED WITHIN THE BATHURST VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Completion of specific projects as determined by contracts with Central West Catchment Management Authority (CWCMA) and other environmental bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue ongoing environmental and maintenance works as identified in the Bathurst Vegetation Management Plan to the Macquarie River and other areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apex Park Ophir Road rehabilitation works completed. Maintenance to continue. Browning Street Reserve rehabilitation works completed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sawpit Creek Rehabilitation Project ongoing maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance continuing including weed control, plant maintenance and in-fill planting. Community Planting Day held 21 April 2012.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper Jordan Creek Rehabilitation Project ongoing maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance continuing including removal of all woody weeds, weed control, in-stream and riparian zone planting and mulching. Planting to be completed at Community Planting Day to be held in September 2012.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raglan Creek Rehabilitation ongoing maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance continuing at the Stockland Drive and Raglan sites. Maintenance works include weed control, plant maintenance and in-fill planting. Community Planting Days were held at these two sites March 2012 (Raglan) and May 2012 (Stockland Drive)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban Waterways Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper Hawthornden Creek Project completed. Works have included the installation of a series of Schauburger Sills (engineered stabilisation structures). The Boundary Road Reserve Landcare Group have planted in-stream vegetation to further assist with stabilisation works and will continue to monitor and manage this site.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bathurst Urban drainage reserve vegetation link. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project administered by Environmental Section. Plantings commenced in December 2011. Planting completed in early 2012 now under maintenance period. Maintenance to be undertaken by contractor.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for the construction of new playgrounds in expanding residential area in conjunction with Annual Management Plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing as budget allows.

CONTINUE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PLAYGROUNDS IN EXPANDING RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND UPGRADE EXISTING PLAYGROUNDS AND PASSIVE RECREATION AREAS

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Completion of new playgrounds as resources allow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to upgrade existing playgrounds as resources become available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing as budget allows. Upgrade for Bunora Park Playground planned included in 2012/2013 Management Plan
Continue to upgrade existing playgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for and construct passive recreation areas as resources become available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing as budget allows. Upgrade of Windradyne Park planned. Awaiting delivery of new equipment.
Consideration and implementation of passive recreation areas as resources allow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain existing levels of service to all parks, reserves, open space areas and other recreational facilities. Consider extending maintenance services. To recreation areas within villages when resources are allocated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing. Maintenance Service Levels vary within each of 9 Asset Classification areas. Within each asset area there are generally 3-4 service levels ranging from Regional Facilities which have a high service level standard, through to local residential / rural service levels that have less frequent service level requirements.

MAINTAIN EXISTING AND FUTURE RECREATIONAL AREAS

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Customer satisfaction levels are maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain existing levels of service to all parks, reserves, open space areas and other recreational facilities. The assets that are maintained by the Recreation Section are classified as either Playgrounds, Sports Grounds, Passive Parks and Reserves, General Community Lands, Road Reserves, Cemeteries, Landscaped Building Surrounds, Natural Areas and sports Precincts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing. Maintenance service levels are detailed in Council's Asset Management System. Service Levels are generally classified as Regional, Community, Residential / Local and Village / Rural Community survey satisfaction level for: Parks - 8.1/10, Sporting Fields - 7.9/10 Report to Council 1 February 2012.



CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Bathurst Regional Council supports a vibrant culture and community. Lifestyle in the Bathurst Region is enriched by providing a diverse range of cultural facilities and programs and by promoting cultural diversity. Community well-being is promoted through social planning, community development and ensuring access to community services.

CULTURAL SERVICES

PROVIDE A FOCUS ON THE VISUAL ARTS FOR THE COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS, WHICH CHALLENGE THINKING AND STIMULATE CREATIVITY, AND TO PROMOTE CULTURAL ENRICHMENT THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT AND CARE OF THE PERMANENT COLLECTION, TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS AND RESEARCH FACILITIES

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Develop the number and quality of education and outreach programs at the gallery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a primary and secondary educational program in association with <i>*eclaimed</i> a cutting edge exhibition of contemporary art by artists who identify as being of indigenous heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous educator Aleishia Lonsdale developed the educational program in conjunction with indigenous artist Jonathan Jones. The program held over four days attracted some 428 secondary school students from 11 high schools.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a secondary educational program about art and new interactive technology based around DLUX Media's exhibition <i>Garden of Forking Paths</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational program did not occur as it was decided to delay the 2012 education program to the second half of 2012 to include: <i>AES&F: The Feast of Trimalchio</i> (Secondary), <i>Alice Spring Beanie Festival</i> (Primary), <i>Yulyurlu Lorna Fencer Napurrurla</i> (Primary and Secondary) and <i>Frock Stars: Inside Fashion Week</i> (Primary and Secondary).
Develop community access to and understanding of contemporary indigenous art.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a major exhibition exclusive to Bathurst entitled <i>*eclaimed</i> a cutting edge exhibition of contemporary art by artists who identify as being of indigenous heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibition opened to the public on Friday 7 October and was officially opened by David Marr author, journalist and broadcaster on Friday 14 October, some 94 people attending the opening, as well as some 40 people attending the <i>*eclaimed</i> forum. 428 high school students attended the schools program. Total attendance for the exhibition was 2,486.
Develop community access and inclusion in the Gallery's exhibition program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop in conjunction with Bathurst Regional Art Gallery Society (BRAGS) the third Bathurst Art Fair a community access exhibition open to all local residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bathurst Art Fair was on display at the Art Gallery from 29 September to 2 October 2011. 230 works by 129 artists were exhibited and 580 people visited the gallery for the Art Fair. A total of 21 works valued at \$6,840 were sold.
Develop community understanding of the innovative role new technology plays in contemporary art.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tour to Bathurst an exhibition by DLUX Media entitled <i>Garden of Forking Paths</i> dealing with art and new interactive technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibition opened on Friday 16 March and ran to Sunday 29 April 2012. Total attendance for the exhibition was 2,871 of which 198 were school children.

PROVIDE ACCESS TO PERFORMING ARTS ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY AS AUDIENCES AND/OR ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS THROUGH BATHURST MEMORIAL ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE (BMEC) SESSIONS AND THE LOCAL STAGES PROGRAM.

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Present a diverse range of the highest quality, professional performing arts activity available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to build the <i>Inland Sea of Sound Festival</i> as a key outlet for local musicians of diverse ethnic backgrounds to perform alongside world music artists from Australia and abroad. Successfully stage the fourth biennial <i>Catapult Festival</i> of youth circus and physical theatre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BMEC has been successful in securing Destination NSW Demand funding for the 2012 festival. The 2012 festival will be marketed beyond Bathurst and in particular to the Blue Mountains and inner suburban Sydney. Some advertising will also pitch a local population loyalty program to encourage family and friends to visit them in Bathurst for the festival period. Artists for the 2012 festival are of exceptional calibre and include: Jeff Lang and guests; Rasa Duende; Greg Sheehan; and Fred Smith. A Festival launch is scheduled for July 2012. Catapult 2012 was the most successful to date. Projects conducted during the festival such as <i>Circus Mob</i>, involving local Aboriginal teenagers, will continue throughout the year. Plans are now commencing for <i>Catapult 2014</i>. The initial task is to secure funding support and the Steering Committee will be submitting numerous grant applications. The festival will continue to be guided by a National Artistic Directorate.
Engage with practitioners within and beyond Bathurst in the ongoing development performing arts skills, process and practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct week long residency with Wolfe Bowart of Spooontree Productions to explore the meeting point between film and live performance with school students from the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week long residency successfully completed. Wolfe worked with University students and artists from the community. The week included a broad exploration of ways of manipulating images and perspective which could lay the groundwork for a future collaborative project.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring Aboriginal artists to Bathurst through the <i>Inland Sea of Sound</i> and <i>Namatjira</i> projects to engage with and inspire the local community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Namatjira</i> company spent a week in Bathurst. Their visit commenced with a reception with the local Aboriginal community including visual arts exhibitions by local Aboriginal artists and school children from West Bathurst Primary. During the week the company ran watercolour painting workshops, movement and storytelling workshops and forged strong links with the members of the local community. The week culminated in three inspirational performances. The <i>Inland Sea of Sound</i> has moved from April to October. Planning is well underway for the third annual festival with headline acts secured. Negotiations continue with Aboriginal singer/songwriter Kerianne Cox to perform at one of the backyard concerts.

PROVISION OF A LIBRARY SERVICE THAT REMAINS A CUSTOMER SERVICE BENCHMARK IN THE REGION		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Maintain high Library visitor numbers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain customer satisfaction levels as part of Bathurst Community survey. • Promote services and facilities in new forums. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff trained in good customer service. • The Library has been promoted by the outreach team by visiting schools and constant media articles in the local newspaper. • New formats, mainly MP3 discs have been provided with new displays and posters developed. • Reference/Family History Section overhaul and promotion undertaken in December 2011. • Community survey satisfaction 8.1/10 - report to Council 1 February 2012.
Develop new programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold author talks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author Talks held as follows: • 21 September 2011, Niromi De Soyza, <i>Tamil Tiger</i>. • 21 November 2011, Carol Baxter, <i>Captain Thunderbolt and his lady</i>. • 21 March 2012, Sulari Gentill, Australian Crime Novelist, <i>Miles off Course</i>.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a range of adult and children's activities to promote library use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing with <i>New Kids on the Book</i> program. • School holiday programs booked out during each period. New activities include: Chess Group meeting and Mothers Group meetings.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on benchmarking status, based on State Library statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report prepared for council meeting July 2012.
Maintain a customer friendly environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renew display shelving, rotate displays to create user interest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displays being rotated on an ongoing basis. New display shelving has been created to house the MP3 collection. A display stand for subject specific displays created, such as cooking.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booklink program participant numbers increase by 5%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010/2011 Booklink program completed in August 2011 with 100 children participating. • 2011/2012 program commenced in December 2011 and will be completed in August 2012. • Loans have increased from 2010/2011 total of 6,180 to 2011/2012 with a total of 7,320 books read as at 30 June 2012, this already represents an increase of 18.4%.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow collections reflecting trends by public demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection Development Policies being developed. • This year the new MP3 collection and the CD recorded book collections were in heavy demand. The fiction genre of thrillers was heavily used and supported by growing the collection.

DEVELOP INNOVATIVE AND STIMULATING PROGRAMS AT THE AUSTRALIAN FOSSIL AND MINERAL MUSEUM		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
New displays in temporary exhibition room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiate new temporary exhibits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibitions in temporary space included: Cox's Road Exhibition, Bathurst Town Square Exhibition, Landscape Artworks from BRAG collection.
Children's activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and promote school holiday activities. Continue the scattered Bones Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Holiday activities were held for each of the School Holiday periods. Activities included science shows and craft. The Scattered Bones Program continued throughout the year.

INCREASE AUSTRALIAN FOSSIL AND MINERAL MUSEUM NUMBERS		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Increase patron/visitor numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake innovative advertising programs detailing Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising programs have been ongoing in print and television. Programs limited as a result of low funding resources. Visitation has increased from 24,508 in 2011 to 26,228 in 2012.

NOMINATE CHIFLEY HOME TO THE NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Increase heritage significance nationally of Chifley Home and its collection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with Australian Heritage Council on nomination guidelines. Identify agencies and individuals for nomination and gather support material. Prepare and submit application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First stage has been the preparation of a Strategic Plan for Chifley Home & Education Centre. This was commissioned with the first working draft submitted to staff in May 2011. Nomination will be prepared after plan finalised.

DEVELOP CHIFLEY HOME EDUCATION CENTRE AS A VENUE FOR CHANGING EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
To promote the Chifley story and relevant aspects of Australia's social, political and cultural history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop four (4) exhibitions for Chifley Home Education Centre during 2011/2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibitions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>An Independent Mind</i> – Peter Andren MP retrospective exhibition. <i>Chifley in an Album</i> – photographs from the Chifley Home collection. <i>A Social Documentary</i> – Western Advocate Photographers.

COLLECTION ASSET VALUATION		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Undertake valuation of all Council museum collections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs are implemented to protect collections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valuation of collections completed and provided to Council's Auditors and insurers. Collections are fully covered under Council's policies.

INTRODUCTION OF PEST CONTROL PROGRAM		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
All museum sites to have pest control program for insects and vermin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain Quotes Secure funding and contract. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No funding allocated in budget. Project did not proceed.

LIGHTING UPGRADE OF COUNCIL MUSEUMS		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Develop lighting plans and source funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research technology and match to Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum system, seek prices. Replace inefficient National Motor Racing Museum house lights. Identify technology and match to Bathurst Regional Art Gallery system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All house lighting replaced at National Motor Racing Museum by energy efficient LED in August 2011. Display LED lighting trial held, which was unsuccessful. New contractor investigating LED savings with display lighting at National Motor Racing Museum and Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum. New contractor submitted proposal for lighting at Bathurst Regional Art Gallery (grant funded). Budget submitted to Operating Plan for upgrade. LED lighting upgrade completed at Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, National Motor Racing Museum and Library.

IMPLEMENTATION OF OPERATION REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS AT NATIONAL MOTOR RACING MUSEUM		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Implement recommendations from operational review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare action plan for recommendation implementation. Implement recommendations where resources available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action plan prepared for building works and implemented on an ongoing basis subject to funding. Actions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood rectification works completed. Contacts database created. Increase in shop and museum revenue. Shop/Foyer, high level clean undertaken. Commenced postcode survey. External air intakes covered. Interior wall lining completed (Hall 2).

BATHURST REGIONAL ART GALLERY

Visitation at the Bathurst Regional Art Gallery (BRAG) from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 was 23,687 (attendance in 2010/2011 was 24,978).

Additionally 7,959 people visited the Jean Bellette Gallery in Hill End, which is curated by BRAG, and 114,904 people visited the *MAYS: The May Lane Street Art Project* exhibition toured by BRAG to regional galleries in Lake Macquarie (4,979), Cockatoo Island, Sydney (86,166), Gosford (20,746), and the La Trobe Valley, Victoria (3,013).

Total attendance for BRAG exhibitions in 2011/2012 was 147,846 people.

Self-Generated Contemporary Art Exhibitions

The Gallery generated a number of important and innovative contemporary art exhibitions in 2011/2012 including:

- Bill Moseley: Myths, written in a margin.*
- The Great Divide: Genevieve Carroll, Janet Haslett & Julie Williams.*
- *eclaimed: contemporary Australian art.*
- Technique: Contemporary Australian Jewellery.*

- Locust Jones: Some mistakes were perhaps made.*
- Adam Cullen and Michael Binkins: Postcolonial Architectonics (in discourse).*
- Julie Ryder: Companion planting.*
- Liz Walker: Nature's Table.*

Council provided special funding of \$20,000 to undertake the **eclaimed: contemporary Australian art* project an exhibition of works by seven major indigenous artists that was exclusive to Bathurst. The exhibition opened by David Marr, was curated by Richard Perram and included works by Richard Bell, Destiny Deacon (in collaboration with Virginia Fraser), Jonathan Jones, Danie Mellor, Clinton Nain, Rea and Judy Watson. The exhibition included paintings, drawings, installations, photography and digital media and looked at how these artists have **eclaimed* a central role in contemporary Australian art. This was the first time an exhibition of contemporary work by indigenous artists had been seen in Bathurst and also the first time that the whole of the Bathurst Regional Art Gallery was given over to a single exhibition. In conjunction with the exhibition BRAG published a catalogue with an important essay **eclaimed: Closing the Bridge on Radical Apathy* by Aboriginal journalist and radio broadcaster, Daniel Browning.

Local Artist Project Exhibitions

The Gallery featured local artists Bill Moseley, Genevieve Carroll, Janet Haslett, Julie Williams, Adam Cullen and Michael Binkins under its local artist project initiative.

Permanent Collection Exhibitions

The Gallery increased its focus on showcasing the permanent collection in 2011/2012:

- *Radiant Sunshine: Lloyd Rees from the Permanent Collection*
- *Hill End 1851 to 2011: From the Permanent Collection*
- *Lustre: From the Permanent Collection* exhibited at the Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum
- Additionally 12 focus exhibitions concentrating on paintings, prints, drawings, ceramics and sculptures from the permanent collection have been exhibited in the Lloyd Rees Reading Room (six exhibitions) and the gallery/library foyer (six exhibitions).

Partnerships & Touring Exhibitions

The Gallery conducted an important partnership project with Sydney collecting institution Mays Inc. in 2010/2011, which resulted in the *MAYS: The May Lane Street Art Project* touring exhibition. In 2012 this popular exhibition's tour schedule has been extended to include venues not on the original touring schedule. The exhibition tour will now conclude on 21 October 2012 at Cairns Regional Art Gallery.

Between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012, BRAG toured *MAYS: The May Lane Street Art Project* to Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery (4,979), Cockatoo Island - Outpost Festival - (86,166), Gosford Regional Art Gallery (20,746), La Trobe Regional Gallery, Victoria (3,013). Total attendance was 114,904.

Incoming Touring Exhibitions

BRAG toured a number of important exhibitions to the Gallery in the 2011/2012 period including:

- *Recycled Library: Altered Books* (Artspace Mackay)
- *Studio: Australian painters photographed by R. Ian Lloyd* (Ian Lloyd Productions / M&GNSW)
- *Hyperclay: Contemporary Ceramics* (Object Gallery)
- *The Garden of Forking Paths* (dlux MediaArts)
- *Paul Selwood: Perspective Cutouts* (Maitland Regional Art Gallery)
- *Oculi - Terra Australis Incognita: A photographic survey* (Manly Art Gallery and Museum)

Incoming Community Exhibitions

BRAG hosted the Bathurst Art Fair in 2011. This community exhibition was a great success with 230 works by 129 artists exhibited. 580 people visited the gallery over the 3 days the works were on display. A total of 21 works valued at \$6,840 were sold.

Educational Outreach Programs

The gallery continued its educational outreach programs, provided at no cost to schools, including a free transport scheme. The main education program conducted in 2011/2012 was for *reclaimed: contemporary Australian art* which was attended by 428 high school students from 11 high schools.

Additionally BRAG's Art in a Suitcase program toured to 7 schools and 2 aged care facilities in the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.

Hill End Artists in Residence Program & Jean Bellette Gallery

The Bathurst Regional Art Gallery's Hill End program focused on the following three themes in 2011/2012:

- The Hill End Artists in Residence Program saw 16 artists participate in the program, staying at either Murray's or Haeffliger's Cottages for a period of four weeks.
- Exhibitions at BRAG featuring work by artists arising out of their residencies and artists living in Hill End including:
 - *Bill Moseley: Myths, written in a margin;*
 - *The Great Divide: Genevieve Carroll, Janet Haslett & Julie Williams;*
 - *Locust Jones: Some mistakes were perhaps made;*
 - *Adam Cullen and Michael Binkins: Postcolonial Architectonics (in discourse);*
 - *Julie Ryder: Companion planting; and*
 - *Liz Walker: Nature's Table.*
- BRAG curated exhibitions at the Jean Bellette Gallery, Hill End, by artists who have had residencies, artists based in Hill End and works from BRAG's permanent collection relating to Hill End including:
 - *Michael Ramsden: The last decade;*
 - *Hill End Arts Council: From the Studio;*
 - *Bill Moseley: Myths, written in a margin;*
 - *Joanna Logue: New works Hill End;*
 - *National Art School Exhibition; and*
 - *Julie Williams: The Great Divide.*

Acquisitions and the permanent collection

In 2011/2012, 56 works by 29 artists valued at \$220,288.51 came to the gallery by way of gift, bequest, donation and purchase.

Bathurst Regional Art Gallery Society

The Bathurst Regional Art Gallery Society contributed \$13,000 towards the purchase of Donald Friend's 1948 painting *Hill End* 1948.

BATHURST MEMORIAL ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

Attendances at BMEC from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 were 45,152 compared to 56,758 in 2010/2011 and 45,102 in 2009/2010.

Touring productions

Twenty professional touring events were presented in the 2011/2012 financial year, not including venue hires. These included:

Divas - An unforgettable musical journey to celebrate the life of Diva's such as Barbara Streisand and Shirley Bassy. Presented within BMEC's Daylight program, particularly targeting seniors.

The Fabulous Frances Faye in Australia - Nick Christo in an award winning tribute to the outrageous and legendary band leader Frances Faye. Cabaret style in City Hall with dinner and show.

Boats - BMEC Country Energy program for young people and families. Boats is the story, told through theatre and puppetry, of two mariners fleeing their past and embracing adventure. Boats went on to win the 2012 Helpmann award for the best Children's Theatre production.

Rainbow's End – A genuine “feel good” night in the theatre. Written about 3 generations of Koori women and set in the 1950's. *Rainbow's End* went on to win the APACA Drover award for the best touring production and was a finalist in the Helpmann Awards for best regional touring production.

The Man The Sea Saw – BMEC Country Energy program for young people and families. Taking place on and around an icicle clad stage, this breathtaking performance combined Wolfe Bowart's deft and dance-like physicality circus, comedy, puppetry, stage illusion, audience interaction, and poignant story. *The Man the Sea Saw* was a finalist in the Helpmann Awards in the best regional touring production category.

Often I find That I am Naked – An outrageous comedy with pop songs for anyone who has ever dreamt of perfect love and been disappointed. Presented by the BMEC Local Stages program.

The Happiest Show on Earth – BMEC Country Energy program for young people and families. Full of comedy, spectacle, circus, magic and music. An engaging vaudevillian show for 4 to 8 year olds.

Shorter + Sweeter Dance - Best of the fest, dance extravaganza featuring the best ten works from the Shorter + Sweeter Dance Festival.

Julius Caesar – This Bell Shakespeare production saw the company at its finest. A stellar ensemble in a production which was gripping from beginning to end. *Julius Caesar* went on to be nominated for the Helpmann Award for best regional touring production.

Sydney Philharmonia Choir - American Journeys is a feast of Choral Singing taking you through the journey of American a capella music. A choral workshop for local singers accompanied the performance.

Nellie Melba - A unique tribute to Dame Nellie Melba, Australia's first superstar. Presented within BMEC's Daylight program, particularly targeting seniors.

Namatjira - Albert Namatjira's achingly beautiful watercolours introduced the lounge rooms of Australian suburbia to the exquisite beauty of our central desert heartland. In a similar way, this sweeping narrative acts as a window through which we can see ourselves, and our nation, as clearly as the landscapes he gave to us. The company spent a week in Bathurst and took part in community engagement and workshops which have left a lasting impression. *Namatjira* went on to win the 2012 Helpmann award for the best regional touring production.

Side By Side By Sondheim – The music of the most acclaimed composer on Broadway, Stephen Sondheim. Presented in Seniors Week within BMEC's Daylight program.

Catapult Festival – The National Youth Circus and Physical Theatre Festival. This festival draws participation from around Australia and has created increased awareness of Bathurst nationally. Funding was received from Festivals Australia and the Regional Arts Fund.

Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and Terence Dennis - One of the most famous sopranos in the world. This concert was a sell out and encouraged many patrons to become Supporters to secure tickets.

Dickens' Women - BAFTA award winning actress Miriam Margolyes bringing to life 23 of Charles Dickens' most affecting and colourful female (and male) characters.

Shifting Sand – *TaikOz* - New work composed by TaikOz member, Graham Hilgendorf, inspired by the beach and the ocean.

Identity - Tasdance - An inspiring evening showcasing the work of two very different choreographers.

Earth's I, Bunyip - BMEC Country Energy program for young people and families. Developed in consultation with five different Aboriginal communities. *I, Bunyip* portrays the mystical world of creatures from our indigenous folklore.

CIRCA - Thoroughly new kind of circus, daring, breathtaking and cheeky. A bold new vision taking the world by storm. *Circa* went on to win the 2012 Helpmann Award for the best visual or physical theatre production.

Local Stages Program

Events supported by the BMEC Local Stages Program in 2011/12 included:

Marramarr - a regional showcase of Aboriginal art and performance. This included a visual art exhibition in the BMEC foyers and a performance showcase in the BMEC Theatre. A performance highlight was a hip hop / dance piece by young Bathurst women.

Synthesis - Creative development and performance of a new youth dance/theatre work.

“SYN-THESIS”, created by artists in residence, Alison Plevy and Adam Deusien, with mentorship from Peta Johnston. Young regional artists engaged with the creators in an exploration of physical performance training and creative process, with excerpt performances at ‘Catapult’ (March) and a full performance at BMEC (May).

Often I find that I am Naked – toured by Critical Stages. *Often I Find that I am Naked* is an outrageous comedy with pop songs for anyone who has ever dreamt of perfect love but woken up, hung over and naked in a stranger's bed... or bathtub.

Windows on the World – A new work by local playwright Violette F. Keen. *Windows on the World* is a one act piece of verbatim theatre that focuses on the perspective of individuals who were in New York on 9/11 and how this event has changed their lives ten years later. As well as the Bathurst world premiere *Windows on the World* was selected for a playreading by the Blank Theatre in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

Love, Chemistry and Cryogenics – new local cabaret for families from Michelle Griffin. *Love, Chemistry and Cryogenics* is the story of Ms Michelle - Science educator. As Ms Michelle thaws out after cryogenic storage so does her heart! With her laboratory assistant and live band Ms Michelle sings up a storm of science and maths for her class.

Schools Cabaret - Bathurst High Schools combining to present the best local performing arts talent. Young Performers from Bathurst High, MacKillop College, All Saints College and St Stanislaus College demonstrating the wealth of young talent Bathurst has to offer.

Soirees - a continuing series of open mic nights in the Wattle Foyer allowing local artists the chance to network and to try out new work in a supportive environment.

Cabaret Kite - “Glam Rock X-Mas Cabaret” featuring local performers and hosted by vibrant personality Rusty Nails (Kate Smith) and the Dazzling Cabaret band. The theme for this year's Christmas Cabaret was chosen to invoke the fun and frivolity of the Glam Rock era, complete with sequins, flares, and rock n'roll.

Dante's House - original play created by CSU Theatre Media students. *Dante's House* is about a family, the Fox's, and the night that changes everything: the night they get an audience. The play follows their affairs from 5:50pm to 7:30pm on a Friday night, from the Fox's already strange but now magically enlarged living room, and unfolds in real time. A wizard, a writer, a mother, a beauty and a mixed up bird all push and pull the strings that tie them together delicately strung, but minus a fourth wall and with tensions running high their now observed machinations soon come undone.

Spoontree workshops – workshops in film, projection and image manipulation as part of a one week residency with Spoontree Productions, the company who produced *The Man the Sea Saw*. Workshop participants included local artists and CSU Theatre Media students.

The Disappearances Project – this work, commissioned by Local Stages from Sydney based version 1.0 premiered in Bathurst in 2011. The production has since toured to Perth, Sydney, Adelaide, throughout Queensland and was nominated as the best independent theatre production in the 2011 Sydney Theatre awards.

Daylight Program

An affordable program of daytime entertainment for people who for various reasons do not want to attend the theatre at night. This year the Program joined forces with Seniors' Week organisers to present *Side by Side* by Sondheim. These patrons were also able to attend matinees of *Rainbow's End*, *Julius Caesar* and the Program for Young People and Families at special Pensioner Matinee prices.

Roadwork Program

BMEC with other regional theatres support the regional touring of the best new Australian dance and theatre work. This program is assisted by the Australia Council for the Arts and Performing Lines. The Roadwork production for 2011/12 was *Circa*.

The Catapult Festival

The 2012 Festival cemented Catapult as an event of national standing. Funding was received from Festivals Australia to bring 12 of the country's best emerging performers together to work for two weeks with a leading director and choreographer. The result was shown at the Festival Gala. The festival included a fire evening at Chifley Dam, schools performances and a vast array of forums and Training, Education and Sharing sessions.

Inland Sea of Sound

In its second year, The Inland Sea of Sound continued to grow its audience base. The festival included musicians from Bathurst, the surrounding region and some of the best performers from overseas.

Program for Young People and Families

BMEC continued to provide performances for young people of the region. Many of these performances are attended by schools within the region including schools which have geographic or economic disadvantage. In these cases BMEC is able to offer ticket and/or travel subsidy with assistance from the ConnectEd program run by Arts NSW in partnership with the NSW Department of Education. Programs suitable for young people generally include an early evening or weekend performance so that families can attend performances together to share the theatrical experience across generations. Four events were

offered in this program in 2011/12: *Boats; The Man the Sea Saw; The Happiest Show On Earth; and I, Bunyip*.

Aboriginal Performing Arts Program

APAP aims to encourage and assist engagement of local Aboriginal people in the performing arts. APAP acknowledges Aboriginal "grass roots" tradition as the basis upon which engagement will be built. APAP aims to develop opportunities for local Aboriginal people by providing access to existing resources supported by the broader community such as BMEC and its programs.

Local APAP members performed a highlight spot in the Marramarr Regional Aboriginal Art showcase. Local visual artists presented their work in the Gamarra exhibition in the BMEC foyers. The Namatjira week long residency took place in March 2012 and throughout the year there were numerous skills development workshops.

Performance Venue Hires

Performance venue hires for 2011/2012 included:

Ten Tenors, Ballet Revolucion, Deep Blue, Macquarie Philharmonia - Bellini to Broadway, Arj Barker, Isla Grant, Wil Anderson, The Rock Show – Jon English, Flickerfest, Cliff joins the Beatles, Stevie – the life story of Stevie Wright, Carillon – Guys and Dolls, Sesame Street, The Class of 59, Men in Pink Tights, John Williamson and Looking Through a Glass Onion.

NATIONAL MOTOR RACING MUSEUM

Visitation in 2011/2012 amounted to over 27,000 visitors. The Museum was able to increase revenue with \$482,000 gained from shop sales and visitor entry.

Functions continue to be a strong source of income as well as a tool to promote the museum's profile. 52 functions were hosted with 962 people attending and 2,573 people visited the museum on 78 booked tours. Groups hosted over the last year have included; Harley Owners Group National congress, Motor specs, NSW Department of Education and BMW Safari, including members of the current Australian Superbike championship team.

The Museum also hosted the Central NSW Tourism Committee and the 12 Hour race winning Audi Team Phoenix Crew.

The Museum was invited to and participated in the 2011 Muscle Car Masters (1986 Toyota Corolla) and the 85th Anniversary of First Australian Grand Prix in Goulburn (George Reed Special).

Museum displays have been enhanced through the generosity of the following lenders:

- Meditrak emergency intervention vehicle from Dr Michael Goss
- Triple Eight Race Engineering - 2006 Bathurst winning Ford Falcon (Lowndes/ Whincup)
- John French 1971 XY GTHO from the Bowden Collection
- "2" Bond XC Falcon from the Bowden Collection
- Kevin Clark - Ford Mustang sports sedan car.
- Dean Howe - JPS BMW
- Paul Moxham – Brabham Alfa race car
- Sportstage Events – McLaren F1 MP4-21 Display car
- Gordon Benny – 1968 Edmunds Offenhauser Midget.

Gifts to the Museum include:

- Debra Ireland - donation of Vale Circuit and 1938 photos.
- HVMCC – Eric McPherson Trophy.

Aside from advertising, media attention for the Museum included filming in motorcycle section of museum for Community TV with the Mayor and ABC “OPEN” has used NMRM collection images for its web project.

Within the building, storm water run off has been installed and the main gallery space gap sealed. The gable at end of second hall has been sealed also, this has improved visitor comfort, lifted the appearance as well as improving heating efficiency.

AUSTRALIAN FOSSIL & MINERAL MUSEUM - HOME OF THE SOMERVILLE COLLECTION

Visitation at the Australian Fossil & Mineral Museum – home of the Somerville Collection from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 was 24,504.

A range of public programs were provided by the Museum including:

- Dead Bones Society, a creative writing program for boys held in the Museum after school;
- Holiday programs, exhibition openings and torchlight tours and lectures; and
- Scattered Bones, a virtual classroom program, which is broadcast from the Museum using video conferencing technology and reaches a wide range of schools throughout NSW and in 2011/12 delivered workshops to remote schools.

The exceptional quality of educational activities at the AFMM won the Museums and Art Galleries National Award (MAGNA) in the category Public Program, Small Museums, with the judges commenting: “*This program is remarkable in its capacity to “turn lives around” by building skills, opening windows onto the world of Science, Research and Creative Writing. Its exponential growth throughout the country, ability to attract and keep students enthusiastically participating in the program is outstanding.*”

Other activities:

- Guided and non-guided school tours are held for a range of ages from primary school to university.
- Somerville lecture with Dr Andrew Rawson “Climate Change, Reconciling Climate Change with the Geological Record”. The lecture was held in the new Flannery Centre.
- A Mayoral Reception was held in the Museum for the new Vice Chancellor of Charles Sturt University, Professor Vann.

Temporary Exhibitions

- *Looking back at the Bathurst Town Square*, photographs showcasing the history of the Bathurst Town Square.
- ‘*Lustre: From the permanent collection*’ from Bathurst Regional Art Gallery.
- *Cox’s Road across the Blue Mountains*.

CHIFLEY HOME

Education

Chifley Home and Education Centre is one member of an elite collaboration of Museums and Universities that has been successful in receiving Australian Learning and Teaching Council

2011-13 Innovation and Development Research project funding. Other members include: Victoria University, Immigration Museum (Melbourne), Deakin University (Victoria), Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum (Warrnambool) and Immigration Museum (Melbourne), Queensland University of Technology, Redland Museum (Brisbane), Charles Sturt University (New South Wales).

The project “*Learning and Teaching in Public Spaces 2011-13*” has been designed to:

- Provide pedagogical support for curriculum renewal in pre-service education, social science and humanities course programs;
- Distil these principles into a framework for effective collaboration with museums;
- Produce guides and digital resources; and
- Analyse the process and products to inform a final version of pedagogical resources.

Collections

The John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library in Perth has donated to Chifley Home a special publication titled *Ben Chifley’s Last Speech*. The booklet, published shortly after Chifley’s death in 1951, documents his last public address which was presented at the NSW Labor Conference in Sydney on 10 June 1951 – three days before Chifley’s death.

The re-created 1940s Sitting-Room in the Education Centre has acquired additional furniture and other material to form part of its permanent education display. The room serves as a valuable learning tool for school students in understanding domestic life during war-time and in post-war Australia. The recently acquired pieces include a glass-front bookcase, a collection of 1940s’ books and some pieces of porcelain from the era.

Exhibitions

Chifley in an Album exhibition was held from late 2011 - March 2012. The exhibition focused on numerous official and informal images of Ben Chifley from a photograph album belonging to the Chifley Home collection. The original album was compiled by Mr Roy Liston who presented it to Elizabeth Chifley following her husband’s death in 1951.

Social Documentary proved an extremely popular exhibition held from March to June 2012. It was a community curated exhibition that comprised a series of media photographs taken by Zenio Lapka, Chris Seabrook and Phil Murray, who are all employed as photographers with Bathurst’s daily newspaper, the ‘Western Advocate’.

Research commenced for a major exhibition focusing on Elizabeth Chifley and her parents, George and Elizabeth McKenzie, which will be held in the Chifley Home Education Centre during the first half of 2013.

Planning and research commenced for a comprehensive exhibition for 2012-13 titled: *Ben Chifley and the FX Holden: Two Australian Icons* which will celebrate the launch of the first Holden car by Ben Chifley in Melbourne in November 1948.

Heritage Management

Godden Mackay Logan Heritage Consultants in Canberra commenced a comprehensive Heritage Management Plan for Chifley Home. This is the first such Plan for Chifley Home since 2004 and the first to encompass the recently developed Education Centre.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY TO HAVE INPUT INTO THE FUTURE OF THE BATHURST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Implement actions identified in the Bathurst Social & Community Plan and the Bathurst Community Safety Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake annual review of the Bathurst Social and Community Plan. Undertake annual review of the Bathurst Community Safety Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review completed and adopted by Council 15 February 2012. The Bathurst Community Safety Plan adopted 16 November 2011. Community Safety Committee meetings have been held 28 February 2012 and 31 May 2012. Working parties reported on the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.2.8 Investigation CCTV 2.1.3 Business Tip Sheet 2.4.1 Awareness of Steal from Motor Vehicle 3.2.1 Partysafe Information 3.3.1 Seniors Tip Sheet

PROVIDE A RANGE OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
The Family Day Care Scheme Scallywags Long Day Care Centre Little Scallywags Long Day Care Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update policies and procedures to ensure alignment with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> National Quality Standards for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Aged Children. Education and Care Services National Regulations. Early Years Learning Framework. 	<p>Family Day Care -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies and procedures were reviewed and developed for compliance for the National Education and Care National Regulations 2011 and National Quality Standards. The service, in consultation with all stakeholders, has developed an Educational program reflective of the Early Years Learning Framework. The program has been implemented by both Registered Educators and through the scheme play sessions in programming documents and portfolios. The Service Quality Improvement Plan has been developed and the service will continue to review our goals and key areas identified for improvement. <p>Scallywags and Little Scallywags -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies required for compliance under the Education and Care Services Regulation 2011 have been developed or reviewed. Completion of Service Quality Improvement Plans, these will continue to be reviewed as required by legislation, to document quality improvement against the National Quality Standards. All Educators are incorporating the Early Years Learning Framework into documentation for programs and portfolios.

Bathurst Vacation Care Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update policies and procedures to ensure alignment with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> National Quality Standards for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Aged Children. Education and Care Services National Regulations. Framework for School Age Care in Australia - "My Time, our Place". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies required for compliance of the National Regulations 2011 and National standards have been developed. Review of service policies and procedure will continue to bring service in line with the new legislative requirements. Review of the School Age Framework "My Time, Our Place" has been completed and all educators are implementing the framework in the educational program each holiday period. Service to submit Service Approval Application which was submitted in May 2012 in compliance with National Regulations.
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PROVIDE SUPPORT, NETWORKING AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF THEIR COMMUNITY

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Provide a mechanism for young people to participate in local government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate Bathurst Youth Council and support initiatives, events and activities co-ordinated by the group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2011 Youth Council, 18 members representing Scots School, MacKillop College, All Saints' College, Denison College Kelso High Campus, Denison College Bathurst High Campus, St Stanislaus College and Charles Sturt University. 2012 Youth Council, 20 members representing Scots School, MacKillop College, All Saints' College, Denison College Kelso High Campus, Denison College Bathurst High Campus, International Friendship Group and headspace. 27 and 28 August, 24Hour Short Film competition held with funding from YAPA (Youth Action Policy Association) 17 entries screened with 250 members of the public attending the screening. 8 September, Youth Council Meeting. Youth Council members involved in pre-race activities for the Bathurst 1000. 10 November, Youth Council meeting. Youth Council end of year function held. 13 March, Youth Council Meeting and Training Day held. 19, 26 March, 2, 11 April Youth Council Working Party meetings held to plan Encore 2012 Youth Week Band Competition. 8 May, Youth Council meeting. 21 May, 4, 18 June, Youth Council Events Working Party meetings held to plan Dance Party for 10 August.

Provide an opportunity for youth service providers to share information and develop partnerships to encourage a co-ordinated approach to service provision for young people in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate Youth Network meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Network meetings held on 17 August, 19 October, 14 March, 4 April, 20 June 2012. 7, 20 March, 3 April Youth Network Working Party Meetings held to plan Encore 2012 Youth Week Band Competition.
Develop a Bathurst Regional Youth Council Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate consultation with young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on consultation suspended due to lack of funding.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Bathurst Regional Council Youth Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on Youth Strategy suspended due to lack of funding.

PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS AND PROJECTS

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Participate in community celebrations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support International Women's Day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Women's Day was successfully celebrated with a morning tea in Walshaw Hall, attended by approximately 250 women.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Seniors Week activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seniors' Week 2012 was successfully celebrated with 15 diverse events including movie festivals, workshops, concerts and BBQs. All events were well attended.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Harmony Day activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmony Day 2012 was celebrated with a community walk, picnic and games in Peace Park on Sunday 18 March 2012.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support National Youth Week activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful National Youth Week Event - Local Band Competition ENCORE held on 14 April 2012 at BMEC. Five local bands participated with around 160 young people in attendance.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support NAIDOC Week activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrations for NAIDOC Week 2011 took place as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Flag raising and Mayoral reception, Monday, 4 July 2011. Activities held at Kelso Community Centre, Thursday 14 July 2011 including traditional dancing, jumping castle, face painting and free BBQ. Supported Bathurst Aboriginal Working Party's NAIDOC Celebrations held at Bicentennial Park on 17 September 2011.

ENCOURAGE IMPROVED SERVICE PROVISION ACROSS THE KELSO COMMUNITY VIA THE USE OF THE KELSO COMMUNITY CENTRE

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Implement actions identified in the Kelso Community Centre Strategic Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake review of Kelso Community Centre Strategic Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft plan underway, completion pending staffing review and State Government Agency buy in. Meetings convened with Department of Premier and Cabinet in November 2011, however, not further advanced.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Achievements included:

- Strategies and actions continued to be undertaken in line with the Bathurst Social and Community Plan 2011/2016.
- The provision of administrative assistance for the implementation of the ClubGRANTS scheme 2012 providing funding to local community groups and organisations.
- The provision of administrative support to the Bathurst Regional Access Committee, Seniors Week Committee and Bathurst Youth Network.
- The provision of support to the Bathurst Regional Youth Council and related Youth Activities.
- Work has continued on the development of Village Plans for Sunny Corner, Yetholme, Hill End, Sofala, Wattle Flat, Rockley, Trunkey Creek and Peel.
- The development and adoption of the Bathurst Community Safety Plan working with external stakeholders.
- The establishment of the Bathurst Regional Community Safety Committee and related working parties to drive the actions identified in the Bathurst Community Safety Plan.
- Undertook public events covering Youth Week, Seniors Week, Harmony Day, International Women's Day, NAIDOC Week.

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428]

- Scallywags provided 41 places for children, birth to five (5) years, with an average utilisation of 99%.
- Little Scallywags long day care child care centre, Council's child care centre for staff, provided 20 places per day with an overall occupancy of 85%.
- Family Day Care's utilisation averaged 230 occupied places.
- Kelso Community Centre continued to operate with supporting services such as Baby Health Clinic and Women's Health Nurse visits to support the Kelso Community.
- Funding from the Community Building Partnership and Bathurst Regional Council saw the refurbishment of the Scallywags' kitchen and changeroom to meet required legislative licensing standards.
- Various school holiday programs were held at the Australian Fossil & Mineral Museum, Art Gallery and Bathurst Library.
- The Bathurst Library commenced a new rhyme time program "New Kids on the Book" for babies aged 6 months – 2 years. The regular storytime sessions and Booklink program were also held during the year.
- The Vacation Care program was offered during the school holiday periods in 26 September 2011 – 7 October 2011, 2 January 2012 – 27 January 2012 and 10 April 2012 – 20 April 2012. A wide range of activities were provided to the children.

Family Day Care

- Council provided and operated Family Day Care child care for the 2011/2012 financial year with an average utilisation of 230 places per week and approximately 45 full time and part time places available per week. Approximately 500 children were registered with the scheme on a weekly basis with approximately 55 Educators registered with the Scheme.
- Children's Services staff attended the Regional Meeting in Western area, which provides an opportunity to network. Support and guidance is provided during these interactions.
- Staff continued to support an educational program for Educators registered with the Scheme to reflect the quality of their Early Childhood practices by attaining a formal qualification.
- The Scheme continued to work in partnership with West Bathurst Preschool to provide continuing pre-school care and education to local families and children.
- The Scheme networked with various Government and non-Government agencies, who share a common client base, to engender a holistic approach for positive outcomes for the child and family.
- The Scheme also strengthened partnerships with other early Childhood Services to encompass the Federal Government's commitment to a National Quality Framework for children aged from birth to five years, focusing on the Early Years Learning Framework and its impact upon Scheme operations.

Vacation Care

Bathurst Regional Council's Vacation Care program is licensed for up to 38 children per day during school holidays. The service offers full day care for children from 5 to 12 years of age (average utilisation of 27 places per day) with an exciting range of in house activities and excursions to cater for all ages.

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428]

- Council resourced and coordinated the Bathurst Regional Youth Council, which continues to provide a means for youth to participate in major projects. These projects included the ongoing development of the Youth Council Website, 24 Hour Film Competition in August 2011, "Encore 2012" Youth Week band competition in April 2012 and the development of partnerships with local Youth Service Providers including OCTEC, headspace, Veritas House and Arts Out West.
- Coordination of the Bathurst Youth Network meetings to encourage partnerships with projects/activities for young people.

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC PROGRAMS

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428]

Council provides and operates the Kelso Community Centre and coordinates programs in partnership with a range of government and non-government agencies to support people from Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

Council provides representation on the Bathurst Aboriginal Community Working Party supporting events to mark NAIDOC celebrations including a flag raising ceremony and Mayoral reception in July and community celebrations in September. Consultation on matters pertaining to the Aboriginal community of Bathurst are facilitated through this committee.

The Culturally Diverse Working Group is currently in recess. Council maintains linkages and continues to support the CALD community through membership on the Bathurst Multicultural Reference Group. Celebrations around Harmony Day occurred in March 2012 with an inclusive family picnic held at Peace Park. The Group provides a mechanism for people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds to consult and work with Council on identifying issues that impact on the local CALD community and implementing activities to address these issues.

Council's Sister City Relationship with Ohkuma in Japan continues. An annual scholarship is awarded to two Bathurst secondary school students for a one month exchange to Japan to enhance their cultural experience.

The Tsunami and earthquake in Japan in March 2011 had a devastating effect on Ohkuma as the nuclear power plant nearby was severely damaged. The township has been evacuated and many residents are now located in Aizu-Wakamatsu. Council still remains committed to the Sister City relationship and was heavily involved in the efforts of the Sister City fundraising committee which raised approximately \$70,000. These funds were raised to assist in the educational needs of the Ohkuma children.

Council hosts citizenship ceremonies, as required, throughout the year.

Council makes available the DIMIA Telephone Interpreting Service to customers of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds.

Council provides, through its Library, a free service providing books in languages other than English. This service operates from the State Library and covers most languages.

ACCESS AND EQUITY

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428]

Implementation of the actions identified in the Bathurst Social and Community Plan continues with an annual review undertaken and presented to Council on 21 March 2012.

Council provides premises and ongoing maintenance at low cost rental for the Bathurst Information and Neighbourhood Centre (BINC), the Home and Community Care (HACC) Centre, the Senior Citizens Centre and the Bathurst Seymour Centre

(day care centre for frail aged and disabled), West Bathurst Community House and Kelso Community Centre. Council provides free or low cost fees for the usage of its facilities by various community groups, including under-represented groups.

Council makes places available within its Vacation Care program for children with disabilities. Referrals are made through the local Disability Information and Advocacy Services (DIAS). Council also provides for children with disabilities within its long day care centre Scallywags, Little Scallywags and the Bathurst Family Day Care Scheme.

Council provides direct financial and/or infrastructure support to many community groups and non-profit organisations to assist the provision of community services. These groups include women's health groups, pre-schools, community transport groups, senior citizens groups, nursing homes and long day care centres, schools for children with disabilities, youth groups, church groups and Riding for the Disabled. Council also administers the ClubGRANTS Local Committee, which distributes gaming revenue tax from local service clubs to community groups and non-profit organisations to improve access to a broad range of community services.

OTHER ACCESS ACTIVITIES

CYCLEWAYS

Council throughout the year has continued works on its cycleways to assist with access to the Central Business district and other key areas of town. Construction works undertaken in 2011/2012 include:

- Bradwardine Road - Evernden Road to Suttor Street - approx. 1km

LIBRARY FACILITIES

Council provides a mobile outreach service to housebound residents, centres attended by the elderly, schools and rural locations. The Library provides large print books and books on MP3 and books on tape and CD.

The Library is open seven days a week. Sunday opening is very popular for those who work during the week and with families, who can attend together. Sunday now has the busiest hourly loan rate of any weekday.

Use of the Library has increased from 122,819 visits recorded in 2000/2001 to 160,979 in 2011/2012. This is an increase of 31%.

Bathurst Library has increased loans of library material to record levels. Based on the total circulation for the year 2011/2012, which was 336,099, the increase in annual circulation of all library material since 2000/2001, which was 220,363, has been 52.4%.

The library provides a baby bounce program providing rhymes, songs and book reading designed to introduce younger children to a language rich environment. This program is aimed at children from 6 months to 2 years.

The library has two book clubs, giving participants a greater choice of books and meeting times.

During 2011/2012 the Library held 232 events with a total number of attendees being 6,523. Events included story times, baby bounce, author visits, school holiday activities and Senior's Week, to name a few.

Author Visits

A number of successful author visits were held including author visits by Lorraine Purcell who launched her book *Hidden Journeys: visits to the western Goldfields of 1852*, Carol Baxter who spoke on her book *Captain Thunderbolt and his Lady*, and a talk by Richard Bigwood a Vietnam veteran who spoke about his book *We Were Reos, Australian Infantry Reinforcements in Vietnam*.

Library Facebook Page

The Library Facebook page has been very successful in attracting members to join the page with some 102 members. There are regular updates regarding events held in the Library and discussions with members about library services

Twitter

The Library Twitter page was established and now has 155 followers.

Local History

The Library's catalogue of parish maps is now completed and covers the majority of the Bathurst Region LGA. The existing partnership with the Bathurst Family History Group (BFHG) has been extended to include cataloguing their group materials in the Bathurst Library catalogue. This now allows full access to these materials to a greater audience. This partnership also allows for Library access to the BFHG databases – a great asset for the Bathurst community.

Booklink

The reading encouragement program Booklink continues to be a great success, attracting young readers to the Library. This year over 7,000 books were read by children as young as six months, the oldest 17 years. The program is run in cooperation with Books Plus book shop and the Bathurst CWA.

BATHURST REGIONAL ACCESS COMMITTEE

Council supports the activities of the Bathurst Regional Access Committee through the provision of administrative support. The Committee meets monthly to promote awareness of the challenges faced by those with a disability in accessing local services and businesses. It participates in Council's development, planning and policy processes and also provides information on access issues and lobbies for improvement.

Council:

- Works in partnership with the Committee to raise and address issues with access to the built environment;
- Provides the Small Business and Non-Profit Organisation Disabled Access Fund of \$20,000 on an annual basis; and
- Assists the Committee with the provision of a Councillor delegate.

SENIORS' WEEK ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The Seniors' Week Organising Committee presented a full and diverse program for Seniors' Week, offering various entertainment and social activities as well as educational opportunities. Highlights included a concert "Side by Side Sondheim" celebrating the acclaimed composer Stephen Sondheim, 25 Years of Visits to the Bathurst Agricultural Research Station, activities at the Seymour Centre and Senior Citizens Centre, information sessions at the Library and afternoon tea and display at Miss Traill's House.

KELSO COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Kelso Community Centre, located in Bonnor Street, is the centre of Kelso for many of its residents. A range of community services and activities are available and have been well utilised during 2011/2012. Community Health Workers, Nurses have provided specialist health clinics for children, women, indigenous people and the community in general. An average of 120 people a month receive first hand assistance and/or referral from the Centre's Coordinator and approximately 50 individuals participate in groups and group activities each week.

2011/2012 saw the establishment of the Indigenous Chronic Disease Program operating from the Kelso Community Centre on Thursdays. The clinic works on a referral basis and provides a range of medical and allied health services to address the long term care plans and disease management for diabetes, heart disease and obesity.

The Kelso Community Centre hosted many special/cultural events during 2011/2012 including the Aboriginal performance workshops, annual Christmas Party and NAIDOC celebrations.

Funding from the Community Building Partnership and Bathurst Regional Council saw construction of a full size basketball court at the centre. This will provide more opportunities for the young people who access the centre to be involved in healthy outdoor activities in a formal and informal setting.

Bathurst Regional Council continues to advocate for adequate service provision for the Kelso community through the Kelso Community Centre. A delegation spoke to The Hon Pru Goward, Minister for Family & Community Services/Minister for Women, at the community cabinet meeting held on 4 June 2012 to lobby for an effective interagency to be established.



PLANNING

Council is in the process of preparing a new comprehensive Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan for its local government area. These plans are based on the recently prepared Heritage Study plus the Urban and Rural Strategies. These studies were prepared following the preparation of issue papers followed by extensive public consultation. Council adopted the Rural Strategy in December 2008. Council has referred the Rural Strategy to the Minister and is awaiting his advice.

In February 2011, Council adopted the Bathurst Regional (Interim) DCP 2011 which implemented the majority of the recommendations of these strategies which did not rely on a new LEP.

On 13 May 2011, Amendment 4 to the Bathurst Regional (Interim) LEP 2005 was gazetted which implemented:

- 10 new heritage conservation areas
- 298 heritage items, as recommended by the Bathurst Regional Heritage Study.

Council has also commenced a Planning Proposal to expand the village of Eglinton as recommended by the Urban Strategy.

ENVIRONMENT

PROMOTE, PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF THE BATHURST REGION

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Negotiate the timing and nature of Stage 3 Gas Works Remediation Project with NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and sign revised Voluntary Remediation Agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiting on feedback from OEH.

PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Complete Supplementary State of Environment Report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake environmental monitoring and collate data. • Implement the community environmental education plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplementary SOE completed November 2011. 1. Sustainable Lifestyle House officially launched and monthly open days held. 2. Go Green Challenge – 13 schools awarded grants. 3. Kindy Kits program completed. 4. Woodsmoke Reduction Program – ongoing. 5. Making a Difference Newsletter – 2 issues produced. 6. Sustainable Living Expo held March 2012.

PROVIDE EDUCATION AND A HIGH LEVEL OF SERVICE IN RELATION TO COMPANION ANIMALS MANAGEMENT

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Run two desexing programs in 2011/2012.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run companion animals desexing project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs held in December 2011.

PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND A HIGH LEVEL OF SERVICE IN RELATION TO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Complete annual Food Regulation report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete all requirements of the Food Regulation Partnership with the NSW Food Authority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2010/11 report submitted in July 2011. Inspections ongoing Submission to NSW Food Authority relating to changes to inspection regime of mobile vendors and temporary events – May 2012.

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

ENSURE THE ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER APPLICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANNING INSTRUMENTS, DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLANS AND POLICIES OCCURS WITHIN APPROPRIATE TIMEFRAMES		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Number of Development Applications exceeding 40 days to be reduced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports presented to Council monthly on Development Applications in excess of 40 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly reports to Council.
All requests for additional information to be made within 25 days of lodgement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the usage of 'stop the clock' to monitor requests for additional information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing. Average total time = 32 days. Average approval time (excluding stop the clock) = 23 days.

IMPLEMENT NEW CONTROLS ARISING FROM GAZETAL OF BATHURST REGIONAL (INTERIM) LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Ensure that land use planning controls are implemented in an equitable manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process all Development Applications within the statutory time frames set out in the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing. Average total time = 32 days. Average approval time (excluding stop the clock) = 23 days.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

PREPARE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING CONTROLS FOR BATHURST REGIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA BASED ON THE OUTCOMES OF KEY STRATEGIC LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA STUDIES		
Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Prepare the Comprehensive LEP and DCP for the Local Government Area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive LEP and DCP to be completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft LEP rewritten based on changes to the Standard Instrument LEP. Preliminary Draft Plan submitted to the Department of Planning & Infrastructure for comment prior to Council seeking certification of the Plan from the Department to enable public exhibition. The Comprehensive DCP is currently being drafted. Unable to progress the DCP until further comments are received from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure in relation to the Comprehensive LEP.

PREPARE INTERIM PLANNING CONTROLS & REZONING FOR URBAN PLANNING CONTROLS AND HERITAGE ITEMS, WHILST AWAITING COMPLETION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE LEP & DCP

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Identify opportunities to upgrade heritage items and identify possible urban release areas for rezoning.	• Eglinton planning proposal prepared and exhibited.	• Public exhibition of the planning proposal completed. Report to be presented to the July 2012 Council meeting seeking a resolution to forward the finalised Planning Proposal to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.
	• Exempt and complying development planning proposal to be prepared.	• Draft Planning Proposal being prepared.

REVIEW AND UPDATE COUNCIL'S SECTION 94 PLANS

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Identify that required review and review and upgrade.	• To commence plans relating to Eglinton and review all other existing plans.	• Draft Section 94 plans prepared. The draft plans will be exhibited once Council has adopted the Planning Proposal for the expansion of Eglinton.

IMPLEMENT HERITAGE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS FOR BATHURST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
To continue heritage programs as identified in the Management Program.	• Bathurst Regional Heritage Fund 2011/2012.	• Projects completed. Applications for 2012/13 round received.
	• Complete Archaeological Management Plan.	• Adopted by Council.
	• Update Heritage Asset Register.	• Preliminary draft being reviewed.
	• Bathurst Region Conservation and Interpretation Fund 2011/12.	• Projects for 2011/12 round of funding have been completed or are ongoing into the 2012/13 year. Applications for funding under the 2012/13 year have been called.

BUSHFIRE CONTROL

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428]

Bushfire services within the Bathurst Regional Council area are now carried out in conjunction with NSW Rural Fire Service. Bathurst Regional Council is responsible for maintaining and housing bush fire equipment including trucks, pumps etc., and operations are carried out by the NSW Rural Fire Service, Chifley Zone. Council contributes to the Fire Fighting Fund for the provision of equipment and Rural Fire Service staff, planning and insurances. Financial contributions are also made to some brigades within Council's area through rent and service payments on premises.

Council regularly slashes/sprays reserves, parks, roadside verges and other vacant Council land as resources permit. Council notifies the Chifley Zone Office of any complaints received in relation to bush fire hazards, as they have been delegated the authority by Council to issue hazard reduction notices in the Council area. Notices were issued by NSW Rural

Fire Service, Chifley Zone Office to occupiers and land owners where appropriate to reduce fire hazards. Council is a member of the local Chifley Bushfire Management Committee which coordinates the management of hazard reduction throughout the Bathurst Regional Council area and the Oberon Shire Council area.

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428A]

The 2011-2012 Comprehensive State of the Environment Report provides Council and the community with information about the condition of the environment in the Bathurst Regional Council Local Government Area. It discusses threats to environmental health and describes actions that have been undertaken during the reporting period to address these threats and protect and enhance the condition of the local environment. A series of indicators of environmental health are used under each of the themes: human settlement

(including waste and noise); air; land; water; biodiversity; and heritage. The Report also contains a chapter on local and regional sustainability initiatives.

The 2012 Bathurst State of the Environment Report will be available on Council's website from 1 December 2012.

Council also participated in a Regional State of the Environment Report for the 2011-2012 reporting period with 16 other Councils from the Greater Central West Region of NSW. The report was prepared with the assistance of the Central West Catchment Management Authority and will be available on Council's website from 1 December 2012.

PLANNING AGREEMENTS

[Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 - Section 93g(5)]

Council agreed to enter into one Planning Agreement during 2008/2009 for a contribution to community facilities conditional upon development consent being granted. Consent was duly granted to the application and the applicant is required to make financial contributions to Community Facilities at various stages of construction. As at 30 June 2012 there were no conditions in the agreement that required compliance.

COMPANION ANIMALS

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1)(f)]

Lodgement of Pound Data Collection Return

Council lodged its 2011-2012 Survey of Council seizure of cats and dogs with the Division of Local Government in July 2012

Dog Attacks

Council, during 2011-2012 financial year, notified the Division of 20 dog attacks.

Companion Animals Management and Activities

Council's budgeted expenditure on Companion Animal management and activities for 2011-2012 was \$476,953. This includes all activities related to Companion Animals, impounding and regulatory control, maintenance and running of the animal pound, desexing programs and the provision of off-leash areas.

Community Education - Companion Animals

Council's Senior Ranger presented educational programs to a range of audiences including senior citizens and many childcare and primary school students across the Local Government Area. Council also hosted a Pet Expo in December 2011 which included educational presentations on dog behaviour and provided a forum for pet owners to speak to local vets and service providers. Council assisted the RSPCA with the Million Paws walk in Bathurst.

Strategies to Promote and Assist the Desexing of Dogs and Cats

Council conducts a desexing program in conjunction with the RSPCA and local veterinary clinics which allows pensioners and health care card holders to have their dogs and cats desexed at a subsidised rate. Council contributed \$20,000 towards this program and encourages eligible residents with pets to take

advantage of this opportunity. Council has allocated a further \$20,000 in the 2012-2013 operating plan to continue this program.

Strategies as an alternative to Euthanasia

Council has in place the following strategies to reduce the need for euthanasia of impounded animals

- Two weekly radio segments which are utilised to advise the public of animals that are currently available at the pound.
- Desexing program
- Community Education Program
- Rehoming program with the RSPCA

Off-Leash Areas

Council currently has eleven off-leash dog exercise areas which are located throughout the City of Bathurst and the surrounding villages of Eglinton, Perthville and Raglan. A full list of off-leash areas is provided below:

- Centennial Park (Subject to exclusion of playground area and operating hours before 8am and after 5pm)
- Kefford Street (Fully fenced and with solar lighting to improve accessibility).
- The River Walk between the Evans and George Street Bridges subject to operating hours before 8am and after 5pm.
- Russell Street next to the old dog pound, bounded by Vale Creek, Russell Street and 35 Russell Street
- Eglinton Showground, at the rear of Cottonwood Drive
- Kelso Reserve between McMenamin, Rivett and Bell Places
- Perthville, Brian Booth Oval, Vale Creek side
- Raglan, Lavis Park and the reserve between Napoleon Street and Adrienne Street
- South Bathurst Jaques Park, bounded by Alma and Violet Streets
- Hector Park and Rocket Street Reserve, adjacent to the Basketball Stadium
- Windradyne Drainage reserve, corner of Bradwardine and Evernden Roads

COMPANION ANIMALS FUND MONIES

Council received \$21,420 from the Companion Animals Fund Activities, where these funds were expended include:

Dog registration clerk salary	\$37,295
Dog Pound expenses	\$7,321
Dog Microchipping expenses	\$3,218
Dog Community Desexing program	\$18,182
Cat Impounding expenses	\$454

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES TO SECURE AND PROMOTE THE GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OF THE REGION

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
To develop and implement economic development program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a framework for a local economic development plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathurst Region Economic Development Strategy 2011-2015 adopted by Council in December 2011.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate economic development opportunities and initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing assessment of Evocities initiatives including marketing and strategic direction. • Attendance at tradeshow including Countryweek, National Manufacturing Week. • Promotion of Bathurst in external markets (Rex onboard magazine, Blue Mountains Life, Business Weekly, Monday Market, Engineers Australia, Property Magazine etc). • Development of conference attraction prospectus and bids placed for NSW Rural Fire Service State Conference, National Party Conference and Local Government Women Association Conference.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, implement and monitor other on-going plans and programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment Attraction Program Sponsorship Program Developed, 11 Sponsors including CSU, Mars, Devro, All Saints College, Bathurst Health Service, Simplot, Hines construction, Bruce Bolam Developments and Bathurst Real Estate.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and coordinate initiatives and actions by community groups, when appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitation of sustainable Bathurst Network, funding of workshop facilitator. • Assistance with Welcome Wagon initiative for New Residents.

ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIPS WITH BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT TO FACILITATE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Establish a sound relationship with the local business community, tourism operators, Federal and State Government Departments and the wider community in preparation and implementation of economic development activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and support the transition of local business to environmentally sustainable business practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental energy workshops promoted eg. CENTROC energy workshops and Clean Technology Program in Bathurst. Programs and Grants updated on Building Bathurst Website. Promotion and distribution of relevant grants to relevant businesses.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network and liaise with business groups and other organisations and departments to encourage, assist and facilitate business development and investment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment Attraction Program developed with local stakeholders. Representative on CNSW RDA Regional Economic Profile project.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate and coordinate local business forums, where appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CNSW Innovation Network formed with 7 of the Regions leading businesses. Funding secured through Enterprise Connect (Workshop) and NSW Trade and Investment.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage new and support established business and industry, where appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 30 new business enquiries responded to, follow up and ongoing communication. Development of EvolInvest website and Bathurst Region website Invest section expanded.

TOURISM

ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIPS WITH TOURISM BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO FACILITATE OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH TOURISM

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Establish and maintain solid relationships with tourism businesses, regional tourism organisations, local government areas and government organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to grow the number and variety of tourism partners. Maintain relationships with existing tourism businesses. Network and liaise with regional tourism organisations, neighbouring local government areas and government departments to encourage cross regional promotions and use of resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2010/11 – 160 partners - \$45,570 2011/12 – 156 partners - \$45,535 8 partners not renewing (most not continuing the business)

PROVIDE VISITORS AND PROSPECTIVE VISITORS TO THE AREA WITH QUALITY INFORMATION WHICH ALLOWS THEM TO ENJOY AND EXTEND THEIR STAY

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Provide timely and accurate information in a friendly and courteous manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive feedback on performance of BVIC by visitors and residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good feedback in visitor book.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive feedback on the Community Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Survey satisfaction 8.1/10. refer to report to Council February 2012.

Ensure the content of the "visitbathurst" website is informative and accurate and abreast of the changes in technology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly review of information on the website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing review of current website information by staff. Tourism partner updates carried out regularly. The visitbathurst website will be merged into the Bathurst region website in 2012.
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EFFECTIVELY PROMOTE THE BATHURST REGION, TO MOTIVATE PEOPLE TO VISIT THE AREA AND TO DEVELOP THE TOURISM PRODUCT

Performance Targets	Actions	Achievements for Year
Showcase the Bathurst Region at suitable consumer and trade shows.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representation of the region at relevant trade shows including Canberra, Penrith, Sydney and Maitland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended Sydney Caravan and Camping Show with Lithgow and Oberon. Created and promoted new tourist drive and LOB maps on the new information sheet template. Will continue using now.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act as a representative for Central West Tourism (CNSWT) at consumer shows where applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CNSWT will be attending April Caravan and Camping Show. Bathurst was represented on this stand via visitor guide and staffing.
Participate in marketing and promotional campaigns that will encourage new and repeat visitation to the Bathurst Region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, participate in and monitor tourism campaigns with the neighbouring LGAs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed tourist drive route information. New brochures have been developed and will soon also be website ready. Signage needs to be addressed with engineers.
Establish and maintain contact with international markets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisit, review and re-establish good working relationships with inbound tour companies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently preparing quotes for 2012 and 2013.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish guidelines for the BRC Sister City Relationship with Ohkuma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Committee has suspended operations following Tsunami.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local and regional businesses who are targeting international markets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaking with local operators.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

- 65,962 visitors through the doors, averaging 5,497 per month
- Centre received 17,715 phone calls and had over 66,450 website visits for the period
- 3,162 visitors passed through BVIC during race week (Saturday 1 to Monday 10), selling \$7,261.67 in souvenirs
- Rented out 142 houses during V8 race week which accommodated 687 people
- Sold 131 camping sites at the Sportsground during race week accommodating 354 people
- Held the successful Autumn Colours Program that was available both electronically and hard copy
- Participated in promotional opportunity with Lithgow and Oberon and attended both the Sydney Caravan, Camping & 4WD Supershow and Canberra Home, Leisure and Lifestyle show with a combined stand
- Produced new Bathurst Region visitor guide and Bathurst city street map

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



